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PHOTO STAR

Relatives of industrialist Jewel Hossain break down at their DIT-Plot Colony home in Gendaria after a gang of criminals hacked him to death at Jatrabari in the capital yesterday.

## NEW BUDGET Mixed reaction among parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a mixed reaction to the proposed budget for 2008-09, political parties and socio-economic organisations yesterday urged the government to talk to political parties before finalising it.

Jatiya Party, Bikalpadhara Bangladesh, Jatiya Nagarik Party and Karmajibi Nari termed the budget pro-people and welfare-oriented, saying it contains many new and positive aspects.

They, however, said the budget has no guidelines on ways to address fuel security, price hike of essentials and power and water crises.

Workers Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Jatiya Samajtantrik Shramik Jote, Jatiya Biplobi Front, Jago Bangladesh Garments Sromik Federation, Jatiya Mukti Council and Bangladesher Samyabadi Dal criticised the budget, saying there is no guideline in it to mitigate public sufferings from power and water crises and price hike.

"This is an exceptional budget."

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## NIKO GRAFT CASE Charge-framing hearing to resume June 16

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special court yesterday deferred charge-framing hearing in Niko graft case against Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and eight other people till June 16.

Judge Amar Kumar Roy of Special Judge's Court-2 at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban complex set the date following time prayer from the defence.

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## 4 Huji cadres jailed in Magura

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

A court in Magura yesterday sentenced four Harkat-ul-Jihad (Huji) cadres to 20 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) each for possessing arms and explosives.

The court also fined them Tk 5,000 each, in default they are to suffer one more year of RI.

The Huji cadres sentenced are Mokaddes Ali, Bakibillah, Khalil and Rafikul, of whom the first two are in custody and the latter two absconding at present.

According to the prosecution, a

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## Nepali king leaves palace today

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's ex-king Gyanendra will leave his palace today, a day before the expiry of a deadline set by a constitutional assembly which abolished the monarchy, a palace official said.

"The (former) king will leave the palace on Wednesday, and before leaving he will hold a press conference," Phanindra Raj Pathak, the chief of the palace press secretariat, told AFP Tuesday.

The former monarch will move to a former hunting lodge on the outskirts of Kathmandu and his

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## Prayer Timing

June 11

	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrab	6-50	6-45
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



## Truth commission office set up

### Recruitment starts

SHAMIM ASHRAF

The government has set up the office of the much-talked-about Truth and Accountability Commission and started appointment of the necessary staff so that the commission may start functioning immediately after its formation.

The commission is going to publish notifications in different newspapers and other mass media to inform all about its objective and jurisdiction and the people's right to make voluntary disclosure before it.

With the aim to curb corruption and reduce the massive load of corruption cases through quick adjudication within 30 days of filing, it will function for five months from the day of formation. It however will have some more

days to carry on the unfinished tasks.

After the cabinet's final nod to promulgation of Voluntary Disclosure Ordinance, 2008 on May 25 to let graft suspects avoid imprisonment in exchange for confessions and surrender of their ill-gotten wealth, the president promulgated the ordinance on Sunday.

The same day, the government set up its office in three houses -- Totinee, Tonmoy and Uttarayan -- which were used as residences of the ministers during the elected government's tenures. The office is now undergoing renovation.

Two deputy secretaries of the establishment ministry and one from the home ministry have already been attached to the commission.

Since the three houses to be used as the commission office have

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PHOTO STAR

Tonmoy, a government house previously used as ministers' residence, is one of the three state-owned buildings on Hare Road that are made office of the Truth and Accountability Commission.

## 3 killed in 'shootouts' with law enforcers

STAR REPORT

Three people -- a robber, an outlaw and a suspected criminal -- were killed during "shootouts" between their cohorts and the law enforcers in Kishoreganj, Pabna and Joypurhat early yesterday.

The dead were identified as Mias Uddin, 48, the leader of a gang of robbers and a resident of chariptolganj village under Hussainpur upazila of Kishoreganj, Anisur Rahman alias Anis, 31, a regional leader of a faction of outlawed Sarbabora Bahini and a resident of Sargam village under Ataikula upazila of Pabna, and Alauddin, 30, a suspected criminal of Joypurhat.

Our Kishoreganj correspondent reports: Acting on a tip-off, a joint team of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-9) and police raided Garboshudia village of Hussainpur.

The law enforcers recovered a revolver and 18 bullets from the

## DHAKA POLYTECHNIC 15 injured in JCD-BCL clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 15 students of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute were injured in a clash between the activists of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) on the campus yesterday.

The fighting groups, equipped with iron rods and sticks, also attacked several rooms of their rivals at Latif Hostel and damaged furniture, computers and other valuables, witnesses said.

Of the injured, five belong to BCL while the rest to JCD, the institute sources said, adding that they took first aid at local clinics.

Witnesses said two activists -- one from JCD and the other from BCL -- scuffled over sitting on a footprint on the campus in the morning.

As a sequel to the scuffle, around 200 leaders and workers of both CCL and JCD clashed on the campus at noon.

Police have been deployed on the campus to avert further incident.

The authorities of the institute had to shut the institute for a certain period last month as students went berserk and clashed with police following death of a fellow student in a road accident.

### ARREST DRIVE

## 1,605 more picked up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joint forces during its drives arrested 1,605 people across the country in 24 hours until 8:00am yesterday, raising the total number of arrestees to 21,607 in last 12 days.

Among yesterday's arrestees, 1,092 people were arrested as they had outstanding warrants issued against them, 277 were arrested in regular cases, 81 in drug-related cases and 20 in illegal arms cases. The rest were arrested with other charges.

During the drives, the joint forces also recovered 13 firearms, 24 bombs, 29 bullets and 17 crack-chars.

In all, 191 people were arrested under the non-bailable section of the Emergency Power Rules, 2007.

## Lanka fighting kills another 20

AFP, Colombo

Fighting across Sri Lanka's embattled northern region left at least 18 Tamil Tigers and two soldiers dead, the defence ministry said yesterday.

Monday's fighting in the regions of Mannar and Vavuniya also wounded 10 Tiger rebels and 18 government troopers, the ministry said.

However, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said they killed 26 soldiers during Monday's clashes in the two areas. The rebels said 20 soldiers were also killed in ground battles in Mannar on Sunday.

The Sri Lankan army withdrew their fighting units after a few hours of stiff resistance by the Tigers, the LTTE was quoted as saying on the pro-rebel

Tamilnet.com website. The report did not give rebel casualties. The latest fighting raises the number of rebels killed by security forces since the start of the year to 4,176, according to defence ministry figures. A total of 353 soldiers were killed during the same period, it says. The casualty figures cannot be verified as the Sri Lankan government restricts the movements of journalists. The Tamil Tigers began their armed struggle for a separate Tamil state in 1972. Tens of thousands of people have died on both sides of the conflict.

Violence has escalated since Colombo pulled out of the six-year truce with the LTTE at the beginning of the year.

In all, 191 people were arrested under the non-bailable section of the Emergency Power Rules, 2007.

## 2 businessmen hacked to death in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An industrialist and his business friend were hacked to death by a criminal and his accomplices in city's Jatrabari in the early hours yesterday.

The attack followed a feud for payment of a pick-up van hired out.

Industrialist Jewel Hossain, 32, owner of a re-rolling mill and also owner of a market and transport business, died on the spot while his friend Maruf Hossain Tutul, 30, a readymade garments trader from Bangabazar, died after being admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Both Jewel and his friend Tutul were residents of the DIT-Plot Colony in Gendaria.

Police said Jewel and his friend Tutul were killed following a feud over the rent of a pick-up van owned by Jewel.

Jewel's brother-in-law Babul Chowdhury told The Daily Star, "One Akbar Hossain of Ghantighat at Gendaria who used to hire one

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## LOCAL GOVT POLLS

## EC to seek lifting or relaxing emergency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) plans to meet the chief adviser in a couple of days to ask again to create an environment conducive to beginning local government elections from July, either by lifting or relaxing the state of emergency in the areas concerned.

The EC is preparing to hold polls to four city corporations and nine municipalities by announcing schedules next week and wants the government decision before the announcement of the date, whether the state of emergency would be lifted or relaxed for the polls, sources in the EC said.

According to the EC's plans, polls to some other municipalities will be held between August and September and then it will begin

holding the long overdue elections to upazila parishes.

Sources in the EC said, all the planned local government elections are likely to be held amid the state of emergency since the caretaker government has no plan to lift the parliamentary polls, scheduled for the third week of December. However, the EC would ask the caretaker government chief to create a congenial atmosphere either by relaxing or lifting the state of emergency, they added.

"Wait a day or two," Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hossain told journalists yesterday, replying to a query about the date for meeting the chief adviser. He, however, said they will have to meet the chief adviser soon.

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## City vegetable vendor killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The decomposed body of a young vegetable vendor was recovered from an abandoned house in the city yesterday.

Dhamondi police said they recovered the body of Rajan Mian from beneath the floor of a building at Kathalbagan after locals smelled stench and informed them.

Syed Mohsinul Haque, officer-in-charge of the police station, said they have arrested three murderers who have admitted to their involvement in the killing.

The arrestees are Zakir Hossain, Salman Haque and Mizanur Rahman, a cousin of Rajan.

Police quoting the arrestees said they killed Rajan as he informed the owner of the house that the three along with some outsiders used to take drugs in the house.

The house owner sacked Zakir when he came to know the matter.

Later, they killed Rajan hitting his head with a brick on Sunday and buried his body beneath the floor.

## JS DELIMITATION Hearings on objections start tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

The hearings on the written objections about delimitation of the parliamentary constituencies will begin tomorrow.

The Election Commission (EC) will dispose of some 3,000 objections made by the petitioners by June 30 after holding the hearings gradually at the EC Secretariat and in