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Plus the STAR

## Harris the fortune-maker

'No income' before 2001, multimillionaire without business in next 5 years

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Former premier Khaleda Zia's political secretary Harris Chowdhury can be a role model for anyone wishing to be a multimillionaire in five years without much official sources of income.

Though he claimed to have been a businessman, government investigators have found that he didn't have any major source of income until 2001. After joining the Prime Minister's Office in 2001, he made a wealth of at least Tk 85 crore before fleeing the country in early 2007.

Harris drew only Tk 27.48 lakh from the Sonali Bank's PMO Branch as salary in the five years of his service as the prime minister's political secretary. His last tax

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



## ACC okays charge sheet against Harris

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday approved a charge sheet against Harris Chowdhury, political secretary to former premier Khaleda Zia, and ten others including his family members for amassing wealth worth over Tk 85.88 crore illegally.

The ACC yesterday also approved filing of a case against former managing director of Teletalk Obaidulla and his wife Rowshan Jahan for amassing wealth illegally and concealing information from the commission.

The names of Harris' wife Hosne Ara Chowdhury, son Naim Shafi Chowdhury, daughter Samira Tanjil, brother Selim Chowdhury, sister-in-law Jahanara Chowdhury, Harris' private secretary Ziaul Islam, Akhlasur Nahar,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Pay commission for govt staff this month

UNB, Dhaka

The new pay commission for the government employees will be constituted by this month.

"It'll be constituted by this month," Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam told reporters, replying to a question at the finance ministry yesterday.

In the national budget for 2008-09 fiscal year, it has been mentioned that a pay commission will be constituted to review and recommend revised pay structure for the employees of government and autonomous bodies.

The announcement was made amid hardship being faced by the fixed income group of people due to high inflation arising from the abnormal price hike of essentials in both international and domestic markets.

"The formation of the pay commission is at final stage," a senior official said, adding that the selection of the commission members is under process.

## Justice not meted out 33 years into murder

Nation mourns for Bangabandhu today, observes National Mourning Day after 6 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation today observes the 33rd death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the architect of its independence, as uncertainty still hangs over the trial of his killers.

After a six-year break, the day is being commemorated at state level.

In line with a High Court (HC) ruling, the government recently reinstated August 15 as National Mourning Day and a public holiday in remembrance of the



father of the nation who with most of his family was killed by a band of army men on this day in 1975.

The BNP-led alliance government had stripped the day of its state status in 2002. But the HC on July 27 this year declared the decision illegal.

August 15 was first declared National Mourning Day by the Awami League (AL) government in 1996.

Three separate attacks on this day 33 years ago left as many as 24 people killed. Bangabandhu's two daughters—Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana—could escape the bloodbath as they were abroad at that time.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

KHALEDA'S RELEASE

## 4-party to march to CA's office on Aug 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led four-party alliance yesterday announced fresh programmes to press home their demands for the release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, lifting the state of emergency and holding parliamentary elections before upazila polls.

The alliance would march to the Chief Adviser's Office on August 21 and submit a memorandum before Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed demanding the release of Khaleda. The alliance has also decided to submit the memorandum before deputy commissioners (DCs) in all districts of the country.

It would form human chains countrywide on August 27 to press home their demands which also include the release of Khaleda's elder son Tarique Rahman, now in a prison cell at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Hospital.

Khaleda, a former prime minister, is now detained in a makeshift prison set up on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises.

Meanwhile, Home Adviser MA Matin claimed that efforts for the release of Khaleda and Tarique were underway. "Progress is being

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

## Govt to allow TU activities on limited scale

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to allow trade union activities, which have remained suspended for more than one and a half years, on a limited scale and an announcement in this regard will come in a week, said LGRD Adviser Anwarul Iqbal yesterday.

An order for amending the Emergency Power Rules (EPR) is expected to be issued soon, paving the way for reintroduction of trade union and elections of the collective bargaining agent (CBA), he said.

"Permission has to be obtained from the local police stations to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## Tarique denied bail in fake orphanage case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected the bail petition of detained BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman in a case filed for embezzlement of over Tk 2.10 crore by forming a fake establishment named Zia Orphanage Trust.

The court allowed two lawyers—Sanaullah Miah and Masud Ahmed Talukder—to meet Tarique at the prison cell of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Hospital to discuss about the case.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Rabbani passed the order after Tarique's counsels submitted two petitions—one for his bail and the other for permission to meet him.

On July 3, the Anti-Corruption

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Textile and dyeing factories on the Shitalakhya between Ghorashal and Narayanganj Port dump their effluent in the river.

PHOTO: STAR

## Forest graft revolves round job, promotion, transfer

Reveals TIB study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The most serious irregularities in the Department of Forest (DoF) take place surrounding recruitments, promotions and transfers of officials and these spawn all other anomalies in the department, revealed a TIB study.

The officials and employees of the department consider the huge amount of bribe they give for recruitments, transfers and promotions as investment and they

illegally earn more money than the "investment". This practice contributes to the gradual destruction of forest, the study said.

The study titled "Transparency and Accountability in Conservation and Management of Forest: Problems and Ways for Solution" of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) was presented by

Manzoor-e-Khoda at a roundtable held at the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. The study was conducted between December, 2006

and March, 2008.

Chief Adviser's Special Assistant on Forest and Environment Raja Debashish Roy was present as the chief guest and Forest and Environment Secretary Abul Hasan Mohammad Rezaul Kabir was the special guest of the programme.

TIB Trustee Sultana Kamal chaired the roundtable.

Annually, timber worth approximately Tk 150 crore is smuggled out of the Sundarbans. The officials

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## 5 more top politicians get HC bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted ad-interim bail to three former ministers, Chittagong mayor and a former lawmaker arrested in the caretaker government's anti-graft drive.

The five are former health minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, former home minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, former state minister Obaidul Quader, Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor A B M M o h i u d d i n Chowdhury and former BNP lawmaker Salauddin Ahmed.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Ex-DIG, wife not parents of 7 kids

Rules HC; orders sending them to BNWLA shelter home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday ruled that former deputy inspector general (DIG) of police Anisur Rahman and his wife Anwara Rahman are not the biological parents of the "septuplets" rescued from their house.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Farid Ahmed yesterday delivered the

judgement upon a writ petition filed by BNWLA, seeking the legal custody of the children—four boys and three girls.

Since Anisur Rahman and his wife are reluctant to prove their parenthood by taking DNA tests, it gave the court an impression that they are not the real parents of the children, the court observed in its ruling saying that there have never

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## 9 killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

Six people died and 40 others were injured in a road accident on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway near Unishmile Bazar under Osmaniagar Police Station of Sylhet district yesterday.

Meanwhile, three people drowned and 30 others went missing when a bus carrying a bridal party plunged into a canal in Gabtoli upazila of Bogra district last night.

Our staff correspondent from Sylhet reported that the accident occurred at around 5:00pm when the Sunamganj-bound bus from Dhaka fell into a ditch after a collision with a CNG-run autorickshaw near Niraiya Bridge on the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## GATCO GRAFT CASE Saifur appears in court, gives bail bond

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former finance minister M Saifur Rahman, who returned home recently after a three-month stay abroad, yesterday furnished a Dhaka court with a bond for bail in the Gatco graft case.

Earlier on August 3, a High Court bench granted him six months' anticipatory bail.

A charge-sheeted accused in the case, the senior BNP leader was wheeled into the Special Court-3 on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises at 11:30am. There, he submitted the bond through his lawyer Ruhul Amin Bhuiyan.

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin accepted the Tk 1 lakh bail bond with Ataur Rahman presented as advocate surety and M Kaiser

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Liu surprise for China

AFP, Beijing



as the Olympic spotlight briefly switched off Michael Phelps.

Little known Chinese Liu Zige smashed the world record in the women's 200m butterfly by 1.6sec, leading China to five gold medals on a day where the United States, without Phelps in a final, failed to win an event.

China continued to head the medal table with 22 gold, more than double the United States on 10, in their challenge to supplant

the USA as the world's sporting powerhouse.

In the overall medal count, China have 35 one more than the United States on 34.

China have invested heavily in sport to showcase their home Olympics, with talent scouts tapping potential champions and putting them through rigorous training regimes.

But the previously unknown Liu denied she had been hidden from the world by coach Zhang Yandong.

"No he didn't. I've improved only in the last year," the 19-year-

old said, explaining her sudden emergence.

"I didn't feel pressure before the competition, I tried to relax," said Liu.

"And in the race I just swam at my own pace, not caring about others. My coach said to me that we will have two Chinese swimmers in the final, so you don't need to force yourself to win gold, you just need to try your best."

It was China's first swimming gold of the Games and only its third since its prime at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, when it won four.

Phelps, who has won five gold so far in his bid for an unprecedented eight at a single games, took a back seat on the sixth day of the Olympics with only the 200m medley semifinals and 100m fly heats to contest.

This brought the 100m free final

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Overall Medal			
	Gold	Silver	Bronze
CHN	22	8	5
USA	10	9	15
KOR	6	7	3
ITA	6	4	3

(Continues to page 18)



PHOTO: AFP

SURPRISE SETTER: China's Liu Zige (front) speeds her way ahead of Australian Jessicah Schipper (R) to win the women's 200m butterfly gold at the National Aquatics Centre in the 2008 Beijing Olympics yesterday.