

77 killed in 9 months : Matin

168 cases filed under anti-terrorism ordn

A total of 168 cases were registered from September 15 to October 20 this year under the Anti-terrorism Ordinance, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, reports BSS.

Replying to a written question from Awami League member M Abdul Rahim, he said the highest number of 48 such cases were registered in Dhaka metropolitan area.

To a written question from Mirza Azam of Awami League, the Home Minister said during the same period 255 persons were arrested under the same ordinance.

Home Minister also told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that 77 persons were killed and 216 others injured in various terrorist incidents in the country from January to September 15.

The Minister was replying to a question from Monirul Haq Chowdhury (JP-Comilla), a Treasury bench member raised the question on behalf of the JP member in his absence.

Replying to a question from Mosharruf Hussain (AL-Mymensingh) with Netrokona the Minister said four students were killed and 117 others injured in different incidents of campus violence from January to September this year.

Replying to a question from Tabbar Rahman Sarder (AL-Jessore) the Home Minister said during the first nine months of the current year a total of 2,012 murder cases were lodged with police in the country. Of those, 826 were charge-sheeted, 900 were under consideration and final reports were given against 286 cases, he told the Sangsad.

To a question from Mohammad Mojar Hossain (CPB-Panchagarh) the Minister informed the Sangsad that 3,334 persons were arrested on charges of terrorist activities from different parts of the country from January to September last. Of them, three persons were given punishment through trials, he added.

Chowdhury, while replying to a question from Prof Rafiqul Islam (AL-Jessore), said there were 405 female convicts in different jails of the country.

In reply to a question from Mirza Azam (AL-Jamalpur) the Home Minister informed the House that under August Operation-92 the law enforcing agencies arrested 24,824 persons and recovered 1,256 fire arms and 500 rounds of ammunition. The fire arms included 45 rifles, 67 revolvers, 46 pistols, 21 SBBL guns, four DBBL guns, 48 short guns, three SMGs, two LMGs, 755 pipe guns and 256 country-made guns.

Home Minister told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that 7,619 arms licences were issued from January to September 30 this year in 55 districts.

To a question from Mufti Moulana Abdus Sattar of Jamaat-e-Islami, the Home Minister said 3,761 arms and 6,523 rounds of ammunition were recovered from illegal possession since parliamentary democracy was established in the country.

The recovered arms included 149 rifles, 517 guns, 352 revolvers, 186 pistols, 352 stenguns and three LMGs. He said 33 persons were arrested in connection with the possession of illegal arms.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia handing over a cheque to Khairul's wife yesterday. — PID photo

PM visits Khair's residence, gives Tk 25000 cheque

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia last night visited the Motijheel colony residence of Photo Journalist Khairul Alam Khair, who was killed in a train accident Tuesday evening, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister spent some time with the members of family of Khairul and consoled them.

Begum Zia handed over a cheque of Taka 25,000 to Kurshida Akhtar Subarna, the widow of Khairul. The Prime Minister said Subarna would be given a sewing machine.

The Prime Minister also talked to the younger brother of Khairul and said he would be provided with a job.

Information Minister Nazmul Huda, Dhaka City Mayor Mirza Abbas and State Minister for Social Welfare Sarwar Rahman were present. Khairul was killed when he was run over by a train at FDC Railway crossing when he was taking snaps of a rally of the Juba Command.

Khair laid to rest

The Namaz-e-Janaza of photo journalist Khairul Alam Khair was held at the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday afternoon.

A large number of people besides journalists attended the Janaza.

Khair was buried at the Shahjahanpur graveyard. Earlier, his body was taken to the office of Datnik Samachar where his colleagues paid their last respect.

Saifur

From Page 1 Col 7 development financial institutions including the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank for showing discriminatory attitude towards local consultants.

The very nature of these institutions are responsible for driving our people out of the country as well as obstructing technology transfer, he said.

Questioning the quality and utility of many a consultancy reports, the Finance Minister said scores of such reports are piled up in the Planning Commission and other government agencies.

Saifur stressed on competitive remuneration to local talents in consultancy to help technology transfer in more sustainable way.

Speaking on the occasion, UNDP Resident Representative Charles H. Larssimont said the real benefit of the TOKTEN services to the country may not carry any long lasting impact unless the sustainability of human development through transfer of technology, knowledge and capital.

The workshop marks the 16th year of TOKTEN operation globally and sixth year in Bangladesh.

During the period, over 3,500 consultancies were completed by expatriates returning without salary to 32 different countries of origin. Bangladesh alone has been the beneficiary of 90 such consultancies.

Biman starts Ctg-Bangkok flight today

Biman starts today (Thursday) its regular weekly flight from Chittagong to Bangkok via Raiganj, reports UNB.

Every Thursday, the Biman flight BG 084 will depart Dhaka at 11:50 in the morning for Chittagong to connect the port city with Bangkok via Raiganj and fly back direct from the Thai capital to Chittagong to reach the capital the same day, says a Biman press release.

Opposition agitation

From Page 1 Col 4 the parties excepting the JP would hold a rally Sunday afternoon at the Bangabandhu Avenue.

The Jatiya Party, Nasim told reporters, would hold a meeting separately but at the same time in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

Sunday's programme, he said, would be preceded by meetings, processions, and rallies in the city Friday and Saturday to mobilise popular support.

However, the Awami League would begin its programmes from today, Nasim said.

"It is an expression of our political anxiety that we have sat together... we don't want to be party to it (the bill's passage)," said Moudud Ahmed, the acting leader of the JP Parliamentary Party, pointing to the bills contradictions with the Constitution.

Both from conviction and conscience points of view, we oppose this law because it will be used as a political instrument by the party in power," said the JP leader who later at a separate press briefing explained the legal and constitutional points quoting the relevant articles of the Constitution.

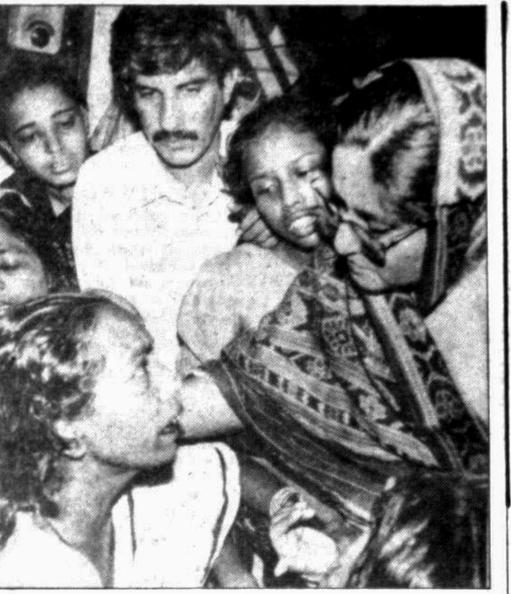
Shahjahan Siraj of his faction of the JSD said that the ruling BNP had brought the bill as a last resort to cling to power after failing to govern the country.

The bill, titled Suppression of Terroristic Offences Bill whose provisions had been in effect since September 17 through the promulgation of an ordinance by the President, was introduced in Parliament by Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury Tuesday night.

A disapproval motion moved by as many as 33 Opposition MPs including the ones from the Jamaat fell flat by 153-94 votes Monday night and the Opposition, barring the Jamaat and the IOJ, walked out of the House Tuesday night as the Home Minister was about to table the bill.

During the Opposition walk-out, the House witnessed hot exchanges between the Opposition and the Treasury benches.

At yesterday's press conference, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad blasted Prime Minister Begum



Sheikh Hasina consoling mother of late photo journalist Khairul Alam at the latter's residence yesterday. — Star photo

British overseas development Secy due today

Timothy Lankester, Permanent Secretary of Britain's Overseas Development Administration, arrives in Dhaka today on a five-day visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

During his stay here, Lankester will meet Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman and senior officials to discuss the British aid programmes.

He will also inaugurate the new Aid Management office in the British High Commission here.

Shahjahan Chowdhury of Jamaat wanted to know if former JSD ideologue Sirajul Alam Khan had been arrested on political charges, and if so, what they were.

The Jamaat man, however, did not clarify if he was talking about a recent arrest or an old one, from which Khan had been bailed sometime back, but that didn't stop the Home Minister from attempting a reply which turned out to be too sensitive.

"He was arrested recently on a case...", the minister hesitated, and then, leaning forward towards the Foreign Minister sitting in front, asked, "can this be told?"

The Foreign Minister did not seem to respond, and Matin Chowdhury decided to

Hartal at Natore today for TV station

From Our Correspondent NATORE, Oct 28: Natore TV Studio Punaruddhar Sangram Parishad has called a dawn-to-dusk hartal today (Thursday) to press home its demand for setting up a full-fledged television station in Natore in the place of present Sub-station.

Moudud, replying to a question, informed that the Jamaat had assured support to the movement but would act in its own way for "strategic reasons". He pointed out that the party had moved resolutions disapproving the bill.

On the continuation of boycott, the Opposition Chief Whip said "We don't see any reason to attend the House."

"There is no change in the situation that prompted us to walk out," the AL leader said at the press conference as the Jatiya Sangsad was in session with the Treasury benches and the Jamaat MPs attending.

The Opposition leaders said that they had not been contacted by the government side until they were holding the press conference.

The House was adjourned at 9 pm to meet again at 4.30 pm today, a Private Members' Day.



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The Midnight File

Quake hits Myanmar, Thailand

BANGKOK, Oct 28: A powerful earthquake measuring 6.0 on the Richter Scale rocked Myanmar and western Thailand on Wednesday but there were no reports of casualties or damage. The tremor was centred about 220 kilometers (135 miles) west of the northern Thai city of Chiang Mai, which put the epicentre approximately 80 kilometers (50 miles) inside Myanmar, reports AFP.

Hunger strike in front of Indian Embassy in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD, Oct 28: Some 50 people including women and children staged a hunger strike in front of the Indian Embassy here Wednesday to protest the killing of two Pakistanis by Indian security forces this month. The strike, led by humanitarian activist Ansar Burney, was aimed at pressing the Indian government to return the bodies of the two Pakistanis who the Indian government said were killed in an encounter between security forces and suspected terrorists in the border state of Punjab, reports AFP.

Seen from the gallery

From Page 1 Col 4 workers had been arrested since the restoration of parliamentary democracy. Chowdhury's answer was that no political leader or worker has been arrested for "political reasons."

Riasat Ali asked that, if a violation of the constitution could be adjudged a political offence, then has anybody been deemed to have committed such an offence, and if so, has he been arrested, and if not, why not?

Did Ali have anybody in particular in mind? He didn't say, but Chowdhury's discomfort was all too apparent, not least to Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni who saved the Home Minister from what promised to be certain embarrassment, one way or the other.

"This cannot be a supplementary question, honourable member, this is not a supplementary," Panni said.

Minister Chowdhury threw himself back onto his thickly-cushioned seat, giving a glance of eternal gratitude to the Chair.

The Minister's reply to another supplementary left the questioner in a greater shroud of darkness than he probably was before he made the query.

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Jail terms

From Page 1 Col 3 offences like participation in the examinations through impersonation, leak-out of question papers, presentation of false mark-sheets and fake diploma or degree certificates replacement or addition in answer papers and supply of copy to examinees for adopting unfair means and others.

As a result, the amendments to the Act would help check corrupt practices in the public examinations, the statement added.

For impersonation as an examinee at public examinations, a person shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years, and shall not be less than one year," according to the amendments.

Whoever discloses, publishes or distributes question papers whatsoever, before any public examination is held, will be punished for a jail term, which may extend to 10 (ten) years and shall not be less than three years, and shall also be liable to fine, another amendment said.

The amendments said those who will be making false mark sheet, certificate, diploma or degree relating to any public examinations shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years and shall not be less than three years and also be liable to fine.

For substitution of or addition to answer scripts the offender is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years and shall not be less than three years, and shall also be liable to fine and those who will help any examinee by supplying in the examination hall any written answer or any book or written paper, by dictating any answer orally or by any mechanical means or by any other means shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years and shall not be less than two years and also be liable to fine.

Clinton toured the South on Tuesday to press his pitch for economic change.

At a rally of thousands in Tampa on Florida's West Coast, Clinton on Tuesday painted himself as a "different kind of Democrat," saying, "We do not need more government. We need government that works, that invests, that holds people accountable."



Clinton (right) and running mate Al Gore waving at the crowd during a campaign tour yesterday. — Star TV photo

Bush sees new hope as economy takes off

From Page 1 Col 7 nomic news, Bush said, "That is good growth, and we're going to do even better."

"Better than Japan, better than Germany, better than Europe," he cried at a raucous evening rally at a city pavilion in Kettering, Ohio, just outside Dayton. "Let's keep it growing by my plan, not by the Democrats' plan."

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Owners of sick units

From Page 1 Col 3 consequence caused by non-implementation of the recommendations of the cell.

Criticizing a recent comment of Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman on sick industries in the parliament session, Alauddin said that the rehabilitation process of the sick industries was being delayed because of contradictory comments often passed by the government.

Revealing the attitude of the Finance Ministry and the Industries Ministry towards the sick industries, he said that both ministries identified similar causes behind the sickness of the industrial units. But great differences were found in their recommendations for rehabilitating those units, he pointed out.

Intervention of appropriate authorities in the matter could make an end to this stagnant situation, Convener of the council felt.

Among others, the press conference was attended by the Convener of the forum Habibur Rahman, Abdul Maleq, Ojas Ahmed, Jalaluddin Ahmed, Mazharul Islam, Abdur Rashid Lebu and Matlub Ahmed.

It was alleged in the press conference that about 4000 industrial units had fallen sick because of the 'wrong policy' of the government. The Sick Industries Rehabilitation and

Revival Cell, however, identified 1556 units so far as sick industries.

The amount of overdue loans of the sick industries to the banks and financing institutions was estimated at Taka 1239 crore, which include both the principle amount and the accumulated interests. Total investments in sick industries, including owners' capital and bank loans have been estimated at Tk 1920.42 crore.

UNB adds: The owners also criticised the government's move to transfer ownership of Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Shangstha (BSRS), one of the profitable financial institution of the government, to the private sector.

The BSRS which invested about Tk 1000 crore in joint ventures with the entrepreneurs in early eighties is now being sold at a price of Tk 80 crore only as against its real value of Tk 3,000 crore, they alleged.

The owner of sick industries informed that out of 247, about 225 projects of BSRS are on auction sale and urged the government to stop privatisation of the BSRS.

They also urged the government to hold sales of sick units and withhold cases filed against their owners and implement the recommendations immediately to salvage the sick industries.

Shishu hospital

From Page 1 Col 5 unit and general unit of the hospital have been put into operation much earlier, the ones relating to physiotherapy.

Some of the boxes containing equipment for physiotherapy unit have been kept in the meeting room of the hospital's management board while others have been kept in the corridor of the hospital.

According to sources, these boxes contain 13 physiotherapy machines for treating more than a dozen of infantile diseases including polio, cerebral palsy, cardio vascular and muscular difficulties, different traumatic injuries and neurological problems.

When contacted Dr Ansaruddin, a retired lieutenant colonel and deputy director of the hospital, admitted the fact.

Replying to a question, he told this correspondent that the hospital authority could not accommodate all these equipment in a small room now allotted to the physiotherapy department of the hospital.

When pointed out that two rooms adjacent to the single-room physiotherapy unit were empty, the deputy director said that those were cleared for restructuring the physiotherapy department seven months back. The deputy di-

rector, however, failed to give any specific time-frame for expanding the unit.

The director was not available for comments.

The physiotherapy unit of the hospital is a 48 square-foot dark, dank room with three small wooden benches (used as beds for the patients) set against three walls, a table and a chair for the only physiotherapist of the hospital and a cupboard behind the table for keeping the few equipment the unit now possess. There is no seating arrangement for the only assistant to the physiotherapist.

Dr Abdus Slam, the lone physiotherapist with more than one foreign degrees, while talking to this correspondent said, "An average of 30 patients requiring physiotherapy turn up in the hospital every day and we face difficulties in treating them due to want of space and modern technologies.

He was, however, optimistic about the authority's taking quick steps to equip the unit with the appliances waiting to be unpacked.

The Dhaka Shishu Hospital, the only specialised hospital for treating the diseases of children is a government aided autonomous body.

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