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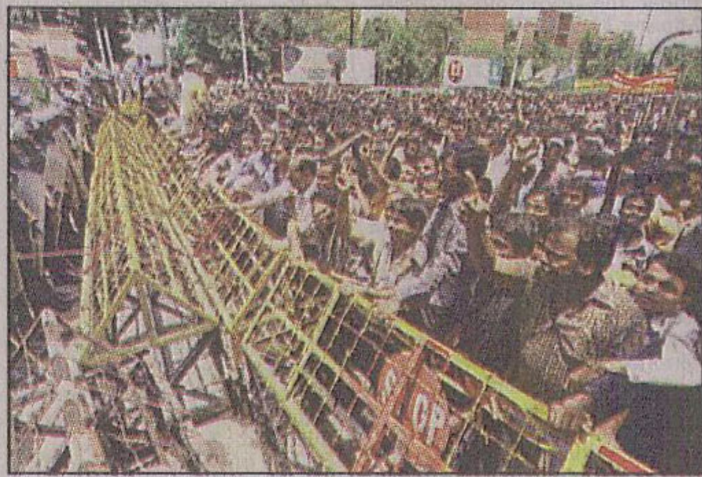
16,840 murders in four and a half years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 16,840 people have been murdered during the BNP-led alliance government's rule, putting the figure to over 10 people daily on an average, State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar told the House yesterday.

Replying to a question of Jatiya Party lawmaker GM Quader, Babar placed a written list before the House disclosing the district and police unit-wise figure from October 10, 2001 to May 31, 2006. The state minister did not specify

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



FROM LEFT... Opposition activists chant slogans in front of the police barricade in Dhanmondi during their Election Commission siege programme yesterday; police enter AL leader Mohammad Nasim's house in Dhanmondi and charge truncheons on dispersing pickets as an injured person holds his head in pain; children head for school in tears as the police a few minutes ago lobbed teargas shells to disperse the 14-party activists in Dhanmondi.

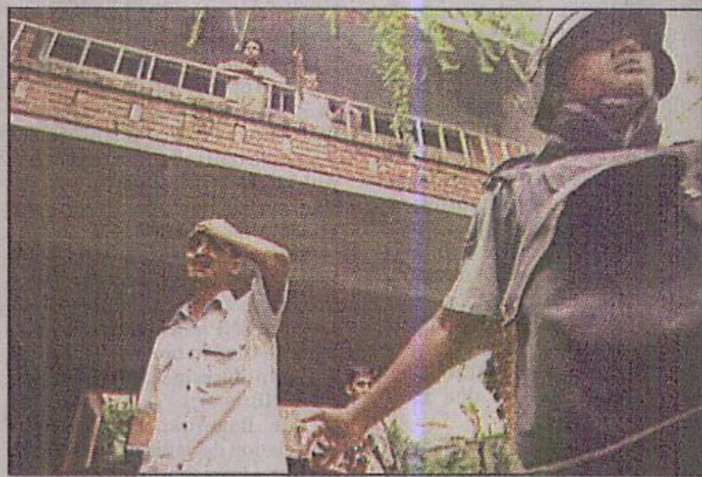


PHOTO: STAR

Hasina leaves for India today to receive award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina will leave for India today to receive Mother Teresa International Award at a ceremony on June 24 in Kolkata.

Sources in the AL said Hasina, also the leader of the opposition in parliament, is likely to meet the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Congress Chief Sonia Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition LK Advani, Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee and West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharya before receiving the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

PM urges teachers to end strike

Assures them of fulfilling their demands

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday assured the primary schoolteachers, now on strike, of fulfilling their rightful demands in phases and urged them to go back to schools and teach the children.

The prime minister, also in charge of the Ministry of Primary

and Mass Education, made the call while addressing the prize distribution and closing ceremony of National Primary Education Week 2006 at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city.

"This is very regretful to keep the students hostage for realising demands," lamented the prime minister, referring to the strike by

the primary schoolteachers.

Ministers, MPs, primary schoolteachers and students and officials of the ministries concerned attended the function.

The prime minister said this is not fair to turn politics and a movement for realising demands into barriers to development.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



SHAZNEEN CASE
Prosecution refutes defence claim of falsely implicating convicts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution in the death reference and appeal hearing of Shazneen murder case yesterday refuted the defence's claim that the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

RMG VIOLENCE EC asks govt to find quick solution

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

European Commission (EC) yesterday urged the government to find out quick solution to the problems in the country's garment sector by arranging a national dialogue.

During their meeting with Commerce Minister Hafizuddin Ahmed at his office yesterday, a two-member EC delegation headed by Stefan Frowein, ambassador of European Commission in

Dhaka, and Charles Whiteley, first secretary of the commission, expressed their grave concern about the recent unrest in the garment sector.

The commission representatives warned that if the government fails to manage the issues, there will be difficulties for Bangladeshi apparel products to enter the European market.

They also demanded 100 per cent compliance of garment

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Rahman, Bangla Bhai remanded for 10 days

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) chief Abdur Rahman and its second-in-command Siddiqul Islam Bangla Bhai were shown arrested in an August 17 blast case and were placed on a 10-day remand yesterday.

The case was filed under the Explosive Substances Act with Ramna Police Station for the explosion at Nazrul Islam Avenue near Sonargaon Hotel.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Shafique Anwar granted the remand when the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Rab to get choppers

Babar tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Preparations for setting up an air wing of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) have been completed and process is underway to purchase helicopters for the wing, State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar told parliament yesterday.

During the question-answer hour, he said the air wing of the Rab would monitor national security as well as work during emergencies.

Besides, a hotline is going to be installed soon so that people can seek Rab assistance directly, the state minister added.

Replying to another question,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Uttara Ahmadiyya families in panic as bigots vow to attack mosque Friday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-two Ahmadiyya families in Uttara are passing days in panic as Khatme Nabuwat Andolon Bangladesh is set to attack their mosque on Friday to force the government to declare the Ahmadiyyas non-Muslim in the current parliament session.

"We will mount pressure on the government in such a way that it will find no alternative to passing a law during the ongoing budget session to brand the Qadianis [Ahmadiyyas] non-Muslim," Noor Hossain Nurani, president of the

anti-Ahmadiyya outfit, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Different civil society and rights organisations have asked the government to take steps to stop the zealots from attacking the Ahmadiyyas and take action against them for spreading fundamentalist spite.

The Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee (EGDNC) and civil society members have announced that they will stand beside the Ahmadiyyas on Friday to resist any attack by the zealots.

The Khatme Nabuwat has been carrying out hate campaigns

against the Ahmadiyyas across the country since November 2003 and recently announced that it will do whatever necessary to realise their demand.

Its activists will gather at the north gate of the Haji Camp at Ashkona of Uttara after the Juma prayers on Friday and will hold a rally.

Later, they will march to the Nordapara Ahmadiyya Mosque. "We will remove the Qadiani signboards, if any, claiming their place of worship as mosque," said Noor.

The fanatic leader hoped that

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

A fisherman prepares a long net encircling a piece of land near Nondipara in the capital to farm fish there.



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Another DEPZ factory closed for workers' agitation

JU CORRESPONDENT

The German investors of Redpoint Jackets Ltd in Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) closed the factory sine die on Monday night following frequent workers' agitation.

Redpoint Jackets Ltd joined A-One (BD) Ltd, garments section of Goldtex Ltd, Softex Ltd, which were closed for indefinite period on June 17, and Paddocks Jeans Ltd, closed sine die on June 19.

The investors of Redpoint hung the closure notice before nightshift began on Monday night.

Redpoint was reopened on June 8. The workers on June 14 and 15 demonstrated against the autocratic behaviour of its General Manager Pang Fee Chi and some other officials. In the wake of work

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

15 killed in US raids in Baghdad

AFP, Baghdad

The US military said yesterday it killed 15 "terrorists" during overnight raids in farmland near the restive town of Baquba but Iraqis insisted the dead were innocent poultry farm workers.

"Coalition forces killed 15 terrorists and detained three other suspects during simultaneous raids north of Baquba," the military said in a statement.

But Iraqi police, relatives of those killed and a human rights organisation in Baquba gave an entirely different version of the incident in the confessionally divided province of Diyala north-east of the capital.

They said the victims were all

poultry farm workers who had been sleeping in the fields of Bushaheen village in an area known as Al-Salam (peace) when US troops raided the area.

The US military said that US troops came under small arms fire from the rooftop of a house when they arrived at their target.

"The ground force returned fire, killing nine armed terrorists on the rooftop, and an additional two armed terrorists, who were identified firing on coalition forces from next to the building, were killed by coalition aircraft supporting fire," it said.

The military said that a helicopter providing air backup to the troops hit a power line forcing it to make an emergency landing, but

that no one on board was hurt.

"Three armed suspects were then killed by another coalition aircraft as they attempted to attack the downed aircraft," it said, adding that another "terrorist" was killed by a US sniper in a separate clash.

US forces then cleared homes in the area detaining "three terrorists" who were "found hiding amidst nine women". They also seized 10 assault rifles, a shotgun, a pistol and a crate of explosives, added the statement.

The military said that Tuesday's raid came after they detained a senior leader of Al-Qaeda in Iraq and three of his accomplices near Baquba the previous day.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Robber killed in 'crossfire'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A robber was killed in an encounter between his accomplices and the members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) near Bhagutia Baniabaha Bridge under Jhenidah Sadar upazila early yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab-6 members arrested Mohammad Aslam Biswas, 35, son of Afzal Biswas of village Armukhi under the upazila, near Bhagutia Baniabaha Bridge at midnight on Monday and took him to Rab office for quizzing.

On his confessional statement, the Rab men along with Aslam set out for Bhagutia Baniabaha area at about 3:00am to arrest Aslam's cohorts and recover firearms.

When they reached near the Bridge, Aslam's accomplices opened fire on the members of the elite force, prompting them to retaliate.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

2 kids wounded as robbers spray bullets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two children sustained bullet injuries as fleeing robbers opened fire at the crowd chasing them after they had committed a robbery in a house at Khilgaon in the capital yesterday.

The two wounded children,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

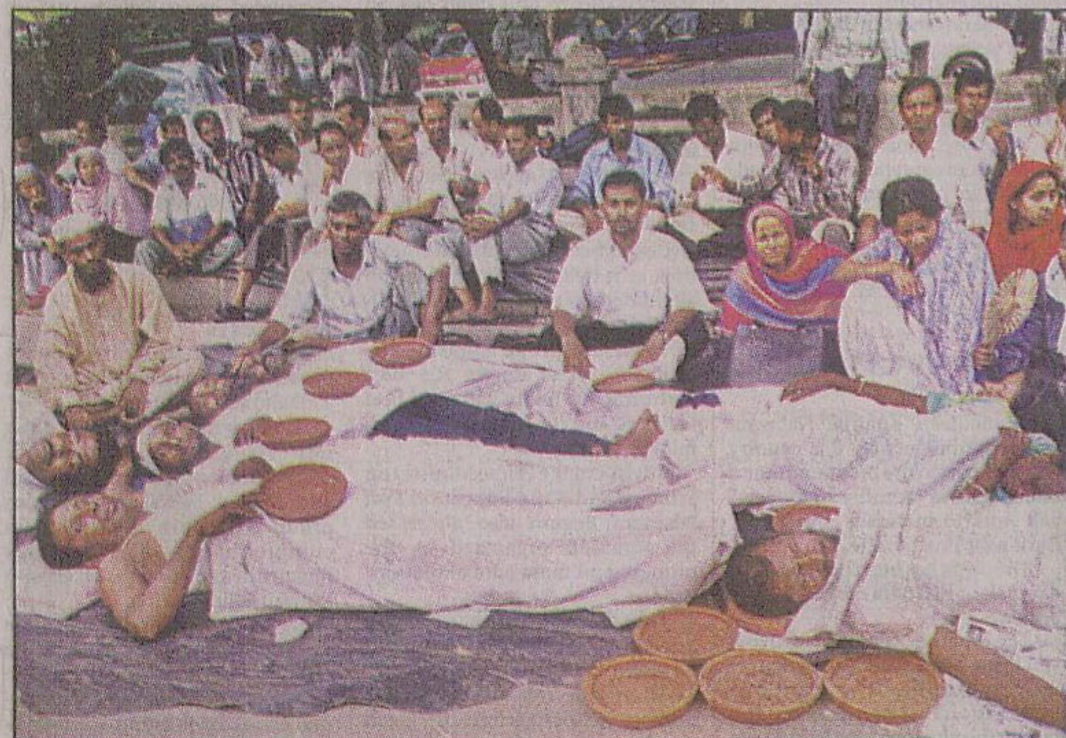


PHOTO: STAR

Teachers of non-government primary schools continue their hunger strike until death at Muktangan in the capital yesterday wearing shrouds and with earthen plates as they press home their five-point demand.

ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (IUTAA)
1st IUTAA CONVENTION
will be held on Saturday 24 June 2006 at 5:15PM at the Islamic University of Technology (IUT) Boardbazar, Gazipur, Bangladesh
Chief guest: His Excellency Ferit Ergin
Honourable Ambassador of Republic of Turkey in Bangladesh
Special guest: Professor Dr. M. Fazli Ilahi
Honourable Vice-Chancellor & Chief Patron-IUTAA
For details, please contact with
Mahmud 01711607170, Towfiq 01711505073, Faisal 01711054331
Or visit www.iutaa.org

US wants to help fight terrorism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US government has expressed its intention to help Bangladesh in all possible fields to fight terrorism and help to create a stable democratic polity in Bangladesh.

Director of National Intelligence (DNI) of USA Ambassador John Negroponte said this during a meeting with the

visiting State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar at his office in Washington on Monday.

During the hour-long meeting with the minister, Negroponte commended Bangladesh as one of the few countries in the Muslim world committed to democracy and fighting against terrorism, said a press release of the home ministry yesterday.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

তেতুলিয়ায় চা বাগানের উপযোগী ১ প্লটে ৪০০ বিঘা জমি বিক্রয় হবে

পঞ্চগড় জেলা থেকে ২৩ কিলোমিটার দূরে তেতুলিয়া থানায় মহাসড়ক সংলগ্ন অফিস বিল্ডিং ও বিদ্যুৎ সংযোগসহ কাঁটা তারের বেড়া দেওয়া ১ প্লটে কম-বেশী ৪০০ বিঘা জমি বিক্রি হবে। জমিটি চা বাগান অথবা যে কোন বৃহৎ বা মাঝারী শিল্প স্থাপন করার জন্য অত্যন্ত উপযোগী। উল্লেখ্য জমিটি থেকে বাংলাবাহার দূরত্ব ৩০ কিলোমিটার।

যোগাযোগ : ৯৩৪৭৭৮০-৯৯