

# THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY

Plus The STAR

COMMITTED TO  
People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XIX No. 255

DHAKA FRIDAY OCTOBER 2, 2009

www.thedailystar.net

ASHWIN 17, 1416 BS

SHAWAL 12, 1430 HJRI

24 PAGES PLUS THE STAR PRICE: Tk 10.00

## AUG 21 ATTACK Pintu, Taher remanded again

COURT CORRESPONDENT

BNP leader and former deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu and Harkatul Jihad (Huji) member Maulana Abu Taher were placed on remand to identify collectors and suppliers of Arges grenades used in the August 21 carnage on Bangabandhu Avenue.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Shahadat Hossain placed Pintu and Taher on three-day remand each as Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday produced them before his court with separate remand prayers.

The CID sought ten-day remand for Pintu and five-day

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## DHANMONDI GROUND

### Legal battle mulled against takeover bid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmental activists are planning to go for legal actions against the reported move by a limited company to take over Dhanmondi public playground.

Members of Institute of Architects Bangladesh (IAB) discussed the matter at its meeting on September 30 following a Daily Star report, said IAB president Mubasshar Hussein.

Lt Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club Limited, a limited company, is going to take over Dhanmondi playground, he said.

"We will soon take initiatives to hold a press conference along with Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) and others and resume the case pending with the HC in this regard," said Mubasshar.

"The playground belongs to each resident of Dhanmondi,"

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## Rejoinder, our reply

The Lt Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club Ltd in a rejoinder to a report headlined "Businessmen to grab sports" carried in The Daily Star on September 30 said the club has no intention to use Dhanmondi playground commercially.

The club has a social and moral responsibility to preserve and maintain the playground in the greater interest of the country, reads the rejoinder signed by club President Manzur Kader.

The club did not ask for any playground and did not present any development plan, it says, adding, "We shall develop our own clubhouse

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## New passport by April 2010

IS body sets MRP  
deadline

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ending the uncertainty over issuance of machine-readable passport (MRP), the parliamentary standing committee on home ministry yesterday said the new type of passports would be issued within the international deadline of April 2010.

The parliamentary body also asked police personnel to work "spiritedly and seriously" to ease the nagging tailbacks in the capital.

"The process of issuing machine-readable passport is already well underway. A total of 23 international firms with experience of preparing passports in at least three countries have submitted tenders so far," Maj Gen (ret'd) MA Salam, chairman of the standing committee, told reporters

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## Huji first to use hills

It set up training camps in early 1990s, ran those till crackdown after Aug 17 serial blasts in 2005

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and SHARIFUL ISLAM

Harkat-ul-Jihad al Islami (Huji) was the first militant group to use the remote hill areas in Chittagong for arms training.

It set up training camps in the hill tracts in the early 90s and packed up when the law enforcers began cracking down on the militants after the August 17 serial blasts in 2005.

Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh, which used to have training facilities mainly in plains, however moved to hill forests.

Militant camps in the hill tracts have come to the fore with the recent discovery of a JMB training camp in Khagrachhari.

Speaking about the origin of militant training in the country, Huji insiders say

when their organisation started recruitment in the late 80s, it concentrated its activities at madrasas in Chittagong region.

It began training the recruits how to operate firearms and explosives in some makeshift camps in remote hill areas between 1989 and 1990.

Its job became easier after Rohingya insurgents entered Bangladesh in 1991.

"At first, we had to use dummy firearms. But it all changed when Rohingya insurgents came in with sophisticated firearms," said a source who had training from the outfit.

When the Rohingyas took refuge in Bangladesh in 1991, insurgents slipped in with them and built training camps in the hill forests the Huji had already been

using.

Huji provided them with shelter, foods and manpower and in return got access to firearms and explosives.

As their relations grew stronger, many madrasa students involved in Huji went to Myanmar to fight for the Rohingya insurgents. Several of them were even killed.

Foreign militant leaders and officials of Islamic NGOs who provided funds for militancy campaign to take root in Bangladesh visited the camps posing as Islamic scholars. They delivered motivational speeches on jihad.

Both Huji and the Rohingya militants used madrasas and mosques in Cox's Bazar, Teknaf, Ukhaia and other areas in

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## Detained Lashkar man new chief

The Indian given charge after his 2 predecessors arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained Lashkar-e-Taiba leader Indian national Emadullah alias Mahub alias Mamun had been overseeing trespassing of militants into Bangladesh and shipment of explosives.

Emadullah who was arrested from the capital on Wednesday night uses at least nine pseudonyms to escape law enforcers' dragnet, Detective Branch (DB) of police at a press conference at its office yesterday said.

A case has been filed against him under the passport act. He will be produced before the court today seeking a 10-day remand.



Emadullah

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## Dengue drive to begin, at last

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will launch a three-day special cleanliness drive in the capital tomorrow in a bid to contain spread of dengue fever.

DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka announced this yesterday at a meeting of the DCC Advisory Committee on Cleanliness and Mosquito Control.

The drive begins in Kalabagan area tomorrow morning, and it will cover Dhanmondi area in the afternoon.

National Professor and noted paediatrician MR Khan and environmentalist Prof

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Believably to overcome her loneliness for the moment an elderly woman talks over phone at an old people's home yesterday. The International Day of Older Persons is being observed across the world today.

PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM

## Aged, useless

30 not served lunch as staff at old home get busy with International Day of Older Persons

EMRAN HOSSAIN

They possess higher degrees, beautiful houses and pieces of land. They have built fine houses over the years with every touch of love and affection. Ironically, they cannot live there anymore; they have rather become residents of Bangladesh Probin Hitoishi Sangha and Jora Bigyan Protishthan in Agargaon in the capital.

Sometimes, when there is no one to give company or even offer a cup of tea in the morning, even a fine beautiful house -- whether it is in the over-populated city like Dhaka or elsewhere -- may be unusable, unworthy to live in.

"I could not live alone in a house. During the first days after I arrived here it felt bad. But now I have been used to it," says Mira Chowdhury, wife of former ILO director Joseph Chowdhury, who passed away seven years ago.

"My son has asked me to live with him in the US. But I won't go there. How will I live there, leaving my country," adds Mira Chowdhury, who owns a house on Dilu Road in Eskaton in the capital and is going to sell it.

She lives in around 7 feet by 15 feet place at the old home, which is probably her last house. The place is everything about her family and home where she nurtures orchids and likes to have flowers as gift.

It has been one and a half years since Mira came here. During this time her daughter visited her once and that time she was seriously ill.

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## PM returns

Traffic jam at ZIA as thousands rush to receive her

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina returned home yesterday after attending the 64th session of United Nations General Assembly in the United States.

Thousands of leaders and activists of AL and its associate organisations gathered in front of VIP terminal of the Zia International Airport and on the Airport road to welcome Hasina, disrupting traffic movement during the morning rush hours and causing sufferings to the commuters.

Traffic movement in the airport and its adjacent roads came

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Sheikh Hasina

## Quake deaths pass 770

Indonesian rescuers claw thru' rubbles for survivors; second tremor causes panic

AFP, Padang

Indonesia said yesterday it feared thousands had died in a major earthquake as exhausted rescue workers clawed through mountains of rubble with their bare hands in a race to find survivors.

The first flights laden with food, medicine and body bags began arriving in the devastated region on Sumatra island as another powerful quake struck further south, causing more injuries and sparking panic.

Wednesday afternoon's 7.6-magnitude quake toppled buildings and led to fires in Padang, home to nearly a million people on the coast of Sumatra,

and saw the city largely without power and communications.

The official death toll hit at least 770 with 294 people seriously injured, but those numbers are expected to soar as the full scale of the tragedy unfolds. Many districts remain inaccessible to emergency services.

"Our prediction is that thousands have died," health ministry crisis centre head Rustam Pakaya said.

Rescue teams from the Indonesian army and health ministry descended on the city and surrounding towns to hunt for survivors in the twisted wreckage of collapsed buildings and homes, with work expected to go on into the night.

In pouring rain that hampered rescue work early in the day, overwhelmed police and soldiers clawed through the tangled remains of schools, hotels and the city's main M. Djamil hospital.

Padang, which lies between the Indian Ocean and the Bukit Barisan mountains, was a chaotic scene of traffic jams and rubble set against the constant din of sirens as ambulances tried to negotiate the gridlock.

At the M. Djamil hospital, a constant stream of injured residents were dropped off at hastily erected tents where doctors worked frantically to treat victims.

Emilzon, a medic who gave only one

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Indonesian soldiers try to communicate with survivors of a collapsed hotel in Padang, West Sumatra, yesterday after a 7.6 strong earthquake hit the area. Thousands of people were likely killed in the huge quake that ravaged Sumatra Island.

PHOTO: AFP

## Moeen's power of attorney challenged

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former state minister for power Iqbal Hasan Tuku yesterday challenged a vokalatnama (power of attorney) submitted to a Dhaka court by a counsel of former army chief Moeen U Ahmed on August 5 in a Tk 100 crore defamation case.

During hearing, the prosecution appealed to the court saying the defendant did not properly appear before the court through his lawyers.

They told the court the signature of Moeen on the vokalatnama was not made duly, as he was abroad during

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## Shoe thrown at IMF chief

AFP, Istanbul

A protester yesterday threw a shoe at IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn as he delivered a speech to university students in Turkey's biggest city Istanbul.

The protester, believed to be a student, shouted "IMF, Get out of Turkey!" as he ran towards the stage and threw the white sports shoe which failed to hit the IMF chief, an AFP correspondent witnessed.

The shoe-throwing tactic was famously first used in Iraq last year against US President George W. Bush and there have been several copycat protests since.

The Turkish protester was immediately overpowered and escorted out by security guards.

Strauss-Kahn, who was answering questions at the

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