

True parliament

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because of her honesty.
"When they [the World Bank and other big powers] advised me not to hang war criminals, I ignored them. The only reason I could do that is whatever I do, I do it with honesty."
It was for her honesty that Bangladesh had been able to overcome the allegation of corruption raised by the World Bank over the Padma Bridge project, she said.
Referring to the ongoing movement by public university teachers over the new pay scale, the PM said no government in the past, except for the AL government, could increase the salaries of public servants to a huge extent.
"I don't know why some are expressing dissatisfaction over the new pay scale. Then what's the solution? Should we revoke the pay commission and half the increased salaries and then go forward with their demands," a smiling Hasina said.
For the first time in the country, she claimed, her government has introduced a system for raising the salaries of the public servants at a cumulative rate that would not affect anyone.
On the ongoing movement by the private university students over the 7.5 percent VAT on their tuition fees, she said the students would not have to pay the VAT; rather the university authorities would pay it.
The PM also highlighted various steps of her government for developing the higher education sector.
The seventh session of the 10th parliament was prorogued last night with eight working days. Six bills were passed in the current session.

Sakhina may

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upazila, will not become a mother this year. One of the three original crocodilian residents of the reproduction centre at the reserve, Sakhina raised great hopes in the last week of June this year when she laid her first clutch of 25 eggs.
"At first she was visiting the eggs regularly," says forest beat officer, Sajib Kumer Mojumder. "But for the last two weeks she hasn't."
The eggs have already become discoloured, frustrating hopes of a new crocodile generation hatching this season. "We even removed seven eggs that looked spoilt in the hope the remainder could hatch, but they became similarly discoloured," says Mojumder.
However, crocodile specialist Md Zakir Hossain of Karamjal crocodile breeding centre in the Sunderbans says there is always a low possibility that a first-time attempt to start a family by a female crocodile will be successful. It does not mean Sakhina may not have better success next year.
Nonetheless the news is hard to accept. "We were so excited to see baby crocodiles in the eco-park and we took all measures to bring about a good outcome," says the divisional forest officer, Mihir Kumar Doe. "We waited the ninety days in vain but from next year we will use an incubator," he added.
Originally three crocodiles, Tengra, Giri and Sakhina, were relocated to the eco-park along with 24 boars, 8 leopards, 8 deer, 2 pythons and 2 porcupines; but sadly Tengra passed away.

Ansarullah

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Mufti Mahmud Khan, director of the Rab's legal and media wing.
The involvement of Rahmani's brother Bashar in the gruesome killing of Avijit and Ananta came to light following the arrest of Towhidur Rahman, a financier of the outfit, and two other suspected Ansarullah members Sadeque Ali and Aminul Mallick on August 17, Rab said.
They were handed over to the Detective Branch of police the next day in Avijit killing case. Towhidur and Aminul were shown arrested in Ananta murder case on Tuesday.
As instructed by Bashar, Bangladesh-born UK citizen Towhidur planned both the killings, according to Rab, while a group of five operatives -- Sadeque, Julhash, Zafran, Ramjan alias Siam and Nayeem -- participated in the killing missions of Avijit in Dhaka on February 26 and Ananta in Sylhet on May 12.
The five men gathered at the playground of Mohsin Hall of Dhaka University three hours before Avijit's murder, Rab said earlier. They followed Avijit as he stepped out of Ekushhey Boi Mela premises and killed him and wounded his wife Rafida Ahmed near TSC.
Ramjan and Nayeem, who are on the run, hacked the bloggers to death and Julhash and Zafran uploaded the online posts claiming responsibility for the murders, the Rab official said.
Rab is trying to arrest the two fugitives, he added.
However, the Criminal Investigation Department arrested four other suspects in Ananta murder case. Of the arrestees, Mannan Rahi, a student of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, gave confessional statements before a Sylhet Court.
Ananta was on his way to work when a group of masked men hacked him to death in Sylhet city.

Earn confidence of countrymen

PM tells police officers

UNB, Saradha (Rajshahi)
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the new cadre police officials to devote themselves to the development of the nation by facing the current and future challenges with courage and sincerity.
She was addressing the passing-out parade of the 33rd BCS batch of Assistant Superintendents of Police (ASPs) at the Bangladesh Police Academy here.
"You'll have to keep in mind that people seek your help when they fall into a danger. So, you'll have to earn confidence of the mass people through giving them legal services and human behaviour," Hasina added.
The PM also directed them to give utmost priority to the fundamental rights, human rights and the rule of law.
"I hope you will ensure punishment

of the wicked and foster the good," she said, hoping that the new police officials of 33rd BCS police batch would continue to uphold the reputation of Bangladesh Police.
Hasina took salute, reviewed the parade and distributed medals among the best probationary ASPs.
Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque and Principal of the academy Naim Ahmed, among others, were present.
The PM said though 32,031 posts, including 733 cadre posts, were created in the police organogram, it was not adequate in ratio of the country's population.
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Salinity tolerant rice

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and for this reason it has become an important tool for genetic engineering.
All the four HVVs were developed by the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) and are known for their high yield potential.
Zeba and her team are now concentrating on two transgenic rice varieties (derived from BRRI Dhan-28 and BRRI Dhan-47) as these two have been found to have the most potential.
Once the biosafety regulators give permission in a meeting scheduled later on this month, the two rice varieties would be put on confined trials inside BRRI's transgenic greenhouse and then on controlled field trials.
Zeba expects farmers to have the transgenic rice for cultivations in two to three years, provided the trials go well.
Team member Md Sazzadur Rahman, senior scientific officer of BRRI, told The Daily Star that BRRI Dhan-47 was a salt tolerant HVV and could withstand up to 8 decisiemens per metre of salinity.
"If you grow BRRI Dhan-47 in non-saline condition, it has 7 tonnes of potential yield per hectare, but it will give you half the yield in 8 decisiemens per metre saline condition as after 4 decisiemens per metre threshold, yield continues to drop with rising salinity," he said, adding that the transgenic rice showed potential of providing up to 50 percent more yield in moderate saline conditions.
Zeba, who was instrumental behind the government's move to employ employing late Maqsoodul Alam in jute genome sequencing, told The Daily Star, "There are salinity level up to 15/16 decisiemens per metre in coastal regions but even if we can cover 50

percent of the moderate salinity-prone farmland under transgenic rice, the country's rice productivity would have a significant boost."
The other core members of salt tolerant transgenic rice project team are Mahzabin Amin, Sudip Biswas, Tasnim Ahmed, Sabrina M Elias, and Narendra Tuteja.
Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR, popularly known as Science Laboratory) played a vital role in helping the scientists develop the rice.
"We've state-of-the-art real-time PCR [polymerase chain reaction] facilities in our Rajshahi centre and we let the team use that. It helped them know easily how the pea gene is expressed in the varieties they've infused it with," said M Rezaul Karim, a principal scientific officer of Bcsir.
The PCR is a technology in molecular biology used to amplify a single copy or a few copies of a piece of DNA across several orders of magnitude, generating thousands to millions of copies of a particular DNA sequence.
Talking to this correspondent yesterday, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said better rice breeds that could withstand salinity would align well with the government's new policy of promoting Boro in the southern region and rain-fed Aman in the northern region.
"We just don't want to further deplete the groundwater level in the North by cultivating too much of irrigated-rice. So if we can grow more salt tolerant rice in the saline-prone South, we'll emphasise on growing more rain-fed Aman and Aus in the North."
She said government would arrange for more funding for pursuing biotech-

Yunus Centre protests

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the premier said these about the founder of the Grameen Bank.
The statement said the microcredit pioneer has dedicated his whole life to build various institutions for the welfare of the people of Bangladesh and can never do anything against the interest of the people of Bangladesh.
"He has always worked for the interest and success of Bangladesh. He has worked to establish the country in the world as a model of development and alleviation of poverty."
"The allegation he has been engaging in negative propaganda against the country is not only resorting to falsehood but also unfortunate," said the statement.
The centre said the prime minister's statement of this kind had important implications for the country and personally for Prof Yunus.
"These create wrong impressions among people at home and abroad.

We have answered such allegations in the past in detail."
"Our statements have been published in the media in detail. It is unfortunate that such false allegations are being made again without taking our statements into consideration."
The statement said the allegation that Prof Yunus had started tarnishing the image of the government after he lost the post of the MD of a Bank is not only baseless, but also ridiculous.
"For the same reason the allegation of his approaching Hillary Clinton for holding on to the post of MD of the Grameen Bank is equally ridiculous. We protest these accusations," the Yunus Centre said.
The statement also refuted the accusation that Prof Yunus had joined hands with BNP-Jamaat to tarnish the image of the country. "Prof Yunus never had any link with any political party and he does not have any such connection even today."

'Mastermind' stayed

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yesterday.
A senior police official made the disclosure after receiving a notice sent by the Thailand police through the Interpol for help to locate Abu Duster Abdulrahman alias Izan, a Chinese national.
"We received a message from the Thai police around 4:00pm. We verified the message and found that the man flew to Dhaka on a Biman flight from Bangkok on August 16. He landed at the airport in Dhaka around 3:30pm local time," Assistant Inspector General (Media) Nazrul Islam told The Daily Star.
Izan then left Dhaka for Beijing on August 30 on a Jet Airways flight, he said, adding that they had already informed the Thai authorities of the development.
Asked where Izan had been living or

which places he had visited during his stay in Bangladesh, Nazrul said, "This is part of our ongoing intelligence activities and I have restrictions on disclosing the information right now."
At least 20 people were killed and over a hundred injured in the attack outside a Hindu shrine at Erawan in central Bangkok.
On Wednesday, Thai daily The Nation reported that the country's police through the Interpol had requested cooperation from Dhaka after their investigations indicated the "mastermind" behind the blast had fled to Dhaka.
Meanwhile, Bangladesh Ambassador to Thailand Saida Muna Tasneem told The Daily Star last night that the government would extend all-out cooperation to Thailand to pinpoint Izan's movements during his two-week stay in Bangladesh.

RANA PLAZA MOVIE

SC orders status quo till Sept 14

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday ordered the authorities concerned to maintain a status quo till September 14 on the release and screening of a movie based on the rescue of garment worker Reshma 17 days after the Rana Plaza collapse.
Justice Hasan Foez Siddique, chamber judge of the Appellate Division, passed the order following a petition seeking a review of an SC order on September 6 that had lifted an HC ban on the screening of the film, "Rana Plaza".
The judge also sent the review petition to the full bench of the Appellate Division for its full hearing on September 14.
The film could not be screened unless further order was given, Mehedi Hasan Chowdhury, a lawyer for the petitioner, told The Daily Star.
Sirajul Islam Rony, president of Bangladesh National Garments Workers Employees League, submitted the petition yesterday, claiming some "horrible" scenes were yet to be deleted from the movie in line with the HC directives.
The film had earlier been scheduled for release on September 4.
Following a writ petition filed by Rony, the HC on August 24 imposed a six-month restriction on its screening.
In March, the HC had asked the authorities to cut some scenes portraying horror, cruelty and violence associated with the Rana Plaza disaster, he claimed in the petition.
The SC, following a petition filed by Shamima Akhter, producer of the movie, stayed the HC order on September 6.
Reshma was pulled out of the rubble of Rana Plaza, which came crashing down in Savar on April 23, 2013.
As many as 1,135 people, mostly workers, were killed in the incident, which is seen as one of the worst

Bus, auto fare

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The revised fare for buses will be effective from October 1 and for auto-rickshaws from November 1.
"People don't get worried if there is a fare hike of Tk 5 or Tk 10. They get worried if rates which have been decided are not followed," Quader told journalists.
Later, the minister told The Daily Star he hoped this time the new fare rate would be followed properly as the decision was taken after discussions with all the stakeholders, including the transport operators.
The Daily Star talked to a dozen commuters in the capital. They claimed they are always charged more than the government-fixed fares as "transport operators hike fares as they want."
As a result, brawls over fare break out between passengers and bus helpers quite often.
Kalimullah, a shop owner, who regularly travels from Uttara to New Market in buses, said he has to pay Tk 45 to Tk 50 every day for the trip. "It should not be more than Tk 38 according to what the government had decided," he claimed.
As per the revised fare, a passenger, who now pays around Tk 28 for travelling from Mirpur-1 to Jatrabari in a bus, will be charged Tk 30.
"You are definitely lucky if you ever get a CNG-run auto-rickshaw that uses the meter," said another commuter.
"Auto-rickshaws operators always charge me Tk 300 to 350 for travelling from Mirpur-1 to Saydabad. It would not be more than Tk 200 according to the meter," said Faisal Mahmud, who works at a private firm.
Commuters say drivers of the three-wheelers always ask for higher fares, using traffic jam, rains, and damaged streets as excuses.
In the latest hike, CNG-run auto-rickshaw fare in Dhaka, Chittagong cities and their surrounding areas have been increased up to 60 percent more on the existing rates.
Passengers will have to pay Tk 40 for the first two kilometres instead of the existing fare of Tk 25 for the distance. They will be charged Tk 12 instead of current Tk 7.64 for next kilometres.
For example, a passenger is now supposed to pay around Tk 190 for travelling from Baniazuri of Uttara to Palashi in the vehicle. After the rate hike, it will cost the person Tk 300.
The minimum auto-rickshaw fare has been raised to Tk 40 from Tk 25.
Auto-rickshaw drivers will have to pay their owners Tk 900 per day as rent instead of the present Tk 600.
The government has recently hiked gas prices.
Meanwhile, different political and social organisations have protested the government move to hike transport fares.

Our melody man

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Undaunted by the scale of the battle ahead, he says, "I'm working on some new music. Let me come back from Thailand. I'll surprise you all."
That's Lucky Akhand, one of the most gifted singer-composers the nation has ever produced, talking to The Daily Star hours before he left for Bangkok for treatment last night.
The creator of timeless tunes like *Agey Jodi Jantam*, *Amay Dekona*, *Jekhanei Simanto Tomar*, *Kobita Porar Prohor Esehhe*, and an artiste of wartime radio Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, Lucky was admitted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University on September 1. There he was diagnosed with grade-IV lung cancer.
Dr Faruque Osmany, assistant registrar of BSMMU, said since Lucky's cancer is already at an advanced stage, a medical board of the hospital has recommended shifting him to a specialised cancer hospital.
He will be admitted to Phythai Hospital in Bangkok.
For the expensive treatment, family members say, they have managed the money to meet the immediate needs, but they will require a lot more in the coming days.
However, the 68-year-old musician, always a man with a sense of sharp self-respect, does not want any charity; rather, he wants the royalties on his songs, many of which have been popular for decades.
Asked if any of the companies that have been doing business with his music for years has contacted him, he said, "Yes. Some of them contacted me. But there is a copyright registration issue, for which I have to go to their offices."
"But I cannot go anywhere before I return from Bangkok."
Yesterday, friends, relatives and fans were visiting or calling him to know his condition. He was answering most of the calls and also talking to visitors about his future plans.
During the conversation with this correspondent, he took a call. It was from singer Maqsood.
"Let me come back from Thailand. I'll

compose some new songs and select some from your old songs for an album," Lucky told the singer-songwriter on the other side of the phone.
In the meantime, his daughter Mum Minti over the phone told him about his Thai visa confirmation.
Two jewels in one family -- Lucky Akhand and his brother Happy Akhand -- are undoubtedly among the few musicians who shaped the post-war music scene of Bangladesh. Happy's *Abar Elo je Sondhya* and *Lucky's Ei Neel Monihar* are the milestones in Bangla music.
Both multi-instrumentalists, the Akhand brothers never kept their talents to themselves. Careers of many famed singers, including Samina Chowdhury, Kumar Biswajit and Ferdous Wahid, were enriched by their melodious composition.
Today's pop-rock music in Bangladesh, for where it stands now, also owes a great deal to Lucky and Happy.
Bangla music suffered a great loss when Happy met untimely death in 1987. With a heavy heart, his elder brother continued his musical journey -- unwavering in his commitment to good music and never chasing stardom or media attention.
Now the director (music) of national radio network Bangladesh Betar, Lucky was born in 1955 in Old Dhaka. At the age of 14, the music prodigy became a listed composer (*Surokar*) of HMV Pakistan, and a musician of HMV India at 16.
In 1971, he joined Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, a radio station that throughout the Liberation War remained dedicated to keeping up the morale of the freedom fighters through patriotic songs and programmes.
Faced with another fight, Lucky along with his daughter left for Thailand on a Bangkok Airlines flight at 10:25pm.
And thousands of fans, fellow musicians and well-wishers are keeping their fingers crossed that he will recover and return soon. They surely will love to hear his new melodies.

New species of human

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for climbing.
Although the species, named *Homo naledi* after the cave where it was found, had a brain no bigger than an orange, scientists believe it must have buried its dead in a ritualistic manner, which is one of the key hallmarks of being human.
The diminutive humans, who grew no bigger than about 5ft tall and weighed no more than about 7 stones (45kg), represent a new species belonging to the *Homo* genus because of their similarities to other humans but with unique features which set them apart as a distinct entity, scientists said.
The international team of researchers has found so many bones - more than 1,550 fossil fragments so far - in the cave's deep chamber that they have multiple examples of practically every bone in *H naledi*'s body, making it a unique and important discovery in early human origins.
"The hands suggest tool-using capabilities. Surprisingly, *H naledi* has extremely curved fingers, more curved

than almost any other species of early hominins, which clearly demonstrates climbing abilities," said Tracy Kivell of the University of Kent, who was part of the research team.
Yet the feet of these early humans which are almost identical to those of modern man, combined with its relatively long legs reveal that the species was adapted to bipedal walking, said Professor Lee Berger of the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, who led the expeditions that discovered and recovered the fossils.
"With almost every bone in the body represented multiple times, *Homo naledi* is already practically the best-known member of our lineage," Professor Berger said.
"The combination of anatomical features in *H naledi* distinguishes it from any previous known species," he said.
The studies of *H naledi*, published in the on-line journal *eLife*, concluded that the rich collection of bones buried deep in the cave - with many more still to be recovered - could have only got their by

AL's pledges

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pledges, the prime minister and education minister had also assured teachers on several occasions of a separate pay scale.
But the latest national pay scale once again proved how the electoral pledges were broken, prompting teachers to take to the streets demanding a separate pay scale.
"Improvement in the quality of education, depoliticisation of educational institutions, and a higher salary scale for teachers will be ensured. A permanent Pay Commission and a separate Service Commission will be instituted for teachers," read the AL pledges it made before the 2008 election.
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on August 2, 2011 had said separate pay scale for the teachers was under active consideration of her government, the state run news agency BSS had reported then.
She made that assurance when the vice-chancellors (VCs) of the country's public universities, led by the then University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, called on her at her office.
The education ministry in 2011 formed a committee comprised of educationists and officials of different ministries concerned to devise a separate pay scale. But there was nothing to show for it.
During her previous term since January 2009, the PM's announcement for separate pay scale for teachers did not see the light of the day till the end of tenure for her government.
In the run up to the January 5, 2014 parliamentary election, the AL-led by Hasina again made almost the same promise.

"Separate pay scale and permanent pay commission for secondary and higher secondary level teachers will be formed," read AL's latest electoral pledge.
Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid at a program on March 19 this year announced that separate pay scale with increased salary will be made for teachers.
The minister declared this at a seminar on development of education in the national representatives' meeting of teachers at the Teachers' Training College auditorium in the capital.
In mid June this year, the education minister sent letters endorsing the demand for a separate pay scale for teachers to top government officials.
He had sent separate official letters to the secretary of the President's office, principal secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, cabinet secretary, senior secretary of public administration, and finance ministry, calling for formation of separate pay scale for teachers.
However the national pay commission, led by a former Bangladesh Bank governor, strongly opposed a separate pay scale for teachers in its report.
"A separate pay scale for public universities will not be appropriate until they become self-reliant reducing their dependence on government's grants," it asserted.
The result is what we now see. Bureaucrats are happy with the new pay. But teachers of public universities and colleges expressed their resentment at the pay scale which is also applicable for them. They took to the streets again demanding separate pay scale.
The onus has now been shifted to a cabinet committee led by the finance minister to take a decision.