

**BANGABANDHU MURDER CASE**  
Reading out of judgment continues

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
A counsel for condemned prisoner Bazul Huda completed reading out part of the High Court (HC) judgment in the Bangabandhu murder case that concerned Huda and another condemned prisoner – Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan – on the third day of the resumed hearing in the Supreme Court (SC).  
In the absence of Huda's main counsel, advocate-on-record for his leave to appeal petition Nurul Islam Bhuiya also started reading out part of the HC judgment concerning Khandkar Abdur Rashid, another condemned prisoner.  
Nurul Islam yesterday read out 110 pages of the HC judgment pronounced by Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin.  
Next hearing of the case will be held on Sunday.  
A three-member SC bench headed by Justice Tafazzul Islam  
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**Make young generation aware of graft effects**

**Call at Star Insight anniversary function**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Anti-corruption officials and propagators yesterday stressed the need for the young generation to be made aware of the effects of corruption in society in order to make the ongoing fight against corruption sustainable.  
The speakers made these comments at the first anniversary of The Daily Star's bi-weekly Star Insight and prize-giving ceremony for the Cartoon Contest Against Corruption at the Jatiya Press Club.  
"The Anti Corruption Commission will never work for any group, any party, any organisation or vested quarter. At least, until we are at the helm," Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman Lt Gen (ret'd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury said in his speech as the chief guest on the occasion.

"But we will be with any organisation, group or individual who fight corruption."  
The fight against corruption is very important, Mashhud said, adding, "This is a struggle of life and death. Those who cannot be in the fight physically, can be part of it in spirit."  
He said one easy way to help in the fight against corruption is to speak about it and raise awareness of the issues, for which, he said the Bangladeshi media remains at the forefront.  
The former army chief lauded the initiative taken by The Daily Star to organise the cartoon contest, as he feels such steps are necessary to garner popular support.  
Special guest renowned singer Kalim Sharafi also lauded the cartoon contest and said these initia-

tives are important to generate awareness against the scourge of corruption.  
Award-winning author and long-time anti-corruption activist Selina Hossain said people must be made aware of the widespread and deep effects of corruption on day-to-day life.  
She demanded exemplary punishment for those involved with corruption cases as she feels impunity in the past has led to such large-scale corruption in Bangladesh.  
Renowned cartoonist Rafiqunnabi (popularly known as Ranabi) said cartoonists have always played a significant role in all social and political movements  
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**AL allowed to observe Aug 15 on conditions**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The caretaker government has set 11 conditions for Awami League (AL) to observe August 15 as the 32nd death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.  
The conditions include abstaining from holding processions and using banners.  
AL usually observes August 15 with elaborate programmes including discussions and large processions. But this year the party has to limit its programmes.  
"The programmes must be observed complying with the conditions. Legal actions will be taken if they are breached," said a  
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Winners in the 'Anti-corruption Cartoon Contest' organised by The Daily Star pose with the delegates and judges at the award-giving ceremony marking the first anniversary of Star Insight at the auditorium of Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

**Non-govt primary teachers face competency test**

**UNB, Dhaka**  
The government has decided to take competency test of the teachers, recruited for the registered non-government primary schools before July 1, 1992 and have been receiving government part of their salary without attaining necessary educational qualifications.  
According to the decision, the teachers will have to submit prescribed form, duly filled-up, to the upazila education office by August 20, 2007.  
The upazila education officers have already distributed the forms among the teachers concerned, said an official release.  
This competency test will be held by the end of September simultaneously throughout the country. The exact date for the examination will be notified in due time.  
The syllabus of the exam has been finalised based on the necessary competency level required to  
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Indigenous artistes dance on the premises of Engineers Institution at a function arranged by Adibasi Forum in observance of International Day of the World's Indigenous People yesterday.

**Saudi airlines may carry 50pc hajj pilgrims this year**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Saudi Arabian Airlines may carry 50 per cent of the Bangladeshi hajj pilgrims this year as the government is going to make an agreement with the Saudi government.  
The arrangement will help smooth hajj flight operation as most of the hajj pilgrims are to be carried by leasing aircraft, sources at the civil aviation and tourism ministry yesterday said.  
Meanwhile, civil aviation and tourism ministry has expressed concerns after recent termination of the Biman's hajj flight agreement with Bangkok-based airline Phuket Air.  
"An inter-ministerial meeting held today at the civil aviation ministry formed a five-member committee to make the draft agreement," acting secretary to the civil aviation ministry Sheikh Altaf Ali told The Daily Star at his secretariat office after emerging from the meeting  
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yesterday.  
Saudi Airlines is entitled to carry 50 per cent of the hajj pilgrims but they never did that, he said.  
"We don't have any agreement with Saudi Arabia that several countries have for carrying half the hajj passengers. The agreement will ease carrying the hajjis," Altaf Ali said.  
"With the present flight capacity Biman will be able to carry about 5,000 hajjis and the rest will have to be carried by leasing aircraft," the acting civil aviation secretary said.  
"Every year we face hassle and anxiety to carry hajj pilgrims as Saudi Airlines does not carry expected number of hajj passengers from Bangladesh. But they get royalty from us," a Biman high official yesterday said wishing anonymity.  
"Carrying half of the hajjis by Saudi Airlines would make the task of transporting the hajjis easier for  
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**Musharraf against imposing emergency**

**AFP, Islamabad**

Embattled President Pervez Musharraf yesterday decided against imposing a state of emergency in Pakistan to cope with growing security and stability concerns, a senior government official told AFP.  
The military ruler, facing the greatest challenge to his leadership since he seized power in a 1999 coup, decided against the move – which would have postponed next year's elections – after conferring with aides, he said.  
"The president has rejected the suggestions to declare a state of emergency as proposed by his political allies," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.  
Musharraf has been facing a raft of problems including widespread anger over his attempt, since overturned by the courts, to suspend the country's chief justice – a move critics saw as an attempt to consolidate his grip on power.  
Mass protests over the attempted suspension, mounting criticism over his government's

handling of militants along the Afghan border and efforts by rivals to come back from exile to contest the election have put him under fire.  
Government sources had said the president was reluctant to impose an emergency but had been under pressure from key aides to do so.  
Other sources close to the president said Musharraf's decision to reject the advice of political allies was based on his commitment to elections that are slated for early next year.  
"The president believes in holding free and fair elections in the country on schedule and he is not in favour of taking any measures that would be a hurdle in this objective," a close political ally of Musharraf said.  
"He feels that there is no requirement of imposing a state of emergency," he said.  
The imposition of emergency measures would have derailed that commitment as it would automatically have extended the tenure of  
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**Child marriage stopped thru' street protests**

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira**  
An 11-year-old girl was rescued yesterday from an attempted under-age marriage at Gopalpur village in Tala upazila as her fellow students took to the streets in protest.  
The students of Tala Model High School submitted a memorandum to Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mohammad Waliullah Mia requesting him to save Putul Rani Das, a student of class six of the school, from an under-age marriage with a 20-year-old youth of a neighbouring village.  
The UNO summoned the girl's father, Ganesh Chandra Das, a cobbler, to his office and asked him to cancel the wedding scheduled for next Sunday.  
Ganesh complied with the UNO's instructions and signed a bond stating that he would not arrange any under-age marriage in future.  
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**Bangladesh name team for T20 WC**

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Like the other Test nations, Bangladesh also decided to send a young but competitive team to the ICC Twenty20 World Championship, which will be held in South Africa next month.  
Mohammad Ashraful will lead the 15-member squad which was named yesterday after the approval of the Bangladesh Cricket Board.  
The significant recall was Alok Kapali's while explosive batsmen like Junaed Siddique and Nazim Uddin were rewarded for their domestic performance this season.  
Another young man on the team is hard-hitting batsman Nadif Chowdhury. He is yet to play a one-day international but was part of Bangladesh's only Twenty20 match against Zimbabwe.  
Veteran left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique, however, was not considered after he was advised to take at least two weeks'  
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**More job cut in Biman**  
*Plan to trim manpower by 500*

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd, the newly formed public limited company (PLC), has taken an initiative to downsize its manpower further by 500 employees.  
However, the initiative was taken without its board of directors' consent, as the meeting of the board of directors is yet to be held.  
Under a fresh voluntary retirement scheme (VRS), Biman plans to trim its staffs to 2,400 from the existing 2,900, civil aviation and tourism ministry sources said.  
"Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd sought about Tk 125 crore from the finance ministry to meet the necessary expenses in this regard," sources said.  
"We have got a letter from Dr MA Momen (Biman's chief executive officer and managing director) proposing further downsizing its manpower," Acting Secretary to the civil aviation and tourism ministry Sheikh Altaf Ali told The Daily Star  
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yesterday at his office.  
MA Momen said, "Biman will face no problems if some more Biman staffs went for voluntary retirement. The VRS would do them good." He said the VRS is dependent on the availability of funds from the finance ministry.  
"Biman's newly formed board of directors is yet to sit for a meeting," the civil aviation secretary said, adding, "Recommendations of the board of directors is needed to downsize Biman's staff."  
However, an official in Biman said, "We have to see when the letter was sent to the ministry [before or after Biman became a PLC]. If a director of Biman disagrees with the initiative, he can raise objections in the board meeting."  
"He [civil aviation secretary, a board member] has options, he could agree or disagree with the Biman's initiative during the meeting of the board of directors," the  
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**ACC seeks help of senior lawyers to fight graft**

**UNB, Dhaka**

A group of senior lawyers, including Dr Kamal Hossain, Dr M Zahir and Justice TH Khan, yesterday had a meeting with Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Lt Gen (ret'd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury where the ACC sought the lawyers' cooperation in pursuing the ongoing anti-corruption campaign.  
Emerging from the meeting, Dr Kamal told reporters that the nation has been united to fight corruption and it is the people's demand to make the campaign effective.  
However, Dr Kamal said those lawyers who are working for the commission will have to work neutrally to ensure that the law is not abused, "They will have to  
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**Troops on red alert in India's northeast after rebels kill 15**

**AFP, Guwahati**  
Federal soldiers in India's restive northeast went on maximum alert Thursday after separatists killed 15 people in a string of attacks ahead of Independence Day, officials said.  
"Army, police, and the paramilitary troops were deployed in strength across the state to foil rebel attacks with militants trying to step up violence in the run-up to India's Independence Day celebrations," on August 15, Assam chief minister Tarun Gogoi told AFP.  
The latest violence left eight Hindi-speaking migrant workers dead on Wednesday in Assam's eastern Karbi Anglong district.  
The shooting was blamed on militants of the outlawed United Liberation Front of Asom (Ulfa)  
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**PEOPLES JUTE MILLS**  
**Mill closure bankrupts over 2,000 traders**

**EMRAN HOSSAIN, back from Khulna**

A broad metalled street goes straight in front of the four state-owned jute mills in Khalishpur with rickshaws and motorised vehicles stranded at distance. Most of the wayside shops remain shut following the closure of Peoples Jute Mills Ltd and retrench of around 5,000 workers from the factories.  
The businesspersons including small traders involved in the sector fear of going bankrupt with an approximate amount of Tk 150 crore due to the labourers. They have little hope to get the money back unless the government pays the labours immediately.  
Now suppliers to small traders believe they would be compelled to

desert business, while wholesalers expect only the return of huge amounts they had invested and plan how to withstand the loss if the retrenched labourers are not paid immediately.  
The small traders had over 2,000 shops in the area to run their business. Almost 2,000 have already been forced to shut down. A large number of suppliers too have closed their business, while some others had to change track with poor capital. The makeshift businesspeople on footpaths and roadside vendors also deserted their business following workers' unrest in April.  
The labourers' arrears to the each of the small traders range from Tk 10,000 to Tk 70,000, which they piled up buying on credit. The small

traders, on the other hand, owe to the suppliers each Tk 30,000 to Tk 2.5 lakh, while the suppliers as a whole owe each of the wholesalers Tk 10 lakh to Tk 1 crore.  
The people here established most of their businesses in the last two decades by taking loans ranging from Tk 20,000 to Tk 1 lakh from different banks, NGOs and associations. The loan receivers had to mortgage property including houses on 10 percent to 15 percent interest. Some businesspersons took money on instalment from individuals, while very few had launched business with their own capital.  
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Once hectic neighbourhood of Peoples Jute Mills in Khulna gives a deserted look following its closure recently, rendering several thousand workers jobless.

**Customs official held for bribery**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**

The joint forces yesterday arrested a customs official while he was taking bribe from a clearing and forwarding agent in Khulna.  
Capt Motiul Islam of Rab-6 said they seized Tk 50,000 from the drawer of Md Mahfizur Rahman Bablu, principal appraiser of Mongla Customs House, at his office after he took the money as bribe to give clearance to a file.  
Later, the joint forces raided his residence and seized Tk 30,000 more. They handed over Bablu to Khalishpur police after interrogating him.  
Another customs official Zillur Rahim Khan, who negotiated the deal, managed to escape.

Prayer Timing		
August 10		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-25	5-00
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-41	6-44
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation