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banned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday banned all kinds of activities of Hizb ut-Tahrir Bangladesh in the interests of public security, said a home ministry official.

Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder said, "The organisation's activities have been banned from today [Thursday] as its activities go against public security."

He said the organisation has been banned based on intelligence report about its activities. It has been banned in other countries as well, he added.

Hizb ut-Tahrir is an international Islamist political party founded in Jerusalem in 1953.

The party started its activities in Bangladesh in 2000. According to Hizb ut-Tahrir's website (www.khilafat.org), Mohiuddin Ahmed is the chief coordinator and spokesman of SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Hizb ut-Tahrir Govt sees '75 links in attack on Taposh

Brother of fugitive killer Dalim arrested; security of key personalities, installations beefed up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers yesterday detained younwith Wednesday night's bomb attack on ruling Awami League (AL) lawmaker Fazle

Rahman murder case.

Home Minister Sahara Khatun at an Noor Taposh, who is also a prosecution emergency meeting of AL Central

lawyer in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Working Committee (ALCWC) yesterday informed a few other ministers about the Maj Dalim is one of the convicts in the detention of Dalim's younger brother ger brother of Maj Dalim in connection case, who is currently absconding Kamrul Haque Swapan, according to meeting sources.

> The ALCWC held Bangabandhu's and anarchy in the country. SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Baffled by blast

Investigators see wide range of motives

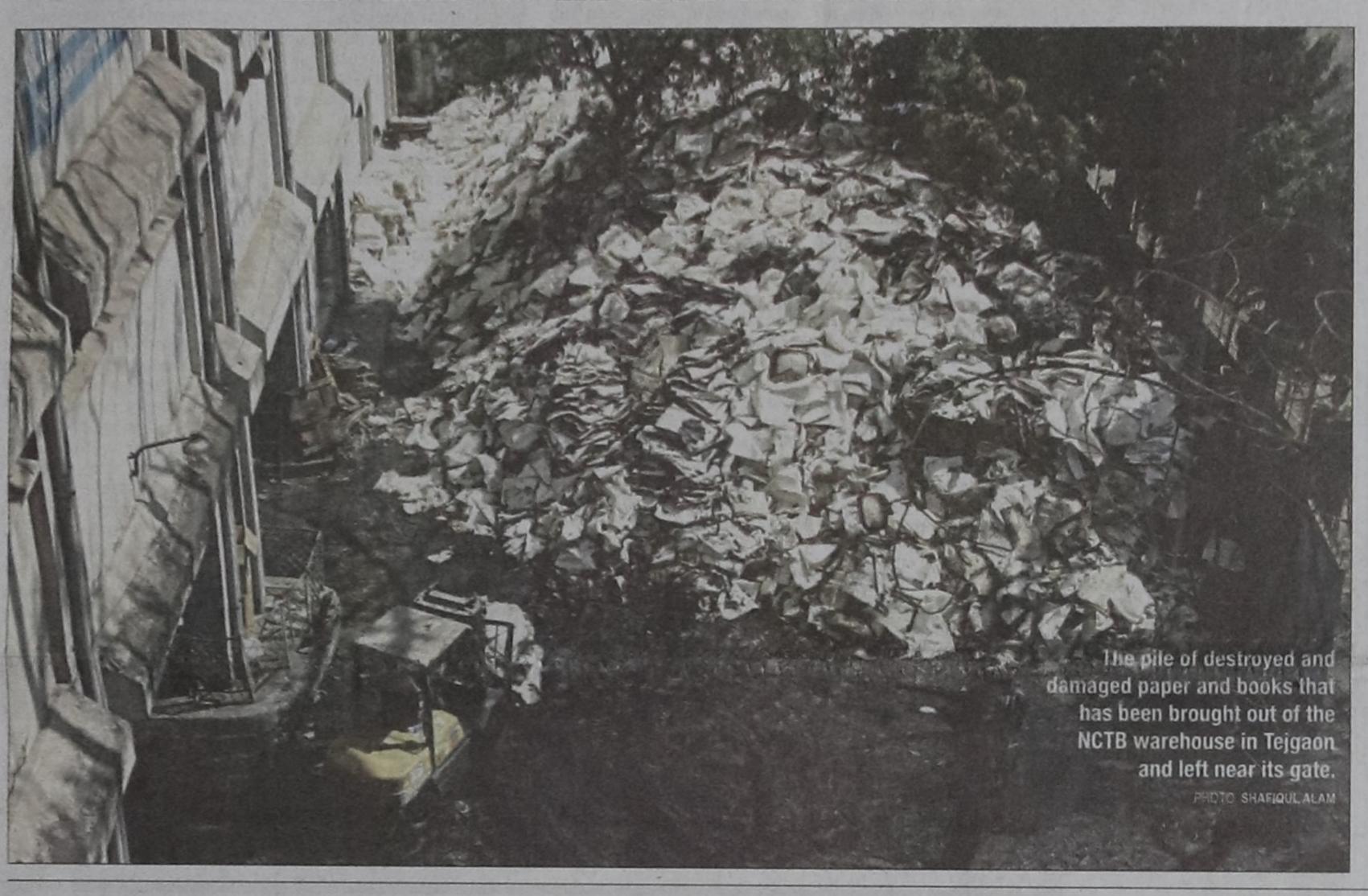
JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The fact that Wednesday's bomb attack on Awami League lawmaker Fazle Noor Taposh without any warning was the only incident in the last four years has left investigators and terrorism experts baffled.

The nature of the attack has similarities with that of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh, but there are also some dissimilarities that imply involvement of some other group, experts say. It is possible that no militant group carried out the attack as the strength of militants has diminished in the last four years, they

Investigators believe that the incident is a wake-up call for the Awami League that a group is still active in unleashing chaos

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Initial probe finds sabotage 'evidence'

Textbook warehouse fire doused after 85-hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The preliminary probe into the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) warehouse fire, finally doused early yesterday, found evidence of sabotage, said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid.

"The committee did not find any evidence of short circuit rather some evidence of sabotage, white powder, was found. So the act of sabotage is coming to the forefront," he told reporters at a press briefing at his Secretariat office.

The enquiry committee formed to investigate the cause of the fire and to ascertain the extent of the damage submitted its preliminary enquiry report to the education minister yesterday noon.

The fire fighters finally doused the fire around 2:00am yesterday after relentless efforts of over eighty-five hours, said fire brigade sources.

The minister said there must have been some burned wire in the warehouse and the lights would not have come on if the fire was report of the enquiry committee. triggered by a short circuit. He said the night

guards detected the fire around 6:30am Sunday when they went to switch off the lights.

"The fire began from three points of the warehouse and it is not possible that the fire would break out from three different spots at a time if it was a short circuit," Nahid pointed out.

The probe report mentioned that the pow-

der-like chemical found near the exhaust fan ducts was possibly placed there from outside, he said. Test to identify the white powder-like chemical is going on. However, a number of officials and employ-

ees at the warehouse on condition of anonymity told The Daily Star that the powder-like substance, recovered last night, might be an insecticide used to protect the paper from termites.

"We used to apply a powder to protect the paper from termite," said a warehouse

The minister said they have not identified the people behind the so-called arson and it would be revealed, if there were any, in the final

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Jasim mulls legal action against EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Maj (retd) Jasim Uddin, whose MP status the Supreme Court has scrapped recently, said he is thinking about taking legal action against the Election Commission.

He said he is having to face this situation due to the EC's and the army's mistake.

"I am thinking about taking actions against the EC after I get the copy of the Supreme Court verdict which declared my candidacy in the election illegal," he told journalists yesterday at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

The Awami League leader alleged that BNP leader Maj (retd) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

OVERSEAS JOB MARKET SLIDE

Minister blames missions for lack of coordination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lack of coordination among different wings of Bangladesh missions jeopardised overseas job market for Bangladeshi nationals, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said yesterday.

The tendency of mission officials to work independently without any involvement of the head of the mission endangered the market prospect for expatriates, she said.

The minister made the remark at the concluding session of a three-day training programme organised by International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and UN Development Fund for Women (Unifem) at Hotel Westin in the capital. The training programme was organised for thirteen labour attaches, working at Bangladesh missions in different countries.

In her address Dipu Moni said, "Our government will not tolerate such attitude anymore. Stern actions will be taken against those officers found responsible for such behaviours SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Rab picks up, tortures reporter

Freed after several hrs STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion yesterday picked up a staff reporter of the daily New Age from his Jatrabari residence and allegedly tortured him in public.

He was however released around 10:15pm and was taken to Dhaka Medical SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Municipal polls likely in April: CEC

A CORRESPONDENT, Feni

The municipal elections might be held in April and the union parishad elections in June and July 2010, said Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda while inaugurating a server station at Feni yesterday morning.

The CEC said the election commission wants to complete the elections to municipalities and union parishads as soon as possible.

He said the EC wants to complete the election to Dhaka City Corporation in March 2010 and hold the municipality elections across the country in a single day.

He expressed hope to hold the union parishad elections of six divisions in six days in June and July 2010.

Shamsul Huda said after setting up of the server stations any one can become a voter any SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Businessman quizzed

CTG ARMS HAUL CASE

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg Officials of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) here yesterday grilled a leading frozen food exporter

in connection with seizure of

ten-truck-load of firearms in

the early hours of April 02,

2004. CID investigators quizzed Syed Mahmudul Hoque, also a SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

What is Death?

Death is nothing at all. I have only slipped away into the next room. I am I and you are you. Whatever we were to each other, that we still are.

call me by my old familiar name. Speak to me in the easy way which you always used. Put no difference in your tone. wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow.

Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me, pray for me. Let my name be ever the household word that it always was.

Let it be spoken without affect,

without the trace of a shadow on it. Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same that it ever was. There is absolutely unbroken continuity. Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight? I am waiting for you, for an interval, somewhere very near,

> All is well. - Henry Scott Holland

just around the corner.

Azimur Rahman 1935-2001

Try August 15 case under army law Defence counsel says, compares Aug

15 carnage with Zia killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The case regarding the August 15 incidents has to be tried under the army act by court martial as the killings of Bangabandhu and Ziaur Rahman were similar in

nature and resulted from mutiny in the army, a defence counsel told the Supreme Court yesterconvicts Syed Farooqur Rahman and

Advocate Khan Saifur Rahman, counsel for Muhiuddin Ahmed in Bangabandhu murder case, made the statement while placing arguments before the apex court during the 14th day's hearing on the appeals.

He said the Zia murder case was tried by



court martial under the Army Act 1952 and 12 people were sentenced to death. Similarly, the case regarding the killings of Bangabandhu and his family members on August 15, 1975, has to be tried by court martial, Saifur said.

"It is clear from the facts and circumstances of the case that the trial of the case by the ordinary criminal court such as the Sessions Judge, Dhaka, was not maintainable in law for want of jurisdiction thereby vitiating the trial. Thus the conviction and sentence awarded on the appellants are liable to be set aside," he said.

The lawyer said the series of events, activities, briefings, exercises and happenings in SEE PAGE 15 COL 4