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**PHILIPS**

## 2 more cases against Shikdar revived

**From Staff Correspondent**

**KHULNA, Nov 7:** Two more previous cases were revived today against Shikdar and his accomplices.

One was recorded with Khalishpur thana on March 5, 1995 under Sections 448/323/427. But the accused were acquitted as the court was not provided with any evidence for punishment.

Another case was recorded with Khulna thana on September 17, 1996 also under Sections 143/323/324 and 448. The court also acquitted all the accused as the complaints were forced to compromise, said a source in KMP.

Wives and relatives of some of the victims have already expressed their grave concern for the failure to nab the remaining armed cadres including Jamal

Faruque, Nasir Khan and Ayub Munshi. They are allegedly threatening wives and relatives of the victims through different messengers not to make any statement before the court against Shikdar and other accomplices arrested so far.

Meanwhile, a move is on to form 'Sachetan Nagorik Committee' to give financial assistance to families of the victims of murders committed by Ershad Shikdar and his armed cadres.

Countrywide appeal will also be made to help create a fund for the committee which is likely to be formed this month, said a reliable source.

On Saturday, the police commissioner helped four families from KMP's welfare fund.

## Opposition parties may announce all-party action committees today

The opposition alliance is likely to announce all-party action committees today.

"We would announce constitution of all-party action committees tomorrow after hartal to escalate the current movement for realising our one-point demand," a liaison committee member told UNB yesterday.

He, however, said it would be a difficult task to form such a committee in various tiers due to wide gaps and misunderstanding prevailing among the partners of the alliance.

Replying to a question, he said they were working out format of the action committees under the setups of the parties across the country.

He said that central leaders of the alliance comprising BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote would have to go to grassroots level to make the mission a success.

About next course of action programme he said it would depend on the government's attitude. Fresh programmes will be announced today.

He hinted that tougher course of action might come before the end of the week of this month.

## Old man shot dead in Jhenidah

**From Our Correspondent**

**JHENIDAH, Nov 7:** An old man was shot dead by a group of unidentified assailants last night at village Sanbandha in Kaliganj thana of the district.

The victim was identified as Shadat Hossain, 75. The reason behind the murder could not be known till filing of this report.

Police said, the assailants entered the house by breaking open the door and shot Shadat point blank. He died on the spot.

The body was sent to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with Kaliganj thana in this connection.

## Minister tells JS Govt has no power to cancel declaration of a newspaper

**State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed has told the Parliament that the government has enlisted 65 newspapers, magazines and periodicals in the media list, reports UNB.**

However, names of 45 newspapers, magazines and periodicals were dropped from the list, he said yesterday.

Replying to a question of Mirza Azam (AL-Jamalpur), the state minister said the government has no power to cancel the declaration of a newspaper in absence of any such law.

"The deputy commissioner can only give the declaration and we (Information Ministry) only include the name of the newspaper in the list," he said.

Referring to a news item published in a widely circulated newspaper recently, the Information Minister said the report is totally incorrect.

If there is any corruption in the Department of Films and Publications (DFP), the government would take action after investigation, he told the House.

The government has allocated Tk 70 crore for government advertisements in the newspaper, he added.

Replying to Nurul Islam Nahid (AL-Sylhet), the information minister said: "The government does not interfere and control the activities of the government news agency, BSS."

Replying to Abdul Latif Mirza (AL-Sirajganj), he said the government has taken action against those who filed false reports and their appointments have already been cancelled.

The minister also said that if there is any allegation against anyone working in Dhaka, the government would take action after investigation.

## Tougher action

**From page 1**

became unbalanced and started "raiding" houses of opposition leaders and activists to arrest them. He claimed that police raided the house of Amanullah Aman, MP Saturday night.

City BNP Convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka alleged that police, without any provocation, fired shots and tear gas shells and resorted to lathi charge on opposition activists at Jatrabari in the city, killing one housewife and injuring over 100 people.

He claimed that at least 250 BNP activists were injured and over 300 others arrested by police in the city during the hartal. He claimed that police also raided houses of at least 200 BNP leaders in last few days.

Jatiya Party Acting Secretary General Moidul Islam, Jamaat-e-Islami Assistant Secretary General Mohammad Kamaruzzaman and IOJ leader ARM Abdul Matin also addressed the briefing.

BNP leaders Tariqul Islam, Abdullah Al Noman, Anwar Zahid, Amanullah Aman, MP, Prof Shahidul Islam, MP, Jamaat leader Abdul Qader Mollah, IOJ leader Fazul Haq Amin were also present on the occasion.



A militant procession brought out in the city by the BNP passing Kakrail inter-section yesterday.

## Hartal: Two killed in city

**From page 1**

nounced him dead.

Police however said that miscreants killed him without giving details.

A stray bullet killed housewife Rina Ahmed, 26, during police action on pickets at Jatrabari, her family members and neighbours said.

She was standing on a first floor balcony when the bullet struck her, policemen from a riot van fired at random in the area when pickets tried to set fire to a rickshaw, they said.

Police however denied the allegation.

Rina was declared dead when brought to DMCH in a rickshaw van after the hartal.

Wife Sabuj Ahmed, she left behind two children.

Some sources said two police officials later visited DMCH and tried to convince doctors and others that she was killed in cross-firing during a clash between pro and anti-hartal groups.

Clashes between pro and anti-hartal pickets backed by police began at Jatrabari in the morning and continued till late in the evening. Agitated crowd torched an auto-tempo at 7:30 pm.

Police swung into action firing from a riot van to drive away pickets trying to torch a rickshaw at the closing hours of the hartal.

Pro and anti-hartal groups were active in Jatrabari, Saidabad, Shyampur, Dholaikhal, Shantinagar, Gulistan, Sheopara, Dholaikhal, Moghbazar, New Market, Kataban, Dholaipar, Mirpur and some other areas. Police picked up 50 people from these areas on different charges.

Sporadic explosions were heard in different parts of the city. Shah Alam, a rickshawpuller, was seriously injured when a bomb exploded in Gulistan area. The others admitted to DMCH with bomb injuries included Amir Ali, 32, an auto-rickshaw driver; Manik, 30, Yunus, 18, Anwarul Haq, 20, Koli Mia, 65, Russel 15, Khalil 18, Abul Kashem, 30, Moidul Islam, 35. They were wounded in New Market, Shantinagar, Mirpur, Elephant Road, Nababour Road and Jatrabari areas.

Pickets burnt or smashed about a dozen of rickshaws during the hartal hours. They also ransacked about 20 vehicles and set ablaze at least five of those. Clashes took place between police and BNP activists when police dispersed their processions at Azampur and Rampura.

## Woman killed by son-in-law at Mymensingh

**From Our Correspondent**

**MYMENSINGH, Nov 7:** A woman was murdered allegedly by her son-in-law at village Char Velamari in Nandail thana here yesterday.

The dead was identified as Omarjan, 55, wife of late Keramat Ali.

Hazrat Ali married Mulkokjan, daughter of Omarjan, nine years ago and has been living at his father-in-law's house since then, police said.

There had been a dispute between Hazrat and Omarjan over Mulkokjan's share of land property.

On the day of incident, Hazrat picked up a quarrel with his mother-in-law. At one stage he hit Omarjan with a stick. She died on the spot, police said.

The body was sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy today. None was arrested till filing of this report.

## Accused in several murder cases shot, held

Police shot and caught a person accused in several murder cases from Jurain rail-line in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Police said Kala Jahangir, 32, of East Jurain was shot when he tried to flee unfastening himself from the rope he was tied with after arrest at noon.

He received bullet wound in his left arm.

Police took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital from where he was shifted to Pongu Hospital.

## Indonesia's President arrives in Thailand

**BANGKOK, Nov 7:** Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid on Sunday asked Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai to support any bid by ravaged East Timor for membership of ASEAN, Thai officials said, reports AFP.

Wahid met Chuan for talks after flying in from Myanmar on the latest stop of a whirlwind inaugural tour of Association of Southeast Asian Nations members.



A barbed wire barricade blocking the road to BNP office during hartal yesterday.

## Jubo League activist shot in city

**By Staff Correspondent**

Unidentified assailants shot a Jubo League activist in the city last night.

The victim, identified as Babu, 28, was sipping tea at a tea shop at South Maishundi, Nanda when the attackers riding two motor cycles shot him at around 8 pm.

He received bullet wound in his chest.

Details could not be known immediately. Babu's condition was stated to be critical and he was at the operation theatre of Dhaka Medical College Hospital till filing of this report late last night.

## Body recovered near Golapshah mazar in city

**By Staff Correspondent**

Body of an unidentified person was recovered near the Golapshah mazar in the city last night.

The body was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital last night.

Some people in the locality said he might have been beaten to death following series of bomb blasts on Saturday night. Others, however, said he died from intoxication. Police failed to confirm the death.

## Autorickshaw torched in city

**By Staff Correspondent**

An autorickshaw was burnt when a gang of unidentified men hurled a cracker at the vehicle in front of the City College at Science Laboratory intersection last night.

Witnesses said, a gang of youths threw a cracker on the vehicle (no. Dhaka Metro-Tha 110652) at about 10:35.

Dhanmondi thana police rushed to the spot and took away the vehicle.

None was injured. The reason behind the attack could not be known till filing of this report at 11:00 pm.

## Breach in Chandpur town protection embankment

**CHANDPUR, Nov 7:** Concrete blocks on 15 meters of the Chandpur town protection embankment went down the night allegedly by another addict Javed Masud at a private drug-addict treatment centre in Chandgao area in the city this morning, police said.

Javed and Ahsan were under treatment at the centre. They had an altercation at 9:30 am and one stage, Javed stabbed Ahsan. He died on the spot, police said.

Police arrested Javed immediately after the incident.

Relatives and friends of the dead went on the rampage at the treatment centre known as Niramoy Kendra, at 2 pm protesting the killing. They ransacked the clinic and set fire to furniture, police said.

Police rushed to the spot and chased the agitators. Later, police were deployed in and around the clinic.

## Market blaze

**From page 1**

shoppers ran through the crowded market. Seven fire engines battled the flames for more than four hours.

The fire was started by an electric short circuit and soon the shops selling firecrackers exploded, said Parmpal Singh Siddhu, the senior superintendent of police.

Another fire was reported in the city of Jullander in Punjab, in which a few shops were damaged. One 10-year-old boy was injured when firecrackers exploded near him.

Enforcement of fire safety laws often in lax during Diwali as shops and petty traders stock firecrackers, often without a licence.

## Dredging

**From page 1**

vey seeking anonymity said, "Indiscriminate and unplanned dredging in riverbed is dangerous and cause change in the course of a river."

Mohammad Mominullah, Director of the Bureau of Mineral Development (BMD) said, "I visited the spot on Saturday last and found the sand collection process unhealthy."

He said the BMD do not have enough manpower to monitor the process and admitted that the government was losing revenue because of this. BMD issues the permit.

Mominullah said, "I shall report the matter to the authorities concern for proper monitoring and fixing guidelines."

"The ultimate motive behind allowing sand collection is to keep the river flowing. But indiscriminate and unplanned sand collection will affect villagers," he said.

## JU appointment

**From page 1**

application was not even forwarded by the Registrar, they said.

Another senior teacher alleged that the ad-hoc appointments were aimed at securing vote in the next election of VC Panel and teachers' representatives in the Syndicate.

Election of teachers' representatives was scheduled to be held in October, but was postponed.

When contacted over telephone yesterday, VC Prof Alauddin Ahmed refused to talk to The Daily Star on the issue.

## Imran Khan's wife returns home to face trial

**LAHORE, Nov 7:** The British wife of cricket star turned politician Imran Khan returned to Pakistan today to face charges of smuggling antique tiles, reports AP.

The charges were laid during ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif's term in power. Imran maintained his wife's innocence and said the charges were politically motivated.

"During Nawaz Sharif's government, my wife couldn't take the risk of returning to Pakistan," Khan told reporters at the Lahore Airport, where he arrived with his wife, Jemima Khan, the daughter of

## 15 shops gutted at Joydevpur

**GAZIPUR, Nov 7:** Fifteen shops including two jewellery shops were gutted in a fire at Joydevpur bazar today, reports UNB.

Fire service sources said the cause of the fire that broke out at about 2 pm could not be known immediately. Fire fighters rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze at about 3:30 pm.

## Rural Poverty Alleviation Bill '99 passed

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed the Rural Poverty Alleviation Bill-1999, reports BSS.

LGRD and Cooperative Minister Zillur Rahman moved for passage of the Bill which was earlier vetted by parliamentary standing committee on ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives.

Only one amendment for eliciting public opinion and sending it to select committee was raised by JP (M-M) member Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was rejected by the House by voice vote.

There was no amendment to clauses of the Bill.

## Addict kills inmate at treatment centre

**From Staff Correspondent**

**CHITTAGONG, Nov 7:** One drug-addict, identified as Ahsan Bari Khokon, 35, was stabbed to death allegedly by another addict Javed Masud at a private drug-addict treatment centre in Chandgao area in the city this morning, police said.

Javed and Ahsan were under treatment at the centre. They had an altercation at 9:30 am and one stage, Javed stabbed Ahsan. He died on the spot, police said.

Police arrested Javed immediately after the incident.

Relatives and friends of the dead went on the rampage at the treatment centre known as Niramoy Kendra, at 2 pm protesting the killing. They ransacked the clinic and set fire to furniture, police said.

Police rushed to the spot and chased the agitators. Later, police were deployed in and around the clinic.

## PM: Dialogue

**From page 1**

leader for being "confused about her demands" and said, "none of the demands concern public interest."

About the demand for resignation of her government, the PM said, "We will not hesitate to resign when time will come for it. We will transfer power to a caretaker government to contest the next election."

Hasina once again criticised Khaleda for her movement unitedly with Ershad whom she (Khaleda) once called the killer of her husband. "She (Khaleda) is now hobnobbing with Ershad against whom she once waged movement... I do not understand what made her behave so?"

Replying to another question, she said the ruling party will try to make the people understand that the Opposition agitation has no logical ground and is not for public interest.

Postponement of the SAARC summit will not affect the regional body's regular activities, she told a questioner.

She said yesterday's ALPP meet was a routine exercise in which party MPs spoke about development work in their constituencies.

But sources said, the prime minister in the meeting advised her party MPs to prepare for the Upazila and Zila Parishad polls saying, "outcome" of the local body polls will decide the party's fate in the next general election. About the postponed city corporation polls, she was learnt to have told the meeting that those would be held after the local bodies were over.

The sources further said that the AL chief advised her party lawmakers to work more in their constituencies so that they could return with wider margins and ensure majority seats in the JS in the next election.

AL programmes to face opposition parties and the upcoming by-polls, specially in Tangail, also came up for discussion at the meeting, the sources said.

## Touchstone worth Tk 5 cr recovered at Mymensingh

**From Our Correspondent**

**MYMENSINGH, Nov 7:** Trishal police recovered a statue of goddess 'Kali' worth about Tk five crore from Dhala Bazar today.

The statue made of touchstone was stolen from Kali Mondir of Dhala Bazar on the night of September 22.

The Hindu community submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner demanding immediate recovery of the statue.

Acting on a tip-off, police recovered the statue from the roof of a latrine of a charitable dispensary today.

## Ctg hartal

**From page 1**

Shops and markets remained closed and attendance in government offices was thin. Delivery of goods to and from port remained suspended though partial cargo handling was carried out inside the jetty of Chittagong port, port sources said.

Production at the mills and factories was badly hampered due to poor attendance of workers, sources said.

All kinds of vehicles except few rickshaws were off the roads during hartal hours.

Railway sources said train service to and from Chittagong was as usual. Police and BDR were deployed at important points of the city to foil any attempt of violence.