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Shahriar Kabir detained for a month

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The District Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, has given one month's detention to noted writer and columnist Shahriar Kabir under the Special Powers Act, 1974.

The court gave the order on Sunday night, it was learnt yesterday.

Metropolitan Public Prosecutor (PP) Abdullah Mahmud Hasan yesterday filed a Criminal Revision with the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court seeking cancellation of stay of the order for remand of Shahriar Kabir, passed by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on Sunday.

Legal experts however pointed out that the PP has no right to file any case on behalf of the state, but he did so by filing the Criminal Revision.

During the hearing on the issue at 2:30 pm, Judge Ahmed Jamil Mostafa reminded the PP of his limitations and gave him a decision of the High Court for reading it out.

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Police are on guard against curious onlookers on the scene where an under-construction footbridge crumbled on a passenger bus near the US Embassy at Baridhara yesterday.

Latest bid to grab Gulshan Lake

Rajuk issues 'clearance' for 31.34 acres of land?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid protests by residents and environmentalists against indiscriminate plundering of the Gulshan-Banani-Baridhara Lake, dozens of influential individuals are set to grab 31.34 acres of the lake area armed with what they called 'valid clearance'.

One of the individuals, Mohammad Zakir Hossain, claimed a large chunk of the lake at the end of Road-29 near Gulshan-1 and started filling it up. Conveniently, Hossain selected last three consecutive Fridays for the earth filling work to avoid official or public detection. He told The Daily Star that he had won a

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1 dies as railing of foot bridge crashes on minibus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One person was killed and 15 people were injured yesterday when a concrete railing of an under-construction foot bridge over Progoti Sarani near Natun Bazar at Badda in then city collapsed and fell on a running minibus and an autorickshaw.

The railing weighing at least 30 tons collapsed because it was placed on pillars without fixing it with

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Over 1000 US Marines land near Kandahar

Talks on broad-based Afghan govt begin in Bonn today

AFP, Kandahar, Washington

US Marines seized an airfield in southern Afghanistan near Kandahar, landing in waves aboard helicopters for the biggest US ground operation since the start of the Afghan campaign. US military officials said yesterday.

"The objective is to seize an airfield which they have done," said Lieutenant Colonel David Lapan, a Pentagon spokesman.

Helicopters from the USS Pelelieu and the USS Bataan began moving marines into the desert air strip in the vicinity of Kandahar on Sunday and were expected to pour more than one thousand of the troops in for the operation, he said.

The United States deployed

troops in southern Afghanistan yesterday as it readied for a major thrust against the Taliban stronghold of Kandahar, a US official said.

A spokesman for the US-led coalition against terrorism in Islamabad confirmed that "over 1,000" US Marines were on the ground near the Taliban's base.

US warplanes pounded Taliban positions inside the city, which is also the spiritual center of the Taliban, and all wireless contact with other provinces has been cut off, the Afghan Islamic Press news agency (AIP) reported.

Osama bin Laden, leader of the al-Qaeda organisation blamed for the September 11 terror attacks on the United States, is "contained" in Kandahar, along with his protector,

Taliban chief Mullah Mohammad Omar, Northern Alliance foreign minister Abdullah Abdullah said.

An Alliance commander, Shujan Uddin, told AFP that 300 to 400 foreign Taliban fighters who staged a bloody uprising at a prison fortress in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif on Sunday had been killed.

He said the prisoners were killed by US bombing and Alliance troops, leaving only a few resisters holed up in a basement inside the fortress.

A major Taliban supply and escape route, the road between Kandahar and Spin Boldak, on the Pakistani border, was cut off by anti-Taliban Pashtun tribesmen, said the AIP, which is close to the Islamic militia.

Abdullah told reporters that

Alliance forces entered Kunduz, the last Taliban bastion in northern Afghanistan, yesterday morning after cleaning out the final pockets of resistance.

A Northern Alliance commander said troops fought a fierce battle with die-hard Taliban militia that left about 100 soldiers dead on both sides.

Earlier Pentagon officials told ABC news Sunday that US Marines were deploying on the ground near Kandahar and their number was expected to reach 1,200 to 1,600 "within a day."

"Their first job will be to secure the airport near Kandahar, and then their primary goal will be to attack

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More changes in Army

DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

Some changes were made in Bangladesh Army yesterday and more are on the anvil, sources said.

Brig. Gen. Rezzakul Haider has been appointed officiating Director General of Bangladesh Rifles.

Haider was in charge of Kaptai Brigade. Earlier, he was commander of a major UN Peace Keeping Mission. He will replace Maj. Gen. Ishaq Ibrahim who took charge of BDR in early July.

Brig. Gen. Fazle Elahi Akbar has been promoted to the rank of Major General and made full Commandant of Army Staff College.

Maj. Gen. A K Fazlur Kabir, Commandant of National Defence College, is going on LPR today. Brig. Gen. Rokonodowla, Brigade Commander at Bogra, has been appointed Brigade Commander of the 9th Division at Savar.

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Emergency in Nepal after 280 die in Maoist clashes

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal has declared a state of emergency across the country and mobilised the army following Maoist attacks, which have left more than 280 people dead, the royal palace announced yesterday.

King Gyanendra imposed the state of emergency with immediate effect, a royal palace statement read out on state-run television and radio said.

"His Majesty the King has, in accordance with the constitution of Nepal, declared a state of emergency in respect of the whole of the kingdom of Nepal," it said.

"The emergency was announced to maintain law and order in the country following the violence unleashed by

the Maoists," it added.

The devastating Maoist attacks on police and army posts across Nepal began on Friday, bringing to a bloody end a four-month ceasefire with the government.

Gyanendra, who became king in June after a royal massacre killed ten members of the royal family, has ordered the army to fight the Maoists -- the first time the military has been fully deployed in direct combat operations against the rebels since they launched their violent rebellion in 1996.

"Under this declaration the Royal Nepal Army has been ordered to mobilise across the country wherever it is necessary," the statement said.

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Tourists complete a clean sweep

AL-AMIN

Zimbabwe completed a whitewash over Bangladesh when they won the third and final limited-overs match of the Coca-Cola Series by seven wickets at the floodlit Bangabandhu National Stadium on Monday.

The visitors, chasing a modest Bangladesh total of 215, cruised to 219-3 with five balls to spare.

Opener Dion Ebrahim top-scored with 84. The young right-hander shared 107 runs for the first wicket with Grant Flower, who chipped in with 40.

Stuart Carlisle played a captain's knock of unbeaten 55 while Craig Wishart hit the winning runs-- a four off off-spinner Fahim Muntasir.

Ebrahim, century-maker in the second match, collected the man-of-the-match and man-of-the-series awards worth 1,000 and 2,000 dollars respectively.

The Southern African nation came to Bangladesh with a poor track record, but ended their 20-day tour on a high. They won the two-Test series 1-0 and the one-dayers 3-0.

Although the Zimbabwe's Flowers performed well below expectations,

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Bangladesh batsman Al-Shahriar lofts a delivery from Zimbabwe bowler Friends over mid-on during the third one-day at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Import of urea Govt asks BCIC to float fresh tenders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday cancelled all tender schedules floated for the purchase of 1.70 lakh metric tons of urea in two phases and asked the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) to float fresh tenders for import of the fertiliser.

The decision was taken yesterday at the Cabinet Purchase Committee meeting presided over by Finance

and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman.

Meeting sources said the decision followed allegations of sidetracking the lowest bidders and favouring other companies quoting prices higher than the actual prices of urea in international markets.

The BCIC had floated tenders for purchasing 1.70 lakh metric tons of

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Fitra fixed at Tk 25

UNB, Dhaka

Per head fitra in Dhaka and its adjoining areas this year has been fixed at Tk 25 equivalent to the price of 1,650 kgs of wheat or flour.

This was decided at a meeting of the Fitra Fixation Committee held at the Islamic Foundation conference

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Pepsi

Tense situation at Chandanaish Fear of arrest, backlash send 4000 youths into hiding

SHAHIDUL ISLAM,

back from Chandanaish, Ctg

The fear of arrest and backlash by the ruling party hoodlums compelled some 4,000 youths from about 1,500 families of Kanchan Nagar village to go into hiding.

The youths of the village in Chandanaish upazila fled their homes in the wake of a violent clash between armed people of two neighbouring villages and murder of a

Jubo Dal activist on November 19.

"My son stays at the nearby hill overnight for safety," said an elderly schoolmaster on condition of anonymity. Other elderly people in the area had similar stories to tell.

Moreover, more than two hundred students including 35 SSC test examinees of the Kanchanabad High School could not sit for their examinations because of the clash, guardians and students alleged.

On November 19, a violent clash

and gunfight over control of a bazaar

-- Rowshan Ali hat -- between villagers and activists of the BNP-Jamaat-e-Islami and Awami League of Kanchan Nagar and Elahabad left one Mustak Ahmad, 19, reportedly a Jubo Dal activist, of Elahabad, killed and several others, including a student of class III -- of both villages -- injured.

The Awami League reigns in Kanchan Nagar, while the

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JS session may continue till December 2

UNB, Dhaka

The current session of parliament is likely to continue till December 2 instead of November 29 to facilitate the passage of a politically important Bill.

Competent sources told UNB last night that the government is planning to introduce the Bill in parliament this week and pass it next Sunday.

"It would be a highly political legislation," said a senior ruling party leader who asked not to be quoted.

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JS tidbits

NAZMUL ASHRAF

Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain yesterday made a unique threat to force the main opposition Awami League to join the parliament proceedings.

"I along with a section of the treasury bench members will cross the floor and sit in the opposition bench unless they (AL MPs) join the proceedings," the colonel-turned-

politician said, livening up an otherwise dull proceedings. He asked Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to have Article 70 of the constitution that bars floor-crossing revoked.

On a lighter note, the front-ranking minister assured the prime minister that her government would not fall even if he joined the opposition with 65 lawmakers from the treasury bench and that he would

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City Cell

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America's troubled Arab alliance
Column: Perspectives
M Abdul Hafiz

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Focus on economic diplomacy: The priority talks

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ADB suggests BOP support loan if govt opts for trade, industrial reforms

New slowdown hampers poverty alleviation in East Asia: ADB

DSE, CSE price quotations

ACI
Iftar

Sehri, Iftar timing

Ramadan	Nov	Sehri	Iftar
11	27	-	5-14
12	28	4-59	5-14
13	29	4-59	5-14