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## SCBA faces split over filing of contempt petition

**By Special Correspondent**

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) is facing a split over filing of the contempt petition against the Prime Minister by its president Barrister Mainul Hossain.

At a requisition meeting of the SCBA yesterday, one group condemned Mainul Hossain for filing the petition on behalf of the association without approval of general members. The other group said the petition was approved by the Executive Committee of the SCBA.

The requisition meeting was convened earlier by barrister Shawkat Ali Khan.

A press release issued by SCBA Secretary Shahidul Karim Siddique last night said that the requisition meeting held at its auditorium began with its president Barrister Mainul Hossain in the chair. Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan moved a resolution condemning barrister Mainul Hossain for filing the contempt petition on See page 11 col 4

## HC disposes of all three contempt petitions PM asked to be more cautious while making statements

**By Special Correspondent**

The High Court yesterday disposed of the three contempt petitions against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and cautioned her to be "more careful and respectful" in making any statement or comment with regard to the judiciary, judges or courts in future.

In the three petitions, the PM was accused of making contemptuous remarks against the judiciary in an interview with the BBC Bangla Service on July 26. She had allegedly said that criminals repeated crimes after obtaining bail and that lawyers and judges should be accountable for that. She repeated her remarks at a press conference later, the petitions said.

The petitions were disposed of considering the greater interest of the country and to protect the dignity of the highest post of the executive and maintain a harmonious coordination between the two organs of the state, a Division Bench of the HC said in its order in a packed court room.

The Bench comprised Justice Mohamamd Mozammel Huq and Justice Mohammad Abdur Rashid.

The contempt petitions were filed in August separately by Barrister Mainul Hossain, President of Supreme Court Bar Association, Barrister Rafiqul Huq on behalf of 339 lawyers and Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament on behalf of 110 opposition members of parliament.

Barrister Mainul Hossain moved his petition. The two others were moved by Barrister Rafiqul Huq and Barrister Maudud Ahmed.

Another petition seeking to quash the contempt petitions was filed by 568 pro-government lawyers. It was moved by Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan and Barrister Amirul Islam, Vice-chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council.

Attorney General Mahmudul Islam defended the state.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme See page 11 col 1

## Tale of two crime rings

Five Star, Seven Star in endless war over control of markets, dollar business and smuggling

**By Staff Correspondent**

Control over some city markets for extortion, dollar business in the kerb market and smuggling through Zia International Airport (ZIA) are the reasons behind the rivalry between Seven Star and Five Star, sources said.

Ever since Awami League returned to power in 1996, two dominant groups in the underworld have been engaged in a brutal battle for supremacy. Both groups have strong links with top political leaders at the decision-making level and enjoy their blessings.

Although wanted in connection with multiple crimes, all the members, however, enjoy unofficial immunity. The police maintain that unless there is a directive from the 'top', they will never arrest any member of the two groups.

Some sources say that top political leaders use these groups for personal and business interests. These gangs come handy to settle personal enmity and political rivalry amongst top leaders of the ruling party. Leaders of both Seven Star and Five Star have also played a significant role during Awami League's days in the opposition.

Shahabuddin Faraji and Kala Sentu of Five Star are vice-president and member respectively on the central committee of the ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League. Both Iqbal Hossain Apu and Mosharraf Hossain Raza are former vice-presidents of the BCL while Arwar Hossain is a Jubo League leader.

The group of five became very strong under active patronage of Liaquat, Hannan, Auranga and Murgji Milon, who was gunned down on the court premises on September 29. The group also See page 11 col 1

## DPRK may abandon missile launch

**Clinton likely to visit Nov 11**

**By Staff Correspondent**

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday summoned the parliament session on November 9.

The 20th session of the seventh parliament, which is likely to be a short one, will deal with some important business, sources said.

The session begins at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban at 11 am. The 19th session of the parliament was prorogued on September 14.

Dissident lawmaker Major (ret'd) Akhteruzzaman was expelled from BNP after he joined the session in defiance of party decision.

Like previous sessions, the See page 11 col 2

**Breaking the ice...** North Korean leader Kim Jong Il (L) toasts US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright at a dinner in Pyongyang yesterday. The Albright visit is part of co-ordinated strategy initiated by Washington and its allies South Korea and Japan to end the socialist state's isolation and remove the threat of war in one of the world's most volatile regions. —AFP photo

Pyongyang, Oct 24: North Korean leader Kim Jong Il hinted during landmark talks here with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright that his Stalinist country would abandon ballistic missile launches, Albright said today, reports AFP.

"During the October 23rd mass performance, an image of a Taepodong missile appeared and he (Kim Jong Il) immediately turned to me and quipped that this was the first satellite launch and would be the last," Albright said following a second round of talks with the reclusive "Great Leader."

Albright, speaking to reporters following six hours of discussions with Kim over two days, referred to a enormous extravaganza in Pyongyang's May Day stadium in which 100,000 performers professed their loyalty to North Korea's communist party. See page 11 col 4

## JS session summoned on Nov 9

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## 23 Jamaat-Shibir men jailed under PSA in Chittagong

**From Staff Correspondent**

CHITTAGONG, Oct 24: A special tribunal under Public Safety Act sentenced 23 activists of Jamaat-Shibir to five years rigorous imprisonment each here today, court sources said.

The tribunal also fined them Tk 50,000 each, in default to suffer six months more RI.

A N M Bashir Ullah, Judge of the tribunal gave the verdict against a case filed under PSA with Satkania thana on March 18 this year.

The tribunal, however, acquitted 53 others of the charges, court sources added.

The case was started with Satkania thana on charge of an armed attacking on a truck carrying police personnel at Satkania in the evening of March 17 this year. Some policemen were injured in the attack and the truck was set ablaze.

Police said about 300 Jamaat-Shibir activists went on the rampage at Satkania protesting arrest of their leader Shahjahan Chowdhury in connection with a murder case. They also put up barricade on the road and damaged vehicles. See page 11 col 3

**Inside Today**

**Article**

**The Cairo Summit: Is It End of the Road?**

By Dr M Zakir Hossain  
Page 4

**Supplement**

One page supplement on 'Computer Fair' on Page 9

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Oct 25		5.25 pm
Oct 26	6.01 am	

**Prayer Timings**

**October 25**

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-35	5-40
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Both BNP, AL denied permission for rally

**By Staff Correspondent**

The National Sports Council (NSC) has declined to allow both BNP and Awami League to hold public meeting at Paltan Maidan on November 7 and November 3, respectively.

The ruling party was scheduled to hold a public meeting at Paltan Maidan on the occasion of Jail Killing Day while the main opposition party planned to hold a 'grand' meeting at the same venue in observance of the National Revolution and Solidarity Day.

The NSC in separate letters to the AL and BNP yesterday expressed its inability to allot the Paltan Maidan for their use.

It said Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) had informed that the international telecommunication companies will start installing TV equipment for Bangladesh-India cricket Test at the Bangabandhu National Stadium (BNS) from November 10 to 14.

Sources said the BCB requested the NSC not to allot the ground to any organisation for public meeting from November 1 to 14, saying that the international TV transmission and production companies would bring their valuable equipment at the beginning of November.

It further said for smooth installation of expensive equipment in and outside the BNS, and for ensuring security to those See page 11 col 4

## A dozen more on PBCP hit-list

**From Staff Correspondent**

KHULNA, Oct 24: Police have recovered documents from two members of outlawed PBCP where 12 more political leaders have been named on the 'hit-list.'

Direct involvement of the outlawed party cadres in 40 murders including those of SMA Rob and Kalidas Baral of Awami League, Journalists Shamsur Rahman of Jessore, Mir Elias Hossain Dilip of Jhenidah, AL leader Hasan Tarafdar of Daulatpur (Khulna) and UP chairmen Abul Kashem of Phultala, Gulam Faruque of Nalhaty UP and Abul Hossain Howlader of Srifaltala UP under Rupsha upazila was also stated in the documents.

Police quoting documents said some top leaders of the outlawed PBCP including Rashid and See page 11 col 3

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