

**Govt interfering in army operation, says Hasina**

UNB, Dhaka  
Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina again accused the government of interfering with army operation and called for allowing the soldiers to operate independently to root out crime.

She said army could work freely only three or four days since the start of the countrywide crackdown until the government leadership started interfering.

Exchanging views with the Madrasah Teachers Association leaders at Awami League central office at Bangabandhu Avenue, Hasina blamed the release of 45,000 listed criminals for the deterioration of law and order.

The Awami League chief alleged that after assuming power 13 months ago, the BNP-Jamaat government set free the listed criminals from jail out of political vengeance to eliminate Awami League. "And they carried out repression on people irrespective of caste and creed as well as Awami League leaders, workers and supporters. The criminals raped women and children."

She was critical about a BNP leader's statement that army was called out following the misdeeds of Awami League. "Army was called out after they failed to control the criminals they released from jail after coming to power," she said.

The ex-PM observed that this government had lost the moral right to govern the country as she said it failed to come to grips with the deteriorating law and order situation. "Failing to curb crime, the government was compelled to call out the army, but immediately started interfering."

She, however, called upon the army to guard against violation of human rights. "Many have been killed after brutal torture," said the Awami League chief and called for stopping "repression and killing".

Responding to the madrasah teachers' observations, Hasina said a group launched and was still carrying out false propaganda at home and abroad against Awami

**Food poisoning 900 hospitalised in southern Russia**

AFP, Moscow  
A worsening food epidemic traced to contaminated dairy products continued to sweep through several regions in southern Russia yesterday, with more than 900 people hospitalised, the interfax news agency reported.

The victims, who are suffering from acute stomach infection, include 622 children, an unnamed official from the task force set up to deal with the crisis told Interfax yesterday.

People appeared to have been poisoned by bad milk, cream and yoghurt from a factory in the town of Kropotkin, in the Krasnodar region, where two employees had been diagnosed with dysentery.

All produce from the dairy plant has been withdrawn from sale.

Most of those infected are from Krasnodar, but nearly 80 other cases were also reported in the neighbouring regions of Rostov, Stavropol, Adygea and North Ossetia.

Russia's chief medical officer, Gennady Onischenko, who flew to the region, was quoted as saying by Interfax that "the number of people hospitalised is continuing to rise."

Krasnodar's regional prosecutor told ITAR-TASS that a criminal inquiry had been opened against the milk producer.

**Five robbers held in Ctg**

BSS, Ctg  
Detectives arrested five robbers from a house in the city's Nasirabad area in the early hours of yesterday. Acting on a tip-off, a team of detectives raided a house at Al Falah Lane and nabbed the five, a CMP press release said. The arrested are Zafar Alam, 32, son of Mohammad Ismail, Afsar Uddin, 32, son of Nurul Alam, Zakaria, 31, son of late Mozaher Miaji, Abdur Rahim, 31, son of Bacha Mian and convicted Sayed Nur Miaji, 38, son of late Mozaher Miaji of Boalkhali, Satkania and Sandwip upazila.

**Seven weeks after Dr Aftab murder No arrests yet, DB makes no headway**

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Killing of Dr Aftab Hossain, Assistant Director of Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital, whipped up public demonstrations and rallies joined by all political parties and strike by doctors for arrest of the killers but the law enforcers are still unmoved.

Police could neither arrest any of killers of nor find any clue more than seven weeks after the incident.

There has been no progress even after transfer of the case to the Detective Branch (DB) on October 5, sources said.

Dr Hossain was called to Ghoshgaon village from his chamber at Dhakadakhin bazaar under Golapganj upazila on the night of September 14 in the name of a private call, shot dead and left in a bush. Golapganj upazila is adjoining Sylhet Sadar upazila and Dhakadakhin bazar is about 35 kilometres from the city.

He was killed by a gang known as extortionists at Dhakadakhin bazar, some businessmen at the bazar

claimed while talking to this correspondent. The gang has links with police and an influential quarter, they said seeking anonymity.

Other sources alleged that police let the killers leave the area. Golapganj police arrested nine persons but released them later allegedly after realising money.

One of the nine -- Sujan -- confessed to police that he had taken the doctor to the village on the backseat of his motorbike on the night of the incident. He was paid Tk 10,000 for this. But for mysterious reasons police did not proceed further with the investigation, sources said.

The doctor who served the people of Golapganj upazila for about 30 years was loved by all, some residents of the area said.

As the news of his killing spread, people came out on streets and staged spontaneous demonstrations.

All political leaders in Sylhet, including those of ruling BNP pressed the police administration to arrest

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



PHOTO: STAR

A girl looks at a floral arrangement at an Ikebana contest organised by the Embassy of Japan and Dosokai Ikebana School at the Japanese Embassy auditorium at Baridhara in the city yesterday.

**2700 licensed arms deposited in city in last 3 days**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 2700 licensed firearms were deposited with different police stations in the city in the last three days as surrender of such arms under a government order continued across the country for the third consecutive day yesterday.

Around 700 firearms were deposited with the city police stations yesterday till the filing of this report at 8 pm.

Those who surrendered arms on the day include former home minister Mahmudul Hasan and BNP lawmaker SA Khalek. They deposited arms with the Gulshan Police Station and the Mirpur Police Station respectively.

A deputy secretary of the law ministry deposited three arms -- rifle, gun and pistol -- with the Demra Police Station.

In the city, 65 firearms were deposited with the Dhanmondi Police Station yesterday, 60 with Mohammadpur, 55 with Ramna, 52 with Sutrapur, 45 with Mirpur, 40 with Motijheel, 30 with Tejgaon, 30 with Pallabi, 29 with Khilgaon, 15 with Sabujbagh, 11 with Hajaribagh, 13 with Kotwali, 28 with Lalbagh, 18 with Demra, 10 with Shyampur, 30 with Kafrul, 29 with Gulshan, 30 with Cantonment and six with Badda police stations.

A number of retired army personnel deposited arms with the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

**Construction worker electrocuted**

BSS, Dhaka

A construction worker was electrocuted at Bashundhara adjacent to the Baridhara diplomatic enclave here yesterday.

Bacchu Mian, 20, was electrocuted while working on the second floor of an under-construction six storied building at 198, Block-F, Bashundhara about 11:25 am.

Fire service quoted witnesses as saying that the incident took place when he (Bacchu) came in touch with 11 KV live electric cable which runs just beside the under-construction building. He died on the spot.

Being informed, fire fighters from its Fulbaria headquarters reached the spot and recovered the body. Later, the body was handed over to Badda police.

Police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.



PHOTO: STAR

Motorcars glide past concrete blocks set up to streamline traffic movement on an experimental basis at the Kakrai intersection in the city. The experiment is being carried out as part of a joint initiative by the World Bank, Roads and Highway Department and Dhaka Metropolitan Police (traffic) to ease the city's traffic jam.

**CHT accord Larma vows to continue agitation**

CHT CORRESPONDENT

President of the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma yesterday criticised the government for not taking any initiatives to implement the essential aspects of the CHT peace treaty.

The former guerilla leader, who was re-elected PCJSS president, vowed to push ahead with the PCJSS movement for implementation of the CHT peace accord until the Jummia people's dream of establishing their own culture comes true.

Larma was briefing newsmen after the four-day seventh PCJSS congress at Khagrapur Community Centre in Khagrachhari rounded off with formation of a 35-member central committee yesterday.

Chandra Shekhar Chakma was elected general secretary and Shaktipada Tripura organising secretary.

Alleging that the anti-treaty United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) is involved in crimes, Larma said a section of people of the then Awami League government patronised UPDF criminals and a vested group of the present government is now backing them.

Larma announced a 33-point demand, including implementation of the CHT treaty, steps for election to the CHT regional council and the three hill districts, ban on the army operation -- Uttaran -- and pullout of army, ansar, APB and VDP.

**Clash over land One killed, 7 injured in Mymensingh**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A minor girl was killed and seven others were injured in an attack by their rivals at Char Anandipur in Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

According to witnesses and police, about 100 people equipped with lethal weapons looted paddy from a land owned by Momin Khan at around 7 a.m. and then attacked his house.

They also torched the houses of Momin Khan and his brother and beat up the inmates mercilessly, leaving Momin's minor girl, Taslima, 6, dead and seven others injured.

Locals said there has been a long drawn rivalry between Momin Khan and his neighbour Abdul Jabbar Khan over possession of the land.

The injured people are Rashid Khan, brother of Momin Khan, Noor Jahan, Shirina Khatun, Momin, Abu Jafar, Hossain and Rokeya.

Police recovered the body of the girl at noon. None was arrested in connection with the incident till yesterday evening.

**DOWN TO EARTH Role of orphanages and daycare centres**

ASM NURUNNABI

An orphanage plays a very important role in promoting social welfare and ensuring security of orphans by providing housing and care for them. In a poor country like ours where the orphan faces an uncertain future as he or she is confronted with the harsh realities of life without the essential support from parents, orphanages play a crucial role in the country's socioeconomic uplift by providing a sanctuary for these unfortunate children.

Many an orphaned child lives a wretched life being deprived of provisions for the basic human needs. The physical and psychological insecurities to which he or she is exposed make the orphan easy prey to various social evils. In this context, the useful role of orphanages cannot be stressed enough, although many of them are pitifully mired in financial and management problems. Also, the religion of Islam puts great emphasis on the care of orphans as evidenced by the numerous exhortations in the Koran in this regard.

Nawab Sir Salimullah of Dhaka was the pioneer in providing humanitarian services to the orphans in our country. He established a Muslim orphanage in Dhaka in 1909. Today, the Department of Social Welfare of the government, in order to supervise the

city's orphanages, has reportedly divided the city into seven zones where, as per available figures, a total 35 orphanages are said to be in existence under non-government management.

The government does provide some financial support to these orphanages through what is called the capitation grant, which is a certain amount of money given out to these orphanages. The amount of the grant varies from one institution to another as it is assessed depending on the number of inmates each orphanage has. The total annual expenditure of the government on account of such capitation grants to these institutions is somewhere in the neighbourhood of Tk 50 lakh. The amount, however, is not enough to cover the total cost of running such orphanages. In some cases, the capitation grant is supplemented by food grants from the government. But in most cases, the financial need of these non-government institutions are met by Zakat money and proceeds from sales of hides of sacrificial animals during Eid-ul-Azha, obtained as charity from members of the public.

The Department of Social Welfare is responsible for monitoring the proper utilisation of the funds of these institutions and its designated officials are also responsible for looking into other aspects of admin

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

**Anticrime drive AL may agitate if govt doesn't allow discussion in JS**

REAZ AHMAD

The government's treatment of the opposition in the coming session of the Jatiya Sangsad would set the course of politics in the country after the Ramadan, sources in the opposition camp hinted.

As the Sangsad goes into its fifth session on November 14, leaders of the main opposition Awami League (AL) expect the treasury bench to agree on a relatively long session so that legislators can discuss all contentious issues on the floor of the House.

Already antagonised by the arrest of two of its lawmakers ahead of the parliament session, the AL plans to stage a sit-in in front of the Speaker's office tomorrow (Sunday) morning.

AL sources hinted that the party would consider taking up agitation programmes right after the Ramadan if the government opts for a short session like the previous one (fourth session lasted four days only)

and does not allow discussion on deployment of army in the ongoing anti-crime drive across the country.

The AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) would meet on Monday to discuss the overall political situation and set the party strategy.

AL lawmakers would stage the sit-in tomorrow to urge the Speaker to act as the guardian of all lawmakers, specially at a time when 'dignity and privileges' of legislators were being infringed, the sources said.

Arrest of two AL lawmakers -- Sheikh Fazul Karim Selim and Talukdar Abdul Khaleq -- during the ongoing anti-crime drive took the AL leadership by surprise. Picture of arrested independent legislator Hemayetullah Auranga with his hands tied up and eyes blindfolded, published in all leading dailies, enraged the opposition lawmakers.

On October 28, two AL lawmakers -- Mirza Azam and Shahjahan

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

**8 injured as prisoners clash in Barisal jail**

A CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least eight prisoners were wounded, one seriously, in a clash between two groups in the Barisal Central Jail Thursday evening.

According to jail and hospital sources, the clash erupted when on-trial prisoners of the ward No. 3 were teasing the convicts for the delay in supplying special food on the National Revolution and Solidarity Day.

However, jail guards intervened and brought the situation under control. A wounded prisoner was admitted to the Barisal Medical College Hospital (BMCH) with head injuries.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Nov 9		5-15 pm
Nov 10	6-10 am	

  

Prayer Timings		
Nov 9		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-47	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-18	5-28
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation