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Fusion music is "incomprehensible" to this devoted folk artist
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AUG 21 ATTACK CASE

Babar was quick to ruin evidence

Testifies ex-top cop of Dhaka

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

A top policeman in court yesterday accused former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar of destroying evidence in connection with the August 21, 2004 grenade attack on an Awami League rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in Dhaka.



tory to retirement (LPR), told the court, "On the very day of the grenade attack, Babar hurriedly directed army experts to destroy two live grenades that had been recovered from the place of occurrence, even though I had told him [Babar] that the grenades were very essential evidence..." Mizanur told the court that Babar and several others were perhaps involved in the grenade attack.

SM Mizanur Rahman, who had become acting commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police just three hours prior to the attack, was deposing before a Dhaka court yesterday.

The attack was aimed at assassinating Awami League President and now Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. She was leader of



Police have apparently teamed up with pavement occupiers on Mirpur Road near Chandni Chawk market in the capital to make city traffic and the life of pedestrians more miserable. Turning a blind eye to vendors taking over the pavement, the police have themselves set up a temporary camp there by commandeering the street and the pavement.

5 Destiny high-ups granted bail
Prosecutor says charges non-bailable
COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to five Destiny Group top-brasses including its managing director, until submission of probe reports in two money laundering cases, even though the charges brought against the accused are non-bailable.

DESTINY 'ANOMALIES'
Commerce probe goes limping
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six months into its formation, a commerce ministry probe body has yet to submit its report on alleged irregularities of multilevel marketing company Destiny-2000. The commerce secretary now pins the blame on the probe body chief Ahmedur Rahim, registrar of joint stock companies and firms (RJSCF), who has recently been transferred to another ministry. Two agencies -- Bangladesh Bank and the Anti-Corruption Commission -- have already submitted their reports on Destiny. The ACC has also filed two cases against Destiny's top

46 OPPOSITION LEADERS ACCUSED
HC stays speedy trial of arson case
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed for eight weeks all the operations of a Dhaka court dealing with an arson case against 46 opposition leaders including BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir. The order came after the hearing on a petition challenging the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Court decision to give power to Metropolitan

Magistrate Harun-or Rashid to conduct the proceedings of Dhaka's Speedy Trial Court-5 in the case. Police filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station hours after a bus was set ablaze near the Prime Minister's Office during the April 29 hartal. During yesterday's proceedings, the HC also issued a rule upon authorities concerned to explain in two weeks why the CMM Court decision should not be

NEWS ANALYSIS
Small cabinet vs interim govt
SHAKHAWAT LITON

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's proposal regarding the formation of a small cabinet on the eve of the next parliamentary election has triggered a debate on how the small cabinet will be formed and what its structure will be. As per her proposal, the cabinet may comprise some MPs of the ruling and opposition parties. But there are some questions as to who will be the prime minister in such a cabinet. And what will be the powers and functions of the cabinet in comparison with those of the now defunct caretaker government? One thing is clear: whoever is prime minister will be an



Russia's Yelena Isinbayeva competes in the women's pole vault final at the athletics event of the London 2012 Olympic Games early today (Bangladesh time). Two-time champion Isinbayeva could only take bronze while Jennifer Suhr of the United States won gold and Cuba's Yarisley Silva claimed silver.

Security excess irks Bolt

AP, London
Being the fastest man on Earth doesn't get you through security any quicker at the Olympics. There's no cutting the line for Usain Bolt or getting London's rigid regulations relaxed. And the Olympic champion's not

happy about it, especially when the security guards hold him up ahead of his showpiece 100-meter event. "I was in the line, we were waiting to run and the guy was telling me to line up straight," Bolt said early Monday. "I was like, 'Really? We're about to run and they are going to make me stand in a straight line?' There are just some weird rules here." Such as not being allowed to get skipping ropes past security.

"They said I can't bring it in, and I asked, 'Why?'" Bolt recalled. "They just said, 'It is the rules.' So if I have a rubber band that I need to stretch, I can't take it in. And when I asked why, they say, 'It's just the rules.'" "It's just some weird small rules that don't make any sense to me, personally." Security has been the only major problem area for games organizers. Thousands of soldiers, sailors and air force personnel had to be drafted to

GRAMEEN BANK

Tax men swoop on 54 entities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue yesterday launched a hunt for tax-related information on Grameen Bank's 54 associated but legally independent entities. The NBR asked one of its tax zones to provide it with income tax records of the bank's associated organisations, an NBR official said yesterday, a week after the Grameen Bank Commission sent a letter



to the tax authority. The cabinet last week asked the finance ministry to find out whether the bank's founder Prof Muhammad Yunus fetched any foreign currencies from abroad under the wage earner scheme facility "as a government official". Meanwhile, Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday had a meeting with

Govt wants to plunder GB money
Alleges BNP
STAR REPORT

The government has adopted a hardline style against Grameen Bank and its founder Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus like it did in the case of stockmarket to plunder the Bank's money, alleged a senior leader of the BNP yesterday. "The government has imposed a new law to reduce the powers of the

VESTED PROPERTY
Govt okays amended ordinance
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved the draft of Vested Property Return (Second Amendment) Ordinance-2012, extending time limit for submission of applications for claiming such property. According to the draft ordinance, claimants of government-listed property will be able to lodge appeals in 300 days instead of 180 days from the issuance of a gazette notification of such property.

Syrian PM defects, joins 'revolution'

Govt says he has been sacked

BBC ONLINE
Syrian Prime Minister Riad Hijab defected from President Bashar al-Assad's government to join "the revolution", his spokesman yesterday said. Hijab was appointed less than two months ago and his departure is the highest-profile defection since the uprising began in March 2011. State-run TV said he had been sacked. Riad Hijab, who is said to have fled with his family, is a Sunni Muslim from the Deir al-Zour area of eastern Syria, which has



been caught up in the revolt. His spokesman Mohammed el-Etri told al-Jazeera TV that he was in a safe location. "I announce today my defection from the killing and terrorist regime and I announce that I have joined the ranks of the freedom and dignity revolution," ran the statement read by his spokesman. Hijab is the first cabinet minister to defect. The BBC's Dale Gavlak in Jordan said the development underscores the