

# Money laundering Bankers to face stern action for connivance: BB

**UNB, Dhaka**

Investigations have revealed connivance of certain commercial bank branches in hundi transactions, a Bangladesh Bank executive disclosed and warned of stern action against those having links with such illegal operations.

In a forewarning, the central bank strongly advised commercial banks to exercise caution in handling fictitious accounts used in money laundering.

"Many investigations have proved that the bank branches concerned have extended covert support in hundi transaction..In such cases bankers won't be spared," general manager of Bangladesh Bank's Anti-Money Laundering Department Harunur Rashid Chowdhury told a function here yesterday.

Bangladesh Shilpa Bank organised the daylong workshop on "Money Laundering and Prevention" in association with American Express Bank. BSB Chairman Prof Abu Ahmed chaired the inaugural session.

The GM reminded all concerned of tough punitive actions as per an anti-money laundering law enacted last year.

The Money Laundering and Prevention Act passed in parliament in April 2002 made hundi and other modes of money laundering to be serious offences in Bangladesh like in many other countries of the world. In line with the act, the central bank last year issued a number of circulars asking commercial banks to maintain five-year records of all fictitious accounts.

Opening unamed account as well as maintaining accounts by one individual with several banks have been restricted, general manager of the central bank's Anti-Money Laundering Department Harunur Rashid Chowdhury told the function.

He urged the bankers of different commercial banks in a district town to coordinate among themselves to detect people whose incomes from known sources do not match with volumes of transactions they make with different banks.

Every six months, banks are obliged to furnish reports to the central bank with specific explanations of accounts holding over one crore taka. But in some cases, cunning hundi traders are found maintaining accounts with several banks, keeping each account much below the ceiling, the central bank executive pointed out, urging the bankers to cooperate with Bangladesh Bank in its hectic drive against hundi.

He felt that commercial banks, if they wish, can also help check foreign currency flight in external trade through over-and under-invoicing.

# Eight NGOs to jointly monitor UP elections

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Eight non-government organisations (NGOs) will jointly observe the upcoming Union Parishad (UP) election across the country under the banner of 'Nirbachan Parjebekhon Moncha (NPM)'.

To monitor the UP election, scheduled to start from January 25, the NPM will deploy about 33,000 centre-based and 500 roving election observers at 4230 centres across the country.

This was declared yesterday at a joint press conference of the organisations at the National Press Club in the city.

The NPM will observe the UP election with the help of the Danish donor agency DANIDA. The DANIDA has allocated Tk 2.30 crore to support the monitoring programme.

At the conference, the NGO leaders said the UP election could play a vital role towards institutionalising the democracy of the country.

The leaders however said the coalition would specially emphasise the participation of the disabled and women voters.

The leaders also stressed upon the conduction of free and fair UP election to ensure people's participation in nation building activities in clearer perspective.

At the press conference, the Ambassador of the Royal Danish Embassy, H E Niels Severan Munk, said the election is very important as it has a deep rooted relationship with the country's political norms and democratic practice.

"The result of the UP Election must be authentic and credible to ensure good governance in the country," he added.

Mosarraf Hossain, country representative of the ADD, Enamul Haque of ASHA, Sharmin Murshid of Brotee, Mahbub Alam Kamol of Bangladesh Manobadhikar Bastobayon Sangstha, Anwarul Azim of CCHRB, Taleya Rahman of Democracy Watch, Prof. Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah of NEOC and Qamrul Hasan Manju of MMC were present on the occasion.

# One gets life for murdering wife

**UNB, Chandpur**

A court here has convicted a man of murdering his wife and sentenced him to life-term rigorous imprisonment.

The court also fined the convict, Mostafa Kamal of Kashimpur village in Matlab upazila, Tk 5,000, in default of which, he is to suffer another six months in jail.

The case, in brief, is that Mostafa Kamal severely beat up his wife Shahida Akter who died within hours on July 8, 2000.

After examining the records and witnesses, District and Sessions Judge Shahidul Karim handed down the verdict on Saturday acquitting two others.

# EC: Candidates

**FROM PAGE 1** January 25 and will run through March 16.

Yesterday's meeting looked into over 500 complaints from contenders who came to the EC after they had felt ignored by the local election authorities.

Many of the contenders have stated that they felt insecure due to threats from 'certain quarters' on them to quit the election race. Fearing violence and rigging, they have requested the commission to deploy troops.

EC officials were also optimistic that army would be deployed during the polls.

"We are still hopeful of troops deployment since the prime minister has not said anything on the issue yet," one election commissioner is quoted to have told the meeting.

The two-hour meeting also had a detailed discussion on the overall election preparation, accreditation of local and international election monitors.

The EC would now send the government a letter stating the view of the field-level election officials about the election atmosphere.

# Crimes

**FROM PAGE 1** freely and demanding toll.

One incident worried some high-ups in the police department. Jatiyatobadi Chhara Dal (JCD) activist AKM Raquib Hasan, an accused in several criminal cases, was beaten to death by police at Barasat under Terokhedha thana in Khulna.

According to police records, cases of crime like murder, rape, abduction, mugging, robbery and extortion increased to 1,27, 616 last year from previous year's 1,14,191.

The government has however taken steps to curb crimes. The Rapid Action Team (RAT) of police will be on duty from next week. The government is also planning to set up a 'special force' of police, counter intelligence in police and community policing.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina exchanges pleasantries with her guests during a dinner she hosted for foreign diplomats at a city hotel yesterday.

# New SAFF kings

**FROM PAGE 1** Bangladesh ended in December. He will be flying home on January 25 with ever-lasting memories.

The mercury reached boiling point when the game went into the tie-breaker and Kottan's boys became men of steel. Starting from Nazrul, who had luck on his side as his shot entered the net hitting the crossbar.

The tiny islanders found themselves in a hostile mainland as they were greeted by a fifty thousand crowd baying for blood.

Bangladesh began the match from where they had left off against India on Saturday, dominating the first 45 minutes against their panic-stricken opponents.

Arman, the outstanding performer of the tournament, slipped a wicked through pass to Parvez who hit a first time cross deep into Maldives territory where Kanchan got enough space and time to place the ball into the net with his favourite left foot.

Bangladesh tried to sit on their slender lead in the second half instead of going for more goals. The play backfired when Kottan pulled apace out. That gave Maldives more space in the midfield and the islanders seized the opportunity from a quick counter-attack.

Ashraf galloped down the right flank before releasing a dangerous low cross beyond Aminul and Ali Umar sprinting down the other end made no mistake to stab the ball home from close.

The battle over, President Prof. Iajuddin Ahmed presented the glittering trophy to Bangladesh captain Hasan-al Mamun.

Mamun donned the captain's armband in place of suspended Rajani Kanta Barman.

Rajani, the rock of Bangladesh's defence, may have missed out on being a part of the dream final, nevertheless was named the tournament's most valuable player.

Bangladesh completed a delightful double having won the SAF Games gold in Kathmandu in 1999. Yellow cards: Munna, Parvez, Farhad (Bangladesh), Ali Umar and Ahmed Naaz (Maldives).

**TEAMS**  
BANGLADESH: Aminul, Titu, Sujon, Hasan-al Mamun, Nazrul, Parvez, Motiur Munna, Arman, Joy, Kanchan and Alfaz (Farhad).

**MALDIVES:** Imran, Nilam, Mizan, Ali Umar (Ismail), Azeem, Ghani, Naad, Habeeb (Fazeel), Luthfy and Ali Shiham (Naseem).

Referee: AD Silva (Sri Lanka)

the sudden death extra time.

Wonder boy Motiur Munna, who struck the golden goal against arch foes India in the semifinal, could have won history a second time in the 108th minute when he drove a scorching right-footer from outside the box. Unfortunately, it came off the crossbar.

The tiny islanders found themselves in a hostile mainland as they were greeted by a fifty thousand crowd baying for blood.

Bangladesh began the match from where they had left off against India on Saturday, dominating the first 45 minutes against their panic-stricken opponents.

Arman, the outstanding performer of the tournament, slipped a wicked through pass to Parvez who hit a first time cross deep into Maldives territory where Kanchan got enough space and time to place the ball into the net with his favourite left foot.

Bangladesh tried to sit on their slender lead in the second half instead of going for more goals. The play backfired when Kottan pulled apace out. That gave Maldives more space in the midfield and the islanders seized the opportunity from a quick counter-attack.

Ashraf galloped down the right flank before releasing a dangerous low cross beyond Aminul and Ali Umar sprinting down the other end made no mistake to stab the ball home from close.

The battle over, President Prof. Iajuddin Ahmed presented the glittering trophy to Bangladesh captain Hasan-al Mamun.

Mamun donned the captain's armband in place of suspended Rajani Kanta Barman.

Rajani, the rock of Bangladesh's defence, may have missed out on being a part of the dream final, nevertheless was named the tournament's most valuable player.

Bangladesh completed a delightful double having won the SAF Games gold in Kathmandu in 1999. Yellow cards: Munna, Parvez, Farhad (Bangladesh), Ali Umar and Ahmed Naaz (Maldives).

**TEAMS**  
BANGLADESH: Aminul, Titu, Sujon, Hasan-al Mamun, Nazrul, Parvez, Motiur Munna, Arman, Joy, Kanchan and Alfaz (Farhad).

**MALDIVES:** Imran, Nilam, Mizan, Ali Umar (Ismail), Azeem, Ghani, Naad, Habeeb (Fazeel), Luthfy and Ali Shiham (Naseem).

Referee: AD Silva (Sri Lanka)

flank before releasing a dangerous low cross beyond Aminul and Ali Umar sprinting down the other end made no mistake to stab the ball home from close.

The battle over, President Prof. Iajuddin Ahmed presented the glittering trophy to Bangladesh captain Hasan-al Mamun.

Mamun donned the captain's armband in place of suspended Rajani Kanta Barman.

Rajani, the rock of Bangladesh's defence, may have missed out on being a part of the dream final, nevertheless was named the tournament's most valuable player.

Bangladesh completed a delightful double having won the SAF Games gold in Kathmandu in 1999. Yellow cards: Munna, Parvez, Farhad (Bangladesh), Ali Umar and Ahmed Naaz (Maldives).

**TEAMS**  
BANGLADESH: Aminul, Titu, Sujon, Hasan-al Mamun, Nazrul, Parvez, Motiur Munna, Arman, Joy, Kanchan and Alfaz (Farhad).

**MALDIVES:** Imran, Nilam, Mizan, Ali Umar (Ismail), Azeem, Ghani, Naad, Habeeb (Fazeel), Luthfy and Ali Shiham (Naseem).

Referee: AD Silva (Sri Lanka)

# NOAB

**FROM PAGE 12**  
Khan, Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas, Shipping Minister Akber Hossain, State Minister for Energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain and State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud were present at the ceremony.

Awami League leader and former finance minister Shah A M S Kibria, Jatiya Party leader and former communication minister Anwar Hossain Monju MP, Gano Forum leader Saifuddin Manik, Assistant Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh Abdul Kader Mollah, 11-party leader Nirmal Sen and AMS Abdur Rab also attended the ceremony.

Eminent writer Syed Shamsul Haq, journalists Ataus Samad, ABM Musa and Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, drama artists Mamunur Rashid, Sara Zaker and Kabari Sarwar and singer Shakila Zafar were also present at the ceremony.

Ambassadors of the UK, France, Germany, Japan, South Korea, Norway, Pakistan, Turkey and the European Union were present among others. A press councillor represented the Indian High Commissioner on the occasion.

Leading businessmen, representatives of chambers and professional bodies, intellectuals and civil society members also attended the ceremony.

The NOAB is a joint initiative of 19 leading newspapers of the country -- Akjer Kagoj, Bhorer Kagoj, Banglabazar Patrika, Dainik Azadi, Dainik Dinkal, Dainik Inqilab, Dainik Ittefaq, Dainik Purbakone, Dainik Purbanchal, Dainik Sangram, Dainik Janakantha, Jugantor, Karatoa, Manavzamin, Prothom Alo, Sangbad, The Daily Star, The Financial Express and The Independent, aiming at promoting the newspaper industry.

# Speedy Trial

**FROM PAGE 12**  
(CMM's) Court, Dhaka against Iqbal and 23 others.

In the case filed with Motijheel Police Station, it has been alleged that four persons including a policeman, were killed and four others wounded when activists of the then ruling AL opened fire on an opposition procession in the city's Malibagh area during hartal hours on that day. Then four-party opposition alliance called the hartal demanding immediate resignation of the AL government.

# Blast victim

**FROM PAGE 12**  
all locally made.

Meanwhile, police yesterday arrested another person, Akkas Ali, from Kashim village of Bashail upazila for his alleged involvement in the bomb blasts. His nephew was also arrested after the explosions.

So far, 10 persons have been arrested since the blasts and they are being interrogated. All of them however have denied their involvement in the blasts.

# Hasina voices concern

**FROM PAGE 1**  
European countries joined the dinner. Hasina apart, AL advisory council members, presidium members and central committee leaders also attended the programme.

The AL chief expressed her deep concern at the possible fallout of the US decision on Bangladeshis living in the United States. She hoped that the US would exclude Bangladesh from the list.

Later, talking to newsmen, Hasina held the government responsible for the current situation by tarnishing the country's image abroad through violating of human rights and persecuting on the opposition.

She claimed that the BNP wrote letters to the US government during Bill Clinton's visit to Bangladesh, alleging presence of Taliban in the

# When politics prevails

**FROM PAGE 12**  
also exemplifies how the university authorities have been politically biased over the years in selecting teachers irrespective of their capability.

Sources said a selection committee headed by the pro-vice-chancellor has already finalised a shortlist for recruitment to the posts of two lecturers and an assistant professor for the department. And Shanta is an overwhelming favourite.

A total of 116 candidates applied against two posts of lecturers and one of assistant professor. Of them, 79 were called for written tests and finally, 25 including Shanta were selected for viva voce held on January 7 and 8.

Except Shanta, the rest have four first-class degrees or equivalent results from SSC to Masters. Only Shanta has three first-class degrees.

Chairman of the department Prof. Aftab Ahmed, also a member of the selection committee, said requests from influential persons for recruitment of teachers are very common. "But we pick the brilliant students on the basis of their academic results," he told The Daily Star.

# A man of law, indeed

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

When Sub-inspector Yusuf of the Tejgaon police station began the day on Sunday, little did he know that his determination in the face of intense mob pressure would save a man's life.

At around 3:00pm, a Syedabad-bound passenger bus hit a pedestrian in front of the Islamia Eye Hospital at Khamarbari, reportedly killing him on the spot.

When the bus tried to escape, angry mob chased it and caught the driver. Yusuf arrived on the spot just then and took the driver into custody.

By then several hundred students from the Tejgaon College, hearing that one of their fellows was crushed under wheels, had abandoned classes and arrived on spot.

When the students grabbed the driver and tried to take him away, a defiant Yusuf, with two of his colleagues helplessly watching, resisted the move.

The students led by one Zahedul Haque Bipul, a second year student, surrounded the three policemen. The students punched the driver indiscriminately and shouted, "Kill the killer". They even accused the police of 'saving the criminal's life'.

At one point, Yusuf even took out his pistol and shouted warnings. About 15 minutes after requesting reinforcements, a group of officials arrived and brought the situation under control.

The driver, Arifur Rahman, 25, was taken away to the Tejgaon police station. Later it was found that the victim was a man in his late thirties and was hit by the bus while crossing the road. He had no link with Tejgaon college.

The driver told The Daily Star that as he approached Farm Gate, the victim suddenly appeared in front of his bus and he could not avert the collision.

Yusuf said he and his men were determined to save the driver from the mob when he sensed that he would be beaten to death.

"At one point I thought of shooting in the legs of the attackers. But I would never have let the driver fall into the hands of the violent mob," Yusuf said.

More than 150 people have died of mob beatings in the city over the last two years.

# Cop injured

**FROM PAGE 1**  
and top Shibir cadre Yakub. Police also recovered several rounds of SMG bullets from the spot.

According to Alamgir's confession, police later arrested one Mozammel Haq Chowdhury, another close associate of Yakub and an accused in a murder case.

A case was filed in this connection.

# Domestic help

**FROM PAGE 1**  
filed with the Khilgaon Police Station.

Police arrested two persons -- Jahirul Ali, the master, and guard Jalal -- for their alleged involvement in the killing.

The victim's mother, Akashi Begum, received the body from the DMCH morgue after postmortem.

# CPB hartal on Feb 27

**FROM PAGE 12**  
liberation forces who are engaged in hampering the independence of the nation.

"After 1971, the nation is yet again in severe trouble that will result in a fresh liberation war," Monjurul Ahsan Khan, present of the CPB said.

He also blamed the government for repressing opposition leaders and journalists.

On indemnity ordinance he said, "We asked the government to stop torture on the arrestees and about the violation of human rights that occurred. They did not heed it".

On eviction of the slum dwellers in the city he said the slum dwellers have rights to survive as well. He also predicted that slum dwellers would soon revolt to uproot the 'upper' class.

Mujahidul Islam Selim, general secretary of CPB said the current and present governments have both failed to deal adequately with criminals. He suggested the government

hand over the reigns to CPB.

He said it is time to establish an alternative rule implemented by the poor.

As part of movement, CPB will hold rallies and procession across the country between January 21 to February 26.

Among others, Jasim Uddin Mandal and Shahidullah Chowdhury also spoke on the occasion.

# AL plans

**FROM PAGE 12**  
the grassroots level ahead of the UP polls.

The government withdrew troops from the grassroots level soon after the January 9 promulgation of an ordinance indemnifying members of the joint forces for their actions during the Operation Clean Heart, keeping skeleton forces in some divisional headquarters.

# Dhaka commuters

**FROM PAGE 12**  
had waited for over 30 minutes with her children and asked the driver to take them to the destination anyway.

Not far away, the driver of a black taxicab picked up an argument with two men when they boarded the cab to travel to Motijheel. Upon refusal, one of them told the driver that he had no right to say that. When the two men warned the driver of police action, the driver replied, "That will cost me only 100 taka. Don't threaten me with police action."

Soon afterwards, a police sergeant on a motorbike arrived there. The two men jumped out of the taxi and complained to the officer. The young officer immediately booked the taxi. And the two men disappeared by the time the sergeant completed his work.

Official sources claimed that once the three-wheelers are

equipped with meters by February 1, the problem would be solved. But drivers of three-wheelers said they would not be able to use meters as long as the daily rental for vehicles remains the same.

Many commuters believe that unless there is a police clampdown, their plight will not be over.

"Before the drivers are given the vehicles, they must be made to sign a promissory note on how to behave with passengers," said a female official of the AG office, who commutes to work every day.

Officials of the traffic department said they received numerous complaints about hassles. They will take stern action against the drivers, they promised.

"Please inform us by telephone or complain to the officers on duty," said an official of the traffic department.