



PHOTO: STAR

Relatives grieve the death of Billal Hossain Pappu, an arrested, at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. They alleged that Pappu died from police torture.

Another victim of police brutality?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A young man died from an alleged police torture in the city yesterday. Billal Hossain Pappu, 30, son of late Israfil Hossain, succumbed to his injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

On the night of August 10, a police team chased Pappu down near the Inland Container Depot Mosque at Kamalapur, and a police officer hit him on the head with his rifle. Other policemen of the team clubbed and kicked him until he fell unconscious, hospital sources said, quoting the family members.

That night, Pappu was heading home to north Kamalapur by rickshaw, along with his friend who managed to escape the police chase, they said.

Pappu's mother Saleha Begum and sister-in-law Nazma Begum and Shamsuddin, the younger brother of former ward commissioner Moslem

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

DU reopening VC now awaits 'congenial atmosphere'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shifting from his earlier stance on 'immediate re-opening' of the Dhaka University (DU), acting Vice Chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider is now waiting for a 'congenial atmosphere' on the campus for resumption of academic activities.

"We are now waiting to hold meetings with all concerned and for a congenial atmosphere for resumption of university activities", the acting VC told this correspondent.

Prof Haider declined to give a probable date for reopening of the DU.

He avoided a reply when asked if

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Sept 11 attack 3 Saudi princes sued for alleged complicity

AFP, Washington

Three prominent members of the Saudi royal family are targeted in a lawsuit filed Thursday for their role in financing international terrorism and al-Qaida specifically -- accusations that put the Wahhabi kingdom's feet to the fire.

Among the hundreds of groups and individuals named in the suit filed here by more than 600 relatives of victims who perished September 11 were three Saudi princes: Defense and Aviation Minister Sultan bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud; former intelligence chief Turki al-Faisal al-Saud; and businessman Mohammed al-Faisal al-Saud.

"We have solid evidence," lawyer Ron Motley told reporters.

[Details on Page 5]



PHOTO: STAR

Devotees offer Juma prayers with police on guard at the Baitul Azim Mosque at Malibagh T&T Colony in the city yesterday. Four people were killed as ansars opened fire to control a clash between two groups over possession of the mosque on Thursday.

Local traders, influentials behind Malibagh clashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some local traders and influential people instigated madrassah students and devotees to "reopen" the Baitul Azim mosque at Malibagh, which caused Thursday's clashes in which four persons were shot dead.

They provoked the students and devotees to demolish the boundary wall which blocked entry into the mosque, according to local people.

Some local gangsters joined the students and devotees in the clashes with "vested quarters"

residing at the T & T Colony where the mosque is situated, they said.

An uneasy calm prevailed in the area yesterday. Additional police forces were deployed to guard against any untoward incident.

There was a long-drawn feud among the vested quarters in the colony, one Emdad and some local businessmen over the land on which the mosque was built. Emdad is the son Fazar Ali, the original owner of the land.

In 97, the then T&T minister Mohammad Nasim ordered alloca-

tion of five kathas of land for the mosque. The then MPs Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Dr HBM Iqbal also meet the local leaders to settle the issue.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Dealing with dengue DCC drive unlikely to see success

NAIMUL HAQ

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is yet to come to grips with dengue that may turn epidemic.

Entomologists and epidemiologists fear that if the aedes control drive fails, dengue will take an epidemic form as happened in other countries in the past.

"The DCC has not taken the right approach to dealing with the crisis and the mosquito control drive will not be successful, unless it immediately makes insecticide available," said Dr Manjur Chowdhury, an entomologist.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommended that every dengue-positive household be sprayed with insecticide with urgency.

The WHO rule states that at least 100 square metres radius of the household where a dengue patient has been identified should be sprayed with insecticide to kill the carrier mosquito.

If all case-positive houses are to be sprayed with adulticide, according to the WHO recommendation, each house needs 30 litres of adulticide. So, the amount of adulticide required for one-time spray on 2,000 households officially reported case-positive is about 60,000 litres, which is not available

in the DCC warehouse, said Dr Manjur Chowdhury.

Sources in the DCC have said the house-wise spray drive is not taking place.

"We have not received any instruction to spray in every case-positive house," said a DCC zonal officer requesting anonymity. Sources said the fogging drive is limited only to streets and residences of high officials.

Earlier, DCC Chief Health Officer Dr Mohammad Ashraf Uddin said that indiscriminate fogging would not be effective, nor is it scientific. He cited examples of dengue outbreak in Latin American and South East Asia where only case-positive houses have been focused in the aedes mosquito control programme.

Moreover, Dr Ashraf said, the present stock of insecticide is not enough to tackle the crisis. It will take the DCC at least 45 days to make a new consignment available.

"Although the role of adulticide is limited, it is definite," said Dr Chowdhury.

A study says that the number of patients admitted to eight leading public and private hospitals has climbed over the first two weeks of August to 450 from 230 in the last two weeks of July.

Depositors in pvt commercial bank boards planned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has planned to reduce the number of sponsor directors and include depositors in the boards of private commercial banks to improve their performances.

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman has said that to bring the changes, necessary amendments to the Bank Company Act would be made.

"I am quite unhappy with the present state of the banking system. When private banks were given permission in the early eighties, I could not understand that the directors would assault their institutions in such way," he said.

The finance minister was speaking as chief guest at a reception to good borrowers of Bangladesh Shilpa Bank (BSB) held at Sonargaon Hotel in the city on

Thursday night. Finance Secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan and Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed also attended the function.

Sifur warned the managing directors of commercial banks that stern action would be taken if they are found involved in reckless banking. With the increase in the number of banks, clerks have been promoted as managers and this has led to deterioration in the efficiency level, he noted.

Many industries have become sick due to lack of working capital, he pointed out. Supporting syndicated loans, he said unless there is an arrangement for working capital, banks should not sanction term loan. "As banking is a risky business, I am not in favour of liberalising the banking sector."

The finance secretary termed BSB's classified loans- 64 per cent

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3