

Monthly round-up

# 62 killed in city crime incidents last month

By Farid Ahmed

Incidents of murder, suicide, robbery, mugging, clash and road accident claimed 62 lives in the capital in October despite special police drive against terrorism.

Death toll in October exceeded the figure reported in September. Fifty nine people were killed in September in different crime incidents.

In October, 12 people were murdered, 32 killed in road accidents, 10 reportedly committed suicide and eight others were found dead in Dhaka Metropolitan Area.

Whereas, 14 people were murdered, 32 killed in road accidents, eight reportedly committed suicide and another five bodies were recovered by police in the city in September.

Of the total murders in October, a college student Sohel and a 60-year-old businessman Haji Nasruddin were murdered within a span of one hour on the 19th in the old part of the city. On October 18, a young man 'tiger' Babul was shot dead at Jigatola.

Of the others, muggers killed a tannery worker Lokman at Hazaribagh on October 7, and shot dead a microbus driver at Mohammadpur October 14.

Besides, a Jamaat activist Abdul Matin was severely beaten by a group of people at Malibagh on October 13 who succumbed to his injuries at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) on October 16. A mother killed her step son Korban at Mohammadpur on October 13, Mohammad Faruq was punched to death at Mirpur the following day. A madrasa teacher Abdul Rahman, was beaten to death by a group of local hoodlums at Gulshan on October 22, Alamgir, a night guard was stabbed to death at Shahalibagh, Mirpur on October 26 and a labourer Nilkamal was kicked to death at Cantonment on October 29.

According to police sources, no significant head-way was made in any of the enquiries on the murder cases.

Following police drive, mugging and robbery went down in the city during October. Around 30 muggings and robberies were reported last month while 36 were reported in September and 60 in August.

A group of unruly people attacked and set ablaze Ahmadyya Masjid Complex at Bakshibazar on October 29. The attackers also left 50 people injured on the spot. But no arrest was made in this connection. Police picked up seven persons on the spot but they were later released, said a police source.

Incidents of suicide increased in the city last month. Ten reportedly committed suicide during the month of October while eight people killed themselves in September.

All of the suicide cases reportedly remained uninvestigated, only unnatural death (UD) cases were lodged with the respective police stations.

A total of 33 people including a photo-journalist and a policeman were killed and about 100 were injured in road accidents in the city in October. A photo-journalist, Khairul Alam Khair and a police constable Saleh Ahmed were run over by a train while they were discharging professional duties near Kawran Bazar Rail Crossing on October 27.

Casualties in road accidents were almost the same in October compared to that in September. Dhaka Metropolitan Police also recovered seven bodies including one of a housewife from different parts of the city. UD cases were lodged with the respective police stations. But the causes of their deaths still remain a mystery.



Jahanara Imam addressing a public meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue in city yesterday.

— Star photo

## Hasina thanks people

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina thanked the people for spontaneously observing a half-day hartal in the capital yesterday and thereby giving verdict for execution of "death penalty on war criminal" Golem Azam, reports UNB.

Citizens from all walks of life once again demonstrated their will in favour of the four point demand which includes hanging of Golem Azam, ban on the politics of Jamaat-Shibir, withdrawal of the case against 24 sponsors of Ganoadalat, Hasina said in a post-hartal statement.

The Awami League President condemned the attack by police and "government-backed musclemen" on pro-hartal people at different places in the city, including Tikatuli.

## Nirmul body hartal

In Dhaka and paraded streets during the hartal hours.

They shouted anti-government slogans and demanded execution of the verdict of the public court.

Picketing was seen mainly at Purana Paltan crossing, Topkhana Road and in the Jatiya Press Club, Gulistan, Shahbagh, Farmgate, Mouchak, Malibagh and Tejaon Industrial area.

About half a dozen pro-hartal activists were picked up by police but were released after the hartal hours.

Police broke up two processions at about 11 am in Paltan and Tikatuli areas where three hartal activists were injured.

At 11-30 near the Purana Paltan crossing, police baton charged another processions.

Muktijoddha Chhatra Command held a post-hartal rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club which was addressed by Nirmul Committee leaders Hasan Imam, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury, Maya, Afzal Hossain, Dr Moshitaq Ahmed, Golem Qudus, Kamal Pasha Chowdhury, Sharif Saadi and Mainul Hossain Chowdhury.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) also organised a rally at the same place. BCL President Mainuddin Ahmed Chowdhury and General Secretary Iqbalur Rahim spoke at the rally.

The speakers congratulated the Dhaka citizens for making the hartal a success and accused the government of sheltering the anti-liberation forces.

## TV channel

Congratulating the people on the occasion of National Revolution and Solidarity Day she said the telecast of Open University programme from Saturday would make the event all the more memorable.

Describing the Open University as a new addition to the academic field she said the entire country would be covered by it. The Jatiya Sangsad has recently passed the Open University Bill. She said students would get lessons through radio, television and printed syllabus with necessary cooperation from the postal department.

Dwelling at length on the objectives of the Open University, she said it would offer development and production-oriented education. She said there would be provisions for higher education with special emphasis on female education. She further said special care would be taken for the education of the working class and backward people. Begum Zia expressed the hope that with the Open University, the rate of illiteracy would go down and non-formal education would get due importance. She said the Open University had been set up with the objective of reaching equal educational facilities to all.

She said the government wanted the spread of the light of education throughout the country in the interest of democracy and development. She expressed the hope that the university would succeed in achieving its objective with the cooperation of all.

## Demonstrators attack Kohl, Weizsaecker

BERLIN, Nov 8: A demonstration that was planned to show Germany's condemnation of rightist violence against foreigners was disrupted Sunday by attacks on Chancellor Helmut Kohl and President Richard von Weizsaecker, reports AP.

Shown live on national television, Weizsaecker had to be protected by a half-dozen police with shields as objects were thrown at him when he started to speak at a rally.

ARD television said police had to whisk Kohl out of the march when he was greeted by insults and boos, and eggs and stones were thrown at him.

Neither leader appeared to be hurt.

A commentator on ARD bemoaned that the world was seeing yet another ugly aspect of Germany's political strife.

The day had been planned as a display of mainstream Germany's condemnation of a wave of rightist violence directed at foreigners and Jewish Holocaust memorials.

But Weizsaecker had to intone his speech against a chorus of boos and whistles. Riot-equipped police, some of them swinging clubs, moved into the crowd repeatedly to push the protesters back.

Weizsaecker, one of Germany's most popular politicians, was also shielded by aides holding umbrellas to ward off any thrown objects during his speech.

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## Premadasa

come up for discussion at Dhaka, said a press release issued by the Foreign Ministry here this evening.

The discussions also dealt with how the summit might follow up initiatives taken at the summit here last December. These included poverty alleviation, trade liberalization and regional economic cooperation, the release stated.

During his visit, he had detailed talks with Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Harold Herat and senior officials at the ministry.

The forthcoming summit of the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation, due to be held in Dhaka on December 12-24 will review its achievements and set a new course towards core issues like trade, economic cooperation and poverty alleviation.

## Diplomatic ties with Estonia

Bangladesh and Estonia have signed a protocol establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries, reports UNB.

Estonian Minister of Economy Ain Saaramann and Bangladesh Ambassador to Russia Mustafizur Rahman signed the protocol in Tallin on November 5 on behalf of their respective countries, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

The protocol provided for exchange of diplomatic missions at embassy level.

The Estonian side expressed desire to conclude a trade agreement with Bangladesh in order to promote bilateral trade.

## Dubcek

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the Prague-Bratislava highway in heavy rain on September 1.

He won fame as a symbol of hope when he attempted to reform the Czechoslovak Communist Party and introduced what he and fellow party leaders dubbed "Socialism with a Human Face."

But almost half a million Soviet-led forces backed by tanks and artillery rumbled across Czechoslovakia's borders on August 21, 1968, to end what became known as the "Prague Spring."

In Little Rock, Arkansas, US President-elect Bill Clinton said he was saddened by the news on Dubcek's death.

"I am glad that he lived to see the emergence of democracy in eastern Europe," Clinton said in a statement. "My prayers are with his family, friends, the people of his country and all those who admired him."

Earlier, left-wing Slovak politician Peter Weiss reflected the feelings of many Czechoslovaks when he hailed him as a major politician and outstanding person.

Dubcek sustained serious spinal and chest injuries in the car crash and had to be airlifted to a Prague clinic. His condition deteriorated despite two major operations, one to relieve pressure on his spinal cord and one on his abdomen.

A fervent supporter of a united Czechoslovakia, Dubcek died seven weeks before the 74-year-old Czechoslovak federation splits into independent Czech and Slovak republics.

Dubcek, a Slovak, consistently exhorted his compatriots to stay united.

## Meet demands by Dec 16

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Chairing by the committee convenor Jahanara Imam, the meeting was also addressed, among others by Abdur Razzak, MP (Awami League), Kazi Aref Ahmed (Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal), Prof Abdul Mannan Choudhury (member-secretary of the committee), Syed Hassan Imam (Actor), Khalequzzaman Bhuiyan (Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal), Ahmedur Rahman Azmi (National Awami Party), Maolana Zakir Hossain and Freedom Fighter Abu Osman Chowdhury.

Jahanara Imam in her speech cautioned the free-dom-loving and patriotic people to be aware of the conspiracy against the anti-Golem Azam movement.

"Jamaat is spreading falsehood and trying to mislead the people in the name of religion," she alleged "this anti-liberation party, aided by Saudi Arabia and in collaboration with the BNP government, is conspiring to jeopardise the country's sovereignty."

The Samannaya Committee leader urged the people to go ahead with moral courage and to have faith in Allah while expressing the hope that they must win by the wish of the almighty. She also made a fervent call to the people from all walks of life to donate for continuing the Samannaya

## Energy situation reviewed

A meeting of the national committee on Energy and Mineral Resources was held with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair at her secretariat in Dhaka yesterday evening, reports BSS.

The meeting approved the amended uniformity on lending terms to the rural electrification societies by the rural electrification board.

The meeting discussed the country's energy situation and also reviewed the demands, production, distribution and system loss in the power sector.

The procedure of fixation of price for natural gas and the progress regarding Barapukuria Coal Exploitation Project also came up for discussion.

Yesterday's meeting was the first of its kind after the committee was reconstituted by the present government.

Agriculture Minister Majedul Huq, Communications Minister Oll Ahmed, Commerce Minister M K Anwar, Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan, Energy Minister Khondakur Mosharraf Hossain and Planning Minister Zahiruddin Khan attended the meeting.

Principal Secretary K M Rabbani and FBCCI President Mahabubur Rahman were also present.

## Saudi Minister

him along with other members of the entourage.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman received the Saudi Finance Minister warmly at the airport and passed the time of stop-over with the royal guests. Saudi Charge D'Affaires Ali Abdul Wahab and other high officials of the embassy and Ministry of Finance were present.

During the stopover at the Airport the finance ministers of the two brotherly countries cordially discussed matters of mutual and bilateral interests, particularly increasing the areas of economic cooperation.

Saifur Rahman said, the timely and prompt help by Saudi government after the devastating cyclone of April '91 is lauded by all people in Bangladesh. He said, the multipurpose cyclone rehabilitation projects now being implemented with Saudi assistance are progressing well and on completion of these projects they will give multiple benefit to the cyclone prone coastal area people of the country.

Abul Khail expressed his satisfaction over the smooth progress of the cyclone rehabilitation projects which are meant for redressing the sufferings of the distressed people of the cyclone prone areas.

## Migratory birds

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have so far fallen on deaf ears.

A total of 632 species of birds are found in Bangladesh of which nearly 200 are migratory, according to Prof Sohrabuddin Sarkar, who teaches at the Zoology Department of the Dhaka University.

Prof Sarkar, a member of the Wild Life Society, says that the migratory birds nearly 25 species are ducks which are worst victims of the stalkers.

The other duck species are pintail, brahminy, barheaded, shoveller, common pocard, common ruddy, shel, topted and laggoose, Sarkar said.

He says some 500000 to 600000 migratory birds come to Bangladesh every year and mostly live in low lands and marshes. The Hakaluki Haor in Sylhet shelters the highest number of guests, the zoologist says.

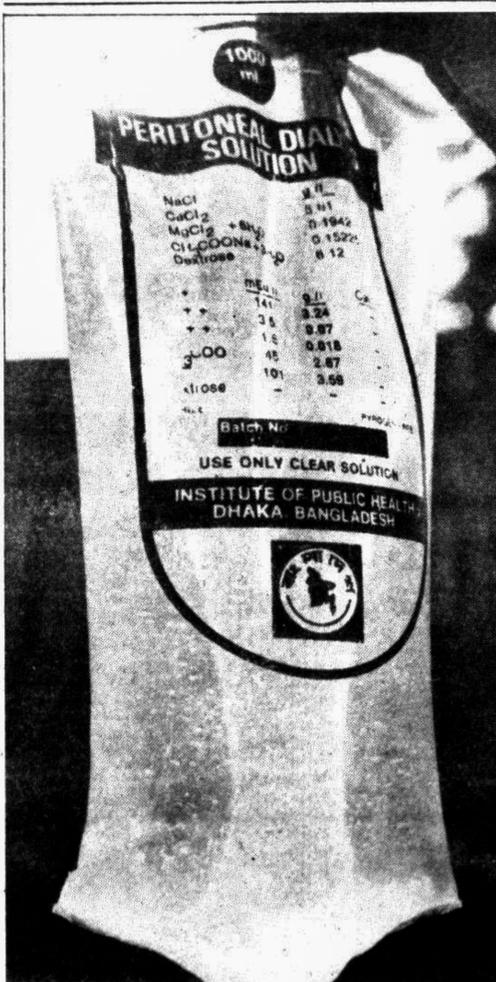
A cell in the Ministry of Forest and Environment was formed in 1976 to look after the wild life, but was abolished in 1983.

The responsibility was then given to the Forest Conservation wing of the Ministry. But lack of funds and initiative are now cited for its ineffectiveness.

## Cambodia talks fail

BEIJING, Nov 8: International talks on Cambodia in Beijing broke down today with no agreement, throwing into disarray a United Nations-led peace effort and raising the prospect of renewed bloodshed, reports Reuter.

The main stumbling block is the refusal of the radical Khmer Rouge to disarm in preparation for free elections under the terms of peace accords signed in Paris in October, 1991.



This packet of kidney dialysis solution was full of dirt, and it was being given to the patient of bed No 1, of the Renal and Dialysis Unit of the Post-graduate Medicine and Research (PG) Hospital Saturday night. It was not known how this contaminated packet, without a batch number and produced by the Institute of Public Health, Mohakhali, was allowed to be used on a kidney patient. Worse, it is also not known how many more of such dangerous packs of these dangerous dialysis fluid have already been used at the PG Hospital. Patients have to pay for their own dialysis equipments, except the fluid. Patients with acute renal failures, mostly children aged below five, have to have dialysis every 48 hours, needing a minimum of 12 bags of dialysis fluid. The patient of bed No 1 was lucky on Saturday, as an attendant noticed the dirt inside the bag, and stopped the dialysis.

# The Midnight File

## Delhi for separate talks with VHP, Masjid body

NEW DELHI, Nov 8: Third round of talks on the Ayodhya dispute ended here today with the government deciding to immediately hold separate discussions with the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and the all India Babri Masjid Action Committee (AIMBAC) to narrow down the differences. The Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, P R Kumaramangalam, told reporters after the meeting which lasted less than an hour that after holding separate discussions, both sides would be invited for the next round. He said the separate meetings could begin tomorrow or day after, reports PTI.

## OIC chief begins tour focused on Bosnia

JEDDAH (Saudi Arabia), Nov 8: The head of the Organisation of Islamic Conference began a six-nation tour today focused mainly on the strife in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the OIC said. Hamid al Gabid's tour, starting in the United Arab Emirates, comes ahead of an extraordinary OIC Foreign Ministers session December 2 in this western Saudi city to discuss the former Yugoslav republic, reports AFP.

## Bird hunting

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ment park and wet land reserves were identified at that period, they said.

They said the provision was cancelled by Enam Commission in 1983 as a result of which the wild life in the country was facing a threat of extinction.

The society members told the Prime Minister that the migratory birds were coming in the country in lesser number because of threat of their hunting. They pointed out that there were open sale of migratory birds in the city streets including Elephant Road and Baitul Mukarram Square.

They presented an album to the Prime Minister which consisted of photographs of wild animal which had become extinct and was near extinction.

The delegation headed by eminent Zoologist Kazi Zakir Hossain included Prof Sohrabuddin Sarkar, Dr A K M Fazlul Huq, Dr Noorjahan Sarkar, Muhammad Khalilur Rahman and Nurul Huq.

## US clarifies new visa agreement

The new visa agreement signed between Bangladesh and the United States would not change in any way the validity periods for tourist or business visas, reports BSS.

A United States Information Service (USIS) press release yesterday said currently, Bangladeshi nationals who qualify for US tourist and business visas are generally issued a one-year multiple entry visa. "The agreement also does not affect the application procedures or requirements for a US visa of any kind", it said.

Students and others applying for visas would be interviewed by the US Embassy in the same manner as before and the same requirements will apply, the press release said.

Explaining the validity of visas for the students, diplomatic or official travellers, the press release said, a student going to an American university from Bangladesh for a two-year degree course would normally be issued a two-year multiple entry visa. "Five-year visas are available if a five-year course of study is planned, or if a diplomat or official will have a five-year tour. The official documentation will be studied to determine the visa's period of validity."

The benefits of this agreement are also extended to the immediate dependent family members, namely spouses and minor children of those covered, the press release said adding "siblings and parents are not considered immediate family members".

## Plutonium

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shipping disasters this year, most recently a collision between an oil tanker and a container ship.

"We believe that dangerous materials should not be transported through busy waterways near densely populated areas," a Singapore Foreign Ministry official said.

The Japanese vessels was described by a spokesman of the Greenpeace environmental group as "a floating Chernobyl".

The Akatsu Kimaru will be monitored by satellite but the officials would not comment on reports that US ships and planes would also keep an eye on the shipment.

The head of the International Maritime Organisation, William O'Neil, has given his blessing to the arrangements for the shipment and rejected criticism of Japan for not revealing the route or security arrangements.

Last week Chile's Lower House of Congress unanimously approved a draft bill to stop the shipment passing through Chilean waters.

Greenpeace has said Japan favours the route around Cape Horn off Chile because sealanes are relatively uncrowded. But weather conditions are among the world's worst.

Others are still thinking about banning the ship.

"Our laws say we can stop the ship on grounds of safety but we have not decided yet," Malaysian environment minister Law Heng Ding said.

Earlier this month, Indonesia's military commander, Try Sutrisno, offered protection to the Akatsuki Maru as long as it kept out of the Malacca Strait.

The important factor is safety. Safety means that it should not endanger human life or damage the environment, he said.

He said the Strait was too risky and that he had asked the navy to look for an alternative route.

Environmentalists say the tiniest leak of plutonium could cause great damage to the environment and endanger human lives. They fear it could fall into the hands of terrorists or countries trying to produce nuclear weapons.

## Pakistanis

From Page 1 Col 7

those to Bangladesh officials. The cards will be handed over to the returnees a few days before their departure.

The Bangladesh chapter of the Makkah-based body and the Stranded Pakistanis' General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) are providing support to the ID card issuance process.

Meanwhile, the high-level task force formed by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in first meeting last week reviewed the progress made so far and discussed the activities on part of the Bangladesh government to help the process.

Bangladesh will foot the bill for expenses of transportation of the refugees to Dhaka from camps in the country's various parts and setting up of transit camps in the capital.

These activities will be coordinated by the task force, headed by the Foreign Secretary and with senior level representatives from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Home, Relief, Information, Civil Aviation and Health.

According to an official source, Bangladesh may launch an appeal to some international organisation, the most likely being the International Organisation of Migrants (IOM), to share the huge expenses on the Bangladesh side.

The IOM helped evacuate the Bangladesh nationals stranded during the Gulf crisis.