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SECTION 16(2) OF SPECIAL POWERS ACT

Scrapped yet used for arrest

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Nearly three decades ago, section 16(2) was dropped from the Special Powers Act, 1974. But strangely, police filed a case under the section and even arrested two accused in Manikganj's Singair this May.

They are still in jail. The High Court yesterday expressed dissatisfaction over filing of the case under the non-existent section.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman also directed police not to make any arrest or file any case under the section. Besides, it ordered the inspector general of police to take necessary steps in this regard.

The court came up with the order while granting six weeks' anticipatory bail to two other accused in the case -- Sajedul Alam Shadin and Habibur Rahman Lalu. They had filed a bail petition recently.

On May 23, two accused -- Salauddin and Bashir alias Bashir Member -- were arrested in Singair on charges of holding a "secret meeting" at Salauddin's home at Charuigram

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



BLISSFUL ... Children frolic in the rain that brought the temperature down after days of sweltering heat. The picture was taken in the capital's Mohammadpur area yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

No Qaeda, IS links found

Charges pressed against 8 in Holey Artisan attack case



Hasnat, Saiful and Shaon not named in the charge sheet.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday pressed charges against eight of the 21 militants who they say wanted to destabilise Bangladesh by initiating the country's worst-ever terror incident over two years ago.

A faction of local outfit JMB carried out the attack at Holey Artisan Bakery in Gulshan in 2016, and involvement of global terror organisations like Islamic State or al-Qaeda was not found, said a top counterterrorism official hours before submission of the charge sheet.

"Though the terrorist attack took place on July 1, 2016, they [militants] had started preparing for it five to six

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

COMILLA ARSON CASE

HC rejects Khaleda's bail plea

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday denied BNP

Chairperson Khaleda Zia bail in an arson case lodged under the Special Powers Act in Comilla in 2015.

The court, however, directed the lower court concerned in Comilla to hear and dispose of her bail petition by July 26.

The HC bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice SM Mozibur Rahman passed the order after Khaleda filed the bail petition.

The judges in the order said, "If the trial court did not dispose of the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

BARAPUKURIA COAL SCAM

ACC swings into action

PM for thorough probe

STAR REPORT

The Anti-Corruption Commission, which yesterday began probing the coal going missing from the Barapukuria mine, shifted to high gear and is already smelling graft.

The anti-graft body formed a committee in Dhaka around noon yesterday to investigate the alleged scam involving 1.45 lakh tonnes of coal, worth over Tk 227 crore, going missing from the yard of Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd (BCMCL). By 3:00pm, a team from ACC's Dinajpur office was at the mine in Parbatipur upazila going through documents.

"After examining the papers and the coal yard of the mine, it appears that corruption had been committed here," said Benjir Ahmed, who led the five-member team.

"As per the documents here, around 1.46 lakh tonnes of coal should have been at the yard, but, we found hardly 2,000 tonnes during the visit," said Benjir, deputy director of ACC Dinajpur. His team spent two and a half hours at the mine yesterday.

He, however, said what exactly happened there could not be explained without examining all relevant documents.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

BNP men allege harassment

Police sue 39 party men in Sylhet for obstruction of duty; four others 'picked up' in Rajshahi

ANWAR ALI and DWOHA CHOWDHURY

With days left before the July 30 city corporation polls, police in Sylhet filed a case on Sunday accusing 39 BNP leaders and activists of obstructing the law enforcers from performing their duties.

Farid Ahmed, a member of Awami League mayoral nominee Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran's campaign committee, on the same day filed another case accusing 34 BNP leaders and activists of setting fire to a makeshift tent on Saturday night.

In Rajshahi, police picked at least four BNP leaders up, said Tofazzal Hossain, chief election agent of BNP in the city.

He alleged that at least 18 BNP men,

including city BNP Secretary Motiur Rahman Montu, had been arrested since the election campaign began on July 10.

BNP leaders in both the cities alleged that law enforcement agencies were intimidating their party leaders and activists and sometimes arresting them in the campaign trail.

Amid such allegations, Election Commissioner Rafiqul Islam yesterday said the commission was determined to hold fair elections.

Leaders in Sylhet said key organisers of BNP mayoral nominee Ariful Haque Chowdhury's campaign were accused in the case filed by police.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



TIMELINE

- Five terrorists storm the café at **8:40pm**
- **19** hostages, including 16 foreigners, killed within **30** minutes
- One more foreigner killed a couple of hours later
- **31** police officials injured in assaults after **11:00pm**
- Rab DG urges TV channels to stop live coverage at **11:20pm**

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