

News

Housemaid hospitalised after torture by employers

By Staff Correspondent

A 10-year old housemaid received critical injuries after she was beaten up by her employer and his wife at a house in city's Laxmi Bazaar under Shyampur thana.

The victim Khadija Begum has been admitted to bed no. 16 of ward no 33 of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with beating and burn injuries all over her body. She had not received any treatment till writing of this report last evening.

Sources said that Khadija's aunt Rasheda Begum brought her to the house of Waheed at Laxmi Bazaar to work as a domestic help about four months ago.

Her employer Waheed and his wife Shafida began to torture her after she refused to give a false statement against a sub-let resident of the house. The couple had suspected that the man had stolen something from the house four days ago and wanted Khadija to say that she was a witness of the incident.

They beat her up at different times over the past few days and also pressed a hot iron rod on many parts of her body.

Khadija managed to flee the house yesterday morning and went to Shyampur police for help. The police sent her to DMCH. They also filed a case in this connection.

None has been arrested in this connection yet.

Smuggled Indian timbers seized in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, Nov 3: Forest officials seized a truck along with smuggled Indian timbers from Shambhujan in the town early today (Friday), reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, the officials intercepted the truck and seized 200 cubic feet of teak and sal timbers worth about Tk 2 lakh. The driver was also arrested.

The timbers were being smuggled into the district through Hulughat border.

A case was filed in this regard.

UNB correspondent from Bagerhat says: Police seized some 91 cases of foreign-made liquor worth about Tk 3 lakh from a garden in Goalamath area in Mymensingh upazila Thursday night.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the area and recovered 91 cases of liquor, each of them containing 12 bottles.

A case was filed with the police in this regard.

1 killed, 4 hurt in road mishap in Khulna

Khulna, Nov 3: A man was killed and four others were injured in a collision between a microbus and a truck on Khulna-Satkhira highway Thursday night, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Shahidul, 22, helper of the driver.

Police said the accident occurred in between Gutulia and Jhlerdanga in Dumuria upazila at 11 pm leaving Shahidul dead on the spot.

Injured Shah Alam, Fatik, Mofiz and Sohrab were admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital.

A case was filed with Dumuria police.

Troops disperse anti-Israel protest in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India, Nov 3: Indian troops today used tear gas to break up a protest rally by thousands of Kashmiri Muslims here who condemned Israel for committing 'atrocities' against Palestinians, reports AFP.

Slogans shouting Kashmiri Muslims also accused India's Hindu nationalist-led federal government of turning a blind eye to Israel's aggression.

Police said they had to resort to firing teargas and using batons to force back the surging crowds gathered at Srinagar's main Jama Masjid mosque.

According to eyewitnesses, Indian security forces ringed the mosque and stopped the protesters from taking their demonstration into the streets.

The Muslim protesters carried black banners and placards saying 'Down with Israel, down with India' and 'Israelis, don't murder Muslims.'

Musharraf to visit Kazakhstan

ASTANA, Nov 3: Pakistan's military ruler General Pervez Musharraf is to visit Kazakhstan Monday with talks expected to focus on economic cooperation and the threat to regional stability from Afghanistan, reports AFP.

The stress will be on economic cooperation and trade relations. The regional and international situation and security questions will also be discussed," said Amangeldy Tazhenov, chief foreign ministry spokesman.

Musharraf's first visit to Kazakhstan comes after a summer of Islamic extremist attacks on the Central Asian region by rebels allegedly trained in Afghanistan.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offering *munajat* after placing wreaths at the *mazars* of four national leaders who were killed during the Dhaka Central Jail massacre in 1975 at the Banani graveyard in the city yesterday. Members of the Cabinet were also present on the occasion.

Senior Maoist leaders set free in Nepal

KATHMANDU, Nov 3: The Nepalese government today freed two Maoist leaders after more than 18 months in detention, who promptly appealed to the rebels to lay down their arms and end a four-year insurgency, reports AFP.

Analysts have said that the move could split the underground Nepal Communist Party-Maoist (NCP-M) and weaken its 'people's war' which has taken hundreds of lives.

The Maoist party could split after (Dinesh) Sharma said he would be staying away from violence. The move could also weaken the people's war," political analyst Hari C. Shrestha said.

The secretary general of the NCP-M, Puspa Kamal Dahal, had demanded the release of Sharma and others by Friday afternoon as a pre-condition for talks with the government on resolving the insurgency.

The Maoists have been waging a people's war since February 1996 against the constitutional monarchy and multiparty democratic system which has claimed more than 1,454 lives.

Sharma told a press conference in Kathmandu, soon after his release along with party colleague Dina Nath Gautam, that he was renouncing the armed struggle and disassociating himself from the party.

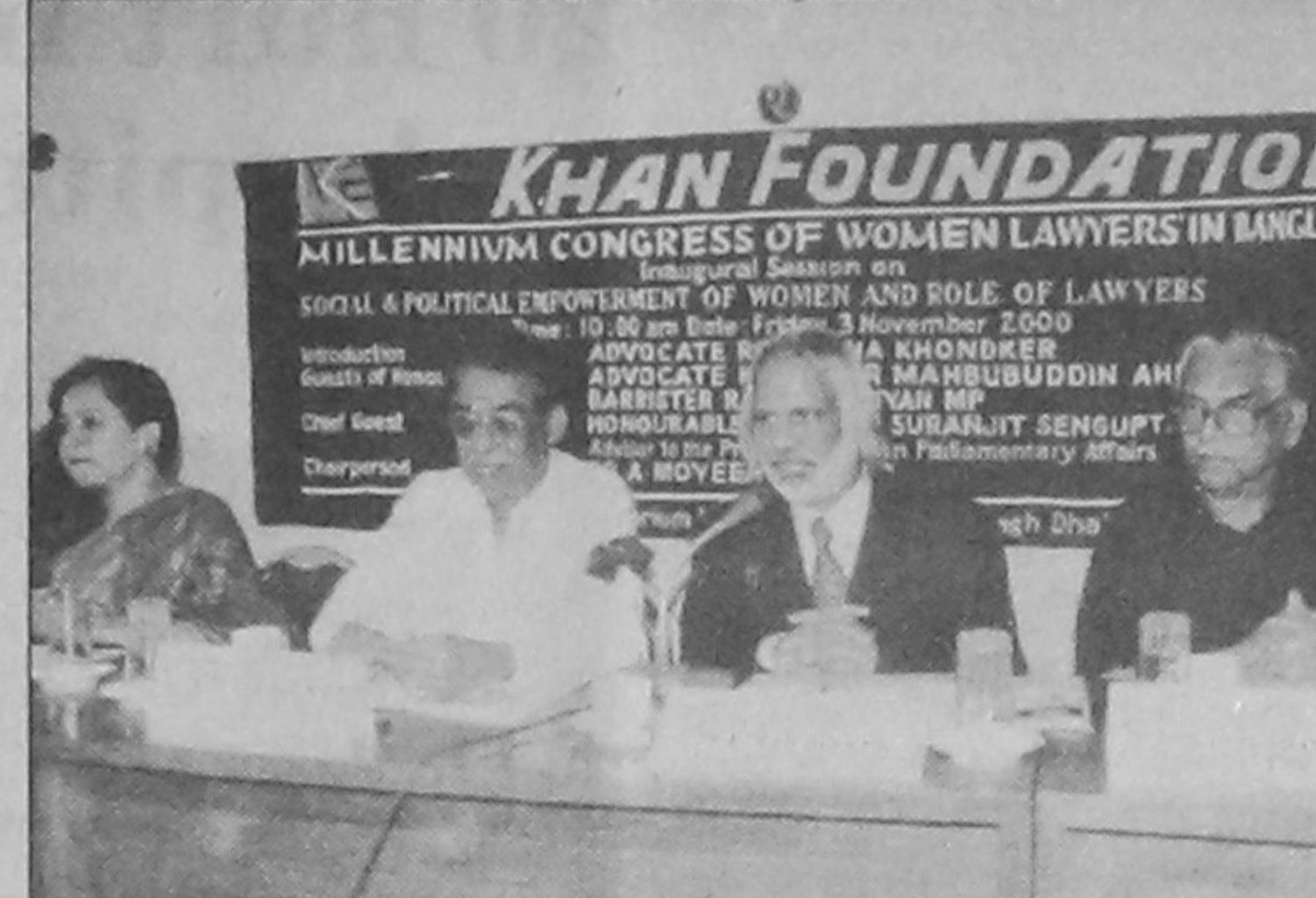
The theme of the session was "Role of Lawyers in Social and Political Empowerment of Women."

The theme of the second session was "Law and Children". Dr Sumaiya Khayer of Dhaka University placed the keynote on the topic while advocate Jinal Ara Ferdousi Rozi, advocate Morjina Khatun, advocate Arifa Jesmin and advocate Kaniz Fatema took part in the discussion.

They emphasised on proper application of Child

Call for more financial facilities to empower women

By Staff Correspondent



Dr A Moyeen Khan, MP, addressing the inaugural session of the Millennium Congress of Women Lawyers in Bangladesh, organised by Khan Foundation, in the city yesterday.

Act to stop repression on children

Speakers in the final session "Law and Broadcasting Media", called for a coordination between the journalists and the lawyers so that laws can be applied properly.

Member of Law Commission Justice Naimuddin Ahmed attended the session as chief guest while Managing Director of UNB Enayatullah Khan, Managing Director of Eksushey TV Farhad Mahmud, Editor of Daily Star Mahfuz Apam, Editor of Manab Zamin Motul Rahaman Chowdhury and Chief Editor of Financial Express Riaz Uddin Ahmed took part in the discussion as special guests. Dr Abdul Moin Khan, MP chaired the function.

The theme of the session was "Role of Lawyers in Social and Political Empowerment of Women."

The theme of the second session was "Law and Children". Dr Sumaiya Khayer of Dhaka University placed the keynote on the topic while advocate Jinal Ara Ferdousi Rozi, advocate Morjina Khatun, advocate Arifa Jesmin and advocate Kaniz Fatema took part in the discussion.

Director of BELA advocate Syeda Rezwan Hasan placed a keynote paper at the session chaired by Dr Abdul Moin Khan, MP.

Colombo may agree to truce to facilitate talks with Tigers

COLOMBO, Nov 3: Sri Lanka may agree to a cease-fire to facilitate talks with Tamil Tiger rebels, but will not withdraw its 40,000 troops from the north as the guerrillas demanded, a senior government official and the military said today, reports AP.

"Ceession of hostilities will be fine with us, but we do not want our troops to move back and vacate the areas," defense ministry spokesman Sanath Karunaratne said.

Sharma, a senior leader as well as central committee member of NCP-M, was a pro-left trade union chairman before he joined the Maoist camp.

I, along with other party colleagues have been struggling to attain the goals of Marxism, Leninism and Maoism for the last five years.

Curfew imposed in Manipur after 10 killed in shootout

GUWAHATI, India, Nov 3: Federal troops were out on the streets today in India's northeastern state of Manipur to enforce a curfew after 10 civilians were killed in a shootout between security forces and separatists.

The curfew was imposed in and around the state capital Imphal.

The situation is under control, Manipur police chief D.S. Grewal told AFP by telephone.

"Army and police are conducting intensive search operations in the area," Grewal said.

At least 10 people were killed and 13 others critically wounded Thursday when tribal separatist guerrillas of the outlawed People's Liberation Army (PLA) fought a pitched battle with soldiers of the Assam Rifles.

Witnesses said the majority of victims were civilians killed by the Assam Rifles.

The soldiers went berserk and started firing on villagers waiting near a market close to the site of the blast," said one eyewitness.

It was not immediately known if the rebels suffered any casualties.

A portion of a truck carrying the soldiers was damaged in the blast," the police chief added.

It was not immediately known if the rebels suffered any casualties.

The Assam Rifles soldiers were seriously injured by bullets, while at least eight civilians were also injured.

The soldiers went berserk and started firing on villagers waiting near a market close to the site of the blast," said one eyewitness.

It was not immediately known if the rebels suffered any casualties.

The Assam Rifles soldiers were seriously injured by bullets, while at least eight civilians were also injured.

The soldiers went berserk and started firing on villagers waiting near a market close to the site of the blast," said one eyewitness.

It was not immediately known if the rebels suffered any casualties.

The Assam Rifles soldiers were seriously injured by bullets, while at least eight civilians were also injured.

The soldiers went berserk and started firing on villagers waiting near a market close to the site of the blast," said one eyewitness.

It was not immediately known if the rebels suffered any casualties.

The Assam Rifles soldiers were seriously injured by bullets, while at least eight civilians were also injured.

The soldiers went berserk and started firing on villagers waiting near a market close to the site of the blast," said one eyewitness.

It was not immediately known if the rebels suffered any casualties.

The Assam Rifles soldiers were seriously injured by bullets, while at least eight civilians were also injured.

The soldiers went berserk and started firing on villagers waiting near a market close to the site of the blast," said one eyewitness.

It was not immediately known if the rebels suffered any casualties.

The Assam Rifles soldiers were seriously injured by bullets, while at least eight civilians were also injured.

The soldiers went berserk and started firing on villagers waiting near a market close to the site of the blast," said one eyewitness.

It was not immediately known if the rebels suffered any casualties.

The Assam Rifles soldiers were seriously injured by bullets, while at least eight civilians were also injured.

The soldiers went berserk and started firing on villagers waiting near a market close to the site of the blast," said one eyewitness.

It was not immediately known if the rebels suffered any casualties.

The Assam Rifles soldiers were seriously injured by bullets, while at least eight civilians were also injured.

The soldiers went berserk and started firing on villagers waiting near a market close to the site of the blast," said one eyewitness.

It was not immediately known if the rebels suffered any casualties.

The Assam Rifles soldiers were seriously injured by bullets, while at least eight civilians were also injured.

The soldiers went berserk and started firing on villagers waiting near a market close to the site of the blast," said one eyewitness.

It was not immediately known if the rebels suffered any casualties.

The Assam Rifles soldiers were seriously injured by bullets, while at least eight civilians were also injured.

The soldiers went berserk and started firing on villagers waiting near a market close to the site of the blast," said one eyewitness.

It was not immediately known if the rebels suffered any casualties.

The Assam Rifles soldiers were seriously injured by bullets, while at least eight civilians were also injured.

The soldiers went berserk and started firing on villagers waiting near a market close to the site of the blast," said one eyewitness.

It was not immediately known if the rebels suffered any casualties.

The Assam Rifles soldiers were seriously injured by bullets, while at least eight civilians were also injured.

The soldiers went berserk and started firing on villagers waiting near a market close to the site of the blast," said one eyewitness.

It was not immediately known if the rebels suffered any casualties.

The Assam Rifles soldiers were seriously injured by bullets, while at least eight civilians were also injured.

The soldiers went berserk and started firing on villagers waiting near a market close to the site of the blast," said one eyewitness.

It was not immediately known if the rebels suffered any casualties.

The Assam Rifles soldiers were seriously injured by bullets, while at least eight civilians were also injured.

The soldiers went berserk and started firing on villagers waiting near a market close to the site of the blast," said one eyewitness.

It was not immediately known if the rebels suffered any casualties.

The Assam Rifles soldiers were seriously injured by bullets, while at least eight civilians were also injured.

The soldiers went berserk and started firing on villagers waiting near a market close to the site of the blast," said one eyewitness.

It was not immediately known if the rebels suffered any casualties.

The Assam Rifles soldiers were seriously injured by bullets, while at least eight civilians were also injured.

The soldiers went berserk and started firing on villagers waiting near a market close to the site of the blast," said one eyewitness.

It was not immediately known if the rebels suffered any casualties.

The Assam Rifles soldiers were seriously injured by bullets, while at least eight civilians were also injured.

The soldiers went berserk and started firing on villagers waiting near a market close to the site of the blast," said one eyewitness.

It was not immediately known if the rebels suffered any casualties.

The Assam Rifles soldiers were seriously injured by bullets, while at least eight civilians were also injured.

The soldiers went berserk and started firing on villagers waiting near a market close to the site of the blast," said one eyewitness.

It was not immediately known if the rebels suffered any casualties.

The Assam Rifles soldiers were seriously injured by bullets, while at least eight civilians were also injured.

The soldiers went berserk and started firing on villagers waiting near a market close to the site of the blast," said one eyewitness.

It was not immediately known if the rebels suffered any casualties.

The Assam Rifles soldiers were seriously injured by bullets, while at least eight civilians were also injured.

The soldiers went berserk