

**Muhuri murder 'Chhoto' Nasir denies involvement**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police here started interrogating Nasiruddin Chowdhury alias Chhoto Nasir, a notorious Shibir cadre, who was arrested in Principal Gopal Krishna Muhuri Murder Case, on Monday.

Chhoto Nasir was arrested on Monday night from Ichhapur village under Hathazari thana. He was taken on a four-day police remand.

Chhoto Nasir, wanted and accused in as many as 11 criminal cases including four murders, during preliminary interrogation disclosed that Shibir cadres Montu and Hasan might be involved in this murder, police said.

He denied his involvement in the brutal murder saying that he had been intentionally implicated in the case to hide the facts and persons responsible for the killing.

Chhoto Nasir was produced before the CMM's court yesterday. The court placed him to a four-day remand.

Investigation in the case could have a headway if the whereabouts of sacked accountant of Nazirhat College Md. Shahjahan and the taxi used by the killers could be known, CMP sources said.

Police raided some possible places in search of the accountant and the taxi yesterday.

Meanwhile, police interrogated the family members of slain Principal Gopal Krishna Muhuri yesterday. NBK Tripura, Deputy Commissioner (North) of CMP and Ruhul Amin Siddiquee, the Investigation Officer (IO) and OC of Kotwali thana interrogated them.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

**AL will project incidents of repression at convention**

Hasina visits Muhuri's residence, ailing cops



Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina tries to console the widow of Gopal Krishna Muhuri during her visit to the slain principal's residence yesterday.

REAZ AHMAD, back from Ctg

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has once again denounced post-poll incidents of repression, killing and rape across the country and said these incidents will be projected at a national convention in the first week of January next year.

"If we tried to talk about this issue in the parliament, microphones would be switched off or proceedings expunged. We will instead project these incidents at the national convention," Hasina told newsmen at Chittagong Circuit House yesterday. She was responding to queries from newsmen during a whirlwind five-hour tour to the port city.

Asked whether her party lawmakers would raise their voice on the floor of the parliament against the persecution allegedly perpetrated by the ruling alliance, Hasina herself asked, "Would it bring any solution if we spoke out in the parliament?"

During the visit, the AL president met the bereaved family members of slain Nazirhat College principal Gopal Krishna Muhuri at the Jamal Khan residence of the deceased, visited some ailing policemen at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital, exchanged views with the teachers' community at the Circuit House and finally, addressed a rally at the Engineers Institute protesting the killing of Muhuri.

Reaching Chittagong by a Biman flight at 11 in the morning, Hasina drove straight to Jamal Khan resi

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia chairs a review meeting on the government's 100-day programme at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

**SEC to get tough with non-performing cos**

M SHAMSUR RAHMAN

Management of a non-performing company may face expulsion from the policymaking board, if the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) gazettes a new draft notification that aims at improving performance of the publicly traded companies.

A non-performing company would be asked to have reconstituted policymaking board of 10 to 13 members, with the new chairman and the new chief executive selected from the non-sponsors or from among those who were not on the previous board.

The new board, in its turn, will be under strict monitoring and could be replaced in case it fails to "show appreciable operational and financial performance" for two consecutive quarters. The commission will then ask the company for appropriate measures towards reconstruction, merger or liquidation.

The newly constituted board will comprise shareholder directors and independent persons from among professionals having diverse background, knowledge and experience in the relevant fields and will include at least a lawyer, a chartered/management accountant and an engineer, according to the draft.

The proposal also calls for disqualification of a com-

pany's board of directors in case it fails to hold annual general meeting (AGM) for two consecutive years, if its accumulated loss exceeds its paid-up capital and if it is not in operation for a period of one year.

The SEC yesterday sent the proposal to leading chambers, associations and the Bangladesh Association of Publicly Traded Companies (BAPLC) for comments. The trade bodies have been asked to communicate their views to the SEC before the end of this month.

There are as many as 92 companies in the stock market, which have raised funds from the stock market but are failing to perform and will fall under this criteria, SEC Chairman Maniruddin Ahmed told The Daily Star.

"These companies raised nearly Tk 1,500 crore from the stock market whose market capitalisation have dipped to almost half over the last few years," the chairman said. "Only new management could improve the financial health of these companies."

The SEC has already identified these companies and placed them under the "Z category," he added.

The process will start from July 1, 2002 based on the performance of the companies up to June 30, 2002, the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

**Feni JCD gen secy arrested**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

Police and BDR in the small hours of yesterday arrested the district unit general secretary of ruling party's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

Kamrul Hasan Masud was arrested from his West Ukilpara residence at around 2:00 am, police said.

Sources said, Kamrul got into an argument with OC Abdul Gaffar of Sadar thana on Monday when police barred the JCD from holding a rally in the town's Dholia area.

Kamrul was preparing to lead the rally organised to demand immediate release of arrested fellow activists.

UNB says, Kamrul was arrested allegedly for extraction of tolls.

Police sought Kamrul's detention saying, he is an accused in 31 criminal cases including eight murders. Kamrul secured release from the jail less than a month ago.

Despite arrest of 25 activists of BNP and its front organisations on Tuesday, terrorism in different parts of the district continued unabated.

Identified terrorist Belayet Hossain Belal, 35, of village Charkrishnapur and his accomplices, who came out jail recently are engaged in extraction of tolls from the villagers and businessmen, shops and houses.

**Murder of Ctg BCL worker: 3 brothers held**

UNB, Ctg

Police yesterday arrested three brothers from Kanchan area in Chandanaish upazila in connection with Monday's killing of BCL worker Muksed Ali.

The arrested were identified as Nurul Hakim, Jakir Hossain, and Mohammad Hossain.

Muksed Ali was killed in a clash between Awami League and BNP at Rowshanhat on Monday. After the murder, his father filed a case accusing 16 people.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Nov 21		5-11 pm
Nov 22	6-18 am	

Prayer Timings		
Nov 21		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-54	5-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-55	4-10
Maghrib	5-15	5-20
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

**AL will meet today to work out details of planned convention**

REAZ AHMAD

The Awami League (AL) holds a high-level meeting today to work out details about the planned all-party national convention to denounce 'crimes against humanity'.

Sources in the party said senior AL leaders will hold the meeting with President Sheikh Hasina in the city to discuss some basic goals and principles of the planned convention scheduled to be held in the first week of January next year.

The party also plans to hold a meeting the 11-party alliance, a conglomerate of with left-leaning parties, within a day or two, the sources added.

All democratic and progressive political parties, professional groups, civil society members, intellectuals, journalists and cultural and human rights activists would be invited to the convention, the sources added.

Sources close to the AL president told The Daily Star yesterday that Hasina had already talked to some left-leaning political leaders over telephone about the planned convention. However, formal invitations will be sent out to them once the steering committee was formed.

Meanwhile, the AL has also decided to form a steering committee soon to organise the convention.

Earlier on November 15, Hasina announced her party's plan to

organise the national convention in an attempt to bring all progressive and democratic forces on a single platform to denounce attacks on the life and property of the general people.

Following the change in government after the October 1 parliamentary elections, many AL leaders and workers as well as members of the religious minority community were subjected to atrocities perpetrated allegedly by the ruling BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami activists.

The AL chief recently provided statistics showing at least 500 incidents of rape since the new regime took over.

The figures that Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury presented before the parliament on Sunday also said that 213 rape cases were reported till October 25.

Sources in the AL explained that the party was now looking at the post-poll situation from a broader perspective. Instead of casting isolated and narrow focus on incidents of attacks against the minorities or party workers, it now wanted to portray the whole picture, calling the incidents 'crimes against humanity'.

Newly appointed Political Secretary to Sheikh Hasina Saber

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

**More changes in admin**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has brought about further changes to the secretary level and made five additional secretaries as secretary in-charge, official sources said yesterday.

Environment secretary Mahfuzul Islam has been transferred to women and children affairs ministry while additional secretary (OSD) Sabihuddin Ahmed made secretary in-charge of the environment and forest ministry.

Director General of Power Cell KM Faizur Rahman has been appointed secretary in-charge of Jamuna Bridge Authority, Chairman

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

**Haroon Habib's job placed under Ministry of Information**

UNB, Dhaka

In an unprecedented move the government has put the service of the former BSS Chief Editor and Managing Director Haroon Habib under the Ministry of Information terminating his contractual position.

Haroon Habib, a senior journalist of BSS, was earlier given two years' contractual job by the previous government keeping his original post of Special Correspondent on lien.

Sources said it is clearly stated both in his appointment and contract signed with the government

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

**AIG Bazlul Karim quits**

UNB, Dhaka

Police officer Syed Bazlul Karim quit his job yesterday showing personal grounds, after serving the government for over 27 years.

He was Assistant Inspector General (AIG) of Police, but was made Officer on Special Duty (OSD) on Monday under the current spell of transfers and postings by the new government.

Yesterday he sent his "voluntary retirement" letter to the home secretary through the Inspector General of Police (IGP).

However, he stirred the crime world arresting some top terrorists like Aslam, Prokash, Bikash and Subrata Bain when he was Deputy Commissioner of the detective branch.

Karim said his sudden decision to leave was due to personal reasons.

SEE PAGE 11 COL

**Consultation for next meeting on border issues begins**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka and Delhi have begun consultation towards fixing an early date for the next meeting of the Joint Boundary Working Group, which will address outstanding border problems between the two countries.

The last meeting of the group was held in Dhaka and the next is scheduled for Delhi, sources said.

Meanwhile, tension continued to prevail at Sripur in Sylhet, with the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and the Border Security Force (BSF) reportedly reinforcing their positions on either side of the Indo-Bangla border.

Some progress was made following a flag meeting yesterday between the BDR and the BSF.

SEE PAGE 11 COL

**Last-minute changes in textbooks may delay printing**

STAR REPORT

The government move to bring about changes to the primary and secondary level textbooks may delay their printing and publication, sources said.

There are only 39 days to the start of the new academic year and the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) has not supplied matters regarding changes in contents in the textbooks to the printers till yesterday.

However, State Minister for Education Ehsanul Haque Milon has poured cold water on such apprehension, saying that the textbooks will be published in time.

"So far as I know, the board has already distributed positives of the matters among the printers," Milon

told The Daily Star on Monday. "I have been visiting different printing presses in the city to oversee the progress of the job. The deadline for printing of textbooks has been set on December 15 and the remaining 15 days has been reserved for binding and distribution.

"We are hopeful that textbooks would reach the students by the first week of January," he said.

The minister also said the NCTB has already borrowed additional papers to offset shortfall of papers for the printing of secondary level books since Karnaphuli Paper mill is unable to produce the required amount of papers in time.

The government, which assumed office on October 10,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

**PM urges EU Increase import of RMG for empowerment of women**

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the members of European Union (EU) to import more readymade garments (RMG) from Bangladesh as this sector has contributed substantially to the empowerment of women.

The prime minister made the request when Trade Commissioner of European Commission Pascal Lamy called on her at her office.

During the meeting, Khaleda Zia said a large number of women are working in the garment sector and in the process have become income earners. She said the sector has paved the way for empowerment of women by giving them economic strength.

Khaleda requested Pascal Lamy to encourage EU member countries

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

**7 to die in Jhenidah for murder**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

The Additional District and Sessions Judge-2 of Jhenidah yesterday awarded death sentence to seven persons in Alfaz Ali murder case.

They are Hanif, Shahidul Islam, Surjan, Malek, Sher Ali, Jur Ali, and Beltu alias Toa. They all belong to 'Hanif Bahini' of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (BPCP).

The case in brief is: Alfaz Ali, son of Anzer Ali of village Nabinagar under Harinakunda upazila, was living in in-laws house at village Fulbaria and inherited a piece of land. But some influential neighbours claimed the ownership of the land resulting in a dispute.

Accordingly, the neighbours hired some members of the 'Hanif Bahini' to kill Alfaz.

On April 1999, the hired killers attacked Alfaz's house and hacked him to death.

Alfaz's father filed a murder case with Harinakunda thana the same day accusing 11 people. After investigation into the case, police arrested seven members of the 'Hanif Bahini' and submitted a charge sheet against them.

After hearing, Judge Mohammed Nurul Haq pronounced the judgement.

**Couple murder 10 placed on remand**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ten people, arrested in connection with the killing of a couple at Khilji road in Mohammadpur area was placed on a two-day remand yesterday.

Mohammadpur police produced Abdur Razzak, 34, Mizanur Rahman, 22, Shohag Hossain, 22, Tushar Sheikh, 20, Imran Hossain, 22, Ismail Hawlader, 20, Moshinul Haq, 25, Nazrul Islam, 23, Shafigul Islam, 20, and Anwarul Islam, 23, before the CMM's Court, Dhaka with a prayer for seven days' remand.

The defence lawyers submitted separate petitions seeking bail of the accused and cancellation of the remand prayer. They stated that the accused were not present when the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

**BNP leader murder Ratan remanded for 2 days**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nurul Aslam Ratan, Ward Commissioner and a city Awami League leader, arrested in connection with the killing of city BNP leader Babul Ahmed, was placed on a two-day police remand yesterday.

The detectives produced Ratan before the CMM's Court with a prayer for seven day' remand.

The defence lawyers submitted a petition seeking bail and cancellation of remand prayer. In the petition they stated that the accused earlier had open-heart surgery twice. He is also suffering from diabetes and scheduled to admit to the BARDEM hospital yesterday. The lawyers submitted all necessary documents to the court in this regard.

In the forwarding, police said they have already collected evidences that Ratan was involved in

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5