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Indian investigators have embalmed the body of a woman suspected to have assassinated Rajiv Gandhi
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Amnesty International is 30 years' old today. One man's outrage at the plight of Portuguese students who were jailed for publicly toasting freedom, led to its formation. The organisation is facing new challenges
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Dhaka Day by Day



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Sport

England swept clean their Texaco Trophy one-day series against England when they won the third and final match against West Indies at Lords
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NEWS BRIEFS

US, Philippines close to accord

MANILA, May 27: The United States and the Philippines are close to arriving at a new military bases agreement following Washington's fresh initiatives to break an impasse in year-old talks, President Corason Aquino said today, reports AFP.

Seoul students clash with police

SEOUL, May 27: South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo told his newly reshuffled cabinet today to restore order while angry students in Seoul clashed with police over the death of a colleague, reports Reuter.

Iraq's denial

BAGHDAD, May 27: Iraq today denied a report that Kurdish rebel leaders had left the city to brief other opposition figures on progress of negotiations with the authorities here for an autonomy accord, reports AFP.

Suarez resigns as party chief

MADRID, May 27: Adolfo Suarez, the Prime Minister who piloted Spain's transition from dictatorship to democracy, stepped down as leader of the Democratic and Social Centre (CDS) party Monday after a crushing defeat in local elections, reports Reuter.

Khaleda Zia, King Fahd hold hour-long talks: Bangladesh role during Gulf war commended

All help for permanent steps against calamities assured

RIYADH, May 27: King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has expressed his keen and sincere desire to extend all-out assistance and cooperation to help Bangladesh take permanent measures against natural calamities, reports BSS.

During more than an hour long talks with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia here last night, the King expressed his deep sympathy and concern for the cyclone affected people of Bangladesh and said the country would need international assistance and cooperation for permanent measures to face natural disasters.

King Fahd also told Begum Zia that Saudi Arabia would find out more avenues to employ a larger number of skilled and technical manpower from Bangladesh.

He expressed his deep appreciation for Bangladesh's role during the Gulf war and said it was a "genuine expression of real friendship in the time of crisis".

According to an official spokesman, Begum Khaleda Zia and the Saudi monarch held discussions on bilateral matters of common interests in a warm and cordial atmosphere at Yamama royal palace. They discussed subjects relating to the latest situation obtaining in the Muslim countries, with special reference to the Middle East problem and international issues of common concern.

The spokesman said the meeting was marked by broad-based understanding between the two leaders in all subjects, including forging and

strengthening unity and fraternity among the Islamic Ummah.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia thanked the Saudi King for extending his help to Bangladesh at the time of its need and hoped that the mutual cooperation among the two countries would increase further in the coming days.

Begum Zia also highlighted different development programmes taken up by her government and hoped that Saudi Arabia as a fraternal nation would extend assistance and cooperation to help implement these programmes in all possible ways.

She invited the Saudi King to visit Bangladesh. The King accepted the invitation and said he would visit Bangladesh at a convenient time.

During the meeting, the Saudi side was represented by Foreign Minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal, Defence Minister Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz, high dignitaries and leading members of royal family.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, State Minister for Labour and Manpower Rafiqul Islam Mian, Shahidul Huq Jamal, MP, Azizul Huq Mollah, MP, Salauddin Ahmed, MP, Rabeya Chowdhury, MP, Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan and Ambassador of Bangladesh to Saudi Arabia Maj Gen Quazi Golam Dastgir were present on the Bangladesh side.

The Saudi Arabian Defence Minister and Second Deputy Prime Minister Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz hosted a

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and King Fahd holding talks at Yamama Royal Palace in Riyadh on Sunday. — PID photo

Violent students gatecrash DU VC's office, foil talks with political leaders on campus situation

Maulana Nizami assaulted

By Staff Correspondent

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami MP was seriously injured when he was attacked by violent students in the Dhaka University Monday.

Nizami was assaulted while attending a meeting called by the Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka University Prof Maniruzzaman Miah at the VC's office.

Nizami, with three of his

companions, was roughed up by the students protesting what they called 'the presence of Rajakars' on the campus.

The Vice-Chancellor had invited the political leaders to a meeting to discuss the campus situation, which has remained tense for the past few days following clashes between the Chhatra League (S-A) and the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), and find ways to solve

the issues.

The attackers belonging reportedly to the Awami League-backed Chhatra League (S-A), BKSAL-backed Jatiya Chhatra League, JSD (Inu)-backed Chhatra League (N-S) and the CPB-backed Chhatra Union also ransacked the VC's office during the incident.

The meeting was postponed.

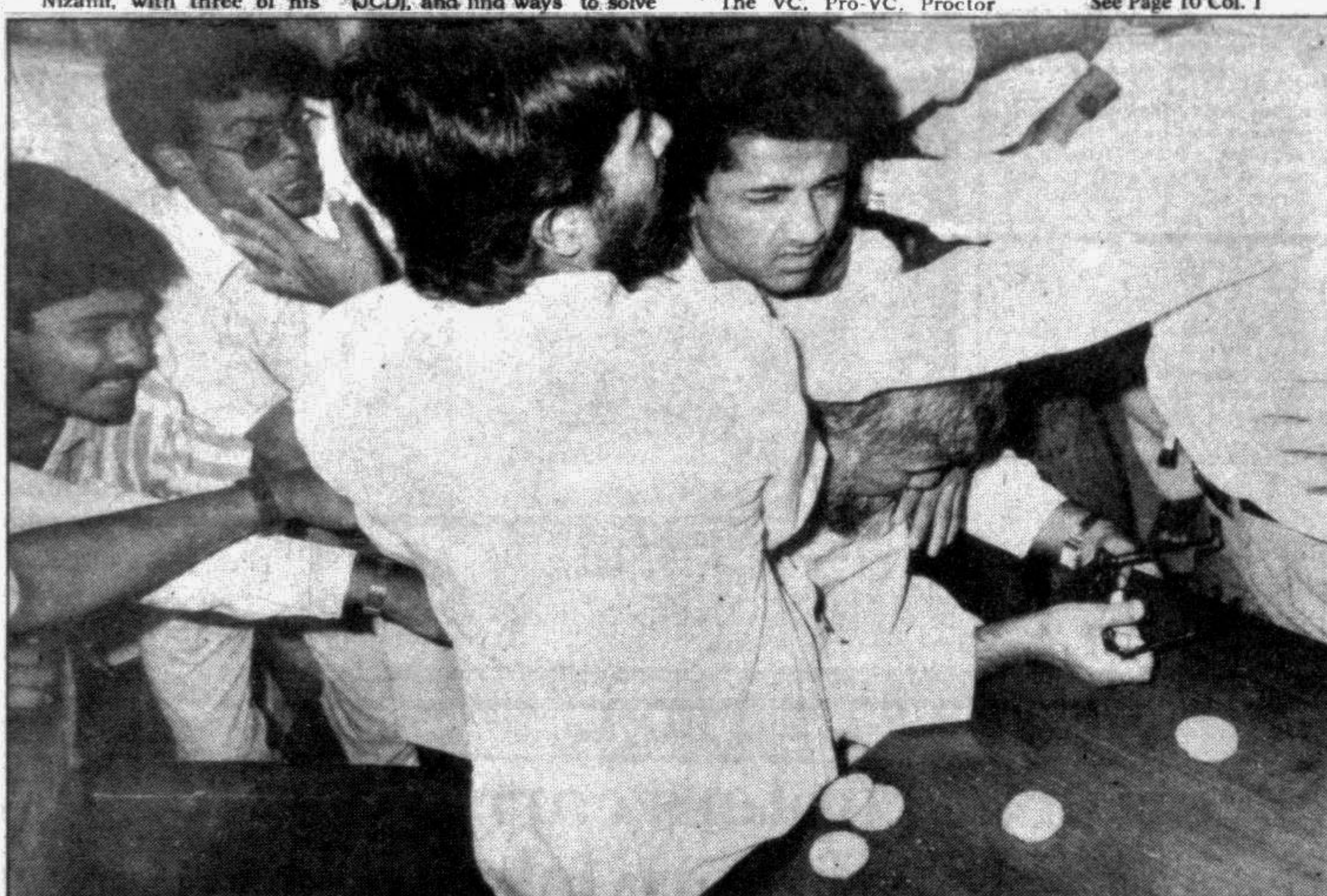
The VC, Pro-VC, Proctor

and political leaders were injured as they tried to save Nizami.

Two pro-Jamaat Chhatra Shibir workers were also beaten up outside the office.

Injured Nizami and his companions were locked in a room of the VC's office from where they were escorted by police to hospital.

According to witnesses, See Page 10 Col. 1



Students pounce on Jamaat Secretary General Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami, MP (holding on to his spectacles) in the Dhaka University VC's office Monday. (More pictures on Page 10). — Star photo

Rebels ordered into Addis Ababa

ADDIS ABABA, May 27: Ethiopian rebels ordered their fighters into the capital Addis Ababa today after the government effectively surrendered to them by ordering its forces to cease fire, report agencies.

The fighters of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) who surround the city were expected to arrive within hours.

Diplomatic sources said they had heard from the

EPRDF that the rebels' commanders had ordered their forces in.

US envoy Herman Cohen, mediating at peace talks in London, said earlier that the United States recommended that the EPRDF forces go in as soon as possible after the truce to restore order in a city where gunfire resounded throughout the day.

More than an hour after the government made public its decision to declare a ceasefire,

sounds of gunfire still reverberated around the city and there seemed no easing of tension which gripped the capital all day.

The EPRDF, whose dramatic advances forced the flight of military ruler Mengistu Haile Mariam last week, was poised just a few miles from the city.

Heavy gunfire was heard from the direction of Debre Zeit, a major airbase 50 km (30 miles) southeast of the city

and believed to the direction from which the rebels would arrive.

EPRDF spokesman, Asefa Mamo, said its leadership had ordered its troops to enter the capital Addis Ababa "with the understanding of the Americans" in order to stabilise the country and begin setting up a transitional government.

Heavy gunfire resounded around the presidential palace in Addis Ababa. More on Page 5

Austrian plane crashes near Bangkok: All 223 feared dead

DAN CHANG, Thailand, May 27: An Austrian jetliner bound for Vienna exploded in a fireball over western Thailand and all 223 people aboard were feared dead, police said Monday, report agencies.

Rescuers on foot and in helicopters searched the rugged jungle Monday but found no survivors of the Lauda Air jet, which exploded and crashed late Sunday more than 16 kilometers (10 miles) from Bangkok, the capital.

Investigators did not know

what caused the explosion. Thai officials engaged in widespread speculation ranging from a terrorist bombing to lightning.

Police said more than 140 bodies had been recovered over an area of about one square kilometer. About half were taken to a Buddhist monastery near the crash site.

Charred metal, bits of clothing and bodies lay scattered in a bamboo forest covering a rugged hill near the Thai-Burmese border. Many of the

victims were badly burnt.

Thousands of curiosity seekers converged on the crash site as several hundred rescue workers combed the region.

The head of the Lauda Air office in Thailand, Prakob na Songkhla, said the jetliner exploded and crashed 16 minutes after takeoff from Bangkok's Don Muang International Airport. Earlier, officials said the plane took off at 10:45 pm (1545 GMT).

"We don't know what

caused the crash. We're setting up an investigation team with Thai authorities," Prakob said.

In Hong Kong where Flight NG004 originated, an airline spokesman said the plane did not report mechanical failure.

Francz Karner, the spokesman said, "It looks likely" that the crash of the Boeing 767 was caused by a bomb because the plane did not report any mechanical problems after taking off from Bangkok.

Karner, a Vienna-based

sales manager who is on a tour of the Far East, spoke at news conference in Hong Kong. Lauda Air began operations in Hong Kong in 1988.

The passenger list made available by the airline showed 214 passengers and 10 crew members, but Lauda Air officials in Bangkok maintained there were only 213 passengers aboard. They could not immediately explain the discrepancy.

Prakob said 125 persons, mostly German, Austrian and

Another 88 boarded in Bangkok, including 38 Thais, 34 Austrians, seven Swiss, four Germans, two Yugoslavians and one person each from Great Britain, Hungary and Australia, according to the list. Among the Thais was the governor of Chiang Mai Province, his wife.

Vienna police today discounted a claim that an Austrian Lauda Air Boeing 767 which exploded over Thailand had been blown up by a bomb intended for another plane.

Another suspect held: Probe body formed

Congress planning collective leadership

NEW DELHI, May 27: The ashes of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi were taken across India Monday to be scattered in sacred rivers and over Himalayan mountains, while police arrested a woman believed to be an accomplice of Gandhi's assassin, reports AP.

A top Sikh leader protested the ceremonial exhibition of the ashes in Punjab, home of majority of India's 16 million Sikhs, saying it may ignite ethnic hostility.

In New Delhi talks were

suspended until Wednesday on naming a new Congress party leader, deepening the apparent disarray in the party which has dominated Indian politics since independence from Britain in 1947.

A consensus appeared to be emerging to appoint P V Narasimha Rao, a Congress veteran and old Gandhi family friend, as interim party president until after national elections are completed.

Rao is 69 and in fragile

See Page 10 Col. 1

Form of govt: Bill may be moved in next session

The much-awaited Private Members' Bill seeking constitutional amendment for switching over to parliamentary system is likely to be placed in the next session of Parliament, scheduled for June 11, reports UNB.

The proposed bill of the opposition members could not be tabled in the first session which was prorogued on May 15.

In all, 13 notices on constitutional amendment bills were submitted to the Parliament Secretariat by the opposition members. One bill for scrapping the Special Powers Act of

See Page 10 Col. 7

30 pc of \$ 214 m 3rd IDA project fund may lapse

By Chapal Bashar

Thirty per cent of the 214 million-US-dollar-fund of the third IDA Population and Health Project still remains unutilised. The unutilised fund will lapse after December 31 this year, when the five-year period of the project expires.

According to officials sources, it would be difficult to spend more than half of the unutilised fund within this period.

A total of 29 schemes were enlisted under the project. One of the schemes could not be taken up at all for implementation, while a maximum of 70 per cent work of other 28 schemes could be completed so far. There is little possibility of full implementation of the schemes before the expiry of the project period.

The fund provided for previous two similar projects in this sector also could not be utilised fully. The purpose of the Health and Population Project financed by IDA and other donors is mainly to assist the population control activities of the government.

The concerned observers believe that the management

weakness and defective planning process are the major problems for non-utilisation of the project fund.

Some officials associated with the project pointed out that the delayed release of matching local fund also greatly hampered the implementation of the schemes.

"The administrative and financial restrictions and bottlenecks waste much time of implementation", officials said and mentioned that the release of local fund for every scheme needed clearance and approval from different ministries.

The 214 million dollar fund of the third project has a local fund component of 36 million US dollars, which is to be provided by Bangladesh government in local currency.

The officials as well as experts believe that the time-consuming process of releasing local fund should be simplified for ensuring utilisation of donors' fund before it lapses.

Meanwhile, the budget for the fourth IDA Population and

See Page 10 Col. 3

Tornado lashes Tangail

By Staff Correspondent

More than 100 people were injured, seven of them seriously, and about 2000 houses were damaged when a tornado hit Gopalpur and Madhupur upazilas Sunday morning.

The injured were admitted to Gopalpur and Madhupur upazila hospitals.

The tornado accompanied by gusty winds and incessant rains damaged about 1200 houses of Kamarpara, Uttarpara and Mazpara villages of Gopalpur paurashava.

When contacted the Deputy Commissioner of Tangail told The Daily Star that after the tornado he visited the areas and assessed the damage.

The Deputy Commissioner said that Taka ten thousand has been distributed to the affected families of the area. Besides, a total of four metric tonnes of rice has been distributed among the tornado victims.

He said that the total loss caused by the tornado would

See Page 10 Col. 8

Amphibious group of Task Force leaves tomorrow

From our Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 27: The amphibious group of US Task Force will leave Bangladesh on Wednesday morning, an official source said today.

About five hundred Task Force personnel out of seven thousand will stay back up to

See Page 10 Col. 3

Syndicate to probe incident BNP, Jamaat deplore assault

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka University Syndicate has condemned Monday's untoward incident in the VC's office in which Jamaat MP Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami was beaten up.

The Syndicate constituted a five-member committee to

See Page 10 Col. 4

Special court orders Nusrat's arrest

KARACHI, May 27: A special anti-terrorism court here ordered the arrest today of Begum Nusrat Bhutto, mother of former premier Benazir Bhutto, for allegedly ignoring a summons, reports AFP.

The one-man court issued a bailable warrant for her arrest on a report from police that she had been "deliberately avoiding" the summons to appear before the court, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said.

Superior Selection Board reconstituted

By Staff Correspondent

The government has reconstituted the Superior Selection Board (SSB) with the Cabinet Secretary as its chairman.

The Board recommends government officials for promotions to senior positions, such as joint secretaries and heads of various departments.

The SSB was abolished in 1989 by deposed President H M Ershad.

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