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AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK DGFI helped Tajuddin flee

Ex-intelligence official testifies at court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A former DGFI official yesterday told a Dhaka court how his superior officers ensured a safe passage to Pakistan for Maulana Tajuddin, a suspect in the August 21 grenade attack case.

Major (sacked) Monirul Islam, who joined the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) in June 2006, said senior DGFI officials ensured a fake passport, Pakistani visa, Dhaka-Karachi air ticket and airport entry for Tajuddin.

Judge Shahed Nuruddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 of Dhaka recorded the statement of Monirul, the 84th prosecution witness in the case, and later fixed May 26 for cross-examination.

Aimed at assassinating Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, the grenade attack on an AL rally on August 21, 2004 left at least 23 leaders and activists of the party killed and scores injured.

In his deposition, Monirul said everything was done for Tajuddin as per the directions of "high authorities".

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FOOTBALL FEVER ON

With 22 days to the Fifa World Cup, flags of Bangladeshi fans' favourites are on sale in the capital's Gulistan yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



POST-1975 ROLE PMO refutes Dr Kamal's rejoinder

UNB, Dhaka

The Prime Minister's Office yesterday refuted the rejoinder issued by Dr Kamal Hossain & Associates on Monday, saying it tried to suppress the truth and was a heinous attempt to distort history.

The PMO, in a rejoinder, said: "The fact is that the then foreign minister, Dr

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SCIENCE STUDENTS VS HUMANITIES STUDENTS IN SSC Performance gap widens

WASIM BIN HABIB

This year's record-breaking SSC results show a widening gap between the humanities and science students in terms of securing the top grade.

Humanities students usually cannot carry good marks in the exams like the science learners do, but the difference between them with regard to obtaining GPA-5 in the last four years has been quite startling.

Only 1.2 percent humanities students achieved GPA-5 (grade point average) in this year's secondary

school certificate exams against 34.27 percent students from the science group. Besides, 6.15 percent business studies students achieved the feat, according to the results published on Saturday.

Though the number of humanities students getting the top grade has been on the rise, the overall situation for the last three years has been dismal. Only 0.62 percent students got GPA-5 last year, while it was 0.51 and 0.38 percent in 2012 and 2011.

In contrast, the percentage of science students passing with the top

grade was 37, 22.61 and 23.18 in the last three years.

Teachers and board officials said it is not possible to carry good marks in humanities subjects as there are no practical exams like those in the science subjects, which help students increase their marks significantly.

Besides, they added, some teachers, especially in the rural areas, cannot make the lessons of humanities subjects easier and understandable to the students, which is why the students often fail to write clearly in the answer scripts.

bKash agent mugged again

Tk 7 lakh looted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A bKash sales representative was stabbed and mugged of around Tk seven lakh in city's Khilgaon area yesterday.

As he did everyday, the victim was collecting money from the bKash retail agents when he was attacked.

Victim Sanaullah Gazi, 27, is receiving treatment at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases. He was stabbed on his arms and face.

Sanaullah worked at Mobile Choice, a distributor of bKash. His colleague Abdul Awal said the mugging took place in Sipahibagh around noon yesterday.

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WAR CRIMES No decision in prosecution meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With preparations for the filing of war crimes case against the Jamaat-e-Islami are stalled, the prosecution yesterday held a meeting "to discuss the progress of the possible and pending cases".

But they could not reach a decision on the issue and the meeting was adjourned until tomorrow.

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The Chaktai canal, which flows into the river Karnaphuli, is a major water body as it ensures storm water drainage of Chittagong city. But silts extracted after the Karnaphuli dredging have clogged the canal. During low tide, it almost loses navigability, suspending movements of boats.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL Witness accuses Subhan of killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another eyewitness yesterday testified that Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdus Subhan and the Pakistan army shot a group of detainees, killing at least five including his uncle and injuring three others at Ishwardi during the Liberation War in 1971.

Korban Ali, sixth prosecution witness in the case against Subhan, told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 that he had witnessed the incident from behind a bush and rescued the injured after the attackers had left.

Subhan had forced one of his cousins Fazlu to join Mujahed Bahini, an anti-liberation force that collaborated with the Pakistani army, but later shot him dead for his attempt to escape, said the 77-year-old freedom fighter.

"He [Subhan] is an infamous Razakar. I want his execution... Once he is executed, the



souls of 30 lakh martyrs will be at peace," said Korban as he completed his 45-minute testimony.

Earlier, Rustam Ali, one of the injured, testified that Subhan had shot him after lining him and other detainees up on the premises of a school at Ishwardi on April 13, 1971. Mohammad Israil, another victim, said the Pakistani army had shot a group of people upon instructions from Subhan, killing five and injuring three others, including him and his mother that day.

The Jamaat nayeb-e-ameer faces nine charges, including genocide, committed in Pabna during the war. Subhan, however, pleaded not guilty before the court.

Korban, a resident of Saragopalpur under Ishwardi upazila in Pabna, said Subhan along with his cohorts and the Pakistani army had attacked their village on April 13,

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina that her government had ensured free flow of information through enacting the Right to Information Act?

Yes (18%)
No (82%)

TOTAL VOTES: 454

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think rivers in Dhaka and Chittagong will be freed from grabbers following the prime minister's direction to the ministries concerned?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING May 21

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-40	6-45
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Japan unveils joking robot

AFP, Tokyo

Japanese scientists unveiled a robot with a sense of humour yesterday, and claimed it was capable of knowing when its jokes had fallen flat.

The pint-sized roller-skating EMIEW2 -- pronounced like the flightless bird -- is able to have a short conversation with a human being, without being given a script.

The red and white robot picks key words from a sentence -- for example, "how many" -- to try to work out what question it is being asked, then confirms

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Dream-reading machine built

Claim scientists

MAIL ONLINE

Scientists have created a machine with the potential to read our dreams while we sleep.

Researchers in the US say it is so powerful that it can extract images from people's brains and display them on a screen.

The data from the brain scanner has already been used to detect and reconstruct images of faces that people are thinking of.

Researchers believe the same technology could be used in the future to enable them to reconstruct images from people's memories, imagination and dreams.

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Family Planning Media Award 2013-2014

The Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP) in association with UNFPA - the United Nations Population Fund, Bangladesh is pleased to announce 'Family Planning Media Award 2013-2014' for excellence in reporting on population and family planning issues in Bangladesh.

Exploratory/analytical reports/success stories published on the above issues, in National and Regional Dailies (Bangla/English) from 1st July 2013 to 30th June 2014 will be eligible for entry. TV and Radio programmes and reports addressing the above issues and televised/broadcasted from 1st July 2013 to 30th June 2014 will also be eligible for competition.

Deadline for entry is 15th JUNE 2014. For detail TOR, please visit DGFP website www.dgfpbd.org or see 'notice board' of Director (IEM), DGFP (6, Kawran Bazar, 7th Floor, Dhaka).

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