All about unearthing a child traffickers' den

By Morshed Ali Khan

anonymous caller had a tipoff to pass on to the police.

"Several children are un- at Matuail. der the clutches of child traffickers. They are now being three months ago for Tk held in a house on the western side of Matuail graveyard. next to the house of one Chan The neighbours said that a lot Miah." the caller said.

SI Hamidul Islam, accompanied by six constables, immediately set out for the destination 3 km away. At around 1.15 am, the onestorey house in the impover- female neighbour said. ished suburb of the city was raided by the police.

asleep, two women and three floor. In the kitchen, a big men in the three-room de- pan containing boiled rice tached pucca house. All five and another with a curry were arrested.

Rabeya Khatun, one of the women, claimed that four of in camel races, she added.

The three men quickly raided the Elephant Road at 3 am on Saturday and apprehended all three of them.

two children — Jamal and For each child, it was chief. claimed, the traffickers had paid Tk 3,000. Police could about the four other children not say how much a child - three girls and a boy aged would fetch after they were between three and twelve taken to Dubai.

After placing them in the Rabeya as their mother. makeshift 'creche' in Matuail the country. The confession orders. further said that the men had child at a time.

and endorsement of the Im- remand.

day she began her two-day

visit to five northern dis-

Begum Zia today visited

different areas of Chakbaria

and Shahapur under Naogaon

district talked with the flood-

hit people and saw their

pressed her satisfaction at

the post-flood relief and re-

habilitation activities being

carried out in Naogaon dis-

trict and instructed officials

concerned to see that real af-

fected people could get the

eas, the Prime Minister had

separate meetings with dis-

trict level officials, army per-

sonnel and BNP leaders and

workers at Naogaon Circuit

House. She also distributed

relief materials among the af-

(DC) of Naogaon informed the

Prime Minister how the army

and administration jointly

prepared the list and dis-

tributed relief among the af-

been given throughout Octo-

ber and it would continue in

Cabinet defers

rated in the People's Repre-

sentation Order, 1972.

sources in the Election

mulgated, any person failing

to repay an instalment of loan

taken from a scheduled bank,

will be considered disquali-

In the draft legislation,

the EC had proposed that the

owner or partner or director

of any company will also be

considered disqualified for

contesting the parliamentary

polls if the company is

Before finalising the draft,

a high-level meeting of the

Election Commission (EC).

the Law Ministry and the Fi-

nance Ministry on Wednesday

last examined different

aspects of the EC proposed

warded the draft of the pro-

posed law to the Prime Min-

ister's Secretariat and

Premier Begum Khaleda Zia

approved the draft on Octo-

Earlier, the EC had for-

identified as loan-defaulter.

fied for contesting the na-

If the ordinance is pro-

From Page 1

He said that relief had

The deputy commissioner

fected people.

fected people.

Commission said.

tional polls.

legislation.

ber 16.

Besides visiting various ar-

The Prime Minister ex-

tricts.

conditions.

A police Sub-Inspector migration and Passport de-(SI) of Demra thana received partment for five children. a telephone call precisely at Moslem Uddin, who has been 12-20 am on Saturday. The at the receiving end of the smuggled children in Dubai, had himself rented the house

The house, rented about 2,500 a month, was turned into a virtual day care centre. of people used to come here but they hardly talked to anyone in the neighbourhood. The windows remained shut and the female occupants never befriended anyone, a

Inside the modest rooms two carom boards, toys and a There were six children bicycle were scattered on the were left.

"The children always remained inside the house and the children were hers and they were constantly kept the remaining two had been busy by the elders, playing brought from Sylhet to be carom, riding bike. But the taken to Dubai where her kids looked very dirty, we husband, Md Moslem Uddin, never suspected anything." resides. They were to be used said Rajib, a young man in the neighbourhood.

Owner of the house Azahar confessed to the police the said that about three months involvement of three others ago one Jasir Molla, who has at a house at Elephant Road. an office at Nawabpur, intro-After nabbing all the alleged duced him with Moslem Udculprits, the SI and his team din and arranged the renting

"They have not paid any den of the alleged traffickers rent for the last three months," alleged Azahar.

A group of young men of According to recorded the area caught and handed confessions by the accused, over to Demra police three persons who arrived at the Monwar aged between five house on Saturday, apparand seven - were bought ently unaware of what had from their fathers. Rangila happened there. Police said Miah and Ramzan respec- that the three were under tively, from a village under their custody but they were Bahubal thana in Habigani not yet sure if those persons district about 15 days ago. were involved in the mis-

Police is still investigating although they have identified

Meanwhile, Jamal and area, the gang waited to ar- Monwar were placed in a range the papers to fly out of remand house under court

Police charged the two always 'chosen' Bangladesh women and the six men un-Biman flights for going to der Section 12 of the re-Dubai. And that one courier cently enacted Women and was assigned to carry one Child Repression (Special Provision) Act. If found guilty, Police also recovered a they may face life imprisoncopy of the passport of ment or death penalty. The Moslem Uddin which bears eight were placed on police

for the flood-affected people.

lies were being provided with

housebuilding grant amount-

crore had been allocated un-

programme for 15 northern

agricultural loans for the cul-

tivators had been made easier

and seeds and fertilisers

would be given free of cost in

secutive floods had been

faced with domestic re-

sources and everyone re-

ceived relief materials be-

cause of the people's gov-

She said that no relief

MONTREAL, Oct 30: Que-

bec voters began casting

their ballots today in a refer-

endum on whether the Fren-

ch-speaking province should

secede from Canada, reports

EST (1400 GMT) on the tiny

Magdalen islands in the Gulf

of St Lawrence, where just

10,415 of Quebec's five mil-

lion voters live. Polling sta-

tions in the rest of the

province were due to open at

lago of seven windswept

islands, linked by sand dunes

and bridges, is home to

15,000 people 80 per cent of

whom speak French. Fishing

and tourism are the main

per cent in favour of Quebec

sovereignty in a previous ref-

erendum in 1980, when the

separatists took only 40 per

cent of the province-wide

asks Quebec voters whether

they want the province to

"become sovereign" after

having tried to negotiate a

new political and economic

arrangement with Canada.

The referendum question

The islanders voted 46

The picturesque archipe-

10 am EST (1500 GMT).

Polls opened first at 9 am

She said that the four con-

the flood-hit districts.

Besides, she said that

ing Taka 22.50 crore.

districts.

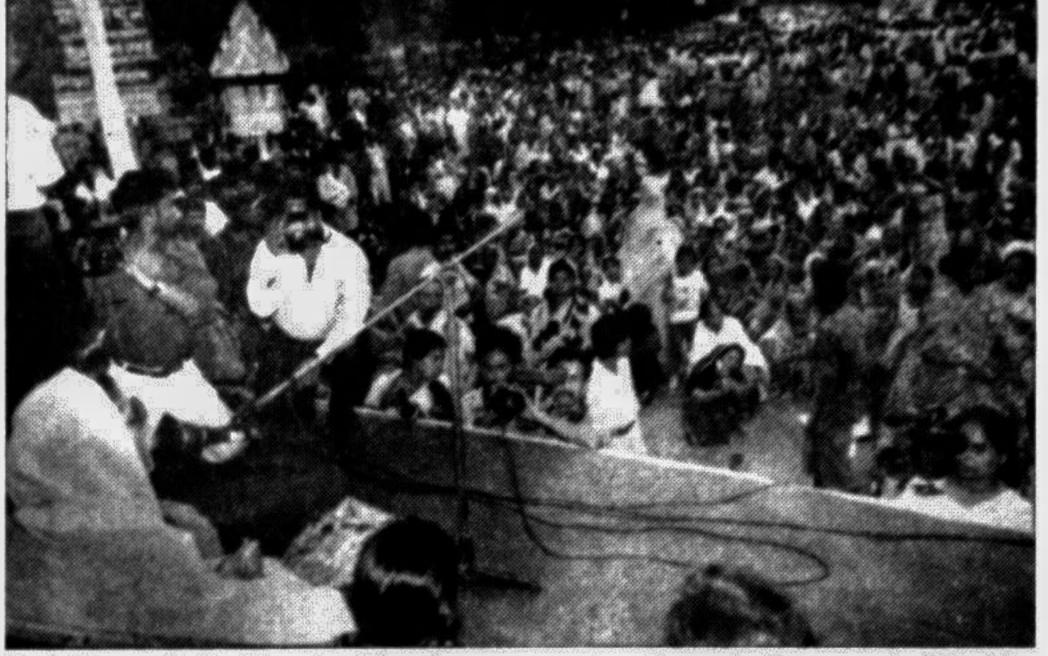
ernment.

Reuter.

industries.

She said that 3 lakh fami-

She said that Taka 10



Poet Begum Sufia Kamal addressing a women's rally yesterday organised by the Sammilita Nari Samaj in front of the Engineers' Institution in the city. Star photo

Nari Samaj

From Page 1

administrative reforms for immediate implementation of the recently signed Beijing Declaration on rights of

They also pledged to observe August 24, the day Yasmin was raped and killed by police, as the "women repression resistance day" and declared as martyrs the seven persons killed in the violent protests in Dinajpur.

A good number of men from all walks of life also attended the rally.

Dressed in all their finery, sitting on the dusty road, for almost three hours they voiced their protests against repression on women, increasing violence against women including 'fatwa, rape and murder, and alleged police atrocities and harassment. They carried banners and placards with slogans like "Why did Yasmin die, Khaleda explain," "Stop police atrocity" and "Down with the Home Minister."

The speakers included Poet Begum Sufia Kamal, Yasmin's mother Sharifa Begum and the widow of Shiraj one of those killed in Dina-

jpur. Several women's rights activists addressed the rally. A planned procession up to the Noor Hossain Square at the Zero Point, was cancelled as the rally ended late.

One crushed under running train in city

By Staff Correspondent

PM's N-dists tour An unidentified man, aged about 35, was crushed under a running train at Khilgaon rail crossing in the city last Begum Zia asked all concerned to lend more support

Railway police said, the accident occurred around 8:30

In another incident, a maid, who had reportedly taken poison on Friday, died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) late Sunday der agricultural rehabilitation night.

> Rani, 18, used to work at the house of one Md Zahirul Haq Pathan of Rajat Ali Sarder Lane under Demra police station.

Border confce

From Page 1

gling and child, drug and illegal arms trafficking, disputed land, maintenance of border pillars and violation of border guideline and miscreant activities will also come up for discussion.

bunglings or irregularities The other members of did take place. Bangladesh delegation are Begum Zia said that the Deputy Director General of people of northern districts BDR Brig Miran Hamidur would also get winter clothes. Rahman, Joint Secretary of Referendum Home Ministry Syed Anwarul Islam, Commanders of differbegins in ent Sectors and Executive Engineer of Indo-Bangla Quebec

Joint River Commission. Inspector General of BSF N S Sandhu and the Inspectors-General of North Bengal, South Bengal, Shillong and Agartola frontiers and other senior officers are assisting the Indian delegation leader at the talks.

Filipino maid

From Page 1

Balabagan to be whipped 100 times for killing her employer and then deported. her lawyer said.

The court also sentenced her to one year in jail but as she has already spent 15 months behind bars it meant she would be released, probably on Wednesday, lawyer Salman Lutfi told AFP.

She would first receive "100 lashes" although he added they would be "very light."

Balabagan, who had earlier faced execution, was ordered to pay 150,000 dirhams (40,000 dollars) as a "diya" or blood money to her victim's

Philippines embassy attache Danilo Cruz said the money had already been raised and had been lodged with the court.

Accept demand, don't waste time: Hasina

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the government to take such immediate steps as the Opposition would not have to enforce hartals to realise their longstanding demand, reports UNB.

"We'll withdraw hartal programmes as soon as the ruling party concedes to the demand for a neutral caretaker government," she said while exchanging views with the lawyers at the party's Bangabandhu Avenue office.

Mentioning that the BNP has now come on to the street to take anti-hartal steps. Hasina advised the ruling party: "Instead of resisting hartal, accept the demand of the people and give the nation a chance to get rid

2 children drown in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET. Oct 30: Two minor children drowned at a pond at village Barkatpur under Nabigani thana of Habiganj district yesterday.

Selina, 5, and her cousin Manirunnessa, 9, went to the pond for bathing. The bodies were recovered after several

The government will hire

houses in Makkah in advance

to solve accommodation

problems there during the

Hajj season in 1996, reports

Persons intending to per-

form Hajj next year under the

government management and

desired to stay at govern-

ment-hired houses in

Makkah, have been advised to

deposit 1500 Saudi rials

equivalent to Tk 16,000 to

any scheduled bank, com-

mercial bank positively by

The amount of house rent

might be a little high or less

as the present assessment is

based on guess work. How-

ever, the deposited house

rent money would be ad-

justed with the overall Hajj

expenditure to be decided

in 1995 paid Tk 83,815 and

the expenditure of next year

is likely to be the same or a

little higher than that of this

year, an official handout said

houses in Makkah only for

those who will deposit rents

in advance. Others should

perform Haji as done in the

The government will hire

Those who performed Hajj

November 30.

vesterday.

to deposit house rent previous years by collecting visas by themselves from the Saudi Arabian embassy in

> Bangladesh. Meanwhile, the intending women Hajj pilgrims who desire to stay in the government hired accommodation have been advised to deposit the advance house rent money along with their legal 'maharames' as per Shariah

The above time limit will not be extended further.

Hasina

From Page 1 ium member Tofael Ahmed

also telephoned PM's private secretary Sabiuddin Ahmed who told Tofael that the PM was just leaving for the northern region and requested him to deliver Hasina's reply to another PS, Mosaddek Ali. The AL leaders was learning

to have decided to deliver the reply only after getting an appointment with Begum Zia.

Meanwhile, Tofael Ahmed told The Daily Star last night that the AL took a prompt decision to reply to the PM's letter with the hope that the PM would receive the opposition leader's reply yesterday.

Gherao programme during the demonstration. Party leaders Md Quamruz-

zaman, Mukul Bose, Shahara

Khatun, Mofazzal Hossain

Chowdhury Maya, Mirza Sul-

tan Raja and Alhaj Moqbul

Hossain, among others, ad-

dressed by Advocate Sudhir

Kumar Hazra, Shamshuzza-

man Minto and Alamgir

people including a police

constable and a woman were

injured at Netrokona when

some JP activists brickbatted

the DC's office, causing dam-

dent reports: The AL, JP and

Jamaat workers yesterday

gheraoed the DC's office sep-

front of Sirajganj Bar Associa-

tion office, AL Organising

Secretary Mohammad Nasim

said no election would be

held under the BNP govern-

ment and the party in power

must accept the peoples'

According to reports sent

Addressing a gathering in

Our Sirajgani Correspon-

Meanwhile, at least five

The JP rally was ad-

dressed the rally.

Sikder Loton.

arately.

demand.

peacefully.

From Page 1 tivists assembled in front of a movie house at English Road in the morning and later they proceeded towards the DC's office at Johnson Road.

Police resorted to lathi charge repeated efforts to prevent the JP activists from proceeding to the DC's office. breaking the barbed-wire fences raised by police about 200 yards off the DC's office.

At about 11:30, police also lobbed tear gas shells at demonstrators who attacked a riot police van approaching the area. Police also sprayed coloured water and hot water to disperse them.

A 10-member AL team led by Md Quamruzzaman met Additional Deputy Magistrate (ADM) Md Quddus Khan at 1:30 pm to register their demands. The leaders also alleged that police swooped on their rally and took away microphones and condemned the 'police action.'

The ADM assured the leaders that he would convey their demands to the government. The AL leaders did not

hand over any memorandum because, they claimed, it was snatched by police during a scuffle.

A brief AL rally was held

of their sufferings caused by Hasina alleged that in-

transigence and lust for power of the Prime Minister are the main causes of current political crisis as well as public sufferings. "Accept the demand, don'

waste time and don't increase the people's miseries," she said adding that the government was trying to buy time anyhow and prolong Crises were created in dif-

ferent spheres of national life, Hasina alleged, due to widespread corruption, politicisation and terrorism patronised by the ruling party. "The BNP does not believe

in parliamentary democracy, she said. "Rather it destroyed all democratic institutions of the country. She further alleged that

the BNP has released the identified criminals to rig the next elections and also resorted to fraud with voters' list to deny the rights of genuine voters.

Referring to the longstanding demand for separation of Judiciary from the Executive, the Awami League chief said her party had moved a bill in Parliament.

Intending hajis advised

minor girl was gangraped by some unidentified persons near a hill at village Marichhapalong under Ramu thana this morning.

ter of a day labourer, Amir Hossain, was taken to the Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. According to villagers,

some seven or eight miscreants kidnapped Fatema when she was collecting woods from a forest early in the morning and raped her for an hour at a nearby hillside. Hearing the screams of the poor girl, people in the neighbourhood rushed to the spot and rescued her in a critical condition. The miscreants managed to escape.

Diarrhoea claims 16 in Sunamgani SUNAMGANJ, Oct 30: Di-

arrhoea claimed 16 lives and attacked 2,230 people in six thanas of the district in a week, reports UNB.

hit thana where 10 people died. The other affected thanas are Sadar, Chhatak Jamalganj, Jagannathpur and Dhirai, Civil Surgeon office sources said. With these the total num-

India to suspend construction near 'no man's land'

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET. Oct 30: The Indian authorities today agreed

to suspend construction of a Customs office building just yards off the 'no man's land' in Tamabil border till the dispute is resolved at a higher-level.

The agreement was reached at a flag meeting between the BDR and BSF this afternoon at the Tamabil Customs office in Bangladesh territory. Major Jalil, Battalion Commander, BDR and M Pandey, Commander, BSF led their respective sides.

A tense situation prevailed at Tamabil border areas since Wednesday last when the Indian authorities attempted construction of a building at a place between the border pillar No 1275 and 1274, violating international Conventions. The work was stopped temporarily as the BDR protested.

20 injured in N'ganj clashes

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 30: At least 20 people were injured in a series of clashes between two groups of bullies at Ka shipara here today. Seven persons who re-

ceived bullet injuries were admitted to the Narayangani General Hospital while others released after first aid. According to witnesses

there was first a scuffle between the two groups at Khil Market near Kashipara-Bholail under Fatulla thana around 1:00 am. After this the two groups of armed vouths clashed for hours together. The fierce fighting continued throughout the At least 50 rounds of bul-

lets were fired and over a hundred bombs exploded during the day long clashes.

Police say, the clashes might be the outburst of an old rivalry between the two gangs over establishing supremacy in the area. Police failed arrest anyone

in this connection till filing this report late tonight. Minor girl

gangraped From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Oct 30: A

Fatema Begum, 10, daugh-

Duarabazar is the worst-

ber of deaths from the waterborne disease rose to 55 during the last one month,

The Midnight Fife

3 more shot dead in Karachi

KARACHI, Oct 30: Three people, including a policeman, were shot dead in Karachi today as a strike called by the ethnic Mohajir Quami Movement (MQM) brought Pakistan's commercial capital to a standstill for a second day, reports Reuter.

WB resents stalling of JSAC programme

The World Bank has resented the stalling of the Jute Sector Adjustment Credit (JSAC) programme which it was financing with a 250-million US dollar credit, reports UNB.

As the stalled programme has blocked release of two due instalments totalling 100 million dollar, the World Bank headquarters in Washington faxed a letter last week to the government hinting that its Board might now question the rationale of the credit.

"Given the scarcity of IDA

resources and the many competing claims on these limited funds, we need to be in a position to assure our Board that the government intends to revamp the JSAC with a view to seeking continuing IDA financial support," a Jute Ministry source yesterday quoted the World Bank letter as saving.

Fred Kilby, Chief, Private Sector Development and Finance Division of the World Bank's South Asia desk, wrote the letter to the Secretary of Jute.

The source said Kilby would seek the government's latest thought on the stalled programme during his visit to Bangladesh in the first week of November.

HBFC

From Page 1 rowers are responding positively to incentives to repay their outstanding amounts. Held at the National Press

Club, the meeting was presided over by Moazzem Hossain, Editor, The Financial Express and the president of the Forum. General Secretary of the ERF Shamsul Huq Zahid was also present.

Sohel Ahmed informed the meeting that HBFC has disbursed Tk 2,040 crore loan to build as many as lakh 10 thousand houses in the urban areas, mostly Dhaka and Chittagong, since its inception in 1952. He stressed the need for

more public and private financing organisation in the housing sector to meet the increasing demand for financing.

"We provide loans on 12 per cent interest in Dhaka and Chittagong and 10 per cent in district town which is the lowest in this sub-continent," he pointed out.

The Managing Director of the HBFC further said that in addition to the Tk 97 crore paid-up capital provided by the government, the funds corporation raises through issuing debentures.

Ctg mayor From Page 1

Noman for development of sports facilities.

Mohiuddin also threatened to stop transportation of imported goods from Chittagong Port to other parts of the country from December 29 if the demands are not met. A series of programmes

were announced including signature campaign from November 15 to December 15. black week from December 20-26, organising human chain on December 28 and siege on the port on December 28 and 29.

The Bank executive also suggested an urgent meeting of the project steering committee for a full scale discussion on the current state of the adjustment programme and decide next steps. The World Bank letter ex-

pressed concern as it estimated that operating losses of the 29 public sector jute mills would amount to Tk 232 crore, equivalent to 58 million dollar, in the next fiscal (1996-97) in a no-reform situation.

The Bank claimed that losses would have been cut to Tk 120 crore if the reform programme had been implemented on schedule.

Cautioning about the adverse impact on the government's budget of the mounting losses of the public jute sector in the absence of reforms, the letter pointed out that subsidy to every person employed in the sector now amounted to Tk 38,000 a year. The figure is more than double of the average annual salary of a primary school teacher of Tk 17,700.

The letter observed that the annual expenditures in subsidising public sector employment in the jute sector would be sufficient to employ 130,000 teachers.

trace kidnapped Ctg businessman CHITTAGONG, Oct 30: Police could not yet trace

Police yet to

whereabouts of the kidnapped businessman of Hathazari thana of the district. reports UNB. Jogendranath, who was kidnapped on October 28

from Modhunaghat, has sent a letter to his family members from an unknown place asking to meet the demand of the kidnappers, family sources said.

Textile Policy

From Page 1

sector as the prime mover of the textile sector in order to make the sector self sufficient within the next 10 vears when the Multi-Fibre Agreement (MFA) will be

completely phased out.

After the MFA is phased out, there will be no quotas or no tariff restrictions for export or import of garments or textiles. Thus the market will be totally open to competition and the garments industries of Bangladesh which annually fetch over 1.5 billion US dollars would fall into a disadvantaged position if the country fails to create backward linkages to support

The policy identifies the need to increase the capacity of the textiles sector by 80 per cent from the present by 2005. This would require setting up 180 spinning mills to meet domestic demands and 197 spinning mills to feed the export-oriented garments industries and 114 dyeing, printing and finishing mills worth an investment of Tk 9,700 crore.

The public sector textile mills under the Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC), which now has some 75 mills, will be sold to the private sector.



Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & **Exporters Association** BTMC Bhaban, 7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.

Urgent request to garment factory owners

As per the Memorandum of Understanding between BGMEA, UNICEF and ILO Bangladesh regarding elimination of Child Labour, children below 14 years of age working in garment factories will not be terminated even after 31.10.95 until they are absorbed in the school programme. It is the responsibility of all concerned garment factory owners to comply with the above provision of the MUO.

All concerned garment factory owners are urgently requested not to terminate the child labour even after 31.10.95 until they are absorbed in the school programme. Secretary

BGMEA

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

by our correspondents from different districts, the gherao programme was observed

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