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# The Daily Star

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## Airport SI removed for rudeness to PM's staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The immigration authorities yesterday withdrew one of its sub-inspectors from Shahjalal International Airport for misbehaving with a personal staff of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The incident took place at the airport when the premier's staff was seeing his boss's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy off to the US.

Witnesses said immigration activities remained suspended for about half an hour from 9:30am as people waiting for immigration clearance protested Sub-inspector Khaled Mahmud's misconduct.

An assistant superintendent of police (ASP - Immigration) said they withdrew Khaled from duty shortly

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## SC's firm no to toxic ship

### Court directs ship-breakers to submit safety certificates before import

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday directed Bangladesh Ship Breakers' Association (BSBA) to execute the High Court order to get all scrap ships decontaminated at source and outside Bangladesh territory.

A full bench of the SC passed the order during hearing of an appeal filed by BSBA seeking a stay on the HC order. The BSBA sought to import toxic ships within the interim period until the government formulates guidelines for the ship-breaking yards.

The HC division in its order on May 11 directed BSBA to have pre-cleaning certificate of decontamination before importing vessels into Bangladesh for breaking.

"The order means the ship breakers would not be able to import toxic ships," said Syeda Rizwana Hasan, chief executive of the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA).

A full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim observed that value of life [of ship-breaking labourers] could not be justified by money in any manner.

The SC observation came as the BSBA counsels were arguing ships cannot be imported for breaking due to the HC order and the ship-breaking industry is facing loss and labours are losing jobs.

On March 17 last year the HC asked the

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## Shah Alam gets bails in 4 more cases

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Three separate Dhaka courts yesterday granted bails in four cases to Ahmed Akbar Sobhan alias Shah Alam, Bashundhara Group chairman, in connection with land grabbing cases.

The courts granted the bails when Shah Alam along with his lawyers including Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh appeared before the courts to seek bail in the cases.

All the cases were filed with Badda Police Station in 2007.

The lawyers said their client had appeared before the courts as per direction from the High Court (HC).

Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Abdullah Abu, who was present during hearing on the bail petitions, did not raise any objection.

Metropolitan Magistrate

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## Fire at chemical warehouse again

### 3 critically burnt; locals of Old Dhaka revisit Nimtoli nightmare

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire at a chemicals storehouse left three people seriously injured in a residential area of Lalbagh in Old Dhaka yesterday.

The wounded were admitted to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

The blaze started at about 2:30pm on the ground floor of the two-storey chemicals storehouse on Jagannath Saha Road, only four days after the government extended the deadline for shifting chemicals warehouses from the city's old part to a safer location.

The government took the initiative a few days after 124 people died on June 3 in a devastating fire fuelled by combustible substances at a chemicals warehouse in densely populated Nimtoli in Old Dhaka. It directed traders to move chemicals storehouses from the area to a

safer location by August 17.

Locals said it could have been another disaster like Nimtoli had the fire touched the flammable substances stored on the first floor of the factory that packages rubber solution.

They got panicked seeing a strong blaze spiralling upward from the two-storey building. The factory staff doused the flame using fire extinguisher, sand and water, said locals.

A huge amount of chemicals had been found inside the factory, said Abul Kalam Azad, officer-in-charge of Lalbagh Police Station. The cause of the fire was yet to be ascertained.

The factory staff did not inform police or fire fighters about the incident, he said adding that they rushed to the spot on information from a few locals.

Factory owner Gazi Shafiqullah Jewel, 32, who received burns in the incident, claimed

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Indigenous people brandishing traditional weapons protest irregularities in construction of a road at Paba upazila in Rajshahi yesterday. They also demonstrated against grabbing of a portion of land for the new road by a local influential figure.

PHOTO: STAR

## KOKO'S PAROLE Extension in a day or two

### BNP announces protest rally over cancellation order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is likely to extend parole of Arafat Rahman Koko, the youngest son of Opposition Leader Khaleda Zia, within a day or two considering his health, according to a highly placed official source.

The decision might be taken as Koko submitted his latest medical certificate and pledged to fulfil the parole condition, the source told The Daily Star last night.

On Friday, Koko's lawyer Mahbubuddin Khokon applied to the home ministry seeking the extension of parole considering his client's health.

In the application it was also mentioned that Koko would inform the Bangladesh Embassy to Bangkok every three days about his whereabouts, added the source.

Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder told The Daily Star he had received a fax copy of the application yesterday.

Koko's counsel also attached a medical certificate of his client dated August 20, 2010, added Sikder. "The government will decide on it within a couple of days."

Home minister Sahara Khatun said measures would be taken after examining the application. While talking to reporters at her office, Sahara however said she was yet to see the application.

Meanwhile, the main opposition BNP yesterday announced a two-day programme protesting the government decision to cancel parole of Koko and demanding withdrawal of all cases against the party chairperson and her two sons.

The BNP will also demonstrate in every district tomorrow

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Cops foil Jubo Dal rally for Koko

### Several vehicles vandalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers yesterday foiled a demonstration at the capital's Nayapaltan by Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, a youth wing of BNP, in protest at the government's decision to cancel parole of Arafat Rahman Koko, and picked up five activists.

Following the police action, party activists vandalised several vehicles and were locked in chase and counter chase with police, witnesses said. Police charged batons on agitating activists twice to control the situation.

Juba Dal after the incident announced a two-day protest programme from Tuesday.

Moazzem Hossain Alal, president of the organisation, said the party will stage demonstrations at upazila and district level tomorrow and at divisional headquarters on Wednesday.

The violence began when the Jubo Dal men led by their chief Alal, held a rally in the area, and police obstructed them. Then they gathered at

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## Veil can't be forced: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a suo moto order directing the government to ensure that no woman is forced to wear borkha (veil) or religious attires at the educational institutions and offices across the country.

The court also ordered the government to ensure that the cultural activities and sports in the educational institutions are not restricted in any manner.

An HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain came up with the order

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## MURDER CASE AGAINST AL MP Probe makes no headway

DNA test in process

Nine days after the death of Awami League (AL) activist Ibrahim Ahmed, police are yet to ascertain whether the death was a pre-planned murder or an accident.

Meanwhile, investigators summoned three more people at Detective Branch (DB)

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## Errant leaders of AL warned

### PM says no-one to be spared for crime, blames BNP for all grenade, bomb attacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her party leaders, be they ministers or lawmakers, will be punished if found to have done wrong.

She was speaking at a discussion at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

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