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See Editorial on page 4

Gen Mustafiz's tenure likely to be extended

By M Anwarul Haq

The government is seriously considering extension of tenure for Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Mustafizur Rahman, Bir Pratik, according to well-placed sources.

The extension of service by one year will make the incumbent army chief's tenure in office four years, which has been the usual length in most cases.

Mustafiz was appointed Chief of Army Staff in December 1997 for a three-year term, which expires on December 23.

A freedom fighter on the Engineering Corps of Bangladesh Army, Mustafiz, 59, who hails from Rangpur, happens to be an uncle of the prime minister.

See page 11 col 4

JS Session Four bills likely to be placed

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad may consider four new and ten pending bills during its 20th session beginning Thursday. The upcoming session may continue till November 23, official sources said.

The Business Advisory Committee of the parliament is expected to finalise other businesses and the duration of the session at a meeting on the day the session commences. The meeting is due to be held in the morning of November 9 with Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury in the chair, parliament secretariat sources said.

See page 11 col 1

UP chairman gunned down in Kushtia

Police exchange fire with
miscreants, kill 4

From IU Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Nov 5: A Union Parishad Chairman was gunned down by miscreants and four others were killed in an exchange of fire between police and the gang at Jhaodia in Islamic University (IU) thana this afternoon.

The chairman was identified as Khalber Ali Biswas, 45, of Jhaodia Union Parishad. Identity of the four others could not be known immediately.

The gang stormed into the UP chairman's office and shot him dead at about 1 pm.

On hearing the news, police rushed to the spot and chased them. At one stage, the miscreants opened fire on police, who returned the fire. Four persons were killed in the shootout.

A gang member with bullet wounds was arrested.

Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent of Police visited the spot. The duty officer at IU police station confirmed the incident but failed to give details.

Police recovered a sawn-off rifle and a shutter gun from the possession of the miscreants.

Spl police drive to harass the innocent?

By Shaikh Nazrul Islam

Police failed to arrest any of the 'listed notorious criminals' since the launching of a special drive in the country on October 22, sources concerned said.

None of the accused in any of the sensational murder cases could be arrested.

But there are allegations that they picked up innocent people and released them after taking money.

A son of a joint news editor of a national daily was picked up along with his four friends while they were returning from a computer school at Dhanmondi in the city. He was released following request. The others were released on payment of Tk 1500 each.

Kotwali police arrested one Abdul Hannan from Nowabpur Road and released him after taking money, sources claimed.

Abdul Barek, a resident of Sutrapur was arrested without any allegation. When his relatives

went to the police station, they found 60 people there. Most of them were released after payment of money.

When contacted yesterday, a high official of police said innocent people might have been arrested but they were released after their identities were ascertained.

'We release immediately if the arrested person is found innocent', he said.

The country has been divided into 11 sectors to conduct the special drive to arrest listed criminals and recover illegal arms.

Railway Police and Armed Police Battalion (APBN) are assisting police in the drive, likely to continue for a month, the sources said.

The BDR has also been asked to launch a drive within five kilometres

See page 11 col 6



Drying out

The dry season is still a few days off but ferry movement at Daulatdia already faces impediment due to emerging shoals. Dredging is on to enhance navigability of the ferry route.

-- Star photo by AKM Mohsin

Over 1,000 plc's face compulsory listing

SEC seeks revival of Securities and
Exchange Ordinance, 1969

By M Shamsur Rahman

Over 1000 public limited companies will face compulsory listing with the stock exchanges if an initiative by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to revive certain provisions of the Securities and Exchange Ordinance, 1969, succeeds.

The SEC is also contemplating withdrawal of an exemption which will make it binding to have prior consent from it to float a company in the country.

At a board meeting on Thursday, SEC discussed the issue and agreed in principle to revive the provisions,' SEC Chairman Maniruddin Ahmad said.

Before taking a final decision in this regard, SEC will have discussions with the stock exchanges, business leaders and listed companies. The discussion with stock exchanges will be held on Wednesday.

The relevant provision of the 1969 Ordinance says that without consent of the SEC, no company will be allowed to 'make an issue of capital in Bangladesh or be allowed to make public offer for securities sale'.

Till now, an exemption was granted as regards this provision of the Ordinance following a number

SEC notifications 'on grounds of further liberalising restrictions on issue of capital,' a high official of SEC pointed out.

He said that only the companies going for Initial Public Offering (IPO) were bound by the law to have permission from the SEC.

A notification in late 80s by the then Controller of Capital Issue (CCI), now SEC, directed all the public limited companies having more than Tk one crore paid-up capital to be listed with stock exchange.

Regarding the provision of compulsory listing, another SEC official said although it was binding on the companies to get listed, it was not being done.

'We also did not pursue the matter seriously but now we plan to do so.'

The official admitted that they are not sure about the number of companies which will face compulsory listing. However, a preliminary assessment by SEC suggests that there are over 2500 public limited companies in the country and around 240 of those are listed with the stock exchanges.

'So we think that about 1200 to 1500 companies

See page 11 col 3

Bushra murder

CID still gropes in dark for killers' identity

Star Report

Even after four months' investigation, police failed to reveal identities of the three hired killers who strangled college student Rushdania Bushra Phool at her West Hajipara house in the city on the night of July 1.

Bushra was a first year student of Marketing Department at City College.

Sources said CID ascertained that Bushra's uncle Abdul Kader, a local leader of the ruling party, masterminded the killing to grab the house which he shared with her family. Kader's wife Runu Kader, two brothers-in-law Ruhul and Kabir, sister-in-law Hena and maid Sufia abetted the killing, the sources said.

Kader is Relief and Social Welfare Secretary of the city unit of Awami League.

Meanwhile, parents of Bushra alleged that an influential quarter was trying to divert the case.

Sources also hinted that CID is likely to submit charge sheet in the case this month, accusing the six persons who were accused in the supplementary case filed by Bushra's mother Laila Islam with CID.

Of the six, Abdul Kader, Ruhul, Hena and Sufia are detained at Dhaka Central Jail. Runu Kader and Kabir could not be arrested due to lack of 'sufficient evidence', the sources said.

'But we are certain that those two were also involved as abettors in the killing', said CID ASP Shafiquddin Hawladar, the

Investigating Officer (IO) of the case. CID so far recorded statements

See page 11 col 7

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AL plans district tours to woo electorate

By Reaz Ahmad

Central leadership of ruling Awami League sits tonight to work out an elaborate tour programme in the districts, apparently to woo voters well ahead of the next year's general elections, party sources said.

The meeting of Awami League Central Working Committee (ALWC) is taking place less than two weeks after the previous one was held at Ganobhavan, the official residence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Hasina, who is also the president of Awami League, would chair the 65-strong ALWC meeting at 6:30 tonight.

Some central AL leaders told the Daily Star yesterday that senior party leaders would embark on for a series of tours to all 70 organisational districts of Awami League across the country once the ALWC fixes the schedules.

See page 11 col 3

BNP preparations on for mass procession

By Staff Correspondent

BNP has started preparation to bring out a 'mass procession' in the city on November 7 to observe the National Revolution and Solidarity Day.

Party sources said central and city unit leaders are busy meeting leaders and activists at ward and thana units to ensure a huge gathering at Muktangan on Tuesday afternoon.

Although the procession that will start from Muktangan is to be organised by the Four-Party Alliance, the BNP is not depending on its allies, for its previous experiences were not pleasant. It is doing everything to make all programmes on the day, mainly the mass procession, a complete success.

BNP Secretary-General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will lead the mass

See page 11 col 4

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Nov 6		5.17 pm
Nov 7	6.08 am	

Prayer Timings		
November 6		
	Azan	Jamaat

Fajr	5-00	5-35
Zohr	12-45	1-20
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-25	5-30
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Inside Today Article

Moscow and
New Delhi:
Rediscovering
Each Other

Column: Perspectives
by Brig (Rtd) M Abdul
Hafiz
Page 4

authentic Italian food festival

dinner
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