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# The Daily Star

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## DSE MARKET

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| DSE price index          | 1554.81     |
| Market capital Tk        | 10676.95 cr |
| Transactions in volume   | 821644      |
| Transactions in value Tk | 13.39 cr    |

## NEWS BRIEFS

### One held with arms in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Sept 14: Detectives of Chittagong Metropolitan Police arrested one Abdul Aziz with one revolver, two bullets here today, a CMP press release said. Kotwali police also recovered one light gun and five rifle bullets from Chandanpura in an abandoned state, reports BSS.

### Sirajul Hossain Khan JP nominee

The Jatiya Party yesterday nominated Sirajul Hossain Khan, former minister and member of the party's presidency, for contesting the by-election in Habiganj-2 constituency, a press release said. The decision was taken at the parliamentary board of the party, reports BSS.

### RU employees continue strike

From RU Correspondent  
RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Sept 14: All administrative work of Rajshahi University remains completely paralysed for the 8th day today as the officers and employees of the university went on an indefinite strike from September 8 to home their 5 point demand.

### UP chairman held

PABNA, Sept 14: An UP chairman of the BNP was arrested from the district town early today on charge of terrorism and possessing of illegal arms. Sadar police said Hazari Zakir Hossain alias Channu Hazari, president of BNP Nazirganj unit in Sujannagar thana, was arrested as two cases were filed against him with Sujannagar police, reports UNB.

### Nine dacoits held in Comilla

COMILLA, Sept 14: Nine dacoits were caught red-handed by the villagers of Bishaban village under Sadar thana of the district while they were preparing to commit a dacoity. The villagers also recovered lethal weapons from their possession. Kotwali police arrested the dacoits and two cases were filed in this regard, reports BSS.

### JS body meets

The second meeting of the parliamentary committee relating to private member's bill and resolution motions was held yesterday at the Sangsad Bhaban, a Sangsad press release said, reports BSS.  
Chairman of the committee Col (Retd) Shaukat Ali presided over the meeting.  
The meeting discussed two constitutional amendment bills placed by Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and Hafizuddin Ahmed Bir Bikram and the Private Companies (officials and employees) Service Condition Bill, 1996 brought by Salauddin Quader Chowdhury.  
Members of the committee — Abdul Latif Mirza, AFM Jahangir Hussain, Nazmul Huda, Aminul Huq and Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury attended the meeting.

# Six killed, over 100 hurt in train accident

By Staff Correspondent

At least six persons were killed and about one hundred injured when the inter-city train Mohanagar-Urmi coming from Chittagong met with an accident at Khilkhet, three kilometres off the Zia International Airport in the city yesterday afternoon.

Five rear bogeys of the train derailed and fell into ditch along the rail track when it reached the spot, some 15 kms from the Kamalapur Railway Station at about 1:05 pm, police and witnesses said. The ill-fated bogeys included four passenger coaches and a buffet-car.

Four of the dead persons were identified as Rafiqul Huq Pathan, 43, son of Shamsul Huq; Abdul Latif, 16, son of late Dr Abdul Awal; Sanaullah Bari alias Jewel, 24, son of late Hefzul Bari of Brahmanbaria; and Jubair Hossain, 26. The four bodies, along with unidentified bodies of two men, both aged about 25, were sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy, hospital sources said.

However, police said they received information that two more bodies were recovered immediately after the accident and were taken away by their relatives. But police could not confirm it.

Of the injured, Shah Alam, 24, Alamgir, 50, Janu Miah, 27, and an unidentified woman were admitted to the DMCH. Sadek Miah, 26, Mesbahuddin, 32, and Mehedi Hasan, 12, were admitted to the Dhaka CMH while three others were under treatment at the Orthopaedic Hospital, according to sources in the hospitals.

Major portions of the derailed bogeys plunged into the water in the ditch making rescue operation difficult. The spot of the tragic incident is some 30 feet away from the Airport Road. Two railway tracks run parallel there.

A relief train from Kamalapur with heavy cranes and nine rescue units of the Fire Service and Civil Defence immedi-

ately rushed to the spot with ambulances. Besides, a combined rescue operation, conducted by Bangladesh Railway, Army, Navy and Dhaka Metropolitan Police continued till writing of the report late last night. The first relief train with rescuers and cranes reached the spot at 1:48 pm.

Train communication to and from Kamalapur station was suspended following the tragic accident. Railway sources said last night they were expecting to resume the communication before day-break.

"The train started to shake abnormally with a squeaky noise and tumbled into the ditch," said Abul Hashem, a buffet boy, who was in the buffet-car at the time of the incident.

Hashem and Shamsul Alam, another employee of the buffet-car said that they clung to the iron bars inside the carriage and somehow came out through the windows of the car after it plunged into the water.

Abu Taher, a passenger of the ill-fated train escaped unhurt and was attending injured Alamgir, a co-passenger at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital last night. Talking to this correspondent Taher said the accident occurred within a twinkle of eye before "we could understand what was going wrong".

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zilur Rahman, Communications Minister Anwar Hossain, Home Minister Rafiqul Islam, BU, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed and local MP Rahmatullah also visited the spot.

Meanwhile, the government has formed a three-member probe body to investigate the accident. It will submit its report within five days.

Anwar Hossain Manju, talking to The Daily Star said the probe body report would be made public at the earliest. "A major overhaul is required in the

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The derailed bogeys of the Mohanagar Urmi after the accident yesterday.

— Star photo

## PM urges Chinese businessmen to invest in jt venture projects

GUILIN, Sept 14: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today flew to the picturesque Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region about 1,800 km south of Beijing, reports BSS.

She was received by vice-chairman of the autonomous region Zhang Wenxue at the airport. Deputy Mayor of Guilin City Cai Yongjun, Secretary General of Guilin Municipal Government Li Wanglie and Director of Foreign Affairs Office of Guilin Municipal People's Government Zhao Ke were also present.

The Prime Minister was accompanied, among others, by Bangladesh Ambassador to China Mustafizur Rahman and Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Jhang Xujing.

During the meeting with the leading members of the People's

Government of the Guangxi region, Sheikh Hasina expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the Guangxi authorities for the friendly gesture showed to her and her entourage.

She said Bangladesh and China have been enjoying very friendly and cordial relations for long. She referred to the visit of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to China in 1953 and 1957 and said the relations between the two countries had been cemented from those days.

Termining Bangladesh-China friendship as historical, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said she had excellent talks with President Jiang Zemin and Prime Minister Li Peng during the last two days in Beijing.

She said Bangladesh was now seeking increased assis-

tance from the friendly countries like China for its infrastructural development.

Mentioning poverty alleviation as the main aim of her government, the Prime Minister said her government had already taken many positive steps to identify problems and resolve them through realistic programmes for ensuring better life for the people.

"Our main aim is to ensure jobs, rapid industrialisation, promotion of agricultural production and attract increased foreign investment into the country," she said adding cooperation of the friendly countries, including China, would help Bangladesh a lot in achieving its goals.

Sheikh Hasina also referred to her government's open mar-

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## Probe body formed

The government yesterday formed a high-level enquiry committee to investigate the causes of tragic train accident at Khilkhet near the capital, an official handout said, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister has ordered the enquiry committee comprising the chief engineer, chief operating superintendent and chief mechanical engineer of the eastern region of Bangladesh Railway to submit the report within five days.

Besides, the inspector of Bangladesh Railway would

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## Tk 1 lakh for each family of the dead

The government will provide Tk one lakh for each of the families of those killed in the Khilkhet train accident yesterday, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at the directive of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, said an official handout last night.

## 30 hurt as T&T employees clash in city

The supporters of two rival trade unions yesterday clashed at the Ramna T&T compound, leaving at least 30 people injured, reports UNB.

Witnesses said pro-government Bangladesh T&T Sramik Karmachari Federal Union and left leaning Bangladesh Telejo-gaj Sramik Karmachari Parishad activists locked in a clash while trying to hold rallies at the T&T compound at about 11:30am.

Police charged batons and fired several tear gas shells to disperse the feuding groups at about 11:50 am. Several workers were picked up from the scene.

During the half an hour

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## Khaleda asks partymen to prepare for agitation

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday warned that her party would not remain silent if the government continued its undemocratic behaviour and anti-people activities, reports UNB.

She was addressing a meeting of the newly-constituted Dhaka City BNP committee at her Minto Road official residence in the evening.

The Leader of the Opposition urged the party leaders and workers to be prepared for anti-government agitation as demanded by the people. "We do not want to go for a movement, but the government is forcing us to adopt action programmes," she said.

She said despite the ruling party's terrorism and harassment of BNP men across the country her party wanted to co-operate the government. But,

she lamented that the government was not taking advantage of BNP's good intention.

Begum Zia said the government's undemocratic activities are enraging the people and increasing the popularity of the BNP. "That is why the government is trying to repress the voice of dissent," she said.

The BNP chief said this government is not a government of the people, it is working in the interest of a group of people. "The present government is trying to be the champion of democracy in the name of a consensus government," she added.

Turning to the skyrocketing prices of essentials, she said the government has no control over the price situation. Farmers are not getting fair prices of their produce, she said.

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## FBCCI team returns from visit 'Good trade prospects with N-E Indian states'

By Staff Correspondent

President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Salman F Rahman has said the seven north-eastern states of India can be a big market for Bangladesh goods if India gives 'preferential access'.

A huge quantity of natural resources remains unexplored in those states, which we can use for business and industrial purposes," Salman said while briefing newsmen at the FBCCI auditorium yesterday. The FBCCI president led a 30 member business delegation which recently visited some of the north-eastern Indian states.

The seven states with a population of about 30 million, are landlocked and they are getting supplies from other In-

dian states, mainly West Bengal. "If we have free access to those states, definitely we shall get much advantage in this regard due to geographical proximity," he said.

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## ACC Trophy final Bangladesh take on UAE today

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh will take on United Arab Emirates in the Pepsi ACC Trophy final at the Kilat Kelab ground in Kuala Lumpur this morning.

Bangladesh Betar "Dhaka Kha" and Star Sports TV channel will air the match live from 7:30 am (BST).

The Gulf outfit, who participated in the 1996 World Cup this year, confirmed their berth in the 12-nation meet final defeating Fiji by five wickets in the second semifinal yesterday.

Batting first, the Pacific Islanders were all out for 138 in 36 overs.

In reply, UAE reached 140 in the 33rd over with five wickets to spare. Openers Salim Raza and Azhar Sayeed contributed 45 and 30 respectively.

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## Hartal observed in 2 hill districts

From Our Correspondent

RANGAMATI, Sept 14: A dawn-to-dusk hartal was observed in Rangamati and Khagrachhari hill districts peacefully today, barring a few sporadic incidents.

The hartal was called by the Parbatyia Gano Parishad protesting the killing of 28 woodcutters by the Shantibahini on Wednesday at Churakhali in

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## Exhibition of Construction Material & Methods on World Habitat Day

Venue : South lawn of Ramna Restaurant at Ramna Park

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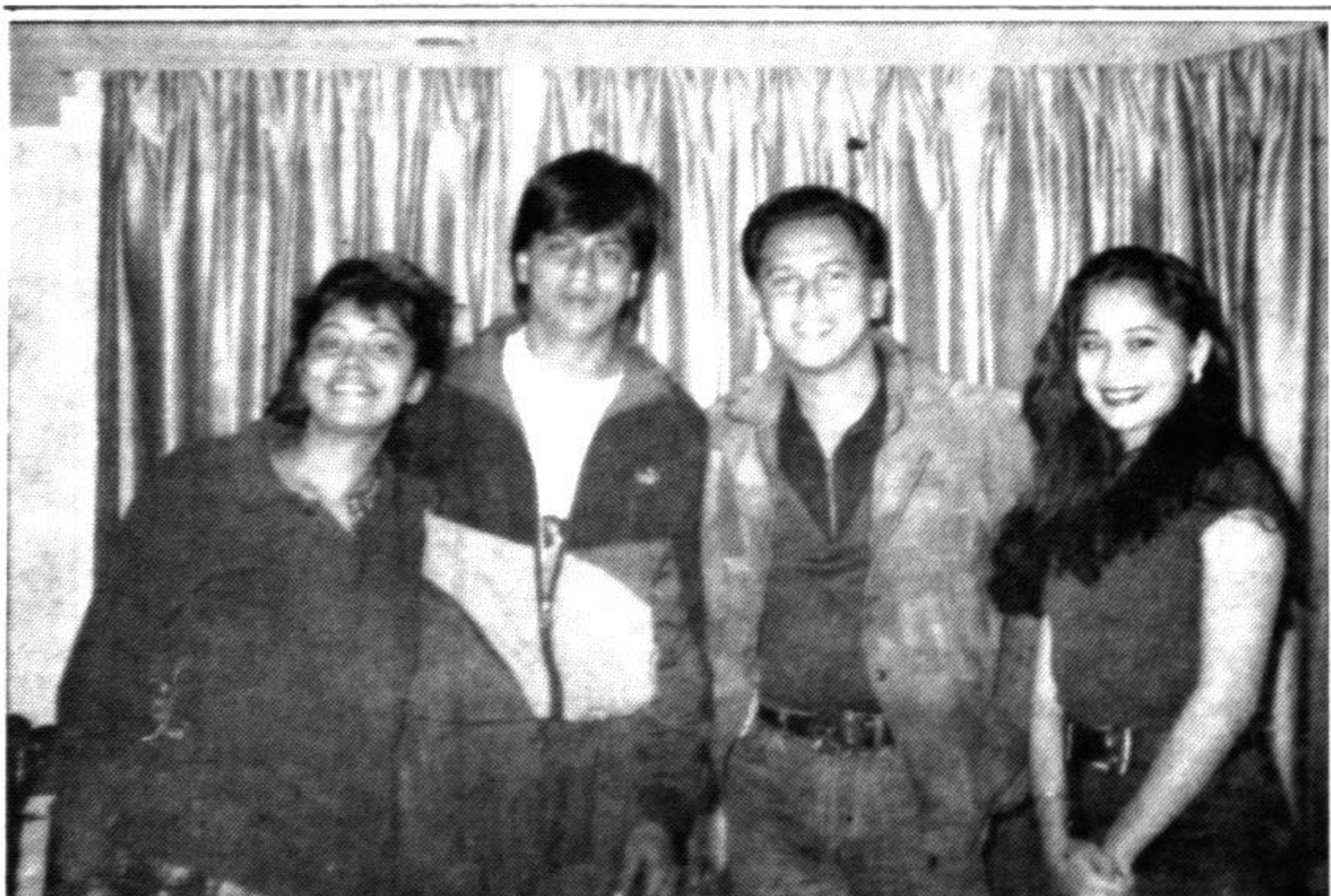
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S-523



From right — Sameera, Salman Shah, Sharooq Khan, the Bollywood superstar and his wife Gouri at a function in Bombay sometime early last year.

— Photo courtesy: Salman's family

## 'Salman, we will never forget you'

By Morshed Ali Khan

The staircase walls of the Green Road residence of Salman Shah's parents are inscribed with tributes to the dead film star. "Salman, you are alive! Emon where are you? You cannot die in this way. We will never forget you."

These are some of the innumerable writings on the wall jotted by hundreds of fans who thronged there after the news of Chowdhury Mohammad Shariar alias Emon's, better known as Salman Shah, premature death spread.

Salman Shah, one of the country's most popular new generation film stars, reportedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a ceiling fan at his 10th floor flat at Eskaton area of the city at about 11:30 am on September 6.

It has been reported that six teenagers, among thousands of avid fans of Salman, have

taken their own lives apparently failing to accept that their hero was no longer alive.

Following Salman's death, many, including the police and friends who knew him well, took little time to suspect that the suicide was probably a result of a four-year long strained conjugal life with Sameera.

But the parents and close relatives of Salman were not convinced. They alleged that their son was murdered. Although the first autopsy report showed that it was a suicidal death, Salman's dead body will be exhumed in Sylhet today for the second post mortem by order from the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court of Dhaka.

Considering the circumstances at the residence at the time of his death we are not at all convinced that Emon committed suicide," said a close

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