

# Scuffle at SC Bar

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 Later, Ozaer Faruk told journalists that the BNP-leaning lawyers attacked him with heavy objects and that he was considering taking legal actions against them.  
 On the other hand, Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan, a BNP lawmaker, told journalists, "This meeting was illegal. We did not throw anything on him (the Bar president) rather, we have returned it to him."  
 A few hours after this scuffle, the AL-leaning lawyers regrouped in another venue and resumed the requisition meeting.  
 The meeting adopted a resolution urging the prime minister to confirm the appointment of the three judges under Article 95 of the constitution for the continuity of constitutional convention.  
 "The twelve-member delegation headed by Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed has been authorised to meet the prime minister on behalf of the Supreme Court Bar Association."  
 Meanwhile, the Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum (JAF) — the platform of the BNP-leaning lawyers — also held a meeting and demanded resignation of Ozaer Faruk as the president of the Supreme Court Bar Association.  
 The JAF earlier held a meeting at noon at South Hall of the Bar Association auditorium and discussed appointment of judges. The meeting observed that the JAF members were being deprived of being appointed as judges and to the office of the attorney general.  
 They blamed the ministers who are also lawyers and the Attorney General for failing to uphold their interests. The JAF also distributed leaflets in the Supreme Court against Barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed and Attorney General AF Hasan Arif warning that the JAF would not accept lawyers who are junior associates of Ishtiaq or Arif.

# Amu chargesheeted

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 'unofficials notes' for issuance of 52 delivery orders for procurement of one lakh tons of rice under his quota as minister, ignoring government views. He then ordered purchase of the rice at a rate higher than the market rate. As a result, the government incurred a loss of Tk 20 crore.  
 An inspector of the Bureau of Anti-corruption (BAC), Mohammad Abdul Majed, filed the case against on January 8 this year.  
 In the second case filed with the same police station, it has been alleged that as food minister, Amu misappropriated Tk 16.95 crore by procuring foodgrains (rice and wheat) through dealers of his own choice.  
 Another inspector of the BAC, Syed Tabsurul Haq, filed the case against on March 7.  
 The IOs of the cases got approval from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for submission of charge sheets on June 26.  
 In the first case, 16 people and in the second case, 14 people were shown as prosecution witnesses.

# Applications cancelled

**BSS, Dhaka**  
 The government has cancelled all previous applications seeking lease of government land for the construction of hotels and motels in Cox's Bazar.  
 According to an official release, an inter-ministerial meeting yesterday also decided to amend the guidelines of 1998 for leasing out government land for hotels and motels.  
 Chaired by Land Minister M Shamsul Islam, the meeting was attended by State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin, State Minister for Communications Saiah Uddin Ahmed and the secretaries concerned.  
 The meeting decided that all applications seeking lease of land process by the deputy commissioner of Cox's Bazar before sending to the Ministry of Land. The Ministry of Land will finalise the allotment after getting no objection from the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, the release said.

# 4 arrested

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 Following the complaint, police started looking for the criminals. They found the station wagon bearing registration number Chittagong metro-Kha-11-0435 that was used in the incident at Kamarpara, Kuril. Police later arrested Mahub Alam, Mohammad Rumman, Mohammad Ratan and Mohammad Reaz in connection with the killing. Police said the arrested persons admitted their involvement in the mugging and killing incident.  
 The police also recovered goods snatched from Hye. These included two black briefcases, 30 soaps, six packs of ball pen, body lotion, powder, shampoo, shirts, T-shirts, trousers and a blanket.  
 Hye returned after three years of service in Malaysia and was on his way to his village home when the muggers stopped the cab at the Progoti Saroni at Natunbazar and threw him out of the car.

# Save Ashuliya

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 without any official clearance.  
 As the protesters in colourful placards and banners yesterday shouted slogans against the developer, more than 200 dredgers lay idle some 500 metres away. Under the bridge of the Ashuliya Road, dozens of earth carrying cargo vessels waited for unloading.  
 Local people said the filling-up was stopped after the police asked the contractor to do so. But a day later, the developer restarted the operation at night and since then the filling-up has been going on under the cover of darkness.  
 Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed, one of the leading protesters, said thousands of city dwellers visit Ashuliya for recreation and it is everyone's responsibility to protect it. Moreover, he pointed out, the area is designated as a flood-flow zone, which would cause environmental disaster once filled up.  
 "We are urging the government to protect this water body and save our environment," said Sayeed.  
 Naser Khan of Paribesh Rakhya Andolon said the citizens would soon form a 'people's court' to try

Rajuk and others who 'plunder' the environment without regard to life. He urged the government to immediately stop the earth filling operation and recover the land.  
 "We demand immediate removal of the earth which has been already dumped at the site," said Naser.  
 AKM Serajul Islam, another protester, termed the operation 'an act of land piracy' and urged everyone to resist the developer.  
 The rally was addressed by, among others, Moidul Haque Khan, Major (ret'd) Ferdous, Dr Mahub Hossain, Zakir Hossain and Ahmed Majhar.  
 At the end of the rally, the protesters marched on the Ashuliya Road chanting slogans.

# SSC results

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 hard, examinees under that board will be granted a grace mark in the subject.  
 About 12 lakh candidates across the country took the SSC examinations this year under nine education boards including Madrassah Board and Technical Education Board.

# Housewife

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 Rashid was given Tk 15 lakh as dowry after his marriage with Bakul, but lately he had been pressing for another Tk 2 lakh and a car.  
 Noor Mohammad said that a few days ago, Bakul had told her mother that Rashid might kill her any time.  
 He said Bakul had talked to him over the phone at around 9:00pm Sunday and that she sounded perfectly all right at that time.  
 According to the hotel guard, Rashid called him at around 11:45pm Sunday saying that Bakul got hurt after slipping on the floor, and that she was later taken to the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital and subsequently shifted to the DMCH where attending doctors declared her dead.  
 Sources said Rashid's parents also went to the residence of Bakul's parents at about 2:45am yesterday and told them that their daughter was sick. This happened an hour after Bakul was declared dead by doctors at the hospital.  
 Also, Rashid had first told his in-laws that Bakul succumbed to her injuries she had received after slipping on the floor, but he later claimed that Bakul committed suicide.  
 Rashid has been absconding since the incident. The couple was married about 2 years ago and has a nine-month-old son Iftae.  
 On the basis of the complaint lodged by the victim's father, Ramna police arrested Rashid's parents Alhaj Dr. Abdul Kashem and Noor Jahan Begum, and a guard of the hotel on charges of suspected involvement in the murder of Bakul and concealing information about the murder.  
 A murder case was filed with Ramna Police Station.

# AL procession

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 city AL leaders addressed the rally, protesting last Saturday's arrest of Sayeed Khokon, an AL nominee in the last parliamentary polls from the Dhaka-7 constituency.  
 During the protest, the city AL has already called a 6:00am to 12:00 noon hartal in the Dhaka city on July 4.

# Graft case

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 Court, Dhaka. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Ayub ordered transfer of the case to the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court on June 19.  
 In the case filed with Tejgaon Police Station, it was alleged that Hasina in connivance with former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, former principal secretary Dr SA Samad and Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) Brigadier General MAB Siddiq Talukder unnecessarily employed a lobbyist in the United States for garment industries that caused a loss of Tk 2.1 crore to the country's economy.  
 Later, the name of Siddiq Talukder was dropped from the chargesheet, as the allegation against him was not proved during investigation.  
 Fifteen people were shown as prosecution witnesses in the chargesheet.

# AL MPs eager

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 ment would continue for at least a week. The main opposition party does not want to miss whatever chances they get to speak on the floor of the House about 'failures' of this government on different fronts.  
 Before boycotting the House sittings from June 27, AL lawmakers joined the 8th parliament's session for the first time on June 24, putting an end to its boycott from the very beginning.  
 Party sources also mentioned that ending the prolonged boycott and joining the budget session were appreciated by different sections of the people as well as professional groups.  
 But the main opposition party earnestly expects that the ruling alliance would be more 'reasonable' in its attitude towards the opposition and stop 'repression' on AL leaders and workers by implicating them in 'false' cases, they said.  
 The AL is also attaching much importance to the remaining sittings of the current session of the House because of the possibility of formation of parliamentary standing committees on different ministries, they noted.

# Savings schemes

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 were up to 15.75 per cent in the eighth year beginning from 8.75 per cent in the first year. The five-year family savings certificate had 12.92 per cent interest, the half yearly profit giving instruments had 12 per cent and the three-year collateral saving certificate had six per cent interest rates.  
 Besides, the government has also reduced the limit of saving instrument purchase. Earlier, an individual could buy the three-month profit giving certificates worth up to Tk 20 lakh and up to Tk 40 lakh in share with other individuals. But now, a person can buy this instrument up to 15 lakh or up to Tk 30 lakh in share with others.  
 Banks, insurance companies, educational institutions and voluntary organisations have been restricted from buying such instruments.



A woman wades through the knee-deep stagnated rainwater in the city's Rajarbagh area yesterday.

# Taxing knowledge

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 per cent PSI service charge for imported magazines.  
 Talking to different magazine importing companies, they all expressed surprise at how newsmagazines were to go through pre-shipment inspections. The time required by a PSI would turn the magazines stale, as even a day's delay in delivery will make them completely out of date.  
 "Who will do the PSI for say TIME or Newsweek in Singapore from where the South Asian version is printed and distributed? A PSI requirement will mean a delay by at least three to four days," said a magazine importer.  
 Another importer said PSI for newsmagazines are not carried out even by extremely politically sensitive countries. Such countries usually censor 'indecent' contents on arrival at the airport or decide to ban them.  
 Following an amendment made some years back, the pre-shipment requirement of magazines had been technically lifted

after the major importers were given responsibility to screen any contents offensive to religious or social sensitivity and inform government representatives to consider a ban. They also had to submit a copy to an intelligence agency, in this case the Special Branch (SB) of Police.  
 A case in point was a ban on Newsweek for carrying a sketch of the Holy Prophet and the most recent case was a ban on an issue of the Far Eastern Economic Review (FEER) after it carried a distorted and biased report against Bangladesh.  
 A Dhaka University professor, not having any political affiliations told The Daily Star that the greatest irony of any ban is the contents no longer remain out of circulation but gather momentum and these days with the Internet, almost every magazine can be downloaded.  
 Bangladesh, also continues to be one of the few countries where the taxation on knowledge is one of the highest. Importers of foreign magazines have to declare they have not imported books and maga-

zines over one thousand dollars.  
 Although the government permits individuals to carry up to five thousand dollars for those travelling abroad, the ceiling of one thousand dollars on imports of books and magazines is restrictive and should be raised to help scholars, researchers and students pursuing higher knowledge. Several academics hold this view.  
 "Even serious scholars in the pursuit of knowledge, cannot acquire through a lifetime of travel what they can acquire by reading in a year," commented a businessman whose hobby is reading.  
 Despite a written petition by five leading importers, this adverse provision for imported magazines was not lifted during the passage of the budget.  
 "This perhaps could be done through an Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO)" another importer added.  
 NBR officials were not available for comments or clarification on the subject.

# Flair wins over ethics

**FROM PAGE 1**  
 The Inter Milan star only returned to the national team in March after a series of severe injuries had threatened to cut his career short at the age of just 25.  
 In 1998 he suffered a mysterious seizure just hours before the World Cup final against France, yet controversially played anyway as Brazil were beaten.  
 But Ronaldo's two goals on Sunday laid to rest his nightmare of four years ago once and for all — and saw him finish the World Cup as top scorer with eight goals in seven matches.  
 "It's a fantastic feeling to be a Brazilian tonight," an overjoyed Ronaldo said. "The whole squad has worked very hard. I worked for two and a half years to be here tonight. We are all so happy to have landed this fifth championship."  
 Brazil's victory was a popular end to a World Cup, which will go down as one of the most entertaining in the tournament's 72-year history.  
 The number of goals may have been fewer than in France 1998 — 161 in 64 matches compared to 171 — but the drama and excitement quotients far exceeded anything seen four years ago.  
 Senegal's stunning 1-0 upset of holders France in the opening game set the tone for much of the tournament, inspiring other so-called minnows to turn tail and start taking bites out of the big fish.  
 Incredibly, by the completion of the first round, the two pre-tournament favourites Argentina and France had been sent packing,

along with Portugal. Arguably the most thrilling upset came with South Korea's 2-1 golden goal win over Italy.  
 Ahn Jung-Hwan's header in extra-time saw Italy revisit their 1966 World Cup humiliation against North Korea. Italy, convinced of a conspiracy, cried foul as did Spain, South Korea's next victims in the quarter-finals.  
 Meanwhile, one image encapsulated the fall of France — Zinedine Zidane, the hero of the 1998 final, with his face in the turf after bravely trying to create the magic he and his teammates needed to stay in the tournament against Denmark.  
 Struggling with a heavily strapped thigh, he failed miserably to spark Les Bleus' much-vaunted attack into life and they somehow failed to score a single goal in the tournament, the worst ever performance by a holder.  
 Their conquerors in the opening match Senegal, ironically playing with a side made up entirely of players based in France, eventually went all the way to the last eight, equalling the best performance by an African side in World Cup history.  
 The style in which Senegal's success was achieved also suggested a bright future for coach Bruno Metsu's squad, with striker El-Hadji Diouf and midfielder Saïf Dia among the stars of the World Cup.  
 "We can be proud of what we have achieved," Metsu said. "We have come here and shown that we were capable of upsetting the hierarchy of world football."

Argentina never recovered from losing to England and their hopes ended in tears after a 1-1 draw with Sweden when only a win would have taken them through.  
 England's defeat of Argentina was another perfectly scripted story in the World Cup of redemption.  
 Captain David Beckham, branded public enemy number one after getting sent off against Argentina as England exited the 1998 World Cup, kept his nerve to strike the winning penalty to wipe away the memories of St Etienne.  
 "This is probably the sweetest moment of my whole career," said Beckham, who enjoyed huge popularity in Japan.  
 But the win over Argentina proved to be the highpoint of England's campaign. Brazil, individuals to the fore once again, had too much class for Sven-Goran Eriksson's side in the quarter-finals, as English hopes expired in the sunshine of Shizuoka.  
 Ronaldo's magical footwork set up the first, and a masterfully flighted freekick over David Seaman — Beckham called it a 'fluke'; Ronaldo insisted he meant to score — secured a 2-1 win for the Brazilians.  
 "I think we had a very good opportunity to reach the semi-final. We didn't take it," concluded England coach Eriksson.  
 At least they can take consolation they were beaten by the best team.  
 "Brazil were worthy winners," said German coach Rudi Voller. "We saw Brazil show their individual class."



Workers of the now liquidated Adamjee Jute Mills wait in a queue for their dues yesterday.

# Flash floods

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 and heavy tide water.  
 Low-lying areas in South Bandar went under 3-feet deep water disrupting road communication between Mathbaria and Bandar area.  
 A report from Noakhali says the 2000-metre embankment at Shukchar and Nalchira unions in Hatiya upazila was damaged due to the pressure of tide water and heavy downpour.  
 Upazila administration sources said about 20,000 people have been marooned and valuables worth Tk 3 crore damaged as tide-water flooded these unions and the adjoining areas.  
 Executive Engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board said the embankment was developed cracks at three points and a 16.5-km to 17.35-km stretch of the embankment is under threat of being washed away under the pressure of tide water.  
 Experts of the Water Development Board said if the embankment was not repaired immediately, the flood would take a devastating turn.  
 MP of the upazila Mohammad Ali and former MP Prof Waliullah have urged the government to take immediate steps to save the people of the island.

Forecasting and Warning Centre bulletin in Dhaka, heavy cloud concentration over some parts of northwestern regions may cause localised rain-fed floods.  
 It said flashflood situation in parts of northwestern Meghna basin is likely to remain unchanged.  
 Meanwhile, out of 46 water level monitoring stations across the country, 25 registered rise, 15 marked fall and three reported no change in the water level in the last 24 hours.  
 The Surma remained steady at Kanighat and recorded a 12-cm rise at Sylhet and 22-cm at Sunamganj. The river crossed its danger mark at Sunamganj yesterday morning and was flowing 7 cm above the danger level.  
 The Brahmaputra and Jamuna receded further at all points, except at Noonkhawa. But the rivers in the Meghna basin marked both rise and fall and all rivers in the southeastern hill basin marked rise.  
 In the Ganges basin, the Padma, Gorai and Mahananda registered both rise and fall and were flowing below their respective danger marks.  
 In the southeastern hill basin, the Haldia registered a 200-cm rise at Narayanhat and 19-cm rise at Panchpukuria, and the Matamuhuri a 16-cm rise at Lama and 1-cm rise at Chiringa points.

Another report Barisal adds: Vast low-lying areas of Barisal, Patuakhali and Bhola districts have been inundated due to tide water and incessant rain for the last two days.  
 Thousands of people have been marooned and several lakh acres of standing crops went under water at Golachipa and Kolapara upazilas in Patuakhali and Sadar, Borhanuddin and Tajumuddin upazilas in Bhola the pressure of the tide water have breached embankments.  
 Farmers said the production of Aman paddy will be hampered seriously as many seedbeds have already been submerged.  
 Vast areas of land at Lalpatri, Badnatolif, Lalua in Golachipa and Kolpara upazila of Patuakhali district, Tulatoli in Bhola Sadar upazila, and Char Mohadevpur, Devipur and Rampur area of Tajumuddin and Borhanuddin upazilas were flooded.  
 Mirzakanu and Hasanagar villages of Borhanuddin upazila went under 3/4 feet of water.  
 Water logging in Barisal town has caused untold sufferings to residents. A GMG Airlines flight from Dhaka to Barisal was delayed for two and half-hours on Sunday due to the rough weather.  
 Meanwhile, according to a Flood

# Jute cartel

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 same to the mill at higher rates.  
 On an average, the AJM consumed 18 lakh maunds of jute a year and the corrupt officials would receive as much as 20 per cent of the value as commission for issuing late purchase orders. This meant that every year about Tk 1.80 crore used to be plundered this way, which was then distributed from the top officials to the low-ranking workers.  
 A source seeking anonymity said some honest purchase officers were threatened several times by the union leaders for not issuing late purchase orders.  
 The union leaders with the help of the management used to sell huge quantity of high-quality jute outside in the name of wastage. Those who bought the jute used to resell the same to the mill and millions of taka were plundered through this cycle. Such corrupt practices rendered the AJM a loss-making concern.  
 Moreover, the union leaders used to take Tk 20,000 from anyone seeking permanent employment.

# BTTB cell phone

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 general packet radio service (GPRS), wireless application protocol (WAP), short message service (SMS), and intelligent network (IN), sources said.  
 Even technologically advanced countries did not launch many services like MVPN yet. And GPRS and WAP were proved to be a failure in the countries where operators are trying to launch the third-generation multimedia mobile phone service, the sources added.  
 Of relevance, Bangladesh's premier mobile operator GrameenPhone launched WAP last year and got a little over 1,000 WAP subscribers out of about around 6,00 lakh.  
 Bangladesh, a technologically backward country, should not be heading for expensive MVPN or GPRS, whereas only one operator has so far launched SMS, a popular and business success worldwide, experts in the sector said.  
 However, the BTTB experts claimed that modern hi-tech features are required in the BTTB mobile phone network since the country is yet to have its data service backbone.  
 "If the BTTB cell phone network lacks futuristic outlook, the data processing after having the submarine network, would virtually become redundant," said an expert at the BTTB, close to the project.  
 The finance minister was expected to make some points on the BTTB mobile phone project in his budget proposal, which would end the monopoly of private operators.  
 Surprisingly enough, the minister in his budget speech did not utter any word on the project, which was launched by the Awami League government and scrapped by the BNP government on the grounds of 'supplier's credit costs being higher'.  
 Since the project involves a huge expenditure, ECNEC asked the BTTB to rethink and reduce the number of mobile phones.  
 The planning ministry also asked the BTTB to find a financier to the project, as it was not included in the annual development project.  
 Contacted, the BTTB officials said that there are many ways of implementing the project, but the approval of the government is a must.  
 "We got many ways to finance the project, but what we need is the government's approval," a high official of the BTTB said.  
 The project could be implemented through selling telecom bonds to non-resident Bangladeshis and local banks or directly to people, he added.  
 The country has a fast-growing market for cellular phones due to low telephone penetration. Landline phones cannot meet the growing customer demand. People look for cellular phones because they are cheaper than landline ones.  
 A BTTB landline phone costs Tk

18,400 against a cell phone-to-cell phone connection at only Tk 6,000.  
 Bangladesh has about 15 lakh phones provided by the state-owned BTTB and private mobile operators.  
 Earlier, the BTTB floated tender for the cell phone project twice, but the first round of bidding was found non-effective, as any bidders did not respond.  
 The first tender was floated on January 4 and the BTTB went for a second on May 9 last year, cancelling the first bid, sources said.  
 The BTTB could not award the job to anyone, as it was not possible to evaluate the bidding in only five days since a two-envelope system bidding was called for technical and financial offers.  
 Seven firms such as Alcatel of France, Ericsson of Sweden, Siemens of Germany, Korea Telecom, China Machinery and Engineering Corporation (CMEC), ZTE Corporation of China, Huawei Technologies of China dropped financial and technical offers in the first round.  
 The BTTB sources said the service could be provided at a lower price as the BTTB need not to invest more in the project because of its existing infrastructures.

# MK Anwar

**FROM PAGE 1**  
 The cleansing drive may also be carried out in the civil aviation and tourism ministry, of which a state minister, Mir Nasiruddin, is in charge. Mir Nasir is from the technocrat quota and hence, his removal highly likely.  
 The BNP leaders would not make any comment publicly, fearing wrath from the high-ups. They did not defend the former president AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury who had also been the founding secretary general of the BNP, something the ex-president also regretted.  
 But sources close to the former president said his unceremonious exit would have repercussions in the BNP fomenting dissent. But it may not be manifested soon. However, some sources believe if the BNP go for driving out possible rebels, then it may whip up discontent.  
 They cited the recent elevation of Tarique Rahman, eldest son of the prime minister, as the first Joint Secretary General of the BNP in the wake of the removal of the President B. Chowdhury.  
 Some BNP insiders interpreted the elevation of Tarique Rahman as a signal for the incumbent BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan to keep his fingers crossed about his future. Bhuiyan and another senior BNP leader, Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman, were seen accompanying Tarique very closely while he was visiting the mazaar of late president Ziaur Rahman after assuming the new office on Monday.