

Graft cases against 11 ex-MPs dropped

ACC cites lack of enough evidence

EMRAN HOSSAIN

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has decided to exempt 250 graft-accused including 11 former ministers and lawmakers in 121 cases from charges due to lack of enough evidence.

The former ministers and lawmakers are from the Awami League, BNP and Jamaat and were accused in 16 cases mainly for

misappropriating government funds and materials meant for relief, cheating, and abuse of power.

"We have decided to submit final reports in the cases due to lack of proper evidence," ACC Director General (Admin) Col Hanif Iqbal told The Daily Star last night.

Sources in ACC say the joint forces initiated most of the investigations, but had difficulties collect-

ing evidence strong enough to prove the charges.

Meanwhile, ACC yesterday approved submission of seven proposed charge sheets against 24 people including former state minister for communications Salahuddin Ahmed and ex-lawmaker Reza Ahmed Bachchu Mollah on charges of power abuse

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Nothing on record

Govt 'hands' AL, BNP list of poll 'ineligibles'; Jamaat hears of blacklist; JP yet to get it

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

The caretaker government has reportedly handed Awami League (AL) and BNP lists of some political leaders convicted or accused of graft, and asked the parties not to pick them as candidates for the December 18 polls.

Leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami said they too have heard about the "blacklists", but did not yet receive any.

Meanwhile, unconfirmed

reports say Jatiya Party (JP) has been asked to go to the polls without its Chairman HM Ershad.

But the former military strongman's party, which is considered crucial to tipping the balance in traditionally bipolar electoral contests, has denied getting any list or instructions from the government.

Insiders said BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and AL President Sheikh Hasina have already

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Barapukuria case stayed

Khaleda, ex-ministers appear in lower court

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER, ASHUTOSH SARKAR and RASHIDUL HASAN

The High Court (HC) yesterday stayed for three months the proceedings against former prime minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in Barapukuria coal mine corruption case filed by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).

Meantime, Khaleda appeared before a Dhaka court on the day in connection with this case.

After hearing a petition filed by the former premier, an HC bench comprising Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice Farid Ahmed issued a rule upon the government and the ACC to show cause within two weeks why the proceedings against her in this case should not be quashed.

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Former prime minister Khaleda Zia appears in a Dhaka court yesterday in Barapukuria corruption case.

IGP notice portrays police as weak force

Feel reform-aspiring cops; IGP sends reply to Home

KAILASH SARKAR

The home ministry's rare show cause notice on the inspector general of police (IGP) has enraged the police department leaving it with a feeling that the administration indeed treated the police as a 'weak' force.

IGP Nur Mohammad, who was served with the show cause notice on October 13, sent reply to the home ministry yesterday.

Meanwhile, top police officials said the show cause notice should have been issued on those who

have been obstructing the promulgation of the Police Ordinance-2007, not the IGP who is frustrated over the non-promulgation of the ordinance.

The ministry asked the IGP to explain his comments on non-promulgation of the proposed police ordinance to the media on September 22.

The notice also quoted a Jai Jai Din report headlined "Reforms are not carried out as it might go against someone's interest."

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Talking polls, beyond

Publish white paper on Hawa Bhaban

Tanbir challenges govt

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN and RASHIDUL HASAN

BNP Standing Committee Member Chowdhury Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky has said his party will not take action against any party man for corruption if he/she is not found corrupt in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

"We cannot term any one

Find details of the interview on page 11



corrupt even if a lower court convicts him/her. But he/she will lose party membership if the Supreme Court confirms the conviction," Tanbir said in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star.

Demanding publication of a white paper regarding alleged corruption by Hawa Bhaban

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Create congenial atmosphere for Dec 18 polls

14-party asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL)-led 14-party combine yesterday asked the caretaker government to create a congenial atmosphere for the upcoming parliamentary elections by withdrawing the state of emergency and unconditionally releasing AL President Sheikh Hasina.

It also urged the government and the Election Commission (EC) to stick to the announced date for holding the national elections and to hold the upazila polls a reasonable time after the national elections.

The demands came at a meeting of the combine held at AL acting

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TOXIC MILK POWDER

Confusion over test results

Govt advises people to avoid brands in question until matter settled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday advised people to refrain temporarily from consuming the brands of powdered milk which the chemistry department of Dhaka University found tainted with melamine.

A meeting of an inter-agency taskforce, formed on October 6, at the commerce ministry yesterday decided to test a few samples of the powdered milks at the BCSIR and the Atomic Energy Commission

labs. The commerce ministry would receive the results through the BSTI, said a government hand-out.

The authorities concerned were also ordered to take legal actions against organisations marketing powdered milk without registration. They were also asked to inform the convener of the taskforce of such matters.

Commerce ministry called for a meeting today to discuss the

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HK bank deposit not shown in wealth reports

ACC tells of Morshed Khan's stashed money

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former foreign minister M Morshed Khan and his son Faisal Morshed Khan concealed information about Tk 14.15 crore in the wealth statement submitted to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) has detected the money deposited with a Hong Kong bank by Morshed Khan and his son.

The ACC yesterday said the process to recover the laundered money is going on, but it is time consuming.

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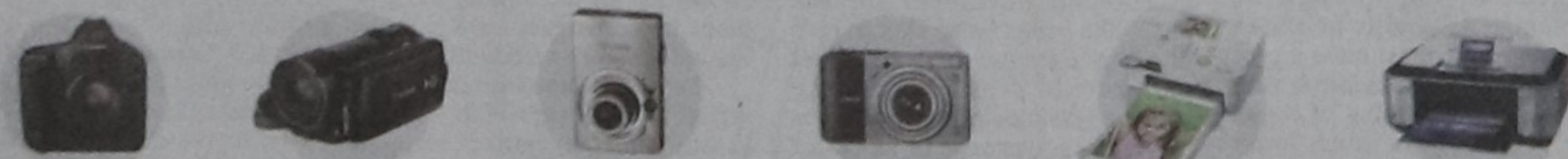
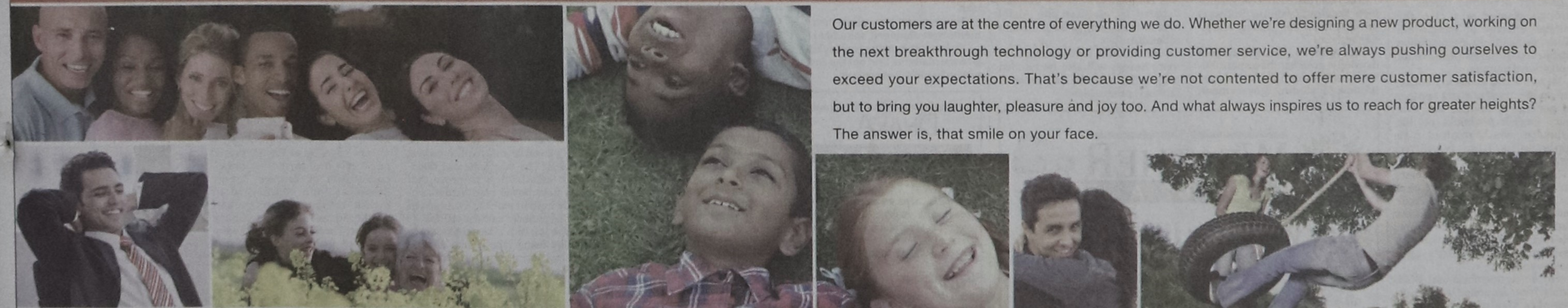
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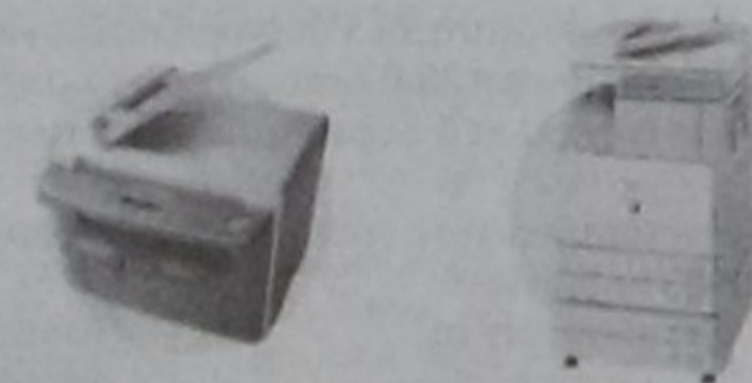
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