

# Zambia deports UK terror suspect

Saudis alerted London over looming attacks, British newspapers report

AFP, Lusaka/London  
A Briton arrested in Zambia two weeks ago on suspicion of terrorism was deported yesterday to Britain, where he is reportedly wanted in connection with last month's deadly bomb attacks in London.  
Haroon Aswat "left at 9:00 am (0700GMT) from Lusaka international airport to Britain in a chartered plane," a source at the airport said.  
Aswat, 31, has been named in US and British media reports as the alleged mastermind behind the July 7 blasts that killed 56 people including four suicide bombers, but British police have not confirmed that he is wanted in connection with the attacks.  
US authorities have also reportedly sought to question Aswat over alleged attempts to set up a terrorist training camp in Bly, Oregon.  
US media said on July 22, the

day after four abortive attacks on London's transport system, that US police and intelligence agencies were taking part in the hunt for Aswat.  
They said that the four suicide bombers behind the July 7 attacks had made about 20 calls to him on his mobile telephone.  
Aswat, who spent time in South Africa and Botswana before entering Zambia on July 6, had been on a watch list of Western intelligence agencies who tipped off Zambian authorities.  
Two Sunday newspapers reported that Saudi officials alerted Britain several weeks before the deadly July 7 bombings in London that a terror attack was being planned.  
The Observer quoted a security official in the Saudi capital Riyadh as saying that information was passed to MI5 and MI6, Britain's

domestic and foreign intelligence agencies respectively.  
The Sunday Telegraph quoted the Saudi ambassador to Britain, Prince Turki al-Faisal, as saying that details of a possible conspiracy to attack London -- apparently extracted from terrorism suspects in Saudi Arabia -- had been given to British intelligence.  
"There were reports passed on to your authorities several months ago (in April-May) in general terms of a heightened expectancy of attacks on London," said the ambassador, a former chief of Saudi intelligence.  
Security sources played down the reports. The Observer quoted one source as "categorically" denying that any specific information had been received that could have averted the July 7 attacks.  
The source said they "did not

## HYGIENE DRIVE Two jailed, fine of Tk 4 lakh collected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two mobile courts yesterday sent two people to three months imprisonment, and collected Tk 4 lakh in fines from food producers and traders from food producers and traders for selling products without expiry dates and for illegal occupation of footpaths in different parts of the city.  
The government recently formed the mobile courts to control the adulteration of foods following a series of reports in The Daily Star.  
A mobile court led by magistrate ABM Abdul Fattha raided five food producers and restaurants in Uttara and collected Tk 1,20,000. The court fined Tk 30,000 to Rajlokkhi food industry for not displaying the manufacturing and expiry date on the label.  
The court also fined to Tk 20,000 to Bismillah Sweetmeat, Tk 20,000 to fast food shop Hot Dely, and Tk 20,000 to Swad Restaurant for failing to maintain hygienic standards. The court also fined Uttara Model Restaurant Tk 30,000 for failing to properly preserve their uncooked meat.  
Another mobile court led by Zahangir Alam raided the Dholai

A mobile court spots a fake edible oil factory near Foy's Lake in Chittagong yesterday. The company markets edible oil of various brands, refilling their cans.



PHOTO: STAR

## SCHOOLGIRL RAPE 20km human chain formed in Gaibandha

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Thousands of people yesterday formed a 20-kilometre human chain in Gaibandha to protest the rape of a schoolgirl two weeks ago.  
Braving rain, the protesters from all walks of life stood on the roadside for an hour from 10:00am and demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the culprits.  
The human chain from Shaghata to Tulshighat in Sadar upazila was organised by Social Endeavour Group of Steps Towards Development and other NGOs.  
The protesters at a rally at Bharatkhalai bazaar said the police were yet to arrest any of the accused despite filing of a case against five people.

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# 11,186 sacks of rotten wheat seized in N'ganj

9 held for 'links' to import from India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

A Narayanganj magistrate yesterday seized 11,186 sacks of rotten Indian wheat from the Nitaiganj wholesale market and arrested nine people for alleged involvement in the import process of the wheat.  
Magistrate Habib Mohammad Halimuzzaman conducted the drive at Machhuabazar jetty at about 2:00pm and seized 2,586 sacks of rotten wheat from "Golden Sun", an anchored cargo on the Shitalakha river.  
The magistrate also seized 8,600 sacks of wheat from a store on the bank of the river.  
Such rotten wheat is mixed with eatable wheat in different mills at Nitaiganj, sources said.

Two inspectors of the Directorate of Food confirmed that the wheat was not edible. Officer-in-Charge of Narayanganj Police Station Abdul Hannan said, adding that a case was filed under the Special Power Act of 1974.  
The arrested nine employees of the cargo said Razzak Traders, a business firm of Nitaiganj, purchased the wheat from Noapara of Jessore and the cargo had just carried it from there.  
They, however, failed to show any invoice of the imported wheat.  
When the magistrate accompanied by police went to Razzak Traders, he found the office under lock and key, he said, adding that the owner of the firm is now absconding.  
After seizing rotten wheat from

there, the magistrate sealed the store of the firm.  
Earlier on August 1, Magistrate Faridul Islam Mojumder seized 360 sacks of rotten wheat from a truck at the entrance of Nitaiganj and arrested a businessman.  
Investigation reveals that a powerful syndicate is involved in importing such rotten wheat from India.  
After being mixed with good wheat in mills, the wheat powder is sold, generally in the northern districts, sources said.  
On the labels of the previously seized sacks of wheat, the magistrate found "this is for cattle", whereas there were not any importer of fodder as Narayanganj Municipality did not issue any license for such import.

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## HC rejects Galib's bail

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The High Court rejected a bail petition yesterday filed by Asadullah-al Galib, a teacher of Rajshahi University and a leader of banned Islamist outfit Ahle Hadit, in two criminal cases.  
A High Court bench of Justice MA Rashid and Justice Md Fazlur Rahman passed the order.  
Galib is now in Gaibandha jail. He was arrested on charges of carrying out terrorism and fundamentalism inside the country.  
Of the two cases one was filed with Shahjahanpur Police Station in Bogra for hurling a bomb on a jatra (folk-drama) stage on January 15 this year, and other with Rainagar Police Station of Naogaon for kidnapping and killing on May 18, 2004.

## Change to govt procurement regulation okayed

BSS, Dhaka

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs at a meeting yesterday approved an amendment to the government's procurement regulation aiming at quick procurement of food grains.  
The committee approved four other proposals, including procurement of 100,000 tonnes of wheat and 50,000 tonnes of rice. The committee also approved the proposal for disinvestment of the Sylhet Pulp and Paper Mills and Bangladesh Cold Storage in Khulna.  
Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman told journalists after the meeting that the amendment to the government's procurement regulation would help ease the weak process of procuring food grains during any emergency period.  
"The government's food grains procurement process was hitherto lengthy and complex, making it

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## TENGRATILA BLOWOUT

# Niko's latest drilling ill-conceived

Experts say such move destined to put an end to gas field

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Niko's latest drilling of well at the blown-out Tengratila gas field is an ill-conceived action that will lead to the abandonment of the gas field as it is not aimed at taming the fire, said energy experts and academicians at a seminar on Tengratila blowout yesterday.  
The Tengratila field may meet the same fate as the blown-out Haripur gas field where gas has been burning for the last 50 years, the experts said at the seminar organised by National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Electricity and Port at the National

Press Club.  
The objective of drilling a relief well is to seal the original blown-out well but Niko is drilling its well at a location far off the original well, observed Prof Badrul Imam of Dhaka University (DU).  
He criticised the energy advisor's earlier assurance that the relief well would be drilled by July 25 and said, "What is being done now in the name of 'mirror observation well' is like operating on a critical patient by a quack."  
"The government has to take all the responsibilities if the gas field is to be declared abandoned, because

it has not yet cancelled the joint venture agreement (JVA) with Niko," said Prof Hussain Monsur, chairman of DU Geology Department.  
Bangladesh Regional Field Evaluation in Chhatak, Feni and Kamta in 2000 did not say in its report that these fields are to be abandoned, but in the JVA the government considered them as abandoned, Prof M Shamsul Alam, director, Institute of Energy Technology of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology, said.  
The report conducted by the institute also said though the JVA

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Vyacheslav Milashevsky, centre, commander of the rescued Russian mini-submarine AS-28 Priz, salutes as he along with his crew arrived at Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky port yesterday.

## All 7 rescued from Russian mini-sub

AP, Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky

All seven people on board a submarine trapped for nearly three days under the Pacific Ocean were rescued yesterday after a British remote-controlled vehicle cut away the undersea cables that had snarled their vessel, allowing it to surface.  
The seven, whose oxygen supplies had been dwindling amid underwater temperatures in the mid-40s, appeared to be in satisfactory condition, naval spokesman Capt. Igor Dygalo said. They were examined in the clinic of a naval ship, then transferred to a larger vessel to return to the mainland.  
"The crew opened the hatch themselves, exited the vessel and climbed aboard a speedboat," said Rear Adm. Vladimir Pepelyayev, deputy head of the naval general staff.

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## One held while trying to snatch pistol from Rab man

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An extortionist was caught red-handed while he snatched a pistol from a Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) member yesterday.  
The incident occurred near the residence of Khulna City BNP President M Nurul Islam MP at Babu Khan road under Khulna Police Station. The extortionist was identified as Imdadul Huq, son of Ali Hossain of Morrelganj upazila of Bagerhat district.  
Imdadul was nabbed when some members of Rab were waiting to capture the extortionist at 12:30pm while he received a toll of Tk 20,000 from a businessman.

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# Dhaka-Kolkata container carrying cost can be cut by one-third

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The movement of goods and people between Bangladesh and India is very costly and inefficient, according to experts, who advocate a rail link between the two countries to dramatically reduce costs.  
Goods carrying containers from Kolkata currently reach Dhaka via Singapore. As a result, the cost of carrying a container is over \$2,500 - a sum that could be reduced to \$800 if the goods were carried by rail.  
This was disclosed yesterday when a civil society delegation

comprising representatives from Bangladesh and India called on communication ministry officials and suggested development of a rail link between the two countries to harness the economic potential of the southeast Asian region.  
They observed that people of both countries should not be hostage to the negative mindset of political leaders. The economic doors should be opened for the benefit of the people of both countries, they said.  
They also discussed how to minimise Bangladesh's huge trade

deficit with India. The Indian side observed that development of railways would minimise the gap. The Indian side also highlighted the need for improving the facilities at Chittagong port.  
The Indian delegation was led by Deb Mukherji, former Indian high commission to Bangladesh, while Prof. Rehman Sobhan led the Bangladesh civil society group.  
Communication Minister Nazmul Huda chaired the meeting. He observed that fruitful discussion could be held on the sidelines of the

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## Clarification

A Daily Star report published on July 21 under the headline 'BNP moves to rid leaders of criminal charges,' said, "After the four party alliance came in power, 628 cases were withdrawn by a selection committee led by former justice of the High Court Mohammad Abdul Karim."  
But later it was brought to our notice that an inquiry commission headed by the ex-High Court judge actually recommended for withdrawal of less than half a dozen cases only. The withdrawal of other cases had nothing to do with the recommendations of the said commission.

Prayer Timing		
August 8		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-47	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

# Rebels kill 32 in Iraq

Leaders seek to end constitution stalemate

AFP, Baghdad

Insurgents killed at least 32 people in a series of attacks as Iraq's political leaders were set to meet yesterday to negotiate on issues holding up the completion of the constitution.  
Seven Iraqi soldiers were killed and 17 wounded when a suicide bomber blew up a truck in front of an Iraqi army headquarters in central Tikrit, 180km north of Baghdad, an Iraqi army officer said.  
Three other Iraqi soldiers were killed when gunmen attacked their

patrol in south Baghdad, while two other people working in the oil ministry were also shot dead by gunmen in southeast Baghdad.  
In Samawa, one civilian was killed and 44 wounded as demonstrators clashed with police during a protest about lack of jobs and public services in this dusty southern Shia town rife with unemployment, medical sources said.  
Around 1,000 protesters gathered outside the local government headquarters in Samawa, 270 kilometres (170 miles) south-east of

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## CTG ARMS HAUL Court hears 2 witnesses, declares one 'hostile'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A court yesterday heard two prosecution witnesses including a police constable in the sensational 10 truckloads of arms haul case and declared one of them 'hostile' for giving 'irrelevant' and 'confusing' information.  
Constable Golam Rasul of Karnaphuli Police Station and shopkeeper Nurul Alam Sawdagar, two of 102 witnesses, gave their deposition before Judge AKM Anwar Hossain of the Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge.  
The court has fixed September 7 as the next date for hearing.  
Police on the night of April 1 last year seized 10 truckloads of arms and ammunition from Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd (CUFL) jetty. The court after hearing Alam declared him 'hostile', as he during cross-examinations expressed his ignorance about the arms smuggling, court sources said.

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## Natwar to visit Gandhi Ashram in Noakhali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh will visit the historic Gandhi Ashram in Noakhali this morning before he leaves for New Delhi.  
Singh will be arriving at Begunaganj first by a helicopter. From there, he will go to Gandhi Ashram in Noakhali by road.  
He will return to Dhaka after an hour-long visit to the Ashram.  
Singh is due to leave Dhaka by a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight at 11:00am.