

## PM assures harassment-free airports for expatriates

UNB, Doha

Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina said her government would take necessary steps to stop harassment of expatriate Bangladeshis at airports in the country.

She remarked yesterday while addressing a reception programme arranged by Bangladeshi expatriates in Doha.

The PM said the government has already taken several steps after which the service delivery system in Bangladesh's airports has improved.

"But due to relentless corruption and irregularities in the last seven years, the situation worsened and it will take

time to improve it," she told the function.

Hasina also said the government sincerely wants to improve the service quality of Biman Bangladesh Airlines Limited.

She also assured the expatriates of looking into the problem of their children's curriculum-related difficulties for getting admission into the universities in Bangladesh.

She said the previous Awami League-government sponsored project of 18,000 community health clinics, which was shut by the last BNP-Jamaat government, will be started again to ensure quality and cheap medical facilities.

Hasina said the people of the country have got their own

every upazila with vocational education training facilities. "We want to create a job-oriented education system in our country."

Sheikh Hasina also asked the expatriate Bangladeshis to make constructive suggestions about the country's education policy, a draft of which is available on the Education Ministry website.

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DEFAMATION SUIT  
Moeen's  
vokalatnama  
legal: HC

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday declared legal a vokalatnama (power of attorney) submitted by a counsel of former army chief Gen (retd) Moeen U Ahmed on August 5 in a Tk 100 crore defamation case.

Judge SM Saiful Islam of the Third Joint District Judge's Court passed the order dismissing a petition submitted by former state minister for power Iqbal Hasan Mahmood Tuku challenging the legality of the vokalatnama.

The court fixed November 17 as the date for the next hearing of the suit.

Both the counsels of the plaintiff and the defendant yesterday took part in the hearing on the petition and made their submissions.

In his order, the judge said the vokalatnames submitted to the court by lawyers of Moeen was legal and there was no legal bar to accept it.

On October 1, former state minister Tuku submitted the petition challenging the legality of the power of attorney. Moeen's lawyer submitted a written objection against the petition on October 20.

Tuku had filed the defamation suit on July 12, accusing the former army chief of making derogatory remarks damaging his (Tuku's) reputation.

On a petition filed by Tuku the same day, the court asked Moeen to explain within three weeks why his property should not be attached.

On March 27 in 2007, Gen Moeen, then army chief, said at a tea party at the National Parade Square that corrupt politicians had siphoned off at least Tk 20,000 crore from the energy sector during the four-party rule, reads the complaint.

The party was held in honour of the freedom fighters.

12 BDR men  
appeal to  
retract  
confessional  
statements

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh elected member of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for a three-year term beginning from January 1, 2010.

In the election to elect four countries from Asia region, a total of 188 countries cast their votes and Bangladesh got elected securing 185 votes, highest secured by any country, says a press release of Bangladesh's mission in New York.

The election was held in the General Assembly hall at the 25th plenary meeting of the 64th UNGA when the delegates from the member states voted to elect 18 members of the 54-member ECOSOC from different geographical regions.

The other countries elected to the ECOSOC are: Ghana, Comoros, Zambia, Rwanda and Egypt (from Africa), Ukraine and Slovakia (from Eastern Europe), Chile, Bahamas and Argentina (from GRULAC Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries), and Italy, Belgium, Canada and USA (from WEOG Group of Western European Countries and Others).

Bangladesh earlier served the ECOSOC in 1976-78, 1981-83, 1985-87, 1992-94, 1996-98 and 2004-06 terms.

Campaign to  
raise breast  
cancer  
awareness

METRO DESK

Nokia and Centre for Cancer Prevention and Research (CCPR) jointly announced a nationwide breast cancer awareness campaign 'Think Pink', says a press release.

The activities will commence this month which is globally recognised as the breast cancer awareness month.

CCPR intensifies its initiatives to create awareness about the disease across the country during this month.

This year, Nokia is promoting the cause by supporting the district level awareness campaign which will run from November till December.

The pink ribbon is the international symbol for breast cancer awareness and the campaign asks everyone to show solidarity to the cause by wearing pink ribbons from October 25 to November 7.

Interested persons can also call at 01912-829651 or 01718-033001 for further information.

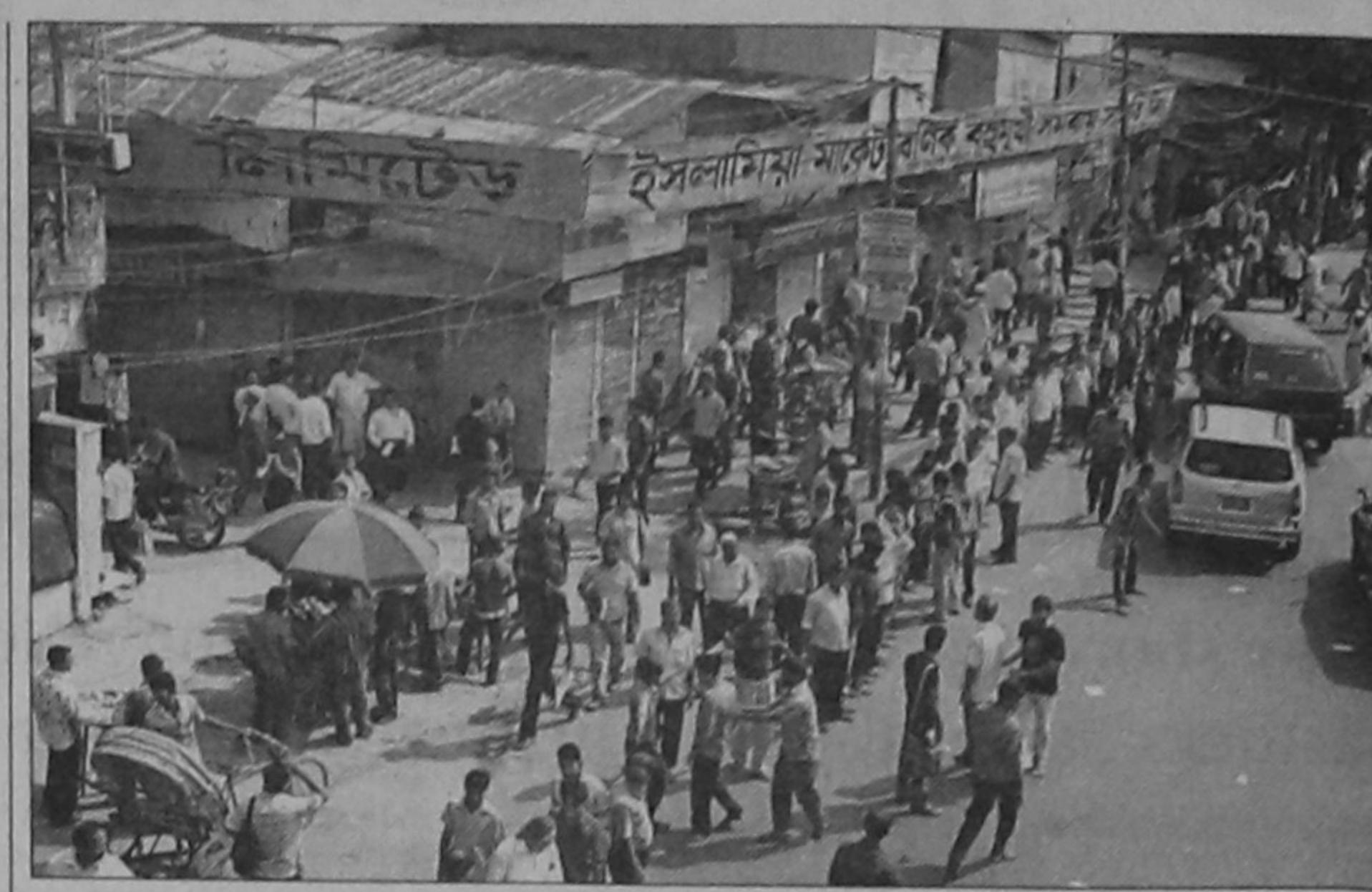
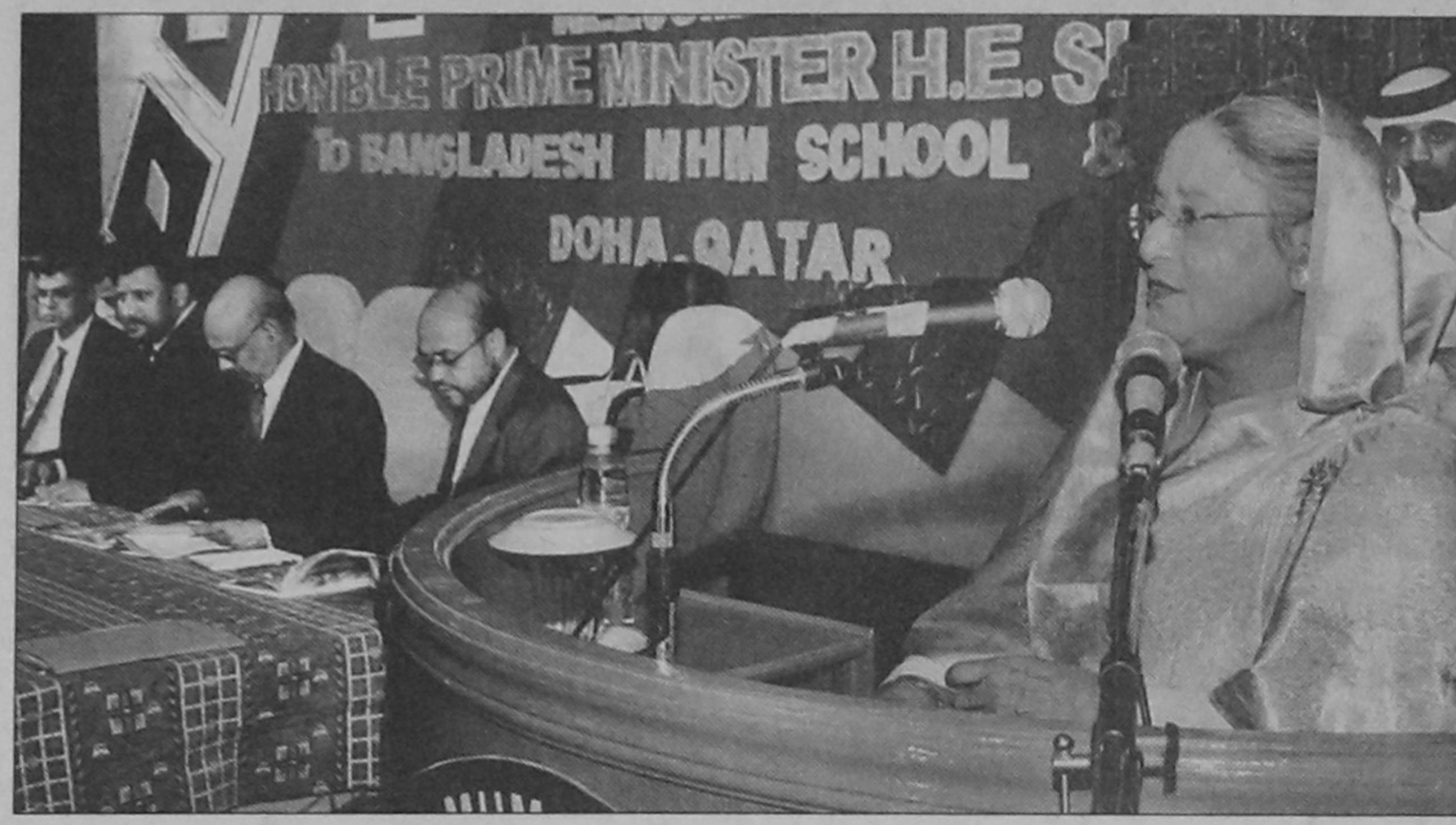


PHOTO: STAR

Islamia Market Merchants Multipurpose Cooperative Society and Babupura Small Traders' Samity stage a demonstration in front of the market in the city yesterday protesting an attack on book traders at Nilkhet.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks during a visit to Bangladesh MHM School & College in Doha, Qatar, on Monday.

PHOTO: PID

Court hearing  
on remand  
prayer for  
Babar today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court will hear today a 10-day prayer for interrogation of detained former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar in connection with the August 21 grenade attack case.

On Monday, Additional Superintendent of Police of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Abdul Kader Akond, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted a petition to show Babar arrested in the case.

The IO also submitted another petition seeking a 10-day remand for Babar to interrogate him about the suppliers of grenades and their whereabouts.

First Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Ehsanul Haque granted the petition to show Babar arrested in the case and also fixed today for hearing on the remand prayer in his (Babar) presence.

The court also directed the jail authorities to produce Babar before it on the scheduled date.

Twenty-three people were killed and 300 others injured in the grenade attack on an Awami League rally at Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21, 2004.

Police filed two cases -- one for murder and another under the Explosive Substances Act -- with Motijheel Police Station a day after the grenade attack.

On August 3, a speedy trial tribunal ordered further probe into the cases following petitions filed by the prosecution seeking fresh investigation.

Following order for further investigation, former deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu and a Harkatul Jihad (Huji) member Abu Taher were remanded several times in connection with the case and sent to jail afterwards.

On March 5 this year, a Dhaka court sent Babar to jail for the second time on his surrender seeking bail in an arms case in which he was sentenced to 17 years' rigorous imprisonment.

**Fire drill for students**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Rifles and Fire Service and Civil Defence started a training course for school children and teachers to impart them with technique to handle situations during earthquake and fire incidents.

A three-day course was launched yesterday at Bir Shreshtha Nur Mohammad Rifles School and College campus in the city.

## SC upholds stay on bail to sugar traders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld its chamber judge's orders that stayed the High Court orders granting bail to 14 sugar traders of Khulna and Jessoro in two cases.

Following two leave-to-appeal petitions filed by the government, a five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin yesterday also directed both the parties to take steps for the hearing and disposal of rules issued earlier by the HC.

On October 6, the High Court upon two separate bail petitions granted anticipatory bail to the sugar traders and also issued separate rules

Bangladesh elected  
ECOSOC  
member

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The traders are Abdul Wahab, Anisur Rahman alias Boro Anis, Anisur Rahman alias Chhoto Anis, Abdul Wadud, Modhusudan Saha, Raju Ahmed, Mohammad Amin, Chitta Ranjan Kundu, Hafizur Rahman Babu, Saifur Rahman, Rafiqul Islam, Alok Kumar Kundu, Sirajul Islam and Sarwar Hossain.

On October 7, following two government petitions, the chamber judge of the Appellate Division stayed the HC orders and asked the government to file separate leave-to-appeal petitions with the Supreme Court against the High Court orders.

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METRO DESK



Nazmul Hasan, second from left, and Mahbubul Hasan, right, sons of Lt Col Mohiuddin Ahmed, self-proclaimed killer of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, are being taken to a court yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

**WEATHER  
TODAY**  
Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:22pm today and rises at 7:30am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 33.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 16.7 degrees Celsius at Rajshahi.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity percentage		
Max	Min	Morning	Evening	
Dhaka	31.7	20.6	45	60
Chittagong	30.8	22.0	67	60
Rajshahi	31.5	16.7	75	67
Khulna	31.8	19.5	58	70
Barisal	32.0	19.6	67	86
Sylhet	32.8	20.3	75	72
Cox's Bazar	33.0	23.8	61	64

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twelve Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) members yesterday appealed to a Dhaka court to retract their confessional statements given earlier in the BDR mutiny case.

The carnage took place at the BDR headquarters on February 25-26 leaving a number of BDR high officials, including its director general (DG), dead.

Metropolitan Magistrate Rashed Kabir put the petitions in the file of the carnage case.

In the petitions, the BDR jawans told the court that they were tortured mercilessly to give the confessional statements.

Meanwhile, 16 BDR jawans were shown arrested in the case yesterday and taken on a five-day remand each.

All of the border guard men were arrested from Pilkhana headquarters after the February 25-26 bloodshed.

**Appeal for help**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mariam Akhter Keya, a student of class nine at MW High School in Narayanganj, has been suffering from bone cancer, says a press release.

The girl is now undergoing treatment at the National Institute of Cancer and Hospital (NICRH) at Mahakhal.

According to doctors, she needs better treatment, which involves around Tk 32 lakh. But it is not possible for her father, now a retired person, to manage such a huge amount.

Keya has two sisters but no brother. Her father is the only bread-winner in the family. So, the family members have appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand to save her life.

Contributions can be sent to Kohinur Begum, A/C No. 01011220002339-9, First Security Bank Ltd, Dilkusha Branch, Dhaka-1000; or Shahnaaz Azad, Savings A/C No. 3578-5, Pubali Bank, Naya Paltan (VIP Road) Branch, Dhaka.

Interested persons can also call at 01912-829651 or 01718-033001 for further information.

Dr Abdul Hasnat, director (Dhaka division) of

forced to go to the street and people will bring an end to this misrule through movement," he said at both the places.

The secretary general said repressive measures such as filing cases and launching assaults cannot divert people's reaction to other issues, adding that the recent case against Tarique is just another ploy to harass him.

"The government has filed the money laundering case against Tarique Rahman to smear him politically, but all the cases must be withdrawn," he said at a protest rally organised by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal in front of the party's central office in Naya Paltan in the city.

Meanwhile, an official cross-party delegation of the United Kingdom met the BNP secretary general at the central office the same day.

Anti-Corruption Commission on Monday filed the case against Tarique and Giasuddin Al Mamun for laundering Tk 20.4 crore from Bangladesh by several routes to Singapore that violated the Money Laundering Act.

Earlier, Delwar also talked to reporters after placing a wreath at the grave of the party's founder president Ziaur Rahman at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar on the occasion of the founding anniversary of Juba Dal.

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