

COMMITTED  
TO  
People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVIII NO. 176

DHAKA FRIDAY JULY 11, 2008

ASHAR 27, 1415 BS

RAJAB 7, 1429 HIJRI

24 PAGES PLUS THE STAR PRICE: TK. 10.00

2 GRAFT CASES  
SC upholds HC  
orders staying  
proceedings  
against Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday upheld the High Court (HC) orders staying the proceedings against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina in the NIKO and barge-mounted power plant cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

A four-member full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin kept stand-over the two provisional leave to appeal filed by the government to stay the HC orders and also asked the government to file regular appeals with the SC against the HC orders.

The government appealed to the SC for vacating the HC orders. After hearing both sides, the Appellate Division kept stand-over the government petitions, but did not stay the HC orders. So the HC

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## 14-party picks mayoral candidates for 4 cities

Talukder Khaleque in Khulna, Badsha in Rajshahi, Kamran in Sylhet, Hiron in Barisal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL)-led 14-party combine last night announced the names of its mayoral candidates in the August 4 polls to four city corporations.

The announcement came after two-day long discussions among its leaders.

Held at AL acting President Zillur Rahman's Gulshan residence, the protracted meeting unanimously nominated Talukder Abdul Khaleque for Khulna City Corporation (KCC), Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran for Sylhet City Corporation (SCC), Shawkat Hossain Hiron for Barisal City Corporation (BCC) and Fazle Hossain Badsha for Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC).

Of the four contenders on the combine ticket, three belong to AL and the other to Workers Party.

Khaleque is a member of the AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) and the president of Khulna city AL. Kamran is the president of Sylhet city AL. Hiron is the convenor of Barisal city AL while Badsha is a politburo member of the Workers Party.

Khaleque is on trial accused of misappropriating Tk 1.05 crore of government funds allocated for constructing a college building at Rampal upazila in Bagerhat. The now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption filed the case in 2004.

Kamran, the incumbent SCC mayor, has been detained since May last year on corruption charges while Hiron is among the

graft suspects listed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Earlier in the day, ALCWC, the highest decision-making body of the party, endorsed the nominations with Zillur Rahman in the chair.

However, the names were finalised at the 14-party meeting last night.

Unveiling the list, the AL acting chief urged the coalition rank and file to unite in favour of the candidates. He also called on the party leaders aspiring to mayoral posts to withdraw their nominations to have a single contender and ensure victory.

Zillur said hopefully there would be no problem after the announcement.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

EC to seek action on Rajshahi ADC for passing flawed candidates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) will ask the establishment ministry to take disciplinary action against additional divisional commissioner (ADC) of Rajshahi for clearing the way for five disqualified candidates to contest the Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) polls.

The EC took the decision following a meeting yesterday, officials said.

The returning officer (RO) had earlier rejected their candidacies for councillorship during scrutiny as they turned out to be loan defaulters and Open Market Sale (OMS) dealers. Electoral laws bar such people from contesting polls.

However, Additional Divisional Commissioner (General) Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman, in his capacity as the election appeal authorities for the August 4 polls, declared their candidacies valid on appeal.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## Final list of redrawn JS seats published

Dhaka dist gets 20; changes in 133 constituencies

SHAKHAWAT LITON

constituencies, while the rest remain unchanged. But seats representing 17 districts in parliament have either increased or decreased.

After massive delineation of boundaries, seven new seats have been added to Dhaka district. Metropolitan areas with high population density have won all the seven additions.

The number of constituencies in the capital now stands at 15, up from eight. It means Dhaka metropolis will be represented by 15 lawmakers in the new parliament instead of previous eight.

The EC on April 29 unveiled the draft list of constituencies with boundaries of 133 seats demarcated. The move got severe flak from political parties that feared it would create obstacles to holding the stalled ninth parliamentary polls as per the roadmap.

The major political parties -- Awami League and BNP -- questioned EC's jurisdiction to do the task and demanded cancellation of the gazette that declared the draft.

Grassroots level leaders of different political parties filed over 3,000 appeals against the draftlist.

The EC heard the appeals at the EC Secretariat in the capital and in Sylhet, Comilla, Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna and Rajshahi during June 12-30.

"Some changes were made in the proposed boundaries of 80-90 parliamentary constituencies considering people's desire which did not contradict the criteria of delimitation," Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhat Hussain told reporters at his office yesterday. He said the list is now final.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Khaleda files  
writ petition  
challenging  
Gatco case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained former premier Khaleda Zia yesterday filed a writ petition with the High Court (HC) challenging the legality of the Gatco corruption case against her.

The HC bench of Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Mashuque Hossain Ahmed may hear the petition on Sunday.

In the petition, Khaleda said the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) did not maintain the due legal procedure in giving permission to file the case against her.

She prayed to the HC for staying the case proceedings and issuing a rule upon the government and the ACC to show cause as to why the case proceedings should not be quashed.

The commission filed the case against Khaleda and 22 others on September 2 last year on charges of corruption in awarding Global

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Land grabbers fill up a part of the Turag, narrowing the river, at Kamarpara of Tongi to set up a filling station there.

TK 21CR BRIBERY CASE  
Court to decide  
July 14 about  
charge-framing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The trial court of Tk 21 crore bribery case against detained BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman and seven other people will pass its judgment on whether to frame charges in the case on July 14.

The accused, including former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar, are indicted for trying to cover up the grisly murder of Bashundhara Group Director Humayun Kabir Sabir in exchange for bribery.

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of Special Court-3 at Jatiya Sangsad

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## INDO-BANGLA FS-LEVEL MEET Water, transit to figure in talks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India will seek transit facility and greater cooperation in bilateral security from Bangladesh at the foreign secretary level bilateral talks to be held in New Delhi on July 17.

Bangladesh on the other hand will raise unresolved bilateral issues such as demarcation and sharing of water of common rivers and demarcation of maritime borders between the two countries.

"We have discussed transit in different forums. We are interested in transit and will remain inter-

## CA calls for austerity in power, energy use

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday appealed for austerity in electricity and energy consumption by using energy-saving light bulbs and applying newer technologies for an optimum utilisation of the nation's scarce natural resources.

He called for avoiding misuse of gas, electricity and water, applying energy-saving technologies in industries and utilising renewable energy resources like solar and wind power.

The head of the caretaker government made the call while inaugurating a two-day national workshop and exhibition on "Energy

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Conservation and Renewable Energy Programmes" organised by the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

He said the Power Division is preparing a draft Energy Conservation Act, which will require inclusion of necessary provisions in the building code for ensuring efficient use and conservation of energy in building complexes.

The CA further said the government is now considering adoption of a comprehensive renewable energy policy. He expressed his optimism that this would pave the way for removal of barriers to energy

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Asked whether his country has set a timeline for resolving the transit issue, he said New Delhi did

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8