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Tk 56 lakh looted from Al-Arafah bank branch

Over Tk 56 lakh was looted from a branch office of the Al-Arafah Islami Bank at Mahakhali in the city during the national holiday on Tuesday. After reopening of the office yesterday, officials found the vault broken and Tk 56.14 lakh was missing from there, sources said. A guard of the bank, Halim was absconding after the incident. Another source said, a total of Tk 63 lakh was kept during the time of closure of the bank before the staff went for holiday. When they came back after the holiday, found the vault was opened but not broken. Police said last night that more than Tk 56 lakh was looted from the bank and their personnel were investigating the matter.

Dengue: One dies, 102 more hospitalised

Abdul Kader, a 45-year old man, died of dengue haemorrhagic fever at 1:20 pm yesterday at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Kader was admitted to the hospital on Tuesday. Meanwhile, 102 more people with dengue fever were hospitalised over the last two days in different hospitals and private clinics in the city. Sources said Dhaka Medical College Hospital admitted 35 patients with dengue fever on Tuesday and Wednesday while Mitford Hospital reported admitting 16 patients. Dhaka Shishu Hospital 4, BIRDEM 14, Red Crescent Holy Family Hospital 6, Bangladesh Medical College Hospital 2, Suhrawardi Hospital 2, Dhaka Police Hospital 2, Central Hospital 9, Samarita Hospital 4, and Al-Raji Hospital reported admitting 8 patients with the fever yesterday.

Rab Murder Case Four taken to custody for interrogation

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Aug 16: Four persons were taken to custody for interrogation in connection with SMA Rab Murder Case at 7 pm today. The arrested are Panu Lal Biswas, Anis, Nantu and Manuan. Panu is elder brother of Rangu Lal Biswas, police said. They are being interrogated at Sonadanga thana as suspects.

Four ventilation machines out of order at BSMMUH

By Staff Correspondent Four out of the ten life-saving ventilation machines at the Intensive Care Unit of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMUH) are out of order. According to sources, two machines have remained inoperative for last six months while another two went out of order about two weeks ago. "We informed the supplier of the machines the day the machines went out of order, but they have not yet supplied the spares despite assurances. They said they would have to be brought from Singapore," said a doctor at the ICU on Sunday. Sources also said that a voltage stabiliser has gone out of order, disrupting works in many ways. Prof. K M Iqbal, head of ICU and anesthesia of BSMMUH said, "The supplier informed me that they can supply spares for only one machine but not for all the four at a time."

There are five well-equipped intensive care units in five different city hospitals with trained nurses and doctors. The most modern one is at the Dhaka Combined Military Hospital followed by the one at BSMMUH. ICUs at private initiative is very limited and are always not adequately equipped.

| August | Sun Rises | Sun Sets |
|--------|-----------|----------|
| Aug 17 | | 6-30 pm |
| Aug 18 | 5-34 am | |

| Prayer Timings | | |
|----------------|-------|--------|
| August 17 | | |
| | Azau | Jamaat |
| Fajr | 4-30 | 5-05 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-30 |
| Asr | 5-00 | 5-15 |
| Maghrib | 6-40 | 6-45 |
| Esha | 8-15 | 8-45 |

Source: Islamic Foundation

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina along with some of her cabinet colleagues and party leaders offers *munajat* at Banani graveyard in the city on Aug 15. Most of the family members of Bangabandhu killed on the fateful night of August 15, 1975 at his Dhanmondi residence were laid to rest at the graveyard. — Star photo

HC bench to see video of Farooq's interview today

The judges of the High Court Bench hearing the death reference of Bangabandhu murder case will watch the video containing an interview of condemned prisoner Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooq Rahman today in their chamber, reports UNB. The court has asked the lawyer of Farooq and state-provided counsel of Lt Col Rashid and two prosecution lawyers to be present during the video screening in the afternoon. Advocate Khan Saifur Rahman, the counsel of Farooq, who in his submission argued that the video could not be an evidence, declined to watch the video. Farooq in an interview with UK based TV Channel Granada in 1976 confessed that he was involved in the killing of Bangabandhu on August 15, 1975. The trial court that awarded death penalty to 15 former army officers for their involvement in the gruesome killing of Bangabandhu, had accepted the video containing the interview as an evidence. Khan Saifur, who concluded his argument on death refer-

Harkatul Jihad activist held in Shariatpur

SHARIATPUR, Aug 16: An alleged activist of Harkatul Jihad was arrested from a bazaar in Sadar upazila today, reports UNB. Acting on a tip-off, police raided Monohor bazar in the morning and arrested Zahiduzzaman Liton, 24. He was taken on a three-day police remand.

ence appeal of Col Farooq, was pleading for another condemned prisoner Lt Col (ret'd) Mohiuddin Ahmed (Artillery) yesterday. In his argument, Khan Saifur said Mohiuddin was mistakenly implicated in this case for similarity in name with the real culprit. Khan Saifur told the court that the person, who was really involved in the August 15 incident, had died. The defence counsel said if the service book of his client is provided, then it will be clear that the man in the prison is not that Mohiuddin, who was involved in the incident. Khan Saifur said Mohiuddin was not in charge of any battery and that also could be confirmed from his service book. He submitted that two witnesses said that they were in the same vehicles when they came out of the cantonment. But that was not possible because they belonged to two separate batteries. About the killing of an army sepoy Shamsu and injuries of two others following a blast of a mortar shell on August 15, he submitted that only post-mortem reports, which was not available, could confirm whether he (Shamsu) was killed by bullet or shell. About the confessional statement given by condemned prisoner Lt Col Mohiuddin Ahmed, the counsel said the statement was taken keeping his client in unlawful confinement. The High Court Bench of Justice Rujul Amin and Justice ABM Khairul Haq will resume hearing at 9:30 am today.



The run-down bridge over the city's Sutrapur canal, which has dried out for quite a long time, caved in yesterday morning while it was being dismantled. A new road is going to be built over the canal, making the steel structure redundant, anyway. — Star photo

'No signs of life' aboard trapped Russian sub

MURMANSK, Russia, Aug 16: A senior Russian official said today there were no signs of life aboard a nuclear submarine stranded on an Arctic seabed since the weekend and President Vladimir Putin called the situation "critical," reports Reuters. Interfax news agency quoted Russia's navy chief as saying Moscow would now use British aid to save the submarine. Moscow had earlier not accepted British or US offers of help. Alarm bells rang today as the Kursk submarine's crew stopped tapping out SOS signals as a third attempt to pluck the 116 crew members from the depths of the Barents Sea was frustrated by further inclement weather. Interfax quoted Deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov, leading an emergency commission on the disaster, as saying there were no signs of life aboard the grounded sub but this did not necessarily mean the crew were dead. "There is no sign of life, but from this it is not necessary to conclude something terrible," he said, adding that the crew might be resting to conserve energy as air supplies dwindled. The navy commander, Admiral Vladimir Koryoyedov, said earlier the crew had stopped communicating by tapping on the inside of the vessel in the knowledge that a rescue craft was on its way. Russian president Vladimir Putin, on holiday in the Black Sea Resort of Sochi, was quoted as describing the situation as "critical" after rescuers said their third attempt to save the crew was being thwarted by stormy weather. "Everything that can possibly be done is being done for the rescue of the crew and the submarine," Putin said, adding the situation was "difficult, and I would say, critical." AP adds: Rescuers in an underwater rescue capsule inched through swirling sand and strong currents today, trying to reach the crippled submarine on the sea bottom with 116 sailors trapped inside. The rescue capsule was trying to find a cargo hatch to link up with the stricken submarine Kursk, said navy Capt Igor Babenko. But conditions on the bed of the

Shikdar to die for Siraj murder

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Aug 16: Ershad Ali Shikdar was awarded death sentence in Siraj Murder Case today by the Special Court of Hasan Imam, Additional District and Session Judge, Khulna. Earlier, Shikdar was awarded death sentence in four other murder cases by the same court. The judge sentenced four other accused in the case to life term and fined Tk 50,000 each. They are Iddris Jamal, Jamal Farook, Jaimal (absconding) and Ayub Ali Munshi (absconding). Accused Liakat Lashkar, Yunus, Fancy Mona, Noor Islam and Basir Hossain were acquitted of charges. Accused Noor-e-Alam has also been acquitted for helping the court as govt approver. The prosecution story in brief: Jubo League activist Siraj was kidnapped from KDA New Market area by the accused on October 2, 1997. His mother Surjo Banu filed a general diary (No 504) on October 9 the same year regarding the missing of her son. On September 5 last year, Surjo Banu filed a case with Khulna thana stating that her son Siraj was murdered at the Skid Ghat. She filed the case following the confession of Noor-e-Alam who was among other accused. See page 11 col 7

2 extortionists jailed under PSA in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Aug 16: A tribunal here today sentenced two people to different terms of imprisonment under Public Safety Act for demanding toll in the guise of DB police, reports UNB. The tribunal awarded one Sirajul Islam to seven years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) with a fine of Tk 30,000, while Nayan Chowdhury to five years of RI with Tk 20,000 fine. According to prosecution, the convicts demanded toll from one Montu Kumar Mollik at Hotel Tajmahal in Bahaddarhat area on April 26 identifying themselves as Detective Branch police. Mollik, a boarder of the hotel, immediately called the police and handed over them.

Three murdered in city in two days

By Staff Correspondent Three people were murdered in separate incidents in the city yesterday and the day before. Of them, two were identified as Abul Kalam, 40, a rickshawpuller and police informant, and Babu, 20, a resident of Baniaya Nagar in Sutrapur. The identity of the rest, a girl, could not be known. Abul Kalam, 40, a rickshawpuller and police informant, was shot dead by unidentified armed men in front of Register Office at Battala in Tejgaon in the city yesterday afternoon. The incident took place while the victim was taking rest in front of the office at about 2:15. Two young men appeared there in an autorickshaw and shot him. They fled the scene by the same vehicle. Police could not unearth the motive behind the killing. He was rushed to the DMCH where the attending doctor declared him dead. The body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with Tejgaon police in this regard, but none was arrested till filing of this report last night. Babu, an employee of a tailoring shop was stabbed to death at Baniaya Nagar in Sutrapur on Tuesday. Some unidentified miscreants called him out of the shop at about 8:45 pm, took him to a solitary place and stabbed him. He died on the spot. The reason behind the killing could not be known. On receiving information, police rushed there and recovered the body. They sent it to the DMCH for autopsy. Abdur Rashid, brother of the victim, filed a case with Sutrapur police in this regard. Ramna police recovered the body of a girl in front of the Administrative Building of Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Tuesday night. She was attired in printed Salwar and Kamiz. There were marks of injury in her shoulder and throat. The reason behind the murder could not be known. A case was filed in this regard with Ramna police.



Relatives of Kamal Hossain, city AL leader, waiting after his body was brought home. (Story on Page 1) — Star photo

Maid gets 50yrs RI for killing boy in city

By Court Correspondent A domestic help was awarded 50 years rigorous imprisonment yesterday by the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge Court Dhaka for killing a boy in the city. The court awarded the sentence to Shahida alias Sumona, a domestic help, for killing Ferdous Hasan, son of Sharif Harun, a lecturer of Residential Model School and College and attempt to murder his mother Farida Begum Shikha. Judge Muirra Mahfuza found Shahida of village Baraigram in Natore district guilty of killing and gave the verdict. The incident occurred on February 5 in 1997 in the teachers' quarter on Residential Model College campus. Sharif filed a murder case with Mohammodpur thana in this connection the same day. After cross-examination of all 22 prosecution witnesses, the court pronounced the judgement. Assistant PP Gazi Zillur appeared for the state while Advocate Abu Abdullah Bhuiyan for the accused.

Jt team starts interrogating Hazarika: More arms recovered

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Aug 16: A joint team comprising DGFI, NSI, SB and other concerned agencies today started interrogating Shibir cadre Gias Hazarika. Hazarika was arrested in connection with the Bahaddarhat carnage that left eight people including six BCL activists killed. The joint team began interrogation this afternoon at DB office here, police said. Police recovered two Chinese made SMG similar to AK-47 from the house of Hazarika according to his confessional statement. There are more arms and ammunition in his possession, police said. Meanwhile, CID police on the basis of information over telephone seized a foreign made pistol and 21 bullets from a pond near Hazarika's residence at Kuaish yesterday. Production in KNM suspended again

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Aug 16: Production in Khulna Newsprint Mills was again suspended today for want of money required for buying fuel. None was given their quotas today as there was virtually no production from Tuesday night, said a KNM source. Only two tonnes were produced on Tuesday morning, the source said. Authorities could not say when fund would be available to resume production.

Indian Independence Day No major separatist attack or violence

Srinagar, Aug 16: Six people were killed and 16 injured today in secessionist-linked violence in the troubled Indian state of Kashmir, police said, reports AFP. Suspected militants hurled a grenade at a vehicle carrying troops in a rowdy business district at Bijbehara, 40 kilometres south of the state summer capital Srinagar. It missed the target and exploded in a busy street, injuring 16 people, police said. Troops patrolling the area fired in the air. The attackers escaped from the area. The injured were taken to hospital. Doctors said one person was in critical condition. In a separate incident, two militants belonging to the Hezbul Mujahideen rebel outfit were killed today in a firefight with Indian troops at a village 80 kilometres north of Srinagar. The Hezbul Mujahideen, Kashmir's dominant militant group, called off its unilateral ceasefire a week ago, citing Indian intransigence over its demands that Pakistan be involved in peace talks. Officials said the militants were the second group of Hezbul Mujahideen fighters killed in a gunbattle with troops after the organisation called off its ceasefire. Elsewhere in the troubled Kashmir Valley, four persons were killed in separate incidents of violence today, police said. Meanwhile, Srinagar and its adjoining areas were showing signs of returning to normalcy after a week of violent incidents across the Kashmir Valley ahead of India's independence day celebrations on Tuesday. The independence day was celebrated amid an unprecedented security cover. No major untoward incident was reported so far. Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee on Tuesday warned Pakistan against abetting cross-border terrorism and affirmed that Kashmir was and would continue to remain an integral part of India. "On the one hand Pakistan says it is willing to participate in talks, on the other it continues to be deeply involved in violence killings and cross-border terrorism," the prime minister told the Nation while addressing from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the occasion of India's 53rd Independence Day. Vajpayee told the Pakistani rulers that borders could not be redrawn "either in the name of religion or on the strength of sword."

Newsman burn copies of Janakantha

By Staff Correspondent Angry newsman yesterday set copies of The Daily Janakantha on fire in front of Jatiya Press Club for bringing out the newspaper in violation of a decision taken by the Journalists-Workers-Employees Unity Council. As per the decision, no newspapers were published yesterday on occasion of public holiday marking National Mourning Day. Journalist leaders Amanullah Kabir, G M Yakub, Akhter Ahmed Khan, M A Aziz, Altaf Mahmud, Abu Saleh and Jalil Bhuiyan, press workers leader Mosharrar Hossain and Employees Federation leader Afzaruddin Khan were present at the time. Later addressing a gathering in front of the Press Club, the journalists and workers' leaders said the Janakantha authorities are trying to create instability in the newspaper industry and vowed to foil any

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