

Shibir factions possess huge armoury

Arrested criminal tells Rab
CU CORRESPONDENT

Notorious Shibir cadre Md Ramzan alias Bhagina Ramzan arrested by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in Fatickhari on Friday yesterday divulged that cadres of three factions of Islami Chhatra Shibir operatives in northern Chittagong possess huge arms including at least two M-16 and eight AK-47 assault rifles.

Rab sources said he made a confessional statement while being quizzed their custody for the second day yesterday.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

3 feared dead in boat capsized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Three persons including a father and his son are feared dead in a boat capsized in a haor of Derai upazila in Sunamganj on Friday afternoon.

Body of a five-year boy Alok Das of Singhanad village was recovered after several hours while those of his

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Sawn-off stumps are the witness to the wholesale felling of a few hundred trees on Bijoy Swarani by Dhaka City Corporation as part of a facelift plan.

Don't take tolerance as weakness: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Denouncing the opposition's present stance and campaign against the elected government, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday cautioned that no-one should mistake the government's tolerance for consolidating democracy for weakness.

She categorically said those who are demanding resignation of the government instead of cooperating in the investigation of August 21 grenade attacks want to destroy the country's democratic institutions.

"We have given blood for independence of the country, carried out an

uncompromising movement for nine years and shed blood to restore and uphold democracy. Now we are in the government to uphold and protect the country's independence and sovereignty as well as carry out economic activities to ensure welfare and peace of the people at any cost," the prime minister told a group of professionals.

She said the government would leave no stone unturned to find out the culprits involved in the August 21 incident and award the punishment.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

India and Nepal agree to finalise extradition treaty

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India and Nepal have agreed to finalise an extradition treaty and mutual legal assistance agreement on criminal matters.

India has also decided to help Nepal modernise its police department to deal more effectively with terrorists but made it clear there cannot be a "purely military" solution to the Maoist problem in the Himalayan Kingdom, Indian

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

NETRAKONA BY-POLLS BNP nominates Abu Abbas

UNB, Dhaka

A board of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party yesterday nominated Haji Mohammad Abu Abbas for the parliamentary by-election in the Netrakona-2 constituency.

The BNP parliamentary board, with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the chair, chose former lawmaker Haji Abu Abbas to run for the vacant seat. A total of 9 aspirants sought nomination.

BNP senior leaders and board members attended the meeting.

The main opposition Awami League has already decided not to contest the by-election as it is already in movement against the "Khaleda-Nizami government".

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Dr Kamal asks govt to explain grenade attack at JS session start

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday demanded the government on the opening day of the 13th session of parliament offer an explanation for the August 21 grenade blasts at Awami League (AL) rally.

"Nation eagerly waits to know what actions the government has

taken against the security operatives, who failed to ward off the grenade blasts," said Dr Kamal while addressing a membership collection ceremony of Oikya Mancha at its office.

The Gono Forum chief accused the government of using the law-enforcing agencies to gain narrow political interests.

Bangladeshi workers rebel in Namibia

AFP, Windhoek, Namibia

An enraged mob of some 400 Bangladeshi workers on Friday attacked two managers who came to inspect living conditions at a Malaysian-owned textile plant near the capital of Namibia.

The two Bangladeshi men had to be whisked away by armed police after they arrived at a house in the Windhoek West suburb where they were assaulted as they got out of their car, an AFP correspondent saw.

One of the managers of the Bangladeshi employment agency who arrived in the southern African country earlier in the day was taken to hospital for stitches although the

exact nature of his injury was unknown.

The workers claim they are housed under appalling conditions, having to share one toilet between them, and use outside taps to wash because there were no other proper facilities.

They arrived from Bangladesh last month to work in a plant owned by Malaysian textile giant Ramatex and said they were promised accommodation, food and a monthly salary of \$120 (\$97 euros).

But workers claimed \$45 of their salary were being docked to buy food.

"The conditions of the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

HC cancels its bail order to 4 accused

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday recalled its own order granting bail to four accused in a five-murder case that had evoked controversies.

Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassar Husain constituted a special bench with Justice M Abdul Aziz and Justice M Emdadul Huq Azad who had granted the bail on August 29.

The two judges had already gone on long vacation and their names were not included in the vacation benches now disposing of emergency cases.

The bail order was cancelled yesterday. But it was not immediately known if the accused have

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

WTC agency to sue Saudi Arabia

Insurers file lawsuit against airlines over 9/11 attack

AHENCIES, New York

The agency that owned the World Trade Centre says it will file a lawsuit against Saudi Arabia for damages it suffered on September 11, 2001, noting 84 of its employees were killed in the air attacks that toppled the twin towers.

"We also have a responsibility to the millions of people who live and work in the region as well as our bondholders to pursue every legal avenue to recover the losses we sustained on September 11," the

Port Authority said in a statement on Friday.

Steve Coleman, a spokesman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, declined to say why the agency sought to hold Saudi Arabia responsible or whether it would also sue other entities.

The Port Authority, a bi-state agency which leased New York's trademark twin towers in July 2001 to developer Larry Silverstein, noted

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Prayer Timing

September 12

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-14	6-17
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation