

Hamid besieged as BNP cadres unleash violence at Barisal

UNB, Barisal

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdul Hamid Advocate spent a day under virtual siege at the Circuit House here yesterday as ruling party men unleashed violence in the town.

BNP activists also attacked the residences of some local leaders and workers of Awami League, including its district joint-secretary Shawkat Hossain Hiron.

AL leaders and witnesses claimed that at least 15 people were injured in the incidents of violence including beating by BNP cadres.

Former treasurer of Dhaka Reporters Unity and Dhaka-based reporter of daily Purbakon Qudus Afrad and Abdul Hamid's PA advocate Fariduddin Ahmed were roughed up at about 2pm when they and some other people were entering the Circuit House.

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PHOTO: STAR

A dance sequence by artistes of Chhayanaut, a frontline cultural organisation, yesterday at the Institute of Fine Arts portrays the arrival of autumn.

Satkhira blast: Injured dies at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One of the injured in the Satkhira bomb blasts on September 28 died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Motaul Alam Mukto, 14, son of Mohammad Mokarram Hossain, and a student of class nine at Labsha High School in Satkhira.

The body of Mukto, who died at about 5:30am yesterday, was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Mukto had gone to the Satkhira Mela (fair) along with his mother and brother when a powerful bomb Dhaka Wednesday, February 28, 2001

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One year of coalition rule Squaring up for counter-campaigns

NAZMUL ASHRAF

To mark the first anniversary of coalition rule, both the government and the opposition are now bracing for intensified campaigns centring on the issues of governance in the last one year.

With only five days to the anniversary, both sides are out to highlight their own standpoints on the government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. Obviously, the war of words between the rival political groups will pitch high.

The planned campaign to project all achievements of the Khaleda government is two-pronged – one effort, political in colour, by the ruling BNP and the other, official, by the administration.

Publication of booklets, leaflets, posters etc. highlighting achievements in different sectors is under way, while the prime minister and her cabinet colleagues are gearing up to launch a vigorous campaign to project their feats.

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7 more held in connection with killing of 3 DCC ward commissioners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective police yesterday arrested seven more people from different parts of the city in connection with the killing of ward commissioners KM Ahmed Raju, Shadat Hossain Sikder and Saidur Rahman Newton.

Three DB teams in separate raids arrested Boltu Russel, 22, Titu, 24 and Mukul, 26 from Dhania in Shyampur; Ayub Ali, 26 and Bashir, 22 from Kajla in Demra and Titu, 27 and Rushed, 25 from Mirpur Section 11. The raids were made between 2:30 am and 9 am.

A 9mm pistol, two revolvers along with 60 bullets, three cartridges, seven mobile phone sets and a passport were recovered from their possession. DB police said the

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Youth assaults Simi's friend at Khilgaon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A friend of Simi Banu who committed suicide last year upon unrelenting harassment by her neighbours was physically and verbally abused yesterday at Bhuiyanpara in the city's Khilgaon area.

According to witnesses, a rude-looking youth slapped the girl in the face and verbally abused her on her way to Simi's residence at about 3:45pm.

The witnesses believe the youth might be a relative of the convicts in the Simi suicide case in which five persons, including a sub-inspector of the Khilgaon Police Station, have been sentenced to a one-year imprisonment.

The youth grabbed her by the hand upon her arrival by rickshaw from her Madartek residence, they said.

"An intimidating youth blocked my way and grabbed my hand when I got down from the rickshaw to go to my friend's house... when I resisted, he slapped me in the face," Simi's friend told The Daily Star last night.

The youth also verbally abused the girl, with many around looking on. "It was humiliating for me... it reminded me of my friend's death... I now understand why Simi committed suicide," she sobbed.

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Couple held for killing domestic help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A domestic help was killed allegedly by a landlady at her house at Jigatola in the city on Thursday and the body was dumped in a jungle at Gazipur.

Dhanmondi police recovered the body yesterday morning. The maid worked at the residence of Giasuddin Bhuiyan, a businessman.

Police said the domestic help, Masuda Begum, 45, died after the landlady, Ishrat Jahan Ivy, kicked her in the abdomen following an altercation. The incident took place at about noon in front of another housemaid, Khodeza Akhter. The body was then hidden in the storeroom.

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PHOTO: STAR

Police arrested husband and wife – Giasuddin Bhuiyan and Ishrat Jahan Ivy – yesterday on charge of killing their 45-year-old housemaid Masuda Begum.