Another arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Rapid Action Battalion has arrested one more person in Gazipur for involvement in the sensational escape of three convicted JMB militants being transported in a prison van to Mymensingh in February. Khorshed Alam, 30, was

arrested around 4:10am yesterday during a raid on a makeshift house at Konabari, said Mustaque Sarkar, operation officer of

of Satarkul in the capital's Badda, was on the run for a while. He worked at a



DMP launches anti-kidnapping squad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An "anti-kidnapping squad" was formed by the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday to fight the ongoing kidnapping spree in the country.

The 40-member specially trained team will conduct raids to rescue abducted victims and arrest kidnappers, said Monirul Islam, joint commissioner of the DMP, addressing the press at the DMP media centre. "The squad has already started its operation."

People whose loved ones are missing, or who have witnessed a kidnapping, have been asked to call at the designated hotline, 01713398327, which is open 24 hours, he said.

The squad is led by Sanowar Hossain, additional deputy commissioner of Detective Branch of DMP.

Talking to The Daily Star about identifying "fake" law enforcers, ADC Sanowar said, "No law enforcer in plainclothes can make

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Govt ready to build Padma bridge with

She asked the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) to form a team with local engineers and experts for designing and constructing the country's big structures like bridges and tunnels.

of Bangladeshi professionals instead of depending on foreign engineers and experts, as local experts understand the country, its people and its weather pattern better.

gurating the 55th convention of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) on the IEB Bhaban premises.

Development: Towards a Safer Environment".

Nearly 5,000 engineers from home and abroad are par-Thursday.

sorts of cooperation and support to make engineering education a time-befitting one to keep pace with globalisation.

ing engineers' expertise.

the welfare of the engineers, Sheikh Hasina said about 10bigha land and Tk 5 crore had been given for their institution during 1996-2001, while Tk 23 crore more was pro-



Trader rescued in Jurain Journos' professional two days after kidnap

Police arrest 5 of a gang

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

2nd Edition

Two days after his abduction from Bangshal, police rescued an automobile spare parts trader at Jurain in Dhaka early yesterday and arrested five of the alleged kidnappers.

Monirul Islam, joint commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said they, acting on a tip off, raided a house in Jurain around 5:00am and rescued Abdul Hakim, 50.

Hakim had been tortured in cap-

Police arrested Mohammad Rana, 25, Shamsuddin Ahmed, 24, and Mohammad Hridoy, 20, at the house and Nishi Begum, 26, and Bhagya Rani, 32, at Bangshal and Shyampur, said Monirul, addressing a press briefing at the media centre of DMP

where the arrestees were paraded.

After the kidnapping on Thursday, the abductors demanded over Tk 3.10 lakh in ransom from Hakim's family, the police official added.

"Nishi had lured Hakim to Rani's house in Jurain from where the kidnappers took him," Monirul claimed. However, Hakim told The Daily Star

that he was on a rickshaw in Bangshal going towards Rani's house when someone in a microbus travelling beside called out his name and asked him to stop.

"I stopped the rickshaw and before I knew what was going on they forced me into the vehicle," said Hakim.

Monirul claimed that Nishi was employed by the kidnappers to lure people to places from where they could be abducted. "We know about

five to six gangs who use such tactics. The women get a portion of the ransom," he said.

Hakim said he was taken to a house and tortured brutally. "They smashed my knuckles with a hammer to force me to ask my family members to send them Tk 10,000 via mobile cash transfer bKash. I called up my younger brother, and he did so. However, they were not satisfied and went on torturing me asking for a further Tk 3 lakh, said Hakim.

Hakim's clothes were stained with blood. There was a large mark over his right knee. His arms, chest and face bore bruises from beating.

Hakim's brother Abdul Matin filed a case with Bangshal Police Station on Friday in connection with the

kidnapping.

To Know is to Prevent

freedom curbed

Observe leaders at World Press Freedom Day discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A stitch in time saves nine

Any chest pain should not be ignored and delayed. Seek immediate help in the

Emergency Department of a hospital that is offering

Although the number of mass media outlets has multiplied in the country in recent years, professional freedom of journalists has been curbed, journalist leaders said yesterday.

The owners of media houses who have other businesses often manipulate news to serve their business interests rather than upholding the truth, they said.

The observations came from a discussion, "Media Freedom for a Better Future", organised by a faction of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) at the capital's Jatiya Press Club in observance of World Press

Freedom Day. Notorious land grabbers owning media outlets often try to legitimise their misdeeds through their media, said

Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, president of the BFUJ faction. He urged the government to investigate why Bangladesh slipped three notches down in the global ranking of press

freedom and take steps to eradicate the hurdles towards SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

AL men threaten to kill journo

Some ruling Awami League leaders of Panchbibi upazila in

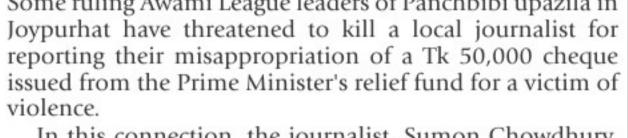
In this connection, the journalist, Sumon Chowdhury, 38, Panchbibi upazila correspondent of the Bangla daily Bhorer Kagoj, filed two separate general diaries (GDs) with Panchbibi Police Station on Thursday and Friday.

Md Mamunur Rashid Mondal threatened to kill him over the phone on Friday morning and Thursday evening.

Kamal confirmed the filing of the GDs.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur



In the GDs, he said Panchbibi upazila AL General Secretary and its Mayor Habibur Rahman and upazila AL Office Secretary

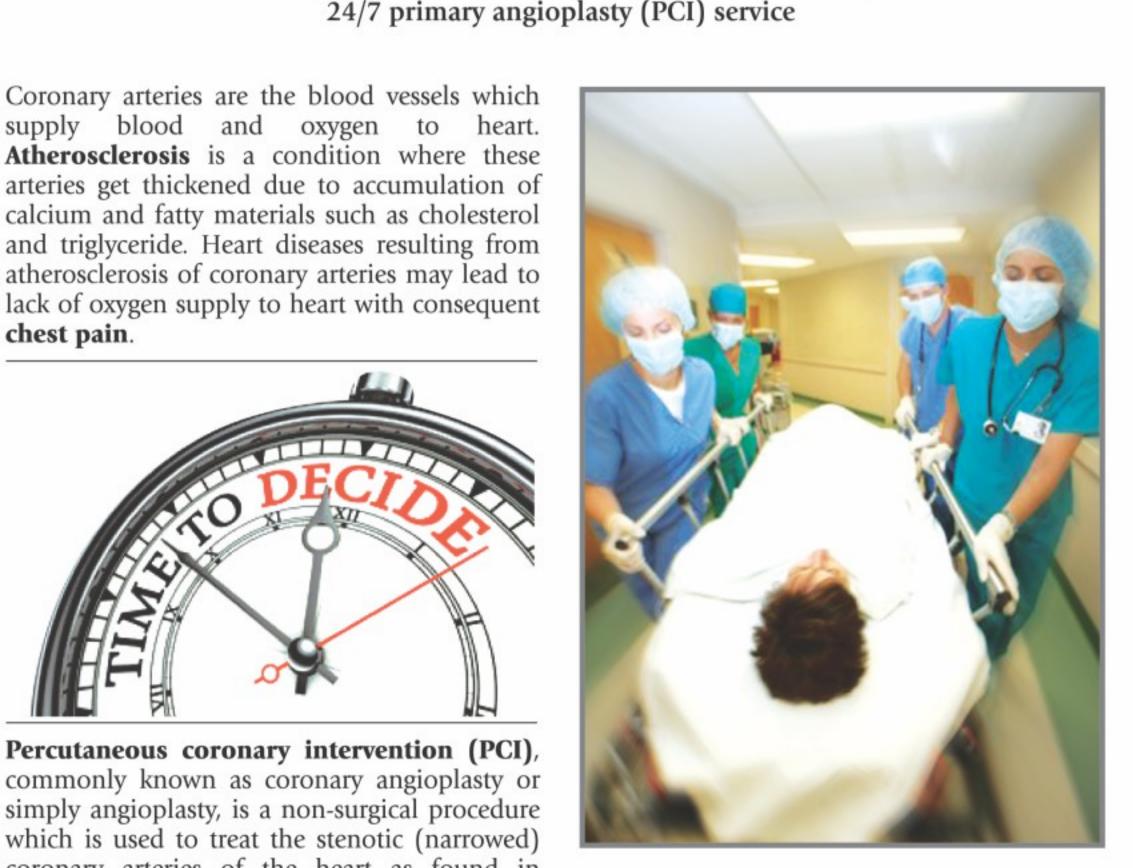
They also threatened to implicate him in extortion cases, the complaints said. Officer-in-Charge Abu Hena Mostafa

Despite repeated attempts, this correspondent could not contact Habibur as he did not respond to the phone calls.



chest pain.

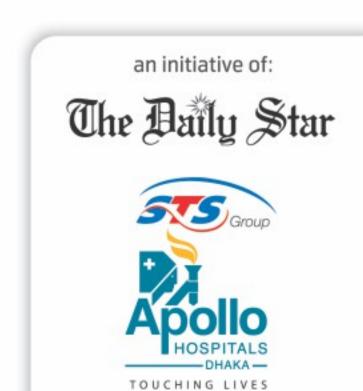
Percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), commonly known as coronary angioplasty or simply angioplasty, is a non-surgical procedure which is used to treat the stenotic (narrowed) coronary arteries of the heart as found in coronary heart disease. PCI has proven to be equally effective and less costly than heart surgeries like CABG (coronary artery bypass grafting) in patients with medically refractory myocardial ischemia, a condition when blood flow to the heart muscle is decreased by a partial or complete blockage of heart's arteries.



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JMB ESCAPE abettor

He was in one of the microbuses used to ambush the prison van and take

away the members of the Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh. Khorshed was there as a backup in case those who made the attack failed, the Rab official added. The arrestee, a resident

PHOTO: SEE PAGE 5 COL 1 RASHED SHUMON own resources: PM

UNB, Dhaka Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said there was a political game over construction of the Padma bridge, but her government overcoming all obstacles had completed all works to begin the construction of its main part with the country's own resources.

She also stressed the importance of utilising the expertise

"We need to change the mindset of depending on foreigners and foreign aids, as the country's dignity must be upheld by standing on our own feet," she said, while formally inau-

The theme of this year's convention is "Engineers for

ticipating in the five-day long convention that began on Hasina assured that her government would provide all

Hasina voiced her firm optimism that the country would move towards progress and prosperity in a faster way utilis-

Elaborating various steps of her government taken for vided at the fag end of her immediate past government.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6





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