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# Israel cordons off Arafat's HQ again

AFP, Ramallah  
Israeli forces backed by dozens of tanks again took over Ramallah early yesterday, sealing off Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's compound as they pressed ahead with a new crackdown on militants.  
Israeli helicopters also fired missiles at two cars on the southern Gaza Strip, killing six Palestinians, Palestinian hospital sources said. Palestinian security officials called the deaths a "targeted assassination."  
At the same time, Palestinian security officers, often criticised for not doing enough to stop a wave of suicide bombings, put the spiritual leader of the Islamic radical movement Hamas under house arrest in Gaza City.

Palestinian security sources said some 50-60 tanks, armoured personnel carriers and other vehicles rolled into Ramallah before dawn, with at least two helicopter gunships in support.  
The Israelis imposed a curfew on Ramallah, the al-Amari refugee camp and the neighbouring town of al-Bireh. About 20 tanks and armoured personnel carriers also patrolled the suburb of Beitunia, which they entered four days ago.  
The Israelis surrounded Arafat's already-battered compound after briefly sending in three tanks. They began sealing off access roads in their third major incursion here this month, according to the security sources and an

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Gory reality... the emergency ward No. 30 at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) looks like a battle ground with blood and dirt all around yesterday. There has been no cleanliness drive to give some comfort to the wounded who languish in squalid condition.

## HC verdict on extension of detention under SPA stayed

BSS, Dhaka  
The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday stayed the High Court verdict regarding extension of detention under the Special Powers Act till August 17.  
The Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice KM Hasan passed the order upon a petition placed before the court by the government.  
Attorney General A F Hasan Arif along with Additional Attorney General Abdur Razak Khan, Deputy Attorney General Ataur Rahman Khan and Adilur Rahman placed the petition before the court.  
A High Court division bench comprising Justice Mohammad

## Faces fixed for free

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
One hundred children from poor rural families in Dhaka district have got back normal look following surgery for cleft lip free of cost.  
They were operated upon at nine 'cleft lip (disjointed lip) mobile camps' in different areas of the district in the last months.  
A team of surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses and health technologists led by Dr Samanta Lal Sen, chief of the 50-bed Burn Unit and Plastic Surgery department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), conducted the surgeries voluntarily.  
"We intend to continue the process and our target is doing operation on 500 more children by the year end," said Dr Sen.  
The camps were jointly initiated by the Burn Unit and the Anaesthesia Department of the DMCH. Sixteen children underwent surgery at the ninth camp at Savar Thana Health Complex on Friday.

Prof Khalilur Rahman, who headed the anesthesia team, said, "I think more such camps should be organised in other medical specialities. There are many poor people who live with congenital defects, but simple and cheap surgery can end their sufferings and mental pains."  
Fulmala, a domestic help who was among those operated upon at Savar, happily said, "Earlier, my parents took me to hospitals several times, but they could not afford to meet the expenses for operation. But now I am happy that my ugly look is gone."  
The camps were organised with financial support from a number of voluntary organisations including Spandan B and Humanity Without Borders, both organisations of expatriate Bangladeshis in the USA, and British Women Association. Dr Ferdousy of Asiana Foundation has donated some instruments for the operations.

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## Bagerhat BNP leader shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna  
Abdur Rashid Khan, 45, joint convenor of Morralganj upazila unit of BNP and former chairman of Ramchandrapur Union Parishad in Bagerhat was hacked and gunned down by eight unidentified armed men yesterday.  
According to witnesses, the assailants swooped on him while he was going to upazila headquarters at about 11 am.  
They hacked Rashid and then shot him point blank at Ramchandrapur bus stand. He died

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## Police informant shot in city

UNB, Dhaka  
A police informant was shot by unidentified criminals in the city's Gopibag Mathgoli area yesterday afternoon.  
Police said the hooligans sprayed bullets on Babul, 18, son of Idris Ali and informant of Demra police station, when he was returning home from his workplace at about 4 pm.  
Babul, who received bullets in his chest and leg, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition.  
A case was filed.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
June 25		6-50 pm
June 26	5-13 am	
Prayer Timings		
June 25		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-55	6-59
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

# US believes Laden hiding in Pakistan

AFP, Washington  
The head of the US Senate intelligence committee on Sunday said Washington believes Osama bin Laden is hiding out in western Pakistan, hours after an al-Qaida spokesman said bin Laden is alive and warned the United States to "fasten its seat belt" for more attacks.  
"Our best intelligence estimate continues to be that he is alive and probably somewhere in those tribal areas on the western side of Pakistan," Senator Bob Graham told Fox television.  
Earlier Sunday, Suleiman Abu Ghayth -- a spokesman for bin Laden's al-Qaida network, which has been blamed for the September 11 attacks on the United States -- told Qatar-based Al-Jazeera television that bin Laden and his network were alive and well and that "America must prepare itself and fasten its seat belt."  
"We will arrive from where they (Americans) are not expecting."  
Though the White House kept silent on the matter Sunday, several congressmen expressed their concern

on local talk shows.  
Reacting to the news, Graham, a Florida Democrat, said that "what we have seen is a disturbing pattern of the reformulation of al-Qaida and their renewed willingness and capability to conduct terrorist attacks."  
He pointed particularly to the April 11 attack on a synagogue in Djerba, Tunisia.  
"The attack against a Jewish synagogue in Tunisia has now been linked to al-Qaeda. The fact that there was a propane truck used in the destruction of the synagogue in Tunisia sent a signal that this was a new form of terrorist attack which al-Qaeda had perfected," Graham said.  
The attack killed 19 people, including 14 German tourists.  
Senator John Kerry, a Massachusetts Democrat and a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told NBC television Sunday that Afghanistan's former ruling Taliban militia had been only a collateral target and that the real mission had failed.

## Govt seeks stay on HC order on Speedy trial law

UNB, Dhaka  
The government yesterday moved the Supreme Court seeking stay on operation of Sunday's High Court order stopping proceedings of a criminal case at Lalmonirhat under the Speedy Trial Law.  
The High Court on Sunday also asked the government to explain why the law should not be declared "unconstitutional and void".  
Attorney General A F Hasan Arif moved the petition before the chamber judge, Justice KM Hasan. He was strongly opposed by Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmood.  
After hearing their contentions, the judge directed that the petition be heard by the full bench of the Supreme Court on June 26.

## Pvt TVs barred again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
The authorities once again prevented the private television channels from covering the proceedings of the House yesterday, the day the main opposition Awami League made its maiden appearance in the eighth parliament.  
The state-run Bangladesh

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# WB questions size, quality of ADP

STAR REPORT  
The World Bank has said that the size of the annual development programme (ADP) in the proposed budget is excessive and continues to include activities which have questionable public sector rationale, and the achievement of the overall FY03 fiscal targets will depend on strong revenue performance.  
"The FY03 ADP comprises 1,098 projects in the main programme, including 188 new projects and 242 unapproved projects. These projects questionable on grounds of low or doubtful public sector rationale and priority; low or doubtful commercial viability; and low efficiency and equity," the WB said in its Periodic Economic Update, June 2002, released yesterday.  
The FY03 budget does not provide an overall indication about the government plans to reduce the quasi-fiscal deficit, which has been sizeable (2-3 per cent of GDP) in recent years. It is likely to remain large unless major reforms in the privatisation and management of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) are undertaken. Except for manpower rationalisation, the budget did not include significant initiatives to achieve these objectives, it added.  
"The revenue-GDP ratio is projected to increase by 1.1 percentage of GDP. If achieved, this would set another new record in Bangladesh's revenue mobilisation effort over a period of one year."  
Although the income tax exemption threshold has been reduced from Tk 100,000 to Tk 75,000, agricultural income remains exempt, and this threshold is high by regional standards and given Bangladesh's

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## 'Death threat' to Babar Jamuna Group owner quizzed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Chairman of Jamuna Group Nurul Islam Babul was yesterday interrogated by three different intelligence agencies following his alleged threat on the life of State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar.  
Sources said upon being instructed by the prime minister, a Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC) comprising the SB (Special Branch), CID (Criminal Investigation Department) and NSI (National Security Intelligence) interrogated Babul for four hours non-stop from 11:00am at the SB office yesterday.

Babul, who is also the owner of Daily Jugantar, was questioned about his source of income as well as the property and businesses he owns.  
Babul has been instructed to be present at the SB office today for further interrogation.  
According to the general diary (GD) filed by the minister, Babul verbally abused Babar and threatened to kill him after he (Babar) opposed issuance of the liquor manufacturing licence to Jamuna Group and was instrumental in canceling it.

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## No office for women ward commissioners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
The 30 newly elected women ward commissioners of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) are facing problems in conducting duties for lack of office space in their constituencies.  
The commissioners are now pursuing the matter with Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka.  
The Nagar Bhaban officials said they are looking into ways to provide them with offices by accommodating them in local DCC-owned community centres. In many of these centres, male ward commissioners have their offices. They (male commissioners) may be asked to share offices with women ward commissioners.

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