

## Schoolteacher murder case goes to DB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) yesterday took charge of schoolteacher Swapon Kumer Goshwami murder case.

However, they are yet to start investigation. Sources said the investigation would commence as soon as the DB allocates the case to an investigating officer.

Dhanmondi police had earlier picked up four persons in connection with the killing of the schoolteacher on Saturday morning.

Of them Monirul Islam was later shown arrested as his involvement in the murder was primarily proved. The other three were later released.

Monirul Islam is currently on a three-day remand for interrogation. He would be produced before the court again when the remand period expires tomorrow.

Swapon, a teacher of Government Laboratory High School, was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen on Saturday morning. He died on the way to the hospital.

## AL walks out of JS body meeting

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League members of Parliamentary House Committee yesterday staged a walkout from a meeting of the committee to protest BNP lawmakers' refusal to record a protest against army action against MPs.

Proposing a censure motion, AL Whip Mirza Azam demanded of the committee to adopt a resolution condemning the "infringement of privilege and prestige" of the MPs through arrest without warrant and search of a state minister's car and chief whip's residence by army personnel.

He apprised the meeting that Awami League MP Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim was arrested without warrant while his party men were being "maltreated" in the ongoing nationwide anticrime operations.

"The way independent MP Hemayet Ullah Auranga was arrested and TV channel and newspapers came up with photographs showing his hands tied with legal arms displayed in front is an insult to prestige and dignity of a member of parliament," the opposition whip

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Army personnel take some suspects blindfolded in a car from the city's Chawkbazar area yesterday, the 12th day of the countrywide crackdown against criminals.

PHOTO: STAR

# Man jumps off roof to avoid army arrest, dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged listed criminal died when he jumped from the rooftop of a building to escape arrest by army at Dendabor, Nabinagar of Savar yesterday.

An army team took Liton, reportedly a member of the Seven Star group, a notorious crime cartel of the capital, to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) at Savar where he died at 6:30pm, sources said.

The sources added that when an army team went to Dendabor to haul up criminals, Liton jumped from the rooftop of a building and fell on a boundary wall. The army team rescued him in fatal condition and took him to the CMH.

Meanwhile, army yesterday arrested four associates of four most wanted criminals of the city and two members of an outlawed party in the capital yesterday.

Army also seized three shotguns, a pistol and an airgun from their possession along with over 2,200 rounds of ammunition.

The arrested are Mohammad Al-Amin, a close associate of top listed criminal Kala Jahangir, Abul Bashar Korno, accomplice of another most wanted gangster Picchi Hannan, Rafiqul Islam Bappi, associate of most wanted criminal Aminur Rasul alias Tokai Sagar, and Faruq Hossain, accomplice of top criminal Mollah Masud.

The two outlaws arrested are

Khalilur Rahman and Shahnewaj Selim of Sarbahara Party.

According to sources, several outlawed party leaders and activists are hiding in the city following the countrywide anti-crime army crackdown started on October 17.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Hasan Mashhud yesterday visited different army camps in Sylhet division. He also addressed the local commanders and troops.

The army chief said everyone has to see to it that innocent people are not harassed during the ongoing drive. He also visited different camps at Habiganj, Sunamganj and Moulavibazar. He also exchanged views with the members of local administration and police officials.

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# \$113m CNG project awaits ADB assent

## 120 filling stations, distribution system part of Clean Fuel Project

SHARIER KHAN

A \$113.5 million project to set up over 120 compressed natural gas (CNG) stations in and around Dhaka city and build a CNG distribution system is ready to be signed. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the government will jointly invest in the Clean Fuel Project (CFP).

Under the scheme, three affiliates of Petrobangla -- Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited (TGTDC), Rupantarita Praktik Gas Company Limited (RPGCL) and Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL) -- will operate as fully autonomous companies very soon. These companies will be modelled on the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB).

The government has already issued orders for appointment of management for these three companies on contract, sources said.

At the same time, as per an agreement with the ADB -- the main lender of the proposed CFP -- the government would increase CNG price. Presently CNG is sold at Tk 7.45 per cubic metre, which is equivalent to one litre of octane sold at Tk 30. However the new price is yet to be proposed.

The CFP also seeks to launch gas-fired buses. The ADB would provide \$81.9 million in foreign currency and the government \$31.5 million in local currency.

However, the implementation of this project would be a complete success if the ADB agrees to provide loan for the \$700 million fourth Natural Gas Development Project. The ADB has imposed a hard condition that it would not provide the credit if the government did not agree to export gas to India.

ADB President Tadao Chino, who arrives in the capital today on a five-day visit, is expected to discuss the

gas-sector projects with Petrobangla.

Under the CFP, the GTCL would set up a 60-kilometre, 20-inch pipeline from Dhanua to Amin Bazar.

Titas would lay out a 97-kilometre 16-inch pipeline with 150 pressure up to Savar and set up 100 CNG stations.

The RPGCL would set up three major CNG stations in the outskirts of Dhaka and another three in the Dhaka-Chittagong highway. It would also set up 20 CNG stations in the capital city.

In addition, RPGCL would import 300 CNG buses. Of these, 100 would be leased out to the state-run Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC), and the remaining 200 would be leased out to private operators through banks.

Besides, RPGCL would import 10,000 CNG car conversion kits, set up a repair workshop and work on capacity building, provide training,

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## Spl police force in the offing

UNB, Dhaka

The government is likely to soon form a special police corps equipped with modern weapons and adequate logistic supports exclusively for combating crime.

"The process is underway and it might be complete within a month," a competent source told UNB yesterday.

Honest, competent and committed police personnel will be chosen as well as fresh recruitment made for raising this special force, the source said.

He further said the members of the special force would be given modern training to build up their extraordinary capability to deal with crime and violence, rein in top terrors and recover weapons.

The steps would be taken to effectively wipe out criminal activities from the country, a top agenda of the coalition government led by Khaleda Zia.

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# Army 'beats up' 85-yr-old lady, SI's wife in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Army personnel yesterday allegedly beat up the wife and mother-in-law of a police sub-inspector (SI) after taking them to an army camp at Mugda in the city's Sabujbagh area.

Shahatunnesa, 85, mother-in-law of Kabirul Islam Molla, SI of the Dhanmondi Police Station, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a critical condition while his wife Minara Begum was released after first aid.

Witnesses said Shahatunnesa and her daughter- were supervising

construction work of their building at 87/A, West Madertek in Sabujbagh at about 9:00am when an army team arrived there.

The troops rounded up two youths in front of the building and then sought Minara's permission to enter the building to conduct a search.

Minar let them in, but then got angry when the troops went to the roof.

"Why are you creating unnecessary hassle for us?" she was quoted to have said.

At this, the troops became furious and some of them were locked in a scuffle with Minara

## Commentary

# Will our elected govt tell us what is happening?

MAHFUZ ANAM

Led by nearly 20,000 troops, army, navy, BDR, police and ansar (an auxiliary force) are in a joint operation to rid the country of criminals.

More than 3,000 persons have been arrested. Ten people have died in mysterious circumstances during or following army interrogation. Check-posts have been set up in many inter-district routes where army personnel stop, question and search vehicles, perform body search, occasionally mete out instant punishment for not complying quickly enough with their orders and, in some cases, humiliate passengers of motorcycles, buses and other vehicles. In cities, house-to-house searches have been conducted in some areas, occupants picked up for questioning (some returned within hours and others not even in days) and all

types of vehicles, including cars of ministers and high officials, not to mention public representatives, have been randomly stopped and searched.

All this has been happening for the last 12 days (army operation started on October 17) and yet except for a daily diet of logistical information nothing substantial has been told to the people. Unbelievable as it may sound, there has been no official communication and no public announcement as to the circumstances under which the government felt compelled to call out the army. Did the government completely lose confidence in the established machinery? Were all other options in containing crime exhausted? Doesn't the government owe the public any explanation for this drastic step? In democracy "People's Right to Know" is fundamental. How far is that right

being honoured? To the best of our knowledge, no gazette notification has been issued or made available to the press or the public. Obviously, some official document exists but why is it not being shared with the public?

Yes, there were a few post-operation public speeches by the prime minister and ministers in which some general comments were made to the effect that the army has come to the aid of the civil administration in catching criminals. However, nothing has been said under what legal framework the army action is to take pace.

Here we would like to recall that during the luncheon for journalists (with some editors present) on the eve of Sheb-e-Barat (October 21) one editor specifically asked the PM about the legal cover of the army

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## Graft case Charge sheet against Hasina taken into cognisance

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday took the charge sheet of the graft case against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and three others into cognisance for trial.

Judge Ahmed Jamil Mostafa passed the order after scrutinising the case diary (CD) and other relevant documents.

The three other accused are former state minister for power Prof Rafiqul Islam, former state minister for LGRD ministry Syed Abul Hossain and KMN Islam, manager of SHACO International Ltd, owned by Hossain.

The case will be transferred to the Special Court for Dhaka Division for disposal.

The Bureau of Anti-corruption (BAC) submitted the charge sheet to the CMM's court, Dhaka on October

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## Auranga sent to jail on detention

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Independent law maker Hemayetullah Auranga arrested on suspicion (under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code) was sent yesterday to the Dhaka Central Jail with a one-month detention.

Dhanmondi police produced Auranga before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka at 3:00pm on completion of a two-day remand.

Army arrested Auranga from his Hatirpool residence in the city at around noon on Friday. Some Arms and some ammunition were also

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# Corruption bugs banks

## IMF-WB mission sees interest rate easing unlikely with high default loans

STAR REPORT

A joint mission of the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said the extent of corruption in Bangladesh's banking system is all too large.

And it is not possible to scale down bank rates when the level of loan defaults is high, the mission thinks.

The central bank cannot function properly due to political interference and has to work independently, said mission representatives at a meeting

with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman at his office at the Secretariat yesterday.

The central bank's structural change is necessary for better supervision of monetary and currency issues, they recommended.

"The country lacks a well-defined credit culture and there are serious problems in the legal system and also in the social outlook. Distortions in the financial sector are many that also cost too high," Warren Coats, mission chief and assistant director of the Monetary and Exchange Affairs

Department, IMF, told newsmen after the meeting.

The WB country director, Frederick T Temple, and the IMF resident representative, Marrison Verhoven, were present at the meeting.

The mission working on the Financial Sector Assessment Programme (FSAP) reviews the latest situation of the banking system and other areas of the financial sector like monetary policies, capi

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Oct 29		5-21 pm
Oct 30	6-03 am	

Prayer Timings		
Oct 29		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-00	5-25
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-29	5-35
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation