

DEATH REFERENCE
Arguments of state side in judges killing complete

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government counsel yesterday submitted in the High Court (HC) that the lower court rightly convicted seven militant leaders including Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) kingpins Abdur Rahman and Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai in the Jhalakathi judges killing case. Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Helal Uddin Mollah yesterday completed reading the paper book (history of the case) and also finished arguments from the state side in the hearing of death reference in the case. A Barisal court on May 29 sentenced to death JMB chief Abdur Rahman, his second-in-command

Israel puts major offensive on hold for talks

Soldiers seize Christian towns

REUTERS, Jerusalem

Israel plans to allow more time for US-led diplomatic efforts to resolve its dispute with Hezbollah before carrying out its decision to expand a ground offensive in Lebanon, a cabinet minister said yesterday. "There is a certain diplomatic process under way," Tourism Minister Yitzhak Herzog told Israel's Army Radio. "We can allow a little more time to see if there's a possibility for a diplomatic process."

But Herzog, a member of Israel's decision-making security cabinet, made clear Israel would go ahead with its military plans if the talks failed. "If there won't be a diplomatic solution, there will be a need to remove this threat," he added, referring to more than 3,300 rockets Hezbollah guerrillas have rained on northern Israel since hostilities erupted on July 12. Israel Radio quoted a senior political source as saying Israel was

pessimistic about chances the diplomatic efforts would succeed, adding "these efforts could collapse within hours". Israel's Maariv daily said in a front-page report that Israeli leaders decided after midnight to suspend plans they had decided on hours earlier to widen the four-week-old assault. Israeli forces currently operate within three days. Earlier, the IO submitted his

JAMAL MURDER CASE
Court rejects charge sheet, IO showcaused again

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday again issued a show cause to Investigation Officer (IO) Anwar Hossain, in-charge of the sensational abduction and murder case of business tycoon and BNP leader Jamal Uddin Ahmed, as his response to the previous show cause was not satisfactory and did not accept the charge sheet submitted by the IO. Magistrate of the court Mohammed Akram Hossain reprimanded IO Anwar, an Inspector of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), and ordered to respond against the show cause within three days. Earlier, the IO submitted his



FROM LEFT ... CPD Executive Director Debapriya Bhattacharya, lawyer Dr M Zahir, trustee members M Syeduzzaman, Syed Manzur Elahi, Laila Rahman Kabir and CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan as they enter the High Court to seek ad-interim anticipatory bail yesterday. (Report on page 1)



Aircraft sit idle on the tarmac at Heathrow Airport in London yesterday after the authorities enforced high security alert, leading to cancellation of flights. (Report on page 1)

CARJACKING CASE
Paban again denied bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected the bail petition of Akter Hamid Paban, son of Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain, arrested on charge of carjacking. Judge Mohammad Momin Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order following a criminal appeal filed by the defence lawyers. Earlier, lower courts rejected Paban's bail petitions thrice saying that the charges brought against him were primarily proved. Moreover, Paban's accomplice Zahirul Islam Robin has confessed to a magistrate that he and Paban were involved with an organised carjacking ring. Moving the bail petition, the defence lawyers on Wednesday told the court that their client was implicated in the case with a motive to harass him politically. They said Paban bought the car from Robin but he was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy. Moreover, Paban's name was not mentioned in the FIR. Opposing the submission on the bail petition by the defence

Graft, policy shift make a mess of healthcare system

Nagorik Committee consultation session told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a consultation meeting yesterday identified lack of accountability, rampant corruption, frequent shift in policy and having almost no role of the specialised persons in the decision making as some of the problems that created a mess in the healthcare system. The Nagorik Committee 2006 organised the fourth expert group consultation meeting on 'Vision 2021 for Bangladesh: Goal 4: To have a health-endowed nation' at Cirdap auditorium in the capital. Prof Mahmuda Islam chaired the meeting. Speaking at the meeting, Prof Rehman Sobhan, convener of the Nagorik Committee 2006, said only a section of people are able to get required health services at home as

well as abroad but ordinary people are often deprived of it. Elaborating on the objective of Nagorik Committee's vision 2021, he said it would empower the citizens of the country and create a sense of demand. Lower income groups, who are not conscious about healthcare, need to be targeted and essential drugs should be made available, National Prof Brig Gen Abdul Malik said. Calling for a social movement about healthcare, he said, "Making only good healthcare facility is not enough. Rather, we need to be aware of prevention of diseases." Medical insurance should be introduced and quality of private medical colleges should be strictly

HC okays govt move to cancel house allotment to wife of Khaled Mosharraf

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday declared valid the government notice cancelling the allotment of a house to Salma Khaled Mosharraf, the widow of a Bangladesh Liberation War hero. A division bench comprising Justice Syed Dastagir Husain and Justice Mamnoon Rahman delivered the judgement on a writ petition filed by Salma Khaled challenging the cancellation of allotment. The writ petitioner challenged validity of the government's action in rescinding the allotment of the house in the city's Gulshan area on November 6 last year. The government had allotted the residence to Salma Khaled on March 7, 1979. Meanwhile, Rajuk is learnt to have sold off the house for over Tk 4 crore in "public interest".

Six drown as engine boat sinks in Haor

BSS, Sunamganj

Six people, including three of a family, drowned when an engine boat with 11 passengers on board capsized in Kanlar Haor (water body) under Sadar upazila on Wednesday. Upazila authorities and locals yesterday found five bodies floating on the water body and recovered them. Another body of a six-year-old boy remained missing. The recovered bodies are of Hafez Talebuddin, 45, and his son Emran, 7, Belal Hossain, 40, Abdul Quddus, 30, and Arju Miah, 65. The missing boy, Salman, is son of deceased Hafez Talebuddin. The boat suddenly overturned and sank in the water body while it was carrying the passengers from Ambari Bazar to Noigangh village at about 3:00pm. Five passengers, however, swam ashore, witnesses said.

Bomber kills 35 near Iraqi Shia shrine

7 commandos killed in rebel ambush

AFP, REUTERS, Najaf

A suicide bomber killed 35 people near one of Shia Islam's holiest shrines yesterday, in what Iraqi leaders branded an attempt to sow sectarian hatred and destroy a fragile peace process. The attacker detonated an explosive vest at a police checkpoint in the historic city of Najaf, just 150 metres (yards) from the tomb of Imam Ali, one of the most revered figures of the Shia faith, police said. "The total casualties are 35 killed and 94 wounded, including four Iranian visitors. One of them is in

serious condition," said Doctor Munther al-Athari, the head of Najaf's health directorate. A senior security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the bomber had attempted to approach the shrine but had been stopped by police. "When he arrived at the last checkpoint, the police were suspicious of him and grabbed him. Once he was in their hands, he blew himself up, killing the five police guards at the checkpoint," the official said. Further north, in Baghdad, seven police commandos including a

senior officer were killed in a rebel ambush and six civilians were killed in the bombing of a popular restaurant, security and medical sources told AFP. The Najaf bombing was immediately interpreted as the latest in a spate of attacks designed to further poison relations between Iraq's Shia Arab majority and the aggrieved Sunni Arab former elite. US generals warned last week that sectarian bloodshed could push Iraq into civil war, despite attempts by the national unity

Medical Board monitoring poet Shamsur Rahman's health

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Poet Shamsur Rahman's health condition is being closely monitored by a nine-member medical board at the intensive care unit at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University hospital (BSMMU). The condition of the poet remains unchanged, said the medical sources. The poet was admitted to BSMMU on August 6 due to acute liver and ventricular failure along with complexities involved with old age. Health and Family Welfare Minister Khondokar Musharraf Hussain and Local Government,

IMPORT OF CARS

Documents doctored to dodge Tk 25cr tax a yr

JASIM UDDIN KHAN

In blatant violation of the import policy, a section of vehicle importers are depriving the government of a huge amount of revenue counterfeiting import documents and tampering with engine and chassis numbers. Customs sources said around 10 percent of the annual import of about 12,000 cars are imported in fraudulent ways to evade taxes of around Tk 25 crore. In the last couple of months, Chittagong Customs House seized

three consignments of cars imported evading taxes of around Tk 80 lakh. On July 10, it seized 60 buses imported this way. Some of the importers are importing old cars beyond the government permissible limit by tampering with engine and chassis numbers, causing huge revenue losses to the government. These dishonest importers are so skilled in the malpractice that customs officials most of the time fail to detect it, a high official of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) said. Market sources attributed the

mischief mainly to 'stringent and faulty' import policy. "The government has restricted import of reconditioned cars only to four-year-old ones, which is really impractical in the current car market situation. The stringent import policy inspires a section of importers to resort to illegal means," said Abdul Mannan Khoshru, president of Bangladesh Reconditioned Vehicles Importers and Dealers Association (BRVIDA). He urged the government to

NOTICE

নিপিন্ডি
প্রথম প্রকাশ
The Daily Star
চালবে খাই

Channel i will telecast a special programme today at 5:30pm on "Regional Dialogue on National Election 2007: Civil Society Initiative for Accountable Development" organised by Centre for Policy Dialogue, The Daily Star, Prothom Alo and Channel i in Rajshahi on August 5.

OBSTACLE TO Tk 400CR TENDER Charges pressed against 11 JCD men

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday pressed charges against 11 Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders and activists arrested in connection with preventing participants from buying schedules and bidding in a tender at the Construction Maintenance Management Unit (CMMU) of the health ministry on July 30. The investigation officer (IO) dropped names of five others as their names and addresses, given by four accused in their confessional statements, were not correct. The four arrestees told a metropolitan magistrate on Sunday that two JCD leaders of Fazlul Haq

Malaysia offers on arrival visas for Bangladeshis

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia is offering visas-on-arrival to citizens of 23 more countries including China, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar, in a bid to boost its tourism industry, reports said Thursday. Home Minister Radzi Sheikh Ahmad said the visa would allow tourists from those countries to stay in Malaysia for up to one month. "The idea is to encourage them to come straight to Malaysia, to spend their money here first, instead of neighbouring countries," Radzi said according to the New Straits Times.



Opening of this sewer near Gulshan-1 intersection is missing its concrete lid. The gaping hole not only spreads odour but also poses threat to pedestrians and vehicles plying the street.

443 Bangladeshis arrive in Syria from Lebanon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 443 Bangladeshis arrived in Syrian capital Damascus yesterday evening under the supervision of International Organization for Migration (IOM) on their way back home in Bangladesh. A chartered aircraft of Middle East Airlines (MEA) will carry 250 of them to Zia International Airport at 4:30am tomorrow, said Nahreen Farjana, project director of IOM Dhaka office. A total of 284 Bangladeshis have so far been repatriated from war-battered Lebanon following Israeli bombardments in Lebanon. According to an official estimate, 10,000 Bangladeshi nationals are believed to be in Lebanon. Unofficial estimates however claim the number to be higher than 15,000.

Prayer Timing		
August 11		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-25	5-00
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-41	6-44
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation