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AL 'finds out' 17 rigging methods

Party's Oct polls report launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As many as 17 'fraudulent methods' were employed in the last parliamentary election to hand out defeat to the Awami League (AL), says an AL-sponsored research publication.

The book titled, "A Rigged Election: An Illegitimate Government" was published by the Centre for Research and Information (CRI). AL President Sheikh Hasina launched the book at a ceremony in the city yesterday.

In the preface to the 294-page book, the editorial board led by defeated AL candidate AMA Muhit wrote, "The study could not escape the conclusion that it was a fraud of the century, and unless fresh polls are held the rulers will not gain the necessary legitimacy to govern the country."

The book identified the methods based on 22 case studies carried out in 22 parliamentary constituencies where the AL nominees lost out.

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Hasina terms govt illegitimate, wants immediate polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina has branded the BNP-Jamaat coalition government as illegitimate, saying the alliance 'rigged' the last election.

"An immediate free and fair election is the only option left to rescue the country from ruination," suggested the opposition leader at the publication ceremony of a study report on the last parliamentary election at a city hotel yesterday.

Commissioned by the Awami League (AL), the Centre for Research and Information (CRI) brought out the report titled "A Rigged Election: An Illegitimate Government".

A month after the debacle in the election, the AL assigned the task of documenting the 'polls rigging' to a CRI team led by former finance minister AMA Muhit who lost out in the polls on an AL ticket.

The CRI came up with the 294-page report, a six-month exercise, yesterday.

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Criminal or not?

Police, BDR differ on dead fish trader's 'vice' record

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The police and the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) differ with each other over whether fish trader Sohel, who was beaten to death allegedly by the BDR, was a listed criminal or not.

Lalbagh police yesterday said Mohammad Sohel was not a listed criminal. But the BDR sources said he was picked up on charge of involvement in criminal activities in the area.

They also said he was arrested and kept on the first floor of a house. But the fish trader jumped out to escape and got seriously injured, which led to his death at the hospital.

But the brother of the victim claimed that the BDR personnel picked him up in the presence of hundreds of people and beat him up in broad daylight. He was later hurled inside a truck that was wit-

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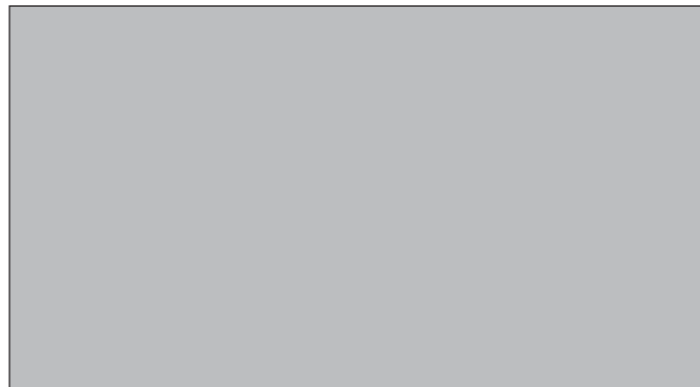
One page supplement on 'Dutch Bangla Bank' on Page 5 and a four-page supplement in colour on 'the occasion of Queen's Birthday' on Pages 17 to 20



England's defender Rio Ferdinand (R) focuses on the ball, tackling Sweden's forward Henrik Larsson during match 5 group F of the World Cup in Saitama, Japan yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Swedes hold edgy English



AFP, Saitama

England's World Cup campaign got off to a faltering start with a 1-1 draw against Sweden in the 'Group of Death' here yesterday.

Swedish midfielder Niclas Alexandersson's second-half strike cancelled out a 24th-minute headed goal by England defender Sol Campbell at the Saitama Stadium.

England finished the game on the back foot and only some fine goalkeeping from David Seaman kept Sven-Goran Eriksson's side in

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Spanish nerves settled

AFP, Gwangju

Perennial World Cup under-achievers Spain were made to sweat before eventually achieving a 3-1 victory over tournament debutants Slovenia here on Sunday.

Prolific Spanish striker Raul scored in the 44th minute while midfielder Juan Carlos Valeron put the Spaniards two up with a 74th-minute strike.

But the Slovenians struck back and seven minutes later substitute Sebastjan Cimirotic scored the tiny nation's first World Cup goal to pull his side back into the Group B match.

When substitute Milenko Acimovic burst into the penalty area minutes later he went down and claimed a penalty but his claims were waved away by the referee.

The Slovenians were therefore

furious when Fernando Morientes earned a spot-kick for a seemingly soft challenge by Sasa Gajser.

The veteran Fernando Hierro stroked the penalty past Slovenian goalkeeper Marko Simeunovic to see Spain on the way to what they hope will be a performance that banishes memories of so many poor World Cup displays.

Raul's 26th international goal put him level with the now-retired Emilio Butragueno in the all-time Spanish goalscoring list, but Hierro

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Kick Off again

The Daily Star's 2002 World Cup Special has been re-printed on high public demand. So, if you had missed out earlier fetch yourself one, now. See details on page 15.