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OC mastermind of Commerce College student killing

Arrestees say

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Closed Officer-in-Charge (OC) Rafiqul Islam of Motijheel Police Station masterminded the killing of Mirpur Commerce College student Kamrul Islam Momin, two arrestees in the case have told Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

The Rab nabbed the two FIR (first information report)-listed accused - Tuhin and Zia -- in Baupia embankment at Uttara and Kafrul yesterday.

Rab sources said the two claimed to have heard OC Rafiq asking Mirpur top criminal Taj to terminate Kamrul.

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Biman staff to go on strike from today

UNB, Dhaka

Officials and employees of Biman Bangladesh Airlines are likely to go on an indefinite strike today to realise their various demands.

Sources said the decision was taken yesterday evening at a meeting of the Steering Committee, involving different associations and unions of Biman officials and employees, including pilots.

"If the strike is enforced Biman's all national and international flights will be disrupted," said an official wishing anonymity.

Their demands include signing of a MoU between the Steering

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PM shocked at Rita devastation

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday conveyed her shock to US President George W Bush at the destruction of valuable property and sufferings caused by hurricane Rita to the people in the southern parts of the country.

"It is all the more troubling because it has hit at a time when the American people were still trying to overcome the aftermath of hurricane Katrina," she said in a message to President Bush.

The prime minister believed that

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Hasina tells Judith govt out to rig next polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at a meeting with US Charge d'affaires (CDA) Judith A Chammas yesterday expressed concern over holding the next general elections in a free and fair manner.

The BNP-Jamaat-led coalition government is doing everything possible to rig the next election sensing defeat, Hasina told Chammas at the meet at her Sudha

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Kidney dialysis chemicals stored improperly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court raiding a medicine stores yesterday found Bangladesh Health Products not keeping the required temperature for dialysis solution needed for the treatment of kidney diseases.

The court, led by Magistrate Md Rokan Ud Doulah, raided the stores at the city's RK Mission Road following allegations by doctors.

The court found a huge quantity of the chemicals, bi-carbonate

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Prayer Timing		
September 27		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	6-00	6-05
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

FACES OF JUBILANCE



PHOTO: STAR

GPA-5 winners, from left, of Dhaka Commerce College, Dhaka College, and Holy Cross College flash V-sign while those of Viqarunnisa Noon College, extreme right, take sweets following announcement of the HSC results yesterday.

Search for victims goes on as Rita bill mounts

AFP, Cameron

Rescue helicopters and boats waited for dawn yesterday to resume their search for victims of Hurricane Rita in flooded Louisiana communities as the bill from the natural disaster continued to mount even though the death toll remained low.

After the thousand-plus dead from Hurricane Katrina, only two people were reported dead from Rita though many people remain missing in small towns along the west Louisiana coast that bore the brunt of the 195km (120 mile) an hour winds and six metre (20 feet) high storm surge.

Military helicopters, coast guard boats and volunteers who brought their own craft scoured the worst hit towns and fishing villages that were cut off by floods.

Up to 2,500 people were rescued from Vermilion parish alone during the weekend, authorities said. More were saved in other western

Louisiana districts from rooftops and even some who scrambled up trees to get out of alligator and snake infested swamps.

One Vietnamese family rode out the storm on their shrimp boat in Intercoastal City. Many of the stranded people used cell phones to call for help.

Vermilion, Lake Charles, Cameron and other towns are all near the Louisiana-Texas border and took a direct hit from the eye of the storm. Some of the towns are more than 25km from the coast but still suffered severe flooding.

Rita ripped off roofs, sent trees flying into cars, fanned fires through historic wooden buildings and flooded low-lying towns, but the region's vital oil infrastructure was relatively unscathed.

Oil prices fell in special trading in New York on Sunday as fears that Rita would ravage the network of refineries off the coast of Texas

proved unfounded.

One million people remained without electricity but state officials spoke of "miracles" after studying the human toll.

Authorities in Mississippi reported one death from a tornado offshoot of the hurricane, which tore up a mobile home. In Texas one man was killed by a fallen tree.

Twenty-four elderly residents of a Texas nursing home were killed when their bus caught fire on a highway during the evacuation.

But in Louisiana, which suffered most from Katrina on August 29, officials reported no immediate fatalities, though deaths were feared.

Sheriff Theos Duhon said he expected to find bodies as the search continued in Cameron parish. "It's a very grim picture... There are no fatalities so far but I suspect there will be a few."

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3 robbers lynched in Comilla

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Three robbers were lynched and two others injured by a mob on the Comilla-Chandpur road at Paranpur under Laksam upazila on Sunday night.

Police and witnesses said a gang of seven to eight highwaymen blocked the road with a car and started looting the passing vehicles.

Hearing the news, people from nearby Muzaffarganj Bazar and villages rushed to the spot and chased the robbers. They caught five of the gang and beat them up severely, leaving three dead on the spot and injuring two others.

The identity of the dead could not be known.

On information, police went to the spot, recovered the bodies and sent them to Comilla Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

They also sent the injured, identified as Md. Anwar Hossain, son of Mohammad Ali of Keronkhal village

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Notre Dame, City College, Viqarunnisa top GPA-5 list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Notre Dame College, Viqarunnisa Noon (VN) College and Dhaka City College came out first, second and third respectively in terms of securing the highest number of Grade Point Average or GPA-5 in this year's HSC examinations under the Dhaka Board.

The top 10 institutions include Holy Cross College, Dhaka College, Motijheel Ideal School & College, Residential Model College, Rajuk Uttara Model School & College, Bir Shreshtha Noor Mohammad Rifles Public School & College, and Dhaka Commerce College.

A total of 2,168 students appeared in the HSC examinations from Notre Dame College, out of which 683 candidates obtained GPA-5, followed by Viqarunnisa Noon College from which 1,098 candidates appeared and 307 obtained GPA-5.

From Dhaka City College 1,537 candidates took the exam and among them 168 secured GPA-5. From Holy Cross College a total of 150 obtained GPA-5 out of 499 candidates.

A total of 728 candidates appeared from Dhaka College and 135 of them obtained GPA-5. From Ideal School and College, Motijheel a total of 912 candidates appeared out of which 133 obtained GPA-5.

From Residential Model College a total of 410 candidates appeared out of which 109 obtained GPA-5. From Rajuk Uttara Model School & College a total of 480 candidates appeared and 102 obtained GPA-5.

A total of 654 candidates appeared in the exam from Bir Shreshtha Noor Mohammad Rifles Public School & College, out of which 96 obtained GPA-5. From among Dhaka Commerce College's 904 candidates, 71 obtained GPA-5.

7 hurt as bombs explode in BCL march at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

At least seven leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were injured when two hand-made bombs went off behind a procession of the seven opposition backed student organisations on Dhaka University campus yesterday.

The injured, BCL central leader Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Ratan, Dhaka College Unit Organising Secretary Manik, Salimullah Hall unit leader Faruk, Shahin, Mahfuzur Rahman Saju, Bokul and Kabir, were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Of them, the condition of Ratan, Manik and Faruk is critical, doctors at the hospitals said.

The bombs exploded beside the boundary wall of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) near the Madhu's Canteen, just after the

student combine took out the procession from there.

Panic gripped the students and they started running for shelter as the bombs went off.

Police suspect someone might have thrown the bombs from the Arts Building.

BLAME GAME
Soon after the blasts, the students' combine gathered at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla and brought out a protest procession blaming the ruling BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami's student wings Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Islami Chhatra Shibir for the blasts.

At a press conference at the Dhaka University Journalists' Association BCL led combine demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the JCD and Shibir

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Moudud favours pvt TV coverage of JS session

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday said he favours allowing private television channels in parliament but the speaker does not want it.

"I like private satellite TV channels to do their job in parliament but the speaker does not allow them to do so," he said.

The minister was talking to newsmen after speaking as chief guest at a seminar on 'Broadcast Media Liberalisation in Bangladesh' in the capital, organised by Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI).

Moudud said more satellite TV channels are coming up, and there is no problem in allowing radio service also in the private sector. People in the rural areas usually listen to radio since it is convenient for them.

"We have to liberalise radio. I don't see any reason why we are not doing it as early as possible. The

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PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Chhatra League Dhaka College unit leader Manik, injured in yesterday's bomb attack at an anti-terrorism procession on the Dhaka University campus, being carried to the hospital.

Israel strikes anew after Hamas halts attacks

REUTERS, Gaza

Israel launched multiple missile strikes in Gaza yesterday, hours after the main Palestinian militant group said it would stop attacking the Jewish state following Israeli air raids in response to rocket attacks.

A senior Hamas leader said on Sunday his militant group would stop launching attacks against Israel from the Gaza Strip, after Israel resumed its policy of targeting militant leaders in air strikes.

"The movement declares an end to its operations from the Gaza Strip against the Israeli occupation, which came ... in response to the assaults by the enemy," Hamas's most senior leader, Mahmoud al-Zahar, told reporters in Gaza.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon faced a vote in his Likud party that threatened his leadership because of a rightist challenge to his withdrawal of troops and settlers

from Gaza. A stormy eve-of-vote session on Sunday underlined party splits.

The worst surge of violence since Israel's pullout from Gaza on September 12 after 38 years of occupation put pressure on a shaky ceasefire and on Sharon at the weekend.

While Hamas -- the most powerful Palestinian militant group -- said it was halting attacks, not all militant factions have followed suit.

Israeli aircraft attacked at least five targets across the Gaza Strip early on Monday. One woman was lightly wounded by shrapnel in a strike in the north of the territory.

The army said the raids targeted buildings used for making or storing weapons by Hamas, al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. It said 50 Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants were arrested in the West Bank.

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