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Some 200 teachers, students, environmentalists, NGO workers and conscious citizens under the banner of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon staged a protest rally at Ashuliya in the city yesterday.

BTTB cell phone scheme in limbo

MUSTAK HOSSAIN
The cell phone project of the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) has hit a snag, as the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) finds it uneconomic and unrealistic.
Instead of spending Tk 2,500 crore on ten lakh cell phones, the BTTB should come down to earth, reducing its number to 2.5 lakh, the ECNEC believes.
However, the BTTB experts said that there is a huge demand for cell

phones that have a potential to return the investment by six years.
"The project will help reduce the demand for telephones to a greater extent," BTTB Chairman SATM Badrul Haque told The Daily Star.
The BTTB is optimistic about the project, which has created much enthusiasm among people, he said.
Yet, the ECNEC finds the project unrealistic because the ten lakh GSM (global system of mobile) phones project seeks provisions for very hi-tech and futuristic mobile virtual private network (MVPN).

Senior AL leaders Tofail Ahmed and Motia Chowdhury and other

Protesters ask govt to save Ashuliya

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A protest rally at Ashuliya yesterday urged the government to act fast to save the low-lying lands from being plundered by developers.

Some 200 teachers, students, environmentalists, NGO workers and a host of eminent and environmentally conscious citizens under the banner of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon urged the government to protect the flood-flow zone and give the city dwellers their right to breathe fresh air.
A big developer has recently engaged more than 200 dredgers to fill up the entire low lands of Ashuliya, a designated flood-flow zone, for constructing a housing complex.

Following recent reports published in The Daily Star, the government stopped the earth filling operation. The reports revealed that if Ashuliya was filled up, ecology of the entire region would be affected. At least three cases under the wetland protection act were filed with the Savar Police Station, accusing the managing director and chairman of the Jamuna Group of Industries of grabbing public land and filling it up

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AL MPs eager to join JS

REAZ AHMAD

Lawmakers belonging to the main opposition Awami League (AL) are 'eager' to rejoin the current session of the Jatiya Sangsad to speak on issues of public interest despite renewed political harassment of party leaders and workers.

Sources in the AL told The Daily Star yesterday that party lawmakers are 'eager' to rejoin the House when its session resumes on July 7 after a recess of more than one week following passage of the national budget for fiscal 2002-03 on June 29. The party boycotted the budget passage sittings of the House in protest against 'less than normal time' allocated to the opposition lawmakers, but it did not say it would not join the session altogether, they noted.

Arrest without warrant of a party nominee in the city in the last parliamentary polls on Saturday once again irked the AL leadership who has been complaining of 'political persecution' of party leaders and activists since the BNP-led alliance took office eight months ago.

AL has already called a half-day hartal call in the capital on July 4 in protest against the arrest of Sayeed Khokon.

In a statement yesterday, AL President Sheikh Hasina alleged that another party nominee in the last polls -- Abdullah Al Islam Jacob from Bhola -- was arrested and implicated in a murder case as part of a conspiracy.

"We are moving very much in a positive direction as regards rejoining the House. Let us see how does the government behave with us on the coming hartal day," said a senior AL leader on condition of anonymity.

The AL Parliamentary Party (ALPP) might meet before the House resumes its session to work out its strategy for the coming sittings, opposition whip Lt. Col. (Retd) Farooq Khan told this correspondent.

AL lawmakers have already submitted many call attention notices and notices for adjournment motions to discuss various issues ranging from the 'law and order situation' to the recent exit of AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury from the office of president.

Sources hinted that resuming on July 7, the third session of the 8th parlia

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Hasina condemns Jacob's arrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition in parliament and Awami League president Sheikh Hasina has condemned the arrest of Abdullah Al Islam Jacob, an AL nominee from Bhola-4 constituency in the last parliamentary polls, saying that Jacob has been falsely implicated in the Kaikobad murder case and tortured under police custody.

In a statement yesterday, the opposition leader claimed that it was evident from press reports and statements of Kaikobad's father and brothers as well as other witnesses that criminals belonging to the BNP were involved in his murder.

"Kaikobad had to die prematurely due to internal conspiracy of the BNP. Jacob's name was not even in the FIR registered with the thana. Jacob has fallen victim to a conspiracy of the BNP-Jamaat alliance government," Hasina said in her statement.

She further alleged that barbaric tortures were unleashed on Jacob by

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A police officer disconnects the cable of a loudspeaker at an Awami League protest rally at the party central office on the Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday.

Housewife murdered allegedly by husband

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A young housewife was killed allegedly by her husband in the city's Ramna area in the early hours of yesterday.

Noor Jahan Aktar Bakul, 21, daughter of Noor Mohammad, was found dead at her Tophkhana Road residence situated on the ground floor of Hotel Al Jewel owned by her husband Alhaj Rashid Jewel, sources said.

The body was taken to the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital and later to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where attending doctors declared her dead at about 1:45am yesterday.

Inquest report indicated strangulation as the possible cause of death. There were marks of bruises on her hands and around the neck.
Bakul's father Noor Mohammad



Noor Jahan Aktar Bakul

claimed that his daughter was strangled by Rashid, who, he said, frequently tortured Bakul on account of dowry and did not allow her to visit her parental house. He said

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Amu chargesheeted in 2 graft cases

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday pressed charges in two graft cases against former food minister Amir Hossain Amu.
Investigation officers (IOs) of the cases submitted the charge sheets to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka.

In the first case filed with Ramna Police Station, it has been alleged that on July 15 last year, the last day of the Awami League government, Amu gave instructions through

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AL procession dispersed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police fired tear gas canisters and used batons to disperse a procession in the city brought out by the city unit of the Awami League yesterday.

A party press release said police intercepted the procession of the city AL leaders and workers following a protest rally held in front of the party's central office at the Bangabandhu Avenue.

Senior AL leaders Tofail Ahmed and Motia Chowdhury and other

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Flair wins over ethics

AFP, Yokohama

Disciplined teamwork rather than flair may have been the hallmark of so many teams at the World Cup -- but in the end it was the individual genius of Brazil's footballers that won the day.

South Korea, Denmark, the United States, Sweden and Turkey were among sides who enjoyed successful campaigns on the back of a fierce collective spirit allied with skill as other, supposedly superior, teams fell by the wayside.

But as Germany found out against a Ronaldo-inspired Brazil in Sunday's final, organisation and efficiency can sometimes only take you so far. The instinctive creative football that has been Brazil's legacy prevailed.

"Many teams make use of discipline and organisation to minimise risks," said former Scotland manager Andy Roxburgh.

now technical director of European football's governing body UEFA.

"Brazil's style is still the opposite. They take high risks, with the attitude that they will do enough in attack to win matches."

That Brazil were to provide an artistic edge came as a surprise. Their coach Luiz Felipe Scolari had said before the tournament that he would make his team play 'ugly football' if he thought it gave them a better chance of winning.

Yet through the twinkling feet of Ronaldinho, the panther-like presence of Rivaldo and the finishing of Ronaldo, Brazil bore more than a passing resemblance to their celebrated teams of yesteryear as they clinched a record fifth title.

The comeback of Ronaldo was the most heartwarming story of the tournament.

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Currency notes seized at ZIA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of customs officials at the Zia International Airport yesterday seized foreign and local currency notes worth Tk 30 lakh from an outgoing passenger.

Led by Assistant Commissioner Khondokar Aftab Zahan, the team intercepted Mohammad Raihan (passport No. R-0015954), when he was heading for the security boarding-bridge in the early hours.

The officials took him to the customs office and seized the money from him.

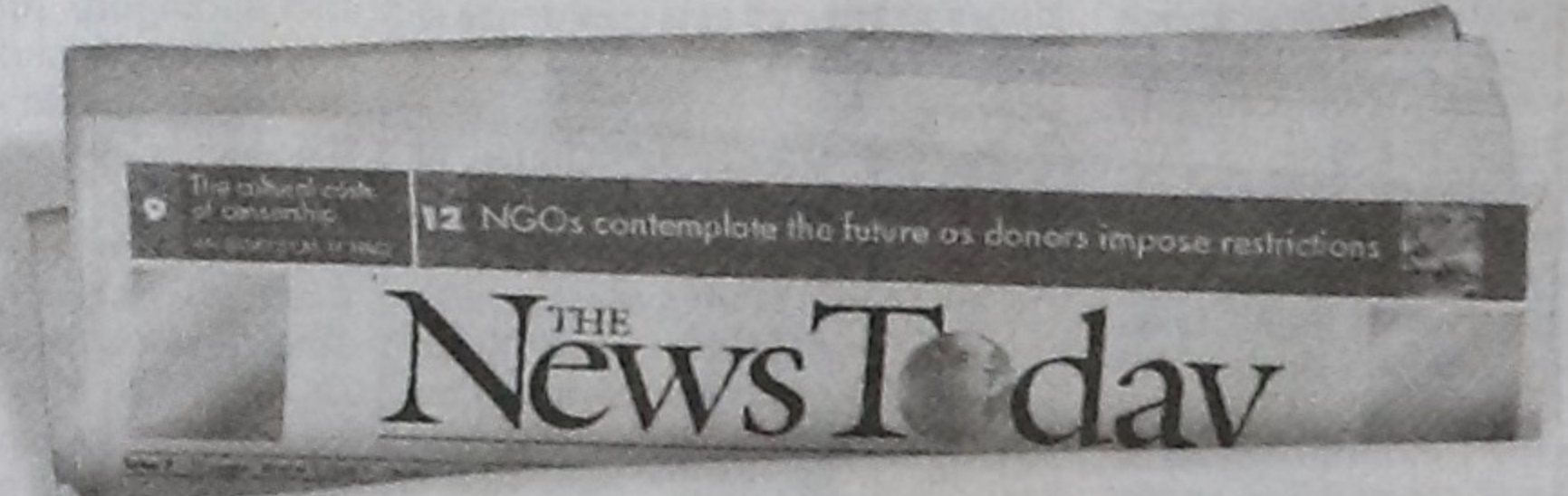
Raihan, son of Mohammad Nurul Islam in Noakhali, was scheduled to fly to Dubai on a Biman flight.

Later, the officials handed him over to the Airport police. A case was filed in this regard.

There are Many Sides to a Story

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অভিনন্দন

পরিবেশ সহায়ক জাপানী রিকভিশন্ড গাড়ী আমদানী পুনরায় বহাল এবং বায়ুদূষণ রোধকল্পে নতুন পুরাতন নির্বিশেষে ক্যাটোলাইটিক কনভার্টার (CC) ও ডিজেল পার্টিকুলেট ফিল্টার (DPF) বাধ্যতামূলক যুক্ত করে গাড়ী আমদানী করার যুগান্তকারী সিদ্ধান্তের জন্য মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী বেগম খালেদা জিয়া এক মাননীয় অর্থ ও পরিকল্পনামন্ত্রী জনাব এম. সাইফুর রহমানকে গভীর শ্রদ্ধা ও আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন জানাচ্ছি।

আমরা অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়ন কর্মকর্তা মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রীর হাতকে শক্তিশালী করার দ্যু অঙ্গীকার ব্যক্ত করছি।

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