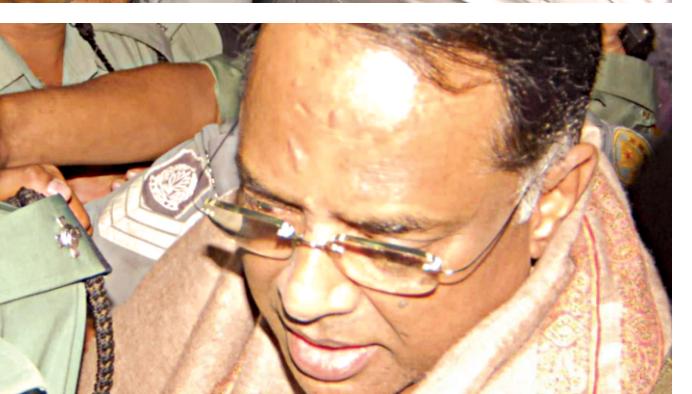
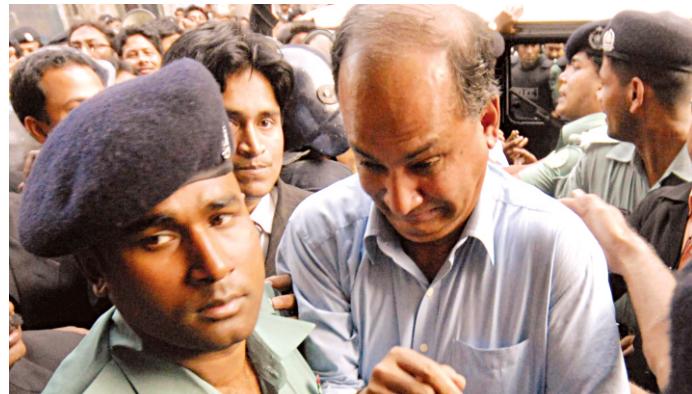


FROM CORRIDOR OF POWER TO COURT



FROM TOP LEFT ... Former prime minister Khaleda Zia's parliamentary affairs adviser Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, former communications minister Nazmul Huda, former home minister Mohammad Nasim, adviser to Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and Beximco Vice-chairman Salman F Rahman, former state minister for civil aviation Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin, former minister Saifur Rahman's son former lawmaker Naser Rahman, former state minister for planning Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, former Jatiya Chhatra League president Jahangir Sattar Tinku, former lawmaker Manjurul Ahsan Munshi, former state minister for labour and employment Amanullah Aman and former state minister for power Iqbal Hassan Mahmood being escorted to a Dhaka court yesterday. All of them were sent to jail after their bail petitions were turned down by the court.

PHOTO: STAR

90 acres of forestland recovered

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Joint forces yesterday recovered 90 acres of forestland worth around an estimated Tk 50 crore from encroachers and demolished a number of structures in Porabari of the district.

The drive began at 10:00am and continued till 3:00pm. Toushik

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RIVER ENCROACHMENT

Ex-BNP MP Salahuddin's house partly demolished

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) yesterday partially demolished former BNP lawmaker Salahuddin Ahmed's house

beside the Buriganga river.

Salahuddin encroached upon the riverbank and built part of the house and its stairs during the four-party alliance rule.

The BIWTA had earlier served on

him several notices for removing the illegal structure.

"But he did not listen to us," said a BIWTA official.

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ADB feels anti-graft drive to perk up economy

UNB, Dhaka

Asian Development Bank (ADB) Country Director Hua Du yesterday said the caretaker government's broad action to fight corruption will have positive impact

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

2.2km gas pipeline laid for Bogra private firm for free

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

A number of Pashchimanchal Gas Company Ltd (PGCL) officials, allegedly taking bribes, installed over 2.2km gas pipelines in a private

housing estate under Bogra Town Gas Supply Project leaving the company in the dark.

Several houses in the housing estate have gas supply which they

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Temporary markets for hawkers on weekdays

Bss, Dhaka

The government has decided to set up temporary markets in different parts of the city on weekdays besides Fridays to rehabilitate the hawkers.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



BIWTA armed with a tug tears down a building constructed on an illegally occupied land on the bank of the Buriganga at Shyampur yesterday.

Verdict in gold smuggling case of Ershad today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Judgement of the gold smuggling case filed against former president and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad 16 years back will be delivered today.

Judge SM Mujibur Rahman of the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court will give the verdict at 11:00am, court sources said.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence had completed their

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Tanks, troops rule Baghdad streets

30 civilians, 2 soldiers die in surge of violence

AFP, AP, Baghdad

Iraqi and US forces yesterday prepared to launch a massive crackdown in Baghdad to end the sectarian carnage pushing Iraq toward civil war as at least another 30 people died in a surge of violence.

The sustained bloodshed came after nearly 200 people were killed over the weekend, mostly in the war-torn capital.

Iraqi forces on Monday stepped up security in some volatile districts on the eastern side of the Tigris river, which runs through Baghdad, an AFP photographer reported.

Iraqi soldiers and National Guard police were deployed on Baghdad's

main eastern highway leading to the Shia bastion of Sadr City, a repeated insurgent target, he said.

Tanks and other armoured vehicles along with National Guard police were seen at various locations on the road to Sadr City and in districts such as Karrada.

New control points were set up in the districts of Karrada, Rusafa, Mustansiriyah, Adhamiyah and Sadr City, all to the east of the Tigris.

On some bridges, guard posts were protected by tanks and barbed wire as soldiers stopped and checked drivers, the photographer said.

Thirteen bridges cross the Tigris

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SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

The government has formed a seven-member committee to recommend how to transact overseas calls through internet in a legal way at cheaper charges.

Meanwhile, the caretaker government has dismantled mushrooming unauthorised call centers using Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) facility.

"The matter of transaction of calls at home and abroad at cheaper prices through the VoIP platform is under process," said an official announcement yesterday.

The committee, headed by professor Saiful Islam of Electrical and Electronics Department of BUET as its chairman, will submit its recommendations to the post and telecommunications ministry within 10 working days.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Prayer Timing

February 6

Azan Jamaat

Fajr 5:30 6:05

Zohr 12:45 1:15

Asr 4:15 4:30

Maghrib 5:52 5:56

Esha 7:15 7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation