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## Bandarban hotelier freed at last

Reportedly paid Tk 15 lakh in ransom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Bandarban resort hotelier Hasan Mahub Bablu was freed at Tarasa point of Shankha river in Bandarban on Monday night and reportedly paid his captors Tk 15 lakh to buy his way out of the 21-day captivity.

Bablu, manager and co-owner of Hillside Resort in Milonchhari, three kilometres southeast of the district town of Bandarban-Chimbuk road, was released in a deep forest of Roangchhari upazila at around 11:00pm Monday.



Hasan Mahub Bablu

"He is back and alright although weak due to malnutrition as he was not served food regularly during his captivity," said Bablu's elder brother Hasan Mansur Milan, adding the abductors did not torture him.

Local administration said the joint forces led by army cordoned the area having been confirmed of the presence of the kidnappers in the deep forest at Tarasa point of Shankha river and asked them to surrender. But the abductors set Bablu free and sneaked out of the

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## Quake kills 226 in Morocco

REUTERS, Rabat

At least 226 people died and 120 were injured after an earthquake shook northern Morocco around the Mediterranean port city of Al Hoceima yesterday, officials say, warning the death toll was likely to rise.

Villages around Al Hoceima were badly damaged, people were still buried under the rubble of collapsed mud-brick homes and the main hospital was too small to cope with the scale of the disaster, they said yesterday.

"As soon as we think we've seen all the dead and injured, more keep coming in ambulances," said a doctor at Al Hoceima's main

Mohammed V hospital. Many of the injured were being treated in an army barracks and in small health centres.

Morocco's MAP state news agency put the death toll at 226 in the worst quake to rock the North African country in more than 40 years.

Josephine Shields, North African delegate for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Tunis, said: "What we have so far from the Moroccan Red Crescent is that approximately 120 people have been killed and about 200 injured, but that figure is going to rise."

She said six villages within 15 km

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PHOTO: STAR

Dr Kamal Hossain, president of Gono Forum, speaks at a press conference organised by the Supreme Court Bar Association in Dhaka yesterday.

ATTACK ON DR KAMAL

## Case filed against BNP lawmaker

Gano Forum chief terms Altaf's statement 'a blatant lie'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A daylong hartal enforced by the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) in Rangamati protesting Monday's attack on the motorcade of Gano Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain passed

off peacefully yesterday.

A case under the Speedy Trial Act has been filed with Kawkhali Police Station in Rangamati Monday night, accusing ruling BNP lawmaker from Khagrachhari Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan and some others of involvement in the attack. Police could not

arrest any of the accused till last night.

But the fate of the case appears uncertain as Rangamati district administration says that the place where the incident took place is not under its jurisdiction.

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## AL submits memo to speaker today amid demonstration ban

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amidst the speaker's ruling that bars any demonstration inside the Sangsad Bhavan, the House-boycotting Awami League (AL) lawmakers are going to submit a memorandum to Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar at his parliament chamber today.

Tension brewed up in the main opposition party over today's programme as Deputy Opposition Leader Abdul Hamid last night

apprehended obstruction from the government in submitting the memorandum. He also termed the speaker's ruling, issued Sunday, as unwarranted and irrelevant.

In the memorandum, AL MPs, who have been boycotting parliament sessions since June 25 last year, will seek protection of the speaker, as guardian of the Jatiya Sangsad (JS), from attacks on opposition lawmakers and their implication in 'false' cases and trial under

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## BNP leaders irked by Altaf's statement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of frontline BNP leaders appeared embarrassed over the home minister's statement in parliament Monday on the CHT peace accord and the attack on Dr Kamal Hossain on his way to Rangamati.

Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury blamed "armed opposition activists accompanying Dr Kamal" for the incident that forced the Gano Forum president to cancel his scheduled trip to Rangamati Monday.

Altaf also termed the Chittagong

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## JS now a den of graft: Hasina

Police, BNP men attempt to foil rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Amid police attempts to scuttle a roadside rally and barriers by ruling BNP activists, Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday levelled corruption charges against the Hava Bhaban, BNP chairperson's office, BNP lawmakers and ministers, saying they have opened toll centres to illegally realise money from the people.

"People have to share their earnings with the ruling party cadres and leaders in different places and phases. Government leaders and cadres are collecting ransom after abducting people. Journalists are also not safe from the hands of the ruling party," she told a number of wayside rallies on her way from Dhaka to Bholavia Barisal.

The former prime minister said the Jatiya Sangsad has turned into a den of corruption.

Hasina, now on a three-day visit to the region, addressed different roadside gatherings on Barisal-

Dhaka highway at Bhanga, Takerhat, Mostafapur, Kalkini, Shikarpur, Rahmatpur and other places amid attacks by government loyalists and barriers yesterday.

No-one can live in peace, safety and security anymore as the ruling BNP is patronising over 70,000 terrorists, she added. "We have tolerated a lot. We won't suffer anymore and allow them to play foul with people's fate."

The opposition leader said there was no food crisis during the AL regime. Now when the people are starving, the prime minister is taking food from Hotel Sheraton at a cost of at least Tk 2,000 per meal.

Police dismantled the stage for the rally at Kalkini several times, saying that the Awami League did not take permission from the authorities to set up the stage.

An hour before she passed by Gouranadi upazila, upazila AL President Kalia Daman Guha was injured in an attack by BNP cadres.

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## U-19 WC CRICKET India, Lanka bounce back

SPORTS REPORTER


India and Sri Lanka recorded emphatic wins to throw the Group A wide open in the Super League of the ICCU-19 Cricket World Cup yesterday.

India powered past West Indies by 96 runs in a day-nighter at the Bangabandhu National Stadium

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**Late Hamidur Rahman Sinha.**  
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**Doa Mahfil** has been arranged today after Zohar prayer at his village home Dohuri, Kalma Union, P.S. Louhajong, Dist.: Munshiganj, Corporate Office: 55, Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka, Plant: Dhamrai, Dhaka and in all Sales Centers through out the country.

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