

BNP postpones hunger strike
Denied permission to use Paltan
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Main opposition BNP yesterday postponed its July 25 hunger strike after failing to get government permission to use Paltan Maidan. BNP will stage demonstrations at Muktangan at 3:00pm the same day to protest the government decision, said party's Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi. "We waited for government permission until 6:30pm in vain. We will stage demonstrations to protest it," he told The Daily Star last night. "How could we observe a hunger strike at Paltan Maidan without the permission from the authorities

Door still open for opposition

PM says JS special committee can be recast

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN
 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the special committee on constitution amendment will be reconstituted to accommodate an opposition lawmaker if BNP wants. She said her government wants to amend the constitution to ensure that the ballot, not bullet, determines who should be in power. The prime minister was speaking in parliament on the concluding day of the budget session. "We want to revive the spirit of



Bismillah to remain in constitution
Displaying Bangabandhu's portrait to be made mandatory
No plan to ban any political party

Hasina again warns MPs against graft
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she would take stern action if any lawmaker or minister get linked with corruption. "None will be spared if found involved in corruption," she warned. Hasina, also the Awami League chief, was addressing an AL Parliamentary Party meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban last night. The premier said she is constantly scrutinising the activities of her party lawmakers. "I know what you are doing with food grains allocated for test relief and food for work programme. I receive reports

COX'S BAZAR
Govt decision to scrap lease of 55 plots valid: HC
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday declared valid a government decision cancelling lease of 55 plots in an "ecologically critical area" in Cox's Bazar. An HC bench comprised of Justice Md Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed and Justice Naima Haider gave this verdict, rejecting 39 writ petitions challenging legality of the government decision. The previous Awami League government in 1999 declared Jhilonji Mouza on the seashore an ecologically critical area. But the BNP-Jamaat alliance government in 2005 leased out 59 plots measuring around 73 acres in the Mouza, ignoring the April 19, 1999 gazette notification in this regard. Of the lessees, only four followed the terms of the lease, and some sold away their plots and others are building structures on those defying the lease terms.



Murali signs off with glorious 800
 CRICINFO, Galle

Muttiah Muralidaran has said that retiring after taking his 800th wicket and helping Sri Lanka win his farewell Test, against India in Galle, was one of the greatest moments in his life. Murali's 800th was the last Indian wicket in the follow-on, after which Sri Lanka chased the target of 95 without losing a wicket.



The High Court yesterday cleared the way for the government to remove this filling station near the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban on the grounds of security. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

HC ORDER
Filling station to go from JS compound
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday declared valid a government decision to remove Talukder Filling Station from the west complex of Jatiya Sangsad (JS) on safety and security grounds. AHC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain came up with

QUESTION LEAK FROM BG PRESS

Lack of discipline, chain of command blamed

WASIM BIN HABIB
 The probe body formed by the Bangladesh Government (BG) Press has found lack of administrative discipline and control over its confidential section as major factors in the recent question leak scam. The confidential section, entrusted with printing classified documents and question papers, has been lacking chain of command for

long, as a class-III employee oversees the inside activities of same-rank staff. The policy, Confidential Section Operation, 2000, prohibits employees to move from one unit to another within the section. But lack of monitoring makes it easier for anybody to breach the restriction. The employees often come out of their unit to take meal or say prayer. They are hardly

POLITICAL PROGRAMME
Bill proposes 5-yr jail for forcing people to participate
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A private member's bill was placed in parliament yesterday to enact a law for punishing political and non-political organisations or individuals for forcing people to observe any programme. According to the proposed legislation, a person could face up to five years' imprisonment or a fine of Tk 5,000 or both, if found guilty of forcing

JS special committee sets six objectives


STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The parliamentary special committee for constitutional amendment declared a six-point aim and objective yesterday. Flanked by a number of committee members at a media briefing in the parliament's media centre, committee chief Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury said the aims and objectives of the review and amendment are: restoration of the people's sovereign power; upholding and preservation of the spirit of liberation war; implementation of ruling Awami League-led grand alliance's electoral pledges; realisation of the people's mandate expressed in the

last parliamentary election; implementation of the apex court's verdict that declared the fifth amendment illegal; and blocking the way for illegal capturing of state power. Formed by the parliament on Wednesday, the 15-member committee led by the House deputy leader, will have its first meeting on July 29 at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban to formulate its rules of procedure. After the briefing, committee co-chair Suranjit Sengupta, and member Fazle Rabbi Mia told The Daily Star that the body was given a wide range of power to review the constitution and to propose amendments.

2 'outlaws' held for cop killing
 OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Police yesterday detained two outlaws in connection with the killing of three unarmed lawmen as they launched an intensive hunt in Pabna and adjoining districts to capture the assassins. After the arrests of Nader Pramanik and Wajed Ali, activists of Red-Flag faction of Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP), police grilled them intensively to get information. Nader was picked up from Najirganj of Sujanagar upazila and Wajed from Masumdia of Bera upazila around 3:00am. The law enforcers claimed to have identified some

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Mr. Graham O. Green, the high official of BASEC is Presenting the Certificates to Mr. Mobarak Hossain, Managing Director of Paradise Cables. Mr. Mohammad Faruk Khan, MP, Minister for Commerce, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh attended the function.

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'71 killing case against Nizami, Mojahid sent to crimes tribunal

COURT CORRESPONDENT
 A Dhaka court yesterday sent to the International Crimes Tribunal a case filed against Jamaat-e-Islami chief Motiur Rahman Nizami, its secretary general Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid and seven others for killing freedom fighters in 1971. Senior Judicial Magistrate Taibul Hassan passed the order after Officer-in-Charge of Keraniganj police station Mohammad Asaduzzaman, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted a petition before it seeking an order to transfer the case to the International Crimes Tribunal. Other accused are two assistant secretaries general of Jamaat Mohammad Abdul Quader Molla and Muhammad Quamruzzaman, Keraniganj upazila unit Amir Haji Nazim Uddin, Islami Chhatra Sangha leader KG Karim Babla, and Abul Kashem, Foyzur Rahman Foyaz and Yasin. The last three were Al-badr, Razakar and Al-shams activists during the war. Earlier on Wednesday, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate of Dhaka AKM Enamul Haque sent another case to the International Crimes Tribunal filed with Pallabi police station for killing 345 people during the country's Liberation War in 1971. On December 17 of 2008, Mozaffar Ahmad Khan, Dhaka District Muktiyoddha Unit commander, filed the case with Keraniganj police station accusing Nizami, Mojahid and seven others for killing his nephew and one of his comrades on November 25, 1971. In yesterday's petition, Asaduzzaman said, the case is now treatable under the International Crimes Tribunal as it was filed for killing freedom fighters and other people during the Liberation War in 1971. So, the case should be transferred to the