



An elderly woman warmly embraces Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at erstwhile Indian enclave Dashiarchhara in Kurigram yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

JS goes into session Nov 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 10th parliament goes into its eighth session on November 8.

President Abdul Hamid convened the session, exercising his power bestowed upon him by Article 72 (1) of the constitution, said a release of the Parliament Secretariat yesterday.

Before the House goes into session at 4:30pm, the business advisory committee of the Jatiya Sangsad will sit in a meeting with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury in the chair to fix duration and businesses of the session.

Sources at the secretariat said the winter session is likely to continue for a short period of time. But some important bills including, the one allowing registered political parties to nominate their candidates in the local body elections, can be passed in the session.

On October 12, the cabinet approved the draft of the law to this end.

According to the constitution, the president must call a session within 60 days from the last sitting of the last session. The last session was prorogued on September 10 with eight working days.

The tenth parliament was formed through the January 5, 2014 election.

The maiden session of the Jatiya Sangsad took place between January 29 and April 10 last year.

No militant links found

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responsibility for the murder through a social media post. It also presented a photograph containing some Arabic texts, saying it was text of the IS' post.

The government and top law enforcers had been refuting the claim since then, saying there is no presence of the IS in the country. The ruling Awami League leaders started blaming their political foes -- BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami and their allies.

"We have of course made some progress and achieved some success in the case ... Being the police commissioner I am satisfied with the progress of the investigation," the DMP commissioner said, adding they were trying their best to unravel the murder mystery.

"Give us time until we get sufficient concrete evidence and analytical information to prove the case before the court," he said, urging the journalists to keep faith in police.

The killers will soon be arrested and the masterminds will be identified, Asaduzzaman Mia said.

At a separate press brief at the DMP Media Centre, DMP Joint Commissioner (Detective Branch) Monirul Islam said their activities were still largely centred on arresting the three gunmen.

Meanwhile, a Rangpur court placed Humayun Kabir Hira, a suspect in Japanese national Kunio Hoshi murder case, on a fresh remand on Wednesday.

A senior judicial magistrate's court granted five-day remand after Investigation Officer of the case Mamunur Rashid, also a sub-inspector of Kaunia Police Station, produced Hira before it. Hira was earlier remanded for 10 days in the same case.

Motorbike-riding gunmen killed Hoshi, 66, near his agriculture project at Alutari village in Rangpur's Kaunia on October 3, just five days into Tavella's murder.

In another development, Abe Mian, who worked at Hoshi's grass farm, was released from police custody on Wednesday night, said his son Monirul Islam. Plainclothes policemen picked up Abed on October 7 for questioning.

However, the families of five other detainees -- Monnaf Ali, on whose rickshaw Hoshi was riding when he was shot; locals Murad Hossain and Abdullah; Hira's wife Sultana Khatun; and Zakaria Bala, owner of the house where the Japanese lived -- yesterday alleged that police were still interrogating them without producing them before any court, though they were detained several days ago.

Hunger situation remains static

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Number of undernourished people stands at 26.3 million compared to 26.5 million in 2010-12, said the State of Food Insecurity (Sofi) report-2015, a UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) flagship published annually on the eve of World Food Day (October 16).

Sofi statistics show that number of Bangladeshi undernourished people dropped from 36 million in 1990 to 27.7 million in 2000 and further down to 24.3 million in the 2005-07 period.

But the pace has rather lost momentum in recent years as the number of undernourished people increased to 26.5 million in 2010-12, from which it has dropped by a mere 0.2 million now.

According to Sofi-2015, during the last five years the number of undernourished people in two of Bangladesh's South Asian neighbours rose from 189.9 million in 2010-12 to 194.6 million now in India and from 38.3 million in 2010-12 to 41.4 million now in Pakistan.

Undernourishment means that a person is not able to acquire enough food

YEAR PEOPLE	NUMBER OF UNDERNOURISHED (in million)
1990-92	36
2000-02	27.7
2005-07	24.3
2010-12	26.5
2014-16	26.3

to meet the daily minimum dietary energy requirements over a period of one year.

Explaining the slack, as shown in the Sofi report, FAO Representative in Bangladesh Mike Robson told The Daily Star yesterday that it was nothing unlikely that the rate of reduction in undernourishment has been sluggish.

"Bangladesh has done well and we all know that it achieved some of the vital MDGs even ahead of time. But we have reached a point now that we need to identify the 'pockets' where things are not moving fast," said Mike Robson.

"May be we have to look into the areas

where people lost their traditional occupations, we have to look into the vulnerabilities of elderly people, people lacking skills, differently abled persons and ethnic minorities," he explained.

The UN Representative thinks that in order to further reduce the number of undernourished people, Bangladesh also needs to focus on people living in shoals, river-erosion areas, khas lands and saline-prone areas.

Moving on to this year's World Food Day Theme -- Social Protection and Agriculture -- Mike Robson also put emphasis on giving as much attention in market and value-chain developments as is being given on production augmentation.

The UN FAO report said there are 795 million undernourished people now globally, down by 167 million since the last decade, and by 216 million since 1990-92.

For the developing regions as a whole, the share of undernourished people in the total population has decreased from 23.3 percent in 1990-92 to 12.9 percent now.

AL men enraged over MP's arrest

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release of the MP.

From the rally, they will declare their next programmes if Liton is not released by Sunday, Golam Mostafa told reporters.

However, Gaibandha district AL acting president and organising secretary of Sundarganj upazila AL said the party had no link with the protest.

Detectives arrested Gaibandha-1 lawmaker Liton, also president of Sundarganj upazila AL, from the capital's Uttara on Wednesday night, 12 days after he allegedly shot Shahadat Hossain Sourav in both legs for no apparent reason.

The shooting, which happened around 6:00am when the boy was taking a morning walk with his uncle, sparked widespread criticisms.

Liton was taken to Gaibandha overnight and was kept at Gaibandha police Superintendent Ashraf Islam's office after detectives took him there around 6:20am yesterday, the SP told our Gaibandha correspondent.

He was produced before a court around 11:45am amid tight security and his lawyers moved two bail petitions. Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Moinul Hassan Yusuf rejected his prayers and sent him to jail.

The court fixed December 12 for the next hearing of the case for the shooting and December 14 for the case over vandalism.

Police did not seek remand for Liton, who denied the charges before the court. The SP said they would seek his remand later.

Earlier in the day, several hundred supporters of Liton took position before the main entrance of the offices of Gaibandha deputy commissioner, the SP and the district court with ban-

ners and placards.

AKM Mehedi Hasan, officer-in-charge of Gaibandha Sadar Police Station, told this newspaper that they fired 20 teargas shells and bullets to disperse 1,000 to 1,200 "supporters" of the MP.

Asked if police would file any case, he said, "The incident was not that big."

Sajedul Islam, organising secretary of Sundarganj upazila AL, told The Daily Star that it was not a party protest and that it was an "isolated incident".

"No meeting was held and no decision was made in this regard ... And whom should we protest against? Being the ruling party men, will we protest against the state?" said Sajedul, who has been vocal against the "misdeeds" of the MP.

He said they wanted Liton to be punished following due legal procedures for the crime he committed.

Syed Shamsul Alam Hiru, acting president of Gaibandha district AL, said the protest was staged by those loyal to Liton and the agitators had no link with the party.

"Liton was arrested in line with the strong stance taken by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina against any wrongdoers. We welcome the decision," he said, demanding a proper investigation into the incident.

Sourav's father Saju Mia said he was happy that Liton landed in jail, but he wanted justice.

"I am worried over possible harassment and attack by Liton's men," he said by phone from Rangpur Medical College Hospital where Sourav is under treatment.

Saju filed an attempt to murder case against the MP and Hafizur Mandal, a three-wheeler driver, filed another case

against Liton and nine of "his men" for allegedly looting and vandalising his house on October 2.

Liton, who had been on the run following the cases, appeared before the High Court for hearing of his bail petitions on Monday. The HC rejected his petitions and ordered him to surrender before a Gaibandha court by October 18.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said the order created confusions regarding his arrest. Later, he moved the Supreme Court on Wednesday and obtained a stay on the HC order, which cleared the way for Liton's arrest.

Govt for quick

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judge of the Appellate Division on October 21 for hearing.

He would pray to the SC to hold the hearings on the review petitions soon after the court reopens on November 1 after its annual 44-day vacation, the attorney general said, adding a full bench of the Appellate Division would hear the petitions.

Jamaat-e-Islami leader Mojaheed and BNP leader Salauddin on October 14 appealed to the apex court to review its judgments that upheld their death penalty for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

They submitted the review petitions through their lawyers, seeking acquittal on all the charges brought against them.

The SC upheld the capital punishment of the convicts in June and July after hearing their pleas against the verdicts of the war crimes tribunal.

The International Crimes Tribunal issued execution warrants for them on October 1, a day after the SC released the full verdicts.

Prime accused brought home

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Kamrul was brought back from Saudi Arabia, three months after he fled Bangladesh, thanks to negligence of some policemen.

Police took the Interpol's help to have him back as Dhaka has no extradition treaty with Riyadh, Assistant Inspector General (media) Nazrul Islam of police headquarters told the press at the airport.

A three-member team headed by Additional Superintendent of Police Mahbubul Karim of Interpol's Dhaka office went to Saudi Arabia on October 12. The other two are from Sylhet Metropolitan Police.

Around 10:00pm yesterday, the detainee was taken to Sylhet.

In a video that went viral in the social media, Kamrul in a black T-shirt and lungi was seen hitting 13-year-old Samiul Alam Rajon with a stick in the feet, joints of legs, shoulders and in the head.

He was among the group of brutes who were torturing Rajon in Sylhet on July 8. The boy died of brain haemorrhage; his body bore 64 injury marks.

The victim's father filed a case in

which Kamrul was made key accused.

On September 22, a Sylhet court framed charges against 13 people, including Kamrul. Of those indicted, 11 have been arrested so far.

Caught in Jeddah by some expatriate Bangladeshis on July 13, Kamrul was handed over to local police. Later, he landed in jail in Riyadh from where he was flown to Dhaka.

The Saudi authorities agreed to deport him following joint efforts by Bangladesh foreign ministry, police headquarters and Bangladesh mission in Saudi Arabia, according to ministry officials.

Police say they have so far brought back 10 accused, including Kamrul, from different countries through the Interpol in the last five years.

Briefing the media at the airport, AIG Nazrul said Kamrul would be produced before a Sylhet court today.

On police negligence that helped the accused flee the country, he said two to three police personnel found complicit have already been quizzed. They would be punished.

THE KILLING OF RAJON

Rajon's "crime", they claimed, was

trying to steal a rickshaw van. One of the culprits filmed the torture on a mobile phone and shared it in the social media.

The sickening video shook the nation to its core and stirred outcries in the social network and the mainstream media.

Tied to a pole, the boy screamed for help, cried for water and begged for his life. But the group showed no mercy. They rather laughed and made fun of the helpless kid.

They kept beating him, at times knocking him down to the ground, and asking how he would like to take the beating. When Rajon cried for water, they asked him to drink his own sweat.

This was how Rajon was tortured to death by Kamrul and several others in Kumargaon Bus Stand area of Sylhet Sadar upazila on July 8.

After the killing, the culprits were taking his body on a microbus to dump it in a secluded place, but locals spotted them and managed to catch one from the group.

Police recovered the body from the microbus.

Arrested JMB man 'confesses killing'

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During a press briefing at the DMP media centre, Monirul claimed that the duo admitted to killing Khijir as "they believed it was their religious obligation to kill Khijir since pirs' (spiritual leaders') activities are contradictory to Islamic norms".

The other reason was to loot the house for terror financing, he said.

"The group was involved in similar missions for around two years," Monirul claimed, but could not say how many people they had killed.

Monirul claimed that the DB had recovered a piece of paper with name of a pir on it. "The man was their next target," the DMP spokesperson said, but did not disclose the name.

The DB official said Tareque was arrested in 2005 in connection with a bomb blast case and had served five years in jail. After release, he started to regroup the banned militant outfit.

Replying to a query, Monirul said police believed that the JMB men were behind the six murders in

Gopibagh, in which a pir was killed, and in the killing of Nurul Islam Faruqi, chief imam of Supreme Court mosque and also the international affairs secretary of Ahle Sunnat wal Jamaat. However, they were yet to confirm whether the group was involved in those murders.

Monirul claimed that the group works under the command of a JMB faction led by Faruk, who allegedly masterminded the Trishal prison van ambush in Mymensingh.

The JMB men had snatched away three top JMB leaders, killing a cop in the ambush on February 23 last year. Later on, one of them was killed in "crossfire".

He claimed that the JMB operatives arrested in Chittagong, with grenades and a huge amount of explosives, and the ones detained in Pabna, for attempting to kill pastor Luke Sarkar, were members of this particular JMB faction.

One of the JMB leaders arrested in Chittagong, Md Sujon alias Babu, reportedly admitted to his involve-

ment in the murders of pir Rahamat Ullah, who was popularly known as Lyangta Fakir, and his assistant Khadem Abdul Kader in Bangla Bazar area of Chittagong city on September 5.

Even though Khijir's family claimed that the killers used a firearm to keep the family members hostage before murdering the PDB chief, Monirul quoting the arrestees said they did not use any firearms.

TWO ON REMAND

A Dhaka court yesterday placed each of the two suspects on a three-day remand in connection with the case filed for the killing Khijir Khan.

A magistrate passed the order after police produced them before the court with a 10-day remand prayer for each.

No lawyer stood to defend them.

The police did not mention that they were JMB members in their remand prayers.

Claiming themselves innocent, the arrestees told the court that they were framed for the killing.



Rapid Action Battalion members display arms and ammunition, including three AK-47 rifles, recovered in Bandarban yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR