

Terminals, hospital

FROM PAGE 1

Our Bogra Correspondent adds: Army arrested 13 people, including four BNP men from different parts of the town. Bogra BNP Joint Secretary Ali Asgar Hena, BNP activists Farooqi, Shafiq and Lutfar Rahman, Bangladesh Chhatra League activist Rabiul Islam and Jatiya Chhatra Samaj district president Anwarul Azim Bulbul were among the arrestees. Later they were handed over to police.

In Comilla, a Jamaat-e-Islami leader held by the army from a clinic in the town Friday afternoon was handed over to police yesterday. Police could not give details about the charges against Mohammad Shahjahan, political secretary of Comilla (south) district unit of Jamaat.

Our staff correspondent in Khulna reports: Army men yesterday arrested four criminals and three armed cadres of the outlawed Puba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) -- Ganesh, Zakir and Sohel. They were arrested from Natunbazar and Rupsha areas.

An army team searched the residence of district Awami League (AL) President Shaikh Haroon-ur-Rashid at Belayet Hossain Road.

Besides, police ransacked the city AL office in the evening. Our Sirajganj correspondent reported that three persons were arrested and two fire arms were recovered by army men from different parts of the district yesterday.

The arrested are Al Mamun, a BNP activist; Rony, 16, and Sabur, 17, son of Shajadpur Poursava Chairman Nazrul Islam. A pipe gun was recovered from Rony and a pistol from Sabur.

Our Magura correspondent said troops arrested four alleged criminals from different areas of the district. The arrested persons -- Uzzal, Anil Kumar, Amit Kumar and Sunil Kumar -- were produced before court and sent to jail custody.

Our Rajbari correspondent reported that Khalilur Alam Mollah, a listed criminal and General Secretary of Sramik League Jatrabari bus terminal unit in the capital, was

arrested along with two of his associates in the early hours of yesterday. They were arrested near Daulatdia army check post. Alam's associates are Nasir Uddin and Pradip Kumar.

Our staff correspondent in Sylhet reports: Troops arrested a union parishad chairman from his house in Nabiganj upazila and seized a licensed revolver along with 10 bullets from him. Acting on information received from the chairman, AKM Fakhru Islam, they also recovered a sub-machine gun and a sub-machine carbine.

Army personnel also arrested eight people from different parts of the city.

Four of them were caught along with a Chinese axe, a bayonet, a sword and a dagger from Luckatoora tea garden area. Two others were arrested along with half a kilogram of hashish.

Our Tangail correspondent said army arrested a listed criminal and JCD activist Hasanuzzaman Zamil from his house.

Besides, 22 people were arrested from Kandapara brothel in the town. An army team along with police raided the brothel at 3:00 am yesterday and rounded up more than 200 people from there. Of them 180 were later freed and 22 handed over to police.

Sources said army men arrested a notorious criminal -- Kala Jabeed -- from Katli area in Netrokona yesterday. Jabeed is known as chief of 'engine bahini' involved in various criminal activities.

Our Mymensingh correspondent reports: Two persons were arrested from different parts of the town. They are Aminul Islam and Mohammad Tariqul.

A correspondent reports from Barisal: Army personnel raided the residence of Bhola district press club president Faruq Rahman and arrested his son Sohel Mahmud.

Our Pabna correspondent reports: Troops arrested seven people including four activists of the outlawed Sarbahara Party from different parts of the district. The four are Chayan Paramanik, Rafiq, Islam and Abdul Quddus. The others are suspects.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina receives bouquets from senior party leaders Abdus Samad Azad and Zillur Rahman on her arrival at Zia International Airport early yesterday morning.

Deaths with many questions

FROM PAGE 1 (GD) filed with the Cantonment Police Station identified him as an extortionist and alleged that he died while being transported to the army camp. Instead of handing over Jahangir's body to his family, the army turned it over to the Pallabi Police Station.

Sources said the autopsy report attributed injuries to the death. Jahangir's wife Rashida told the press that on his arrest Jahangir was tied with a rope and beaten up right before his family members.

Jahangir was a fish merchant and had disputes with some people over fisheries. Someone might have victimised him in that connection, sources and family members observed.

In Gopalganj, former BNP leader and Kashiani thana Muktojodha Sangsad Commander Abdul Khayer Ratan Mollah, 54, died in army custody on October 19.

He was arrested early morning that day and admitted to the Gopalganj Sadar Hospital in the evening. His autopsy was conducted amid army presence and a UD case was filed.

Mollah's family alleged he was tortured to death.

Bhola district Sramik League General Secretary Amirul Islam Chowdhury Rocket was arrested at noon on October 21. He was admitted to the Bhola Sadar Hospital in the evening next day where he died. His body was handed over to his family on October 23.

Ratna Chowdhury, his wife, told journalists that army men had beaten him with the rifle butt before her.

The army allegedly recovered 29 rounds of bullets from Rocket's residence. He was tortured in army custody and then brought back to his residence asking him to hand over more arms, alleged Ratna. When he came back, he could not stand on his feet as his legs appeared to be broken. In such a condition, the army took him to the hospital.

Twenty-eight-year old Afzal Hossain of Savar died at 10:00pm in army custody on October 21. The autopsy was conducted the next day after which policemen escorted his body to his village home. The body was buried in police presence and a UD case stating that he died of heart attack was filed with the Saver Police Station. His body had injury marks. A court had set Afzal free on bail in a murder case.

Saifuzzaman, 35 of Gaibandha's Sadalapur Upazila was arrested at the night of October 21. He died the following night in army custody. His autopsy was held in Gaibandha Adhunik Hospital on October 23. Civil Surgeon Abdul Kuddus said he died of heart attack. His body was buried amid army and police security.

The police alleged that Saifuzzaman was involved in currency counterfeiting. But there was no case against him.

Nazmul Haq Milon, 40 of Ambagan, Rajshahi was arrested on October 23 from local Barnali Cinema Hall premises where he used to work. He died in army custody the same day.

An army personnel named Jahangir of Bogra Cantonment admitted Milon to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. A doctor at the RMCH, Gopendranath Acharya, said after Jahangir was brought to the hospital, "he did not need any treatment".

Rajshahi army task force Commander Brigadier General Aminul Hasan at a press conference claimed that Milon died of heart attack.

Magistrate Abdul Bari who gave the inquest report on Milon's death said there was no scope for any comment regarding the death. The RMCH Forensic Medicine Department chief Dr Ashraf Alam made similar comment.

However, Milon's wife Firoza Begum alleged her husband's body had multiple injury marks. Sources said the autopsy report corroborated her claim.

Milon's father Abdur Rahman Pachu told The Daily Star that his son did not have any disease. He said he would sue the government for his son's death. Milon, a BNP activist, was previously accused in two cases related to capturing tender. However, the cases were disposed

of. Sources said in the past he worked for a notorious criminal named Gama.

His body was handed over to his family in army presence while he was buried amid police guard.

Former Pangsha Upazila BNP General Secretary and Pourshabha Chairman Abdul Aziz Sardar, 47, was picked up by army from his home on October 24. At 11:00pm next day, he was taken to the Rajbari Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. There the doctor declared him dead on arrival.

An UD case filed in this connection states that he died of heart attack. It is said that Sardar used to give shelter to some criminals.

On October 26, army personnel picked up four labourers from their sleep from the Chowmuhani Rail Station. According to local journalists and police, the army woke the sleeping labourers up by charging batons. Later, they were handed over to the Begumganj Police Station and later sent to the local hospital. The condition of one of the labourers, Khurshid, 35, worsened there and he was sent to the Noakhali Sadar Hospital where he died.

Feni Brigade Major Tofael told journalists the four labourers were handed over to the police at 6:30am that day. They were all in normal health and they boarded the police on their own. Khurshid died at 9:00 am in police custody. He added that these four persons were taken for interrogation as per information given by members of a band of robbers.

But police said the labourers were injured when they received them and that the army personnel had given a written note during the hand-over.

Khorshed is the son of a Monu Mia and a homeless labourer. The Begumganj Police Station had no complaint against him.

Cousin of opposition Awami League lawmaker Sheikh Helal Uddin, Masum Biswas, 35, was arrested from his Khulna residence at 2:00am on October 22. He was blindfolded and beaten up before his family members. A licensed gun was seized from his brother's house during the incident.

As his condition deteriorated due to the torture, he was sent to the Khulna Medical College Hospital and later to the DMCH on October 23 unconscious.

Masum's sister Lucky and sister-in-law Anjumana alleged the army men kept beating him up as they took him away. When they brought him back later on, he could not stand up as his legs seemed broken.

Abul Hossain Litu, 32, son of one Wahed Ali, died in Saver jail custody on October 28. Earlier, three persons including Litu were picked up from the Poultry Farm area in Saver around noon the same day. They were found in their possessions. Later at 3:30pm, Litu was admitted to the Combined Military Hospital where he died in the evening.

Army sources claimed that Litu died after falling from a two-storied building during his failed bid to escape.

Mehraj Hossain Anjana, wife of the victim, alleged that there were no two-storied building at the place from where army nabbed Litu. So, Anjana said, there was no question of her husband jumping from a building.

She alleged that army picked Litu up from a tin-shed house and tied him with a tree and beat him to death. She said those who saw the body could easily guess that Litu was brutally tortured.

Accused criminal Jamiruddin, 32, of Golapganj Upazila in Sylhet died in army custody on October 29. After picking him up from Rajgarh village, army took him to an army camp and beat him up. Being informed by Jamiruddin, army seized lethal weapons like ramdadh, chapari and some spent bullets from a nearby hill.

As he was rushed to the Golapganj Upazila Health Complex at 5:00 in the afternoon doctors declared him dead. Eyewitnesses said army beat up Jamiruddin at the playground of local Dhaka Dakshin School.

On the contrary, army sources claimed that Jamiruddin died after falling from the hill as he tried to escape while accompanying the army men during the arms seizure.

Beaten up during an army drive, constable Kalachand Tripura of the Rajkhal Police Outpost under Pekua Upazila died at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH), Chittagong on October 28.

Police alleged that army beat up Tripura on suspicion that he had leaked in advance the news of an army drive at Rajkhal area on October 24.

In a report sent to the Police Headquarters, the Cox's Bazar district police stated that army held Syed Hossain, an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of the outpost, responsible for not being able to nab the criminals. Failing to locate the ASI, army took constable Tripura away.

In another report sent to the police superintendent of Cox's Bazar, the assistant superintendent of police of the circle concerned also noted that Tripura lost consciousness when he was hit by baton. Injured Tripura later died at the hospital.

Doctors at the CMH declined to comment on the cause of Tripura's death. Dr Zillur Rahman operated upon Tripura's head on October 26. When contacted, Dr Rahman declined to comment on the matter, instead he suggested that the director of the hospital be contacted.

Deputy director of the hospital, Purabi Ghosh told journalists that no cause of brain haemorrhage could be ascertained. Tripura's wife said her husband was in good health.

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader in Panchagarh, Jennifer Said King, 25, died on October 30 in army custody. Army picked King on allegation of extortion. His family members alleged that army tortured King to death. The army camp concerned brushed aside this allegation.

King's mother Amena Khatun and elder brother Abdus Sartar told newsmen that while King was asking for dues of the tree he had sold to a saw mill owner army nabbed him. He was beaten up and handed over to police at 10:00 that night. He was admitted to the Sadar Hospital and later sent to jail after being produced before court. But as his condition deteriorated, the following day King was re-admitted to the hospital where he died the next morning.

Officer in charge of the Panchagarh Police Station Taherul Islam said police received King from army in a critical condition. Acting Jail Superintendent of Panchagarh Md Sajedul Islam corroborated the statement.

Tota Miah, 37, died within five hours of his arrest by army in Madaripur on October 29. Army sources said upon tips from Tota they searched a house for arms but did not find any. As they were returning from that house Tota suffered heart attack.

The following morning he died after half an hour of being admitted to the Madaripur Sadar Hospital. During the entire period, army personnel kept the hospital under siege.

Twenty-four-year old Abu Sayed Delu died at the Chest Diseases Hospital in the capital on October 29, six days after his arrest in Noakhali.

Army picked up Delu on October 22 and turned him over to the Begumganj Police Station the following day. Police said after he was taken to court on October 24 his condition deteriorated. Dr Abdul Hye of the jail hospital said they sent Delu to the local general hospital. Later on Monday, he was shifted to the Chest Diseases Hospital.

Delu's family members alleged that he died due to army torture.

De-escalation

FROM PAGE 1 ever, to project growing confidence and friendship in their search for a political solution to the dragging conflict.

The centrepiece of the latest talks was a blueprint to attract millions of dollars in foreign aid to rebuild the island's war-battered areas. A formal announcement on that issue is also expected today.

Balasingham said the government and the rebels would jointly address international donors at a crucial meeting to be organised in Norway later this month, seeking to raise money to underwrite peace at home.

Housewife gangraped in Joypurhat

UNB, Joypurhat

A housewife was raped by miscreants at village Hatil Mangnipara in Sadar upazila Wednesday.

Police said a gang of miscreants abducted the woman aged about 21 at about 3:00 pm while she was returning home at village Raghobpur from district headquarters.

They took her to a primary school and raped by turn.

Later, locals rescued the woman and sent her to a hospital.

A case was filed on Thursday.

Madrasah student murdered by fellow students in Rajbari

UNB, Rajbari

A madrasah student was killed allegedly by two other students of the same madrasah at Banjana village in Pangsha upazila yesterday.

Police said Abdul Jabbar Mridha, 15, a class ten student of Arkandi Shaheed Muktijodha Madrasah, was on his way to the madrasah at about 9:30am when he was attacked by his classmate Bahadur and class six student Abdur Rashid.

Jabbar received stab injuries in his chest and elbow and died on way to Pangsha health complex.

Locals suspected that Jabbar might have been killed over a land dispute. A case was filed with the police.

Sheikh Selim

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Awami Jubo League, was arrested on October 21 from his Banani residence in the city under Section 54 of the Cr.PC.

Later, he was shown arrested in two separate cases, one was filed with Madaripur sadar thana and the other with Keraniganj police station in Dhaka district in connection with the attack on Khaleda's motorcade.

Meanwhile, the High Court on October 27 issued a rule asking the government to show cause in one week why the detention of Sheikh Selim, MP, should not be declared illegal.

The High Court issued the rule upon a writ petition challenging the legality of detention order.

Jail Killing Day

FROM PAGE 1

the Banani graveyard and offering Fateha, and organising Milad Mahfil and special prayers.

The party will also hold a discussion on the premises of Bangabandhu Bhaban in Dhanmondi at 3:00pm. Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will preside.

Meanwhile, Hasina issued a statement yesterday paying tributes to the victims of the Jail killing. "The sacrifice of the four national leaders would never go in vain. It will continue inspiring people for ever."

In her statement, the opposition leader recalled the glorious contributions by the late leaders in the nation's struggle for independence.

Hasina said "misrule and bad governance" of the alliance threatened the rule of law in the country.

"The alliance rule has already caused a suffocating situation for the people. It's necessary to end such unbearable situation," she said.

Hasina said Awami League is committed to peace and rule of law and her government had scrapped the infamous Indemnity Ordinance.

"The historic judgement in the Bangabandhu murder case had cleared the way for establishing rule of law," she said, adding that the process of the Jail Killing case had also started during her rule.

"But the alliance government's misrule and bad governance again jeopardised the rule of law," she said.

Tremor

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Chittagong in October with the last one occurring on October 30. Among the seven, a moderate earthquake of 5.04 in the Richter Scale occurred on October 16.

Magnitudes of the other tremors were light ranging between 3.53 and 4.82 in the Richter scale.

De-escalation

FROM PAGE 1

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EU disappointed

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attracted fierce criticism from the EU and some other countries.

"Parties that have recognised the Kyoto protocol strongly urge parties that have not already done so to ratify the protocol," the declaration said.

The Kyoto protocol demands that developed countries follow a specific programme to cut back on the emission of gases which cause global warming by 2008-2012, but makes no such demands on developing countries.

Instead, it says poorer countries must make inventories of their emission levels and develop national action plans for reducing these, with financial and technical help from developed nations.

Environment group Friends of the Earth said little progress had been made here.

"The negotiations around the Kyoto process made little progress with the US and Saudi Arabia manipulating every disagreement to drive a wedge between industrialised and developing countries," a statement said.

It said many of the provisions of the Delhi Declaration had been lifted out of old conventions.

However TR Baalu, president of the UN's eighth climate-change conference, dismissed the criticism.

"Negotiating a consensus declaration with 170 countries and 10 regional groups is not an ordinary issue. At times it gets difficult," he said, adding he was happy a consensus had been reached.

Indian officials earlier said in all-night discussions Thursday, developing countries had resisted proposals that the declaration include a demand that they begin talking about reducing emissions after 2012.

EU officials, plus delegates from Canada and Japan, had said they wanted talks on cuts in greenhouse emission levels beyond 2012.

Gade said the deadlock had

Schoolteacher

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area. A case was filed with the Dhanmodi Police Station in this connection. Later, the Detective Branch (DB) of Police took up the case. Nine people were arrested for their alleged involvement in the killing.

One of the arrested -- Shantun -- have already made confessional statements before the magistrate Jagannath Das and another -- Apon -- is being interrogated by the DB. Shantun's father Moshir Rahman, who was among the arrested, is now on bail.

No ADB deadline

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Replied to a question, the ADB chief said the pipeline could serve both domestic use and export of gas. "We are waiting for the government's response on the project," Chino said.

"The main purpose of the proposed project is to carry gas from the eastern zone to the west. If the government wishes to export gas, it can use the same system," ADB Country Director Toru Shibuichi said.

Summing up the outcome of his five-day visit here, Chino said during meetings with the prime minister and other key cabinet members the ADB reaffirmed its long-term commitment to support Bangladesh's economic and social development.

The ADB chief said the challenges facing Bangladesh were complex and numerous. He stressed the need for tackling corruption and governance issues and improving law and order to sustain economic growth and reduce poverty.

"Unless these issues are addressed, they will obstruct private sector investment, both domestic and foreign," he said.

Hasina on army

FROM PAGE 1

"To eliminate a political party, the government had used police and party cadres, and now it has deployed the army to torture opposition leaders and activists for the same purpose," she alleged.

She said that despite the presence of parliamentary democracy in the country, members of parliament are being "harassed and tortured by the army."

The armed cadres of the ruling party were being released while opposition leaders with licensed arms were being arrested and tortured, alleged the Awami League chief and asked: "Is this army operation aimed against Awami League?"

"Even after all this, 30 persons were killed in the month of October and 18 in army custody," she said.

Hasina said the image of the country has been tarnished abroad due to the "misrule" of the BNP-Jamaat government.

Replying to a question about parliament, she said the AL would certainly join the parliament and try to raise all these issues in the House.

"We will raise the point that this government is violating constitution and human rights in every step. This government is not only terrorist, but also corrupt and the violator

narrowed their options and the EU had decided to let the declaration go through to keep the process of addressing climate change alive.

Haling negotiations altogether, some officials said, would have been seen as a victory for the United States, which has not signed the Kyoto protocol.

The declaration recognised that developing countries and small island states faced an increased risk of the negative impacts of climate change and said they should be helped by the developed nations in adapting to the changing climatic conditions.

"The specific needs and concerns of developing country parties arising from the adverse effects of climate change and the impact of implementation of response measures should be given full consideration," it added.

The declaration also said the poor nations should get access to clean technology in various sectors.

Madaripur Judge's Court rejects Selim's bail petition

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

The District and Sessions Judge's Court, Madaripur, yesterday rejected the bail petition of former health minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, MP an accused in a case filed with Madaripur Sadar thana in connection with an attack on the motorcade of the then opposition leader Khaleda Zia on July 19 last year.

Judge Sikander Ali passed the order following a criminal revision submitted by the defence lawyers on behalf of the accused.

The defence lawyers filed the revision with the Sessions Judge's court, seeking ad-interim bail against the rejection order of the First Class Magistrate's Court, Madaripur.

The Magistrate's Court on October 30 rejected the bail petition of the accused.

The court also fixed November 12 for next hearing on the bail petition.

Listed criminal Sajal Chakma held at Rangamati

BSS, Rangamati

Police arrested listed criminal Sajal Chakma, 22, from Kalindipur area of the town yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, Kotwali police raided the area and nabbed Sajal. He was wanted in seven cases including robbery, police said.

US buildup in Gulf

FROM PAGE 12

vote on Iraq by the end of next week and Russia said the Security Council was nearing agreement on the terms for resuming weapons inspections in Iraq, but that "serious" disagreement remained over the US threat of force.

In Moscow, Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said "we have come close on a whole range of issues" but some "serious differences" over the proposed UN resolution remained.

The US secretary of state spoke with French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin, whose country also opposes the immediate threat of military force, and Foreign Secretary Jack Straw of Britain, which backs the US campaign for a hardline warning to Iraq.

Britain and France are among the five permanent members of the Security Council, along with the United States, Russia and China.

Hans Blix, the chief UN weapons inspector, again met Security Council members on Friday and UN inspectors will go to Cyprus this weekend to start setting up a staging post for their operations in Iraq, a UN source said Friday.

The base, where inspectors can group to receive instructions and

UN identity cards before flying to Iraq, will be in the southern port of Lamaca.

Blix has said an advance