



# The Daily Star

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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

LIFE style



## 'IT WAS ESSENTIAL'

Ex-Indian envoy Veena Sikri talks about January 5 polls

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## HAGEL STEPPING DOWN

Obama reportedly asked defence secretary to quit to "reassure foreign policy critics"

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# Govt was aware

### Latif 'vanishes' while 'under watch by intelligence men'; Hefajat threatens hartal for Thursday over his arrest

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The government knew that Abdul Latif Siddiqui might come back anytime, but it took no steps to dissuade him from doing so, risking another bout of uproar.

An intelligence agency in a special report alerted the home ministry that Latif might fly in from Kolkata any day.

On receiving the report, the ministry's political wing wrote a letter to the police chief, expressing concerns about the security risk of the controversial former minister.

Dated November 5 and signed by Deputy Secretary Habibur Rahman, the letter was received by the police headquarters on November 9.

Proving the intelligence report true, Latif showed up at Hazrat Shahjalal Int'l Airport on Monday night. He, however, sneaked out dodging the media.

Amid storm of controversies for anti-Islam comments in New York on September 28, he had been staying in India for about one and a half months.

On arrival by an Air India flight (AI 230) around 8:20pm on Monday, he went straight to his Gulshan house by his personal vehicle (Dhaka Metro Ga-35-7785), sources said.

He left the house about one and half hours later and spent the night somewhere in Gulshan, said sources including one of his close aides. All the while intelligence officials followed him from close proximity, they added.

But yesterday, the government acted strangely, looking surprised at his arrival. With over a dozen cases filed against him

and warrants issued for his arrest, law enforcement agencies appeared clueless about his whereabouts.

Latif was sacked from the cabinet on October 12 following his derogatory comments on hajj and Tablighi Jamaat at a programme in New York.

The remarks triggered outrage at home and abroad, especially from Islamists.

On October 24, his primary membership in the AL was cancelled, marking an end to his five-decade association with the party.

A total of 22 cases have been filed against him in 18 districts for offending religious

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RELATED STORY ON PAGE 16



"The order to hang me has been issued ... let the photojournalists take my picture," said Mobarak to the police officers flashing a V as he was being taken back to jail after a war crimes tribunal convicted and sentenced him to death yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# Mobarak to walk gallows

### Ex-AL leader of Brahmanbaria convicted of war crimes

WASIM BIN HABIB, MAHRUBUR RAHMAN KHAN and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

On August 22, 1971, some 130 people were assembled in Tanmandayl village of Brahmanbaria's Akhaura. Little did they know that 33 of them would be picked out to be massacred the next day.

Local Razakars gathered there saying a panchayat would be formed. But once the villagers got together at a house, they were herded to a nearby camp of the Pakistani army. There, the Razakars quizzed each of them to know if any of their family members had joined the Liberation War and sorted out 33 from the rest this way.

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## DEATH

For killing 33 people of Tanmandayl and Jangail LIFE TERM

For abduction, killing of Abdul Khaleque of village Satian ACQUITTED

Of 3 charges



## SAARC SUMMIT PM leaves for Nepal today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka for Nepal today to attend the 18th South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) Summit on November 26-27 where she is expected to

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# It's time to resolve regional problems

### Kathmandu ready to host Saarc Summit

REZAUL KARIM

The Saarc Summit kicks off in Nepal tomorrow amid high hopes of a jumpstart to the moribund pact, set off by regional superpower India's wish to forge stronger and substantive ties with neighbours.

Established about 30 years ago with the aim to bring about shared economic prosperity, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation today is the world's least integrated trade and economic bloc.

But the steps taken over the past few months by the new Indian government led

by business-friendly Narendra Modi have fuelled hopes of greater integration and cooperation in the region.

"A great deal is expected of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Kathmandu. He can deliver a game-changer," former Indian foreign secretary Shyam Saran said.

Foreign affairs experts have stressed the need for taking the upcoming 18th Saarc Summit as an opportunity for resolving regional problems.

They said there were immense possibilities in the region to develop but

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# Tk 6,195cr financial anomalies detected

### CAG office says it's just a part of huge irregularities in govt bodies, banks

STAR REPORT

The Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has detected financial anomalies involving Tk 6,195 crore at the statutory bodies, ministries and state-run banks.

The constitutional body has raised 285 objections to those irregularities in 17 audit reports recently submitted to the president.

The anomalies were revealed at the maiden press conference of the CAG office held in the capital yesterday. The CAG office has never before organised a media briefing.

"The amount can be realised and adjusted," said CAG Masud Ahmed in his speech.

He however said the figures did not reflect the whole picture of irregularities in the country's financial sector. "It is just a sample."

Of the amount, the most irregularities in terms of money took place at Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (BTRC).

The auditors raised 21 objections involving Tk 2,628.28 crore for the irregularities in licencing at the commission between 2001-2002 and 2009-10.

The auditors found irregularities in awarding licence to mobile operator Warid Telecom International LLC in 2005. The BTRC gave the licence without open auction, although it had earlier decided to award licence to land and mobile phone operators through open biddings.

The licence was awarded to Warid although it had not submitted the mandatory financial proposals to the BTRC.

Besides, the performance bank guarantee was not cancelled although Warid Telecom breached agreements, which eventually cost the BTRC Tk 13.34 crore.

Warid got the licence at a time when the BTRC had decided not to give fresh licence to telecom operators.

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# Some names still not on charge sheet

### Asma Kibria says on Kibria murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asma Kibria yesterday said that the latest charge sheet submitted in connection with her husband SAMS Kibria's murder does not contain the names of some key conspirators.

"One of them is former deputy commissioner Md Emdadul Haque of Habiganj," she said in a statement posted on www.mridubhahan.com.

Her son Reza Kibria last night confirmed The Daily Star of the statement's authenticity.

SAMS Kibria, then an opposition lawmaker, was assassinated in a grenade attack at a rally in Habiganj on January 27, 2005. The blast also killed Kibria's nephew Shah Manzur Huda, local Awami League leader Abdur Rahim and two others.

"I had been waiting for a long time to see that the real killers of my husband and their accomplices and instigators be tried publicly in the court," Asma Kibria said.

"We had to wait for 10 years to get a

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CHECKING CAMPUS VIOLENCE

# PM for prompt, proper action

### Asks police not to consider political affiliation of anyone

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the authorities concerned to take prompt and proper action against those unleashing violence at educational institutions irrespective of their political affiliations.

"Action must be taken promptly against those who commit this kind of acts," Hasina told the Sylhet divisional commissioner and police commissioner through a video conference after a weekly cabinet meeting at the Secretariat.

"You are not supposed to see who belongs to which party," Hasina, also president of the ruling Awami League, told them.

The PM's directive came four days after a deadly clash between two groups of Bangladesh Chhatra League, a pro-AL student wing, left BCL activist Suman Das dead at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology.

Meanwhile, BCL leader Husain Mohammad Sagar, who was hit by a

PHOTO: COURTESY



Sagar sent an open letter to the prime minister describing the sorry state of BCL men.

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HAJI DANESH UNIV

# BCL activists assault 2 teachers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two teachers and four employees of Hajee Danesh Science and Technology University (HSTU) were injured in an attack allegedly by Bangladesh Chhatra League men yesterday.

The injured teachers are Prof Md Anis Khan, dean of the agriculture faculty, and Assistant Prof of Agronomy Md Mominul Islam.

The academic activities at the HSTU have been suspended since the BCL unit of the university went on indefinite strike on November 17, demanding withdrawal of expulsion orders against its two leaders.

Around 11:00am yesterday, the HSTU employees and staffs were holding a meeting on the campus to discuss the prevailing situation, witnesses said.

All of a sudden, a group of BCL men led by president Iftekharul Islam Real of the HSTU unit of the BCL, general secretary Arun Kanti Roy and organisational secretary Jahid Hasan swooped on the programme.

Md Ferdous Alam, Jahangir Alam, Ariful Islam and Md Imran Hossain were injured during the incident. Of them, Imran was

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