

## 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 Laxmibazar 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 Laxmibazar to work as a domestic help about four months ago.

Her employer Waheed and his wife Shaheda 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 some things 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 Shambhuganj 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 Haliuaghat border.

A case was filed in this regard. UNB correspondent from Bagerhat says: Police seized some 91 cages of foreign-made liquor worth about Tk 3 lakh from a garden in Goalamath area in Mongla upazila Thursday night.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the area and recovered 91 cages 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 microbus.

Police said the accident occurred in between Gutudia and Jhileddanga 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.

Slogan-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 Amangetdy Tazhiyev, 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 inside the Dhaka Central Jail in 1975 at the Banani graveyard in the city yesterday. Members of the Cabinet were also present on the occasion. -PID photo

## 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, Purna 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.

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.'

## 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 guerillas demanded, a senior government official and the military said today, reports AP.

'Secession 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.

Norwegian envoy Eric Solheim, trying to end the country's 17-year old civil war, was waiting to meet President Chandrika Kumaratunga Friday to tell her that Vellupillai Prabhakaran, the top rebel leader, was ready for talks. However, Prabhakaran had demanded preconditions, including an end to military operations in the war zone and a troop withdrawal.

Solheim met with Prabhakaran in the northern jungles Wednesday. He is the first known peace envoy to meet the rebel leader since 1987, when neighboring India attempted to broker peace.

The meeting between Solheim and Kumaratunga was delayed because the president called an urgent Cabinet meeting.

'I can only confirm that the meeting will take place sometime in the late afternoon,' said S Mahanama, a spokesman for the president.

Prabhakaran, 46, wants to set in a homeland for the country's 3.2 million minority Tamils, who are mostly Hindu, to separate them from the majority Sinhalese, who are predominantly Buddhist.

The war has left more than 63,000 people dead, 1 million displaced within the country, and 400,000 as refugees in India.

Prabhakaran said he was willing to hold talks to end the bloodshed in this small island nation off India's southern coast, according to a statement on the rebels' Web site. However, he demanded the government troops stop fighting and leave the region, 'the withdrawal of the economic embargo and the creation of conditions of normalcy in the Tamil homeland,' the Web site said.

'Over the years we have learnt to be cautious when we deal with the LTTE,' military spokesman Karunaratne said about the demand that troops leave Jaffna Peninsula, the traditional homeland of the Tamils.



Arribs International School held its annual sports and cultural function on Thursday. Winners of different events seen in the picture.

## Call for more financial facilities to empower women

By Staff Correspondent

Minimising the loopholes in existing laws will help to ensure that women don't face problems in getting justice in various women repression cases like rape and dowry.

Speakers at the 'Millennium Congress of Women Lawyers in Bangladesh' in the city yesterday said the above and also called for more financial facilities to empower women in the society and stop repression on them.

Over one hundred women lawyers from across the country, lawmakers, university teachers, renowned lawyers, representatives from various agencies, NGO and media, ambassadors, high commissioners and a good number of citizens who play direct and indirect role in law reforms and application attended the three-day congress organised by Khan Foundation.

The inaugural session of the congress began at 10am with the welcome address by the executive director of Khan Foundation advocate Rokhsana Khandaker.

Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs adviser Suranjit Sengupta attended the session as chief guest while Barrister Rabia Bhuiyan, MP, and Khandakar Mahbub Uddin Ahmed participated 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 Jinat 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



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. -Star photo

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 Enayeturrahman Khan, Managing Director of Ekushey TV Farhad Mahmud, Editor of Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, Editor of Daily Manab Zamin Motiur Rahman Chowdhury and Chief Editor of Financial Express Riaz Uddin Ahmed took part in the discussion as special guests.

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

## 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 casualties 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.

More than 20 militant groups are active in Manipur, where

10,000 people have died in insurgency-related violence in the past 10 years.

Militants of the outlawed People's Liberation Army (PLA), who are fighting for an independent tribal homeland, set off an explosion when a three-vehicle convoy of paramilitary Assam Rifles passed through a village bordering the state capital Imphal.

'After the explosion, the PLA rebels fired at the Assam Rifles convoy from atop a hillock and the troops retaliated,' Manipur police chief D. S. Grewal told AFP on the telephone from Imphal.

'In the ensuing gun battle that followed at least 10 civilians, including a woman, were killed in the crossfire.'

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

'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.

## Congress leader among 6 killed in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, Nov 3: A senior member of the Congress Party in Kashmir was killed today along with five other people in a landmine blast triggered by suspected Muslim militants, a police spokesman said, reports AFP.

Aga Syed Mahdi was travelling with five Congress party workers when their car was blown apart by the landmine in Magam district, 25 km north of the Kashmir summer capital Srinagar.

Mahdi was the son of the top spiritual leader of Kashmir's Shiite community, which makes up 10 percent of the state's majority Muslim population.

Observers said his death could spark a feud with the dominant Sunni Muslim community.

No militant group has claimed responsibility for the attack, the spokesman said.

Another prominent Kashmiri Shiite leader, Maulvi Ifthikar

## Political attacks resurface in West Bengal

### 10 Trinamool Congress supporters kidnapped

CALCUTTA, Nov 3: A regional party allied to India's ruling coalition alleged today that 10 of its supporters had been kidnapped by ruling Marxists in West Bengal after widespread violence, reports AFP.

The Trinamool Congress party (TMC), which claims that more than 200 of its members have died in violence spearheaded by West Bengal's Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) government this year, said the latest attack took place on Thursday.

The kidnapping occurred in Contal town in coastal West Bengal's troubled Midnapore district, one of the regions worst affected

by the political violence.

District Police Superintendent Gaurav Dutta said additional forces had been sent to the spot to prevent further attacks.

'But no one could be rescued as yet,' he said.

Contal municipality chairman Sisir Adhikari on Friday said the kidnappings were preceded by widespread violence.

'Over 250 houses of TMC supporters have been torched and nearly 5,000 people deserted their homes in fear of violence,' Adhikari said, adding the trouble started when activists from the two rival parties fought a pitched battle near the town.

TMC leader Mamata Banerjee,

who doubles up as Indian Railways Minister, has repeatedly asked Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee to impose direct federal rule in the eastern province alleging a total collapse of law and order.

West Bengal chief minister Jyoti Basu, who has led the world's longest-running elected communist government in West Bengal for 23 years, has denied unleashing terror on his political rivals.

The octogenarian Basu, who will step down as chief minister next week, accuses Banerjee of cooking up false allegations to undermine his government.

## West Bank clashes

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addition to the two Israeli civilians who died in Thursday's bombing events that normally prompt a swift and powerful Israeli military response.

'It's true that the gunfire continues and it's true that there are still clashes,' Danny Yatom, Barak's top adviser, said on Israel radio. 'At the same time, I believe, from what I know, that the Palestinians are trying to calm the situation.'

Both sides said events today and Saturday would provide evidence on whether the cease-fire agreement was being implemented.

Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat were expected to make simultaneous announcements Thursday afternoon formally declaring the truce.

But the announcements were postponed, the car bomb exploded shortly afterward, and neither leader has publicly declared the cease-fire.

Arafat today told CNN that there never was a deal for the two leaders to make televised announcements, the network reported. He said the Palestinians met their commitments by issuing a statement Thursday that called for Palestinians to 'stick to peaceful means' when demonstrating.

## Wreaths laid at 4 nat'l leaders' room at central jail

Leaders of Char Neta Parishad (four leaders' council) yesterday visited the room inside the Dhaka Central Jail where the four national leaders were brutally murdered on November 3, 1975, reports BSS.

The parishad leaders who visited the room and laid wreaths there included former vice chancellor of Rajshahi University Mazharul Islam, Secretary of Bar Council Advocate Syed Ahmed, Science and Technology Secretary of Awami League Monem Sarker and Advocate Sahara Khatun.

They also recalled the supreme sacrifices of the four valiant freedom fighters of the country.

On arrival at the jail gate, the DIG (prison) and senior officials welcomed the parishad members and took them to different parts of the prison.

State Minister for Civil Aviation Syed Ashrafur Islam, son of late vice president Syed Nazrul Islam, burst into tears as he stood before the room in the old house of the jail.

The four national leaders were Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, Captain (ret'd) Mansoor Ali and A.H.M. Qamruzzaman.

## Chandrika appoints 35 jr ministers

COLOMBO, Nov 3: Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga today appointed 35 junior ministers in addition to the 44-member Cabinet already appointed, reports AFP.

Kumaratunga swore in 35 junior Ministers at a ceremony at her well-guarded official 'Temple Trees' residence in Colombo.

Contrary to expectations the president did not appoint junior ministers for the defence and finance portfolios, held at ministerial level by herself. It had been anticipated she would name junior ministers for the day-to-day management of the ministries.

Local media had speculated she would reappoint her controversial uncle, Power and Energy Minister Anurudha Ratwatte to also become deputy minister for defence, a portfolio which was held by him in the previous administration.

## China warns US over arms sales to Taiwan

BEIJING, Nov 3: Chinese military leaders today lectured the United States' most senior general over US arms sales to Taiwan, which they said were harming Sino-US ties and raising tensions in the Taiwan Strait, reports AFP.

Defence Minister Chi Haotian told General Henry Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, that Washington must end all arms sales immediately, said the official Xinhua news agency.

## Boral Muder Case

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and dacoities, said a source in the interrogation cell.

He also made an attempt on the life of Shahadat Hossain Bacchu, Secretary of Bagerhat Press Club a four months ago, the sources added.

Additional Police Super Shahidul Alam Chowdhury who is heading the four-member team today said Quddus is one of masterminds behind the conspiracy to kill Advocate Kalidas Boral, a leader of Awami League and former Chairman of Chitalmari Upazilla Parishad.

When asked, OC Shahidul Islam of Bagerhat sadar thana said all the killers were at the residence of Kala Quddus in Bagerhat town on the night before the AL leader was killed.

The hired killers were briefed both by Quddus and Chitalmari

## Govt to lose

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the WB reimbursed about 12 per cent of the total expenditure of the ministry at the end of fiscal '98-'99.

The 'reimbursement money' that year totalled about Tk 163 crore and it stood at about Tk 136 crore in '99-'2000. The amount for the first half this fiscal year was estimated at more than Tk 82 crore.

'But the money will not be paid as three of the four WB preconditions were not met before the 'deadline' expired on September 30,' a senior official said.

He also said the government 'ignored repeated reminders' in this regard.

## PARC

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the public, acknowledge this and reply to those within seven days.

Payment of travel tax along with air ticket has relieved people of many hassles but opening of the cubicle at the Secretariat has not proved so effective due to red tapism, sources pointed out.

Four other recommendations have been accepted in principle by the Cabinet but those are yet to be implemented.

These are accountability and standard service of government organisations, one stop payment of utility bills, introduction of slogans like administration for service to people, displaying their services and charges so that people could know those without hassles, system of annual report on ministries and divisions to assess the functioning of the government.

## US-North Korea

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its missile program and allow other countries to launch its satellites in exchange for promises of US help for its devastated economy.

'The talks were detailed, constructive and very substantive. They covered the full range of missile issues under consideration by the two countries, including North Korea's missile-related exports and its indigenous missile programme,' Einhorn's statement said.

'The US delegation will now report to authorities in Washington who will consider next steps,' it said.

## Remains of 44 plane crash victims found in Angola

LUANDA, Nov 3: Forty-four bodies have been counted in the wreckage of an Antonov-26 that crashed this week in northeastern Angola, civil aviation authorities said today, reports AFP.

The bodies were in bad condition and experts could not determine the nationalities of all the passengers, the director of civil aviation, Branco Ferreira, told reporters.

The plane's owner Ancargo and the Gulcango agency that chartered it were to release on Friday a complete list of passengers and crew, he said.

Angolan radio had reported that at least 50 people had been aboard the plane.

Only one victim, Firmino Novais of Angola, has so far been identified physically by relatives who came to the site of the crash.

On Thursday, military experts had identified 20 Angolans aboard the plane through personal documents recovered in the debris, and state television gave their names.

## Road accidents

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Khodeza Begum, 45, Rony, 12, Alaudin, 30, Kamal, 25, helper of the bus.

Of the injured, Amer Ali, Horitosh, Kashem and Babu were admitted to Jessore General Hospital in critical condition while others to different private clinics.

In Munshiganj, two people were killed and 15 others injured when a bus hit a truck at Daribausa in Gazaria upazila on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in the early hours of yesterday, according to UNB.

Police said the Dhaka-bound bus hit the truck parked on the roadside at about 2 pm, killing two unidentified people on the spot.

Five of the injured were admitted to Gazaria Health Complex and later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as their condition deteriorated.

Police seized the bus, which was severely damaged in the accident.

## Opposition

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She blamed the top Opposition leaders for their 'anti-liberation roles' during the War of Liberation and alleged that they all had tried in the past to politically rehabilitate the killers of 1975.

She also noted that both Khaleda Zia and Ershad were charged in corruption cases. 'No corrupt person will go unpunished in the country,' she told the meeting.

She listed her government's development activities and plans and said Bangladesh will become a prosperous nation on the world map by 2020.

Ministers and senior party leaders also spoke at the meeting. They included AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Food Minister Amir Hossain Amu, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Advisor Suranjit Sengupta and Home Minister Mohammad Nasim.

## DU suspends

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An emergency meeting of DU authorities chaired by Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury took the decision following a written complaint by Khairul, a DU press release said.

The meeting took the action as the incident 'hampered the congenial atmosphere as well as image of the university'.

The suspended students are Sheikh Shafiq Mahmud Puspaha, final year student of Law, Anwar Hossain Babla, final year student of Public Administration, Atiqul Alam Jewel, second year student of Bangla, Monirul Islam Moni, second year student of Accounting, Rashedul Basher Dollar and Shafiq of Moshin Hall.

The six were also served with a show cause notice asking them to reply within seven days why they would not be expelled from the university, the press release said.

The meeting also asked law enforcers agencies to take action against them if they are seen on the campus.

Dollar and Jewel were also declared 'undesirable persons' by their respective hall authorities earlier.

The meeting also formed a four-member committee with Pro-VC Prof. Md. Shahadat Ali as convenor to probe the incident.