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## World Service Centres

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Crimes against women, children

### Govt plans to enact stringent law: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the government plans to enact a stringent law to curb crimes against women and children by amending the current legislation, reported UNB.

Since there are loopholes in the existing law, amendments would be made to make it tougher. The new law would have provision so that women victimised due to acid throwing or other criminal acts could get treatment and compensation, she said.

Speaking at the first ever women's book fair and rally sponsored by Nari Grantha Prabortona at Sultana Kamal Women Sports Complex at Dhamondi yesterday afternoon, Hasina said the government is exchanging views with women organisations to make the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act more effective against the serious crimes.

The prime minister said after assuming power, her government adopted the Women Development Policy to empower the women and build them as educated and efficient human resources.

Hasina said she also raised specific resolution at the last SAARC summit in Colombo and Commonwealth summit in Durban seeking concerted efforts to check trafficking in women and ensure their rights.

To empower women and facilitate their participation in nation-building activities, the government made provision for women to get elected directly to the Union Councils. As a result, about 14,000 women were elected as chairman and members of Union Councils in last elections, she told the opening function of the book fair.

The Prime Minister, however, asked the womenfolk to prepare for realising their rights. 'You will have to establish your rights, you will have to wrest it, none hands out rights.'

She recalled the great contribution of poet Begum Sufia Kamal and Nurjahan Begum in awakening of women for wresting their rights.

Earlier, the prime minister opened the book fair and went round its different sections.

### 9 JCD, Shibir activists held from Rajshahi College hostels

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Dec 3: Police in a pre-dawn raid arrested nine students from the eight hostels of Rajshahi Government College today.

The arrested are the activists of BNP-backed Chhatri Dal and Jatiya-backed Islam Chhatri Shibir, college sources said.

Students were mercilessly beaten up and misbehaved by police, sources alleged.

No case was filed against the arrested students, police said. More than 200 police personnel took part in the raid.

### 2 Jubo Dal leaders held at Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Dec 3: Police arrested two Jubo Dal leaders from the town's Hossainpur area in the early hours today in connection with their alleged involvement in hurling bombs on the residence of Sadar Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO).

The arrested, identified as Kadiul Islam Likhon and Shakil alias Tikka, are the executive committee members of sadar thana unit of Jubo Dal.

### Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation

Krishi Bhaban  
49-51, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000  
(Purchase Division)

### Notice

#### Subject: Extension of tender submission date

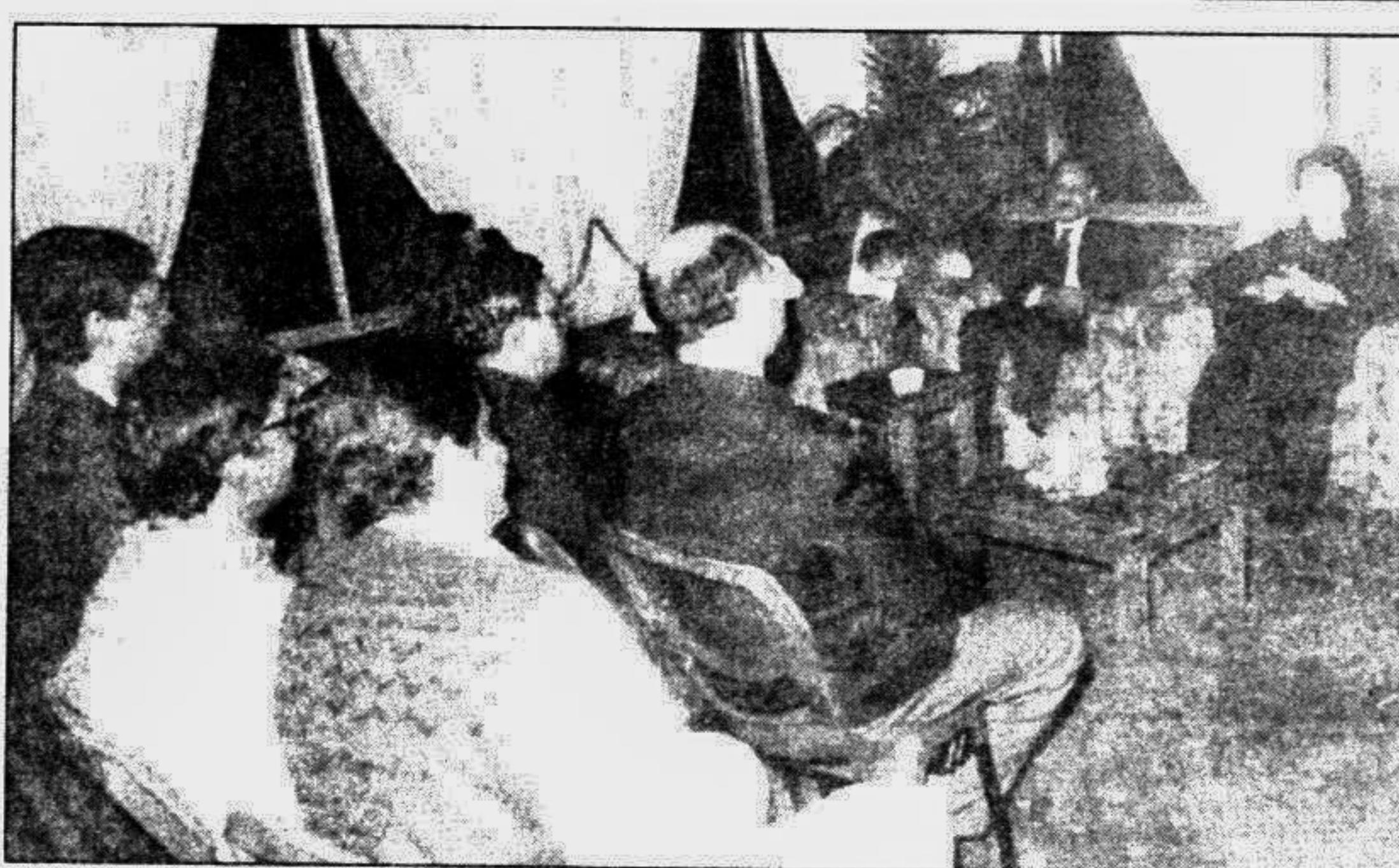
Tender submission date against BADC's Tender No. 1-Potato Seed (P) 151/99-2000 dated 24.10.99 is hereby extended from 30.11.99 to 14.12.99. All other terms and conditions of the tender notice shall remain unchanged.

ADC-999  
DFP-26730-29/4  
G-2060

Abdul Gafur Khan  
Manager (Purchase)  
BADC, Dhaka.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 8616772-4, Commercial: 8616771. Fax No: 88-02-8613035. GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: <http://www.dailystarnews.com> and Email address: [dstar@bangla.net](mailto:dstar@bangla.net)



Leader of the Opposition and BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia hosted a dinner for editors of national dailies at Hotel Sheraton yesterday to exchange views on the latest political situation after the summit of four opposition party chiefs on Tuesday. BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan is also seen.

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## Charges against Sharif may be delayed again

KARACHI, Dec 3: Prosecutors will again delay bringing charges against deposed Pakistani premier Nawaz Sharif after a last-minute change in the law, the chief prosecutor in the case told AFP today.

Sharif, his brother and five other senior officials accused in the case, were due to be formally charged before an anti-terror court tomorrow.

They have been in detention since Sharif was ousted in a military coup on October 12.

Pakistan's military rulers widened the powers of the anti-terror court to try cases of treason, hijacking, kidnapping and criminal conspiracies, as well as waging or attempting to wage war against Pakistan.

It also allows the court to hear cases of outraging religious feelings in this Islamic country.

PTI adds: Prosecutors in the treason and plane hijacking case are holding the black box of the PIA aircraft flying Army Chief General Pervez Muhammarr from Colombo to Karachi on October 12, as an ev-

idence against Nawaz Sharif and six co-accused, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The black box contains the recorded conversation between the pilot and the control tower when the aircraft with army chief and 200 passengers was not allowed to land at the Karachi airport, allegedly at the behest of Sharif. The Daily Pakistan Observer said quoting PIA sources.

The black box of flight PK-805 was removed by the military authorities immediately after it finally landed at Karachi airport. The Daily said.

The co-accused include Khagan Abbasi, former head of Pakistan International Airlines, Syed Ghous Ali Shah, formerly Sharif's chief advisor in Sindh province, and Rana Maqbool, former Sindh police chief.

Two other Sharif allies, Saeed Mehdhi, Sharif's principal secretary, and Saif-ur-Rehman, former chief of the Accountability Bureau, are also accused in the case.

## Trans-Asian Highway

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to take action against AC Humayun Kabir and the constables responsible for beating up the reporter.

The procession was brought out as the Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police failed to take action against the accused constables within the stipulated time.

Azhar Ali Sarker, a senior staff reporter of Banglabazar Patrika, was confined to a room of the DC South and roughed up by policemen for almost half an hour on Wednesday.

Findings of a CRAB inquiry committee on Thursday revealed involvement of constables in the incident.

Following the inquiry report, the CRAB leaders demanded immediate removal of AC Humayun Kabir and exemplary punishment to the constables.

Prior to bringing out the procession from Jatiya Press Club, the Association leaders formed a brief rally at the Jatiya Press Club. It was presided over by the association president Parvez Khan.

The rally was addressed among others by vice-president of CRAB Shamsul Salehin, general secretary Fakhrul Alam, organising secretary Shah Monwar Jahan, secretary general of DUJ Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan and its member Kazi Abdur Hannan, president of Bangladesh Photo Journalists' Association Mohammad Salahuddin and CRAB office bearers Abul Hossain, Mahmudur Rahman, Azad Hossain, Supor Roy, Arif Rahman and Saleh Shibli and Shaikh Nazrul Islam.

The local liaison committee of the BNP-led opposition alliance has called a dawn-to-dusk hartal at Charchhat thana headquarters on election day on December 8, and announced agitation programmes to resist the by-election.

Meanwhile, the returning officer has imposed a ban on movement of the outsiders in the Rajshahi-5 constituency from 6 am of December 6 to 6 am of December 9 to ensure free and fair election.

## Tk 3.68 lakh looted from a shop in Ctg

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 3: Armed miscreants looted Tk 3.68 lakh from a shop in steel mills area under Bandar thana at around 10 pm yesterday.

The miscreants numbering about five looted the money from the cash box at gun point.

Police arrested two persons for their alleged involvement in the looting from the same area at around 11:30 pm.

Rally attacked

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Charchhat thana in this connection.

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### Nasu Miah murder Rally demanding arrest of killers today

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Truck Owners Association, Truck Drivers' Union and Transport Agency Owners Association will hold a rally today at 3:00 pm at Muktagan demanding arrest and trial of the persons responsible for killing truck driver Nasu Miah and helper Zakir by hurling a petrol bomb on a truck during hartal on November 25.

Driver Nasu Miah burnt alive while his helper Zakir succumbed to his injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

A case was registered by police accusing former Mayor and BNP leader Mirza Abbas and 90 others for their alleged involvement in the incident.

A mourning procession will be brought out after the rally.

### BCL leader kidnapped at Gournadi

From Our Correspondent  
BARISAL, Dec 3: A BCL leader was kidnapped and two others were injured during a clash between two factions of the organisation at Kasba under Gournadi thana of the district last night.

The kidnapped BCL leader is Saiful Islam Rumi, 24, convenor of Gournadi Thana unit.

The two rival groups — one led by Rumi and the other by Bakhtria, joint convenor of the same unit, clashed over bidding of an LGED tender.

Police could not rescue Rumi till filing of this report at 7 pm today.

The injured Babul and Ripon of Rumi Group were admitted to Gournadi Thana Health Complex.

A tense situation is prevailing in the area.

### Bus strike in 6 southern dists

BARISAL, Dec 3: Bus service between six southern districts and rest of the country was disrupted as bus owners and workers began an indefinite strike today, reports UNB.

The injured Babul and Ripon of Rumi Group were admitted to Gournadi Thana Health Complex.

Students were mercilessly beaten up and misbehaved by police, sources alleged.

No case was filed against the arrested students, police said. More than 200 police personnel took part in the raid.

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From page 1

That's unfortunately precisely what the United States wants to do. That we cannot accept. That's economic imperialism.

On Thursday Clinton declared that 'ensuring the rights, the basic rights, of labour is central to our mission here in Seattle.'

He said the convention against abusive child labour practices, adopted by the International Labour Organization in a unanimous vote earlier this year and ratified last month by the US Senate, symbolised 'what we're seeking in the launch of a new round of trade talks.'

'We seek to widen the circle of opportunity, deepen our commitment to human rights and human freedom and put a human face on the global economy.'

He said the United States was establishing an unprecedented ban on government purchases of products 'made by forced or indentured child labour.'

'And we have beefed up enforcement to stop the importation of goods made by such labour,' he added.

Meanwhile, trade ministers narrowed their differences on farm policy but still had to resolve bitter fights over labour rights and a host of other issues today before launching a new round of talks to reduce global trade barriers.

Wrapping up four days of negotiations marred by violent street protests, the 135-nation World Trade Organization hoped to reach the finish line with a deal on the specific agenda for what should be covered by the new talks.

industry. We cannot agree to the inclusion of labour in the WTO.'

Late Thursday, the working group on agriculture completed its work with a one-page draft declaration. US Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said he believed negotiations in this area represented 'significant progress' for the administration, which is counting on big cuts in farm barriers to please American farmers and help sell a final deal in Congress.

The text calls for members to move 'in the direction of progressive elimination of export subsidies,' a statement aimed at reconciling the European Union, which has a large subsidy program, with countries led by the Cairns Group of agricultural nations, and the United States, which called for complete elimination of subsidies.

'Never underestimate the potential for a breakdown,' WTO spokesman Keith Rockwell told reporters yesterday. 'This could still fall apart. It is at a very delicate stage.'

President Bill Clinton has infuriated developing nations, who account for more than 100 of the 135 members of the WTO, by saying rules protecting workers should be included in future trade deals — and that sanctions should be imposed on violators.

Developing nations, whose economies have expanded thanks to cheap labour, say richer countries are only pressuring the issue to protect themselves from inexpensive imports.

Some Asian nations have hinted they won't agree to a new round of trade talks if it includes any mention of labour rights, which they believe should be handled separately from WTO rules governing global commerce.

'If Clinton pursues the labour issue, it may make us wonder what's the point?' said Asmat Kamaludin, secretary-general of Malaysia's ministry of international trade and in-

dustry. 'We cannot agree to the inclusion of labour in the WTO.'

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