

## GRAFT CASES Two sons of Dr Alamgir acquitted of charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) in a verdict yesterday acquitted lawmaker Dr Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir of charges in two corruption cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Muhiuddin's sons Jalal Alamgir and Joy Alamgir, who are now abroad, were convicted and sentenced to three years in jail by a special court on November 5 in 2008 for not submitting wealth statements to the ACC.

The HC bench of Justice A H M Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Borhan Uddin also declared illegal the special court's judgments convicting and sentencing the two brothers.

The court in its verdict said the ACC notices issued to Jalal and Joy were not valid because the anti-graft body did not follow the due process of law in issuing the notices.

It also said the notices were sent to the address of their Gulshan residence in Dhaka although they were abroad.

As they could not receive the notices, they could not submit their wealth statements to the ACC, it observed.

The HC came up with the verdict upon two writ petitions filed by Dr Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir on behalf of his sons challenging the special court's judgments.

On June 11 in 2008, the ACC filed two separate cases with Gulshan police station against Jalal Alamgir and Joy Alamgir for not submitting their wealth statements to it.

ACC counsel Advocate MA Aziz Khan yesterday told The Daily Star that he has not got any instruction from his client about filing appeal with the Supreme Court against the HC verdict.

Barrister Rafique-Ul Huq appeared for the writ petition.



An elderly person scans a bookstall to find out books of his choice at Amar Ekushey Book Fair at Bangla Academy in the city yesterday. The month-long book fair began on February 1.

PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM

## Concerted effort a must to fight trafficking

Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at an assessment workshop yesterday stressed the need for a comprehensive law and concerted effort to combat trafficking more effectively.

Weakness in implementing the existing laws leads to unabated trafficking. Furthermore, it does not cover the issue completely as the modes of trafficking have been changed much, they said.

Concerted effort involving the government and non-government organisations is a must to combat trafficking and while addressing the issue, socioeconomic perspective and culture should be addressed also, they added.

Centre for Women and Children Studies (CWCS) organised the workshop on 'Trafficking cases and challenges in the implementation of the existing laws' at Biam auditorium in the city.

Prior to the implementation of a project titled 'Advocacy to enhance and implement the legal framework of

all forms of human trafficking' with the support of USAID/Winnrock International, Dhaka Office the workshop was held to collect and analyse data regarding trafficking.

"The objectives of the workshop is to collect statistical and anecdotal data related to trafficking in persons in the country, analyse the trends in last 10 years, variations in the forms of trafficking namely for the purpose of sexual exploitation, labour exploitation and other forms of exploitation," said Prof Ishrat Shamim, president of CWCS, adding that it also tries to find out the challenges in implementation of the existing anti-trafficking laws.

Shireen Hasan, executive director of CWCS, delivered the welcome speech.

Representatives of different ministries and departments, law enforcement agencies and NGO activists were also present and placed their recommendations in this regard.

## Ban militant organisations

Demand foreign chapters of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different foreign chapters of Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee in a joint statement yesterday termed Islamic Chhatra Shibir a communal organisation and demanded a ban on militant organisations.

They also termed Shibir, the student body of Jamaat-e-Islami, a party that cut

tendons and kill others.

In the statement, they also expressed grave concern over the reappearance of the hyenas of '71 in politics.

The statement reads the foreign units of the committee believes that Jamaat-e-Islami and other communal organisations have become active as per a plan to

thwart the democracy's way forward and create impediment in the trial of the war criminals.

Their objective is to push the country to anarchy, it added.

The joint statement of the committee's Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Canada, USA, France, Italy, Austria, Belgium, Australia and the

UK units also condemned the killing of students at different educational institutions by Shibir men.

The leaders in the statement said the barbarity of Shibir is similar to that of the Pakistani occupation forces on March 25 in 1971.

They demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment to those

responsible for the attacks at Rajshahi University and Chittagong University.

The leaders demanded ban on religion-based politics in line with the High Court verdict on Fifth Amendment of the constitution.

Otherwise, Jamaat-Shibir would kill more people, added the statement.

## KHALEDA'S CANTONMENT HOUSE Hearing deferred for two weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday deferred for two weeks hearing on a writ petition filed by Khaleda Zia challenging a government notice that had asked her to leave the cantonment house.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice ATM Fazle Kabir was due to hold the final hearing yesterday.

The bench fixed March 1 for hearing on the matter as advocate TH Khan, counsel for the

BNP chief, prayed for giving them four weeks time to make preparations for the hearing.

The court on May 27 last year stayed for three months the government notice. It also issued a rule upon the government to explain why the notice should not be declared illegal.

The HC later extended twice its stay order following time prayer of Khaleda Zia.

Attorney General Mahbub Alam yesterday submitted the reply to the rule at this court, and prayed for holding hearing on the rule.

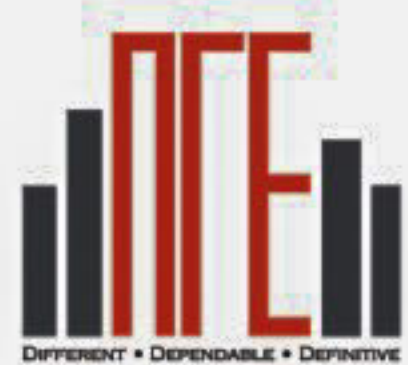
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