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Tk 50 lakh 'looted' from Ctg factory

Cops doubt owners' complaint

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Ctg*

Criminals allegedly robbed Tk 50 lakh of a garment factory in the port city's Nasirabad Industrial area early yesterday.

Sources said Chowdhury Apparels, the robbed garment factory, workers found two guards of the factory Nurul Islam, 48, and Akhtar-uz-Zaman, 26, lying unconscious near the gate. They said the robbery probably took place sometime between 2:00am to 4:00am.

They said the robbers had cut a steel grill to get into the factory. The

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7 JMB Shura men sued for sedition

Govt files case in Mymensingh as decision of Aug 17 serial blasts taken there

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday filed a sedition case for the first time against all seven members of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB)'s Majlish-e-Shura, the highest decision-making body.

Officer-in-Charge of Muktagachha Police Station in Mymensingh Police Inspector Sheikh Mahbubur Rahman filed the case with Mymensingh Cognisance Court yesterday afternoon on orders of the home ministry Wednesday.

The court ordered Muktagachha police to investigate the case.

The much-anticipated case was filed in Mymensingh as the law enforcers learnt that the decision to carry out blasts across the country on August 17 last year was taken at a meeting there between June and August. The militants decided to go for such a huge scale terrorist act mainly 'to get the message about their strength over to the government'.

Those who have been charged with sedition include JMB chief Abdur Rahman ibne Abdullah alias Ehsan, Siddiqul Islam alias Azizur Rahman alias Azizul Islam Litu

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Suspension of US Peace Corps operations 'unacceptable'

Says Morshed

UNB, *Dhaka*

The suspension of US Peace Corps operations in Bangladesh on security grounds is "unacceptable", Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan said in disagreement with the reasons shown for the step.

"After the capture of over 700 militants, particularly the two most wanted JMB leaders, the grounds of security concern are unacceptable," he told reporters.

On Wednesday, the US suspended indefinitely its Peace Corps operations in Bangladesh, fearing possible attacks on its volunteers in

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WORKING UNSAFE

Draft law gathers dust as casualties rise

PINAKI ROY

The death toll in workplace accidents has already neared 200 in only two and a half months into this year, compared to 289 deaths and 1,006 critical injuries of workers reported in newspapers last year.

While the statistics indicate a rising trend in both frequency and number of workplace accidents and casualties, the government for unknown reasons has been sitting on a draft new labour law providing for much higher compensation than for victims of workplace accidents for over a decade.

Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation (Oshe) through an audit of the country's 16 leading newspapers including four English

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Deaths in Workplace Mishaps

Sector	2005	2004
Garments	120	25
Construction	80	69
Transport	14	6
Ship-breaking	11	8
Rice Mill	9	6

MILITANTS' ACCOUNTS

Body to probe, report in a week

5 Islami Bank officials suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry yesterday formed a three-member committee to investigate terror financing in Bangladesh and asked it to submit a report in a week.

The probe committee was formed following a Bangladesh Bank (BB) report submitted Tuesday to the ministry mentioning a few cases of dubious transactions in Islamic Bank Bangladesh Ltd that may have links to the militants.

Meanwhile, Islami Bank yesterday suspended five officials including the managers of its three branches at Sylhet, Savar and Gazipur. The bank also issued show-cause notices to 18 other

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Lawmakers' good bills get ignored in JS

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Instructions of the law ministry stand in the way to the lawmakers expressing views in the form of a private member's bill, a parliamentary procedure that seeks to strengthen democracy and promote good governance.

The ruling and opposition lawmakers proposed some 14 bills for amendments to the constitution to check frequent House boycotts and the Supreme Court judges' feeling 'embarrassed'. They aim also to ensure individual freedom of the party lawmakers and consolidating the positions of the speaker and the deputy speaker.

About two years ago, the parliamentary standing committee on private members' bills and resolutions recommended that the House allow 11 constitution amendment bills to be placed in parliament.

But ignoring the rules of procedure of the Jatiya Sangsad, the law minister in a letter to the speaker on February 3, 2005 suggested taking permission from the leader of the House before placing any private member's bill in parliament.

The rules of procedure allow a lawmaker to introduce a private member's bill and it does not require a go-ahead from the leader of the House.

The instructions that came all of a sudden stopped the bills from

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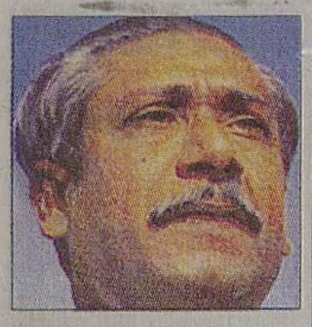

Bangabandhu's 87th birthday today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 87th birthday of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, architect of the nation's independence, will be observed through various programmes today.

The independent, sovereign

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KHALEDA'S VISIT TO INDIA

Security to dominate talks with Manmohan

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The issue of security is likely to dominate the discussions between Dhaka and New Delhi during Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's upcoming state visit to India since both the countries are concerned about it, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan said yesterday.

"We must discuss the issue of security with India with open mind to have solutions. This is not only an issue of Bangladesh or India alone...it's a global concern," he said while talking to a group of diplomatic correspondents at his office.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is due to pay her three-day visit to India beginning on March 20.

About India's security concern, Morshed Khan said it is obvious that being a big country India might have its security concerns, but at the same time, Bangladesh, though a small neighbour, is also concerned about the question of security.

"Bangladesh and India have a long porous border of over some 4,000 kilometres. As a result criminals often tend to cross the border for shelter after committing crimes," the foreign minister said adding that a list of Bangladeshi fugitive criminals has been handed over to the Indian authorities.

Reiterating Bangladesh's policy, he said, "We'll not allow anyone to use the territory of Bangladesh to be used against any neighbour or any foreign country."

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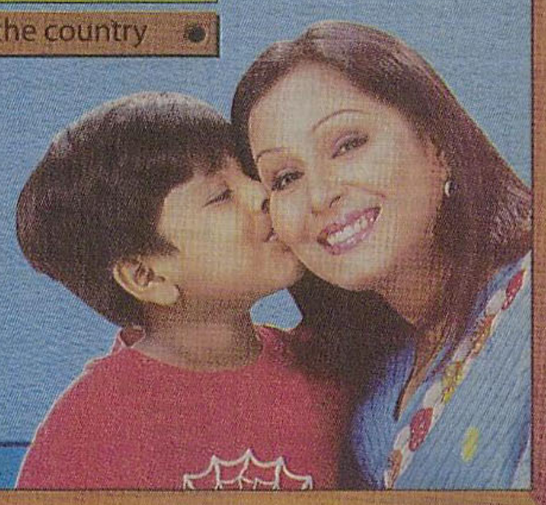

Corporate Headquarters : PROPERTY HEIGHTS, 12 R K MISSION ROAD, DHAKA 1203 TEL : 880-2-9563126 Fax : 880-2-9559415 E-mail : pg@prangroup.com Web : www. pranfoods.net