

President can promulgate poll related laws only during CG period
HC observes
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The president of the country cannot promulgate ordinances on issues other than those related to polls during the caretaker government rule, observes the High Court.

"In Bangladesh, the president's powers are limited even during the tenure of elected governments and it's more limited during the

HC asks for Gatco case documents
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday asked the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to submit the Gatco corruption case docket (records) before it by tomorrow for examination.

The case was filed against detained former prime minister Khaleda Zia and 22 others on September 2 last year in connection with 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.

An HC bench comprising

AK Azad sued for Tk 20cr ill-gotten wealth
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed a case against Hamim Group Managing Director AK Azad yesterday, accusing him of illegally accumulating wealth worth Tk 20.36 crore.

ACC Deputy Director Mohammad Golam Mostafa filed the case against Azad, also the publisher of Bangla daily Shamokal, with Ramna Police Station.

Cable operator shot dead in city suburb
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed criminals yesterday morning shot dead a cable operator in the city's Ashkona area under Dakkhin Khan police station.

Mohammad Ishrafil, 35, was shot several times by a four-member armed gang who sprayed indiscriminate gunshots at him while he was on way to his office--the 'Prime Cable Network and CD Centre' at Medical Road at Ashkona.

Ishrafil's business partner Sarwar Hossain said the criminals approached Ishrafil and barred his way at around 11:00am before

Robber killed in gun battle with police
 UNB, Narsingdi

A suspected robber was killed in a gun battle between police and his henchmen at Kundarpara village in Narsingdi's Shibpur upazila early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Hainf Mia, 48. Three police and four robbers were injured in the shootout.

Police said they surrounded a band of robbers on information that the thugs were preparing themselves for robbery at the village at about 3:00am.

Sensing danger, the robbers

Prayer Timing		
July 14		
Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-55	7-00
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Watch on investigators

DMP crime intelligence unit to monitor investigations to check corruption, harassment

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has launched the Crime Intelligence and Research Unit formed with the help of the Detective Branch of police last month to monitor the performance of case investigators under DMP.

The objective behind the monitoring is to find out whether or not investigations are carried out properly and to find out if people are harassed during the process and if any corruption is involved to hush the investigation process.

This could result in disciplinary action against any case investigators found to be neglecting their duties.

According to information just released, the unit has contacted 50 complainants since its inception. Thirty-eight per cent of these complainants have expressed satisfaction with the investigation, 30 per cent said they are fairly satisfied, 22 per cent expressed dissatisfaction while 10 per cent refrained from comments.

DMP Commissioner Naim

Ahmed told The Daily Star that they have taken the initiative to change the police's performance and their authoritative culture into a service oriented culture.

He said the standard of police's service largely depends on how well they deal with investigation of cases, so the authorities are have brought all investigations under supervision to ensure that there is no neglect in this.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of police stations concerned, assistant commissioners, additional deputy commissioners and deputy commissioners (DCs) concerned are now supervising the performance of all investigation officers (IOs).

The new unit contacts the complainants of cases and gathers information about whether the investigations were carried out properly, and sincerely.

With the new system in place, not only are the IOs under supervision but the supervising officers of the cases will also be held responsible for any flaws in investigation, top DMP officials said.

The DMP has also directed DCs to check on cases pending investigation once every week.

The commissioner said that to put a stop to unnecessary harassment of people, DMP has issued a directive that an IO must visit the crime scene within 24 hours of an incident. The IO must also file the primary case diary within 48 hours of the incident.

A top DMP official seeking anonymity said that this has been done to prevent the IO of a case from amending the facts of the primary case diary later on.

The Discipline Department of the DMP has also been asked to be more active about any negligence during investigations or any unauthorised arrests. The department has taken punitive actions against around 400 policemen since last month.

The DMP commissioner said that they have also introduced a mechanism to evaluate the performance of police stations and its case investigation officers.

"Through this daily evaluation sheet, I can keep an eye on how many crime incidents take place each day, and even the development of investigations into each of those," the commissioner said.

JAIL KILLING CASE
HC hearing of appeals against verdict starts after 4yrs
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four years after the trial court's delivery of judgment, hearing of appeals and death references against the verdict in the 1975 Jail Killing Case began in the High Court (HC) yesterday.

On the first day of the hearing, barrister Abdullah-al Mamun, counsel for the convicts, read out the paper book in the case before the HC bench comprising Justice Nazrul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Ataur Rahman Khan.

At the end of the day's proceedings, the court fixed July 14, today, for the next hearing of appeals.

Acting president of the Bangladesh government-in-exile Syed Nazrul Islam, prime minister Tajuddin Ahmed, finance minister M Mansur Ali, and minister of home affairs, relief and rehabilitation AHM Qamaruzzaman, were killed inside Dhaka Central Jail on November 3 of 1975.

Then Metropolitan Sessions judge of Dhaka Court Mohammad Motiur Rahman delivered the verdict in the case on October 20 of 2004, sentencing three people to



Nirjatan Pratirodh Chhatra Andolan yesterday brings out a procession from the Arts Building of Dhaka University demanding reduction of prices of fuel and essentials.



Daylong downpour leaves many streets of Chittagong city waterlogged yesterday. The photo was taken at Kapasgola.

Bank borrowing lower than target in FY08

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Increased revenue earnings and low implementation of Annual Development Programme (ADP) in the last fiscal year has resulted in low government borrowings from the banking system -- Tk 6,308 crore lower than the targeted borrowing.

As of June 30, the government has borrowed Tk 11,613 crore from the banking system from where the

government had targeted to borrow Tk 17,921 crore including Tk 7,523 crore for the liabilities of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).

Portion of the increased earnings, Tk 1,230 crore, came from National Board of Revenue (NBR) that collected Tk 47,200 crore in revenue during 2007-08 fiscal year exceeding its targeted collection of Tk 45,970 crore, said sources.

CASE AGAINST KHOKA

ACC appeals against HC stay, bail orders

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed an appeal with the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday against the High Court (HC) order granting bail to Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka in a corruption case and staying trial proceedings against him.

Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice MA Matin, after hearing ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan's appeal move, sent the matter to the full bench of the apex

24 killed in Afghan suicide blast

40 militants killed in airstrikes

AFP, AP, Kandahar

A suicide bomber blew himself up in a crowded bazaar in southern Afghanistan yesterday killing 24 people while 40 militants were killed in US-led airstrikes in the south in latest surge of violence.

The blast came as international and Afghan security forces battled militants on several fronts, with the US-led coalition announcing it had

killed at least 40 insurgents in an ongoing operation in the volatile south.

An attacker with bombs strapped to his body rammed his three-wheeled motorbike into a police vehicle in the Uruzgan bazaar, causing an explosion that ripped through several shops, officials and a witness said.

Twenty civilians and four policemen were killed in the blast

in Deh Rawood, 400km southwest of Kabul, said Uruzgan police chief Juma Gul Hemat.

"In the hospital we have 27 people wounded," he said.

The bomb exploded in the centre of the bazaar which was very crowded at the time, said one shopkeeper who gave his name only as Fazlullah.

"Most of the casualties are

33 killed in fresh Lankan fighting

AP, AFP, Colombo

New fighting in Sri Lanka's civil war killed 31 Tamil Tiger rebels and two government soldiers, the military said yesterday.

In the worst clash Saturday, 18 rebels and a soldier were killed in Mannar district, a military official said on condition of anonymity, citing government rules. Seven rebels and a soldier were killed in Vavuniya while six guerrillas died in Welioya, he said.

It said 26 rebels were also wounded in the clashes that killed two government soldiers and wounded seven more.

The air force was called in to bomb suspected Tiger positions in the Wannai, the military said.

For their part, the Tigers said the aerial attack destroyed livestock and wounded a 20-year-old woman. There was no immediate word from the Tigers about ground clashes.

Rebel spokesman Rasiyah Ilanthirayan could not immediately be reached for comment, and it was not possible to verify the military's claims because reporters are barred from the war zone.

Each side often exaggerates the

casualties and damage inflicted on its enemy while underreporting its own losses.

The government has intensified its campaign against the rebels' de facto state in the north after promising to crush them by the end of this year. However, army commander Lt. Gen. Sarath Fonseka recently said it might take another year to significantly weaken the rebels.

The latest figure given by the ministry raises the number of rebels killed by government forces to 4,907 since January, while 437 soldiers have died in the same period.

Casualty figures on both sides cannot be independently verified as the defence ministry bars journalists from travelling to the frontlines. Tens of thousands of people have been killed in fighting since 1972.

The Tamil Tiger rebels have fought since 1983 to create an independent homeland for ethnic minority Tamils who have been marginalized by successive governments controlled by ethnic Sinhalese.

More than 70,000 people have been killed in the violence.

AUG 17 BLASTS CASE

4 JMB men get life

A CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

A Panchagarh court yesterday sentenced four activists of banned Islamist militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to life imprisonment in a case filed in connection with the August 17, 2005 serial bomb blasts in Panchagarh.

The Court of Additional District

TALKS WITH GOVT

Kader Siddiqui slates govt for advisers' meeting with Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kader Siddiqui, president of Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Janata League (BKSJL), yesterday strongly criticised the government for allowing four of its advisers to visit Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina's residence shortly after her release from special jail for treatment abroad.

"It would be perfectly alright if they went there as regular citizens



A policeman talks to a passenger in a bus in Chittagong during a drive against charging excess fare, overloading of buses and improper clothing of bus drivers.

Bush asks Israel to prepare for possible strike on Iran

PTI, AFP, London/Teheran

US President George W Bush has given Israel a go-ahead to begin preparations for a military attack on Iran, in case talks over the country's controversial nuclear programme fail to yield results, a media report has said.

The Bush administration is said to have informed Tel Aviv that he would back an Israeli plan to strike Iran's main nuclear sites with long-range aerial weapons if diplomatic talks over Tehran's nuclear programme broke down, the Sunday Times said quoting a Pentagon official.

The American President has given Israel an "amber light" to start preparing for a possible offensive, the official told the Sunday Times.

"Amber means get on with your preparations, stand by for immediate attack and tell us when you're ready," the official as quoted as saying to the Times.

The US President's voice of support comes despite his military officials' opposition to an attack on Iran, given the risks of an aerial strike.