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**PHILIPS**

**ESSENTIALS PRICES JS panel unhappy**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A parliamentary body yesterday expressed dissatisfaction over the price hike of essentials, especially edible oil, onion, gram and lentils, during Ramadan and asked the ministry concerned to beef up market monitoring to keep prices at a "tolerable level".

The parliamentary standing committee on the commerce ministry also decided to visit the city's major wholesale kitchen markets today to see for itself the price situation.

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**WAR CRIMES TRIAL OF MOLLAH Son narrates killing of journalist father**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The son of a martyred intellectual yesterday told International Crimes Tribunal-2 that war crimes accused Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah and his accomplices had killed his father during the Liberation War.

Khondaker Abul Ahsan, son of journalist, litterateur and lawyer Shaheed Khondaker Abu Taleb, gave his deposition before Tribunal-2 as the fifth prosecution witness in the case against the Jamaat leader.

Quader Mollah is facing six charges of crimes against humanity at the tribunal.

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Charge number three relates to the killing of Taleb.

During his hour-long testimony, witness Ahsan also said Quader Mollah had led brutal killings in Mirpur area of the capital during the nine month-long war.

Ahsan, now an assistant director of Cantonment Executive Office, said he had heard about the killing of his father and other incidents from their driver.

In 1971, Ahsan was a student of class-IX in Mirpur Shahali Academy and used to live in Mirpur Housing Estate.

"My father was the secretary general of East Pakistan Journalists' Union and had

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**KILLINGS IN 1971 Probe finds proof against Bachchu**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Expelled Jamaat member and war crimes suspect Abul Kalam Azad (also known as Bachchu Razakar) was involved in the killing of at least 14 people in Faridpur and in two incidents of genocide during the war, prosecution and investigation agency sources said.

Sources quoting the report of the probe conducted by investigation agency against Azad said evidence shows that Azad

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**3 held with cell phone bombs**

**Linked with handbag blast**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Detectives in the capital have arrested three men carrying bombs that could be activated by mobile phones.

The arrestees had links with the July 17 bomb explosion inside a woman's handbag, according to Detective Branch of police.

Ayesha Siddique, an assistant programme officer of Bangladesh Computer Council, was injured when a bomb exploded in her handbag at Agargaon in Dhaka. Police suspected that the explosive had been activated by a mobile phone.

A team of DB police, acting on a tip-off, raided Kazipara in Mirpur and Bhashantek areas Saturday night and made the arrests, said Mashiur Rahman, additional deputy commissioner of DB (west).

The arrestees are Sohrab Hossain Ujjal, 27, Khandakar

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**TEESTA, LAND DEALS Dhaka wants quick move by Delhi**

**DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT**

Bangladesh has conveyed to India its sense of urgency regarding a fast-track implementation of the commitments made at the highest political level, including water sharing deal and ratification of the protocol to the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement.

"It will not give a positive signal in the public domain if the commitments are not implemented expeditiously. The way the commitments

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**ATTACK ON MENON Suspects in dock after 20 years**

**COURT CORRESPONDENT**

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon before a Dhaka Court yesterday could not identify those accused of an attempt to kill him 20 years back.

Menon, a lawmaker, told the court that a gang on August 17, 1992 shot him in front of his party office in the capital. He took treatment for his

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**Traffic comes to a standstill on a street in the capital's Naya Palitan area around 12:50pm yesterday. That is hardly news, for people living in the capital encounter such severe traffic chaos every single day. What is galling, though, is that there is hardly any step on the part of the authorities to find a solution to the problem.**

**Clarification**

Orion Infrastructure Limited in a clarification to the report headlined "A walk thru' hell and back" run in this newspaper on Tuesday, said they have no hand in the creation of public plight, caused by road-digging by multiple utility agencies.

In fact, the traffic mess has adversely affected the project implementation itself.

As to narrowing the main road, Orion said as concessionaire of Mayor Hanif Flyover scheme, it had followed international construction code to keep the pillar size to the mini-

**WHEAT SEIZURE IN KOLKATA It was Indian exporter's fault**

**SAJJADUR RAHMAN**

An Indian exporter, which has got work orders to export wheat to Bangladesh, should be held responsible if anything happens against the laws, the owner of the vessel that was seized by Kolkata police said yesterday.

The Kolkata-based LMG International obtained the work order from the Directorate General of Food, Bangladesh, Rafiqul Islam Tareq, owner of the vessel Khan Jahan Ali-2, told The Daily Star yesterday.

On Saturday, police seized 36 trucks carrying over 4,50,000 kg of wheat of the consignment from Kolkata port.

During interrogation, the truck drivers said the wheat was being taken to the vessel Khan Jahan Ali-2, which was

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**Worker killed in Ctg ship breaking yard**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

A worker of a ship-breaking yard was killed yesterday falling from a ship.

The deceased, Jamal Uddin, 45, son of Jalil Sarder, hailed from Kalkini in Madaripur.

The accident happened when Jamal was working at a yard in Baro Awlia area around 3:30pm.

He was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where the on-duty physicians declared him dead around 4:00pm, said Jahangir Alam of the CMCH Police Outpost.

It was the fifth accident

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**Tremor jolts Bangladesh**

**STAR REPORT**

A moderate earthquake measuring 5.6 on the Richter scale jolted some parts of the country, including Dhaka and nearby areas, yesterday morning.

No incident of casualties or damage due to the quake that was felt in Dhaka at 08:21:15am has been reported.

Mahmudul Kabir, meteorological assistant of Dhaka Seismic Centre told The Daily Star that the epicentre of the quake was in the Myanmar bordering region, some 397km east of the centre in the capital's Agargaon.

However, the US

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**PRAYER TIMING July 30**

Asr	5:00	5:15
Maghrib	6:46	6:56
Esha	8:15	8:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

**MR. NOODLES**

**SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS**

RAMADAN	DATE	SEHRI	IFTAR
10	30 July		6.46 pm
11	31 July	4.00 am	6.45 pm

**The Daily Star**

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**Fierce battle for Aleppo**

**Regime declares Damascus victory as rebels call for int'l help**

**AGENCIES**

Troops backed by helicopters pushed an offensive against rebels in Syria's commercial capital Aleppo into a second straight day yesterday, sparking fierce fighting and sending civilians fleeing.

The government of Bashar al-Assad yesterday declared victory in a hard-fought battle for Syria's capital Damascus, and vowed to crush rebels in the second largest city Aleppo.

Assad's forces have struggled as never before to maintain their grip on the country over the past two weeks after a major rebel advance into the two largest cities and an explosion that killed four top security officials.

Government forces have succeeded in reimposing their grip the capital after a punishing battle, but rebels are still in control of sections of Aleppo, clashing with reinforced army troops for several days.

"Today I tell you, Syria is stronger... In less than a week they were defeated (in Damascus) and the battle failed," Foreign Minister Walid Moualem said on a visit to Iran,

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\*conditions apply