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TK 345CR EMBEZZLEMENT ACC to sue Sonali officials, 5 firms 26 cases approved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday approved filing of 26 cases against several top officials of Sonali Bank and five business entities for misappropriating more than Tk 345 crore of depositors' money.

The cases may be filed on Monday under anti-money laundering and corruption prevention acts, said an ACC high-up asking not to be named.

The amount is a funded portion [an amount given in cash] of the Tk 3,547 crore credit that the five business firms and Hall-Mark Group swindled from Sonali Bank's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel branch with the help of some bank officials using forged documents between October last year and May this year, according to an ACC enquiry.

Several high-ups of the bank's Ruposhi Bangla Hotel branch will be accused in all 26 cases, said ACC sources.

If convicted, the accused might have to spend up to 10 years in prison, and their movable and immovable properties might also be confiscated.

The five firms are: T and Brothers, Paragon Knit Composite Ltd, DN Sports, Nakshi Knit and Composite Ltd, and Khanjahan Ali Sweater Ltd.

Of them, T and Brothers swindled Tk 317.52 crore,

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina releases doves while opening the Banani level crossing overpass, *inset*, in the capital yesterday. City dwellers hope that the overpass would relieve them from congestion on Airport Road.

PHOTO:
BSS

PADMA GRAFT Mosharraf, Ferdous remanded

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Ex-secretary of Bridges Division Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan and Superintendent Engineer of Bangladesh Bridge Authority Kazi Mohammad Ferdous were placed on seven days' remand yesterday in connection with the Padma bridge corruption case.

Second Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Shahidul Islam Faruque of a Dhaka court passed the order.

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CLOSING ARGUMENTS IN MOLLAH'S WAR CRIMES CASE

Plea for death penalty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution yesterday sought capital punishment for Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah while completing its closing arguments in the crimes against humanity case at the International Crimes Tribunal-2.

"It is our opinion and assessment that the prosecution has successfully been able to prove the charges [against Mollah] beyond the shadow of any reasonable doubt and we plea for capital punishment under section 20 of the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973," said Mohammad Ali, conducting prosecutor of the case against Mollah.

Section 20 (2) of the act says, "Upon conviction of an accused person, the tribunal shall award sentence of death or such other punishment proportionate to the



gravity of the crimes as appears to the tribunal to be just and proper."

The three-member Tribunal-2, led by Justice Obaidul Hassan with members Justice Mozibur Rahman Miah and Judge M Shahinur Islam, fixed January 7 for recording the defence's closing arguments.

Prosecution may reply to the defence's arguments if they feel the need.

The tribunal would deliver its verdict after summation of arguments of the prosecution and the defence.

On May 28, the tribunal indicted the Jamaat assistant secretary general with six specific charges of crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War.

Twelve prosecution witnesses, including two investigations officers, testified supporting the charges while six

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War tribunal's organogram finalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About three years after the formation of the International Crimes Tribunal, the government has finally approved an 81-post organogram for it, including the post of a senior law research officer.

Recruitment will begin shortly to fill the posts, Quamrul Islam, state minister for law, told The Daily Star last night.

Tribunal Registrar AKM Nasiruddin Mahmud said they had a demand for a 113-post organogram, which was sent to the government in August.

The approved organogram reached the law ministry from the prime minister's office on December 13 and the

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Sir Abed honoured

Selected for Central European University Open Society Prize

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, founder and chairperson of Brac, has been awarded the Central European University Open Society

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The Dhaka district administration yesterday knocks down a structure built by Hall-Mark Group on government land. The group had occupied the 10-acre piece of land at Savar on the outskirts of the capital by building eight structures housing 20 factories and warehouse.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Madrasa students see higher pass rate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

This year's Ebtedai Certificate and Junior Dakhil Certificate (JDC) Examinations saw an increase in both the pass rates and highest grade points achievers over the previous years.

In the Ebtedai exams, 92.45 percent students became successful which is a rise of 1.17 percentage points from last year, while the pass rate in the JDC exams is 90.87 percent, a rise of 2.16 percentage points.

According to the results published yesterday, 2,920 students achieved GPA-5 (grade point average) in

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Bad news for latecomers

Mamata govt posts hidden cameras to monitor employees

TNN, Kolkata

The Mamata Banerjee government has decided to introduce hidden cameras to record the ins and outs of employees in government offices to ensure they reach by 10.30am.

The pilot project will be tried in the new year at the West Bengal Essential Supplies Corporation.

The CCTVs have already been installed. Operation will begin from February 1.

Attendance has always been a prickly issue with government employees. Many staff walk in late by simply signing in. Those who sneak out before closing time have evolved any number of smart tricks, including leaving their spectacles or bag on their table to feign that they are around and will return later.

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Upazila polls in August

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission is considering holding upazila parishad elections in August next year before the parliamentary polls.

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Power tariff hike proposal opposed

REB faces criticism during BERC hearing

STAR CORRESPONDENT

Rights activists, industrialists and politicians yesterday vehemently opposed proposals to increase retail power tariff that rose six times since 2010.

The objections came at a hearing at Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) in Dhaka on the Rural Electrification Board's (REB) sug-

gestion for an average 9 percent increase in power tariff.

REB, a distribution company, asked the energy regulator to raise the retail price to cut subsidy amid an increase in bulk tariff and cost of services.

Prof M Shamsul Alam, energy adviser to the Consumers' Association of Bangladesh, said the retail power tariff

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think the media is not playing responsible role in disseminating news and programmes?

Yes (40%)

No (58%)

No Comments (2%)

TOTAL VOTES: 305

TODAY'S POLL

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