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## Pakistan to publish vetted version of Hamoodur Rahman report

KARACHI, Oct 3: Pakistan's military ruler said yesterday he would publish a vetted version of a judicial report on the 1971 war that led to the liberation of Bangladesh, reports Reuters.

General Pervez Musharraf said in a speech that the report, kept under wraps until now and partly responsible for a recent straining of relations with Bangladesh, was being vetted by a committee under the interior minister.

"I will publish the whole report except the parts that deal with international relations," he told an award ceremony of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society, grouping the country's newspaper owners.

He said, portions that could

affect relations with important countries would not be published.

Pakistani authorities have in the past refused to publish the report, purported sections of which have appeared in the Indian and Pakistani media recently.

Musharraf said the report, compiled in the mid-1970s by former chief justice Hamoodur Rahman when Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was prime minister, had five parts and only the part dealing with the military had been leaked to the media.

He said former East Pakistan, which became an independent country after nine months of War of Liberation in 1971, had been a

political as well as a military debacle, and that calls for generals to be tried were therefore not fair.

"It was the most shameful thing. What happened in '71 was a disgrace to the nation. Should we remember such disgraces?" he asked.

More than 90,000 Pakistani military and paramilitary personnel who surrendered to the Bangladesh-India joint command after their defeat were released under a 1972 peace pact.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina demanded last month that Pakistan make a public apology for massacres by its troops and the rape of women in Bangladesh. She also called for

the trials of the war criminals responsible for war crimes.

Pakistan asked Bangladesh last week not to revive such memories, saying they could damage the prospects of better relations.

BSS adds: Bangladesh would like to see developments in Pakistan on the question of publication of Hamoodur Rahman Report, a top official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said today.

When asked to comment on the remarks of Pakistani Chief Executive about the report, Foreign Secretary CM Shafi Sami told the agency, "we are watching and see how things unfolds there," he said in his brief observation.

## JS body's stand a landmark decision

Scope created for justice at last, says Shafiullah

By Special Correspondent

The recommendation of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence Ministry on Monday for revocation of the court martial judgments in 1981 that convicted 37 army officers, of whom 13 were hanged, is being viewed as a landmark decision to establish human rights, civilian control over the Armed Forces and strengthen democratic institutions.

Talking to The Daily Star, several senior retired army officers and lawmakers welcomed the decision and hoped that a scope has been created for the families of many deceased officers and other officers who have served prison terms to get delayed justice. Many of the officers were punished wrongfully due to inadequate defence, they noted.

Some of them said that in the Field Courts Martial of 1981, whose judgements led to the hanging of 13 officers and conviction of sev-

eral others for the killing of President Ziaur Rahman, the accused were "given inadequate chance for defence."

**Who can revoke?**

Now questions are being asked as to who can revoke the decision? It is learnt that revocation of the court martial judgements related to Zia killing, as recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee, can only be done by the Chief of Army Staff. It can also be done if the government so desires. This was stated by several senior retired army officers and lawmakers.

When contacted, Chairman of the Committee KM Shafiullah said that in the present Army Act, Clause 132 provides scope for the Chief of Army Staff or the government to annul the proceedings of all courts martial for illegal and unjust trial.

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## Akhteruzzaman meets Speaker

Expelled BNP MP Akhteruzzaman yesterday met Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury at his Sangsad Chamber for discussing a petition seeking to strip him of his parliament membership.

The Speaker informed the lawmaker about a letter sent by Opposition Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain requesting him to take step for declaring the seat of the Major (ret) Akhter vacant. The petition was sent to the speaker on September 24.

The dissident BNP leader refused to make any comment without any communication in writing from the Speaker. Accordingly, Speaker Chowdhury faxed a letter to the beleaguered lawmaker along with the BNP petition, asking him to give his opinion over the issue by October 9.

The Speaker's letter was signed by Additional Secretary of the

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## Public Safety Act fails to curb crimes

Police reluctant to apply it against offenders

Star Report

The controversial Public Safety Act (PSA) has failed to make any positive impact in improving the law and order mainly because police are generally reluctant to apply it against offenders, sources in the home ministry and police said.

The PSA was enacted on February 15 to curb incidents of extortion, kidnapping, snatching, collection of ransom, damaging public property, obstructing traffic movement and damaging vehicles, manipulating tender and such other crimes.

It was enacted despite bitter criticism by opposition political parties and human rights organizations.

But the number of crimes increased despite enactment of the PSA, a high police official told the Daily Star yesterday.

Police find the PSA "too tough to deal with," the official said.

"To put an arrested person under the PSA, police have to be twice sure about his crime. So, police avoid applying it," he said.

"PSA also lacks the expected dynamism. With limited resources and logistics, investigation sometimes takes more time than is permitted under the PSA. So, police officials avoid using this law," he said preferring anonymity.

At a recent review meeting at the police headquarters, high officials expressed their deep concern at the deteriorating law and order, he noted.

When asked, Home Ministry Joint Secretary Yakub Ali, said there has been no political arrest under the PSA so far.

According to home ministry records, 1,148 cases were filed under the PSA in the country till September 15. Of these, 94 were disposed of, charge sheets were submitted in 596 and final reports were given in 124 cases.

Seventy-three people were sentenced to various prison terms and 21 were acquitted under the PSA.

In Dhaka Metropolitan Police zone, a total of 418 cases were filed under the Act.

The government plans to set up three more Special Tribunals in the city for disposal of cases under the PSA to reduce the pressure on the lone such court.

A finance ministry decision as regards allocations of funds for the proposed courts may be communicated to the law ministry this week, said an official in the law ministry.

The government earlier set up six tribunals in six divisional headquarters for trial of cases under the PSA. The district and session judges are presiding over those tribunals in addition to their normal duties.

Chittagong Metropolitan Police recorded some 39 cases, Khulna Metropolitan Police 39 and Rajshahi Metropolitan Police recorded 16 cases under the PSA.

A total of 581 cases were registered with the seven police ranges including the Railway Range.

## Trial for mutiny, not for killing Ziaur Rahman

By Special Correspondent

All those tried by the Field Court Martial in 1981 were tried for mutiny and not for the killing of President Ziaur Rahman.

The Field Court Martial tried 29 army men, of whom 13 were hanged. One of those hanged was tried by another Court Martial. All the 13 who went to the gallows were freedom fighters.

The main Field Court Martial was headed by Maj Gen Abdur Rahman, Commander of 9 Division at that time. The then President H M Ershad later made him the country's envoy to Paris, where he died reportedly in mysterious circumstances.

Chief government prosecutor Maj Gen Nazirul Aziz Chisti, who was then an influential PSO to the then Chief of Army Staff Ershad, is now 'brain dead' and is on a life-saving machine at the CMH in the city.

The military court comprised the then Lt Col Mofizur Rahman Chowdhury, Lt Col Mattur Rahman, Lt Col Harris and Lt. Col Moqbul Haider.

The three defending officers were the then Brig Anwar Hossain, Col Alauddin and Lt Col Syed Muhammad Ibrahim.

The 13 officers hanged were: Brig Mohsinuddin Ahmed, Col Abdur Rashid, Col Nawazesh, Lt Col Mahfuzur Rahman, Lt Col

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An image of Goddess Durga at Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University. The greatest religious festival of the Hindu community began yesterday.

—Star photo

## Durga Puja begins

The celebrations of the Sharadiya Durga Puja, the greatest religious festival of the Hindu community, began yesterday, reports BSS.

Central Puja Udjapan Parishad said about 130 puja mandaps, decorated with the images of Goddess Durga, were erected in the city.

The members of the Hindu community in Dhaka city for the first time since the independence of Bangladesh are celebrating the Durga Puja in the Ramna Kali Mandir and Ma Anandamoyee Ashram at Suhrawardy Udyan.

The 500-year old Ramna Kali Mandir was demolished by the Pakistani occupation forces during the War of Liberation on March 27 in 1971.

The leaders of 11 party alliance yesterday demanded immediate reconstruction of the Ramna Kali Mandir and Ma Anandamoyee Ashram that was destroyed by the Pakistani Military junta during the War of Liberation.

Congratulating the members of the Hindu community on the eve of Sharadiya Durga Puja, they also urged the government to repeal the Enemy (vested) Property Act to ensure the rights of the minority community.

They were exchanging views with the leaders of Puja Udjapan Parishad at the Gano Forum central office in the city.

Meanwhile, General Secretary

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## Inside Today

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Oct 4	4-45	5-43 pm
Oct 5	5-52 am	

**Prayer Timings**

October 4

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-50	6-55
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

## India cruise to comfortable win

NAIROBI, Oct 3 (Internet report): India proved too strong for the ICC Knockout tournament hosts as they cruised to an eight-wicket win at the Gymkhana Club ground heretoday.

Saurav Ganguly's side restricted Kenya to 208 for nine in their 50 overs and then knocked off the runs to set up a quarterfinal meeting with Australia on Saturday.

It was a big disappointment for home supporters, who saw President Daniel arap Moi officially open the competition, and hoped Kenya could repeat their 1998 win over India in a one-day international at Gwalior.

Ravindra Shah and Maurice Odumbe made half-centuries for Kenya, but the Indian batsmen were in dominant form with Ganguly and Rahul Dravid scoring fifties of their own as they reached 209 for two with 7.3 overs to spare.

Master batsman Sachin Tendulkar will be annoyed not to have capitalised on a friendly bowling attack - he was trapped lbw after scoring an effortless 25 from 35 balls at the top of the innings - but Ganguly and Dravid confirmed their liking of the 50-over game with classy innings.

Ganguly was eventually dismissed for 66, stumped off the part-time spin of Maurice Odumbe attempting to repeat his six over mid-on a few balls earlier. But Dravid went on to score an unbeaten 68 off 87 balls, and was given excellent support by the recalled Vinod

## Ratan Sen Murder Case revived

He was killed for leading movement against shrimp enclosures?

From Quazi Amanullah

KHULNA, Oct 3: Comrade Ratan Sen and Jatiya Party leader Abul Kashem murder cases have been officially revived.

The Police Commissioner today ordered re-investigation into the two sensational murder cases, both recorded with Khulna thana.

The order follows the confessional statement of alleged professional killer Tarik Hossain under Section 164 on Monday in the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Sabir Ahmed.

The case dockets have been called back for thorough study before submitting supplementary charge sheets, the Police Commissioner told this correspondent.

Ratan sen was stabbed to death on July 30, 1992 in front of Khulna Collectorate building.

Four accused persons, arrested in this connection, had made judicial confessions. But all of them were acquitted by the then Additional District and Sessions Judge as their guilt was not proved.

But Tarik Hossain said in his statement that Ratan Sen was killed for leading a movement against shrimp enclosures in rural areas. The killers and the godfathers could not be arrested. One of the killers, Qudus Muhuri, was killed by unidentified persons.

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## SAKS housing plot owners to agitate in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent


CHITTAGONG, Oct 3: The Sujan Abashik Kalyan Samity (SAKS), an association of 49 housing plot owners, has decided to go for agitations to get back possession of its lands at Lalkhan Bazar in the city.

The SAKS earlier alleged that the four-acre land valued at about Tk 12 crore was forcibly occupied by Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan's son Abdul Latif Tipu with the help of terrorists.

But Tipu denied saying that he occupied only the land he purchased from its owner.

Members of the SAKS have decided to stage a sit-in in front of Chittagong Press Club and meet the Prime Minister to seek her

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ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা।

## Hundreds of people await evacuation in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Oct 3: Hundreds of people on treetops or rooftops here today awaited evacuation as rescue workers battled against strong currents of the deluge that hit the western districts, to reach them, reports BSS.

Officials of this coastal district here said they were yet to learn about the state of several villages after the situation aggravated with fresh spells of water from rivers in upstream Indian regions.

Flood Information and Warning Centre officials said the Satkhira district, which borders India in the west and the Bay of Bengal in the south, has now become the focal point of the unusual floods.

A group of journalists who visited some of the worst affected areas of Kalaroa yesterday witnessed hundreds of people struggling to find a shelter with their children and belongings.

"I have seen how the strong current took away a minor child with the blink of an eye as she slipped off from her father's lap while the family was moving to shelter," said a local resident. He was himself looking for a safe place.

Officials said many people were feared missing after the fresh spell of floodwaters hit the district. The roof of a local concrete made mosque developed a crack creating panic among nearly 100 people who took refuge on its rooftop.

Our Correspondent from the district adds: the Boikery embankment here developed cracks at several points yesterday evening inundating vast areas.

Sadar upazila and Ghona areas were completely flooded.

The Bhomra land port is also under threat of being flooded, local people said.

About one lakh people are affected in Balkari, Kushkhari, Ghona, Bhomra and Alipur unions of Sadar upazila and 50,000 kutcha houses damaged or washed away by strong current.

Communication on Satkhira-Bhomra road remained suspended.

Meanwhile, the helicopter fleet of the Bangladesh Air Force joined the flood relief operation today.

A number of relief sorties from BAF Base Mattur Rahman at Jessore were flown out in the morning as well as in the afternoon today. The BAF helicopters ferried relief materials to Jhikorgachha, Benapole, Sharsha, Kalaroa, Satkhira and

JHENIDAH, Oct 3: Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia said here today that the present flood in this part of the country was the result of water treaty with India, reports BSS.

"The flooding was caused due to opening of sluice gate and cutting of the embankment resulting in the onrush of water," Khaleda Zia told a public meeting at Maheshpur Upazila ground.

The meeting presided over by

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