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FBI in Dhaka to probe grenade attacks

Two more Interpol experts also fly in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
After Interpol, the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is now in Dhaka to investigate the August 21 grenade attack on Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at an Awami League (AL) rally.
Another two Interpol experts -- American Marash Vulcica, a special-

ist on public safety and security, and Chinese Xin Hu, an expert on terrorism -- also flew in the capital around 12:30pm to probe the grisly attack.
They met officials of the intelligence agencies and gathered primary information on the deadly incident and are scheduled to start investigation today.
Earlier, a two-member advance

team of Interpol on Tuesday sent a preliminary assessment report to its headquarters in Lyon, France.
Gibson Wilson, an FBI forensic expert, started probing the incident after arriving here early yesterday.
But foreign ministry officials continued to rule out the possibility of US involvement in the investigation until yesterday. But an high

official of the US Embassy in Dhaka, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the FBI official has come after Bangladesh government sought US assistance in the ongoing investigation.
The official did not disclose the time of arrival of Wilson neither would he say how long the FBI
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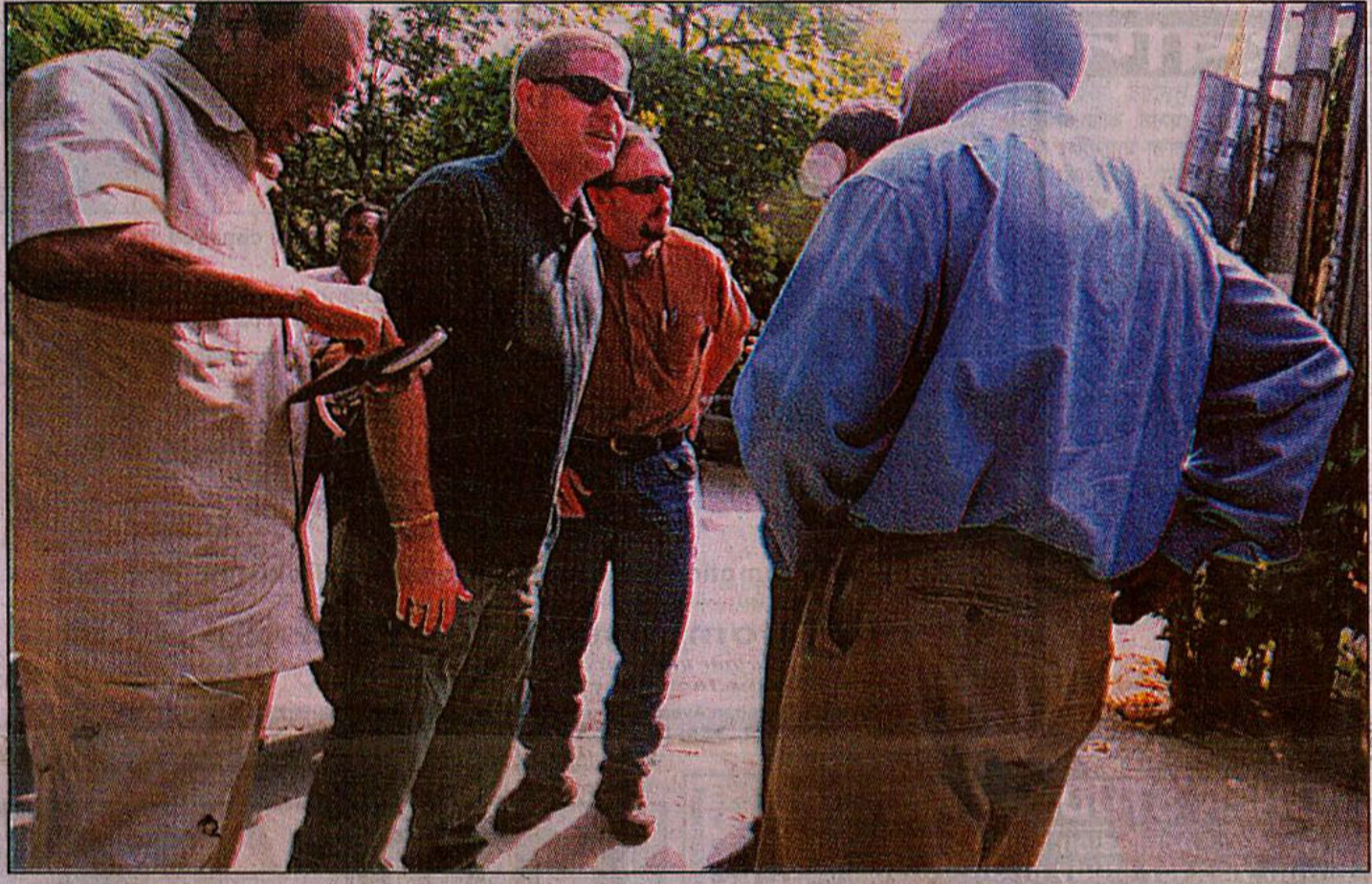
Boycott of lawyers challenged

UNB, Dhaka

Boycott of the chief justice's court was challenged yesterday in the High Court by three senior lawyers saying, the decision of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) was ultra vires the fundamental rights.
Mahabubur Rahman MP, Habibul Islam Bhuiyan and MA Wahab in their writ said the SCBA by taking the harsh decision has infringed their fundamental right to legal practice.
A bench comprising Justice M Joyrul Abedin and Justice Nirmalendu Dhar took up the matter for hearing when SCBA President Barister Rokanuddin Mahmud raised objection for its maintainability. He
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A TV grab taken from the Russian NTV channel shows Russian special police forces troops evacuating a little girl and her mother in the northern Ossetian village of Beslan, some 15 kilometres outside Vladikavkaz, yesterday.



FBI Special Agent Gibson Wilson, third from left, is on the way to Sudha Sadan, the Dhanmondi house of Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, to examine her bullet- and shrapnel-riddled sports utility vehicle yesterday.

Missing jail guard leads to 'rumours'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Central Jail guard went underground on Thursday allegedly after taking money on promising jobs in jail amid rumours that four grenades were found in his home.
Jail officials said the police seized only a homemade bomb, not grenades, from Sohail Mondol's home in the barrack No. 14, near the residence of Inspector General of Police (IGP-Prisons) Brigadier Zillur Rahman on Friday.
Sohail allegedly took Tk 13 lakh from several people saying his mother Shahida Begum who works at the Prime Minister's Office would land them jobs as jail guards, sources said.
Sohail's mother arrested on charges of forgery in their home village in Rajbari Tuesday was sent to Rajbari jail.
Many believe Sohail disappeared under pressure from the job seekers, a day before their recruitment test scheduled for Friday.
"We filed a general diary with Lalbagh Police Station after he disappeared," the IGP told The Daily Star yesterday.
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Hundreds held hostage at Russian school: 8 die

Rebels threaten to blow up building if attacked; 10 killed, 50 hurt as suicide bomber blows herself up outside Moscow subway

AGENCIES, Belsan, Russia

More than a dozen militants wearing suicide-bomb belts seized a southern Russian school in a region bordering Chechnya yesterday, taking hostage about 400 people -- half of them children -- and threatening to blow up the building if police storm it. At least eight people have been killed, one of them a schoolparent.
In a tense standoff, "Russian forces wearing camouflage and carrying heavy-caliber machine guns took up positions on the perimeter of Middle School No. 1 in the town of Belsan, 10 miles north of the regional capital of Vladikavkaz.
About 1,000 people, mostly parents, were massed outside demanding information and accusing the government of failing to protect their children.
The attack was the latest blamed on secessionist Chechen rebels, coming less than 20 hours after a suicide bomber killed 10 people at least 10 people were killed and 51 others injured when a female suicide bomber blew herself up outside a busy Moscow subway station, officials said.
The explosion caused scenes of carnage outside the station in central Moscow Tuesday evening and came just a week after 90 people were killed in twin plane crashes over Russia that have been blamed on Chechen extremists.
After first saying it was a car bomb, officials said that it had been carried out by a female suicide bomber spotted before the blast and who was among the dead. Her body was more severely damaged than the other victims.
According to witnesses quoted by police, the woman was walking towards the subway but saw that police were checking the papers of passers-by. She withdrew for a moment and the explosion occurred immediately afterwards.
President Vladimir Putin interrupted his working holiday
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BNP celebrates 26th founding anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling BNP yesterday celebrated its 26th founding anniversary with a vow to protect democracy, independence and sovereignty of the country.
But the party celebrated the anniversary in a simple manner as per an early decision to express sympathy for flood victims.
On this day in 1978, late president Ziaur Rahman instituted BNP with an objective to strengthen multi-party democracy, introduce the politics of production and development and bring a new dimension in country's politics.
The day's programmes began with hoisting of the party flag at the central office in Naya Paltan in the morning.
BNP Chairperson Prime Minister Khaleda Zia along with senior party leaders, cabinet colleagues and top leaders of the front organisations placed wreaths at the mazar of late Zia in the morning to pay homage to the founder of the BNP.
Top BNP leaders including M Saifur Rahman, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Oli Ahmed, Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Moudud Ahmed, KM Obaidur Rahman, Tariqul Islam, Mirza Abbas and Sadeque Hossain Khoka were present.
Khaleda first laid a wreath at the mazar as the prime minister and then on behalf of her party. A prayer was offered at the mazar seeking divine blessings for the late
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Gazipur market time bomb blast injures 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A time bomb went off at a marketplace in Gazipur injuring six people yesterday and the recovery of a hand-made bomb from the district press club three hours apart sent a swell of panic through the neighbourhood.
Witnesses said the time bomb was stashed in a black shopping bag hanging from the shutter of Hanif Pharmacy in Harinal Bazar in Gazipur municipality, 35 kilometres north of the capital, still reeling from a grenade attack on an Awami League rally that killed 19 people.
"The bomb was covered in vegetables in the bag," 62-year-old Harez Ali Sheikh, an injured BNP leader, told reporters.
Four people were drinking tea at a stall in front of the drugstore of Dr Solaiman Ali and some others were walking by the area at 7:15pm, when the explosion tore through the neighbourhood.
"A boom rocked the area and I found myself bleeding," said
Mizanur Rahman, former president of the municipality unit of Jubo Dal, ruling BNP's youth front.
SK Zabullah, 55, a BNP activist, Ruhul Amin, 30, a rickshawpuller, Mohammad Hanif, 45, and Lal Mia, 65, were also injured.
The police retrieved the timer of the bomb, splinters and damaged shutter of the drugstore.
BOMB RECOVERY
A security guard of Gazipur Press Club found a container covered in red tape under the chair of the professional organisation's General Secretary Iqbal Ahmed Sarker at about 10:30am. The police defused the bomb to the relief of newsmen and other residents of Gazipur.
"It was a cocktail," Gazipur Superintendent of Police (SP) Atiqul Islam told The Daily Star without giving leads to the blast and recovery of the bomb.
Sub-Inspector Selina Akhter of Gazipur Police Station said no-one was arrested until 7:00pm.
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GRENADATE ATTACK Jalil says can prove govt's hand, dares BNP to refute

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday said he can prove the coalition government's involvement in the August 21 grenade attack on AL rally and challenged the ruling BNP leaders to contest and disprove him in public debate if they dare.
"The targets of all the bomb blasts in the recent years were AL leaders, progressive and pro-liberation forces and Bangalee culture, and it's not hard to understand who are their enemies," Jalil said while speaking as the chief guest at a meeting to mourn the dead in the grisly attack.
At the meeting jointly organised by Bangabandhu Sanskritik Jote and Bangladesh Chalachitra League at the Jatiya Press Club, the AL
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Curfew in Kathmandu

Mosque, offices of Saudi, Qatar airlines attacked over Iraq killings

REUTERS, Kathmandu

Nepal yesterday clamped an indefinite curfew on Kathmandu and warned violators will be shot after furious mobs attacked a mosque and went on the rampage to protest against the killing of 12 Nepalis in Iraq.
Protesters stormed inside the city's main mosque and lit a fire, but were driven out by police. Others burst into the offices of Saudi Arabian Airlines and Qatar Airways, smashing windows and taking papers and furniture into the street to burn.
Earlier, police had lobbed teargas shells at about 3,000 demonstrators burning tyres at a main intersection 200 metres (yards) from the Jame Masjid mosque in the heart of the city.
A pall of smoke hung over the city. Tyres had been set on fire at almost every major street corner, and mobs were bringing out logs, stolen furniture and other items to feed the flames.
City authorities imposed a curfew from 2:00pm to maintain law and order, and to protect the loss of life and property.
"The security forces can fire if anyone is seen violating the curfew," state radio announced. "Residents are urged not to come out of their houses in the specified areas under curfew."
A militant Iraqi group said on Tuesday it had killed the 12 Nepali hostages, who went to Iraq to work as cooks and cleaners for a Jordanian firm, and showed pictures of one being beheaded and the others with bullet wounds to the head and back.
Protesters shouted "Down with Islam", "Long live the memories of the 12 Nepalis", or called for the government to resign for not doing more to protect the victims.
There is no history of significant anti-Muslim protests or riots in Nepal, but there have been widespread and sustained anti-government protests this year.
Tension was also high after Maoist rebels imposed a blockade on the capital earlier this month.
THICK CLOUDS OF SMOKE
Riot police cordoned off the mosque, which was obscured from afar by thick clouds of smoke rising from burning tyres on roads leading to the building.
"Demonstrators entered the mosque, threw stones and partially damaged it," said police official Binod Singh. "They tried to set the building on fire but police
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BCL calls off student strike

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday called off the countrywide indefinite student strike after a meeting with Dhaka University (DU) Vice-chancellor (VC) Prof SMA Faiz.
BCL President Liaquat Sikder told reporters after the meeting at the Madhu's Canteen that they withdrew the strike on assurance by the VC to fulfil their demands.
The BCL student wing of the main opposition Awami League (AL), enforced the strike at all educational institutes demanding international and impartial probe into the August 21 grenade attack on an AL rally.
Their demands also included congenial atmosphere on the campus and at different dormitories, and release of BCL leaders and activists.

Madaripur

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REJAUU KARIM BYRON

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) yesterday in a circular set September 30 as the deadline for submission of income tax returns by employees of government, semi-government and autonomous bodies.
A minimum fine of Tk 2,500 will be slapped on the defaulters after the expiry of the deadline and they will also have to pay Tk 250 in fine for each day from September 30 onwards.
NBR high officials said the government pays taxes of the govern-

ment officials according to the existing rules but from now on they will have to pay the fines.
The government is also mulling over making the employees pay income tax once it implements the new pay structure for public servants, the officials said.
It has asked the Pay Commission to suggest what should the pay structure be if the government pays tax and what if the employees themselves pay it.
The NBR officials said they would recommend to the Pay Commission for formulating a pay structure
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Shibir men chop dead JCD leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Armed cadres of Islami Chhatra Shibir chopped a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader dead and injured some others at Sylhet Government Veterinary College in the early hours of yesterday.
The victim is Rafiqul Hasan Sohag, organising secretary of college unit of the JCD, and a 3rd year student.
The college has been closed since die following the incident as tension prevails on the campus.
Police later caught two Shibir cadres suspecting their involvement in the murder and recovered some arms from the possession of shibir men.
Agitated JCD activists ransacked some of rooms of Shibir workers at the college dormitory.
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New Arrival

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