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## Journalist killing Terrorist Shahid's mother arrested in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent  
KHULNA, July 29: Mother of terrorist Shahid was arrested by Daulatpur police from her Pabla residence today.  
Hosne Ara Begum, 42, allegedly carried the illegal firearms of her son from Khulna to Jessore and brought it back after journalist Shamsur Rahman was gunned down.  
Her son Shahid, 24, is one of the killers of Shamsur Rahman. CID police suspect.  
Shahid is one of the most trusted armed cadres of ward commissioner Litu. He was seen on the corridor of Jessore Janakantha office just few minutes before Shamsur Rahman was killed. It is learnt that firearms used to kill Rahman belongs to Shahid which his mother Hosne Ara carried from West Bania Khamar of Khulna town and stronghold of Asaduzzaman Litu.

Litu, Shahid and Hirok are the most wanted criminals for CID. KMP raided several shrimp enclosures of Khulna and Sakhira districts on Friday night to arrest Litu. Borders of Sakhira and Jessore have been alerted for preventing these three suspects from entering India.

Meanwhile, Hosne Ara is being grilled by police at Daulatpur thana for knowing whereabouts of her son and his firearms which she had carried to Jessore.

## Planting of bombs Six arrested in Bagerhat

From Staff Correspondent  
KHULNA, July 29: Rampal thana police in Bagerhat district arrested six persons on Friday for their alleged involvement in planting of bombs at Kotalpara on July 22.  
The arrested hail from Moksedpur thana of Gopalganj district.  
Police identified them as Mohammad Nasiruddin, 30, Ismail, 22, Osmar Gani, 50, Delwar Hossain, 24, Sarwar, 30, and Jamahuddin, 22.  
Police recovered some receipts for raising subscription from their possession.  
The arrested are now in Bagerhat jail.

## Ctg killings: Three accused sent to jail

CHITTAGONG, July 29: The CMM's Court today sent three of the five accused arrested in connection with Chittagong Killing Case to jail, reports UNB.  
They are Salahuddin, Ilyas and Alamgir.  
Soleman and others, now in Dhaka for interrogation, are likely to be brought to Chittagong tomorrow, police said.  
Sahedul Karim Hira, accused No 13, arrested on Friday was produced before the court that placed him on remand for three days.  
Police said they have ascertained the involvement of Soleman and Selim in the incident although their names were not mentioned in the FIR.  
Meanwhile, Jamaat-Shibir activists have fled the city in the face of continuous police raid.

**Inside Today**

**Article**

**Camp David Talks Falter over the Sovereignty of Arab East Jerusalem, Not All of Jerusalem**

Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed writes from Princeton

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July	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
July 30		6-43 pm
July 31	5:27 am	

**Prayer Timings**

July 30

	Azhan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:25	4:55
Zohr	1:00	1:30
Asr	5:00	5:15
Maghrib	6:55	6:58
Esha	8:15	8:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Olive branch to Kashmir militants Hurriyat welcomes Delhi's offer for unconditional talks

From Pallab Bhattacharya

NEW DELHI, July 29: In a major development, the government of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee has asked Hizbul Mujahideen, a major pro-Pakistan militant outfit which has declared unilateral ceasefire in Jammu and Kashmir state, to come overground and get in touch with the Home Ministry in New Delhi for initiating peace dialogue.  
The decision to invite the Hizbul was taken at a high-level meeting presided over by Vajpayee here late yesterday evening.  
This was the first formal response by Indian government to the three-month ceasefire announced by the militant outfit on Monday last. The truce had already been welcomed by Indian government and major political parties.  
Interestingly, the government statement last night did not tag the phrases "within the Indian Constitution" while extending the invitation to the Hizbul for the talks.  
Highly-placed officials, however, made it clear that talks can take place only within the ambit of Indian Constitution and there was no need to repeat this right at this point.  
The officials said the Indian government was bound by the Indian Constitution but last night's statement refrained from specifying the starting position for the proposed talks with the Hizbul, which is ready to negotiate, in order to ward off possibilities the dialogue getting scuttled even before it could take off.  
Indian officials here note that Hizbul's ceasefire offer is already under attack from other militant groups in Pakistan and the outfit has been expelled from United Jihad Council. Hizbul supreme commander Syed Salahuddin has been dismissed as Council Chairman for endorsing the ceasefire declaration first announced by Abdul Majid Dar, the self-proclaimed chief commander of the group in Jammu and Kashmir.  
Official circles here apprehend that militant groups and

## Amu's last show of strength, Elen fears repeat of Magura

From Shehab Ahmed

JHALAKATI, July 29: All eyes were riveted on the July 31 parliamentary by-election in Jhalakathi-2 constituency where electioneering comes to an end at midnight tonight.  
In a grand finale today, Awami League heavyweight and Food Minister Amir Hossain Amu led a huge procession of his supporters carrying the party symbol 'boat' in this sleepy southern town.  
The ruling party candidate's hectic campaign so far was also joined by about a dozen other ministers, state ministers, deputy ministers, around two dozen MPs and a number of party leaders.  
In sharp contrast to this, Amu's rival independent candidate Elen Bhutto, conducted a low profile campaign. She is the widow of Jatiya Party (Mizan-Manju) MP Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto who won this seat in 1986, 1988 and 1996 elections. The seat fell vacant following his death recently.  
Eight others are also contesting the by-election virtually without campaigning. The mainstream opposition parties are staying off the polls.  
Amu gave the finishing touch to his campaign at Nlacity, where Elen had concentrated her hopes seeking support from all.  
Elen also campaigned at Jhalakathi at the same time when the AL stalwart displayed his party strength, mobilising hundreds for today's procession in the district town.  
She however conducted a door to door campaign, accompanied by close relations including her brother, a local AL leader from Mehendiganj.  
Elen told newsmen she feared that the polls might be a repetition of Magura or Tangail by-polls. "With the presence of so many unknown faces, guns and flexing of muscles here and there, we are apprehensive of the election result."  
She also reiterated her allegation against Deputy Commissioner of Jhalakathi Bimal Kumar Kundu, who is Returning Officer for the polls, of being partisan. But she did not cite any instance to support her allegation.  
Amu dismissed the allegation.  
See page 12 col 5

## BB authority challenged SIBL refuses to supply documents to investigate alleged staff harassment

By Monjur Mahmud

The authority of Bangladesh Bank was challenged by a private commercial bank when the central bank sent an inspection team to investigate a case following an allegation of staff harassment.  
According to sources, a central bank inspection team asked the Social Investment Bank Limited (SIBL) to supply documents on appointment of some employees who were later suspended, sued or dismissed after submission of their resignation letters. But the bank refused to provide the documents.  
Earlier, 22 employees of SIBL alleged that they were being harassed by the management of the bank, particularly its chairman, who allegedly misused his power and violated banking laws.  
Flouting banking laws, SIBL Chairman MA Mannan issued an office order on May 8 last year to its Managing Director soon after resignation of the employees, advising him not to release any of its staff without his (Chairman) prior approval.  
Banking laws empower the managing director to hire or terminate employees.  
According to sources, the 22 bankers resigned on different grounds from May 1999 to January 2000 and requested the management several times to release them from their services.  
Instead of releasing them, the SIBL management started issuing suspension letters, filing cases and dismissing one after another on various pretexts.  
With launching of some new banks, different banks are now facing serious crisis of manpower in executive posts. Some banks have upgraded pay scales and offered more benefits to employees.  
As per banking rules, these bankers can not work for other banks unless they have release orders from their previous banks.  
"We have formally requested the Bangladesh Bank Governor and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance Ministry regarding our problem but we are yet to get any result," said one of 22 employees.  
Anisur Rahman Akand, an IT expert, was among those who resigned on December 15 last year. The bank did not bring any charge against him when he handed over his charge on December 22 but filed a criminal case against him.  
See page 12 col 4

## Check unplanned urbanisation Implement policies properly to protect environment

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a roundtable in the city yesterday stressed the need for formulation of a policy to check unplanned urbanisation to protect the environment from further deterioration.  
The roundtable on "Unplanned Urbanisation and its Effects on Environment" was organised by students of Urban and Regional Planning Department of BUET at its auditorium.  
Editor of daily Prothom Alo, Matirur Rahman, moderated the discussion, participated by town planners, environmentalists, teachers and government officials.  
Prof. MA Motin of BUET said the previous generation did not take any initiative to check deterioration of the environment. "There was no environmental problem 30 years ago. But the situation has become vulnerable now due to lack of consciousness of our earlier generation," he said.  
"Consciousness will not be enough now. Proper steps and their implementation are needed now to cope with the situation," he added.  
He said over 70 per cent areas of Dhaka city including Lalmatia, Mohammadpur, Rampura and Kalabagan have grown in an unplanned way.

**প্রথম আলো** SHELTECH গোলটেবিল ষষ্ঠিক

"অপরিকল্পিত নগরায়ণ ও পরিবেশের উপর এর প্রভাব"

নগর ও অঞ্চল পরিকল্পনা বিভাগের ছয়-ছয়টি বৃহৎ প্রকল্প



Roundtable on 'Unplanned Urbanisation and its Effects on Environment' in progress at the BUET auditorium yesterday.

— Star photo



'Honourable Mayor, please take steps to eradicate mosquitoes,' reads a placard at a rally brought out by students of Pharmacy Department of Dhaka University on the campus yesterday. The spate of dengue fever has already claimed at least a dozen lives in the city.

## Sharing of seats becoming 'apple of discord'

Three partners now unhappy with BNP

By Rezaul Karim

Three component parties of the four-party opposition alliance are unhappy with the BNP for its refusal to reach an early agreement with them on sharing of seats for contesting the next general election under an electoral alliance.  
Sources concerned said mistrust and misunderstanding among the alliance partners, particularly between BNP and Jatiya Party, have now further increased. This is gradually weakening the possibility of the four parties' participation in the next election under a single banner.  
BNP identified JP as the main obstruction to its move for formation of a broad-based electoral alliance for contesting the polls to defeat Awami League and form a coalition government in future.  
The sources said BNP agrees to hold preliminary discussion on sharing of seats and finalise it after announcement of the polls schedule, but JP wants final settlement of the issue now.  
The main opposition party is firm not to bow down to growing pressure from its allies—JP, Jamaat-e-Islami and IOJ -- for reaching an early settlement and making a formal announcement based on a written agreement in this respect.  
JP Chief H M Ershad has apparently threatened to quit the alliance if BNP fails to settle the seat sharing issue and refused to go for an advance announcement about jointly contesting the polls, some sources said.  
Despite all this, they said, BNP stuck to its position and categorically informed its allies that it would not go for finalising sharing of seats and a written agreement in this regard right now.  
BNP sources said though the party is "very much" interested to maintain unity of the alliance and unitedly fight against Awami League government, contest polls and form the next government, it would not mind if any of its allies wants to quit.  
A top BNP leader said finalising sharing of the 300 parliament seats at such an early stage would be 'suicidal for all', especially for the largest opposition party, because this would lead to serious conflicts within the party.  
See page 11 col 7

## Speaker not neutral, Dutch envoy shares view with Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

The outgoing Ambassador of the Netherlands said yesterday he shares the view of the main opposition BNP that the Speaker of the parliament is not neutral.  
Dick Ben Haas, the Dutch envoy, said that he along with other envoys of the European Union met with Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury recently and it appeared to him that the opposition's allegation has substance.  
The ambassador said this when he paid a farewell call on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia at her official residence in the city yesterday evening.  
Briefing newsmen after the meeting, BNP chairperson's Advisory Council member MM Rezaul Karim said the Dutch ambassador expressed his opinion after Khaleda Zia explained to him why the opposition is staying off the parliament.  
About the Public Safety Act, Haas said lawmakers in the Dutch parliament raised a lot of questions about the law and criticised it when it was passed in parliament in February.  
The MPs in Netherlands had also apprehended that there is a possibility of violation of human rights in Bangladesh after the passage of the act, he added.  
Azizul Haq said 20 per cent open space is needed to keep the city's environment suitable for human habitation. But it is only five per cent, he said.  
Housing and Public Works Secretary Quamrul Islam Siddiqui identified "ignorance"

**আমরা কৃতজ্ঞ**

বাংলাদেশ থাই এ্যালুমিনিয়ামের অগণিত সম্মানিত ক্রেতাদের আমদের উৎকৃষ্ট মানের দেশজ পণ্যের প্রতি অত্যন্ত আন্তরিকতা প্রকাশ করেছেন সে জন্য আমরা আন্তরিকভাবে কৃতজ্ঞ।

**সবার উপলক্ষিঃ**

- "থাই এ্যালুমিনিয়াম" বলতে শুধুমাত্র বিটিএ উৎপাদিত সেকশনকেই বুঝায়।
- বিটিএ ছাপমুক্ত মোড়ক দেখে পণ্য ক্রয় করে প্রতারণা এড়াতে সক্ষম হয়েছেন।
- জনগণতান, মজবুত, বং, পুরুত্ব ও অন্যান্য সকল বিষয়ে বিটিএ সেকশনের তুলনা নেই।
- একমাত্র বিটিএ 'ই' রয়েছে সর্বাধুনিক প্রযুক্তি, অত্যাধুনিক আমেরিকান মেশিনারিজ, সঠিক কাঁচামাল ও সুদক্ষ কারিগর যা ছাড়া উৎকৃষ্ট এ্যালুমিনিয়াম সেকশন প্রস্তুত আদৌ সম্ভব নয়।

এ্যালুমিনিয়াম সেকশন সংগ্রহের ক্ষেত্রে একমাত্র বিটিএ অনুমোদিত ডিলারের নিকট থেকে ক্রয় করাই নিরাপদ।

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