

**AUG 17 BLASTS
India rejects
allegation of
Nizami**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India yesterday denied involvement of its intelligence agency RAW in the August 17 explosions across Bangladesh as alleged by Industries Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami.

A press release issued by the Indian High Commission in Dhaka said the minister is reported to have made statements alleging Indian involvement in the nationwide blasts.

"The Government of India strongly rejects the allegations contained in these statements, and expresses its deep concern that a senior minister of the Bangladesh government should have made such unfounded and irresponsible statements.

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**JS body blames
govt for not
bolstering
intelligence wings**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence Ministry yesterday termed the August 17 countrywide bomb blasts a large-scale threat to the national security and said the government has not taken initiatives to strengthen the intelligence agencies following the JS body's recommendations made on July 6, 2003.

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**Galib denied
bail again**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A Naogaon court yesterday denied bail to militant kingpin Dr Asadullah Al Galib and three of his cohorts.

Judge Abdul Hakim Mondol of the Court of District and Sessions Judge rejected bail prayers of the four after their lawyers filed a petition with the court.

The chief of militant outfit Ahle Hadith Andolan, Bangladesh and his associates are accused in the Khejur Ali murder case.

Bangla Bhai and his men killed Ali at Bheti camp in Naogaon after

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Prayer Timing		
August 22		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-30	5-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-33	6-36
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

**Thousands march streets
to remember Aug 21**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of people yesterday marched through the streets in the capital and elsewhere in the country, mourning those who died in the August 21 grenade attacks.

On the stroke of 5:22 in the afternoon, demonstrators carrying black flags and banners began marching in procession from the Central Shaheed Minar premises.

Braving the elements, people proceeded to Bangabandhu Avenue where the bloodbath took place at 5:22pm exactly a year ago, leaving 23 dead and over 400 injured.

At least a dozen grenades were hurled on the rally of Sheikh Hasina

apparently in an attempt to kill the leader of the opposition.

Many of the marchers carried banners that read 'Khaleda-Nizami are the perpetrators of all bomb blasts' and 'We want independent international probe into the August 21 blasts'.

Senior leaders of AL, left 11-party alliance, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) and National Awami Party (NAP) led the procession in the capital.

Many people who were injured in the blasts took part in the protest procession, which ended on the Bangabandhu Avenue with the participants swearing an oath to resist 'violence against the people

under the BNP-Jamaat alliance rule'.

Rasheda Akhter Ruma, an injured in the August 21 carnage, attended the programme in a wheelchair. "I am here again to protest the criminal acts of the present government," she said, adding, "I will at least find some solace if the perpetrators are brought to justice."

As the procession reached Bangabandhu Avenue, the opposition leaders and workers raised their hands and took the oath to 'oust the ruling coalition, bring in a pro-people government, and try the persons responsible for all the blast incidents including the August 21

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**Govt-backed
religious fanatics
behind blasts**

Hasina tells rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Main Opposition Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said religious fanatics backed by the government are carrying out repeated bomb attacks across the country for political gains in the name of Islam.

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**Wolfowitz for
bringing Aug 21
blast culprits
to books**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz yesterday emphasised the need for bringing the culprits of last year's August 21 carnage to justice.

"It is important that the perpetrators be brought to justice soon,"

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**BDR man, four
smugglers hurt
in shootout**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Four smugglers and one BDR member were injured in a shootout between the border guards and drug peddlers on Hilli border yesterday.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sources said a syndicate of criminals was smuggling phensidyl and palm oil into Bangladesh through the border.

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PHOTO: STAR

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and her party top brass stand in silence yesterday, commemorating the victims of last year's August 21 carnage on Bangabandhu Avenue.

**US army plans four
more years in Iraq**

AP, Washington

The Army is planning for the possibility of keeping the current number of soldiers in Iraq well over 100,000 for four more years, the Army's top general said Saturday.

In an Associated Press interview, Gen. Peter Schoomaker said the Army is prepared for the "worst case" in terms of the required level of troops in Iraq. He said the number could be adjusted lower if called for by slowing the force rotation or by shortening tours for soldiers.

Schoomaker said commanders in Iraq and others who are in the

chain of command will decide how many troops will be needed next year and beyond. His responsibility is to provide them, trained and equipped.

About 138,000 US troops, including about 25,000 Marines, are now in Iraq.

"We are now into '07-'09 in our planning," Schoomaker said, having completed work on the set of combat and support units that will be rotated into Iraq over the coming year for 12-month tours of duty.

Schoomaker's comments come amid indications from Bush

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**BSP, Noab for
tax withdrawal
on newsprint**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad (BSP) and Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) yesterday protested the price hike of local newsprint and urged the government to withdraw all kinds of taxes and vat on imported newsprint.

Following rise of per tonne newsprint price from Tk 42,000 to 45,000 in July, now the price has jumped to Tk 49,000, a joint statement of the BSP and Noab said, adding that the price of per tonne newsprint rose by

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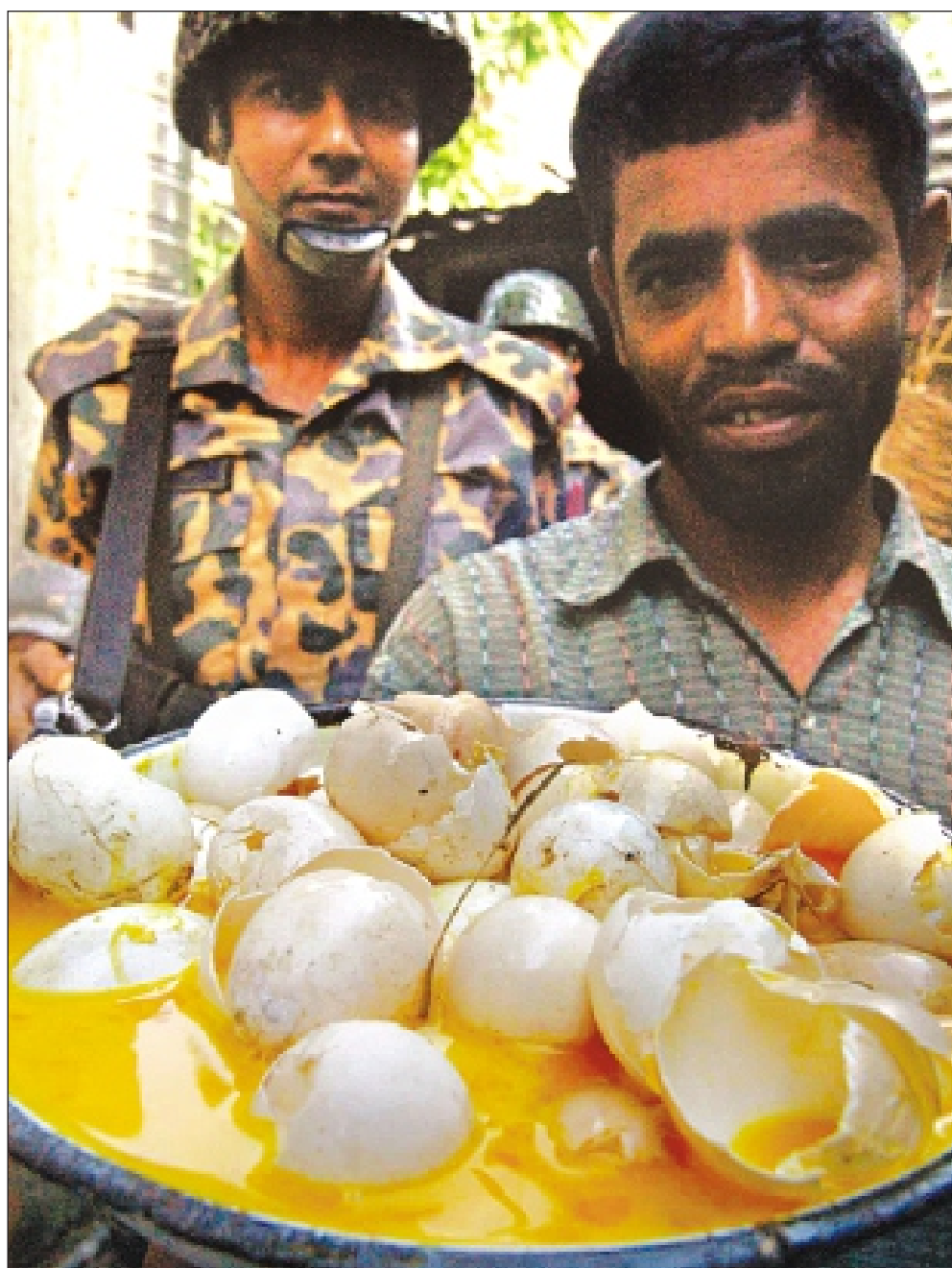


PHOTO: STAR

Rotten eggs seized by members of a mobile court during a raid on a wholesale shop in Shukrabad in the capital yesterday.

Rotten eggs on sale

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday exposed a large-scale trade in rotten eggs following a raid on a wholesaler in the Sukrabad area of the city.

The wholesaler allegedly collects rotten eggs from different markets and supplies them to city confectioneries and bakers.

The mobile court started its operation at 6:00 am to nab the culprit with the rotten eggs and found a large number of inedible rotten eggs with the good ones. But the egg trader, Md. Aliar Rahman, escaped arrest after sensing the presence of the mobile court. The court directed local Mohammedpur police station to seize a few thousand eggs and to destroy them and also to file case against the owner under the Special Power Act-1974.

"We have raided the spot with prior information regarding his rotten egg business. He is one of the main suppliers of rotten eggs to city baker-

ies," said Md. Rokan Ud Doulla, the magistrate of the court.

The employees of the egg shop said they collect eggs from across the country including Tangail, Khulna, Mymenshig and all the northern districts and supply them to different city shops. They also collect rotten eggs from the different city markets, said the magistrate of the court.

The same mobile court later raided another bakery called 'Dhaka Bakery', a popular bread producer. When the workers of the bread factory sensed the presence of the mobile court, they locked the factory and escaped.

The court directed the police to break the lock and found grossly unhygienic conditions on the factory floor. The members of the court found they have been producing bread with a label reading, 'Home made bread' The manufacturing date reads 'August 25, 2005' but was

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