

## G8 pledges action

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down oil prices, which have jumped five-fold since 2003, as well as the soaring cost of food which has set off riots in parts of the developing world.

"There's a need to improve transparency on the oil market," Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda told a news conference at the end of the summit with leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States.

G8 leaders also called on all countries to end export restrictions on food, Fukuda said.

The summit was dominated by discussions on global warming amid growing concern that rising temperatures caused by carbon emissions are threatening entire species of plants and animals.

The rich nations' club on Tuesday agreed on the need for a global emissions cut of at least 50 percent by 2050, a step praised by G8 leaders as a step forward after years of hesitation by Bush.

But developing countries slammed the statement as too weak, tussling with rich nations at a special expanded summit yesterday bringing together the G8 with eight other leaders including Chinese President Hu Jintao and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

The deadlock between rich and developing nations has held up talks on reaching a new climate treaty by the end of 2009 in Copenhagen -- a goal set in December at a UN-backed conference in Bali.

"Climate change is one of the great global challenges of our time," the 16 leaders said in a statement. "Our nations will continue to work constructively together to promote the success of the Copenhagen climate change conference."

But their statement said only that rich countries would implement their own goals for cutting greenhouse emissions while developing major economies would also take action, without proposing any numbers.

European Commission president Jose Manuel Barroso defended the summit outcome.

"It is quite wrong to see this in terms of a confrontation between developed and developing countries," he said. "Of course we accept the lion's share of responsibility but this is a global challenge which requires a global response."

Dan Price, assistant to Bush for international economic affairs, praised the US-initiated meeting Wednesday as useful.

"There was universal recognition that having these countries in the room, trying to find common ground, was an enormous contribution to the UN negotiations," he said.

But the so-called Group of Five -- Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa -- has demanded that rich nations take the lead, saying they were historically responsible for climate change.

"Until there's a change in the decision of the United States, South Africa finds it very difficult for the G5 to move forward," South African

Environment Minister Marthinus Van Schalkwyk told reporters.

Kim Carstensen, head of the WWF environmental group's Global Climate Initiative, accused rich nations of trying to stall action by putting the onus on developing countries.

"Some rich nations get lost in tactics and seem to forget that the survival of people and nature crucially depends on their leadership," he said.

The United States is the only major industrial country to reject the Kyoto Protocol, with Bush arguing that it is unfair by making no demands of fast-growing emerging economies.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy said that Tuesday's agreement meant the G8 "now has a commitment" on cutting emissions but that emerging economies have not done the same.

"The United States is making a commitment, firmly and absolutely, with the condition imposed by their Congress that China and India also take action in a differentiated way," Sarkozy told reporters.

## Mirza Azam

FROM PAGE 1  
charge sheet against Azam to Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court, showing 34 people as prosecution witnesses.

The IO appealed for issuing arrest warrant against Azam and the court order to attach his properties, as he is still at large.

ACC Deputy Director Mobara Khanam on January 10 this year filed the case against the couple with Ramna Police Station.

In the case statement, the complainant said Azam accumulated wealth worth Tk 5,362,645 illegally and concealed information about his wealth worth Tk 6,434,295.

Aleya Azam was accused of abetting her husband.

REDWAN'S WIFE  
The same court issued arrest warrant against Redwan's wife Momtaz Ahmed in a case filed for amassing wealth worth over Tk 2.95 crore illegally and giving false information to the commission.

ACC Deputy Director Shahin Ara Montaj, also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet of the case to the CMM's Court on Tuesday, showing 35 people as prosecution witnesses.

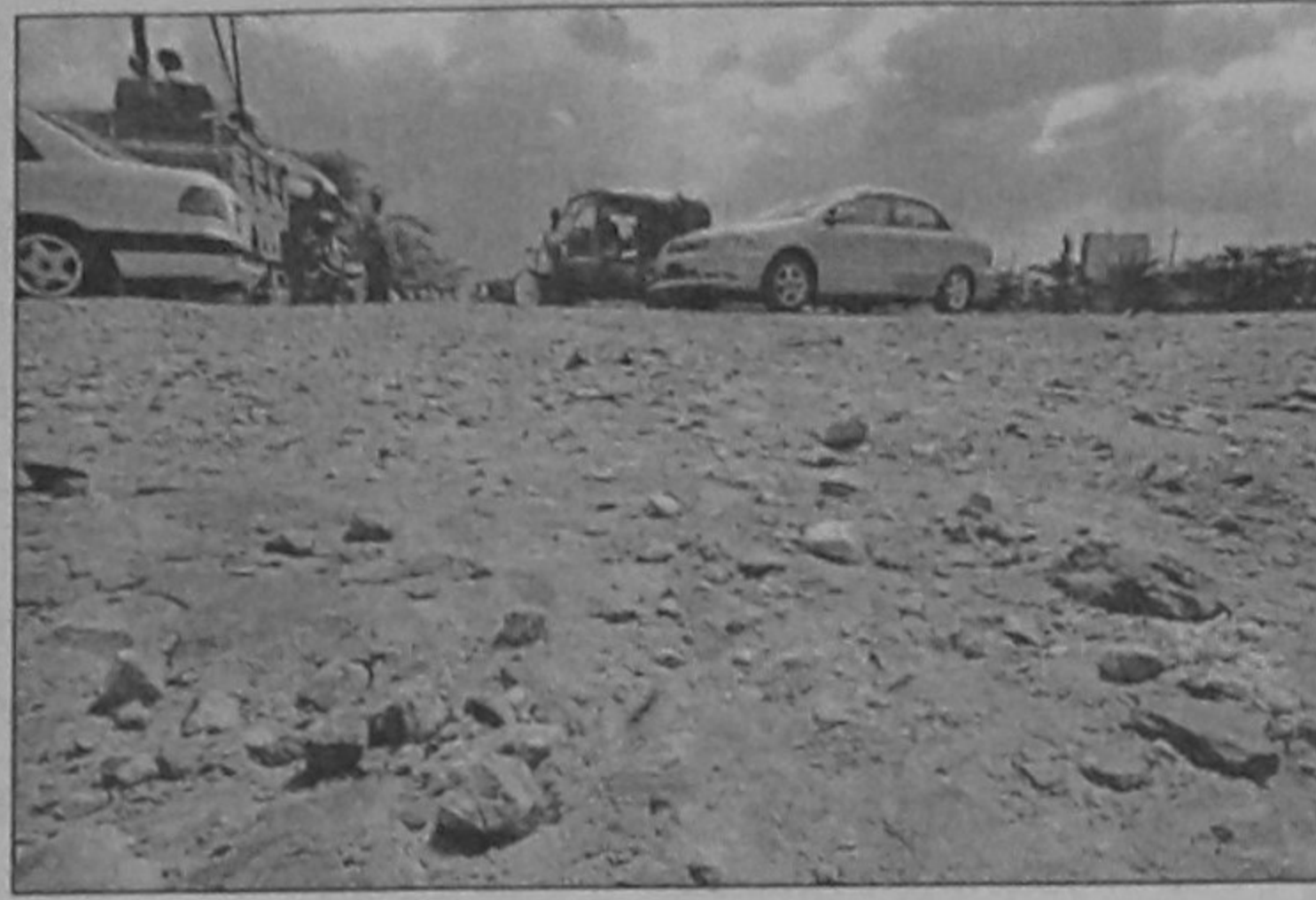
The IO prayed for issuance of arrest warrant against Montaj Ahmed and the court order to attach her properties as she remains absconding.

On December 19, the ACC filed the case against the couple with Ramna Police Station.

In the case statement, the complainant said Redwan illegally accumulated wealth worth Tk 2.31 crore and concealed information of his property worth Tk 1.37 crore in his wealth report.

Redwan submitted the wealth statement through jail authorities on August 14 as the ACC on August 7 issued a notice asking him to submit wealth report to the commission.

Montaj was included in the case for abetting her husband.



The Biswa Road-Airport Road intersection, left, now looks like a gravel road; large potholes, right, have developed at the Zia International Airport intersection.

## A city of potholes

FROM PAGE 1  
drene down of repair.

Abu Taher, a shopkeeper in Modhyabagh, said the main road in the area was constructed in 1989 and never repaired since.

Abu Talib, a rickshaw puller of the area, says, "I have to work almost thrice as hard than on other roads to get my rickshaw going on the road stretching from Modhyabagh to Shewrapara."

In many areas of the city, added to the bumpy roads is the fact that over the years road widths have lessened due to encroachment by residents or shop owners.

The road from Shewrapara to Prierbagh has lost its width in this process over the years. Though the original road was supposed to be 60 foot wide, it now stands only 15 foot wide due to encroachment by house owners, residents say.

The Prierbagh road was constructed in 1995 and has not been repaired since.

The condition of Tejaon Truck Stand Road has deteriorated so much that rickshaw pullers refuse

passengers on this route. Students of the BG-Press high school in the area say that they have to walk on the bumpy road even during rains.

The DCC has spent about Tk 142 crore in the 2007-2008 fiscal for maintenance and development of road and traffic infrastructure, and yet the general condition of most lanes and by-lanes and parts of main thoroughfares of the city remain in very bad condition.

The DCC has set up a target of Tk 170.40 crore for the current fiscal for road and traffic maintenance and development, a DCC official said. He however pointed out that there was no allocation for ward and zone based road repair works last year.

Then there are the allegations of corruption during repair works. After allegations of misappropriation by many commissioners, contractors and a section of DCC officials during road works during the regime of the BNP-led four-party alliance government, the

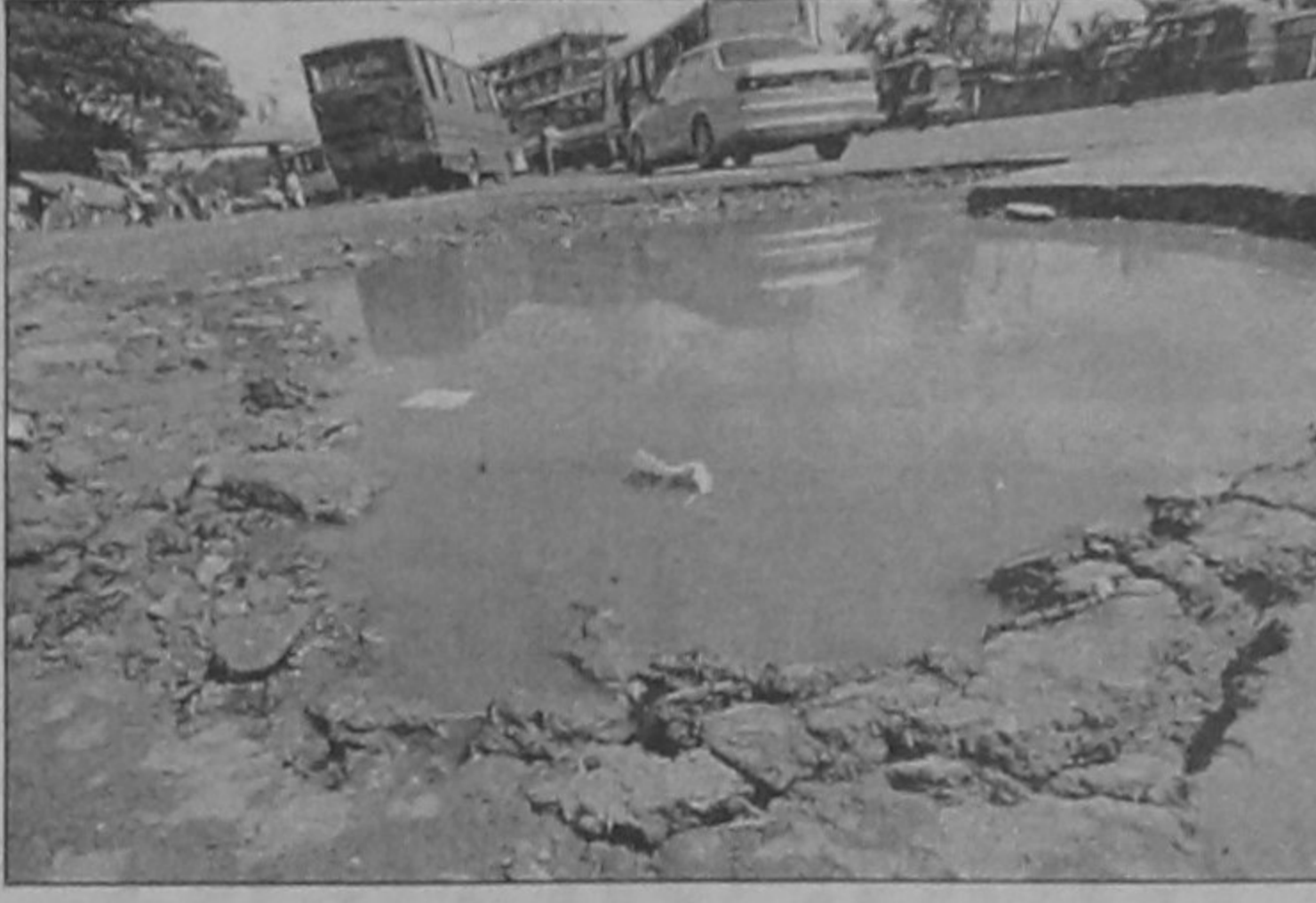


PHOTO: STAR

DCC authority has reduced the involvement of the commissioners and officials of different zones for repair works from last year, another official said.

Hazi Abdul Kader, ward commissioner of ward-14 and acting commissioner of ward-13 -- which include Shewrapara, Mirpur Rokeya Sarani, Paribagh, Modhyabagh and Monipur -- said although Tk 50 lakh was allocated for each of his wards, he did not receive a single penny in this regard in the last fiscal.

He said around 25 per cent of the road in his wards remain severely damaged and 25 per cent other is in need of some repair.

"To repair all these would require at least Tk 2 crore," he estimated.

The commissioner also alleged that he made several attempts to widen the Shewrapara to Paribagh road but could not due to some 'influential locals' who have encroached a portion of the road.

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) officials are not in the dark about

the situation.

DCC Chief Engineer Ashfaqul Islam said they have taken up a plan in the current budget for repair works based on zones and wards.

"We will ensure the quality of the road this time so that they remain usable for at least 10 years," he said. "We will also take immediate steps regarding complaints about missing manhole covers in the city."

Managing Director of Wasa Raihanul Abedin pointed out that around 10,000 manholes in the city are under the Wasa authority, the remaining are under the jurisdiction of DCC.

Manhole lids are often stolen for the value of metal. To counter this, DCC is thinking of using fibreglass lids. Fibreglass is a compound of plastic strengthened with short threads of glass and is cheaper than many metals.

DCC has already set 100 lids of fibreglass over the last two months on a pilot scheme.

## Persons with criminal charges

FROM PAGE 1  
Firoj Ahmed, commissioner of ward No. 24, had been arrested by the joint forces last year. A court here has sentenced him to life imprisonment for involvement in Mamun Gazi murder. The case is now at the High Court.

KM Shahidullah, commissioner of ward No. 12 and a BNP leader, is accused in four cases including one for grabbing government land. After hiding for a long time, he surrendered to a court a few months ago and was granted bail in all cases.

Commissioner of ward No. 22 and BNP leader Atiqur Rahman Atiq is accused in three cases including Shahjahan murder case. He was arrested after declaration of the state of emergency. Now he is freed on bail.

BNP leader and Commissioner of ward No. 9 Syed Jamal Hossain Noman who left Barisal after 1/11, has recently returned to his area to campaign for reelection. Local business community alleges that he has made huge sums through unfair allotment of shops in the Multipurpose City Market.

BNP leader Jainal Abedin, ward No. 10 commissioner, had been hiding since January last year. There are five cases including one for murder against him.

There are two cases including a murder against Habibur Rahman Tipu, commissioner of ward No. 6.

JP leader KM Murtaza Abedin, commissioner of ward No. 2, has 12 criminal cases including one for attempt to murder against him. He was detained for nine months before being released on bail recently. He is seeking re-election.

Sultan Mahmud, general secretary of Barisal Motor Samik Union, was caught by the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in the act of extorting money from transport owners. Listed as a top criminal, he was arrested on numerous occasions.

Asked about the commission's accepting nominations of those convicted, Deputy Election Commissioner for Barisal Division Monirul Islam told The Daily Star that there's nothing wrong with the decision since they (convicted by local courts) have obtained bail from the High Court with their cases still pending.

He however said if any candidate is found to have kept back personal information, his candidacy would be cancelled anytime.

SYLHET  
At least 19 people are running for the mayor's post and three of them are accused in corruption and criminal cases. Out of 218 councillor candidates, 45 are accused in criminal and corruption cases.

Sylhet City Corporation's (SCC) detained Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran is accused in four cases filed in connection with corruption, possessing foreign liquor and violating the Emergency Power Rules.

Along with over 20 incumbent councillors, he stands accused in a case filed on charges of illegally awarding a ward councillor the tender for a kitchen market.

Misbahuddin Siraj, another mayoral hopeful, was arrested last year along with 41 others in connection with violating the emergency power rules. He is now on bail.

Salahuddin Rimon was arrested

several times in connection with mugging and he is also on bail.

Mayor aspirant and district AL General Secretary Iftikhar Hossain Shamim was detained in jail for months on charge of land grabbing. The case was withdrawn Tuesday.

Deputy Election Commissioner for Sylhet Division Khandaker Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star that allegations against a number of candidates are present and some of them are even in jail but they cannot drop anyone from the race until and unless they are convicted.

Among the councillor candidates, district Jubo League President and councillor of Ward-8 Jagadis Das is in jail. He is accused in a number of cases filed for land grabbing and other criminal activities.

Former councillor of Ward-13 Oliur Rahman Soheli is accused in the kitchen market scam case. Currently, he is in jail in a narcotics case.

Councillor aspirants District Jubo League General Secretary and councillor of Ward-20 Azadur Rahman Azad, councillor of Ward-2 Syed Ahmed Hossain, councillor of Ward-11 Abdul Quaiyum Jalali Ponki, councillor of Ward-13 Santanu Dutta Santu, councillor of Ward-10 Saleh Ahmed Chowdhury, councillor of Ward-21 Sajjadur Rahman, councillor of Ward-22 Syed Misbah Uddin, councillor of Ward-23 Faruque Ahmed, councillor of Ward-24 Mohammad Shahjahan and former councillors Pradip Bhattacharya, Azhar Uddin Jahangir, Humayun Kabir Shahin, Moksud Bakht, Bidhan Kapali are among the accused in the kitchen market scam case and all are on bail.

Councillor of Ward-6 and BNP leader Farhad Chowdhury Shamim has cases filed against him in connection with gold smuggling and looting while councillor of Ward-9 and AL leader Mokhlesur Rahman Kamran is accused of land grabbing.

Councillor of Ward-25 Ashique Ahmed is on bail in the Pubali Bank Tk 22 lakh robbery case. He is a charge-sheeted accused in the case.

Among the new faces, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) cadre Kamrul Hasan Shahin, councillor candidate of Ward-6, has a number of criminal cases filed against him. Another councillor aspirant JCD cadre Sadiqur Rahman Sadique was arrested several times in connection with mugging.

JCD cadre Shakil Morshed was arrested several times in connection with hooliganism. He is a candidate in Ward-11.

Councillor candidate of Ward-4 Bazlur Rahman Babul and councillor candidate of Ward-7 Zakir Ahmed Shahid are accused in extortion, land grabbing and other criminal cases.

KHULNA  
Among the people whose nomination papers were accepted for Khulna City Corporation (KCC) mayoral and ward councillor candidacy, 13 are facing allegations of corruption and criminal activities.

Of them, four are mayoral candidates and the rest nine are councillor candidates. Four of the 13 are

in jail, one is on the run and the rest are on bail.

The mayoral candidates facing criminal charges are AL Khulna city unit President Talukder Abdul Khaleque, central Organising Secretary of Jatiya Party (JP) Abdul Gaffar Biswas, Convenor of Rajnaitik Shamajik Andolan city unit Kamrul Alam Mintu and independent candidate SM Hafizur Rahman.

Joint forces arrested Gaffar on May 17 last year and recovered three firearms, 500 bullets, 22 bottles of Phensidyl and considerable amount of heroin during a raid at his house.

Gaffar is also a charge-sheeted accused in the case filed in connection with the murder of JP leader Sheikh Abdul Kashem. He told The Daily Star that he is on bail in the cases and claimed the charges brought against him were fabricated with political motivation.

Abdul Khaleque is under trail in a corruption cases filed in connection with misappropriating money of development project.

The now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption in 2004 filed the case accusing him of misappropriating Tk 1.05 crore from the fund allocated by the government to construct a college at Rampal upazila in Bagerhat.

Joint forces arrested him during Operation Clean Heart in 2002. Khaleque said the case was filed with political motivation as he has never committed any corruption.

Hafizur Rahman, an official of the Municipal Services Project of KCC, was suspended on charge of misappropriating Tk 44.56 lakh. Hafiz blamed detained KCC mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman for his suspension.

He was sent to jail when he surrendered on May 26 last year as an accused of a forgery case.

Mintu was arrested twice since 2007 on charge of criminal activities. The case is still being investigated. He claims he has never committed any crime in his life. He is currently on bail.

Nine ward-councillor candidates have cases filed against them in connection with extortion, murder and arms. The councillor aspirants include Golam Mousa Shanu of Ward-26, Mohammad Hossain Mukta of Ward-31, BNP leader Mosaddek Hossain Babul of Ward-13, Sheikh Shahidul Islam of Ward-19, Jubo League leader Shahid Iqbal Bithar of Ward-24, AL leader Birendra Nath Ghose of Ward-23 and Anisur Rahman Biswas of Ward-16.

RAJSHAH  
A total of 18 people are running for the post of mayor in the Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) elections while 242 people are councillor candidates of different wards.

Councillor candidate Rejaunabi Al Mamun, councillor of Ward-15, is accused in 10 criminal cases filed with Rajshahi city police stations and police stations in Bogra. He is even accused of kidnapping. The cases he is accused in were filed under Public Safety Act and Speedy Trial Act.

Councillor aspirant Shahadat Hossain Sahu, councillor of Ward-17 and an AL adherent, was recently released from police custody. He was arrested nine months ago in connection with

criminal activities including land grabbing and abetting hooligans in his area.

Murad Ali, councillor of Ward-14, has two land-grabbing cases filed against him.

## Barisal, Khulna

FROM PAGE 1  
Judicial Magistrate's Court, showing 19 people as prosecution witnesses, reports our correspondent from Barisal.

In the charge sheet, the IO said Sarwar had submitted his wealth statement to the ACC on 26 July last year stating that he has immovable property worth Tk 4.99 crore and movable property worth Tk 2.58 crore.

But during an investigation it was found that the BNP leader had amassed wealth worth about Tk 9.09 crore illegally and also concealed information about wealth worth Tk 3.89 crore.

KCC MAYOR  
Sub Inspector Golam Rabbani of the Detective Branch of Khulna Metropolitan police (KMP) submitted the charge sheet against detained KCC Mayor and three others to the CMM's court in connection with an extortion case, reports our staff correspondent in Khulna.

The three others chargesheeted accused are Abdul Wadud, Delwar Hossain and Sakawat Hossain. The case was filed with Khulna Sadar thana on November 5 last year by Jahangir Hossain of West Baniachhama as complainant.

The complainant alleged in his FIR that the accused took Tk 1 lakh from him promising to provide him a job in the city corporation.

But they neither provided him with the job nor returned the money.

SI Golam Rabbani, who investigated the case, has named 12 people in the charge sheet as prosecution witnesses.

Iraq needs long-term US military help

Says US general

AP, Washington

The general who led efforts to train Iraq's army and police units said yesterday that progress is mixed and long-term US help is needed.

Army Lt. Gen. James Dubik said Iraq's security forces have grown from 444,000 to 566,000 since he assumed command of the Multi-National Security Transition Command in June 2007 and they are better able to execute operations on their own.

But the fast-growing force still lacks experienced leaders and the ability to train all its new recruits, Dubik told the House Armed Services Committee.

"As I often said to my command in Baghdad, 'Progress doesn't result in no problems, it results in new problems,'" he said in his written testimony.

The war, now in its sixth year, is an important issue in the presidential election and the progress of Iraq's security forces is seen as necessary to help smooth a U.S. exit.

## HC stays Niko case

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told journalists that the HC stayed the case proceedings and issued the rules on the grounds that the ACC didn't follow due procedures and provisions of the ACC Act, 2004 and the ACC Rules, 2007 for giving permission to file the case.

ACC's counsel advocate Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that the HC issued the ruling to examine whether the commission gave permission for filing the case following due process of law.

He also said the ACC would file an appeal with the SC against the HC order as soon as possible.

"The High Court has stayed the proceedings of Niko graft case against Khaleda Zia and issued the ruling. We are bound to comply with the order but we shall challenge it in the Supreme Court immediately," he added.

The ACC filed the case with Tejaon Police Station against Khaleda Zia and several others on December 9 last year on charges of abusing power to award a gas exploration and extraction deal to Canadian company Niko.

Khaleda Zia filed the writ petition on July 7 for quashing the case pending with the Special Judge's Court-9 set up on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises and also staying the case proceedings.

Following the petition, the HC on Tuesday asked the ACC to submit the relevant documents on its (ACC) permission for filing the Niko corruption case against Khaleda Zia to the court yesterday. The commission submitted the documents to the court following the order.

OTHER CASES QUASHED

The HC yesterday quashed corruption proceedings against the wife and the daughter-in-law of former foreign affairs minister M. Morshed Khan, the wives of ex-Awami League lawmaker Kamal Ahmed Majumder, erstwhile deputy minister for land Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu and ward commissioner Abdul Kaiyum and the son of Jamuna Group chairman Nurul Islam Babul.

The HC bench of Justice Mohammad Abdur Rashid and Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam returned the verdicts following writ petitions to that end.

The ACC had filed corruption cases against Morshed Khan, his son Faisal Morshed Khan, Kamal Majumder, Dulu, Kaiyum and Babul on charges of building up huge wealth through illegal means and concealing information on their assets in statements to the watchdog.

Morshed Khan's wife Nasrin Khan and daughter-in-law Shyama Shezan Khan, Kamal Majumder's wife Shahida Kamal, Dulu's wife Sabina Yasmin, Kaiyum's wife Shamim Ara Begum and Babul's son Shamim Islam were accused in the cases for allegedly aiding and abetting the principal accused.

They later filed writ petitions challenging the legality of the case proceedings against them, following which the HC ruled on the government and the ACC to explain

why the proceedings against the petitioners should not be quashed.

The HC bench reached the verdicts after hearing arguments from the defence and the prosecution.

Vowing to appeal against the HC judgments in the Appellate Division, ACC's lawyer advocate Khurshid Alam Khan told reporters that the HC quashed the case proceedings on the grounds that the watchdog had filed the cases without issuing notices on the petitioners.

ACC Assistant Director Talebor Rahman filed two cases -- one against M. Morshed Khan, his wife Nasrin and the other against Morshed's son Faisal and his wife Shyama -- with Gulshan Police Station on December 10, 2007.

The complainant in his first case alleged that the former foreign minister had concealed information about his property worth Tk 91.34 lakh from the commission.

The ACC filed the graft case against Kamal Majumder and his wife Shahida with Ramna Police station on September 24, 2007.

The commission laid the case against Dulu and his wife with Adabor Police Station on April 19 last year and against Kaiyum and his wife with Badda Police Station on March 24 this year.

The case against Babul and his son were filed with Ramna Police Station on August 20 last year.

Barrister Rafique-ul-Huq, barrister Ajmal Hossain and advocate Ahsanul Karim appeared for the petitioners.

## 138 polling

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metropolitan city from August 2. Several mobile teams comprising BDR, Armed Police Battalion and Ansars personnel will assist police in maintaining law and order in the polling centres. Army and Rab personnel will also remain on patrol on August 4, the KMP official said.

At least 140 out of 241 polling centres of the city were identified as vulnerable in the 2002 KCC elections.

## Aug 4 polls

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election, and I believe the entire nation also doesn't understand."

The CEC urged political parties to clarify what is their problem with holding local government elections before the parliamentary poll.

"We are strictly following the electoral roadmap, holding of the local government elections were included in the roadmap and the political parties did not oppose that back then," the CEC said adding, "It's not clear why they are opposing it now."

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) M. Sakawat Hossain said all upazila elections might not be held before the parliamentary poll as the national voter list will not be ready before October.

"Elections will be held only to those upazilas where area wise voter lists will be completed," he said.

## Defiant Iran angers

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against Iranian atomic facilities, immediately condemned the missile tests.

"Iran's development of ballistic missiles is a violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions and completely inconsistent with Iran's obligations to the world," White House spokesman Gordon Johndrow said.

He expressed concern that Iran's ballistic missiles could be used as "a delivery vehicle for a potential nuclear weapon."

"It's evidence that the missile threat is not an imaginary one," commented US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Along with the Shahab-3, also test-fired were the Zelzal, with a range of up to 400 kilometres (250 miles), and the Fateh which has a range of around 170 kilometres (100 miles).

Television pictures showed footage of the Shahab-3 and other missiles being launched, apparently successfully, leaving huge clouds of smoke and dust as they soared into a cloudless sky.

The Islamic republic test-fired the Shahab-3 for the first time in an exercise in November 2006, but launching its longest-range weapon amid the current tension is sure to concern Iran's Western foes.

The semi-official Fars news agency said the warhead on the Shahab-3 would fragment just before impact, maximising damage to the enemy.

There has been concern that an attack against Iran could be imminent after it emerged Israel had carried out manoeuvres in Greece that were effectively practice runs for a potential strike against Iranian nuclear facilities.

Israel is Iran's arch regional enemy and has expressed alarm over the rhetoric of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who has repeatedly predicted that the Jewish state is doomed to disappear.

The missile launch comes a day after an aide to supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned that Iran would "set fire" to Israel and the US navy in the Gulf as its first response to any American attack over its nuclear programme.

"Tel Aviv and the US fleet in the Persian Gulf would be the targets that would be set on fire in Iran's crushing response," said mid-

ranking cleric Ali Shirazi, Khamenei's representative to Revolutionary Guards naval forces.