

## Charges against Eliadah

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 become an approve was turned down by the prosecution side. Two other accused, a Bangladeshi Abdul Qayum and another Nigerian Okey Godwin are still absconding. After investigation, an Assistant Commissioner of the Detective Branch of Police Ruhul Amin submitted the charge sheet against the five accused persons to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate on July 14.

The American girl who was carrying the packets of heroin on her way to Zurich from Bangladesh on February 25 was listed as the principal accused in the case.

Charges brought against the accused were under section 19(1) (b) of Narcotics Control Act, 1990. If proved guilty the accused face death sentence or life imprisonment as maximum punishment under the country's existing laws.

Under section 338 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) Eliadah's advocate Kazi Abdul Wahab prayed in the Court yesterday to declare Eliadah an approver by the prosecution side so that the 'real culprits' could be punished.

Advocate Wahab said, 'Eliadah was a teenager and a victim of circumstances... she disclosed the names of guilty persons to police to unearth the racket... if Eliadah is made an approver the real culprits can be punished.'

Public Prosecutor (PP) Abdur Razaq differed with Abdul Wahab saying, 'the case has been investigated and is ready for trial. At this stage the necessity is not felt to make her an approver. Moreover, a principal accused can never be an approver.'

Lawyer of Blankson and Goddy, Advocate S K Chowdhury, also opposed the prayer to make Eliadah an approver.

When Advocate Chowdhury prayed for time the Second Additional Sessions Judge Anwaruddin Sikder stated, 'I am ready to frame the charge and want to dispose off the case very quickly.'

Later considering the prayer the Judge refused the date of framing of the charge and of trial today (Wednesday). Advocate Mohammad Khorshed Alam appeared in the Court for the absconding accused Abdul Qayum and Okey Godwin as state defence while another Lawyer of Eliadah Advocate Kazi Mohammad Aurangzeb was present.

## Hasina's security

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Amu said under the new arrangement, the wireless sets by which the security forces could make direct contact with the control room of the Special Branch of Police were replaced by new wireless sets of traffic police.

He alleged that the Home Ministry did not allow the security forces to accompany the opposition leader during her tour to Khulna on November 17.

When contacted, the Home Ministry informed the Awami League that necessary instructions were given to the local administration to arrange security for Hasina. But there was no security forces excepting one security guard when Hasina landed at Jessore airport, Amu alleged. The same thing was repeated during Hasina's present tour to Chittagong, he added.

Although the government Monday said that necessary instructions were given to Chittagong Police Commissioner for providing security for Hasina, but in reality no security forces were available.

## Husband stabs wife to death

By DMCH Correspondent

A 40-year-old woman was stabbed to death by her husband on the road near Ahmedabagh Community Centre at Sabujbagh in the city Tuesday.

Police arrested the 'killer' husband Ratan Sarkar, 50, and detained him in the Sabujbagh police custody.

## Rice under FFW

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 The government has also set a ratio for distributing rice in place of wheat for the various relief programmes. For FFW one kilogram of rice will be provided for one kilogram of wheat, for the government sponsored VGD programme one kilogram of rice will be given for every 1.5 kg of wheat, for the donor-supported VGD programmes one kilogram of rice will be provided for every 1.4 kg of wheat and one kilogram of rice for 1.5 kg of wheat for all other relief programmes.

Observers noted that another probable reason for the government move to distribute rice in place of wheat in various relief programmes was because of a sharp reduction in food aid this year.

The total amount of food aid received during 1991-92 was 14.13 lakh tons including 39,300 tons of rice and 13.74 lakh tons of wheat. The largest donors were the United States with 5.3 lakh tons and the World Food Programme (WFP) with 4.02 lakh tons of wheat.

Food aid commitment for 1992-93 stands at 10.85 lakh tons. Both the US and the WFP have cut down on their commitments by 3.2 lakh tons and 2.9 lakh tons respectively.

In a recent move, the government informally approached the donors for monetizing all food aid. According to the ministry source, most major donors responded positively to the government proposal. But WFP was reluctant to agree to the government proposal.

## Nepal: Common rivers

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 harnessing the vast water resources of the common rivers. Koirala said South Asian dialogues initiated at both official and non-official levels will eventually prove to be fruitful and also help overcome the obstacles in the way of regional cooperation.

The Nepalese Prime Minister was apparently cautious in talking water issue for an Indian project at Tanakpur on the India-Nepal border, which has already triggered agitation in the streets and arguments in the Courts.

The Nepalese government was accused of giving away Nepalese territory to India for the Tanakpur project under a water accord with New Delhi. The accord was challenged in the Nepalese Supreme Court.

About SAARC, Koirala said, 'It is poised to take off with a new vision backed by consistent political will of the leadership.' He said 'It's time to move a little faster' towards harmonisation of economic and trade laws. Concrete and extensive cooperation in specific fields, including joint venture projects should also begin so that free flow of goods, capital, resources and technology among the member countries could be enhanced.

Koirala was optimistic about SAARC despite differences among the member countries on bilateral matters. 'With superpower rivalry and the cold war behind us, there should be no difficulty in resolving bilateral problems through discussions.'

According to him, SAARC can only lay the groundwork but for this grand vision to be translated into reality, it requires common political commitments, mutual understanding, common view of the future of the region and above all sincerity and mutual trust.

On relations with Bangladesh, Koirala said, 'We are very close to Bangladesh and share the same ideas and values.' The Nepalese Prime Minister said he is looking forward to meet Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia when he comes to Dhaka for the SAARC summit December 12-14.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inspecting the parade of the armed forces at Chittagong Cantonment yesterday. — PID photo

## Govt to modernise army

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 kram" and the "Bir Pratik" to six officers and four junior commissioned officers of Bangladesh Army for their contributions to military activities.

Leader of the Opposition and Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina, Planning Minister Zahir Uddin Khan, Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation Meer Nasir Uddin, parliament members, chief of naval staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Mohaimnul Islam, chief of air staff Air Vice Marshall Altaf Hossain Choudhury, high civil and military officials and local elite were present on the occasion.

Earlier, the Prime Minister reviewed the 'smartly' turned out parade and took the salute at the impressive march past. On her arrival at the Drill Square, Begum Zia was received by Chief of Army Staff Lt General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan, Chittagong Area Commander Major General Mohammad Azizur Rahman and EBRC Commander Brigadier Mohammad Mohsin.

She paid tributes to the memories of President Ziaur Rahman, founder of the regiment late, M A Ghani, late General M A G Osmani and late General Khawaja Wasuddin for their contributions to the growth of East Bengal Regiment.

She recalled the sacrifices and glorious role of the members of the regiment during the War of Independence. She prayed for the peace of the departed souls of those who embraced martyrdom during the War of Independence in 1971 including Bir Shreshtha Sepoy Mostafa Kamal and Bir Shreshtha Sepoy Hamidur Rahman.

Begum Zia said the members of the East Bengal Regiment were the first to take up arms during the War of Independence.

Describing winnings of national standard by any unit as a rare honour she recalled the introduction of the system since the time of Prophet Mohammad (SM). The presentation of national standard has its own tradition and characteristics as it is a symbol of independence and sovereignty, she said.

She congratulated both the battalions of East Bengal Regiment for their glory and expressed the hope that members of both the battalions would uphold the confidence reposed on them by the nation. She said Prime Minister's "scholarship fund" had been favourable duty system. The proposed solution is to offer reimbursement of duty when the cloth is re-exported. Secretary of the Textile Ministry Rezaul Hayat comments, 'We are totally supportive of the idea. But a duty drawback facility must be worked out.' The drawback facility will enable the exporter to reclaim his duty payments.

The three-pronged approach planned has Grameen Bank as the intermediary between the garments manufacturer and the weaver. 'The garments people want to work with the *tantis*, but the contact has to be made through someone,' remarks Shams, who is the prime actor from the bank's side. Buyers will place orders through the bank, which will mobilise the workforce in co-operation with the Handloom Board. Weavers will not have to be Grameen members, but Yunus admits members will be given priority. Some 40,000 members are weaver.

The group dealing with the first order of 100,000 yards is in Pabna. Most of the weaving industry is centred in the Bogra, Pabna and Tangail areas. The Handloom Board is also consulting the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers Association for its involvement. But initial response has not been encouraging.

## Weavers' link with garments

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 Consequently, the cloth produced here is more expensive for the buyer.

'Our biggest obstacle,' Grameen's deputy managing director Khaled Shams points out, 'is that the government duty structure is biased against weavers. The terms that apply to garments should also apply to weavers. The duty on thread should ideally be lifted altogether.'

Mazharul Karim, Ministry of Textiles' Joint Secretary and a former chairman of the Handloom Board, explains this puzzling distinction between duties: 'The movement of cloth is easy to monitor. There is a bonded warehouse facility. Thread and other materials are harder to follow. We cannot so easily check whether they are being really re-exported or simply released in to the local market.'

The Handloom Board and the Ministry of Textiles are presently engaged in talks with the Export Promotion Board to create a more

Arms haul  
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 the bill of entry to the air-freight department.

Following the arms recovery, a customs inspector Fakhruddin Ahmed lodged a case with Cantonment police under Section 19(C) of the Arms Act and later the charge of investigation was handed over to Detective Branch of Police, said Cantonment Police.

A police source said that DB officials failed to locate 137/2 Tejgunipara (Tonmoy Enterprise) and 113 HK Das Lane (Faisal's address), leading them to believe that the addresses were fictitious. However no senior DB officials were available for comment.

UNB adds: Meanwhile in the city, a special tribunal court yesterday convicted a young man and sentenced him to 24 years rigorous imprisonment for possessing unauthorised arms. The accused, Mohammad Shamim(24), was arrested in March last from Lalkuthi area in the old city and recovered from his possession a revolver and five bullets. Another special tribunal court yesterday sentenced Mukul (35) to 14 years and Mamun(32) 10 years rigorous imprisonment for possessing unauthorised arms. They were arrested in October 1990 from Armanitola Club with one revolver, four bullets and a dagger.

## Mollah dead

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Mosque at Mirpur at 12 noon. He will be buried at his family graveyard at Mirpur.

Secretary General of BNP and LGD Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar, Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Meah, Food Minister Shamsul Islam, Women Affairs and Social Welfare Minister Tariqul Islam, Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah, Commerce Minister MK Anwar, Mayor of Dhaka City Mirza Abbas and a large number of BNP leaders and workers went to Suhrawardi Hospital to have a last glimpse of Harun-ur-Rashid Mollah.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas expressed his deep shock at the death of Mollah.

In a condolence message, President Biswas said that late Harun-ur-Rashid Mollah was a dedicated soul and worked for the welfare of the people and contributed much in restoration and consolidation of democracy in the country.

BNP Chairman and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and the Party Secretary General and LGD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar yesterday expressed their profound shock at the death of Mollah.

They prayed for the peace of the departed soul and conveyed their sympathy to the bereaved family.

BNP Joint Secretary General and Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia condoled the death of Mollah.

He expressed his sympathy to the bereaved family. Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman also condoled the Mollah's death.

In his condolence message, the Finance Minister said Mollah was endowed with the qualities of head and heart and had dedicated himself to the cause of the people.

## Mostafiz

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the conference and asserted that the proposed 'Dhaka Declaration' will call for accelerating poverty alleviation in the region.

The heads of state and government of seven South Asian nations are expected to discuss expansion of trade in view of the changed global scenario—the collapse of Soviet Union and the creation of Common Wealth of Independent States (CIS), move to further strengthen the EC and shifting of economic activities from western Europe to South Asia.

The Summit is expected to endorse the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement proposed at the meeting of the Council of Ministers.

## Scramble

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India's Bihar and West Bengal states and another one was still persisting over Uttar Pradesh and adjoining areas, the Meteorological officials said.

A trough of low was lying over the Bay and under its influence nearly 20 districts and thanas on Tuesday experienced cold although the winter has not officially set in.

The winter, predicted to start in early November was delayed by last week's cyclone and subsequent lows. It would take a day or two more to have clear skies.

Met office said that rainfall was recorded in Sylhet, Srimangal, Chandpur, Dhaka, Barisal, Patuakhali, Jessore, Chuadanga, Ishurdi, Bogra, Khulna, Sathkira, Rajshahi, Madaripur, Feni and Faridpur.

Temperatures recorded on Monday in Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna were 16.3, 14.4 and 17.8 degrees Celsius respectively and rose to 18.5, 17.5 and 20 degrees.

Temperature in Chittagong, however, fell by a degree, the Met office said.

Met office forecast light rain over the Sylhet region during the next 24 hours commencing 6 pm Tuesday and dry weather was likely elsewhere over the country.

## Rohingyas

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mar official team were progressing well. 'The talks are being held in a positive mood,' the official said speaking on condition he can not be named.

Bangladesh has so far repatriated 216 refugees who have fled from Arakan to escape persecution by Myanmar soldiers during past one and a half years.

The repatriation is the outcome of a Bangladesh-Myanmar pact signed in April. The process was delayed as the refugees initially refused to return home until human rights condition improves in Myanmar and Yangon involves the UNHCR in resettlement of the returnees.

Resistance also came from a group of anti-repatriation refugees whom Bangladesh authorities identified as terrorists. The mastermind of the anti-repatriation campaign Nurul Huq Maji was recently been arrested.

## The Midnight File

### Sunken Soviet sub leaking radiation

WASHINGTON, Nov 24: A nuclear powered Soviet submarine that sank off Norway in rich fishing grounds in 1989 has begun leaking radiation, and highly toxic plutonium could begin seeping into the food chain soon unless action is taken, a US television news network reported on Monday. Russian scientists said in filmed interviews on ABC news that they were very worried about the plutonium threat from Komsomolets, which caught fire and sank off Norway in April 1989, killing 42 sailors, reports Reuter.

### 79 killed as Tigers, troops fight

COLOMBO, Nov 24: At least 79 Tamil rebels and government soldiers were killed in heavy fighting in northern Sri Lanka after about 300 rebels attacked army defence lines, the military said.

Its said the attack on the Iddakadu defences on the Jaffna peninsula lasted for several hours until dawn on Tuesday before the attackers were beaten off, reports Reuter.

### US suspends food credit to Russia

WASHINGTON, Nov 24: The US Agriculture Department today suspended Russian from its food credit programme for late payment, a department official said, reports Reuter.

## SAARC summit

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 Ministers at their July meeting in Colombo.

The other seven areas that will be dealt with in the December 6 meeting are: Education, Rural Development, Science and Technology, Sports, Arts and Culture, Telecommunications, Women in Development, and Tourism.

The Committee on Sports, Arts and Culture is yet to hold its meeting and scheduled to sit in Dhaka November 30.

All SAARC activities are financed from voluntary contributions of members states.

The Programme Committee recommendations will be scrutinized by the Standing Committee, made up of Foreign Secretaries, that will hold six sessions in three days from December 7 to 9.

The Foreign Secretaries will also deal with the substantive matters like drafting the Dhaka Declaration and other summit agenda, apart from the administrative business.

The top Foreign Ministry bureaucrats of the seven countries are expected to finalise the draft of the Declaration, to be formally adopted by the summiters, on the second day of their meeting, December 8. If this prime job is done on the day a brief concluding session will follow the next day.

The standing committee will put forward its recommendation to the Council of Ministers of which foreign ministers are members.

The Standing Committee meeting will coincide with that of the SAARC Food Security Reserve Board. According to the agreement on SAARC Food Security Reserve, the Board, comprising a member from each member country, will review and assess the food situation and prospects in the region including factors such as production, consumption, trade, prices, quality and stocks of foodgrains.

It also examines 'immediate short-term, and long-term policy actions' to ensure 'adequate supplies of basic food commodities in the region'. The Board sends its recommendations to the Council of Ministers.

The food reserve accord came into force in August 1988 after it was signed during the Third Summit in Kathmandu November 1987. The size of the Reserve stood at 2,41,580 tonnes in November 1990.

The Council of Ministers holds its two-day meeting December 9 and 10 to give final touches to all that will have been readied by the bureaucrats.

The ministers 'usually make minor adjustments to all issues virtually settled at the Foreign Secretary level,' said one official speaking on the SAARC's mode of functioning.

The heads of state and government at their formal meeting will just give the stamp of approval to these proposals, the official said, but added that many substantive policy matters will be discussed and decided upon at the informal sessions among the leaders which will guide (the) SAARC's future course of action.'

King Jigme Singhe Wangchuk of Bhutan, President Ranasinghe Premadasa of Sri Lanka, President Mamoob Abdul Gayoom of Maldives, Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao of India, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan, Prime Minister Grijia Prasad Koirala of Nepal and host Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia are scheduled to sit for a three-hour opening session at 10 December 12 morning. After lunch, they are likely hold bilateral meetings where issues other than those in the Summit agenda will be talked.

The summiters will have opportunity to discuss the 'substantive matters' during a five-hour retreat on board a vessel on the Buriganga the next day before they attend a one-hour concluding session at 5.30 in the evening.

The concluding session will formally adopt the Dhaka Declaration. A joint press statement will also be issued after the summit.

Apart from the opening and concluding sessions of the summit at the International Conference Centre, all other formal meetings will be held at the Sheraton Hotel where all the guests including the heads of state and government will be staying.

The meetings preceding the summit will be closed-door ones. However, press briefings will follow these closed-door meeting everyday at the media centre set up at the Sonargaon Hotel.

### Renazars

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 They (the government) will fail in their own trap,' she said. The opposition leaders aboard the train are to address several gatherings at various railway-stations, where — according to official sources — police are on the alert.

## Chronology of events

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 ernment arrive. Dec 12: The seventh SAARC Summit opens at 10 in the morning at the International Conference Centre. The three-hour plenary session ends at 1.00 pm. Summit ceremonies begin at 9:25 in the morning. After lunch, they hold bilateral talks. At night, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia hosts a banquet in honour of the heads of state and government.

Dec 13: River cruise on board a VIP vessel on the Buriganga. Begins at 9:30am and ends at 2:30 pm. Summiters prepare for the brief concluding session at 5:30 in the evening. At night, President hosts a banquet at Bangabhaban, followed by a cultural show. Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif are likely to depart. Dec 14: Heads of state and government and other delegates leave for home.