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REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVIII No. 251

DHAKA THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 25, 2008

ASHWIN 10, 1415 BS

RAMADAN 24, 1429 HJRI

24 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE: Tk 10.00

ACC sits on \$7.5m money laundering evidence

Alleges Korean woman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Korean citizen claims that an Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) official has stopped proceedings of filing a case regarding laundering of about \$7.5 million although National Coordination Committee (NCC) to combat serious crime and corruption has evidence.

Ok-Kyung Oh in a press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday said a taskforce team this year found evidence of laundering the amount to South Korea by her former husband Bo-Sun Park, chairman of TaeHung Packaging

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

NOOR ALI CASE

Govt keenly fights Hasina's bail bid

HC to order on Sept 29; 'confused' counsel sees end to Hasina-Khaleda meet; AAG tells of instruction from authorities concerned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a move contrary to an apparent understanding with the Awami League (AL), the government yesterday strongly opposed a bail prayer of Sheikh Hasina at the High Court (HC) in an extortion case filed by businessman Noor Ali.

The opposition surprised AL President Hasina's counsel barrister Rafique-ul-Huq who was asked by the caretaker government's law adviser earlier yesterday to obtain



Hasina's bail from the HC so that she can sit in a meeting with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

But within hours, the government attorneys opposed the bail petition which, according to barrister Rafique, jeopardised the possible dialogue between the two former premiers to "remove political crisis ahead of the next parliamentary elections".

Rafique, who also represents Khaleda, had taken an initiative to

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Hasina to sit with Khaleda anytime, anywhere

States her email to AL leader few days back

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina agreed to sit with her political archrival BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia "anytime, anywhere" for the greater interest of the country if BNP admits to its wrongdoings during its last tenure in power.

In an email addressed to the nation and sent to the email account of a senior AL leader, she said her stance on the proposed talks between herself and Khaleda needed to be clarified. She said, "As discussions have been going on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

AL's poll allies meet amid WP frustration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Key leaders of Awami League (AL)-led grand alliance sat together yesterday, after a break of about 20 months, in a bid to revive it to contest in the upcoming parliamentary election as a mega electoral coalition.

The leaders vowed to work to strengthen the unity of pro-liberation war forces to face BNP-Jamaat-led four-party alliance in the December 18 national poll.

The grand electoral alliance had been formed ahead of the stalled January 22, 2007 election to compete against BNP-Jamaat-led four-party alliance, and the last time its

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



PHOTO: STAR

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad and Bikalpadhara President Badruddoza Chowdhury shake hands as Awami League (AL) leaders Sajeda Chowdhury and Amir Hossain Amu, and LDP leader Shaikh Razzak Ali look on at an iftar party hosted by AL yesterday.

FDI inflow slips 16pc on politics

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh won \$666 million foreign direct investment (FDI) in 2007, a 16 percent drop from \$793 million a year ago, although the global FDI marked a 30 percent rise in the same period, according to a global investment report released yesterday.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has prepared the World Investment Report 2008 titled "Transitional corporations and infrastructure challenge".

The report shows that Bangladesh slipped its position

to 121st this year in terms of inward FDI performance index from 120th last year.

The Board of Investment (BoI) launched the report at a press conference at its office in Dhaka. Professor M Ismail Hossain of Economics Department at Jahangirnagar University made a presentation on the report.

Government officials, an economist and a trade expert identified political uncertainty, indecision over some big proposals and infrastructure constraints as major reasons for the FDI fall.

READ MORE IN STAR BUSINESS



PHOTO: STAR/FOCUS BANGLA

Transparent ballot boxes are being unloaded at Kamalapur Inland Container Depot yesterday. The EC received some 36,000 ballot boxes in the first consignment brought under UNDP and CIDA assistance.

6 advisers abroad

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Administrative activities at the Bangladesh Secretariat have slowed down as half a dozen advisers in charge of 12 ministries are now outside the country on official tours.

The ongoing administrative shake-up from late last month also added to the laid-back atmosphere, officials said.

"The absence of so many advisers

all at a time has nearly stalled the administrative functioning of the ministries they head," a senior official at the education ministry told The Daily Star yesterday.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed's Council of Advisers consists of 11 advisers. As the chief executive of their ministries, the advisers preside over policymaking meetings.

Barring routine work, the official

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Transparent ballot boxes start to arrive

UNB, Dhaka

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday received the first consignment of transparent ballot boxes and soon started sending those to some district election offices in Dhaka division.

Around 36,000 ballot boxes of the latest brand, out of some 2.40 lakh sought for a massive voting

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

BERC PUBLIC HEARING Gas price hike move opposed strongly

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) yesterday held its first public hearing on the proposed gas price hike up to 65 percent amid strong opposition from businesspeople and consumers.

Stakeholders and representatives of different trade bodies, chambers and Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB), who attended the hearing, said the hike would further increase prices of food items. Business people also pointed out that hiking gas prices would double the cost of business.

BERC Chairman Ghulam Rahman and four BERC members were in the judges' panel of the daylong hearing held at the commission's office.

After the hearing former Bangladesh Textile Mills Association president MA Matin, who represented the organisation at the hearing, said the proposed

increase in gas prices would definitely hamper investment growth in the industrial and manufacturing sectors.

"The cost of doing business will double if the proposed gas price hike is implemented. The government cannot increase gas prices abnormally since distributing companies can hardly maintain the required supply of gas for smooth running of industrial units," he said.

He, however, said since Petrobangla, the state-owned oil, gas and mineral exploration corporation, has been languishing for making profit over the years, the BERC can propose raise in gas prices to a reasonable level.

Terming the proposed gas price hike abnormal, MA Matin, also managing director of Malek Spinning Mill, said the proposal for increasing gas prices more than 72 percent for captive power plants is discriminatory.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Bail to over 500 extended by HC

Tarique, Moudud among them; most of them detained under EPR for petty crimes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday extended bail for four months to over 500 people accused in different criminal cases filed under the Emergency Power Rules (EPR).

The vacation bench of justices AKM Fazlur Rahman and Sheikh Abdul Awal also extended for as many months earlier HC orders that had stayed the proceedings of the cases, following 515 petitions.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's son Tarique Rahman, former BNP ministers Moudud Ahmed and Tariqul Islam, former state minister Amanullah Aman, former energy adviser Mahmudur Rahman and former BNP lawmak-

ers Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, Salauddin Ahmed, Shahidul Islam, Anwarul Azim and Zainul Abedin Faruk, and former energy secretary ANH Akhter Hossain were among the petitioners.

Most of the other petitioners are not well known, sources said. The same bench granted four months' ad interim bail to Khondaker Akhter Hamid Paban, son of BNP Secretary General Khondaker Delwar Hossain, in a case filed on charges of violating the EPR.

The HC also issued a rule on the government to explain why Paban should not be granted regular bail in the case.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

BNP unfazed by AL election alliance

Delwar says 4-party to expand, win JS polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said the four-party alliance will contest and win the upcoming polls and the BNP-led alliance would be expanded, if necessary.

"Our four-party alliance prevails and would take part in the upcoming election; inshallah, we'll win the polls," he told reporters

after an Iftar party held at Lalmatia New Colony field.

Delwar said they are not concerned about the fresh initiative of reconstituting the Awami League (AL)-led 14-party grand alliance and the efforts to expand it further.

"The Awami League-led grand alliance is nothing new; it existed in the past but did not take part in the elections," Delwar said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



PHOTO: STAR

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain and leaders Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky and MK Anwar at an iftar party at a community centre in city's Lalmatia yesterday.

The Star is bringing out its Eid issue this Friday. Focusing on the lighter side of life, this week's issue is filled with satirical pieces on our colourful political scene, international politics, society, music, gender disparity, generation gap, advertising gimmicks, occupational hazards, gastronomic disasters and much more. Don't miss this fun-filled issue!

A Weekly Publication of The Daily Star

theSTAR
stories behind the news



বিশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা বাংলাদেশ টেক্সটাইল মিলস এসোসিয়েশন [বিটিএমএ] এর সম্মানিত সদস্যদের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বিটিএমএ'র বোর্ড অব ডাইরেক্টরসের ২০০৯-১০ সনের নির্বাচন আগামী ০৪ ডিসেম্বর, ২০০৮ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। ইতোমধ্যেই ২০০৯-১০ নির্বাচন সংক্রান্ত নোটিশ ও সিডিউল সদস্য মিলগুলোতে প্রেরণ করা হয়েছে।

নির্বাচন সিডিউল অনুযায়ী চাঁদা পরিশোধের মাধ্যমে ভোটার তালিকায় নাম অন্তর্ভুক্তির জন্য চাঁদা পরিশোধের সর্বশেষ সময় সীমা ৬ই অক্টোবর, ২০০৮ এর বিকাল ৪-০০ টা পর্যন্ত নির্ধারণ করা হয়েছে। বাণিজ্য সংগঠন বিধিমালা ১৯৯৪ এর বিধি ১৩ এর ০৩ অনুযায়ী উক্ত সময়সীমার মধ্যে বকেয়া ও বকেয়া/চাঁদা যদি থাকে তা পরিশোধ না করলে ভোটার তালিকায় নাম অন্তর্ভুক্ত হবে না এবং ভোটাধিকার প্রয়োগ করা যাবে না। এ সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় তথ্যাদির জন্য সম্মানিত সদস্যবৃন্দকে বিটিএমএ'র সচিবালয়ে নির্বাচনী কর্মকর্তা/হিসাব রক্ষণ কর্মকর্তার সহিত যোগাযোগের জন্য সবিনয় অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

চেয়ারম্যান

নির্বাচন কমিশন, বিটিএমএ।

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