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16 PAGES PLUS MAGAZINE: PRICE TAKA 9.00

Killing of four BTV officials on Nov 7, 1975

By Staff Correspondent

The CID yesterday arrested five Bangladesh Television officials - one of them now retired -- on charges of their involvement in the killing of four of their senior colleagues on

November 7, 1975. The arrested are Producer Lutfar Rahman Talukdar, Transmission Controller Aynul Kabir, Assistant Directors Abdul Awal Sarker and Abul Kashem Bagoja and former BTV official Ainuzzaman, CID officials said.

The five accused persons came to the CID headquarters in the city yesterday morning as they were summoned three days ago. They were later ar-

The investigators were questioning them at the CID office till last night. The five are likely to be produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court today.

The investigation officer, ASP Khalequzzaman, told The Daily Star last night that he would seek five days' remand.

They have been accused of involvement in the killing of the then Administrative Officer of BTV AB Siddique, Chief Accountant Akmal Khan, Director (Programme) Manirul Alam and Assistant Photographer Firoz Kaiyum.

Earlier, CID arrested retired Havilder Altaf Hossain on October 21, 1997 in connection with the murders. Altaf is on bail now.

The four officials were shot dead on November 7, 1975 by some military personnel allegedly in collaboration with some BTV employees, according to CID investigators. They were killed as part of a blueprint chalked out by their rival group in the BTV following a dispute in the employees' union, the investigators said.

arrests 5

The four officials were confined in a room in the BTV building on November 7, according to the investigation.

Then the killers, led by Havilder Altaf Hossain, dragged them behind the building and shot them on the night of November 7. The bodies were dumped in the nearby jheel.

Families of the victims had lodged separate murder cases with Gulshan thana on November 19, 1975 accusing unidentified killers. No name was mentioned in those FIRs, police

said. The Detective Branch (DB) of police took over the cases and submitted a final report in January 1978 after investigation. The cases were dismissed as the DB investigation failed to identify any killer.

DB had arrested and then released two of BTV officials --Abul Kashem Bagoja and Abul Kashem (no more in service) after the final report, CID officials said.

KARTIK 22, 1405 BS

CID is yet to arrest the latter and is now looking for him. In March 1997, CID revived

the case filed by the wife of Akmal Khan. In the course of the investigation, CID has so far interrogated about 150 people includ-

ing former and serving BTV officials and army personnel, CID sources said.



The arrested five BTV officials from left are Aynuzzaman, Aynul Kabir, Abul Kashem — Star photo Bagoja, Abdul Awal Sarker and Lutfar Rahman Talukdar.

Six bills placed amid opposition

sition members yesterday. All the bills, however, were

to the agreements with certain tions including International Monetary Fund and World

Three other bills sought amendments to three legislations to provide for appointment of 'more' than one provice chancellors in the universities of Dhaka, Rajshahi and Chittagong.

Introduction of the first Bill Post Flood Rehabilitation (Accumulation of Domestic Resources) Act, 1998 - which was laid before the House initially as an ordinance was opposed by the BNP members on three

See Page 12 Col 7

BNP walks out after Nasim's fiery speech

By Staff Correspondent Introduction of six bills in Jatiya Sangsad, one of those allegedly out of the way, faced strong criticism from the oppo-

DHAKA FRIDAY NOVEMBER 6, 1998

introduced in the House by voice votes.

One of the bills sought ratification of the recent Presidential Ordinance imposing fresh surcharges and duties on various services and imports.

Another bill - International Financial Organisations (Amendment) Bill, 1998 sought legal authority of the government to 'accept, with or without any condition, any proposal for any amendment international financial institu-

Another bill- The Bangladesh Laws (Revision and Declaration) (Second Amendment) Act. 1998 - sought codification of the laws enacted between 1948 and 1957. The bill also aims at making the languages of the laws consistent with the context of national independence.

grounds.

Quoting the Constitution. BNP lawmaker M K Anwar said

the Speaker's failure to expunge a speech by works minister Mohmmad Nasim on the issue of permitting its two detained MPs to attend parliament. The minister had blasted the opposition for "defending" the killers of August 15 and Nov 3.

RAJAB 15, 1419 HIJRI

The heat that blew over the House briefly on the first day of the winter session sparked off a point of privilege raised by Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof Badruddoza Choudhury, demanding an answer from the Chair on the letters of two MPs -- K.M.Obaidur Rahman and Alamgir Kabir -- requesting permission to attend the House

BNP staged a walkout yes-terday protesting what it said

As emotions heated up with a fiery charge led by Mohammad Nasim denouncing the killers of August 15 and Nov 3, his high-pitched speech was punctuated with remarks from the Opposition Bench like "what about Siraj Shikder's murder".

Some BNP MPs pointed their fingers at the Treasury Bench while Nasim was blasting the killers of August 15 and Nov 3. After the minister finished

his speech, the Chair ruled that they couldn't be allowed to participate in parliament's business as they are facing criminal charges, one for a 'very tragic killing' and the other on different criminal charges.

Quoting from a reply to his query from Britain's House of Commons and May's Parliamentary Proceedings, Humayun Rashid Chowdhury said

an MP detained on criminal

By Special Correspondent

charges cannot attend parliament's business. "Nor can I interfere with the Exeutive or the Judiciary," he said in his ruling squashing petitions by the two

Obaidur Rahman was arrested on charges of involvement in the murders of four national leaders -- Syed Nazrul Islam. Tajuddin Ahmed. Mansur Ali and Kamruzzaman-- at Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

Alamgir Kabir was arrested on charges of assaulting a TNO and an UP chairman.

Khandaker Delwar Hossain. Chief Whip of the Opposition, who rose after Nasim's fiery speech, urged the Chair to expunge the speech for containing irrelevant com-

"Otherwise we shall walk

AL conspiring to foil spirit of Nov 7: BNP

BNP has urged the people to observe the National Revolution and Solidarity Day" on November 7 ignoring the 'conspiracy' of the Awami League government, reports UNB.

In a press briefing yesterday evening at the party's central office, Akbar Hossain MP, convenor of the National Revolution and Solidarity Day Observance Committee, also urged the people to stand against the See Page 12 Col 5

out," he said. "Our Deputy Leader rose on a point of privilege seeking your (Speaker) ruling on the petitions of the detained MPs. You have given your ruling within your rights. But the minister had no business to make the remarks. Please delete his speech from the proceedings."

The Speaker said he will expunge the minister's speech if it merits so.

But the BNP MPs walked away and returned after 10 minutes.

Earlier, Mohmmad Nasim son of the slain leader Mansur Ali, led the charge on the Opposition Bench accusing it of defending the killers of August 15 and November 3." They will be tried on the soil of Bangladesh. Nobody can stop it. Those who are defending them, staging demonstrations on their behalf, are abettors to the

killings," Nasim fired. He also blasted the BNP founder late President Ziaur Rahman." He had met with a tragic death because he sheltered these killers"; Nasim remarked and accused the assassinated president of indemnifying the killings through the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution.

" BNP had failed to wash off its sins by walkouts. Even a wife had failed to hold trial of her husband's killers when she was prime minister. But the present prime minister Sheikh Hasina has not only initiated trial for August 15 and jail killings, but also the killing of Ziaur Rahman." he said.

Nov 8 verdict

Tight security in & around court

Tight security measures have been taken in and around the court area ahead of the verdict in the Bangabandhu murder case on November 8, reports

We've already taken effective and adequate steps against any possible attempt to create disturbances during the verdict." said a senior police official vesterday.

During the verdict, movement of all modes of vehicles will be restricted in the court area, he said.

About 2,000 uniformed policemen will be deployed in and around the court on the day of the verdict. Other members of the law enforcing agencies will also be kept on alert.

Meanwhile, police have been keeping close watch on some people suspected to be troublemakers and have also identified at least 50 points as probable trouble spots.

Police sources said they have increased their vigilance in some areas and on the movement of certain people as well as on their residences.

Politics at KMC banned

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Nov 5: Student politics has been banned on Khulna Medical College campus with effect from today.

This decision was taken at a meeting of the Academic council on Wednesday with Principal Prof Md. Abdul Hannan in the chair.

Khulna Medical College is yet to get recognition of both Bangladesh Medical Council and the British Medical Council, said the principal.

Be in House and face them

By Nazmul Ashraf Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia has instructed the BNP MPs to attend the Jativa Sangsad session regularly to ventilate their grievances on the floor of the House and strengthen the anti-govern-

ment street agitation as well. "We can't give the government a walkover by boycotting the parliament where we must raise our voice against all its failures, repression and corruption," she was quoted as telling a meeting of BNP Parliamentary Party (BNPPP) just before the JS went into its winter session yesterday afternoon.

"We'll utilise both the Sangsad and the streets to continue the anti-government agitation," she reportedly told the meeting.

The Opposition leader yesterday left the House after 47 minutes. A good number of BNP lawmakers followed her. Khaleda's instruction to at-

tend the parliament came after some of her party's young lawmakers were vocal in the BNPPP meet for allout agitation till the fall of this government and demanded that she announce tough programmes to that end.

Meeting sources said an influential BNP MP also spoke for boycotting the House on crucial issues like the Upazila Parishad Bill, likely to be passed in the current session.

Responding to demand for fresh course of action, the Opposition leader said it will be decided by the National Standing Committee, BNP's highest policy-making body, and in consultation with other opposition parties.

Khaleda is expected to announce the next course of agitation at tomorrow's public meeting at Paltan Maidan in the

Khaleda tells

city. BNP's rank and file has meantime discussed programmes like train march. barricade and hartal, insiders

In the BNPPP meeting, party legislators including Fazlur Rahman Patal, Joynal Abedin Faruk, Ziaul Haq Zia, Shamsuzzaman Dudu, Ruhul Quddus Talukdar Dulu and Najimuddin Alam flayed the government for 'political killings, arrests, imprisonment and attacks on the partymen across the country. They also alleged they are not being involved in the development works at their respective areas only because they belong

to the opposition party. Some of them found no other option to toppling the 'tyrant' government through non-stop street agitation like hartal

gherao. MK Anwar suggested

Earlier, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof. Badruddoza Choudhury and Chief Whip of the Opposition Khandakar Delwar Hossain briefed the meeting about the discussion at the JS Business Advisory

The two senior opposition lawmakers described the attitude of the Treasury Bench representatives in the committee including the Leader of the House herself as very aggressive. They said all the three BNP proposals for general discussions on issues of public interest in the House were rejected.

An unauthorised wholesale fish market at Kawranbazar in the city.

Dr Zahir rejects

By Staff Correspondent Top corporate lawyer Dr M Zahir has rejected an appointment by the Law Ministry to as-

In the letter of rejection, Za-

hir gave his reasons. know," Zahir said in a letter to

the secretary at the ministry. The ministry recently named Dr M Zahir, Dr AKM Ali and Syed Hyder Ali as Special PPs to handle the cases. Earlier the ministry had appointed Syed Rezaur Rahman as Special

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on April 4 last year sued 15 companies after a probe committee report Three of the accused companies later filed petitions challenging

is likely to begin this month but finding competent lawyers remained a key issue.

The SEC officials sought government permission to hire lawyers matching those of the accused companies. "If we use the public prosecutors then we are unlikely to win any case, SEC officials argued.

pointed the three and said that See Page 12 Col 4

DSE in crisis

Rashid wants his seat back By M Shamsur Rahman

The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) slipped into a fresh crisis yesterday as a Council member insisted that all four council-lors be allowed to continue for another term. The plea from Kazi Firoz Rashid came after the election committee allowed present chairman Rakibur Rahman to stay on.

In a letter to the election body. Rashid said that a lottery held on October 31 had decided on the four who should retire. "If one of them is allowed to continue, the decision should also apply to others."

The election committee met vesterday to respond to the application but failed to arrive at a decision, sources said. It will again sit on Saturday. "They are taking time to

seek legal opinion," a source in

DSE said. "Your historic decision nullified the effectiveness of the whole lottery process. As a result, all of us, the present council members (including the four to be dropped as per the lottery) continue to remain councillors.

"Therefore, we do not think there is any need to hold elections for four new councillors. "If there is any move to hold elections, it would be deemed entirely illegal. You are therefore requested to stop all election activities and give your opinion on the issue."

According to DSE's new Articles of Association adopted late last year, four of the 12 elected members of the present council are to retire this year. These vacant posts are to be filled through a direct election.

As none volunteered to retire, a lottery named the four --Chairman Rakibur Rahman. Kazi Firoz Rashid, Ahsanul Islam and Dewan Suhel Afzal.

Keep cool against provocation Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina tells

Hasina yesterday asked the ruling party MPs to remain alert against any provuentive acts, and face any eventuality with patience, reports UNB.

ing of the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) at Sangsad Bhaban in the afternoon. The Prime Minister presided over the meeting.

ernment structure modern and effective for the people. She thanked her colleagues for their sincere and devoted service to the nation in facing

the century's severe flood. Hasina asked her party deputies to closely monitor the relief distribution, agri-rehabilitation programme, and other problems in their respec-

tive constituencies. Mentioning the allocation of farm loan worth Tk 3,270 crore. she also asked the MPs to monitor their disbursement to the affected people for boosting agricultural production.

The prime minister said the massive post-flood rehabilita-

Govt moves to import onion By Gobinda Bar

The government is considering importing onion from some South East Asian, Gulf and Central Asian countries to contain its a sudden price rise, officials said here yesterday.

"We are examining the viability, possible import cost, and probable subsidy on the item," Commerce Secretary Syed Abdullah Farrouk Chowdhury

See Page 12 Col 4

party MPs tion programme and the successful handling of the flood The directive came at a meetwere highly praised at home and abroad.

As the government is set to consider the Upazila Bill in the current session, the ruling Speaking about the local party MPs pleaded for power government system, the prime over upazila chairmen.

minister said steps would be Some ruling party lawmaktaken to make the local govers requested the party leadership to keep provision in the Upazila Parishad Bill so that they can enjoy some powers in their constituencies.

Kofi Annan arrives Dec The United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan will

arrive here next month, reports Annan will be in Bangladesh on December 1 on a two-day visit, foreign secretary

Mustafizur Rahman said yes-

terday. This will be his first visit to Bangladesh. Mustafiz, while talking to BSS, said Annan will visit all the three sub-continental countries (Bangladesh, India and Pakistan) and particularly discuss the nuclear issues.

The confirmation of the visit was received yesterday.

No alternative to agitation: Shantu Larma KHAGRACHHARI, Nov 5:

PCJSS chief Shantu Larma today said movement is a must for implementation of the CHT peace accord terming Monday's talks with government leaders "meaningless", reports APB,
""If the people of the hill dis-

tricts want, we'll go for agitation programme. ... There is no alternative to demonstration for implementation of the agreement," the PCJSS chief told journalists. He alleged "unhealthy de-

meanour" and vehemently spoke of PCJSS' standoff with the government side while talking to local journalists at his hill resort today on return from the meeting of CHT Peace Agreement Implementation Committee held at Chittagong Circuit House on Monday.

PCJSS leaders are likely to announce next course of action on November 10 marking the 15th death anniversary of Manabendra Narayan Larma, the founder of PCJSS and Shantu's elder brother.

Jyotirindriya Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma, about the outcome of the meeting, said there was nothing written about any achievement after four rounds of talks. "This is the condition of the committee," he said.

Local sources said the antitreaty campaigners were planning to take to the street with their demand for scrapping the December 1997 CHT peace agreement.

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক মুদ্রা ব্যবস্থাপনা ও হিসাব বিভাগ প্রধান কার্যালয়

বিজ্ঞপ্তি — সংশোধনী

ডেইলী ষ্টার পত্রিকায় ৪-১১-৯৮ইং তারিখে অত্র বিভাগ কর্তৃক প্রচারিত বিজ্ঞপ্তির সূত্রে জনসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সোনালী ব্যাংকের শাখাসমূহের পাশাপাশি সংশুষ্টি অঞ্চলের বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের শাখাসমূহেও সরকারী জমা গ্রহণ কার্যক্রম আগামী ৩১শে জানুয়ারি, ১৯৯৯ পর্যন্ত অব্যাহত থাকবে। উক্ত তারিখের পর হতে অর্থাৎ আগামী ১লা ফেব্রুয়ারি, ১৯৯৯ তারিখ হতে এতদঞ্চলের বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের শাখাসমূহে সরকারী জমা গ্রহণ কার্যক্রম বন্ধ

জসওপ্রবিঃ ৪৮/৯৮-১৫২৩

মুঃ আবদুল মতীন মহাব্যবস্থাপক

- Inside Today -Article

"How Women Make a Country Literate"

Column: Do I Dare!

by A Z M Obaidullah

Khan

Page 4

Focus

Amartya Sen, Flood, deprivation, and Rabindranath

Page 5

Business

Tk 2.62cr BSCIC loans stuck up Australian banks see the

> DSE, CSE quotations Pages 8, 9 & 10

worst impact of Asian

meltdown

party MPs

strongly opposing the imposition of post-flood surcharges which were 'additional burden on the flood-hit nation."

Committee meeting yesterday.

Share scam cases

appointment as Special PP

sist the Public Prosecutor in dealing with the share scam

reject this appointment both because I am not willing to act on prescribed government fees as Special Public Prosecutor and also because you have not gone by the basic rules of the Bar Association which a person of your standing should

the merits of the cases which went to High Court and then to Supreme Court. The Supreme Court later rejected the petition filed by the three accused companies. The legal barriers to proceeding of the cases had thus been removed. The trial of these cases

The government later ap-

Fish market causes nuisance at city's heart

have long been creating a nuisance in Kawran Bazar area cannot be removed immediately because the Dhaka City Corporation has no alternative space to rehabilitate the 300 traders. Meanwhile, DCC's fish mar-

wholesale fish markets which

for accommodation and as kitchen for fish traders. When asked, an official of DCC's Market Wing said that they did not know anything about 'outsiders occupying the DCC market'. But they mentioned that the market was not

Traders at the unauthorised

rented.

- Star photo

markets said that they were regularly paying a 'handsome amount' annually to DCC officials as 'taxes' to do business on the DCC land. Since the markets were unauthorised. payments were also being made unofficially'. General Secretary of Sonargaon Market, the largest of the

three markets, Mohammad

Ramzan Ali Khandakar said

that every day fish worth sev-

eral lakh taka were traded in

The three unauthorised the markets, set up in 1984.

holesale fish markets which Ramzan Ali and others of

the market said that more than 300 traders were doing business in the three markets. About a month ago, Mayor of DCC Mohammad Hanif summoned them to the Nagar Bhaban and told them that they would not be displaced until an alternative location was found. ket, hardly hundred yards from The fish markets along with the unauthorised markets, is hundreds of other unauthorised being used by illegal occupants

businesses in the area have

long been creating nuisance in

an area, one of the most presti-

gious office blocs in the city.

Guests at the nearby Sonargaon

Hotel complain of foul odour in its swimming pool area due to fish waste dumps at the markets, hotel sources said. The fish markets attract hundreds of fish traders every morning. The area is littered with solid and liquid waste that

stinks and creates serious

health hazard. People in the nearby offices said they had lodged complaints with the authorities several times in the past. The authorities recently removed slums from the area but the fish markets and similar other structures were not touched.

হয়ে যাবে।

তারিখ ঃ ৫/১১/৯৮ জিডি-৮৮৭

ফোন ঃ ৯৫৫৮৭৭০