

CASE AGAINST BIDISHA  
HC asks govt to place relevant documents

**UNB, Dhaka**  
The High Court (HC) yesterday heard the bail prayer of Bidisha in the money laundering case and asked the government to present relevant information and documents before the court on Saturday.  
The bench, comprising Justice SK Sinha and Justice Md Abu Tarique, after hearing the Bidisha's bail prayer, fixed Saturday also for delivering its verdict.  
Dr Kamal Hossain argued that the accused was sick and under treatment at the prison cell of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University and Hospital (BSMMUH).  
"Though she is under treatment, she is suffering from spinal code pain and as such she needs to be

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ROAD LINK WITH YANGON

# Dhaka for deal to facilitate works

Sends proposal

**RAFIQ HASAN**

Dhaka has sent a proposal to Yangon for signing an agreement to facilitate construction of a 20-km road for a direct road link.  
"The proposal has been sent in the first week of this month and we are waiting for their response," said a high official in the Ministry of Communications. He said the agreement is necessary to ensure safety and security of the Bangladeshis who would go to Myanmar with construction materi-

als for the project.

"The necessary preparation has been completed from our side and the physical work of the project will start after the agreement is signed," the official said.

The proposal was sent through the foreign ministry and the foreign ministries of both countries are now negotiating on the terms and conditions of the proposed agreement, he told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The construction cannot start before the agreement because this is for the first time Bangladesh is

going to implement a project in a foreign land," he observed.

The government has decided to construct the road with its own funds.

The communications ministry estimated that Tk 122 crore will be required for the 20-km highway that will start from Gundum in Bangladesh and end at Bawli Bazar in Myanmar. The prime minister of Myanmar during his visit to Bangladesh last year laid the foundation stone of the road at Gundum.

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CLOSED JUTE MILLS

## Two bodies to deal with crisis

**REAZ AHMAD**

Blaming delayed fund release by the government for the closure of state-run jute mills, an emergency inter-ministerial meeting on jute yesterday formed two subcommittees to come up with immediate bailout measures for the dwindling sector.

The meeting of the Advisory Committee on Jute held at the textiles and jute ministry was held when eight mills were closed with four others partially due to a lack of raw material.

The meeting with Jute Minister Shajahan Siraj in the chair observed the government released only Tk 30 crore for raw jute procurement in October last year.

But farmers had already exhausted their stock, forcing Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) to buy jute at exorbitant

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PHOTO: STAR

BNP activists assault the supporters of independent candidate Shahadat Hossain Munna in the Narsingdi-1 by-polls outside the Narsingdi Government Girls' High School centre yesterday.

Thousands gather to observe 150th Saontal uprising anniversary

**ANWAR ALI and ABU KALAM, Rajshahi**

Thousands of indigenous people gathered in Tanore upazila yesterday to observe the 150th anniversary of the 1855-57 Saontal Hool (uprising), one of the major revolts against the British rule by the subaltern group that spread across the then Birbhum to Bhagalpur districts in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.

They held rally, discussions and cultural functions throughout the day.

Narrating their plight caused by land grabbers and social injustices, they called upon all to prepare for a new revolution to establish their rights.

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Indigenous people perform a cultural show on Fazar Ali Mollah College premises in Tanore, Rajshahi yesterday, marking the 150th anniversary of the Saontal revolt against the British rule.



PHOTO: STAR

Mugger killed in 'crossfire'

**UNB, Comilla**

A mugger was killed in 'crossfire' between police and his cohorts at Shaheednagar in Daudkandi upazila on Tuesday night.

He was identified as Mohammad Anwar, 25, hailed from Dewra village in Bakerganj upazila of Barisal district.

Police said a gang of muggers hijacked a Comilla-bound rod-laden truck from Badda, Dhaka, when it reached Raypura upazila of Narsingdi district on Monday night.

Police intercepted the truck at Eliotganj under the upazila and nabbed Anwar, while the other members of the gang managed to flee.

On the basis of Anwar's confessional statement, police took him to Shaheednagar area at about 11:15pm on Tuesday to arrest his accomplices.

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# Project cars for essential works

Govt granted the privilege to ministers

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A top government official yesterday said ministers, state ministers and deputy ministers are entitled to use jeeps from the subordinate bodies of their respective ministries in addition to the cars allotted by the government transport.

The official categorically said the ministers are entitled to use such vehicles for essential works, adding that there is a government decision regarding the use of additional vehicles by the ministers.

He said the Cabinet Division issued an office order on July 6, 2002, clearly stating that "the government has taken decision that

ministers, state ministers and deputy ministers can collect and use a jeep, in addition to their allotted vehicles given for all-time use, from the concerned ministry/division's subordinate organisation, department and directorate, for essential work, especially for travelling to mufassil areas. The concerned bodies will also provide maximum 10 litres of fuel per day for a jeep."

However, the official, who wanted not to be named, said although the provision was meant for essential and temporary use, there are several ministers who have

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Govt plotting to divert Aug 21 carnage investigation

Alleges Zillur

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Awami League (AL) presidium member Zillur Rahman, MP yesterday alleged the government is hatching a plot to divert the probe into the August 21 carnage to a different track.

"The government is apparently showing its sincerity by bringing Interpol under international pressure. But all evidence of the carnage has been destroyed over the last 10 months," he told a press conference at his Gulshan house in the capital.

The current probe into the August 21 grenade attack is nothing

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PEACE TREATY

# 2 killed, 1 injured as rivals trade fire in the hills

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati**

A shootout between the indigenous platforms UPDF and PCJSS killed two persons and wounded another at remote Korolyachhari village on the Mohalchhari-Naniarchar border yesterday.

One of the dead was identified as Avilash Chakma, 20, an alleged gunman of United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF), while the other's identity could not be known immediately.

Critically injured Amalendu Chakma, 15, a supporter of the anti-Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) peace accord UPDF, was admitted to Rangamati General Hospital.

Locals said up to 25 gunmen of pro-peace accord Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) attacked the village in the afternoon.

The UPDF countered their attack that led to an hour-long shootout until 1:00pm.

An army team visited the scene at around 3:30pm.

Akbar doubts journalists' knowledge on political history

**UNB, Dhaka**

Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain was critical in parliament yesterday of the journalists for what he said their ignorance about the country's political history and writing against the BNP government.

Participating in the budget discussion, he said most of the journalists are within the age of 30.

"They don't know about 'Baksal' that led to the closure of all the newspapers in the country except four dailies," Akbar said, adding that it was late president Ziaur Rahman who revived the newspaper industry.

He said several hundred newspapers are currently being published in the country with over 30,000 journalists engaged in the largest industry.

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BLAST CASES

# Galib to be dropped from chargesheets

**STAR REPORT**

Police are preparing charge sheets exempting names of militant leader Asadullah Al Galib and his associates from the charges of bomb blast cases in Naogaon and Gaibandha as the charges failed to furnish adequate witnesses, police sources said.

On June 28, Porsha police are likely to submit the charge sheet to the court in connection with the Porsha Brac office bomb blast case filed under the Explosives Act.

The accused in the charge sheet are Abdus Samad Salafi, Nurul Islam, ASM Azizullah, Mahabubur Rahman Khandoker, Md Apel, Shariful Islam and Safiqullah alias Shafi. All the accused are in jail custody.

Our Gaibandha correspondent

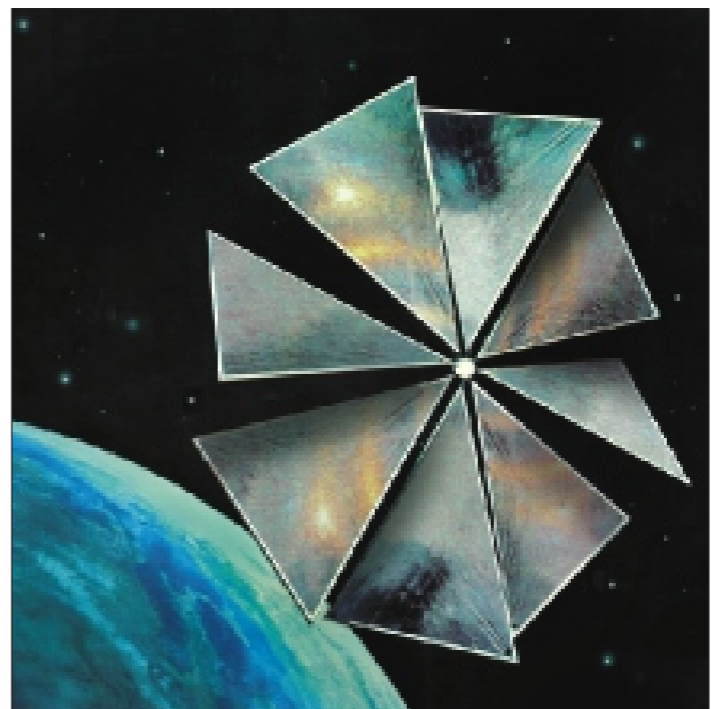
reports, Galib and 20 others out of 23 accused were exempted from the charges of the bomb blast at the Gobindoganj Brac office, following recommendation from the monitoring cell of the home ministry due to the lack of evidence.

Only two persons—Raju Sarder of Sadullapur and Habibur Rahman alias Jubayer of Bogra—were named in the charge sheet.

However, in another case of bomb blast at an open stage drama at Takir Bazar under Palashbari upazila in Gaibandha, Galib and five others were charge sheeted as accused. July 26 has been fixed for framing the charges.

Meanwhile, a Bogra court yesterday rejected the bail petition of Galib and fixed the next hearing of 8

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# 'Solar-sail' spacecraft lost after launch

**AFP, Moscow**

Russia's Northern Fleet confirmed yesterday the loss of the world's first solar-sail-powered spacecraft, Cosmos 1, launched on a ballistic missile from a Russian submarine in the Barents Sea.

A satellite monitoring failed to detect a signal from Cosmos, "which signifies its loss," said a spokesman for the Northern Fleet, Igor Dygalo.

The loss of Cosmos 1 was due to the failure of part of the Volna rocket that was expected to take the spacecraft into orbit after its launch from a submarine in the Barents Sea, Russia's Roskosmos space agency said on its Internet site.

It said the first stage of the three-stage rocket failed 83 seconds after launch, Roskosmos said. The Volna

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# 46 Taliban killed in US attack

**REUTERS, Kandahar**

Afghan and US troops backed by warplanes have killed up to 46 Taliban guerrillas in southwestern Afghanistan in some of the bloodiest fighting in months, officials said on Wednesday.

They said five members of the Afghan security forces had also been killed and five US soldiers wounded in the operation to suppress a surge in guerrilla violence in the run-up to Sept. 18 parliamentary elections.

The fighting was part of a search and attack operation codenamed "Catania" to destroy guerrilla sanctuaries, said Lieutenant Cindy

Moore, a spokeswoman for the US military.

It was continuing about 16 km north of Mian Nishin, a district capital in the northern part of Kandahar province that was overrun by guerrillas last week and retaken by government forces on Tuesday, Kandahar's deputy police chief, General Salim Khan, told Reuters.

Moore said the fighting was southwest of Zabul province's mountainous Dai Chopan district, which borders Kandahar.

Khan said US jets and attack helicopters pounded insurgent positions on Wednesday.

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# England take on Australia today

**BBC ONLINE, Chester-le-Street**

A rampant England have their sights set on beating Australia in three successive one-day matches for the first time since 1997 when the two sides meet again in the NatWest Series in Durham on Thursday.

But they will have to face fit-again Aussie bowler Brett Lee before a 15,000 sell-out crowd at Chester-le-Street.

"We've spoken about this on numerous occasions that we want

to make history," said coach Duncan Fletcher.

England beat Australia in their first encounter in this triangular tournament on Sunday, continuing their form from September's ICC Champions Trophy semifinal.

And a buoyant side scored a national record 391-4 to beat Bangladesh on Tuesday and are looking for more.

They have not beaten their archrivals in three straight since

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Prayer Timing		
June 23		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-52	6-55
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

