

# Plus Rising Stars



**REGD. NO. DA 781** 

Vol. XVIII No. 119

DHAKA THURSDAY MAY 15, 2008

People's Right to Know www.thedailystar.net

JAISHTHA 1, 1415 BS . JAMADIUL AWAL 9, 1429 HIJRI . 24 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE: TK 10.00

ELECTORAL REFORM DIALOGUE

# AL, BNP factions, 11 other parties invited

AL readies 6-point demands; Nizami alleges govt not taking proper steps for talks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

day invited 13 more political parties including the Awami League which will begin at the chief freed. adviser's office from May 22.

The other parties are Jatiya Party (IP), Jamaat-e-Islami, Islami Oikya Jote (IOI), Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Unity for Political Reforms, Islami Shashantantra Andolon, (Khalequzzaman), Khelafat diateimplementation.

Andolon (Hafezzihujur), Khelafat Majlish of Shaikhul Hadith, The caretaker government yester- Bangladesh Kalyan Party, and Progressive Democratic Party.

The AL said yesterday that it (AL) and both the factions of BNP would participate in the dialogue to the electoral reform dialogue, with party chief Sheikh Hasina

It prepared a six-point charter of demands including release of its detained party chief to ensure her participation in the electoral reform dialogue and upcoming parliamentary election as a "free Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal person" and demanded its imme-

Sources at the chief adviser's office said separate letters were sent to both Khandaker Delwar Hossain, BNP acting secretary general appointed by Chairperson Khaleda Zia, and Maj (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, acting secretary general appointed by the party's

standing committee. The pro-Khaleda BNP said it was yet to decide about participating in the dialogue as it is busy with reuniting the party. Leaders of the faction said they will decide about it after receiving formal invitation from the government.

Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Motiur Rahman Nizami meanwhile alleged that the caretaker government is not taking proper initiatives for the electoral reform dia-

Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim confirmed The Daily Star last night that 14 invitation letters were issued yes-Earlier on Tuesday, the chief

adviser's office invited six political parties--Communist Party of Bangladesh, Workers Party, SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

#### SC lawyers to stay away from court today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) lawyers are scheduled to refrain from attending the Appellate Division proceedings for two hours from 9:00am today, protesting a recent few judgments of the court.

Meanwhile, another group of lawyers led by Bangladesh Bar Council (BBC) Vice-chairman Advocate Khondker Mahbub Hossain, who was appointed to the post by the military backed caretaker government, opposed the SCBA decision and decided to attend the court proceedings this morning standing against the protesters.

SCBA, on May 11, at an urgent general meeting decided to abstain from the proceedings in Appellate Division from 9:00am to 11:00am

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES

## Law drafted for access to information

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The caretaker government has moved to ensure that people get information about functioning of local government bodies as part of efforts to establish accountability and transparency in their activities.

The LGRD ministry has drafted laws on different local government bodies incorporating provisions for people's access to information, and punishment for refusal to give prescribed procedure. information, sources said.

caretaker government has already finalised two draft ordinances on city corporations and municipalities which contain provisions allowing citizens to have information on them.

In the proposed ordinances on zila, upazila and union parishads, the LGRD ministry has incorpo- ests of all concerned. rated a similar chapter titled 'right to information', detailing the procedure to get information, information contained in notified sources in the ministry said.

any citizen of Bangladesh has the right to get information on any

The council of advisers to the access to any information contained in notified records or documents, and the authorities can cials concerned in city corporaseeking such information.

In such cases, the government

through gazette notifications can classify these records and documents as notified ones in the inter-

"A local government unit can ignore any demands for getting records or documents," one source The proposed ordinances say said quoting the relevant provi-

According to the proposed laws, local government units through a the government can direct any local government institution to But the citizens will not have prepare a list of information to be made available to people.

The draft ordinances say, "Offirefuse to accept any applications tions will be bound to give information within the specified time,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Nizami sees move for depoliticisation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Amir Motiur Rahman Nizami yesterday alleged that the caretaker government is not taking proper initiatives for the electoral reform dialogue with political parties and is rather making a fresh move to arrest political leaders.

"There has been a move to create a vacuum in the country's leadership through depoliticisation," Nizami said yesterday--just a day after the Anti-Corruption Commission pressed charges against him and others in the Gatco graft case.

"So far as I came to know a process is underway for arresting me. But I am not worried about myself. I have not committed any corruption...I am worried about the country and its people," he read out from a written speech at a press conference held at the party head

He demanded release of all political leaders arrested since the declaration of the state of emergency, including Awami League SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

### CA to attend grand rally of farmers in Dinajpur today

Opens Boro harvest'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed will attend a farmers' grand rally at Cheradangi High School ground, about four kilometres from Dinajpur district headquarters, this morning. He will also inaugurate Boro

harvest season of this region by cutting a sheaf of paddy on a land owned by farmer Year Muhammad at Cheradangi village. Sources in the district adminis-

tration said at least two farmers each from 63 districts and 100 farmers from Dinajpur district will



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

TRAIN ACCIDENT

blamed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

top railway official said.

Upaban driver,

stationmaster

The collision between two passen-

ger trains at Ashuganj early yester-

day took place due to violation of

signal by the Sylhet-bound Upaban

Express drivers and negligence on

part of Ashuganj stationmaster, a

The accident killed eight people

A derailed section of Noakhali Express at Ashuganj train station after yesterday's collision with Sylhet bound Upaban Express.

## Ex-state minister Omar, Mockbul's son jailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday jailed design former state minister for law barrister Shahjahan Omar for 13 years for amassing wealth illegally and concealing information in his wealth statement submitted to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

cases also sentenced his wife Mehjabin Farjana Omar to three years' imprisonment for abetting wealth in her possession.

Another special court yesterday Masud to seven years imprisonagainst him on charge of forging a

Tk 1,22,44,200 in default of which year in jail.

Meanwhile, another court fine. sentenced former AL lawmaker The court dealing with graft Mokbul Hossain's son Masudur Rahman to 13 years imprisonment for amassing wealth beyond his prison. known sources of income and him and keeping the ill-gotten concealing information in his wealth statement.

The court also sentenced sentenced detained Daily Masudur's wife Salma Rahman to Janakantha Editor Atiqullah Khan three years' imprisonment for abetting her husband in accumu- proved. SEE PAGE 15 COL 3 ment in yet another case filed lating wealth by illegal means.

CASE OF SHAHJAHAN

Rajuk approval for a building Shahjahan, who received gallantry award Bir Uttam for his contribu-The court also fined Atiqullah tions to the 1971 Liberation War, was also fined Tk 10 lakh. He will he would have to serve another have to remain behind bars for one more years if he failed to pay the

> His wife has also been fined Tk 5 lakh, in default of which she will spend another six months in

> The judge also issued orders for confiscating all his ill-gotten prop-

erty worth about Tk 2.06 crore. The court however acquitted their son Adnan Omar as charges brought against him could not be

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

# A city in itself set to dot Dhaka horizon

#### Rajuk goes for ambitious residential project -schools, colleges and private

PINAKI ROY

The northern horizon of Dhaka City is going to see a lot of changes as Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) is developing its most ambitious residential project yet in a nine-square-kilometre vast wetland in Uttara.

Once the project is fully implemented, commuters will also notice significant changes in the communication between the central and northern parts of the Road.

from the Zero Point of Dhaka City, vast wetland just behind the botanical garden beside the Mirpur flood protection embankment is being filled up dividing each residential sector into multiple blocks. Rajuk authorities said almost 30

percent space is being reserved for needed in a modern satellite town-

universities, clinics and hospitals, shopping malls and kitchen markets, mosques, temples and churches, Eidgahs and graveyards.

development of Dhaka City, Rajuk has allocated land for underground plots at Tk 15 lakh each. railway, monorail and bus terminals. The authorities will construct cated in 2006 under the huge resia new major road to connect the northern and southern parts of the city as a substitute for the Airport was stayed on the allegation of

Under the new project, 20km in a way so that people living there will not need to come to the main taskforce investigation. city often--they will get everything they need over there. We are careful so that our new project does not increase traffic congestion," said Nurul Islam, Uttara third phase project director.

road network while space is also that the residential area does not sources. being saved for various facilities turn into a commercial area in the future like Dhanmondi," he said.

Rajuk started the project beside the Uttara second phase in 1999, targeting a project cost of Tk 20,440 million. The authorities have already earned Tk 4,139 million by Moreover, considering future selling 922 five-katha plots at Tk 20 lakh each and 1,530 three-katha

> A total of 8,285 plots were allodential project.

However, allocation of 897 plots nepotism. Of them, the authorities "We are trying to build the area have given back 300 plots to their allottees after clearance following

About 2,000 plots have been allotted to those whose land was acquired for the project while 20 percent plots (around 800) have been reserved for the housing and public works ministry and Rajuk "We are planning in a way so officials and employees, said Rajuk

> Rajuk authorities estimated the SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## BNP factions reach consensus on unity

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Leaders of both factions in BNP in a crucial meeting yesterday reached a consensus and prepared a draft charter for reuniting the party, which will be made public soon,

and injured about 100 others. according to meeting sources. Besides, the Bangladesh Railway The meeting reached a consenincurred a loss of over Tk 2 crore as sus that pro-Saifur faction will five compartments of the two trains nullify the decisions made in the and the engine of the Upaban much disputed October 29, 2007 Express were damaged and the meeting of the so-called standing committee, where the clique was Ashuganj terminal smashed. formed appointing Saifur Rahman

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Prepare draft charter

tary general respectively. The move will mean dissolution of pro-Saifur faction and merger of it with Khaleda loyalists currently

appointed Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain. Pro-Saifur leaders will also take necessary steps so the party may use its central office, and will reactivate the party's bank account which they froze following the

STAFF CORRESPONDENT and Maj (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed acting chairman and acting secre-

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Several rooms at Dhaka Central Jail have been kept ready for accommodating more high profile prisoners, jail sources said last night. The prison authorities took this led by the detained chairperson

GATCO GRAFT

for more

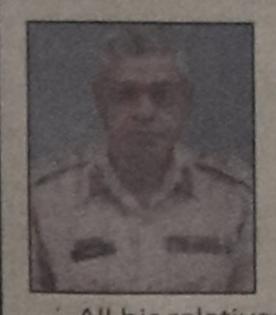
**VVIPs** 

Jail prepares

step sensing arrest of former ministers and top leaders against whom charges in the Gatco graft case were pressed on Tuesday night.

"We are always ready. We are bound to accept (any prisoners) if court sends them to us," said Major Shamsul Haider Siddique, deputy SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

# Col (rtd) Shafique Ullah Bir Protik



expired on 31st March

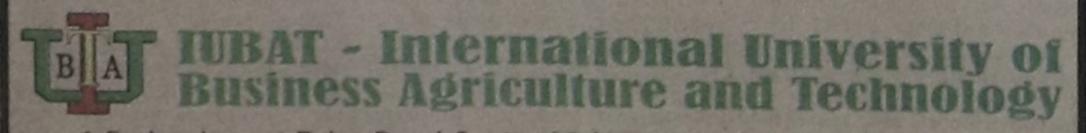
WE DEEPLY MOURN

Loss of our dear Treasurer and Member, Board of Governors

All his relatives, friends, colleagues and students are invited to join in the Challisha-cum-Civic Memorial Meeting on Friday, May 16, 2008 after Jumma at his village home, Kailine, Chandina, Comilla.

IUBAT Community and Family Members

Group Capt M S Zoha (rtd) Convener Col (rtd) Md Shafique Ullah, Bir Protik Memorial Committee



4, Embankment Drive Road, Sector 10, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka 1230 PABX: 896 3523-7, 892 3469-70, 01818 1469 74 Fax: 892 2625, zoha@iubat.edu GRAFT CASE

#### ACC submits charge sheet against Mirza Abbas, wife

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against detained former housing and public works minister Mirza Abbas and his wife Afroza Abbas in a case filed for amassing wealth through illegal means and providing false information about wealth to the commission.

ACC Assistant Director Khairul Huda, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court of Dhaka, showing 34 people as prosecution witnesses.

On August 16 last year, ACC Station against the couple.

Assistant Director Shafiul Alam filed the case with Ramna Police In the case statement, the complainant said that they had found SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

