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Kazi Zafarullah,  
Obaidul Karim  
chargesheeted

Non-submission of  
wealth report, graft

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against Awami League (AL) presidium member Kazi Zafarullah for not submitting wealth statement to the commission and Orion Group Chairman Obaidul Karim on charges of corruption.

Meanwhile, mother-in-law of former BNP lawmaker Nadim Mostafa gave judicial statement in connection with a case filed against Nadim and his wife for amassing wealth illegally and giving false information to the commission.

ACC Deputy Director Abul Kashem, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court, showing nine people as prosecution witnesses.

The IO prayed for issuing arrest warrant against Zafarullah and the

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## 90 killed as Tamil Tigers strike back

AFP, Colombo

At least 52 guerrillas and 38 soldiers were killed and hundreds more wounded yesterday, officials said, as Tamil separatists reported repulsing a Sri Lankan offensive ahead of key local elections.

The defence ministry said 84 soldiers were also wounded in the latest bid to take territory from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on the northern Jaffna peninsula.

However, a military source told AFP that the security force casualties were 40 dead and 375 wounded, while several more were missing.

He said initially resistance was limited and the LTTE's first line of defence was captured, but the guerrillas then brought down artillery fire forcing a retreat.

Security forces have been trying to dismantle a de facto rebel ministry in the north of the island after

in the latest skirmishes in Jaffna," the defence ministry said.

The Tigers did not give details of their casualties, but pro-rebel websites reported that they inflicted heavy losses on the security forces.

"The Sri Lankan army advanced on two fronts and the LTTE successfully thwarted their attack after 10-and-a-half hours of stiff resistance," said the Tamil language Puthinam.com.

A Sri Lankan military source confirmed: "Troops mounted a two-pronged assault on the forward fence lines of the LTTE under the cover of darkness."

He said initially resistance was limited and the LTTE's first line of defence was captured, but the guerrillas then brought down artillery fire forcing a retreat.

Security forces have been trying to dismantle a de facto rebel ministry in the north of the island after

successfully driving the guerrillas out of the adjoining Eastern province in July last year.

The government is staging crucial provincial council polls in the east on May 10 and has been banking on further military success against the Tigers to boost their electoral fortunes.

Defence sources said Wednesday's setback was a repeat of the October 2006 debacle when the security forces were pushed back by a major counter offensive of the Tigers, with 129 government soldiers killed and 515 wounded.

The latest setback came despite official claims that the separatists had been virtually wiped out.

At the start of the year, the military said there were only 3,000 Tiger rebels left. Official defence ministry figures show that 3,025 Tigers have been killed by security forces this year already.

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**Cherie Blair visits SC as Hasina's legal team expert**  
Hopes for practice of HR principles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cherie Blair, wife of former British prime minister Tony Blair, yesterday said she hoped for the application of the human rights principles enshrined in Bangladesh's constitution.

A barrister, Cherie is currently in Dhaka as a consultant to detained former prime minister Sheikh Hasina's legal team.

She visited the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday to observe the appeal proceedings of a graft case against Hasina.

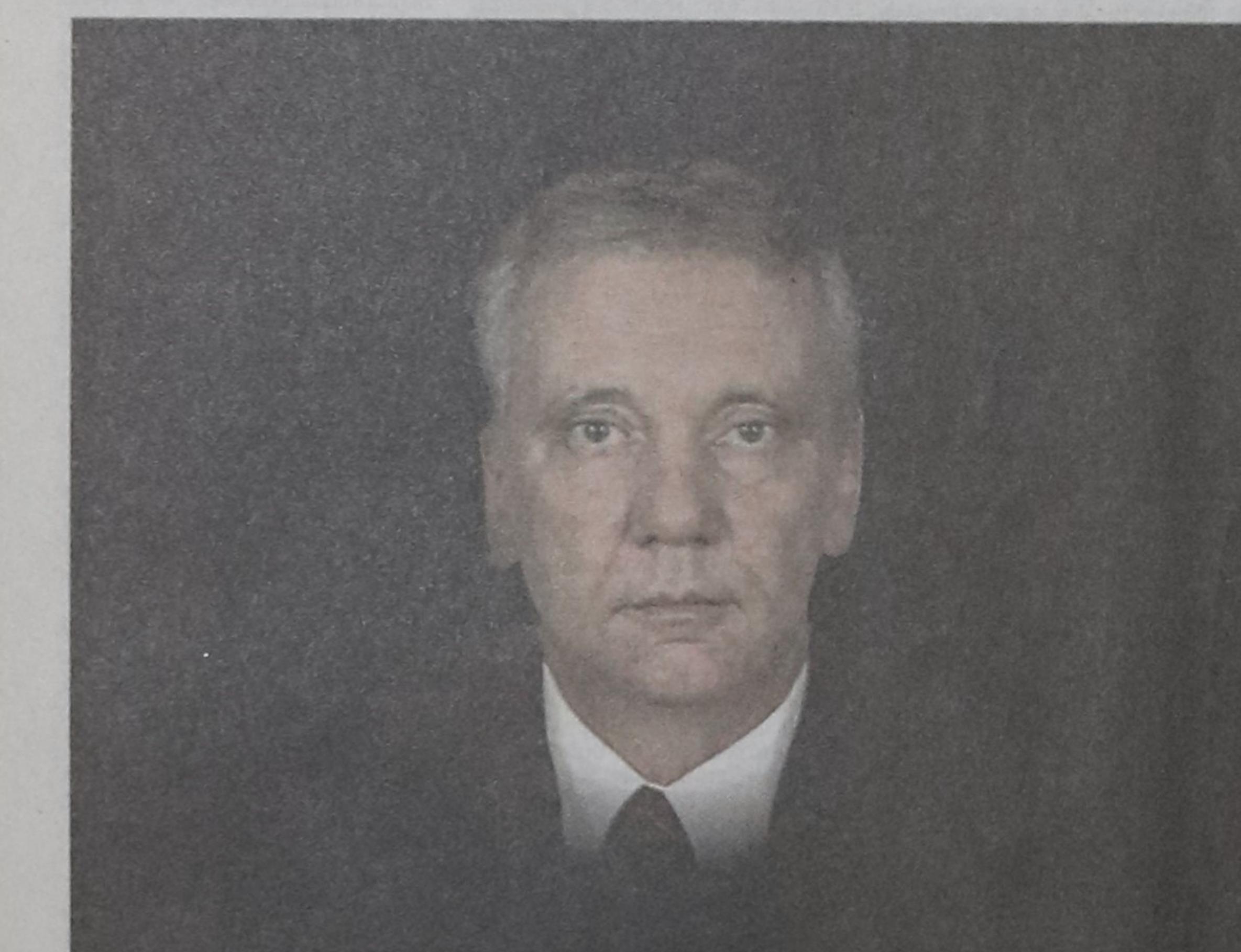
The same day, Blair attended two press conferences, where she said that she wants to observe the judicial proceedings and the human rights situation in

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Cherie Blair, wife of former British prime minister Tony Blair, seen coming out of the High Court with Barrister Ajmal Hossain (on her right) yesterday. Cherie is in town to work with Sheikh Hasina's legal team.

PHOTO: STAR



**We are shocked and bereaved at his departure**

Our Colleague, The Chief Financial Officer and Executive Director of Siemens Bangladesh Limited passed away naturally due to Brain Hemorrhage (CVA) on 22nd April, 2008 at his residence.

His care, attachment and guidance for each of us and above all his professionalism guided Siemens Bangladesh Limited and us to go from strength to strength. His untimely departure has created a vacuum in our hearts, which is not to be fulfilled.

We pray to the almighty for his departed soul and convey our deepest sympathy and prayer for the bereaved family.

The lamenting colleagues  
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JCD men attack CEC-owned bldg in Faridpur

STAR REPORT

Activists of Jatiyatabadi Chharta Dal (JCD), student wing of BNP, yesterday attacked a building owned by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) AT Shamsul Huda in Faridpur district town.

The protesters chanted slogans against the CEC and pelted the building with brickbats, damaging

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**AL to observe hunger strike on April 29 for Hasina's release**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) will observe hunger strike in all the 64 districts of the country on April 29 to press home the demand for the release of its detained President Sheikh Hasina.

The decision came at the presidential meeting of the party at the

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**Huji man Sumon planned to flee to S Africa**

Investigators find visa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Harkat ul Jihad (Huji) leader Arif Hasen Sumon, who is suspected for hurling grenades on an Awami League rally on August 21, 2004, planned to flee to South Africa where one of the masterminds of the attack Maulana Tajuddin is

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**Collateral Free SME Loan**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty-two Bangladeshi jobseekers returned home yesterday after manpower sharks lured them of jobs abroad and ultimately dumped them in war-torn Iraq.

They were brought back home by a flight of Emirates under Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) programme of International Organization for Migration (IOM).

One of the returnees, Mohammad Milon of Bikrampur said he was promised of a \$400 job as a cleaner at an airport in Turkistan but was dumped in Kurdistan in Iraq.

He had paid Tk 2.5 lakh to middleman Mahbub and went to Iraq in a group of 10 on January 21 on their way to Turkistan.

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## Voter registration rated as international standard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ongoing voter registration process is of international standard, though some voters' names are missing on the list, says a survey funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

"It is going to be a list of quality no less than that of America or England," said Dr Mohammed Yusuf, one of the consultants for the survey titled "Monitoring Voter Listing Process and Focus Group Research."

The survey report was released at a press conference at a city hotel yesterday. The other consultant for the survey was Dr Owen

Despite that, the voters' list is of international standard from qualitative perspective, said Dr Yusuf at the press conference

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## 42 fortune-seekers back home empty-handed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fourty-two Bangladeshi jobseekers returned home yesterday after manpower sharks lured them of jobs abroad and ultimately dumped them in war-torn Iraq.

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**Hillary keeps White House quest alive**

AFP, Philadelphia

A victorious Hillary Clinton has kept her White House quest alive, triumphing over Barack Obama in Pennsylvania's rancorous Democratic primary.

She still trails Obama in nominating contests, pledged delegates, fundraising and the popular vote, but Clinton cast her 10-point Pennsylvania victory as a transformative moment in the grinding Democratic race.

"We won a critically important victory tonight in Pennsylvania. It's a giant step forward that will transform the landscape of the presidential race," she said in a jubilant note to supporters Tuesday.

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