



BOOSTING SOLAR OUTPUT

Two young inventors make a cheap application to increase solar panels output up to 40%

PAGE 7

BEATLEMANIA

Article discusses how and why the Beatles "swept over the world"

PAGE 9

LIVING IN HIDING

Salman Rushdie says his period in police protection felt at times like "a comedy routine"

PAGE 8

GHULAM AZAM'S VERDICT

Govt appeals for death penalty

Seeks ban on Jamaat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has appealed to the Supreme Court seeking death penalty for convicted war criminal Ghulam Azam and a ban on Jamaat-e-Islami, of which he was the chief.

The appeal was filed yesterday despite several government high-ups, including the prime minister, had expressed satisfaction over the tribunal verdict that sentenced Ghulam Azam to 90 years in prison for masterminding crimes against humanity and genocide during the Liberation War.

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 in its verdict on July 15 had said Ghulam Azam, now 91, deserved the death sentence but he was given jail terms due to his old age and poor health.

Justice seekers and victims' families were livid with the sentence handed down to Ghulam Azam, who is considered by many to be the symbol of war crimes in Bangladesh.

Against this backdrop, the government appealed against the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



The government advertisements have been removed from these billboards near Ruposhi Bangla Hotel on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. The photo was taken yesterday. Inset, a photo taken on August 5 shows government ads on the billboards.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



8 MUNICIPALITIES

EC asked to stop polls

Govt cites flaws in boundaries

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

The LGRD ministry has asked the Election Commission not to hold the overdue elections to eight municipalities, raising questions if the Awami League wants to avoid elections after its shocking defeat in five city polls.

The EC has already announced polls schedules for three of the eight municipalities. According to the July 31 announcement, elections to three municipalities -- Nawhata of Rajshahi, Dupchachiya of Bogra and Sripur of Gazipur -- are to be held on September 8.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

HC stays remand for Odhikar secy

Inu says Adilur detained on specific charges, it's not a rights violation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed the five-day remand granted by a lower court on Sunday for interrogation of Odhikar Secretary Adilur Rahman Khan.

The HC also asked the authorities concerned to send him to jail immediately in connection with the case filed against him under the Information and Communication Technology Act.

It, however, allowed the investigation officer to interrogate the accused, if necessary, at the jail gate.

The court also issued a rule upon the government to explain in two weeks why the order of a Dhaka court granting the remand prayer should not be cancelled.

GOVT PRESS NOTE -- PAGE 2

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Rights activists demand release of Adilur

Amnesty, HRW worried

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prominent civil society members, mainly rights activists, yesterday condemned the arrest of Odhikar Secretary Adilur Rahman Khan and demanded his immediate release.

In a statement, 34 rights activists and civil society members termed the arrest "arbitrary" and expressed concern over Adilur's security during his detention in police custody "given the impunity which law enforcers appear to enjoy".

Adilur was arrested on Saturday for publishing a "false report" on crackdown

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

GRABBED BILLBOARDS

Govt ads taken off from many

PM asks ministers to follow due procedures for using them

HASAN JAHIID TUSHER and M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday rejected some ministers' requests for retaining until the next election the possession of the grabbed billboards in the capital advertising government's success stories.

She advised them to follow due procedures for using billboards to publicise the achievements of their ministries, said sources in the cabinet.

Speaking at the weekly cabinet meeting at the secretariat, the prime minister said her government used the billboards for a week following discussions with the owners and advertisers.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

BLOGGER RAJIB MURDER

Suspect arrested in Barguna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mufti Jasim Uddin, a suspect for blogger Rajib murder, was arrested in Barguna yesterday, police said.

Police detained Mufti Jasim along with 30 of his "followers" at his house at Khajurtola around 3:00pm yesterday, claimed Shila Moni Chakma, officer-in-charge of Barguna Sadar Police Station. The group was holding a "secret meeting".

Jasim admitted that in his sermons, delivered in Dhaka and elsewhere, he made calls for annihilating "atheist bloggers", the OC said.

Ahmed Rajib Haidar, also an activist of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



A burning microbus at Sanarpar bus stand on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Narayanganj last night after alleged pickets set it alight hours before the Jamaat-sponsored 48-hour hartal.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

48-HR HARTAL FROM TODAY

Jamaat warms up with violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-Shibir activists yesterday hurled handmade bombs at police and carried out arson and vandalism at different places in the country on the eve of their two-day country-wide hartal beginning today.

Police arrested around 50 Jamaat-Shibir leaders and activists from across the country on charges of creating pre-hartal violence.

Meanwhile, Gonojagoron Mancha announced that it would bring out an anti-hartal procession from Shahbagh at 11:00am today, said a press release.

Yesterday morning, a policeman was injured as Shibir activists hurled bombs targeting law enforcers on SS Road in Sirajganj town.

Panjab Ali, the wounded police constable, was rushed to Sirajganj Police Line Hospital. Two Shibir men were detained from the spot.

Law enforcers arrested a Shibir activist, Mohiuddin, 29, from a procession at Fakirapool in the capital. A mobile

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

ODHIKAR REPORT

Dhaka clarifies to Washington

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka has claimed that Odhikar's report on "61 deaths" during the Dhaka blockade by Hefajat-e-Islam is false and fabricated and has been projecting a biased and false impression on the country's overall rights situation.

In an aide memoire to the US government, Dhaka yesterday clarified its position and said the Odhikar report used Photoshop to put together fabricated and graphic photos of some dead bodies and people injured during the Hefajat violence at day-time.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

TANNERY RELOCATION

Cost doubles in revised proposal

Govt, tanners at loggerheads over plot allocation fees

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and SUMAN SAHA

The government is set to approve the second revised proposal for relocating the hazardous tanneries from the capital's Hazaribagh to Savar, increasing the original project cost by 98 percent.

But the relocation of 155 tanneries still remains uncertain as the tanners are yet to sign MoUs with the government, pending conditions on plot allocation fees.

The Tk1078.71 crore proposal will be placed today before the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnc) for approval. The commit-

tee in October 2007 had endorsed the first revised project proposal worth Tk545.36 crore. The scheme was approved in 2003 with an approximate cost of Tk175.75 crore.

The tenure of the scheme ended last year and the government now plans to extend the deadline up to June 2016.

The costs have soared as the government will now provide Tk250 crore as compensation to the tanners for the relocation and Tk477.46 crore more for setting up the Central Effluent Treatment Plant (CETP) and a dumping yard.

The planning ministry has made the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

Norwegian PM in disguise

Works as taxi driver to hear from voters

BBC ONLINE

Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg spent an afternoon working incognito as a taxi driver in Oslo, he has revealed.

Stoltenberg said he had wanted to hear from real Norwegian voters and that taxis were one of the few places where people shared their true views.

He wore sunglasses and an Oslo taxi driver's uniform for the shift in June, only revealing his identity once he was recognised by his passengers.

His exchanges with his passengers were captured on a hidden camera.

The footage - made in collaboration with an advertising

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



This video grab taken on Sunday shows Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg, right, acting as a taxi driver in Oslo, Norway, as a part of the election campaign for the Norwegian Labour Party.

PHOTO: AFP