

HALL-MARK LOAN SCAM
ACC quizzes seven Janata Bank officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday quizzed seven Janata Bank officials, including its general manager (GM) and deputy general manager (DGM), in connection with the Hall-Mark loan scam.

A six-member ACC team interrogated the bank's officials regarding the loan's non-funded portion, ACC sources said. Non-funded loans are the loans which are taken in the form of guarantee against letter of credits (LCs) while funded loans are taken in cash.

The officials are GM Aminul Islam, DGM Joynal Abedin, AGM Ruhul Amin, Manager Export Alauddin Akond, and Export-in-Charge Abdul Gafur of the bank's local branch in the capital's Motijheel area.

The other officials are senior executive officers AK Azad and MM Soebul Kabir of Elephant Road Brach.

ACC DD SMM Akther Hamid Bhuiyan said the bank officials denied their involvement in the scam.

ACC Commissioner Mohammad Shahabuddin said they have almost completed inquiry into the non-funded loan of Tk 1,118 crore and involving 26 banks including Sonali and Janata.

Earlier, ACC completed its inquiry into the loan scam's funded portion of over Tk 1,568 crore and filed 11 cases last month.

According to a Bangladesh Bank report, Sonali Bank's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel branch gave loan of Tk 3,547 crore to Hall-Mark Group and five other companies defying banking rules.

Of the loan, Hall-Mark alone took Tk 2,686 crore.

EXPEDITING WAR CRIMES TRIAL
Pro-AL lawyers for more tribunals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-ruling party lawyers yesterday demanded that the government forms more tribunals to expedite the war crimes trial.

The trial is being held to establish the sense of humanity, not for any jealousy or revenge, said M Amir-Ul Islam, convener of Sammilita Aijibhi Samannay Parishad (SASP).

He was presiding over a meeting organised by the SASP at the Supreme Court Bar Association's (SCBA) south hall in the capital yesterday protesting the attack on the law minister's escort car on November 13.

Awami League lawmaker Nurul Islam Sujan said those, who wanted to make Bangladeshi an Afghanistan and were defeated in 1971, are trying to foil the ongoing trial by launching the secret attacks at the instigation of BNP.

SCBA Secretary Momtazuddin Ahmed Mehedi and SASP leader Subrata Chowdhury, among others, spoke.



Skeletal remains of rickshaws in a garage in Bubazar slum in the capital's Hazaribagh which was burnt to ashes early yesterday. Inset, a mother lies under the open sky with her two children and her belongings she was able to save.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

32 get Meena Media Award 2012

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unicef yesterday conferred the Meena Media Award 2012 on 32 professionals from print and electronic media for their outstanding works in promoting child rights during the last one year.

The international organisation gave the Meena Award at a ceremony in the capital's Sonargaon Hotel.

Mirza Shakil, Tangail correspondent of The Daily Star, achieved the first position for his best reporting on child issues while Moniruzzaman Uzzal of Bangla daily Jugantor and Muktasree Chakma Sathi got second and third positions respectively in the print media category.

Sanjid Ahmed of Bangla Vision held the first position in television reporting while Munni Saha, head of news of ATN News, captured first position in creative news and Shahnaz Sharmin of ABC radio, won first position in radio reporting on child issues.

The first, second, and third award recipients of each category and age-groups received Tk 50,000, Tk 25,000 and Tk 15,000 respectively along with a crest.

Information Minister Hasanul Haque Inu and Unicef representative in Bangladesh Pascal Villeneuve, among others, spoke on the occasion.

COLLEGE GIRL'S SUICIDE
Nahid asks for punishment to stalker

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday visited the house of the college girl in Narayanganj who committed suicide on Saturday after a stalker allegedly harassed her on her way to college.

Farhana Islam Rimi was a second year Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) student of commerce group in Sonargaon Degree College of the district.

On that day, thirty-one-year-old Shamim waylaid Rimi, harassed her and snatched her mobile set. Rimi, after returning home killed herself by taking pesticide around 11:00am. Shamim has been on the run.

The education minister consoling the victim's family at Char Goaldi village under Pirojpur asked the authorities to take action against the people responsible

for Rimi's death. The death, he said, cannot be termed suicide. It is a homicide as stalkers provoked her to take her own life.

These incidents will recur unless our attitude to women is changed, said Nahid adding that we have to respect women. Social movements should be launched to prevent this kind of incidents, he added.

Later, Nahid addressed the students of the college.

Local lawmaker Abdullah Al Kaiser, District Commissioner Monoj Kanti Boral and Upazila Nirbahi Officer Sagorika Nasrin accompanied him.

Meanwhile in the afternoon, the deceased was buried in the family graveyard.

A cousin of the victim, Habibur Rahman, filed a case under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act accusing Shamim yesterday.

AUG 21 CASES
Ex-DGFI chief visited Khaleda with 'minus-two' formula

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former DGFI director general Major Gen (retd) Sadik Hasan Rumi yesterday said he went to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Mainul Hossain Road residence in the capital on April 17, 2007 with the proposal of "minus-two" formula.

The formula proposes the removal of Khaleda and Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina from politics.

He had gone to the residence as per the then chief of army staff Gen Moeen U Ahmed's order, said Rumi.

He was being cross-examined before a Dhaka court by the counsel for detained Harkatul Jihad al Islami leader Mufti Abdul Hannan, the prime accused in two cases filed over the August 21, 2004 grenade attacks on an AL rally in the capital's Bangabandhu Avenue.

Rumi said he did not oppress eminent lawyers and politicians during the last military-backed caretaker government but these took place without his knowledge.



The recipients of Meena Media Award 2012, conferred by Unicef in recognition of their outstanding works in promoting child rights, with guests at Sonargaon Hotel in the capital yesterday.

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Senior Dutch official due today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Gerda Verburg, permanent representative of the Netherlands to the

United Nations food security agencies, will arrive in Dhaka on an official visit today.

During her visit, she will meet officials of the government and the UN food security agencies, United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and World Food Programme (WFP), said a press release.

She will also visit a number of projects being implemented through collaborative initiatives of the government, UN agencies, donor agencies and other partners.