The Daily Star



Journalist Obaidul Haq speaks at the Bangladesh première of Matir Moina, a film directed by Tareque Masud (left) and produced by Catherine Masud (second from right) at Modhumita Cinema Hall in the city yesterday. A rickshawpuller (below) waits for passengers near the cinema hall in front of posters of the film, which was initially banned by the censor board and won a prize at the Cannes Film Festival.

Chechens threaten

"There are some people who are government's most important duty unwell but it is the psychological pressure that is hard." said Leonid Roshal

Pressure is growing too on Putin, whose uncompromising stand on responsibility to prevent the tragedy, Chechnya helped propel him to the even if it means giving in to the terrorpresidency in March 2000. ists' demands," said Oxana, a 40

The Russian leader has vowed year-old hair dresser. not to give into their demands, but is

Japanese lawmaker stabbed to death

REUTERS, Tokyo

A Japanese opposition lawmaker known for his aggressive probing into ruling party scandals was stabbed to death yesterday in what could be Japan's first political assassination in more than four decades.

Police said Democratic Party politician Koki Ishii, 61, was attacked in front of his home in central Tokyo by an unidentified man in his 50s who ran away.

With the perpetrator still on the run, the motive for the crime was unclear. Japanese lawmakers have been attacked in the past, sometimes by right-wing extremists with gangster links.

But it was a rare case of deadly violence against a politician in a land that saw its last political assassination of a lawmaker in 1960, when a Socialist leader was killed by a rightwing youth.

Media reports said Ishii had been about to step into his car when a man wearing a red bandanna approached and stabbed him. apparently with a sashimi knife without saying anything.

The man had been seen outside Ishii's home in the upmarket Setagaya neighbourhood for about two hours before the killing, the reports said.

50 injured FROM PAGE 1

children when a young man complained to them that his mobile phone was missing.

As usual, several hundred people were enjoying the evening at that place. They ran for cover as army personnel started beating them up, creating panic in the area. Asked about this, a major who is

in charge of the army camp there and was present on the spot, denied that any such incident took place. He however expressed regrets when people gathered around him and complained of the

action on innocent citizens. A number of hawkers were the worst victims. About 30 of them lost the food items they were selling, one witness said.

Mockbul's mills FROM PAGE 12

security reasons." Also licensed is the 12-bore gun used by the chief security officer of

the company. The statement also shows the names of the persons to whom the TCB issued licences and licence

numbers of the firearms. Five nine-shooter guns and 370 rounds of ammunition were seized in an army raid on the textile mills. The army also seized five gun-butts and three air-conditioned buses.

MP Auranga arrested

NEWS

FROM PAGE 1 two JCD leaders -- Jahangir

Hossain and Nasir Uddin Khokon. The driver of Nirab's car was also arrested during the raid at dawn. Jahangir Hossain is joint convenor of JCD's newly formed central

convening committee Nasir Uddin Khokon is president

of Cantonment thana unit of JCD. Sources said army personnel followed Jahangir and Nasir when

they left BNP central office at Naya Paltan on Thursday night. They staved at Nirab's residence. Sources in JCD said Nirab was

involved in criminal activities when he was leader of JCD. He led a criminal gang in Tejgaon area

Rebels kill 21 civilians in Algeria

REUTERS, Algiers

Suspected Islamic rebels killed 21 civilians, including a three-monthold baby, overnight in western Algeria, the official Algerian news agency APS said yesterday.

The massacre took place at Ouled Abdallah village in Chlef province, some 170 km (100 miles) west of Algiers, APS said, quoting security officials.

Five people also had serious head injuries.

The victims were between three months and 65 years of age. Government security forces have launched a man-hunt for the perpetrators of the attacks, the agency said.

Seven civilians were killed in a similar rebel raid on Sunday in Skikda province, about 340 km (210 miles) east of the capital Algiers.

The latest deaths raised the number of Algerians killed in rebel attacks and police and military operations in the past nine months to more than 1,000.

Algeria has been racked by violence since early 1992, when army-backed authorities cancelled the second round of parliamentary polls that radical Islamists were poised to win.

More than 100,000 people have been killed since then, the government says. Independent sources estimate the death toll at up to 150.000

FROM PAGE 12

inclined

sports and games probably rank first among the most popular means of entertainment. The sports enthusiasts often flock to the two city stadiums as well as in the nearby playgrounds where games of one kind or another are played every

The army also raided the residence of former lawmaker HBM

Iqbal in the city on Thursday night. A UNB report said army raided the house of BNP leader and former deputy minister for health Seraiil Hag at Jamalpur on Thursday night Quoting sources, our correspondent reported that most of the and seized a gun.

Residences of Jamalpur district JCD general secretary Anisur Rahman Biplob, district Jubo League (Awami League's student front) secretary Suruzzaman, former secretary of district Chhatra League (AL' student front) Sanwar Hossain Shanto were also raided but none could be arrested as they were staying elsewhere.

party.

AL

Thantali village.

Thursday night.

reported that army arrested

Madaripur sadar thana Jubo Dal

general secretary Faruq Bapari and

his uncle Abdul Hai Bepari on

Thursday night from their houses at

said army arrested five people from

different parts of the district and

recovered two single-barrel guns

from the house of Rahmant Ali,

Chakua Union Parishad Chairman.

Shahabuddin from Sadar upazila.

Mia -- and recovered a firearm.

Tremors hit

India

Delhi

REUTERS, Kolkata

Department official said.

Our Rangpur correspondent said

Our Netrokona correspondent

As many as 226 people including 75 'listed criminals' were arrested from different areas of the country including Dhaka city yesterday, the ninth day of army crackdown on criminals. Forty-two firearms along with 136

bullets were also recovered. However, till yesterday, none of

the 23 listed 'top criminals' could be arrested. Five of the 23, arrested before the crackdown, are now in Dhaka Central Jail while another was gunned down in the city niaht recently

In Chittagong, Sub-inspector Ershad Ali of Razakhali police camp under Pekoa thana was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) after he was beaten by army personnel on Wednesday night.

He was first taken to Chittagong Combined Military Hospital in an unconscious condition and then shifted to CMCH. ASI of the police camp Syed upazila.

Ahmed filed a general diary (GD) with Pekoa police station in this connection Our Jhenidah correspondent

reported that five people Janu Sheikh, Joj, Motiar, Moajjel and Ujjal-- were arrested on Thursday night. Earlier, army arrested alleged criminal and BNP activist Ruhul Islam Khan, who is also chairman of

Bhaina Union Parisad. The arrested persons were produced before court, which sent over deaths in army custody. hem to jail.

Our Magura correspondent said army arrested Shaheed, joint secretary of district unit of Jubo League and three others -- Meer Abu Mahbubur Rahman Dilu and Ashiqur Rahman Liton. They were produced before court, which gave them one month's detention.

In Raibari, fifteen people have been arrested.

Recreational facilities

enough pull with the intellectually

In the city's entertainment world,

boating on a regular basis in the lake meandering through the Ramna Park. Boating facilities on the bank

of a lake near the Zia International Airport are also reportedly available, which is organised by the Parjatan Corporation restaurant situated by the lake.

However, only a small number of people can avail of this facility as the restaurant is situated in an exclusive

the lake near Sangsad Bhaban.

popularity among city-dwellers.

Such river cruises normally

cover a distance of 40 km through

Buriganga, Shitalakhya, Dhaleswari

proceeds on its prescribed route, it

is hard to remain unmoved by the

great scenic beauty of rural

outlets currently available are

nonetheless in no way adequate for

a joint venture by Bangladesh and

Indonesia, won the bid at Tk 44

crore. But the work stopped after

mud out of 30 lakh cubic metres.

The aforementioned recreational

Two sniper suspects They are Mukul Hossain, Golam FROM PAGE 1 Ballistics tests had shown that bullets Rabbani, Kamrul Islam, Liton Mia, from the Bushmaster .223-caliber Abul Hossain, Ratan, Nurul Islam, semi-automatic rifle found in their car Azmal Mia, Selim Mia, Labu Mia, were used in eight of the 10 murders Tanjeel, Shamsuddin Master, Auyub and the three woundings, Bureau of Khan, Rabi and Nasir Uddin.

Mike Bouchard said. He said tests on two of the murder arrested people belong to the ruling victims had proved inconclusive. Some media reports said the trunk Our Madaripur correspondent

Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agent

by the sniper. lid of the car had been modified mak-Muhammad later converted to ing it possible to fire shots from inside. Islam and changed his name.

DHAKA SATURDAY OCTOBER 26, 2002

We now consider them suspects The Seattle Times reported, quotin the string of shootings in Maryland, ing interviews with police, acquain Virginia and the District of Columbia, tances and former wives, that Montgomery County police chief Muhammad had expressed anti-Charles Moose, who coordinated the American sentiments and sympathies hunt, triumphantly said. for terrorists.

President George W. Bush con-But police said Muhammad had gratulated Moose by telephone as he not been a member of any group while was heading to his Texas ranch for a summit yesterday with Chinese President Jiang Zemin, a Bush spokesman Ari Fleischer said. In a written statement. Bush said

in Washington state. Police were alerted to the pair after investigating a possible connection between the Washington sniper and a the shooting death and injury of two

of sergeant and received medals for

duty in the 1991 Gulf War before being

discharged in 1994, a Defence Department official said.

Williams when he entered the US

military in 1985 and later won the

army's highest-level "expert" rating

with the M-16 rifle, which is similar to

the Bushmaster police say was used

. He was known as John Allen



occurred in the county. State and federal prosecutors were meet early Friday to discuss crin ing Saturday warned children were not charges against the pair. An alert was issued for a 1990 safe and reportedly demanded 10 Chevrolet Caprice late Wednesday million dollars. and within an hour, truck driver Ror Victims around the Washington Lancz saw the car with the men sleepregion were picked off by a single .223ing inside about 70 km northwest of caliber bullet as they went about daily business, spreading widespread Washington. Lancz said he blocked the car's exit alarm. with his truck while he waited for Four people were shot dead at police, who took the two into custody gas stations, others in shopping without incident. malls or walking in the street. The last victim, a bus driver, was mortally

breakthrough. Moose used the meda to make pleas for the sniper to make contact. The sniper in turn taunted police with cryptic messages. At the scene of one shooting he left a tarot card bear-

ing the message: "Dear Policeman, I am God." A letter left at the scene of a shoot

Earthquakes, including one measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale, hit different parts of India yesterday, but there were no reports of casualties or damage, an India Meteorological "Moderate earthquakes rocked the northeastern states of Assam

Relieved school officials in Montgomery County on Washington's northern border, where all outdoor activities had been shut down, immediately issued a statement saying Friday would see a return to normalcy

Many of the shootings had

AFP

walking a tightrope in trying to ensure the crisis does not end in a bloodbath.

A British journalist Mark Franchetti who talked inside to the rebels' commander, Movsar Barayev, said yesterday they were very determined and not inclined to compromise.

It is very difficult to see how they are going to be able to reach a compromise. They are very bullish, they sound very, very determined, they keep on saying they have no time for negotiations," he told BBC radio.

They have refused various attempts by the Russians several times and they keep on repeating the same thing, that they have come to Moscow to die if they need to and that their demand is an end to the war in Chechnva." the reporter said.

One woman has already been shot dead and the rebels have said said they are prepared to lay down their lives for their cause.

Qatar's Al-Jazeera satellite television network, which became known worldwide for airing footage of US chief terror suspect Osama bin Laden, showed footage of a woman in Islamic dress who claimed to be one of the hostage-takers.

"We have chosen to die in Moscow and we will kill hundreds of infidels," said the woman, covered in a black robe from head to foot and flanked by several other women.

About 70 relatives and friends of the hostages staged a spontaneous gathering near Red Square by the Kremlin to call for peace in Chechnya -- a mountainous Muslim region on the northern slopes of the Caucasus -- where according to official figures 4,500 Russian troops have died in the past three years.

'The illusions are over." the opposition daily Nezavisimava Gazeta wrote.

"Is this (crisis) not a humiliating demonstration of the authorities' helplessness?" the paper asked.

For the Izvestiya, Putin, who has maintained a tough guy image on Chechnya, has arrived at a crossroads and must make a definitive choice.

"The president must choose. Either become General De Gaulle, who granted Algeria independence to save France, or become Stalin," who chose force to deal with ethnic problems, including the deportation of Chechens to Central Asia. it said.

Police and Moscow authorities displayed signs of nervousness, heightening security at bus stations and airports and clearing the streets near the theatre where the hostages are held.

But for all of the authorities' tough

television said a powerful bomb had been placed in the centre of the theatre hall. "All hostages and terrorists are highly strung. The first attempt at an assault will lead to a powerful explosion," the hostage

talk, many ordinary Russians said the

was to ensure all hostages were

were lost. Our government has a

"It would be a shame if any lives

One hostage quoted by German

reed unharmed.

Dozens of foreigners are among those held hostage, but attempts to free them have so far proved fruit-

Russian forces have been battling since October 1999 to restore Moscow's control over breakaway Chechnya after an initial war in 1994-1996 by rebels seeking autonomy. World leaders and the United Nations, nervous about the threat of terrorism after the October 12 bombing on the Indonesian island of Bali which killed around 190 people, have given Putin their support while some urged cautious restraint.

lourists FROM PAGE 12

from the Board of Investment to prove that they are investors or certificates from the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) saying that they are apparel buyers. The special rule for the South

Korea citizens was introduced in May this year, immigration officials told The Daily Star. The state minister, who recently

attended an inter-ministerial conference of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Riyadh on development of tourism in Muslim countries, said the Arabs now want to visit Asian countries more than the North America or Europe.

"We are sending information on tourism to our missions in all the Muslim states to attract tourists," the state minister said. "We can also attract the Arabs if we can develop tourist spots and amusement facili-

ties.' The minister further said Kuwait. Qatar and Bahrain expressed their desire to send delegations to Dhaka very soon for exploring the existing tourism opportunities.

Meanwhile, Ambassador of Qatar in Bangladesh Abdullah Saad MAI Mana called on the state minister on Sunday last and expressed desire to start a direct flight of the Qatar Airlines to and from Chittagong.

> "We have given them the verbal approval for operating direct flights between Chittagong and Doha," the minister said.

PHOTO: STAR/AFF

AL: Ordinance **FROM PAGE 1**

AL leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdul Hamid Advocate said, "This is something unprecedented... A law can't be like this where the government decides which cases to be referred to special tribunals and which not.

Cases in connection with these criminal offences can be automatically referred to special tribunals for speedy trial and there should not be any discretionary power in government's hand

"I am afraid, in this process, cases in which opposition activists are accused would be referred to special tribunals and cases in which BNP men are accused would be exempted," said Hamid.

AL leader and former law minister Abdul Matin Khasru termed it a 'black law, which is unconstitutiona and untenable also.

"As per the Constitution, laws should be uniform. But this one is arbitrary ... as some persons accused for the same type of offences would enjoy more time for self-defence in normal courts while others would go through a speedy

trial process," he explained. Khasru said a special session of parliament could be convened to discuss appropriate measures to

curb crimes He also criticised the provision of taking telephonic conversation as evidence. This also violates constitutional provisions which guarantee

citizens' right to privacy, he observed. He said, there is no inadequacy of laws to curb crimes. Rather there is lack of proper application

Cricket

of the existing laws.

FROM PAGE 12 second ball bowled by seamer Mornantau Hayward. Replays suggested the ball had struck Shahriar's body rather than the bat

Hannan rode his luck at times dropped by Martin van Jaarsveld off Makhava Ntini on five and then again by Smith off the bowling of Hayward on

Shortly after lunch he looked to have been given another chance by Mark Boucher when the wicketkeeper failed to move for a chance that flew to his right off Ntini, but Hannan's knock came to an end the next delivery when Kallis pocketed an edge at second slip. Hannan made a career-best 65 in a little over two hours, hitting 11 fours.

Nowadays, rich people and people from the upper middle class find entertainment in cultural programmes organised by big hotels and select clubs. Also, a large number of people from both the higher and lower middle classes are seen spending their free time in the various fast food joints that have mushroomed all over the city.

Concerts have lately been added to the world of entertainment. These concerts feature band music performed by different groups that are highly popular with young men and women. These groups hold their concerts at many places, including the posh areas of the city. Attendance of large number of people at such concerts is a pointer to their increasing popularity.

According to an estimate, about 20-25 thousand people visit the zoo every day and the number goes up substantially during holidays.

Some people like to spend their free time in a manner marked by a typically Bengali phenomenon called 'adda' (gossip session), which usually takes place in drawing rooms, patios, park benches, neigh bourhood clubs or by the roadside.

Though the city is surrounded by a network of rivers and some beautiful lakes and natural water bodies here and there, boating as a form of recreation has not developed much among the residents of Dhaka. Their interest mainly centres around the boat races that are held periodically on the river Buriganga on important national occasions like Independence Day, Victory Day, etc. But, besides these boat races. no organised effort is visible to popularise boating as a form of recreational sport. It is however felt by many involved in the sport in one way or another in other countries of both the East and the West that there are immense possibilities to develop boating in Dhaka City as a recreational sport for the citydwellers

In this context, some choice spots in the city may be suggested where boating could be introduced as a healthy and pleasurable outdoor activity without much financial involvement but only the necessary organisational effort. One such area is the Dhanmondi Lake, which at present is undergoing a process of renovation and development under an ambitious project. When that project is completed, there will be provision for introducing boating as a regular feature of recreational activities in the lake

Scope also exists for introducing

India's southernmost tip in the area with high rates for such recre-Indian Ocean -- at 3.24 am (2154 ational facilities. Boating on a rather GMT).

of any damage or casualties."

the official told Reuters from New

"We don't have any reports so far

The first earthquake measuring

5.8 on the Richter scale hit the

Andaman and Nicobar Islands --

small scale is also available at The official, who did not want to certain other places such as the be identified, said a second tremor Mirpur Zoo, Botanical Garden and measuring 4.0 on the Richter scale struck the oil-and-tea-rich north-Nonetheless, river cruises eastern state of Assam and neighorganised by different service bouring Meghalava province at 4.55 agencies including the Bangladesh am (2325 GMT). Parjatan Corporation are gaining

In January last year, a devastating earthquake measuring 7.7 on the Richter scale hit the western state of Gujarat, killing about 20.000 people and leaving tens of thouand Meghna estuary. As the cruise sands homeless.

SAARC trade

FROM PAGE 12 tries to strive for "the common goal of economic prosperity and trade development."

Chand stressed the importance of the economic liberalisation policy of his government, which he said would open up the global market for regional products.

The main agenda of the two-day CEC meeting will be market access for SAARC member nations. Talks will focus on the penetration of markets in developed countries, as well as a review of the past economic agenda, an official said.

SAARC, formed in 1985, groups removal of 26 lakh cubic metres of India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Bhutan. The organisation has previously

staged trade fairs in India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The Kathmandu fair follows a

heads of state summit held in the Nepalese capital in January which had stressed the need for economic cooperation

All SAARC members except the Maldives are participating in the fourth regional trade fair, in which 200 stalls have been erected.

Products on display include handicrafts, electronic and mechanical goods and agro-based industrial machinery, vehicles and equipment.

The trade meet, which rotates between the various member countries, is planned by SAARC's Trade and Economic Cooperation Department as part of its efforts to forge a South Asian Free Trade Agreement (SAFTA)

One of the main reasons for the delay in reaching agreement on SAFTA is the political differences between India and Pakistan, a Nepalese foreign ministry official said on condition of anonymity.

The investigation, which had been marked by tensions with the media over leaked accounts and public unease over the lack of progress. gathered pace Wednesday.

Each time massive dragnets were Federal agents searched a home thrown across the region but no in Tacoma, in the west coast state of suspect was caught. Boosted by donations from the anxious public, a Washington, where they took away a sniper reward quickly rose to 500,000 tree trunk neighbours said may have dollars. It was capped there and been used for target practice. News reports said Muhammad authorities said any extra money

had once lived there with Malvo and neighbours reported hearing frequent gun fire in December and January. Muhammad served in the army for

almost a decade. He attained the rank

Selim remanded

vehicle

FROM PAGE 1 The prosecution side opposed the bail petition

After hearing both the sides, Magistrate Maksudur Rahman Patwarv fixed October 28 for hearing the bail petition and ordered sending him to Dhaka Central Jail. He also directed the jail authorities to take necessary steps for the lawmaker's treatment.

The magistrate also asked the authorities concerned to send to the additional district magistrate, Dhaka, a copy of the petition for his (Selim) division in iail

Later, the AL leader was produced before the court of first class magistrate Saifullah Panna, where he was shown arrested for his involvement in

the attack on Khaleda's motorcade. The ASP of CID, Mohammad Aminul Islam, submitted a petition before the court seeking a seven-day remand for Selim. The petition said investigations showed that he had tried to get the then opposition leader killed by his Jubo League men on Dhaka-Mawa highway between Kadampur and Rajendrapur in Keraniganj.

"It has also been proved that Selim masterminded the attack on Khaleda's motorcade in Madaripur. So he should be remanded so that more information can be gathered about the attacks,'

the ASP said Defence lawyers submitted two separate petitions for his bail and rejection of the remand prayer. They stated that the complainant of the

case, Convenor of Keraniganj unit of BNP Haji Nazimuddin, mentioned in his FIR that seven Keraniganj thana AL leaders and workers along with 20 to 25 people unleashed an attack on Khaleda's motorcade on her way to Barisal on June 17 last year. "They fired shots in a bid to kill her.

wounded Tuesday in Montgomery

County as he stood on the steps of his

would go to the families of the victims

"But he (complainant) did not mention the name of Selim in the FIR. Besides, Selim is not a leader of Keraniganj unit of AL. He was implicated in the case in a bid to damage his political reputation," the defence lawyers said.

The prosecution side opposed the bail petition and prayed for granting a seven-day remand.

After hearing, Magistrate Saifullah Panna rejected the bail petition and granted a one-day remand. He also ordered the investigation officer (IO) of the case to interrogate him alone.

Following the order, defence lawyers submitted two other petitions for a seven-day stay of the remand order so that they could file a criminal revision with the higher court and for allowing family members to meet Selim for supplying food and medicine because he is suffering from heart

The court however rejected the petition for stay but granted the other one. It directed the IO of the case to ensure that Selim's wife is allowed to supply food and medicine for her husband.

although the officials concerned received bulk of the money The Rukindra Basic Dredging Company has violated terms and conditions of the tender by doing a shoddy work, said MPA sources. Import and export through the Mongla Port are faced with set-

backs, as it is difficult for foreign ships to anchor at the port due to an increasing silt build-up.

Lone hospital

FROM PAGE 12 ward boys, pharmacists, stretcher bearers, sweepers are drawing their salaries without any work.

High officials including the health secretary and the DG of the Directorate of Health visited the hospital on several occasions but none of them gave any decision for making the hospital operational.

On occasions, informal proposals were made to convert the hospital into labour hospital or TB hospital or trauma hospital. But the authority's indecision kept everything pendina.

the teeming millions of the city. In order to create a healthy environment for the city-dwellers, there is a crying need for adoption of appropriate planning and modern ideas in building up a recreation-oriented infrastructure to meet the demands of the fast growing population of the

Passur FROM PAGE 1

city.

Bangladesh.