

### Let army work neutrally, Hasina asks govt

UNB, Dhaka

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the government to let the army work neutrally to curb crime.

"The army should not fail in eliminating crime, they will have to flush out the real criminals. Only then it will be possible to root out crime," she said addressing the newly elected Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leaders of Sylhet district and city units.

Hasina said Bangladesh Awami League always takes stand against crime and welcomed the ongoing anticrime drive.

"But will it be possible to root out crime by only arresting the opposition leaders and workers, instead of real criminals?", the Awami League president questioned.

Hasina said anyone could easily identify the real terrorists, killers and extortionists only by going through newspaper reports of last one year. If they are arrested, crime will be eradicated, she opined.

She alleged that "criminals of the BNP-led alliance government" were

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### Suicide of BBA student: One held in Comilla

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested a man from Comilla on charge of being responsible for the suicide of a female BBA student of the city's IMTT University.

In a pre-dawn raid yesterday, a team of Badda Police arrested Abul Hasnat alias Monu from Bantala village under Nangalkot Thana of Comilla.

Sources said Monu, while living in Dhaka City's Badda area, developed an affair with a BBA student of IMTT University promising to marry her.

But when he later refused to marry, the girl committed suicide by hanging herself on the night of October 5. Before killing herself, she left a note blaming Monu for her death.

A case was filed in this connection on October 8 with Badda Police.

Meanwhile, Monu and his mother had gone into hiding after the girl's death.

### 2 UPDF activists abducted allegedly by PCJSS men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Two activists of the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) were abducted allegedly by Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) men from Natun Bazar area under Naniarchar upazila on Tuesday.

The victims are Khonomoy Chakma, 26, and Kiron Chakma, 21. Intelligence sources said PCJSS men abducted the two at gunpoint while they were going to Naniarchar from Rangamati in a boat.

The abductors demanded Tk 10 lakh from the families of the victims for their release, sources added.

# Republicans seize full control of Congress

AFP, Washington

Republicans seized full control of the US Congress yesterday in a stunning election triumph for President George W Bush that strengthened his hand to pursue his conservative agenda, including his headline policy on Iraq.

The president's party wrested control of the Senate from the opposition Democrats and increased its majority in the House of Representatives after Tuesday's midterm elections.

The Republicans were also buoyed by the reelection of Jeb Bush, the president's brother, as governor of Florida.

Democrats, however, seemed poised to erase the Republicans' 27-21 advantage in state governorships after scoring key gains in large states such as Pennsylvania, Illinois and Michigan among the 36 governorships up for grabs.

Republicans have picked up at least 22 of the 34 contested Senate seats giving them 51 of the 100 seats, according to media forecasts. The Democrats won 10, giving them 46. There is one independent, and two races - South Dakota and Louisiana - still undecided.

Republican control of the Senate - and the full Congress - became clear when Democratic Senator Jean Carnahan conceded defeat to Republican Jim Talent in Missouri.

In Louisiana, a runoff vote is scheduled for December 7 after incumbent Democrat Mary Landrieu failed to get a majority of votes against eight chal-

lengers.

And in South Dakota, Republican John Thune had a slim lead of some 1,300 votes over incumbent Democrat Tim Johnson with 98 per cent of the votes counted.

In Minnesota, media stations projected that Republican Norm Coleman had edged out former vice-president Walter Mondale, a last-minute replacement for incumbent Democrat Paul Wellstone, who died in a plane crash last month.

Top Democrats immediately blamed their humiliation on a wave of patriotism and support for Bush unleashed by the September 11 attacks.

"9/11 was the big factor in this election," Democratic House of Representatives Minority Leader Dick Gephardt said on Fox News.

"This is a unique election in the annals of our political history. I think it is a very rare occasion when you have an attack like 9/11. It left people in the mood of wanting to support the president."

Outgoing Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle said the preoccupation with national security issues prevented Democrats from getting their message out.

"I think this country is still in the upheaval of 9/11. I think the war in Iraq, the North Korean situation, all of that probably precluded us from having the opportunity to break through with the issues we wanted to talk about the most: the economy, education, healthcare."

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PHOTO: STAR

A two-year-old child in the lap of a relative mourns its mother Ishita Begum Itri (left), who was killed allegedly by her husband at their Eskaton Road residence in the city yesterday.

## Goading students into goat rearing

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

The government now wants students to specialise in goat rearing - a move that came after last year's factual replacements and insertions in textbooks.

A chapter on goat rearing will be included in two secondary level textbooks published by the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), said sources.

The decision has surprised academics who think such a chapter is irrelevant and useless for students.

"It will be a waste of time, energy and money, as students are not going to take goat rearing as a profession," said a university teacher on condition of anonymity.

The chapter on goat rearing in line with the four-party coalition government's poverty alleviation programme will be included in agricultural science and home economics for the classes from VI to IX.

Also added will be some other chapters on environmental science, deforestation and its impact and moral science.

"These chapters will help students be more cautious

about the environment and contribute to poverty alleviation," State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon told The Daily Star.

The sources fear that the last-minute change would delay printing, as the NCTB is yet to supply positives of the additional chapters.

The NCTB has recently awarded printing jobs of 1.25 crore textbooks of the secondary level to 276 printing firms for the 2003 academic year.

Last year, the government brought changes to 18 textbooks of the primary and secondary levels to incorporate BNP's ideology and eliminate the changes made by the previous Awami League government.

Worse still, the coalition government skewed facts in an essay titled "Duijon Bir Shrestha" in the Bangla book of class IX.

The insertion in the essay says "Major Ziaur Rahman announced the independence on March 26 from the Kalurghat Radio Station" -- the sentence that replaced "Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman called for the independence of Bangla".

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## Husband allegedly kills wife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A young housewife was strangled allegedly by her husband at their Estakon Road residence in the city's Ramna area in the early hours of yesterday.

Ishita Begum Itri, 22, wife of one Mostafa Kamal, was strangled following an altercation with her husband, police suspect.

The victim's relatives alleged that she was strangled by her husband.

Itri left behind a two-year-old son, Imtiaz.

Ramna police arrested Kamal and sent Itri's body to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

A case has been filed with the Ramna Police Station in this regard.

## Viqarunnisa University reopens Nov 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Viqarunnisa University reopens on November 10 after 58 days of unscheduled closure.

The resumption, which the university authorities announced yesterday, follows a court order on Tuesday.

However, administrative activities are to resume on November 9, the announcement added.

The private university for female students in the city closed down for an indefinite period on September 13 following a difference of opinion between the school and college governing body and the university foundation.

The governing body alleged that there were irregularities in the university land contract and the mode of obtaining bank loan. They also apprehended that having the university within the same com

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## Arrests of lawmakers

# AL MPs to stage sit-in in front of Speaker's office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Main opposition Awami League (AL) lawmakers will stage a sit-in in front of the office of the speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad at 11:00am on November 10 to protest the recent arrests and tortures on the MPs.

An AL Parliamentary Party (ALPP) took the decision at a meeting yesterday. The meeting also demanded the release of all legislators including Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim and Talukdar Abdul Khaleq before the fifth session of the parliament commences on November 14.

The one-and-a-half-hour meeting of the ALPP, held at the Sangsad Bhaban meeting room of the deputy

leader of the opposition, also demanded that the upcoming parliament session be run for a longer period of time so as to provide the House with the scope to have discussions on overall situation of the country.

Senior presidium member of the party Abdus Samad Azad chaired the ALPP meeting, as AL President Sheikh Hasina, also the Leader of the ALPP, did not turn up.

Emerging from the meeting, Samad Azad told The Daily Star that the ALPP had expressed grave concern at the deaths of 20 people in army custody, arrests of parliament members by army just ahead of the fifth session and price spiral of essen-

tials on the eve of Ramadan.

Expressing grievances at the very short duration of the last parliament session - which sat for four days only - Samad Azad hoped the government would agree to hold the upcoming session for a longer duration so that "we can discuss the crucial situation of the country."

Opposition Whip Faruq Khan, MP, told The Daily Star that the ALPP meeting decided to stage the sit-in in front of the speaker's office on November 10.

Khan suggested that the fifth session should continue for at least three weeks so that the legislators could table, discuss and debate on

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## Tarajuddin murder case Dipu Chy, 22 others chargesheeted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Sajedul Islam Chowdhury alias Dipu Chowdhury, son of former state minister for shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, and 22 others have been chargesheeted in the Tarajuddin murder case.

The Investigation Officer (IO) of the case submitted the supplementary charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM's) Court, Dhaka, yesterday afternoon.

Earlier, names of Dipu Chowdhury and three others were dropped from the charge sheet as allegations against them were not proved.

The other chargesheeted accused are Shahin, Zahiruddin alias Zahir, Aleya, Mohammad

Sohel, Aminul Haq, Kanon Hasan, Monir, Gopal Krishna Biswas, Mokerram Hossain, Shahidul Islam, Sourav Das, Shaikh Jahangir Hossain, Syed Mohammad Shihab, Hiru alias Kala Hiru, Monir, Kayum, Mofiz, Rafiq alias Rafiquddin, Milon, Kalam alias Abul Kalam, Alam, and Khorshed.

Of the accused, Dipu Chowdhury and 21 others are now in the jail custody while Khorshed is still at large.

In the chargesheet, 45 people were shown as prosecution witnesses.

Eight alams (evidences) relating to the incident were recovered during the investigation.

Tarajuddin, president of a coop

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## 5 get life term for possessing illegal arms in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Assistant Sessions Judge's Court, Kushtia, yesterday sentenced five people to life term imprisonment for possessing illegal arms.

The convicts are Atiar Rahman, Didar Ali, Badsha Miah, Nawshad and Golam Mostafa.

According to the prosecution, the accused were arrested from Poradah Bazar in Mirpur upazila of the district on August, 28, 2001 while going to commit a dacoity by a microbus.

Police recovered four arms and ammunition from their possession.

After examining the records and witnesses, judge Mohammad Abu Taleb pronounced the verdict and fined the accused Tk 500 each, in default, they will have to suffer one year more in prison.