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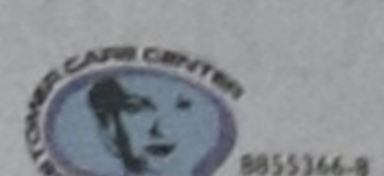
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## Khaleda, Tarique denied bail in separate cases

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected former prime minister Khaleda Zia's bail petition in Barapukuria coal mine graft case.

Another Dhaka court rejected bail prayer of her elder son BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman in a corruption case concerning a fake orphanage trust.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Rabbani passed the order rejecting Khaleda's bail petition.

Moving the petition, the detained BNP chairperson's lawyers argued that their client was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass her. The charges brought against her are false, fabricated and concocted, they said.

The prosecution told the court

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## Kuwait to send back 500 cheated workers

*Court rules in favour of them*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kuwait will repatriate over 500 Bangladeshi workers including 300 female cleaners after a Kuwaiti labour court ruled in favour of the workers deprived of promised wages and other benefits.

The Bangladeshi workers, placed at various government establishments by a local cleaning company, filed a complaint with the Labour Court under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour saying that the company was irregular with payments and also failed to renew their residences.

The court ordered the company to pay the workers two months' salary, other benefits and ticket fares for returning home, reported Kuwaiti newspaper Arab Times yesterday quoting an official of the Bangladesh Embassy in Kuwait.

He said out of the company's 750 Bangladeshi cleaners, 233 have already been repatriated while the rest will be sent back in a few days.

"The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour is doing everything in its capacity to repatriate the workers," the official said.

The embassy received complaints from some cleaners that they were paid as low as KD 6 in

compensation, despite the embassy's request to the company to pay the workers not less than KD 20 as temporary compensation.

"We then asked the workers to give the embassy their power of attorney so that we can pursue their cases with regards to their salaries and the end of service benefits," said the official.

"The company had offered to transfer the residences of some workers to another employer but they refused. The workers are disillusioned and just want to go back home," he said.

Out of the 750 workers, about

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## OMS of rice resumes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday resumed open market sale (OMS) of rice across the country after over a three-month hiatus, selling the staple at Tk 28 per kg.

The BDR and individual dealers will sell the subsidised rice for six-day a week. Besides, the food directorate will sell it on 25 trucks in the city.

Most of the OMS centres, however, witnessed small crowd on the first day thanks to lack of publicity about the resumption of the programme.

Many people complained they spent hours in vain locating the dealers' outlets.

Meantime, rice was sold at Tk 30 per kg at the BDR's 100 fair-price outlets yesterday, instead of Tk 28 as stipulated under the OMS programme.

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PHOTO: STAR

Open Market Sale (OMS) begins in Dhaka and elsewhere yesterday selling rice at Tk 28 a kg. The photo was taken at Polashi Bazar in the capital.

## ILLEGAL WEALTH Akhteruzzaman Babu charged

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against former Awami League (AL) lawmaker Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu in a case filed for amassing wealth worth Tk 39.31 lakh through illegal means.

He was also charged with concealing information of wealth worth Tk 1.62 crore in his statement submitted to ACC.

ACC Assistant Director Jahangir Alam, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, showing 27 people as prosecution witnesses.

In the charge sheet, the IO said Babu amassed wealth worth about Tk 39,31,500 through illegal means and concealed information of wealth worth about Tk 1,62,34,985 in the statement.

The IO prayed for issuance of an arrest warrant against the accused and the court order to attach his properties, as he has been absconding since filing of the case.

On December 27 last year, ACC Deputy Director Abu Kalam filed the case against Babu with Ramna Police Station.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Dhaka University put their handprints on a wall yesterday as part of Bangladesh Chhatra Union's programme demanding a violence-free campus.

## EC may hold third round poll talks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) is likely to open another round of talks with political parties in an effort to reach a consensus about party registration before the upcoming parliamentary election, and for fixing a date for the poll, sources in the commission said.

President Iajuddin Ahmed on Tuesday promulgated an ordinance making registration of political parties with the EC mandatory, for becoming eligible to contest in parliamentary polls, sources in the law ministry said.

The promulgated ordinance has already been sent to press for publication in a gazette notification.

The new ordinance was promulgated amending the Representation of People's Order (RPO) 1972, with a number of new provisions including introduction of 'no votes'.

But successful implementation

of the system of registering political parties before the upcoming parliamentary poll remains uncertain due to constraint of time.

Under the circumstances, the EC plans to finish the sensitive job within a short period of time, and is even ready to relax some of the proposed rules for party registration.

The commission will take a decision about relaxing the rules after having the new round of talks with the political parties, the EC sources said.

The commission will then promulgate the rules exercising the power vested in it by the RPO.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda on Monday said the EC would begin the process of registering political parties once the new ordinance was promulgated making the electoral reform proposals into laws.

"We will hold talks with all political parties, if necessary, to discuss registration and to fix a date for the

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## TRUTH COMMISSION Deadline for confession might be extended

UNB, Dhaka

Truth and Accountability Commission (TAC) Chairman Justice Habibur Rahman Khan yesterday admitted that the response so far was not up to the expectation and said an extension of time for confession by the corrupt people would be considered.

"We have not so far received cases as we expected...September 1 is the deadline for voluntary

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## Tragic death of a child

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A nine-year-old boy was killed as a man punched him twice in the face and chest over a trifle matter at Mirpur yesterday evening.

The boy, Shariful Islam, is the son of a wayside vendor and lived in Sharengbari slum in the area.

Shah Ali police with the help of slum dwellers arrested Alamgir Peyada, a day labourer, on charge of killing the boy.

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## ONE YEAR OF DU UNREST 7 students still facing case while others freed

NAJMU ALAM NOBIN and RAKIB AHAMMED

A year after the Dhaka University (DU) student unrest, which began on August 20 and triggered nationwide student protests, seven students are still under trial charged with torching an army vehicle at Shahbagh intersection.

Out of the six cases the government filed in connection with the unrest and violence, three were withdrawn, two were disposed of and one remains under trial.

DU students yesterday brought out processions and held rallies on campus demanding withdrawal of the case.

In August 20, 2007, students

began their protest after an army personnel beat up a DU student during a football match held on DU campus. The protest continued for three days and spread across the country. The protests were put to a halt with curfews in all divisional cities.

The dormitories of all public universities and colleges in the cities were vacated and the institutions were ordered to close. The DU remained closed for over two months forcing students further into session jams.

Six cases were filed with several police stations around the DU campus accusing several thousand unidentified students.

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## Bolt's dream double

AGENCIES, Beijing



Jamaican sprint star Usain Bolt yesterday broke the 200-meter world record and in the process became the first man to do the Olympic golden sprint double in 24 years.

Bolt sprinted ahead from the start and finished Wednesday's final in the Bird's Nest in a blistering time of 19.30 seconds.

Just four days after shattering his own world 100m record, and on the eve of his 22nd birthday, Bolt pulled away around the curve and stretched his victory margin, with Churandy Martina of Netherlands Antilles second in 19.82.

Bolt, who had not before been



Usain Bolt

| Overall Medal |    |    |    |
|---------------|----|----|----|
|               | G  | S  | B  |
| CHN           | 45 | 14 | 20 |
| USA           | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| GBR           | 16 | 10 | 11 |
| RUS           | 13 | 14 | 18 |

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## 24th Death anniversary of Habibul Kabir (Nizam)



On occasion of the 24th death anniversary of Habibul Kabir (Nizam) a milad mahfil will be held today after magreb prayer at 68/1 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka. Relatives, Friends and all well wishers of the deceased are requested to kindly join the milad mahfil and pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

**Family of Habibul Kabir (Nizam)**

## 146 killed in Madrid tourist jet disaster

AFP, Madrid

A Spanish tourist jet carrying 173 people careered off a Madrid airport runway and broke up in flames yesterday killing at least 146 people, national radio reported.

The Spanair MD-82 made an emergency landing just after taking off from Madrid-Barajas airport heading for Las Palmas in the Canary Islands, according to an airport authority spokesman. Spanish media said an engine caught fire as it took off.

Smoke billowed from the wreckage of Flight JK 5022. Helicopters dropped water to douse the flames of the jet and grassfires caused by the crash.

The airport cancelled departures after the crash and restricted the number of flights arriving. About 30 incoming flights were delayed by up to seven hours.

Spanish national radio said 146 people died and 26 people were injured in the disaster.

The authorities earlier issued a provisional toll saying there were at least 45 dead and 40 injured -- making it one of the worst air disasters in Europe in recent years. A spokesman said 15 of those injured were in serious condition.

Spanair said the plane was carrying 164 passengers and nine crew on the MD-82 jet when it crashed at 2:45pm (1245 GMT) during take off.

The company said the names of the passengers and crew would only be released after families have been notified.

"Information on the number of people involved is not yet available, but Spanair is doing everything possible to help the Spanish authorities at this difficult time," the company added.

## MQM backs Zardari for Pak president

AP, Islamabad

A major opposition party, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement, yesterday backed Benazir Bhutto's widower to become Pakistan's president, as the power struggle following the resignation of Pervez Musharraf intensified.

Asif Ali Zardari leads the largest party in the ruling coalition, whose drive to impeach Musharraf

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### Prayer Timing

August 21

|         | Azan  | Jamaat |
|---------|-------|--------|
| Fajr    | 4-30  | 5-05   |
| Zohr    | 12-45 | 1-15   |
| Asr     | 4-45  | 5-00   |
| Maghrib | 6-33  | 6-36   |
| Esha    | 8-00  | 8-30   |

Source: Islamic Foundation

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