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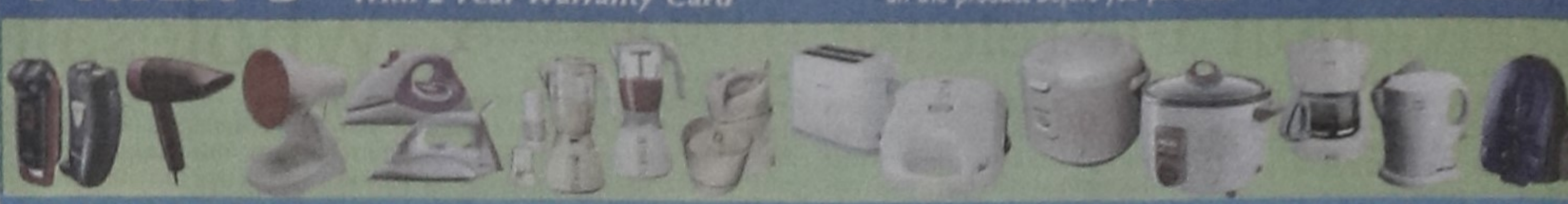
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**AUG 21 ATTACK
CID moves to bring back
Huji brothers from India**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A team of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) is expected to visit India in a week to bring back Bangladeshi twin brothers who were directly involved in the planning and execution of the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally.

CID sources said they sent a letter to the home ministry yesterday seeking permission to send the team. "We are expecting to get the go-ahead by today and then send our team to India within a couple of days," said a top CID official wishing not to be named.

Harkatul Jihad Al Islami (Huji) members Anisul Mursalin and Muhibbul Muttakin from Faridpur are currently in Tihar Jail in New Delhi.

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Institutes certifying medical technicians illegally

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

At least 46 educational institutions on health technologies have been operating illegally for the last two years with approval from inappropriate authorities, providing three-year diploma courses to around 6,000 students.

These institutions acquired approvals from the Technical Education Board (TEB) instead of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the lone authority to approve educational institutes of health technologies (IHT).

"At an inter-ministerial meeting on November 18 last year, the

education secretary asked the Technical Education Board to stop giving approval to the institutes of health technologies as it is illegal," said Khondker Shefayetulla, director of Medical Education and Health Manpower Development of the Health Directorate.

The Technical Education Act under which the TEB operates does not provide any scope for such approval, he said.

The TEB has so far approved 77 IHTs of which 31 are not operating at present.

The health ministry will not value certificates on health technologies awarded by the TEB and

the students from these IHTs will also not be eligible for working in any public or private health institution, added Shefayetulla.

There are three public and 29 private IHTs operating under the health ministry. In 2006, the TEB started giving approval to private institutes for running a three-year diploma course on medical technology.

According to the regulation of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council, approval should be taken from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for running any health related certificate course,

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Abdus Salam Pintu sent to jail after 3-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained former deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu was sent to Dhaka Central Jail yesterday after he was produced before a Dhaka court on completion of his three-day remand in August 21 grenade attacks case.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID), now investigating the case, told the court that Pintu provided significant information about the attacks during interrogation.

In the forwarding report placed before the court, investigation officer (IO) of the case CID's Assistant Superintendent Fazlul Kabir said Pintu is an influential political leader and that's why if he is released on bail, he may create obstruction for the investigation.

So, he needs to be confined in jail custody until the investigation

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Students of Dhaka University bring out a procession on the campus yesterday afternoon, protesting conviction of their teachers and a fellow student and demanding their release. The detainees were freed in the evening.

PHOTO: STAR

3 JMB men get 34yrs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A special judge court in Jamalpur sentenced three cadres of the banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to 34 years' rigorous imprisonment in an explosives case Monday.

Judge Abdus Sobahan handed down the verdict as per two sections of the Explosive Substances Act and also fined the three convicts Tk 8,000 each, defaulting on which carries additional 18 months' rigorous imprisonment (RI).

The convicts are Habibur Rahman Yousuf, 25, of Satpaa village in Sarishabari upazila, Sultan, 30, and Sohel, 22, of Charalidar village in Melandaha upazila of the district. Five other accused were acquitted on all charges.

After hearing 18 witnesses, the court handed down 20 years' RI to the JMB men and fined them each Tk 5,000 under section 4 (kha) of the Explosive Substances Act. Defaulting on the fines carries one year's RI.

The judge also gave the three 14 years' RI and fined them Tk 3,000 each under section 5/6 of the same act. Failure to pay the fines carries another six months' RI.

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Lanka signals shift in war on LTTE

46 people killed in fighting

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's President Tuesday signalled a shift in the war against the Tamil Tigers, saying he did not want to push his troops into rebel-held territory to defeat the guerrillas.

President Mahinda Rajapakse also said Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) may not have been behind a string of recent bombings on the island, and pointed at the possible involvement of political and business interests.

"We will hit if we are hit," the president said of his military strategy. "The recent operations in the north are not aimed at advancing... I don't believe in a military solution," he told reporters.

The remarks were in sharp contrast to statements from the island's military and even the president's brother -- defence secretary Gotabhaya Rajapakse -- who has stated their intention to seize the rebels' mini-state in the north and eliminate the guerrilla leadership.

The government had also earlier this month pulled out of a tattered Norwegian-brokered truce with

the rebels, underscoring its sentiment that it has the upper hand in the long-running conflict.

Furthermore, the defence ministry has justified the decision to return to open war by pointing to a string of bomb attacks in and around Colombo and the south of the island -- which have claimed the lives of dozens of civilians and a government minister since the start of the year.

But the president said "other groups" may be at work in the conflict -- pointing to two blasts in Colombo that did not appear to be the work of the rebels.

"It is not like the LTTE to set off bombs to cause only a huge sound and no casualties," the president said. "Why should they risk their men to plant these 'dumb bombs' when they are used to causing huge casualties?"

Two people were slightly hurt in the two blasts. One bomb was inside a high security zone and the other was at an isolated railway platform here. Unlike the rebels' trademark mine attacks, there were no pellets packed into the bombs.

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**WEF MEET
CA leaves for Davos**

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed left here last night for Switzerland to attend the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF).

The three-day meeting begins in Davos today.

A flight of Emirates Airlines carrying the head of the caretaker government and his entourage took off from Zia International Airport at 9:32pm. He will go to Switzerland via Dubai.

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury and CA's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim are on the chief adviser's delegation.

Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam, Home Adviser Major General (ret'd) MA Matin, dean of the diplomatic corps, Swiss ambassador in Bangladesh and the chiefs of the three services saw the chief adviser off at the airport.

Fakhruddin will take part in a plenary discussion at the Davos Congress Centre on January 24 on "The quest for Peace and Stability" along with some key leaders of South and Central Asia.

He will hold meetings with European, American and Asian political and business leaders, as well as with leaders of some fellow Least Developed Countries (LDCs), mainly from Asia.

The chief adviser is scheduled to return home on January 26.



PHOTO: STAR

Heavy vehicles ply the Mohakhali flyover in the capital regularly even though they are banned on the overpass.

Pak militants attack border forts: 7 troops killed

37 rebels also die in fighting

AFP, Wana

Islamic militants launched new attacks on border forts in Pakistan Tuesday, leaving seven troops and 37 rebels dead even as President Pervez Musharraf dismissed fears of a takeover by al-Qaeda.

The attacks in the rugged belt of mountains bordering Afghanistan underlined growing insecurity across the nuclear-armed nation and came just before a top US commander flew in for talks on tackling the rebels.

Fighting has escalated sharply in nuclear-armed Pakistan since former premier Benazir Bhutto was assassinated last month, an attack

blamed on an al-Qaeda-linked tribal warlord based in the tribal region.

In Paris for the second leg of a European tour aimed at shoring up his battered image, Musharraf dismissed fears that Pakistan could slip into al-Qaeda's hands, saying there was a "zero percent chance" of a takeover.

The only way for that to happen, he said, would be if al-Qaeda or the Taliban "defeated the Pakistani army entirely" or if extremist religious groups won next month's elections.

Musharraf has been keen to bolster his credibility as a pivotal ally in the fight against terrorism,

which has garnered Pakistan more than 10 billion dollars in US aid since September 11, 2001.

In the Pakistani garrison city of Rawalpindi on Tuesday, Admiral William Fallon, head of US Central Command which deals with the Middle East, met Pakistan army chief General Ashfaq Kiyani for talks.

"He (Fallon) remained with him for some time and discussed matters of professional interest with particular reference to (the) security situation in the region," a Pakistani military statement said.

But Pakistan's claims about being tough on militancy have

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'Dakat' Shahid held in India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Infamous criminal of old Dhaka 'Dakat' Shahid was arrested in Puri of India on Sunday.

He was brought to Kolkata yesterday and produced before a court that placed him on an eight-day remand, said sources in the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

Accused in 20 cases for murder, extortion and other crimes, Shahid was hiding in India for the last few years. From there, he used to carry out crimes in Dhaka through a gang he headed.

He has Rs 60 lakh deposited in a Puri bank and a flat at Kalyani in Nadia of West Bengal, a CID official said quoting Indian police.

The CID would shortly make a move to bring him back, added the official seeking anonymity.



PHOTO: STAR

Residents of Kapasgola in Chawkbazar of Chittagong city lay siege to the power distribution substation at Bakalia in the port city yesterday, demanding uninterrupted power supply. Kapasgola has been without power for five days after a transformer was stolen.

Mashhud asks local anti-graft groups not to follow govt, ACC blindly

UNB, Dhaka

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Lt Gen (ret'd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury yesterday urged the corruption prevention committees not to follow the government or the commission blindly in discharging their duties.

"Don't depend on the government or the commission. Work in your own way. Work spontaneously and independently," he told members of the corruption prevention committees of four districts of Sylhet division at the ACC headquarters.

The anti-graft watchdog yesterday

held two meetings with 226 members of four districts - Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Habiganj and Sunamganj -- and 38 upazilas of Sylhet division.

During the meetings, the members of the prevention committees were given directives about the rule of business and constitution of the committees.

Emphasising involvement of the young generation in the social movement against corruption, the ACC chief asked the committee members to be careful so that the campaign against corruption does not stop.

Mashhud said programmes like

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'DISTORTING HISTORY' Freedom fighters demand Matin's resignation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Condemning a recent speech of Adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) MA Matin Bir Pratik, Muktiyoddha Oikya Parishad, a joint platform of the freedom fighters, demanded his resignation.

In a statement yesterday, Muktiyoddha Oikya Parishad said the adviser to the ministries of home and liberation war affairs is "conspiring against the caretaker government" to make it controversial.

The adviser in an official programme said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the architect of Bangladesh and the late president Ziaur Rahman proclaimed independence.

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**WORLDTEL CASE
Trial court asked to recall witness**

UNB, Dhaka

Setting aside the trial court order, the High Court yesterday asked it to recall a prosecution witness (PW-7) for cross-examination by the counsel for detained former

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Prayer Timing		
January 23		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-40	5-44
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation