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6 muggers caught

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police caught a group of six youths who had gone on a mugging spree in Mirpur area of the capital in the early hours yesterday.

Around 3:45am, a team of Mirpur police put a barricade on Begum Rokeya Sarani on information that seven to eight persons in three motorbikes had been robbing people on the street from Agargaon to Mirpur-10 since around 3:00am.

As the muggers sped to break the blockade, six of them got caught but another member of the gang escaped.

Abdul Aziz, sub-inspector of Mirpur Police Station, said the group confessed to snatching Tk 22,000 and two mobile phones from two poultry businessmen near Shewrapara Sujana Community Centre. They

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Traders defy hilsa ban

PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY, Ctg

Traders driven by greed have been forcing poor fishermen to catch hilsa during its breeding zone in the Bay of Bengal even as the authorities struggle to enforce an 11-day ban.

The Oct. 6-16 ban is aimed at protecting the egg-carrying hilsa during the peak spawning season.

Defying the ban, traders, most of whom are owners of trawlers, are sending the rather reluctant fishermen to Kutubdia, Mayani, Sangu and other coastal areas to invade the breeding zone of the fish, now considered an expensive delicacy for Bengalis.

Government raids to enforce the ban have resulted in the seizure of illegally caught hilsa and fishing trawlers. Interestingly, the fish is being sold at low prices to the same traders who are defying the ban, as fishing sources report.

At Fishery Ghat in Firingi Bazar, close to the River Karnaphuli, traders were seen preserving the mother hilsa in their cold storages even after the ban came into effect on Oct. 6.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a trader told The Daily Star he had bought the fish at the rather low price of one kg of hilsa for somewhere between Tk 30 and 40.

Fisheries Department sources say that most fishermen at Mirsarai, Mayani, Sitakunda, Kutubdia and Sangu coastal areas have pledged not to fish in the bay during

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The fisheries department and coastguards seize a huge quantity of hilsa from fishermen in Chittagong as a ban on netting and marketing of the fish continues. The fish was seen being sold in auction at the port city's Fisherghat yesterday. The government imposed the restriction on hilsa fishing in costal area between October 6 and 16, the suitable time for hilsa breeding.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

6 Hizb-ut activists arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested six alleged members, three of them women, of the militant outfit Hizb-ut Tawhid with leaflets and books of the organisation from Rajshahi city early Sunday.

The arrestees are Md Sujan, 20, his sister Mina Begum, 42, Altaf Hossain, 67, and his two daughters -- Monika, 18, and Shikha Parvin, 22, and Md Sajal, 20.

On secret information that the Rajshahi district

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Aug 21 attack plot hatched in 8 places

Charges read out

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The accused in the August 21 grenade attack cases met at eight places in the capital including Hawa Bhaban in preparation for the grisly blasts around seven years back.

The prosecution said this to a Dhaka court on the first day of charge-framing hearing yesterday.

They, however, did not specify how many meetings were held at those places. Neither did they mention who among the accused attended which of the meetings.

The eight spots are Hawa Bhaban, BNP



Chairperson Khaleda Zia's former political office at Banani; BNP leader and ex-deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu's Dhanmondi residence; Huji chief Mufti Abdul Hannan's house at Merul Badda; Ali & Noor Real Estate near Mohammadpur Supermarket; Masjidul Akbar Complex at Mirpur-1; DIT Project area at Merul Badda; Engineer Nazrul Islam's house at East Badda; and Ahsanullah Kajal's house at West Merul in Badda.

On August 21, 2004, grenade blasts at

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No easy banking for farmers

'Deposit, bribe' need for account opening

UNB, Dhaka

Despite the government's clear directive to open farmers' bank accounts across the country with the nominal deposit of Tk 10, farmers of some villages at Dacope in Khulna are denied the opportunity.

It is alleged that

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4 Indians freed

Law-enforcers act mysteriously

STAR REPORT

Law enforcers yesterday freed four Indian students of Jalalabad Ragib-Rabeya Medical College in Sylhet. They were detained early Friday allegedly on suspicion of being involved in the September 7 blast in New Delhi.

Mystery shrouds over who actually detained them, why and who interrogated them.

Law enforcers had earlier vehemently denied picking up the students but yesterday Inspector General of Police Hasan Mahmud Khandaker said the students from Indian Jammu and Kashmir state had been detained for questioning. He did not say which agency picked them up and why.

Meanwhile, final-year medical student Mohammad Wasim and doctor Ashrafuzzaman Chowdhury are still missing. They are traceless since September 22 and Wednesday night.

Maj Gen (ret'd) Nazmul Islam, principal of the medical

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Pro-migrant law enacted in California

BBC ONLINE

The governor of California, Jerry Brown, has signed into law legislation allowing illegal immigrants to receive state aid to attend college.

Supporters of the California Dream Act, as it is called, say it will benefit

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PRAYER TIMING		October 10
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-45	5-50
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



This leopard -- believed to have wandered into Bangladesh from India -- mauled 12 villagers of Mohammadpur at Patgram upazila, Lalmonirhat yesterday. Later, people from eight villages pinned it down and killed it.

PHOTO: S DILIP ROY

Sub-continental Peoples Unity Forum

This forum desires to foster friendly relationship between the peoples of the three break-away countries of the Indian subcontinent namely India, Pakistan & Bangladesh. A seminar will be held at the Bangabandhu Int'l Conference Center shortly. Persons from these three countries interested in this move are requested to contact the convener. Those who desire to contribute in the way of composing articles expressing their view point on this subject are requested to send their writings.

Convener

Nurul Basher

Tel: 01713000738, E-mail: spufnb@yahoo.com

Mahtab Center (11th Flr.), 177 Shahid Sayed Nazrul Islam Sarani, Bijoynagar, Dhaka-1000.

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Other Districts : Brahmanbaria, Barisal, Bogra, Chittagong, Comilla, Gazipur, Jamalpur, Jessore, Kushtia, Khulna, Moulvibazar, Madaripur, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Sirajgonj, Sylhet, Tangail.

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

Do you think the government should make public the names of the alleged corruptionists in Padma Bridge project before completing the probe?

Yes (81.0%)  
No (17.6%)  
No Comments (1.4%)

TOTAL VOTES: 483

TODAY'S POLL  
Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that the caretaker government system was nullified in light of the apex court's verdict and the government has nothing to do with it?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT  
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