



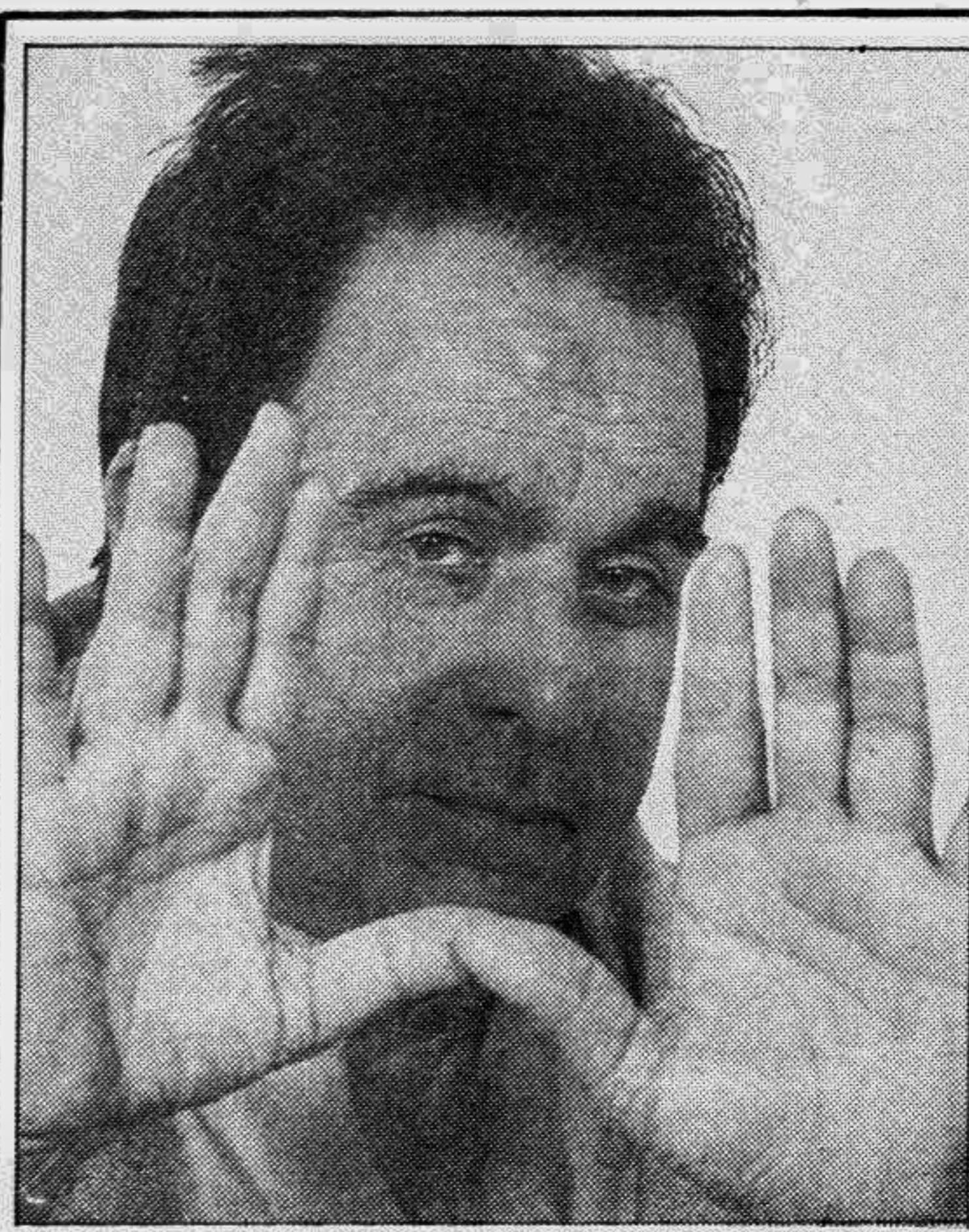
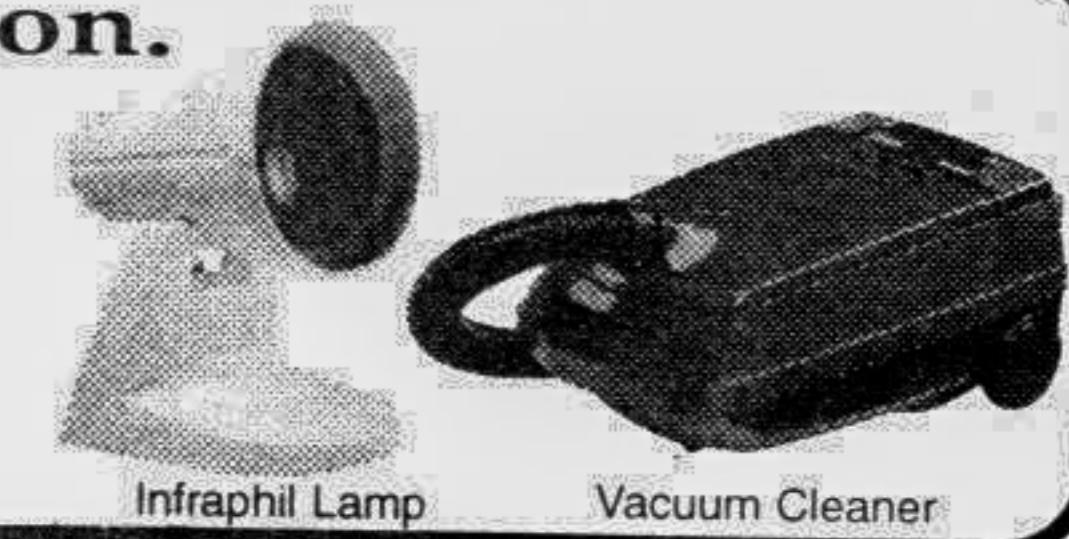
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Nasir's arrest prompts others to go into hiding in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 10: Most of the top terrorists in the city and its surrounding areas still escape arrest despite a police crackdown following some sensational incidents of murder last month.

Police sources said the ring leaders of terrorists went into hiding after local Awami League leader Atul Nasir was arrested in connection with some criminal cases including those for murders last week.

Nasir's name was on the list of 'identified terrorists' prepared by Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP).

The CMP list carried the names of over 40 top terrorists in the city involved in violence, terrorist activities and illegal toll collection.

Some sources said the top terrorists who have gone into hiding are maintaining secret contacts with a section of police personnel to escape arrest.

The arrest of Nasir became a cause of concern to the ring leaders of terrorists here.

prompting them to go into hiding under the shelter of their godfathers and mentors who are influential political leaders of the port city, the sources mentioned.

Despite a series of police crackdown in the city, Nasir earlier escaped arrest, reportedly having links with police high-ups, sources said.

But eventually he was arrested in Dhaka and his supporters blamed Awami League central leader Akbaruzzaman Chowdhury for this. Akbaruzzaman, once a mentor of Nasir, denied having any hand behind the arrest of Nasir.

Previously, enjoying the blessing of Akbaruzzaman, Nasir later deserted his mentor due to rivalry between them, the sources said.

Police is virtually doing nothing to nab the top terrorists outside the city, particularly in Raozan and Fatiqchhari, known as stronghold of armed criminals.

BNP's controversial Mr Maj (retd) Akbaruzzaman yesterday issued a press statement on the recent killing of a police constable in the city, almost contradicting the spirit of another statement of his on the same incident only the day before.

Referring to a case against some BNP men in connection with the killing, Akbaruzzaman said yesterday that the government has filed a false case. Demanding withdrawal of charges against the BNP leaders and activists, he said that the government 'has filed the false case out of political vindictiveness against the BNP.'

Police constable Farhad was killed in a bomb blast near the zero-point of the capital, reportedly some time after the BNP had ended its torch procession some two hundred yards from the place on Wednesday evening.

Akbaruzzaman that day condemned the killing and reportedly observed that there were elements in the BNP who are 'out to bring the party to a state of confrontation with police.'

In this connection, he had also called upon the party leadership to 'purge those who are trying to mislead the organisation on the path of terrorism.'

APSU leaders also threatened to boycott all the rescheduled examinations beginning July 20 to press home their demand for a judicial probe into the terrorist activities on the campus.

APSU, a platform of four student organisations of BUET, has already started its movement from yesterday with a mass contact drive in Ahsanullah, Subhrawardi, Nazrul Islam and Rasheed halls of the university and holding rallies and processions on the campus.

A group of APSU leaders told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon that they would declare their final course of action at a press conference on the campus tomorrow (Monday).

BUET authorities recently expelled one student for life and three others for four terms with two terms of suspended expulsion for their involvement in vandalism and terrorist activities.

Meanwhile, sources said that the BUET authorities were determined not to withdraw the expulsion order. Sources also said that the BUET Academic Council at a recent meeting rejected an appeal of the expelled students for reconsidering the decision.

'Such a big noise for such a small thing'

From Pallab Bhattacharya

NEW DELHI, July 10: An emotionally-charged thespian actor Dilip Kumar who is under pressure from Shiv Sena to return Pakistan's second highest civilian award 'Nishan-e-Pakistan' awarded to him last year, has said he can sacrifice everything for the sake of India.

"What is in an award? All that one possesses can be given up for one's country and its prestige and anything can be sacrificed for that," he told reporters here late last night on arriving here from Mumbai.

Dilip Kumar, who has impressed film-lovers in the Sub-continent for decades, has sought an appointment with Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee to discuss the controversy kicked off by the demand that the actor return the Pakistani armed incursion in Kargil in India's Jammu and Kashmir state.

Clearly upset over the manner in which pressure is being brought on him, Dilip Kumar said "such a big noise is being made for such a small thing." He said although he was born in Peshawar (now in Pakistan) and came to India more than 70 years ago, "I got everything from India." His voice was clearly choked with emotions.

Describing the whole controversy as "absurd," the actor said "those who are putting pressure on me are in ill-informed."

Dilip Kumar said he would go by the guidance of Vajpayee who is a great gentleman."

Meanwhile, several opposition parties, including the Congress, Rashtriya Janata Dal and Communist Party of India, have disagreed with the demand that Dilip Kumar return "Nishan-e-Pakistan" award" saying the actor's "patriotic credentials" were beyond doubt.

Congress spokesman Ajit Jogi said how can anyone doubt the patriotic credentials and nationalist fervour of Dilip Kumar. Besides, he recalled, the award was also given to former Indian Prime Minister Moraji Desai.

The CPI said the demand that Dilip Kumar return the award represented the "height of jingoism and callousness."

In Mumbai, Dilip Kumar's actress wife Saire Banu said "nobody objected to Dilip Shahab being honoured with the award last year when he had gone there to receive it. Why a sudden hue and cry over it now?"

She said Dilip Kumar had intimated the Prime Minister and President of India before receiving the award in March 1998.

Ajax, Sonali

From Page 1

Endiatal Hossain Bulbul, director of Sonali Jute Mills, is one of the four accused of misappropriating Tk eight crore. Three others are Golam Rabani, Mahfuzur Rahman and Shahidul Islam.

Seven officials of Sonali Jute Mills were confined in the administrative building since the mill was closed down on July 6. The agitated workers held them hostage to realise their demands including payment of all dues and resumption of production.

On the other hand, Captain (retd) Ziauddin, DGM (Admn) and MN Saha DGM (Finance), are still under confinement in the main office of AJM Jute Mills. These two DGMs are among the nine FIR-named accused.

The confined officials of these two Jute mills have sought security of their lives and the lives of their family members.

Buffer stock

From Page 1

Sonar BADC this year raised its volume by 1,700 MT to 6,500 MT to cater to growing demand for quality seeds. The seeds marketed are of seven HYVs - BR-10, BR-11, BR-23, BR-25 and BRRI Dhan-30, 31 and 32.

Taking 'breeder' seeds from Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI), the BADC develops 'foundation' seeds at its own farms at 23 places across the country. It then grows 'certified' seeds through contract growers at 15 designated zones under strict quality control.

Paddy seeds produced by the BADC sell at Tk 15 per kilogram. But there are allegations that dealers are pushing up the price and seeds are being black-marketed. However, the BADC officials claimed that strict measures were taken recently to cancel dealership in case such allegations were proved.

An official also said that punishment was taken recently against a dealer in Mymensingh.

It said Arafat hoped the talks, the first summit between the Palestinians and Israel in seven months, would lead to a "speedy resumption of the peace process and the immediate implementation of the Wye agreement and a halt to (Jewish) settlements".

Palestinian officials today rejected a suggestion by Barak that the US-brokered Wye River

Sec 144 in Manikganj town to avert clash between 2 BNP factions

MANIKGANJ, July 10: District administration imposed section 144 in the town today to avert any possible clashes between two factions of local BNP, reports UNB.

The situation arose following convening of meetings by the two factions at the same time at same venue.

The district BNP divided into two factions under the leadership of Opposition Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain and Harun-or-Rashid Khan Munnu. MP after formation of a 72-member convening committee.

Supporters of the two factions took positions near the district council office creating panic in the area.

However, both the meetings could not be held due to police intervention.

Fresh areas in three districts inundated

Flood situation in three districts — Sunamganj, Kushthia and Lalmonirhat — has deteriorated further inundating fresh areas, reports UNB.

In Sunamganj, flood situation in the district deteriorated further today with inundation of low-lying areas and erosion by the rivers.

Low-lying areas of Doora Bazaar, Chhatak, Bishwambharpur, Tahirpur and sadar thanas have been submerged due to onrush of hill water from across the border.

Roads of Uttar Arpin Nagar and Tegharia on the town have also gone under water this morning, causing disruption to traffic movement.

Water of the River Surma is entering into Machhbazaar, Natunbazaar, Lauchghat, police outpost and Surma Market creating panic among the people residing in these areas.

Besides, water is entering into the haor areas and a vast tract of it is being eroded by large waves.

Surma was flowing 55 cm above its danger level near the town at 6 pm today.

Water Development Board recorded 91-mm rainfall in the district today.

In Kushthia, water level in the rivers Ganges and Gorai continued to increase inundating fresh

areas in the district today.

The river Ganges recorded a rise of 8 cm at Hardinge Bridge point while the Gorai recorded a rise of 12cm at Gorai Railway bridge point, according to flood forecasting and warning centre.

Erosion by the Ganges in eight unions of Daulatpur thana turned worse due to strong current in the river caused by incessant rain and onrush of water from the upstream.

River erosion in these areas has already devoured 50 houses affecting many families.

Flood situation in Lalmonirhat district worsened further with incessant rain and onrush of hill waters from across the border.

Sources said water levels in all the rivers marked further rise leaving at least 2,000 people of over 500 families of low-lying areas marooned.

Besides, water is entering into the haor areas and a vast tract of it is being eroded by large waves.

Surma was flowing 55 cm above its danger level near the town at 6 pm today.

Water Development Board recorded 91-mm rainfall in the district today.

Local administration including Water Development Board have been kept alert to face any such situation, he said.

Arafat, Ehud hold talks today

GAZA, July 10: Palestinian President Yasser Arafat hopes that his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak tomorrow will "begin a new chapter" in efforts to achieve a bilateral peace settlement, reports Reuter.

Barak, who took office on Tuesday, has pledged to inject momentum into Middle East peacemaking which moved at a snail's pace under his predecessor, right-winger Benjamin Netanyahu. "Arafat will be going to the meeting with Israel's prime minister ready to begin a new chapter and to wipe out the past three years of mistrust," said a Palestinian cabinet statement issued today by the official WAFA news agency.

It said Arafat hoped the talks, the first summit between the Palestinians and Israel in seven months, would lead to a "speedy resumption of the peace process and the immediate implementation of the Wye agreement and a halt to (Jewish) settlements".

Palestinian officials today rejected a suggestion by Barak that the US-brokered Wye River

land-for-security deal be implemented in conjunction with a final peace accord.

Arafat and Netanyahu signed the Wye deal, which includes Israeli troop withdrawals from still-occupied West Bank land, in October. Alleging Palestinian violations, Netanyahu froze the accord shortly afterwards, plunging peacemaking into crisis.

DCC commissioner

From Page 1

sain Khossain, and unidentified 200 others with Ramna thana on the night of the incident.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday strongly protested arrest of Bablu and demanded his immediate and unconditional release.

A BNP release said Bablu is innocent and not an accused in any case.

The government would not be able to suppress the people's movement by hatching conspiracy. A non-autocratic ruler could last long by resorting to repression, he said.



A 'citizens' procession' were brought out in the city after a rally at the Osman Uddyan yesterday protesting felling of trees there. — Star photo

Akbaruzzaman's statement

By Staff Correspondent

APSU threatens hunger strike at BUET

By DU Correspondent

All Party Students' Unity (APSU) at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) threatened to go for an indefinite hunger strike from Tuesday if the BUET authorities do not reconsider the expulsion order on some students for varying periods for involvement in the incidents. The action followed a probe body report on the incident that comprised some influential BUET teachers.

The APSU had earlier rejected the probe body report terming it as "partial and motivated" and a reflection of the demands of BUET Teachers' Association (BUETTA). The APSU has been demanding judicial probe into the terrorist activities on the campus.

APSU, a platform of four student organisations of BUET, has already started its movement from yesterday with a mass contact drive in Ahsanullah, Subhrawardi, Nazrul Islam and Rasheed halls of the university and holding rallies and processions on the campus.

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Meanwhile, sources said that the BUET authorities were determined not to withdraw the expulsion order. Sources also said that the BUET Academic Council at a recent meeting rejected an appeal of the expelled students for reconsidering the decision.

DU to observe population day

By DU correspondent

Dhaka University will observe World Population Day for the first time this year. The decision was prompted by the establishment of a new department of