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KANSAT VIOLENCE

Cops raid villages at night, 6 more killed

Houses ransacked; journalists barred from visiting villages, threatened; situation turns eruptive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Six people including a 10-year-old boy were killed and about 300 others injured yesterday in Kansat as police went on rampage in a dozen villages in the dark of the night, vandalising and burning houses and beating up villagers to quell their movement for a smooth

power supply.

Locals alleged police looted many houses and assaulted even women and girls of the villages they raided on in the trouble-torn Shibganj upazila in Chapainawabganj district.

The law enforcers fired severalhundred bullets, rubber bullets and tear gas canisters to disperse demonstrators who took to the roads, defying the Section 144 enforced last Sunday, protesting attacks on them by the police and ruling BNP cadres and demanding fulfilment of their 14-point demand

Police also arrested 29 people





Power-starved people of Kansat, left, with sticks in hand continue protests yesterday defying section 144 imposed by the local administration; farmers and SEE PAGE 15 COL 1 housewives, right, also take to the street to join the demonstration.

POLLS REFORM TALKS

BNP writes to AL not to interfere in its member selection

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the government high-ups having decided not to sit in a dialogue without Jamaat-e-Islami, the ruling BNP yesterday in a letter asked the Awami League (AL) not to interfere in nomination of its representatives in the proposed com-

who will participate in the dialogue

on your part and it will not be appropriate to impose your opinion about who will participate from our part," BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said in the letter to the AL

general secretary. The BNP for the third time sought the names of opposition members to constitute the pro-"We do not have any say about posed committee to discuss the

Symbol of Aristocracy

73 Baitul Mukarram. Ph.: 9555873-4, 9551390, 9563528

Prince Plaza, Sobhanbagh (1st floor). Ph.: 8158102, 8157328

We sincerly regret those who have not

received our invitation cards, are also invited

77 Baitul Mukarram. Ph.: 9555871, 9559302, 9558638

Govt. New Market. Ph: 8614137, 8619723

Jewellers Ltd.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

BDR, BSF trade shells, bullets at Patgram

1 killed in 7-hour skirmish

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One Bangladeshi was killed and four injured in a seven-hour gunfight between Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) at the Patgram frontiers in Lalmonirhat

Inhabitants of around 15 villages on the Bangladesh side left the area as both the sides exchanged mortar shells and at least 500 round bullets, BDR

(14 April 2006)

We Cordially invite all of you

to our 5 Show-Rooms on 1st. of Baishakh

BDR sources in Dhaka said the BSF first opened fire when the BDR protested its building of a camp ithin 150 yards of the border.

The Bangladesh border security had earlier protested the construction of the camp on Tuesday and asked the BSF to sit and discuss the matter. This stopped the BSF move to set up the camp.

The BSF, however, resumed the construction yesterday paying no heed to the BDR protest. They

suddenly opened fire on the BDR camp at Kuchlibari of Patgram around 5:00pm, the BDR sources claimed. The BDR also returned the

At 5:45pm the BSF fired a mortar shell that injured five villagers. The BDR said the injured were

taken to hospital where one was According to the BDNEWS, the

deceased is Sharfuddin, 40, of Kuchlibari, while the injured are SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

SAARC STANDING BODY MEET

US, Korea to get observer status

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Saarc Standing Committee on Tuesday agreed in principle to grant the United States and South Korea observer status in the regional

grouping.
"We have responded positively and agreed in principle to the applications made by the US and South Korea seeking observer status in the SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Australian police plan to set up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Australian Federal Police (AFP) plans to open an outpost in Bangladesh amidst growing concern that the South Asian country might turn into a 'haven for terror-ists', reports ABC news.

AFP will be the first foreign law enforcement agency to have an official presence in Bangladesh, the news agency reports. "Australian authorities are still negotiating with Bangladesh but it is expected

Judge Chunnu political

sonal ground.

Sources said Chunnu submitted the resignation letter to the secre-

Accepting his resignation, the SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Review meet finds only 37pc funds spent in July-Feb REJAUL KARIM BYRON component were implemented in Of the Tk 24,500 crore ADP for The pace of Annual Development FY06, only Tk 9,996 crore or 37 Yesterday's review meeting, Programme (ADP) implementapercent was spent in July to February. But, Tk 8,800 crore or 40 tion in the first eight months of the current fiscal year (FY) was slower percent of the Tk 22,000 crore by three percentage points than the original ADP was spent in the corresponding period of FY2004corresponding period of FY05.

ADP implementation

In July-February of FY06, Tk Despite government's efforts to 5,703 crore or 34 percent was spent put up better performance, a of the ADP's local component and review meeting chaired by State Tk 3,393 crore or 45 percent of its Minister for Finance and Planning foreign component that comes in Anwarul Kabir Talukdar yesterday project aid. In comparison, 40 found the pace of ADP implemenpercent of the ADP's local compotation this fiscal year simply "frusnent and 42 percent of foreign

pace 'frustrating'

the corresponding period of FY05.

attended by the secretaries of 20 ministries who have received about 81 percent of the current ADP, found the utilisation of ADP funds in July to February last by 14 of the ministries was less than that in the corre-

sponding period of FY05. In spite of serious troubles dogging the production and distribution systems in the power and gas sectors, the ADP project implementation by both power and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Karachi suicide blast kills 57

Pakistan puts army on alert

AFP, Karachi

Pakistani troops were on high alert yesterday for the funeral of a Sunni Muslim leader who was among 57 people killed in the country's worst suicide bombing for nearly two

Police said they were trying to identify the bearded head of the suspected bomber who struck in the port city of Karachi late on Tuesday, as thousands of Sunnis gathered in a park to celebrate the birth of Prophet Hazrat

Mohammed (SM). No one claimed responsibility

for the attack, but there were fears it could start a fresh cycle of sectarian violence between militants from Pakistan's majority Sunni and minority Shia communities.

The army has been put on alert and can be deployed within minutes if there is any trouble, Salahuddin Haider, spokesman for the government of southern Sindh province, told AFP. We have taken all possible

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Australia come back strongly

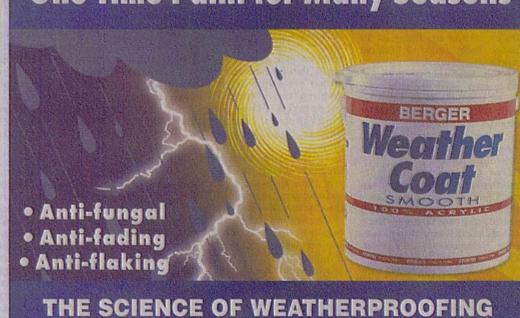
SPORTS REPORTER

After two days of Bangladesh dominance and a third day where honours were shared, Australia bounced back with their typical iron nerves against the spirited Tigers, However, the excitement has not yet died down at the Fatuliah Cricket Stadium after the end of the fourth day's play in the first Test on Wednesday.

Two late strikes from left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique, who returned with a five-wicket haul in the first innings, gave the absorbing game a surprising twist at the end of the day's play after an all too familiar brittle second innings display by the Tigers.

Chasing 307 runs for victory Australia finished the day on 212

One Time Paint for Many Seasons



outpost in Bangladesh

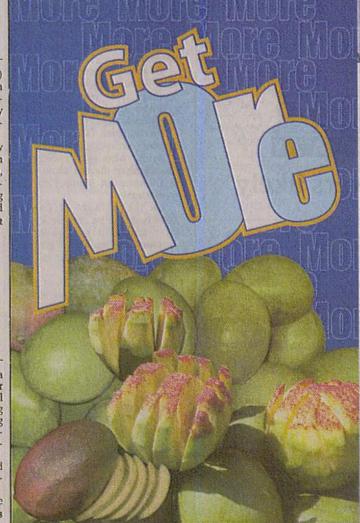
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quits amid controversy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rezaul Karim Chunnu, Dhaka divisional special judge also former secretary General of Judicial ervices Association, who is facing High Court injunction directing him not to carry out judicial activi-ties, resigned on March 27 on per-

tary of the law ministry.



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