The Daily Star

Veerappan sets new deadline in hostage crisis

years ago

A former police chief, C Dinkar,

who headed the police depart-

ment when Rajkumar's kidnap-

ping took place, has claimed the

government paid 200 million

In a book "Veerappan's Prize

on November 25, Dinkar says the

governemnt paid the ransom to

the bandit's contacts and that the

chief minister of Karnataka, SM

Krishna, had spoken to the bandit.

to reporters late Thursday, gives a

blow-by-blow account to the

Indian police

arrest "main

Indian police yesterday said that

The victim, a final year student at

Assistant Police Commissioner

"Rahul was arrested today after

"We have been questioning him

and would be produced in court on

the victim identified his photograph

in a dossier of bad characters and

vagabonds maintained by the Delhi

him. His plea has been turned

police," said Sharma.

New Delhi's prestigious Maulana

hostage drama.

incident.

Saturday.

down."

The book, which was unveiled

AFP, Bangalore

India's most-wanted bandit has set a 12-day deadline for sending an emissary to negotiate the release of former minister Hannur Nagappa, who has been held hostage for almost 90 days, an official said yesterday.

"In the audio cassette he has rupees (four million dollars) to the threatened to kill Nagappa if a bandit to secure the thespian's negotiator he wants is not sent," release after 108 days Mallesh Kumar, the minister's personal assistant, told AFP. Catch: Rajkumar" to be released

"The cassette was dropped at Nagappa's residence on Thursday and has been handed over to the government," Kumar said. Bandit Muniswamy Veerappan,

who is wanted for more than 100 murders and elephant-poaching, kidnapped Nagappa from his hometown of Kollegal in southern Karnataka state on August 25.

Veerappan, known for his handlebar moustache and who is a Tamil, wants a Tamil nationalist leader to be released from jail and be appointed mediator in the kidnap saga.

culprit" in The Karnataka government has refused to release Kolathur Mani. roadside rape who is accused of supply arms and ammunition to Veerappan. AFP, New Delhi

"Maybe you think that if you delay further, I will give up, leave Nagappa and disappear. You will only get Nagappa's body if you do not send Mani within 12 days," Veerappan said in a 20-minute cassette.

the capital. The Karnataka government The arrest came a day after has offered a "free and fair trial" to Indian lawmakers expressed anger Veerappan if he surrenders. in parliament over last week's

Arms deposit

FROM PAGE 12

Azad Medical College, was dragged licensed firearms are yet to be by three men into a Mughal-built deposited. They fear that these arch straddling one of the city's will virtually remain uncounted for. busiest roads and raped at knife-"Thousands of licensed firearms point for more than an hour. would remain uncounted for despite extension of the dead-Varsha Sharma said the main accused Rahul had been arrested line." said a police official here.

He said these arms would never be deposited as these belong to criminals who obtained licences by using fictitious names and addresses. " There was political backing in issuance of licenses of these arms.'

In the city, 22 firearms were deposited with Ramna police for the past two days. He tried to get station, 15 with Sutrapur, anticipatory bail on Thursday complaining that we were harassing

13 with Dhanmondi, 11 each with Khilgaon and Cantonment, 10 each with Mohammadpur and Lalbagh, eight with Motijheel, five each with Tejgaon and Badda, four with Kotwali, three with with and one Airport, Shyampur and Kafrul police stations.

The rape caused shock waves in Delhi, especially as the incident occurred less than a kilometre (a mile) away from police headquararresting people according to lists ters and the victim's screams for supplied by the government, she help were reportedly ignored by a police armoured car parked within added. earshot A day later in a separate case, a woman was dragged into a car and assaulted and on Wednesday two other similar incidents were reported in the city, home to 14 million residents On Thursday MPs in the upper house said New Delhi had turned into India's "crime capital" and called for the death sentence for rapists

Black group sues Jesse Jackson AFP, Los Angeles

A black organisation has sued civil rights activist Jesse Jackson for fraud and demanded he be barred from claiming to represent the black community, documents The bandit shot to notoriety showed Thursday when he kidnapped an actor, Rajkumar, from Karnataka two

The suit, filed last week in Los Angeles by a new group called African Americans Against Exploitation, claims the veteran politician "intentionally misrepresented himself as an official of the African-American race. "(Jackson) is knowingly misrep-

resenting himself as an official spokesperson in matters, which does not comply with the law or the plaintiff's own view," the group claimed. It has asked for a restraining order compelling Jackson to stop representing himself as a community spokesman

"We are asking for a temporary restraining order for him to stop claiming that he represents the black community," the group's president, Dwane Knight, told the Daily Breeze newspaper here.

Attorney Tracy Rice of Jackson's Rainbow/PUSH Coalition dismissed the action as a nuisance lawsuit and said she would try to have it thrown out of

court. The suit was due to be aired in court January 7.

In October, a group of black barbers, dubbed the National

Association of Cosmetologists, slammed Jackson and the Reverend AI Sharpton for they had arrested the main accused demanding an apology from the in the roadside rape of a medical MGM studios over the movie college student which has shocked "Barbershop."

The pair had said the lowbudget independent comedy was offensive as it poked fun at two sacred cows of the black civil rights movement, Dr Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks.

But the studio declined to apologize and the barbers came to the defence of the film saying it was 'very funny" that no apology was necessarv

Hasina

FROM PAGE 12 tody, she mentioned. The former prime minister said

the government is saying that none has died in army custody. "This is simply a bluff to the nation...cases will be filed for each death and the Prime Minister will have to take the responsibility for all these deaths.'

She said the government denied the facts in parliament, and asked if the newspapers were publishing false reports.

Hasina alleged the Prime Minister was violating human rights and blamed her for the deaths in 'army custody'. The troops are

rapes. He told a closed door reception of academics, scheduled to broken economy, a senior US include Mvanmar's ambassador

official said Thursday in the Bush administration's most fiercely that he had hoped to attend with critical outline yet of its policy "significant good news to share and even new acquaintances to James Kelly, the State make.

fair to say that Burma represents a most frustrating challenge for American diplomacy," Kelly said, according to a copy of his speech to be delivered at the School of Advanced

International Studies. Sources in Yangon said earlier this week that Myanmar Deputy Foreign Minister Khin Maung Win and junta spokesman Colonel Hla

Young man dies in N'ganj

FROM PAGE 1

end to encroachment on rivers

Myanmar's leaders should "hang

their heads in shame" over their

towards the military-ruled state.

Department's senior Asia

policymaker, said that signs of

tentative progress in a UN-

brokered government-opposition

dialogue over the past six months

stood out only because the coun-

ginal credit for allowing democ-

racy leader Aung San Suu Kyi to

travel, but savaged the Yangon

junta's treatment of dissidents

Kelly granted the regime mar-

try's plight was so "bleak."

AFP. Washington

car while trying to steal car parts from the house at Masdair on Monday night. But the owner of the car could

police against Masum and Aziz.

ring the countrywide crackdown on

DHAKA SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23, 2002

Tax evasion

FROM PAGE 1 Under the exiting system, tax officials can not question if a taxpaver hides his actual income and pays a less amount. They normally raise question only when somebody submits a written allegation of tax evasion by a taxpayer.

According to Bangladesh Bank (BB), the total number of directors of the 30 private commercial banks would be around 500.

When those private banks were set up there was no criteria for a person to be a director. Anybody who had money could be a director of a private bank.

That's why there is a number of bank directors in the country who do not have any sort of educational background or experience in bank business. Many housewives and underage people became bank directors.

A high official of BB told The Daily Star that they are going to introduce a guideline for the directors and set a criteria for a person to be a director

The main objective of the criteria will be to set some standards like sound educational background, experience in banking non-defaulter status and other qualifications for a person to be director of a bank, the official said

Myanmar's leaders should "hang their heads in shame"

for the forum among other offi-

But they did not arrive, and US officials refused to confirm or denv whether they had been refused visas. The junta's USbased lobbying firm also declined to comment.

"I break no new ground when I observe that Burma was once poised to be one of the most prosperous countries of Southeast Asia," Kelly was due to say in remarks obtained by AFP. "Now its broken economy has

trouble feeding itself. This is a man-made, not a natural phenomenon, and Burma's leaders should hang their heads in shame," he said, using Myanmar's former name

and handling of claims that its

update the court on Dhar's condition. reported that joint forces arrested a Meanwhile, the army arrested 111 'listed criminal' -- Aminul Islam Tiger, people including 26 'listed criminals' 28. Islam is a local leader of Jubo Dal. from different areas of the country and youth front of Awami League. recovered 29 firearms along with 32 bullets during the last 24 hours ending

In Magura, army arrested one Kabir Hossain, a member of Raghobdaveer Union Parishad in Sadar upazila from his house at Pucca

bomb targets in Iraq

REUTERS, Baghdad

US and British warplanes bombed two air defence radar sites in southern Iraq vesterday in the latest of a series of strikes in the no-fly zones, the US military said.

Iraq said the planes were driven off by anti-aircraft fire in the second consecutive day of Western strikes. The Western warplanes first

struck a radar near Ash Shuavbah about 400 km southeast of Baghdad at 4:20 am local time. Then they bombed a radar near Tallil, about 270 km southeast of Baghdad about 6:30 am, US Central Command said

US defence officials said the strikes were in retaliation for Iragi air defences attacking US and British planes that patrol no-fly zones in southern and northern Iraq.

"They responded to Iraq moving a surface-to-air missile battery into the southern no-fly zone," said Lt Col Dave Lapan, a Pentagon spokesman.

An Iraqi military spokesman, quoted by the official Iraqi News Agency, said Western planes bombed "civilian and service installations" in the provinces of Thi Qar and Basra, southeast of Baghdad.

Traffic signal light was intro-Thursday's strike came after US duced in Dhaka in the mid-1980s. At and British warplanes bombed three that time, 58 signal lights were set air defence communications facili-Later.un ies in southern Irag on Wednesda 10 more signal lights were set up in response to Iraqi missile attacks. Iraq does not recognize the flight between Russell Square and exclusion zones set up by Western Shyamoli Cinema Hall, and at the powers after the 1991 Gulf War to Panthapath crossing. protect a Kurdish enclave in the Moshiur Rahman, assistant north and Shi'ite Muslims in the engineer (signal) of the Dhaka City south from attack by President Corporation, said the project aided Saddam Hussein's military. by the World Bank was designed US officials say that continued with the concept that rickshaws firing at Western patrol jets by Iraqi would not be plying the Mirpur defences is a direct violation of the Road. Rahman also added that Nov 8 UN resolution, aimed at electronic signals would not be ridding Iraq of any nuclear, chemiinstalled at the intersections until cal, or biological weapons. UN Secretary-General Kofi June 2004, the deadline for the Annan has disagreed with that completion of the project.

tion at Zinjira has been undergo-

The road communication

there has improved with the

opening of the Bangladesh

China Friendship Bridge over

the Buriganga and construction

of another bridge. The internal

road network has also report-

edly improved with the result

that land price in those areas

With the rapid pace of devel-

opment in these areas as new

industries and businesses of

standardized products begin to

emerge, the bad image of Zinjira

is gradually beginning to wear

this process if it pays more

attention to the development of

genuine industries in this area

with a liberal policy covering all

aspects of development. At the

same time, observers also feel

that the authorities concerned

should take stern measures to

check with a heavy hand the

growth of any enterprise that

may be engaged in the produc-

tion of spurious and adulterated

If such a situation can be

brought about, it is felt that there

is no reason why Zinjira cannot

develop into an important indus-

trial zone, contributing to the

economic advancement of the

goods of any kind.

country.

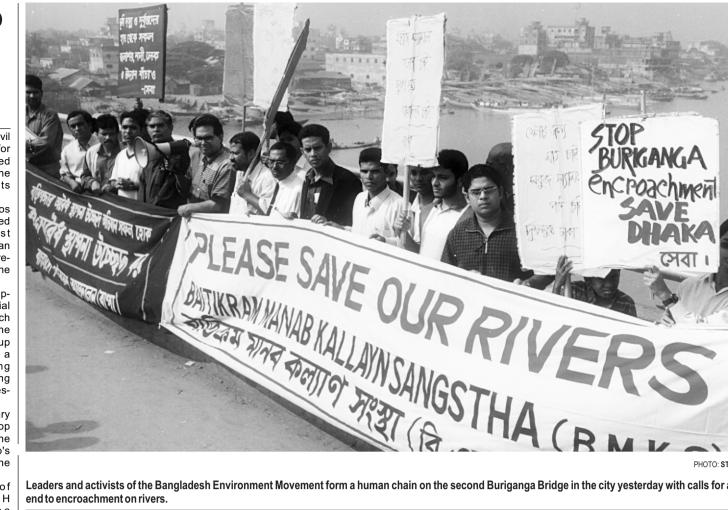
The government may help in

has substantially increased.

ing rapid change for the better.

Leaders and activists of the Bangladesh Environment Movement form a human chain on the second Buriganga Bridge in the city vesterday with calls for an

NEWS



US, British planes

interpretation, saving Irag's firing on

the aircraft did not violate the resolu-The United States accuses Iraq of amassing weapons of mass destruction and has threatened military action to force disarmament if it does not cooperate with UN arms inspectors who resumed work

in the country this week after a four-

Signals FROM PAGE 1

vear absence.

different intersections, particularly on the Mirpur Road, to 'educate' road users to respect the lights. But

the traffic policemen admit that it would require more efforts to grow awareness among the road users about the traffic lights. Deputy Police Commissioner (traffic) Abu Musa Fagrul Islam

Chowdhury acknowledged that the lack of traffic signals, road signals (Zebra crossing and so on), rundown roads and huge number of rickshaws are clogging the traffic system.

Min would travel to Washington

not be identified, they said. A case was also filed with Fatullah

at 8:00am yesterday. Masum's death pushed the toll Police headquarters Dhaka in a

troops were involved in mass cials.

to the United States Kyaw Win,

"But it was not to be. I think it

No firearm was deposited with Kamramgirchar and Hazaribagh police stations

Sources said the government has no plan to further extend the deadline

These licences will the cancelled first and then the arms will be declared illegal, they said.

Cases will be filed against their possessors under the Arms Act and legal action will be taken, they said.

66 children die

look into it." she assured

case management better."

Seed price

FROM PAGE 12

efforts.

Asked about the lack of

The Daily Star failed to contact

This year. BADC could not fulfil

its supply target as its contract

growers supplied only 7,500 tonnes

ecause of delay in payment of their

Only last week, the government

However, the ministry sources

Even if BADC can produce and

Out of around one lakh tonnes

requirement, private companies

and NGOs supply roughly two to three percent of it. The Department

of Agricultural Extension (DAE)

provides technical support to farm

ers to produce another 20 percent.

said they recently assured BADC

that from now on contract growers'

bills would be paid timely.

healthcare facilities, she side-stepped the issue. "The physicians

concerned understand the clinical

Brigadier Nurul Islam, RMCH direc-

tor, for comments despite repeated

FROM PAGE 12

Surprisingly enough, in the age of advanced science, premature neonates are kept wrapped in cotton under 100watt electric bulbs for want of incubator he said A well-ventilated and clean room,

artificial ventilator, incubator, suction machine, adequate supply of oxygen, photo-therapy machine, proper medicine and above all well-trained manpower are the preconditions of a child-friendly . hospital, Siddiqui said.

But other than a few oxygen cvlinders and suction machines. no equipment is available at the hospital for advanced neonatal healthcare, said sources

Although the RMCH installed an incubator ten vears ago, it was not used until last winter. However, it did not run more than three days. After a 'hazardous' (because of official procedure) repair, the machine worked one hour more and was overdue bills. dumped in the RMCH storehouse, said the sources

cleared their remaining dues of Tk To deal with rushes of child eight crore against supply of boro, patients, the RMCH set up 60 more wheat, pulse and oil seeds worth Tk. 24 crore in mid-last year. beds in the corridor of the 30-bed paediatric wards.

Mamtaz Begum, an attendant at Ward No. 24, said, "It (the hospital) stinks...all wards are dirty and

filthy." "I didn't see any cleaner in three market 12,000 tonnes next year, it days," said Sheikh Quamruzzaman, will meet hardly 12 percent of the another attendant. total annual requirement of boro seed in the country.

Jotsna, wife of Yasin Ali, a disabled labourer, had to keep her nine-day-old premature daughter wrapped in gauze bought with the physicians' zakat money, as she could not afford cotton and a 100watt electric bulb

Contacted, Dr Rokeya Begum, RMCH deputy director, expressed Farmers' preserved seeds meet the concern over the rise of neonatal rest of the requirement. deaths. "If the figure is correct, we'll

The AL chief said many "BNP terrorists" arrested by army personnel were set free at the directive of higher authorities'.

Replying to a question about the parliament, the opposition leader said the ruling party did not allow any AL member to ask questions during the question-answer session of the Prime Minister. "This was an arranged game.'

JU teacher

FROM PAGE 1

hit a lorry parked on a highway at about 2:30 am vesterday, injuring all boarding it. They were rushed to nearby Karnal Government Hospital where doctors declared Hosne Ara dead.

Her body was kept at the hospital and the injured students were admitted there.

Later, the four critically injured were shifted to Chandigarh PGI Hospital.

The study tour has been cancelled following the accident. The Bangladesh High

Commission in Delhi yesterday At least seven people including a sent a team to Chandigarh to union council chairman and a secuarrange sending home Hosne rity agency personal have so far Ara's body and look after the been nabbed for their involvement iniured students. JU sources said. in creating the artificial crisis in me areas, official sources said.

Chairman of the Archaeology department Prof Mozammel Haq will leave for Chandigarh this evening. He is being sent by the JU authorities to bring back the teacher's body and the injured students

Hosne Ara Motahar had joined Archaeology department as an assistant professor in 1998 and became associate professor recently. She was doing research for a doctorate degree.

She left behind her husband and a son aged 17.

Meanwhile, JU Vice Chancellor Prof Jasim Uddin Ahmad has expressed deep shock at the death of Hosne Ara.

Besides, President of JU eachers' Association Prof Amin Muhammad Ali and General Secretary Shamsul Alam Selim and Chairman of Archaeology department Prof Mozammel Haq have condoled her death.

criminals to 27 since it began on October 17.

Our Chittagong correspondent reported that naval forces recovered one sophisticated 9mm Sub-machine Gun (SMG) from a cave at Kalarmath in off-shore Moheshkhali island in Cox's Bazar. None could be arrested.

Meanwhile, Jubo League leader Chandan Dhar who was admitted to Chittagong General Hospital on Thursday night was once again taken into army custody.

Dhar was first picked up by army on October 17. He was released from Chittagong Jail on Wednesday evening. Army arrested him again from in front of the jail gate.

On Thursday evening, army took him to hospital, but arrested him again after a few hours, his family sources said. Dhar is also an official of People's Insurance company

Meanwhile. Dhar's family lodged a complaint with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court. The court directed the prison and the police authorities to

'identified criminals' and 788 'wanted criminals' from dirrecernt areas of the country during the last 24 hours. They also seized six firearms along with eight bullets.

On the other hand, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) in a special operation arrested 276 people from different areas of the city and recovered two firearms.

arrested 1448 people including four

In Khulna, joint forces arrested Ashraf Shaikh, a ringleader of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) from his Patla village home in Terokhada.

They also arrested BNP leader Sultan Ahmed from Rupsha Stand Road in the city. Sutan, known as 'Captain Sultan', was wanted in some criminal cases.

The joint forces also raided a BNP office at Rampal in Bagerhat while a party meeting was in progress and arrested a party activist -- Hanif Mallick

Our Lalmonirhat correspondent

2 notorious criminals

danger.

FROM PAGE 12

which Liaquat and his men opened fire, killing four people on the spot. Liaquat was last arrested in June 2001 but he was released within hours following telephonic message to police from some 'high- ups'. His brother Kamrul Hossain alias Hannan is also a listed criminal of the city.

Once Liaguat was an accused in dozens of cases. He was however acquitted of most of the cases over the years. He is now an accused in a couple of cases, police said.

Arman Khan

Arman Khan is known as the 'second-in-command' to Liaguat. Son of SM Ainul, he is a permanent resident of the city's Moghbazar area. In the 80s, Arman had introduced himself to a criminal based at the Dhaka Polytechnic Institute, Ashish

He took Arman to the crime world and trained him on firearms. At a stage, Arman got involved in a feud with Subrata Bain Shuvra, a listed top criminal of the city and ringleader of the notorious 'Seven Star gang. Arman some times joined hands with some other top criminals to save himself from the wrath of Shuvra.

Later, Arman left the company of Ashish and joined hands with Jatiya

Kanchanpur village. He was handed over to police

Our Sirajganj corespondent reported that joint forces arrested three 'listed criminals' from Sadar and Kazipara upazilas and recovered a pipe gun along with some bullets. They are Al-Amin 18, Habib, 18, and Nurunnabi, 38.

The joint forces so far arrested 63 people from different parts of the district since the drive began on October 17.

In Rajbari, the army arrested one 'notorious criminal' -- Shaheed Mia -from his house at Kajibanda village. They also recovered two guns from Suriunagar area of the town.

Our Khagrachhari correspondent reported that joint forces arrested five alleged criminals in the last three days. Three of them are wanted in murder cases. They recovered 191 bullets from the possession of one of them named Dulal.

Nigerian riots

All three officials said that a curfew due to end this morning had been extended through the day.

Fighting broke out in Kaduna on Wednesday when Muslim youths protesting against an article on the Miss World Beauty pageant, which is due to be held in Nigeria on December 7, burned down a newspaper office.

On Thursday the fighting became more general as a protest march degenerated into attacks on Christian churches and homes, witnesses said. Several places of worship have been burned out and police and soldiers deployed to the streets

The newspaper ran its third apology for the report on Thursday's front page since it published the story. It said the story went out in error.

The Miss World contest, which Nigerian officials hope will showcase the country and add to its tourist appeal, initially ran into trouble amid worldwide publicity over Amina Lawal, a 31-year-old woman who was sentenced under Islamic law to death by stoning for bearing a child out of wedlock.

Following assurances by the government that no one would be stoned, some 90 contestants arrived in Nigeria last week, with many voicing support for Lawal and other women sentenced to death by courts enforcing Islamic sharia law.

Zinjira: Bad image

of

FROM PAGE 12 name in the market.

Apart from textile products. some well-known brands of tar, washing soaps, aluminum products, nuts and bolts are also manufactured here

On the other hand, it seems that to some extent, there is substance in the general notion that Zinjira-made products are synonymous with fake and lowquality goods.

Some unscrupulous people trying to make a quick buck are said to be behind the largescale racket for producing spurious commodities of many kinds and marketing them all over the country. We often read newspaper reports about existence of factories at Zinjira making largescale adulterated and spurious commodities of many kinds including vegetable ghee, drycell batteries, soyabeen oil and even antibiotics. In the absence of any effective supervision from authorities concerned, these spurious and adulterated commodities find easy market with the simple rural people. Also, some people resort to producing low-quality products due to lack of funds to spend on strict quality control.

We thus find that Zinjira is as much a source of high guality goods as of spurious and lowquality ones.

However, the overall situa-

Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) cadre Murad. He worked as an accomplice of Murad for long and used to take shelter under another top criminal, Sweden Aslam, at times of

He came close to Sweden Aslam now in jail) following the killing of Murad in 1992. After a few years, he joined hands with Liaquat and

became his 'second- in- command.' Arman and Liaquat fled the country and took shelter in Kolkata after the BNP government prepared a list of most wanted criminals of the city and announced award for their

arrest in December last year.

Cold climes

FROM PAGE 1 degrees Celsius in northeastern northwestern and southwestern regions of the country until the end

of November. "In some regions, mercury has reached 14.2 degrees Celsius," an official told The Daily Star. He, however, did not make any longterm forecast on intensity of cold.

Winter has announced its sure presence in suburbs and villages too

Winter vegetables roll in the city markets every day. But people of the low-income bracket cannot afford them.