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BASHUNDHARA DIRECTOR MURDER

Tarique, Babar to be charged over bribe

The two along with ex-MP Saleemul gobbled up Tk 21cr to save Shah Alam's son

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) finally approved a charge sheet yesterday against eight persons, including Khaleda Zia's son Tarique Rahman, former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar and former lawmaker Qazi Saleemul Huq Kamal, in connection with taking Tk 21 crore bribe over the murder of a Bashundhara Group director.

The other accused are
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From left: Lutfuzzaman Babar, Tarique Rahman and Shah Alam.

No polls under Huda-led EC

Threatens Delwar, asks commissioners to quit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday demanded resignation of all three election commissioners as he considers the present Election Commission (EC) as "controversial".

The secretary general appointed by party Chairperson Khaleda Zia also said they will not participate in any election under this EC headed by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda.

Meanwhile, in a letter to the jail authorities, Saifur Rahman, acting chairman appointed by the party's



Khandaker Delwar Hossain

standing committee, yesterday sought permission to meet the detained party chief showing
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Undisclosed money to be legalised again

Govt decides to offer 10yr tax holiday for new industrial investment

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

As part of a host of government decisions to boost business and investments in the country, all new industrial investments will be given tax holiday for the next 10 years while the existing Information Communication Technology (ICT) investors will get the benefit for a second five-year period.

The government also decided that fiscal policy for the year 2008-09 will be 'expansionary' so that the rural and urban poor can be provided with employment for nine

months under a special programme.

It further decided to allow in the next budget whitening of undisclosed money earned legally. Unlike in the current budget, it will not impose a penalty of 250 percent against the undisclosed money, and fix the penalty at a 'tolerable' rate in the next budget.

In the light of a set of decisions taken by the caretaker government's chief Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday, the central bank will ask all commercial banks to provide 40 percent of their loan funds for SMEs (small and medium

enterprises) to small industries and 60 percent to medium industries.

The chief adviser took these decisions at the third meeting of Bangladesh Better Business Forum (BBBF) -- comprising 38 members from private and public sectors. The forum launched in November last year made 77 recommendations, which were cleared by the ministries concerned as "doable steps".

At yesterday's meeting, the BBBF decided that six steps will be made effective immediately, 19 will be implemented within three
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HC has no jurisdiction to grant bail in EPR cases

SC cancels HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) has no jurisdiction to grant bail in criminal cases under the Emergency Power Rules (EPR) 2007.

The Supreme Court (SC) made it clear in its judgment yesterday allowing government appeal against an HC verdict which said it has jurisdiction to dispose of bail petitions in such cases.

The seven-member full bench of Appellate Division of the SC headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin delivered

the judgment.

The chief justice pronounced the verdict only saying 'appeal allowed.'

Meanwhile, people eagerly awaited the SC judgment for long to know the fate of detainees including high-profile persons in different criminal cases under the EPR.

The HC gave its verdict on April 22 last year following a petition by an oil trader of Khulna, Majuddin Sikder, seeking bail in a case filed under the EPR.

An HC bench comprising

Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury and Justice SM Emdadul Huq gave the verdict, saying the HC has jurisdiction to dispose of petitions by any persons seeking bail in criminal cases filed under the EPR.

The government filed an appeal with the SC challenging the HC verdict. Hearing on the appeal ended on April 15.

Following the SC verdict, many lawyers said everyone is bound to obey the apex court's verdict but many others expressed concern
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Upazila polls before parliamentary ones

Declares EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday said the Election Commission (EC) plans to hold the long-overdue polls to upazila parishads before the parliamentary election.

The CEC disclosed the commission's plan at a time when most political parties have been vehemently opposing holding of upazila elections before the stalled ninth parliamentary poll.

"We plan to hold upazila elections before the parliamentary poll," CEC Huda told a delegation

of Gono Forum at a meeting held in the EC Secretariat conference room.

The poll chief however did not specify any timeframe for holding the upazila elections, although the much talked about electoral roadmap, announced by his commission on July 15 last year, indicated that upazila elections will be held between November and December of this year.

The military backed caretaker government, which had earlier vowed all out support for the roadmap, now wants the EC to start
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Political Statements Gag order on lawyers of VIP prisoners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The jail authorities yesterday imposed a ban on making any political statement of the prisoners public, according to BBC Bangla Service report.

They have also decided to take legal actions against the lawyers who made political statements public recently after meeting the two detained former premiers Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia in prison.

According to the jail authorities, there is no scope for discussing with the prisoners any other matter than personal, familial and case
SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Koko, Selim sued for ill-gotten wealth



Arafat Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

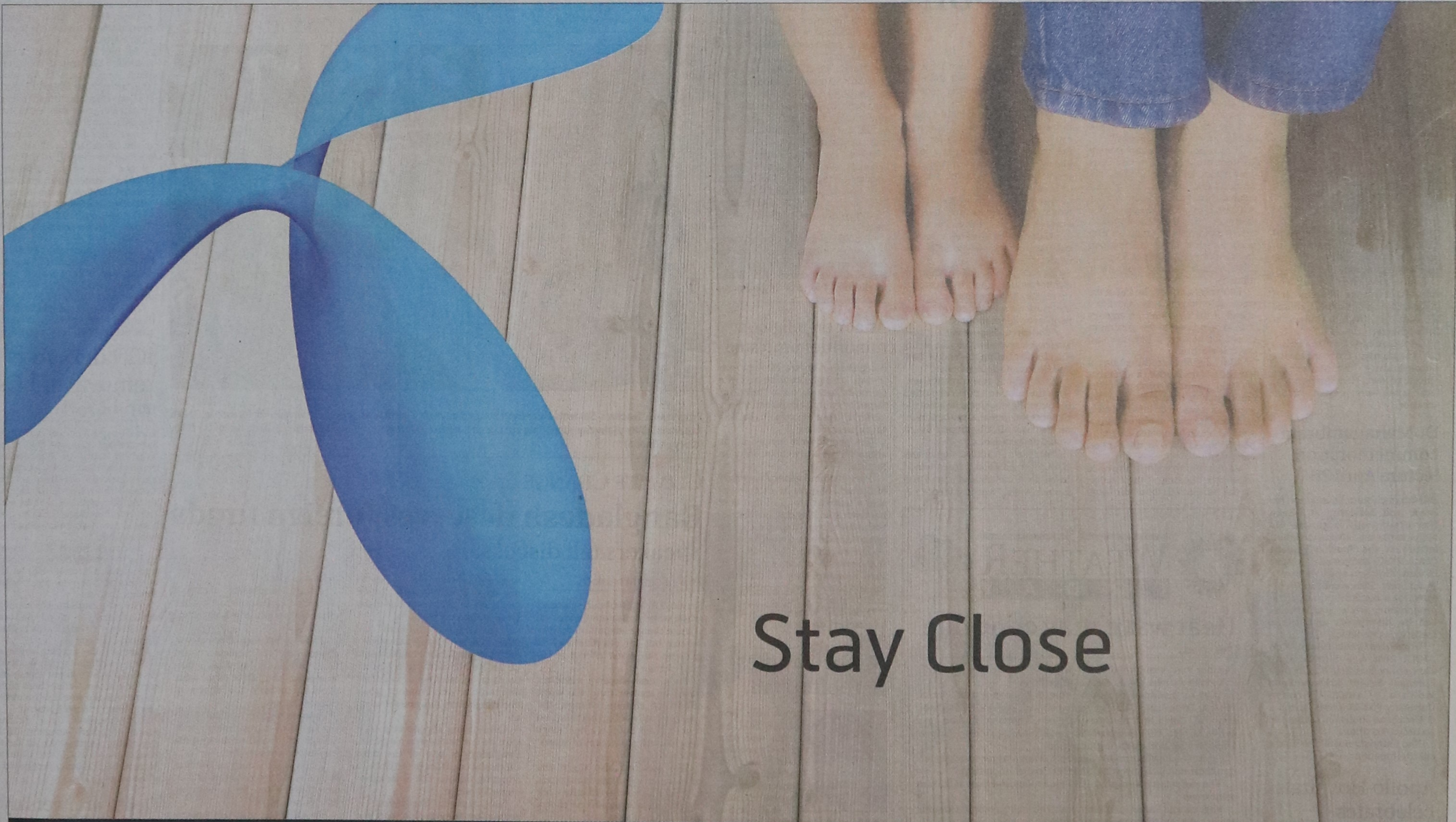
The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a case against former prime minister Khaleda Zia's younger son Arafat Rahman

Koko for concealing information about his wealth and amassing wealth through illegal means.

It filed a similar case against detained former health minister and Awami League (AL) leader Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim.

Abu Sayeed, deputy director of ACC, filed the case against Koko with Ramna Police Station under Sections 26 (2) and 27 (1) of ACC Act 2004.

In the case, the ACC accused Koko of concealing information about Tk 11,20,145 worth of properties and illegally amassing wealth worth Tk 2,23,18,245 -- that is disproportionate to his known sources of income.
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