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## IEDCR has no scientist for research on mosquito

By Naimul Haq

The Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), the only government organisation for research on vector-borne diseases like dengue infection, virtually has no scientist to conduct research on mosquito, an expert told The Daily Star yesterday.

A former IEDCR entomologist (an expert who studies insects) now engaged in research in another government organisation said, "The institute (IEDCR) has no qualified entomologist, which is a great barrier to proper research in this field."

"In real sense, scientific studies are not conducted there any more," he said requesting anonymity. "Outsiders run the institute now. It is a dumping place for officials."

Earlier, IEDCR used to exchange information (informally) with IEDCR on various studies, but those days are gone as the institute has earned a bad name," he said.

Citing some examples of "poor planning on research" he said Dr A Masoom who recently returned from UK after completing Ph D on paratyphoid was transferred to the Directorate of Health for "simple administrative work".

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## Dengue: Another dies, 39 more hospitalised

By Staff Correspondent

One person died of dengue fever yesterday at the Mitford Hospital in Old Dhaka while 39 more were hospitalised, hospital sources said.

Body of an unidentified person was left at the Emergency of Mitford Hospital yesterday. The hospital authorities later tested blood of the person and confirmed that he died due to dengue haemorrhagic fever.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka Shishu Hospital reported 12 new cases while BIRDEM authorities confirmed that 10 patients admitted to the hospital with dengue fever.

Dhaka Medical College Hospital reported seven new cases while Dhaka Police Hospital at Rajarbagh admitted one constable with dengue fever yesterday.

Among the private clinics and hospitals, Bangladesh Medical College Hospital in Dhanmondi reported admitting two new patients yesterday while the Central Hospital at Green Road reported three new cases.

Ibne Sina and Salauddin Hospital, both in Dhanmondi, reported admitting three and one patients respectively.

## Cleanliness drive

### Edn instts closed for 3 days from Thursday

All educational institutions in the dengue-affected cities and towns, including Dhaka and Chittagong, will remain closed for three days from Thursday to conduct cleanliness drive, reports UNB.

The Education Ministry yesterday directed the heads of all schools, madrassah and colleges to conduct the drive to clean toilets of their respective institutions and adjacent bushes during the three days, said an official handout.

## Inside Today

### Article

### None is Above the State

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### Business

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DSE, CSE price quotations  
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| July    | Sun Rises | Sun Sets |
|---------|-----------|----------|
| July 26 | 5:26 am   | 6:45 pm  |
| July 27 | 5:26 am   |          |

### Prayer Timings

| July 26 | Azan | Jamaat |
|---------|------|--------|
| Fajr    | 4:25 | 4:55   |
| Zohr    | 1:00 | 1:30   |
| Asr     | 5:00 | 5:15   |
| Maghrib | 6:55 | 6:58   |
| Esha    | 8:15 | 8:45   |

Source: Islamic Foundation

# Air France Concorde crashes killing all 109 on board



This recent AFP file photo shows a Concorde taking off at Charles De Gaulle airport, near Paris. A Concorde jet flying to New York crashed near the airport yesterday killing all 109 aboard.

PARIS, July 25: An Air France Concorde en route to New York City crashed outside Paris shortly after takeoff today, slamming into a hotel in the town of Gonesse, Air France said, apparently killing all 109 passengers and crew onboard. It was the first time one of the supersonic jets has crashed, reports AP.

According to Air France, all of the passengers were German. The plane had been chartered by a German tour company. The passengers were on their way to New York to join a cruise ship.

One eyewitness told reporters, "At the point of impact, when the plane crashed, there was a huge ball of fire and an enormous plume of black smoke. The annex of the hotel is totally in flames," another eyewitness told reporters, without giving his name.

France Info radio, quoting the Interior Ministry, said that all of the 109 people onboard the aircraft had perished. It was not clear whether or not there were any victims among people on the ground.

France's LCI television quoted eyewitnesses as saying the aircraft was not able to gain sufficient altitude before it crashed, and that police were keeping onlookers away from the site.

France Info radio quoted another eyewitness as saying the plane's motor was on fire and that a huge cloud of black smoke went up in the air. The crash took place shortly before 5 pm local time, after takeoff from Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport.

British Airways said Monday said it had found cracks in the wings of some of its supersonic aircraft, but said there was no danger to passengers.

See page 11 col 8

## 2 more 20-kg bombs found: 8 arrested

From Our Correspondent.

GOPALGANJ, July 25: Police recovered a huge quantity of bomb-making materials, two 20kg bombs similar to those recovered from Kotlipara and a foreign-made revolver from a house in Hemangan residential area in the town last night.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of police and Army officers comprising DIG Abul Kashem Hawlader, SP of Gopalganj Md. Jashimuddin, ASP of CID Munshi Atikur Rahman, OC of Gopalganj Thana and Lt. Col. Mojibur Rahman, a bomb expert from Jessore Cantonment, made the recovery from the house in the western part of BISIC industrial area.

Police said Mufti Abdul Hannan, who had rented the house, is absconding since the recovery. Hannan also owns a factory styled Sonar Bangla Soap Factory in the industrial area.

Police arrested eight persons in this connection. They include Hasmat Ali, owner of Bhai Bhai Bakery, his brother Hekamat Ali and Aiyub Ali, a teacher of Kotlipara Adarsha Cadet Madrassah.

According to sources, Hannan, hailing from Hiran village in Kotlipara, rented a room of the house owned by Hasmat Ali on July 22 for Tk. 1000 per month.

Police earlier arrested Motiur Rahman, brother of Hannan, on July 22 for his alleged involvement in subversive activities.

Motiur told police that Hannan was a central committee member of Harkatul Zehad and Ameer of its Gopalganj district.

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## Dengue: Scouts, media to start awareness campaign

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Scouts in co-operation with the Health Directorate and the media will shortly launch a massive campaign to create public awareness about dengue infection, its prevention and treatment.

Under the programme, Scouts and Rover Scouts in the capital would inform people, particularly children including those in schools, about dengue infection, its causes and preventive measures.

The print and electronic media would also participate in the campaign by publishing and disseminating information in leaflets and posters, now being prepared.

The leaflets and posters See page 2

## Journalist murder BCP leader, 3 others arrested

JESSORE, July 25: Police arrested four suspects including a BCP leader on Monday night in Journalist Shamsur Rahman Murder Case, reports UNB.

Nine people were arrested in this connection so far.

Police squad took Zahid Hossain and Shahidul Islam into custody from Sabujbag area of Dhaka city Monday night. Both of them are residents of Jessore town.

Another team arrested Zahir alias Badsha at Jessore town and Bashiruddin Sheikh alias Suljan who is a leader of Biplobi Communist Party at Noapara.

Police took Zahir on seven days' remand. He is likely to be sent to the CID interrogation cell in Dhaka.

Earlier, police had so far arrested more than 100 people under Section 54 for their suspicious movement.



Opposition leader Khaleda Zia led a mass procession which paraded different city streets yesterday.

# Ctg murders outcome of intra-party feud: Khaleda

## Opposition calls hartal on Aug 6

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP-led opposition alliance has called a countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal on August 6 to protest what it said the Awami League government's killing and repression on opposition activists and anarchy in the country.

The programme was announced by BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia at a mammoth public meeting of her party at Paltan Maidan in the city prior to leading a 'mass procession'.

The government has resorted to terrorist activities to hide its failures and infighting in the ruling AL, he told the meeting.

Chiefs of three other parties of the alliance -- Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote -- also simultaneously announced the same programme at their separate rallies in the city.

Khaleda Zia blamed the ruling party for the recent eight murders in Chittagong and said it was an outcome of intra-party conflict in Awami League.

"But it blamed Jamaat-Shibir to conceal this," she said and strongly protested 'repression, harassment and attack on Jamaat-Shibir activists across the country'.

She said her party demanded a judicial probe into the killings, but the government

did not do that because the 'cat may come out of the bag'.

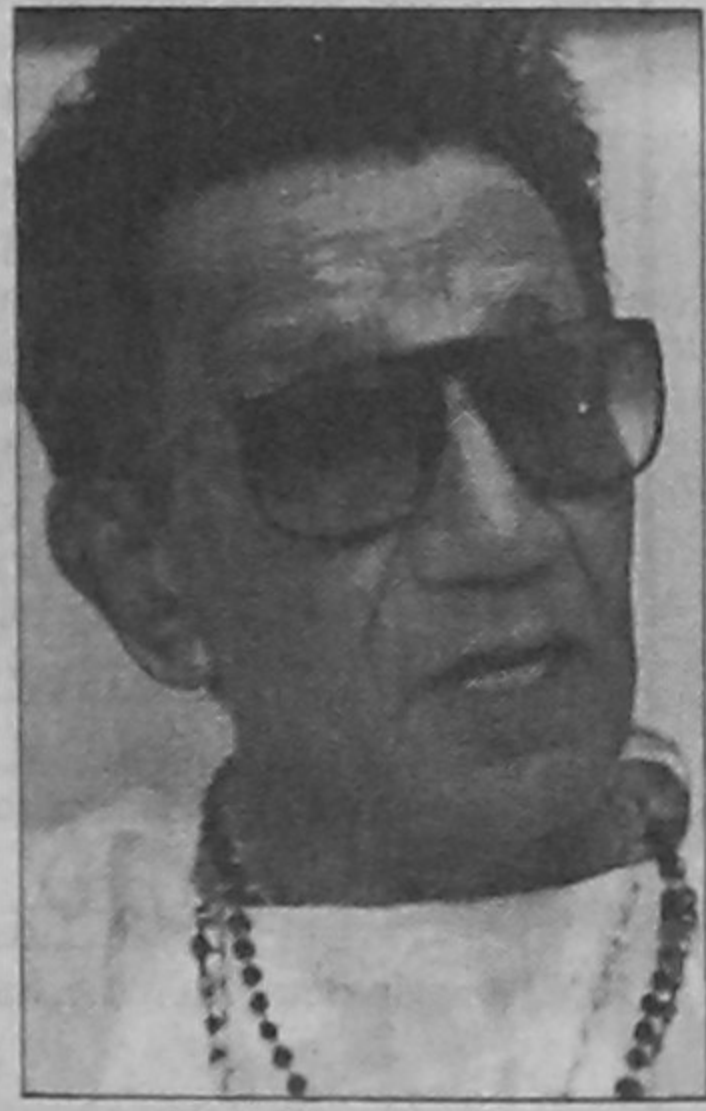
Thirty ruling party activists have so far been killed due to infighting, she claimed.

Referring to the Awami League chief's recent speech at a public meeting in Chittagong, the opposition leader said, "The Prime Minister ordered her party activists to kill opponents".

Khaleda also alleged that the AL chief reportedly told her party men that revenge would be taken by killing 10 people for one murder.

This is a killer government. Otherwise, how the Prime Minister can provoke her party men See page 11 col 7

# Thackeray freed: Court dismisses case



Bal Thackeray

BOMBAY, July 25: A judge today dismissed charges against a powerful Hindu supremacist politician accused of inciting riots that killed 800 Muslims seven years ago, reports AP.

Bal Thackeray's supporters, who had threatened to spill blood on the streets, tossed fireworks in celebration. On his way to court, Thackeray had warned there would be trouble if he were jailed.

Judge BP Kamde said the case had been filed too late, seven years after the alleged crime had been committed, and the city of Bombay had been paying the cost in tension and fear.

"I pass the following order, that the offense cannot be taken into cognizance as it is time-barred," announced Kamde.

"Therefore the accused is released and the case is closed."

Thackeray, 71, holds no official position, but he is a powerful regional leader. His party is the main opposition in Maharashtra state and a partner in Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's national governing coalition in New Delhi.

Thackeray's Shiv Sena party workers had threatened to organise a general strike and "spill blood on the streets" if their leader were arrested.

Party members and their allies today rioted in the Maharashtra state assembly after news of Thackeray's arrest. They damaged the speaker's table, broke chairs, uprooted microphones and tossed papers on the floor. Press Trust of India reported. Shiv Sena members

See page 11 col 7

# Camp David summit collapses

THURMONT, Maryland, July 25: The Camp David summit in pursuit of a Middle East peace settlement collapsed today.

"The president has concluded that the two sides are not able to reach an agreement at this time," said White House spokesman Joe Lockhart, reports AP.

President Bill Clinton was returning to Washington to make the announcement.

It had become clear earlier in the day that no serious headway was in sight despite an offer by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to recognize some sort of Palestinian sovereignty in east Jerusalem.

Palestinian sources said the breaking point came when Israel balked at Palestinian sovereignty over Jerusalem, walled Old City, offering only

access to the Al Aqsa mosque, the third-holiest site in Islam. Arafat was infuriated by this, the sources said.

At 3 am (0700GMT) today, Arafat sent a letter to Clinton, saying he saw no point in continuing because the Israeli position on Jerusalem could never lead to an agreement, Palestinian sources said.

Reaction to the breakdown was quick.

"This failure is another indication that the only choice we have is resistance," said Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin. "Only by force are we able to retain our rights... We are ready to become martyrs, and we say one short sentence: They will pay a high price if they think to attack us and reoccupy the land."

The breakdown came despite redoubled efforts by Clinton,

who returned to Camp David Sunday night after a four-day trip to Japan.

For the second night in a row, Clinton held late-night talks, ending at 3:15 am (07:15 GMT) today, said spokesman PJ Crowley.

The president was up again five and a half hours later in an effort to jump-start a 15th day of talks.

In the course of the contentious summit, there had been repeated reports that one side or the other was ready to pack their bags and walk out.

On Wednesday, the White House even formally announced that the talks had ended in failure.

The main point of dispute is Jerusalem, which both sides claim as their capital. Other top issues were the fate of several million Palestinian refugees and the boundaries of a future Palestinian state.

# PDB hands over Meghnaghat project site to AES

By Staff Correspondent

The Power Development Board (PDB) finally handed over the 100-hectare Meghnaghat power project site to US company AES yesterday.

"The land lease agreement (LLA) for the project was registered yesterday, completing handing over of the site to AES," a top PDB official said.

AES would now arrange finance for the 300 million dol-

lar power project by January 7 next year. The 450 MW power plant would start initial operation By December 2002 and full commercial operation in June 2003.

Sources concerned said that the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh has meanwhile initiated a project to set up power transmission line to connect Meghnaghat plant with

the National Grid. Gas supply infrastructure for the plant is being set up by Petrobangla.

Due to repeated disagreements between AES and PDB from '97 and bureaucratic tangles, implementation of Meghnaghat project has been delayed by more than two years now. The dispute over the project's land site alone delayed the

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## An open letter to Mr Nur Mohammad, Reporter of the Daily Janakantha

You have made a report in the daily Janakantha on 24 July 2000 under the caption "পুঁজিবাজারে আরও 'সে-এ-এ-এ' মানে" meaning that "same game of 96 has started in the capital market." In that report you have mentioned that a selfish quarter is active in killing the capital market when it has just started to take off after passing through a static period of about 4 years. You have also said that a group of manipulator has made huge amount of money by manipulating the price through upswing and downswing of market. You have also said SEC and DSE were made to sleep and this clique was realising their selfish interest. You also said in these few days, due to the activities of conspirators, thousands of investors have already lost a lot of money. You also saw political assistance behind this conspirator group.

Let us now come to the point that you have made. You stated that a joint venture investment company promoted by the Government of Saudi Arabia and Bangladesh is behind this syndicate of 4/5 brokers. You stated that this company started operation in the year 1986 and it has its headquarters in, Karwan Bazar. You are right. You have mentioned so many things but you didn't have courage to name the organisation. You stated that a financial credit company financed huge amount through the syndicate in terms of unnatural and subjective trading. I think by this financial credit company you meant SABINCO. You said syndicate supported by SABINCO captivated the capital market for 16 days by pushing up and pushing down the price according to their wish. Of course, the syndicate has made crores and crores of Taka through manipulation. You said that the syndicate supported by SABINCO pushed up the price by 82 points on 9 July to an index of 745 and then made the index fall to 586 on 22 July. You stated that the main weapon used by the syndicate was the shares of Beximco Pharma which they obtained through block trading to the tune of 1 million shares — they got the main weapon and started manipulation with these shares of Beximco Pharma. However, you have been kind to Meghna Cement Mills, Chittagong Cement and Square Pharma by saying that these shares also have strong fundamental but due to manipulation of the syndicate these shares were not attractive to the investors. As a substantive data you have mentioned the instance of manipulation by saying that on 22 July 2.13 million shares of Beximco Pharma were traded at a value of Tk 124 million. But the eventual settlement was made at only 400,000 shares. Have I stated your facts Mr Nur Mohammad as you have been able to obtain from DSE and SEC. If so, let me now present my defence as backer in your language 'Mul Hota' of this syndicate.

On 9 July when index rose by 83 points SABINCO bought shares of Tk 7 million and sold shares of Tk 13 million. On that day the total transaction was for a value of Tk 579 million. The value of our transaction was 3%. Do you think SABINCO could dominate the market with such percentage and push the index by 82 points? Moreover on that we sold more than we bought. Who were responsible for this push up? Will you please go into further details! May I ask you if there was a push up to a level of 745, is it abnormal or unreasonable? What index do you think is reasonable? You said between 9 to 22 July index fell from 745 to 586 and this syndicate promoted by SABINCO made this index fall. During these days SABINCO's total purchase and sale amounted to Tk 213 million. While the total transactions of DSE were Tk 5.125 million, SABINCO's transaction during that period was 4% of the total transaction. Do you think that with 4% operation, SABINCO could depress the market level, as you alleged? You stated the syndicate started dominating market by obtaining block holding of 1 million shares of Beximco Pharma. One million shares is 2.3% of the total paid up capital of Beximco Pharma. SABINCO is not aware of this block trading but this is the fact that SABINCO bought 300,000 shares at a very good price. This is 0.7% of total paid up capital. Do you think 0.7% or 2.3% holding of a particular stock can give ability to somebody to dominate transaction of that particular stock and with that position can it dominate the whole market? Is it sensible — is it realistic? We have observed that while market went up, the prices of shares of Meghna Cement, Chittagong Cement and Square Pharma also went up. In fact price of all other good stocks went up as the index improved and went down as the index depressed. Beximco Pharma became the market leader — is this because of manipulation! Or this is because of broad based ownership and large scale availability of this stock and the fundamental it has!

Mr Nur Mohammad, you are a reporter — you are supposed to be positive, you are not supposed to be motivated and act on motivated information. Before writing this report you didn't demonstrate journalistic ethics to get in touch with us. You have maligned an organisation of which you don't know anything. Even if SABINCO did some mischief, considering its status, you should have given it a chance of defense by getting in touch with us. Any honest and reasonable man will do it. Let me tell you the role of this organisation in respect of the capital market. After collapse of 1996, this is the only financial institution which remained present in the market constantly. The transaction of DSE will tell you this. We definitely have a role in activating the market after 3½ years waiting. We were buying and selling to activate the market — not to manipulate. You brought the allegation of depressing the market. But the fact is that SABINCO has involved substantial capital to give support to the falling market and to save small investors. For example on 22 July when index dipped to a level of 586, we bought shares of Tk 12 million and did not sell any shares. With our limited resource we have done our best to support the capital market activities so that the market which became activate after 3½ years should have healthy direction. Now I find out that this was not a good thing to do. People like you give punishment for good job. We operated through 3 or 4 brokers whom you have termed as syndicate. We have limited resource and we can employ the service of limited number of brokers. We would have loved to employ all the brokers of DSE and CSE but unfortunately we don't have that financial muscle.

Can you deny the fact that when the price has gone up you make some quarters responsible for it and again when the price goes down you make the same quarters responsible who you termed as manipulators. You always come up with negative reports. You never see good work in this open market. This is free market and it has the right to take its own turn and nobody should interfere into this trend. In no country this is done. Why do you make negative reports? Are not these reports discouraging the capital market activities? Why do you see always manipulation when people or institutions are buying and selling? Why do you have sympathy for the people who gamble with money? Do you have sympathy for those who play in the casino and loose money? However, let me tell you, general investors are no gamblers — they know better what to do — better than you and I. For God's sake Mr Nur Mohammad give up this kind of attitude. Don't play football in the capital market any more. Allow it's healthy growth. All of us have the right to point out wrong things — but let us not scare away the investors by motivated reports.

Through this letter, I request the Government to institute a judicial enquiry composed of High Court Judges to investigate into the whole thing around the capital market starting from SEC, stock exchanges, financial intermediaries and everybody concerned and find out who play what role.

You have written a very damaging report. I am writing this open letter in the interest of the capital market to convey to the investing public that we have not done anything wrong and we are discharging our function with ethics and wisdom to support the market and shall continue to support the market in spite of reports as one written by Mr Nur Mohammad.

Through this letter I would like to convey to you Mr Nur Mohammad that we have the right to take legal action against you for irresponsible journalism.

**Md Kutubuddin**  
Managing Director  
Saudi-Bangladesh Industrial and  
Agricultural Investment Company  
Ltd (SABINCO)

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