

## Court in London refuses to free British terror suspect in Iraq

AFP, London

A terrorist suspect held by British forces in Iraq without charge or access to a court lost his test case yesterday in the High Court in London over his detention.  
Hilal Al-Jedda, 47, who has dual British and Iraqi citizenship, had asked two judges in London to rule that his detention was unlawful and breached his human rights.  
His lawyers told a hearing on July 20 that after nine months in detention, he should be allowed to return to his home in Britain, but in their ruling Friday, justices Sir Alan Moses and Sir Stephen Richards dismissed his claim.  
"We reject the case advanced on the claimant's behalf in these proceedings that his continued detention in Iraq and the failure to return him to the United Kingdom are unlawful," they said.  
Al-Jedda, who was born in Iraq

but now lives in London after gaining asylum in Britain, was detained by US military forces in Iraq, then handed over to the British army - deployed in southern Iraq - last October.  
Last October he took his children to Baghdad via Dubai to meet his new wife, having divorced his first wife in 2001.  
The Ministry of Defence in London suspects Al-Jedda of being a member of a terrorist group involved in weapons smuggling and attacks with explosives.  
He denies the accusations, and remains at the Shaiba Divisional Detention Facility in Iraq's main southern city of Basra.  
There is no connection between his detention and either the July 7 bombings in London that killed 56, including four apparent suicide bombers, or a failed attempt on July 21 to repeat the attacks.



A Kazipara road in Mirpur goes under knee-deep water following Thursday night's downpour. The picture was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Mirpur trader killed

**FROM PAGE 1** policemen including plainclothesmen rushed to the area and tried to diffuse the fury. They chased the protestors and also clubbed the mob when it started to break vehicles.  
The police also placed barricades in front of the technical training centre on Mirpur Road, on Mazar Road and at Mirpur-10 roundabout, suspending vehicular traffic from 2:00pm to 5:30pm.  
**WITNESS ACCOUNT**  
It was around 1:40pm, when most of the devotees were still absorbed in offering Munajat at Baitul Mamur Jame Mosque at south Bishil after the Jumma prayer. Shahidullah came out of the mosque, as his cellphone was ringing frequently, said a devotee.  
"Hearing several gunshots, I looked around and saw my uncle collapse on the road," Shahidullah's nephew Kazi Jamal Hossain, who was unlocking his motorbike near the mosque, said.  
He said, "I saw three youths - two of them were firing in the air while the third was shooting away point blank at the prone body of uncle."  
Jamal saw Prince run amid the shooting towards his father to save him. When the assailants shot him in the abdomen, he took refuge, running into a nearby house.  
Another witness named Akhteruzzaman Babu said, "When I saw the three goons shooting at Kazi Saheb, I immediately started to shout, 'hold them, catch them'." They then fled along the alley beside Shamin Jewellers.  
Babu said one of the three was tall and lanky, who was wearing a white shirt. The two others were shorter.  
**MURDER MOTIVE**  
Family members said for the last

one and a half months some musclemen have been phoning Shahidullah, asking to give them extortion money from various local markets, as he was one of the top leaders of the market associations.  
"The frequency of the telephone calls became so high in the last week that he changed his cellphone SIM," Kazi Belal Hossain, brother of the slain businessman, told The Daily Star.  
He, however, could not say who have been making the calls.  
"Shahidullah told me on Thursday that some criminals have been threatening him asking Tk 10 lakh in tolls," said an office bearer of Mirpur Mazar Co-operative Market committee. Shahidullah was its general secretary.  
Hailed from Chandpur, Shahidullah lived at his Dhaka house at 165/1 South Bishil. He owned around 10 shops at various Mirpur markets including Prince Hotel and Restaurant, and Prince Bakery and Sweetmeats.  
He was the president of Baishakhi Super Market committee, general secretary of Mirpur Mazar Co-operative Market committee and Udayan Samabaya Samity, and vice-president of Mirpur Al-Falah Samabaya Samity.  
At least five businessmen have been killed in the city in the last one and a half months. Among them, businessman and Jubo Dal leader Sagir Ahmed was also gunned down soon after coming out of a local mosque on June 24.  
Businessman and Awami League leader Kamrul Alam was killed inside his Jigatola office on July 12, Nadim Ahmed and Abdur Razzak were hacked to death at Gabtoli on July 29, and a clearing and forwarding agent was slaughtered at Sutrapur last week.

## AL in dilemma

**FROM PAGE 1** Internal strife is at its worst in Comilla, Noakhali, Feni, Cox's Bazar, Narayanganj, Manikganj, Narsingdi, Mymensingh, Habiganj, Jessore, Kushia, Patuakhali, Barisal, Pirojpur, Barguna, Rajshahi, Bogra, Rangpur, Gaibandha and Nilphamari district units.  
The party has missed at least five deadlines since March 2003 to hold councils of the district units.  
According to AL sources, councils of 39 district units have been held, 28 of which have received approval of the central committee. The rest have just a president and a general secretary as office bearers.  
Councils of another 33 district committees are yet to be held.  
There are some district units that saw their last councils eight to 10 years ago. For instance, the last council of Barisal district was held 10 years ago.  
However, referring to the intra-party strife, Saber said, "It's not that serious. The party now is more organised and united than any other time."  
He said, "We are trying to convince the workers to work hard for the next elections. Once we return to power, we will take care of those who may feel aggrieved at party decisions."  
The AL central committee had to postpone the scheduled councils of Comilla, Narayanganj, Nilphamari and Chittagong city units. Top leaders of Dhaka and Chittagong city units are engaged in bitter disputes over establishing supremacy.  
Despite intervention of the party chief, Sheikh Hasina, the long-drawn-out row between Dhaka City AL President Mohammad Hanif and General Secretary Mozaffar Hossain Chowdhury May is yet to subside.  
"The dispute between Hanif and Maya has escalated in recent months and a settlement seems to be very unlikely," said an AL presidium member.  
Talking to The Daily Star, a senior AL leader said, "For the party, it's more important to put its own house in order first, before launching an anti-government movement. With

the next election only one and a half years away, we'd better inject energy into all organisational units."  
On the conflicts in the very centre, a leader preferring anonymity said, "Relations between a number of presidium members and the party general secretary and some central leaders are not good."  
"Presidium members feel they are not being deprived of due participation in decision making. Many decisions, including the declaration of the April 30 deadline for depositing the government last year, were taken keeping them in the dark," he added.  
**DCC gets**  
**FROM PAGE 16**  
and the ad firms began in May 2003, when the firms filed lawsuits against the increased tariff for setting up hoardings and outdoor advertisement signs.  
According to the tax schedule of 2002, the rate for billboards was Tk 3 per square foot (sq ft) on private property and Tk 6 per sq ft on DCC or government-owned land, which were increased to Tk 50 and Tk 150. The general rate of Tk 30 per sq ft neon signs was increased to Tk 75 on private and Tk 150 on government land.  
The DCC asked all the ad firms to apply for new contracts in compliance with this new tariff rate and guideline.  
The firms, however, refused to accept the increased tariff and the Outdoor Advertising Owners' Association (OAOA) filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging it. The High Court stayed the DCC orders, the corporation officials said.  
Rafiqul Islam, president of OAOA, said increasing the tax to such high an extent is a violation of rules.  
The case is yet to be disposed of at present but the stay order has been vacated.

## Spacecraft blasts off to gather Mars data

AP, Cape Canaveral

A spacecraft blasted off yesterday into a golden early morning sky, beginning a mission to Mars to gather more data on the Red Planet than all combined previous missions.  
The Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter lifted off on an Atlas V rocket on a seven-month journey to Mars. The booster rocket shut down and dropped off into the Atlantic Ocean minutes into the launch. Seconds later, the second-stage rocket engine ignited.  
"Surveying for the deepest insights into the mysterious evolution of Mars!" NASA commentator George Diller said after liftoff. The launch came just three days after space shuttle Discovery completed its mission.  
Circling the planet for at least four years, the orbiter is to provide unparalleled information on Mars' weather, climate and geology, which could aid possible future human exploration of the Red Planet.  
The \$720 million mission is divided into two parts.  
During its first two years, the orbiter will help build on NASA's knowledge of the history of ice on the planet. The planet is cold and dry with large caps of frozen water at its poles. But scientists think it was a wetter and possibly warmer place eons ago conditions that might have been conducive to life. Scientists are also trying to determine if it could support future human outposts.  
Equipped with the largest telescopic camera ever sent to another planet, the orbiter also will collect data that will help NASA plan where to land two robotic explorers later this decade. The Phoenix Mars Scout, in search of organic chemicals, will be launched in 2007, and the Mars Science Laboratory will follow two years later.  
During the second phase of its mission, the orbiter will serve as a communications messenger between the robotic explorers on Mars and Earth. The reconnaissance orbiter has a powerful antenna that can transmit 10 times more data per minute than the current trio of satellites positioned around the planet. NASA's Global Surveyor and Mars Odyssey and the European Space Agency's Mars Express.  
Two Nasa rovers launched in 2003, Spirit and Opportunity, continue to roam the planet and may be the first to relay information back to Earth via the reconnaissance orbiter.  
The orbiter is loaded with two cameras that will provide high-resolution images and global maps of Martian weather, a spectrometer that will identify water-related minerals and a radiometer to measure atmospheric dust. The Italian Space Agency has provided ground-penetrating radar that will peer beneath the surface of layers of rocks or ice.

## ACC to take

**FROM PAGE 16** given any decision in this regard, he added.  
Asked about the law minister's comment that there is no legal problem for the ACC about the pending cases, the ACC chairman said, "The ministry could have informed it in black and white."  
He also strongly denied the law ministry's claim that it had not got any letter from the ACC in this regard.  
The ACC could not be more active due to lack of manpower and infrastructure, Justice Khan said.

## Death shatters dream

**FROM PAGE 1** with 22 others in the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League (AL) rally on the Bangabandhu Avenue in the city.  
In his youth Hanif joined the Liberation War but his freedom fighter's certificate was burnt in a fire at his home at Bahorkhola of Meghna upazila in Comilla.  
He settled in the capital and started selling fish at city's Maniknagar area in Sabujbagh for the living of his family.  
"He would rush to Shyambazar, Karwan Bazar or sometimes to Rampura bazar at dawn to buy fish at wholesale rate and ferry them from door to door," Asma narrates her father's daily routine.  
"Even after this hard labour, he would sometimes join the meetings, processions and rallies organised by Awami League despite our objection because of his love of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," she continues.  
"My brothers, Amma [mother] and I always tried to restrain him from participating in the processions fearing there might be troubles, but somehow he always escaped us and headed for, God knows, what attractions," Asma says with a deep sigh. "He would go not for money like the street urchins, nor did he gain any profit out of it," she says.  
On August 21, when the grenades started blasting, Hanif was trying to rescue someone from the crowd but was himself injured in the legs with numerous splinters and fell to the ground.  
An aged Hanif could not pull himself up to save him from being stamped by the panic-stricken mob during the carnage.  
Assuming his life was nearing its end, Hanif urged a passer-by boy to send a message to his family at Maniknagar and asked him not to take him to hospital fearing he might lose his earning there.  
The boy managed to board him on an ambulance and rushed to Maniknagar to inform Hanif's family.

## Textile dyes, urea

**FROM PAGE 16** kemia and cancer, and also kidney failure.  
"The effects could be short-term and long-term. The short-term effects could be diarrhoea, abdominal pain, and vomiting. But the long-term effects are very serious - they could be pancreas cancer, intestine cancer, and asthma," said Associate Professor Miah Mashud, head of the gastro-entology department of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.  
According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) standard, the BSTI approves three types of colours for use in food: Poncean 3R, Erythrosine and Poncean SX. But bakers and sweetmeat producers in the city are using textile colours like Metanil Yellow, Orange II, Rhodamine B, Auramine, Blue and Rhod.  
"When the producers send us any sample of their products, they meet the standard. But then they change their position and start producing below standard food for undue profit," said the BSTI official.  
"It is not possible for us to supervise all those things due to our limited manpower," he added.  
Most yellow items are coloured with Metanil Yellow and red items with Rhodamine B, sources from the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (Cab) recently revealed.  
The sources said food producers also use Black SM, Sun Yellow RCH, Orange SE, Scarlet 4BS, Sky Blue FB, Green PLS, Fast Brown BRLL etc. Yellow 3GX, Orange GR POP, Bordeaux BW, Fast Red 5B, Turquoise Blue GL, and Brown CN.  
Producers may also be using harmful sweeteners, although detecting this chemical is difficult. "They may also use sodium cyclamate to sweeten their products,

## Oil prices

**FROM PAGE 16** The world's largest economy continued to hold up against soaring oil prices. Latest economic data showed U.S. retail sales jumped 1.8 percent last month, with the biggest gain in auto sales due to buyer incentives.  
Further support came from the Paris-based International Energy Agency, which cut its estimate of non-OPEC supply growth.  
Non-OPEC nations are failing to deliver as much oil as expected this year, leaving an already stretched OPEC to fill the supply void, it said in a report on Thursday.  
The spat over Iranian nuclear program also underpinned prices as dealers feared the potential impact on supplies from OPEC's second-biggest producer if the United Nations Security Council were to impose sanctions.  
The European Union will push for Iran to be referred to the Security Council for punitive action if Tehran fails to comply with a resolution from the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency demanding that it suspend all nuclear activities, EU diplomats said.  
**Gas deals**  
**FROM PAGE 16** policymakers don't care about people's interest while signing contract with foreign oil companies," he said.  
On Fulbari coal mine development in Faridpur, he said the government has to be extra vigilant there.  
Prof Imam also cautioned if the government is not careful and vigilant about energy resources, the country might face energy insecurity in near future.  
Prof Anu Muhammad of Jahangirnagar University said, "If we're not careful about our energy resources, Bangladesh may suffer a fate similar to Nigeria's."  
"Energy security of a country might be jeopardised even if the supply of energy is higher than demand," he added.  
He slammed the successive governments for not "protecting the country's interest" while making deals with foreign companies.  
Prof Ahmed Kamal of Dhaka University said energy resources must be handled with care, as it is the basis of a country's development.  
He demanded that the names of the people, who have damaged the country's interest, should be made public.  
Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, engineer Amanul Islam Chowdhury and M Inamul Haque also addressed the roundtable.

## Finance wants

**FROM PAGE 1** Rapid Action Battalion, as well as the military secret service, a BB source revealed.  
The BB itself will form a central intelligence cell to gather, scrutinise and analyse information from banks and other sources and then forward them to the bureau with recommendations for actions.  
A finance ministry source said the BB proposal will be discussed in an inter-ministerial meeting and, if approved, will be tabled in parliament as a bill.  
The initiative to formulate a tougher anti-money laundering as well as anti-terrorism finance law reflects the finance minister's promise made last June when he extended the time for whitening black money.  
Another finance ministry source said although the initiative was taken up in 2002 following pressure from the US, its progress has been very slow due mainly to opposition from some quarters in the government.

## Heathrow strike

**FROM PAGE 16** senses," he said in a statement.  
Around 100,000 passengers fly daily with BA during August, and about two-thirds of its flights, excluding franchises, use Heathrow, the world's busiest international hub.  
Analysts said the cancellations could cost Europe's No. 3 airline tens of millions of pounds.  
Shares in BA, already suffering from record oil prices and competition from low-cost carriers, fell as much as 2.5 percent in early trade. At 1450 GMT, they were down 1 percent at 289-1/4 pence, among the worst performing in the FTSE-100 index.  
BA said it had found 4,000 hotel rooms for passengers stranded overnight and that 1,600 spent the night at the airport. Customers could rebook flights or be refunded, and were being offered free refreshments at Heathrow, Richard Goodfellow said.  
"Our message to customers is don't come to the airport today ... We're very sorry and doing all we can to look after customers at Heathrow," he said.  
However, around 1,000 passengers queuing to swap tickets or get refunds at a packed Terminal 4 were not impressed.  
"We're feeling very frustrated. It's totally chaotic," said Zekko Marusic, who arrived from Seattle on Thursday and is trying to travel to Vienna. "We had two hours sleep and no one's telling us what's happening."  
BA staff still working were also having a torrid time.  
"It's a very, very difficult day. I

## Gas deals

**FROM PAGE 16** innocents in Iraq, in Palestine and elsewhere," he said.  
Bakri was banned from returning to Britain yesterday by British authorities who said his presence was "not conducive to the public good".  
The cleric had in any case said in Thursday's television interview that he had no plans to return to Britain, where he had resided since 1986.  
He said he intended to take up residence in Lebanon and bring his family over, and called on all Islamist militants in exile to return to their countries.  
"We don't feel he's conducive to the public good," said a Home Office spokeswoman. Family members - including his wife, children and grandchildren -- were free to remain, she added.  
The ban follows a campaign by Britain's tabloid media to oust the cleric, who has said he would not inform police if he knew Muslims were planning to bomb trains in Britain and supported attacks on UK troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.  
Blair vowed to deport or exclude foreign nationals who encouraged or condoned terrorism after four British Muslim bombers killed themselves and 52 other people in attacks on London's transport system on July 7.  
Britain on Thursday detained 10 people, including the alleged spiritual leader of al-Qaeda in Europe, Jordanian national Abu Qatada, and pledged to deport them.  
Jordan said on Friday it had not yet decided whether to ask Britain to extradite Qatada, sentenced in his absence to life imprisonment by an Amman court for a 1998 terrorist plot.  
The government this week signed an agreement with Jordan that London says will protect deportees from ill-treatment. It is seeking similar agreements with countries such as Algeria and Lebanon but rights campaigners say the assurances are worthless.  
Bakri has lived in Britain since 1986. He used to live in Lebanon and has Lebanese citizenship.  
The bearded cleric was involved with the British branch of the radical group Hizb ut-Tahrir and was closely linked to al-Qaeda in Europe, Jordanian national Abu Qatada, and pledged to deport them.  
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## Polluters rule Patenga

**FROM PAGE 16** the embankments where we are supposed to walk," said Tanjil, a student of Chittagong University, who brought his sister to the beach.  
Having set up the shops, mostly within the last two years, the owners have also divided into two groups forming two separate co-operatives under which they collect rents from every shop.  
Gulam Mahmud Bhutto, vice president of the Patenga Sea Beach Shop Owners' Co-operative Ltd, claimed that all shop owners come from Phulashipara, Nahirpara and Charpara villages and they are victims of erosion and land acquisition.  
"We have applied to the WDB and other government offices to grant the lease to us and our local MP has also recommended it," said Bhutto.  
He admitted that so many shops have created a crowded situation in the area but he said once they are "legally settled" they will streamline the market. He claimed that the local people have converted the area into a tourist spot and they had the right to do business first.  
According to local people, several hundred shops were set up within the last two years under direct patronage of ruling party men with the hope that once the government decides to lease out the land, every party man will benefit from it.

## Bakri banned

**FROM PAGE 16** "contributed to the demising of ordinary British Muslims."  
Some of Blair's anti-terrorism measures have angered civil liberties campaigners who fear they erode human rights and renege on international human rights commitments.  
Blair has said he will override human rights laws if necessary in order to deport foreign nationals.  
Senior government minister Lord Charles Falconer said Britain may reform laws to compel judges to give national security equal weight to human rights in deportation cases.  
Judges have thwarted past government efforts to deport foreign nationals on the basis of the European Convention on Human Rights -- enshrined in Britain's 1998 Human Rights Act -- guarantees deportees freedom from torture or ill-treatment.  
"I want a law which says the home secretary, supervised by the courts, has got to balance the rights of the individual deportee against the risks of national security," Falconer, head of the judiciary, told BBC Radio.  
The legal changes "may involve an act that says this is the correct interpretation of the European Convention," he added.

## Bombs hurled

**FROM PAGE 1** cordoned off the area and conducted a massive search but failed to arrest any of the criminals.  
The Rab collected splinters from the spot.  
The bombs were locally made, but powerful, Rab sources said.  
Special security measures have been taken in the ten southwestern districts to prevent any untoward incident.  
From a meeting in Chuadanga town on July 30 on the occasion of their "founder" Charu Majumdar's 33rd death anniversary, an outlawed party threatened to take revenge on law enforcers for killing their party men, sources said.  
Outlaws in the region killed at least 42 members of different law enforcement agencies and injured 100 others in last four years.  
About 250 outlaws were killed in "crossfire" with police, Rab and Cobra in ten southwestern districts since June last year, sources said.  
It is assumed that about 10,000 cadres of 11 outlawed parties are active in the southwestern region.  
Several large-scale anti-crime drives launched in the region at different times failed to crush the organised outlaws.

keep being shouted at, so it's not much fun," said one, who declined to be named.  
Unofficial strikes in 2003 cost BA around 40 million pounds, and analysts said the firm was getting a reputation for letting down customers.  
"Financially people are talking 10 million pounds a day in the short-term, but obviously longer-term there's the hit it takes in terms of customers and how it's perceived by clients," said Henk Potts, an investment manager at Barclays Stockbrokers.  
BA said it was too early to estimate the cost of the strike.  
Other airlines faced knock-on disruption. Australia's Qantas Airways Ltd. said it had cancelled flights, while Finnish national carrier Finnair and Sri Lankan Airlines were also affected.  
BA said about 620 flights had been cancelled since Thursday.  
BA's relations with staff have been strained since the airline axed thousands of jobs in an industry downturn that followed the September 2001 attacks on the United States.  
The latest dispute was triggered by a long-running spat between the TGWU and loss-making Gate Gourmet, which is owned by US private equity fund Texas Pacific.  
Unions said Gate Gourmet staff were sacked after they walked out in protest at planned changes to pay and conditions. The company said its reforms were needed to safeguard its future.

## EU cancels

**FROM PAGE 1** Utpal Dutta, community development specialist of the project under the land ministry, and Mostafizur Rahman, deputy director of the regional office of the project, accompanied the delegation while Upazila Nirbarhi Officer Sarifuddin was present during the visit.