

## Khulna 'Mastermind' Freed on Farcical ground

**O**N September 23 the police released Abdul Hakim Gazi, a senior teacher of Saint Joseph High School, who was arrested as the 'mastermind' behind the August 17 serial bomb blasts in Khulna, on condition that he would help them arrest six local bombers. He was arrested at his house in Batighata the night before.

According to newspaper reports six Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) cadres manufactured around 60 bombs at their rented house of Hakim, carried out blasts in Khulna and went into hiding. And on top of that, the police seized some paper cartons, cotton yarn, electric wire, some power explosives, jagged fragments of marble and JMB booklets from his house. If the reports and the seized

articles are to be taken seriously, Hakim's release seems like a farce played out by the police. However, the officer in-charge of the Batighata had a rebuttal, he said, "Though Hakim is released on a condition, he has been asked not to leave his house without permission." He also added that Hakim would be in constant surveillance and would be taken into custody at any time for necessary legal action.

The law enforcement authorities are also showing a clear sign of dillydallying with other suspected 'masterminds'. Detectives picked up Dr Liakat Ali, medical officer of Mongla Port Hospital, twice in the last three weeks suspecting his connection with the blasts, sources in the Detective Branch of the police said.

**O**VER a month has passed since the only mortuary refrigerator at the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) morgue has been out of order. Not only is it difficult to conduct autopsies and practical classes of the medical students, the cadavers are kept open in the mortuary corridors at present, giving the surrounding a thick stench. The fan inside the refrigerator needs to be replaced at a cost of Tk 1200, but due to a lot of paper work, the refrigerator remains dead for an indefinite time. Unidentified dead bodies are usually kept in the refrigerator for 48-72 hours for the relatives to claim. But the out-of-order refrigerator has now forced the authorities to wait for just 24 hours before giving away the dead bodies to the Anjuman Mofidul Islam, a charity, for burial. An assistant professor of the DMC Forensic Medicine Department, wishing to stay anonymous, also claimed that faced severe problems while conducting practical classes. "Besides, conducting autopsy has also become a very hard task now. If the bodies are not well-preserved, forensic experts have to toil harder and need more time to carry out the autopsy," he added. The World Health Organisation (WHO) donated the eight-drawer refrigerator worth Tk 28 lakh to the DMCH in 1992.

## Busted Mortuary Fridge

