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The Daily Star

TODAY'S ISSUE 20 PAGES

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REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XIII No. 230

DHAKA SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2003

TO
People's Right to Know

BHADRA 23, 1410 BS

RAJAB 9, 1424 HURI

20 PAGES PRICE: Tk 7.00

www.thedailystar.net

Khulna AL leader slain in bomb attack

12 wounded, none claims responsibility

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna city Awami League (AL) leader Kamrul Islam Kutu was killed and at least 12 others were seriously wounded in a bomb attack by unidentified assailants at 8:00 last night in front of the party office.

The injured were admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital

and the General Hospital. The condition of four of them was stated to be critical.

Witnesses said Kutu, former president of ward No. 29 unit of the city AL, was talking to some party men when a powerful bomb was hurled at the party office. Many party leaders including former state minister Talukder Abdul Khaleque

MP and former MP Mannujan Sufian were present at the office at that time.

The injured are party workers Kazi Enayet, Khandaker Mujibur Rahman, Arjul Islam, Saiful Islam and Kamrul Islam Babu.

Pedestrians Tayeb, Bholanath, Kabul, Rajab Ali, Hanif, Ashraf Bacchu and Pallab were also injured

in the blast.

The explosion rocked the entire area. Panic-stricken people started running for cover. All shops in the area were closed soon after the bomb blast.

Traffic was disrupted and security forces were deployed at different places of the city. All political party

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Activists of the Jubo Dal, the youth front of the ruling BNP, throw stones at pro-Awami League lawyers (not seen) in attacks that injured at least 50 lawyers at the Dhaka Bar Association office yesterday. (Right) A policeman escorts a lawyer to hospital after he was wounded in police clubbing.



PHOTO: STAR

Violence rocks court: 87 hurt

Pro-BNP lawyers, Jubo Dal activists, police swoop on AL rivals at Dhaka Bar Association

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Activists and lawyers backing the BNP and supported by law enforcers caused injury to at least 50 pro-Awami League lawyers at Dhaka Bar Association office in an attack ahead of the prime minister's visit to an adjacent court yesterday.

They also inflicted injury on at least 10 photojournalists and two court correspondents and vandalised the portraits of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the association office at noon, half an hour before Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's visit to Dhaka District Judge's Court.

The violence ensued when some 30 pro-AL lawyers of the association wore black badges and hoisted black flags in front of its office at 11:40am in protest against not inviting them to the premier's foundation-laying of the annexe of the court building.

A few minutes later some activists of Jubo Dal, the youth front of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), entered the court building in a procession welcoming

Khaleda's visit.

The Jubo Dal activists, chanting slogans against the wearing of black badges, advanced towards the pro-AL lawyers who were also shouting slogans against the PM's visit in front of the association office.

At one stage of slogans and counter-slogans, some 50 Jubo Dal activists threw stones at the association office, injuring about 15 lawyers and breaking its doors and windows.

Police fired five teargas shells to disperse the Jubo Dal activists. But the activists, led allegedly by Sagir Ahmed, general secretary of Dhaka city south unit of the BNP's youth front, gathered within a few minutes and joined the policemen in storming the association office.

Police and the Jubo Dal activists soon went on a rampage beating lawyers on the ground and first floors and in the second floor TV room at will. They also ransacked the canteen on the first and second floors and swooped on lawyers having meals there.

Police and the political activists

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Priority put on public coffer to finance power plans

Tk 23,428cr investment needed to boost power output

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

A cabinet sub-committee yesterday gave the highest priority to self-financing to set up new power infrastructure till 2007, as lack of new investment in the power sector is threatening its growth.

In the next four years, Bangladesh will invest up to Tk 23,428 crore to add over 4000 megawatts power to the present power supply capacity of 3450MW.

The Cabinet Sub-committee on Economic Affairs, headed by Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman, also decided to tap donor funds, state-level credit from other states and supplier's credit as other sources for such huge financing.

Future proposals for power plans will seek bank loans as well as other

sources and clearly outline how such credits will be returned.

The power division of the energy ministry has been working on ways to tap the resources for a long time, as the power crisis continues to hinder development. The cabinet discussed the issue many times, and a secretary-level seven-member committee, formed on April 26 and led by Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Kamal Uddin Siddiqui, placed its report to the sub-committee yesterday.

The sub-committee reviewed the report and directed the power division to formulate guidelines on how hard loans like state-to-state and supplier's credits will be paid back.

The power division has also been asked to work out all details of the future power plans and send the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Tigers too near yet too far

Inzamam ton foils Bangladesh's party at Multan

HASAN MASOOD from Multan

It was so close yet so far for Bangladesh to celebrate their maiden Test win at the Multan Cricket Stadium yesterday. The Tigers had done everything to grab the opportunity for a reversal of their Test fortunes, but only to be thwarted by an unbreakable barrier erected by Inzamamul Haq.

Nicknamed Rock of Gibraltar, the burly right-handed stood between Bangladesh and victory on the fourth day of the third and final Test with an undefeated 138.

His epic knock in a comeback series presented Pakistan an exciting one-wicket victory and with it a 3-0 clean sweep over the Test infants.

With Inzamam playing the best innings of his life Pakistan, resuming the day on 148-6, eventually reached 262 by the skin of their teeth.

It was one of the great escape acts that Test cricket had ever seen as the Sultan of Multan pulled medium pacer Khaled Mahmud down to the

mid-wicket boundary for the winning runs and broke the heart of millions in Bangladesh, where all eyes were fixed on television screens anticipating history in the making.

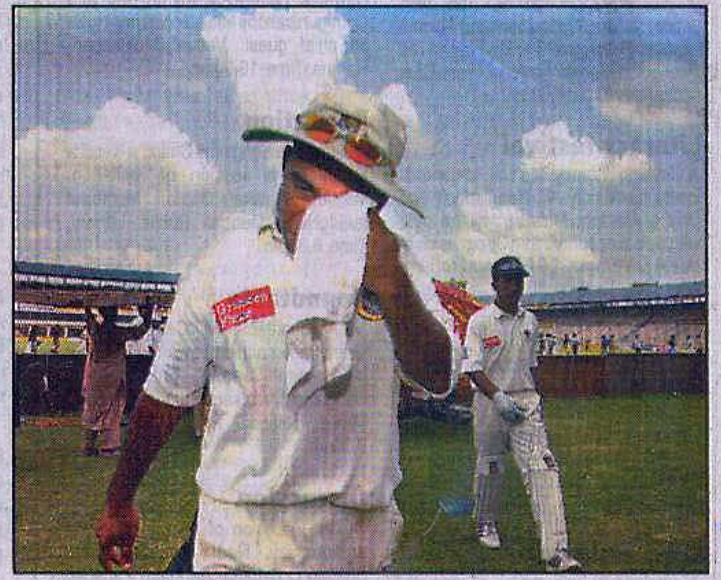
Having spent a sleepless night, Khaled Mahmud's men came out on the ground needing to snatch the Pakistan tail. And Mahmud gave the visitors a perfect start having Saqlain Mushtaq (11) caught behind with a gem of an outswinger, leaving Pakistan still 95 runs away with three wickets remaining.

The score line could have been very well 164 for eight after only two balls in the same over had Hannan Sarkar not spilled Shabbir Ahmed in the slips.

Aided by the new lease of life, the tall Pakistan fast bowler then shared a priceless 41 runs for the eighth wicket with Inzamam, in which Shabbir's contribution was 13.

With the pressure building left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique swung the pendulum once again Bangladesh's way by having Shabbir

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All AGONY: A dejected skipper Khaled Mahmud wipes tears as he leaves the ground with Khaled Mashud after the dramatic loss at Multan yesterday.

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Yet another abduction in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Yet another abduction took place in Chittagong when a schoolboy was kidnapped by a group of criminals at Dabua village under Raouzan upazila in Chittagong district Friday night.

The abductors demanded a ransom of Tk 5 lakh for his release, local sources said.

Ahmed Hossain, a student of class ten and son of Anwar Hossain who lives in a Middle Eastern country, was kidnapped by known criminals as he was going to a relative's house at the same village, the sources added.

The abductors talked to the family members of the victim over cellular phone and demanded the ransom.

Abduction of Hossain is the seventh incident of his kind in the last 44 days since the kidnapping of business magnate Jamal Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury 44 days ago. Police could not rescue Jamal till yesterday.

Another abduction victim Mizanur Rahman, who was abducted from a city hotel on Wednesday, managed to slip out of captivity two days ago.

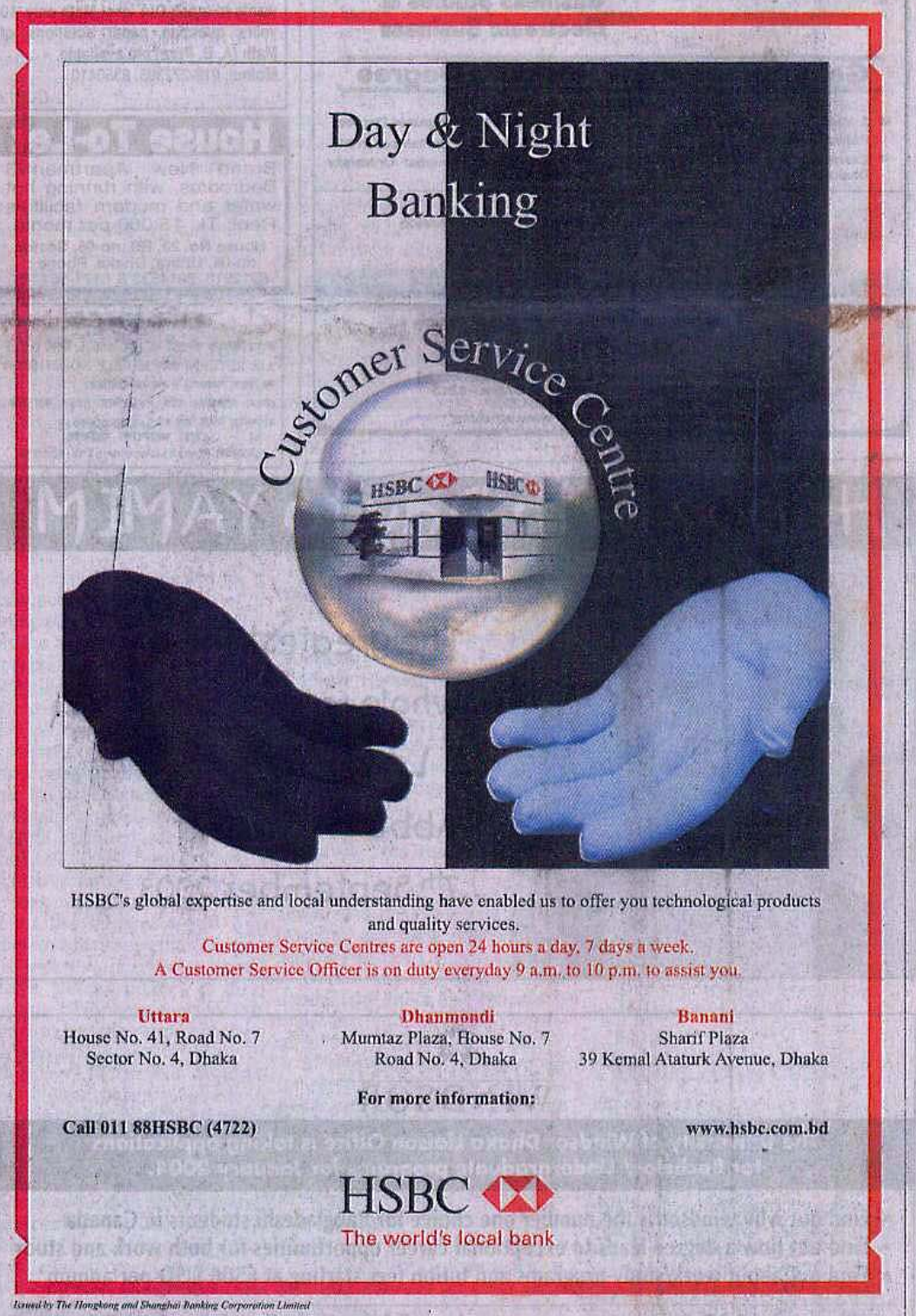
Superintendent of police of Chittagong Mahbubur Rahman expressed his ignorance about Hossain's abduction and said, "We will look into it".

Correction

A report published in The Daily Star's September 1 edition headlined "Japanese Investors tell of business distresses" mistakenly mentioned that in one case the Dhaka Export Processing Zone and Uttara customs authorities demanded Tk 10,000 and Tk 15,000 in kickback.

In fact, it should have read the Dhaka EPZ customs authorities instead of Dhaka Export Processing Zone. We regret the mistake.

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