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## AL now plans to 'unmask' opposition

REAZ AHMAD

Deeply concerned over the "rise of fundamentalist forces" in the country, the Awami League leadership is now planning to "unmask ultra-rightist face" of the BNP-led four-party opposition alliance, some senior leaders of the party said yesterday.

BNP can not evade responsibility of Saturday's violence unleashed by one of its allies, they said.

Maulana Azizul Haq and Fazlul Haq Amini, two top leaders of Islamic Oikya Jote (IOJ), a component of the alliance, are directly involved in the violent movement in favour of fatwa (religious edict), an issue lying with the judiciary, they told The Daily Star.

The IOJ leadership has launched the violent movement under the banner of 'Islamic Law Implementation Committee', the ruling party leaders said.

They expressed satisfaction over the arrest of Fazlul Haq Amini and hoped that the government would go for a vigorous hunt for the "armed"

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## Opposition slates cop murder, demands judicial probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Secretaries general of parties belonging to the four-party opposition alliance yesterday condemned the killing of a police constable and demanded judicial inquiry into the incident as well as exemplary punishment of the real culprits.

In a joint statement, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Jatiya Party secretary general Nazim Rahman Manjur, Jamaat-e-Islami secretary general Ali Ahsan Mujahid and Islamic Oikya Jote joint secretary general ARM Abdul Matin said that the government has resorted to political repression to protect itself from people's growing anger.

They said the Awami League, which has completely failed to run the country and also stands isolated from the people, is now trying to create anarchy through inciting hostility among different classes of people to cover up its failures, incompetence and misdeeds.

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## Bomb scare at CU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A bomb scare at Chittagong University yesterday prompted panicked students, teachers, officials and employees to vacate the faculties, dormitories and offices hurriedly, campus sources and police said.

The university authorities suspended all classes and scheduled examinations under different departments after it received a threat of time bomb explosion from an anonymous telephone caller, administration source said.

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Feb 5 5.48 pm

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Azan Jamaat

Fazr 5-30 6-10

Zohr 12-45 1-15

Asr 4-015 4-30

Maghrib 5-45 5-50

Esha 7-25 7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Amini, his son & 12 others held for declaring judges *murtad*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch (DB) of police yesterday arrested Secretary General of Islamic Oikya Jote (IOJ) Mufti Fazlul Haq Amini who at Friday's rally declared the two High Court judges 'murtad' for giving verdict against fatwa.

The IOJ leader, his son and 12 of



Fazlul Haq Amini

his followers were arrested when they were coming from Lalbagh Madrassah to attend a protest rally at Paltan at about 3.30 pm.

Amini, also convener of the Committee for Implementation of Islamic Law, was kept in Ramna thana custody till last night. Sources said the arrested would be produced before the CMM's court today.

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## 'Ustad' was inside the mosque when 'students' killed the cop'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the alleged killers of police constable Badsha Mia, Humayun Kabir sat on the floor of Mohammadpur police station yesterday, handcuffed to a wooden shelf. He looked poised and remorseless.

Kabir talked to journalists with confidence.

"Our ustad (teacher) Shaikhul Hadis Allama Azizul Haque and his brother were inside the mosque when the policeman was killed by students," Kabir calmly told to The Daily Star Correspondent.

"When we opened the main gate of the mosque, I found lots of policemen outside. I asked police to let our ustad go away. The police agreed."

Kabir said he had been "studying"

at the Jamia Rahmany Arabia Hakkani Hakia Madrassah for over ten years. He said his father, a retired Roads and Highways employee, had sent all his brothers for madrassah education. He hails from Baufal, Patuakhali and is the youngest among six brothers and three sisters.

As Kabir talked, 58 other suspects, aged between 12 and 40 years, arrested on Saturday from the same area in Mohammadpur, pleaded not guilty to the police officials who stopped to have a look into the two large cells of the police station.

Outside, several hundred curious onlookers waited for hours to have a glimpse of the suspects.

At least two platoons of riot police cordoned off the police station when

the suspects were taken into the prison van, which took them to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court in the old part of the city.

The CMM's court placed Humayun Kabir, Hizbullah and Akram Hossain on three days' remand and sent the rest to Dhaka Central Jail.

The entire area is known as Mohammadia Housing. There are more than a dozen madrassahs in the area, accommodating several thousand students. These have been built in the last ten years.

Local people said Chairman of Mohammadia Housing Haji Serajuddaulla and Kari Belayet and his six sons are the main architects

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## Case filed against IOJ chief, 36 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islamic Oikya Jote (IOJ) Chairman Maulana Azizul Haq, his son and 35 others have been accused in the case filed with Mohammadpur thana in connection with the killing of police constable Badsha Mia.

The constable was beaten to death by Islamic zealots inside Noor Masjid at Mohammadi Housing in Mohammadpur area of the city during the hartal on Saturday called by a section of Islamic scholars on Saturday.

Soon after the killing, police arrested 58 people for their alleged involvement in it. Of them, 32 have been accused in the murder case. Besides, the IOJ chief, his son Maulana Mahfuzul Haq and some others now absconding have been accused in the murder case.

Of those absconding, Imam of Noor Masjid Abu Bakar Siddique was arrested yesterday evening from his rented flat at Mohammadi Housing.

In the FIR filed by SI Delwar Hossain Akhond, it was alleged that Badsha Mia was killed on instruction from Maulana Azizul Haq and that he was present during the killing.

Meanwhile, one Tamuzuddin of Mohammadpur Housing Society filed another case under the Public Safety Act (PSA) accusing the 58 arrested and 250 others on charges of rampage, blocking roads and hurling bricks

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Humayun Kabir, one of the alleged killers of police constable Badsha Mia, handcuffed to a wooden shelf, is seen sitting on the floor at Mohammadpur police station (left), police guarding Noorani Training Centre and Madrassah in the area (middle) and one of the two bombs with remote control devices recovered from the madrassah.



## IOJ allegedly using students for years for political gains

STAR REPORT

Islamic Oikya Jote (IOJ) Chairman Maulana Azizul Haq and his associates have been using students of hundreds of madrassahs in the city for years for political gains, sources alleged.

The Ulema Mashaik selected the Shia Mosque and its adjacent area for obstructing people from attending Saturday's NGO rally as the mosque was a strong base of supporters of Azizul Haq.

At least fifteen madrassahs including some for females were found during a visit to the area yesterday.

According to students of the

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## Nigerian languishes in jail for years despite end of term

ZAYADUL AHSAN

He was arrested in March 1992. After three years' trial, the court sentenced him to two months' imprisonment. On completion of the prison term, he thought he would be flying back home in Nigeria.

But he is still a virtual prisoner in Dhaka Central Jail. He is now a victim of legal complications and lack of attention by the authorities, sources concerned said.

Nineteen-year-old Nigerian citizen Goddyu Ochendo was arrested in connection with drug smuggling by teenaged American girl Elieida MacCord in 1992. In July 1993, Goddyu was acquitted in the drug smuggling case. But on July 13, 1993, he was charged with using

an "invalid" passport.

He completed two months' prison term on May 31, 1995 in the

passport case.

He then complained to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrates Court that he could not go home as his lawyer defrauded him of his money. He had 1421 US dollars with him, which he had deposited with his lawyer through the court during the trial. But his lawyer did not return the dollars, he alleged.

The lawyer then filed a revision case, denying the allegation. The case is still continuing.

In a recent prayer to the Home Ministry, Goddyu gave up his claim on the dollars and begged for release.

The Home Ministry ordered the jail authorities to send him home. But as he has no passport, he is

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Goddyu Ochendo

## Judgement in Anup Chetia case today

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Judgement in the case against ULFA leader Anup Chetia and his two associates on charges of possessing foreign currencies of 16 countries will be delivered today, court sources said.

The Fifth Assistant Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka will deliver the judgement at about 2.00 pm.

Both the prosecution and the defence sides completed hearing of arguments in the case on January 29.

The court recorded statements of 8 out of 10 prosecution witnesses. Chetia and his two associates Babul Sharma and Laxmi Prasad Goswami were arrested from a residence at Adabar under Mohammadpur thana on December 21, 1997 for possessing foreign currency of 16 countries and a satellite telephone set.

## Block 16: Shell Oil likely to seek extension of PSC

SHARIER KHAN

Shell Oil is likely to apply for extension of the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) for block 16 as the block is likely to be relinquished on May 5 next due to non-fulfilment of work commitment.

Shell has been pursuing drilling of a deep-sea well of a complex nature for the last two years, said sources. But thanks to high cost, Petrobangla turned down the proposal to drill the well at Magnama a spot situated 60 km off the Chittagong coast. Successful drilling of the block would have averted the situation, sources added.

Last December, Shell Oil relinquished the whole area of block 15 where it made no discovery in its five years of operation.

Block 16, however, has more prospects than block 15. Cairn, the original operator of these two

blocks, discovered the Sangu gas field in early 1996, two years after the signing of PSC. Sangu supplies over 120 million cubic feet of gas per day now.

Yesterday at a Joint Review Committee meeting on block 16 at Petrobangla, both the government officials and the Shell Oil officials agreed that Magnama, though costly, had enough potential to justify its drilling.

But Shell Oil has expressed its inability to mobilise rig, build drilling structures and complete the drilling at Magnama by May 5 the deadline by which the oil company must successfully complete the drilling of the well or give up all the areas of block 16 (excepting where it has production and operation).

In such a critical situation, Petrobangla suggested that Shell Oil seek extension of the block to

undertake the Magnama operation. Shell Oil said it would do so.

Shell intends to drill over 3700 metres deep in Magnama.

A source said, "Magnama is located in a high pressure and high temperature zone. Shell needs to use special rig and special tools in this operation. In the Bangladesh territory of the Bay of Bengal, none has ever drilled a well in high pressure and high temperature zone other than Shell and so, none has adequate knowledge about the geological peculiarities there."

"Typically, in many land-based wells, the high pressure-high temperature zone might not be available up to a depth of 5000 metres. But in the Bay of Bengal, rig operators reach the high pressure zone at 3400 metres in depth," he added.

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## By-polls to Pabna-5 JS seat today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

By-election to Pabna-5 constituency takes place today.

Seven candidates are contesting the polls for the Jatiya Sangsad seat that fell vacant following the death of BNP lawmaker Rafiqul Islam Bakul in a road accident on November 10 last year.

The candidates are Prof Mazhar Ali Kadri of Awami League, Krishak Mohammad Sadik of Bangladesh Krishak Mukti Andolan, Abul Kalam Mohammad Nurul Islam of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Palli Dal, Advocate Kazi Alim of Jatiya Party (M-M), Zainal Abedin Bachchu of Jatiya Party (Ershad) and Independent candidates Masuda Akhter Bakul and Sajedul Huq Nilu.

A total of 3,36,290 voters in the constituency are expected to cast their votes at some 100 polling centres.

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## SUST dormitories reopen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Dormitories of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology reopened yesterday.

The students have started coming back. Police contingents have also been deployed on the campus.

The university authorities would resume the suspended semester final examinations from February

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