

**Flag meeting**  
BSF agrees to  
stop road  
construction

LALMONIRHAT, June 9: Bangladesh and India have withdrawn their troops after two days of tension in the Kuchlibari border in Patgram thana, following a flag meeting on Sunday night between the border guards of the two countries, reports UNB.

Local BDR jawans Saturday barred the Indian authorities from constructing a road in the 'no man's land' in Kuchlibari border of the district.

As the tension mounted, frontier forces of both the countries erected bunkers in their respective areas and took a face-to-face position with heavy weapons.

Later, a flag meeting was proposed by BDR and the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) agreed to sit for a meeting.

During the discussion, the Indian side agreed in principle to stop constructing the road.

It was also agreed in the flag meeting that a decision on the matter would be taken after a meeting between the Foreign Ministry officials of the two countries, sources said.

**IAF chopper landed  
at Chunarughat  
due to bad  
weather: Delhi**

The government of India yesterday formally informed the Bangladesh government that "An Indian helicopter strayed from its planned route due to bad weather on 20 May and was compelled to force-land in Bangladesh territory," an official handout said last night, reports BSS.

The Bangladesh government had lodged a protest to the Indian government asking reasons for violation of Bangladesh air space by an Indian Air Force helicopter that landed at Chunarughat in Habiganj district on May 20.

**Mine blast near  
Myanmar border  
kills Bangladeshi**

COX'S BAZAR, June 9: A Bangladeshi national was killed when a mine planted by Myanmar border security force went off in the deep forest of Waladong frontier in Naikongchhara thana of Bandarban district yesterday, reports UNB.

Family sources said Syed Ahmed, 35, of Chakobra village in Ukhia thana of Cox's Bazar was killed in the mine blast when he was collecting wood in the forest.

Ahmed went to the forest yesterday morning along with some other villagers and met the tragic end of his life at about 5 pm.

Being informed by the villagers, relatives of Ahmed recovered the body this morning.

**Barisal jail break  
incident: Charge  
framed against 40**

From Our Correspondent  
BARISAL, June 9: Kotwali police said, charge sheets have been framed against 40 persons for their involvement in the Barisal jail break incident last year.

They will be produced before court tomorrow.

**Inside Today**

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through Regional  
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## JS budget session begins today

By Staff Correspondent

The budget session of the Jatiya Sangsad begins at 4 pm today.

It is the fifth session of the seventh parliament.

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria will place the national budget for fiscal 1997-98 in the House on June 12 at 3:05 pm, said a government handout yesterday.

Bangladesh Betar will broadcast live the proceedings of the budget session it added.

The finance minister will also address a post-budget press conference at the NEC building at 10 am on June 13.

This will be the second national budget in the nearly one-year Awami League rule.

The AL government placed the first budget, prepared by the caretaker administration, in the first session of the present

parliament in July last year.

The finance minister is also due to place the revised budget for 1996-97 along with the new budget.

The JS Business Advisory Committee comprising representatives from both the Treasury and the Opposition benches is scheduled to meet at 10 this morning to decide the duration and business of the session.

Parliamentary parties of the ruling AL, the opposition BNP and the Jatiya Party will also meet separately today to decide their respective strategies on various issues to come up during the session.

The JS Secretariat received more than 2500 questions, some 3,000 resolutions and a good number of call attention notices until yesterday, sources concerned said, adding that the

secretariat was equipped with printed questions and their answers for the next 10 days.

The budget session is likely to be a lengthy one with members of the Treasury and the Opposition benches discussing the allocations and proposals. The House will pass the new budget by June 30.

The JS session is also likely to deal with a number of issues of political importance, including the parliamentary committee report on formation of JS standing committees on various ministries and four bills on local government bodies and two on checking repression on women.

Besides, the much-talked-about bill for separation of the judiciary may also come in this session.

### Bangabandhu murder case: Hearing resumes today

By Staff Correspondent

The hearing of the Bangabandhu murder case, which was stayed on May 6 by the court of District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka, is scheduled to resume today.

District and Sessions Judge Kazi Golam Rasul announced the stay order till June 10, following a defence petition that the High Court had stayed the proceedings of the case for a period of four weeks in its order on May 4.

A Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury and Justice Shahul Nayeem Momiruzzaman had passed the order upon a criminal revision petition filed by Zobaida Rashid, challenging the charge

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### Student bodies defy ban on CU campus

CHITTAGONG, June 9: The Islami Chhatra Shibir, Jatiya Sangsad and Ganotabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Ganotabadi Chhatra Okya today brought out processions and held rallies on the Chittagong University campus, defying the ban imposed by the authorities, reports UNB.

The university authorities yesterday clamped down on holding rallies, processions and gathering by student organisations on the campus and its adjoining areas till June 30.

The ban followed Saturday's bloody clash between two rival factions of Chhatra League that left two students injured.

Leaders of the student fronts who brought out processions and held rallies on the campus today said the authorities cannot impose such a ban on the

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### Two Bangladeshis killed in Kuwait mine blast

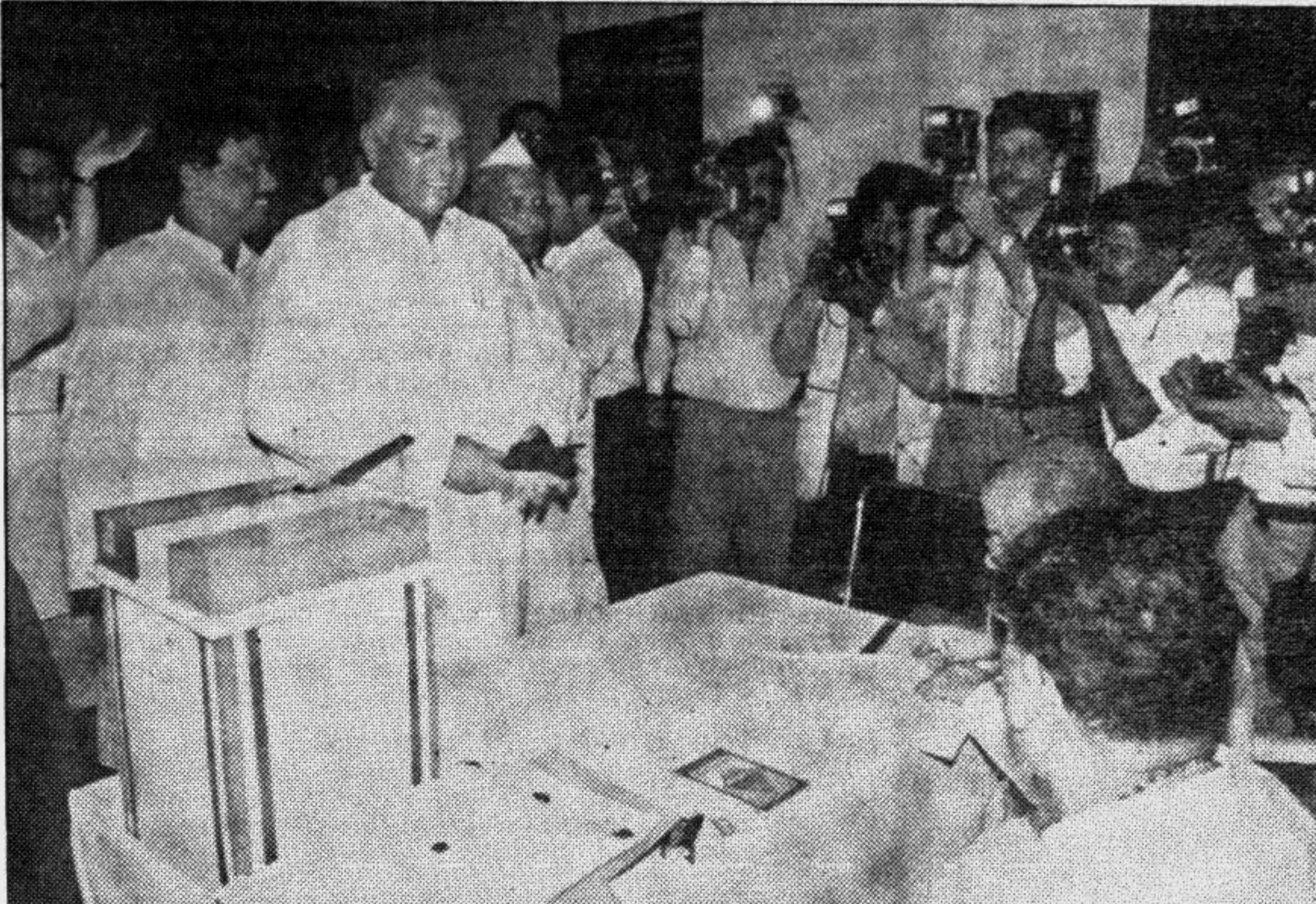
By Rafiq Hasan and Govinda Shil

KUWAIT CITY, June 9: Two Bangladeshi shepherds were killed when landmines exploded in the desert in southern Kuwait, the Interior Ministry said yesterday, reports AFP.

A ministry statement, carried by the official Kuwait news agency Kuna, did not say when the shepherds were killed by mines while working between the area of Minagish and Ahmed Al-Jaber airbase in the south of the country.

Kuwait was heavily mined by Iraqi troops after the invasion in August, 1990. A massive mine-clearing operation began after liberation in February 1991, but stray mines often exploded with fatal consequences.

"We want to see the continua-



Former chief minister of Maharashtra Sharad Pawar waits for the election officer to complete paper formalities, before casting his vote yesterday at Tilak Bhavan in Bombay for the Congress presidential election.

— AFP/UNB photo

### Pawar, Pilot allege rigging

## Kesri likely to retain Cong leadership

NEW DELHI, June 9: Congress presidential candidates Sharad Pawar and Rajesh Pilot today complained of rigging in the polls to pick a party leader through voting in more than four decades, report agencies.

Sitaram Kesri, who assumed the party presidency last September when former prime minister P V Narasimha Rao resigned in disgrace over a corruption scandal, was expected to cruise to victory in the three-man race to lead India's oldest party.

Returning Officer Oscar Fernandes clarified that the allegations by the two candidates would be looked into by the relevant authorities provided the charges were substantiated.

More than 95 per cent of about 8000 delegates today cast their vote to choose the party president.

The ballot boxes will be brought to Delhi from state capitals and counting will be held on June 12.

"I'm confident Congressmen will vote for the revival of the party," Pawar said after casting his vote in Bombay.

A Kesri aide said this afternoon that the party president had no plans to vote. Kesri had told reporters Sunday that he saw no need to vote for himself, and was confident of winning.

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## 11 state-owned textile mills Enhanced benefits for voluntary retirement

The workers and employees of 11 state-owned textile mills, who want to go on voluntary retirement, will be given additional financial facilities, a high-powered meeting decided yesterday.

Police also nabbed two other Shibir activists from Bamanikor village. The two were identified as Ali Azam and Hafiz Rahman Mintu.

With these arrests the total number of Shibir leaders and activists so far taken in custody has risen to 40.

The leaders of Jamaat city and district units have condemned the arrests.

As per the new decision, the workers and employees of the 11 mills, identified earlier, will be given enhanced facilities according to their duration of service.

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## Budget should be balanced & pro-investment: DCCI chief

By Rafiq Hasan and Govinda Shil

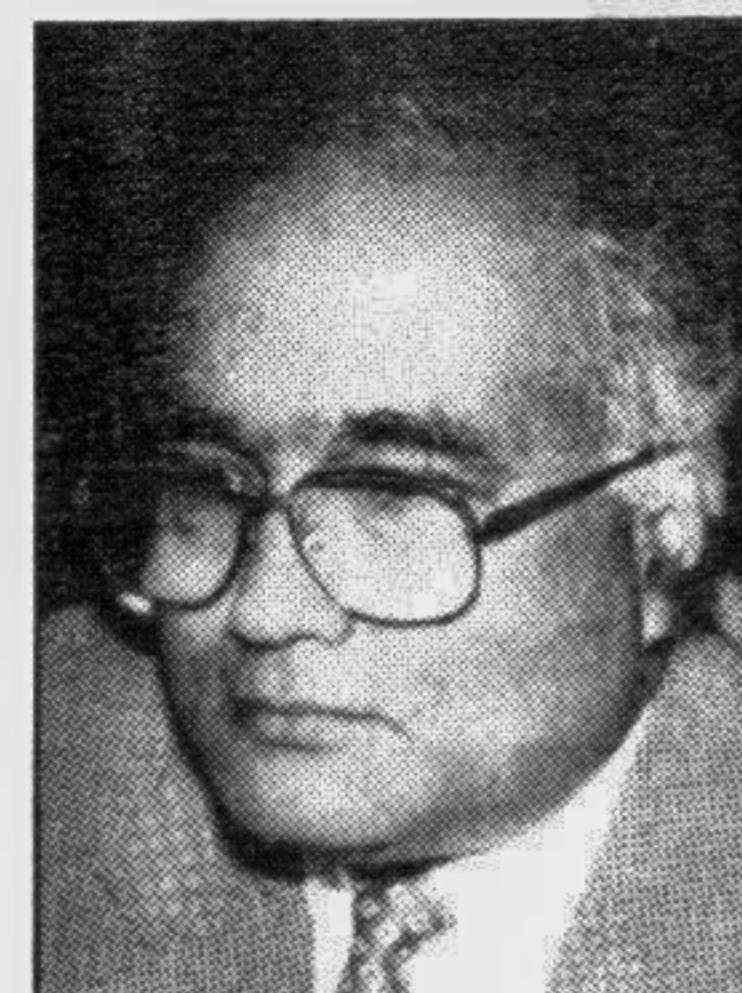
President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) A S M Quasem has said Bangladesh needs a "balanced and pro-investment" budget for its development.

In an interview with The Daily Star yesterday, Quasem, a leading garments manufacturer and chairman of Newage Group, emphasised the need for reforming the financial sector, improving infrastructure, strengthening the capital market and ensuring law and order.

He said the new budget need reform to give the banks the power to recover the bad loans. At present the laws are so complicated that it is difficult for them to recover defaulted loans, he added.

He said the banking laws need reform to give the banks the power to recover the bad loans. At present the laws are so complicated that it is difficult for them to recover defaulted loans, he added.

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ASM Quasem

## Accord with Indian team today 2 joint venture cement plants to be set up

Bangladeshi and Indian entrepreneurs will sign agreements today for setting up two joint venture cement plants, beginning a process for increased economic ties between Bangladesh and seven north-eastern states of India, reports UNB.

"Government has failed to achieve revenue target in the current year ... Development activities remain stopped. And it is paying salaries to government employees borrowing money from commercial banks," he told a public meeting here today.

The JP leader urged the government not to privatise public sector mills and factories without creating new employment opportunity for the workers.

The country has now become a market of India, he alleged, saying "border is today opened for free smuggling, resulting in the destruction of ruination of

With Indian raw materials, Indus Cement Plant of India will set up its venture with Future Trade BD Ltd either in Rajshahi or in Sylhet while Norpo

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**BISTEC accord**  
**Sub-regional  
airline to be  
established**

NEW DELHI, June 9: The just concluded meeting of sub-regional economic cooperation among Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand held in Bangkok has agreed to establish a sub-regional airline to be called BIST (Bangladesh-India-Sri Lanka-Thailand), Indian Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Salim I Shervani said here today, reports BSS.

Shervani, who is expected to take over as the Minister of State for External Affairs at any moment, led the Indian delegation to the meeting of Bangladesh-India-Sri Lanka-Thailand Economic Cooperation (BIST-EC).

He said it was agreed that technical experts from the four countries would study the establishment of the sub-regional airline and make recommendations. Thereafter, a meeting would be held to work out

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**2 accomplices of  
Sweden Aslam  
arrested in city**

Police in separate drives yesterday arrested four alleged terrorists, including two associates of Sweden Aslam, and recovered a stolen revolver and some ammunition, reports UNB.

A special team of detective branch raided West Tejtribazar area in Tejgaon thana at about 2 pm and arrested Abu Salam Saidur Rahim alias Tuhin, 33, a close associate of Aslam.

They also arrested Delwar Hossain, 20, from the area and, following their confessional statement, recovered 34 bullets from a cigarette carton at a grocery shop.

Aslam, arrested on May 19, is now on police remand under DB custody for the third consecutive time.

In another drive at Lalimata in Mohammadpur thana, the DB team arrested one "terrorist" Liton alias Ripon, 23, and picked up his friend Solaiman alias Sole, 21, from Dholakaiha area.

Acting on Solaiman's statement, police recovered a stolen .38 bore US-made revolver along with three empty cartridges from his Nasiruddin Sarder Lane house.

The revolver was stolen from Mohammadpur area on March 3.

**Charge framed  
against 7 in  
Abul Kashem  
murder case**

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, June 9: The District and Sessions Judge has framed charges against seven accused in the Abul Kashem murder case, reports UNB.

The name of another accused, Kazi Aminul Huq, a former KCC mayor, has been dropped from the charge.