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SC upholds contempt verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday upheld the High Court (HC) verdict that declared the contempt of court ordinance 2008 illegal and unconstitutional.

Chamber judge Justice MA Matin, however, asked the government to file a regular appeal with the SC against the HC judgment.

The government yesterday filed a petition with the Supreme Court seeking stay on the HC judgment.

Attorney General Salaudhin Ahmed moved the petition before the chamber judge of the Appellate Division. But, the judge did not pass any stay order.

Upon a writ petition, the high court on July 24 declared the new contempt of court ordinance invalid, and observed that it undermines the spirit of the constitution

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Hospital of graft

Once reputed BSMMU turned into a horrible institution during BNP-led regime; investigations find corruption in purchase, appointment, promotion by hospital top brass

CORRUPTION INVESTIGATION 1

JULEFIKAR ALI MANIK and EMRAN HOSSAIN

Purchase of a piece of equipment for Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University's (BSMMU) cardiology department has cost a loss of Tk 80 lakh as the authorities got the Tk 47 lakh heart-lung machine at Tk 1.27 crore.

In another event of irregularities, the paediatrics department proposed to purchase a Bronchoscopy machine at Tk 21 lakh

in 2005. But the university authorities got it at Tk 26 lakh in 2006 and the machine remains unused still today.

The nephrology department intended to repair water treatment plant (WTP), which should have cost Tk 4 lakh. But the then pro-vice chancellor MA Mannan being self-inspired bought a new WTP expending Tk 12.5 lakh of the university fund.

These are the few examples of huge corruption at BSMMU during the five-year rule of BNP-Jamaat-led four-party alliance government under vice-chancellor late MA Hadi, who served from October 2001 to November 2006. Hadi

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

GRAFT HC quashes cases against family members of Tariqul, Redwan, Salim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday threw away the corruption cases filed by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) against family members of former BNP minister Tariqul Islam, former state minister Redwan Ahmed, and former lawmaker MAH Salim.

Upon separate writ petitions, an HC bench comprising Justice Mohammad Abdur Rashid and Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam delivered the judgments declaring illegal the case proceedings against Tariqul Islam's wife Nargis Begum, their sons Shantanu Islam and Aninda Islam, Shantanu's wife

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Bhuiyan, Shamsul, Engr Mosharraf, Pintu get bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted bail to 10 persons including three former ministers and four former lawmakers who had been arrested in the anti-corruption drive of the military backed caretaker government.

The ten, who had been accused in separate corruption cases filed by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) and the government, were granted ad-interim and anticipatory bail.

After hearing separate petitions, an HC bench comprising Justice Sharifuddin Chaklader and Justice Md Emdadul Haque Azad stayed the proceedings of the cases against the accused.

The court also issued separate rules upon the government to



Mannan Bhuiyan



Shamsul Islam



Engr Mosharraf



Nasiruddin Pintu

explain why the petitioners should not be granted regular bail and why the proceedings against them should not be quashed.

The accused, who were granted bail, are former LGRD minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, former land affairs minister M Shamsul Islam, former housing and public works minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, former lawmakers Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, Mo h a m a d S h a h j a h a n, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee

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Tk 186 crore gobbled up from 2 toll centres

ACC to sue 36 Roads & Highways staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday approved filing of two cases against 36 staff of the Roads & Highways Department (RHD) for embezzling Tk 185.91 crore meant for the state coffers.

An ACC probe carried out as part of the measures against institutional corruption found that the RHD employers and officials had skimmed the sums after collecting those as tolls for Tongi-Ashulia highway and Meghna and

Meghna-Gomati bridge through fake money receipts or without any receipt.

Of the amount embezzled, Tk 174.35 crore was collected at Meghna and Meghna-Gomati toll point in between 2002 and 2006 while Tk 11.56 crore at Tongi-Ashulia in between 2005 and 2006.

"It might take a day or two more to complete the preparations and file cases," ACC Director General (admin) Col Hanif Iqbal said during a routine press briefing at the ACC headquarters.

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DEMO FOR PROMISED WAGES Bangladeshi workers held in Kuwait

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kuwaiti Police yesterday arrested some Bangladeshi workers after they went on a rampage while protesting low wages, poor working conditions and other exploitations over the last couple of days.

According to the Arab Times, about 2,000 Bangladeshi workers, employed by Al-Jawhara Company for Stevedoring and Cleaning in Hassawi in Kuwait, destroyed six vehicles and injured five camp officials on Sunday.

The protesting workers also

attacked the company office in Jleeb Al-Shayoukh on Saturday evening.

Police finally brought the situation under control, clubbing the demonstrating workers, reported AFP.

Shahriar Kader Siddiky, labour counsellor of Bangladesh Embassy in Kuwait told The Daily Star yesterday, "I have received reports that special forces of Kuwaiti police have made some arrests."

He was not able to say how many had been arrested.

Thousands of cleaning workers

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ILL-GOTTEN WEALTH Khaleda's nephew, Sajeda's son to be chargesheeted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday approved four charge sheets to be submitted against 10 people, including BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's nephew Shahrin Islam Tuin and former AL minister Sajeda Chowdhury's son Shahadab Akbar, in connection with amassing wealth illegally, concealing wealth information from the commission and taking bribe.

The commission also approved issuing notices upon former BNP minister Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, former superintendent engineer of

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Salman, Sohel charged with embezzlement of Tk 158.67cr

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against Beximco Holdings Ltd Chairman Sohel F Rahman, Vice-chairman Salman F Rahman, its two directors and two former high-ups of IFIC Bank Ltd in a Tk 158.67 crore embezzlement case.

Meantime, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed a case against detained former BNP lawmaker from Demra Salahuddin Ahmed, his wife, three sons and daughter for evading over Tk 4.41

crore in income tax from 2004 to 2008.

BEXIMCO CASE

ACC Assistant Director Ashraf Alam, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet against the accused to the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court showing 40 people as prosecution witnesses.

The other charge-sheeted accused are ex-manager of IFIC Bank's Motijheel branch Asab-ud-Doula, its ex-vice president Ziaul Bari and Beximco Holdings Ltd

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Grand alliance, polls to top today's AL meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) that sits today will take up some crucial issues including resumption of AL-led grand electoral alliance with Jatiya Party and Bikalpodhara Bangladesh.

Overall political situation in the country, socio-economic conditions, upazila and parliamentary elections will be among the other issues to figure prominently at the meeting.

Acting AL president Zillur Rahman will chair the meeting to be held at party chief Sheikh Hasina's political office at Dhanmondi. It will also work out programmes for national mourning day on August 15.

Meanwhile, senior Awami League (AL) leaders yesterday asked the caretaker government and Election Commission (EC) not to push the country towards

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Dense, dirty, dying Dhaka

Once lovable city now subjected to neglect



PINAKI ROY

Lying on a bed at the labour unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), Rita Begum is indeed very happy and proud. She has become mother of an angel like baby girl. The child is now safe under her mother's observant eyes. But how will she grow up in a city of pollution, over population and traffic mismanagement?

Will this city be liveable by the time she herself becomes a mother? The answer is not unpredictable to urban researchers. Dhaka city, which was developed as an urban settlement centuries ago and turned into one of the fastest

DHAKA'S POPULATION SINCE 1700		
Year	Population	Source
1700	900,000	James Taylor
1814	200,000	D Oilyly
1901	104,385	Census of Pakistan
1947	250,000	Census of Pakistan
1971	1,000,000 (Appx)	(no census)
2001	10,710,000	BBS
2015	21,119,000	UN projection

growing mega metropolises in the world, may not be liveable, the researchers fear.

Once a city of gardens and mosques, which the rulers chose to make their capital, Dhaka is now gripped by a large base of increasing number of poor population.

Every year the city is expanding on an average ratio of 3.1 percent. But infrastructures and environmental protection are not developing in a sustainable way,

which makes the urban experts highly concerned.

"Within five years overall situation of the city would be in a very bad shape as the condition of environment is already very bad. The drainage system is worsening day by day and the government fails to introduce long-term transport system," said Prof Nazrul Islam, honorary chairman of Centre for Urban Studies.

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Six killed in Faridpur bus collision

A CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A head-on collision between two buses at Dighalkandi on Bhanga-Mawa highway in Faridpur left six women dead and 60 people injured yesterday.

The dead are Aleya Begum, 65, of Nagarkanda in Faridpur, Suriya Begum, 20, of Louhajang, Munshiganj, Asia Begum, 50, of Mollarhat in Bagerhat, Rina, 25, of Badda in Dhaka, Rahima, 25, of Gopalganj. The identity of a deceased could not be known.

Police said the accident occurred around 11:30am at Dighalkandi near Maligram Bus Stand under Bhanga upazila when the bus heading for Khulna collided with a Dhaka-bound bus. Both the buses turned turtle in roadside ditches after the collision.

Three women died on the spot and the other women died on their way to hospitals, sources said.

The critically injured were identified as Saiful, Enayet, Baby, Taslima, Lucky, Nasrin, Nasreen, Milon, Emdad, Ali Hossain, Mujibur, Nazrul, Nazmul, Shaheen, Sajib, Nazif and

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The Daily Star

EID FASHION ALBUM 2008

ATTENTION

Designers, Boutique and Fashion Houses

As Eid approaches, The Daily Star prepares itself for the big occasion. This year The Daily Star Fashion Catalogue 2008 will feature dresses, sari, punjabi, kids wear, footwear, jewellery, etc plus write-ups describing the creative thinking behind the fashion wears and their creators. The designers, boutique and fashion houses are invited to participate in this fashion extravaganza. For information regarding participation and placing advertisement, please contact:

Sher Ali, Advertisement Manager, The Daily Star. Phone: 9144332 (direct)
For design or dress submission please contact:
Syeed Ahmed Chowdhury. Phone: 01711-623905

Participation Criteria:

1. The dresses, sari, punjabi, kids wear, footwear, jewellery or any other apparel items should express the mood of the festival.
2. Materials used for the dresses or other items should be locally produced.
3. Design should be original and fabrics should suit the weather and environment.
4. The dresses and other items sent for the album are returnable.
5. The dresses and other items must be handed over to The Daily Star by 04/08/08 (4th August).
6. Per entry fee Tk 200/- (minimum 3 entry for each participating house).



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