

Ex-DIG's claimed

FROM PAGE 1
case, has been in jail for the last few months while the 'father' did not appear before the court yesterday.

Advocate Faowzia Karim Firoz, a counsel for the writ petitioners, yesterday told The Daily Star that the self-proclaimed parents of the children did not comply with an earlier HC order of taking DNA tests to determine their parent-hood and their lawyer advocate Kazi M Sajwar Hossain was not even present in the court during the hearing of the case yesterday.

The seven children are now at the BNWLA shelter home 'Proshanti' in Agargaon in the city, she said adding, "We've taken all measures for the treatment and well-being of the children who will remain there until their parents are found. We have submitted a supplementary application stating the present status of their physical health to the court."

Meanwhile, advocate Alena Khan, one of the petitioners, said that the HC has directed former DIG Anisur Rahman to appear before the court today.

On August 6, the HC had asked Dhaka Medical College authorities to carry out the tests at its DNA Lab under the supervision of the SC authorities upon the petition filed by BNWLA and BSEHR in 2006. The HC asked a deputy registrar of the Supreme Court to supervise the DNA tests and ordered BNWLA and BSEHR to bear all the expenses.

The HC also asked BNWLA and BSEHR to take the children to BNWLA's shelter home 'Proshanti' in Agargaon in the city after collecting the samples for

DNA tests and ordered the two organisations to take steps for proper treatment of the children under a child specialist.

Furthermore, the court directed the commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police to ensure security of the children.

The same day, the HC appointed former attorney general advocate Mahmudul Islam as amicus curiae (friend of court) for legal interpretation and he recommended conducting of DNA tests.

A medical board collected blood and saliva samples of the children for DNA tests on the same day. The medical board headed by Prof Mizanul Haque carried out the DNA tests.

In 2006, reports were published in different newspapers about the ex-DIG couple living in a house with 14 children and seven of them appeared to be of the same age -- between 18 and 24 months. The couple maintained that they were the parents of the children and the seven were 'septuplets'.

On June 15, 2006, BSEHR Executive Director advocate Alena Khan filed a case under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act with Badda Police Station.

Alena Khan told reporters yesterday that if the HC permits, her organisation will bear the expenses of having the DNA reports examined in Singapore.

Advocate Mahmudul Islam was present as amicus curiae in the court while, advocate Mohammad Asaduzzaman represented the human rights organisations.

Tarique

FROM PAGE 1
NBR Deputy Tax Commissioner Samia Akhter filed the case against Tarique, elder son of detained former premier Khaleda Zia, on August 4 for dodging Tk 26.86 lakh in income taxes from 2002 to 2006.

Tarique Rahman filed a writ petition with the HC on August 10 challenging the legality of the initiation and continuation of the case against him.

Meanwhile a special court yesterday set August 19 for hearing on charge framing against detained Tarique Rahman in the tax evasion case.

Judge AKM Arifur Rahman of Special Court-10 set up in the MP Hostel on the National Parliament premises fixed the date after the prosecution failed to produce Tarique before the court due to his 'illness'.

The case is pending at the special court of Judge Shaded Noor Uddin set on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises.

Earlier, on May 25 this year, Tarique Rahman filed a petition with the HC for quashing the proceedings of the case and granting bail.

The HC on August 7 rejected the quashment petition, stayed the trial proceedings against him till yesterday and permitted Tarique to file an appeal with the Supreme Court (SC) against the HC order and for bail.

Tarique filed the petition with the SC yesterday to stay the proceedings against him.

ACC lawyer advocate Anisul Huq told reporters that there is no bar in proceeding with the trial of this case against Tarique and others following the Appellate Division order.

Barrister Rafiqueul Huq assisted by barrister Mahbubuddin Khokon and barrister Nasiruddin Ahmed Asim appeared for Tarique.

Nazmul Huda

FROM PAGE 16
As per his demand, the owner of the firm deposited Tk 6 lakh to the account of Weekly Khobor Antorale at Agrani Bank's Amin Court (Mouhheel) branch in 20 cheques between September 30, 2004 and October 18, 2006, the case statement said.

Sigma Huda, who used to run the weekly, drew the money from the bank and the firm got the work order, the complainants said.

Earlier, separate special courts set up on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises acquitted Sigma Huda in two extortion cases but sentenced her to three years' imprisonment for abetting her husband in taking Tk 2.4 crore bribe from the proprietor of a construction firm.

However, Sigma was freed from jail obtaining bail in all cases filed against her.

Huda was sentenced to several years' imprisonment in bribery and extortion cases.

Hasina

FROM PAGE 1
treatment, was exempted on June 9 from appearing in person for proceedings of the case. She was represented by advocate Sahara Khatun yesterday.

On August 5, the government extended parole of Hasina by a month until September 6 to facilitate her treatment in US.

Defence counsel Yusuf Hossain Humayun filed a petition yesterday seeking adjournment of proceedings of the case until Hasina returns home.

He argued that it is necessary for an accused to be present in court during charge framing.

Opposing the defence, Public Prosecutor ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul said it is not mandatory to be present during charge framing if one is exempted from court appearance.

Charge framing should proceed without wasting further time as the defence counsels participated in the charge framing proceedings, and also stood on behalf of Hasina.

After hearing both the sides, the court, located on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises, passed its order.

Earlier, counsels of Gen Mustafiz had submitted to the court his death certificate and pleaded for relieving him of the charges.

Prosecution lawyers apologised to family members of the late army chief if he had felt hurt during the court proceedings.

The other accused in the case are former air force chief Jamaluddin Ahmed, former defence secretary Syed Yusuf Hossain, air commodore (ret'd) Mirza Akhter Maruf, former joint secretary Mohammad Hossain Serniabat and Nurique Group Managing Director Nur Ali.

Conjoined twins

FROM PAGE 16
yesterday morning. And for the first time in seven days, she was given food through mouth today (Tuesday) as an experiment. She is still not out of danger," said Dr Ruhul Amin, associate professor of paediatric surgery at BSMMU, When contacted last night.

The baby's family members said she stared screaming five days after the operation.

On August 6, six teams comprised of more than 40 doctors and 28 others took part in the surgery to separate the twins. They were conjoined at their livers, intestines, gallbladders, chest bones and abdomen.

The twins were born at Rabeya Clinic in Gajbandha on March 24 and shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital the next day. They had been undergoing treatment at BSMMU since April 4 under the supervision of Prof Shafiqul Haque.

Only civil servants

FROM PAGE 1

the ACC for facing the Tac are mostly from the Roads and Highways Department ranging between the posts of engineer and assistant engineer. Of the eight officials three have applied along with the names of their wives.

The eight applications include the two Tac had rejected since the ACC is investigating the two applicants. One of the eight persons is a retired government official.

ACC sources said these applicants are either accused in different corruption cases filed by the ACC or have been served with notices to submit their wealth statements.

The ACC is also preparing summary reports on the eight corruption suspects for sending those to the Tac.

The Tac held its third official meeting yesterday to discuss the next course of action in light of its ongoing activities.

Tac officials said on an average over 50 persons contact their office over phone everyday to learn how to confess their crime.

"We have not yet received direct response from any politician. They sent their lawyers or called the Tac office over phone, sometimes disclosing their identities and at other times being anonymous. They often query about the explanation of the Voluntary Disclosure of Information Ordinance 2008," a Tac official said on condition that he not be named.

The idea of Tac with a five-month tenure came into being to relieve the state and the judiciary of the overwhelming burden of adjudicating a large number of graft cases and let economic and

industrial development continue unhindered. The commission also aims at cutting short the time for dealing with graft cases.

The Tac will hold public and closed-door hearings of confessions depending on the situation. A suspect willing to face the commission may appoint a lawyer in their defence with Tac's permission.

Although the Tac will deal with corruption and corruption practices, it will not deal with voluntary disclosure of offences involving arms, drugs, human trafficking, prostitution, violence, murder and rape, according to the Voluntary Disclosure of Information Ordinance 2008.

President Iajuddin Ahmed constituted the Tac on July 30 by appointing the chairman and two members--former comptroller and auditor general Asif Ali and Maj Gen (ret'd) Manzur Rashid Chowdhury.

National flag

FROM PAGE 1

made the decision in compliance with the High Court order. The High Court recently declared illegal the decision taken in 2002 cancelling August 15 as national mourning day.

Murad Siddiqui

FROM PAGE 16

afternoon after he reached Tangail.

He was shown arrested under section 16 (2) of Emergency Power Rules and he is currently in Tangail Police Station, police sources said.

Law enforcers had arrested Murad at Tangail on January 30, 2007.

Rajshahi mayor

FROM PAGE 16

Some arrested militants of the outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen, Bangladesh (JMB) across the country have named Galib as their supreme leader.

"He [Liton] has now become mayor of all citizens and so he can look after everyone's well-being. But the news is alarming if the mayor's relation with militant outfits is deep," said Rajshahi district Awami League chief Tajul Islam M Faruk.

"We wanted a clear stance regarding militancy from the mayor hopefuls before the election. As none of them gave us [voters] their opinion, they are now taking the opportunity," said Abdul Bari, a voter and victim of JMB torture.

Liton also drew flak from party men for visiting the house of Rafiq Shams, a former general secretary of Rajshahi District Sports Association on August 6. Shams is an accused in a graft case for misappropriation of around Tk 22 lakh from the association fund.

Many of party insiders also question his personal visit to Dhaka on Monday using a microbus provided by Rajshahi road transport owners group.

Talking to The Daily Star, Liton denied Ahab claim of his demanding Galib's release and refuted other allegations.

"Why should I want his release when he is being tried for militancy?" he said. "I want to visit the madrasa, not Galib's den." "Besides, no-one can be called guilty unless judgement is delivered by a court... our chief Sheikh Hasina is also accused in a case; will I stay away from her?" he said on his visit to Shams' house.

UK envoy

FROM PAGE 16

on not taking part in any polls with the emergency in place.

"No election under emergency will be acceptable to the people and the parties," Toftail told reporters reiterating their demands for lifting the state of emergency before any polls and holding the parliamentary elections first.

The British envoy said, "We know the fact that the chief adviser is for gradually lifting the state of emergency. But from my personal view, all should now think about whether dialogue can be held between the political parties and the government to talk about the way, process and time of lifting the emergency."

On national elections, he hoped that the parliamentary polls would be held in December in line with the Election Commission (EC) announced electoral road map.

On European Union's (EU) announcement that it would not send election observers if the state of emergency remains enforced, Evans said the EU believes in creating conducive environment to have an election in a free and fair manner. "If the government of Bangladesh can create such environment ahead of the elections, the EU will send observers team," he said.

The British envoy mentioned his government's commitment to work together with the Bangladesh government in socio-economic sectors.

Dipjol

FROM PAGE 16

them, and order to attach their properties as they are absconding.

The ACC filed the case with Mirpur (Model) Police Station on December 3 last year.

Meanwhile, Dipjol was earlier given 42 years' imprisonment for possessing illegal firearms and ammunition and dodging income tax while his wife Rumana was given 11 years' jail term for the same offences.

Dipjol was already in hiding at that time and Rumana was arrested in the cases. But she also went into hiding after getting bail.

NBR OFFICIAL

ACC Deputy Director Moniruzzaman Khan, also the IO of the case, charged Jahurul Haq and his wife Afia Haq with accumulating wealth worth Tk 1,22,27,171 illegally, and concealing information about wealth worth Tk 93,91,763 from the commission.

He submitted charge sheet against them to the CMM's Court, Dhaka, showing 34 people as prosecution witnesses.

The IO appealed for issuance of arrest against the couple, and court order to attach their properties as they have been absconding.

On January 9 this year, the ACC filed the case with Ramna Police Station accusing the couple of amassing Tk 1.53 crore beyond their known sources of income and concealing information about wealth worth Tk 1.25 crore in the wealth statement.

Afia submitted the wealth statement on March 3 last year, on behalf of her absconding husband, after the High Court ordered the ACC to accept it.

She was accused in the case for abetting her husband in amassing wealth illegally.

Russia halts Georgia

FROM PAGE 16

Medvedev said Georgia must pull its troops from South Ossetia and Abkhazia the two Russian-backed breakaway provinces at the heart of the dispute.

But thousands of Georgians poured out their support for their president at a rally in Tbilisi, crowding a main square and nearby streets as far as the eye could see and holding aloft fluttering red-and-white Georgian flags.

Russian forces opened a second battlefield in western Georgia on Monday, moving deep into Georgian territory from the separatist province of Abkhazia. They seized a military base in the town of Senaki and occupied police precincts in the town of Zugdidi.

On Tuesday, an Associated Press reporter counted 135 Russian military vehicles included tanks, armored personnel carriers and three pieces of artillery driving through Georgia toward Kodori Gorge. The northern part of the gorge is the only part of the separatist region of Abkhazia still held by Georgian forces, but they have come under attack in recent days.

Scores of Georgians have fled the area. "It feels like an annexed country," said Lasha Margaria, the local administrator in one of the villages in Kodori. People said that many homes were damaged by shelling and that the entire population of the gorge, some 3,000 people, had fled.

"We left when the shelling started, we don't have food," said Madlena Guarniani, one of the refugees, who said they had no time to pack food or belongings. Georgia sits on a strategic oil pipeline carrying Caspian crude to Western markets bypassing Russia, has long been a source of contention between the West and a resurgent Russia, which is seeking to strengthen its role as the dominant energy supplier to the continent. The British oil company BP shut down one of three Georgian pipelines as a precaution.

In central Georgia, Russian troops advanced into Georgia from the other separatist province, South Ossetia, taking positions near Gori on the main east-west highway as terrified civilians. Saakashvili said his country had effectively been cut in half. Gori's post office and university were still burning Tuesday, said Georgian officials, who claimed six died in the overnight bombing. RTL television news, a Dutch station, reported that at least five people were killed when Russian warplanes bombed Gori, including its cameraman.

Georgia borders the Black Sea between Turkey and Russia and was ruled by Moscow for most of the two centuries preceding the 1991 breakup of the Soviet Union. South Ossetia and Abkhazia have run their own affairs without international recognition since fighting to split from Georgia in the early 1990s.

Both separatist provinces are backed by Russia. Russian officials had given signals that the fighting

Hossain Zillur

FROM PAGE 1
the final stage...however, it requires reasonable time to get the thing done...we're now getting down to the nitty-gritty concerning her release," he said.

Zillur, who is a government negotiator with the political parties, said everything would be solved after the groundwork for a greater understanding was laid.

He said the government is trying to reach a consensus on major issues with political parties in a bid to return to democracy through a participatory general election in December.

Meantime, Khaleda's lawyers Ahmed Azam Khan and Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas told reporters after visiting her at the sub jail that she reckons the cases against her to be baseless and callable.

India

FROM PAGE 16

"Our argument is: unless you give Tamils a feeling they have the right to their own destiny in many matters, you will not succeed. (The) LTTE's capacity to carry out terrorist attacks is not diminished," he said.

"The (Sri Lankan army) has made a lot of progress in the last few weeks," Narayanan said.

"But even if they win the battle, I am not sure they will win the war."

"I think they haven't got the Tamil population on their side. I know the Sri Lankan government will be unhappy (at this advice) but... that is the best advice they could get," he said.

India directly intervened in the Sri Lankan conflict in 1987 by sending troops to supervise a bilateral peace pact, but ended up fighting Tamil Tigers.

New Delhi withdrew its troops after a 32-month deployment during which it lost some 1,200 soldiers and many more were wounded. Since then, New Delhi has maintained a hands-off policy towards Sri Lanka, but kept close watch.

Sri Lankan troops are currently locked in combat with the Tigers in the north of the island, with the defence ministry reporting a heavy death toll from the area every day.

Sri Lankan military commanders have said they have already crushed the conventional fighting capability of the guerrillas and were on course to defeat them completely within a year.

On Tuesday Sri Lankan security forces have killed another 26 Tamil Tiger rebels for the loss of six of their own soldiers in the latest fighting in the north of the island, the military said Tuesday.

Troops pushed into territory held by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on at least three fronts in the west Wanni region on Monday, military officials said.

They said 20 government troops were also wounded in Monday's fighting and placed rebel casualties at another 29 wounded. There was no immediate word from the rebels about the military's latest claims.

could pave the way for them to be absorbed into Russia.

Saakashvili on Tuesday made plans to shed a vestige of Soviet times, saying he has asked Parliament to take action to leave the Russia-dominated alliance of ex-Soviet nations called the Commonwealth of Independent States.

The situation in Tskhinvali, the capital of South Ossetia, remained tense Tuesday as sporadic fighting and artillery duels continued, but the city was in the control of Russian army and South Ossetian forces.

In the villages once populated by ethnic Georgians on the outskirts of Tskhinvali, South Ossetian fighters reportedly set fire to Georgian houses, and carried out searches in the villages.

As he started talks with French President Nicolas Sarkozy, Medvedev said Georgia must pull its troops from the breakaway regions and pledge not to use force to deal with the conflict.

The UN and NATO had called meetings Tuesday to deal with the conflict, which quickly developed into an East-West crisis that raised fears in former Soviet bloc nations of Eastern Europe.

Poland's president and the leaders of four ex-Soviet republics held to Georgia for a meeting with Saakashvili to send a signal of solidarity with Tbilisi.

"We may say that the Russian state has once again shown its face, its true face," said Poland's Lech Kaczynski, who will be joined by counterparts from Lithuania, Estonia, Ukraine and Latvia.

But he said it was "good news" that Medvedev ordered a halt to military action.

Russian deputy chief of General Staff Anatoly Nogovitsyn dismissed Georgian reports that Russian warplanes Tuesday again bombed a pipeline carrying crude to the West. He said Russian planes never targeted the pipeline and accused Georgia of spreading false reports in order to rally anti-Russian sentiments in the West.

Engr Mosharraf

FROM PAGE 1
On July 28, the HC granted him ad-interim bail for two months.

He was freed on August 1 only to be rearrested at the jail gate on charges of violating the emergency powers rules.

Then on August 10, the HC allowed him bail in the case filed for floating emergency rules. It also directed the law enforcement agencies not to detain or harass him on release.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, Deputy Inspector General of Prisons Major Shamsul Haider Siddique confirmed that the AL leader from Chittagong had been released.

Of the other two, Khandaker Shahidul was arrested on April 17 and Selim Bhuiyan on January 11.

Khaleda

FROM PAGE 1
at stake. She urged the people to remain alert against the "conspiracies".

The immediate-past prime minister called for a free and fair general election in a neutral atmosphere as she said an elected government can only salvage the people and the country from this situation.

Khaleda also called for recasting the Election Commission as she said the commission is "biased" and hence a free and fair election is not possible under this EC.

Quoting Khaleda, Advocate Shimul Biswas said the former prime minister described the armed forces as pride of the nation and said it is the responsibility of all to keep them above all controversies.

The BNP chairperson said her party does not believe in politics of revenge and always stresses national unity and prefers national interest to all other considerations.

Impeachment

FROM PAGE 16
that had triggered unrest in the province bordering Afghanistan, which has suffered the worst of a wave of Taliban violence that has hit Pakistan in the past year.

"The flawed internal and external policies of his dictatorial regime have resulted in the large scale murder of innocent people of our province and FATA (Federally Administered Tribal Areas)," it said.

A bomb targeting a Pakistan air force bus in Peshawar at about the same time as the motion was passed killed 13 people on Tuesday, and more than 150 people have died in a week of fierce fighting in the restive tribal belt.

The coalition says it is preparing a charge sheet against Musharraf, which is likely to be finalised and then introduced in the national parliament towards the end of the week.

Musharraf's spokesman on Monday rejected calls for him to stand down.

But the announcement by the party of Sherpao, a staunch ally who headed the interior ministry until 2007, that he would back impeachment came as a fresh blow.

"We have decided to support the impeachment motion in the interest of democracy," said Sherpao's son Sikander, a member of the provincial assembly and a key leader of Sherpao's small political party.

The decision came after Sherpao spoke to coalition leader Asif Ali Zardari, Bhutto's widower, who led the PPP to win the most seats in February elections and topple the previous pro-Musharraf government.

The coalition is short of the two-thirds majority in the upper and lower houses of the national parliament that it needs to impeach Musharraf, and is looking to win over defectors from the presidential camp and independents.

Sherpao was a member of Bhutto's party until 2002 when he broke his own faction and supported Musharraf in the previous parliament.

Phelps joins

FROM PAGE 1
China added four more golds to their tally Tuesday, winning the men's team gymnastics, the women's 10m synchronised diving while Zhong Man took the men's individual fencing sabre gold and Liao Hui the men's 69kg weightlifting crown.

The Games hosts also went close to pulling off one of the biggest upsets in Olympic basketball history when they pushed world champion Spain to overtime before losing 85-75 in a men's preliminary round game.

Former European judo champion Ole Bischof von Germany's first gold of the Games in the men's 81kg weightlifting class, and in Hong Kong their three-day eventing team won the second.

But tennis player Rainer Schuettler, a late inclusion in the men's singles after appealing to the Court of Arbitration in Sport, had a brief Games, beaten by third seed Novak Djokovic of Serbia 6-4, 6-2.

The top three men's seeds Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Djokovic, all moved easily into the third round, and the women's draw also saw dominant performances from the Williams sisters and Serbia's world number one Jelena Jankovic.

Swiss top seed Federer breezed to a 6-2, 6-4 win over 447th-ranked Rafael Arevalo of El Salvador, and Nadal crushed Lleyton Hewitt 6-1, 6-2.

Serena Williams took a mere 44 minutes to dispatch Australia's Samantha Stosur and Venus was only on court slightly longer in beating Iveta Benesova in straight sets.

Jankovic came back from a slow start to put away Alona Bondarenko 7-5, 6-1.

Japan's Olympic fortunes suffered when defending women's marathon champion Mizuki Noguchi pulled out after

failing to recover from a thigh injury, dashing her hopes of securing back-to-back titles on August 17.

"Considering the current situations, I cannot help but give up joining the race," said Noguchi who is undergoing tests at a Kyoto hospital.

Obaidul Quader

FROM PAGE 1