

## Arrest warrant issued against ABM Mohiuddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against Awami League city unit President ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury in a case filed for concealing wealth, and amassing wealth not supported by his known income sources.

Chittagong Divisional Special Judge SM Ataur Rahman passed the order as the AL leader was not present in court.

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## TIB hails ACC move to probe graft by politicians

UNB, Dhaka

Welcoming the recent decision of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to investigate the allegations of unusual wealth accumulation by seven politicians, the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has urged the anti-graft watchdog to take effective steps to bring all the politicians who reportedly acquired wealth illegally under trial.

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## Charge framing in Himu murder case deferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday deferred for the fourth time the charge framing in the Himadri Majumder Himu murder case.

Chittagong Metropolitan Sessions Judge (in-charge) Abdur Rashid also fixed February 3 for the next hearing. The charge framing was deferred after the defence sought time on the grounds that his client, Shah Selim Tipu, prime

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## BANGLADESH NAVY GETS TWO CHINESE FRIGATES

Abu Bakar, *top*, and Ali Haider, *bottom*, at Chittagong Naval Berth yesterday on arrival from China, the manufacturing country. The procurement of the two brings the number of frigates of Bangladesh Navy to five.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

## Why Birangonas not given state honour in 43 years

HC asks govt to explain in four weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain in four weeks why it should not be directed to upgrade the social status of Birangonas (war heroines) and provide them with state honour and facilities like those of freedom fighters.

The government was also asked to explain why it should not be ordered to prepare a comprehensive list of Birangonas, who were victimised during the country's Liberation War in 1971, and to issue a gazette to this effect by March 26.

The rule came in response to a writ petition, which sought such directives from the HC.

The authorities concerned were also asked to explain why the silence of the government about this issue for the

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ALLEGATIONS AGAINST TWO JESSORE MPs-ELECT

## EC now looking to HC for decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) is now looking to the High Court to decide the fate of two Jessore lawmakers-elect who allegedly violated the electoral code of conduct before the parliamentary election on January 5.

The decision came after a writ petition was filed by the two, Sheikh Afil Uddin and Monirul Islam, challenging the commission's move to cancel the candidature.

This is also the reason the commission cancelled its hearing on the allegations, which was scheduled to be held yesterday.

Afil and Monirul were elected from Jessore-1 and Jessore-2 constituencies respectively.

"As the matter has reached the High Court, the commission has decided to suspend the hearing for the time showing respect to the law," Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz told reporters at his office yesterday.

Hearing on this issue is scheduled to take place on February 5, said EC officials.

Meanwhile, EC sources said an election commissioner was against the decision and wanted the issue to be resolved within the commission.

Afil unlawfully instructed the party men in Jhikargachha upazila of Jessore on December 30 to cast ballots again and again for Monirul Islam on January 5.

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## BANGLADESHI EXPATRIATES IN MALAYSIA MRPs for 5 lakh by March next year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet committee on government purchase yesterday approved a project under which more than five lakh Bangladeshis in Malaysia will be provided machine-readable passports (MRPs) by March next year.

A Bangladeshi consortium of data edge and ipeople will collect data of the expatriates for preparing the MRPs. The consortium will get US\$18 for each passport.

The expatriate workers and Bangladeshi students in Malaysia will pay \$18 for the service in addition to their passport fee of \$35.

A contract will be soon inked with the consortium to set up eight enrolment centres in Malaysia.

"We have to ensure that all Bangladeshis have MRPs by March next year," said Home Secretary CQK Mustaf Ahmed.

He said about five to six lakh Bangladeshi workers would have to return home from Malaysia if they failed to get MRPs within the deadline.

In May last year, the government launched a project to issue MRPs to expatriates in Malaysia. But the government remained very slack in finalising the procedure.

Earlier, the government decided to outsource the job of issuing MRPs for expatriates in Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Malaysia, as the government did not have the capacity to do it. About 30 to 35 lakh expatriates live in Saudi Arabia, while 11 to 12 lakh in the UAE.

In addition, 10 to 15 lakh expatriates live in Oman, Qatar, Bahrain, Jordan, South Africa, Mauritius, Lebanon, Libya and Italy. About 90 percent of them have old passports and must be provided MRPs by the deadline.

## PM unhappy for finalising broadcast policy without her knowledge

Cabinet ratifies Maritime Labour Convention 2006, Seafarers Identity Document Convention (Revised) 2003

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed dissatisfaction for finalising the draft of the National Broadcasting Policy 2014 without consulting her.

At the weekly cabinet meeting, she told Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu that he could have consulted her before finalising the draft on Sunday, said meeting sources.

When the minister said most of the draft was prepared by his predecessor Abul Kalam Azad, the premier again said he

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Some of the 25 tin-shed and bamboo structures demolished during a drive by a Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) mobile court yesterday to free Mariam Khal, a canal by Ashraf Ali Road in Chittagong city's Patharghata. On Sunday, CCC Mayor M Manjur Alam said reclaiming and maintaining the canal could help reduce waterlogging in the city to a great extent.

PHOTO: STAR

## GRAFT ALLEGATIONS AGAINST EX-JUDGE MOTAHAR HOSSAIN ACC summons Bashundhara Group official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has asked an official of Bashundhara Group to appear before it today in connection with graft allegations against former judge Motahar Hossain who acquitted a son of the business group's Chairman Ahmed Sobhan Shah Alam in a murder case in 2011.

"Based on some significant information, we have summoned Pobitro Sarkar, deputy general manager of Law Division of the group," said ACC Deputy Director Harun-ur-Rashid, who is leading the probe against the judge. The official declined to comment further on the issue.

When contacted, Sarkar said, "The ACC deputy director, Harun-ur-Rashid, told me to go see him but did not say what he wanted to talk about."

While serving as the judge of Speedy Trial Tribunal-4, Motahar Hossain dropped charges against the five accused, including Shah Alam's son Shafiat Sobhan Sanvir, in the killing of Humayun Kabir Sabbir, a high

official of Bashundhara Group. Sabbir was murdered in July 2006.

In the verdict, Motahar said the prosecution had failed to prove the charges against the accused. He also did not take into cognisance as evidence the statements of two eye-witnesses who were missing during the trial but had described the killing before a magistrate.

According to law, if any witness is missing or dead, the court can take their statements recorded by a magistrate as evidence.

Sanvir was the prime accused in the Sabbir murder. An investigation by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) revealed a few years ago that the Bashundhara Group chairman gave a Tk 21 crore bribe to former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar to save his son.

The other accused in the murder case were security guards of Sanvir's house Nure Alam and Humayun Kabir and Sanvir's bodyguards Khairul Hassan Ujjal and Shamsuddin Ahmed.

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## CTG-4 MP'S 'ILLEGAL WEALTH' ACC team leaves for Cox's Bazar to probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) team left Dhaka for Cox's Bazar yesterday to probe allegations against Abdur Rahman Bodi, lawmaker of the Chittagong-4 constituency (Ukhia to Teknaf), of illegally amassing wealth.

Following newspaper leads, ACC on January 22 appointed seven investigators to probe against Bodi and six others over "discrepancies" in wealth statements they submitted to the Election Commission seeking candidature in the 10th parliamentary election.

The others are former minister AFM Ruhul Haque, former state ministers Mahbubur Rahman and Abdul Mannan Khan, former lawmakers Enamul Haque and Abdul Zabbar and current lawmaker Aslamul Haque.

## 15 billboards removed from Dhaka airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab) yesterday removed around 15 billboards from the roof of the terminal building and the multi-storey car park of the capital's Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

The hoardings were put up there through an agreement between the authorities and the advertising agencies, said Zakir Hossain, director of the airport. As per the deal, the agencies have to remove the billboards whenever the authorities will deem it necessary, he said.

The airport authorities had to remove those, as the agencies did not comply with their earlier directive to take them

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তুমি জাগলেই জাগবে বাংলাদেশ

আর দেশকে জানলেই জাগবে তুমি।

দেশকে জানতে নিয়মিত দেখো টিভি কুইজ প্রতিযোগিতা 'বাংলাদেশ ফাস্ট'।

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