3 Bangla Bhai men nabbed

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Naogaon police yesterday arrested three operatives of Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) and picked up two leaders of the Islamist outfit for interrogation.

The arrestees are Abdus Salam, Abdul Hannan and Zahidul Islam and the leaders picked up are Hemayet Uddin Himu and Abdur Rahman -- all from Atrai upazila.

Police authorities in Naogaon have also asked the Detective Branch to investigate incidents of JMJB cadres' repression on women at Siddikia Madrassah camp at Bhiti village in Raninagar upazila.

Naogaon Superintendent of Police Fazlur Rahman said the arrestees are accused of torturing outlaws that surrendered at Bhiti

About the two IMIR leaders, he said they will be quizzed as part of the efforts to nab operations commander of the militant outfit Bangla Bhai and then released.

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30 pry teachers fall sick during hunger strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 30 teachers fell sick yesterday and three of them were taken to hospital as the 72-hour hunger strike by the non-government primary teachers ran into the final

About 100 non-government teachers have been taking part in the programme since Sunday at Muktangaon in the city to drum up support for their demand of nationalisation of jobs, an election pledge of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Anti-govt leaflet prompts security build-up at Secretariat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-government leafleting at the Secretariat on Sunday has prompted the law enforcers to beef up security there.

The security arrangements were even more intensified yesterday ahead of today's visit there by the prime minister, who will address a secretary committee meeting.

Plainclothesmen are also deployed inside this centre of the country's administration to coun-

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



New Iraqi president named, governing council disbands

US favourite Pachachi turns down largely ceremonial post

The U.S. and Saudi-educated head of Iraq's Governing Council was named president of the interim Iraqi government yesterday, after the Americans' preferred candidate turned down the post.

The selection of Ghazi Mashal Ajil al-Yawer to the largely ceremo-nial post broke a deadlock over the makeup of a new Iraqi government set to assume power on June 30.

Hours later, the Governing Council voted to dissolve immedi

ately rather than remain in office until the transfer of sovereignty June 30, said council member Younadam Kana.

Kana told reporters that 20 of the 22 members of the U.S.-appointed body, which was appointed last July, agreed to disband. She said that two members expressed reservations, arguing the interim constitution adopted in March required the council to continue its work until the sovereignty transfer.

As word of the appointment was

announced, a car bomb blew up outside the offices of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, which is located just outside the green zone headquarters of the U.S.-run coalition in control Baghdad. $coalition in central \, Baghdad.$

It was not immediately clear if the blast was tied to Tuesday's government announcement.

Council members had angrily accused the American governor of Iraq, Paul Bremer, of trying to

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

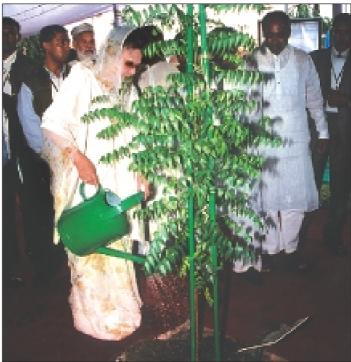
Explosions kill 14 in Iraq

AP, Baghdad

Bombs exploded yesterday in central Baghdad and near a US military base in the northern city of Beiji, killing at least 14 people as authorities in the capital announced the shape of a new government that will take control at month's end. In Baghdad, a car bomb exploded outside the offices of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, killing three people and injuring 20, the military said. It was one of several blasts heard in the capital just after reports circulated that Ghazi Mashal Ajil al-Yawer, current head of the Iraqi Governing Council, had been selected as president of the

Ambulances raced to the scene near the headquarters of the US-run coalition, and US troops kept people back. TV video showed debris and a charred wall of a

Minutes earlier, another blast followed by gunfire, sent a cloud 100 feet billowing into the dusty air SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia waters a neem sapling in a tree plantation campaign

after inaugurating a tree fair at the National Parade Square in Dhaka yesterday.

AL leader survives second attempt

Protestors block Khulna-Jessore highway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A local Awami League (AL) leader survived a second attempt on his life with grievous bullet injuries, as a gang fired at him in Jessore Monday night, sparking violence in an industrial town.

Witnesses said Shaikh Abdul Wahab, president of AL's Abhoynagar upazila unit, lost consciousness from chest, back and hand wounds he suffered in a hail of bullets before he could leave Shankarpasha Ferry Ghat for home by motorbike shortly after 8:00pm.

A special river transport took

the 52-year-old to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) from Khulna Medical College Hospital where he was first treated. DMCH doctors told The Daily

also former upazila chairman, was The latest in a series of attacks on political leaders in the south-

Star that the condition of Wahab,

west triggered mob violence in Wahah's hometown of Noapara in Abhoynagar upazila that damaged scores of buses, trucks and other

The incident also prompted

businesspeople to shut their shops

in response to a hartal call in Noapara vesterday and AL leader's supporters to block Khulna-Jessore Highway, disrupting traffic for hours. The AL and its front organisations, bringing out protest processions, have threatened a tough

movement in the event of police's failure to arrest attackers in 72 Police launched a combing operation in Abhoynagar to hunt down the attackers with suspected ties to an extremist outfit, said

Superintendent of Police in Jessore

Shahidul Islam. Three used shells

of rifle bullets were seized from the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

20 killed by law enforcers last month

Odhikar report says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law enforcers killed as many as 20 people across the country last month, said a report on human rights by Odhikar, a coalition for

In its report Odhikar said that nine people were killed in police custody during the time.

It said five journalists were injured and two others assaulted in May while 19 others were threatened and six others implicated in

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Ershad sees united JP before polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chairman of Jatiya Party (JP) HM Ershad yesterday expressed opti-mism that the JP factions would unite before the next election to contest with a renewed vigour and determination. "Efforts to reunite the three factions have already been initi-

ated and I can assure you of the success as the other factions leaders too feel the same urge to get together," Ershad said. Ershad, also a former president,

said this while speaking at Face To Face With Women Journalists, a SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Each Gram Sarkar to get Tk 10,000

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Gram Sarker will get Tk 10,000 each in the next Annual Development Programme by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, sources said.

The Gram Sarker will utilise the fund in forestation, sanitation and social charity in villages. An additional Tk 40 crore will also be used for strengthening the institution.

Out of 45,000 villages, 39,430

New probe proves DFP graft

hour hunger strike the non-government primary teachers staged to demand nationalisation of their jobs.

A colleague attends to a teacher on intravenous saline in a car at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday, as she fell sick along with 30 others from a 72-

REZAUL KARIM

A fresh inquiry has unearthed irregularities in the purchase of audio equipment worth Tk 23 crore at the Department of Films and Publications (DFP) and accused its director general (DG) of sealing a raw deal for the department.

The six-member committee headed by Mizanur Rahman Majumder, joint secretary (development) of the Ministry of Information, also points an accusing finger at three other top DFP

Officials at the information

ministry said this time the government is finalising the process to either terminate DG Syed Mahbubur Rahman or force him to go into retirement. The DG was previously charged with corruption and two separate inquiries found the charges against him

were correctly based. Under the project with an inflated cost of Tk 118 crore to expand the DFP building and film and laboratories facilities, which was approved back in 2001, the DFP was to install high tech digital Dolby (noise reduction) audio technology in its theatre. The

equipment purchase at Tk 23 crore

was approved. But the DFP never had any theatre suitable for Dolby systems, the inquiry report says.

The equipment supplier delayed supply by a year and the DFP received the equipment on December 24 and 26 in 2002. However, no step has been taken since then for installation, testing, commissioning and on-site training, adds the inquiry report.

Top DFP officials, in the meantime, took steps to illegally pay the SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Cop's costly mistake

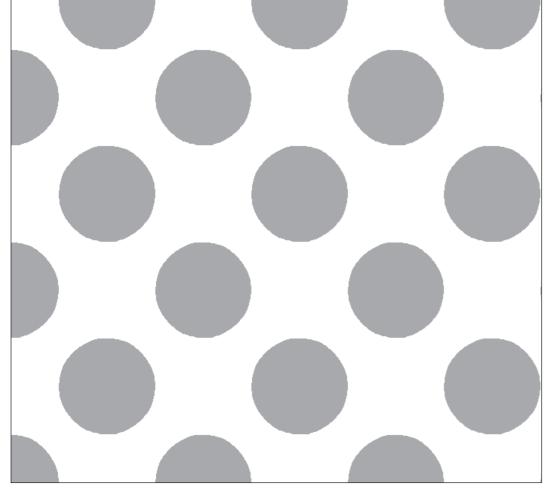
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Police have arrested one Anwai Hossen, 25, in place of Anwarul Hoque, 45, a wanted convict, about eight years after he was sentenced in a cheating case.

Innocent Hossen has been in Rangpur jail for the last 22 days without an allegation against him.

Hoque has been absconding since October 17, 1997 after the Court of Additional District and Sessions Judge awarded him an eight-month imprisonment and slapped a fine of Tk 1000.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



Held outlaws name BNP MPs, leftists as godfathers ANWAR ALL, Rajshahi

Three arrestee activists of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) in their confessional statements to police yesterday gave the names of their godfathers and patrons' who include 'some ruling party law-makers and leftist leaders', police

The arrestees -- Abdur Razzak Sarkar alias Art Babu, Mahfuzur Rahman Jewel and Badiul Alam Pintu -- also talked about the PBCP hideouts in and around the northwestern region. Police also gathered some more

information from documents

seized in the PBCP Rajshahi regional headquarters recently. But top police officials declined to disclose the names of the godfathers or give details of the information they got.

Art Babu and Jewel were arrested by Ramna police in Dhaka on May 22 and Pintu from Hajrapukur in Rajshahi on May 28.

Pintu, now on a seven-day police remand, might be sent to the Joint Interrogation Cell in Dhaka. Police sources said they are now

conducting a massive drive to track down Abdus Salam alias Tapu, the most wanted person in the list of Rajshahi district police, a 'serial killer' and former PBCP regional commander. Acting on information received

from Art Babu and Jewel, police raided a house at Hajrapukur to nab Tapu but failed.

Tapu used to live in the house with PBCP leader Tapan of Khulna. Tapan was once arrested in Khulna but his accomplices snatched him away from court. He later came to Rajshahi and took charge as Rajshahi regional commander of the PBCP (Janajuddha).

The sources also said Tapu himself slaughtered at least 50 people. Art Babu said Tapu used to slaughter 'class enemies' with his own hands

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

