

LeT operative on 4-day fresh remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Criminal Investigation Department (CID) is set to interrogate operative of Pakistan-based militant outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) Abdul Malek for his alleged involvement in supplying grenades for the August 21 attack on an Awami League rally in 2004.
LeT operative Abdul Malek alias Golam Mohammad, 45, was arrested by Rab on October 5 from the airport railway station area. He was taken on a three-day remand and then sent to jail through a court.
Yesterday Golam was produced before a Dhaka Court with a seven-day remand prayer after showing him arrested in the grenade attack case.
The 3rd Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Ali Hossain put him on a four-day fresh remand.
Golam joined LeT in 2000 and moved to Pakistan in 2003, where he had training on arms.

3 shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
An alleged mugger, his wife and cousin sustained bullet injuries as his rivals shot at them at their Nodda residence in the capital's Gulshan yesterday.
The injured -- Hasan Ali, 40, his wife Bakul, 35, and his cousin Asma, 33, -- were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).
Hasan told reporters at DMCH that local criminal Anu and his four to five accomplices shot him at around 3:30am.
As his wife Bakul and Asma came to protect him, Bakul received a bullet in the belly while Asma in the left leg.
Officer-in-Charge (OC) Kamal Uddin of Gulshan police station said Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel earlier arrested Anu and he (Anu) was released on bail a few days back.
Kamal Uddin added Anu suspected that Hasan informed Rab of his [Anu] criminal acts. This might have led to the incident.
The OC said Hasan and Anu used to commit crimes in the area.
However, Hasan claimed that he is a rickshaw van puller.

Obituary

DU CORRESPONDENT
Prof Nurul Haque Khan, former teacher of biochemistry and microbiology department at Dhaka University, passed away on Sunday at the age of 83, says a press release.
His namaz-e-janaza will be held at the university's central mosque premises after Zohr prayers today.
Friends, relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the namaz-e-janaza and pray for salvation of the departed soul.
Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique expressed profound shock at his death and expressed sympathy to the bereaved family.

Jahurul Islam's anniversary of death today

METRO DESK
Today is the 15th death anniversary of Alhaj Jahurul Islam, the founder chairman of Islam Group, says a press release.
On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held separately at Jahurul Islam Medical College Campus Mosque, his Agro-based Business Units and different educational institutions at his birth place at Bhagalpur of Bajitpur in Kishoreganj.
Offices of all units of Islam Group will remain closed on the day to mark the occasion.

Md Moazzem Hossen

METRO DESK
Today is the 9th death anniversary of Md Moazzem Hossen, a former police officer, says a press release.
On the occasion, recitation from the Holy Quran and a milad-mahfil will be held.
Friends, relatives and well-wisher are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.



BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia exchange pleasantries with members of the Hindu community at her office in Gulshan in the city yesterday on the occasion of Durga Puja.

Foreign policy changes with govts
Say former foreign ministers, diplomats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Former foreign ministers and retired diplomats yesterday said Bangladesh's foreign policy has been running on ad-hoc basis since the independence as all the successive governments changed the policy instead of giving it a permanent shape.
The speakers also came down heavily against politicisation of the foreign affairs cadres and linking up internal politics with the foreign policy that hampers Bangladesh's foreign policy capacity with other nations.
They said even foreign affairs cadre posts like other cadres of the Bangladesh Civil Service have been increasingly politicised.
They made the observations at a discussion on Reflection of Foreign Policy of Bangladesh under a two-day national colloquium styled "Bangladesh Tomorrow" at Hotel Sheraton in the city. Centre for Sustainable Development (CFSD) organised the event.
Presided over by Sayed Kamaluddin, editor of Weekly Holiday, it was addressed, among others, by former foreign ministers Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud MP, M Morshed Khan, former state minister for foreign affairs Abul

Hasan Chowdhury, former ambassadors Mohammad Zamir and Masood Aziz.
Secretary General of CFSD Mahfuz Ullah moderated the discussion.
They said there is no consistency in the foreign policy of Bangladesh to ensure the national interest.
Former ambassador M Anwar Hashim in his keynote paper said the foreign policy should be formulated based on a national consensus between the government and the opposition political parties.
M Morshed Khan said "Our foreign office cadres know only how to translate Bangla from English and English from Bangla, and those who are efficient moves with bio-data in their pockets and go abroad with jobs from donor agencies."
He suggested formation of an advisory committee with former diplomats to suggest the incumbent foreign ministry officials how to conduct negotiations with other countries.
The former minister said he does not want to oppose the issue of giving transit facilities or permit India to use the Chittagong port but the question is that what Bangladesh will get after giving the facilities.
"It's important to ensure what we are

getting. We will only give and will not get anything - it is not possible," he said adding, a foreign policy ensures only national interest of a country.
Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud MP, who served as the foreign minister during Ershad regime, however, pointed out some positive pictures of Bangladesh including achieving GDP of around 6 percent from so-called "bottomless basket" termed by former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger.
Former state minister of past Awami League regime Abul Hasan Chowdhury said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's New Delhi visit was positive for raising various issues of Bangladesh, including sharing of the Teesta water and construction of Tipaimukh dam.
He said until agreements are not reached on these issues, mere assurances from India would not establish friendly relations.
Most of the discussants mentioned the deficit of trust between Bangladesh and India and suggested revival of Gujral doctrine that says with neighbours like Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, India does not ask for reciprocity, but gives and accommodates what it can in good faith and trust.

Move on to free country from swindlers: Ashraf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam yesterday said initiatives have been taken to save the country from the swindlers.
"The country has long been in the grip of swindlers, killers and protectors and patrons of killers. It's not easy to free the country. Our leader Sheikh Hasina has been trying to do the tough work," he said.
Ashraf, also the LGRD and cooperatives minister, said this to reporters after placing wreaths at the grave of Sheikh Russel at Banani graveyard on the occasion of Russel's 46th birth anniversary.
Russel, the youngest son of Bangabandhu, was murdered on August 15, 1975 along with the most of the family members.
Former Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman commented on October 6 that Bangladesh appears to be in the grip of swindlers.
Referring to the statement, Ashraf said the swindlers included state religion Islam in the constitution for political gains, gave indemnity to the killers of Bangabandhu and allowed citizenship to Golam Azam.

Ashraf termed that Khandaker Mahbub Hossain, president of Supreme Court Bar Association, is an "agent and beneficiary of the DGFI (Directorate General Forces of Intelligence)".
Mahbub proposed the government to go for a settlement outside the court over BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's residence in Dhaka Cantonment.
Ashraf said the justices who felt embarrassed to conduct trial of the Bangabandhu murder case are now making good statements. He also criticised the justices' role during the crisis moment of the country.
The minister said a move is there to bring the fugitive killers of Bangabandhu in the country.
He said the issue of Khaleda's residence would be settled in the court, mentioning that BNP moved to court against the cantonment board's notice to vacate the house.
Meanwhile, protesting BNP leader SQ Chowdhury's comment on Khaleda's cantonment house, Sajeda, deputy leader of the House said, "SQ Chowdhury in one hand provoked the army and defamed the court on the other. So he can be arrested in this connection."

'Seek international support to stop visa trade'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Bangladesh should seek international support in stopping visa trade in the labour migration process in the upcoming Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), said migration experts yesterday.
Visa trading means selling and buying of job visas by several intermediaries in both labour sending and hiring countries, ultimately increasing the cost of migration and causing labour exploitation, they said.
In most cases, Bangladeshi workers going abroad spend no less than Tk 2 lakh, which in some cases go up to Tk 5 lakh, but they cannot earn the amounts they spend.
Experts said there should be legal arrangements so that middlemen, even in the destination countries, can be brought to book.
The observations came at a national consultation meeting ahead of the fourth GFMD, a non-binding process, to be held in Mexico from November 8-9 this year.
Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment organised it with the assistance of Warbe Development Foundation, Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) and the United Nations Fund for Women (Unifem) at Cirdap auditorium in the city.
Professor CR Abrar, executive director of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit said, "When we talk about visa trading in

the destination countries, the host countries say it has to be addressed in the country of origin.
"This cannot go on. They also have to take care of the migrants and check the middlemen [who trade on visas]."
In this regard, Bangladesh can also seek help of other countries, he said, adding, "We should not shy away."
Briefing the day-long consultation, Unifem National Programme Manager Naheed Ahmed said the issue of climate change, migrants' health and protection of the female migrants should be raised in the GFMD.
"Levy imposed on migrants by the destination countries is a huge burden and should be withdrawn," said Shakirul Islam, chairman of Ovivashi Karmi Unnayan Programme (OKUP).
Addressing as chief guest, Expatriates' Welfare Secretary Zafar Ahmed Khan said nearly five crore people depend on the one crore Bangladeshi expatriates, and their causes must get more importance in all the development policies.
BMET Director General Khurshed Alam Chowdhury said Bangladesh's proposals, if accepted in the GFMD, could also be consolidated in the regional forums.
Government officials and local and international NGOs took part in the consultation, where they emphasised on stronger collaboration between the ministries of expatriates' welfare and foreign affairs, so that Bangladesh's causes are duly raised in the GFMD.

CANTT HOUSE OF KHALEDA

'SQ Chowdhury's remark seditious, provocative'

BSS, Dhaka
BNP leader SQ Chowdhury has stirred up controversy among politicians with his remark that the army should decide on the opposition leader's cantonment residence, even after the High Court has already ruled on the house.
"It's a sheer evidence ... SQ Chowdhury in his statement tried to give the army a separate entity, which is tantamount to rebellion," Awami League leader Suranjit Sengupta, also chairman of parliamentary standing committee on law ministry, told a press conference yesterday.
Workers Party president Rashed Khan Menon, MP said the army is an "integral part" of the government yet Chowdhury tried to mislead the nation in a planned way.
"With such a provocative comment, he is also trying to create a face-to-face situation between the army and the judiciary."
Chowdhury's comments intended to drag the army into a controversy, said Mahbubul Alam Hanif, AL joint secretary and prime minister's special assistant.
Jatiya Party Secretary General Ruhul Amin Hawladar, MP said he believed Chowdhury's "audacious" comments were merely his personal remarks and everyone should accept the verdict of the higher judiciary.
"None should make a comment which could endanger the smooth democratic process ... the people of the country do not expect it from any sensible leader," said Jatiya Sramik League General Secretary Roy Ramesh

Chandra.
SQ Chowdhury yesterday told newsmen that he thought the issue of Khaleda Zia's cantonment residence was a "matter of army" and the military should be the appropriate authority to take a decision on the issue.
Asked if he thought Chowdhury's remarks on Zia's cantonment house was a "sensible one", BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir declined to make any comment. Khaleda lost a legal battle in retaining her cantonment residence under a lease agreement, as the High Court earlier this month rejected her writ after hearings and asked her to vacate it within the next one month, validating a government order.
Khaleda's lawyer and Supreme Court Bar Association President Khondker Mahbub Hossain said he expected the government would reconsider its earlier decision to give back the house on "humanitarian ground".
Return
But law minister Barrister Shafique Ahmed said the government had no scope to be considerate about the matter as "only paupers" could deserve such compassion and "this will be an unjust enrichment in legal terms".
On April 8 last year, the cabinet cancelled the lease on grounds that the leasing process had been faulty and Khaleda violated lease terms with the subsequent notices saying she was carrying out political activities from the house located in a "protected area". Khaleda filed the writ petition next month challenging the notice.

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WEATHER TODAY

Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka
Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet and Chittagong divisions in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.
Weather may remain dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country. Met Office said.
Day temperature may rise slightly over the country.
The sun sets in the capital at 5:29pm today and rises at 5:58am tomorrow.
Country's highest temperature 35.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 22.8 degrees Celsius at Madaripur.
Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.3	26.4	63	63
Chittagong	32.5	26.2	73	78
Rajshahi	33.1	24.6	83	84
Khulna	34.0	26.3	80	78
Barisal	33.8	25.4	84	91
Sylhet	35.2	24.8	77	71
Cox's Bazar	33.5	27.5	78	79

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar
Bangladesh Adivasi Forum will hold a seminar on "constitutional recognition of indigenous people in Bangladesh" Time: 3:00-5:00pm, Venue: Cirdap Auditorium.

Human Chain
Bapa and Bela will form a human chain on environment protection, time: 10:00am, venue: Dhamrai Upazila Bus Stand.

Meeting
American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh will arrange a meeting on "Bangladesh economy: opportunities and challenges", Time: 12:30pm, Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Launching Ceremony
USAID will arrange a launching ceremony of national nutrition stakeholder meeting, Time: 12:00pm, Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.