

## Govt asked to return

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Source said the government is considering Hasina's release on parole for treatment. While on parole, the AL chief will have to comply with certain conditions which include not getting involved in any political or business activity, and not contacting any organisation or individual for any reason other than her treatment.

Hasina and her party AL want her release on bail. Sources close to the negotiation told The Daily Star last night that the negotiation is likely to produce a result within the next 48 hours and the government might end up allowing the AL chief to fly to the US either on the 17th or the 19th of this month.

### PERSONAL DOCS BARRED FROM SEEING HASINA

When Dr Modasser Ali and Dr ABM Abdullah went to the hospital to check Hasina's health, security personnel posted to ensure AL chief's security, did not allow them to enter. They waited in the hospital for about an hour and a half.

The security personnel told Hasina's personal doctors that none other than the doctors in the Square Hospital panel would be allowed to see her.

Meanwhile, being obstructed by the security personnel, both Modasser and Abdullah questioned why they were not being allowed to examine their patient as she had been admitted to the hospital on their advice.

"We don't know why we were not allowed to see our patient since we had been seeing her in the jail," Abdullah told The Daily Star. He said they contacted Deputy Inspector General of Prisons Maj Shamsul Haider Siddiqui over the phone while in the hospital to know the reason behind the restriction.

Talking to The Daily Star Maj Siddiqui said normally access to any detainee is restricted. "If necessary, personal physicians will be brought in again soon," he said.

Asked whether the AL chief will be brought to the special court today in connection with a case against her, Maj Siddiqui said it will depend on the doctors' advice.

But sources said the government's high ups became unhappy with Hasina's personal physicians' formation of a medical board and their recommendation for sending her to the US for her ear treatment, without conducting any test. For that reason the jail authorities restricted Hasina's personal physicians' access to her.

### NEW MEDICAL TEAM

Prof Sanwar Hossain, director of medical services and consultant surgeon at Square Hospital, told reporters that a medical panel of seven physicians of the hospital was formed for Hasina's check-up there under his leadership.

Other doctors are Dr Touhiduzzaman, Dr Sarwar Alam, Dr Shahid Mahmud, Dr Shah Alam, Dr Mirza Nazimuddin, and Dr MH Millat.

Prof Sanwar said the AL chief's treatment has begun yet. Only tests are being done, he said, adding, as she had not undergone any test over the last several months, she needs some medical tests done.

He said her pathological tests began yesterday with blood and urine tests already being done.

An ultra-sonogram will be performed on her today, he said adding that it will take at least 7 to 8 days to complete the tests.

He however said it is not possible to re-admit in Square Hospital the function of the AL chief's hearing aid.

## HR record worsens

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power abuse.

The report adds that in many cases the suspects were arrested without having any formal charges or arrest warrants against them and kept in custody or taken to unknown places or at military cantonment either for having confessional statements on some issues under severe physical and psychological torture or to extract information about other suspects. It said the government in many cases filed politically motivated and false cases.

The issue that tops in the report is 'arbitrary or unlawful deprivation of life' in which it is illustrated that security forces including Bangladesh Rifles, military and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) committed numerous extrajudicial killings while the government did not take any action or initiate any public measures to investigate the cases. However, "the number of killings by security personnel" the report adds.

The report reveals that the security forces frequently employed torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment, such as threats, beatings and electric shocks, during arrests and interrogations.

The caretaker government used Emergency Power Rules (EPR) to curtail the freedom of speech and freedom of the press when individuals were not able to criticise the government publicly without fear of reprisal, indoor and outdoor political gatherings remained suspended, legal action was taken against critical editors and journalists, compelled to broadcast or publicise stories supporting the government.

The report says after banning radio and television talk shows in August, the government rescinded the ban after developing strict rules to govern the format.

The report has six sections each with subsections containing evaluation of human rights condition from different points of view including legal and fundamental. It also focuses on the issues of rights of women, children, those with disabilities, the minority communities and indigenous people.

It presents examples for almost every case. It also focuses on different important related trial.

The report says, "On several occasions when the Appellate Division upheld the High Court ruling to release a high-profile detainee, such as in the case of senior

## Rice price

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found that price of each maund of rice increased by Tk 10 to Tk 20. Prices of Indian Swarna and Ratna and local Gutti and IRRI varieties ranged from Tk 1100 to Tk 1150 a maund yesterday.

Some retailers yesterday sold these varieties at Tk 33 a kilogram, an increase of Tk 0.5 to Tk 1 on the day before, while others sold them for Tk 32. Prices of these varieties shot up by Tk 2 to Tk 3 in the last five days.

Besides the Indian restrictions on rice export, a few big wholesalers are also contributing to the price hike by hoarding the grain, wholesaler at Babubazar said.

Meanwhile, prices of edible oil and sugar nosedived in the city's wholesale markets. Traders said the price falls are due to a decrease in edible oil prices in the international market and the government's inquiry into hoarding.

The price of each maund of soya bean oil was Tk 4100 yesterday. It was sold at Tk 4300 at Moulvi Bazar just two days back. Best quality palm oil that was sold at Tk 4000 yesterday.

This decrease in prices, however, had no impact on the retail market. Soya bean oil was sold at Tk 118 to Tk 125 per kg yesterday, while the price of palm oil stood at Tk 105 to Tk 108. Unscrupulous retailers are also selling quality palm oil in the name of soya bean oil at Tk 110 to Tk 112 per kg.

In the last two days sugar prices came down by Tk 120 per maund in the wholesale market, costing each maund of sugar Tk 1330. But this reduction saw no impact on the retail market either. Each kg sugar was sold at Tk 40 to Tk 42.

Retailers said the price of sugar would come down in the retail market in a day or two after they start selling the sugar they purchased at decreased rate.

A correspondent from Benapole reports: The importers of Bangladesh and the exporters of India expressed their frustration as meetings between the exporters and Indian customs officials bore no fruit in the last three days.

Traders said the meeting between Federation of Indian Export Organisations and India's commerce ministry in Delhi also failed to produce any result as to the release of the stranded trucks.

India's Deputy Commissioner of Customs Anwar Hossain said the Indian government has clearly directed that the rice stranded on the border must not be exported at prices lower than \$650.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh imports said some of them went to banks to amend the letters of credit (LC) in a bid to increase the price from \$510 to \$650 for each metric ton of rice. But the banks did not agree to this.

Presently, each tonne of rice is selling at \$330 to \$370 in West Bengal's Burdwan district.

## Hasina

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The ACC served the notice on Hasina through the jail authorities on July 17 last year, asking her to submit statement of her movable and immovable property to the commission within seven working days.

Hasina, being aggrieved, filed the writ petition with the High Court challenging the legality of the ACC notice and won the legal battle.

## Over 10 lakh

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The West Bengal Essential Commodity Supply Corporation is delivering the rice purchased by the government at \$399 per metric ton.

Addressing a press briefing earlier at his ministry yesterday, adviser Shaukat Ali admitted that the rice market is not at a tolerable stage and stressed the need of increasing supply to the markets.

The adviser also told the journalists that 16,000 metric tons of rice from World Food Programme was unloaded in Chittagong port yesterday.

Talking on government role in monitoring rice prices in local markets, he said, "We're selling rice at Tk 25 a kg through 2319 outlets under the OMS (open market sale) programme and distributing free rice through 40 lakh VGF (vulnerable group feeding) programmes to help the poor. We're also selling rice at a low price at around 190 BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) shops."

Asked about government steps to help the middle class and lower middle class, he observed that the government has to set priority adding that the lower middle class are also visiting the BDR shops.

Asked whether they have any plan about the fixed income group, the adviser said that they are trying to find a solution.

Talking on the LCs opened on private sectors before the Indian authorities raised the price to \$560 per metric ton, he said, "Such LCs are protected. The Indian customs officials are contacting Delhi and it'll be settled within one or two days."

## Scandal-hit

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In a brief resignation statement, he said: "Over the course of my public life I have insisted, I believe correctly, that people regardless of their position or power take responsibility for their conduct."

"I can and will ask no less of myself."

He added: "I go forward with the belief, as others have said, that as human beings our greatest glory consists not in never falling but in rising every time we fall."

Spitzer, 48, is married with three teenage girls.

## Last of the wild

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Mongoose roam in Dhanmondi, Mohaammadpur, Azimpur, Hazaribagh, Mirpur, Gulshan, Secretariat Dhaka University, and some pockets and many other places.

Mongoose are day-active mammals surviving in the city by feasting mainly on rat and insect population, while chickens sometimes fall prey to it. The species is also seen near waste bins where they have learnt to extract leftovers for survival.

Jacksals once roamed freely in the city, but the animal is now on the verge of extinction. But still sightings of jacksals and their howling are frequent in areas like Mirpur ceramic factory. On the BDR headquarters premises and its adjoining areas there were reported sightings as well.

"In the Botanical Garden and surrounding villages there are still some jacksals," said Reza Khan.

Presently small colonies of fruit bats and pipistrelle (chamchika) exist in different parts of the city. While bat colonies are seen hanging from branches of large trees in Ramna Park, National Botanical Garden and some other areas, pipistrelle choose to live in the loopholes of old buildings.

Talking with the locals it is learnt that some water monitors are now counting their days. They can be sighted in and around Mirpur Botanical Garden and National Zoo and by the Turag river.

Irawadi and five-stripe squirrels are now seen in very limited numbers at Ramna Park, Suhrawardy Udyan, and Botanical Garden and also at the zoo.

Some species of snakes including Chequered Keel Backs (dhora snake), two species of cobras, vine snakes (shutanoli), wolf snake (ghor goni), golden tree snake (kal nag), and many other species were quite common in the city wetlands and its periphery. Still in the marshy areas of Khilgaon, Adabar, Rayerbazar and Mirpur Chequered Keel Backs are often sighted.

Experts said city-loving birds are dominated by House Crow, House Sparrow, smaller population of Jungle Crow, Jungle and Common Mynas, Rock Pigeon, Magpie Robin, Rose-ringed Parakeet, Pygmy and Black-rumped Flameback Woodpeckers, Redvented Bulbul, Common Tailor Bird, Little Green Bee-eater, Keel, Coppersmith Barbet, Pariah Kite, Brahminy Kite, Black-headed Oriole, Tree Pie, Black Drongo, Common Iora, Purple-rumped Sunbird, Common and White-breasted Kingfisher and Paddy Bird or Pond Heron. These species are still available by the wetlands or in the parks or on the electric poles.

The next dominant group is no doubt the insects such as butterflies, moths, mosquitoes, flies, cockroaches, crickets, grasshoppers, bed bugs, body lice and other arthropods like the spiders.

Just after rainfall croaks of frogs can still be heard all over the city, which is house to at least four species of frogs. Skipper frog and tree frogs are however almost extinct but bullfrogs and toads are spotted occasionally.

Many houses and business establishments or offices support at least one and sometimes two species of House Geckos, while garden lizards are also available in the city.

Pangolin, a scaly anteater, feeding on termites and grubs has become almost extinct. But on occasions they are caught near water bodies in Mirpur and Joarsahara a couple of years ago.

Dr Reza Khan said through email that in spite of the fact that people are destroying natural habitat for constructing their own residential quarters, office blocks and business establishments,

## Lax admin control

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approved monthly income and expenditure.

Another report by Abdullah Al Mujahid, a Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) official, mentioned 10 discrepancies. Intriguingly, the report had even alerted that the NGOs might get away ruining the ignorant investors.

The NGOs were enrolling members taking Tk 6,400 per person against an offer of weekly dividend of Tk 570 until the total stands at Tk 29,640 in 52 weeks, 4.6 times higher than investment.

Each member was given conditions of bringing two more members for getting the dividend.

The victims said besides the attractive offer, police escort for the NGO men and law enforcers' frequent visits to their offices gave them confidence to invest.

Contacted, Natore Deputy Commissioner SM Ehsan Kabir pinned the blame on the police and social welfare office.

"It's them who had kept mum (about the NGOs). We had sent them copies of the probe reports... We later informed higher authorities and the home ministry."

"The decision (of allowing other NGOs on March 3) was taken unanimously only after the NGO men promised they would not escape while local UP chairmen took their responsibility and police assured of watching them," the DC said.

Natore Superintendent of Police (SP) Shah Golam Mahmud refuted the allegations saying, "The police had no complaints to chase the NGOs."

Social Welfare Directorate (SWD) in a departmental probe found irregularities and on Monday suspended five officials of Natore office - deputy directors Mir Bux and Azimussan, registration officers Ismail Hossain and

some animals will always be close to them.

"We shall have to accept these as our companions," he wrote.

## Hannan

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appointed Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain is not aware of Hannan's initiative to unite the party.

"I have talked to Delwar Hossain and discussed the issue of bringing unity in the party," he said.

Replying to a question on the much-talked-about letter Hannan Shah had sent to Saifur, Hannan said he could not discuss the content of the letter with the party secretary general as he went to Singapore for treatment.

Rizvi said Khandaker Delwar represents the party and only he can make the final decision regarding anything.

"The secretary general does not know if Hannan Shah gave Saifur Rahman any proposal to unite the party," Rizvi said.

Hannan, however, said all BNP leaders are not involved in the unity process and Rizvi is also not aware of it.

Former lawmaker Sohrab Uddin, former Chhatra Dal president Habib UN Nabi Sohel and Chhatra Dal General Secretary Shaiful Bari Babu, among others, were present at Hannan Shah's house.

## Iftekhar

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pleased to be able to contribute thus to the growth and development of the Saudi economy," he said.

The adviser mentioned some recent reported issues and both agreed that these could be addressed amicably through continued discussions.

The Saudi state minister thanked Iftekhar for the support he gave Saudi Arabia in the past at the United Nations.

They discussed a possible visit to Bangladesh by a high-level Saudi delegation in April in connection with the Joint Commission Meeting, headed by the deputy minister of labour. Dr Nizer Obeid Madani also spoke about welcoming Iftekhar to Saudi Arabia shortly for further talks at a convenient time.

They spoke of possible investments by Saudi Arabia in infrastructural development projects in Bangladesh and of assisting young Bangladeshis to develop their knowledge-based skills.

The Saudi minister was assisted in the talks by Prince Turki Bin Mohammed bin Saud el Kabir, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and Ambassador Jamil Mirdad, head of Islamic Affairs Division in the Saudi foreign ministry.

Earlier, man-of-the-match Nel gave a fitting reply at not being included in the team for the Indian tour with a fiery opening burst as Tamim, who top-scored with 82 in the first match, dragged the ball on to his stumps in the third ball of the first over and Shahriar Nafees went fishing outside his off-stump.

Asrafal was his third victim when the Bangladesh skipper pulled one from outside off-stump to reach Albie Morkel at deep square leg for a four-ball duck.

The senseless run out of wicketkeeper Dhiman Ghosh however seemed costly in the end. The decision came not before a drama as it took a few minutes before third umpire AFM Akhtaruddin took the initiative and there also were repeated protests from South African coach Mickey Arthur from outside the rope.

The third and last match will be held at the same venue tomorrow.

In its order, the court said Suja has been sentenced to three years' rigorous imprisonment for providing false and baseless statement about his wealth and to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment for amassing wealth illegally.

Deputy Director of Anti-Corruption Commission Mohammad Moniruzzaman filed the case on July 9 last year.

Maulana Muzaffar Ahmed, and Chairman of Madarsa Union Parishad and union Jamaat chief Faridul Alam are also among the accused.

Of the accused, Shajahan Chowdhury, also the chief of Jamaat Chittagong South district unit, and Dr Nurul Haq are now in jail while the rest have been absconding since the filing of the case.

Nur Ahmed and Jamaluddin filed the two cases with Satkania Police Station on May 14, 2007.

In his case statement, Nur Ahmed stated that the accused demanded Tk 5 lakh from him last year while Jamaluddin alleged that the accused demanded Tk 5 lakh from him and also "tried to abduct" him twice.

The victims demanded a judicial as no investigation into the whole scam has yet to take place.

## Private car

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The police also arrested Sanwar's driver and detained his two brothers - Limun Hossain Bhuiyan, Kendua upazila correspondent of the daily Amar Desh, and Farhad Hossain Bhuiyan - for interrogation.

Tetrakona Superintendent of Police Shakhawat Hossain ordered Kendua police to raid SI Sanwar's village home in Digdar village after Emon, now on an eight-day remand, told officials of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) that he gave the policeman a private car as he maintained a good relation with Emon.

After being posted at the Ramna Police Station Sanwar allegedly used to inform Emon beforehand of any drive to arrest him.

Police sources said a departmental inquiry has been initiated against Sanwar, now posted at a police station in Rajshahi, and that if found guilty, he would be arrested.

The CID took Emon and another top criminal and gold smuggler Ishaq Ali in custody after India deported them on Friday.

## Proteas take

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With the score at 4-18 in 6.8 overs, the rest of the Bangladesh innings was nothing but an effort for damage limitation. And it was done with some maturity by two young batsmen despite the fact that the batting remained as pathetic as ever.

Shakib Al Hasan (52) and newcomer Rokibul Hasan (63) put on 119 runs, which is a Bangladesh record for the fifth wicket. But apart from that stand there was nothing to cheer for the half-packed audience.

Captain Mohammad Asrafal won a good toss but his decision to bat first for the second successive time did not change the perennial top-order collapse syndrome and this time around South Africa paceman Andrew Nel did all the damage.

There was however an unusual resistance from the middle-order when Shakib and Rokib batted astutely to revive hopes from the initial hiccups but their effort was not good enough to set up a challenging total on the board as the home team lost six wickets in the span of six overs in the end.

In only his second game, Rokib showed some character by taking smart singles and sensible running between the wickets to build up a partnership but his side lost momentum once he was caught at mid-on while Shakib completed 1,000 runs in the shorter-version by making his sixth fifty but Bangladesh still could only manage 173 runs before being all out in 48.2 overs.

The visitors also suffered a slight wobble in reply to the modest total when pace spearhead Mashrafe Bin Mortaza served the batsmen by trapping Herschelle Gibbs in front to get his first wicket of the tour before left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak came up with a double strike to see South Africa three down for 60.

Hashim Amla began to look good but Razzak took a sharp return catch to stop the right-hander and the Tigers got an edge when the left-arm spinner sent in-form Graeme Smith back for 28.

But AB de Villiers (69) and Jean-Paul Duminy (49) sealed the series with a clinical battling display during their unbeaten 119-run partnership for the fourth wicket. The two batsmen didn't take any risk against the three-pronged spin attack which got advantage from the low, slow pitch to ensure South Africa came another step closer to topple Australia from their number one ranking.

The Proteas reached 179-3 in 48.1 overs when right-hander de Villiers smashed Tamim Iqbal over long on for the lone six of the match.

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## Ex-Jamaat MP

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## Fresh hike

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Dr Tamim put emphasis on quick policy formulation for proper distribution of energy resources. The government is already considering reserving gas for industrial sector and CNG and coal for electricity production for domestic use, he noted.

He went on to say that this year the government would be able to produce 4,000-megawatt electricity, whereas the demand is around 5,000MW. To meet the demand additional demand, the government still has no specific solutions, meaning huge load-shedding across the country.

He also said the government would be able to produce 2,000MW more in association with some foreign companies by the end of 2011.

Dr Tamim said the government has already involved national oil and gas exploration company Bapex to drill new gas fields to overcome the gas shortage.

This includes developing Semutang, Begumganj and Shahbazpur gas fields and drilling exploratory wells in Kapatia, Srikail and Sundalpur gas structures.

The government also considers supplying coal for gas-based power plants and formulating a coal policy in near future, he added.

## Petrobangla gets

**FROM PAGE 1**  
earlier detected coal deposits.

Petrobangla is currently running Barapukuria coal mine developed by China while a private company Asia Energy submitted a proposal to develop Phulbari coal mine. Besides, the license for another zone, Khalashpur area, was awarded to controversial and incompetent company Hosaf.

Barapukuria coal mine failed to become profitable due to past corruption and flawed mining designs, Phulbari mine's future also looks uncertain due to controversies surrounding Asia Energy, and Hosaf's venture is too sketchy to be taken seriously.

"Under the circumstances, Petrobangla's Dighipara venture has all the promises to become successful," said a high official adding, "We believe, if there is no undue interference from powerful lobbies, Dighipara will be the country's first large-scale mine."

Petrobangla's license says the exploration should refrain from any activity that might adversely affect the bio-diversity and the environment, or harm agricultural land. Prior to the exploration, Petrobangla will obtain permissions from the environment department, ministry of land, the local government, and other relevant departments. The license was issued under the Mines and Minerals Rules, 1968.

On June 27 of last year, the energy ministry approved a decision that Petrobangla may obtain a strategic partner through an open tender upon government approval of the coal policy, and may form a joint venture company with the partner.

A company that has experience in mining at least two million tons of coal will be allowed to obtain tender schedule from Petrobangla when tenders will be invited.

The successful bidder must finance the entire project and take the responsibility of managing the mine.

Petrobangla's basic investment in the deal will be mining license.

Petrobangla will give bidders scores on the basis of their understanding of the project, and their proposed methodologies and technologies. If a bidder can bring in a Bangladesh coal mining company as its partner, it will get an additional 5 points.

If a bidder gets the qualifying mark, Petrobangla will consider its financial proposal.