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Khaleda's nephew jailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday sentenced BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's nephew Shahrin Islam Tuhin to 13 years' imprisonment for amassing wealth beyond known sources of income and concealing information in his wealth statement submitted to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Judge M Sirajul Islam of the Special Court-7 on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises also fined Tuhin Tk 10 lakh, in default of which he has to serve jail term for one more year.

The court ordered confiscation of Tuhin's ill-gotten wealth.

Tuhin was handed down 10 years' rigorous imprisonment for acquiring wealth through dishonest means and three years' imprisonment for hiding information about his wealth. The jail terms will run consecutively, the court said.

Since he is absconding, the sentences will come into effect the day he surrenders or is arrested.

ACC Assistant Director Taufiqul Islam filed the case against Tuhin with Gulshan Police Station on December 19 last year accusing him of illegally accumulating Tk 2.8 crore and concealing information about Tk 1.4 crore wealth.

Earlier, Tuhin was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment in a tax evasion case.

ILL-GOTTEN WEALTH ACC to sue Justice Fazlul Huq's son

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday approved filing of four separate cases against former adviser to caretaker government Justice Fazlul Huq's son Dr Afzal Hossain, son-in-law Tariqul Rahman Prince and one of his employees on different charges.

ACC is to accuse Afzal in two separate cases on charges of concealing information about wealth from the commission, amassing wealth over Tk 1.40 crore beyond his known sources of income and money laundering.

In another case Afzal is to be accused of laundering Tk 10.61 crore. The case statement said Afzal realised this money by accepting bribes in return for transfers of government employees. The statement added that Afzal was able to arrange the transfers with help from his father.

Prince is to be accused of amassing Tk 38.50 lakh, and Abdul Malek -- an employee of Fazlul Huq foundation -- of amassing Tk 46.99 lakh beyond their known sources of income.

The ACC has also approved filing of a case against establishment ministry joint secretary (OSD) Rafiqul-e-Mohammad and submission of two proposed charge sheets against Gopalganj municipality chairman Hasmat Ali on different charges.

Sehri, Ifar timings

Ramadan	Sep	Sehri	Ifar
11	12		6-09
12	13	4-23	6-08
13	14	4-24	6-07

Prayer Timing

September 12		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-23	4-29
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-09	6-19
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

Higher study to elude many HSC achievers

SURANITH DEABNATH

A large number of the students with brilliant results like GPA-5 in HSC examinations will be denied admission to their 'first-choice' public universities and medical colleges because their number is much more than the number of seats in those institutions.

Many students with good results do not go for higher education because admission capacity of quality public universities is limited and new ones are not being set up to accommodate the increasing number of good result achievers in HSC examinations.

Only two new public universities were established in the last

three years while HSC pass rate increased by around 17 per cent during the period. Besides, the number of GPA-5 holders rose four times since 2005.

The University Grants

Commission's (UGC) 20-year (2006-2026) strategic plan for higher education suggests establishment of at least 28 universities.

At present, 1,800 colleges

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HSC RESULTS VS SEATS	
Results 2008	Available Seats
HSC and Equivalents	Total capacity
	4,34,980
Total Passed	Public Universities
4,66,570	14,750
GPA 5	Private Universities
22,045	17,330
	Public Medical Colleges
	2,500
	Private Medical Colleges
	1,400
	NU affiliated Colleges
	4,00,000



PHOTO: STAR

Firemen try to recover the body of a mentally unstable woman from an electricity pole in Chittagong city yesterday. She climbed the pole at Kadamtoli intersection and got electrocuted by the high-voltage line.

Powertek to get Bibiyana despite high tariff quote

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The power ministry has okayed the bid of Malaysian-Korean consortium Powertek for the 450 megawatt (MW) Bibiyana power project that quotes almost double the power tariff of past large private projects.

Following recommendation of the tender evaluation committee of the Power Cell and another committee headed by the Power Development Board (PDB) expert

Alamgir Kabir, the ministry has prepared the bid to be sent to the cabinet for its approval.

Powertek offered a 22-year flat tariff of 4.53 cents per kilowatt hour (a unit), which is in stark contrast against the 1998 AES Haripur 360MW power plant that charges a tariff of 2.72 cents per unit. In taka, Powertek's offer stands at Tk 3.15 per unit while other developers

now implementing small power projects seek a price of Tk 2.28 to Tk 2.79 per unit.

Both the committees observed that Powertek's high tariff was justified since the cost of building a power plant has doubled in the last 10 years.

Sources said the PDB committee reviewed the price factor using power sector trend studies by the World Bank and the Wall Street Journal and also information shared by vendors.

"The power prices have gone up since the Meghnaghat-Haripur

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20 die as grenades hurled inside Pakistan mosque

18 militants killed in clashes

AFP, Khar/Peshawar

Pakistani troops backed by tanks and fighter jets yesterday killed at least 18 rebels in a restive tribal area near the Afghan border, officials said.

Earlier at least 20 worshippers

were killed and 30 wounded when suspected militants hurled grenades and fired into a mosque in northern Pakistan during Wednesday evening prayers, an official said.

"Militants surrounded the

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Upazila polls soon under new laws

Insists Adviser Iqbal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local Government and Rural Development Adviser M Anwarul Iqbal yesterday reaffirmed that the upazila election will be held soon though major political parties are more eager about holding the parliamentary election first.

"We hope the upazila elections will be held soon under the new ordinances and the Election Commission is working on it," the LGRD adviser told a workshop at a city hotel.

Local Government Division and UNDP jointly organised the workshop titled 'Resource Mobilisation of Union Parishad' under a local government support project funded by the UNDP, United Nations Capital Development

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Kuwait bans unskilled foreign workers

Parliament passes non-binding recommendation for 5 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Kuwaiti Parliament on Wednesday unanimously passed non-binding recommendations calling for a 'complete ban' on the entry of unskilled foreign workers into Kuwait for five years, reported Arab Times Online yesterday.

The emergency parliamentary session also called for limiting to five years the unskilled foreign workers' stay in the country and slapping a lifetime ban on recruiting manpower by local companies that abuse workers.

The parliamentary session was

called by about 35 MPs in the 50-member parliament to debate violent protests by thousands of Bangladeshi workers in July demanding better pay and improved working conditions. Over 1200 workers were later deported for their alleged involvement in the strikes.

Foreign Adviser Iftakhar Ahmed Chowdhury, who visited Kuwait recently, requested the Gulf state to consider compensating the innocent Bangladeshi workers who were deported. Later, Kuwait gave assurance of taking all measures to protect the workers' rights.

Kuwait is also considering alternatives to its widely-criticised sponsor system to meet international labour standards, Kuwait's Social Affairs and Labour Minister Bader al-Duwaila told the session on September 10.

Under the system, any foreign worker in Kuwait has to be sponsored by a Kuwaiti employer, leaving the expatriates at the mercy of their bosses. Other Gulf states also apply the same system.

Kuwait is home to around 2.5 lakh Bangladeshi workers, most of whom do low-category jobs.

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JMB cadre held in Joypurhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members arrested an activist of outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) at Battali Bazar under Khetlal upazila of Joypurhat yesterday.

The arrestee, Md Delwar Hossain, son of Mozzafar Hossain of Baniapara village under Joypurhat Sadar upazila was wanted in a case filed for looting firearms from police at Mohepur village under Khetlal upazila in 2003.

A team of Rab-5, Joypurhat, arrested Delwar at Battali bus stand

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Five killed in 'encounters'

STAR REPORT

At least five people including two members of banned outfit Gono Bahini were killed in Kushtia, Jhenidah and Dhaka in encounters between their cohorts and law enforcers on Wednesday night and yesterday.

The dead are Mantu, 43, a regional leader of Gono Bahini and Sayeed, 38, a cadre of the same outfit. Siraj, 28, Montu, 30, and listed criminal Nurul Haque alias Kala Bhai, 38, also joint general secretary

of Dhaka ward-74 unit BNP.

Our Kushtia correspondent reports: Acting on information that Gono Bahini members were holding a secret meeting at Nandir Beel, police cordoned off the area at about 4.30am and asked the outlaws to surrender.

The outlaws opened fire on the law enforcers prompting them to retaliate.

Mantu and Sayeed were killed on the spot while their accomplices escaped.

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AUG 21 ATTACK CASE Charge-framing hearing now September 17

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday re-fixed September 17 for hearing on charge framing against 22 accused including Harkatul Jihad (Huji) chief Mufti Abul Hannan and detained former BNP lawmaker Abdus Salam Pintu in connection with the August 21 grenade attack case.

The case was filed for the grenade attack on an Awami League (AL) rally on August 21, 2004 on Bangabandhu Avenue that left 23

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One-point passport service thru' post office starts in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to introduce one-point passport service through post offices from September 14 to ease the process of issuing passports, says a press release of Bangladesh Postal Department.

People will get both urgent and general passports from 12 post offices in the city by submitting application forms along with fees at the post office counters.

The post offices are Dhaka GPO, Dhaka Sadar Main post Office, New

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