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**in Short**

**GRAFT CASE**  
Sheikh Shahid acquitted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday acquitted former public works minister and Jatiya Party (JP-Manju) leader Sheikh Shahidul Islam and Chief Executive Officer of Pran Group Maj Gen (retd) Amjad Khan Chowdhury of a graft case.

Judge Mohammad Abdul Majid of the Special Court passed the order after prosecution failed to prove the charges brought against them.

Earlier, the court recorded statements

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DITCH ON HILL-TOP

# Realtor fined, made to fill the area

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment yesterday fined an owner of a private housing company Tk10.68 lakh for cutting a hill and destroying local ecology in Khadimpara area of Sylhet Sadar.

An enforcement team led by Muhammad Munir Chowdhury, director (enforcement) of DoE, penalised the Managing Director of Shalimar Housing Ltd, Md Alamgir Hossain and allowed him five days to fill the pond-like ditch he dug on top of the hill, noted a DoE release.

The team also made the company start filling up the ditch and plant 100 saplings of valuable timber trees around it within an hour.

Alamgir was kept handcuffed at the site for two hours during the drive, adds our Sylhet correspondent.

He made an undertaking to fill the ditch up by next Saturday and plant 100 more saplings and also committed not to cut hills in future.

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Officials of the Department of Environment visit the hill Moloy Tila in Khadimpara of Sylhet where a real estate developer dug a pond-like ditch on its summit. Inset, the managing director, in the white T-shirt, of the company in cuffs.

PHOTO: STAR

**Contempt rule against 4 govt high-ups**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a contempt of court rule against four government high officials for barring BNP leader Barrister Nasir Uddin Asim at Shahjalal International Airport from going abroad.

Following a petition, an HC bench issued the rule asking the officials to explain within seven days why legal action should not be taken against them for not allowing

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CONSTRUCTION, RIVER TRAINING

# Padma Bridge work awaits WB nod

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The work of Padma Multipurpose Bridge is getting late as its lead financier World Bank has yet to give the nod on two key components of the project -- the main bridge construction and river training.

For WB approval, evaluation report on river training project was sent in December 2010 while the one on main bridge construction was placed in January this year.

Against the backdrop, the

Communications ministry yesterday sought Finance Minister AMA Muhith's cooperation to get the go-ahead.

In a letter, Communications Minister Syed Abul Hossain requested Muhith to talk with WB officials so that the bank makes no further delay.

The letter reads the WB did not approve the first report on pre-qualified bidders for the main bridge construction and river training although it was prepared following

the bank's guidelines.

Also, further delaying the project, the bank pressed for a Chinese firm, which was ultimately rejected by the government.

However, activities like land acquisition, compensating and rehabilitating the affected persons and socio-economic infrastructure development in the project areas are going on in full swing, it says.

Abul Hossain said the Padma Bridge is the government's top

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

# First all-female armed cop unit launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first all-female Armed Police Battalion (APBn) unit was launched yesterday in the capital.

Addressing the inauguration programme at APBn headquarters in the city's Uttara, Home Minister Sahara Khatun said this is one of the steps the government has taken to empower women.

Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikdar said the government has relaxed physical fitness requirements, especially height, of female candidates for the police department as an effort to empower women.

Speakers said the job of this 11th unit of APBn would be to ensure security to VIP women, prevent crimes

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**Prof Zaker no more**

DU CORRESPONDENT

Professor Emeritus Kazi Zaker Husain, the spearhead in the country's wildlife protection movement and a zoology teacher of Dhaka

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

**BCL THREAT Bidding stopped**

RU CORRESPONDENT

Durgapur Upazila Health Complex authorities in Rajshahi were forced to suspend a tender process amid threats from local leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday.

Witnesses said a BCL group led by upazila unit president

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A giant tower and a fountain have been built for a month-long fair on the playground of Jhalakathi Govt Boys' School despite a government ban on using school premises or playgrounds for exhibitions or commercial activities.

PHOTO: STAR

# Fair on school premises

*AL's Amu, Jhalakathi DC found unaware of restriction*

SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

The school is open and the classes are on. So is the month-long fair.

Many students of Jhalakathi Government Boys' High School are skipping classes to stroll through the 80-stall handloom, textiles and cottage industry fair in Jhalakathi town.

Why not? The fair is being held on the premises of their own school under their noses.

The school authorities have let the organisers hold the fair despite a government ban on using school premises or playgrounds for exhibitions or commercial activities.

The education ministry imposed the restrictions a year ago after media reports that fairs held on school premises hamper academic activity.

The Jhalakathi fair has been organised by Meghalaya Tanti Samity of Dhaka in collaboration with Jhalakathi district administration and Jhalakathi Chamber of Commerce and Industries in spite of the ban.

Local lawmaker and Awami League advisory

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# AUG 21 ATTACKS CID seeks more time to complete probe

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Even though the courts so far gave 22 months for the CID to finish further investigation into the August 21, 2004 grenade attack cases, the investigators yesterday asked for 10 more days.

Time for probe ends today.

On that day in 2004, grenades were hurled at an Awami League rally on Bangabandhu Avenue where now Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was present. The attack left 23 dead including Ivy Rahman, Awami League leader and wife of President Zillur Rahman. Two hundred

others including Hasina was injured.

Two cases were filed following the attack, one for killing 23 people and the other under Explosive Substances Act.

The Criminal Investigation Department yesterday told two Dhaka courts that further investigations into the two cases were now at the final stages.

CID's Special Superintendent of Police Abdul Kahar Akhand, also the investigation officer (IO) of the cases, submitted two petitions yesterday seeking time extension.

Judge Mohammad Zohurul Hoque of

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# SHOOTING LIMON SAHR worried at govt support for Rab action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR) has expressed concern over government's continued statements defending the Rab shooting of college student Limon Hossain into disability.

"We believe such statements of advisers and ministers of the government only serve to provide continuing patronage and protection to Rab from the legal consequences of its extrajudicial and indiscriminate shooting at ordinary people of the country," a SAHR press release said yesterday.

It also mentioned people in the government repeatedly termed Limon a criminal without giving any evidence extracted through any "acceptable and credible"

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**PRAYER TIMING** June 22

Azan	Jamaat
Fajr 4-05	4-40
Zohr 12-45	1-15
Asr 5-00	5-15
Maghrib 6-52	6-55
Esha 8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with former president and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad that cases were filed against him for political reasons and to tarnish his image?

Yes (27.6%)  
No (71.0%)  
No Comments (1.4%)

TOTAL VOTES: 431

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think cabinet approval to the draft constitution amendment bill has shut all the doors for government-opposition talks on the caretaker government issue?

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