

## 3 to die for murder in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

A court here yesterday awarded death sentence to three people for killing an auto-rickshaw driver in 1998.

The convicts are Swapna Mia of Choudhuram upazila, Jasim of Charfashion upazila in Bholia and Mohammad Selim of Kochua upazila in Chandpur.

According to the prosecution, the accused hired an auto-rickshaw from Chittagong and slaughtered its driver Ismail Hossain, son of Abdul Wadud of Champak Nagar village in Sadar upazila on November 6, 1998 when the three-wheelers reached Ratanpur village in Choudhuram. The criminals also took away the auto-rickshaw.

Later, local people caught the criminals and handed them over to police.

After examining records and witnesses, Additional Sessions Judge Mohammad Ansar Ali found them guilty of murder and pronounced the judgement.

## Death threat to family of BSS Netrakona correspondent

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Armed criminals of a local crime cartel issued death threat to the family of a journalist following publication of a news item on their illegal activities.

Police and eyewitnesses said Tuhin and Shaheen, two leaders of the local 'Engine Bahini' waylaid the wife and children of BSS Netrakona correspondent Faqru Haque at Old Court Road here Friday noon while they were going to the Netrakona Government Girls' High School in a rickshaw.

The two men told Faqru's wife that they would kill her and her husband and kidnap their daughter in retaliation for a report by Faqru on the activities of the Engine Bahini.

National news agency BSS recently circulated a news item on the Engine Bahini. The report was carried by a number of newspapers.

Sources said Tuhin and Shaheen are two notorious criminals of the district. Shaheen, an armed cadre of Jubo League, was released from jail a few years ago after serving a life-term for the murder of a local college student Kabir at Muktarpara Bridge in the town. Tuhin is also accused in several criminal cases and involved in theft and robbery.

A general diary was recorded with Netrakona Sadar Police station in this connection. None was arrested.

## Licensed arms

FROM PAGE 1

Asking not to be named, he said that he and his colleagues believed that political leaders played the key role in the 'licence scandal'.

Meanwhile, the government yesterday extended the deadline for surrender of licensed arms till November 21. The earlier fixed deadline was November 15.

Officials at different police stations in the city told this correspondent they believed that thousands of the so-called 'licensed' firearms would remain 'unaccounted' for despite the on going surrender of legally owned arms.

They pointed out that many of these licencees failed to deposit their arms before the parliamentary election in October last year and the government cancelled thousands of licences. Each police station was given a list of the licencees' names and addresses and asked to find out them and seize the arms.

In Mohammadpur area of the city, about 800 firearms were to be recovered. But none of those could be recovered as the licences were acquired in false names and addresses, police sources said.

They also said that most of the licencees never followed the rules for possessing firearms. They did not care to inform the police about address changes.

In this context, they mentioned that there are people who obtained arms licence in Thakurgaon and settled in Dhaka several years ago. But they never informed the local police about this, although it is mandatory. Now the same persons were coming to deposit arms with the city police stations, they added.

In the 10 days following the November 5 government order for surrender of licensed arms, 11,291 arms were deposited with the police stations in the capital, 3523 in Khulna district, 1928 in Barisal Division, 1815 in Sylhet, 688 in Kushtia, 598 in Pabna, 254 in Chuadanga, 395 in Patuakhali and 26 in Magura districts, according to the latest official figures.

Officials said the government would go for tough action against those who would fail to surrender their arms by the fresh deadline. The authorities would not only cancel their licenses but also issue arrest warrant against them.

The arrested are Enayetullah, master of the cargo boat and Akram,

## Viqarunnisa varsity stand-off Students, guardians to submit memo to PM today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One hundred and thirty-three students of the now closed Viqarunnisa University (VU) and their guardians will submit a memorandum to the prime minister today demanding reopening of the university.

They will stage a demonstration in front of the Viqarunnisa Noon School and College (VNSC) at 1 pm today, defying the VNSC authorities' prohibition. Then they will march to the prime minister's office in a procession to submit the memorandum.

The authorities then announced that classes of the university would resume on November 10 on the VNSC compound. But defying the court order, the VNSC authorities were obstructing this till yesterday.

The agitating students and guardians would go on a fast-unto-death if the government does not take any step to reopen the university within a week.

Meanwhile, following the university authorities' petition, the Joint District Judge's Court-1, Dhaka issued a show-case notice on the VNSC governing body yesterday asking it to explain by December 1 why punitive action would not be taken against it for violating court

order, VU Registrar Abdus Sattar told The Daily Star.

Earlier on November 5, the court had issued an injunction on the VNSC governing body asking it not to obstruct academic activities of the university. The injunction followed a petition by the university authorities.

The present BNP government issued licence of 48 arms during the last one year.

## Multiple arms

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requirement for the issuance of an arms licence.

The official said the major problem right now is to carry out drives in connection with the licences issued with false addresses. The Home Ministry, however, have cancelled the licences issued with false addresses.

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## Tinni's dress

FROM PAGE 1  
Earlier yesterday, Syed Rezaul Karim, uncle of the model, and her father-in-law Sahadat Hossain went to the police station and identified the garments of the unknown young woman as Tinni's.

They were also shown pictures of the body, which they confirmed to be hers.

The uncle was allowed to leave the police station after interrogation, while the father-in-law was being questioned till filing this report at 10:00 last night.

Piyal surrendered at about 9:15pm. Police said the model's body might be exhumed for investigation.

They also said they would also question some influential people including a former lawmaker who had relationship with the model. Police also quizzed some film directors and producers in connection with Tinni's death.

Earlier on Friday, Tinni's uncle contacted the Dhanmondi Police Station after a picture of a body of a young woman was published in a newspaper on the same day. The uncle claimed that the woman in the picture was Tinni.

Tinni came into limelight after modelling for a TV commercial. She also starred in a drama serial and signed up for seven films.

## PM's iftar party

FROM PAGE 12  
president.

However, leaders of some smaller opposition parties attended yesterday's iftar. They include Rawshan Ershad of the Jatiya Party (Ershad), Anwar Hossain Manju of his faction of the Krishak Sramik Janata League, Dr Kamal Hossain and Saifuddin Ahmed Manju of the Gano Forum, ASM Abdur Rob, Nur-e-Alam Ziku and Hasanul Huq Inu of the JSD and Zamir Ali of the Muslim League.

The meeting also decided that Petrobangla would negotiate with three of the four major consumers of Sangu gas in the Chittagong region to put their productions on hold at the time of repairs, meeting sources said. The four major consumers of Sangu gas are Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd. (CUFL), KAFCO, two 220MW Raazan power stations and Karnaphuli Paper Mill.

The state minister however said they are yet to decide who these three consumers would be. "Usually, some of these units go for a shutdown at a certain period of a year for maintenance. We would try to sequence that with the pipeline reconstruction."

## Sangu pipeline

FROM PAGE 1  
"Sangu has successfully undergone a seven-day test run before it started producing up to 180mmcf/d gas for Chittagong," the official had also said.

The 45-km offshore pipeline faces the danger of a breakdown at a critical point. Sources said a 20-to-26-metre stretch of the pipeline is precariously wobbling in the Bay without any support.

A top Petrobangla official said the soil in the seabed near the Sangu gas field platform just below the pipeline has shifted due to a severe storm, leaving the pipeline dangling dangerously in water. "The pipeline is not going to break down right now, but should there be any big storm in the Bay, there is a serious risk of a breakdown," he said.

At a meeting at the energy ministry yesterday, Petrobangla officials put down the critical condition of the pipeline to its design flaws. "A costly pipeline like this is not supposed to become so vulnerable within four years of operation," pointed out a Petrobangla official.

Shell officials said during the early days of operation, a severe storm had taken its toll on the sea bed. Besides, the oil companies while designing the pipeline could not properly measure the strength of the underwater current.

The meeting also weighed options to avert suspension of Sangu gas for two weeks, with Petrobangla suggesting that a by-

pass pipeline might be laid down. But Shell ruled it out.

Shell will replace 40 metres of the pipeline although some 20-to-26-metre stretch of the pipeline is damaged.

"We've told Shell to start the work between February 10 and 15 and keep us posted about the work schedule so that we can plan how to handle the situation," State Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain told The Daily Star yesterday.

Petrobangla would provide an alternative arrangement so long as Sangu gas supply remained suspended. "We have chosen mid-February for the repairs since this is the time when the gas demand is the lowest," said another Petrobangla official.

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## 11 BNP men picked up

FROM PAGE 1  
nai' Abdus Salu along with an LG and another person - Mostafa Kamal.

The army also arrested one Abdus Salam, a fugitive bearing life-term for murder from Razanagar in Rangunia in Chittagong. He is reportedly a BNP activist and loyal to Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury. Another BNP activist - Anwarul Islam - was arrested from Zafaragar in Shitakundu.

With these, the number of people arrested in Chittagong and Cox's Bazar districts is now 387 and that of recovered illegal firearms is 105 since launch of the army drive on October 17.

The firearms include AK47 and M-16. Of the arms, 50 have been recovered from Cox's Bazar and 55 from Chittagong city and the 26 thanas in the district.

During the last 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday, the army arrested 100 people including 16 'listed criminals' from different parts of the country.

They also seized 50 firearms including 14 pistols, 12 shotguns, six revolvers, nine pipe guns and 136 bullets during the period. Of these, five firearms including four revolvers were recovered from the country.

The joint forces arrested four people in Madaripur. They are Kalam Kazi, chairman of Nagerpara Union Parishad, Selim Melkar, 35, Shahin Sarder, 30, and Sujon, 25 from Naraila upazila.

Our Barisal correspondent reported that 'listed criminal' Aminul Islam Swapon alias Kala Swapon, joint secretary of Barguna district Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was arrested from a night coach at Dapdapia ferry ghat. Swapon is wanted in several criminal cases.

He had taken shelter in the army camp after launch of the army crackdown. He was returning home.

Our Kushtia correspondent reported that army arrested three persons including 'listed criminal' Sariful Islam of Mahiskundi village in Daulatpur upazila.

In Bogra, an army team raided the house of 'listed criminal' Biplob in Chaklupur area in the town and recovered a shutter gun along with three bullets. Not finding Biplob, the army took into custody his father Anisur Rahman, a retired army sergeant.

In Lalmonirhat, joint forces arrested 48 people from different parts of the district since beginning of the army drive. Of them, 15 are activists of Awami League and its student front Chhatra League and eight of BNP and its student front JCD, our correspondent reported yesterday.

Twenty-nine people have been arrested in Patuakhali since beginning of the drive.

The arrested are Enayetullah, master of the cargo boat and Akram,

Shafir and Brothers, a business firm based in Dhaka, is the owner of the cargo boat and Tanvir Enterprise of Noapara in Jessore is the importer.

The cargo boat had anchored at Chankuri on Thursday night on its way to Mongla port, police said.

Former chief adviser of the caretaker government Latifur Rahman and a number of other advisers also attended the iftar party.

## Kalindi jetty

FROM PAGE 1  
started constructing the jetty. When the BDR objected to the construction.

A group of BSF men of the South 24 Pargana Camp fired hundreds of gunshots at the Koikhali BOP at the Shannagar Thana at about 11:00pm on Friday night, a BDR official said. The firing again started at 7:00am yesterday morning. The BDR retaliated both the attacks.

The situation along the 238-km border with India at Sakhnagar was tense and many villagers fled homes fearing further escalation of attack.

BSF and BDR troops are in high alert with heavy weapons and have asked villagers to take shelter in safe zones, local people said.

In another incident, BSF forces of North 24 Pargana Camp fired on the Bhomra BOP near the Bhomra Land Port under Sadar Thana at around 11:00pm Friday night. BDR troops reiterated the attack, too.

At tinshed forest office at Koikhali was damaged in BSF firing.

Lt. Col. Ramzan Ali said the BDR has sent a strongly worded protest letter to the BSF. He said the BDR and the BSF will hold a flag meeting today to discuss the incidents.

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Prime Minister Khaleda Zia offers munajat at an Iftar party hosted by her for political leaders and MPs at Prothomamoni Bhaban in the city yesterday.

**Lawyers demand state security for Hasina**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT