

DISCUSSION ON JAIL KILLING Assassins, this govt are linked: AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) presidium member Suranjit Sengupta yesterday said the government has established state terrorism in the country by destroying the judiciary.

He said the verdict of historic Jail Killing Case on October 20 and politically-motivated appointment of 19 additional judges in the High Court on August 24 again proved this.

He expressed this view at a discussion on Call of the Jail Killing Day organised by Shaheed M Mansur Ali Smriti Sangsad at the National Press Club.

There is a link between the conspirators, who assassinated Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the four national leaders, and the government, he alleged. That is why the self-declared killers were acquitted and those who died received capital punishment, he added.

AL central leader Abdur Razzak said the assassination of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, four national leaders, controversial Jail Killing Case verdict and the August 21 carnage are inter-linked.

The defeated forces in the Liberation War have planned to wipe out the AL and its allied forces and establish a communal government, he added.

Former home minister Mohammad Nasim blasted the killing of people in the name of 'crossfire'. "If those are real shoot-outs, why aren't the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members receiving a single bullet?" he asked.

Presidium member Tofiq Ahmed said the government launched these operations as it failed to maintain law and order in the country.

Presiding over the discussion, Prof Abu Sayeed, former state minister for information, said it is

apparently a failure that despite all the crises plaguing the country, the pro-liberation forces couldn't be united.

Communist Party Bangladesh General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal acting President Mainuddin Khan Badal, Bangladesh Mohila Awami League General Secretary Fazilatunnesa Indira took part in the discussion.

Explosives recovered in Tangail destroyed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

The grenades, mortar shells, mines and other explosives recovered in Magontinagar village in Modhupur Thursday were destroyed yesterday.

An 11-member special team led by Lieutenant Hasanuzzaman of Shahid Salahuddin Cantonment destroyed the explosives.

Modhupur police think the explosives were kept there during the Liberation War in 1971.

Police and local sources said some labourers hired by Abraham Mangsang found the explosives while digging his pond.

Police later recovered nine 36-MH grenades, 12 mortar shells, 14 anti-personnel mines, 200 GC-Primer, 100 meter detonating cord, four paper switches, 80 non-electric detonators, one fuse for anti-tank mine and huge amount of explosives.

PM leaves for Saudi Arabia tomorrow for umrah

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia leaves for Saudi Arabia tomorrow to perform umrah and offer fatha at the Rawza Mubarak of Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (SM).

The prime minister will arrive at Madina and stay there for three days. She will offer special prayers on the night of Lailatul Qadr at Masjid-e-Nabawi.

From Madina, Khaleda will go to Makkah and perform umrah. She is scheduled to return home on November 13.

FM hands over PM's letter to Bhutanese premier

BSS, Thimpu

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday handed over a letter of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to Bhutanese Prime Minister Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba inviting him to the forthcoming Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) summit in Dhaka January 9-11.

Accepting the letter, the Bhutanese prime minister said he was looking forward to attending the summit of the regional forum. Khan also conveyed greetings of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to her Bhutanese counterpart, foreign ministry sources said.

The foreign minister later called on King Jigme Singye Wangchuk at the royal palace. During the meeting, King Wangchuk praised the role of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in promoting peace and development in the region.

Khan, on behalf of the prime minister, extended an invitation to the king to visit Bangladesh. The king expressed his willingness to pay a visit to Bangladesh at a convenient time.

Outlaw lynched in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An armed cadre of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddho) was lynched by a mob in the city yesterday.

Police recovered the body of Mohammad Shumon alias Shujan, 24, from behind Khulna Circuit House at about 7:30pm.

Son of Abdul Hamid of TB crossing road under Khulna Police Station, Shujan was the prime suspect of bomb attack on Sekander Zafrullah Khan Sachchu, senior vice-president of city BNP.

According to the officer-in-charge (OC) of Khulna Police Station, Shujan was an extortionist and accused in several criminal cases.

Shujan's father alleged that his son was beaten to death by police yesterday noon.

Filipino woman mugged in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Filipino woman was mugged in city's Demra area yesterday.

Her name could not be known immediately. Demra police said she is married to a Bangladeshi national and resides at Konapara.

Police and locals said while she was passing through Katherpool area at Konapara at around 6:45pm, a gang of three muggers took away her handbag that reportedly held Tk 22,000 and some documents.

As the woman cried for help, locals rushed to the scene and caught one of the muggers, Shaiful Islam, the mugger, was badly beaten by the locals. He received first aid at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).

No case was filed till late in the evening.

Extortionist injured in mob beating dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An extortionist injured in mob beating at Mirpur on Wednesday died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday morning.

He was identified as Faisal alias Boltu, 22. A mob caught Boltu and two of his accomplices-Nayan and Jhantu-when they went to Shah Ali kitchen market at Mirpur to collect toll.

Nayan was beaten to death on the spot while Jhantu and Boltu were admitted to the DMCH in critical condition.

Meanwhile, a truck driver died when his truck plunged into a jheel near Novodoty Housing in Mohammadpur late Thursday night.

Police and firefighters retrieved the body of Mohammad Mamun, 25, hailed from Fatullah in Narayanganj, after an hour. The truck was carrying sand to the housing project.



Dutch Ambassador Kees Beemsterboer speaks at Nakhalpara Ahmadiyya mosque complex in the capital yesterday. He led a group of six EU envoys to express solidarity with the civil society in resisting capture of the mosque by bigots.

They open their heart

FROM PAGE 12 is now working as a photographer in Brac.

"I've asked my parents not to arrange my marriage before I am 20 and they've agreed," she said. "If a girl conceives before 20, she runs the risk of facing severe health complications," she reasoned.

She told Princess Alexandra that they want to be self-dependant and contribute to their families.

Rashida Begum, supervisor of Kishori Abhijan centre in Ashura village, said initially they met with difficulties while bringing the girls under their project. "But now parents realised the situation and are interested to send their daughters to us."

On fees and other charges, she said, "Girls deposit only Tk 2 every month and it's refundable."

The Danish princess went on a visit to another Kishori Abhijan centre in Surpur and exchanged her views with the parents.

"We don't want our daughters to get married before 20. We want them to be educated so that they can be aware of their rights," Sheuli Begum, a parent, told Alexandra.

"I got married at the age of 12 which was a big mistake in my life. I don't want to see my daughter face the same," she explained.

There are 162 Kishori Abhijan centres in Chandiaria in the district. These centres take a two-hour class once a week on reproductive health, women empowerment and provide life-skill training.

"We've included local commu-

Indians kidnap trader in Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police early yesterday rescued a staff of Nasir Tobacco abducted four days ago from a village in Kushtia while an Indian gang kidnapped a garment trader from a bordering village in Chuadanga on Thursday night.

Aziz and Faruk, two alleged cadres of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML) on Monday took Sahinur Rahman Sabhin to Dohokola, a remote village of Sadar upazila on the pretext of showing him a bridegroom for his daughter and abducted him, Kushtia police said.

Shahin, 30, is an assistant accountant of Nasir Tobacco at Daulatpur upazila in the district.

Later, one Taleb introducing himself as regional leader of PBCP-ML demanded Tk 10 lakh over cell phone from Shahin's father as ransom.

On information, Apurbo Hasan, sub-inspector (SD) of Sadar police, arrested Taleb's father Golam Safi, from his house at Dohokola and pressed Taleb to release Shahin on Thursday evening over cell phone.

Later, the SI went to Dohokola paddy field at about 4am following Taleb's words and rescued Shahin half-dressed with hands and legs tied up.

In Chuadanga, an Indian gang picked up Abdur Razzak, a Bangladeshi garment trader from bordering village Hariharnagar in Jiban Nagar upazila on Thursday night and demanded Tk 20 lakh for his release.

Local people said the gang of eight led by Indian citizens Obaidul and Munna, entered into Bangladesh territory through Hariharnagar border point and picked up Abdur Razzak at gunpoint at about 8:30pm.

Razzak hailing from village Amtoli of the area was involved in hoondi business and smuggling with the gang members in the border areas, some local people said, adding that the abduction might have followed squabbling over the illegal trading.

He could not be rescued till late in the evening yesterday.

Meanwhile, police could not trace out the bride Kaji Khatun of Daulatpur and schoolgirl Sampti of Jhenidah kidnapped on Wednesday.

As many as 108 people including 43 school and college students were abducted in the district during the last ten months.

Of them 13 including three school students were killed, 12 are still missing and the rest bought their freedom.

DU Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz said the Syndicate, too, is inclined to publish at least the recommendation part of the investigation report.

The investigation body into the DU 9/11 headed by Pro-VC Prof AFM Yusuf Haider in its interim report on September 20 named three leaders of the BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) as the masterminds behind the day's violent incidents including ransacking of the DU Teachers Association president's office. Acting on the interim report, DU Syndicate, the highest decision making body of the university, expelled the three JCD adherent students temporarily.

The 9-member committee submitted its final report on October 13 accusing seven JCD leaders, including the three, and one of AL-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of being the prime perpetrators of the crimes.

A meeting of the Syndicate on October 14 asked the DU Disciplinary Board (DB) to take appropriate action against those charged by the enquiry committee for the DU 9/11.

But sources said some top JCD leaders have been lobbying against any punitive measures being sanctioned against the accused belonging to their party.

So it was no surprise, they said, that the DB in its meeting on October 24 could not discuss the 9/11 probe report.

But the next DB meeting on October 27 with Prof Faiz in the chair did make a surprising move. It asked the DU proctorial body to re-examine the 9/11 incidents and submit a 'complete' report within two weeks' time, in other words, to do the drill all over and implying the investigation report to be 'incomplete'.

But, talking to The Daily Star, a member of the probe body, Dean of Social Science Prof Harun-or-Rashid,

Arafat

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uprising against Israel. All the branches of the Palestinian security services were placed on maximum alert late Thursday while senior representatives of all the main Palestinian factions were to meet in Gaza City.

Mohammed al-Hindi, the head of Islamic Jihad in Gaza, said the high committee of Palestinian and national Islamic factions -- an umbrella organisation which includes the Islamist movement Hamas and Arafat's Fatah faction -- would meet at the local offices of the Palestinian parliament.

"We will discuss the dangerous situation, especially what will happen if the president were to die," Hindi told AFP. "Inshallah (God willing), we hope he will recover."

Israelis were meanwhile trying to absorb the implications of the apparent end of the Arafat era.

Some could barely contain their delight with Hatzofe, the mouthpiece of the Jewish settler movement, running the headline "Arafat Alive -- Until the Current is Shut Off".

Israeli ministers have been trying to avoid commenting on Arafat's condition amid the conflicting reports about his status. Neither do they want to be seen endorsing a potential successor.

However Arafat's death has the potential to galvanise the moribund bilateral peace process, with former Palestinian prime minister Mahmud Abbas emerging as the front runner in the succession race.

Abbas has been acting head of both the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Fatah since Arafat's departure.

Aftab shines but

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stage were tottering on 125-6, reached their target with 32 balls to spare. Once again it was Chris Cairns that relieved the pressure with a huge six and four off Manzarul Islam. But unlike his power-packed knock in Chittagong, the world-class all-rounder scored a watchful 51-ball 17.

Before Aftab almost derailed the New Zealanders, Matthew Sinclair (62 off 73 balls) and Nathan Astle riddled 74 runs for the opening stand.

Coming in as second change, the medium-pace left Astle caught by Javed Omar for 29 in his second over. Astle, who pulled Japhar Baisya over square-leg for a six and hit two fours, mistimed a pull to give an easy catch at mid-wicket.

The 19-year-old Aftab trapped Hamish Marshall lbw for two with the last ball of the same over.

Sinclair, who scored fifty off 65 balls, was stumped by Khaled Mashud of Mohammad Rafique.

Man-of-the-match Aftab, bowling for the first time in his fourth ODI appearance, then removed big-hitting Scott Styris' off-stump before winning low runs against Craig McMillan and Brenton McCullum.

The third and final match will be played at the same venue tomorrow but there was bad news for Bangladesh who will miss captain Habibul Bashar who suffered a fracture in his left toe while batting. Earlier, Bangladesh failed to make most of a perfect batting pitch due to the dismal top-order batting.

The Tigers were reduced to 52-5 but Khaled Mashud's 41 gave the total some

CID may quiz 'Kala' Mahabub today in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) might resume quizzing Kala Mahabub, a close aide to the prime accused in Jamal Uddin abduction, today as his condition was improving at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), sources said.

Mahabub, the second in command to the principal accused Kashem Chairman, was undergoing treatment at the CMCH till yesterday.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Chittagong arrested Mahabub Alam alias Kala Mahabub, 42, from Kanchannagar of Fatkhchhari on Monday night and handed him over to CID on Tuesday night. He fell sick soon after the handover and was admitted to the CMCH.

Earlier during interrogation under Rab custody, Kala Mahabub made contradictory statements as to the fate and whereabouts of Jamal Uddin Chowdhury.

Jamal Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury, a Chittagong-based magnate, was abducted on July 24, 2003.

Officials of CID, tasked with probing the sensational abduction, said if interrogated, Kala Mahabub might give vital leads to the abduction and the victim.

Meanwhile, Nazma Begum, wife of Jamal Uddin, talked to Kala Mahabub at ward No. 26 of the CMCH on Thursday. Kala Mahabub denied his involvement in the abduction.

Both the Rab and CID officials claimed to have obtained sufficient information that clearly links Kala Mahabub to the abduction.

Strong watch keeps

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the peoples including Ahmadiyyas. Amnesty International (AI), meanwhile, expressed deep concern for the safety of the country's Ahmadiyya community following threats issued by Islamist groups during Salat-ul-Jumaa yesterday to raid what they termed were Ahmadiyya places of worship.

International Khatime Nabuwat Movement, Bangladesh (IKNMB), the most aggressive group of anti-Ahmadiyya agitators, yesterday threatened the government with a massive countrywide movement if it does not pass a bill in the current parliament session proclaiming the followers of Mirza Golam Ahmad Kadian non-Muslims.

Against this background, the AI press release yesterday said, "The government of Bangladesh must take decisive action against anti-Ahmadi agitators who have continued to attack members of the Ahmadiyya community. These groups have been allowed to attack Ahmadis with impunity."

ATNAKHALPARAMOSQUE To thwart the IKNMB bid to capture the Ahmadiyya mosque at Nakhalpara in Tejgaon, a large number of civil society members led by Justice K M Sobhan went there and took position inside the mosque yesterday morning.

South Asian People's Union against Fundamentalism and Communalism, Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, Awami League and different left-leaning parties were the leading organisations that mobilised the anti-IKNMB civil force.

Among the prominent civil society members were Shahriar Kabir, Salma Haq, Ferdousi Priyobhasini, Doulat Ara Mannan, Kazi Mukul, Ruhin Hossain Prince, Abu Osman Chowdhury, Abdus Samad, Meer Hossain Akhter and Ali Hasan Tarun.

The six-member ambassadorial delegation of the EU countries led by Ambassador of the Netherlands Kees Beemsterboer joined the civil society members before Jumaa. The other delegates were the ambassadors of Germany, France, Italy, Sweden and Denmark.

To the Ahmadiyya leaders present, the envoys expressed their concern at the ongoing anti-Ahmadiyya agitation and push.

Praising the civil society's proactive role to maintain religious harmony in the country, Beemsterboer said, "We are here not to take stand against any one. Our main intention is to stand by the Constitution of Bangladesh that guarantees freedom of religion and expression to all its citizens."

IKNMB ACTION Members of Dhaka Metropolitan Police and Armed Police Battalion (APBn) stood guard at the mosque in the morning. Contingents of police, APBn and paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles were deployed at Nabisco intersection in Tejgaon before Jumaa.

Some 5,000 IKNMB zealots came in several processions from different mosques after Jumaa and gathered at the intersection.

Addressing a demonstration there, IKNMB leaders said Ahmadiyyas have no right to live with the identity of Muslims in Bangladesh.

IKNMB Ameer Mahmudul Hasan Mamtazi said, "We will not do any harm to you (Ahmadiyyas) if you live here as members of a non-

Muslim minority sect. But you will not be allowed to identify yourselves as Muslims or your places of worship as mosques."

Threatening the government of paralysing the country if it does not legislate in the current parliament session proclaiming Ahmadiyyas non-Muslims, he said no government would be able to stay in power without fulfilling their demand.

Accusing the coalition government of betraying them by deterring their men from approaching Ahmadiyya mosques, Mamtazi said, "Beware, we will throw you out of office if you do not meet our demands."

"No one will be able to stop the forward march of the soldiers of Islam in Bangladesh," he challenged.

The IKNMB ameer also condemned the foreign diplomats for what he said was meddling in the country's internal affairs and visiting the Ahmadiyyas at Nakhalpara.

Ruling coalition partner Islamic Oikya Yote Secretary General Abdur Rab Yusufi, Islamic Shasantantra Andolon Joint Secretary ATM Hemayetuddin, Khelafat Andolon Secretary General Zafrullah Khan, IKNMB Secretary General Nazmul Haq and leaders Abu Zafar Kashemi, Abul Kashem and Gazi Ataur Rahman also spoke at the rally.

Traffic on Tongi Diversion Road remained suspended for two hours as IKNMB activists kept it blocked from Mohakhali to Satrasta intersection during the demonstration.

INBRAHMANBARIA Instructed by police, Ahmadiyyas omitted Azan for Salat-ul-Jumaa at Bhaduagar Mosque in Brahmanbaria fearing it might incite the bigots to attack their mosque, reported our Brahmanbaria correspondent.

Riot police guarded the mosque and patrolled the area since the morning to bar the zealots, who on October 29 had attacked the mosque, injured 11 Ahmadiyyas and vandalised their houses, from approaching the mosque.

Police activism drove away the Khatme Nabuwat members, who had threatened to burn down the mosque and Ahmadiyyas if they pray there any more.

The town continues to be gripped by tension as the Nabuwat activists has threatened to punish the locals for protesting the October 29 attack.

NARAYANGANJ Local anti-Ahmadiyya operatives who, after failing to capture the mosque on October 8, had threatened to make another bid yesterday or the coming Friday, were not seen in expression to all its citizens."

40 lawyers

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shortlisted lawyers. Chittagong bar had formed two bodies to probe the mark sheets scandal involving lawyers practising in Chittagong courts.

Bar sources said that the lawyers, who had been listed as allegedly involved in doctoring their certificates, have stopped coming to court for the past few days.

Meanwhile, sources said the Chittagong University authorities too have decided to take punitive action against 2400 examinees for doctoring mark sheets during the period of 1983-94. A probe body in 1996 detected the irregularities.

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DU probe reports

FROM PAGE 1

Officials said the DU administration does not keep any record of the probe bodies' activities. Sometimes, the authorities are at a loss about who is probing what.

They said many an investigation committee does not submit a report. Perhaps, it is better too, as the handful of reports that manage to come about invariably meet an ignominious fate -- of being put in mothballs, in dungeons of oblivion, forever -- and only a precious few of them succeed in prompting any action or getting some attention to their recommendations.

DEVIUS PROBE INTO DU 9/11 Referring to the September 11 attacks on an opposition student combine and considering its gravity, Prof Hasan said, "We hope this probe report would be made public, as people have the right to know the facts."

DU Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz said the Syndicate, too, is inclined to publish at least the recommendation part of the investigation report.

The investigation body into the DU 9/11 headed by Pro-VC Prof AFM Yusuf Haider in its interim report on September 20 named three leaders of the BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) as the masterminds behind the day's violent incidents including ransacking of the DU Teachers Association president's office. Acting on the interim report, DU Syndicate, the highest decision making body of the university, expelled the three JCD adherent students temporarily.

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So it was no surprise, they said, that the DB in its meeting on October 24 could not discuss the 9/11 probe report.

But the next DB meeting on October 27 with Prof Faiz in the chair did make a surprising move. It asked the DU proctorial body to re-examine the 9/11 incidents and submit a 'complete' report within two weeks' time, in other words, to do the drill all over and implying the investigation report to be 'incomplete'.

But, talking to The Daily Star, a member of the probe body, Dean of Social Science Prof Harun-or-Rashid,

exclaimed, "I don't know what remains incomplete in our probe."

The university administration actually has no sincere intention to take action against the attackers on the rally of the opposition combine, BCL President Liaqat Sikder told The Daily Star.

He warned, "If the authorities try to save the Chhatra Dal cadres, the student community would go for very tough programme."

STALLING KHOKON MURDER PROBE Two probe committees, one headed by Prof Hasan and the other by Jahurul Haque Hall House Tutor Nizamul Haque Bhuiyan, were formed to look into the killing of JCD activist Mahubul Islam Khokon of the hall by members of a rival faction.

Khokon was beaten black and blue on September 15 and succumbed to his injuries three days later.

The committees that were asked to submit report within one week are yet to come up with them, even after seven times the allotted time.

On October 19, the DU treasurer said, "Interviewing students and staffs of the dormitory we have found some 12 students directly involved in the physical assault that led to Khokon's death."

He said his committee needs yet another week to finalise its report. CAM IN ROKEYA HALL? NO Two probe committees, both headed by Rokeya Hall Provost Dr Tazmery SA Islam, were formed to investigate the planting of a video camera in a toilet of the girls' dormitory last month.

The committees in this case did submit reports to the VC. But they claimed no camera was fixed in any toilet of the dorm. It was just a rumour spread by tabloid newspapers.

The reports are yet to be published.

The report of the 5-member committee formed on April 17 to enquire into an assault on Shahin Mollah and Baki Billah -- correspondents of The Daily Star and Sangbad -- besides ransacking of some medicine shops by JCD cadres, was never disclosed.

Even the 150-page probe report on police atrocities at Shamsunnahar Hall on July 23, 2002 was stowed away for good by the DU authorities.

The fate was the same for a horde of other investigation reports.

Commenting on this issue VC Faiz uses a diplomatic approach saying there is no official barrier to publishing a probe report if the Syndicate permits. Treasurer Hasan on the other hand is straightforward and says the truth is DU probe