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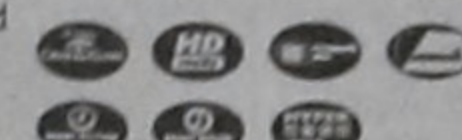
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**Kazi Zafarullah,
Obaidul Karim
chargesheeted**

*Non-submission of
wealth report, graft*

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against Awami League (AL) president 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.

It was the military's heaviest losses in a single battle since October 2006.

"Monitored radio communications and ground sources have confirmed that 52 LTTE terrorists have been killed and many injured

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 Puthnam.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 mini-state 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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**JCD men attack
CEC-owned
bldg in Faridpur**

STAR REPORT

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

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

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

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) will observe token 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 Hasan 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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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

Lippert.

Dr Yusuf and Dr Lippert prepared the report with samples from three areas in the country -- Rajshahi City Corporation, Raiganj Pourashava of Chittagong and Tahirpur upazila of Sunamganj district.

A total of 9,793 people took part in the survey.

The researchers found that 1.63 percent eligible voters in Rajshahi City Corporation, 2.24 percent in Raiganj and 1.33 percent voters in Tahirpur were missing in the voter list.

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

adding that they did not find any fraudulence in the voter registration process.

"Extent of error -- 0.0 percent in Rajshahi, 0.1 percent in Raiganj and 0.3 percent in Tahirpur are negligible and due to incidence of death after voter registration," the survey report said.

The missing of voters in the list was due to absence of eligible voters during registration and failure to be photographed, it said, adding that this is expected to be addressed during the final updating of the voter rolls.

"The potential missing in the final voter roll one would

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42 fortune-seekers back home empty-handed

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 Kurdistan but was dumped in Kurdistan in Iraq.

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

"I see no alternative to begging now if you do not help us recover the money we spent to get a job abroad," he told The Daily Star in a choked voice.

"We lived a miserable life there because we were not given enough food nor any job," he said at Zia International Airport.

There is no employment opportunity in Iraq for people from other countries, he said, adding that if cheap labour was required, they were employed on temporary basis.

Mohammad Shafiq of Comilla said his nephew Shawkat Imam took him to Iraq in November last year promising him a job with monthly \$250 and \$70 for meal expenses.

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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 late Tuesday.

With 99 percent of precincts

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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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PHOTO: STAR

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

Ershad backs polls under emergency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad yesterday said it is imperative to hold the stalled 9th parliamentary election under the state of emergency to ensure fairness in the poll.

The former army chief who was also the longest-ruling military

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Chinese FM to invite CA to Olympics

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi arrives in the city today to formally invite Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed to the Beijing Olympics in September.

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Prayer Timing

April 24

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-25	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-27	6-31
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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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