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IF LOOKS COULD KILL: Inspirational Bangladesh skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza sends down a delivery during the Tigers' final training session at the MCG yesterday, ahead of their quarterfinal clash against India today. The match starts at 9:30AM BST.

PHOTO: AFP

RAID ON 2 COLLEGE HOSTELS IN CTG

80 Shibir activists held, arms seized

70 bombs found in BNP man's house in Dhaka

STAR REPORT

The Islami Chhatra Shibir had been using Chittagong College and Government Hazi Mohammad Mohsin College as their arsenals for more than three decades, until police busted those in an overnight raid yesterday.

The Islamist party men were planning to unleash a terror in the port city using some of the firearms, including AK-22 rifles, single- and double-barrel rifles and foreign pistols, amid the ongoing political violence.

"They [Shibir men] have created a cantonment-like ambience inside the educational institutions," said Abdul Jalil Mandal, commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police, after raiding the Shibir dens.

Police recovered nine firearms and a large cache of ammunition and bomb-making materials from inside a hole near a staff dormitory of Chittagong College.

During the raid, cops detained 80 activists of Shibir, a pro-Jamaat-e-Islami student wing, and Abdul Wadud, finance secretary of Sramik Kalyan Federation, a pro-Jamaat labour organisation.



Locals in Chawkbazar, where the two colleges are located, said the area was comparatively remote and surrounded by hills. Taking this geographical advantage, Shibir men were using the government colleges as their hideouts and storing arms and ammunition there over the years.

Shibir men took control of the colleges in the mid-1980s.

"It is very difficult to enter the hilly areas by Hazi Mohammad Mohsin College," said a local, requesting not to be named.

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BLOGGER RAJIB MURDER CHARGE

Jasim, 7 others indicted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against the chief of militant group Ansarullah Bangla Team and seven former students of North South University in connection with the killing of blogger Ahmed Rajib Haider.

Ansarullah Bangla Team chief Mufti Jasimuddin Rahmani and six NSU students, now in jail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Judge Ruhul Amin of the Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court read out the charges to them.

The seven NSU students are Redwanul Azad Rana, Md Faisal Bin



Rajib Haider



Mufti Jasim

Nayem alias Dweep, Maksudul Hasan alias Anik, Md Ehsan Reza alias Rumman, Nayem Sikdar alias Iraj, Nafis Imtiaz and Sadman Yasir Mahmud.

Of them, Rana is on the run and the charge was framed against him in his

absence. In the charge sheet, Rana was shown as the "planner" of the murder.

Earlier in the day, the court rejected separate petitions submitted by the accused seeking their discharge from the case.

The court also fixed April 21 for beginning the trial of the case and issued summons to the complainant of the case to appear before it on the scheduled date to say what he knew about the killing.

DB Inspector Nibarun Chandra Barman, also the investigating officer of the case, on January 28 last year pressed charges against them.

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BNP-Jamaat men to face stern action

PM warns against 'militant activities' in the name of hartal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said stern punishment will be given to those BNP-Jamaat men who are resorting to militant acts in Bangladesh and killing people through arson and bomb attacks in the name of blockade and hartals.

She also directed leaders and activists of the Awami League and all its associated bodies to build public opinion against militancy across the country.

"We will punish the militants in Bangladesh in the same way as punishment is given to the militants elsewhere in the world and this is our commitment on the birthday of the Father of the Nation," said the premier yesterday while addressing a discussion at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka.

The ruling AL organised the discussion yesterday marking the 96th birthday of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh

SEE PAGE 8 COL 2

SALAHUDDIN MISSING FOR 9 DAYS

HRW calls for independent probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human Rights Watch yesterday urged the Bangladesh authorities to immediately order an independent investigation into the "enforced disappearance" of BNP Joint Secretary General Salahuddin Ahmed.

The New York-based rights body in a report published on its website said, "Ahmed was last seen on the evening of March 10, 2015 when, according to an eyewitness, he was taken away by men identifying themselves as belonging to the Detective Branch of the police."

The government has denied involvement or knowledge of his whereabouts.

Meanwhile, Hasina Ahmed, a former BNP lawmaker and wife of Ahmed, yesterday told this newspaper that she would write to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

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"Durlov Kothok: Abul Mansur Ahmad", a special issue of literary magazine Kaler Dhoni, unveiled at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy yesterday to mark the 36th death anniversary of the celebrated litterateur, journalist and politician. Prof Emeritus Anisuzzaman, Prof Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury, Dr Rafiqul Islam, Asad Chowdhury, Syed Abul Maksud, Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque, Imran Mahfuz and Mahfuz Anam, among others, attended the event. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: STAR

Teesta saw lowest ever flow this yr

Says water resources minister

UNB, Dhaka

The Teesta saw the lowest ever flow in its history of water flow records during this dry season, Water Resources Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud said yesterday.

"We have seen a drastic fall in water flow in the Teesta river. Actually, what I want to say... the Teesta, in this dry season, saw the lowest 300 cusecs of water flow while it was around 1,500-1,800 cusecs during the same period in previous years," he told a meeting at a hotel in the capital.

Anisul also said he was optimistic about the signing of long-pending Teesta water-sharing deal with India to secure Bangladesh's just share of water from the common river.

During his visit to Bangladesh in September 2011, the then Indian premier Manmohan Singh at a public meeting made a commitment to sign the Teesta water sharing treaty, he said.

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Welcome, Solar Impulse-2

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The world's only solar-powered aircraft "Solar Impulse-2" will fly over Bangladesh this evening, spreading the message of clean air and clean energy as part of its maiden global journey.

The "no-fuel", purely solar-powered Swiss aircraft, which is now in India, will fly over Bangladesh for Myanmar around this evening "if

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

17 killed in Tunisia museum attack

AFP, Tunis

Kalashnikov-wielding gunmen yesterday killed at least 17 foreign tourists in a brazen attack on Tunisia's national museum before being killed in a police assault, officials said.

Polish, Italian, German and Spanish tourists were among the dead, Prime Minister Habib Essid said, adding that two gunmen had been killed.

A Tunisian national and a policeman were also reported dead.

Essid said the gunmen, dressed in military uniforms, opened fire on the tourists as they were disembarking from a bus and

chased them inside the museum.

Health Minister Said Aidi told reporters that 38 others had been wounded in the attack, including citizens of France, South Africa, Poland, Italy and Japan.

The attack appeared to be the worst on foreigners in Tunisia since an al-Qaeda suicide bombing on a synagogue killed 14 Germans, two French and five Tunisians on the island of Djerba in 2002.

Some officials, including French Prime Minister Manuel Valls, had said hostages were taken at the museum but this was not confirmed by Tunisian authorities.

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