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NEWS BRIEFS

Housewife slain

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 4: A young housewife was slaughtered at her village home at Mowsa under Dubag union of Beaminbar thana early today. Police sent the body of Rina Begum, 25 to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College hospital for autopsy. The victim's husband Tajammul Ali Pakhi has been working in Saudi Arabia for the last five years. The cause of the murder could not be ascertained immediately, police said.

GF meet today

The Gano Forum (GF) will hold a public meeting at Purana Palton crossing today at 3 pm. President of the Gano Forum, Dr Kamal Hossain will address the meeting as chief guest, reports UNB.

Old man killed

By Staff Correspondent

An 80-year-old man was killed when a speeding bus hit him at Bhalukhali yesterday afternoon. The victim Kamaluddin died on the spot. The Dhaka-bound bus sped away immediately after the accident but it was intercepted by police at Banani. Police seized the bus.

US envoy meets relief minister

US Ambassador in Bangladesh David N. Merrill called on State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Harun-Al-Rashid at the minister's office here yesterday. They discussed matters relating to bilateral and mutual interest, reports UNB.

Attended by local experts

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2 killed during crackdown: 5000 arrested Rebel Ansars surrender

By Staff Correspondent

At least two Ansars sepoys were killed and 20 others wounded in a pre-dawn crackdown on the rebellious Ansars

Contingents of the army, BDR and police went into action to put an end to their three-day militant revolt.

Some 5000 rebel Ansars in Dhaka, Shafipur and Chittagong were arrested and sent to different district jails, unconfirmed reports said.

The two dead were identified as Ali Mortuza of 19 Ansars Battalion and Ruhul Amin of 32 Battalion at Shafipur.

The rebel Ansars at the Shafipur training academy under Gazipur district surren-

dered following a joint operation by Army, BDR and armed police contingents early in the morning while those at the Khilgaon headquarters in the city surrendered around 10:30 am. Only BDR jawans and police took part in the Khilgaon operation.

Army helicopters hovered low over the Ansars headquarters and the academy at Shafipur to scare the Ansars ranks who had taken positions on rooftops and other strategic spots.

The BDR used heavy weapons like rockets, two-inch mortars and light machine-guns while police lobbed teargas shells on the Khilgaon Ansars Headquarters and the

Shafipur academy during the operations that lasted several hours.

Platoons of the para-military BDR led by Colonel Sadeq Hossain and Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) contingents led by Deputy Commissioner Masudul Huq cordoned off the headquarters around 2 am and went into action around 4:30 am, according to a BDR official who took part in the operation.

Earlier, police blocked all roads in the area and warned local people about the raid over loudspeakers.

A BDR official told this correspondent that when the army choppers flew low to scare away the agitating Ansars sepoys at the headquarters,

the BDR fired five rockets, seven mortar shells and around 200 rounds with LMGs.

"We tried to save all the sepoys, but at least 20 of them were injured, four seriously with head injuries", he said, seeking anonymity.

The BDR official confirmed that the agitating Ansars who were carrying .303 rifles did not fire any shots. "If they had done so the situation would have been much worse," he added.

After effecting the surrender of the rebels police and BDR entered the headquarters and arrested 664 Ansars sepoys and recovered 740 rifles and some 10,000 rounds of

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Bangladesh Rifles jawans guard over disarmed and demobilised Ansars after their forced surrender at the Khilgaon Ansars Headquarters yesterday.

Star photo

Situation now peaceful, says Press Note

The situation, arising out of the violent and unruly activities of some indisciplined members of battalion Ansars, is now completely peaceful and discipline has been restored, a government Press Note said in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

The Press Note issued by the Home Ministry said that two members of Ansars were killed and seven others injured when the forces of the law enforcing agencies had to take necessary steps to unarm them. In this connection it said some misguided members of Ansars created impediments and opened fire at the law enforcing agencies engaged in the process of bringing the situation under control and restoring discipline. Measures have been taken for the immediate treatment of the injured members of Ansar battalion.

On that day the Director General of Ansars Major General Sayed Badruzzaman directed all the Ansars of Shafipur Ansars Academy to be present at the Darbar at 11 am to discuss their various problems. All members of Ansars assembled at the Darbar accordingly, but before the director general came to the spot extreme in tension erupted among them at one stage and some unruly Ansars armed with sticks fell up on the deputy director general. As a result, the deputy director general was compelled to leave the Darbar place and the director general was unable to be present there. Despite re-

stated. At one stage they created barricade on Dhaka-Tangail highway causing disruption in the traffic, destroyed public property, insulted senior officials, ransacked their houses, detained officials including several hundred women trainees and thus contributed to the extreme deterioration of the law and order situation. Their unruly behaviour posed a threat to the security of lives and property of the peoples of the surrounding areas, such a conduct on the part of the members of the law enforcing agencies is neither expected nor desirable under any circumstances.

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Members of the Battalion Ansars depositing their arms at the Ansars headquarters at Khilgaon in the city yesterday.

Star photo

Regional export financing and strengthening of ACU suggested

By Staff Correspondent

Strengthening the existing Asian Clearing Union (ACU) and providing regional export financing facilities were recommended at a two day regional workshop on Payments and Monetary Cooperation in South Asia which concluded yesterday.

State Minister for Finance Mr Mojibur Rahman, MP was the chief guest at the concluding session of the workshop jointly organised by Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), a local think tank and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), a German research organisation at a city hotel yesterday.

The recommendations of the workshop were read out by Prof Rehman Sobhan, executive chairman of the CPD.

Attended by local experts

ties and trade liberalization has declined.

But they added that it is still relevant since high growth rates might dwindle reserves through increased imports. And as foreign capital inflows may be erratic, it may reduce the reserves.

The participants recommended that the settlement period should be extended from two months to six months to two years; clearing arrangement should be multi-lateral; surplus countries should extend suitable line of credit facility to deficit countries; make ACU voluntary; incorporate travel and other services account transactions into ACU; ACU modalities should be streamlined; trade enhancing

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Corruption case against Malek, 4 others

Former administrator of Dhaka City Corporation Colonel (Retd) MA Malek and four others were yesterday charged with misappropriation of about Taka 13 lakh through illegal influence and misuse of power, a Bureau of Anti-Corruption press release said, reports BSS.

The Bureau filed a case with Sutrapur thana against Colretdi MA Malek, Md Abdus Sattar Miah, former chief executive of the DCC and presently deputy commissioner of Madaripur, Md Elahi Bux, acting chief storekeeper and purchase officer of the DCC, Tofazzel Hossain, assistant storekeeper and purchase officer, and Md. Abdul Bashar, the proprietor of M/S Enterprise.

The accused were charged

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29 killed as boat sinks in Sunamganj

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 4: At least 29 people were killed when a boat with 50 aboard capsized in the river Bolal, about 10 kilometre off Jamalganj thana of Sunamganj district off Jamalganj thana of Sunamganj district yesterday.

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Kamaluddin and Police Super Lutfar Rahman visited the scene.

A case was registered with Jamalganj thana.

officials feared.

Local people, police and district officials continued the rescue operation searching for survivors of the ferry disaster.

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Kamaluddin and Police Super Lutfar Rahman visited the scene.

A case was registered with Jamalganj thana.

PM shocked

BSS adds: The Prime Minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, tonight expressed her profound shock and grief at the loss of lives in boat capsizing.

The Prime Minister directed the relevant local administration to intensify search operations to rescue missing passengers of the boat which capsized after crashing

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Opposition may relax hartal restrictions

By Staff Correspondent

The parliamentary Opposition may relax some restrictions on the movement of transports during its 48-hour hartal, scheduled to begin at 6 am on December 7.

Leaders of the opposition parties had a long discussion last night on their next course of action to compel the BNP government to accept the demand for the next general elections to be held under a non-partisan, caretaker government.

The meeting, presided over by Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina, observed that the realisation of the demand for a caretaker government may take time.

Therefore, in order not to antagonise the public by subjecting them to hardships caused by hartals and agitations, the opposition may relax some of the

restrictions enforced during hartals, an influential leader attending yesterday's meeting told The Daily Star.

Rickshaws, push-carts and rickshaw vans are likely to be allowed to ply on the streets at night during the planned 48-hour country-wide shut-down.

The opposition leaders yesterday also discussed the possible options open to the government following the announcement of the Opposition's threat to resign en masse from Parliament.

The opposition parties, especially the Awami League, the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat, plan to announce the date and method of their resignation from separate rallies in the city tomorrow.

The opposition leaders, while reviewing the press of

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Clashes paralyse ferry services at Aricha

MANIKGANJ, Dec 4: Thousands of people were stranded as clashes between the BIWTC and truck workers paralysed ferry services in the Aricha-Nagarbari and Aricha-Daulatdia routes from late Saturday night to this evening, reports UNB.

Officials and witnesses said several hundred interdistrict coaches, goods-laden trucks and other vehicles remained at halt at the three ferry ghats on the Padma and Jamuna rivers since the trouble erupted at 1 am.

An estimated 35,000 passengers, including women and children, were stranded at the terminals as attacks and counter attacks between the rival groups continued till late this evening.

Four people were injured, two seriously, in the clashes

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Bangladeshi soldier dies in Bosnia

A member of the Bangladesh Battalion in UNPROFOR in Bosnia-Herzegovina died of heart failure on Saturday reports UNB.

According to an ISPR press release, Mohammad Abdul Hye, 31, a sepoys-cook, was admitted to the field hospital of the battalion at Corali with complaints of cough and occasional chest pain on November 25 and died there on Saturday.

The body will soon be brought home under UN arrangement for burial at his village home at Phoolbari in Lalpur thana of Natore district.

Lankan FM in city to discuss joint venture

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar arrived in Dhaka for an official visit to Bangladesh

reports UNB.