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Lashkar man held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch of police arrested Emadullah alias Mahbub alias Mamun, a top ranked leader of Pakistan-based militant organisation Lashkar-e-Tayyaba, at the capital's Gabtoli area in the wee hours today.

He is an Indian national, said a DB source.

Law enforcement agencies earlier arrested two more Indian nationals--Mansur and Obaidullah--also top-rank

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Heritage site saved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a quick response to filing a general diary (GD), Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) intervened in the work for extension of Boro Katra Madrasa Bhaban, an archaeological heritage of Mughal era yesterday.

Urban Study Group (USG), a civil society organisation to protect country's heritage sites, yesterday filed the GD at Chawk Bazar Police Station

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Deadly tsunami strikes in Pacific

113 killed; thousands flee to high grounds; 8-magnitude undersea quake recorded

AFP, Apia

Towering tsunamis churned up by a huge earthquake slammed into the Samoan islands on Tuesday, killing at least 113 people as they wiped out entire villages and flattened tourist resorts.

Monster waves that witnesses and officials said measured between three and 7.5 metres high pounded the remote Pacific islands of Samoa and Western Samoa after an 8.0-magnitude undersea quake struck in the early morning.

While the quake toppled buildings and sent thousands fleeing to high ground as the tsunami approached, many others were hit by the walls of water that swept people and cars out to sea and obliterated coastal settlements.

US President Barack Obama called the incident in the outlying US territory of American Samoa a "major disaster" and vowed "aggressive" action to help survivors.

"I am closely monitoring these tragic events, and have declared a major disaster for American Samoa, which will provide the tools necessary for a full, swift and aggressive response," he said.

Samoa's Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi said he was "shocked beyond belief."

"So much has gone. So many people are gone," he told the Australian news agency AAP. "I'm so shocked, so saddened by all the loss."

The tsunamis swept across the Pacific, battering Samoa where hospital workers said it killed at least 84 people, American

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After an 8.0-magnitude quake struck offshore in the early morning, people inspect the damage in Pago Pago, on American Samoa yesterday. The huge earthquake churned up a giant tsunami that devastated the Samoa islands.

PHOTO: AFP

DCC in hibernation as dengue spreads again

No drive in years for lack of manpower, equipment, low infection rate

TAWFIQUE ALI

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has not carried out any special preventive drive against dengue fever in the past 4-5 years attributing it to low incidence of the disease, and inadequate manpower and equipment.

Medical experts say dengue is an endemic disease and an annual phenomenon.

The DCC has not procured any larvicide in the current fiscal year and has decided not to clean up mosquito breeding grounds under the jurisdiction of other agencies.

"We have not carried out any special

drive to eradicate larvae of Aedes mosquito (Aedes causes dengue) as incidence of dengue fever came down in the last few years," said DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka.

The DCC conducted routine anti-mosquito drives during the period but no drive only aimed at preventing outbreak of dengue. But special drives were launched in areas with identified dengue cases, the mayor said when contacted.

He said the DCC faces audit objection if it spends money on cleaning up water bodies owned by other organisations.

Meanwhile, the DCC Advisory Committee on Cleanliness and Mosquito Control sits today with the health minister, lawmakers from Dhaka and civil

society representatives to chalk out an awareness building action plan concerning dengue for the current year.

"We will launch the awareness drive on Friday," said Khoka.

National Professor MR Khan, a noted paediatrician who is on the DCC committee, said cleanliness drive should continue throughout the year.

"But in our country, the reality is that no crisis, no work," he said. "Dengue cannot be prevented this way."

Incidence of dengue was low last year but it has increased this year, Khan said. "Continuity of preventive action is vital as dengue is an endemic disease."

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Another BDR jawan dies at Ctg hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another BDR jawan 'died of severe chest pain' yesterday at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), raising the BDR death toll to 47 since the BDR mutiny on February 25-26.

The deceased was identified as lance nayek Abul Khayer, 38, of BDR Training Centre at Satkania, reports our Chittagong Office.

Khayer, hailed from Panchbibi upazila of Joypurhat district, was earlier sent to Chittagong Central Jail after his arrest on May 13 this year in connection with the mutiny at BDR Training Centre of Baitul Ijjat in Satkania.

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BDR MEN'S UNNATURAL DEATHS Probe body fails to submit report again

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

A home ministry committee investigating the reasons behind the rising number of "unnatural" deaths of BDR personnel in custody has once again failed to submit its report and sought time extension for the fifth time.

The figure of custodial death has reached 47, but the committee has made little headway in its investigation in the last four and a half months since its formation on May 14. The latest deadline for submitting its report expired September 16.

The ministry has not yet approved the time extension petition.

Head of the committee Zakir Hossain, however, claimed that they had been allowed one more month to finish the probe.

Meanwhile, the investigation officer of the cases filed in connection with the February 25-26 mutiny and murders at the BDR headquarters did not submit the probe report to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court on the scheduled date yesterday. The IO also did not inform the court about the reasons for his failure.

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Robber beaten to death in Ctg

5 cops hurt as they try to tackle mob

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A suspected robber was beaten to death and eight others, including five cops, were injured in a mob attack at Napora Bazar under Banshkhal upazila in Chittagong on Tuesday.

The deceased was identified as Mohammad Harun, 30, son of Abdus Salam of West Chambal village under Banshkhal.

A group of 8-10 robbers arrived at Napora Bazar riding on two CNG-run auto rickshaws and were preparing to commit a robbery around 10:30pm, sources said.

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DCC engineer sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent to jail Dhaka City Corporation Superintendent Engineer Mohammad Faruk Aziz, who was arrested on charges of brandishing a firearm at his boss.

The court also asked the investigation officer and recording officer of the case, to explain by today as to why they did not include a non-bailable section even though there are specific allegations against the accused in the first information report.

The court, however, fixed today for hearing on the bail petition filed by his defence lawyers.

Rapid Action Battalion arrested Faruk Aziz from Sheikhertek, Mohammadpur, around 8:00pm Wednesday

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BCL expels Pirojpur rapist

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Bangladesh Chhatra League, student front of Awami League, yesterday slapped lifetime expulsion on its Pirojpur district unit information and research secretary Ahsan Kabir Mamun alias Mamun Hawlader in connection with a rape.

Chhatra League central committee's decision to expel Mamun came after The Daily Star report on him raping a class-X student, recording it on a cellphone and circulating the footage among local youths.

The Chhatra League central committee said they expelled Mamun for violating organisational discipline and

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Tree stumps are all that eyes can see on this beach at Katabunia of Teknaf where influential ruling party men destroyed the tamarisk garden.

PHOTO: STAR

JHAU PLUNDER 147 sued; Tk 4cr sought from them

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Forest Department yesterday filed a case against 147 persons, including three leaders of local Awami League and Jubo League, seeking Tk 4.08 crore as compensation on charge of destroying the Jhau (tamarisk) garden on Teknaf beach in Cox's Bazar.

The forest department mentioned names of 87 accused including AL president of Sabrang Union unit under Teknaf upazila Zahed Hossain, Teknaf Upazila Jubo League General Secretary Noor Hossain and Vice President Ejahar Miah in the case.

Hasan Al Tarik, Shahparir Dwip beat officer under Teknaf range of the coastal forest department, filed the case with Teknaf Police Station.

All the accused are residents of Sabrang union. The forest department also accused 60 unidentified persons in the case.

Jamal Uddin Chowdhury, officer-in-charge (OC) of Teknaf Police Station, confirmed the incident and said attempts were on to arrest the accused in the case.

Plaintiff Hasan Al Tarik said the departmental investigation

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'Criminal' killed in 'shootout'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A criminal was killed in a 'shootout' between his associates and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) at Fazullahpur village under Bheramara upazila in Kushtia yesterday.

The dead was identified as Asha Ghosh, 35, of Raita in

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Road blocked for four hours

Garment workers protest death of colleague

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Vehicular movement on Begum Rokeya Sarani road in the capital's Shewrapara was disrupted for four hours yesterday as agitating garment workers put up blockades on the road protesting the death of a fellow worker in a road accident.

Marufa Akter, 20, a worker of unit-2 garment factory of Outfit Fashion Ltd, was run over by a bus of Shikor Paribahan while crossing the road on Tuesday noon.

She was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where she succumbed to her wounds yesterday morning.

As the news of her death spread at four garment factories of

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Mobile court busts 2 blood centres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday busted two illegally operated blood centres and destroyed 28 bags of blood collected allegedly from drug addicts without any test.

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) sealed off the Sandhan Diagnostic and Blood Centre at Tongi and Crescent Diagnostic Centre at Abdullahpur in Uttara and fined their owners Tk 2 lakh each.

The court also found the

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Tender-hungry AL men stymied

2 arrested in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Members of law enforcement agencies foiled an attempt by AL men to disrupt a tender process at Pabna Water Development Board (WDB) office and arrested two yesterday.

The arrestees were identified as Kiron and Chanchal, both contractors and also leaders of Awami Swechha Sebak League.

Sources said a group of ruling party cadres had been obstructing contractors from submitting tender documents and trying to break up the tender process from morning to noon.

On information, teams of Rapid Action

Battalion and police rushed to the spot and chased the criminals to control the situation. They arrested the two from the spot.

"We had taken necessary steps for holding the tender process. But some unruly men tried to create obstacles. After the law enforcers controlled the situation the tender process had been completed properly," said Tapan Kumar Shaha, an engineer of Pabna WDB.

Pabna WDB arranged the routine tender programme for different projects worth Tk 39 core. It was the last date of dropping tenders, said water board officials.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

OnlinePoll

Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that Abdul Jaill should have resigned as a lawmaker before raising any question about the ninth parliamentary election?

☐ Yes (51.9%)
☐ No (46.7%)
☐ No Comments (1.4%)

Total votes: 1310

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think business houses should be allowed to take over public playground such as the Dhanmondi playground and use it for business benefits?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net