

Woman assaulted by neighbours, dies at Uttara

By Staff Correspondent

A 55-year-old woman, who was assaulted by her neighbours about two weeks ago, succumbed to her injuries at her Uttara residence under city's Uttara thana in the early hours of yesterday.

Police sent the body of Jamila Khatun, wife of Babar Ali to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue yesterday noon for autopsy.

According to police and hospital sources, Jamila was critically injured when Abul Kashem, his wife and some others assaulted her over installing tube-well at Madhyapara on the 30th of last month.

Jamila was admitted to a local clinic and her son Insan Ali filed a case with Uttara police on November 4 accusing Khorsheed and some others.

Jamila was released from the clinic a few days ago but she succumbed to her injuries at 3 am yesterday. There were several marks of injury in different parts of Jamila's body, hospital sources added.

Economic emancipation a far cry for S Africans

By Special Correspondent

Economic emancipation of South African people still remains far away although they have earned political freedom, breaking the shackles of apartheid.

But the legacy of the hated era that separated the races, giving 87 per cent land ownership to whites, continue to dog land reforms.

This was stated by a visiting delegation of NGO's and officials from South Africa who shared their experience with Bangladesh NGOs and officials working for poverty elimination and establishing rights of the landless.

A discussion on 'Experience Sharing on Afro-Asian Land Struggle' was arranged in this connection at the office of Nijera Kori, a local NGO.

Fundile Mfungosi, a freedom fighter who now works with an NGO and Ms Samantha Hargreaves, an official of National Land Committee of South Africa narrated their struggle against apartheid and for giving land to the landless.

But land reform is still a difficult task, they said. Out of 43 million people in South Africa, 76 per cent are Africans, eight per cent mixed, two per cent are of South Asian origin and the rest are whites. But the whites still retain 87 per cent of the lands under

an apartheid-driven policy of 1913, which forced migration of Africans.

Now the government is trying to carry out reforms under a policy of land restitution, a market-based distribution in which lands are bought back by the state and ensuring tenant security.

But formidable problems still remain. The bureaucracy, farmers, the white dominated business and IMF and World Bank policies continue to remain a stumbling block in carrying out reforms, they observed.

The discussion was presided over by Khushi Kabir, chairperson of both Nijera Kori and ADAB. Among others, economists Dr Abul Barkat and Hossain Zillur Rahman and Dr Shamsul Huda of ADAB participated in it.

Khushi Kabir narrated the experience in land reforms and the struggle of the landless to acquire government owned land in Bangladesh.

The delegation which arrived in Bangladesh on Tuesday visited some projects for land distribution to the landless in some districts and also some slums in the city.



A 10-member delegation of Lions Clubs, led by President of International Lions Club Dr Jean Behar and Chairperson of Bangladesh Lions Club International Sultana Shaheda Islam, called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at the Bangabhaban yesterday.

-PID photo

President lauds role of Lions clubs

President Shahabuddin Ahmed has appreciated the role of Bangladesh Lions Clubs for conducting eye camps and providing treatment to the poor people suffering from various eye complications, reports UNB.

President appreciated welcomed the members of Lions Clubs when Jean Behar, President of Lions Clubs International, made a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Behar was accompanied by a 10-member delegation of senior office bearers of the Bangladesh Lions Clubs International, Multiple District 315. Council Chairman Sultana Shaheda Islam was also among them.

Welcoming Behar to Bangladesh, President Shahabuddin said the visit would help him personally to know the Lions activities in the country.

He also mentioned the eye hospital set up by the Lion members in Bangladesh.

Behar thanked the President for receiving him and appraised the President of the worldwide humanitarian activities of the Lion members.

SC stays editor's bail

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ing a parody of the National Anthem in the daily Inqilab on October 20, which, the ministry said, not only defamed the Anthem but also spread hatred against the government.

A metropolitan on Monday Magistrate issued warrants of arrest against the editor, the publisher of the daily and the writer of the parody.

Police raided the Inqilab office and residences of the editor and the publisher on Monday night but failed to arrest them.

Police took into custody Mainuddin, a director of Inqilab and younger brother of Bahauddin under Section 54 of CrPC Tuesday morning. He was given one month's detention and sent to jail.

Bahauddin sought bail from the High Court on Tuesday. But a Division Bench Judge felt embar-

assed to hear his petition amid a row between lawyers of the two sides.

It was sent to Chief Justice Latifur Rahman.

Bahauddin's lawyers went to the residence of the Chief Justice in the afternoon and again in the evening, seeking bail for their client.

Bahauddin took shelter in the chamber of Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia at the Supreme Court Bar Association building on the court premises. Plainclothes police then cordoned the area.

Late Tuesday evening, the Chief Justice ordered constitution of a Bench. The Bench comprising Justice AM Ruhul Amin and Justice Zainal Abedin came to the court at 9-30 pm. At 11-40 pm, the Bench issued a rule on the government to show cause why Bahauddin should not be given bail by November 20.

Kashmir

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overshot its target.

The grenade was intended for a group of security forces patrolling a crowded market in Pluwama town 40 kilometers south of Srinagar, but landed on nearby civilians, the spokesman said.

The condition of the two civilians is critical. In a separate incident, four militants were killed in Zatar Nallah, south of Srinagar when security forces opened fire. Four soldiers were also injured in the clash.

5 dacoits

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the Sundarbans during the last two months.

The Indian fishing trawler worth Tk 50 lakh seized from the dacoits were looted at gunpoint from Bay of Bengal recently. Fate of the fishermen of the trawler is yet to be known, police said. One of the arrested dacoits said they have link with some god-fathers of Khulna city from whom arms are supplied either on advance payment or on condition of giving shares of the looted money and other things, police said.

Ershad

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render on November 20. HM Ershad said this to leaders of the party central committee and its front organisations in the city on Tuesday.

He said there are elected chairman, presidium and secretary general in council assembly of the party apart from approved constitution.

"So the party will conduct its activities as per party constitution, if it takes time to free me from jail," he said in his valedictory speech. "There is no controversy over it."

The former president also instructed party leaders and workers to make the November 23 grand rally of the four-party opposition alliance a success, even if it is held without him. Party secretary general Nazim Rahman, Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar, Saifur Rahman, Prof Humayun Kabir, Syed Abu Hossain Babul, Maidul Islam, Tavebul Rahman, Golam Parvez, Prof Masud M Rashid Chowdhury and Rawshan Ara Mannan were present among others.

APEC leaders want

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encourage North Korea for the development of relations with not only South Korea but also with Japan and the US," Kim told The Associated Press after the bilateral meeting.

Clinton was to meet with Chinese President Jiang Zemin, presumably to discuss China's efforts to get into the WTO.

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright huddled early Wednesday with Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan, but neither side would immediately comment on what they discussed.

Chinese officials were to meet later with the Mexicans, who have become the last key negotiators China must face in reaching a bilateral trade deal that is a precondition for letting China into

the WTO, the Geneva-based body that sets global trade rules.

China has sought for 14 years to get into the trade group, which used to be called GATT, and its entry would mark a huge step in Beijing's goal of becoming more integrated with the global economy.

Clinton also planned to meet with the South Korean President and with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

In a speech to the business leaders meeting alongside the APEC summit, Clinton promised them a cleaner and more transparent business environment and political stability as he seeks to woo investment.

Most of the APEC members are oil importers worried that crude oil prices that have topped US, dir 30 per barrel will hurt their economies.

BB governor

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reforms, pragmatic macro economic policy and government's bold steps, the report said.

It said the inflationary impact on the economy in the current financial year that could be caused by heavy government borrowing and massive increase in monetary flow in last two years. It suggested the government to keep its borrowing at the lowest level and increase fund flow to the private sector.

The report said building up equal terms and co-ordination between monetary and fiscal policies are needed to achieve that goal.

When asked whether BB could have achieved that goal in the first four and a half months of the current fiscal, the governor said that till November 2, government borrowing stood at Tk 1073 crore, which is Tk 792 crore less than that of the corresponding period last year.

Asked about the current position of foreign exchange reserve, Dr Farashuddin could not give the actual figure but mentioned that it would be worth two months' import

Nasim, Khasru question

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sedition for publishing a parody of the national anthem in its October 20 issue. The lower court earlier issued warrant of arrests against Bahauddin following a treason suit filed with the CMM's Court, Dhaka by the Home Ministry.

Khasru wondered whether the court would show similar urgency for granting bail to a poor peasant or sit at midnight for ensuring justice to the common people.

"Was it so urgent that the court had to sit at midnight and grant bail to a person who dishonoured the national anthem? But the same court (High Court) felt embarrassed to hear Bangabandhu murder case and is taking months for the hearing," Nasim told the parliament.

Asserting that the government along with the people would never sit idle and watch the national anthem, national flag and the Father of the Nation being disregarded. "Law will take its own course... They (offenders) will get shelter nowhere," he told the House.

The home minister accused the daily Inqilab of constantly opposing the country's independence and patronising the anti-liberation forces taking advantage of "maximum" freedom being enjoyed by the press under the

present regime.

The Bengali daily published the parody on national anthem to insult the national sentiment, Nasim said and added that the opposition alliance is running an experiment to see how the independence-loving people react.

Nasim said ASM Mosharraf, said to be the composer of the parody, is a fake name. In fact, the name stands for war criminal Maolana Mannan (father of the incumbent Inqilab editor), Bahauddin himself, Khaleda Zia and other opposition leaders who want to convert Bangladesh into Pakistan, he added. The minister predicted that independent Bangladesh would not exist if the opposition was elected to power.

The home minister warned that the government and the people would react the way they are supposed to do. "We must put them in the dock provided the legislature and the people are with us."

The home minister said the offence the Inqilab editor and publisher committed is nothing but a treacherous act.

While the law enforcers were looking around for the accused to arrest him, a Supreme Court lawyer provided him shelter in his court chamber, he said and blamed BNP leaders Moudud Ahmed, Rafiqul Islam Mia and Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury

for once again undermining the sanctity of the Supreme Court.

He reminded the House of a similar incident in which Jatiya Party leader Jahangir Mohammad Adel took shelter in the Supreme Court building to evade arrest. Adel was also charged with treason for hoisting Pakistan's national flag atop his house on August 14, Pakistan's Independence Day.

"Where do we stand when the accused in treason cases get shelter overnight in lawyer's chamber in the highest court from where people expect justice and punishment to the convicts?" Nasim wondered.

"I have full respect for the court, but where does people's respect rest if they grant bail to a person who disregarded the national anthem?"

The home minister told the House that Mannan was accused of killing freedom fighters and raping women during the war, but the late President Ziaur Rahman withdrew the charges against the war criminal.

As dissident BNP lawmaker Maj. (ret'd) Akhteruzzaman blasted Nasim for questioning the court judgement, Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru defended the home minister saying the latter's remarks only reflected the public sentiment.

BCL, Jubo League at loggerheads

An angry Akhter attacked Akhi and shot him from a close range. Akhi sustained injuries in his right hand, which eventually became useless. Surprisingly, no action was taken against the culprits except for expelling Akhter from the organisation.

The BCL activists in general believe that if the senior party men or the police had taken tougher action against Akhter, Akhi would not have been killed.

The BCL leaders firmly believe that Akhi's killers belonged to a faction of Jubo League, which is closely connected to Akhter and BCL Dhaka City (north) unit President SM Zahed Hossain. Things became worse with some influential party men closely involved with both factions coming in to the rescue of their own men.

The BCL is now demanding arrest of and exemplary punishment to all the persons involved in Akhi's murder. They also believe that some senior Awami League leaders are trying to save the killers.

The BCL has chalked out a seven-day programme, including a siege to the DMP Commissioner's office and the Home Ministry to press home the demand for arrest of Akhi's killers.

The Jubo League activists who are accused of the killing are in close contact with two AL leaders, including a senior cabinet member to see them through.

"What is very heart-breaking is that some AL leaders are trying to save the persons responsible for the killing of a dedicated and brilliant activist," regretted a top BCL leader on condition that he

Police, abductors

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accomplices of the abductors traded fire with them and hurled bricks at police vehicles, damaging one of them.

There was chase and counter-chase between police and abductors. At one stage, a scuffle broke out between them. Finally police were able to rescue Mamun from the clutches of the abductors, sources said.

Neither Motiheel nor Mohammadpur Police could confirm whether there were any casualties during the rescue operation or if any arrests were made in this connection till filing of this report last night.

Israelis

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"You know, somebody has got to quit shooting," said Clinton, who spoke at length with Arafat by phone on Tuesday evening.

After the conversation with Clinton, Arafat issued an order that Palestinian gunmen stop firing at Israelis from populated Palestinian areas, so as not to draw return fire and risk the killing of Palestinian civilians, a senior Palestinian official said.

not be named.

Many BCL leaders, however, believe that no action would be taken against the killers due to the intervention by the AL leaders.

Meanwhile, killing of Akhi has drawn sharp reaction among the rank and file of BCL and Awami League at a time when the government is desperately trying to curb terrorism.

"We want arrest of and punishment to the killers of Akhi no matter which party they belong to. If any BCL or Jubo League leader is found to be involved, he should be punished," said BCL President Bahadur Bepari.

He told the Daily Star yesterday that BCL would continue to agitate until trial of the killers. Replying to a question, he said that the killers have no right to stay in the organisation.

Akhi, also vice-president of Titumir College Students' Union, was shot and killed reportedly by his Jubo League rivals at Gulshan-2 in the city on November 9. BCL activists went on a rampage at several city points following the killing, damaging vehicles, firing gunshots and exploding crackers.

Police have so far arrested nine people, including BCL Dhaka City (north) unit President SM Zahed Hossain in connection with the killing. But Zahed was later released after an influential AL leader allegedly intervened.

Biswa Ijtema from Jan 6

GAZIPUR, Nov 15: The three-day Biswa Ijtema, the second biggest congregation of Muslims next to Hajj, will be held at Tongi from January 6, reports UNB.

A meeting of the preparatory committee on Monday took some important decisions to provide adequate facilities to the devotees from home and abroad during the Ijtema.

It was also decided to remove the illegal slums and shops from the Ijtema ground and build an over bridge at the station road crossing.

Besides, steps have been taken to ensure uninterrupted power supply, smooth medicare services and special train service.

Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Abdus Sattar, local MPs, municipality chairman and local elite were present in the meeting with State Minister of Rural Development and Cooperatives Advocate Rahmat Ali in the chair.

OIC needs

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said he would not say that right at the moment. "Let us first nurture the idea of an Islamic Common Market, and then study its prospect."

Earlier on the day while addressing a press conference at Ryan Hall inside the OIC Summit venue, Doha Sheraton Hotel, Dr Mahathir told reporters that the United Nations should provide a force for protecting unarmed Palestinians.

About the possible effect of the OIC resolution, Dr Mahathir said, "The communiqué is directed to Israel and also to America (USA) as the latter is the supporter of Israel." He did not elaborate. Dr Mahathir, whose country will host the next OIC Summit, said that he wanted reforms in OIC.

"We'll divulge our ideas about possible reforms once the OIC members accept our call for bringing in reforms in the organisation."

About release of his former second-in-command Anwar Ibrahim, the Malaysian Prime Minister said that law would take its own course.

On the question of the 1997 recession in Asian economy, Dr Mahathir said he was against over-dependence on US dollars in trading though "it's a fact that US currency is in use in 80 per cent of trading." He expressed his readiness to accept Yen and Euro in trading in days to come.

Khaleda

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mier said.

The opposition leader alleged that the ruling Awami League is accustomed to politicising and nepotism. "In 1973, this party had appointed its supporters and activists to various administrative posts regardless of the merit of candidates."

She urged all to raise their voice for cancellation of the appointment and removing corruption from PSC.

Amit breathes

From Page 12 responded better but again felt uneasy after about a minute and a half. On indication from him, the ventilator was put into operation again.

After a third trial, doctors said Amit needs regular training to breathe with the new device.

"Since the device only helps Amit to breathe on his own, Amit has to learn to synchronise respiration as the breathing action takes place," explained Prof Islam.

The surgeon also said Amit needs time to get used to the new device. Amit would take at least 15 days for this and records show similar time is needed.

During this time, trial operation of the device would be conducted at least 10 times a day. "This is a crucial stage for Amit," said head of the ICU Prof K M Iqbal.

Meanwhile, an ISD telephone line has been installed to connect Amit's device to New York's Dobelle Institute through Trans-Telephonic Machine (TTM) to detect functional disorder, if any.

The device was purchased from the Institute. Amit's right lung is still not as

active as the left one but doctors hope that with the passage of time, it may function even better than in the past since there is no problem in his tissue.

He is the first in the world to depend on the device for paralysis caused by wild poliovirus.

'Dalim Bahini' chief arrested in Cox's Bazar

COX'S BAZAR, Nov 15: Police arrested three criminals along with arms and ammunition after a gunfight here today, reports UNB.

The arrested were identified as Dalim, chief of 'Dalim Bahini,' and two of his accomplices Bahadur and Shafiqullah. They were wanted in a number of cases including murder.

Acting on a tip off, police raided a jungle, five kms off the Cox's Bazar College, in the morning and locked in a gunfight. Both police and gangsters traded over 150 shots, leaving six policemen injured.

Police overpowered them after an hour-long fight. Two guns and 48 bullets were recovered from their possession.

Three bills placed

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mitties would submit reports with their recommendations to the House within seven days.

Maj (ret'd) Akhteruzzaman, expelled from BNP, objected to introduction of the three bills but it was rejected by voice vote.

Replying to Akhteruzzaman's remarks on the BIPS bill, the law minister called upon the Opposition members boycotting parliament sessions to come back to the House to give their 'valuable' opinion. "Come over here, give your suggestions as you are doing in the standing committee meetings and make the parliament effective."

He went on, "Give up your double standard and ask your leader (Khaleda Zia) to come to the parliament."

Earlier, opposing the BIPS bill, Akhteruzzaman said passage of the bill requires participation of all members as it involves parliamentary affairs.

Health Minister Sheikh Fazul Karim Selim placed the new Health Policy aimed at ensuring

healthcare facilities for all.

Prof Ali Ashraf, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Finance, submitted the scrutiny report on the SEC (Amendment) Bill 2000, piloted by Finance Minister SAMS Kibria on April 4 this year.

Tabling of a report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs on the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill 2000 was deleted from the order of the day due to absence of Committee Chairman Suranjit Sen Gupta.

IMB rings

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the ones in Indonesia. In September this year, eight pirate attacks have been reported at Chittagong Port.

In addition to hijacking of ships and theft of cargo, the main targets of the South Asian attackers appear to be cash in the ship's safe, crew possessions and any other portable equipment including coils of rope. The belief that large sums of cash are carried in the master's safe attracts attackers. IMB said ship owners should consider ways of eliminating the need to carry large sums of cash on board.

Smaller crew numbers now found on board ships also favour the attackers.

Other than the Bay of Bengal, IMB mentioned increasing incidences of piracy in the Malacca Straits where armed gangs repeatedly attack ships.

Marubeni

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of USA. When Sithe dropped out of the deal, Marubeni omitted all references to Sithe in its recent correspondence with the government without officially mentioning Sithe's status in this regard.

However, during the latest negotiations, Marubeni admitted that Sithe was no longer in the deal. It proposed that Totalfina of France and another unnamed Japanese company might be interested to form a joint venture with Marubeni in this deal.

Since losing the original bid for the first phase of the Meghna project in 1997 to AES, Marubeni had been strongly lobbying to get the second phase of the project. Last year, it proposed to the government that if awarded the contract, it would develop the second phase as per the AES terms and conditions and tariff pricing.

The US company had signed a contract with the government to provide electricity at a levelised 2.79 cents for the next 22 years.

Most female migrant workers of the country are nondocumented

By Staff Correspondent

Most of the female migrant workers of the country are non-documented and are considered to be the most vulnerable among international migrant labour force. Except for nurses the female migrants in domestic work and garments and other manufacturing work face long working hours, in cases stretching to eighteen hours a day and earn a comparatively low salary amounting to around Tk 4500 per month.

The above was revealed in the key-note paper presented at the symposium "Labour Migration of Women from Bangladesh". The symposium was jointly organised by the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) and Department of Political Science of Dhaka University at the CIRDP auditorium in the city yesterday.

Divided into four sections, the first panel of the symposium reflected on "Context, Scale and Scope of Female Migration" while the second panel discussed on "Factors Contributing to Female Migration and Conditions of Employment in the Host Country". The third panel projected "Socio-economic Consequences of Migration on Female Migrants and their Families" whereas theme of the concluding session was "Towards Ensuring Protection of Female Migrants".

The keynote paper was presented by Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui.

Most of these women are employed in West Asia and South-east Asia in four types of jobs namely nursing, garments, other manufacturing work and domestic

work, the key-note paper revealed. "Poverty, malnutrition, food shortage, landlessness, unemployment etc. are major push factors and the demand for labour in the Middle-east and in the East Asian countries are the pull factors behind the growing migration of female workers abroad," Dr. Siddique said in her paper.