

Zia Orphanage case

FROM PAGE 16
Meanwhile, another Dhaka court will decide today whether to accept the charge sheet of a corruption case filed against Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka for amassing wealth worth Tk 9.76 crore illegally and giving false wealth information to the ACC.

ZIA ORPHANAGE TRUST CASE
Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Rabbani ordered the IO to submit the probe report by August 4 after the first information report (FIR) of the case was placed before him.

According to the case filed by ACC Deputy Assistant Director Farhanur Rashid, the then prime minister Khaleda Zia and the other accused embezzled over Tk 2.10 crore establishing an organisation that only exists on papers.

The five other accused are former BNP lawmaker Qazi Saleemul Huq Kamal, Syed Ahmed alias Sayeed Ahmed, Gias Uddin Ahmed, Sharfuddin Ahmed and Mominur Rahman, son of Khaleda's sister.

CASE AGAINST PINTU
The same court permitted the ACC to interrogate Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu at jail gate in connection with two corruption cases after ACC Deputy Director Shaifur Rahman Bhuiyan submitted two petitions in this regard.

The cases were filed against Pintu with Kamrangirchar Police Station on July 1 last year following recovery of 216 corrugated iron (CI) sheets, meant for relief only, at two places of Kamrangirchar in the capital.

Around 110 CI sheets were seized at Abdul Awal College in Ashrafabad and 106 sheets at Shamsul Haq Market in Nabinagar, police said.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Abdul Motaleb filed a case against Pintu and Sultanganj Union Parishad Chairman Haji Monir Hossain for misusing 110 government CI sheets while SI Abdul Jalil lodged the other case against Pintu, Haji Monir, Shamsul Haque and his wife Kamala Begum for misappropriation 106 CI sheets.

Pintu was sent to jail on February

Nadal wins
FROM PAGE 16
The Spaniard won a classic final 6-4, 6-4, 6-7 (5/7), 6-7 (8/10), 9-7 to add a first title at the All England Club to his four French Open victories.

Nadal's victory in what was the longest final in the tournament's history ended Federer's 65-match unbeaten run on grass and denied the Swiss the chance to become the first man since the 19th century to win six Wimbledon titles in a row.

For Nadal, it was a case of third time lucky as he turned the tables on his great rival after losing out to him in the 2006 and 2007 finals.

The 22-year-old, who demolished Federer in last month's French Open final, becomes the third man to win titles at Roland Garros and the All England club in the same year in the Open era, emulating the achievements of Rod Laver and Bjorn Borg.

He was the first Spaniard to win a Wimbledon title since Manolo Santana in 1966.

Nadal got his nose in front when he broke Federer's service in the third game of the opening set and went on to clinch it 6-4.

He came from a break down to claim the second by the same scoreline.

Federer kept the defence of his title alive by clinching the third set in a tiebreak after a rain break of more than an hour at the end of the ninth game.

He then saved two match points before clinching the fourth set tiebreak to force the match into the decisive fifth.

But Nadal was not to be denied and finally claimed victory in the 16th game of the fifth set after four hours and 48 minutes on court.

Jamaat leader
FROM PAGE 1
ordinances exceeding its jurisdiction, making the ordinances unconstitutional. Advocate Tajul Islam, counsel for the petitioner, told journalists at a press briefing quoting from the writ.

The government on May 14 issued gazette notifications promulgating Local Government (City Corporation) Ordinance 2008 and Local Government (Municipality) Ordinance 2008 for holding elections to city corporations and municipalities.

The EC on June 20 announced that elections to four city corporations and nine municipalities will be held on August 4.

Since the onset of EC's initiatives to hold local government polls prior to the parliamentary election, Jamaat has been opposing the move.

Tajul said according to article 58 (D) of the constitution, the caretaker government should discharge the routine functions and cannot take any policy decision like promulgating the local government ordinances.

Major political parties have been opposing holding of local government elections before the parliamentary poll. But, the EC has announced the schedule for holding elections to four city corporations and nine municipalities ignoring their objections, he added.

Earlier on July 3, SC lawyer Advocate Giasuddin Ahamed served a legal notice to the EC and the government for cancelling the August 4 schedule for holding the city corporation and municipality elections before publication of the finalised national voter list.

The legal notice stated that according to article 119 of the constitution, the EC has been entrusted to hold elections to the offices of the president and the parliament, to redemarcate parliamentary constituencies, and to prepare the electoral roll.

"The proposal for holding elections to city corporations and municipalities are against article 119 of the constitution," the notice stated.

Why contempt

FROM PAGE 16
(friend of the court) for legal interpretations in the case.

The amicus curiae are advocate Mahmudul Islam, barrister M Amirul Islam, barrister Rafique-ul Huq, barrister Ajmal Hossain and Dr Shahdeen Malik.

Advocate Mahmudul Islam recently told the court that the caretaker government promulgated the Contempt of Court Ordinance 2008 beyond its jurisdiction, so it was unconstitutional.

Following his submission, the court yesterday issued the rule asking the secretary to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs to reply to the rule.

On January 7, the weekly Shisho Kagoi published a news item headlined "A High Court judge whittens black money".

On January 10, an HC bench issued a suo moto contempt of court rule against 18 journalists of the weekly including Editor Ekramul Huq and the reporter concerned, Nasrin Akhter, asking them to appear in person before the court during the hearing on the rule.

Advocate Manzill Murshid and advocate Shafuldin Bhuiyan moved for the contemptors.

Khaleda appeals

FROM PAGE 16
special judge's court-3 set up at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban complex. The court, however, will hear on charge framing in the case on July 9.

The ACC filed the case against BNP chief Khaleda and 22 others on September 2, 2007 on charges of corruption in awarding Global Agro Trade (Pvt) Co Ltd (Gatco) the contract for container management at inland container depots in Dhaka and Chittagong causing a loss of over Tk 1,000 crore to the state exchequer.

Later, the case was brought under the Emergency Power Rules (EPR). Khaleda filed a writ with the HC on September 27, 2007 challenging legality of bringing the charge against her under EPR.

Following the writ, the HC on September 30, 2007 granted an interim bail to Khaleda and stayed proceedings of the case issuing a rule upon ACC and the government to show cause as to why bringing of charge against her under EPR should not be declared illegal.

The ACC filed a leave to appeal petition with the SC against the HC order.

The SC on October 4 stayed the HC order and asked ACC to file regular appeal with the court against the HC ruling.

The SC on June 15 this year adjourned for one month the hearing of the ACC appeal against the HC order that granted bail to Khaleda in the case and stayed the case proceedings.

The court also asked both sides to take steps for hearing the HC rule in this case by this time. Barrister Rafique-ul Huq appeared for Khaleda yesterday.

Govt to allow

FROM PAGE 1
in this regard soon," said LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal yesterday after a tripartite meeting on finalising the National Child Labour Elimination Policy 2008 at the Local Government Division's conference room.

The government imposed restrictions on trade union activities after the declaration of the state of emergency on January 11 last year.

Since the tenure of CBA bodies has expired, alternative committees and counter-committees have been formed in many industries, said Iqbal, also adviser to labour and employment ministry, who chaired the meeting.

Being alarmed at the prevailing situation which might lead to labour unrest, the government has decided to ease emergency to allow holding of elections to CBA bodies, he added.

Acting Secretary of Labour and employment ministry Dr Mahfuzul Haque, additional Home Secretary Sheikh Abdul Bashid, BKMEA President Fazlul Hoque, among others, attended the meeting.

D8 Summit

FROM PAGE 1
up in 1997 comprising eight developing Muslim countries—Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Pakistan, Malaysia, Turkey, Nigeria and Egypt.

The theme of this year's summit is 'Meeting Challenges through Innovative Cooperation', which calls for charting out newer modes of interaction among the member countries.

The D-8 embarked on its journey as an economic alliance with the aim of improving the economic status of the developing Muslim countries through diversification of their economies by creating new opportunities by means of enhanced trade relations.

The chief adviser is scheduled to hold bilateral meetings with the prime ministers of Malaysia and Pakistan and the president of Iran on the sidelines of the summit.

The one-day summit is likely to adopt the Kuala Lumpur Declaration and endorse the Rules of Origin Protocol of D-8 Preferential Trade Agreement.

Meantime, Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftakhar Ahmed Chowdhury, now in the Malaysian capital, yesterday said three major proposals of Bangladesh have been included in the draft declaration.

"These have to do with the rights of migrant workers, recognition of climate change as a major threat to all including D-8 countries and the establishment of a food bank by the group. All these are of major interests to Bangladesh," he said.

Essential prices

FROM PAGE 1
onions were selling between Tk 25 and Tk 27 per kg, while Indian variety was sold at Tk 18-22 yesterday.

The prices of vegetables have also shot up by Tk 2-5 per kg.

However, prices of broiler chicken came down by Tk 10-20 per kg. A kg of broiler chicken was selling between Tk 90-100 yesterday. Two days ago the price was Tk 120 per kg.

The price of egg remains stable and it now sells between Tk 78-84 per dozen.

Child labour

FROM PAGE 16
of awareness among parents.

"The policy will work as guidelines for curbing child labour as well as for rehabilitating those involved in risky and hazardous jobs," said Anwarul Hakim, deputy secretary of labour and manpower ministry.

"It will give directives on what to do and what not regarding child labour," Hakim, who is also in charge of the ILO (International Labour Organisation) desk at the ministry, told The Daily Star.

According to the National Child Labour Survey conducted in 2003, the number of child labourers aged between 7 and 17 is 30.18 lakh. However, many NGOs and government officials believe the number would be much higher.

"The reality is child labour is on the rise," said an official of the labour ministry.

The survey also revealed that 10.3 lakh working children are engaged in risky jobs.

The draft policy detailed how the children are subjected to discrimination as most of the employers tend to hire them for token wages and even get them work without pay.

It observed that the owners do not feel the need to improve the working conditions let alone ensure healthcare for the child workers.

Its special measures would be taken for physically handicapped and mentally retarded children and those belonging to different races. If necessary, a separate policy would be formulated so that their condition improves.

The draft national policy proposed conducting more research on child labour, its causes and solution, and setting up a child labour unit and national child labour welfare council. It also calls for greater involvement of the NGOs in the campaign to end child labour.

Tackle rising fuel

FROM PAGE 1
But Rajs said the rising cost of oil was pushing up food prices worldwide and that it would be "unrealistic" to exclude it from the meeting.

"In respect of the matter relating to increasing cost of oil and food, this will be included in the deliberation this afternoon," he said as foreign ministers convened ahead of Tuesday's summit.

"And if the leaders of governments will approve, it will become part of the Kuala Lumpur declaration," he told reporters.

"Members have been discussing this matter... the relationship between food and the spiralling cost of energy is a real thing. Therefore, if there is any view to exclude this from such an august meeting, it would really be unrealistic."

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and Malaysian Premier Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will attend Tuesday's talks.

The group also includes Bangladesh, Egypt, Nigeria and Turkey, which will be represented by ministers.

The group's leaders are expected to endorse a 10-year trade roadmap aimed at boosting economic cooperation and trade among member nations.

Spiking oil and food prices are being increasingly felt around the globe and surging commodity prices could worsen poverty in many poor countries, the International Monetary Fund warned last week.

It said many poor and developing countries would likely have to change their economic policies in response to soaring commodity prices.

Rajs also said that the issue of Iran's nuclear programme, and its standoff with the United States, would not be on the agenda, but that leaders were free to discuss the issue separately.

Truth Commission

FROM PAGE 1
The commission will be formed for exoneration of deserving ones of the high-profile corruption suspects booked as part of the drive launched by the caretaker government.

Following a change to a sub-clause of the ordinance, now a retired military official with the rank not below major general from the Defence (Armed) Forces would be qualified for becoming candidate for member of the Truth and Accountability Commission.

Earlier, it was mentioned that only a retired military official not below major general rank from Bangladesh Army could become member of the commission.

Under the Voluntarily Disclosure of Information Ordinance 2008, a 3-member Truth and Accountability Commission will be formed with five-month tenure for showing compassion to those who will voluntarily disclose their ill-gotten money and wealth.

Under provision of the ordinance, a retired chief justice, retired justice of the appellate division, secretary of the government or one equivalent to that status and noted citizen, who has made "meaningful contribution to his profession or business or services" would be eligible for becoming member of the Truth and Accountability Commission.

The president will appoint chairman of the commission from among the three members of the commission.

The Council of Advisers in its meeting with Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed in the chair also extended by six months to December 31 the time for attaining specific educational eligibility by unqualified teachers of registered non-government primary schools through appearing at competence test. The time extension was necessitated as holding the competence test was not possible due to High Court order of stay.

It also finally approved Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (Amended) Ordinance 2008 to abolish Desa by transferring its authority and operations to the newly created Dhaka Power

Asia Cup

FROM PAGE 16
and Rudra Pratap Singh (nought) off successive deliveries before Vaas returned for his third spell to dismiss Dhoni's resistance packed 74-ball deliveries.

Early in the day, he hit his 27th one-day hundred to become the second highest century-maker in one-day cricket behind India's Sachin Tendulkar, who has 42.

The 39-year-old, recalled for this tournament after being dropped for the West Indies tour in April, added an invaluable 131 runs for the fifth wicket with Tillakaratne Dilshan (56) after paceman Ishant Sharma made early inroads.

The 19-year-old Sharma dismissed Mahela Jayawardene (11), Chamara Kapugedera (five) and Chamara Silva (0) in an incisive seven over spell after Sri Lanka lost opener Kumar Sangakkara run out for four in only the second over.

Jayasuriya took up the fight, with impressive hitting that included nine boundaries and five sixes during his 114-ball knock.

He clouted Sharma over mid-wicket boundary to bring up his half-century off 43 balls and then cut loose, hitting paceman Rudra Pratap Singh for three sixes and two boundaries to take 26 in an over.

He flicked off-spinner Virendar Sehwal for a single to reach 100 off 79-balls.

He was finally dismissed after sweeping Sehwal straight into the hands of the mid-wicket fielder.

Dilshan smashed all of his three boundaries in one Irfan Pathan over before the paceman dismissed him in the 39th over.

Sharma finished with 3-52 while Singh took 3-67.

10,000 trained nurses

FROM PAGE 1
of having hygienic environment for patients, at least 80 square feet of floor space for each patient, air-conditioned operation theatre, essential life-saving equipment, adequate supply of life-saving and essential medicines, full-time registered medical practitioners, nurses and other staffs.

The hospitals and clinics should also have specialists for conducting operations, treatment and supervision of patients, reads the Medical Practice and Private Clinics and Laboratories Ordinance, 1982.

However, very few private clinics and hospitals are fully complying. Experts say that in most of the private hospitals a large number of untrained nurses are working alongside trained ones.

Currently the country has only 22,555 registered nurses and public hospitals should be employing 14,689 of them.

The total number of beds in private hospitals and clinics of the country is 34,227 and according to regulations, around three nurses should serve 10 patients. Private hospitals and clinics should have 10,268 nurses, Director of DGHS (Hospitals and Clinics) Akhter Hossain Bhuiyan told The Daily Star.

However, owners of the private clinics and hospitals often recruit nurses without any diplomas to cut cost, leaving many trained nurses unemployed.

At the same time, the government's monitoring system being inadequate enables owners of clinics and hospitals to run their business freely. Quality service and satisfaction of patients is often neglected.

Talking to The Daily Star, the secretary general of a clinic in Dhaka said his 10-bed healthcare centre, with an operation theatre and outdoor treatment facility, has six nurses but only two of them have diplomas.

"It is very difficult to get registered nurses since only 1,200 nurses graduate from different government nursing institutes every year. As a large number of private hospitals have been set up in the last few years, registered nurses joined there," he claimed seeking anonymity.

"Although we offer Tk 6,000 per month, we do not get any registered nurses," he said adding that at his hospital the untrained nurses receive between Tk 3,000 and Tk 4,000 a month.

The nurses joined the healthcare centre after finishing their SSC or HSC studies and they were "trained" at work, he said admitting that recruiting untrained nurses is definitely deteriorating nursing service quality.

Since untrained nurses do not know how to provide good care to patients and how to identify the needs of patients, they certainly fail to provide proper service and satisfy patients, said Rahima Jamal, nursing supervisor of Khaleda Zia Medical College Hospital in Dhaka.

Zardari wants Musharraf's peaceful exit

PTI, New Delhi

Amid calls for President Pervez Musharraf to step down, Pakistan Peoples' Party chief (PPP) Asif Ali Zardari insisted that he would have to quit but his party wants a graceful exit for the beleaguered General.

Zardari denied allegations about him being soft on Musharraf. My way of dealing with him is different. He will go. I cannot tell the time but we want a graceful exit for him," he told 'Seedhi Baat' programme on AajTak news channel.

"Yes, he (Musharraf) will go but there is no deadline," the PPP co-chairman was quoted as saying in a press release issued by the TV channel.

Zardari admitted that there were terrorist camps in Pakistan. "Yes, there are terrorists and terrorist camps in Pakistan. We are fighting a battle against them in North West Frontier Province," he said.

Asked who was responsible for the Kargil war, he said, "I think, both Musharraf and (former Prime Minister) Nawaz Sharif were responsible for Kargil." Advocating a visa-free regime for Indian citizens travelling to Pakistan, Zardari said he would be the first person to back such a proposal.

The PPP co-chairman said Indo-Pak relations should not be held hostage to the Kashmir issue. "Kashmir is important not only for Pakistan but for India also. But, I do feel that Indo-Pak relations can be strengthened on other fronts and they should not be held hostage to the Kashmir issue," Zardari said.

Delwar

FROM PAGE 16
Delwar made the remarks addressing token hunger strikers of Jatiyatabadi Tanti Dal at his NAM apartment in the capital.

He said at a time when general election has become a popular demand, the government is holding local body elections to divert people's attention.

"All steps the government is taking by violating the constitution with an aim to hang on to power for a long time. For that they are applying force," Delwar alleged.

Holding the government responsible for the current 'miserable' situation, he said if the government does not give up the crooked policy, people will take their own decision to save themselves and the country.

"But that decision will be harder than previous times," he said.

Delwar demanded the release of all leaders, including Jamaat chief Matiur Rahman Nizami. He also demanded treatment of BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman Koko abroad.

Tarique's release

FROM PAGE 1
see Tarique before he was sent to makeshift special court on Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises.

When Tarique was brought out of the prison cell, they chanted slogans demanding his release and treatment abroad around 12:00noon.

The witnesses say many of them threw bricks at the prison cell forcing law enforcers to charge baton to disperse them.

Rezaul Karim, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station, said, "The activists crowded around Tarique Rahman's ambulance and engaged in scuffling with the law enforcers."

A number of BSMMU staffs said outdoor patients could not enter the B Block during the agitation.

UK envoy

FROM PAGE 16
if it is held under the state of emergency, Evans told journalists at a press conference at his residence in the capital.

"There is a consensus that ideally you can't have state of emergency when you hold general elections. It is difficult to hold general election that is free and fair under the state of emergency," said the new British envoy who presented his credentials to the president earlier yesterday.

Expressing optimism that the general elections will be held in December as scheduled, he said, "We want to see the progress towards the lifting of the state of emergency... I have been told that the caretaker government is determined that the elections should take place as scheduled in December."

Asked if the election would be acceptable to the international community if any major political party boycotts it, he said it is not the international community but the people of Bangladesh to accept the result of the elections.

"Britain wants to see an inclusive election, including participation by all political parties, wide range of candidates, greater level of campaign and significant voter turnout," he added.

Asked about alleged tortures on political leaders in custody, Evans said it is for sure that Britain would not under any circumstances condone tortures to anyone in custody, which lead to the person being injured.

Asked for his comment on the point that a top leader of a political party was released while others are still in jails, he said legal processes should be followed in appropriate

EC finds itself

FROM PAGE 1
might have overridden the provision of the constitution in the past. I would again request the Election Commission to notice that although laws depend on simple logic, they certainly don't operate on the basis of twisted arguments," Rabbani quipped.

Echoing the justice, another jurist also a counsel for the EC Shahdeen Malik said an interpretation of the relevant regular law exists which allows convicted individuals to contest in polls while adjudication of appeals against the convictions are pending, but EPR prohibits such participation even when appeals are pending.

"Given the importance of ensuring that persons with questionable past and criminal convictions by trial courts are not allowed to participate in polls, they should not be allowed to contest even when their appeals against the convictions are pending," Malik told The Daily Star.

As an analogy he mentioned that government officials are dismissed upon convictions, and appeals against the convictions do not save them from the dismissals.

In defence of the EC's move however Election Commissioner Muhammad Sohul Hussain said the commission is following the laws.

Asked whether following two different laws results in discrimination, the election commissioner said the EC is not authorised to give explanations of laws, it rather "only follows them".

6 thrown out

FROM PAGE 1
After the cancellation, the number of candidates in mayoral race stands at 16, reports our Rajshahi Correspondent.

Our Sylhet correspondent reports: All 21 nominations submitted for the mayor's post in Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) were declared okay, said Khondker Mizaranur Rahman, deputy election commissioner for Sylhet division.

Of 48 nominations for the women's reserved councillor's seats, four were cancelled while scrutiny of 223 nominations filed for councillorship of 27 wards was going on till filing this report at 5:00pm yesterday.

Our Barisal correspondent reports: All 14 nominations turned in for the post of Barisal City Corporation (BCC) mayor were cleared on the first day yesterday, according to an official of the district election commission.

However, five out of 187 nominations submitted for the councillorships and one out of 42 for women's reserved seats were cancelled.

Landslide kills 4

FROM PAGE 16
Nirabi Officer (UNO) Altaf Hossain and other government officials visited the spot in the afternoon.

Meanwhile, a person was killed in another landslide at Mahajanpara in Cox's Bazar town at around 4:00pm.

The dead was identified as Mostak Ahmad, 35.

Local people recovered the body at about 7:00pm.

Earlier, nine people were killed in landslides caused by torrential rain at Dumperang and Fakirapara in Cox's Bazar on July 3.

6 thrown out

FROM PAGE 16
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"The case against Sadeque Hossain Khoka has become invalid and the trial proceedings of the case cannot go on since the investigation report was not submitted in the stipulated 60 days," he said.

ACC's lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan will make his submission before the court today.

ACC Assistant Director Shamsul Alam on April 2 this year filed the case with Ramna Police Station against Khoka and his wife Ismat Ara, daughter Sarika Sadeque and son Israk Hossain in connection with accumulating over Tk 17.57 crore beyond their known sources of income and concealing information about Tk 9.96 crore in their wealth statements submitted to the ACC.

Following a petition on June 9, the HC granted anticipatory bail to Khoka's wife and daughter. Later, the HC stayed the proceedings against Ismat Ara following the filing of another petition.

Khoka also filed a writ petition yesterday with the HC challenging the legality of the proceedings of the case. Hearing of the writ petition may be held today.

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