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Seven Hizb
ut-Tahrir
men arrested
in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police last night arrested seven Hizb ut-Tahrir activists in the city's Badda area and seized leaflets containing 'provocative statements over Pilkhana carnage'.

The arrestees are Abdur Rakib, 44, Sahadat Hossain, 23, Fakrul Hasan, 22, Abdullah-al-Mamun, 25, Noman Sikdar, 25, Arifuzzaman, 22, and Mir Salekin, 22.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) Kazi Wazed Ali of Badda Police Station told The Daily Star that after a tip-off they raided a three-storey building at West Kuril at around 9:30pm and found the Tahrir men meeting on the roof.

Several locals including

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Ex-NSI officer
taken to TFI
for quizzing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Further interrogation of arrested former director (security) of National Security Intelligence (NSI) Mohammad Sahab Uddin began at TFI cell in Dhaka yesterday afternoon in connection with the Chittagong arms haul case.

Sahab Uddin was brought to the Task Force for

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Project for disabled gets uncertain

\$35m fund going back to WB as govt failed to meet launching deadline

FARHANA URMEE

The fate of \$35 million donor-funded project for the welfare of the persons with disability (PWDs) and disadvantaged children is uncertain due to negligence of the government in launching it formally within the timeframe, which has already expired.

The World Bank and Bangladesh government signed an agreement on December 28 last year for the five-year term project titled "Disability & Children At-Risk".

As per the deal, the project will be implemented through the independent

Jatiya Protibondhi Unnayan Foundation (JPUF), the apex body working on disability issue, and Department of Social Service (DSS) using the fund given by the World Bank.

The government has already crossed the deadline of launching the project and appointing its project director officially by April 21 for which the project money may go back to the World Bank, sources said.

World Bank Country Director Xian Zhu in a letter on April 15 to M. Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan, secretary of Economic Relations Division (ERD) says "The government has recently reassigned the

project director for "Services to Children-At-Risk" being implemented by the Department of Social Services (DSS) and new appointment for the position has yet to be made," adding, "This is a crucial next step towards commencing project staffing and set-up of project offices."

It says the "Promotion of Services and Opportunities to the Disabled Persons of Bangladesh", which is being implemented by JPUF, also requires urgent personnel recruitment to commence its planned activities.

The letter says "Deviations could result in the World Bank reconsidering its

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Australia, Japan confirm first swine flu cases

AP, Tokyo

Institute of Infectious Diseases later confirmed they had the virus that has killed at least 47 people and sickened more than 3,100 in 30 countries, most in the US and Mexico, Health and Welfare Minister Yoichi Masuzoe said.

Since the outbreak began last month, several countries, including Japan, have screened air travellers for flu symptoms. But news reports said as many as 11 people on the Northwest Airlines flight from Detroit that landed in Tokyo on Friday avoided those screenings. Another 13 continued on to other

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Authorities in Tokyo quarantined a high school teacher and two of his teenage students who returned Friday from a school trip to Canada on a flight from the US after they tested positive at the airport. A lab at the National

Infighting grips JCD over new committee

RAKIB AHAMMED

Internal feud has raised its ugly head in BNP's student wing Jatiyatabdhi Chhatra Dal (JCD) ahead of the formation of a new central committee as part of the party's initiative to reform its associated organisations.

The row was sparked over whether a fresh full-fledged central committee will be formed or a convening committee will run the organisation as a stopgap measure until the formation of a full-fledged committee, JCD sources said.

JCD central committees are traditionally picked by BNP high-ups without any election, although in the student organisation's constitution there are provisions for the central committees to be elected by national councils or to be picked by the BNP chairperson.

The sources said some influential top leaders of the organisation are lobbying the BNP high-ups quite hard for a convening committee, as they will possibly not be included in a new full-fledged central committee due to their age, but if a convening committee is formed they will automatically be in it until a new central committee is formed.

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US sees little change in 'highly partisan politics' in Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Despite hopes that the new government would reject the highly partisan politics of the past, it soon became clear little had changed, said the US State Department in its latest addition to Bangladesh's background note.

"Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and opposition leader Khaleda Zia attacked one another over matters substantive and petty. The opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party boycotted Parliament over the chamber's seating chart and launched demonstrations over Awami League efforts to force Khaleda Zia out of her Dhaka cantonment home," it said.

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Dr. Wazed Miah has left us. We Mourn.

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A mother's
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SYED ASHFAQUL HAQUE

Mothers are always special. Some stand out from others and make us realise that mothers are made in heaven. And a few of them turn out to be mother of all mothers. Shefali Iqbal is among the rare few.

It was about 30 minutes away from midnight in Bangkok. Shefali in her early fifties was running like a spring chicken to manage her still busy Bangladeshi food joint - Monika's Kitchen. Clad in a simple salwar-kameez and with black headscarf, Shefali looked like any other ordinary woman in Bangladesh.

The mild glint in her wide eyes and a caring smile at corners of her mouth would hardly reveal her inner strength, the steely resolve that took her to Bangkok and made her wage an awe-inspiring battle to save the life of Naima Sultana Monika, her only daughter.

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A shot of the popular Monika's Kitchen in Bangkok. Inset: Shefali sits near the picture on the wall in which Monika is seen receiving an MBA certificate from Thai Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn at a convocation on January 5, 2007.

PHOTO: STAR

Nepal parties in talks to form new govt

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's political parties held urgent talks yesterday in a bid to cobble together a new government as a midnight deadline set by the Himalayan country's president loomed.

Earlier this week, Nepal was plunged into a crisis threatening its fledgling democracy when Maoist leader Prachanda quit as premier after his attempt to fire the nation's top general was

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Girl, housewife found dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the bodies of a minor girl and a teenage housewife from city's Khilgaon and Mohakhali areas yesterday.

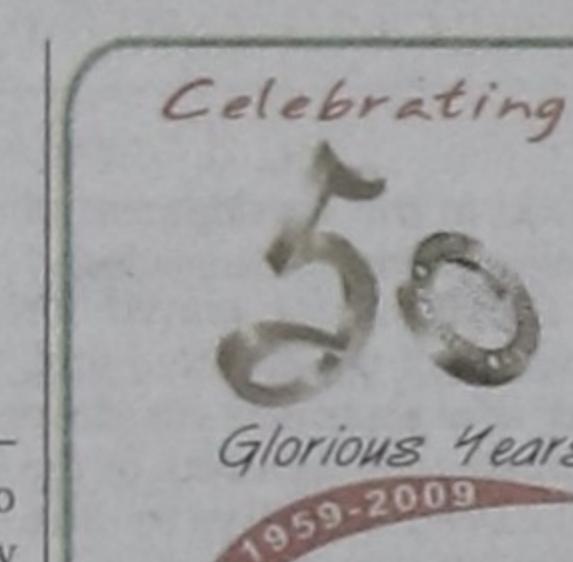
Both were found hanging from ceiling fans in their respective houses.

The minor girl was identified as Nafan Akhter, 10, daughter of Naim Uddin of Nandipara Balaur Ghat in Khilgaon. The housewife, Julekha, 19, wife of Shohag Mia of Korail slum in Mohakhali.

Naim Uddin, a rickshawpuller, told The Daily Star that around 10:30am his son returned home from school to find Nafan's dead body hanging from the ceiling fan. The door of the room had been closed from inside.

Locals rushed to the spot as his son raised a hue and cry.

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