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TRANS-COM ELECTRONICS

Niko graft case hearing adjourned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution of the Niko graft case yesterday appealed to the special court to frame charges against the nine accused including former premier and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina.

The court, however, adjourned the hearing until June 22.

There is ample documentary evidence to frame charges against the accused, prosecutors of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) told the court during hearing on the charge framing of the case.

"This is a case of documentary evidence which would unveil the truth of the offence during trial," ACC prosecutor Sharfuddin Khan Mukul told judge Amar Kumar Roy of the Special Court-2 set up on the Jatya Sangsad Bhavan premises.

Defence lawyer advocate Syed Rezaur Rahman opposed the prosecution's plea and said the

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SHINEPUKUR SCAM ACC charge sheet against Mahmudur likely today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) is likely to submit the charge sheet, today or tomorrow, of the Tk 118 crore embezzlement case against the former so-called managing director (MD) of Shine Pukur Holdings Ltd Mahmudur Rahman and six others.

Meanwhile, detained former BNP lawmaker MAH Salim's wife Amena Begum yesterday obtained bail in a case filed for amassing wealth illegally and concealing wealth information to the commission.

MAHMUDUR CASE

The ACC yesterday sent the sanction letter for submission of the charge sheet against Mahmudur Rahman, Shinepukur Holdings chairman Sohail F Rahman, vice chairman Salman F Rahman and five others to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court of Dhaka.

The ACC earlier on June 9 approved the charge sheet against Mahmudur Rahman, Sohail, Salman and five others for committing the offences.

ACC Assistant Director Amirul Islam, also the investigation officer

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Graft charges pressed against Taimur, Foysal Morshed

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday submitted the charge sheet against detained former Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) chairman Taimur Alam Khondaker in a corruption case.

The ACC yesterday also pressed charges against Foysal Morshed Khan, son of former foreign minister M Morshed Khan, and Foysal's wife Shyma Shezan Khan in a case filed for amassing wealth illegally and giving false wealth information.

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Student kills himself after shooting aunt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A BBA student committed suicide on the terrace of his uncle's house after shooting his aunt in city's Mirpur area at noon yesterday.

The body of deceased Mohammad Jewel, a 28-year-old student of Mirpur Commerce College, was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue while his injured

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Prayer Timing		
June 17		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Magistracy power for EC men in city polls

Law ministry okays rules for local govt bodies

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission (EC) is going to have the authority to provide magistracy power to officials on duty in city corporation and municipality elections to hold summary trial for electoral offences.

The law ministry okayed on Sunday the EC-drafted election rules for these local government bodies, providing it with this authority, sources in the EC said.

The EC is set to promulgate anytime the new election rules and code of conduct in preparation for holding polls in four city corporations and nine municipalities next month. It will announce the polls

schedule in a couple of days.

In the past, the government used to vest magistracy in its officials and deploy them as mobile courts during polls for summary trial of electoral offences.

In exercise of the power the EC now holds, it can provide persons on polls duty, including presiding officers or polling officers, with magistracy power for summary trial. It only has to inform the government to take necessary steps in this regard.

But members of the law enforcement agencies engaged in polls duty, who include defence forces personnel cannot be vested with the authority to try electoral offences. However, they have been

empowered to arrest anybody without warrant for committing electoral offences on polling day.

According to the new election rules for city corporations and municipalities, polls offences include canvassing for any candidates or seeking votes for them within a radius of 400 yards of polling centres on election day, persuading voters not to cast votes in the election or for a particular candidate, or making undue influence in voting and creating obstacles to it.

A person guilty of polls offences will be punished through summary trial for six months to seven years in jail.

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20 injured as patients clash with Ansars at BSMMU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 20 people, including Ansars, patients and relatives accompanying them, were injured when Ansars clashed with them at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Hospital yesterday.

Witnesses said the half-an-hour clash started around 10:45am when Ansar member Sultan Ahmed pushed a middle-aged man who was standing in a queue in front of the outdoor section in Block-C. They were involved in an altercation about standing in the queue.

The man fell on a female patient, who came to the hospital with her five-month-old baby, and her husband Jasim became furious and slapped Sultan.

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PHOTO: STAR

Relatives of people held in the ongoing arrest drive throng ticket counters at Dhaka Central Jail to meet their loved ones yesterday.

3 criminals killed in city 'encounter'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three alleged criminals were killed in a gunfight with members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) at Meradia in the city's Khilgaon area early yesterday.

The dead were identified as Sohail alias 'Bhombal' Sohail, 35, of East Goran, Monir Hossain alias 'Baka' Babu, 22, of East Rampura, and Sukkur Ali, 30, of South Goran.

Rab-3 officials said one of their patrol teams chased the three following their suspicious movements when they were passing through Balurmath near Meradia Bazar by a private car at around 1:45am.

Sensing danger, the criminals fired several rounds of bullet on the law enforcers, forcing them to retaliate.

Rab sources said Sohail, Babu and Sukkur received bullets during the gunfight and died instantly while two other members of the gang managed to flee. Both sides traded at least 40 bullets during the clash, they added.

Rab members and a patrol team of Khilgaon Police Station sent the bodies to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

They recovered three firearms and 10 cocktails from the scene and seized the private car.

Babu's father Moklesur Rahman alleged that Rab personnel picked up his son and his two friends—Kalu and Belal—from a restaurant at East Rampura on May 14.

"Though my son is found dead, Kalu and Belal still remain missing," Moklesur Rahman said.

Family members of two other deceased—Sukkur and Sohail—said Rab members arrested the two on Saturday night.

Family members said Sohail and his friend Babu had been carrying out criminal activities for last several years and they did not maintain any relationship with Sohail. They, however, claimed that Sukkur was not a criminal. He was the driver of Sohail's car.

Talking to The Daily Star,

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Japan telecoms giant to buy 30pc stake in AKTEL

MD HASAN

NTT DoCoMo, Japan's largest telecoms operator, yesterday said it will buy AK Khan and Company's 30 percent stake in AKTEL, Bangladesh's third largest mobile operator, for \$350 million.

"The deal, worth \$350 million, is expected to be completed by the end of 2008," according to DoCoMo announcement posted on its website yesterday.

Telecom Malaysia (TM), the 70 percent shareholder of AKTEL, also announced the deal in the Malaysian stock exchange, saying "AK Khan and Company is exiting TMIB and has entered into a share sale and purchase agreement to sell its entire stake in TMIB to DoCoMo".

FULL STORY STAR BUSINESS B-1

29 officials promoted to jt secretary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-nine deputy secretaries (DSs) of different cadres were promoted to joint secretary yesterday, a notification of the establishment ministry said.

The joint secretaries have been made officers on special duty (OSD) at the establishment ministry before they are given new postings.

These officials are from the administration, information, public works, health, tax and audit and accounts cadres.

The decision to promote them was taken in the recent meeting of the Superior Selection Board.

The promoted officers are Abul Fateh Md Bakhtiar, BRTC general manager, AKM Saiful Islam Chowdhury, project director of

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PHOTO: STAR

This manhole near Dhaka Sheraton Hotel with its lid missing caused several mishaps on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. The photo was taken yesterday.

ADB offers \$130m to tackle food crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is going to provide Bangladesh with food assistance of \$130 million as budget support to meet the government's food requirement under its social safety net programmes in next fiscal year.

Earlier, the government sought \$200 million from ADB, which is acting as mediator for Bangladesh to get food aid from other development partners so that people don't face crisis.

"Bangladesh is suffering seriously due to the food price hike. So, ADB is providing the quick supports for Bangladeshi people in next July," Kunio Senga, director

general of ADB for South Asia, told journalists at the secretariat following a meeting with Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam.

Senga also said they had a meeting with other development partners from Japan, the US, the World Bank and other UN agencies who also may aid to the food aid.

Kunio Senga is leading a six-member ADB delegation that arrived in Dhaka on a three day visit on Sunday.

Finance Adviser Mirza Aziz however said the amount of food assistance might increase. "Initially we've got assurance of \$130 million but the amount may increase," Mirza Aziz told reporters after the meeting with the ADB

delegates.

The adviser also said an ADB assessment mission in this regard has already completed its work after Bangladesh sought the \$200 million aid.

Not only Bangladesh but many people across the world are suffering due to the hike of food grains, Senga said. "Now the government would be able to buy food grains and bring the poor under its safety net programmes," Senga added.

The ADB would also help the government to develop infrastructures in rural areas so that the country can produce more food grains, he added.

The adviser said the ADB also

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4-party observes prisoner release day today

UNB, Dhaka

The BNP-led four-party alliance will observe "prisoner release day" today to put pressure on the caretaker administration for the release of former prime minister Khaleda Zia, Motiur Rahman Nizami and other political detainees.

The alliance demands "unconditional release" of the political detainees. It has also planned to observe a demand day on June 19.

Today, the four-party alliance will hold a protest rally at 3:00 pm at the Engineers Institution in the city. It will also hold similar rallies across the country.

Meanwhile, Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid in a press statement yesterday said all political detainees must be freed to ensure a free and fair election.

Suicide bomber kills 12 at Lankan police complex

AFP, Colombo

A Tamil Tiger suicide bomber on a motorcycle blew himself up outside a police compound in northern Sri Lanka yesterday, killing at least 12 police and wounding 40 other people, officials said.

The powerful blast occurred during the morning rush hour directly in front of a police building in the tightly-guarded town of Vavuniya, 258 kilometres (160 miles) north of the capital Colombo, the defence ministry said.

The wounded, some of them schoolchildren, were rushed to the main hospital, doctors said.

"It was a Tiger suicide bomber who rammed his (explosive-packed) motorcycle as policemen were leaving for duty," military

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PHOTO: STAR

Police stand guard at the Cabin Block of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital as patients and their relatives had a clash with Ansars on duty yesterday.



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