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Kin, associate of prime suspect in Aug 21 grenade attack nabbed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police arrested three relatives and an associate of Mokbul Hossain Mukul, a prime suspect in the case of August 21 grenade attacks on an Awami League rally, in Sadar upazila on Saturday night.

The arrestees are Mokbul's sister Nasima Khatun, 40, brother in law Shakil Ahmed, 45, and nephew Sabuj, 20, of Kashempur village and Mokbul's associate Mizanur Rahman, 22, son of Abul Kashem Kusai, of Debnagar village.

Police and CID sources said, tipped off, the investigation officer (IO) of the grenade attack case, Assistance Superintendent of Police (ASP) M A Rashid of CID, led the raid on Shakil's house at about 7:30pm Saturday.

As Mokbul was not there, the CID team held Nasima, Shakil and Sabuj to get information about his whereabouts. After quizzing the three, a

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Dengue comes back

228 diagnosed with the illness in a week in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 228 people living in the city have been diagnosed with dengue in the last seven days, foreboding a fresh outbreak of dengue in the city.

Experts say that the current season is ideal for the breeding of mosquitoes that transmit the dengue virus.

The average per day admission of patients last week was 32 compared to admission of ten patients per day in the previous weeks.

Doctors treating patients in various hospitals and private clinics said most of the cases are classical dengue and do not pose any life threats. Dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF), a more deadly strain of the disease that leads to internal bleeding, is very rare.

Even though the Dhaka City Corporation's (DCC) has taken up a special insecticide spraying campaign during the current dry season, the transmission of the virus has

continued, suggesting the existence of the Aedes species mosquito that transmits the deadly virus.

According to the health directorate, thirteen people residing in the capital have died of the deadly dengue viral infection since January, while a total of 3,830 people, including four persons in the last 24 hours, have so far reported being treated for classical dengue in various city hospitals.

"We have sufficient quantities of larvaicide, about 7000 litres, that is enough for the dry season. We have already asked all the zonal offices under DCC to collect the insecticide which is being used for late evening spraying every day," said Colonel Aziz, DCC's chief health officer.

Experts, however, warned that in the absence of any monitoring of the growth of the Aedes population, random spraying may not be the right solution to check the growth of the mosquito population.

"Like the previous years DCC had launched a special team to find the

growth of the Aedes population in different locations of the city. Based on their findings, a map of the population density of Aedes mosquitoes was prepared to help targeted spraying of the insecticide," said an expert studying insects.

He explained, "We know Aedes mosquitoes lay eggs in fresh water mostly in house-hold containers like thrown away plastic containers, flower pots and food cans. So, random spraying in the exterior of the houses would produce little benefit. But if we had knowledge on the density of the population of the mosquito and concentrated spraying insecticide in those areas, checking Aedes population growth would be much easier."

Monitoring by experts of the Aedes mosquito population in 2001 showed that areas like Islampur, Thataribazar, Bongshal, Lalbagh, Nawabpur, Kalabagan, Nilkhet and some areas of Dhanmondi had a very high density of the Aedes mosquitoes.

RUJCD unit dissolved after internal clash

RU CORRESPONDENT

The central committee of ruling BNP's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday dissolved the Rajshahi University (RU) unit, hours after a factional clash between two groups on the campus left six JCD leaders wounded.

In a press release issued last night, the JCD central committee, however, said that the RU chapter was dissolved on expiry of its term and that a new committee soon would be formed through a council.

The campus clash injured the JCD's RU unit President Motiar Rahman, Organising Secretary Rafiqul Islam, Office Secretary Zillur Rahman Biplob, Joint Secretary Delwar Hossain, Sports Secretary Sajedur Rahman Saju and Member Aktar Hossain. They have been admitted to RU Medical Centre.

President Motiar and General Secretary Aslam Reza on November 24 declared each other unwanted on the campus in a bid to establish supremacy and control movement of students, campus sources said.

Supporters loyal to Motiar and Aslam clashed after taking out

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Prime Minister Khaleda Zia catches a glimpse of shrimps after inaugurating the two-day Bangladesh Seafood Expo 2004, at Sonargaon Hotel in the capital yesterday.

Country short of 2m tonnes fertiliser

JS told

UNB, Dhaka

The country now has a deficit of 2.04 million tonnes of different types of fertiliser.

Industries Minister Matiar Rahman Nizami said this in parliament yesterday, replying to Syed Mehedi Ahmed Rumi (BNP).

Nizami said the demand of Urea is 2.6 million (26 lakh) tonnes whereas production by the state-owned BCIC is 2 million (20 lakh) tonnes. Besides, the demand of Triple Super Phosphate (TSP) is 5 lakh tonnes against the production of only 5.2 lakh tonnes.

On the other hand, he said the demand of DAP, MoP, NPKS and Zinc fertilisers is 3 lakh tonnes, 4.5 lakh tonnes, 1 lakh tonnes and .25 lakh tonnes, but the state industries produce none of these fertilisers.

To meet the demand, the industries minister said BCIC would import 7 lakh tonnes of Urea and 50,000 tonnes of TSP.

Private entrepreneurs would meet the rest of the deficit through imports, he added.



Army men use an explosives-detecting device to scan the Biswa Jitema ground in Tongi yesterday, four days to the second biggest Muslim congregation after the Hajj.

RU law exams still uncertain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Fate of 400 examinees of law and justice department at Rajshahi University (RU) remains uncertain due to the postponement of all the four years' final examinations for an indefinite period.

The examinees will have to wait nearly a year as rescheduling the examinations before completion of next year's admission is almost impossible, sources said.

The department chairman Prof Asma Siddika, who chaired the academic committee meeting yesterday, remained firm on her previous decision of not allowing some 40 students with less than 40 percent attendance to take examination. A judge's son and a Shibir activist were, however, exempted from the rule.

Prof Asma Siddika yesterday asked some hundred examinees who approached her to go to the vice

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Trash books fill up edn institute library shelves

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Books the government has supplied to school and college libraries are of 'very low standard' and irrelevant to the intellectual growth of students, according to the parliamentary standing committee on the planning ministry.

The committee at a meeting yesterday observed that the libraries are stuffed with books eulogising leaders of the party in power.

Members of the standing committee noted that students turn to libraries for reference, but the libraries do not have quality books to help them out.

Books supplied there include cheap novels, mostly unsuitable for young students, and have little relevance to their studies, the com-

mittee observed. It added that the book selection committee of the government often includes books on insistence by their authors.

The committee demanded the students be given reference books of high quality.

Chaired by Akbar Ali, the standing committee at the meeting decided to collect a list of books supplied to different libraries and send the list to the education ministry with its observations.

The committee expressed dissatisfaction at the education ministry's imposition of a statutory regulatory order (SRO) changing the structure of governing bodies of private schools and colleges.

The SRO dictates that no Member of Parliament should sit on more than four college governing

bodies or school management committees. Upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs) and deputy commissioners (DCs) will nominate other members of the bodies.

The standing committee observed that the order will affect the education system, as the UNOs and DCs will not be able to pay much attention to the schools, given their other responsibilities.

The education secretary, present at the meeting, told the standing committee that the SRO has left lawmakers across the country unhappy and that they urged him to change the SRO.

The committee also recommended speedy approval and implementation of a project worth Tk 158 crore to construct 462

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Female ward commissioners in Sylhet tell of discrimination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Female ward commissioners of Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) have alleged that their male counterparts don't let them participate in city's development work.

"Male ward commissioners don't let us participate in development work," SCC Ward Commissioner Jebunnesa Shirin told the BBC Bangla Service last night.

"If we raise the issue of exercising our rights, our male colleagues threaten us in different ways, including making phone calls from unknown numbers," Shirin alleged.

She also said they held talks with the SCC mayor several times but did not get any positive response.

SCC Mayor Badruddin Ahmed

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AL top brass asked to join human wall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmakers of the main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday urged party's top brass to extend their activities across the country ahead of the December 11 no-confidence human wall.

In the meeting of Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan, with Deputy Leader of Opposition Abdul Hamid in the chair, speakers said senior leaders of the party should conduct mass contact programmes outside the capital and stay with the grass root level leaders.

At total of 34 lawmakers joined the meeting. At yesterday's meeting the opposition leaders discussed strategies to make the human chain programme from Teknaf to Tentulia a success and decided that its lawmakers would join it.

The ALPP has also decided to ask for discussions on the August 21 grenade attacks in the Parliament, deaths in 'crossfire' by Rab, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and other issues of national importance.

Opposing the formation of the ACC with 'partisan people', the deputy leader of opposition said the Commission must be free from the government's grip.

On 'crossfire' deaths, he said, "Although the crossfire has brought temporary relief for some people, it is contrary to established laws of the land."

Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shaheed condemned the government's attitude towards the opposition in Parliament, alleging that they were not allowed to speak on public misery.

Outlaw, robber killed in 'crossfire'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A cadre of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party's (PBCP) Janajuddha faction and a notorious robber were killed in 'crossfire' with police in Jessore and Mymensingh yesterday.

Gazi Rokanuddin, 35, was arrested from Rajghat in Abhoynagar upazila in Jessore Saturday night.

The officer-in-charge of Abhoynagar Police Station said cops came under PBCP cadres' fire when they took Rokan to Prembagh in Shiddhipasha at 4:00am to seize his

firearms. As police returned fire, the outlaw died in the shootout, he added.

Police seized two foreign-made guns and 15 bullets left by Rokan's fellow outlaws after the gunfight, in which some 30 gunshots were fired, the OCSaid.

Rokan, accused in several criminal cases including three for murders, hailed from Dighalia upazila in Khulna.

Our Mymensingh correspondent reports: Leader of a notorious gang Khorshed, 35, was killed in a 'shoot-out' between police and his accomplices in Shalpa Beel in Gouripur

upazila Saturday night.

Police arrested Khorshed, accused in several robbery and murder cases filed with Tarakanda and Gouripur Police Stations, from Majuira in Pulpur upazila Saturday.

Following his statement, police took him to Shalpa Beel to seize his firearms when his accomplices opened fire on them and police retaliated. Khorshed died on the spot while he made an attempt to escape from a police van.

Five policemen including Sub-inspector (SI) Chan Mia were also injured. Police seized a pipe gun and six bullets.

DOCTORED CERTIFICATES CU committee chief quits, no work in 9 days

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chief of the five-member special committee formed to explore methods of canceling the doctored certificates of Chittagong University (CU) Professor Dr. Md. Abdul Hakim of the Political Science department yesterday submitted his resignation to the Vice Chancellor of the university.

Prof Hakim, however, refused to comment on the reason for his resignation.

Meanwhile, the five-member committee formed by the CU syndicate on November 9 has yet to start its work.

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CONTEMPT PETITION Analogous hearing Dec 11

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court on December 11 will hold an analogous hearing on the supplementary petition in the contempt of a sitting additional judge.

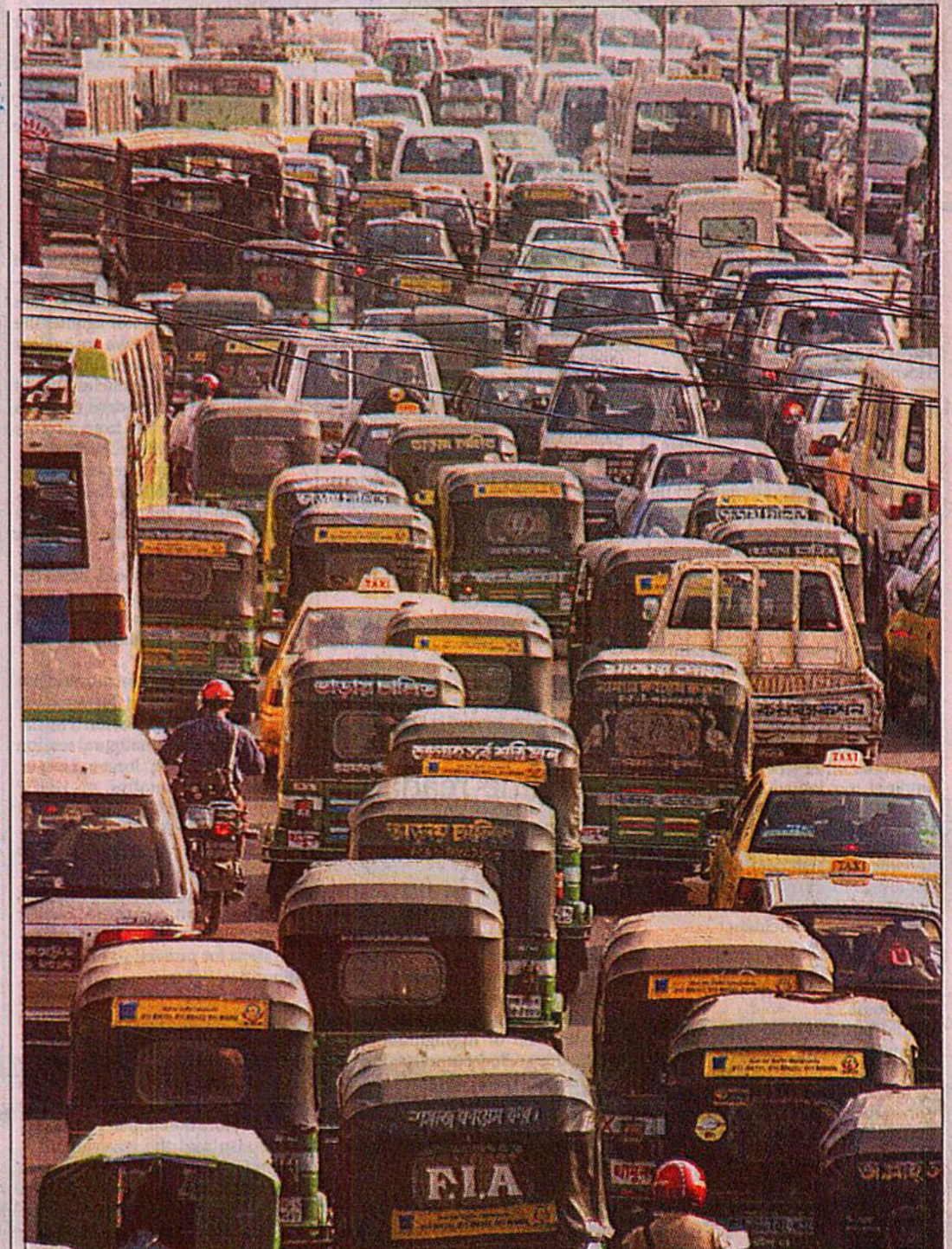
The deferral order came when the contempt petitioner sought time yesterday.

Mohammad Faiz, father of controversial Additional Judge Faisal Mahmud Faizee, in his supplementary petition sought for court direction to disclose the source of reports carried out by two newspapers -- Prothom Alo and Bhorer Kagoj.

The reports about tampering with Faizee's LLB mark sheet were published on Oct 30.

The court had issued rule upon the editors, publishers and reporters concerned of the two dailies to show cause why contempt proceedings

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Rush-hour traffic snails on the Farmgate-Bangla Motor road in the capital yesterday, as gridlock continues to disrupt commuting.

Skin thin survival for tigers

REUTERS, Hanoi

The world's tiger population has plummeted by 95 percent from the start of the 20th century to as few as 5,000 now and is further threatened by the lucrative trade in their skins, officials told a forum Friday.

"Commercial trade of tiger skin stemming out of female fantasy and vanity appears as a major threat to tigers in most tiger range countries," said SC Dey, general secretary of the Global Tiger Forum.

In Asia, tiger skins can sell for \$15,000 while in Vietnam a skeleton, the bones widely believed by Asians to be an

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Tiger skin remains as a symbol of vanity.

STAR FILE PHOTO

Prayer Timing
November 29

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-10	5-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation