

CHANGES TO CHARTER
Special body
wants to meet
PM, discuss
proposals

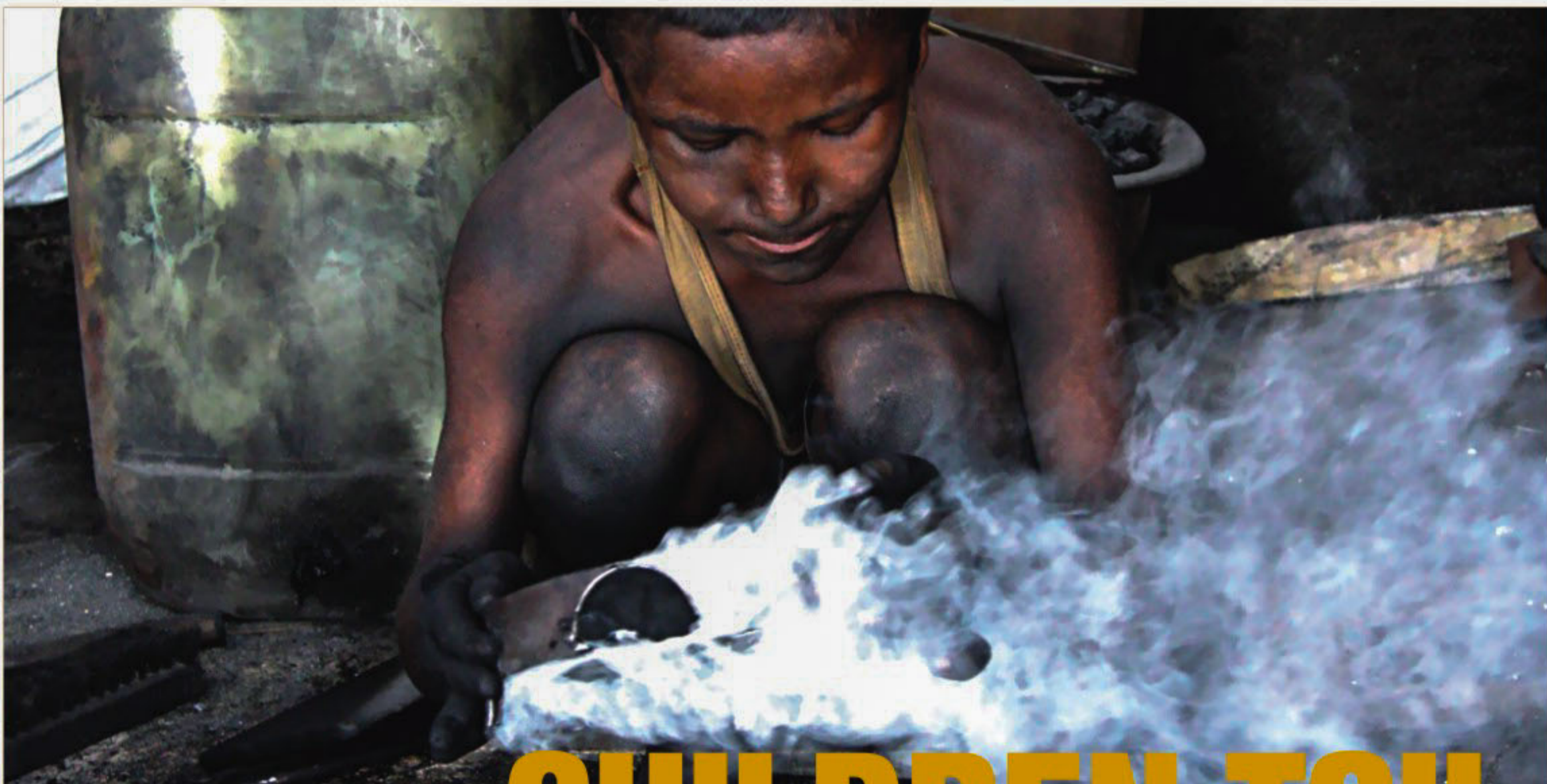
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment will meet Prime Minister and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina to finalise proposed changes to the country's supreme charter. Members of the special committee, who attended a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) of Parliament yesterday, expressed their willingness to sit with the prime minister, meeting sources said. The premier, also a member of the BAC, said she is

Duke denied
bail, sent to
jail again

COURT CORRESPONDENT
 A Dhaka court yesterday rejected a bail petition by Saiful Islam Duke, nephew of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, in connection with the August 21 grenade attack. Judge Mohammad Ismail Hossain of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order following a criminal appeal filed by Duke's lawyers against the rejection order of the lower court on August 31. The chief metropolitan magistrate's court rejected Duke's bail petition and sent

Govt to bring 6
Bangabandhu
killers back
Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The six fugitive convicted killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will be brought back home and executed within the present government's tenure, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed has said. The absconding convicts are Khandaker Abdur Rashid, Shariful Haque Dalim, SHMB Nur Chowdhury, AM Rashed Chowdhury, Abdul Mazed and Moslehuddin Khan. "The government has information about the whereabouts of the convicted killers of Bangabandhu, and the ministries of home and foreign affairs are trying to bring them to the country through diplomatic channels," he told reporters at his secretariat office yesterday. Shafique was speaking at a press briefing after a meeting with the taskforce constituted



CHILDREN TOIL
in brass hell

A 10-year-old working with melted brass in a workshop in Sayedabad area in the capital. The heat and toxic fumes are hazardous to adults, let alone children.

EMRAN HOSSAIN
 The melting brass glows in the dimly lit workshop where a coal furnace rages at around 900 degrees Celsius. By the fire, a master carefully casts molten brass into an earthen mould. As soon as the molten metal touches the mould, it ignites with a burst of flame burning a layer of soil and burnt engine oil in the iron case. A pungent smell fills the air. Next to the master a thirteen-year-old boy, Nayeem, closely watches the procedures. Nayeem is learning the trade. The temperature in the con-

gested tin-shed workshop rises very high. Each time the molten brass is cast into the mould, Nayeem picks up the iron case, still hot, with bare hands. He then skilfully brings out the product—bathroom fittings and toilet accessories—still glowing from the heat. The factory Nayeem works for is Chitila Akter Chinthia Molling at Dakkhin Syedabad in Dhaka, where at least 25 similar workshops operate. His master Mantu, aged around 40 and in the same trade since he was 11, says in Jatrabari, Demra,

Cops question
widow's view

See nothing to suspect MP Shaon in Ibrahim murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The chief of Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday said recently slain Ibrahim's widow Rina Islam's claim that ruling party lawmaker Shaon was involved in the killing, is motivated. DMP Commissioner Shahidul Haque claimed Awami League activist Ibrahim Ahmed's brothers and father are not suspecting Shaon's involvement, neither are they doubtful about the ongoing investigation. He said though the victim was killed by Shaon's pistol in the lawmaker's car parked at Block-6 in front of the MP Hostel at Jatiya Sangshad on August 13, investigators found no involvement of Shaon in the shooting. The MP was interrogated by the Detective Branch on Wednesday night, he added.

BNP may return
to parliament

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 BNP is now planning to join the ensuing parliament session as part of the party strategy to build an anti-government movement both within and outside the House. Influential BNP leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury yesterday hinted that his party might return to the House that goes into session on September 20. The four-party alliance led by BNP is keeping off the House since June 2 during its fifth session. "A movement cannot be organised without participating in parliament session. BNP will go to parliament to force the government to meet public demands, and to uphold the constitutional system," Salauddin Quader said at a press briefing at his Dhanmondi residence. A formal announcement in this regard might also be made today at a scheduled press conference of Opposition Chief Whip

Mother, daughter
crushed under
bus wheels

SHAHEEN MOLLAH
 The thirst for speed claimed the lives of a mother and her daughter on a Dhaka street yesterday. Taking the opportunity of relatively light traffic after the Eid holidays, a speeding bus crushed Jahura Begum, 35 and Asma Akhter, 10, a class-III student of Angel Academy in Jagannathpur, against the central reservation of Progati Sarani at Baridhara yesterday evening. Eyewitnesses told The Daily Star at the spot that the two were about to cross over to the other side of the road through an opening in the central reservation. The bus rammed them against the central reservation and dragged them for 70 to 80 feet while violently scraping them against the central reservation. As the mother and daughter were lodged between the bus and the central reservation, the driver stopped, backed up and then ran them over with its right front and rear wheels. Bloodstains ran for almost 20 feet on the central reservation. Police later covered it with sand. Witnesses said the bus sped away but people caught it over 1 km away from the spot at Progati Sarani-Airport Road intersection when it had to stop at the traffic lights. Furious locals stopped seven busses of the same bus service company and ransacked three. They later calmed down when they heard the news that the bus was captured along with its driver.

Sayedee shown
held in tax
evasion case

COURT CORRESPONDENT
 Detained Jamaat-e-Islami Nayeb-e-Ameer Delwar Hossain Sayedee was shown arrested yesterday in connection with a case filed against him for dodging income tax. Judge (in charge) Mohammad Ismail Hossain of the Senior Special Judge's Court of Dhaka passed the order after Additional Public Prosecutor Shah Alam Talukder submitted a petition for showing Sayedee arrested in the case. The court also fixed September 28 for the hearing of the charges against Sayedee in the case. Deputy Tax Commissioner Masuma Khatun of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed the case against Sayedee on August 19 for dodging income tax amounting to Tk 56.45 lakh for the fiscal years from 2005-06 to 2009-10.



Sewage from Chittagong city flows through Chaktai Rajakhali Canal and into the Karnaphuli. The photo taken yesterday at the confluence of the canal and the Karnaphuli shows children playing in the dark thick polluted water.

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