

Acid attack on 12-yr-old girl in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A teenage boy threw acid on a girl, after she refused to respond to his amorous overture at Commissioner Road in the city's Shyampur area Monday evening.
A two-year-old boy, Antu, who was in the lap of the victim, also received burn injuries during the attack.
The victim, Sabina Yasmin, 12, daughter of Lokman Ali Sarder, was engaged as a domestic help at the residence of Jamil Islam.
The incident took place when the victim was playing on the roadside with Antu, the minor son of her master, in her lap.
As she was playing with her friends at about 5:00 pm, Raju, a local youth, went there and threw acid on her face, chest and throat. Antu also received burn injuries in his face and chest.
Both the injured were rushed to a local clinic and later shifted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital Monday night. Raju was arrested by Shyampur police for his alleged involvement in the offence.
Sources said that Raju used to tease Sabina frequently, but on Monday she threatened to inform her landlady if he continued to disturb her.

Liaquat, Arman held in Kolkata

Seven others including 'Kala' Jahangir, 'Pichchi' Hannan, 'Killer' Abbas freed

STAR REPORT
Kolkata police arrested Dhaka's top criminal and ringleader of the infamous Five Star group Liaquat Hossain and his second-in-command Arman together with Kala Jahangir, 'Killer' Abbas, Pichchi Hannan and four other criminals in the Kolkata New Market area Saturday night.
Liaquat and Arman had been placed on a seven-day police remand, but the rest were freed.
Last night, BBC Radio quoted the deputy commissioner of the city police detective department, Soumen Mitra, as saying police released all except Liaquat and

Arman upon verification of their documents.
Bangladesh has so far made no request to Kolkata police, nor was the Bangladesh High Commission office in Kolkata informed about the arrest, added BBC.
But several Indian newspapers including The Telegraph and the Sangbad Pratidin reported that they were handed over to the Bangladesh intelligence.
Another source in Kolkata claimed that the seven criminals actually fled during the police bid to arrest them.
Sources in the foreign ministry and the home ministry said the Bangladesh government was not

officially informed of the arrests till last night. They said no criminal was handed over to the Bangladesh authorities.
A home ministry official — Joint Secretary (political) M Kamal Uddin said Bangladesh would now approach India about it through its foreign ministry.
The criminals who were released are Kala Jahangir of Mirpur, Killer Abbas of Pallabi, Sada Sintu of Gopalganj, Pichchi Hannan of Tejgaon, Tonai Mullah of Old Dhaka, Mantu of Sutrapur and Nannu of Kathalbagan.
Liaquat and Arman were carry



Liaquat Hossain



Arman

Indian firms finalise plans to take in Bangladesh gas

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi
Three state-owned oil and gas corporations of India, which have formed a consortium for distribution of natural gas proposed to be imported from Bangladesh, are learnt to have finalised a plan for a 1,600-kilometre pipeline to transport the product from eastern part of the country to the market in the north.
The consortium styled India International Gas Corporation has been set up by the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).
Although the report of an expert committee set up by the Bangladesh government on avail-

ability of gas for domestic consumption and export is still to be cleared by the Prime Minister's Office of that country, industry sources in India are upbeat of a positive signal from Dhaka.
The new gas consortium has also finalised a marketing plan for steel giants — state-owned Steel Authority of India and private sector Tata Steel, the sources said.
American energy major UNOCAL's Managing Director (India) Ron Somers said last week in Kolkata that his company hoped that the Bangladesh prime minister would approve the proposal for export of gas to India within the next two months to enable her country to retain two advantages — price competition and market share.
Somers said timing was of particular importance for Bangladesh if it

was to capture market share in India, especially after the recent discovery of a big gas reserve by India's biggest private sector firm Reliance Industries in deep waters in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.
He feels any further delay on the part of Bangladesh in making a decision would rob Bangladesh of the advantage as far as pricing is concerned.
The UNOCAL official said marketing activities in the post-discovery period in Bangladesh has been completed and the entire project could be put in place within three years after clearance by the Bangladesh government.
Somers said UNOCAL has already felt a strong interest from

Muhuri murder Shibir cadre Saiful arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong
Police arrested another chargesheeted accused in the principal Gopal Krishna Muhuri murder case on Monday night.
Acting on a tip-off, Halishahar thana police nabbed Shibir cadre Saiful Islam alias 'Chhota' Saiful alias Monir, 28, from in front of Gausia Hotel in Halishahar area at around 8.30pm.
Chhota Saiful is wanted in five cases of murder including that of principal Gopal Krishna Muhuri and Chittagong University BCL leader Ali Murtaza. Police also recovered Tk 40 thousand from him.
Shibir cadres Chhota Saiful, Nasir, Habib Khan, Gittu Nasir, Taslimuddin Montu, Baittya



PHOTO: STAR

The Roads and Highway Department (RHD) runs a drive to demolish Baitul Aman, a historic building, in Narayanganj yesterday. The drive to evict encroachers from the RHD-owned lands came to an end upon a government order later.

No probe report yet on 'Kala' Faruq's death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The five-member probe body investigating the death of notorious criminal 'Kala' Faruq is yet to submit its report.
The home ministry on November 6 formed the body headed by Joint Secretary Kamal Uddin Ahmed because of the controversy following the death of 'Kala' Faruq in police custody.
Two days later, the committee members sought more time to thoroughly investigate the death.
Sources said the committee would submit the report as soon as its probe is complete.

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Bail petition of Hasan, Minu & Parvin rejected

COURT CORRESPONDENT
The Second Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka, yesterday rejected the bail petition of three accused in the Shazneen rape case.
The accused are Hasan, Minu and Parvin.
Judge Kazi Rahamat Ullah passed the order upon a petition seeking bail by the defence lawyers on behalf of the accused.
The defence lawyers submitted the bail petition to the court on Monday and made submissions on the issue. The prosecution side opposed the bail petition.
After hearing both sides the court rejected the petition.
Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15, the youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, Chairman of Transcom, was raped and murdered at their Gulshan residence on April 23, 1998.

Tailor dies in Keraniganj, alleged criminal in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A middle-aged man, allegedly picked up by the army for interrogation, died at the Mitford Hospital yesterday morning.
Also yesterday, mob beat a suspected extortionist to death in the city as he tried to escape the dragnet of the joint forces at noon.
While the suspected extortionist was identified as Zahurul Islam alias Mia, 28, identification of the other man, in his 40s, could not be confirmed.
Unconfirmed sources, however, claimed he was a tailor named Abdul Malek.
Meanwhile, after keeping mum for nearly six hours, the army sources finally said they had found the middle-aged man unconscious near the Abdullahpur Bridge on the Dhaka-Maowa highway and

handed him to Keraniganj police.
Keraniganj police, however, said they refused to receive the unconscious man when an army team brought him in the morning and instead sent him to the Mitford Hospital where the attending doctors declared him dead.
Later, police changed their statement saying that a team from the Kenakhola camp had found the man near the bridge and brought him to the police station.
Sub-inspector Abdul Quader of the Keraniganj station lodged a unnatural death case with the police station.
Neither the investigation officer of the case nor the officer-in-charge of the Keraniganj station nor the assistant superintendent of police could be contacted despite several attempts. They were busy as the

state minister for health was on a visit there, this correspondent was told by the station.
The policemen who brought the body to the hospital refused to talk to the press.
Later in the day, a team of army, Bangladesh Rifles, police and ansars personnel went to the bank colony at the IG gate to arrest listed extortionists of the area. While they nabbed Johnny, Liton and Kajal, their leader Zahurul wrestled free and escaped.
However, the leader of Mia Bahini (named after Zahurul) could not get far off as he was caught by mob and seriously beaten.
The joint forces, who were still in the area, came to his rescue and took him to a nearby hospital where

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Historic Baitul Aman at Chashara bulldozed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj
The authorities yesterday partially demolished the historic Baitul Aman building at Chashara, where Awami League was born and which witnessed many historic events including the Language Movement.
The two-storied building was constructed in 1939 by Khan Shahib Oslam Ali, the then MLA in undivided India. In 1948, Suhrawardi, Maulana Bhashani and other top leaders formed the first committee of Awami League at a meeting at the building.
The authorities when contacted said the building is illegal as part of

the land on which it stands was acquired in 1967 by the then Roads and Highways (R&H) department and its owners were given eviction notices several times earlier. The R&H has 78 feet land inside the building, they said.
But the owners, who are sons and daughters of Osman Ali, at a press conference at Narayanganj Press Club yesterday evening said the land was never acquired and they did not get any eviction notice. In fact, successive governments took away about 10 bighas of their land from around the building, they claimed.
At about 9:30 in the morning, a

group of R&H officials led by one magistrate and backed by a strong contingent of police force and an army team started demolishing the building, saying it is an "illegal construction."
Police also batoned the owners as they protested and showed deeds, the owners and witnesses said.
As the owners wanted to see the demolition order, Magistrate Mohd Ali told them that it was ordered by the prime minister. The magistrate also tore the title deed of the land, the owners and witnesses alleged.

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Hasina blames Khaleda for deaths in custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday blamed Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for 24 deaths during and after military interrogation since the anti-crime crackdown began more than a month ago.
"You, the prime minister, must take responsibility for the 24 deaths. The prime minister must be tried for the killings. You will be made the prime accused in all the 24 killings if cases were initiated in future in this regard," an angry opposition leader said in the parliament, pointing her finger at the PM.

Khaleda, sitting across Hasina, shook her head while her colleagues in the Treasury Bench shouted at the opposition leader.
The opposition leader also accused the government of telling blatant lies about the custodial deaths. "How could the government flatly deny all the 24 deaths in the army drive?" she asked.
A government spokesperson on Monday told the press that none died in military interrogation.
Referring to the excesses during the army drive, the opposition leader said people had a relief in first few days of the drive as it had con-

tained the BNP-sponsored crimes. "We had hoped that human rights would not be violated during the army drive. But, panic is now all around. People are afraid of being picked up any time."
Speaking on a point of order, Hasina also spoke about such other issues as removal of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's portrait and his historic March 7 speech engraved in mural, titled Bijoy Keton from the Liberation War Museum at the Dhaka Cantonment.
"It's a disgrace for the nation that the government has removed the

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Sehri, Iftar timing

Ramadan	Nov	Sehri	Iftar
14	20		5-15
15	21	4-54	5-15
16	22	4-55	5-14