



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXI No. 185 | SHRABAN 6, 1418 BS | SHABAN 18, 1432 HJRI | 32 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE: Tk 10.00



DUTY-FREE ACCESS

Apparel export to US increasing, but still no duty-free access

PAGE B8

MISSION LEBANON

Bangladesh football team off to Lebanon for WC pre-qualifying round-2 match

PAGE 16

GORAN HADZIC HELD

The last remaining Serbian war crime fugitive was arrested yesterday

PAGE 7

Pintu, AL man Torab among 430 indicted

Others to be charged July 27

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A court yesterday framed charges against 430 of 850 accused in a carnage case filed in connection with the 2009 Pilkhana mutiny.

Arson, lootings, dumping bodies, burying people in mass graves and theft are the other charges brought against the accused.

Of the 430, 409 are members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) while the rest include former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, Awami League leader Torab Ali and 17 civilians.

The court will frame charges against the remaining 420 people on July 27.

A total of 74 people including 57 army officers were killed at Pilkhana, the headquarters of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), now



DAD Towhid



Subedar Maj Gofran



Selim Reza



Torab Ali



Nasiruddin Pintu



renamed BGB, in the mutiny on February 25-26, 2009.

Yesterday, the trial began at 9:50am.

Judge Mohammad Zohurul Hoque of Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court began framing

charges after rejecting discharge pleas of the accused.

The court, set up at Bakshi Bazar in the city, read out specific charges against the 430 and wanted to know from each of them how they would plea. All the accused pleaded not guilty.

The court started charge framing with the prime accused Deputy Assistant Director (DAD) Towhid who was leading a group of

BDR jawans in a negotiation meeting at the prime minister's residence on February 25, 2009, night but he "concealed information about the murder of army officers".

Subedar Maj Gofran Malik and Sepoy Selim Reza, who were among those to play major role in the carnage, were also indicted.

A brief deadlock developed as

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Police role in question

Only survivor tells The Daily Star about the fateful night

KAILASH SARKAR and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Al Amin, the lone survivor of Aminbazar mob beating early Monday, told yesterday how he saved his life and that plainclothes police just watched his friends get killed from a couple of yards away.

Traumatized and with injuries all over his body, 17-year-old Al Amin is now at home after he obtained bail on Tuesday in a robbery case filed by Savar police after the dreadful incident. A mob beat to death six students on the night of Shab-e-Barat suspecting them to be robbers.

Since the incident, police has been insisting that the students were out on Keblarchar to rob villagers.

According to Al Amin, on the fateful night he, his friends Towhidur Rahman Palash and Kamruzzaman



The wounds on sole survivor Al Amin's body.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

AMINBAZAR TRAGEDY: Govt asked to explain in 10 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule upon the government to explain in 10 days why it should not be directed to punish the people including law enforcers liable for the loss of lives of six students in Aminbazar early Monday.

In response to a writ petition, the court in the rule also asked the officials concerned to explain why they should not be directed to compensate the families of the victims beaten to death.

It asked why inaction and failure of the law enforcers concerned should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional.

The HC bench of Justice Farid Ahmed and

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

Sugar Tk 65, soybean oil Tk 109

New prices effective from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday put ceilings on retail prices of sugar and cooking oil to curb unusual price spiral ahead of Ramadan.

From now on, maximum retail price of sugar will be Tk 65 each kilogram.

Prices of loose palm and soybean oil will be Tk 99 and Tk 109 per litre respectively, according to a decision reached at a meeting with sugar and cooking oil refiners at the commerce ministry.

"Millers have declared these rates. If anyone violates the price ceiling, action will be taken," said Md Mozibur Rahman, chairman of Bangladesh Tariff Commission (BTC).

The meeting, chaired by Mozibur, set the mill gate prices of sugar refiners at Tk 58-62 per kg.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

Ex-cop Rafiq, 2 others handed death

Another 6 get life-term for killing college student Momin

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former officer-in-charge of Motijheel Police Station AKM Rafiqul Islam and two others were condemned to death yesterday for killing Kamrul Islam Momin, a student of Dhaka Commerce College, in September 2005.

Judge Mohammad Rezaul Islam of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4, Dhaka, also passed life term imprisonment on six people in the case.

The OC and his goons Tareq alias Zia and Shakhawat Hossain Jewel were given death penalties while the six other accused-- Habibur Rahman Taj, a top listed criminal; "Thot Ucha" Babu, Mohammad Zafar, Mohammad Sharif Uddin, Monir Howlader and Hasibul Haq Jony-- were awarded life term imprisonment.

Rafiqul, Taj and Babu were present in the courtroom yesterday. The others went into hiding after obtaining bail from different courts.

Momin, 22, was shot dead in front of his Ibrahimpur residence in the city on September 13, 2005.

During the verdict, the judge pointed



AKM Rafiqul Islam



Kamrul Islam Momin

out that the Criminal Investigation Department had not mentioned Rafiqul's name in the first charge sheet, which made their investigation questionable.

The punishment of the fugitives will be effective from the day of their arrest or surrender and the convicts with death sentence can appeal against the judgement with the higher court within 30 days upon receipt of the judgment copy, the judge said.

The victim's four brothers---Saiful Islam, Shamsul Islam, Enamul Islam and Nazrul--and three sisters--Farzana

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

BNP, LDP to forge unity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP and Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) yesterday agreed to forge a greater unity to face some key political issues including the latest amendment to the charter and scrapping of the caretaker government system.

The two parties also

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

AL too looks for new allies

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Ruling Awami League has moved to expand its alliance in response to main opposition BNP's ongoing push for a greater anti-government political platform.

Upon directives from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, some AL top brass, over the last few days, scrambled to talk unity

with some smaller parties.

BNP already formally sat and discussed possible alliance with some smaller parties including some Islamist parties that exist only in letterheads.

AL Presidium Member Obaidul Quader informally talked to at least 10 top leaders of different parties including the Communist Party of Bangladesh, Krishak

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

Clemency for killer

President grants mercy to Laxmipur AL leader Taher's son on death row

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Zillur Rahman has granted mercy to AHM Biplob, a son of ruling party leader Abu Taher of Laxmipur and a death row inmate in much-talked-about Nurul Islam murder case.

The clemency came into effect from July 14.

Biplob, however, is in Laxmipur District Jail as he received a life sentence in two other murder cases.



Nurul Islam

The Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal of Chittagong on December 9, 2003 condemned five people including Biplob to death for kidnap and murder of Nurul Islam.

Nine others were sentenced to life and two to five years in jail in the same case.

On September 18, 2000, advocate Nurul Islam, Laxmipur BNP's the then organising secretary, was

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

PM defends president's move

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday defended the presidential clemency to AHM Biplob saying that he was a political victim of BNP-Jamaat coalition.

The premier said this when Mohammad Nasim raised the issue in the Awami League Central Working Committee

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

HSC results on July 27

UNB, Dhaka

The results of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) and its equivalent examinations will be published on July 27.

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid will announce the result through a press conference at the ministry after handing over the copy of the results to the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Dhaka Education Board Chairperson Prof Fahima Khatun told UNB.

The total number of candidates for HSC and equivalent exams was 779,441 this year under the ten education boards including Madrasa and Technical education boards.

Of the total examinees, 424,823 are male and

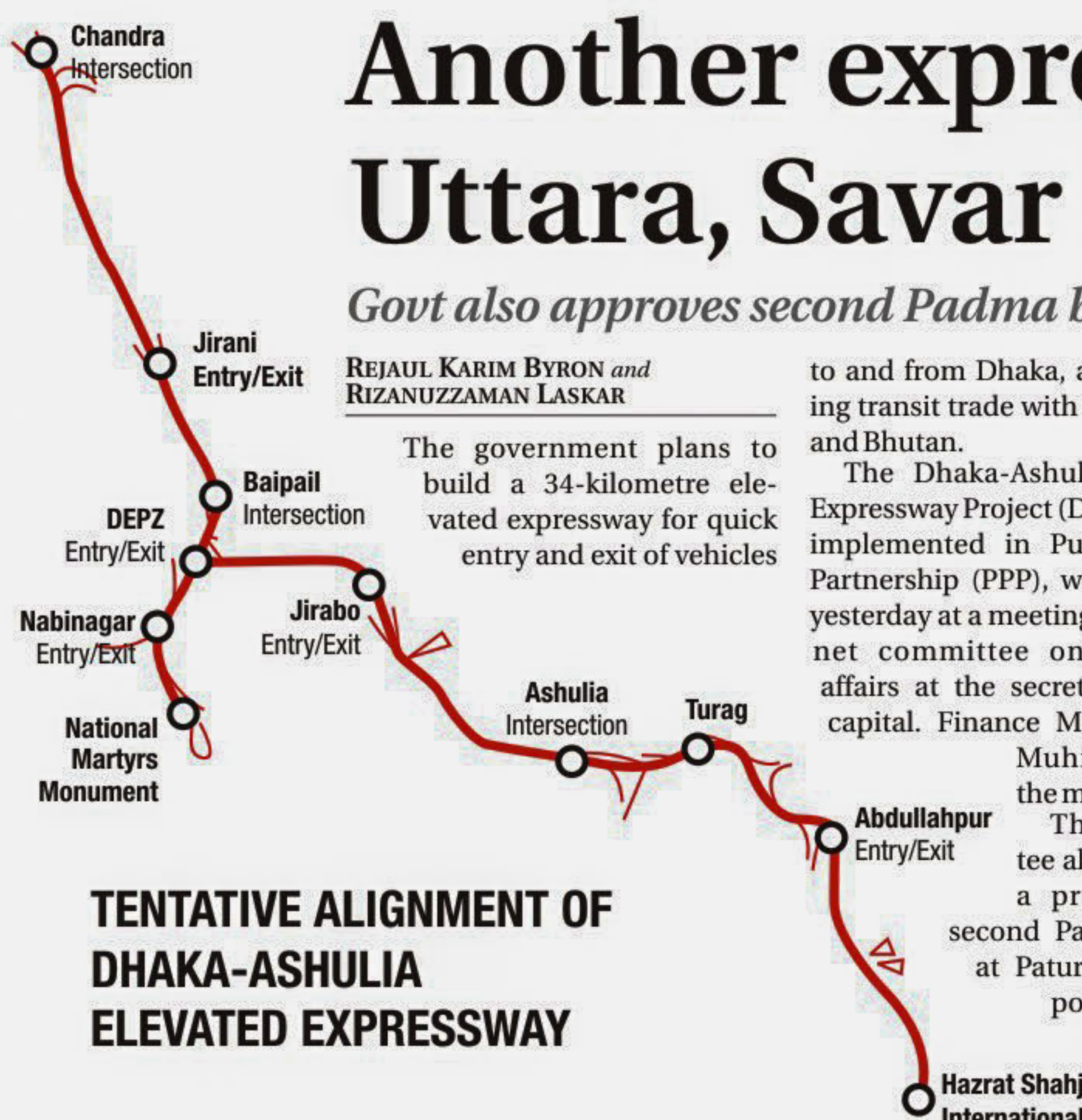
SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Another expressway to link Uttara, Savar EPZ

Govt also approves second Padma bridge project; counts on public private partnership

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and RIZANUZZAMAN LASKAR

The government plans to build a 34-kilometre elevated expressway for quick entry and exit of vehicles



TENTATIVE ALIGNMENT OF DHAKA-ASHULIA ELEVATED EXPRESSWAY

to and from Dhaka, and facilitating transit trade with India, Nepal and Bhutan.

The Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated Expressway Project (DAEEP), to be implemented in Public Private Partnership (PPP), was approved yesterday at a meeting of the cabinet committee on economic affairs at the secretariat in the capital. Finance Minister AMA Muhith chaired the meeting.

The committee also approved a project for a second Padma Bridge at Paturia-Goalanda point under a PPP

mework.

The expressway will connect Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport with the National Memorial in Savar via Abdullahpur, Ashulia, the DEPZ and Chandra on the North Bengal Highway, said a report of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology that was assigned by the Bridge Division to conduct an initial study on the project.

It will be an extension of the 26-kilometre Dhaka elevated expressway linking Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to Dhaka-Chittagong highway near Shanir Akhra.

The project will cost nearly \$2 billion, said the Bridge Division. The expressway will facilitate movement of transit vehicles

between Bangladesh and Nepal, Bhutan and India, and smooth movement of goods-laden vehicles from Chittagong port to Dhaka EPZ and adjoining trade zones, said the Buet report submitted in June.

It will help ease traffic congestion and allow trucks to move across the capital throughout the day. Trucks are now barred from entering the capital from 8:00am to 8:00pm to avoid tailback.

The expressway will provide five gateways at Abdullahpur, Jirabo, the EPZ, Jirani and Nabinagar to enter Dhaka from adjoining national highways.

It will also have four intersections at Turag, Ashulia, Baipail and Chandra, the report said.

Once the project is completed,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

LABOUR UNREST: RMG factory in Dhaka EPZ shut

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Grameen Knitwear Ltd, a top garment factory in Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ), was shut down sine die yesterday after workers staged violent demonstrations over wages.

The factory authorities declared the indefinite closure after the workers vandalised the factory and looted goods, Sirajul Islam, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station, told The Daily Star.

Several hundred workers began staging protests at the factory from 9:00am on Tuesday asking for a 10 percent increase in their wages, said the policeman.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1