

Human rights record of '95

By Aasha Mehreen Amin

Statistics collected by Bangladesh Manobadhikar Sammanya or Coordinating Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHRB) show that in the last eleven months of this year there has been a significant deterioration of the law and order situation. Murder, rape, death in police custody, armed robbery, hijacking, arrest, dowry death, persecution of women, political crime etc. have been on the rise this year compared to 1994. A glimpse of the law and order situation as shown by CCHRB's fact-sheet, from January 1st, 1995 to November 30th, 1995, gives a clear picture of the extent of human rights violations that have occurred in Bangladesh.

As protectors of peace and security the police force has been strongly criticized for the violations committed by policemen. CCHRB has documented a total of 11,669 cases of arrests, 34 deaths due to police firing and 21 deaths while in police custody — all in 1995.

Not surprisingly, the fact-sheet shows that women have been the biggest victims of human rights violations. It records 168 cases of acid throwing (on women), 179 rapes, 829 suicides (with the majority being women) and 20 cases of persecution of women through the declaration of fatwa.

Moreover, the number of murders this year has been as high as 2047, with the highest number (231) happening in July. Robbery and thefts number 1613 cases and mugging 1,285 cases with the highest number (250) in March.

This is, of course, only part of the picture. Apart from these incidents, what has made the lives of the citizens insecure, uncertain and terror-stricken is the abnormal situation created by the activities of the political parties. This year (excluding December) alone, has witnessed

a record of 96 hours of continuous hartal (strike), the highest ever in the history of Bangladesh with the number of strikes called being 169 of which 74 were actually carried out. There are, however, no statistics to record the number of private cars, buses and other vehicles and other property of the private and public sectors that have been burnt or damaged.

CCHRB has pointed out the barbaric murder of Shahabara people in the remote areas of Bangladesh. It mentioned the fertilizer crisis that left 19 farmers dead by police firing.

The university campuses too have become dens of terrorism and violence with 252 episodes of violence and 22 student deaths. The campuses themselves are controlled by thugs, religious bigots and people opposed to democracy and progress, according to the Human Rights Council.

These frightening numbers can only dishearten the people of this country who are growing more and more skeptical about the outlandish claims and promises of politicians. The rights being violated (as documented by CCHRB) are rights that have been legitimized not only by the UN Declaration of Human Rights but by our own Constitution as well. These include — the right to live and be free; no person can be harassed or treated with cruelty or given inhuman and humiliating punishment; all citizens are equal under law and have equal rights to take refuge in it; nobody can be arrested without a reason being given and none can be arrested illegally or kept in custody illegally and denied the help of a lawyer; the right to freedom of expression and thought; the right to property and the right to congregate and form unions. The rights to food, education and shelter are also being denied to people.

Rafiq on Caretaker govt

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establish rights?" he asked. Violence and terrorism do not help one to get people's support, he added.

Asked about announcement of the election schedule, the BNP leader said "Is there any way other than holding elections after the expiry of five-year term of this government?" He invited the Opposition leaders to come forward and declare if they had "any alternative idea."

"In democracy, the right to rule is given only by the people — nothing else can replace it," he said.

About the Opposition claim that the ruling party was using the administrative machinery for party interest, the BNP leader said that during a visit to his home town Comilla recently, no policemen, the DC or the TNO accompanied him.

UNB adds: Rafiqul Islam Mian said the Constitution does not provide any residual power to the President to constitute a non-party interim government after the resignation of the Prime Minister.

Talking to UNB at his residence last night, he referred to relevant articles of the Constitution and said except appointing the Prime Minister and the Chief Justice, the

Two killed in road accidents

By DMCH Correspondent

An auto-rickshaw passenger received first degree burns and died on the way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) when a speeding truck knocked the vehicle near Siddharganj under Narayanganj district yesterday morning.

Two unidentified men were also injured in the incident and were under treatment at the DMCH, hospital sources said.

Sources added that the auto-rickshaw which was coming from Mawa was hit from behind by a speeding truck (Dhaka Metro Da 2636) at Ikoria at about 7:25 am yesterday.

After the accident the auto-rickshaw caught fire and the three passengers received severe burn injuries. The fire service personnel rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control. The unidentified victim was about 30.

Meanwhile, in another road accident a pedestrian was killed when a speeding auto-rickshaw ran over him at Navy Gate near Banani in the city yesterday afternoon.

The victim, who was yet to be identified, was declared dead at the DMCH.

President shall act in accordance with the advice of the Prime Minister.

Responding to Awami League President Sheikh Hasina's reference to Articles 48(2) and 55(6) to get a caretaker government appointed by the President, Rafiq questioned how the President can use his residual power?

"Still, if it is possible, it can be discussed across the table since the Prime Minister has also agreed to consider any solution whatsoever if it is permitted by the Constitution," he said.

No alternative to neutral govt

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami yesterday said there is no alternative to a neutral caretaker government for ensuring voting rights of the people, reports UNB.

"Without establishing people's voting rights, democracy can not be given an institutional shape," he told a party rally at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram mosque in the afternoon on the first day of the countrywide 72-hour hartal.

HR Day

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tion and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the UN declaration.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, in her message, has called upon the international community to address the question of human rights in the perspective of millions of people living in sub-human conditions

Former advisor to Hasina joins BNP

Former advisor to the Awami League president Sheikh Hasina, Arshad uz Zaman yesterday joined the BNP expressing his allegiance to the leadership to party chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, reports UNB.

Zaman served as ambassador to a number of countries and as acting Secretary General of the OIC for a long time. He was an advisor to the AL chief from 1985 to 1990.

SSC exams fee

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tional fee of Tk 35. An additional fee of Tk 55 is to be paid for the fourth subject and practical paper together. Candidates seeking improvement examination will have to pay an additional fee of Tk 90.

The school authorities can realise tuition fees upto March 1996 and under no circumstances it can realise tuition fees beyond March 96.

Hasina's statement 'misleading,' says Talukdar

BNP Secretary General Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar yesterday said that the Prime Minister and her Cabinet are functioning in accordance with the constitution, reports BSS.

He said it is a tradition in parliamentary democracy that after dissolution of Parliament, the government which was in office before the dissolution would continue to function as an interim government till the next government takes over. This system is in practice in India, UK and Nepal and also other countries where parliamentary system is in vogue, he said.

Similar arrangements are clearly stated in the constitution of Bangladesh. Barrister Talukdar, who is also Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives, said in a statement.

Talukdar described Awami League president Sheikh Hasina's statement questioning the legality of the government by quoting Article 57 (b) of the Constitution during a press conference on Friday as 'misleading.'

He said he was issuing the statement to remove misgivings and also to explain the actual situation as per concerned article and its clauses.

Haranath Bain dead

BARISAL, Dec 9: Bangladesh Awami League executive committee member and former member of Parliament Haranath Bain died of old age complications last night at his village home at Uzpur. He was 70, reports BSS.

Haranath Bain, a veteran peasant leader, was elected member of Parliament on Awami League ticket in 1973. He was also elected a provincial assembly member as an independent candidate in 1970.

Haranath Bain left behind his wife, three sons, four daughters and a host of friends and political followers to mourn his death.

Saudi embassy car set ablaze

By Staff Correspondent

Unidentified persons at Baridhara set fire to a car of an Assistant Counsellor of Saudi embassy in the city late Friday night.

The attackers in an auto-rickshaw rushed to the road in front of house No 73, Block-K, Baridhara, where the car (DaSaDa-313) was parked at about 9 pm. They sprinkled petrol on the car and set it on fire and left the scene, according to police.

The cause of the attack could not be known till last night. Police was investigating the incident. A case has been filed with Gulshan thana in this connection, police said.

EC office in Ctg set on fire

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In the capital, sporadic cracker explosions, burning and damaging of vehicles, chase and counter chase between pro-hartal activists and police marked the first day of the hartal.

All modes of transports excepting rickshaws stayed off the roads. Though the hartal callers exempted rickshaws from the hartal from 5 pm to 5 am, rickshaws in small number started plying since the morning. The movement of rickshaws increased with every passing hour.

Shops and private business houses remained closed. Many garments factories were, however, seen operating as usual.

At least four rickshaws were set on fire and an auto-rickshaw was damaged by pro-hartal pickets in Gulistan and Mohakhali areas. Mafzur Rahman, a rickshawpuller, whose vehicle was burnt, received burn injury while trying to put out the fire.

Kavita, 6, and her eight-month old brother Bijoy were injured when pickets exploded cocktails at Kellar Mor at Lalbagh. They were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Abul Hussain, a traffic sergeant, received injuries in his right hand when a bomb went off near Baby Icecream Factory at Lalbagh at about 1:30 pm, said police. He was rushed to the Police Hospital.

At Palashi crossing, police resorted to lathi charge and lashed tear gas shells to disperse a group of agitating workers of the AL-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL). One BCL worker, Dollar, was injured.

There were also chase and counter-chase between police and JP activists at Mohakhali at around 11 am, after a rickshaw was set ablaze there. Police picked up three ac-



A grief-stricken South Korean man fell to the ground in downtown Seoul yesterday. He was taking part in a demonstration to denounce the 1980 Kwangu massacre. — AFP/UNB photo

Jatiya Party

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Hasnat addressed a rally at Mohakhali.

Moudud Ahmed said that a solution to the present political impasse lies with the PM as her resignation might open up avenues for bringing an end to the crisis.

If President Abdur Rahman Biswas, after the resignation of the PM, offered the Opposition scope for a dialogue then they might discuss the modalities of the caretaker government, said Kaz Zafar Ahmed.

Uruguay Round

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in future," the meeting recommended.

Due to the absence of the local consultant, the committee, headed by Commerce Secretary M Asafuddin, also decided to give the responsibility of carrying out the study on textile to Syed Tanvir Hossain, Joint Secretary (Plan-ning) of the Textile Ministry, who also heads the Textile Strategic Management Unit of the Textile Ministry.

It has also instructed the consultant responsible for report on Agriculture and Sanitary agreement to submit his work by December 31 this year.

According to sources, the workplan was earlier rescheduled as it did not progress according to the original plan.

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Anti-hartal rally in city

A big anti-hartal procession was brought out jointly by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Juba Dal and Chhatra Dal in Kalabagan area on Mirpur Road yesterday, a press release said, reports BSS.

The processionists held a meeting at a traffic stand near Panthapath Square. While the meeting was in progress 8 to 9 bombs were hurled on it from an Awami League procession from Road No 32, the press release said.

Jamal Sharif Hiru, member national executive committee of the BNP, Abdul Malek, Sardar Tarun Saiful Islam Sohel, convenor Dhanmohi thana Chhatra Dal and Akhtar Hossain Niru addressed the meeting.

Hiru said the people will resist at any cost the attempt to foil the election schedule which was announced by the Election Commission as per Constitution.

The meeting over, the procession dispersed at Kalabagan bus stand after passing through Science Laboratory, Green Road and Panthapath, the press release added.

Hazari to contest polls as independent candidate

Awami League leader and former MP Joyal Abedin Hazari will contest the forthcoming national elections as an independent candidate from two seats, reports UNB.

Hazari, who is now in Sylhet jail, sent a letter through the jail authority to the Returning Officer of Feni on December 6, seeking cooperation in filing his nomination papers.

In his hand written letter a copy of which was made available to UNB yesterday, Hazari said he is interested in contesting from Feni-1 and 2 constituencies in the parliamentary polls.

He requested the Returning Officer to take necessary steps so that he can file the nomination papers in time.

"As I sincerely want to contest the January 18 elections, I request you to send all necessary papers related to polls on an emergency basis," the letter said.

The highest number of applications — eight — were received at the BNP's Naya Palta central office for the Bianbazar-Gopalganj (Sylhet) constituency while there were single candidates for several constituencies including Bhola-4 for which the DUCSU AGS Nazimuddin Alam applied.

The new faces seeking BNP nominations include: Television newscaster Afzal H Khan, journalist Borhan Ahmed, DUCSU GS Khairul Kabir Khokon, former and present JCD leaders Shamsuzzaman Dudu, Mosharrar Ahmed Thakur, Takdir Hossain Mohammad Jasim, Ilias Ali, Shahiduddin Choudhury Anny, Fazlul Haq Milon, Shirin Sultana and Helen Zerin Khan.

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The Midnight File

OIC FMs' meet begins in Guinea

CONAKRY, Dec 9: Muslim foreign ministers began a five-day meeting in the west African state of Guinea today with host President Lansana Conte urging vigilance against militant fundamentalism. Conte, vice-president of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), told the opening session that he was concerned about "the activities of certain extremists" who were giving Islam a bad name, reports Reuter.

BNP denies link with attack on AL meet

Afsar Ahmed Siddiqui, Vice President of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), yesterday strongly condemned and protested press reports and a campaign made by a certain quarter that the BNP was involved in the bomb attack on the Awami League meeting at Panthapath on December 7, reports BSS.

In a statement Siddiqui said the BNP which has been making efforts to resolve the current political crisis through discussions could not be associated with any dirty work like attacking Awami League meeting with bombs. He said, even any front organisation of the BNP could not be involved in such heinous activities.

Woman strangled in city

By DMCH Correspondent
An unidentified young woman was allegedly strangled at Dakshinkhan under Uttara thana in the city yesterday.

Police recovered the body of the woman aged about 24 from a ditch at Holan in Dakshinkhan area at about 12:30 pm.

According to FIR, cut injuries were found in the face, thigh and other parts of the body.

The cause of the alleged murder could not be known immediately. However, it was also alleged that the girl was killed after being raped.

Her body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Samad Azad

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ister Begum Khaleda Zia to step down immediately so that the President can take the initiative for appointing a neutral caretaker government.

The AL leader claimed that Opposition programmes are being foiled by BNP activists and low enforcing agencies. This is neo-autocracy, he said.

2 held in city

By Staff Correspondent
Two city JP activists, including a former ward commissioner, were arrested from Dhanmohi area in the city Friday midnight.

The arrested are the former commissioner of Ward No 48 Anzad Hossain Miah, 38, of Zibatola, and Shafulah, 35, of West Nakhlaipara.

Wall writings

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mum two years' RI with fines.

The EC also said that the offenders of these sections might also be arrested without any warrant as the sections are unailable.

ইস্টার্ন হাউজিং লিমিটেড এর অংশতাবনগর

অভিজাত আবাসিক এলাকা আকতাব নগর গ্রুপ ব্রান্ড জক হয়েচে। বিস্তারিত জানার জন্য নিম্ন ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করুন।

ইস্টার্ন হাউজিং লিমিটেড

ইসলাম চেম্বার (৪র্থ তলা), ১২৫/এ মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০, বাংলাদেশ।

ফোন : হেড অফিস : ৮৬৯১৩০, ৮৬৯১১৪, ৮৬২২১৩

আকতাব নগর ফোন : ৮৩৩২১০

সমগ্রী ব্যাংক এর টেলিফোন/ ফ্যাক্স নম্বর পরিবর্তন।

বাংলাদেশ তার ও টেলিফোন বোর্ডের বিস্তারিত অনুযায়ী অগ্রণী ব্যাংক, প্রধান কার্যালয়ের উর্ধ্বতন নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তাদের টেলিফোন নম্বর পরিবর্তন হয়েছে। অগ্রণী ব্যাংকের সম্মানিত গ্রাহক ও শুভানুযায়ীদের সদয় জ্ঞাতার্থে পরিবর্তিত টেলিফোন নম্বর নিম্নে দেওয়া হল :-

নং	নাম	পদবী	পুরাতন নম্বর	নতুন নম্বর
১।	জনাব ডঃ ফরিদ উদ্দিন মাহতাব	চেয়ারম্যান	২৩২১০৯	৮৫৫২১০৯
২।	জনাব কাজেম উদ্দিন আহমেদ	মহাব্যবস্থাপক পরিচালক (সেভি পাবলিক)	২৩৬৪৬৫	৮৫৫৪৬৬৫
৩।		উপ মহাব্যবস্থাপক পরিচালক	২৪১০৪৮	৮৫৬১০৪৮
৪।	জনাব মোঃ হেলাল উদ্দিন	মহাব্যবস্থাপক	২৩৯২১২	৮৫৫৯২১২
৫।	জনাব এ, এক, নুসল মাজুম বীন	মহাব্যবস্থাপক	২৩২৯৮৬	৮৫৫২৯৮৬
৬।	জনাব, এ, এক, কাজেম উদ্দিন আহমেদ	মহাব্যবস্থাপক	২৪৩৩১৭	৮৫৬৩৩১৭
৭।	জনাব ইকুৎসুকা মিয়া	মহাব্যবস্থাপক	২৩২৯৮৭	৮৫৫২৯৮৭
৮।	জনাব কামরুল ইসলাম চৌধুরী	সি.বি, পরিচালনা পরিদপ	২৪২৩২৭	৮৫৬২৩২৭
৯।	জনাব বি. এল, পাল	পি এল ই এম ডি	২৩৬৪৬৫	৮৫৫৪৬৫
১০।	জনাব সালেহ উদ্দিন মাহতাব	সহকারী মহাব্যবস্থাপক (কলমযোগ বিজ্ঞান)	২৩২৯৮৪	৮৫৫২৯৮৪

সমগ্রী ব্যাংক

দেশ ও জাতির সেবায় প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ একটি ব্যাংক

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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