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Key man behind bringing rocket launcher held

Police yesterday arrested the key person responsible for bringing in the much-talked rocket launcher recovered by the detective branch about two months ago, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Motijheel thana arrested Kaiyum 28, from in front of Notre Dame College in the city at about 9 pm. He was taken to thana custody.

Police sources indicated that he might be brought under DB custody on remand for further interrogation.

The DB recovered the foreign-made rocket launcher along with a gun from Arambagh in the city on June 27 following statements by four people — Lalu, Sultan, Russel and Kabiruddin.

They mentioned Kaiyum's name as the key person for bringing the rocket launcher in the country.

Police and intelligence agencies had taken the recovery seriously as they considered the presence of such rocket

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Autorickshaw strike postponed

Autorickshaw drivers have postponed their non-stop strike and decided to drive their three-wheelers from today, reports UNB.

They observed the strike in the city for the sixth consecutive day yesterday expressing solidarity with the hartal called by the BNP to protest the increase in fuel price.

The drivers brought out processions in different parts of the city and joined a rally of Dhaka District Autorickshaw Workers Union.

The union leaders told the rally in front of its Paltan office in the morning that the people

See Page 12 Col 1

Khaleda leaves Karachi for Islamabad

BNP Chairperson and leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia arrived in Karachi on Saturday night, reports UNB.

The BNP Chairperson was received by Social Welfare Minister Tahmina Daulat Ara at the Karachi Airport at 1.30 pm.

Begum Zia is on a three-day visit to Pakistan at the invitation of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

High officials and Bangladeshi Deputy High Commissioner to Pakistan Akbaruzzaman were present at the airport, according to a party press release in Dhaka.

Later Begum Zia was taken to a State Guest house in a motorcade from the airport.

She left for Islamabad yesterday morning.

70 'pushed back' from India

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 24: Bangladeshi Rifles (BDR) personnel arrested 70 people 'pushed back' from India near Hakkimpur border area of Chapainawabganj district.

BDR sources said that those people had been illegally trafficked to India four months ago. They had been arrested by Indian police and later sentenced to three months and 10 days' imprisonment.

They were pushed back to Bangladesh on Thursday last after completion of jail term.

BDR personnel arrested them and handed them over to the local police.

All 70 people, 66 male and 4 female, are residents of Chagaihaliya of Feni district.

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Police lobbed tear gas shells to disperse pickets at Topkhana Road in the city during hartal hours yesterday.

— Star photo

Dawn-to-dusk hartal observed

100 hurt in sporadic clashes, 40 arrested

By Staff Correspondent

At least 100 people were injured, one of them critically, in sporadic clashes during yesterday's dawn-to-dusk hartal in the morning. Police was firing shells at a small BNP rally there.

Besides, more than 40 pro-hartal activists were arrested and several people including a few women were beaten up during police-picket clashes in the capital.

Those beaten up by police in the city included BNP Vice President M K Anwar MP, former home minister and BNP leader Abdul Matin Chowdhury and Amanullah Aman MP.

Habibul Rahman, a photo-journalist of the government-owned Dainik Bangla, was seri-

ously injured when hit by a tear gas shell at the back of his head in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the morning. Police was firing shells at a small BNP rally there.

Meanwhile, the Health Minister, Minister of State for Information and Prime Minister's press secretary visited the DMCH to see the condition of Habib.

Trouble in the Press Club area began when some activists from a BNP procession started tearing banners hoisted on the occasion of 'National Mourning Day'. The banners were inscribed with messages honouring Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman.

Police teargassed the pro-hartal activists and chased them

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BNP to hold countrywide demonstrations tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

At least 150 BNP activists were injured in 'indiscriminate and unprovoked' police action and another 100 arrested in the capital during yesterday's hartal, the party Secretary General, Abdul Mannan MP, claimed at a press conference.

Besides, a large number of party workers were subjected to police repression in many other parts of the country while 'people were observing the hartal peacefully,' Mannan Bhuiyan told the press conference at the Jatiya Press Club.

The BNP Secretary General

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Press Club auditorium ransacked, seminar foiled

A seminar on the National Mourning Day was foiled when a section of alleged terrorists raided the seminar venue at Jatiya Press Club yesterday evening, reports BSS.

Bangladesh Awami Ajnib Parishad has organised the seminar to mark the 22nd anniversary of death of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman.

According to witnesses and organisers, the attack came from a post-hartal rally organised by BNP in front of the Press Club.

The attackers snatched away the banner and festoons from the dais and ransacked the au-

See Page 12 Col 7



A JCD activist trying to save herself as police lathicharged pickets near the Foreign Ministry in the city during hartal hours yesterday.

People express no-confidence in govt: Khaleda

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has congratulated the countrymen for making the countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal a success, reports UNB.

Begum Zia, who is now in Islamabad on her way to USA, in a faxed statement yesterday said people have demonstrated their no-confidence in the government by observing the hartal spontaneously.

She said people have also expressed their protest through the hartal against the unprecedented price hike of gasoline.

"Now it will be wise for the government to cancel immediately its anti-people decision of enhancing the fuel price," she observed.

The Leader of the Opposition in Parliament protested and condemned the police action on pro-hartal activists without any provocation.

She blamed the government for instigating and instructing the police to attack the opposition activists.

Begum Zia also protested the See Page 12 Col 7

Rajuk wears a deserted look

By Staff Correspondent

More than 90 per cent of Rajuk staff were absent from work during the hartal hours yesterday.

When this correspondent visited Rajuk Bhaban at around noon, a guard at the main gate said, 'There is none in the building, where do you want to go?'

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Janmasti today

By Staff Correspondent

The Hindu community will celebrate Janmasti, the birthday of Lord Sri Krishna, across the country today.

The day is a public holiday.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages felicitated the members of the community on the occasion.

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See Page 12 Col 4

By Naimul Haq

The blood bank at Dhaka Medical College Hospital lacks a centrifuge, an instrument for separating blood components, affecting vital life saving therapies.

According to sources in the blood bank, a centrifuge was wanted since it was established but it is yet to be supplied despite repeated appeals to the appropriate authorities.

"They never thought why the apparatus is so important. A former director last year had allocated funds to buy two fridges to preserve blood. But without a centrifuge machine, we are crippled," said a doctor in the blood bank requesting anonymity.

"Everyday we receive requisition for about 60 bags of blood but we can supply less than half the demand. In most cases, patients require different components of the blood and not be whole blood. We could serve more patients had there been a centrifuge in the blood bank."

There are many other components like plasma, white blood cells, anti-bodies, serum, blood factors in the blood.

These components have various densities and are separated from the fluid portion of the blood by the centrifuge through application of centrifugal force.

"We will be able to overcome

the crisis of blood if we are equipped with a centrifuge device.

Instead of giving whole blood we would separate the components and give the patients the required thing. With about 25 bags of blood, we will be able to satisfy more than 100 patients a day," the doctor said.

A centrifuge machine costs between Taka 7 and 18 lakh. The authorities concerned promised many times to provide the blood bank unit with a machine but did not give it.

Other sources said most of the existing machines in the department are over 25 years old. Some of these are in use without undergoing servicing for the last 30 years. The distill water tank and the microscope need to be replaced immediately.

When contacted the DMCH authorities said, "The department will be given the required devices according to priority when funds will be available."

See Page 12 Col 3

DMCH yet to have a centrifuge to separate blood components

By Naimul Haq

Giving an example, the doctor said, a patient suffering from thrombocytopathy will feel greatly relieved if he is given a sufficient quantity of platelets separated from blood. In such a case, the doctor is prescribing transfusion of 'whole blood' which partly relieves the patients. Similar is the case with a patient suffering from anaemia, a common disease.

An anaemic patient suffers from deficiency of red blood cells (RBC). 'Whole blood' would partly relieve the sufferings. The correct treatment is injecting concentrated RBC, the doctor said.

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When contacted the DMCH authorities said, "The department will be given the required devices according to priority when funds will be available."

See Page 12 Col 3

Truck driver hurt in Ctg clash dies

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 24: Truck driver Bacchu Meah, who received bullet wounds during a clash with members of the Ansars at Chittagong Port on Friday evening died at Chittagong Medical College Hospital this morning, hospital sources said.

Meanwhile, port police today arrested two members of the Ansars on charge of firing on truckers that led to the death of

Bacchu.

See Page 12 Col 3

BCL activist hurt in attack in Feni dies

FENI, Aug 24: A Chhatri League activist succumbed to his injuries at the Sadar Hospital here yesterday, report agencies.

Nazrul Islam (20), was admitted to the hospital after being seriously injured in an attack by BNP terrorists near Feni Polytechnic Institute on the day.

Nazrul was a degree student of Feni College and joint secretary of Chhaglalnaiya thana unit of BCL.

The Chhatri Dal activists allegedly had abducted Nazrul Islam. They also snatched away the body of the victim from the Hospital early today.

Awami League sources said, eight Awami League, Jubo League and Chhatri League leaders and workers were killed by the terrorists of BNP in Feni district since the BNP government stepped down from power.

Chhatri League workers Bahar Ahmed (25) was beaten to death today by the JCD activists on Tuesday night. The miscreants abducted the victim along with his friends Obaidul Haq Babu and