

Ashik's arrest

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 sive. I talked to a police official. He suggested that I should talk to some one linked with the Prime Minister as there was not much they could do," said the father of a victim.
 Wahidul and Wasim used to introduce the Chief Whip's son to frighten the new 'victims' who were, in most cases, young boys from affluent families, sources said.
 The gang members, about half a dozen, mostly moved around English medium schools and coaching centers, targeting 'O-Level' students. They would force the boys to hand over wrist watches or mobile phones "just for a few days" and never returned those. When the victims wanted the items back, the gang would start arguments. Within days, the "innocent boys" would be asked to pay certain amounts of money or "face serious conse-

Justice Shafiuddin resigns

Justice Kazi Shafiuddin, a judge of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court resigned from his office yesterday, court sources said, reports BSS.
 Justice Shafiuddin did not elaborate reasons other than mentioning "personal and other grounds" for his resignation, the sources added.

Sumon's father

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 Sharif and Munna Kasha, the two others arrested four days ago in connection with the double murder were taken to the court after three days in police remand. Munna Kasha confessed to the police that he had slaughtered the two boys Mohsin and Saem.

Sharif and Munna Kasha were once again taken on fresh remand.
 There was a rumour last night that police had also arrested Sumon, the main accused in the double murder inside Sutrappur Rifle Club on September 15. However, DB officials when contacted, could not confirm the arrest but said "several police teams are now out looking for Sumon and his accomplices and raiding different places to arrest them. We hope there will be some positive developments by midnight tonight."

Police arrested Sultan Ahmed Wednesday night. His son Rabid Hasan Sumon is still at large. Nasibunnisa, mother of Sumon, is the president of city Mahila Awami League.

Two teenage boys Mohsin and Saem were picked up and brought to the Rifle Club where they were murdered and their bodies cut into pieces by Sumon and his accomplices. The mutilated bodies were later recovered from a manhole in Loharpool area.

Prior to the murder of Mohsin and Saem, Sultan Ahmed was requested by Mohsin's mother to mediate and secure the release of the two victims. But Sultan Ahmed refused to help.

Shamsi murder

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 after his abduction on October 16.
 Later on October 25, the case was handed over to the DB. Detectives arrested three young men from the old part of the city the following day on charge of murder.

During interrogation of the accused, detectives came to know that Ammar was murdered and his body dumped behind at National Park at Gazipur on October 16.
 The four Ziara Rahman Zia, the main accused in the case; Salauddin, Mostafa Almas Bapji and Alamgir, were sent to the Dhaka Central Jail after recording their confessional statement with the CMM's Court, Dhaka.

ICC confce
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 He also laid emphasis on the role of the global companies, saying, "With good corporate citizenship, globalisation can come to benefit all people. But without it we may see the backlash against globalisation grow even stronger."

Over 220 participants from 23 countries of Asia and Europe have already confirmed their participation in the ICC Asia Conference.
 A number of internationally famed personalities including the next World Trade Organisation (WTO) chief Dr Supachal Panitchpakdi, ICC, Paris Secretary General Maria Livanos Cattaui, ESCAP Executive Secretary Kim Hak-Su and Asian Development Bank Chief Tadao Chino will attend the two-day conference.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the conference at 9.30 a.m. It will then have six sessions on the following day on oil and gas, IT, commercial dispute settlement, trade liberalisation, Asian recovery and multi-modal transport.

This is the first time that regional businessmen, policymakers and economists are putting heads together to chart a futuristic outlook for the region in the context of globalisation," said Mahbubur Rahman, President of ICC-Bangladesh, explaining the reasons for holding the conference.

by Inman Ahmed of Awami League and Abdul Mukid Khan of Jatiya Party. High officials of the ministry were also present.
 In early October, Unocal triggered controversy over the compensation issue by saying that it had paid a sum of Tk 332.32 crore to different authorities following the Magurchara blowout.

Later when Petrobangla sought its explanation, the US company explained that out of the Tk 332.32 crore, about Tk 40 crore was paid to railway authorities, tea estates and local people. Tk 158 crore was spent on remedial measures for the blowout and Tk 134 crore was projected as "sacrifice" of profit in case of future gas production from Moulavibazar-2 gas field and the rest was paid to various third party contractors.
 However, Unocal admitted that the "compensation" actually meant business loss.
 Following this explanation, Petrobangla had issued a warning letter saying that it cannot use 'projected' costs as 'paid' cost.

Effective ESCAP

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 more sharpened and practical approach based on the experiences of different countries and regions to wipe out poverty from the region.
 He mentioned the effort of Grameen Bank and said he was keen to see one of its programmes during his five-day visit to Bangladesh.
 He said the principal cross-sectoral challenges facing the Asia-Pacific nations in this century are policy reforms and its effective implementation, promotion of growth for poverty alleviation while safeguarding natural assets and countering negative impacts of globalisation.

Liquor kills 5 in Nilphamari
NILPHAMARI, Nov 9: Five people reportedly died and four others fell sick after taking poisonous rectified spirit in Sadr upazila here Wednesday, reports UNB.
 One of the dead was identified as Abul Hossain. The identity of four others could not be known.
 Hospital sources said Abul Hossain, 35, and a number of people took poisonous liquor from a homeopathic medicine shop at Ramnagarhat on Tuesday night.
 As they fell sick, five were rushed to Sadr hospital where Hossain died on Wednesday night.

The four others, Mohammad Ali, Waruddin Ibrahim, Saidul Islam and Khairat Hossain claimed that four more unknown people who took poisonous liquor with them died instantly.
 Relatives of the victims concealed the bodies to avoid police harassment, they said.
 The shop owner Lohit went into hiding after the incident.

Jamaat calls
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 16 days from 6 am on November 10 to 12 noon on November 26.
 The commissioner in a release issued to the press said that the order was issued to protect the people's property and maintain law and order in those areas.
 The areas to come under restriction included parade ground near Chittagong college, Mohsin college, Oilkhan mosque, Chawkbazar College Road, Siraj Uddaulah road and the surroundings of Chittagong City Corporation, the release said.
 The order came against the backdrop of apprehension of clashes centring the 5 day-long tafsir mahfil from November 13 at parade ground and holding of different programmes at the same venue by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Chittagong city unit, protesting the incident of eight murders, the release added.
 Such a measure was taken to avert any confrontation over holding programmes by both the rival parties at the same venue, police sources said.
 However, the supporters of BCL this afternoon brought out a sticks procession protesting the holding of tafsir mahfil by Delwar Hossain Saidi.
 Jamaat-backed Islami Samaj Kalyan Parishad has reacted sharply to the ban and called a 96-hour hartal in greater Chittagong from 6 am on November 13.
 The four-party opposition alliance at a meeting this evening extended support to the hartal call.

Recount
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 The recount was triggered by state law because Bush led Gore by less than one-half of 1 per cent. State officials expected to finish by the end of the day Thursday.
 The world was watching Florida because its 25 electoral votes will decide the winner of the presidential cliffhanger.
 Allegations of voting improprieties surfaced late Tuesday and throughout Wednesday, ranging from missing and confusing ballots to problems with tabulations and voter intimidation.
 "If there are concerns, let the process work," said Gov Jeb Bush, the younger brother of the Republican nominee. "But don't exaggerate things."
 Throughout the state, Democrats and some voters complained of irregularities in the election.
 In Palm Beach and Osceola counties, Democratic Party lawyers and voters said ballots were confusing because of their configuration. Officials in Palm Beach announced 19,120 ballots in the presidential race were tossed out before they were counted because more than one candidate was picked. Only 3,783 voters made that mistake on the US Senate portion of the ballot.

Unocal sticks to 'ghost'
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 "Responsible people were not performing their duties as required in the gas field that caused the devastating blowout at the Magurchara gas field on June 14, 1995," the member was quoted as saying.
 In 1995, the government formed a seven-member probe committee headed by Additional Secretary Mahfuzul Islam to investigate into the incident.
 The parliamentary committee expressed dissatisfaction over the ministry and Petrobangla, saying after three years of the incident, the government officials could not find the cause and get compensation, rather the responsible company was rewarded.
 "It is not the responsibility of the politicians to find the guilty people. There are officials responsible for the matter. And they should be asked for it," a member of the subcommittee told The Daily Star.
 Presided over by convener of the subcommittee, Captain Tajul Islam, the meeting was attended



The teachers of the 18 women's colleges broke their fast-into-death programme yesterday. Picture shows Food Minister Amir Hossain Amu helping a teacher drink water to break her fast. -Star photo

Winter JS session on

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 criticised Opposition leader Khaleda Zia for not condoling the death of a liberal leader such as Yusuf who expressed his condolence at the death of Zia.
 Referring to Yusuf's active role in parliament, the prime minister said the late AL leader submitted a bill seeking separation of the judiciary from the executive in the fifth parliament. But, she regretted the BNP government did not support the bill.

Quake shakes Chittagong
CHITTAGONG, Nov 9: A mild earthquake shook the greater Chittagong district today, reports UNB.
 The epicenter of the quake, which lasted 16 seconds, was 135 km off the seaport. There were no reports of casualties.
 "Intensity of the tremor was not recorded," said a source at the Seismographic Observation Centre at Ambagan here.

Hartal observed at Kotchandpur
From Our Correspondent
JHENIDAH, Nov 9: A half-day hartal called by the investors of Kotchandpur Syndicate Bank was observed at Kotchandpur Upazila headquarters today.
 The investors enforced the hartal demanding release of Kazi and his agents.
 All business establishments remained closed during the hartal while some vehicles plied on Chaudanga-Jhenidah route under police escort.

However, there was no report of any untoward incident during the hartal.

The odyssey begins
Test:
 Dignitaries from across the world including the president of the Mervlebone Cricket Club (MCC) Lord Alexander are already in the city to be a part of the special occasion. Being the first overseas team, MCC, the oldest cricket club in the world, toured Bangladesh in January 1977 to have a necessary assessment before recommending Bangladesh's case for becoming an Associate Member of the International Cricket Council.
 A full house is guaranteed on the first day of the five-day match, which in all probability will commence under glorious sunshine. The curator of the fabulous pitch Nazmul Abedin Fahim confirmed it would be a batting paradise. It seems anyone eyeing to topple Brain Lara's world record of 375 should give it a go on this ideal strip.
 Bangladesh Television and satellite channel SET Max will provide live coverage of the proceedings from the big bowl.
 Although no sane human being would expect Bangladesh to pull off an upset in their very first match in an altogether different ball game, their never-say-die supporters would be hoping against hope that their team will make a positive start against their much-vaunted next-door neighbours.
 They definitely lack the experience to bowl the visitors out twice without incurring a good degree of damage. An Indian victory is on the cards, although one has to keep their fingers

crossed to know the margin.
SCORES:
 BANGLADESH: Naimur Rahman (captain), Shahrar Hossain, Mehrab Hossain, Habibul Bashar, Al-Shahriar, Aminul Islam, Akram Khan, Mohamed Masood (wicket-keeper), Mohammad Rafique, Hasibul Hossain and Bikash Ranjan Das, 12th man: Rajin Saleh.
 INDIA: Sourav Ganguly (captain), Sachin Tendulkar, Sadagopan Ramesh, Shiv Sundar Dashi, Rahul Dravid, Syed Saba Karim (wicket-keeper), Javagal Srinath, Zaheer Khan, Sunil Joshi, Murali Kartik and Ajit Agarkar. 12th man: VVS Lakshman Umpire: David Shepherd (England) and Steve Bucknor (West Indies).
 Match Referee: Raman Subba Row (England)
 Third Umpire: Mahbubur Rahman (Bangladesh)
 Fourth Umpire: S B Chowdhury

Businessman robbed
By Staff Correspondent
 Muggers took away Tk 8 lakh from a businessman at Road number 3 in Dhamond Residential area in the city on Wednesday night.
 A gang of four riding two motor bikes stopped the car of Rabul Islam and asked him to give his briefcase at gunpoint. The incident took place when Rabul arrived in front of his Engineers Technology Services Ltd at house 44 at about 10:30 pm.

Import duty on onion reduced
The government has reduced import duty on certain essentials like onion, date and gram on the occasion of coming Ramadan, reports UNB.
 Import duty on onion has been reduced to 5 per cent from 25 per cent and on date 15 per cent from 25 per cent.
 Besides, 2.5 per cent import permit fee imposed by the Commerce Ministry has been waived in case of onion, date, dry date and gram (Chhola), said an official announcement yesterday.

ICC profile
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Dr S Panitchpakdi
 September 2005.
 Dr. Supachal Panitchpakdi was born in 1946 in Bangkok. He holds a Masters Degree in Econometrics and Development Planning and a Ph.D in Economic Planning and Development from Erasmus University, Rotterdam. He was awarded an Honorary Degree (Ph.D) in Economic Development from the National Institute of Development Administration in 1995.
 Dr. Supachal has held a range of positions in former governments, including the position of Deputy Finance Minister of Thailand (1986-1988) and Deputy Prime Minister (1992-1995). In this capacity, he was directly in charge of Thailand's participation in the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations including its subsequent ratification and implementation.
 Since 1997, Dr. Supachal has served as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Commerce of Thailand and has been actively involved in international trade, playing an instrumental role in the drafting of Thailand's major economic policies, including the national economic and social development plans. Dr. Supachal has also acquired professional experience in the private sector, holding the position of President of the Thai Military Bank (1988-1992) and Chairman of Nava Finance and Securities.

Tadao Chino
Govt notes:
 In a career spanning more than three decades in Japan's Ministry of Finance, Mr. Chino, who is an expert in international finance, has represented the Ministry in a number of international monetary conferences as Vice Finance Minister for International Affairs.
 Mr. Chino was deeply involved in the creation of ADB as the officer of the Bangkok-based United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and Far East (ECAFE) in charge of planning and preparing for the establishment of a regional development bank. ECAFE was instructed to assemble a Group of Experts to begin the task of translating the idea of creating an Asian Development Bank into reality. After spending nearly half a year in Bangkok in 1964, Mr. Chino submitted to ECAFE papers that were used as a basis for discussion at the meetings of the Group of Experts. The papers showed that an Asian Development Bank was both "necessary and feasible." The ADB's first draft Charter was also submitted to the group for discussion. The Group completed a report on 30 October, 1964 that paved the way for the foundation of ADB in 1966.
 Mr Chino said, "My enthusiasm for working in the ADB stems partly from the fact that I was one of those who took part in the creation of the Bank."

Kim Hak-Su
 ment, Mr Kim was the Ambassador for International Economic Affairs of the Republic of Korea. He has vast experience in central banking, development planning, government think-tanks and private sector management, as well as international organisations.
 Mr Kim began his professional career in 1960 as a central bank economist, served as Secretary to the Minister of Commerce and Industry in 1969 and worked for the London Representative Office of the Bank of Korea (1971-1973). He joined Daewoo Corporation in 1977 as Executive Director and served ACWOO International Corporation in New York as President.
 From 1981 to 1989, Mr Kim worked as Chief Planning Officer and Chief Technical Adviser under the United Nations Department for Technical Cooperation and Development, in the Pacific island countries, including Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands. He joined the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy as a Senior Research Fellow, researching and publishing on issues regarding international economic cooperation from 1989 to 1993.
 He served as President of the Hanil Banking Institute before taking up the post of Secretary-General of the Colombo Plan, based in Colombo, Sri Lanka (1995-1999). He served as Ambassador at large for International Economic Affairs since June 1999.
 Mr Kim was born in the rural area of Wonju, Republic of Korea, on 27 February 1938 and studied as an undergraduate at Yonsei University. He holds a Master's degree from Edinburgh University, United Kingdom, and a PhD in Economics from the University of South Carolina, United States.
 Mr Kim is married with three children.

Maria L Cattaui
 vote of the ICC's World Council held at ICC Headquarters in Paris, says a press release.
 Mrs Cattaui was with the World Economic Forum in Geneva from 1977 to 1996. During that period she was instrumental in increasing membership from 80 companies to more than 1,000 major world firms in over 60 countries. She rapidly became a member of the Executive Board, was appointed Executive Director in 1990 and Managing Director in 1991. Her role was crucial in the development of the Foundation as a unique partnership of Public and Business Leaders.
 The new ICC Secretary General was involved in numerous other activities. She initiated the first China Symposium in Beijing in 1980, from 1989 onwards she arranged events to assist integration of Central and Eastern European countries in the market economy system, including a major meeting in Moscow in 1991. Mrs. Cattaui also led large-scale business missions to the Baltic countries and to Central Asia.
 She represented World Business in the First WTO Ministerial Conference held in Singapore from December 9-13, 1996.
 Mrs Cattaui, a Swiss, is an Honours Graduate of Harvard University. During her early career, she was engaged in writing and research, then editorial supervision and planning with Encyclopedia Britannica, Chicago. After a spell with Time-Life Books, New York, she was a freelance editor and writer of books, speeches and articles.

Roller-coaster ride for media
 US television reports.
 Then, later that evening it was given to Bush, securing him the presidency. But as revellers celebrated the news, Florida election officials declared the race too close to call, necessitating a recount of the state's votes that is expected to continue into Thursday and once again making the election outcome a mystery.
 By that time, however, it was too late for many newspapers to stop the press. Such unprecedented minute-by-minute changes in poll results left the US media in havoc.
 The finish line is finally in sight, but Vice President Gore and Governor Bush remain ensnared in one of the closest presidential races in a century.
 With both candidates struggling for a lead, the race has been at one point as tight as Bush-242 and Gore-242. However, Florida remains the crucial deciding

JCD: Bomb attack
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 Sadek Hossain Khoka received minor injury.
 However, JCD activists regrouped within a few minutes and brought out a colourful procession that paraded different city streets.
 Sadek Hossain Khoka, Amanullah Aman, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anan and Sagor Ahmed led the procession.
 The JCD has officially blamed the "terrorists" of the ruling party for the incident, but insiders said the faction led by former secretary of now-defunct central committee of JCD Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu is responsible for the attack, as there is serious internal squabbling in the organisation.
 Riot police deployed around the BNP office preferred to remain mere bystanders when the crackers were exploded. Some unruly JCD activists partially damaged a

state in this race. With its mixed constituencies of retired people, Hispanics and conservative southerners, Florida is a juicy prize for both candidates.
 In sheer desperation, The Houston Chronicle election analysts Tuesday night said that by 10:00 pm on any election night, the victor is certain, however this year it is almost as if you can flip a coin to choose a president.
 Meanwhile the South Asian community in Houston, Texas has kept their fingers crossed for the democrats this year.
 Dr Selina Ahmed, Associate Professor of Texas Southern University, is very enthusiastic about the election. Living in America since 1970, she said that, being a minority and a coming from a Third World country, she is a democrat because it addresses grassroots issues.
 However after the successful eight years of Bill Clinton it is

hard for her to accept Al Gore or anybody.
 "No body can replace Bill Clinton intellectually or politically, he has done so much locally and globally. Both the candidates are mediocre this year, however one of the human rights privilege is to be able to vote and I have exercised that right, voting for the Democratic party because it addresses the issues I fight for."
 Dewan A. Ahmed, treasurer of the South Asian American Political Action Committee (SAAPAC), a political organ of the SAARC countries in Houston, said that they support those who uphold their agenda.
 "SAAPAC is mostly democrat, because usually democrats supports our call like immigration policy, equal rights, minority contracts, plus they support our countries, they think about us," he added.

staff bus near the BNP office at that time.
 JCD sources said the group that carried out the bomb attack to foil the rally also fired several gunshots in front of the BNP central office on Wednesday evening.
 Talking to the Daily Star yesterday, a number of JCD leaders alleged that Pintu group has become violent after the BNP policymakers foiled a move of the hardliners to form JCD's central committee with Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and Shahabuddin Laitu as its president and general secretary.
 However, the city BNP President said the hired goons of the Awami League government attacked the peaceful gathering to destroy the spirit of the "National Revolution and Solidarity Day." He denied the allegation that JCD's internal conflict was responsible for bomb attack.

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