

King Bolt

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was the key," Bolt said. "When it comes to the championships, it's all about business for me and I brought it."

Jamaican compatriot and training partner Yohan Blake, long tipped as Bolt's successor as the fastest man in the world, claimed silver after equalling his personal best of 9.75sec.

American 2004 Olympic gold medallist Justin Gatlin completed his remarkable comeback from a four-year doping ban by taking the bronze medal in a personal best of 9.79sec.

The sell-out 80,000-capacity crowd at the Olympic Stadium were on their feet when the eight finalists, including the four fastest men in the world - Bolt, Gay, Blake and Asafa Powell - lined up.

As the television cameras picked out each racer, the excitement mounted as they reached Bolt in lane seven, dressed in black shorts and the yellow and green singlet of the Jamaican team.

The 25-year-old showed no signs of nerves as he bid to replicate his gold medal showing in the Beijing Games in 2008.

To mass delight, he practised his DJ mixing skills, one handed raised to his ear, and then drew laughter after drawing pretend pistols and reholstering them after pointing them down the track.

As the starter called them to the blocks, Bolt put a finger to his lips to hush the excited crowd, briefly crossing himself and looking skywards as the television zoomed in and his picture was broadcast on the big stadium screen.

As silence descended, the gun went and Bolt's reaction time from the blocks saw him rocket away, but Gatlin had the edge on his left.

Bolt, however, pushed his huge frame through his renowned drive and transition phase after 50 metres.

Teeth gritted and long legs pumping, Bolt completed what turned out to be a remarkably comfortable victory given the quality and strength of the field.

After Bolt crossed the line, he immediately set off on a lap of victory, a Jamaican flag draped over his shoulders and

Youth shot dead

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Taltola around 5:00pm. They went to the spot and found Ali lying dead on the ground on a pool of blood.

Police rushed to the spot on information and recovered the body, which they sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

Ali's mother Shahnaz Begum told the police that his family members went to Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport to see off Ali's younger brother Munna around noon. Ali's friend Sumon escorted them to the airport.

Ali received a call on his mobile phone around 2:00pm and left the airport with Sumon without telling his family about his departure.

Ali's family members did not suspect anybody, said the SI. However, they said one of his friends, Titu, owed him Tk 20 thousand a few months back. Titu threatened to kill Ali when he wanted his money back.

New base year

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on a point-to-point basis stood at only 5.21 percent in July. However, the rate is 8.03 percent in the month in the old base year of 1995-1996.

Officials of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics said the difference in inflation rates between the two base yeas comes as some new food and non-food items were included in the inflation basket, while some old items were excluded.

Inflation eased by 0.53 percentage point to 8.03 percent in July, the first month of the current fiscal year, mainly due to the falling prices of rice, said the government agency.

According to the new base year, food inflation in July was 2.23 percent and non-food inflation at 9.94 percent.

The rates for food and non-food inflation were 6.30 percent and 11.54 percent respectively in the old base year.

Malaysia-Korea

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He made the announcement after a meeting with another Malaysian team at the Secretariat. Dato Seri S Samy Velu, Malaysian prime minister's special envoy to India and South Asia, led the six-member delegation.

The Malaysians also submitted to the minister a proposal on concession agreement for the construction of 6.15-km rail-road bridge. The proposal includes time and cost of the bridge construction and how the cost will be recovered, sources said.

"On technical grounds, we cannot disclose the details [of the meeting] before the final proposal submission," Quader said. "We have got to calculate many things."

He said Bangladesh and Malaysia have been in talks on the project financing since January.

"Today's meeting and the concession proposal are part of the process," said the minister, adding that the two technical committees will examine everything about the Malaysian offer.

Terming the Padma bridge a dream project for the government, Quader said Bangladesh did not accept or cancel anything yet.

He said anyone can come up with a proposal, but nothing will be done compromising interests of the country and its people.

Before signing of the agreement, the draft of the final proposal will be sent to the law ministry for scrutiny and then to the cabinet, the minister said, adding that there might even be a consortium comprising local and

Contempt petition

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legal process, the report quoted her as saying.

Such statements at the time of his (Quader Mollah) trial amount to a clear and direct interference in the court proceedings, Tajul observed.

Tribunal Chairman Justice ATM Fazle Kabir with other two members Justice Obaidul Hassan and Judge Md Shahinur Islam began the court proceedings at 10:40am yesterday. Abdur Razzaq, chief of defence counsels of Jamaat leaders detained on war crimes charges, drew the judges' attention to the petition and sought a date for its hearing.

Setting the date, the court proceeded to record the cross-examination of Shafiuddin Mollah, the sixth prosecution witness in the case against Quader Mollah.

Defence counsel Abdus Sobhan Tarafder asked Shafiuddin some 150 questions in more than two and a half hours. The queries mostly centred around the location of Alubdi village where, according to the witness' testimony, the Jamaat leader had been involved in mass killings during 1971.

On August 1, Shafiuddin in his testimony said Quader Mollah on April 24, 1971 had participated in the killing of 360-370 Bangalees at Alubdi in Pallabi of Dhaka. Hiding in the bush, he had seen the Jammatt leader fire on the people of Alubdi, Shafiuddin said.

The incident is false and fabricated, the defence claimed during the cross-examination.

Shafiuddin rejected the claim.

Abdus Sobhan at 1:05pm said he would require two to three more hours to complete the cross-examination. In response, the tribunal said it would regulate the time of cross-examination.

When the court proceedings ended at 1:30pm, the tribunal said the defence would get half an hour today to complete the cross-examination.

Quader Mollah, who is facing six charges of crimes against humanity at the tribunal, was produced before the court yesterday. **CASES AGAINST NIZAMI AND SAYEDEE** Meanwhile, the International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday deferred to August 26 the recording of deposition of the first witness in the war crimes case against Jamaat chief Motiur Rahman Nizami.

It made the decision as it

foreign donors.

Asked when the construction might start, he said Malaysia expressed their interest to start the work this year.

The head of Malaysian delegation will meet Quader again this afternoon.

Emerging from the meeting with the communications minister, the team held a half-an-hour discussion with Finance Minister AMA Muhith at the Secretariat.

But both the minister and the Malaysian team leader declined to make any comments when the meeting ended around 1:30pm.

Malaysia in January formally proposed to finance the project and on April 11, Dhaka and Kuala Lumpur signed a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in the bridge construction.

The government had signed a \$1.2 billion loan agreement with the World Bank to construct the bridge. Besides, the Asian Development Bank was to provide \$615 million, Japan International Cooperation Agency \$400 million and Islamic Development Bank \$140 million more for the scheme.

But the project stalled in October last year when the lead financier WB brought allegation of corruption in the bidding process. The WB finally on June 29 cancelled its loan pledge for the \$2.9 billion project.

Amid uncertainty over its implementation, several countries showed interest to fund the construction of long-cherished Padma

had to complete the cross-examination of Helal Uddin, investigation officer of a case against another Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee.

Last Thursday, the tribunal in an order asked the defence counsel to complete the cross-examination by Wednesday.

Sayedee's counsel cross-examined Helal Uddin yesterday for the 43rd day.

The tribunal also ordered the prosecution to submit a report on Sayedee's physical condition, mentioning that he had not been produced before it for the last seven weeks.

The Tribunal-1 Chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq asked the prosecution to inform the tribunal of whether Sayedee would be able to climb up the stairs to attend the court proceedings. If Sayedee needed a wheel-chair, he would be provided with one, the justice added.

The court then adjourned until today.

Nizami and Sayedee are facing 16 and 20 charges of crimes against humanity.

29 officials

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and the National Housing Authority.

"We have decided to uphold our decision as they got the plots in accordance with the rules," said Abdul Mannan Khan, state minister for housing and public works.

The 29 government high officials got the plots in Uttara third phase and Purbachal New Town after they had received flats in Lalmatia and Mirpur, he said.

Rules do not permit allocation of more than one plot to one person. However, no such barrier applies to those who got flats from the government, according to the eligibility criteria, sources said.

Earlier on July 4 in the parliament, Mannan Khan said influential ministers and their family members were allocated more than one plot each at Uttara and Purbachal in the capital in violation of law.

"Those who got two plots each and fail to surrender one, allocation of one plot will be cancelled," he said, adding, "Rajuk will take action against those who are yet to surrender one plot."

Rajuk issued a circular in 2008 for allocation of the plots in Uttara and Purbachal at the same time which do not allow allocation of more than one plot to a single person

EC sits

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with preparations for the next parliamentary polls.

Contacted, former election commissioner Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hussein said, "During our tenure, we could not scrutinise the political parties' election expenditure reports due to shortage of manpower and burden of work for holding a series of local government polls."

It needed to do some more work for scrutinising the expenditure reports, he said. "But we did not get that much time. Besides, there was a lack of procedure for doing the job."

Sakhawat, who was election commissioner from February 2007 to February this year, said they had proposed to change the RPO to introduce the required procedure.

"The present EC should develop the procedure to this effect," he added.

When his attention was drawn to this, Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz said, "Three and a half years have already passed, and the previous commission did not do the job. We are now busy with many urgent work."

He, however, said he would seek to know from the EC Secretariat what happened to the election expenditure reports.

The previous EC headed by ATM Shamsul Huda had, however, posted copies of all the reports on its official websites per laws.

Information available shows that of the four major political parties--Awami League spent Tk 3.60 crore, BNP spent Tk 4.49 crore, Jatitya Party Tk 13.67 lakh and Jamaat-e-Islami spent Tk 74.72 lakh for their electioneering.

The political parties' registration system was introduced for the first time before the previous parliamentary polls with the provision for submission of expenditure reports to the EC in efforts to bring transparency in the parties' income and expenditure. And

Expenditure ceilings of the parties were fixed considering the number of their candidates in the polls.

All the 39 political parties submitted their election expenditure reports within 90 days after the polls held on December 29, 2008.

Almost all of them however did not cite whether their election funds were deposited and maintained in any scheduled bank as per the electoral laws. They did not also mention how they had collected the funds.

It is, therefore, not clear if the parties had spent within their ceiling of expenditure or crossed that.

A political party may be punished with a fine up to Tk 10 lakh if it crosses the expenditure ceiling and does not maintain bank account.

7 held

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currency-making materials were also recovered from the counterfeiters.

The arrested -- Babu Sheikh, 38, Niaz Sheikh, 35, Imdadul Islam, 22, Jitu, 25, Zahirul Islam, 25, Shahnaj Begum, 25, and Shirin Akter, 22, -- were paraded before the media at Dhaka Metropolitan Police office yesterday.

Monirul Islam, deputy commissioner of DB, told journalists that Babu and Niaz have been producing fake notes and releasing those via the other five in the markets.

Babu said he has been with the racket for the last three years and made Tk 1.5 lakh forged notes a day.

"Ahead of Eid, I make around Tk 5 lakh fake notes a day," he said.

The deputy commissioner advised all to be cautious during money transaction during Eid shopping and inform police if anything is found suspicious.

Police also arrested three members of a racket with Tk 6.5 lakh fake notes from the capital's Paltan area on August 2.

On July 26 and 27, detectives caught six people with Tk 1 crore counterfeit notes from Motijheel, Mugda and Mirpur areas in the capital.

Police on June 12 arrested a man with Tk 4 lakh, on April 30 four people with Tk 3.29 lakh and on March 30 two men with Tk 10.4 lakh counterfeit money from Dhaka.

However, the Bangladesh Bank yesterday urged the people not to panic as it along with law enforcement agencies is working to check fake currency menace.

Nasa's rover lands

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some form of life was once likely even though Mars is now a dry place with a thin atmosphere, extreme winters and dust storms.

Nasa said it will find out whether its Mars Science Laboratory and rover, Curiosity -- designed to hunt for soil-based signatures of life and send back data to prepare for a future human mission -- landed safely at 1:31am Eastern time today.

That will be about 14 minutes after the touchdown actually happens due to the time it takes for spacecraft signals to travel from Mars to Earth.

As of late Saturday, the laboratory was approximately 420,039 kilometers from Mars, closing in at around 8,000 miles per hour.

"Curiosity remains in good health with all systems

Hard to get train tickets

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According to the schedule, train tickets for August 14 were sold yesterday, while tickets for August 15 would be sold today, tickets for August 16 tomorrow, tickets for August 17 on August 8 and the tickets for August 18 on August 9.

Many people had been waiting at the station since Saturday night to take advantageous position in the front of the queues.

"I came here at 8:00 last night [Saturday]. I have got tickets now at 10:30 [Sunday] in the morning," said Rafiqul Islam, who brought tickets of Rangpur Express for August 14.

"But my pains and sufferings will disappear by the pleasant moments with my parents during the Eid," he smiled.

However, many people could not buy tickets despite waiting for hours as the tickets for many routes were sold out by noon.

During a visit to the railway station, it was noticed that tickets of Padma Express (Dhaka-Rajshahi), Drutajan Express (Dhaka-Dinajpur), Turna Express and Godhuli Express (Dhaka-Chittagong), Nilsagar Express (Dhaka-Nilphamari) were sold out by

Five years in jail

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In its verdict delivered in the late 90s, the court found one Zakir and some others guilty. It sentenced Zakir to life in prison and others to lesser terms.

The others convicted in the case have already served out their sentences.

Recently, a police probe has found that Zakir Hossain, 41, is a victim of mistaken identity. For nearly five years, he is serving time for another Zakir.

The home ministry last week suggested punitive measures against three officers of Araihaaz Police Station who were responsible for the wrongful punishment to Zakir.

The investigation was launched as the High Court intervened following a Bangla daily's report that an innocent person was serving life term.

The ill-fated Zakir is scheduled to be produced before an HC bench today from Kashimpur jail. The Daily Star could not yet manage to speak to Zakir.

As Zakir continues to languish in jail, his wife and two minor children live in dire poverty in the absence of the family's sole breadwinner.

Zakir's uncle Mostafa Kamal told The Daily Star on Saturday, "His [Zakir's] wife now works as a domestic help. She and her two sons live at a Paltan slum. One of the sons has left school to work and support the family."

He also said Zakir had no criminal records whatsoever. The police investigation has found that three officers of Araihaaz Police Station -- former officer-in-charge SA Razzak and sub-inspectors Khorshed Alam and Shahidul Islam -- were responsible for it all.

Shefina Begum, deputy secretary of the home ministry, told The Daily Star, "The law section of the ministry on July 30 sent a letter to the police section to take disciplinary measures against the three."

operating as expected," Nasa said in a statement.

The nuclear-powered rover is the biggest ever built for planetary exploration -- weighing in at one ton, about the size of a small car -- and carries a complex chemistry kit to zap rocks, drill soil and test for radiation.

The landing is a daring and unprecedented maneuver that involves penetrating the atmosphere at a speed of 13,200 miles per hour, slowing down with the help of a supersonic parachute and dropping down gently with tethers from a rocket-powered sky crane.

Two NASA orbiters will be crossing overhead as the lander approaches the surface, and a third orbiter operated by the European Space Agency will also send data back to Earth.

The Mars Science

Laboratory began its journey more than eight months ago when it launched from the Florida coast in late November 2011.

"It gets scarier every day," said McCuiston, noting that only about 40 percent of past attempts by global space agencies to send spacecraft to Mars have succeeded.

Nasa has detailed the final minutes of the complex landing in an Internet video called "Seven Minutes of Terror."

A live broadcast from mission control in Pasadena, California will be on www.nasa.gov beginning at 0330 GMT today.

The landing site for the rover is a flat area known as Gale Crater, which lies near a mountain that scientists hope the rover will be able to climb in the search for sediment layers that could be up to a

of most of the routes have been sold a day before. There are only some reserved seats for owners' associations and workers associations," said an employee of Kalyanpur counter of SR Travels.

During a visit to Gabtoli bus terminal, many passengers were seen complaining about ticket prices, which they alleged were much higher than normal rates.

"Usually I travel at Tk 600 from Dhaka to Panchagarh. But today they charged Tk 670 for the same destination," said Raju Ahmed at the counter of SR Travels.

Bangladesh Bus-Truck Owners' Association President ASM Ali Khabir Chand denied the allegations and said all the bus operators have been directed to charge the government-set fares.

"If any bus companies charge higher, they will be issued a show-cause notice."

Meanwhile, the launch owners are set to start selling advance tickets from August 10 ahead of the Eid.

"We will increase the number of trips in accordance with the increasing number of passengers from August 14," said Shahabuddin Milon, vice-president of Bangladesh Inland Waterways (passenger carrier's) Association.

murder case filed with the police station by Soleman Mia, son of Vickchan Mia of Narsingdi, on November 11, 1991. Vickchan was mugged and killed in Bajbi Bazar area of Araihaaz.

Razzak submitted the charge sheet on May 10, 1992, accusing one Zakir and some others. In the charge sheet, Zakir was identified as son of Shamsuddin of Satyabandi Beparipara of Araihaaz.

In 2007, SI Shahidul arrested Zakir Hossain whose father's name and address do not match those in the charge sheet, said the report.

At the court, Shahidul identified the arrestee as Mohammad Zakir, son of Shamsul Huq of Satyabandi Mollapara. Again, father's name and address mentioned by Shahidul were not the same as those in the charge sheet.

Investigator Nazrul Islam said he did not find anyone named Zakir, son of Shamsuddin, at Satyabandi Mollapara.

As to the address in the charge sheet, the election office confirmed there is no voter roll for any area named Satyabandi Beparipara.

lagore

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through his writings.

Rabindranath was born on May 7, 1961 in the Jorasanko mansion in Kolkata. His ancestral home was in Pithabhog village under Rupsha upazila of Khulna, then part of British India, now Bangladesh.

A rare man of multifarious merits, Rabindranath was a novelist, dramatist, artist, essayist, music composer, philosopher, academic, linguist and social reformer.

He was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature in 1913 for the English version of his book Gitanjali.

Rabindranath penned anthems of both Bangladesh and India.

He died at his house in Kolkata on August 7, 1941.

ARSON CASE

Petitions of 46 leaders rejected

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected petitions challenging the legality of charge framing against 46 opposition leaders including BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir in an arson case and speedy trial.

The case was filed in connection with torching of a bus near the Prime Minister's Office during hartal hours on April 29.

Meanwhile, the High Court fixed today for hearing a writ petition seeking stay on the proceedings of the same case.

On July 29, an accused of the case Mahbub Uddin Khokon filed a writ petition with the HC, challenging the legality of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's decision to give judicial power to Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Erfan Ullah for conducting a speedy trial of the case.

Metropolitan Magistrate Harun-or-Rashid on July 31 framed charges against the accused in the case.

Lawyers of BNP leaders Fakhrul, MK Anwar and Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain and Oli Ahmed, president of Liberal Democratic Party, submitted two criminal revision petitions challenging the legality of the charge framing.

In the petition, the defence claimed that the court's order indicting their clients was not acceptable as it had not given them enough time to prepare.

Judge Md Zohurul Haque of the Metropolitan Sessions Judges Court rejected the petitions as the court considered the charge framing order to be proper and legal and did not find any strong grounds for filing of the petitions.

Two BNP leaders -- Aman Ullah Aman and Nazimuddin Alam -- got bail yesterday, in the case.

Earlier on July 31, a metropolitan magistrate cancelled their bail orders and issued arrest warrants.

Withdraw

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of non-cooperation from observing the international indigenous day.

Terming the restrictions "illogical" and "unacceptable", they urged the government to show its will in protecting human rights in three hill districts.

"We place our demands to the government on implementations of the CHT peace accord. We do not have any other options but to expect that the government would implement it," said Sultana Kamal, co-chair of the international CHT commission.

The commission, however, praised some recent steps taken by the government to implement the CHT peace accord.

The violence against women in CHT is on the rise, said Sultana Kamal in her written speech.

She demanded the government investigate the incidents neutrally and requested the local administration in playing a proactive role in this connection.

In the press conference, the commission members criticised the government's move to bar Thomas Eskilson, one of the advisers of the commission, from entering the country and sending him back on July 23 without showing any specific reason.

They informed that till now three foreign citizens were expelled from the country as they were conducting "development works" under organisational contracts.

The commission also urged the government to recognise the people living in CHT as "indigenous" instead of "ethnic minorities" in the constitution.

Barrister Sarah Hossain, a member of the commission, Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of the Transparency International Bangladesh, Khushi Kabir, executive director of Land Reform and Development, among others, were present.