

Landless farmers

From Page 1 Col 4
 plain of green and golden rice fields.

Nabagram is a settlement of 3500 landless people in Sundalpur Union—some 23 kilometers south of the district headquarters at Majdee Court, as well as the Sadar Sudhanam Thana.

On November 4, hundreds of people backed by the lathials (musclemen) attacked the settlement. They beat up the people, snatched away the harvest and set a fire 10 homesteads.

Rezia Begum, wife of Noor Muhammad, was trying to recover bits and pieces of what was left after the November 4 raid. Charred bamboo poles at four corners of a plot full of ash stood as the only proof of a home that once housed a five-member family. There was only a makeshift tent to shelter the family.

Talking to this correspondent, an emotional Rezia Begum said that the lathials of joddar Majbul Huq Amin had taken away all the kajol shall paddly from the family's two acre plot.

"This is government khas land... we grow crops on it, but the joddar and his men say they won't let any landless farmer live here," she said. The rice was the only means of survival for the family.

Giving an account of the raid, Rezia Begum (35) said that more than 200 people armed with sticks, lances, and machetes swooped on the settlement. All the males in the neighbourhood fled in the face of the attack.

The lathials guarded the fields while the joddars harvested all the rice and stored it in a nearby granary.

After taking the rice, the lathials forced the women and children out of the houses and then set the houses ablaze.

Noor Muhammad and his family arrived in Nabagram 14 years ago. He had received government permission to cultivate the land in 1989 and has paid the taxes regularly since then.

The neighbours of Noor Muhammad alleged that they were forced to pay the joddars Tk 2000 per acre of land every year.

If refused, the joddars released their musclemen and hired goons on the landless people to force them to pay the toll. "We are forced to pay the government tax and the joddar's toll at the same time," said another landless farmer Ohidul Huq.

The big land owners generally live in the urban areas of Majdee or Sonapur while their agents live in the char areas.

When asked if they got protection of the police from the attacks, the farmers accused a section of the policemen of banding with the land owners.

Nabagram dwellers alleged that following the November 4 incident, the farmers had filed a case against the joddar, but that police from Sudharam station arrived at the spot accompanied by the joddar's men and left Nabagram after having a sumptuous meal with one of the joddar's agents, alleged one farmer.

A landless farmer Emranuddin said "You see, the land in Nabagram mouja belongs to the person who has the toughest sticks... and we are non-existent here."

However, joddar Majbul Huq Amin's men said that the land in Nabagram belonged to them as it had emerged after being earlier eroded by the sea.

Officials of the district administration said that violence during harvesting was common and that it took place because of land disputes.

Arms haul

From Page 1 Col 4
 with the sensational arms-case.

Ten German made pistols were recovered from a consignment at the airfreight godown at the ZIA.

The pistols were concealed in a washing machine imported to Bangladesh from Pakistan under the name of one Faisal addressed 113, HK Das Lane Dhaka.

Legal notice

From Page 1 Col 7
 cial function to act independently," reads the legal notice served by Barrister Amri-ul-Islam on behalf of Syed Mahbub Ali and Khandakar Abdul Mannan, president and secretary respectively of the same.

Unless a favourable communication in the form of an order is received by November 28, the legal notice says, a writ petition will be filed with the High Court Division of the Supreme Court.

The notice was served on the Minister of Law, the Cabinet Secretary, the Secretary, Ministry of Law and the Secretary, Ministry of Establishment.

Earlier this year, the Law Ministry recommended a panel of 25 Sub-judges, after considering the dossiers of 30 for promotion as additional judges.

The General Administrative (GA) Committee headed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and consisting of three senior High Court Division judges, approved the promotion of 19 sub-judges out of the panel of 25. It also asked the full court to decide on the other six along with the remaining five of the original list of 30.

Presided over by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and consisting of all sitting High Court Division judges, the full court, in May, recommended that four of the 11 Sub-judges be included with the initially approved list of 19.

However, the government promoted only two out of the four sub-judges, superseding one of them in the process.

The full court in a meeting this month again reaffirmed its earlier decision to promote all four sub-judges.

The legal notice of the Sanity says: "The promotion of the judges of subordinate courts have thus been made without effective consultation with the High Court Division as required and contemplated under the Constitution, which is a sine qua non for ensuring rule of law, equality, independence of the judiciary, equal protection of law and justice.

The word 'consultation' with the Supreme Court regarding postings and promotions in the subordinate courts, the notice points out, needs to be read in the light of Article 22 ensuring the separation of judiciary.

"Similarly, this must be so done and the consultation be so made and followed, that the independence of the persons employed in the judicial ser-

vice and magistrates performing judicial function remains unimpaired as contemplated under Article 116a of the Constitution," the notice argues.

By violating the constitutional norms, it adds, the executive branch of the state has indulged in arbitrariness in an area which is vital for independence of the judiciary and for protecting the law enforcement machinery."

The refusal of the ministry to comply with the recommendation of the full court relating to the promotion of the four sub-judges has created an impression among the entire BCS (Judicial) cadre employed in the judicial service that the "decision of the executive is supreme and would prevail and dominate over the assessment/evaluation and recommendations independently and competently done by the High Court Division."

Impression has further been created that unless the persons employed in the judicial service keeps the executive happy and in good humour, their prospect in service is likely to be jeopardised, the notice points out.

"Independence of the judiciary thus having been so threatened the members of the bar and various bar associations and lawyers, co-ordination council of bar association feel seriously aggrieved," the notice states.

"Our clients...demand justice upon you for immediate compliance with the recommendation and decision of the full court... and not to appoint and or make any posting or transfer or take disciplinary action against or promote any subordinate judge or magistrate performing judicial function without consulting the High Court Division and further urge you to refrain from calling them to come to see ministers or any executive without prior approval of the Supreme Court nor to influence them in any manner... and further call upon you to assure our clients by communicating the compliance thereof through necessary orders to those effects by 10 am on November 28, 1992.

"Failing which, we have instruction of our clients to move the hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court under its writ jurisdiction for appropriate order and or orders and seek relief and/or reliefs as may be available under the law and the Constitution," concludes the Demand of Justice Notice.

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The Namaz-e-Janaza of Harun-ur-Rashid MP being offered at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. —Star photo

Harun-ur-Rashid Mollah buried

Late Alhaj Harun-ur-Rashid Mollah MP was laid to eternal rest at his family graveyard at Mirpur here yesterday, reports BSS.

Mollah, elected to parliament from the city's Mirpur area on BNP ticket died of a heart attack at Suhrawardy Hospital Tuesday.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Speaker Shaikh Razzaque Ali, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina, some ministers and Dhaka City Mayor Mirza Abbas MP placed wreaths on the coffin at the South Plaza of the Sangsad Bhaban as a mark of last respect to the late MP.

People from all walks of life, BNP leaders and workers, including party Secretary General and LORD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Tahukdar and Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mirza Abbas MP were present at the time of burial.

Earlier, his namaz-e-Janaza was held twice, one at the South Plaza of the Sangsad Bhaban and the other at Pallabi, Mirpur.

Speaker Shaikh Razzaque Ali, Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni, ministers, members of parliament and political leaders, among others attended the janaza at the South Plaza.

The qul khwani of Harun-ur-Rashid Mollah will be held on November 27 (Friday) after Asr prayers on Wajid Kudrat Ali Mollah Super Market premises Mirpur. Family sources said.

Gulf returnees demand jobs back

By Staff Correspondent

Several thousand Bangladeshi returnees from Kuwait and Iraq Wednesday demanded their jobs back and adequate compensation.

At a grand rally in front of the GPO they demanded implementation of United Nations' decision to compensate the Gulf War victims and disbursement of Taka 113 crore provided by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) for Bangladeshi returnees.

The returnees, who had to leave Gulf countries following Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, would hand over a memorandum comprising of their eight-point demands to the Labour and Manpower Ministry and also organize a march towards the UN office in Dhaka today (Thursday).

Presided over by Ashraf Ali Khan president of the Kuwait and Iraq Returnees Association, the rally was addressed by human rights activist Justice KM Sohan as the chief guest.

TV camera

From Page 1 Col 8

The handout further said step has been taken to install close circuit TV cameras at different important places inside the prison with a view to strengthening the overall security and modernisation of the Dhaka Central Jail. All important areas in the Dhaka Central Jail will be included under this step. No special step has been taken to install close circuit TV camera in the prison room of former President Ershad, it said.

The Home Ministry also described as incorrect the statement about the food and lodging of the imprisoned former president. The former president has been allotted a 30 feet X 18 feet bed room with spacious verandah and yard. The facilities in his room include four wall fans, a big-sized cot, foam mattress, quilt-blanket, pillow, bed sheet, mosquito-net, wooden wardrobe, rack, carpet, two tables, four chairs, five seated sofa set, radio set.

Concern

From Page 1 Col 5

ment, political party leaders, writers, students, business persons, teachers, Buddhist monks, civil servants, farmers and peddlers," the report said.

It said the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLOC), the official designation of the military government, has allowed a visit by the husband of Aung San Suu Kyi, detained leader of the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) and winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize.

Although the NLD won May 1990 general elections by a wide margin, the SLOC has yet to cede power or release Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been held under house arrest since July 1989.

Yokota is to visit Myanmar from December 7-15, after a two-day stopover in Thailand. He will go on to Bangladesh from December 15-18.

College student hurt in blast

By DMCH Correspondent

A student of Sheikh Borhanuddin College was seriously injured when a bomb he was making detonated.

Sanjedul is a first year student of the college and a Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activist.

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SAARC body suggests 10-year scheme

From Page 1 Col 4

the poverty alleviation programme with his counterparts. An overview of the Commission's reports was submitted to the Lanka President at his request.

Outlining the "critical elements" of the programme, the Commission said that the suggested steps should "suit the economic and socio-political circumstances of each SAARC country as well as differences within the countries."

"The programme... should help redirect the overall macro-economic strategy of economic growth in the region, in order to enable the poor to enjoy the benefits of economic growth in the short-run, without jeopardising these benefits in the long-run," the Commission's report says advocating a "pro-poor" approach.

Detailing the pro-poor perspective, the report speaks of two different approaches—"the first is to look at the poor as passive, uncreative and helpless, and in need of assistance; the second is to look at them as creative and entrepreneurial (after all they manage to survive in the most adverse conditions) individuals."

According to the report,

PM: Anarchy, chaos

From Page 1 Col 7

to speedy industrial growth by encouraging and promoting private entrepreneurs. "We want new mills and factories to come up so that our economic backbone is strengthened."

In this context, she said rural electrification programme is being expanded and other necessary infrastructures are built across the country. "System loss (of electricity) must be brought down and corruption halted in the power sector," she said.

"Ours is a poor country. Scarce wealth has to be utilised judiciously to overcome the problems piled up during the autocratic rule," the Prime Minister said.

Responding to local demands Begum Zia said Tk 10 crore has been sanctioned for protection of Chandpur town from erosion by the river. She said amidst cheers that Chandpur-Rajpur road will be repaired soon.

The degree college and the high school will be nationalised under the existing process, she assured the audience. But, she said, the students must do good results in the examinations.

Begum Zia urged the people to extend all out cooperation to her administration in implementing the development programmes. The lot of the people can be improved with proper, unhindered and corruption free implementation of the development projects, she added.

Immediately after she flew in here by helicopter in the afternoon the Prime Minister had a meeting with local officials.

She reminded the officials that the present democratic government is answerable to the people for its activities. So should be the officials in matters of smooth and fair implementation of the development programmes and the government policies.

The Prime Minister told the officials that her government is determined to revitalise production both in farm and factories. Officials must gear up their activities in achieving the government objectives.

She flew back to the capital at dusk.

Eliadah

From Page 1 Col 5

the Judge, Anwar Uddin Sikder that they were not guilty.

Later the Court fixed January 4, 1993 as the next date for the trial.

Among the five accused Eliadah was arrested on February 25 this year at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) when she was due to fly for Zurich, Switzerland, with 3.27 kg of heroin from Bangladesh.

One cop stabbed to death

By DMCH Correspondent

A police naik was stabbed to death and another seriously injured at Uttara Wednesday evening by some unidentified persons.

The dead is Raza Miah, 32, of 3rd Armed Police Battalion.

Police said Raza Miah and another naik of the same battalion, Abdul Haque, 35 went to buy medicine at Kasabari Bazar at Uttara from the police camp.

Police suspect that they had altercations with some local people there.

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Armed men attack police officer's residence: 1 held

By Staff Correspondent

A group of armed men attacked and exploded crackers at the residence of an Assistant Commissioner (AC) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) at Green Road in the city Wednesday evening.

Immediately after the incident police rushed to the spot and arrested one Abdus Samad in this connection. He was detained in the Detective Branch Office, said police.

During the incident the police Officer-in-Charge of Public Relations Department SM Aminul Islam was not at home.

Sources said when some youngmen were gambling and taking drugs on the roof of Green Road Officers' Dormitory, the police officer forced them to leave the place Tuesday night.

Nirmul body

From Page 1 Col 8

Foreign Minister, I will convey your request to the Convenor or the Member-Secretary of the Samannaya Committee."

Talking to the Daily Star last night, Choudhury confirmed his talk with the Foreign Minister and said that he had passed on the FM's request to the Committee Member-Secretary Prof Abdul Mannan Choudhury the day he received it. He said, that he informed the minister, the following day, that the message had been communicated.

Most of the central leaders of the Samannaya Committee including its Convenor Jahannara Imam were out of the capital at the time. However, they returned to Dhaka Tuesday on concluding their countrywide campaign in support of the December 8 hartal.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 7

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Shahjahan Khan, MP and 15 others suffered injuries in a BNP attack on a function in the compound of Madaripur Nizamuddin Govt College yesterday morning while three Chhatra League female workers were injured by Chhatra Dal in Eden College in presence of the College Principal, Hasina said.

The Awami League President expressed concern at the ransack of the residence of Abdur Rahim, MP, and party office in Dinajpur on Tuesday.

She also alleged that another party MP, Aminul Islam, and six others were injured when "BNP hoodlums" attacked a procession brought out in the town to protest government-backed hooliganism.

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The Midnight File

Nouhak, new leader of Laos

BANGKOK, Nov 25: Nouhak Phommavisan, a one-time truck driver known as a hardline communist and friend of Vietnam, was named the new leader of Laos today following the death of President Kaysone Phomvihane, official Radio Laos said, reports Reuters.

Ships collide, 3 killed

HONG KONG, Nov 25: A Chinese military vessel capsized after being rammed by an unidentified cargo ship early Wednesday off Hong Kong waters, rescue officials said. Three bodies were found and three people were missing, reports AP.

Top Yeltsin aide resigns

MOSCOW, Nov 25: A top aide to President Boris Yeltsin resigned Wednesday, Mikhail Paltorinin, the Information minister and a deputy prime minister, said he was stepping down to protect Yeltsin "against attacks from revenge-seekers", reports AP.

Bus passengers robbed of Tk one lakh

By DMCH Correspondent

Dacots looted over Taka one lakh from the passengers of a Dhaka-bound bus from Sylhet Tuesday evening.

Six passengers were also injured in the incident, two of them with bullets and four with stabbings.

When the bus reached Marzan village near Bhatrab Bus stand at 7:30 pm, about 10 dacots travelling in guise of passengers suddenly brandished firearms and stopped the bus.

Milon murder

From Page 1 Col 8

ers of Dr Milon both politically and socially."

Dr Chowdhury also made several other demands including publication of stamp and envelop commemorating the martyrdom of Dr Milon, state initiative for protecting the memories of '90 martyrs, airing of TV and radio programmes on November 27 and renaming the Tophkana Road after Dr Milon.

Besides, the GS of the sangsad announced at the Press Conference a day-long programme to observe Milon's martyrdom day tomorrow with due solemnity.

The day's programmes include laying wreaths at the grave of Milon at 7 am, placing wreaths at Milon square near the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of the Dhaka University at 8 am, holding a discussion at Milon Square at 3 pm and arranging prize-distribution ceremony of Dr Milon Memorial Chess Competition to be followed by a cultural function at 6 pm.

Islamic varsity

From Page 1 Col 7

way allegedly by a large number of BCL and GCO activists. The buses were stopped at Taraganj bus stand under Shaikupa thana and mercilessly beat those travelling in the buses.

The attackers also cut the tendon of four students identified as Shibir workers, police and witnesses said. The victims are: Mofazzel Hossain (Accounting final year), SM Shahjahan (2nd year English), Hashem (Law final year) and Kamrul Islam Touhid (final year).

The GCO activists also cut the tendon of two local Jamaat leaders—Monjurul Islam and Mohammad Wailullah—at the same place while they were coming from Kushtia riding on a motor cycle. They were said to be victims of the circumstance, police said.

The condition of Wailullah was stated to be critical in the hospital.

Police and witnesses said GCO activists made another attack when the students in buses reached Jhenidah town. But the attack was repulsed by them. At this stage a bus was damaged allegedly by GCO activists.

EUCSU polls

From Page 1 Col 5

leaders of BCL vigorously opposed the common panel the idea was dropped.

This year 6 student organisations submitted their nomination papers to the Directorate of Students Welfare (DSW) office. These are Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), JSD (Inu), Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Bangladesh Chhatra Shibir and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front.

Undoubtedly, today's polls will witness a close fight between the BCL and JCD, with other political parties being of little or no consequence.

BCL panel will be headed by Shakil Ahmed Himel who will compete for Vice-Presidency while Nazrul Islam Mia and Manosh got the nomination for General Secretary (GS) and Joint Secretary respectively.

Meanwhile, JCD competes with 'Tawhid-Tutul' panel where Nimul Huda Khan Tawhid and Tarekul Huq Tutul will contest the poll for the post of VP and GS respectively. Police have been deployed on the campus to maintain law and order during the elections.

Load shedding

From Page 1 Col 3

in November.

The Kaptai Hydro-electric Power Station can now generate from 20 to a maximum of 160 MW while its capacity is 230 MW.

Meanwhile, the authorities have closed down the Number 2 unit of Bheramara and the Number 4 unit of Ghorashal Power Station for maintenance work causing a minimum 100 MW deficit in generation.

The PDB sources said that the Kaptai Lake was unlikely to come back to its normal level before June next year and that the maintenance work at the power stations would take time. So, an early improvement in power supply situation could not be expected soon, resulting in continued loadshedding.

However, the authorities are optimistic about an improvement in March when Sikalbagha power station in Chittagong and another at Raazan start generation of 270 MW in total. There will be no loadshedding from March", they claimed.

932 Rohingyas

From Page 1 Col 4

was happy with the cooperation received from the government.

UNHCR officials at Cox's Bazar interviewed the returnees to see if they are going back voluntarily.

Bayandor said it's likely that there would be more movements of refugees soon.

About the talks at Ngapli, Faruk said Bangladesh submitted a list of another 45,640 refugees raising the total to 171,275. Myanmar has cleared for repatriation names of 36,347 people.

He said Myanmar authorities have promised to step up the process of clearing the names for quick repatriation.

"We have reached a stage when we will be able to send refugees back home almost every day," the Divisional Commissioner said.

With the return of this fourth batch, the number of repatriated refugees rose to 1,148.

The next meeting will be held in Bangladesh. The date was not fixed at the meeting.

TK 16 lakh saree haul

By Staff Correspondent

A customs intelligence team along with police and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel raided a city market at Gullistan and seized 'contraband sarees' worth about Taka 16 lakh Wednesday.

Acting on a tip, the customs intelligence men with the help of other law enforcing agencies cordoned off the Bongobazar at 6 am and continued the raid for six hours, Customs source said.

During the raid the law enforcing personnel recovered 2653 pieces of cotton and synthetic sarees hidden in the shops in the market.

100 newsmen

From Page 1 Col 5

Ministers, the Standing Committee and the Programme Committee are not open for reporters. However, they will be briefed by the officials on the proceedings.

The Sonargaon Hotel will house the media centre for the foreign journalists. The daily press briefings will be held at the Hotel.

The authorities have booked 105 Sonargaon rooms for the foreign journalists.

Meanwhile, the SAARC Summit Cell has rejected a proposal from the Information Ministry to allocate Tk 1.80 lakh for renovation of the official BSS news agency office at Purana Paltan and procurement of a fax machine, terming it "ridiculous."

The proposal put forward by a Joint Secretary at the Ministry was made citing the forlorn condition of the national news agency office and necessity of its renovation in view of the Summit.

The proposal said that foreign journalists who would be in Dhaka to cover the summit might visit the office and want to use its facilities to file their stories.

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