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AUG 21 ATTACK
Rezaqul, Rahim on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed two former directors general of National Security Intelligence (NSI) on remand for four days in connection with the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally in 2004. Metropolitan Magistrate Shahriar Mahmud Adnan passed the order after Maj Gen (retd)

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PLANNED DIALOGUE
Special body sits today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment sits for an emergency meeting today to finalise the mode of the national dialogue with political parties and legal experts on prospective changes to the country's charter. On advice of Prime Minister and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina the 15-member special committee last week

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Body formed to probe OMS rice hoarding

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday formed a two-member committee to investigate the hoarding of open market sales (OMS) rice that had been recovered from the city's Karwan Bazar. Badrul Hasan, director of Directorate of Food, has been made head of the body and he will be assisted by Dhaka Regional Food

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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with BNP that the prime minister is influencing the cases against BNP chief's sons?

Yes (64.1%)

No (34.0%)

No Comments (1.9%)

TOTAL VOTES: 471

TODAY'S POLL

How do you look at the parliamentary body's summoning of ex-chief adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed and ex-army chief Moeen U Ahmed for the violent situation on the Dhaka University campus in August 2007?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING April 19

Azan	Jamaat
Fajr 4:35	5:10
Zohr 12:45	1:15
Asr 4:45	5:00
Maghrib 6:24	6:28
Esha 7:45	8:15

Sources: Islamic Foundation

Tk 50,000 for each

Decides govt on rehabilitation of Libya returnees; WB to provide \$40m loan

PORIMOL PALMA

The government will provide around Tk 50,000 to each of the migrant workers who returned home from Libya amid political violence in the North African country. "The grant for the returnees, to help them with their immediate resettlement, will not be less than fifty thousand taka each," Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain told reporters at a media briefing at the ministry yesterday. He said the World Bank agreed to provide \$40 million soft loan to the government. From that fund, the government will pay \$12.6 million to the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) as the cost of repatriating 10,000 Bangladeshis. The grant to be given to the affected returnees is however in no way compensation, Mosharraf said, adding that many workers returned penniless without salaries of two to three months, and helping them in resettlement is a necessity.

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OVERSEAS JOB SEEKERS

Soft loan on offer

Launch of Expatriates' Welfare Bank tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expatriates' Welfare Bank is set to begin its journey tomorrow aiming to provide low interest loan to overseas job seekers and help them invest in businesses after returning home. The interest rate has not been fixed yet, said Expatriates' Welfare Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain. He hinted it could be 9 percent as two job seekers would get loan at this rate on the inaugural day. "Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the bank, which will start its operation with an initial paid up capital of Tk 100 crore," the minister told reporters yesterday ahead of a meeting of Colombo Process, an alliance of 11 Asian manpower-exporting countries, from April 19-21.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina meets visiting Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa at her office yesterday.

STOCKMARKET CRASH

Help make probe report public

Rights body appeals to HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rights organisation filed a writ petition with the High Court yesterday seeking its directive upon the government to publish the probe report on stockmarket debacle within two days. Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) appealed that the court direct the Securities and Exchange Commission chairman to file a criminal case against the individuals or companies liable for the share market crash. The HC may hear the petition today, HRPB counsel Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star. The committee formed to probe the share market

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Delhi offers talks

Wants Dhaka to fix 'reasonable' transit fees

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

India has proposed talks with Bangladesh to fix a "reasonable" rate of transit fees for the proposed use of roads and railways, and the two sea ports of Bangladesh for transportation of goods, official sources in Dhaka said. Last week, New Delhi wrote to Dhaka that it is ready to pay a reasonable transportation charge and transit fees to Bangladesh. The rates can be set through negotiations between the two governments, said a Bangladesh official yesterday quoting the Indian letter. Bangladesh foreign ministry sources, meanwhile, said India submitted a proposal to Dhaka seeking to use Bangladesh's roads, railways, and the facilities at Chittagong and Mongla ports for transportation of goods. The sources said India proposed to specify the routes it wants to use for transit. The foreign ministry forwarded the copy of the proposal to the ministries concerned including the commerce ministry. A commerce ministry high official said whatever the government does, with regards to transit, will be in the interest of the country, and the public will be informed about it. He said the ministry received the Indian proposal, and will take a decision in light of the report of the government's committee on transit. The committee led by Tariff Commission Chairman Mujibur Rahman

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Army personnel patrol Piliak village of Ramgarh upazila in Khagrachhari yesterday, after three people were killed in a clash between Bangalee settlers and indigenous people on Sunday. Inset, Jatindra Lal Tripura MP urging Bangalees to stay calm at Boro Piliak Junior High School.



PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

KHAGRACHHARI ARSON

Victims wait for relief

Probe body formed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

The 40 families, whose houses were burnt during Sunday's clashes between indigenous people and Bangalee settlers, are passing days under the open sky as the local administration could not provide them shelter. Local lawmaker Jatindra Lal Tripura, meanwhile, pledged that the victims will be rehabilitated. The district administration said it would distribute rice and corrugated iron sheet among the victims of Sunday's violence whereas Kujendra Lal Tripura, chairman of Khagrachhari Hill District Council, pledged three bundles of corrugated iron sheets and necessary financial assistance to each of them. Sunday's violence left three people dead, 20 injured and the houses burnt. That night Khagrachhari Deputy

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Chinese company cutting Ctg hills

DoE seizes trucks, equipment

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A team of the Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday in a drive seized five trucks, a pump machine and an excavator of a Chinese company and arrested one person for cutting hills and destroying the ecosystem in Sonapahar area of Zorarganj under Mirsarai upazila of Chittagong. Acting on a tip off, the team led by its Director Munir Chowdhury, in association with the Forest Department, Power Greed Company and Rab 7 conducted the drive

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2007 ATROCITIES AT DU

Fakhruddin, Moeen asked again to testify

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The chief adviser of the last caretaker government and the then army chief have been asked again to testify before the parliamentary committee probing atrocities against Dhaka University students and teachers in August, 2007. Former chief adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed and ex-army chief Moeen U Ahmed, who failed to attend the committee's meeting yesterday, have been asked to appear before it on June 5. The decisions came at a committee meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. If they fail again to show up, the parliamentary body might accuse them of contempt of parliament, Rashed Khan

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AL man killed over tender

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenaidah

An Awami League activist was killed in a fierce clash between two groups of AL men over submission of a tender in Shaikupa yesterday. The dead is Abdur Rashid, 28, of Kazipara village in Shaikupa. Two groups of local AL activists locked into a clash in the evening over submitting tender documents of Fazilpur and Khulumbaria Haats, said Sagir Mia, officer-in-charge of Shaikupa Police Station. Poura AL president Toyeb Ali Joarder and Kazi Ashraf

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