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# SC against HC orders

Says HC cannot direct govt 'not to arrest or harass anyone'

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Appellate Division has discouraged the High Court from directing the government not to arrest or harass any person.

Additional Attorney General Murad Reza told The Daily Star that the Appellate Division made the observation as the HC was giving incorrect blanket directives "not to harass or arrest a suspect without due process of law".

A three-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, said, "We want to make it clear that the High Court cannot issue any such directive."

The apex court passed the order on April 20 after hearing a government petition filed against an HC directive of January 23 that asked the government not to arrest or harass Khandker Mahbub Hossain without due process of law.

Khandker Mahbub is the president of the Supreme Court Bar Association and an adviser to the BNP chairperson.

The HC had passed the order following a writ petition filed by Farhat Hossain, wife of Khandker Mahbub, seeking a directive on the government not to arrest or harass her husband without due process of law.

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A fireman telling people to stay back after a septic tank under the pavement exploded at Kalyanpur Bus Stand in the capital yesterday evening. At least 20 people were injured in the explosion. Police close off a side of Mirpur Road and the residents of the nearby 13-storey building, right, are evacuated on safety grounds following the explosion.



## New tax slab for the rich

30pc for those who earn Tk 3cr a year

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The National Board of Revenue plans to introduce a new tax slab -- 30 percent -- for individuals in "super income group."

The new rate will be imposed on those having yearly income of more than Tk 3 crore.

The move aims to reduce the wealth gap between the rich and

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# Hasina for good ties with India

Problems could be solved thru' talks, she tells Japanese journalists

UNB, Tokyo

Voicing hopes of keeping up good relations with India, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said any problem with neighbouring countries could be resolved through bilateral talks.

"You may have differences over policy, it's quite natural. If there's any problem you can solve them through bilateral discussions," she said.

The prime minister made the remarks while interacting with the Japanese media at the National Press Club of Japan on the last day of her four-day official visit.

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## Goldman Sachs sees dream final

REUTERS, Hong Kong

Rivals Brazil and Argentina are set to meet in the World Cup final in July, with the host country winning the title for a record sixth time, US investment bank Goldman Sachs have predicted in a report.

Goldman sees a 48.5 percent probability that Brazil will win the July 13 final, with Argentina and Germany the next most likely teams to succeed with a 14.1 percent and 11.4 percent chance respectively.

The predictions were based on a statistical model that analysed about

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# UPAZILA CHAIRMAN MURDER Feni Jubo League man held, Minar remanded

2 key suspects still at large

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Feni police have so far arrested 21 people in connection with the gruesome murder of Phulgazi upazila chairman Ekramul Haque, but a number of key suspects are still at large.

Among those arrested are local BNP leader Mahtab Uddin Chowdhury Minar, the lone named accused in the case, and two other top suspects - Awami League leader Jihad Chowdhury and Abidul Islam Abid.

Latest, cops yesterday detained Jubo League activist Ziaul Haque Bappi at Daganbhuiyan upazila for his alleged link in the killing.

However, law enforcers have yet to arrest "Ruti" Soheli and Bakkar, who, according to Abid, were present at the meeting where Jihad, also known as Jahid, masterminded the killing.

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Two Krishnachura flowers on a pavement puddle in Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday. The flowers that represent the peak of summer fell off during the early showers of the rainy season, which is just two weeks away.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## RAMNA BLASTS Verdict in killing case June 16

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Thirteen years after the gory bomb blasts at the city's Ramna Batamul, a Dhaka court yesterday completed the trial of the killing case and set June 16 to deliver the verdict.

Judge Ruhul Amin of the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court fixed the date after conclusion of arguments from the defence.

During the traditional celebrations of the Bangla New Year, 1408 (April 14, 2001) at the Ramna Batamul, several blasts killed 10 people and injured around 50 others. Leading cultural platform

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## Ershad picks Selim for N'ganj by-polls

Drama unfolds after Shamim meets him 'for Selim's ticket'

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, known for his political somersaults, yet again staged a drama yesterday over selecting the party candidate for the Narayanganj-5 by polls.

Though he agreed to give the nomination to the candidate backed by his wife Raushan Ershad, who is the opposition leader in parliament, at the meeting of the JP parliamentary board, he picked Selim Osman, member of Narayanganj's controversial Osman family, as the party candidate after the meeting.

Interestingly, the latest back-flip of the former military strongman followed a closed-door meeting between him and Awami League lawmaker Shamim Osman, Selim's brother who allegedly helped flee Nur Hossain, the prime suspect in the sensational seven-murder case in Narayanganj.

The constituency fell vacant following the death of JP lawmaker Nasim Osman on April 30. The ruling AL has already decided not to nominate anyone for contesting the by-polls and to leave the seat for the JP.

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## MOBILE COURT Ctg councillor freed hrs after imprisonment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A ward councillor of Chittagang City Corporation (CCC) was released only a few hours after a mobile court sentenced him to two years' imprisonment yesterday.

The court headed by CCC Executive Magistrate Nazia Shirin awarded the jail term to Mahbubul Alam, councillor of ward-4, for obstructing an eviction drive at Tekbazar area around 12:00noon and assaulting two female city corporation staffs, sources said.

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## Google building self-driving car

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Google has unveiled plans to build a fleet of 100 self-driving cars that would automatically travel to a destination selected by a passenger using just a stop/start button and a smartphone app.

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NEW LOOK AT BANKING

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PRAYER TIMING May 29

Azan	4-05	4-40
Fajr	12-45	1-15
Zohr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-43	6-47
Esha	8-05	8-35

Source: Islamic Foundation