

## ACC'S FIRST DRIVE AGAINST 50 TOP GRAFT SUSPECTS

# Alamgir acquitted; hopes for others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday scrapped jail sentence of Awami League lawmaker Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and cleared corruption charges against him, paving the way for over four dozen suspects to be relieved of graft charges.

Alamgir's legal win would frustrate the first move of the immediate past caretaker government to bring 50 high-profile graft suspects into book, observe legal experts and anti-corruption officials.

Also nears a fruitless end the first drive against rampant corruption by the reformed ACC, which emerged from an apparently non-functional commission led by Justice Sultan Hossain Khan and politically biased and now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption in 2004.

A six-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim came up with the decision after dismissing an appeal filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) against a High Court verdict.

The bench also dismissed charges against the AL lawmaker that he had concealed information in his wealth statement submitted to ACC.

The apex court passed the order upholding an HC judgment,



which on July 13 last year scrapped the 13-year prison sentence handed down by a special judge's court.

It also dismissed the charges brought against Alamgir, also the head of a parliamentary standing committee.

The Appellate Division endorsed the HC verdict on grounds that the notice issued by the ACC secretary asking Alamgir for his wealth statement was illegal; there was no sanction (permission) of ACC to file and run the case against him; and allegations brought against him were baseless, lawyers say.

Alamgir's counsels Barrister Rafique-ul Huq and Advocate Ahsanul Karim told The Daily Star all the 56 people asked by ACC to submit their wealth statements would be benefited from this SC order.

Rafique-ul Huq said ACC filed graft cases against at least 22 people out of total 56 on the basis of its secretary's notices, and all the cases will now get a similar treatment.

The ACC had filed such "harassment" cases in order to implement the "Minus-Two" formula of then military-backed caretaker regime, he said, adding, the commission had not followed due procedures in proceeding with its cases.

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## Much ado about nothing

Gates erected in the capital's Keraniganj about a week ago to greet the prime minister's initiative of setting up a 100MW plant in the area. The gates still stand also hailing a local lawmaker.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



## 2yrs jail for disgracing national flag

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved the Bangladesh National Anthem, Flag and Emblem (Amendment) Act, 2010 with provision of maximum two years' imprisonment or Tk 10,000 in fine or both for disrespecting the national anthem, flag or emblem.

Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said this to reporters after the cabinet meeting with Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The decision was taken to bring under a legal framework the proper use of national anthem, flag and emblem, a highly placed source in the Prime Minister's Office told.

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## DUTY-FREE LUXURY CARS PM pours cold water on ministers' desire

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday rejected her cabinet colleagues' plea for privilege of importing duty-free cars.

"If you want to enjoy duty-free cars, quit your job as a minister," she told the ministers and state ministers at a weekly cabinet meeting at the secretariat.

Earlier at the meeting, a number of ministers demanded that they, like the lawmakers, be allowed to import duty-free luxury vehicles.

They argued that since they too are lawmakers, they should be entitled to duty-free cars and Tk 40,000 monthly allowance for oil, driver and maintenance.

In reply, the prime minister said she wondered why they crave duty-free cars when they already have cars for full-time use, a senior minister told The Daily Star after the meeting.

Hasina suggested that if they really needed luxury cars, they would better buy those with their own money, added the minister wishing not to be named.

Asked about the decision, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said she supports the prime minister's stance on the matter.

She said when they sought votes before the national election they did not say they must have duty-free cars from the government.

On a different note, the prime minister said the ministers and state ministers in their speech should focus on the negative aspects of the main opposition's hartal, which left one person dead and another fighting for life.

She also said that in future the government would strictly handle vandalism, arson and other destructive activities in the name of anti-government demonstrations. It would not

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## Jaintapur Border 5 Bangladeshis hurt as Indians open fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Five Bangladeshis were injured yesterday after members of Indian Khasia community opened fire on them intruding into Bangladesh territory near Jaintapur border in Sylhet.

A group of Khasias trespassed on Bangladesh territory crossing the Minatila border at about 10:00am and started working on farmlands, about 100 yards off the zero point.

Members of Bangladesh Rifles at the Minatila camp asked them over loudspeaker to leave the area, but they declined to do so.

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## Semifinalists get rest

No words from Mandela about WC final

AGENCIES, Johannesburg

The World Cup's four remaining teams got a chance to recuperate Sunday, with just a week to go until the final of the month-long tournament.

Meanwhile organisers said they still did not know if Nelson Mandela would attend the July 11 final at Soccer City but Uruguay, the Netherlands, Germany and Spain have all shown enough to suggest that South Africa's former president would enjoy a great match if he did show up.

Germany are the form team after their 4-0 demolition of supposed contender Argentina, while Diego Forlan has helped carry Uruguay further than most predicted.

The Netherlands fear no one after beating Brazil but Paraguay coach Gerardo Martino thinks Spain only beat his team in the quarterfinals because of a bad refereeing decision.

Martino said that the referee wrongly disallowed Nelson



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## 50 missing as boat capsizes in Shitalakkhya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 50 people, including women and children, remained missing as an engine boat capsized with over 100 passengers last night after a sand laden cargo rammed it in the river Shitalakkhya.

Aktar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Narayanganj Sadar Police Station, told The Daily Star that the engine boat with around 100 passengers left the Tanbazar ghat for Bandar area around 10:00pm.

As it reached in the middle of the river, a sand-laden cargo rammed it, he said.

"Around 20-30 passengers have been rescued immediately after the incident while six of the injured were

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A long banner inscribed with anti-Rajuk slogans hung from a footbridge in Gazipur yesterday. A certain quarter over the last few days has been leading a campaign against detailed area plan (DAP) for Dhaka and spreading a rumour that Rajuk is going to acquire lands in Gazipur.

PHOTO: STAR

## Target DAP, Rajuk

The Daily Star investigation finds existence of syndicated campaign to spread rumour of govt's land acquisition in Gazipur for kicking up widespread unrest

PINAKI ROY

Giasuddin Gesu sat on a stool at his rice shop at Basan Bazar in Gazipur. He was worried that he would lose the shop because of the Detailed Area Plan (DAP).

"We protested the plan as the government is trying to take our land," said Giasuddin, referring to Saturday's protest against the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk).

Asked whether he knew the details of the DAP, the shop owner said he did not know what it is about but heard that the

government would take their lands through it. Salam Hazi, Nur Hossain, Billal Hossain, and Mohammed Mannan like many others in the area had similar concerns.

Interviews with about 100 people including a local lawmaker, a chairman and members of Union Parishad, businessmen, teachers, students and farmers in Gazipur made it clear that the locals were motivated by propaganda from a vested quarter against the DAP of Rajuk.

A campaign against the DAP and Rajuk's satellite town was initiated from June 22 through reports by three Bangla dailies owned by two well known land developers.

"Many people read the newspaper reports and took to the streets spontaneously. We do not want DAP or any interference from Rajuk here," said Sirajul Islam Babul, chairman of Basan Union, and secretary general of the committee to resist implementation of Rajuk's satellite town.

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## 2,000 sued over violence in Gazipur 3 arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police on Saturday night arrested three people and accused over 2,000 on charge of vandalism and assault on law-enforcers, which caused public sufferings and disturbance to police' duties in Gazipur.

Abdur Rashid, officer-in-charge of Joydevpur Police Station, said a case was filed in this connection against the arrestees -- Liton Miah, 29, Jibon, 20, and Faruk, 30, -- and all those accused.

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## COPS TELLING TALES Businessman turned carjacker after death

MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

Nayatola resident Babul Kazi, introduced as a car lifter after his death in Ramna police custody on June 29, was a transport businessman.

Family members and locals say police picked up Babul and took him to Nayatola outpost, while the law-enforcers claim he died as he was injured in his bid to run away.

Police also claim Babul was a car lifter but failed to mention any case against him.

Babul's wife Suva Akhter said her husband had three rented autorickshaws and he used to hire out two and drive himself one.

She yesterday handed over the photocopy of an agreement, which shows Babul had rented a CNG-run auto rickshaw for one year at Tk 15,000 per month. The deed shows he paid the

owner Tk 300,000 in advance as security money.

She added she could not trace the documents for the other two autorickshaws as those were kept by Babul himself.

Ramna police say Babul fell onto the road and received injuries on his head around 11:30pm on June 28 when he made an attempt to escape. He was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he died at 12:30 that night.

The police say a team led by SI Altaf Hossain went to arrest Babul, 40, as there were allegations he had stolen the three auto rickshaws, which Rab on June 17 recovered from Maghbazar and arrested five people.

A case was filed with Ramna police and SI Altaf was appointed the investigation officer (IO).

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