

CASE AGAINST KOKO  
IO seizes docs  
from tele  
office

Witness tells court  
COURT CORRESPONDENT

A prosecution witness yesterday told a Dhaka court that the investigation officer of the money laundering case against BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia's younger son Arafat Rahman Koko, had seized some documents from the telephone office relating to Siemens Bangladesh Ltd.

The accused had allegedly laundered money they received from China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd and Siemens for helping them win government contracts.

An assistant director of telephone department in Dhaka office, Abu Bakar Siddique, in his deposition, said the ACC officer went his office at Revenue Bhavan on April 22 of 2009 and made a seizure list of the documents from the office relating to the siemens. He also put his signature on the seizure list the same day.

Judge Mohammad Mozammel Hossain of the Special Judge Court-3 recorded statements of the witnesses and fixed May 10 for the next hearing of the case.

In the case, former shipping minister late Akbar Hossain's son Ismail Hossain Saimon is also an accused.

Two more witnesses -- Mohammad Shafiqul Islam, an official of passport office, and Firoz Ahmed, a clerk of the passport office, also gave their statements before the court.

Earlier on different dates, the same court recorded statements of seven witnesses including complainant Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Deputy Director Abu Sayeed.

The ACC filed the case against Koko on March 17 in 2009 with Kafrul Police Station.

In the case statement, the anti-graft body said the accused had laundered money they received from China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd and Siemens for helping them win government contracts.

The ACC pressed charges against Koko and Saimon on November 15 in 2009.

Stabbed  
woman  
dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An elderly woman who was stabbed by her sacked security guard at Uttara in the city on April 19 dies at a hospital yesterday.

Guard Ashiqur Rahman stabbed Mahmuda Akhter Zaman, 59, wife of former banker Moniruzzaman in the second floor of a six story building at Uttara sector 7.

When he was fleeing, local people caught him and handed over to police, said family sources and police.

Mahmuda Akhter was admitted to Uttara Adhunik Medical College Hospital where she died early hours of yesterday.

Uttara Police Station OC Khandker Rezaul Hasan told The Daily Star that Ashiqur Rahman was one of the security guards of the apartment block. Following a complaint by Mahmuda he was terminated, Rezaul added.

A case was filed with the police against four persons, including Ashiqur.

Quoting Ashiqur, the OC said since his termination he stayed in the area with the help of other security guards and stabbed the woman as a sequel to his termination.

Two others also were arrested for providing shelter to Ashiqur.

Mahmuda's two sons live abroad, sources said.



The photo taken yesterday speaks of the condition of the river Buriganga at Wais Ghat near Ahsan Manzil in Old Dhaka.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

PM asks civil servants  
for sincere service

Establishment ministry renamed as public administration ministry

HASAN JAHD TUSHER

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the top civil servants to work sincerely to make the civil administration a true service oriented organisation.

The premier's directive came from the weekly cabinet meeting where the establishment ministry was renamed as the Ministry of Public Administration after a mild debate.

Hasina, also the president of ruling Awami League, told the meeting that there would have no positive impact with merely changing the name until the civil servants work for giving service to the public, said a senior minister after the meeting.

"We will have to turn the administration a true service oriented organisation to the public," she said as quoted by the minister.

Then some of the ministers took part in a debate as to whether the ministry would be renamed as "public administration" or "public service".

They argued that the word "administration" does not sound good and not portray service to the people, added the minister. Hearing both sides, the council of ministers approved renaming of the ministry as the

ministry of public administration.

Briefing journalists after the meeting, Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said there was proposal for changing the name of the ministry for long.

Sometimes complexities arise due to the word "establishment", and for this reason the name of the ministry has been changed to ensure public service.

"If the spirit of the establishment ministry is not changed, nothing will change with its renaming," said a minister.

The cabinet also approved the draft of Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority Act-2011 in a bid to bring coordination over traffic jam and transportation mismanagements in the capital city and six districts -- Dhaka, Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Narshindi, Gazipur, and Manikganj.

A report on cabinet's decision implementation in last three months was placed at the meeting for reviewing.

Azad said the cabinet took a total of 690 decisions in 110 meetings in last 28 months. Of them 618 decisions have been implemented, with the implementation rate standing at 90 percent.

'Stop move to lease Nunertek  
for sand extraction'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some environmentalists yesterday demanded annulment of Narayanganj district administration's move to lease Nunertek area under Sonargaon upazila, encircled by river Meghna, for sand extraction.

Some miscreants have been forcibly extracting sand from the area for days. If the administration leases the area, the miscreants would begin extracting sand in larger volumes, posing the threat of erosion to adjacent villages, they said.

They placed the demand while addressing a rally and human chain organised by

Poribesh Bachao Andolon (POBA) at Mayadip village in Sonargaon, says a press release. The district administration issued an advertisement in newspaper on April 20 to lease Nunertek Balu Mahal (an area where sand is extracted).

POBA Chairman Abu Naser Khan, Boddier Bazar union parishad Chairman Mahub Sarkar and Sonargaon Press Club Convenor AKM Mahfuzur Rahman also spoke.

Meanwhile, POBA along with Subornogram, a social organisation, began filing a writ petition with the High Court against the lease.

AUW starts constructing  
permanent campus today

PM to inaugurate the work

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The construction work of the permanent campus of Asian University for Women (AUW) begins in Chittagong city today, after seven years into the groundbreaking.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as the chief guest will lay the foundation stone of the AUW main campus in North Pahartali, a picturesque hilly area of the port city.

AUW Director (Space Planning and Special Project) Jerina Hossain said the campus will be built over around 131.37 acres of hilly and plain land and hoped to begin academy activities there in 2013.

AUW started its academic calendar on the temporary campus constituted of five rented buildings on Dampara MM Ali Road in the port city on April 6, 2008.

It began with the total enrolment of 129 students from Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka while the number of students now rose to more than 450.

Former prime minister Khaleda Zia unveiled a plaque for the construction of AUW campus and attended the groundbreaking ceremony on January 13, 2004.

For the delay in the construction, a section of BNP led four-party coalition

government was blamed, which was said to try to shift the campus to Bogra.

Absence of the loop road is another cause. Before building the campus, it became necessary to construct a loop road making diversion of Dhaka-Chittagong Highway-Bayezid Bostami connecting road by the north side of the university.

Responding to the need of AUW, Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) had made a DPP (Development Project Proforma) to construct the loop road at an estimated cost of over Tk 19.68 crore.

But the loop road project got caught in different complexities delaying the campus construction. After the present government was formed, the CDA constructed the road and handed it over to AUW authority.

AUW campus is being built with support of individual philanthropists from different countries, including the USA, Italy, Hong Kong, Australia, Thailand, Japan, and Kuwait.

The university started its journey with the vision and commitment to educating the young women with talents to take up the future leadership across the globe.

Hasina, Cherie  
discuss  
expansion  
of AUW

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government attached priority for the educational development of women across the country.

Hasina made the statement while British attorney and former first lady Cherie Blair called on her at her official residence Ganobhaban.

They discussed wide range of issues particularly women empowerment and their smooth access to quality education.

Deputy Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Bijon Lal Dev briefed the reporters after the meeting.

They discussed further development and the expansion of Asian University of Women in Chittagong.

Cherie Blair is the chancellor of the Asian University of Women.



Jatiya Nari Unnayan Niti Bastobayan Committee holds a procession in front of Muktagong in the city yesterday demanding immediate implementation of National Women Development Policy 2011.

PHOTO: STAR



President Zillur Rahman and Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid attend the second convocation of State University of Bangladesh at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Make higher edn more  
life-oriented: President

BSS, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday said the country's universities should revise their curriculums to make higher education more life-oriented and fulfilling towards demands of society and time.

"I want universities building a new generation with quality education on the basis of past glory," he said.

He was presiding over the second convocation of State University of Bangladesh at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city.

The president, also chancellor of all universities, said everyone expects that the universities' respected teachers, being the most talented and conscious minds in society, would contribute more to the nation building process.

"I always emphasise on ensuring quality education as our children would not survive global competition without it."

He said Bangladesh has various socio-economic problems like ignorance, superstition and religious bigotry like other developing countries.

He asked the new graduates to find a way out of these existing problems by delving deep into their roots. "Always uphold the torch of truth and knowledge against superstition and ignorance."

Congratulating the new graduates, the president said the state would create employment for them as per its ability.

He suggested new graduates to follow many of the country's people who establish themselves successfully in the past with self-employment after higher education.

The convocation conferred a total of 1625 students with undergraduate and graduate degrees from different disciplines. Three students -- Ishtiaque Ahmed, Farzana Huq and Khondoker Ali Asgor Pavel -- received Chancellor's Gold Medal from the president for their outstanding academic results.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid spoke as the special guest while eminent Educationist Emeritus of Dhaka University Prof Dr Anisuzzaman spoke as the convocation speaker.

The state university's Vice Chancellor Prof Iftekhar Ghani Chowdhury and Chairman of board of trustees Dr MASHamim also spoke.