



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the founding anniversary function of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal at Panthapath in the city yesterday. — Star photo

'95 saw alarming increase in crimes, HR abuses'

By Staff Correspondent

The law and order situation and human rights conditions in the country gravely deteriorated over the past year, according to an annual report compiled by the Coordinating Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHRB).

The report indicates an alarming increase in violent crimes and human rights abuses, particularly those committed by law enforcement agents.

The CCHRB is an umbrella organisation of more than 76 NGOs involved in monitoring human rights in the country.

In the past year, 26 persons died in police and jail custody, while another 35 lost their lives in police and BDR firing, according to the report, based on newspaper reports and the CCHRB monitoring cell.

The number of arrests was 18,550, compared to 7855 in the preceding year.

In 1995, the year when the United Nations organised the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing, the nation's womenfolk were the worst victims of human rights violations and other violent

crimes. The number of reported rape incidents for '95 was 216, compared to 142 for '94. The police were allegedly responsible for 16 of these incidents.

The rape and murder of the teenaged girl, Yasmin, by three policemen in Dinajpur and the subsequent killing of 7 protesters shook the nation in '95.

The number of acid-throwing incidents also rose drastically in '95. At least 181 women fell victim to the vicious crime, compared to 68 in '94.

The past year also saw 45 women killed for dowry and another 34 murdered following rape.

More than 20 women were victims of illegal *fatwas*, the report shows.

Meanwhile, the number of murder cases recorded in '95 was 2190, a slight drop from the '94 figure of 2220.

The past year was also the year of record hartals.

The political bickering between the ruling party and the Opposition over the caretaker government issue, resulted in a total of 74 hartals, including a record 96-hour

non-stop one causing serious disruption to normal life. At least 95 persons were killed in clashes between political parties.

Incidents of violence on the country's university campuses escalated during the past year, which left 30 dead and 1166 injured, compared to 12 and 755, respectively, in '94.

Moreover, another 17 persons were killed and 804 injured at other educational institutions across the country.

A total of 1965 cases of thefts and robberies, and 1381 cases of muggings were recorded in '95, according to the report.

The year also saw a drastic rise in incidents of suicide, 884 compared to 332 in '94.

A few cases of detention under the Special Powers Act (SPA) and violation of the right to freedom of expression were recorded in '95.

The detention of journalist Farhad Mazhar for 120 days under SPA and the banning of the book 'Nari' by Prof Humayun Azad are two of the most talked about cases of '95.

New capital adequacy system NCBs to do better than others

By Inam Ahmed and RM Titumir

When the new system for risk-based capital (RBC) adequacy will be introduced all Nationalised Commercial Banks (NCBs) would find the standard easier to meet in comparison to the foreign and private sector banks, according to a central bank working paper.

The foreign banks will generally have to increase capital to a great extent to meet the RBC eight per cent rate.

The government has already decided to introduce the RBC adequacy system for the commercial banks replacing the existing liability-based adequacy system to minimise risks of the banks

during a crisis period. Under the new system, banks will be required to maintain eight per cent of their risk-weighted assets as capital adequacy.

The specialised banks - Bangladesh Krishi Bank, Rajshahi Krishi Unnyan Bank and Bangladesh Shilpa Bank - would face major increase in capital.

Indosuez, State Bank of India, Habib, Standard Chartered will be among the banks requiring major increase in capital.

Followings are the outlook of capital adequacy requirement under the new system as estimated by the Bangladesh Bank:

Name of Banks	Present capital requirement (6 pc of demand and time liabilities) Million taka	Risk-based capital requirement (8 pc of risk-assets) Million taka	Percentage
Sonali	5959	5469	92
Agrani	3420	4031	118
Janata	3764	3684	98
Rupali	1497	1515	101
Amex	405	511	126
Grindlays	355	493	139
Stanchart	168	299	177
State Bank of India	37	91	241
Habib	40	80	200
Indosuez	205	509	248
A B Bank	571	720	126
Islami	622	1026	165
NBL	768	1002	131
City	479	540	113
IFIC	708	1065	150
UCBL	451	586	130
Pubali	1136	995	88
Uttara	883	849	96
Al-Baraka	284	440	155

PM at JCD rally

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democracy. Wishing her student workers a happy new year, she asked them to groom themselves as the country's future leaders.

Chhatra Dal has won elections in most of the college and university student unions, she said justifying her claim that JCD is the biggest student organisation in the country.

Begum Zia said BNP government had given priority to education and made the highest allocation to the sector. "We want to educate all the people," she said.

The meeting at Panthapath was presided over by JCD president Fazlul Huq Milon, BNP secretary general and LGRD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Energy Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharruf Hossain, Mirza Abbas, Amanullah Aman and other student leaders also spoke.

Earlier, BNP Chairperson Begum Zia released pigeons and balloons and hoisted national flag at the venue in observance of the anniversary.

Two held for attempt to kidnap garments workers

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were arrested from a residence at Green Road for their alleged involvement in the kidnaping and attempted molesting of two garments workers yesterday morning.

The arrested were identified as Momin, 25, and Gopal, 24, police said adding that they were held from the spot.

A group of youngmen kidnaped two young girls from Green Road and took them to a nearby house, police said adding that the girls were on their way to their workplace in Mohakhali at about 7:30 am.

A constable of Dhanmondi thana, who was in plain clothes in Green Road at the time, heard about the incident and soon informed the thana. Later, police rushed to the spot, rescued the girls locked inside a room and arrested the two persons, police said.

Trade fair

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More than 90 firms from 17 countries are participating in the fair, officials of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) said.

This is for the second time Bangladesh has arranged such a fair in Dhaka for display of local exportables and foreign goods. The first was held last year.

Products will be displayed in 206 stalls, 28 pavilions and 42 mini pavilions. Of those, 87 stalls and pavilions have been booked by foreign firms and the rest by local firms.

The foreign firms will display products like sewing machine, electronic items, machinery, motor vehicles, jewellery, carpets, consumer goods, textiles and light engineering and medical equipment.

The entire range of major local exportables will be on display. These include jute goods, jute yarn and twine, jute carpets, garments, textiles, leather and leather goods, electronic items and handloom products.

The overseas business houses participating in the fair are: Singapore-1, Italy-1, China-4, Taiwan-1, Malaysia-6, Hong Kong-4, India-18, Pakistan-36, Canada-1, US-1, Thailand-2, Iran-1, South Korea-2, UK-1 and Japan-1.

In fiscal 1994-95, Bangladesh participated in 15 international trade fairs and held four single country exhibitions. Spot orders for goods worth 3,53,33,854 US dollars were received from foreign buyers at these fairs.



British photographers focus long distance lenses Saturday from a beach point some three miles from the exclusive resort hotel Kay Club in Barbuda where Princess Diana is reportedly spending her New Year's vacation. — AFP/UNB photo

LONDON, Jan 1: Princess Diana has decided to say yes to the queen's demand that she and Charles divorce but only on her terms, according to friends quoted by a newspaper today, reports AP.

The Daily Mirror said she's told them she wants a clearly defined role in public life and a pledge 'that I will always be treated as a princess and the mother of the future king' — Prince William, 13, the elder of her two sons.

William will become heir to the throne when his father Prince Charles, 47, becomes king on the death of Charles' 69-year-old mother Queen Elizabeth II.

Diana and Charles separated in 1992 after 11 years of marriage. The queen wrote them in December urging divorce soon. Charles agreed but Diana has made no reported reply to the queen.

In a television interview Nov 20, Diana blamed Charles' mistress Camilla Parker Bowles for the marriage breakdown, acknowledged an extra-marital affair

Di to say 'yes' but only on her terms

of her own and said she wanted a post as a roving good-will envoy for Britain.

Prime Minister John Major said Saturday Diana must maintain a role in public life. "It needs to be a dignified role and a worthwhile role and we will need to examine with the Princess of Wales precisely what that should be," he said in a BBC radio interview. He said details would be worked out between Diana, the royal family and the government.

The Daily Mirror said Diana has told friends and advisers in calls to London from the Caribbean, where she is vacationing: "I realise now that a divorce is inevitable. No one can stand up to the queen for ever. But I have made it clear that the divorce will be on my terms. I have always said that

the lady will never go quietly — and now I know they (Buckingham Palace officials) believe me."

The paper quoted one friend as saying: "Finance and access to Princes William and (11-year-old Prince) Harry are not a major problem. The crux of the negotiations revolves around Diana's public role. She is not prepared to be pushed into 'retirement'. She believes that she still has a great deal to offer the country and she will not be thwarted by Buckingham Palace."

"She is quite determined that she will not be pushed into limbo as a sort of royal leper as was the Duchess of Windsor after the abdication of King Edward VIII. Nor is she prepared to go away quietly and live abroad."

The Midnight File

Quake Shakes Indonesia

JAKARTA, Jan 1: A major earthquake off the Indonesian island of Sulawesi today demand bridges but appeared to have spared the population, officials said. The earthquake, measuring 7 on the Richter Scale, struck at 0805 GMT, according to an official at the Indonesian Meteorological and geophysics office in Jakarta, reports AFP.

Massive plan to expand Dhaka city

The government is beginning massive construction works under an integrated plan for expansion of the overcrowded capital city, officials said, reports UNB.

Implementation of the plan starts with the foundation laying of a bridge across the Sitalakha connecting a bypass being constructed as part of the capital expansion schemes.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will lay the foundation stone of the Kendua-Brahmankhali Bridge at Kendua ferry ghat in Rupganj thana of Narayanganj district this afternoon.

She will also give a start to the construction of a 6.50-kilometre road from Chanpara on the Dhaka-Narsingdi highway to Purbachal New Town at Yusufganj.

The cost of the bridge-and-road project has been estimated about Tk 76.33 crore. The 350-metre-long bridge will cost Tk 3.50 crore. The construction

Bangabazar fire

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The fire originating from an electric short circuit turned out to be devastating because of the time factor, they pointed out. They, however, declined to comment on the role of fire service in controlling the fire.

The fire caused a loss of about Tk 200 crore, said an official, quoting the report. Majority of the shops did not have insurance cover.

Bangabazar, one of the biggest wholesale and retail markets of cheap clothings in the country, was destroyed in a fire on November 27. The four markets in the cluster are — Gullistan, Adarsha, Mahanagar and Bangabazar hawkers markets.

Following the fire, two inquiry committees were formed — one by the Home Ministry and the other by the fire service.

The 22-page probe report submitted to the Home Secretary had recorded statements of 150 people, including — affected shop owners, eye-witnesses and fire brigade personnel.

Poor

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Bangladesh (ADAB) and Executive Director of 'Proshika' Quazi Faruque Ahmed, Executive Director of Land Reclamation Shamsul Huda, Executive Director of the Bangladesh Nari Progoti, Rokeya Kabir, Coordinator of 'Nijera Kari', Khushi Kabir, and Member secretary of the Trinamool Janasangathan Anwara Begum.

Speakers at the convention highlighted problems of the poor and ways for solutions and claimed that government's policy is not suitable for poverty alleviation. The speakers also pledged to expand their organisations to every part of the country to create awareness among the people to rid the society of poverty.

They expressed their determination to make proper use of loans and grants and to keep the growth of population under control and also to ensure health care for mother and child.

They declared that they would resist oppression on women, communalism, fundamentalism, bribery and corrupt practices in the society.

The speakers paid rich tributes to those heroic sons of the soil who made supreme sacrifices for the independence.

works will be completed in 1997-98 fiscal.

A total of 20-kilometre road from Khilkhet beside the Zia International Airport road to Yusufganj-Rupganj-Chanpara will be built for the bypass in continuous expansion of the metropolis.

Of the 20-kilometre road, RAJUK will construct 13 km from Khilkhet to Yusufganj while the rest 7 km from Yusufganj to the intersection of Dhaka-Sylhet highway and the bridge across river Sitalakha will be constructed by Roads and Highways Department.

Official sources said the sprawling capital city was being expanded to Joydevpur in the north, Narayanganj in south and upto west bank of the Sitalakha in the east.

The Jatrabari traffic junction on Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Sylhet highways is creating serious traffic jam. Similarly, transport towards northern districts will also create massive traffic jam at Joydevpur and Tongi points after completion of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge.

Nominees

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Nazrul Islam Khan told newsmen that the party was yet to take decision regarding the candidature for the rest 30 seats.

The remaining seats are Panchagarh-1, Nilphamari-3, Bogra-2 and 6, Sirajganj-7, Pabna-3, Meherpur-1, Chaudanga-1, Jessore-4, Bagerhat-1, Projpur-2, Tangail-7, Jamalpur-1 and 3, Sherpur-1, Netrokona-4, Kishoreganj-3, 5 and 7, Dhaka-4, Narsingdi-4, Narayanganj-4, Gopalganj-1, Sariapur-1, Feni-2 and Chittagong-1, 10, 11, 12, 15.

BNP Assistant Office Secretary Zahiruddin Swapan was present during the announcement of party nominations.

Saudi prince

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when Khaled was appointed King, becoming the Kingdom's third most powerful figure.

On Khaled's death in 1982, Fahd became King and Abdullah became Crown Prince.

According to the Arab press, Prince Abdullah and his half-brother Sultan Ibn Abdel Aziz, Minister of Defence and Aviation, are frequent rivals.

Sultan belongs to the Sudairi clan, which includes King Fahd and six other sons that King Abdel Aziz had with his favourite wife Hassa.

Prince Abdullah, who has no blood brothers, enjoys the trust of Puritan religious leaders known as the Ulama and the tribes of the Nejd, the country's harsh desert centre and home of the Al-Saud.

In foreign policy, Prince Abdullah appears to have fewer links to the United States than the Sudairi clan and has more ties to the Arab countries.

Hossain Ali's death anniversary today

The fifteenth death anniversary of Hossain Ali, a freedom fighter and former deputy high commissioner of Pakistan stationed in Calcutta, who opted for Bangladesh, will be observed here today, reports BSS.

"Ex-ambassador Hossain Ali Smriti Sangsad" is organising several functions in observance of the anniversary. The functions include quarkhanti, feeding the destitutes and a discussion.

Young man beaten to death

By Staff Correspondent

A young man was reportedly beaten to death by his friends in the city yesterday.

Hafizur Rahman Munna, 20, a resident of North Jatrabari under Demra thana succumbed to his injuries caused by beating, said police.

According to police, some of his friends took him out of his house at North Jatrabari, on the plea of going to a wedding party.

Later, Munna was dropped to his residence with severe injuries at around 4 am. Quoting the family members of the deceased, police said that the family could not identify the friends.

The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Supreme Court reopens today

By SC Correspondent

The Supreme Court is going to re-open today after the winter vacation.

Both the Appellate Division and High Court Division of the Supreme Court went on winter vacation on December 15 last.

During the vacation Justice Latifur Rahman of the Appellate Division sat in his official chamber and Justice Naimuddin Ahmed sat in the Vacation Bench of the High Court Division to dispose of only urgent matters.

All the Sessions and District Judge Courts also reopened yesterday after a month-long winter vacation.

Book fair

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readers acquire concept of modern knowhow, literature and technology which can be utilised for upgrading lifestyle.

Opening the fortnight-long book fair at Bijoy Sarani, she also called for taking all necessary measures to build people's reading habit for spreading education, flourishing talent and expanding the horizon of knowledge.

She said the literacy rate was increasing fast due to introduction of universal primary education, adult and female education and above all food for education programme.

Eradication of illiteracy, acquiring knowledge and doing welfare to the people through the garnered knowledge should be our sacred duty, Begum Zia told the opening function of the second Dhaka Book Fair.

"No other mass medium could occupy the place of books as a source of knowledge even in the modern age", the Prime Minister said.

Week-long book fair also got underway in district and divisional towns simultaneously yesterday in order to stimulate reading habit.

As many as 124 foreign and local publishers have set up stalls in the Dhaka Fair.

AL: Agitation

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to go ahead with the ongoing agitation programmes till the demand of elections under a caretaker government is met.

The resolution was taken at an emergency meeting of the ALWC held yesterday morning at the party's Dhanmondi office with the AL president Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

"The BNP government wants to hold a '88-style one-party election through rigging votes in its bid to cling to power. People will not let a one-party election to be held," said the meeting's resolution.

The meeting urged the people to carry forward the current agitation for caretaker government to its goal and make success the ceaseless 48-hour shutdown of January 3 and 4.

3 killed

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Kotwali police raided a house at Kandupatti, arrested Swapan, Shahin, Sohel, Utam and recovered a revolver at about 12:10 am, police said.

Police arrested 25 drunk people, seven from Kotwali thana area, five from Tejgaon, ten from Pallabi and three from Dhanmondi.

Hasina

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Referring to a rumour that the crisis will be solved if she and Begum Zia sat for a dialogue, Hasina said: "I have agreed to that and floated the proposal for direct telecast of that talks, so that the government cannot distort it, which they are doing so often. But they are yet to give reply to my proposal."

Referring to the BNP's claim to development works, Hasina questioned where development was. "Prime Minister's family members, BNP's ministers, MPs and party leaders were only benefited," she alleged.

She said she visited Senkanju at Prime Minister's invitation, "but she (PM) has insulted me." Even after that, for the interest of the people and the country, "I rang up Begum Zia and wrote letters... but when I prepared the reply of the last letter of PM, suddenly the elections schedule was announced, blocking the way to reply to her letter."

"If she (PM) is sincere to solve the crisis, she should resign 90 days before the elections to allow holding a free, neutral and meaningful elections. But now it seems that she (PM) would not resign 30 days before the election, which she publicly promised," Hasina said.

Fresh violence kills 16 in Karachi

KARACHI, Pakistan, Jan 1: Violence marred the new year in the southern Pakistani port city of Karachi with at least 16 people, including a paramilitary ranger, shot dead in separate incidents, police said today, reports Reuter.

More than 1,950 people were killed in 1995 in ethnic, sectarian and political violence that has wracked Pakistan's commercial capital.

The bullet-riddled body of a man found in eastern Malir district this morning was identified as ranger Dost Mohammad. Police said the ranger was in plain clothes and was on intelligence-gathering duties in Malir's troubled locality of Saudabad.

Four unidentified bullet-riddled bodies were found dumped in a van parked in an alley behind a shopping mall in district central's Li-aquatabad area, police and hospital sources said.

Police said unidentified gunmen barged into a house in Zaman town in eastern industrial district of Korangi and opened fire on an old man and his five sons.

Doctors said the 65-year-old man and four sons, all in their late 20s, died immediately while one of the boys

survived with several bullet wounds.

Two more bodies of young men with gunshot wounds were found in district central's Sharifabad and Chandni Chowk area and four people were shot dead overnight, police said.

2 killed, 5 hurt in accidents on Dhaka-Aricha road

MANIKGONJ, Jan 1: At least two people were killed and five others injured in two separate road accidents on Dhaka-Aricha highway today, reports UNB.

Police and eyewitnesses said two speeding trucks from opposite directions collided head-on near Dharmrai bus station killing a man at the spot while another died on the way to hospital.

One of the victims was identified as Khaleq, 32, the helper of a truck while the identification of the other could not be known.

In another accident near Barbara station around 3 pm, five people were injured when two trucks collided. The injured were admitted to a local clinic.

Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone Board
CORRIGENDUM
 In the special notice regarding Overseas Telephone calls at 25% reduced rate published on December 31, 1995 and January 1, 1996 in English dailies, inadvertently there exists a mistake in 3rd line of last para as written "11 am to 8 am". It should be "11 pm to 8 am".
 We are at your service
 Bangladesh Telegraph & Telephone Board

Editor: Mahfuz An