

Iajuddin confined to residence
Says Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition and Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the BNP-Jamaat alliance government has kept President Iajuddin Ahmed confined to his official residence Bangabhaban although medical report revealed that the president was fit to resume work.

"As the government is hiding the condition of the president, question has arisen whether the president has been kept under house arrest," Hasina said at a view exchange meeting with the party's grassroots level leaders of Panchagarh and Thakurgaon districts.

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PHOTO: STAR

Family members of Jagannath University student Iqbal Hossain Masum, who died in 'crossfire' almost a year ago, seek justice at a press conference in the capital yesterday.

'Crossfire' victim's parents still seek justice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parents of Iqbal Hossain Masum, a Jagannath University student who was killed in 'crossfire' last July, yesterday demanded immediate trial of their son's killers.

Speaking at a press conference at the office of Crime Reporters Association of Bangladesh (Crab), they said the only dream they now cherish is to see Masum's killers are meted out punishment.

They said a fair investigation cannot be carried out without arresting the prime accused Iqbal

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North Korea warns UN against sanctions

Pyongyang vows to continue missile tests

AP, United Nations

North Korea's UN envoy threatened "all-out countermeasures" if the UN Security Council imposed sanctions over its test-launch of several missiles, while China and Russia urged diplomacy to halt the isolated regime's nuclear and rocket development programmes.

North Korea confirmed Thursday that it test-launched missiles earlier this week and vowed to continue doing so to strengthen the country's self-defence.

The comments from the Foreign

Ministry were the government's first since North Korea test-fired at least seven missiles on Wednesday, including a long-range Taepodong-2. All of them apparently fell harmlessly into the Sea of Japan.

The statement was carried on the official Korean Central News Agency monitored in Seoul.

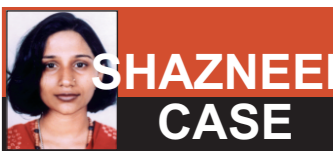
The statement also said that North Korea has a "legal right" to missile launches, which it called part of "regular military drills to strengthen its self-defence." It also said the launches are unrelated to

six-party talks aimed at persuading the country to abandon its nuclear programme.

North Korea has three or four more missiles on launch pads, South Korean media reported, while Japan said there was no sign the communist state was planning another immediate launch of a long-range rocket.

Japan, backed by the US and Britain, circulated a resolution Wednesday that would ban any country from transferring funds,

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SHAZNEE CASE

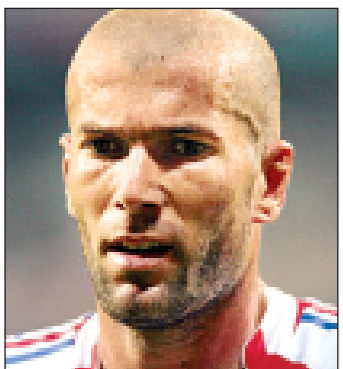
Analysing witness statements completed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) Death Reference Bench on Shazneer murder case completed analysing the statements of 18 out of 22 prosecution witnesses as it continued passing the judgment in the sensational case on the second day yesterday.

According to court sources, the bench is likely to complete delivering the verdict and make its decision about the appeal of the

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Zidane coming to Bangladesh

SPORTS REPORTER

French legend Zinedine Zidane is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on November 7 for a two-day visit.

The Algerian-born talisman, who will lead France in the World Cup final against Italy in Berlin on

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Help efforts for nuclear power generation

PM asks scientists

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the scientists to extend cooperation to government efforts for use of nuclear power in collaboration with China to meet a growing demand for electricity.

She made the call while inaugurating the golden jubilee celebration of Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR).

The prime minister said the science and ICT ministry is dealing with China for production of electricity utilising nuclear power, as it will not be possible to meet the domestic demand for electricity only by

using gas.

Responding to a demand from the BCSIR chairman, she announced that the government would take step to raise the retirement age of scientists to 60 from 57 years.

She urged the scientists and researchers to turn BCSIR into a centre of excellence for the welfare of the country and its people and assured all possible help in their innovative efforts as well as positive and potential initiatives.

She hoped the scientists will be more active in innovating new

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Sixth regional dialogue today at Rangamati

Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Prothom Alo, The Daily Star and Channel i are jointly organising their sixth Regional dialogue on 'National Election 2007: Civil Society Initiative for Accountable Development' to be held today at 2:30pm at Rangamati.

Eminent academics and professionals, development and cultural activists, public representatives and political leaders and other civil society representatives of Rangamati will speak at the dialogue.

The distinguished members of the 'Nagorik Committee 2006' who are preparing a Vision Paper for Bangladesh will also be present in the meeting to receive public feedback.

1999 BLAST Udichi submits memo to Babar for fresh probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Udichi Shilpi Gosthi yesterday submitted a memorandum to the state minister for home, demanding reinvestigation of the Jessore blast and punishment to the culprits in the terrorist attack carried out seven years ago.

Elsewhere in the country, district and upazila units of the cultural organisation submitted memorandums to the deputy commissioners and upazila nirbahi officers (UNO).

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PHOTO: STAR

Widow and a child of Mostafa Milon, who died at Mohakhali during the opposition's blockade programme on July 2, sit with his poster at a rally at Mukhtangon in the capital yesterday protesting the killing.

RU set to recruit 8 teachers for 2 posts

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University (RU) authorities are going to recruit eight teachers against two advertised posts in the Marketing Department, allegedly on political considerations.

Besides, 10 teachers were also appointed to the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Department on June 29 amid controversies.

Of the selected candidates for the Marketing Department, four are loyal to Jamaat and the rest are pro-

BNP. One of them was sacked from the Chittagong International Islamic University recently due to immoral activities, sources alleged.

The teachers of the Marketing Department had protested the recruitment and submitted a written complaint to the RU vice chancellor (VC) before the selection committee's meeting regarding the dismissal of the candidate, but the selection body did not pay heed to it.

A total of 22 candidates applied

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Non-govt teachers' strike from tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Along with the indefinite strike of pro-BNP teachers and employees of non-government high schools, colleges and madrasas, the Awami League (AL) backed teachers and employees will go for indefinite strike across the country from tomorrow.

They are going for the strike to compel the government to accept their demands including 100 per cent basic salary from the govern-

ment exchequer.

The pro-BNP Shikhhak Karmachari Oikya Jote enforced indefinite strike was partially observed at non-government high schools, colleges and madrasas yesterday. However, it is expected that the strike would be strictly observed from tomorrow onwards as the pro-AL Jatiya Shikhhak-Karmachari Front will join the indefinite strike.

The principal demand of both

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3 criminals killed by rivals

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushthia

Criminals killed three people of their rival gang at Junaidah of Mirpur upazila in Kushtia early yesterday.

The dead were identified as Biplob Hossain, 32, Moktar Hossain, 42, and Ashraf Islam Bhutro, 24.

Police said the dead were from a notorious local gang called Panna Bahini.

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| Prayer Timing | | |
|---------------|-------|--------|
| July 7 | | |
| | Azan | Jamaat |
| Fajr | 4-10 | 4-45 |
| Juma | 12-30 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 5-00 | 5-15 |
| Maghrib | 6-55 | 7-00 |
| Esha | 8-17 | 8-45 |

Source: Islamic Foundation