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**in Short**

**Bangladeshi peacekeepers safe in Sudan**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All the Bangladeshi peacekeepers working in the UN mission in Sudan are safe, said the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) Directorate yesterday, amid escalating crisis between the North and South Sudan.

Sudan's northern army has taken control of the disputed Abyei region and is clearing it of armed groups from the South. South has denounced seizure as an act of war.

The North had attacked the oil-rich area with 5,000 troops, killing civilians and

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SUBSIDENCE IN NAKHALPARA

# DAB leader Zahid held

## Army men start filling the pit

**STAR REPORT**

Police yesterday arrested Doctors' Association of Bangladesh Secretary General AZM Zahid, who is also a member of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's advisory council, in connection with the the Nakhhalpara land subsidence early Saturday.

Zahid is one of the owners of Impulse Medical College and Hospital, police said. Pilings of the under-construction hospital let go causing the land subsidence. Three corrugated-iron sheet homes were destroyed while two five-storey buildings tilted to one side. At least 45 families became homeless.

Meanwhile, army personnel yesterday began filling the pit with soil.

Deputy Commissioner Monirul Islam of Detective Branch (south) of police told The Daily Star that Zahid is accused in the seven cases filed with Tejgaon Industrial Police Station in connection with the disaster.

Zahid, a former secretary general of Bangladesh Medical Association, was arrested at his chamber in

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Army personnel filling up the gaping hole in the ground at Nakhhalpara in the capital where a large chunk of land subsided early Saturday putting several buildings at risk.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

**BOAT CAPSIZE**

**Four more bodies found**  
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

With the recovery of four more bodies, the death toll in Friday's boat capsized in the Meghna rose to nine yesterday.

The bodies were of Parul Begum, 40, wife of Md Ruhul Amin of Biswanandi under the Arahazur upazila, Sharifa Akther, 12, daughter of Harun Chowkidar of the same village, Izzat Ali,

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# Crop insurance next fiscal year

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The government will introduce insurance for some specialised crops in the next fiscal year on an experimental basis, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday.

"Some preparations have been made for introducing crop insurance at the initiative of Sadharan Bima Corporation. We'll be able to start some experimental programmes in the next fiscal year."

The finance minister said this when media personality and agriculture activist Shykh Seraj met him at the Finance Division.

Poultry and livestock sectors will also come under the insurance scheme of Sadharan Bima Corporation, Muhith said.

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**AUG 21 ATTACK**

# IO given one more month for probe

**COURT CORRESPONDENT**

A Dhaka court yesterday gave Criminal Investigation Department one month more for further investigation into the August 21, 2004 grenade attack on an Awami League rally.

Judge Fozila Begum of Second Additional Metropolitan Judge's Court gave the time extension following a petition

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# India okays fund for Akhaura rail link

**Tk 408cr to be spent to construct 14km tracks from Agartala**

**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT**

India has approved Rs 251 crore (approximately Tk 408 crore) for the construction of a 14 km railway track to connect India's Agartala with Akhaura of Bangladesh.

India's union railway ministry approved the budget, country's leading news agency PTI reported on Saturday.

During Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India last year, Delhi agreed to

construct the Akhaura-Agartala railway at its own cost, foreign ministry officials in Dhaka told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The Akhaura-Agartala railway link project is one of the commitments given by India to Bangladesh, which is also mentioned in the joint communiqué issued during prime minister's visit," said a foreign ministry official requesting anonymity.

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**STOCK CRASH PROBE**

# BD Thai sues Khaled for compensation

**COURT CORRESPONDENT**

Bangladeshi Thai Aluminium Ltd yesterday sued stock-scram probe team chief Khandaker Ibrahim Khaled claiming Tk 100 crore compensation for publishing "false" and "fabricated" statement about the company.

This is the second legal step of the company against him.

After hearing the

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**CHT GUN ATTACK**

# 2 more bodies recovered, death toll 6

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati**

Police yesterday recovered the bodies of two more activists of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF), killed in Saturday's deadly attack in Rangamati.

The bodies were among

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The buildings on the left have been constructed occupying land of Rajkhali canal in Chittagong. There has been no initiative to demolish the illegal structures. Moreover, Chittagong City Corporation is now constructing a pavement further encroaching upon the canal.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

# US would repeat bin Laden raid

## Obama says ahead of Europe visit

**BBC ONLINE**

US President Barack Obama has said he would order a similar operation to that which killed Osama Bin Laden if another militant leader was found in Pakistan.


He said the US was mindful of Pakistani sovereignty but said the US could not allow "active plans to come to fruition without us taking some action".

The killing of Bin Laden by US forces in a Pakistani garrison town on 2 May strained ties between the two allies.

President Obama was speaking to the BBC ahead of a European visit.

Asked what he would do if one of al-Qaeda's top leaders, or the Taliban leader Mullah Omar, was tracked down

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**ONLINE POLL**

How do you look at the Prime Minister's adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) Tarique Ahmed Siddique's statement that Limon who was shot and maimed by Rab and his father are members of a criminal gang?

True:  (9.3%)

Ridiculous:  (90.7%)

TOTAL VOTES: 475

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think BNP should join the budget session of the parliament?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

**PRAYER TIMING** May 23

	Asan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-40	6-45
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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