

## Women cadres

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have covered the women cadres during their move.

According to police, their forces along with detective branch conducted raids on several locations in the town and different parts of the district in last 24 hours. But could not arrest any of the cadres named by the four arrestees during interrogation.

Meanwhile, Baishakhi Rahman Chumki, a suspected GMF activists arrested on Wednesday, made her statement under 164 to judicial magistrate where she admitted her involvement with various criminal activities for last two years.

Police said Chumki was accused in an explosive case filed with Bheramara Police Station on June 25.

On June 24, Police recovered two bombs, bomb making materials and sharp weapons from her house. Chumki fled the area after the incident and recently was living in Chourhas area of Kushtia town.

Police said Chumki married to a man in Manikganj in 2001 and was divorced in 2002. Then she married to Sabuz of Kushtia housing area in 2003.

Sabuz was killed in Bheramara in 2008. Chumki was involved in the murder, police said.

Chumki further married to Rimon of Chourhas in Kushtia town and was staying together. Since her arrest, Rimon has been absconding.

Chumki admitted her connection with "some people" but she did not know whether they were outlawed party members or not.

They often came to her and asked to work for them. She had to threaten people over cellphone, demand certain people pay money, carry different "packets" and delivery them to different places and people following the directives. For her services, she got paid.

Police said Chumki used to carry weapons of the GMF that she called "packets".

Police said they would interrogate Chumki about recovered bombs and bomb making materials from her house and also Sabuz murder.

Meanwhile, police keep quizzing Nahid Parvin Champa arrested on Thursday.

Champa got involved with outlawed party through arrested Awami Mahila League leader Akhi in 2008, said police. Champa's elder sister Nasrin is wife of Akhi's brother Nipu, a top GMF cadre, who is now absconding. Nasrin was involved with the outfit for last four years.

Police said Nasrin accompanied Akhi while transporting firearms by a microbus Monday night but she left in Daulatpur and since then she has been disappeared. Akhi, her accomplice Rani and three other GMF cadres were arrested later that night.

Daughters of Abu Bakkar Siddiq of Amlapara who is the owner of National Homeo Laboratory, Nahid and her sister Nasrin both were involved with outlawed Gono Mukti Fouz. They got involved with the outfit in 2008.

Champa married to one Masudur Rahman Lenin in 1998 in Dhaka and they were divorced in 2001. Then she married one Abdus Salam in 2004. Salam was an expatriate living in Japan.

Champa went to Japan with husband after the marriage but returned back in 2008 and began to reside in Dhaka. At present she had no relation with her husband.

Champa was also a weapons carrier of the outfit. Police said they will play before the court for her head.

Kushtia ASP (headquarters) Alamgir Hossain, also coordinator of the drive, said the ongoing drive would be continued.

## US army

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Another officer shot him four times to end the killings and was herself wounded.

Hasan, 39, opened fire with two non-army issue pistols at a medical processing centre for troops being deployed from Fort Hood to Iraq and Afghanistan, officials said.

Fort Hood commander Lieutenant General Bob Cone said one of the guns was a semi-automatic weapon, which "might explain the rate of fire that he apparently obtained."

Cone said that Hasan had acted alone. The gunman was blocked from reaching a graduation ceremony attended by some 600 people, close to the scene of carnage.

Hasan was "not currently speaking to investigators," Cone said.

"As horrible as this was, it could have been much worse," the commander said as he praised the rapid reaction to the shootings. The first responder was shot by Hasan but survived and managed to take him down.

Most of the victims were military personnel and many were taken to a local hospital, which put out an urgent call for blood donations as streams of wounded poured into its emergency rooms.

## Pak troops

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attack last August, had been razed, the army said.

The military reported "intense engagements" in the Makin area and terrorists "fleeing leaving behind their weapons and ammunition."

It added that 25 militants had been killed so far around Makin and three others in Sararogha, which shot to local infamy as the operational centre of Mehsud before he was killed on August 5.

Pakistan launched its fierce air and ground offensive into the northwest region on October 17, with some 30,000 troops backed by fighter jets and helicopter gunships laying siege to Tehreek-e-Taliban bolt-holes.

So far, the military has claimed to have killed 450 militants since the operation began, with 47 troops losing their lives.

The long-awaited assault on South Waziristan came after a spring offensive in and around the northwestern Swat valley. In July, the government declared the offensive a success but sporadic outbreaks of violence have continued.

## Bangladesh

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The new varieties were made possible following the identification of a single gene that is responsible for most of the submergence tolerance. In 1995, David Mackill, then at the University of California (UC) at Davis, and Kenong Xu, his graduate student, pinpointed the gene in a low-yielding traditional Indian rice variety known to withstand floods. Xu subsequently worked as a postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Pamela Ronald, a UC Davis professor, and they isolated the specific gene called Sub1A and demonstrated that it confers tolerance to normally intolerant rice plants.

David Mackill, who now heads the Plant Breeding, Genetics and Biotechnology Division of IRRI, along with the Ramona Ronald visited the Pampur site of Sub1 varieties November last year.

"The potential for impact is huge," David said during his Bangladesh visit. "In Bangladesh, for example, 20 percent of the rice land is flood prone and the country typically suffers several major floods each year. Submergence-tolerant varieties could make major inroads into Bangladesh's annual rice shortfall and substantially reduce its import needs."

BRRI's rice scientist Khandakar Md Iftekharuddaula worked as a postdoctoral fellow with Mackill and got the gene responsible for submergence tolerance into BR-11 early 2007.

Zeba I Seraj, a professor at Dhaka University's biochemistry and molecular biology department, explained to The Daily Star how Sub1 works. "As water inundates rice fields, Sub1 gene helps rice plants remain 'metabolically inert' for up to two weeks; thereby, keeping the plants unaffected. But if the water remain stagnant for a longer duration, it will not be possible for the crop to withstand."

Zeba, who has been working for years on different stress-tolerant rice varieties, said farmers would be benefited if the submergence tolerant rice varieties are released soon.

Meanwhile, detained Huji chief Mufti Abdul Hannan was sent to Dhaka Central Jail yesterday after his two-day remand.

## Khaleda worried

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She urged the government to ensure law and order in the sector. "It is the responsibility of the government to take necessary measures for improving law and order, and to ensure the right environment for facilitating growth of the readymade garment sector, and its competitiveness in the global market."

Expressing grave concerns over the unrest that has been flaring up in the sector, she urged BGMEA leaders to pay the workers the standard minimum wages in every factory, and to pay the salaries in the first week of every month.

Expressing her support for BGMEA's demand that the government allocates money for the sector in its stimulus package for industries affected by the global economic recession, Khaleda who is also the leader of the opposition in parliament said the RMG sector is the worst sufferer of the recent drop in export revenues.

"Many countries of the world gave stimulus packages to different sectors to help them face the economic recession. Financial assistance was given to overcome the crises and many sectors overcame those with the assistance," she said.

She, however, did not make any comment regarding BGMEA leaders' request for her to discuss the issue of the RMG sector in the parliament, as they expressed their desire to see that the parliament has become the centre of the country's governance.

BGMEA President Abdus Salam Mursheedy who was presiding over the ceremony said in his speech that consensus between the government and the opposition is a must for creating and maintaining an atmosphere conducive to growth of trade and investment.

"All activities related to the country's governance should start in the parliament which should be the centre of governance," he said requesting the opposition leader to discuss BGMEA's proposals in the parliament.

Saying that the export oriented industry is suffering from an image crisis, Mursheedy urged the BNP chief to help the sector revive its global goodwill, by presenting to the world while participating in international forums, the steps BGMEA took to move the sector forward.

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, former ministers M Shamsul Islam and Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, BNP lawmaker Barkat Ullah Buisi, and BGMEA Vice-president Shafiqul Islam Mohiuddin also addressed the ceremony.

Khaleda, a former premier of the country, urged the government to reduce fees at Chittagong Port, cut down bank charges and interest rates, resolve gas and power supply crises, and to facilitate setting up of living quarters for RMG workers.

She also urged the government to lobby hard for getting

## Babar sent

**FROM PAGE 1**  
August 21, 2004.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a CID official said Shamsul was summoned to their Malibagh headquarters and questioned after Babar claimed he first learnt about the August 21 carnage from the former DIG.

He said the officials grilled Shamsul and Mostofa for hours. Besides questioning them separately, they brought the two face to face with Babar.

In another development, the official added, detained Huji founder Sheikh Abdus Salam had linked one Monir to a white microbus in which the attackers fled the Bangabandhu Avenue, scene of the August 21 blasts.

CID has launched a man-hunt for Monir. One of its teams yesterday conducted raids in the city's Mohammadpur and adjoining areas to hunt him down.

Contacted by The Daily Star, Additional Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police Abdul Kahar Akand, also investigation officer of the case, declined to elaborate on the interrogation of former DIG Shamsul Islam and SP Mostofa Kamal.

He also would not say anything about sending of Babar to TFI.

CID sources said former IGP Shahidul Huq, former DMP commissioner Ashraf Huda and ex-CID chief former additional IGP Farrukh Ahmed too have been summoned for interrogation in the case.

quota free access to the US market, play a strong role in World Trade Organisation, and to make Bangladesh missions abroad more proactive in looking after the interest of the RMG sector.

She also demanded formation of an industrial police and an intelligence unit for the sector, saying there is no scope for delay on the matter, and urged the government to come forward with a policy support for the sector.

Khaleda Zia alleged that industries and trade in the country are facing danger due to deterioration of law and order, and extortion and tender manipulation by ruling party activists. She said the situation is worsening due to internal conflicts among ruling party people over the business of 'jhut', which are left over fabrics of garment industries.

"We have to keep the prices of our products competitive to survive in the global open market. For that the first imperative is lowering of production cost, and ensuring a sound environment for production and investment," she said.

The BNP chairperson also advised owners of garment factories to be alert, so no resentment could form among workers. "Factories will run well, if the workers feel good. I am sincerely urging you to take more steps for the welfare of workers," she told RMG industry owners.

She gave a rundown of the steps the BNP regime took for the betterment of the sector, and appreciated different initiatives BGMEA took for the welfare of workers, urging the association to continue the trend.

## BMA polls

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election almost unopposed as three other panels, including the main opposition BNP-backed panel of Doctors' Association of Bangladesh (DAB), boycotted the election, expressing doubts about the credibility of the election process.

The election was held across the country on Thursday, with participation of only the Mahmud-Sharfuddin panel and partial participation of the communist party-backed Bangladesh Doctors for Environment and Health.

The elected members are -- president Mahmud Hassan, seven vice-presidents -- Abdur Rouf Sarkar, Kamrul Hassan Khan, M Nazrul Islam, Nurul Islam, Sheikh Baharul Alam, Mostafa Alam Nannu, Md Ehteshamul Chowdhury, secretary general Sharfuddin Ahmed, treasurer Ehesanul Kabir Jagul, joint secretary Md Abdul Aziz, general secretary Uttam Kumar Barua, science secretary Samiul Islam Sadi, organising secretary Md Kamrul Hasan, publicity and public relation secretary Md Mahbubur Rahman, social welfare secretary Md Ahsan Habib Helal, cultural and hospitality secretary Shamsad Begum, library and publications secretary Afana Karim and international relations secretary Muhammad Hossain with 22 executive committee members to run the BMA centrally.

Voter turnout was low across the country. Dr ASM Mashur Rahman said 40 percent of votes were cast out of total 25,133 voters to elect the office-bearers.

According to the BMA election commission, the finalised list could be available tomorrow. Committee members for 37 districts have already been selected uncontested, sources from the association said.

## BNP observes

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freedom fighters".

The Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rob) observes it as the day of civil-military revolution.

As a part of its programmes, BNP will place wreath at the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman at 10:00am. BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and other top leaders of the party will participate in the programme.

BNP will hoist party flag at its central office in the city at 6:00am. It will also hold a discussion at the Engineers' Institute at 3:00pm.

On the occasion, Khaleda Zia in a message congratulated countrymen and Bangladesh expatriates. She termed November 7 as an outstanding day in the national history and said the day was the first step of the country's development.

She called on people to be united to protect national interests.

Different organisations will bring out processions, hold rallies and arrange discussions to mark the day.

## President

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services, foreign secretary, senior civil and military officials saw off the president at Zia International Airport yesterday morning.

The COMCEC Economic Summit will begin in Istanbul November 9 marking the commercial bloc's 25th founding anniversary.

COMCEC Chairman and Turkish President Abdullah Gul will chair the summit.

The president is expected to reach Istanbul on November 7 via Dubai.

He is scheduled to visit the shrine of Hazrat Eyyup Sultan Ansari (rm) and the Topkapı Palace museum on November 8.

Besides delivering his address at the COMCEC summit on November 9, Zillur is scheduled to hold bilateral meetings with heads of state and government of Turkey and Jordan.

President Zillur is scheduled to return home on November 11.

## 3 suspected

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established Al Iman Academy, an Islamic kindergarten, at South Khulshi in the port city.

He said the two other arrestees are former students of the madrasa and now work as teachers at his son's school.

DB officials said Izahar, along with another suspect, did recte of the US embassy area several times to devise an attack plan. They also detected several calls the three made to several Pakistani militant leaders.

Pakistani national Abdur Rahman, detained in his home country this week with links to militancy, transferred money to the bank account of Mufti Harun's brother Faizur Rahman, said DB sources.

Izaharul told The Daily Star that both the madrasa and school receive donations from sources at home and abroad.

Asked about the money sent from Pakistan, the IOI leader said he was unaware of the matter.

## Two top Ulfa

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Secretary Sashadhar Choudhury and Finance Secretary Chitaban Hazarika surrendered at Gokulnagar along the Indo-Bangla border in Tripura on the night of November 4 and 5 respectively. The two were reportedly trying to enter India when they were spotted by the BSF troops and asked to surrender, the official said.

## PM calls

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her statements in international conferences about the global warming impacts on Bhutan and other South Asian countries.

She said Bangladesh and Bhutan can develop land communications through India at three points -- Burimari Port (Laimonirhat), Tamabil (Syhet) and Naoka (Sherpur) -- to help increase bilateral trade between the two countries. The Indian government has given a positive response in this regard, she added.

The premier told Lyonpo Ugyen Tshering that Bhutan can use Bangladesh ports, especially Mongla Port, for carrying out trade with any third country.

Hasina also reiterated her call to introduce package tourism among Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan for the best use of tourism prospects.

She highly praised the King of Bhutan for "voluntarily" establishing democracy in this Himalayan country.

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Adviser to the Prime Minister HT Imam, Ambassador Ziauddin, Bangladesh Ambassador in Bhutan AKM Majibur Rahman Bhuiyan and Bhutanese Ambassador in Dhaka Dasho Bap Kesang were present in the meeting.

Deputy Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Nazrul Islam briefed newsmen on the outcome of the meeting.

Later, Speaker of the Bhutan National Assembly Jigme Tshulim and Chairman of the Bhutan National Council Namgye Penjore along with some Bhutanese MPs called on the Bangladesh prime minister at her hotel suite.

During the meetings, the prime minister and the speaker emphasised exchange of visits between the MPs of the two countries.

**RED CARPET RECEPTION**  
Earlier, the prime minister was accorded a red carpet reception as she arrived at Pargo International Airport at 1:15pm local time.

Bhutanese Prime Minister Jigme Y Thinley and his spouse received Hasina and her 28-member delegation.

After the reception, Hasina was taken to the VIP lounge where she was presented a Khaddar (traditional long scarf) by the Bhutanese prime minister.

Sheikh Hasina and the delegation were driven in a colourful motorcade to Hotel Taj Tash in Thimphu.

Several hundred Bhutanese students standing on two sides of the streets miniature with national flags of Bangladesh and Bhutan welcomed Hasina.

## Govt sitting idle

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as my knowledge goes, the present government sits idle on the proposal. It is just gathering dust at the home ministry."

The government has already banned five Islamist militant outfits -- Shahadat-e Al Hikma, Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh, Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh, Harkatul Jihad Al Islami and Hizb ut-Tahrir. But no underground parties have so far come under the ban.

Law enforcers believe not only outlaws but also their patrons would be brought to book under the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009 once the government bans the parties.

Under section 18 of the Act, if anyone only becomes member of a banned organisation or claims to be a member, they will be handed down a prison term of up to six months or a fine, or both.

Even anyone supporting a banned organisation or asking anyone to support it or organise or conduct a rally for it, help to organise it or address it will also commit a crime.

Moreover, if anyone addresses any such rally or telecasts or broadcasts information on radio and television or prints information to make any banned organisation active or seek its support will also commit an offence.

If anyone is found guilty of these offences, they will be sentenced to imprisonment for no less than two years and no more than seven years and may also be fined as well.

The Act states that if anyone other than parents, spouse, sons and daughters gives shelter to any offender knowing their identities, they will also suffer jail terms.

"The government has to ban the underground parties to extract the best possible results of the Anti-Terrorism Act, 2009," observes a senior law enforcer.

"Many outlaws now slip through legal loopholes unless we arrest them with any firearms or explosives. We know for sure that they are outlaws, but sometimes we cannot prove it in the court," says a top official of elite Rapid Action Battalion.

The officials demand enactment of Evidence (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007 that would replace or amend relevant sections of the Evidence Act, 1872.

They say once the ordinance is enacted as a law, biometric and electronic evidence will be admissible in a court of law and then the record of telephonic conversations between the leaders of any banned organisations and their political patrons can be submitted as evidence.

Currently, the courts in the country are not bound by the laws to accept biometric and electronic records as evidence.

Thirteen underground

## 143 firms get

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massive plans to generate 3,462 MW power by 2014 while to overcome power crisis by 2011.

According to his statistics, two companies obtained licences as Independent Power Producer (IPP) to generate 40 MW and 50 MW of electricity while three others as Rental Power Plant (RPP) to generate 86 MW, 50 MW and 51 MW.

Besides, the rest of the companies as Captive Power Producer (CPP) will generate a total of 520 MW of power.

The state minister also said a total of 2,280 kilometre of electric network would be set up under 24 patti biddyt samities in the current fiscal year.

## 2 killed

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The OC also said Amir Ali was known to the people of the area as a notorious criminal and there were several cases against him with Kafrul Police Station.

In Kushtia, GMF cadre Babu was killed in a 'shootout' between his cohorts and police at Kaikhali village in Mirpur upazila at about 2:30am, reports our Kushtia correspondent.

According to police, a joint team of Detective Branch and Mirpur police cordoned off a field at the village where GMF operatives were holding a secret meeting.

Sensing the presence of police, the outlawed cadres opened fire, prompting the law enforcers to retaliate.

Babu was found dead on the spot after the gun battle while his accomplices managed to flee. Police recovered one LG and six bullets from the spot.

According to police, Babu committed a number of crimes including extortion, abduction and robbery.

He was accused in four murders, two abductions, three robberies and a rape case filed with Mirpur Police Station.

parties active in the country are Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP M-L), PBCP (M-L Janajuddha), PBCP (M-L Red Flag) and PBCP (M-L Communist War), Biplabi Communist Party (BCP), New Biplabi Communist Party (NBCP), Gono Bahini (GB), Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF), Banglar Communist Party, Socialist Party (SP), Biplabi Anuragi, Chhinnamul Communist Party (CCP) and Sarbahara People's March.

Back in 1964, the communists were divided into two blocks -- the Soviet and the Peking blocks. Most of the pro-Peking block leaders and activists became controversial due to their anti-liberation role as they launched a drive to eliminate freedom fighters.

After independence, the pro-Chinese communist leaders operated as underground groups with the ideology of revolution through an armed struggle.

But the field-level underground groups started deviating from their political ideologies as the leftist leaders of open politics gradually withdrew their support from them.

The frustrated underground groups eventually turned into absolute criminal organisations. These groups later divided into several factions and even now their split continues due to intra-group rivalries over establishing supremacy.

In the name of so-called revolutionary agenda of capturing state power through armed struggles, these groups have killed hundreds of people including law enforcers and robbed a number of police stations to be reinforced by government arms and ammunition.

## Prothom Alo

**FROM PAGE 16**  
economic development.

Speaker Abdul Hamid and a number of ministers including Syed Ashrafur Islam, Matia Chowdhury, Nurul Islam Nahid and Abul Kalam Azad, and The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam were present.

Mediastar Ltd and Transcom Group Chairman Latifur Rahman spoke at the function.

Political leaders, civil society members, educationists, journalists, literatures, businessmen, officials, diplomats and cultural activists were also present.

## Lawmakers

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"We must develop awareness among the coastal people, so they would be prepared to address the challenges," he said.

He urged experts and NGO representatives to work in collaboration with the government organisations and representatives to design the course of actions, which will minimise effects of the climate change on people.

Speaking at the discussion meeting, Ruhul Amin Hawlader, secretary general of Jatiya Party, asked the government to take necessary steps to secure sufficient amount of money from international communities to meet the challenges.

Due to climate change, fertility of soil and river fishes in coastal areas are reducing alarmingly day by day, claimed Golam Maula Rony, elected form Patuakhali-3.

"Reduced capability of both land and water in production is severely affecting economical aspects of the people in coastal areas. Besides, we are facing continuous natural disasters. Only concerted efforts can alleviate the sufferings of the people," he said.

Mizan R Khan, professor of the department of Environmental Science and Management, North South University, presented a keynote paper at the meeting.

He said that if the sea level of the Bay of Bengal rises for 1 metre, the government would have to evacuate at least 3 crore people from the coastal areas.

"Keeping this cautionary message in mind, the government should design the next course of plan," he headed.

Mahbubur Rahman, state minister for water resources, lawmakers Narayan Chandra Chanda, principal Sharab Hossain, advocate Afzal Hossain, BH Harun, MA Zabbar and representatives of different NGOs including WBB Trust, Grambangla Unnayan Committee and Save the Coastal People (SCOPE), among others, were present at the discussion meeting.

A meeting will be held on September 10 to fix a date for the final meeting to discuss the structure and other aspects related to the forum.

## Chevron eyes

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The drilling operations, which will last three to four months, include construction of concrete drilling pit, mobilisation of drilling rig and associated equipment, management and treatment of waste and decommissioning of rig and materials.

Since 2001, except for Irish Tullow's discovery of gas in Bangora and Lalmaj in 2003 and 2004, there had been no gas discoveries in the country by a foreign oil company. Tullow's Bangora field is currently producing 100 million cubic feet gas per day (mmcf/d).