

Jinnah colleague's daughter molested

ISLAMABAD, Dec 8: A veteran Pakistani politician alleged Saturday that his daughter, a friend of former Premier Benazir Bhutto, was attacked and molested by unidentified masked men, reports BSS.

Sardar Shaikat Hayat, 76, known for his close association with the founder of Pakistan the late Muhammad Ali Jinnah, told a press conference that his daughter Farhana Hayat was subjected to "horrible" treatment in the southern city of Karachi nine days ago.

The treatment meted out to her would shame even a "hardened criminal," Shaikat Hayat said, adding "she is suffering from the effects of her traumatic experience, both mentally and physically."

Farhana has been a frequent visitor to Bhutto's house in Karachi and regularly attends the on-going trial by a special tribunal of Bhutto's jailed husband Asif Ali Zardari on criminal charges.

The incident coincided with Sindh government crackdown on alleged terrorist elements in the southern province in which, according to Bhutto, more than 2,000 workers of her Pakistan Peoples Party were arrested.

Reports said Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had ordered the Sindh government to hold a judicial inquiry into the alleged attack.

The Hayats are one of the top aristocratic families of Punjab with a long history in politics during the fight for a separate Pakistan both before and after the sub-continent's independence from Britain in 1947.

Shaikat Hayat, a former Punjab Minister during British rule, retired from politics in 1978.

He released to reporters

copies of a report lodged with the Karachi police by Farhana, who is said to around 40 and separated from her husband four years ago. She has two sons studying in the United States and has been running her own business in Karachi.

"The incident is the worst example of victimization, intimidation and torture because of my political views," Farhana said in the report.

She alleged that the attack was carried out "at the behest" of Irfanullah Marwat, Home Affairs Advisor to the Sindh Chief Minister and son-in-law of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

"They beat me and dragged me by my hair and molested me," she said, of the five armed and masked men who allegedly raided her home in Karachi on the night of November 27.

The attackers, who carried pistols, revolvers and a Kalashnikov rifle, "tortured me continuously" for 12 hours as her four servants lay tied up in a room, Farhana said.

She said the attack was politically motivated as the "culprits" kept on asking several questions about Bhutto, her husband and political associates of the former Prime Minister.

Shaikat Hayat said he had written to the President and approached other authorities but none had responded. "If the daughter of a colleague of Quid-e-Azam (great leader) Muhammad Ali Jinnah is not safe in this country who else's would be," the veteran leader asked.

"The incident has happened when the President's son-in-law is presiding over the Law and Order Department in Sindh," he added.



AL leader Begum Sajeda Chowdhury addressing a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue after the hartal yesterday. — Star photo

Blasts, clashes

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were active in the area. Small processions went around different streets. Several cocktails were exploded near the Mahakhali bus terminal when the processionists moved around the industrial areas.

The hartal supporters hurried cocktails and pelted stones at police and set at least four rickshaws on fire around the AL office at Bangabandhu Avenue. They also damaged several other rickshaws. Police chased and dispersed the agitated picketers.

A group of BNP supporters brought out a procession against the hartal. The procession moved around Gulistan and the Kaptan bazar-Siddik Bazar areas for several hours. At around 10 am the procession clashed with hartal supporters at the entry point of Nawabpur Road. Police immediately went into action and dispersed the two fighting groups.

The pickets and anti-hartal processionists also clashed in front of the Bangladesh Bank in the morning. A cocktail was exploded in the area.

Later, BNP supporters, most of them belonging to the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) brought out a rickshaw procession in the area. The processionists chased the pickets near Hathkhal.

The hartal supporters were also active in Elephant Road and New Market areas throughout the hartal period. A BRTC bus came under attack near Shahbagh square. The driver parked the bus

between two police vans at the spot. Police chased the pickets towards the Katabon area and the bus later left for Farmgate.

Some JCD supporters of Sheikh Mujib Hall pelted stones at a BCL procession when it was passing through the Katabon area.

Our DU Correspondent adds: Several gunshots were exchanged in Milkhet and Dhaka College areas between two rival groups of students and about five cocktails were exploded near Plassey during the hartal.

Around three gunshots were also fired in front of the Rokeya Hall yesterday evening.

Several shots were fired from the Zahurul Huq Hall premises when a procession of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was coming from the New Market area towards the Milkhet crossing at about 11.30 am, sources said.

Gunshots were also returned from the procession. The exchanges of fire continued for sometimes. Police, however, dispersed the gunmen by lobbing several teargas shells.

Sources informed that some cocktails were exploded near the Plassey crossing and some rickshaws were damaged in the morning. Chases and counter chases also took place between the police and the public at that time. Apart from the incidents, the Dhaka University campus was peaceful during the eight hour hartal.



Police resorted to lathicharge in Gulistan area in the city during yesterday's hartal. — Star photo

Croatia's eastern towns under fire

ZAGREB (Yugoslavia), Dec 8: Croatia's eastern stronghold of Osijek and nearby towns came under heavy attack, but a cease-fire in the Adriatic city of Dubrovnik appeared to be holding Sunday, reports UNB.

The cease-fire reached in Dubrovnik started Saturday at 6 am (1700 GMT), said Ed Koestal, deputy spokesman for the European Community mission in Yugoslavia.

On Saturday, UN envoy Cyrus Vance conferred with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and federal Defence Minister Veljko Kladjevic on conditions for the deployment of UN peacekeeping troops in Yugoslavia.

Vance also denounced attacks by the Serbian-controlled army and Serb insurgents on Croatian cities.

The United Nations has said a peacekeeping force cannot be dispatched until fighting ends.

Under the cease-fire agreement reached in Dubrovnik, the Yugoslav army pledged to restore electricity and water and end its blockade of the medieval port, Koestal said

Sunday. He said the local cease-fire seemed to be holding, but Maritime Ministry officials in Zagreb said that by 10:30 Sunday morning the blockade had not yet ended.

Begum Rokeya

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Rokeya educated herself, gathered knowledge on various fields and later came out of her house to rescue the womenfolk from the curse of illiteracy and from the clutches of a superstitious society.

Various socio-cultural and woman organisations have taken up elaborate programmes to observe the day.

The Bangla Academy will hold a discussion meeting today at 4 pm at the seminar room of the academy in observance of the day.

The meeting to be presided over by Prof Nilima Ibrahim, will be addressed, among others, by Prof Sultana Zaman, Prof Hasna Begum and Prof Majeda Saber while the keynote paper will be presented by Prof Selina Akhtar Jahan.

Another writ challenging UZ repeal ordinance

A High Court Division Bench of the Supreme Court yesterday issued rule upon the Secretary, Ministry of LORD and Cooperatives, and Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice, to show cause within one week as to why the Local Government (Upazila Parishad and Upazila Administration Reorganization) (Repeal) Ordinance, 1991 should not be declared ultra vires, reports BSS.

The court comprised Justice Mohammad Abdul Jallil and Justice Naimuddin Ahmed. The writ petition was filed by Major (ret'd) Md Jasim Uddin, the chief coordinator of the Upazila Chairman Samity and chairman-untill-abolition of the Gazaria Parishad.

This was the fifth writ petition filed so far, challenging the ordinance repealing the Upazila Parishad. Barrister Rafiqul Huq moved the petition on behalf of the petitioner that there did not exist any circumstances necessary for promulgation of the repeal ordinance as purported to have been made.

He also argued that the affairs of the upazila was being run by the elected representatives at its head and there had been no general complaints either in the press or in Parliament.

JCD-BCL clash

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Dhaka. JCD also brought out a separate procession simultaneously protesting the terrorist activities in the capital, witnesses said.

When the two processions came face to face near the Picture Palace corner of the city three bombs were blasted, they said.

Both the groups also exchanged brickbats for about 15 minutes.

Riot police arrived at the spot later and quelled the clash.

A JCD press release claimed that Akbar Hossain, Habibur Rahman and Niaz Ahmed Tuhi, three of its workers were injured in the incident.

Trap

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Public meetings will be organised in the city as well as in other parts of the country on that date, he added.

The AL will also observe the Intellectuals' Day on December 14 and Victory Day on December 16 with due solemnity, he announced.

Presided over by the city AL President Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, the meeting was also addressed by presidium members Zillur Rahman, Quamruzzaman, AL General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, MP, Joint Secretary Amir Hossain Amu, Publicity Secretary and Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim, and city branch leaders including Mostafa Mohsin Mantu, Advocate Shahara Khatun and M A Aziz.

Sajeda Chowdhury said that the Prime Minister did not believe in parliamentary democracy and therefore she did not attend and speak in Parliament sessions regularly.

She alleged that the BNP had forgotten the people who voted it to power and ignored the pledges made to them. Sajeda, painted a gloomy picture of the country's political and economic situation and held the BNP responsible for it.

Amu cautioned Khaleda Zia of ousting her government through a mass movement if she did not stop her 'autocratic rule'.

Mohammad Nasim accused the government of provoking police action and said that the Press Note was totally false.

Joint chamber

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nity in Britain is trying to get united and set up companies to get into the British stock exchange; rather than remaining at the bottom rung of the retailing business.

Last fiscal year (1990-91) Bangladesh for the first time earned a trade surplus of about two million pounds (about Taka 13 crore) with the United Kingdom. Bangladesh's exports to the UK totalled about 72 million pounds against about 70 million worth of imports, reliable sources say.

Exports to the United Kingdom up to August of the current fiscal year amounted to 54 million pounds, and imports from that country about 28 million pounds. These figures, however, exclude ad-based imports from the UK.

The Bangladesh-British chamber of commerce is being promoted by M A Rahim, Chairman of the Bangladesh Commercial Centre, and Dr Kabir Chowdhury, a pharmacist-cum-businessman, among others.

With receipt of the green signal from the Registrar of Company House, England, all procedural obligations to launch the chamber have been fulfilled.

M. A. Rahim told The Daily Star that Bangladeshi products, especially jute carpets and garments had good prospects in the UK market. Instead of asking for favours Bangladeshis should go for an aggressive marketing drive in a professional way, he said.

He said that the quality of jute carpets was good. But presentation and packaging of the product was often not up to the expectations of the buyers. Due to poor packaging, borders of carpets are damaged during shipment.

Taking this correspondent around his centre at Chamberlayne Road, London, M. A. Rahim showed how he could successfully attract British buyers by pursuing the jute carpet mills in Bangladesh to do packing in polythene sheets, and not in gunny bags as was done in the past.

Jute carpets would be in high demand, especially among the people in the middle and low income bracket. People in this income group cannot usually afford wool, silk and cotton rugs. According to him European synthetic carpets were no match for Bangladeshi carpets if marketing was done professionally through proper presentation and packing.

The Bangladesh High Commissioner in the UK Reazul Karim acknowledged the fact that a good market for

The Midnight File

Israeli team arrives in Washington to talk ME peace

WASHINGTON, Dec 8: Israeli negotiators to Middle East peace talks arrived in Washington today saying they were ready to begin discussing issues at the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict when negotiations begin on Tuesday. "We are ready for progress. We are going to discuss all issues that can be placed on the table whether they are technical or substantive," said Yossi Ben Aharon, Director of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's office, reports Reuter.

Baker foresees violent disintegration of USSR

WASHINGTON, Dec 8: US Secretary of State James Baker said today the Soviet Union in its past form no longer existed and there was a serious risk of its disintegration turning violent. "The Soviet Union as we've known it no longer exists," Baker said in an interview on CBS television, reports Reuter.

OIC FMs slam India for mistreating Muslims in J&K

DAKAR, Dec 8: Foreign Ministers from the 45-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) today condemned India's treatment of Muslims in its northern state of Jammu and Kashmir. They also asked OIC Secretary General Hamid al-Gabid to send a fact-finding mission to the state, a move already rejected by India last week. The resolution, drafted by Pakistan, is expected to be endorsed by the leaders at the summit meeting starting on Monday, reports Reuter.

Summit on European union begins today

MAASTRICHT (Netherlands), Dec 8: European Community leaders gathered Sunday for a historic meeting Monday to unite the trading bloc politically and economically. But they remained divided, with Britain threatening to veto attempts to create a federal-type union, reports AP.

"Our aims remain as the community founders saw it: to work for ever-closer union — not a federal superstate," British Prime Minister John Major wrote Sunday before arriving in this southern Dutch town, near the borders of Germany and Belgium.

"I will bring back a treaty I can recommend to the House of Commons or I will bring back none," he added in a signed article in London's Sunday Telegraph.

Major appeared headed for confrontation — or last-minute concessions — during the two-day summit which will be key to deciding the future of Western Europe.

The meeting is the most significant since the community founded in 1957, took a major step toward closer union in 1986. It passed laws that will create a single market in late 1992 by tearing down barriers to the free flow of money, people, goods and services.

The pro-federalists include Germany, France and Italy, the three other biggest member nations. They are now bent on going further and turning the community of 338 million people into an economic and political power rivaling the United States and Japan.

They are backed by the Netherlands, which holds the community's rotating presidency, Belgium, Greece, Spain and tiny Luxembourg.

Only Ireland, Denmark, Portugal, share some of

Britain's reservations about diminishing national sovereignty.

"Federalism is the guiding principle. It is not a pornographic word," Jacques Delors, president of the community's Brussels-based executive commission, said Sunday. He was cheered at a meeting of banner-waving supporters of a pressure group, the European Union of Federalists.

The most far-reaching change likely to be agreed at Maastricht was economic and monetary union, providing for the establishment of a joint central bank and a single currency by 1999.

Britain's objections here were met during a year of negotiations at two intergovernmental conferences. Britain will be allowed to sign up on condition that its parliament approve before it abandons the pound for a single European currency.

The others have rejected a British attempt to avoid isolation by giving every nation the right to opt out.

"We are absolutely opposed to Britain's case becoming an escape valve for everyone. Pio Mastrobuoni, spokesman for Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti reiterated over the weekend.

But on political union, all the big decisions have been left to Maastricht.

And the entire meeting could collapse over British objections to proposed community-wide regulations on social issues, such as workers' rights and mandatory limits to working hours.

The dispute underlines the gap between Britain's Conservative government, which has emasculated labour unions, and centrist social democratic governments on the continent.

PM leaves

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Bangladesh during the war. He said the people who had left Kuwait during the war came back and the position is now improving in Kuwait.

Begum Zia said that Bangladesh would continue to support Kuwait in its efforts for rebuilding the country after the war.

She said Bangladesh believed in peace and it would continue to work for upholding peace all over the world particularly for the Islamic ummah.

The Kuwait premier called for cooperation among the Muslim countries.

Begum Zia expressed the hope that the Kuwait prisoners of war (POWs) who were detained in Iraq would be freed soon. Begum Zia later left for Dakar in a special aircraft of Kuwait Airways.

Begum Zia left Dhaka this morning for Dakar to attend the sixth OIC summit.

Ministers, Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation, State Ministers, Diplomats and high civil and military officials saw her off at the Zia International Airport.

Begum Zia was given a guard of honour by the three services. She inspected the guard and took the salute.

The chiefs of the three services were present on the occasion.

The Bangladesh delegation to the four-day summit led by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia included Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Mrs Farida Hassan, MP, Mr Salahuddin Kamran, MP, Dr Afzar Hossain Mollah, MP, Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, Secretary, External Relations Division and Farooq Sobhan, Additional Foreign Secretary.

Private car set ablaze

By DU Correspondent

A group of youngmen set a private car on fire at Kataban behind Surjans Hall of Dhaka University Sunday at 7.30 pm.

Police said when the owner of the car went to a nearby shop, a group of youngmen set fire to the car. Later, police and others brought the fire under control. None was arrested.

Draft proposal

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21st Islamic conference of foreign ministers.

AP says, Foreign Ministers of the OIC also approved a controversial resolution condemning Zionism as racist Sunday.

The resolution, presented by Syria in a surprise move to toughen the conference's stand on the US-brokered Middle East peace talks, was passed over mild objections from Egypt. Egypt is Washington's most powerful ally at the forum representing the world's 1 billion Muslims.

3 killed

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area and many people were seen leaving their houses apprehending further violence.

Clashes between the same two groups left 20 people injured on Friday in Fatikchari upazila. And another 10 people were injured Saturday in Fatikchari and Hathazari upazilas.

At least 16 people were killed in the last five years in clashes between these groups. The victims belonged to Chhatra League, Shibir and Chhatra Shakti.

OIC summit

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leave home and the Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad would also stay away.

A member of an Arab delegation said Arab and Gulf leaders want to avoid being at a summit with Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Arafat.

The Palestinian leader has recently improved ties with Damascus, but key Arab states in the anti-Iraq coalition—Egypt and Saudi Arabia—have not yet forgiven him for the sympathetic attitude he displayed towards Baghdad during the Gulf crisis.

The PLO has been seeking a summit with Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt to coordinate positions on the conflict with Israel in light of the current Middle East peace process.

The OIC supports the US-Soviet sponsorship of the Middle East peace conference, which opened in Madrid on October 30.

A three day ministerial conference to hammer out the agenda of the OIC summit was marked by heated debates, with Egypt appealing for a moderately worded resolution on the Arab-Israeli conflict and Syrian and PLO representatives seeking a strong condemnation of Israel, which they accuse of wanting to torpedo current peace efforts.

Syria also called for Islamic backing for a UN general

assembly resolution equating Zionism with racism, triggering criticism from Egypt. The United States has been leading a campaign to have the resolution rescinded.

The Gulf crisis, the Afghan problem, the Pakistan-Indian dispute over Kashmir and the issue of Muslims in the southern Philippines will also be on the summit agenda.

Conference sources said the OIC would renew its condemnation of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990, and urge it to comply with United Nations resolutions despite attempts by some African states to secure sympathy for Baghdad.

The summit is also expected to discuss the new world order, namely the political upheavals in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

OIC Secretary General Hamid Algabid of Niger Wednesday said here we must face the new realities and make recommendations.

At least two Muslim Soviet republics, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan will seek full membership in the 44-member OIC, their representatives who came to Dakar with the Iranian delegation said.

But an Asian official doubted that membership would be granted just yet. The OIC will surely think on it but I don't believe they will do more than promise financial aid at this time, he said.

Upazila system has failed

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in conformity with the national priorities.

Explaining the five factors behind the Constitution of the Commission, Information Minister Nazmul Huda said it aimed at building self-reliant economy at the local level by making the Local Government infrastructure more democratic in the light of the 12th Amendment of the Constitution.

It was also designed to ensure the participation of the people in the local administration and development activities under the leadership of public representatives and through decentralisation, he added.

He also pointed out that in the anti-autocracy movement during the last nine years BNP had struggled with the people against the upazila system of the autocratic regime.

The Information Minister mentioned the political commitment of BNP government to make the local government infrastructure more representative at the grass-roots level and said, the Commission will examine ways and means to build union parishad or gram sarkar more effective.

Barrister Huda said, under the upazila system of the autocratic rule the people were dissociated from the local development activities by not allowing the public representatives of the union parishads to work.

The Information Minister said, the Commission will formulate realistic and impartial recommendations to build a people-oriented and corruption-free local government structure through instituting accountability at various stages and activities conforming to the constitutional provision.

The meeting discussed and reviewed procedural means to elicit opinion and suggestions of people from various strata of life and programme strategy of the Commission. It formed two sub-committees to simplify the work of the commission.

The meeting was attended by State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain, State Minister for Local Government Abdul Hye, Dr Moin Khan, MP, ATM Alamgir, MP, Cabinet Secretary Siddiqur Rahman, Commissioner, Dhaka Division Waliul Islam, Prof Dr Lutful Huq Chowdhury and former Managing Director of BP ATC Dr Ali Ahmed.

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