# METROPOLÎTAN/NEWS

### 2 outlaws killed in 'shootouts'

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenida** 

Two underground operatives were killed during "shootouts" between the law enforcers and their accomplices in Jhenidah early yesterday and on October 23.

They were identified as Ishaq Ali, 42, of Viana Union under Harinakundo upazila, and Moazzem Hossain, 40, of Manikdihi village under Kotchandpur upazila.

Police arrested Moazzem Hossain alias Masud, area commander of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddho) at his village at around 11:00pm on Thursday.

On his confessional statement. police took Masud to Manderbaria at about 3:30am vesterday to recover hidden firearms and arrest his accomplices. When they reached the area. Masud's cohorts opened fire on the law enforcers. prompting them to retaliate.

Police said Masud received bullets during the shootout and died instantly. They said the outlaw was an accused in six cases including three for murder.

One locally made gun and six bullets were recovered from the

Detective Branch (DB) Police arrested Ishaq Ali at Bakchua village on the night of October 22

On his statement, police took him to Viana village to recover hidden firearms and his cohorts in the early hours of October 23. Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, Ishag's accomplices opened fire on the policemen, forcing them to

Police said Ishaq was shot during the encounter and died on the spot. He was wanted in seven cases including four for murder, they said. Police recovered one pipe gun and three bullets from the scene.













among them, resigned from BNP led by its standing committee member Col (retd) Oli Ahmad, a veteran freedom

fighter who was also a close aide to late

president Ziaur Rahman.

Later the launching of a new political party named Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) led by former president Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury and Col (retd) Oli Ahmad was announced at a rally in front of Saffron Garden Restaurant in Banani on Thursday afternoon. LDP leaders and activists also brought out a procession at Gulshan and Banani areas following the rally chanting slogans against Khaleda Zia and her son Tarique Rahman.

Never before did BNP face such a high profile defection from the party in the last 15 years. During the last general election a few dissident leaders revolted against the party but finally the party high command managed to quell the revolt successfully

BNP sources said Party Chairperson also Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in a party standing committee meeting held on Thursday night expressed her dissatisfaction over the defection of the party lawmakers and asked loval party leaders to 'manage' the defectors and the remaining dissident leaders quickly

LDP leaders told reporters that Oli Ahmad had been trying to organise dissident BNP leaders over the last six months. A large number of ministers, lawmakers, senior BNP leaders, and former lawmakers agreed to form a new political party under the leadership of Badruddoza Chowhdury and Oli

Among the defectors are former speaker in parliament Shaikh Razzak Ali, State Minister Alamgir Kabir MP (member of parliament), Deputy Minister Moni Swapan MP PM's Adv Primary and Mass Education Ministry Prof Jahanara Begum former state minister Maj Gen (retd) Anawarul Kabir Talukder MP Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan MP. Redwan Ahmed MP, Mohammad Kabir Hossain MP. Sved Moniur Hossain MP. Abdul Karim Abbasi MP. Mohammad Abu Hena MP. Ali Qadar MP, and Mohammad Ali

Jinnah MP. Earlier on May 8, 2004 former president AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury formed Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh and soon afterwards erstwhile BNP lawmakers Major (retd) Abdul Mannan and Mahi B Chowdhury joined him.

On Wednesday night the defecting ministers, lawmakers and leaders gathered secretly in a private hotel at Baridhara and on Thursday morning Syed Manjur Hossain MP, Ziau Rahman Khan MP and Prof Jahanara Bagum joined them. Manjur Hossain came out from his constituency on a helicopter and Zia went to the hotel directly from the airport after his arrival from London.

Mahi B Chowdhury MP and former BNP leader Shahadat Hossain Selim received the lawmakers at the hotel. Later they joined the first rally of the nascent political party led by AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Oli

LDP President Badruddoza Chowdhury and its Executive President Col (retd) Oli formally announced at the rally the formation of the new party and its avowed mission of fighting against corruption, terrorism and poverty.

Before the formal declaration came, the defecting ministers and MPs had submitted resignation letters to their

hitherto chairperson Khaleda Zia. In the resignation letters, the contents of which were the same, the defecting leaders said, "Corruption of some ministers, MPs and leaders, led by your son Tarique Rahman, has broken all previous records. This has tarnished the image of the party. It is not possible for any person having a sense of personal dignity to continue in the party anymore. The BNP established by late president Ziaur Rahman is now controlled by Razakars (anti-liberation force), autocrats and corruptionists. Against the principle of democracy Tarique, without having any protocol,

has been abusing state power "The present BNP under the autocratic leadership of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and her son Tarique Rahman is the champion of extreme corruption and inefficiency," Oli Ahmad

said at the rally explaining the reasons

He told journalists that the PM's meddled in the affairs of the state and

He said some '14 members of Khaleda Zia's family amassed enormous amount of wealth in a very short time and frustrated administrative moves to curb corruption'.

Despite repeated allegations of corruption against cabinet members, the incumbent government took no action because a share of the ill-gotten

The former army officer also an exminister mentioned that the government failed to curb price hike, inflation, crises of power supply, diesel and fertiliser. It also failed to deal with deteriorating law and order situation, terrorist bombings and to disclose the sources of illegal arms and the names of terror nanciers, he added

esident Ziaur Rahman when they revolted against the Pakistani army to fight the liberation war in 1971, also fulminated against the 'induction of antiliberation elements into the govern-

another founder-leader of BNP said a poverty through the formation of LDP.

prime minister's family garnered hundreds of crores of taka through corrupt

B Chowdhury -- who had been made to make an unceremonious exit from the presidency during this government's tenure -- observed that the PM's family is 'corrupt' and 'misappropriated' national wealth affecting 'most of the cabinet minis-

veteran freedom fighter who was accused of patronising militant leaders led by Bangla Bhai, alleged that corruption these days 'surpassed all previous records since the country's independence'.

siphoned off the country. This is poor people's money and the people must realise that money back." he said.

Islamist militancy in the country?" the dissident minister asked adding that the 'secret' must be disclosed.

Shaikh Razzak Ali said, "The nation expected this from us as it wants to resist those who want to destroy democracy.'

failure of the government," Redwan Ahmed said.

Former state minister Anwarul Kabir Talukader said. "We will fight against corruption and the dynastic politics in

Khan, Ali Qadar, Syed Manjur Hossain Hossiin Selim also addressed the rally.

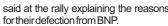
### Huji commander Hannan, brother

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Mufti Abdul Hannan, operations commander of banned Islamist outfit Harkatul Jihad (Huii), and his brother Huji member Mahibullah alias Mafizur Rahman on a five-day fresh remand in connection with a murder case.

On October 22, the two brothers were shown arrested in the case that was lodged with Sutrapur Police Station in connection with the killing of Arif alias Dil on November 5.2001

They were placed on a four-day

remand. On completion of the four-day remand with the help of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) produced them before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court, Dhaka yesterday afternoon.



'family' is involved in corruption and

money was given to the 'family', he said.

Oli, who was a close aide to late

Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury,

new journey has begun in the fight against corruption, terrorism and He alleged that 14 members of the

'Thousands of crores of taka was "Who are the masterminds of

Former speaker in parliament

"We urge the people to join the movement against corruption and the

Bangladesh." Prof Jahanara Begum, Abdul Karim Abbasi, MA Jinnah, Ziaur Rahman Mahi B Chowdhury and Shahadat

# remanded

**COURT CORRESPONDENT** 

bigger creation than just moneymaking machines," he said. "We can create a lot of social business enterprises, addressing social issues, poverty, empowerment, children, nutrition, the environment," he added. He said he was willing to collaborate with Japanese companies to launch such social

businesses While in Japan, Yanus is scheduled to visit the ancient city of Kyoto and Hiroshima, which was devastated by a US atom bomb attack in the closing days of World War II and serves as a centre of the country's

> peace movement. He will also hold talks with Japanese government officials and attend a symposium at the United Nations University in Tokyo

## 33 killed in road accidents

l) Leaders of Sammilita Nagorik Andolon return after submitting a memorandum to the president at Bangabhaban yesterday demanding his intervention in resolving the political impasse. 2) Sylhet Division Development Action Council

stages a sit-in in front of Bangabhaban on Thursday demanding an end to the political stalemate. 3) Leaders of newly formed Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) hold their hands at the launching ceremony of the party at a city hotel on

Thursday. 4) Carrying oars, Awami League leaders and activists take out a procession in the city yesterday. 5) Opposition activists set fire to a bus at Moghbazar in the city during a clash last night. 6) Awami League General Secretary Abdul

Jalil speaks at an emergency meeting of the 14-party opposition combine at the AL party office yesterday. 7) LDP activists stage a demonstration in Narayanganj yesterday protesting attacks on the houses of LDP leaders. 8) Awami

League leaders and activists visit Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday as part of their preparation for today's rally. 9) Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan come out after the last

STAR REPORT

session of their dialogue at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in the city on Monday.

Dr Yunus calls

on Japan

to emulate

Peace Prize this year.

day trip to Japan.

tional bank loans.

News.

micro-credit

Bangladeshi economist Dr

Muhammad Yunus called on Japan

to emulate his idea of "micro-credit."

or loans to the poor without collat-

eral, which won him the Nobel

important vehicle through which

they (Japan) can address their

question of poverty." he told a news

conference after his arrival on a six-

bring this idea to the notice of policy

makers in this country," he said.

noting Japan was a major donor to

the third world, according to Kyodo

inally we don't have to waste hours

and days and months just to get five

orize on October 13 for his work at

the Grameen Bank, which he set up

in 1976 to provide access to credit to

people too poor to qualify for tradi-

it was before the 13th of October,

Yunus, known as the "Banker to the

business enterprises," a new type of

business that aims to do good rather

He proposed creating "social

"Human beings are a much

and nor is the life of micro-credit,

Poor," was quoted as saying.

than make profits, Kyodo said.

"My life is no longer the same as

Yunus, 66, was awarded the

minutes attention," he added.

'What makes me so happy is that

"We had a lot of trouble trying to

"Micro-credit would be a very

At least 33 people were killed in road accidents across the country during Our CU Correspondent reports:

Three people of a family were killed and another injured in a road accident at Madam Bibir Hat on Dhaka-Chittagong highway yesterday after-

The victims were identified as Mohammed Shahrier, 40, his wife Yasmin Akhter, 35, and their son the same family could not be known immediately. Sources said the accident

occurred when a Feni-bound coach of Star Line Service and a Chittagongbound microbus collided head-on at Chairman Ghat under Sitakunda Police Station at around 3:00pm.

Shahrier, also owner of the microbus, died on the spot while Yasmin and Farman died on the way to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Police seized the bus, but the driver

managed to escape. Our Correspondent from Gaibandha adds: Three people were killed and 10 others injured when a microbus rammed a rickshaw van at Boalia on Bogra-Rangpur highway on

Thursday night. The deceased were identified as van passengers Amir Hossain, 60, Haripad Das, 50 and his son Chaitanya, 15, all hailed from Amgaon

Sources said the accident took place at Boalia when the microbus driver lost his control over the steering, killing Amir on the spot

Van passengers Haripad and

Chaitanya were admitted to

Govindaganj health complex where they succumbed to their injuries. Our Correspondent from Sirajgan adds: At least six people were killed and 47 others injured in a road accident on Sirajganj-Kazipur highway

near Gozaria Bridge at Kazipur of Sirajganj The deceased were identified as Sharif, 27, Sultan, 32, Minu, 26, Monju, 28. Golap. 35. and Fulchand. 29.

Police said the accident occurred at 9:30pm, when a Kazipur-bound bus with some garment workers on board skidded off the road and turned upside UNB from Comilla adds: Seven

people, including six expatriates, were killed and 25 others injured in a road accident on Thursday on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Chandina on their way home after their long stay abroad.

Sources said that a minibus was carrying 13 expatriates to Comilla and Chittagong from Dhaka after their return from Qatar and Dubai

"A Dhaka-bound bus of S Alam Service, coming from the opposite direction, rammed the minibus at about 1:00pm," says a policeman, quoting witnesses.

One of the deceased was identified as Aminul Islam, 30. Aminul might be the driver of the minibus, police said.

One injured expatriate, Shakhawat Hossain of Brahmanpara in Comilla district, said they reached Zia International Airport by a flight of Qatar Airlines at 7:00am on Thursday from Qatar and Dubai.

UNB from Gazipur adds: At least 10 people were killed and 28 others injured in a head-on collision between two buses at Nayanpur of Sreepur upazila in the district on Monday.

identified as Belal Hossain, 25, Bidya Mia. 24. Mohsin. 19. Khairul. 20 Sohag, 19. Shahidul, 23. Atigul, 37. Khokon, 22, Qazem, 26. The other dead, a woman, could not be identi-

Four of the deceased - Belal

Bidya, Mohsin and Khairul - were

workers of Nawab Abdul Malek Jute Mills at Kanchpur in Narayanganj district. Witnesses said the accident took place on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at about 10:30am when a Dhakabound bus of Dream Paribahan from

Mymensingh collided with a Sherpur-

bound bus that was carrying the

workers. UNB from Cox's Bazar adds: Three people were killed and 15 others injured when a microbus rammed six rickshaws on Kolatoli bypass road near the sea beach on Thursday night.

Locals said a pedestrian and a

rickshaw puller died on the spot when the accident took place at about 10:30am. Rickshaw passenger Aminur

Rahman 28, died after he was taken to Sadar hospital. Aminur Rahman along with his nine associates went to visit Cox's Bazar sea beach from Uttar Bashabo of Dhaka. UNB, from Habiganj adds: A

college student was killed and two others were injured in an accident at Alampur on Nabiganj-Habiganj road on Wednesday morning.

Ashiam, 18, a 1st year HSC student of Brindaban Government College Witnesses said a motorcycle, carrying three classmates, fell into a

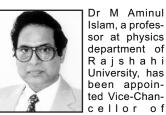
at about 10:00am, injuring them critically. Injured Ashiam, Uzzal, 18, and Shakil, 17, were rushed to Habigani Sadar Hospital in critical

roadside ditch after hitting a rickshaw

condition. Later. Ashim succumbed to injuries while being transferred to Dhaka

#### Dr Aminul Islam new SUST VC

**DU CORRESPONDENT** 



University, has been appointed Vice-Chan-

University of Science and Technology (SUST) for a fouryear term, says a press release.

Dr Islam, former president of Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association also served as Pro-VC of National University from 2002 to August

A noted nuclear physicist, Dr Islam worked on advanced research in the famous Oak Ridge National Laboratory twice on their invitation as a visiting scholar.

He completed his Ph.D. from McMaster University in Canada with commonwealth scholarship.

#### Obituary STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Hossain, father of Ziaul Huq Swapan, joint news editor of The Daily Star, passed away at

his Ukilpara

residence in

Matlub

Nilphamari town yesterday morning at the age of 90. M Hossain, a retired auditor of Bangladesh Railway, left behind five sons and four daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn

his death. He was buried at Circuit House Graveyard after a namaz-e-janaza on Court Masjid premises after

Staffs of The Daily Star have expressed condolence at his death.

#### S Iftekhar Ahmed

Maghrib prayers



arrest at Shikdar Medical College Hospital on Thursday at the He is survived by his wife, a son and two daughters, parents, a

brother, a sister and a host of wellwishers and friends. His namaz-e-ianaza will be held at Khanka-E-Siraiia Masiid at

Airport Road after Zohr prayers on Monday and doa mahfil will be held on the same day after Maghrib prayers at his Golf Heights resi-

### Eerie uncertainty grips nation as regime ends

to Rab personnel.

stronger not by its own deeds but by

the ruling alliance's fragility. The nation, waiting for a way out of the crisis from the prime minister's last speech over the broadcast media, only sank into further disappointment as Khaleda Zia failed to show any light at the end of the

The question that now looms

large in public mind is how the end will come to the situation. It seems nobody, not even the politicians, have the exact answer. Despite the uncertainty and the possible fallouts, Bangabhaban -the residence and office of the

have completed preparation for Eerie uncertainty grips nation as administering oath to the chief adviser of the next interim govern-

president, and the cabinet division

As the electoral reform dialogue hetween the BNP and AL collapsed on the question of Hasan, the president will now invite the former chief justice to assume office of the caretaker government in accordance with the constitution. But the current electrifying

political situation has spawned

uncertainty as to what will happen

next. The question that now rings

around the corners is whether

Hasan would take oath as the chief

of the next caretaker government,

ignoring the 14-party hostility towards him or decline the post. Some political analysts however still believe that the former chief

justice is unlikely to take office of the chief adviser. The AL-led 14-party and a number of professional bodies yesterday urged the president not to appoint Hasan as the caretaker government chief to save the coun-

try from an imminent confrontation.

They also urged the former chief

justice to express his inability to take

On the other hand, the BNP ruled out formation of the caretaker government without Hasan as chief adviser as it says a constitutional vacuum would be created if the former chief justice does not take oath that might halt the entire election process

"As the situation has evolved, it is not at all possible to drop KM Hasan...if Hasan does not take oath, a constitutional vacuum and complexity will be created. This may disrupt the whole election process, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuivan told a hurriedly called press briefing on October 25.

BNP and AL have made massive preparations to establish their supremacy in the streets. Sensing deterioration of the law and order situation, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) have

already banned rallies, processions

Badruddin Kamran, also an AL Amid such obstinacy, both the leader, to block the Dhaka-Sylhet

Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury yesterday announced an indefinite general strike in the port city from tomorrow. He has

14-PARTY'S PREPERATIONS

sions, districts and upazila head-

quarters from each other and to

make the capital completely cut off

rally on Paltan Maidan today and lay

siege to the capital. Its leaders and

activists have been asked to gather

on Paltan Maidan today with oars

mayor of Sylhet City Corporation,

The 14-party has asked the

and poles, defying the police ban.

The 14-party will hold a grand

from the rest of the country.

and demonstrations with oars, poles city and capture Laldighi Maidan and sickles in the capital. In the this morning to foil a BNP rally capital, a 40,000 strong law enforcing there. The 14-party will also team comprising police and BDR blockade the Dhaka-Chittagong members will be deployed in addition As political violence broke out in **BNP PREPERATIONS** the capital and outside, the inspec-

The BNP has directed its grassroots tor general of police yesterday directed all the divisional commisleaders and activists to remain sioners and district superintendents active in the streets from today. It will of police to throw security nets around the residences of political hold a grand rally today in front of its central office at Nayapaltan. BNP Chairperson and outgoing Prime In its last minute preparation, the 14party yesterday directed its grass-Minister Khaleda Zia will address roots leaders to enforce blockade on all highways to disconnect divi-

> held preparatory meetings in the last two days to ensure huge gathering at the rally. BNP Secretary General Abdul

The Dhaka city unit of the BNP

Mannan Bhuiyan at a party meeting vesterday urged leaders and activists to face 'any situation boldly'. "We are not afraid of anybody's threat," Bhuiyan said, referring to the 14-party muscle flexing.

Jamaat-e-Islami, a key component of the alliance, is going to hold a rally in the capital today at the north gate of the Baitul Mokarram threatened to paralyse the port