

# The Daily Star

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People's Right to Know

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## Army called out to curb crime sponsored by past govt: PM

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that her government had launched the anti-crime crackdown involving the army, police, BDR and Ansar as the police alone cannot ensure public security because of their limited manpower.  
"Crimes in the country took a menacing turn during the reign of the previous government that had sponsored terrorism and issued the arms licences to criminals. We succeeded in containing crimes to a large extent since we formed government," she said explaining the ground for the current joint drive.  
Replying to a question by ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party lawmaker Shahiduddin Chowdhury  
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## Armed Forces Day today

**UNB, Dhaka**  
The Armed Forces Day will be observed in the country today with due solemnity and enthusiasm.  
The day commemorates the memory of the valiant members of the armed forces who had embraced martyrdom in the War of Liberation in 1971.  
On the occasion, President Iajuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and leader of the opposition Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages.  
President Iajuddin in his message paid homage to the martyred members of the three services and said the present armed forces is the  
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# Deport criminals

## Dhaka asks Kolkata, shocked at release of 7

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The Bangladesh mission in Kolkata, in a letter, has requested the West Bengal government to hand over the two top criminals arrested in Kolkata last Saturday.  
Meanwhile, a top official of the foreign ministry expressed the government's frustration at the release of seven other criminals after their arrest by the Kolkata police.  
"As per diplomatic norms, the West Bengal government should have informed Bangladesh about these arrests," he said expressing his disappointment over the handling of the issue by the Kolkata police and the West Bengal government.  
On Saturday night, the Kolkata police arrested Liaquat, Arman, Kala

Jahangir, Pichchi Hannan, Killer Abbas and four others from the city's New Market area. However, they later released all excepting Liaquat and Arman.  
The West Bengal government or the Kolkata police did not convey the message to the office of deputy high

commissioner till Tuesday. However, Bangladesh was officially informed yesterday.

Meanwhile, the deputy high commissioner requested the West Bengal government to hand over the most wanted criminals to Bangladesh so that they could be tried under our laws.  
The foreign ministry official

expressing his dissatisfaction said, "the Kolkata detective chief could pass the information to the local press, yet he could not inform our deputy high commissioner. This is not acceptable."  
He further pointed out that the detective chief even claimed to have handed over the seven criminals to Bangladeshi authorities. "How could he lie so blatantly? The deputy high commissioner does not know anything, yet they have been handed over to us!"  
"How could the police release someone with a name like Killer Abbas? It's the police who gave the names of the released criminals to the press," he noted.  
He also expressed his surprise  
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### Editorial on page 4

## Terror tale Indian press on wrong track

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
A section of the Indian press is apparently trying to corroborate an international campaign that Bangladesh is a haven for al-Qaida and other terrorist networks.  
At the same time, it is also trying to portray Bangladesh as an anti-Indian nation.  
The news coverage on the arrest of Liaquat Hossain and Arman Khan in Kolkata show how misinformed some of the leading publications

are.  
Both Liaquat and Arman are top criminals of Bangladesh. They are wanted for murder, extortion and all sorts of criminal activities for many years. They are not known to have any links with any fundamentalist groups.  
But newspapers like The Telegraph, Anandabazar Patrika, Sangbad Protidin and a host of others described Liaquat, Arman and other criminals arrested

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## Gaping holes in Kolkata catch

**SAKYASEN MITTRA, Kolkata**  
The mystery surrounding the "disappearance" of seven Bangladeshis, who were arrested with the two notorious criminals, Arman Khan and Liaquat Hussain, in Kolkata on Saturday night, has deepened further.  
The Kolkata police have been telling that the seven others arrested with Arman and Liaquat were handed over to a Bangladeshi representative for immediate deportation.  
However, sources in the Bangladesh Deputy High  
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PHOTO: STAR  
The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) runs a drive to clear illegal encroachers off the bank of the Buriganga at Pagla on the outskirts of the capital yesterday.

## Crackdown on river raiders

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) yesterday demolished 24 illegal structures at Munshikhola and Pagla in Narayanganj on the first day of a six-day drive to remove encroachment on the Buriganga.  
Equipped with seven tugboats and barges and accompanied by scores of policemen and a magistrate of the district administration, a BIWTA team launched the drive under close watch by the army.  
The drive aims to remove 267 illegal structures on the Buriganga and ensure its free flow and navigability. The encroachers include  
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# 'Limited autonomy' for central bank

## Tk 5 lakh fine proposed for divulging bank info

**STAR REPORT**  
The central bank is finally going to get autonomy, albeit limited as it appears now.  
A committee to be headed by the Bangladesh Bank (BB) governor would recommend monetary policies, but the BB would seek the finance ministry's approval for their implementations.  
The committee would include

economists and seasoned bankers. Instead of the finance ministry, the governor would be accountable to the standing committee of the parliament.  
The decisions were taken at the first meeting of the cabinet committee on amendment to banking laws held yesterday at the Secretariat.  
The committee reviewed the Bangladesh Bank Order, 1972, Bank Company Act, 1991 and the

Bangladesh Banks (Nationalisation) Order, 1972 in the meeting chaired by Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman.  
As an amendment to the Bank Company Act, 1991, the committee has proposed inclusion of two depositors in the boards of commercial banks to protect their interest.  
Besides, people with economic and banking backgrounds instead of  
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## Baitul Aman demolition: HC asks R&H Deptt to explain

**UNB, Dhaka**  
The High Court yesterday issued rule upon the Roads and Highways (R&H) Department to show cause in four weeks why the action of demolishing the Baitul Aman at Chashara in Narayanganj should not be declared without any lawful authority.  
The R&H Department authorities bulldozed a part of Baitul Aman in an eviction drive Tuesday.  
The historic residence was built in 1939 by Khan Shahib Osman Ali,  
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