

**Ayub was called back from Delhi to kill 3 AL men in Satkhira**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**

Kheshra Union Parishad Chairman Fazlul Huq called back terrorist Ayub Ali Sana from New Delhi to kill three Awami League leaders including BM Nazrul Islam MP from Satkhira-1 (Tala-Kalaroa) constituency.

Fazlul Huq also a Tala thana Awami League leader, sent a substantial amount of money to Ayub to come to Tala from Delhi for killing probable candidates in upcoming parliamentary elections.

The UP chairman also assured me of protection from police action and accordingly I came here leaving my wife and mother there, Ayub told police during interrogation.

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**Nikunja murder: Verdict May 29**

**BSS, Dhaka**

The Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge Court here yesterday fixed May 29 for pronouncement of verdict in the Nikunja Bihari Nath murder case.

Judge AFM Aminul Islam fixed the date after hearing the arguments of both the sides.

Earlier, the judge examined 25 prosecution witnesses in the case.

Nikunja Bihari Nath, a joint secretary of LGRD Ministry, was killed by a gang of muggers on January 11 last year near the Central Shaheed Minar while he was returning to his Azimpur residence from the Kamalapur Railway Station.

Seven accused, who are in jail hazat, were brought to the court during the hearing.

**Twisting of bidding criteria for WASA metres alleged**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A vested quarter in Dhaka WASA is allegedly trying to have a 1.5 crore-taka meter supply contract awarded to a company, violating rules, regulations and twisting bidding criteria.

Sources said a number of WASA officials are desperately trying for the lowest bidder to win the tender for the supply of 8,000 water meters to WASA although meter samples provided by the bidder do not meet certain WASA specifications.

The 1.5 crore-taka tender belongs to 'Group Two' of WASA's tender notice and is part of a 5 crore-taka meter supply work. The tender was floated in September last year.

Findings of experts in BUET, where the samples were tested, show that percentage of the error range of the devices at different types of water flow does not meet WASA's specification, sources said.

Besides, there is also considerable doubt as to whether the samples provided are even of the Class C type, another fundamental specification of WASA, sources alleged.

An initial report of physical and performance testing by BUET experts did not mention anywhere that the specimens belong to the Class C category.

Later, Project Builders Ltd., the second lowest bidder of Group 2, officially complained to the managing director of WASA about the justification of awarding the contract to the lowest bidder in spite of the shortcomings of the samples evident from the BUET report.

The managing director of WASA then asked the executive engineer (procurement) and superintendent engineer (C & D Circle) to look into the matter.

But in their investigation report, the WASA engineers claimed that there was nothing wrong with the samples.

Then the second lowest bidder placed the allegation before the WASA board. The board in its meeting on April 22 decided that the tender could be awarded to the lowest bidder only if BUET experts confirmed that the specimens belong to class C.

Instead of seeking a confirmation, WASA authorities concerned asked the BUET experts to report whether the samples provided 'appear' to be class C meters.

Zahidul Arif, executive engineer (procurement) of

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**Alleged failure to issue admit cards protested**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Hundreds of Aleem, Fazil and Kamil examinees under the Madrassah Education Board brought out a procession and staged a noisy demonstration in front of the board office in the city yesterday to protest its 'failure' to issue admit cards for the examinations that begin today.

The examinees chanted slogans against the board authorities and demanded immediate steps to ensure that they can appear at the examinations.

Around one lakh examinees will sit for the examinations at 279 centres across the country.

"We are yet to get admit cards, how can we appear at the examinations that begin tomorrow (Tuesday)?" an annoyed examinee asked.

The demonstrators said that the

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Examinees demonstrating in front of Madrassah Education Board in the city yesterday protesting the Board's 'failure' to issue admit cards for the examinations that begin today.

**Bhuiyan refutes press reports No formal discussion yet on seat sharing**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The BNP will immediately start formal talks on sharing of seats with the its partners in the four-party opposition alliance for the upcoming general elections, although the combine is yet to work out the modality.

"We'll sit very soon to discuss the seat-sharing arrangement and hope to agree on a formula," said BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan

Bhuiyan. He added that there has so far been no formal discussion on the issue.

He refuted reports that there has been pressure on the party or conflict as regards the sharing of seats and emphatically said the unity of the alliance is solid and it is there to remain.

Meanwhile, sources in the opposition camp said after the desertion of HM Ershad's Jatiya Party from the grouping, the Jamaat-e-Islami is pressing BNP to work out the seat-sharing arrangement without further delay.

The Jamaat at its different programmes has already made claim to the seats of BNP's stronghold Bogra and Jhenaidah districts. The BNP ruled out the claim for any seats where it has MPs to be fielded.

Although there has been no formal discussion on the seat sharing, the opposition allies have already initiated discussion in their respective party forums and requested BNP to finalise the issue.

Sources said both the Jamaat a

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**AL quest for 'benefit' from 'conflict' in BNP**

**NAZMUL ASHRAF**

Awami League does not see any positive coming out of recent changes in the BNP politics which, senior party leaders predict, will raise further storm with the general election nearing.

Nevertheless, political developments on the opposition front have generated curiosity in the rank and file of the ruling party, insiders said. "Analysis is on to find out whether there is anything to gain."

On Thursday, the BNP expelled Salahuddin Quader Choudhury and Anwar Zahid, two senior leaders who were accused of promoting Islamic fundamentalism in the main opposition party.

Choudhury and Zahid were expelled on charge of anti-party activities after the two had spoken against BNP's top leaders and its political strategies.

Their expulsion ended, at least for the time being, a prolonged conflict between the hard-liners and moderates in the party.

The action also followed BNP's debacle in the oust-government agitation it had launched in association with some other opposition parties including the Jatiya Party faction loyal to deposed president

HM Ershad who recently quit the opposition alliance.

Suranjit Sengupta, parliamentary affairs adviser to the prime minister, termed the development "an outburst" of a long-drawn crisis arising out of BNP's pro-fundamentalism and anti-democracy politics in recent times.

"It's just the beginning and the crisis will reach its climax after the outcome of the upcoming general election," he said adding what is now happening in BNP was bound to happen.

Explaining, the AL presidium member said it was only natural that conflicts in BNP would be exposed after the party's politics to oust the government had failed.

"The BNP seems to have returned to election politics, but whether it would return to democratic politics will be proved only if the party performs its duties in the next parliament," he said.

Sengupta, however, refused to accept that the latest changes were indicative of the main opposition party pursuing pro-liberation politics or discarding fundamentalist politics. In the course, he predicted, the BNP-led alliance would also fall apart.

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**Garments factory MD shot & mugged, bank branch looted**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Masked gunmen shot managing director of a garment factory and robbed of Tk 4.90 lakh in front of the factory at Mirpur in the city yesterday.

In another incident, miscreants looted Tk 91,000 from a branch of Agrani Bank in the city's Badda area yesterday afternoon.

The first incident took place when Rabeya Akther, MD of Tricotex Garments, was about to get into her car at about 1:30 p.m. At that time, two young men riding a motorcycle waylaid her.

When Rabeya refused to give them the bag one of the young men shot her in the leg while the other snatched the bag containing Tk 4.90 lakh.

The injured businesswoman was sent to Al-Helal Clinic for treatment.

A case was filed with Mirpur thana. But the name of her husband could not be known, as police did

not include the name for reasons best known to themselves.

In a press release, the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) yesterday protested the attack on Rabeya.

It also demanded exemplary punishment to the person involved and immediate recovery of the looted money.

Miscreants looted Tk 91,000 in cash from the central Badda branch of Agrani Bank.

The incident took place when the employees of the bank on the first floor of Lutfor Mansion were having launch and the guard went upstairs at about 1:30 p.m.

Five miscreants brandishing firearms stormed into the bank and looted the money from the counter of the bank. The gang left the scene immediately, police said.

A case was filed with Badda police in this regard.

**Over 2000 more HSC examinees expelled**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

At least 2031 Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinees and four teachers were expelled during Bengali Second Paper examination yesterday, according to officials of education boards.

Clashes between copy suppliers and police at Korotoa Degree College and Shatbaria Degree College centres left at least 12 people injured.

The clashes ensued when police obstructed copy suppliers. Police resorted to baton charge at the two centres.

In Sirajganj, police and local people caught an alleged copy supplier, Kamrul Hassan Bablu, when he assaulted an invigilator, Abdur Rahim, at Tarash Islamia Pilot High School centre.

A case was registered with Tarash police station and Babul was taken into custody, our Sirajganj correspondent reported.

Of the examinees expelled, 339 were at centres under Dhaka Education Board, 169 under Comilla board, 28 under Sylhet board, 130 under Jessore board, 125 under Barisal board, 187 under Chittagong board and 10,53 under Rajshahi board.

Two teachers were expelled at Banaripara examination centre under Bariasal board and two others at centres under Rajshahi board for negligence of duty.



**Will journalist Tipu remain disabled?**

**The Daily Star - প্রথম আলো**

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