



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

SHOUT**POLITICS OF ELIMINATION**

The AL strategy vis-à-vis the BNP will create a void, argues Shahedul Anam Khan

PAGE 6

ISIS'LL BE SQUEEZED

Vows Cameron, after Baghdad calls for help to force the extremist group out of Iraq

PAGE 8



Padma corruption probe laid to rest

Anti-graft body finds no graft conspiracy

M RAHMAN

In a controversial move, the Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday cleared all accused in the Padma bridge corruption conspiracy case though the World Bank gave the ACC primary evidence and a trial is on at a Canadian court in this connection.

"None has been found guilty. The commission will submit its final report to the court," ACC Chairman Mohammad Badiuzzaman said at a press briefing at the ACC headquarters in the capital.

The ACC also exonerated ex-communications minister Syed Abul Hossain and ex-state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury of alleged involvement in the graft conspiracy.

The ACC concludes its probe in the case at a time when two officials of Canadian firm SNC Lavalin are being tried for conspiring to bribe Abul Hossain, and several officials and individuals in Bangladesh to get the consultancy job for the project.

If the Canadian court finds these two SNC Lavalin officials guilty, it would imply that

Abul Hossain and the others in Bangladesh were indeed involved in the corruption conspiracy.

ACC Commissioner Mohammad Shahabuddin, however, defended the move, saying there were "basic differences" between the two cases.

"The Canadian court is trying SNC Lavalin for setting up a fund with speed money to use it in third world countries to get work contracts.

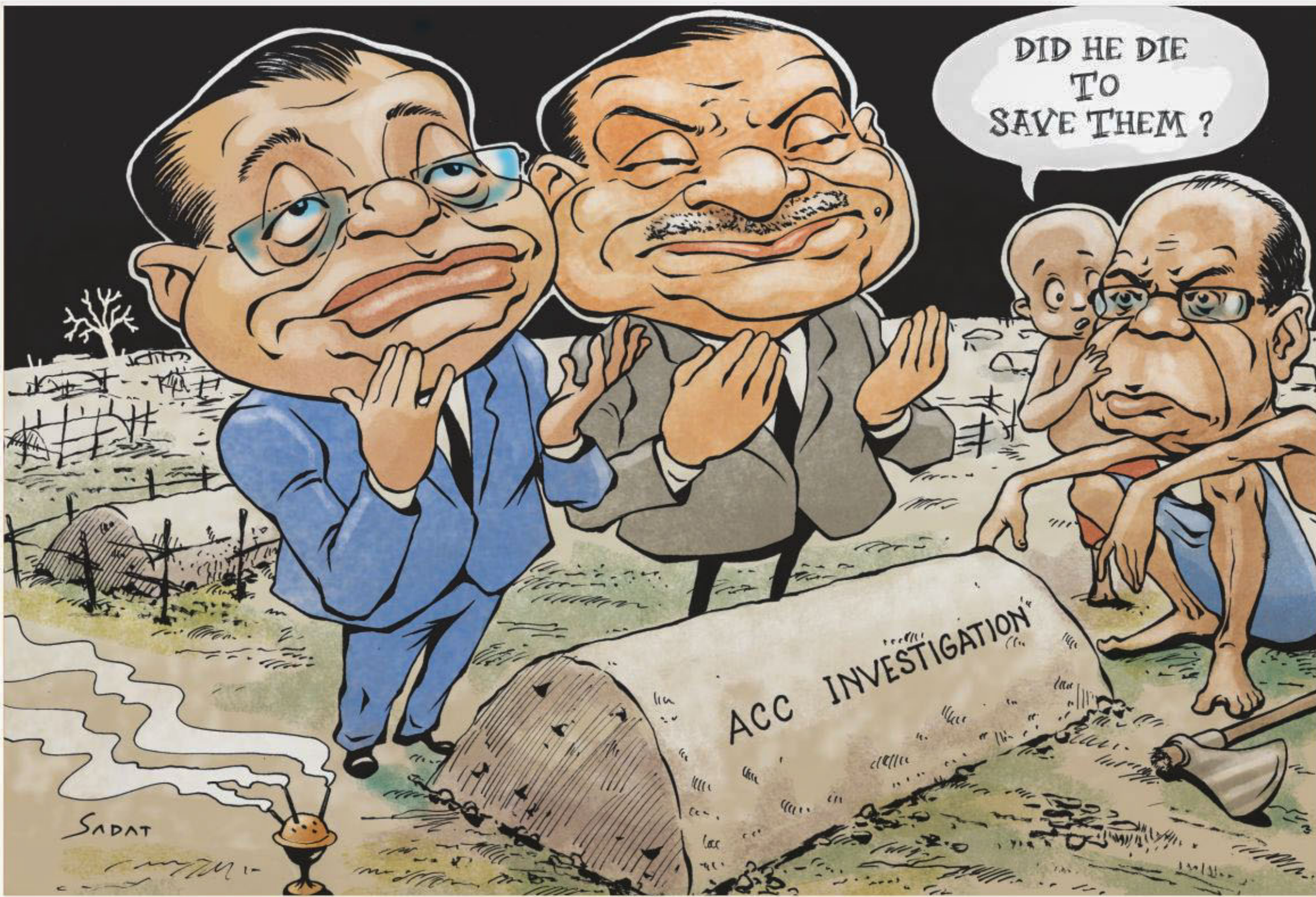
"On the contrary, the ACC filed the case over the allegations of hatching a conspiracy to bribe government officials and individuals," he said.

In his reaction to the latest development, Transparency International Bangladesh Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said the ACC has the scope for working again on the issue, depending on how the Canadian court proceeds.

"If the government wishes, it can initiate a judicial enquiry into the matter," he said in an interview with BBC Bangla.

The commission's latest stance contradicts its earlier one. The ACC had repeatedly stated

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



It was drafted in a transparent way

PM on nat'l broadcast policy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday claimed the National Broadcast Policy was formulated in a "very transparent way" after discussions with all stakeholders.

Replying to lawmakers' queries in parliament, the premier elaborately explained how meticulously her government had advanced since November 2012 to formulate the policy.

Hasina said the draft policy had been posted on the information ministry's website for 21 days before its finalisation.

"Critics, who are raising questions now, did not say anything during the finalisation of the draft policy. The government has formulated the policy keeping the welfare of people and broadcast media in consideration."

The process was on to enact a law for the formation of an independent broadcast commission, she added.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Recruited, 1,647 doctors 'lobby to be OSDs'!

Reason not to work outside Dhaka

PORIMOL PALMA

Being made an officer on special duty or OSD, as it is commonly known, is not something a newly-appointed government official should be happy about.

The post is usually given to someone either as a punishment for corruption or irregularities or on political grounds. An OSD is an officer with no specific task assigned to him.

However, it's different in the case of the doctors appointed last month through the 33rd BCS exams.

Of the total 6,151 recruitments, 1,647 physicians were made OSDs

right after they joined service.

Interestingly, these OSD doctors are cheerful as they have been posted at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) in Dhaka and attached to the health complexes in the upazilas either around the city or at places of their individual choices.

Whether these physicians adopted any illegal means to secure the postings remains to be investigated. But the government says it has done so as there are no vacancies for the entry level doctors at the upazila or union level at the moment.

A reality check by The Daily Star,

however, reveals a completely different picture.

A number of relatively remote upazilas actually still have vacancies in the posts of medical officers, emergency medical officers and assistant surgeons. Newly appointed doctors are usually given these posts.

Take, for instance, Amtoli upazila of Barguna, a southern coastal district.

Of the 39 posts of physicians in the upazila, 35 posts had been vacant for a long time. Last month, 11 doctors recruited through the 33rd BCS were posted there but 10 joined.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

NEWS ANALYSIS

Our neo-historians

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

There appears to be a surfeit of new historians in Bangladesh these days. The young, 48-year-old Tarique Rahman continues to "enlighten" the nation on the country's history from his safe hideout abroad. As if we hadn't had enough of his interpretation of history in these past few months, he now tells us that every wrong and every evil committed between November 1975 and April 1977 can be linked to the presidencies of Khondokar Moshtaque Ahmed and Justice ASM Sayem. His dear father, he would have us know, was not in the picture at all.

Tarique Rahman's view of history is neither logic nor history. It is a recapitulation of lying perfected into black art. He and others like him are in need of some history courses themselves. General Ziaur Rahman was certainly not president between late 1975 and spring 1977 -- in the way that Gamal Abdel Nasser was not president of Egypt between 1952 and 1954, in the way that General Suharto was not president of Indonesia between autumn 1965 and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



The Teesta devours a school at Dhusmara Char in Kaunia of Rangpur jeopardising the dreams of several hundred students. The partially collapsed school had to be demolished. The photo was taken in July.

PHOTO: MEHDI HASAN

Water recedes, sufferings on

Waterborne diseases break out in flood-hit areas; 6 drown in floodwater

STAR REPORT

Even though floodwater receded in many areas, the sufferings have not lessened, as waterborne diseases are breaking out.

The situation in all the flood-affected areas was improving as the water level of all major rivers showed a diminishing trend, says the bulletin of Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre.

At least six people drowned in floodwater,

including five children, in Jamalpur and Kurigram in the last 24 hours, ending at 6:00pm yesterday, while another child died from snakebite in Munshiganj.

People have started to go back to their homes from flood shelters, except those who have become homeless. As the government relief did not reach most of the flood-affected areas, people have been suffering from food and drinking water shortages and were in need of fodder for their cattle.

For the last few days Jamalpur has witnessed the outbreak of waterborne diseases, reports our correspondent there.

On Wednesday, 43 people have been diagnosed with diarrhoea, 12 with respiratory tract infection, 25 with skin diseases, eight with eye infections and 67 with other diseases, including dysentery, fever and cold-related complications, according to the civil surgeon's office in Jamalpur.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

RAMPAL POWER PROJECT

Tender late next month

SHARIER KHAN

Running almost a year behind schedule, the Bangladesh-India Friendship Power Company is going to float a tender in late October to build the proposed 1,320-megawatt coal power plant in Rampal close to the Sundarbans.

The company would ask bidders to arrange financiers to build the power plant. The project would need \$1.7 billion investment, 30 percent of which would be funded by the friendship power company, while the rest to be derived from single or multiple international financiers.

"We have appointed German consultant Fichtner as the owner's engineer," said VS Kamrakar, managing director of the company. Fichtner has already finalised the project design memorandum.

Kamrakar said within late October, Fichtner would complete the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) tender documents and an international open tender would follow.

The consultant would also guide the company in finding cost-effective coal sources for the ultra super-critical coal

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

CHETIA, NUR HOSSAIN

Dhaka, Delhi agree on extradition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka is ready to extradite Anup Chetia, leader of Indian separatist outfit United Liberation Front of Asom, who is currently in Bangladesh prison.

New Delhi for its part has expressed its willingness to extradite Nur Hossain, the alleged mastermind of the Narayanganj seven-murder, now in Indian prison.

"We are ready for his extradition" Senior Home Secretary Mozammel Haque Khan said, adding that earlier Anup had sought political asylum in Bangladesh but recently expressed his willingness to return to India.

He, however, did not give

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

KHALEDA APPEARS IN COURT

BNP activists clash with cops: 10 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP workers and activists clashed with police yesterday when a large number of them accompanying party chief Khaleda Zia tried to enter a court premises during the hearing of a case against her.

At least 10 people including three policemen were injured during the clash. BNP men vandalised at least two cars at



that time, eyewitnesses said.

The former premier appeared before the Special Judge's Court-3 of Judge Bashudev Roy at Government Alia Madrasa at Bakshibazar around 1:05pm and left around 1:45pm.

Hundreds of leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations thronged the court premises to welcome

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1