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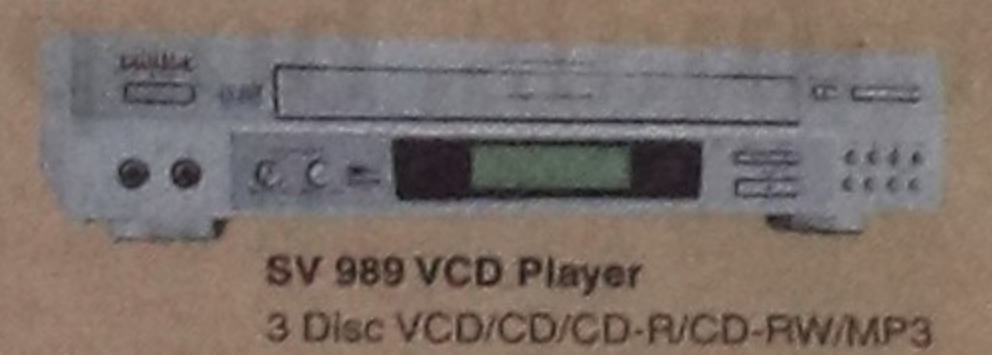
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PHILIPS

SC Bar Assoc for probe into custodial deaths

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday urged the government to set up a probe committee headed by a Supreme Court judge to investigate the deaths in the custody of the law enforcers including the army.

It also said the report of the probe committee should be made public and actions taken against the people responsible for the deaths.

The association stated the demands at a meeting of the executive committee held in the city yesterday with its President Ozaer Faruque in the chair.

The meeting observed that the deployment of the army has improved law and order and has created hope among people. "But the means of curbing crime has also created concern among lawyers and the people in general," the association said in a press release.

It hoped the law enforcing agencies would play their roles in eradicating crime within the limits of the constitutional and existing laws and remain above the interests of any particular party.

The lawyers' body also urged the law enforcers to be extra cautious during the drive so that it does not cause the innocents to suffer.

Sheikh Selim granted bail in a case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, yesterday granted bail to former health minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, MP, an accused in a case filed under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrP).

Magistrate Nurul Karim Majumder passed the order upon a bond of Tk 2,000 with two guarantors.

The defence lawyers submitted a petition, seeking bail on behalf of the accused.

They stated that Selim was earlier shown arrested in two other cases in connection with the attack on the motorcade of the then opposition leader Khaleda Zia and was given a one month detention under the Special Powers Act. So, he may be granted bail.

After hearing both sides, the court granted the bail petition.

Sheikh Selim, Chairman of

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Sayed survives rebel attack, sworn in as Kashmir CM

Congress leader among 24 dead in a day of bloodletting

AFP, Srinagar

Veteran politician Mufti Mohammed Sayeed was sworn in yesterday as the chief minister of Indian-administered Kashmir, hours after he escaped unharmful from a grenade attack by suspected Islamic militants on his home.

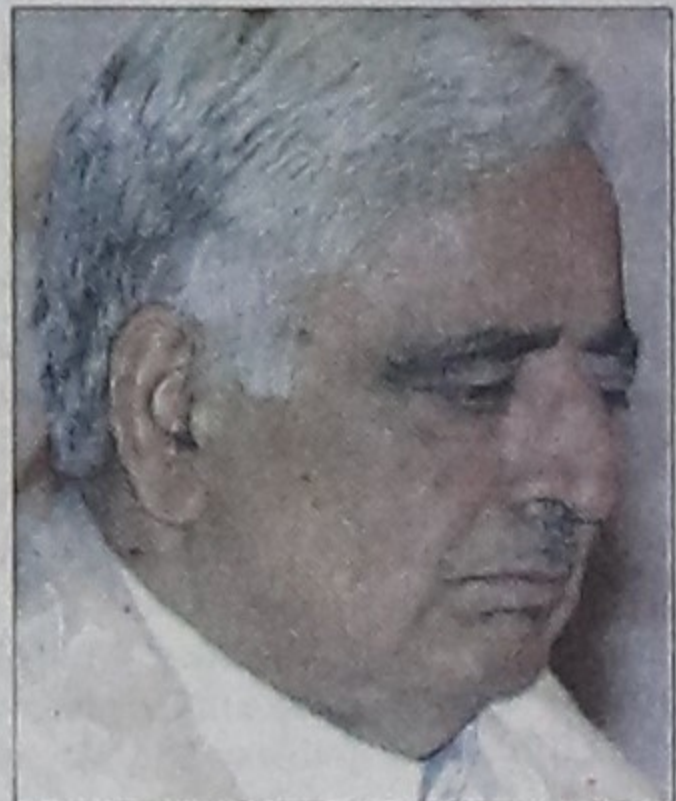
Also, a politician got killed when rebels ambushed his motorcade and police gunned down 12 militants. Eleven others were also killed as bloodletting in the violence-ravaged Himalayan state marked a surge yesterday.

Police said a member of the ruling Congress party in Kashmir was killed along with two of his security guards when rebels attacked his motorcade in Srinagar, the state's summer capital.

Police said Mohammad Sikander Khan was travelling in his car with his security guards when militants opened fire. Two police guards were killed on the spot, while Khan succumbed to his injuries later.

He had come to Srinagar to attend Sayeed's swearing in ceremony. At around same time yesterday, suspected militants shot dead a policeman patrolling the Badshah Chowk sector of Srinagar, police said.

A lesser-known militant group, the al Madina regiment, claimed both the attacks, a local news agency CNS said. The group said it also launched rifle grenades on Srinagar's police colony. Police said the two grenades hit an electric pole and did not cause any damage.



Mufti Mohammed Sayeed

In Indian Kashmir for three years, before a Congress-led coalition government took over a second three-year period.

Earlier yesterday, suspected Islamic rebels fired two rifle grenades at Sayeed's house, in Nowgam suburb on the outskirts of Srinagar, family members said.

One hit the chimney and caused little damage but the other exploded mid-air and injured a security guard, they added.

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Meanwhile, Indian security forces shot dead a dozen militants in Sawjan area of Poonch district on yesterday, a police spokesman said. They shot dead four more militants in southern Kashmir district of Anantnag late Friday, a police spokesman said.

Security forces shot dead two more militants in central district of Budgam and northern Kupwara district, police said, adding both were foreigners.

Sayed, a former federal home minister, was administered the oath of office by Governor Girish Chandra Saxena at a 30-minute ceremony before more than 700 specially invited guests in a packed auditorium on the shores of the Dal Lake, in Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar.

Among those in attendance were the leader of India's main opposition Congress party, Sonia Gandhi, and senior officials of Sayeed's Kashmir-based Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), including his politician daughter Mehbooba Mufti.

Sayed is to head a PDP-Congress coalition government

US buildup in Gulf on, UN closer to Iraq resolution

AFP, Washington

The United States pursued a military buildup in the Gulf region Friday as the United Nations edged towards agreement on a resolution on disarming Iraq.

The US also stepped up lobbying to get a strong motion against Iraq passed by the UN Security Council, but Russia said there was still disagreement over the threat of force.

Meanwhile, London's Daily Telegraph yesterday said that British Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown had ordered military planners to come up with new strategies after it was worked out that the contribution to a US-led war would cost three billion pounds (4.69 billion dollars, 4.71 billion euros).

This figure is about half a billion pounds more than the cost of the military action in the 1991 Gulf War, the daily added, quoting senior defence sources.

The aircraft carrier USS Constellation was to leave its home base of San Diego, California yesterday

at the head of a six-ship carrier group, US Navy spokesman Ensign Mike Morley said.

The departure of the Constellation - with its 75 planes and 5,500 sailors, marines and pilots - on a six-month mission was brought forward from early 2003.

The USS Abraham Lincoln carrier group is already in the Gulf and Morley said "there will be a period where both of them are deployed simultaneously". Another US carrier group is in the Mediterranean.

Alongside US efforts to secure United Nations action to disarm Iraq, President George W. Bush has emphasised that he is ready to lead a coalition against Iraqi leader

Saddam Hussein.

The military said this week that B-2 Stealth jets would be sent to bases in Britain and the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia, putting them closer to Iraq.

And the US Navy also said Friday that it is looking for commercial shipping to take ammunition and vehicles to the Gulf, the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea amid a repositioning of US forces.

The navy has awarded a stream of contracts to take armour, ammunition and other military equipment to the region ahead of any military intervention in Iraq.

US Defence Department officials said they expected the contracts to

be completed in time for delivery of the equipment in late November or early December.

In Baghdad, the Iraqi military said ground defence forces opened fire Friday on US and British warplanes as they flew over the south of the country. US and British planes have stepped up raids in no-fly zones in southern and northern Iraq in recent weeks.

Amid signs of that an agreement between UN Security Council members on an accord against Iraq is near, US Secretary of State Colin Powell stepped up lobbying efforts to get a strongly worded motion.

US officials said they expect a

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Earthquake off Sumatra injures 40

REUTERS, Jakarta

An earthquake measuring 7.7 on the Richter scale struck off the north-western coast of Indonesia's Sumatra island yesterday, injuring 40 people and flattening dozens of houses and buildings, officials said.

Officials from Indonesia's Meteorology and Geophysics centre said the small island of Simeulue - about 275 km southwest of the North Sumatran capital of Medan - was among the hardest hit areas.

Simeulue Hospital official Dr Hanif said 40 people were injured in the quake, two of them critically.

"Only 12 of those 40 people have been hospitalised and two of them are in a critical condition," Hanif told Reuters by telephone from the island, adding dozens of homes and shops had been destroyed by the quake, which hit around 8.30 am local time.



PHOTO AL

Sajeeb Wazed Joy (L), son of nuclear scientist Dr MA Wazed Mia and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, got married to Kristine Overmire, daughter of John and Mary Ann Overmire, in Michigan on October 26. Sajeeb is a computer scientist and Kristine a lawyer.

EU disappointed with Delhi Declaration

No mention of any future cuts in greenhouse gas emissions

AFP, New Delhi

The European Union and green groups expressed disappointment Friday after world environment leaders meeting agreed on a joint climate-change declaration that failed to mention any future cuts in greenhouse gas emissions.

The declaration, intended to help check global warming and help poor nations combat its impact, does not make any reference to future cuts on greenhouse gas emissions under the 1997 Kyoto protocol

on global warming.

The issue had opened sharp divisions between the rich and poor nations at the United Nations conference during negotiations on Thursday.

The EU allowed the convention to adopt the Delhi Declaration but later expressed its strong disappointment.

"On the political results of the declaration, well, I believe that it is clear to everybody in this room, and for the outside world, that the European Union is disappointed

with the end result of the Delhi declaration," said senior EU delegate Steen Gade.

"The EU has called upon all countries - developed as well as developing - to engage in a common dialogue with a view to kicking off a process for further action under the (UN) convention and the (Kyoto) protocol," he added.

The final declaration urged all nations to ratify the Kyoto protocol. A first draft, which had failed to mention the 1997 agreement,

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PHOTO STAR

A curious crowd looks at the charred bus after it was set ablaze by a mob following death of a pedestrian in an accident at Abdullahpur on the Dhaka-Mawa highway yesterday.

Talks with Yashwant FM expresses concern at killings by BSF

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Morshed Khan had a meeting with Indian External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha in London Friday and expressed concern at the killing of Bangladeshis near the border by Indian Border Security Force (BSF).

Sinha assured Khan that he would look into the matter and take it up with relevant agencies in India, according to an official communiqué from Bangladesh High Commission in London.

The two ministers met on the sidelines of the 20th Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) meeting held on October 31 and November 1.

The CMAG at its meeting discussed issues including those relating to Pakistan, Fiji Islands, the Solomon Islands and Zimbabwe.

The meeting decided to maintain status quo on Pakistan's suspension from the Councils of the Commonwealth "pending greater clarity and an assessment of the role and functioning of democratic institutions" there.

The CMAG requested the Commonwealth secretary general to remain fully engaged in monitoring the development of democratic process and institutions in Pakistan.

On the Fiji Islands, particularly about the ongoing judicial process on the constitutionality of Fiji's government, CMAG agreed to continue to monitor the situation and decided to keep Fiji on its agenda pending the outcome of the court ruling.

About Zimbabwe, the CMAG decided to keep Zimbabwe on its agenda while agreeing not to take any further action in view of the decision of the Commonwealth Chairpersons' Committee to "remain seized of the issue and continuing its ongoing efforts."

Dhaka, Delhi agree on joint panel on border issues

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

New Delhi and Dhaka have agreed to form a joint coordination panel to deal with border problems even after the two countries predictably took opposite stands on the subject of existence of training camps for northeastern Indian insurgents in Bangladesh territory.

The issue of Indian insurgents receiving training in Bangladesh figured on both days of the biannual meeting of the Bangladesh Rifles and the Border Security Force director generals which concluded Friday night.

BSF chief Ajai Raj Sharma told reporters that at the meeting he had voiced concern over the presence of Indian insurgents in Bangladesh territory and the training they got there.

However, his BDR counterpart denied that there was any such training camp in Bangladesh territory but agreed to examine any proof in this regard the BSF would provide.

The BDR chief restated Dhaka's position that it would not allow the country's territory to be used by insurgents to indulge in anti-India activities.

Similar was his stand during his meeting with Indian Home Secretary N Gopalaswamy on Thursday.

Official sources said divergence of views between the BSF and the BDR had delayed signing of a Joint Record of Discussion on Thursday evening. It was finally signed Friday afternoon.

The biannual meeting between border guards of the two countries focused on terrorism, smuggling and other trans-border crimes as well as illegal immigration.

The two countries reiterated their commitment to pool resources and fight terrorism and smuggling of weapons.

The two sides agreed to exchange by December 31 the lists of active trans-border criminals and criminal gangs. They agreed that the time gap between co-ordinated actions by the BSF and the BDR could be fixed at the sector commander level, taking into account ground realities.

Responding to Bangladesh's concern, Sharma said the BSF has intensified its drive along the border, which led to big hauls of phensidyl, a common syrup used in Bangladesh as intoxicant.

Schoolteacher murder Judicial statements of 3 witnesses recorded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Judicial statements of the three eyewitnesses to the killing of schoolteacher Swapno Kumer Goswami were recorded by a metropolitan magistrate, Dhaka, yesterday.

The witnesses are Shamsul Alam, a technician and Mohammad Manju and Mohammad Ahsan Habib, two shopkeepers.

The three were taken to the chamber of Metropolitan Magistrate Jagannath Das Khokon at about noon. It took nearly three hours to record their statements about the killing of Swapno.

They told the magistrate that at about 9:00 am on the day of the incident, three boys - Zillu, Biplob and Rifat - were waiting at the place of occurrence. After some time, Swapno went there and entered a shop to buy cigarette. As he came out, Zillu shot him in the head.

As he collapsed on the ground and was groaning, Zillu fired two more shots in his abdomen. Biplob and Rifat also had firearms with them. The three then fired blank shots and fled the spot immediately.

Swapno, a teacher at the Government Laboratory High School in the city, was killed on October 26 near his residence at the North Road in Hhutergoli

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

National Board of Revenue
Segunbagicha, Dhaka

Notice Regarding Work Permit of Foreign Nationals

It has come to the notice of the authority concerned that many foreign nationals are working without 'work permits'. On the other hand, many of them did not renew their 'work permit' even after its expiry but continuing to work in Bangladesh. According to the relevant laws, a foreign national can not work in Bangladesh without a valid 'work permit' issued by the concerned authority.

Concerned foreign nationals are, therefore, requested to procure or renew (as the case may be) their 'work permit' from the concerned authorities within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. It may be mentioned that these 'work permit' are issued or renewed by the Board of Investment (BOI) in case of industries located outside Export Processing Zones (EPZs). In case of industries located within an EPZ, work permits are issued or renewed by the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (BEPZA). In any other cases, such work permits are issued or renewed by the Ministry of Industries. Legal actions will be taken against concerned persons for non-compliance of this rule.

DFP-26629-30/10
G-2224

National Board of Revenue
http://www.nbr-bd.org