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Siraj, Tariqul, Mamun to be charged with graft

ACC okays charge sheets against them in Bhawal land lease scam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday approved the charge sheet to be submitted soon against seven bigwigs, including former BNP ministers Shajahan Siraj and Tariqul Islam, in the case filed for abusing power in leasing 13 acres of forestland at Bhawal National Park in Gazipur.

ACC director general (admin) Col Hanif Iqbal said this to the journalists at its routine briefing in ACC headquarters.

He said seven persons will be made accuse in the case. They are BNP minister Shajahan Siraj and Tariqul Islam, former BNP state minister Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan and Zafurul Islam Chowdhury, Tarique Rahman's business partner and One Spinning Mills managing director

Giasuddin Al Mamun, managing director of Orion Mushroom Ltd Obaidul Karim and Shajahan Siraj's son and One Spinning Mills director Rajib Siraj.

The ACC also has decided to exempt four others from the case as allegations brought against them could not be proved during its investigation.

They are former BNP minister Shamsul Islam, former land secretary Azad Ruhul Amin, former Gazipur DC and incumbent vice-chairman of Export Development Bureau Sahab Ullah, former Gazipur ADC (Revenue) and incumbent member (Finance) of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research M Rafiqul Islam.

However, Shamsul Islam, Shajahan Siraj, Mamun, Rajib Siraj, Sahab Ullah, Rafiqul Islam and Azad Ruhul Amin are

also accused in another case for illegally making permanent allocation of 10.75 acres of forestland in the national park.

Another charge sheet was also approved for submission against former lawmaker AKM Fazlul Haque Milon for concealing information about wealth worth Tk 2.48 lakh and amassing wealth worth Tk 86.15 lakh beyond known sources of income.

Meanwhile, ACC has also approved filing two cases against former lawmaker Mashiur Rahman Ranga and former BNP deputy minister Asadul Habib Dulu for amassing wealth beyond their known sources of income.

Ranga will be accused of amassing wealth worth Tk 57.13 lakh while Asadul Habib Dulu of accumulating

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EC to warn Rajshahi MP for violating electoral code

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday decided to warn an Awami League (AL) lawmaker for violating the electoral code of conduct of the upazila parishad elections in its efforts to refrain MPs from influencing the crucial polls to local government bodies.

The EC will soon issue a letter to AL lawmaker Abdul Quddus of Natore warning him of his reported bid to influence the upazila elections. Quddus received around 80 miniature gold-made boats, AL electoral symbol, and campaigned for an upazila polls contestant.

In addition, the commission will also issue a press statement urging all lawmakers to abide by the electoral

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Awami League lawmaker Abdul Quddus, left, receiving a gold replica of his party's electoral symbol, boat, from Shamsul Haque Sheikh, a candidate of upazila parishad polls in Gurudaspur, Natore.



This extremely rare huge Black Vulture was captured in Tangail a few days ago. The injured bird is now under the care of Madhupur Forest Department.

Near-extinct vulture caught in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A Cinereous Vulture, commonly known as the black vulture and considered to be near extinct globally, has been caught at a village in Tangail on January 6.

The bird, weak and unable to fly, is now under the care of Madhupur Forest Department.

Some students caught the bird after they found it sitting beside a water body at Kaoamara village under Birtara union at Dhanbari upazila in Tangail.

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Tk 88cr misused in manpower bureau: ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) probe reveals that around Tk 88 crore of the expatriate welfare fund at the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training has been misused, wasted or misappropriated between 1999 and 2007.

Of the sums, Tk 35.30 crore was misused in a housing project in Gulshan, and Tk 52.14 crore was wasted trying to have a hostel constructed for the expatriates on a piece of land not owned legally.

Speaking at a routine press briefing at his office yesterday afternoon, ACC Director General (Admin) Col Hanif Iqbal said these are findings of a preliminary enquiry by a special team of the anti-graft body.

Investigators have also unearthed that a former secretary and four ex-lawmakers illegally drew Tk 13.79 lakh from the welfare fund at different times between 1999 and 2005.

Asked about names of those involved, Col Hanif said, "The matter is still at the stage of enquiry. We cannot give you any more details until a case is ready to be filed."

He said the ACC team would also seek to find out how corruption takes place in manpower export.

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ARREARS RMG workers vandalise 10 vehicles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Garment factory workers demonstrating for arrears vandalised at least ten vehicles on Tongi Diversion Road in the city's Tejgaon industrial area yesterday evening.

The workers of Prince Group were holding the demonstration for payment of their wages for the month of December.

At least ten garment workers were injured when police charged baton on them. Traffic movement was disrupted on the road for over an hour causing severe congestion in the area.

Witnesses said that around a thousand workers put up a barricade on Nabisco inter

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Tigers meet SL in tri-series final today

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh take on Sri Lanka in the final of the Grameenphone Tri-Nation Cup at the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium in Mirpur today.

The match will start at 9:00am and Bangladesh Television will provide live coverage.

This would be the Tigers' first-ever final in international cricket.

Struggling paceman Mahbubul Alam could make way for Nazmul Hossain, who played the tri-series opener against Zimbabwe. The visitors are also set to ring in changes but they would wait till this morning before making any selection decisions.

Zimbabwe stunned

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Britain asks Pakistan to act against militancy

124 militants linked to Mumbai attacks detained so far

AFP, Mumbai/ Islamabad

British Foreign Secretary David Miliband yesterday called on Pakistan to show "zero tolerance" towards militant groups based in the country that have been linked to the Mumbai terror attacks.

"We know the attacks were carried out by Lashkar-e-Taiba operating from the territory of Pakistan," he said in a speech at the Taj Mahal hotel in Mumbai, one of the locations targeted by the gunmen who killed 165 people.

"There must be zero tolerance towards such organisations," Miliband said.

India blames the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) for training, equipping and financing the 10 gunmen who used automatic weapons and hand grenades to bring havoc to city during a bloody

siege that lasted 60 hours.

Miliband emphasised that Britain was at risk of attack from similar extremists.

"It is a big issue for us in Britain too, because the majority of terror plots that Britain faces are linked back to Pakistan," he said.

In 2005, 52 people were killed when four Islamists -- motivated in part by Britain's involvement in the 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq -- blew themselves up on London's public transport network.

Copycat attacks were thwarted two weeks later.

In the attacks on Mumbai, 32 people were killed at the Taj hotel, while others died at another hotel, the main train station, a restaurant and a Jewish cultural centre.

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Factories, 100 houses gutted in city fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A devastating fire gutted at least 10 small plastic factories and over 100 houses at Namapara of Islambagh in the capital last night.

Sources said the fire originated from one of the plastic

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

More shake-up in admin

UNB, Dhaka

Three secretaries have been transferred to different ministries in another reshuffle in the administration by the new government.

Secretary of the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

8 killed as truck collides with train in Jamalpur

A CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

At least eight labourers were killed and another 20 seriously injured when the truck carrying them collided with a shuttle train at Beltoli Bazar near Dewanganj Railway station in Jamalpur district at around 11.45 pm Wednesday.

The truck fell sideways as a result of the collision and the passengers it was carrying were thrown out.

Local people rushed to the area and helped carry the passengers to the local hospital. Five people died on the spot and three others in the hospital. All the seriously injured were admitted into Jamalpur General Hospital.

All passengers on the truck were day labourers. They were on their way to Sylhet in search of work.

The dead were identified as Zahidul, 35, Noor-e-Alam, 20, Shahidul Islam, 30, and Mukul, 32, of Shashariabari village under Islampur upazila, Orat Ali, 35, Fakir Ali, 30, and Menda, 45, of Kulkandi village of same upazila and Sirajul Islam, 36, of Melandah. The bodies have been sent to Jamalpur General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

The goods train carrying sugar cane from Jamalpur to another district.

An enquiry team of Bangladesh Railway led by its director general Belayet Hossain visited the spot yesterday noon. Jamalpur railway police station's officer-in-charge (OC) Liakat Ali said that the assistant station master of Dewanganj railway station Yusuf Ali has already filed a case with GRP police station.

Meanwhile, the railway assistant executive engineer at Jamalpur Md Ali Newaz said the cause behind the accident has not been ascertained as yet.

However, it is being assumed that the accident occurred because of the absence of any rail-gate or gateman at Beltoli rail crossing.



Prof Arefin made DUVC

DU CORRESPONDENT

Professor Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique of Mass Communication and Journalism Department was appointed 27th Vice-chancellor (VC) of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday.

Relieving Prof SMA Faiz of the charge of vice-chancellor President Dr Iqbal Ahmed, also the Chancellor of the

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Prayer Timing		
January 16		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-36	5-40
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Fog disrupts ferry services, flights

Several thousand vehicles stranded at terminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The entire country plunged under a shroud of dense fog yesterday disrupting normal life across the country and affecting the flight schedules, launch and ferry services and vehicular movement especially on long routes.

Several thousands vehicles got stranded on both sides of different ferry ghats including Paturia-Daulatdia and Mawa-Kawrakandi ferry routes due to foggy weather causing immense sufferings to passengers.

The mist patches continued to disrupt flight schedules at the Zia International Airport from Wednesday night till 10 am on Thursday, said sources of the Zia International Airport.

According to the Met Office the foggy condition will start to clear up from today (Friday).

Our Manikganj correspondent said ferry services in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



PHOTO: STAR

As dense fog disrupts ferry service between Paturia and Daulatdia terminals yesterday, long queues of vehicles are seen awaiting their ferry trips across the Padma near Paturia, Manikganj.

10 injured as Shibir attacks BCL men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 students of Government Homeopathy Degree College in Mirpur were injured yesterday when Islami Chhatra Shibir cadres attacked Bangladesh Chhatra

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