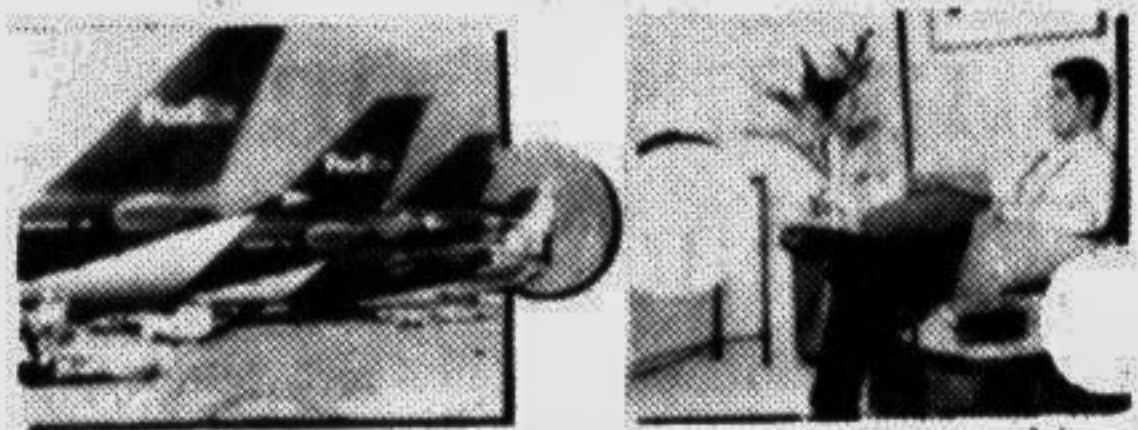


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5 young men killed in separate incidents

By Staff Correspondent

Five young men were killed in separate incidents in the city yesterday, police and hospital sources said.

Hanif, 25, of Suritola under Sutrapur thana was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital with head injuries Saturday night. He died early yesterday.

The victim, son of Niyamat Ali and a resident of Golapshah Lane was beaten up at a hotel near the Suhrawardy College at Laxmibazar Saturday evening, police said.

He was rushed to the DMCH where he died at midnight.

Hanif's father lodged a case with the Sutrapur thana in this regard, police said. None was arrested till writing of this report late last night.

Another young man was killed by unidentified gunmen at the AGB Colony at about 6 pm yesterday.

The victim, Abu Yusuf Md Samsuljoha alias Palash, 21, was shot in his chest, police said.

Palash, son of Abul Kashem, was a resident of the colony. His body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

The mother of the victim lodged an FIR with the Motijheel police. None was arrested till writing of this report late last night.

In another incident, one Abdul Hamid alias Apu of Mohammadpur died of stab injuries at the DMCH.

Apu, son of Shahidullah of Rayer Bazar was stabbed by a gang near the Physical Training Institute at Mohammadpur.

Appeal petitions

From page 1

government which rejects any intention to kill persons in the government," Khan argued in the petition.

In the impugned judgement no evidence of cross examination has been put to any test of scrutiny for any finding of truth," it added.

Abdur Rezzak Khan, the lawyer of Shahriar, in his petition said, "The trial court did not consider that various witnesses testifying as eye witnesses after 21-23 years on their own admission were accomplices and protected themselves from prosecution and on the other hand implicated others to satisfy the prosecution."

"There was no iota of evidence that the appellant had been present or had any participation in the act of killing at the place of occurrence, being House No 677, Rd No 32 in Dhanmondi," the petition added.

"No witness claimed to have seen him in and around the premises of that house," the petition argued. The appeal also stated that the trial court did not consider the evidence properly.

Abdus Sobhan, lawyer of Huda, said, "the appellant was never absconder and fugitive from trial and was detained in a jail in Thailand with prior knowledge of the prosecution."

"The charge against Huda was framed without observing the mandatory provision of Section 87 and 88 of the CrPC," the appeal petition said. These provisions call for putting up notices in newspapers and attachment of property of any absconding accused.

"The mandatory provision of Section 93 B and 93 C of the CrPC had been violated and the trial of the convict appellant in his absence was bad in law," the petition said.

police said. Apu was returning home from a band show.

Apu was stabbed in his chest and abdomen, hospital sources said. He died at about 5:00 am yesterday. The victim's mother later filed a case in this connection.

In another incident, one Shaheen, 17, fell from the rooftop of two-storied building at Kathalbagan on Saturday at about 7:30 pm and succumbed to injuries at the Shomorita Hospital early morning yesterday, police said. The body was later sent to DMCH for autopsy.

The father of the victim lodged a case with Dhanmondi police but none was arrested till writing of this report late last night.

A truck hit a pedestrian from behind at Agargaon Talola crossing in the city yesterday. The victim, identified as Hiron, 15, son of Abu Taher of Agargaon slum, died on the spot at about 11:15 am, police said.

US, Iraq

From page 1

ation Forum, White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said, "Iraq has backed down. But that is not enough," Clinton said in a White House statement. "Now Iraq must live up to its obligations."

He said Washington would keep up the pressure on Iraq and "will be ready to act" militarily.

"We must remain vigilant, strong, and ready," he said. Sandy Berger, addressing journalists after Clinton, said Saddam Hussein had "backed down."

"Let's see if he lets UNSCOM in," he said. "Let's see if they can do their work."

"If he does not, we are prepared to act," Berger added.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will return to Washington from Kuala Lumpur later today to concentrate on the crisis over Iraq.

BNP march

From page 1

November 23. But BNP sources said possibility of a string of hartals in the city is there if the authorities block the march.

BNP leaders yesterday reviewed the political situation at a meeting of the Parliamentary Board at the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition.

Chaired by Khaleda Zia, it was attended by Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury, Khan-daker Delwar Hossain, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain and Khan-daker Mahabub Hossain.

Meeting sources said the leaders flayed the government for "conspiracies" to crash the movement. It showed that the government became frightened at the duration of hartal that was observed by 'people'.

Khaleda

From page 1

only after President Zia's death. Tofail said Bangabandhu led a very simple life and dedicated his last drop of blood to the cause of the people and freedom.

The Awami League stalwart, portraying a contrast, spat out: "Begum Zia's family, her sons and brother amassed wealth while in power and because the owners of Dandy Dying, Marshall Distillery and Coco ships."

Tofail said if the present cabinet and parliament had offered the Bangabandhu to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, she would have spurned it.



IF WINTER COMES, CAN THEY BE FAR BEHIND? There are plenty of clothes in the market, so are the buyers. — Star photo

AL will never call hartal

From page 1

ple's democratic rights and for a system that elections would be held under a caretaker government after resignation of the party in power.

But, the prime minister said, BNP and its allies are calling hartals to protect the killers, not to safeguard the rights of the people.

Hasina said that while in power Khaleda Zia repeatedly spoke against hartal, saying patriots do not indulge in the politics of hartal. But why BNP is calling hartal now without any issue, she asked.

"What is the issue today? Why the opposition is calling such a long hartal?" she wanted to know. Hasina said BNP is enforcing hartals at a time when the government is busy with post-flood rehabilitation works.

In the last week, the prime minister said the flood-affected people could not get relief for three days due to the hartal and it has aggravated their sufferings.

Replying to a question from UNB Chief Editor Enayetullah Khan about the opposition's demand for a midterm election, the prime minister said her government has already announced that general elections will be held in 2000, one year

ahead of the schedule.

"What's the compulsion? Has any such incident happened for which we have to go for a midterm poll?" she questioned.

The prime minister categorically said the government did never try to foil any meeting of BNP. "Rather several meetings of Awami League, while in opposition, had been attacked by government terrorists."

Refuting the allegation that their last rally was disrupted by government supporters, she said: "It is absurd that an activist of the ruling party will dare to set off bombs sitting in the meeting of BNP. The crowd will not let a man come out of a meeting after blasting bombs."

Sheikh Hasina accused BNP of following politics of corpse and said they even called hartal after killing a Juba League leader on November 7.

The BNP also called hartal for a heroin addict, Akkas, who was killed in mob attack during a hartal, she told the editors, adding the melee in BNP's November 7 meeting was also an outcome of "evil design" of that party to create unrest on the day of historic Bangabandhu murder case verdict.

Hasina said the nation was absolved of a curse through this verdict against the killers who had not only killed the father of the nation but also women and children, trampling human rights.

The opposition tried to create a situation so that the verdict cannot be pronounced that day," she said charging the main opposition party with making a bid to protect the "self-proclaimed killers".

She pointed out that General Zia had rewarded the killers with jobs in the foreign missions and the Khaleda Zia made "a killer" the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament through the "farceful" February 15 polls.

Khaleda Zia made Col. Rashid Leader of the Opposition in parliament which could not exist more than three days, she said.

The prime minister reiterated that trial of the Bangabandhu case was held under the law of the land and the other killings would also be tried the same way. She mentioned the process of trial of the killing of

four national leaders, slain in jail.

"It is unfortunate that BNP and some of its allies are taking up political programmes to give support to the killers and issuing threats to topple the government," she said, adding they are trying to protect the killers by planning to topple government. Hasina said the government was trying heart and soul to recoup the losses caused by the devastating floods and working day and night to ensure relief and post-flood rehabilitation of the flood victims.

Replying to a question about law and order, the prime minister said the government is very much sincere in curbing terrorism and taking strict actions against the terrorists.

"We are taking steps against the terrorists irrespective of their political identity," she said. "We have no lack of sincerity."

Sangbad Editor Ahmedul Kabir, Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam, New Nation Editor A M Mofazzal, Aker Kagoj Editor Kazi Shahed Ahmed, Financial Express Editor Moazzem Hossain, Bangladesh Observer Editor Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Ittefaq acting Editor Rahat Khan, Janakantha Editor Atiqullah Khan Masud, Khabor Editor Mizanur Rahman Mizan, and political Adviser to the prime minister Dr S A Maleq took part in discussion.

BSS Chief Editor Husainuz-zaman Chowdhury, Janakantha Advisory Editor Toab Khan, Muktakantha Editor K G Mustafa, Independent Editor Mahbubul Alam, Bhorer Kagoj Editor Benazir Ahmed, Financial Express Chief Editor Reazuddin Ahmed, Banglabazar Editor Zakaria Khan, Inqilab Editor AMM Bhauddin, AL Amin Editor Alhaj Moqbul Hossain MF, Protham Alo Editor Matiar Rahman, Dainik Provat Editor Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Sangbad Acting Editor Bazlur Rahman and Rupali Editor Mostafizur Rahman MP were present.

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr S A Samad and Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Jawadul Karim were also present.

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Murder of BTV officials

Two make confessional statement

The three accused of 1975 murder in BTV Bhaba case were produced in the court yesterday after three days' police remand, reports UNB.

Four officials of BTV were shot dead and dumped in a water body behind the BTV Bhaba on November 7, 1975. Five officials of the BTV were arrested on charge of their alleged involvement in plotting them killing.

Of the three accused, Lutfur Rahman and Abul Kashem Boggo made confessional statement to magistrate Abdus Salam Mia under Section 164 of the CrP last night.

Another accused Aynal Kabir was sent to jail, when the magistrate recorded the statement of the two.

The court earlier rejected bail petitions of the accused.

Mahbub-e-Alam new AAG

Mahbub-e-Alam, a senior advocate of the Supreme Court, was appointed Additional Attorney General yesterday, reports UNB.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed has given the appointment, says an official announcement.

Khaleda refrains

From page 1

Meanwhile, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, a frontline leader of BNP, has appreciated the government proposal for renouncing hartal by all parties, but set two conditions for its acceptance.

"The proposal is very good," said Moudud expressing his personal opinion when his attention was drawn to the proposal of the prime minister.

The conditions for acceptance of the proposal are: 1) The ruling Awami League has to pay the national exchequer compensation for the loss sustained by the country for enforcing hartal by it, and 2) The government has to resign within a month and call for a mid-term election.

Moudud recalled that Awami League had enforced 173 days of hartal in the country during 1991-96.

He said BNP did not like to go for hartal. "We were forced by the government to call hartal," added Moudud while talking to UNB last night.

BNP Joint Secretary General Abdullah Al Noman also appreciated the proposal of the Prime Minister.

Giving his personal views, Noman said: "We are not also in favour of hartal. The government had compelled us to this course."

"Every action has its reaction. BNP was forced to react by the government's action," he added.

Albright ignores warnings, meets Anwar's wife

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 15: Ignoring warnings not to meddle in Malaysian affairs, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright met today with the wife of jailed dissident Anwar Ibrahim and called him a 'highly respected leader,' reports AP.

For 30 minutes, Albright met in her hotel room with Azizah Ismail, who has sought international criticism for the way her husband, Malaysia's ousted deputy prime minister, has been treated since he was arrested and put on trial.

Dressed in a turquoise Muslim scarf, Azizah appeared nervous while entering and leaving the meeting, which drew huge crowds of reporters and photographers from around the world.

"I'm very happy with the meeting. We had a lot of support from Secretary of State Albright," Azizah said, before being whisked away by police escorts.

Albright, who arrived in

Kuala Lumpur Saturday night for a meeting of Pacific Rim nations, cut short her visit because of US tensions with Iraq. But she insisted on seeing Azizah before meeting with Russian officials and returning to Washington on Monday.

Azizah told Albright her main concern was that "her husband wants to be assured that this case remains before the court of world opinion," said a US official, who briefed reporters on the meeting, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Mannan Bhuiyan

From page 1

gum Zia and stop "all evil propaganda" against her as well as her family members.

In a separate statement, the BNP secretary general condemned and protested the eviction of BNP Mohammadpur thana unit office by police on Saturday.

Tricksters get

From page 1

As Hafiz started his speech hitting back at Housing and Public Works Minister Mohammad Nasim, who had blasted Opposition leader Khaleda Zia on Thursday for enjoying "illegal privileges" including a house at the Dhaka Cantonment, almost all the AL members were seen leaving the House together.

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria and Education Minister ASHK Sadeque were among some ministers who opted to sail with the wind, leaving only 11 AL MPs in the House. At one stage, the number of AL members in the House came down to eight.

Those who stayed back included Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru, minister without portfolio Noor Uddin Khan, State Minister for Shipping Saber Hossain Choudhury, State Minister for Health Dr. Amanullah and State Minister for Religious Affairs Nurul Islam.

Present in the House at that time were 34 members of BNP, seven of Jatuya Party and one of Jamaat-e-Islami.

The House saw a lack of quorum from 8-48 till the AL members returned at 9:00 pm. In the 12 minutes, the average number of the MPs in the House was 50, against the required number of 65 for quorum.

The Deputy Speaker ignored shouts from several AL lawmakers including Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed and Shamim Osman who tried to draw his attention that the House lacked quorum. AL Whip Abdus Shaid was seen going out of and coming back to the House, and for once, talking to Tofail Ahmed, who was seen blasting the Whip.

The Deputy Speaker took note of the lack of quorum only when JP MP Dr. Rustam Ali Farazi drew his attention to the matter at 9:00 pm. But by then, the AL members began coming back.

Moments before, the Chair had switched off the microphone of JP MP Zulfikar Ali Bhutto who had also pointed to the issue.

"You're speaking of lack of quorum. But I see the (AL) members are coming back," was the witty reply from the Deputy Speaker at 9:00 pm when the House had the quorum again with the return of the AL MPs.

It appeared that the Chair outsmarted the tricksters.

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