

# The Daily Star

COMMITTED TO  
People's Right to Know

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## August 17 bomb den identified in city

### Courier company used to send bombs to districts

SHAMIM ASHRAF

Detectives yesterday unearthed a Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) den in the city's North Bashabo where the Islamist militants made all the bombs used in the August 17 serial blasts across the country.

The militants were making more bombs in the house of one Khalil Khan to launch another attack in the Ramadan, sources said.

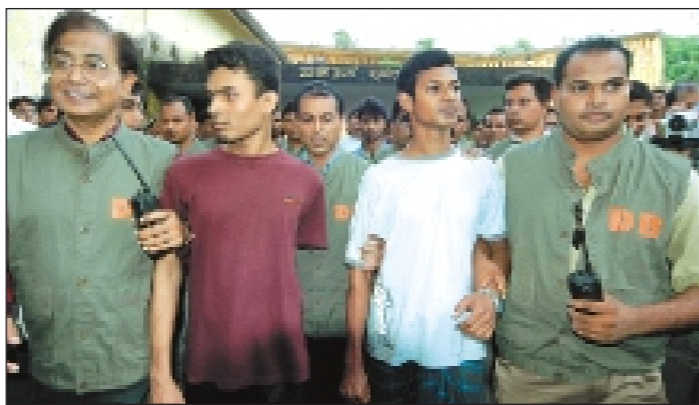
After making, the bombs were sent to different places across the

country by a courier service a couple of days before August 17, Lokman, a 16-year-old madrasa student who earlier introduced himself as absconding JMB leader Abdus Samad's domestic help, told detectives.

The teenager also confessed that he himself blasted one bomb in front of Khulna judge's court on August 17.

Lokman and Samad's wife Shammi Akhter were arrested at Samad's 360/1 hideout in South

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Detectives take Dhaka University student Motaleb, second left, and outsider Bakul, second right, into their custody after arresting them yesterday at Surya Sen Hall, suspecting their links to militant activities.

## Motijheel OC main accused of killing student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A case was filed yesterday against 26 people including the Officer-in-Charge (OC) Rafiqul Islam of Motijheel Police Station for killing college student Kamrul Islam Momin at Kafrul in the city on Tuesday morning.

OC Rafiq was named as the main accused in the case filed by Kamrul's father Abdur Razzak.

Kafrul police yesterday arrested eight accomplices of Taj, a top local goon accused of involvement in the

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## Niko fund freeze order stayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) Appellate Division yesterday stayed till October 23 the High Court (HC) order to freeze Canadian company Niko's bank accounts in Bangladesh.

But Niko will not be allowed to remit any money from Bangladesh during this period.

The stay order was issued following Niko's appeal against Monday's HC injunction on payment to the Canadian company, asking the government to freeze its bank accounts.

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## Rejoinder and our reply

Jamaat-e-Islami's Publicity Secretary Md Tasneem Alam in a statement on Tuesday protested contents of a September 12 The Daily Star report and a subsequent editorial published in the daily the following day.

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16 US LAWMAKERS WRITE TO RICE

## Ask Bush to raise Dhaka's political violence at UN World Summit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixteen US senators and representatives, including senior senators Edward M Kennedy and John F Kerry, in a letter have urged Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to recommend President George W Bush to raise the issue of political violence in Bangladesh at the ongoing United Nations (UN) World Summit.

The senators said initiatives to prevent "catastrophic terrorism" will be discussed at the summit, and the possibility of Bangladesh becoming

"a failed state and a base of operations for international terrorist organisations should be part of those discussions."

According to the letter, nine US senators and seven representatives said they are concerned that Bangladesh has become increasingly plagued by political violence and instability.

In recent times, several US lawmakers separately expressed concerns over the human rights situation in Bangladesh. But this time, both Republicans and Democrats jointly moved against

the political violence in Bangladesh.

The letter said, "If these alarming trends continue, there could be serious consequences for regional peace and security as well as international terrorist activity in the region."

They said attacks on Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhary, and assassination of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria "illustrate the depth of the problem of political violence in Bangladesh."

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## Bus fares go up by 11pc

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has finally increased the bus fares by 11 percent in the wake of the recent fuel price hike after much consultation with transport owners.

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda yesterday declared 80 paisa per kilometre for buses and 83 paisa for minibuses.

Meantime, Bangladesh Road Transport Association has again deferred its two-day countrywide strike until September 27.

The decision on the fare hike came after a long debate with the transport owners at a meeting at the communications ministry. However, the new fares will have to be approved by the cabinet at its next meeting.

The existing fares - 72 paisa and 75 paisa per kilometre for buses and minibuses - were fixed in 2003 when diesel was Tk 20 per litre. A committee tasked with re-fixing the fares had also recommended 18 per cent rise.

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## Chief whip's sons capture market

BISHAWJIT DAS

Businesspersons of Motaleb Plaza became hostages to the chief whip's sons Abdul Hamid Dablu and Akhter Hamid Paban, who forcibly took control of the mall, capturing at least 160 shops and a mosque.

The brothers and their accomplices equipped with firearms often visit the mall as part of a showdown of their power, the traders said yesterday.

The owners of the market and its land, the developers and many traders alleged they even cannot enter the market in Paribagh in the

capital.

Meantime, General Manager of Good Luck Real Estates Limited Mohammad Ali Manu yesterday filed a GD with Ramna Police Station, stating the brothers are threatening them with death.

The sons of the chief whip, however, denied the allegations and told The Daily Star the four cases filed against them with Ramna Police Station on September 12 were false.

On the other hand, the brothers grabbed all 140 shops on the

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FREE, SUBSIDISED FOOD DISTRIBUTION

## Army rolls out to oversee drive

REAZ AHMAD

The government is deploying army to check any irregularities and politicisation of its free and highly subsidised food distribution programmes across the country but food officials are sceptic about effectiveness of the drive.

At least 15,000 army personnel have started fanning out to union levels as the programmes begin on September 25 to check the food

grain price hike in the market, official sources said.

In the next two months, food officials said, about half of the government's grain stock of 8.5 lakh tonnes will be used for the Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme, subsidised food programme and open market sale (OMS).

Under the VGF programme, 1,05,000 tonnes of rice will be

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## Khaleda attends Bush reception

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia attended a reception hosted by President George Bush and Laura Bush Tuesday evening and exchanged pleasantries with them.

The US president and his wife hosted the reception at Waldorf Astoria Hotel in honour of the heads of state and government on the occasion of the World Summit-2005 and the 60th founding anniversary of the United Nations.

Around 170 heads of the state and government are attending the World Summit and the 60th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA).

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