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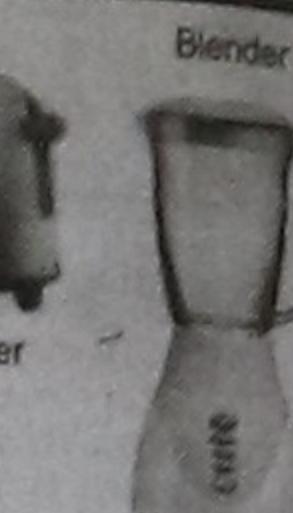
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## Mori visits India's IT hub

BANGALORE, Aug 22: Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori visited India's information technology hub today and proposed an ambitious initiative for greater collaborations between the two nations, a domestic news agency reported, reports AP.

"I can find good reasons here for the two countries to cooperate in this field," Press Trust of India quoted Mori as saying in an address to information technology executives from across the country.

Mori, who is in India on a three-day visit, proposed the Japan-India IT Promotion and Cooperation Initiative, which he said he would discuss with Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee in New Delhi tomorrow. Tokyo would also issue more multiple-entry visas for business visits for Indian travelers, Mori said.

Japan is India's fourth-largest investor. Trade between the two countries exceeded \$4.5 billion in 1999.

Mori is the first Japanese Prime Minister to visit India in 10 years.

Japan will expand its training programmes to include 1,000 Indian engineers over three years. They'll be taught Japanese business practices and the language, Mori said.

A team of Japanese business executives will travel to India in January, he said. On Thursday, software industry conglomerates from both countries were expected to sign an agreement to increase cooperation between private information technology companies.

## Another armed cadre of Shikdar arrested

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 22: Police today arrested another armed cadre of Ershad Shikdar from Skid Ghat.

He was identified as Abdul Aziz. He was wanted in connection with a murder case filed with Khulna thana in 1996.

Police arrested Aziz in the morning while he along with some of his accomplices were trying to loot a fishing trawler, police said.

## Shahid

From page 1

Shahid is so powerful that no body dares to give his name in FIR with police, a number of people in Banagram area in the city alleged.

They talk about his alleged involvement in murders, terrorism and grabbing land and property.

Some local people circulated a leaflet following the killing of Babibur Rahman Mondal. The leaflet alleged that Shahid is involved in various murders including that of Mondal.

Ironically, there is not a single case against Shahid with any of the thanas in the city.

The leaflet claimed that Shahid runs a big gang of goons to 'control' Shyambazar area. He leaves the country while his men kill his 'target', some local people alleged.

Shahid started doing politics during Ershad's rule and earned crores of taka by illegal means including occupying others' property in Old Dhaka. It is said that he was a vegetable vendor prior to his political career.

Shahid is allegedly involved in the killing of a dozen people, whom he considered as his political rivals or harming his interest.

A rickshaw puller was beaten to death in his presence at Shambazar on July 30 for not paying toll to one of his goons, according to earlier press reports.

He was a suspect in the killing of Suman (23) on February 8, in which some DB police personnel were also allegedly involved.

Another person, Michel, was killed allegedly by his armed cadres last year.

Mohammad Hossain, sardar of a CSD godown, was shot dead and his money was snatched from him allegedly by Shahid's gunmen. Badal, the main witness in this case, was also axed to death allegedly by his accomplices.

After every murder, he claims that he was not in the country when it took place, some local people said.

He grabbed several plots of land. If any one goes against him, he has to give plenty for this, they alleged.

The lands he grabbed include the land for a proposed graveyard at Jurain for children. He also grabbed 100 'kathas' of Railway land, several residential plots and lands of temples.

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Prayers were offered at Russian churches for the dead and money poured into a special fund set up for the survivors as plans were announced for a national day of mourning.

Television stations repeatedly displayed the names of the dead crewmen and showed old footage of the Kursk sailing out of port. Its crew at attention on the deck. Film was accompanied by classical music and mournful folk ballads.

The Russian media today

voiced the outrage of many people that their government left it to Norway to announce that all of the sailors aboard the Kursk were dead. President Vladimir Putin's administration has been hit by a wave of public anger over its slow, often bungled handling of the rescue effort.

"No one from the leadership of the country had the bravery to announce the death of the sailors," the Nezavistimaya Gazeta said in a banner headline.

"It's time for questions," the daily Izvestia wrote in a lead editorial. "What if? What if they hadn't lied to us? What if they'd invited foreigners without waiting for five days? What if we'd had the proper technology? It's too late."

Putin said a day of national mourning would be held tomorrow to honour the crew, when flags would be lowered to half mast. He asked all television and radio stations to cancel entertainment programmes Wednesday out of respect for the dead crew. He promised the government would help the families.

Hezbul Mujahideen hopes to resume its ceasefire within two months and expects peace talks with the Indian government to start again, a local news service said today, reports Reuters.

"I hope that the ceasefire will take place in the next two months because of the efforts at an international level to break the deadlock," Hezbul Commander-in-Chief Abdul Majid Dar told Current News Service in an interview.

The WHO report said, dengue infection is most serious in south-east and western Pacific regions.

Dar said only tripartite dialogue could resolve the Kashmir

problem, and added that Hezbul Mujahideen would accept any solution emerging from talks on such a basis, whether it is in favour of India or Pakistan.

"He said that without the participation of Pakistan there is no solution possible for the Kashmir problem because India is occupying one part and another part is occupied by Pakistan," the news service said.

India controls about 45 per cent of the territory comprising the regions of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. Pakistan holds just over a third of the territory and China controls the remainder.

Acting on a tip-off, a DB police squad raided the area and recovered the heroin. Two young men were arrested in this connection.

The arrested were identified as Safuzzaman, 32, and Kabir Hossain, 22.

A case was lodged with Magura thana.

From Our Correspondent

MOSCOW, Aug 22: Stunned Russians mourned today for the 118 sailors who died on a submarine as distraught relatives demanded to be taken to the spot in the Barents Sea where the bodies of the crew were still trapped in the wreck, reports AP.

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