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3 JMB men get 20yrs for possessing explosives

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced three activists of outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to 20 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for possessing bomb making materials.

The convicts are Wahidul Islam alias Habib, Shaiful Islam alias Russell and Hafez Ibrahim. Judge Abu Mohsin of the Metropolitan Special Tribunal-6 handed down the punishment in presence of the three.

The court also fined them Tk 10,000 each, in default they will have to suffer another six months in jail.

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CPB RALLY BOMBING Home dismayed over probe progress

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry's monitoring cell on sensational cases yesterday expressed dissatisfaction over the lack of progress in the probe into the bomb blasts at a rally of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) on January 20, 2001.

The monitoring cell at a meeting at the conference room of the ministry directed the investigation officer (IO) to expedite the process of probe into the blasts that killed five people and injured 24 others.

Progress in investigation of 10 other sensational cases was also reviewed at the meeting chaired by Home Adviser Maj Gen (retd) MA Matin.

The home secretary, director

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

6 killed as 2 buses collide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Six people died and 30 others were injured in a bus collision on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Trishal upazila of the district yesterday.

Three of the dead were identified as Nazma, 30, her son Nasim, 12, and Sheuly, 30. The identity of the rest could not be known.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound bus from Sherpur collided head on with another bus at Narayanpur at around 1:30pm.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Hotel blast reasons remain unknown

One succumbs to injuries

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the wounded office executives of Hotel Orchard Plaza in the city succumbed to his injuries a day after several blasts shook the hotel.

Condition of many others injured in the Sunday night blasts, including two foreign nationals, was stated to be critical.

Meanwhile, intelligence agency personnel and law enforcers are still unsure about what caused the blasts.

Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad yesterday said a three-member committee, comprising officials from Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) and police headquarters, was formed to probe the incident.

DMP Commissioner Naim Ahmed, however, was confident that it was not a subversive act as they did not find any traces of explosives at the scene.

Hotel executive Ali Azam died at

3:30pm at City Hospital in Mohammadpur. Ninety percent of his body was burnt in one of the explosions at the hotel.

His colleague Shawkat Alam said, "Ali Azam was hurt in the second blasts when he and hotel employees Mir Hossain and Moin went to search rooms on the 7th floor."

Condition of Mir Hossain and Moin was stated to be severely burnt.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



PHOTO: STAR

A damaged room of Hotel Orchard Plaza at Naya Paltan in the capital. Several explosions inside the hotel Sunday night left one person dead and 45 injured.

DEATH OF STUDENT Protesters block busy road in Ctg for hours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Angry students of a private university yesterday put up barricade on Bahodderhat-Kalughat road in the port city following the death of a fellow student in a road accident.

Sources said BBA student of Premier University Muntasir Khan, 22, son of Didarul Alam Khan in the city's Chandgaon, was killed when a human hauler ran over him at a

bus stop in front of Chandgaon ward commissioner's office at around 7:30am.

Muntasir was waiting there for a bus to go to the university. Local people said accidents occur near the bus stop often as no speed breaker has been installed there.

When the news of Muntasir's death reached the Premier University campus, over two

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

One Aug 21 attackers remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Rafiqul Islam alias Sabuj, one of the two men who were part of the team that threw grenades on an Awami League (AL) rally in Dhaka on August 21, 2004, on a five-day remand.

Rab arrested the two Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huui) militants -- Sabuj and Uzzal Hossain alias Ratan -- in Rajbari and Magura on Sunday.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Foreign missions warned of interference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The foreign ministry yesterday warned foreign missions here not to interfere in the country's internal affairs after reports emerged that the US had asked the government to clarify the reasons for the countrywide arrests made since Friday.

This is the second time the foreign ministry, under the current government, has spoken out against "interference" by foreign

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Tripura wants access to Ctg Port, Ashuganj river port

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The north-eastern Indian state of Tripura wants access to Ashuganj river port and Chittagong seaport in Bangladesh as it wants to become the commercial gateway to other north-eastern Indian states.

This was conveyed by Tripura

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Prayer Timing

June 3

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-45	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

PAKISTAN

Suicide blast near Danish embassy kills 8

AFP, Islamabad

A suicide car bombing outside the Danish embassy in Pakistan killed eight people and wounded 27 yesterday in a possible new backlash over cartoons of the Prophet Mohammed, state media and officials said.

The massive blast damaged the mission in central Islamabad and nearly destroyed a nearby UN agency. The force of the explosion, which gouged a huge crater out of the road, also wrecked dozens of cars.

There was no claim of responsi-

bility but officials said the attack was likely linked to the row over the Mohammed sketches, which Danish newspapers first published in 2005 and then reprinted in February.

Pakistani interior secretary Kamal Shah told reporters that a possible connection with the cartoons, which sparked anger around the Muslim world, "will be part of the investigation."

In Denmark, Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen condemned the "horrible, cowardly crime", telling reporters that there was no justification for the attack.

Danish Foreign Minister Per Stig Moeller said it could be linked to recent calls by Al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden and his deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri for attacks on Danish targets because of the cartoons.

"We can suppose many things. Bin Laden's Al-Qaeda has called for attacks on Denmark (or) it could be the Taliban who want to hurt us because we are present in Afghanistan," he said.

Denmark has some 550 troops with a NATO-led force in Afghanistan fighting a Taliban

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Hasina petitions for quashing power plant case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday filed a petition with the High Court (HC) for quashing the trial proceedings of barge-mount power plant corruption case against her.

The former prime minister in her petition also appealed for bail in the case.

Trial of the case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) is going on in the Special Judge's Court-1 on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises.

Meanwhile, the High Court (HC) yesterday directed a special court to dispose of the petition filed by BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman for discharging him from a Tk 21 crore bribery case.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 8

First of six costly rental power plants starts today

SHARIEF KHAN

The first of six costly rental power plants enters service today in Khulna. The 40-megawatt (MW) petroleum-powered plant installed by British company Aggreko launches six days behind schedule.

Sources said the launching dates of the remaining five plants will be more than a month behind schedule, in fact some of the plants would launch more than two months behind schedule.

The caretaker government had awarded the six power contracts to minimise load-shedding during the summer.

The Khulna plant will be the first successful power venture initiated by the caretaker government. It approved the costly deals considering that only such rental power units can be installed within 120 days of contract and these can minimise the summer power cuts.

Of the remaining five rental power projects, four were awarded to an inexperienced shell consortium Energy Prima owned by Moazzem Hossain of Hosaf Group. Moazzem Hossain is one of the accused in the Barapukuria coalmine corruption case filed by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Delwar asks party men to prepare for movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asking the party leaders and worker to be prepared for movement, BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said they would bring about the downfall of the present government through movement.

"We have to oust the government through agitation," he said and like party Chairperson Khaleida Zia, also termed the interim government a "parasite".

Delwar was addressing a discussion meeting at Engineers Institution organised by BNP student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) to mark the death anniversary of president Ziaur Rahman.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

The University of Greenwich (London) welcomes students from Bangladesh

As an Award Winning University renowned for being modern in its approach to Education, we have over 150 subject areas including Architecture, Business, Computing, Engineering, Information Systems, Law and Sciences. We can offer direct entry to students with CIM, CIMA, ABE, NCC, INIS and other professional qualifications, and can provide pre-sessional english programmes. Successful graduates can apply for a work permit and we offer £ 1,000 nationality and merit scholarships.

Joanne Wall, International Recruitment Manager, of the University of Greenwich will be undertaking individual counselling sessions and on the spot admission:

Dhaka: 3 and 5 June (11.00 to 17.00) at the office of Overseas Study Counseling Ltd., 15 Barun Bhaban (3rd Floor), Gulshan 2, Dhaka. Please phone 8854002, 9888735 or 9896516, 01914243056-66 for an appointment.

Dhaka: 4 June (11.00 to 17.00) at the office of the British Council, 5 Fuller Road. Please contact reception on 8618905-7 Ext-2 for an appointment.

Chittagong: 7 June (13.00 to 18.00) at the office of Overseas Study Counseling Ltd., House No 58, (3rd Floor), Road No 5, O.R. Nizam Road. Please phone 2550974-5 or 01914243051-55 for an appointment.

Chittagong: 8 June (12.00 to 18.00) at office of the British Council Chittagong. Please contact reception on 657884-6 for an appointment.

INTERVIEWS IN BANGLADESH ON THE SPOT ADMISSIONS

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