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People's Right to Know

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SERIAL BOMBINGS
No direct request made for foreign help in probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Bangladesh has not made any direct request to any country for assistance in investigating the August 17 serial bomb blasts, a foreign ministry spokesperson said yesterday.
Replying to a question, he categorically told reporters that none from any foreign countries have been called or been appointed to the investigation process, but Bangladesh would definitely seek foreign assistance from friendly countries if required.
"Our law enforcers are carrying out the investigation and the hunt and the government is capable of nearthing the August 17 incident. Bangladesh hasn't made any request to anyone," he added.
However, he said the police have updated the list of criminals, which was earlier given to Interpol.

BB hunts Moulana Masud's accounts

Seeks banks' statements as govt suspects his link to militancy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday sent letters to all banks asking them to inform it by September 10 if they had any accounts with Moulana Masud and any organisations he is concerned with have any accounts with their banks.
Sources said the BB move was reportedly prompted by a government directive.
The BB letter also asked the banks to send detailed information on the bank account of Masud or his organisation Isla-hul-Muslemin

Parishad, including when it was opened, bank balance and the transaction statement. The banks were also asked to cautiously handle the transaction of these accounts.
A photograph of Moulana Fariduddin Masud was attached with the letter.
Managing director of a bank said they will stop transaction in those accounts, if they have any, until they receive clearance from the BB.
Masud was arrested from the Zia International Airport in connection with the August 17 countrywide bomb blasts.

Meanwhile, police arrested Ishaq Ahmed Siraji, a close associate of Masud, from Reaz Bagh in the capital's Khilgaon on Wednesday.
Siraji was arrested as primary investigations revealed that he maintains a joint account with Masud, now an eight-day remand for the second time. Investigators also found that an excessive amount was drawn from the account prior to the August 17 serial bomb blasts.
Showing Siraji arrested in the August 17 bombing case filed with

Saifur blasts media again

BDNEWS, Dhaka
Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday once again blasted the media for not projecting the positive news.
"You (press) always project the bad news of us...but we have many good news to project for the sake of the country," Saifur said at a discussion meeting at the Mahanagar Natyamancha in observation of the founding anniversary of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).
Without mentioning any name, the minister also branded some newspapers as pro-Awami League and said by going through these newspapers it seems the country is going down.
Saifur, who earlier branded the media as the worst enemy of the country, received applause for the media bashing from the party activists in the packed auditorium.
Referring to the reports published in the newspapers on price hike of essentials, Saifur said the price hike is not a unique problem in Bangladesh, the whole world is facing the same problem.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and central leaders offer munajat at the mazar of late president Ziaur Rahman on the occasion of the 27th founding anniversary of the party yesterday.

Murder case filed against 2 cops

COURT CORRESPONDENT
A murder case was filed yesterday against two policemen and their three informers for killing Lalbagh Swechchhasebak League leader Sumon Hossain who police claimed to have died from electrocution.
Shahanaz Akhter Dolly, wife of the slain, filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka.
The accused are Assistant Sub-Inspector Mahfuzul Haq and another police officer of Lalbagh Police Station and their three informers—Nirob Bhuiyan, Sayeed and Mokhes alias Tunda Mokhes.
Metropolitan Magistrate AJM



A transformer lies on a trolley on Harnath Ghosh Road at Chawkbazar in Old Dhaka yesterday, exposing locals to accidents anytime.

4 UPDF men held with AK47

BDNEWS, Khagrachhari
Army personnel arrested four activists of the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) at Manikchharimukh, 25 km off Mohalchhari upazila, early yesterday and recovered arms and ammunition, including one AK47 rifle, from them.
Acting on a tip off, an army patrol team from Mohalchhari zone under Khagrachhari region led by Major Moazzem raided the den of the criminals at about 4:30am.
Sensing the presence of the army personnel, the criminals tried to run away but were caught by the army men.
The arrestees are Kalachand Chakma, 40, son of Nandi Kumar Chakma of village Noapara in

Killed agency report reveals how militants got off the hook

ZAYADUL AHSAN
The intelligence report has by now withered into grey memory, but back in 1999 it had forecast a grim reality that has come true today.
After it investigated an Islamist NGO and arrested its officials for militant activities, its case was handed over to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). The CID virtually killed the case and charged the militants for "suspicious activities". Ultimately, all the militants got off the hook.
The frustrated intelligence agency said, "Despite having definite evidence, because of corruption and nexus of the law enforcement agency, the case against people who are acting against the state is becoming meaningless."
"The militant group will find new strength in its activities for the failure to prove the charges against them. This will prove to foreign states that

Six abducted in CHT after UPDF man hurt in shootout

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati
Six indigenous people were abducted allegedly by the cadres of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) in Krishnamachhara village in Naniarchar upazila on Wednesday night, police and army sources said.
The incident followed a shootout between the activists of pro-peace accord Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghaty Samity and rival UPDF in the morning. A UPDF activist, Jibon Chakma, 30, was injured in the clash and sent to Chittagong for treatment.
A band of UPDF activists attacked the village at around 9:30pm and abducted seven people at gunpoint, police said.
However, the captors freed Ripon Chakma, 25, after about two hours, asking him to convey their demand of Tk 1 lakh for the others' release, army sources said.
The six abductees are Atul Biharee Chakma, 35, Raj Biharee

Bomb threat to Bhorer Kagoj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A letter was sent to daily Bhorer Kagoj yesterday allegedly by Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) threatening to bomb the newspaper office for using the term 'father of the nation' with the name of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, stating it anti-Islamic.
The use of such phrase is against the core belief of Islam and a sheriky-gunah (blasphemy), said the letter that spelled JMB as Jama'atul Mujahadani of Bangladesh. "Our main objectives are to establish a sheriky-gunah free Muslim country," the letter added.
The letter said some media and political parties glorify Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, his ideologies, family members and his reputation,

BSF FIRING Indian HC protests media report

UNB, Dhaka
The Indian High Commission in Dhaka yesterday protested Bangladesh media reports on August 31 firing incidents in Brahmanbaria and Thakurgaon, saying that the Indian BSF fired in self-defence, leaving three people dead.
Terming the reports "provocative and one-sided", a high commission press release said, "It was unfairly alleged that the BSF opened fire in Brahmanbaria on labourers when they were lifting sand from Shalda river and that a farmer was fired on while he was working on cropland."
About the Aug 30 incident in

Govt's stance against constitution: SCBA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) yesterday said the government has apparently taken stand against the constitution by going against the High Court verdict that declared illegal the 5th amendment of the constitution.
It has taken a stand for illegitimate rulers, military rule and those who captured power in an illegal way by taking a stand against the judgement, SCBA leaders said at an emergency general meeting yesterday.

Moudud regrets SB move at High Court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday expressed regret at making Justice ABM Khairul Haque leave his court because of an intelligence agency official on Wednesday.
The minister claimed it was not a government order rather ignorance of the official of the Special Branch of police.
Justice Khairul Haque is the one of the justices of the High Court bench that gave the verdict declaring the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution illegal.

Govt mulls 10pc cut in non-dev expenditure

REJAUL KARIM BYRON
The government is considering a 10 percent cut in non-development expenditure to ease pressure on foreign exchange reserve, inflation and overall economic situation resulting from high petroleum prices in the global market.
The finance minister in a meeting with secretaries to different ministries on implementation of annual development projects last week hinted the government move, a planning ministry source said.
The government is considering cutting expenditures on travel, car

Bashar calls for natural game

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Colombo
Rather than dwelling too much on leveling the series, Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar was more focused on ensuring that his side played its natural game against Sri Lanka in Friday's second one-day

Ctg high official stabbed at house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
Unidentified assailants made an attempt on the life of Additional Divisional Commissioner (General) of Chittagong Golam Kuddus and left him seriously injured at his

Govt mulls 10pc cut in non-dev expenditure

house in the early hours yesterday.
Four attackers broke into Kuddus' one-storey government quarters in Panchlaih Residential Area at around 3:30am and stabbed him indiscriminately.

