

## DISTORTING THE PAST

Mohammad Badrul Ahsan laments the distortion of our history by politicians

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## HAZARE'S FIRST SCALP

Sharad Pawar quits a ministerial panel, as Indian anti-graft activist Anna Hazare continues fast

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## ACTOR TURNS SINGER

Tarin is all set to debut as a singer with solo album "Akash Debo Kakey"

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# Tk 20,000cr swindled

Stock crash probe also finds Tk 15cr siphoned off country, reveals deep collusion between regulators and market players



Ibrahim Khaled

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Retail investors lost at least Tk 20,000 crore to some dishonest traders, who were in a deep collusion with stockmarket regulators, a committee said in a probe report submitted to the finance minister yesterday.

Direct listing alone accounted for Tk 5,000 crore going into private pockets,

and Tk 15 crore was siphoned out of the country, said the government probe committee on the recent share market crash.

The four-member committee headed by Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled, former deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank, submitted its 320-page report to Finance Minister AMA Muhith.

The probe body made a series of

recommendations and cited 15 case studies as proof of extensive market manipulation.

"All institutions involved in the stockmarket were responsible for the debacle," Khaled told reporters after submitting the report.

Later in the day, Muhith held a press conference and promised to bring the

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### Individuals' names to be deleted from report Says Muhith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Individuals' names, which have been mentioned in the probe report on the recent stockmarket debacle, will be deleted before making it public in 10 to 15 days, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday.

"I don't want to make individuals' names public without being sure of it," Muhith told journalists at the Secretariat after the report was submitted to him.

"If I am convinced that this is a sustainable allegation, I should publish it," the minister said in reply of queries why the names

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## Plot hatched in Hawa Bhaban meetings

Mufti Hannan confesses afresh about Aug 21 grenade attacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mufti Hannan in a confessional statement disclosed the involvement of Hawa Bhaban and some former BNP ministers and intelligence officials in the August 21, 2004, grenade attack on an Awami League rally.

Harkat-ul Jihad (Huji) leader Mufti Mohammad Abdul Hannan made the fresh confessional statement before a Dhaka court yesterday about the attack that left Ivy Rahman, wife of President Zillur Rahman, dead along with 23 others and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina wounded. At least 300 others were also injured.

On October 27, 2009, The Daily Star published an investigative report on the attack. The report disclosed the chilling conspiracy that was hatched in Hawa Bhaban.

Hannan, prime accused in the case, on November 1, 2007, made a confessional statement but Criminal Investigation Department moved for a new confessional statement following revaluations of more information through investigation.

First Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate AHM Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan recorded yesterday's statement for over five hours from 4:00pm.

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## Expose culprits

Experts spur govt on taking specific actions

SARWAR A CHOWDHURY, GAZI TOWHID AHMED and SOHEL PARVEZ

Analysts yesterday agreed with the recommendation of the stockmarket probe committee for restructuring the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), and said its findings regarding the recent manipulation and manipulators of the market should be made public.

They also suggested that the government takes specific actions against the persons and institutions involved in the

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## Overhaul share regulator

Probe body offers over 30 recommendations

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

The probe committee on stockmarket has recommended major overhaul of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) including removal of some of its top officials and demutualisation of the bourses to restore investor confidence.

The four-member committee headed by Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled, former

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## Pay tax duly, take care of workers

Says PM, hands over export trophies

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government will soon fix the interest rate of bank loan for the sake of industrial growth.

"I'm aware of bank interest rate issue. I'll discuss the matter with the finance minister, finance adviser and other officials concerned soon to determine the rate," Hasina said at an award giving ceremony at Osmani Memorial auditorium in the capital.

She handed over trophies and certificates to 39 best exporters of 2008-09 fiscal year.

At present, the interest rate for industrial credit is 13 percent in all commercial banks. But bankers have been lobbying for increasing the rate.

"But, you, the businessmen, should pay taxes properly. If you pay the tax duly, we'll be able to supply gas and power to industrial units and build good infrastructures for uninterrupted business operation," the premier said.

She also assured the businessmen of developing the waterways and railways on a priority basis for a faster transport of their goods at a cheaper price.

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RELATED STORY ON B1

## SHOT INTO DISABILITY Probe Rab firing Rights commission writes to govt; HC issues rule; Tuku says investigation, if necessary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) yesterday sent a letter to home ministry urging a high-powered committee to investigate the incident in which college student Limon became disabled in a Rab shootout.

NHRC Chairman Mizanur Rahman asked the ministry to submit the probe report to the commission in 12 days.

The NHRC chairman on Wednesday night spoke with ZI Khan, chairman of Human Rights and Legal Aid Committee of Bangladesh Bar Council, over the phone and informed him about the matter.

He also asked Rights Jessore, a non-government organisation, to form an enquiry committee and submit its report as soon as possible. He reasoned the initiative saying NRHC is unable to form a committee due to manpower shortage.

Meanwhile, the High Court yesterday issued a suo moto rule upon the government over the alleged torture of Limon by Rab.

An HC bench of Justice Farah Mahbub and Justice

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MORE STORY ON PAGE 2

Mother of Limon tries to comfort him at the prison ward of Pangu Hospital in the capital yesterday. Inset, policemen close the door to the ward as the detainees are not allowed to talk to the media.

PHOTO: STAR



Rice-laden ship Hyang Ro Bong is sinking in the outer anchorage of Chittagong Port.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

## COLLISION AT CTG OUTER ANCHORAGE Shipload of rice from Pakistan sinks in Bay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

A North Korean ship transporting 13,492 tonnes of rice imported from Pakistan for Bangladesh is sinking in the Bay after it collided with a ship at the outer anchorage of Chittagong port late Wednesday night.

Almost three-fourths of the ship MV Hyang Ro Bong went under water by yesterday afternoon since the crack due to the impact could not be repaired in the face of strong current in the sea.

The rice could not be saved. After day-long efforts to salvage the ship and bring it to shore with the help of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA), the officials of the ship's local agent Fortune Shipping gave up yesterday around 5:00 pm. They sent six divers to do the repair job. Earlier in the morning, CPA sent Fortune Shipping a letter asking to take

immediate measures to repair the crack and bring the ship ashore.

Shoumen Chakravarty, manager of Fortune Shipping, told The Daily Star yesterday around 5:20 pm, "Most parts of the ship have sunk and there is no hope now as the Bay is still very choppy."

According to Chittagong Port Radio Control, MV Hyang Ro Bong with 41 crew members and the rice hit the front part of MV Banga Lanka, which was anchored at C-Anchorage, while entering the outer anchorage of the port around 11:30pm Wednesday.

The collision caused a crack in the engine room of MV Hyang Ro Bong and tilted it, said CPA Secretary Syed Farhad Uddin Ahmed, adding that the 31 crew members had been shifted to another ship. CPA officials led by Deputy

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## Hashem family indicted for tax evasion

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against Partex Group Chairman MA Hashem and nine others including his wife and six sons in a tax evasion case.

Judge Mohammad Zohurul Hashem of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order and fixed May 3 for the case's trial.

Hashem and the other accused, now on bail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice before the court after the charges were read out to them.

Besides the chairman, the accused are his wife Sultana Hashem, six sons - Aziz al Kaiser, Aziz al

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