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## Proclamation of emergency challenged

Writ petition filed with HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition has been filed with the High Court (HC) challenging the legality of the president's proclamation of the state of emergency in the country on January 11 last year.

Two Emergency Power Orders (No 1 and 2), Emergency Power Ordinance (EPO) 2007 and Emergency Power Rules (EPR) 2007, issued through the proclamation of the state of emergency suspending the fundamental rights of the citizens and barring them from seeking bail from court in some cases, were also challenged in the same petition.

Four Supreme Court (SC) lawyers, M Saleem Ullah, Muhammad SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## TK 21CR BRIBERY CASE

# Charges framed against Tarique, Babar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday framed charges against former prime minister Khaleda Zia's son Tarique Rahman, former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar and six others in a case filed for Tk 21 crore bribery over Sabbar murder.

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of the Special Court-3 also fixed July 24 for deposition of the witnesses to begin.

Tarique, now detained senior joint secretary general of BNP, was not produced before the court as he has been exempted from personal appearance on medical grounds.

This is the first time that charges have been framed against him who

used to have enormous clout during the BNP-led alliance rule in 2001-2006.

Of the accused, Babar and Abu Sufian, director of a Bashundhara Group concern, were in the dock while Tarique was represented by his lawyer Sanaullah Mia. The rest are on the run.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case on October 4 last year, accusing six of bribery to cover up the murder of Bashundhara Group executive Humayun Kabir Sabbar whose body was found outside a building in Bashundhara residential area on July 5, 2006.

The six are Babar, Bashundhara Group Chairman Ahmed Akbar

Sobhan alias Shah Alam, his two sons Shafiat Sobhan Sanvir and Sadaat Sobhan, Abu Sufian and Mia Nur Uddin Apu.

Tarique and former BNP lawmaker Qazi Saleemul Huq Kamal were included in the charge sheet after investigation found their involvement in the crime.

At the beginning of yesterday's proceedings, the judge rejected the discharge petition filed for Tarique, Babar and Sufian, and said there is enough primary evidence to frame charges against the accused.

After that, Tarique's counsel barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia submitted a petition for adjournment. He argued that since a writ petition for SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Nasim exempted from court appearance

He is still not out of danger

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday exempted detained former home minister Mohammad Nasim from appearing in person before the court during the trial of a corruption case.

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of Special Court-3 set up on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises passed the order and set July 23 for arguments in the case filed in connection with the installation of three lakh digital telephone lines illegally by WorldTel Holdings Ltd.

The Awami League leader submitted the petition to the court through his lawyer under Section 540 A (1) of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) on June 26, seeking exemption from appearing in person before the court on health ground.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

# CITY POLL CAMPAIGNS BEGIN AMID RELAXED EPR EC to warn candidates against party office use

Live broadcast of mayoral debates starts today

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday finally decided to warn mayoral candidates against use of political party offices in their campaigns for the August 4 polls to four city corporations.

The newly promulgated code of conduct for electioneering bans use of political party offices for local government election campaigns.

The EC yesterday issued a circular instructing returning officers (RO) of the four city corporations and nine municipalities to file criminal cases against violators of

the code of conduct in electoral campaigns that officially began yesterday amid a relaxed Emergency Powers Rules (EPR).

Meanwhile the EC today, for the first time in its history, begins facilitating electoral debates among mayoral candidates in the four city corporations, to be broadcast live by the state-run television and radio stations, starting with the candidates in Sylhet City Corporation. Voters will also be allowed to participate in the debates and ask the debating contestants questions on local issues, sources in the EC Secretariat said. As party offices are frequently

being used by the mayoral candidates for electioneering, the EC at a meeting decided to instruct them in writing to abide by the electoral code of conduct that slapped a total ban on use of candidates' political affiliations in campaigns for local government polls.

According to the electoral rules, a contender might lose candidacy in addition to being imprisoned and fined for violating the code of conduct.

The political parties' ongoing activities centring the August 4 local government polls including the recent soap opera of nominating SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## Rejoinder, our reply

Bangladesh Chashi Kalyan Samity (BCKS) in a rejoinder protested a report headlined "Five lakh depositors swindled by Jamaat's farmer wing" published in The Daily Star on July 7.

It said BCKS considers the report "a malicious attempt to spread venom against a political party which has clean image amongst people and has no working relationship with BCKS".

It claimed BCKS to be a "non-political" and "non-profit" organisation for farmers' welfare and said it is not true that BCKS acted as financial front of Jamaat through illegal banking.

It claimed that central BCKS did not decide on closing down branches and the allegation of selling offices was irrelevant.

The rejoinder contradicted that Tk 100 crore was swindled out of five lakh people. It said they now have Tk 4,23,81,920 unpaid savings of 32,370 people and Tk 5,06,81,689 distributed loans among 12,832 people in 14 districts.

The rejoinder, however, confirmed "some irregularities" in Rajshahi district that they explained to have occurred following misappropriation of about Tk 12.40 lakh of people's savings by its staff.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

A court order prevents the demolition of the white building (circled), which obstructs the Bijoy Sarani-Tejgaon Link Road construction work.

## ACC to press charge against Koko for ill-gotten wealth

UNB, Dhaka

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has decided to press charges against Arafat Rahman Koko for amassing wealth worth over Tk 2 crore illegally and hiding information about assets of Tk 11 lakh in a statement submitted to the commission.

Speaking at a regular press conference yesterday, ACC Director General Col Hanif Iqbal said the commission will also submit charge sheets against 10 other people as the investigators found them guilty of corruption, misappropriation of funds and taking bribe.

He said the ACC will submit the charge sheet against Koko to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

# Bijoy Sarani-Tejgaon link road stuck in court battle

HELEMUL ALAM

Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) is likely to miss the deadline of December 16 for completing the Bijoy Sarani-Tejgaon Link Road as it is now unable to demolish five buildings on the land of the road for legal tangles.

Owners of five buildings, acquired by the Deputy Commissioner's (DC) office, have filed cases against Rajuk with the High Court recently on grounds of being offered less money than they deserve as compensation for the acquired land and structures and a few other factors, said Abdul Hai, member secretary of the affected building owners' association of Bijoy Sarani-Tejgaon Link Road.

Owners of 17 structures includ-

ing six buildings, which were acquired, said they are yet to receive compensations for their land and structures.

Of the 17 structures, 10 tin-built structures have already been demolished, he added.

"We met Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka Kamal Uddin in this regard Monday and he told us that the process of compensating for acquired land and structures is going on excluding the owners who are in the legal battle," Abdul Hai said.

"We filed the case on April 21 against the DC office and Rajuk as the DC office made an estimate of Tk 65 lakh compensation for our five-story building at 119/6 Tejgunipara. They said it is brick-built but the building is actually

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## Prof Rafiqul, family charged with amassing wealth illegally

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against detained former Awami League (AL) state minister for energy Prof Rafiqul Islam, his wife Nurunnahar Lily and their son Mostafa Ashish Islam in a case filed in connection with amassing wealth worth Tk 1 crore illegally and giving false wealth information to the commission.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court allowed the ACC to interrogate detained AL former health minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim at the jail gate in a case filed in connection with amassing wealth through illegal means and concealing wealth information to the commission.

Another Dhaka court rejected SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

# NEW FREEDOM FIGHTERS' BODY Top leader admits getting Jamaat funds

RASHIDUL HASAN

A vice-president of Jatiya Muktiyoddha Parishad (JMP) yesterday said they receive "donations" from Jamaat-e-Islami for the "welfare" of freedom fighters and to mobilise freedom fighters in different activities.

Vice-president of JMP Engineer Abdur Rob said he along with many of the JMP leaders have great respect for Jamaat leaders. He also said many of their leaders support

Jamaat even though they are not directly involved in Jamaat.

Meanwhile, several freedom fighters yesterday said three persons holding key positions in Jatiya Muktiyoddha Parishad are not freedom fighters at all even though the JMP constitution claims that they are freedom fighters.

When asked whether the three (two JMP vice-presidents and its president) are freedom fighters as claimed by the JMP constitution, SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

# HC grants bail to Nizami, Redwan Mirza Azam asked to surrender in 10 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted ad-interim bail for two months to Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer and former minister Motiur Rahman Nizami in Gatco corruption case.

The HC bench also granted ad-interim anticipatory bail to former state minister Redwan Ahmed and

his wife Momtaj Ahmed, former lawmaker Giasuddin Ahmed in separate graft cases filed by Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) on charge of amassing illegal wealth and concealing information in the wealth statement to the ACC.

The court also issued separate rules upon the government to explain why the petitioners should SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## Landslide kills 2 of a family in Cox's Bazar

UNB, Cox's Bazar

Landslide, triggered by heavy rain, killed two members of a family at Himchhari here yesterday morning. The dead were identified as Amina Khatun, 70 and her granddaughter Jannatara, 14.

Sources said the two were buried alive when a large chunk of earth fell on the thatched house of Mujibur Rahman at the foot of a hill at about 10:00am.

Mujibur Rahman and his wife Momena Khatun survived as they managed to come out of the house. Army personnel recovered the bodies and handed them over to the family.

Meanwhile, vast areas of Ramu, Cox's Bazar Sadar, Chokoria, Pekua, Ukha and Teknaf upazilas have been inundated due to torrential rain for the last few days.

Landslides claimed 16 lives in the district in last two weeks.

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