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Alliance wins Netrokona-2 by-polls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrokona

Ruling coalition candidate Mohammad Abu Abbas won the Netrokona-2 by-election held yesterday amid low turnout of voters and casting of huge false votes.

The BNP-led alliance candidate bagged 81,067 votes while his nearest rival Jatiya Party (Ershad) candidate Fakir Ashraf polled 32,019.

The by-election boycotted by the main opposition Awami League (AL) was held almost peacefully.

According to unofficial results, the turnout was about 38 percent, lowest in recent by-elections. But observers said voters' turnout at different centres was not more than 25 to 30 percent.

Ashraf termed the by-polls a 'blueprint' and alleged the ruling party activists drove his polling agents out of different centres. He rejected the by-polls.

Local AL leader Shamsuzzoha said voters rejected the coalition government by refraining from voting.

Voters' turnout was low due to the absence of the AL and inclement weather, the observers and locals reasoned.

Seven candidates contested the election but only the BNP and JP polling agents were available.

No voters turned up at the centres of CKP High School, Rampur

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CHHATAK BOMB BLAST Ex-AL MP

Manik jailed for 10 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, SYLHET

A Sylhet court yesterday sentenced former Awami League lawmaker Muhibur Rahman Manik and two others to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment each for their connection with Chhatak bomb blast that killed two people in March 1999.

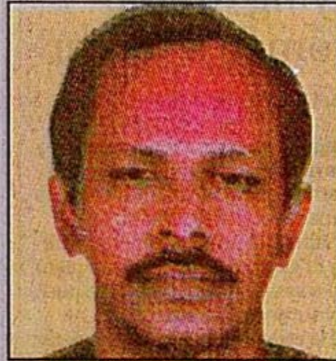
The judge of Speedy Trial Tribunal, Sylhet, Shah-e-Alam Chowdhury passed the judgment in a crowded courtroom at 1:35pm.

Manik was present at the courtroom and taken to jail after the judgment.

The other convicts are Manik's cousin Abul Lais Chowdhury and Gopal Chandra Dass.

All the three were fined Tk 5,000 each, in default, they were to suffer six more months of RL.

The court acquitted three other



Muhibur Rahman Manik

chargesheeted accused of the charge.

The prosecution charges say that, on 15 March 1999 a bomb went off in Manik's house in

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Verdict in Jail Killing Case now Oct 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The judgement in the historic Jail Killing Case will now be delivered on October 20 after the verdict was deferred twice on September 7 and September 21.

Judge Mohammad Motiur Rahman of the Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Dhaka yesterday fixed the date after submission of a report the same day by a three-member commission that said witness Saifuddin Ahmed is unfit for deposition before court or elsewhere.

The commission also asked court to drop him as a witness.

Court accepted the written report on the health condition of 84-year-old Saifuddin, which was signed by commission members Public Prosecutor Abdullah Mahmud Hassan, Advocate ABM Sharfuddin Mukul and Officer-in-charge of Sutrapur Police Station Awlad Hossain.

The verdict was deferred on September 7 because of the illness of the judge and again on September 21 due to a last-minute court order for deposition of Saifuddin.

Deferring the judgement that was likely to come on September 21, about 29 years after the brutal assassination of four national leaders

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Cause of F28 crash not found yet

Pilots' strike until afternoon disrupts schedule; 2 int'l flights delayed on technical faults

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The probe committees are yet to find the cause of Friday's plane crash at Sylhet airport.

The pilots however believe poor condition of the runway might have caused the accident in which all 83 passengers and crew on board miraculously escaped.

The F28 aircraft of Biman Bangladesh Airlines remains at the crash site under armed police guard. Civil aviation officials said the authorities would resume work to recover it after the visit of insurance company officials.

"We are waiting for the insurance company officials' visit, which may take few more days," said an official of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab).

The probe committee of civil aviation ministry headed by Caab Chairman Zahed Qudus has started probing into the crash while Biman's internal probe committee headed by its chief of flight safety is yet to launch investigation.

The three-member Caab inquiry team, which went to Sylhet last night, talked to the officials and staff of the control tower at Sylhet airport

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PHOTO: STAR

An armed policeman yesterday guards the F-28 aircraft of Biman that crashed into the bank of a canal after landing at Osmani International Airport in Sylhet Friday.

AL enforces hartal today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) and two other opposition parties enforce today a nationwide dawn-to-dusk hartal across the country to denounce the "misdeeds of three years" by the alliance government.

The main opposition AL, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and Janata Party also observe the day as Black Day for nation.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia addresses the nation on radio and television today at 7:00pm marking the BNP-led coalition's three years in office.

Khaleda's address will focus on achievements and future plans

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Alliance sees AL doom in next polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the ruling four-party alliance yesterday said the main opposition Awami League (AL) will be a 'marginalised party' in the next general elections as it has taken a stand against the people and the country.

The alliance has established constitutional rule, democratic atmosphere, peace and security, and is carrying out massive development work while the AL has resorted

to 'politics of destruction' and 'undemocratic activities', they said.

"We are confident the number of seats of BNP and its alliance partners will further increase while Awami League will be marginalised in the next elections to be held after two years because of its negative politics," said BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

Addressing a huge public rally at Muktangan in the capital marking the coalition's three years in power, Bhuiyan said the alliance has

already implemented most of its election pledges and will realise the rest in the next two years.

The BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) and Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) jointly organised the rally as part of their rallies in all divisional and district headquarters.

"Awami League is pursuing negative politics since the alliance assumed power and we did not get minimum cooperation from the

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Baby girl raped, slaughtered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A five-year-old girl was raped and slaughtered allegedly by her neighbour rickshawpuller on Friday night in Shyampur in Dhaka.

The body of Ankhi, the victim, in T-shirt was found yesterday inside the house of Sharif, 23, who called her in his room of a house on Zia Sarani on Friday.

Ankhi, the youngest daughter of Shafiqul Islam and Shilpi of 1636 Gaspip Road at Noorpur in Shyampur, was watching television with her elder brother Sajib, when Sharif alias Khato Sharif came to their house.

Shafiq, a hotel employee in Gulistan, went to work in the morning and Shilpi, a performer in Palagaans in villages, went to Zinzira to perform a stage show at around 5:30pm on that day.

"Sharif came to our house when

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PHOTO: STAR

Activists of the ruling alliance gather in thousands yesterday at a public rally at Muktangan in celebration of three years in office of the BNP-led coalition.

PM asks all to work together

Greets people on eve of govt's completing 3 years in office

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, who celebrates the third anniversary of her government today, has made a call for all to work together in greater national interest.

She made the call in a message on the eve of completion of three years of the BNP-led four-party alliance in office.

The prime minister conveyed her greetings to the countrymen and good wishes to those leaders and workers of the alliance who made tireless efforts to elicit people's

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AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK

Chiefs of services demand action for linking army

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Chiefs of three services yesterday asked the government to initiate actions against those who tried to link the armed forces to the August 21 grenade attack.

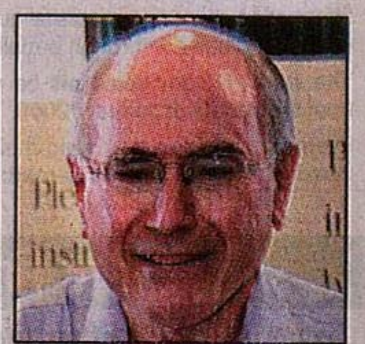
Chiefs of army, airforce and navy made the appeal at a special parliamentary body meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, terming the remarks of former army chief general (rtd) Mustafizur Rahman 'provocative, heinous and deliberate' against the armed forces, sources

said.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Defence found their appeal valid and asked the ministry to initiate steps against the people, specially former army chief Gen (rtd) Mustafiz, who made the remarks.

It launched a broadside against the former army chief for what it said making objectionable remarks against the army in the wake of the

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Howard reelected Australian PM

AFB, Sydney

The conservative government of Australian Prime Minister John Howard won a fourth straight term in office Saturday as Australia's booming economy overshadowed criticism of his staunch support for the US-led war in Iraq.

Senior officials of the opposition Labour Party conceded that

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দেশী স্বাদের দেশী মসলা

FRESH ৗঁড়া মসলা

FRESH CUMIN POWDER ৗঁড়া জিরা 200gm

FRESH CHILLI POWDER ৗঁড়া মরিচ 200gm

FRESH TURMERIC POWDER ৗঁড়া হলুদ 200gm

FRESH CORIANDER POWDER ৗঁড়া পুঁড়া 200gm

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