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## HC grants bail to Saber, CMM sends him to jail

### Shahriar's statement not recorded as per HC order

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court virtually turned into a battlefield yesterday, with lawyers of five recently arrested eminent persons pitted against the prosecutors.

The court disagreed with the defence counsels on the interpretation of nine different orders of the High Court.

The police had to resort to baton charge on lawyers and visitors in the evening to cool off the heat on the court premises.

The five persons - Awami League leaders Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Shafi Ahmed and Mukul Bose, columnist Muntasir Mamun and journalist Shahriar Kabir - were sent to jail yesterday after they were produced before the CMM's Court on completion of their three-day remand each.

All of them have been given one-month detention each under the Special

Powers Act (SPA).

Heated arguments took place at the court when defence lawyers differed with the CMM's Court over some High Court orders issued for Shahriar, Shafi, Saber and Muntasir.

Two disagreements took place each in case of Shahriar, Shafi and Muntasir and three in case of Saber.

The High Court Wednesday gave Awami League leader Saber Hossain Chowdhury ad interim bail. The High Court order reached the CMM's Court on the same day. However, the lower court did not release Saber when the police produced him there at 2:20pm. The lower court sent him to jail under one-month detention.

The HC also instructed the CMM's Court to record verbatim the statement of Saber. This order was issued because previously the CMM's Court

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## Red carpet rolled out for Khaleda in Thailand

REZAUL KARIM, Chiang Mai

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was given a rousing welcome when she arrived here yesterday afternoon on a three-day official visit to Thailand.

In an unprecedented gesture, Thai Prime Minister Dr Thaksin Shinawatra accompanied Khaleda on her flight to Chiang Mai in a special aircraft of the Thai Airways.

Earlier, the Thai prime minister and an 80-member high-powered delegation visited the Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong yesterday morning to inaugurate the Thai Airways service on the Chittagong-Chiang Mai-Bangkok route. He was received by Khaleda

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Prime Minister Khaleda Zia greets Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra at the Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong before flying with him to Thailand yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

## Names never mattered!



PHOTO: STAR

The plaque of the Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial at Mirpur in the city only recognises the sacrifice of the worthy sons of the soil, but no where in it is written the names of those who were killed by the Al-Badr just before the final victory.

## Who are they?

SABRINA KARIM

The altar made of black granite speaks of their supreme sacrifice. The triangular structures of red brick symbolise the nation's gratitude to them.

But who are they?

Not a single name of the martyred intellectuals can be seen anywhere at the Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial at Mirpur in the capital. When you look for any information about those worthy sons of the soil who sacrificed their lives for liberating the motherland, you find nothing. Only a marble slab

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## Legalisation not only way to make HR 'legal'

### Amartya Sen for human rights-based thinking

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A human rights-based thinking is important for a just and peaceful society, said Professor Amartya Sen yesterday.

The Nobel laureate stressed the need for freedom and solidarity among people for implementing human rights.

Legalisation is not the only way to make human rights 'legal', said Sen.

In case of imperfect obligation, no rights can be implemented through legalisation but by advocacy and

nurturing, he said while speaking as a guest of honour at the inaugural session of a two-day taskforce meeting on a Citizen's Social Charter for South Asia.

Nurturing, advocating and monitoring human rights belong to consequential thinking, said Sen.

He held illiteracy and lack of consciousness responsible for human-rights violation in South Asia.

Organised by the South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (SACEPS) and the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) at BRAC Centre Inn auditorium, the session was addressed by, among others, former chief advisor to the

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## Shahriar in sedition case as well

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday included writer Shahriar Kabir in a sedition case that also implicated two foreign journalists and their local guides on charge of resorting to anti-state activities.

Shahriar, arrested under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) on November 7, was shown arrested in the sedition case yesterday. Police produced him before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court and sought a seven-day remand. The court however fixed

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## Biswa Ijtema begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biswa Ijtema, the second largest congregation of the Muslims after Hajj, begins today on the bank of the Turag in Tongi.

Sermons by religious scholars began two days before the formal start of the three-day ijtema.

This year round, Tablig Jamaat has organised the 38th annual congregation, which will come to an end on December 15 with akheri munajat.

Around eight lakh devotees from home and abroad congregated in an area of about 160 acres until yesterday afternoon, said sources.

Organisers look forward to the arrival of more than 30 lakh devotees on the concluding day.

More than 2,500 devotees from 30 countries, including India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Kuwait, England, China, Thailand and Malaysia have already arrived.

About 10,000 devotees from 72 countries will attend the ijtema this year, the organisers hope.

The ijtema venue on 150 acres has been covered with sackcloth by a large number of volunteers. Tinsed cabins are also being erected for foreign devotees in the north

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## Typical tales of 'torture'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The court yesterday heard similar tales of torture in police custody when Shahriar Kabir, Muntasir Mamun, Mukul Bose and Shafi Ahmed were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka yesterday.

The four were recently arrested under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and were placed on a three-day remand each.

Writer Shahriar, who was arrested on December 8 by the Gulshan police, told the court that he was not given food for 25 hours after his arrest. He was blindfolded and taken to the joint interrogation cell (JIC). He was also taken to the Cantonment Police Station where he was 'brutally tortured'.

The JIC team questioned him on issues like the alleged anti-state activities by two foreign journalists, the series of bomb explosions in Mymensingh movie theatres and alleged ill motives by the Awami League.

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## Reuters retracts blast report

BSS, Dhaka

Reuters can no longer vouch for the accuracy of remarks attributed to Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury in a series of Dhaka-dated stories on cinema bomb attacks in Bangladesh.

The stories, dated Dec 7 and 8, had the following headlines: "Bangladesh bombs kill 17; political workers held" (Dec 8), "Bangladesh arrests opposition workers after blasts" (Dec 8), "Bangladesh troops patrol town after bombs kill 17" (Dec 8), "Bangladesh cinema bomb kills 15, wound nearly 300" (Dec 7), "Bangladesh says al Qaeda may be behind blasts" (Dec 7).

## Army raids Iqbal's city residence

### 21 listed criminals arrested across country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joint forces carried out a three-hour on the Gulshan residence of former Awami League lawmaker Dr HBM Iqbal on Wednesday night.

A team of nearly 100 army, paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and police personnel began the raid at around 9:00pm.

Dr Iqbal was hosting a dinner for some private bank officials and

relatives when the joint forces came in. However, he was not arrested.

The AL lawmaker's residence was raided once before in November.

Meanwhile, the army rounded up 90 people, including 21 listed criminals, across the country in the last 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday.

They also seized 16 firearms including two pistols, five revolvers, four pipe-guns and a shotgun and 34 rounds of ammunition.

The joint forces seized a magnesium flare used for ships from the city's Bijoy Nagar area at around 11:00am yesterday.

In Sylhet an army team recovered five powerful homemade explosives from an abandoned hall of residence at the Madan Mohan University College yesterday.

Sources told our correspondent three explosives fell down from the roof as labourers were pulling down the abandoned building.

Being informed, troops from the Jalalabad Cantonment went to the

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