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Clinton likely to visit Bangladesh next February

NEW YORK, Sept 20: US President Bill Clinton is likely to visit Bangladesh next February, reports UNB.

It was disclosed when US Secretary of State Madeline Albright called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her hotel suite this morning.

Detailed schedule of the visit will be worked out at the official level. Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr SA Samad and Foreign Secretary CM Shafi told newsmen after the nearly 40-minute meeting.

During the meeting, they discussed the existing political and economic relations between the two countries and suggested means for further consolidating the excellent bilateral relations.

Albright praised various efforts of the Prime Minister for

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Occidental, Unocal directed to maintain status quo

The High Court yesterday passed an ad-interim order of injunction directing Occidental and Unocal to maintain status quo for six months, reports UNB.

The division bench comprising Justice JR Modassir Hossain and Justice BK Das also directed Petrobangla not to make any payment to Unocal for the gas supplied by Occidental.

The injunction and order of the court came upon a revision petition filed by Maxwell Engineering Works Ltd, a local contractor for Occidental. Maxwell sought to restrain Occidental from transferring its plants, machinery, equipment and assets in Bangladesh including their shares to Unocal, said a press release issued by Barrister Rafique-ul-Huq, the counsel for the petitioner.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed appeared for Occidental and Unocal.

Shajahan murder OC asked to act on the basis of post mortem report

By Court Correspondent
A Dhaka metropolitan magistrate yesterday directed the officer-in-charge (OC) of Mirpur thana to take legal action on the basis of the post mortem report in the Shajahan murder case. The OC is also an accused in the case.

The case was filed by Abdul Malek, younger brother of the victim, with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrates Court, Dhaka, on September 19, accusing five persons including the OC of Mirpur thana of killing Shajahan while he was in police custody.

A police team led by sub-inspector Motiur Rahman picked up Shajahan from his residence at Mirpur on September 12 without charges and beat him severely.

Fatally injured Shajahan was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital on September 13. He succumbed to the injuries at the hospital the same day.

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Prayer Timings

September 21

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:30	5:00
Juma	12:15	1:30
Asr	4:30	4:45
Maghrib	6:15	6:18
Esha	7:45	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

Biggest ever haul Heroin worth Tk 25cr seized: 3 arrested

By Staff Correspondent

In the biggest ever drug haul in the country, the Department of Narcotics Control recovered 24.1 kg of heroin worth about Tk 25 crore from a city hotel and arrested three Pakistani nationals.

Acting on a tip-off, a team led DNC Director General Modabir Hossain Chowdhury recovered the heroin from a room at Hotel Rajmoni Isa Khan at Kakrail and arrested the smugglers.

They lay in waiting at a suite in the hotel and arrested the three when they were about to hand over the heroin to their 'buyers'.

The three are Ibrahim and Alekzan from Peshwar and Rais Khan from Karachi, all in their 30s. They are believed to be members of an international gang of drug smugglers, investigators said.

Modabir's team included four DNC personnel and four from the Detective Branch of police.

The heroin which was found to be "absolutely pure and of high quality" after test was brought from Afghanistan through India about a month back for trafficking it to a European country, Modabir said.

The consignment, contained in a bag, was packed in 118 packets of Lux soap. Each packet contained 200 grams, and 500 grams were in unpacked condition.

Sources said Ibrahim and Alekzan arrived in Bangladesh a few days back. Rais Khan, who came from Karachi about one month ago, carried the heroin, the investigators said.

Involvement of any Bangladesh in it is being investigated, they said.

The DNC DG said he was informed by a source about a week back that a big consignment of heroin would be handed over at a city hotel.

He gave a list of suspects to the SB and asked for vigilance at the Zia International

Airport. The SB later came to know that some suspects were already in the city and were staying at some city hotels.

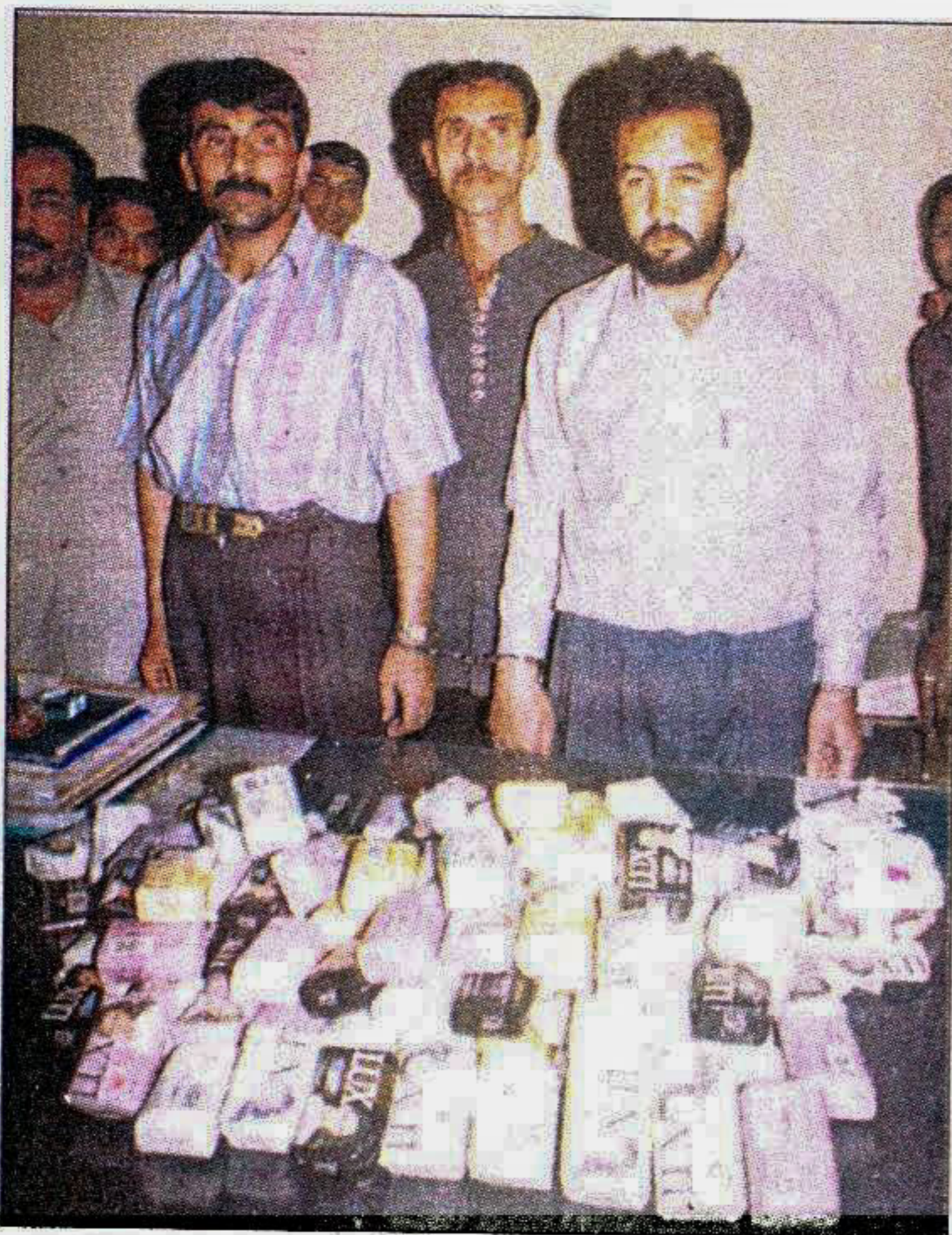
Then DG then engaged 'informers'. One of the sources went to Hotel Isa Khan posing as a buyer and collected a sample of the heroin.

UNB adds: Modabir said that all the three arrested Pakistanis were members of an

international racket of drug smugglers.

He informed that Rais Khan trespassed into Bangladesh by road, crossing Indian border, about a month back and had been staying at Hotel Al Fahad at Dhanmondi. Alekzan and Ibrahim arrived here in a PIA flight on Tuesday last and were staying at Hotel Pritom at

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Three Pakistani citizens were arrested yesterday with 25 kilograms of heroin in their possession from Rajmoni Isa Khan hotel in the city yesterday. Star photo

Gen Nasim names 'conspirators', accuses Biswas of trying to foil 1996 polls

Former army chief Lieutenant General Abu Saleh Muhammad Nasim, sacked during a general revolt in 1996, has accused the then president of trying to foil general elections, says AFP.

Nasim accused former president Abdur Rahman Biswas and a number of army officers, including his successor and now retired lieutenant general M Mahubur Rahman, of hatching a "conspiracy" at that time, including one to kill him.

Among the "conspirators" named were Major General Abdul Matin, who has since retired, Major General Subid Ali Bhuiyan, given forced retirement last year, and Major General Ruhul Amin Chowdhury. See page 11 Col 7

Parasite that killed tigers can be fatal for humans

By Morshed Ali Khan and Inam Ahmed

Virologists and doctors have warned that the rare parasite—Typanosoma—responsible for the death of four tigers at the Dhaka Zoo, could be fatal for humans.

The first ever finding of the fatal parasite in the country has alarmed the experts, who now emphasise that the 'vector or carrier' of the parasite must be identified immediately.

"Otherwise, it could turn out to be a major tragedy as had happened in many African countries where all living beings in villages after villages were wiped out by the parasite, said a top expert at the Institute of Epidemiology and Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) in the city.

In Africa, the disease is spread through a fly known as the Tse Tse fly. But in Bangladesh, there has not been

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BNP, allies ignore EC call for talks

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP and its allies did not turn up at the Election Commission office yesterday to discuss possible dates for parliamentary by-elections in Faridpur and Tangail.

The EC had invited the opposition parties a few days back.

The Faridpur - 4 constituency fell vacant following the death of ruling party's Advocate Mosharraf Hossain on August 19 and the Tangail - 8 constituency after the resignation of Abdur Kader Siddiqui on September 29.

However, representatives of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and Jatiya Party led by Anwar Hossain Monju attended the EC meeting. Munirul Huq Chowdhury of JP and Mainuddin

Khan Badal of JSD were present. Both parties have representatives in the Cabinet.

The EC told the two that it was planning to hold the by-elections in the last week of October, a senior EC official said. They did not object to the idea, the official said.

However, the JSD leader asked the EC to see if the candidates were spending more than three lakh taka in election expenses, meeting sources said.

The EC must be serious about it," he was quoted to have told the officials.

Meanwhile, an official of the Ershad-led Jatiya Party phoned an EC official yesterday morning to say that party leaders would not attend the meeting.

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10 blood samples tested Dengue found in 4

By Naimul Haq

A high level meeting convened by the health ministry yesterday decided to take some measures to combat the threat posed by a mysterious disease claiming some lives in a row.

Four people died of suspected viral encephalitis or parasitic cerebral malaria in the city in less than a month, causing concern among people. Both the diseases are caused by mosquito bite and attack the brain.

Besides, test of blood samples of 10 people yesterday showed that four of those contained deadly Dengue virus, also carried by mosquito, a government expert said.

The meeting was attended by, among others, Director of the Institute of Epidemiology and Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) Dr Zakir Hossain, Chief of Party of Urban Family Health Project (UHFP) Dr Peter Connel and Chief Health Officer of Dhaka City Corporation Dr Md Ashraf Uddin.

"In the meeting, we have decided to educate people on the effects of the diseases, how

those are caused, what can be done for remedy and precautionary measures to be taken. These educational information would be aired through radio and television and published in newspapers," Dr Zakir Hossain said.

"As a precautionary measure, we have already asked the hospitals and health centres to admit on a priority basis patients with complaints of fever."

He told this correspondent, "We have also collected blood samples from: Khulna and Jessore to detect malaria and other viral diseases. In phases, we will also collect blood samples from Chittagong, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions."

"We tested 10 blood samples today (Monday) and out of those, four tests showed positive for dengue virus. The results are causing more concern because Dengue is not prevalent in the city areas."

Doctors say when a person is infected with Dengue, prevalent in deep forest areas, it causes

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JU students threaten tougher programme

From JU Correspondent

The agitating students at Jahangirnagar University have threatened to go for tougher programmes beginning today in a bid to make the authorities meet their demand for withdrawal of enhanced admission fees for the first year students.

They decided to barricade Dhaka-Aricha highway and resist admission process if their demands were not met immediately.

The programme was announced yesterday after a meeting between the authorities and the students failed to resolve the crisis.

Earlier, the students withdrew a 'siege' of Syndicate members who were in an emergency meeting to break the impasse. See page 12 Col 1

Raozan plant in trouble again

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 20: A Raozan Power Plant unit tripped again at around 1 pm today, reducing the generation capacity of the 420-MW plant to half.

Both units of the plant tripped once earlier this month. Sources said the repair work was going on and that resumption of the unit's generation may take a day or two.

Gunfight during Tipu's janaza: AL MP hurt

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 20: Ruling party lawmaker Rafiqul Anwar and at least 30 other people including six policemen were injured in a violence at the time of holding janaza of a BCL leader at Fatikchhari College ground this morning, police and witnesses said.

Violence erupted at 10 am when Awami League MP from Fatikchhari Rafiqul Anwar alias 'Sona' Rafiq reached the college ground to attend the janaza of Rashedul Anwar Tipu, a local BCL leader, who was killed on Saturday night.

Local people and BCL activists who gathered there to attend the janaza gheraoed the MP and chanted slogans blaming him for the killing. They alleged that Tipu was killed by a rival BCL faction patronised by him.

Police opened fire to disperse the mob and rescue the MP. The agitators replied with gunshots and bricksbats. The violence continued there for about an hour and then spilled over to surrounding areas, locking the two rival BCL factions in a gunfight till about noon.

Of the six injured policemen, four including the OC of Fatikchhari thana were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Additional police force has been deployed at the Fatikchhari thana headquarters as a tense situation is prevailing there, police said.

Supporters of BCL leader Tipu also staged a demonstration at Fatikchhari protesting the killing and put up barricades on the Chittagong-Khagrachhari road yesterday morning.

Police sources said the AL MP was advised by senior police officials last night not to attend the janaza.

UNB adds: Another brief armed encounter between the two BCL factions erupted at Nazirhat Bazar at about 4 pm, but police intervened and disengaged them immediately.

Apart from the bullet-stricken people in CMCH, 11 others were admitted to different clinics in the city and 32 to Nazirhat health centre.

Tipu, a former joint secretary of Fatikchhari thana Chhatra League, was kidnapped and killed by a group allegedly led by his rival district (north) BCL General Secretary Abu Taiyub Saturday night.

Family sources said Taiyub called Tipu away from his home in the name of resolving their old rivalries in presence of Kanchananagar UP Chairman Abul Kashem Chowdhury.

Chowdhury, who was also kidnapped along with Tipu, was released Sunday. Police said the UP Chairman gave them details of the kidnapping and killing.

Traffic on the Chittagong-Khagrachhari road halted and shops and educational institutions shut down during the raging troubles.

Tipu was buried at his family graveyard this afternoon

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Abduction Expelled DU student held from hall

By DU Correspondent

Mobile Mohsin, an expelled student of Dhaka University and activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), was arrested from Surayasa Hall Sunday night in connection with the kidnapping of a school student from the DU campus for ransom.

Police cordoned the hall after midnight and arrested him from Room No-274. Police also raided some other rooms in search of other suspects but could neither arrest any body nor recover any arms.

Mohsin was also arrested on charge of kidnapping a businessman arrested two months back. He was released from the jail 10 days ago.

The police drive came following a series of incidents of crime on the DU campus. The school student, Kashem, was kidnapped from in front of the University Club at about noon on Saturday and released by the captors in the evening on payment of Tk 1.5 lakh, sources concerned said.

When contacted, Ramna police said last night that Mohsin was arrested under Section 54. They said there was no specific allegation or case against him.

He was produced before the CMM court yesterday. The court sent him to jail, police said.

When contacted, Provost of Surayasa Hall Prof AFM Yusuf Haider told The Daily Star that he was informed of the matter but did not know on what charge Mohsin was arrested. He claimed that there was no out-

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CU classes resume

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 20: Classes of Chittagong University (CU) resumed today after a 39-day unscheduled vacation.

Different student organisations including Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) arranged separate rallies and brought out procession on the campus demanding resumption of bus service for the students.

Speakers at the rallies protested syndicate decision to restart partial bus service. They said that they would declare fresh agitation programmes against the decision soon.

Meanwhile, no student bus plied on the campus today. Only two or three student buses plied between university gate No-1 and Chittagong Hathazari road. But a CU press release said 12 buses plied on the campus for the students today.

Honorary degree 62 DU teachers question Council decision

By DU Correspondent

Sixty-two teachers of the Dhaka University have come up with another statement regarding the Academic Council decision to confer honorary doctorate degree on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as 'the DU authorities produced some logic about the decision'.

In a joint statement yesterday, they asked: 'Why didn't the authorities inform the Academic Council members of such an important agenda of the meeting earlier?'

"If the Academic Council members were informed earlier, they would be able to take the decision in a proper way. But they took the decision without giving the chance to the members," the statement said.

The issue was not included on the main agenda of Academic Council meeting and was raised at the last minute, the statement said.

The teachers also refuted the DU authorities' claim about the number of members present in the meeting. "The number was not right as many council

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Shamsur Rahman will be sent to Singapore today

Ailing poet Shamsur Rahman will be sent to Singapore today for better treatment, reports UNB.

The poet was undergoing treatment at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICD) in the city. Two physicians and a member of his family will accompany him.

Earlier, the government made all arrangements for treatment of the poet at Mount Elizabeth Hospital.

The poet was admitted to the NICD after a severe heart attack on September 12. He was shifted to Coronary Care Unit on Sunday as his condition deteriorated.

The authorities had formed a nine-member medical team for the treatment of the poet that advised sending him to Singapore.



The WASA pump house at Dolaikhal which flushes treated sewage into the Buriganga finds it difficult to cope with the discarded plastic shopping bags. The picture on the right shows the four outlets which have virtually ceased functioning. The other picture shows bags floating on the lagoon by the pump house.



— Star photo by AKM Mohsin