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BNP men foil Dr Kamal, B Chy's Rangpur meet

30 including top leaders hurt

RAFIQUE SARKER, from Rangpur

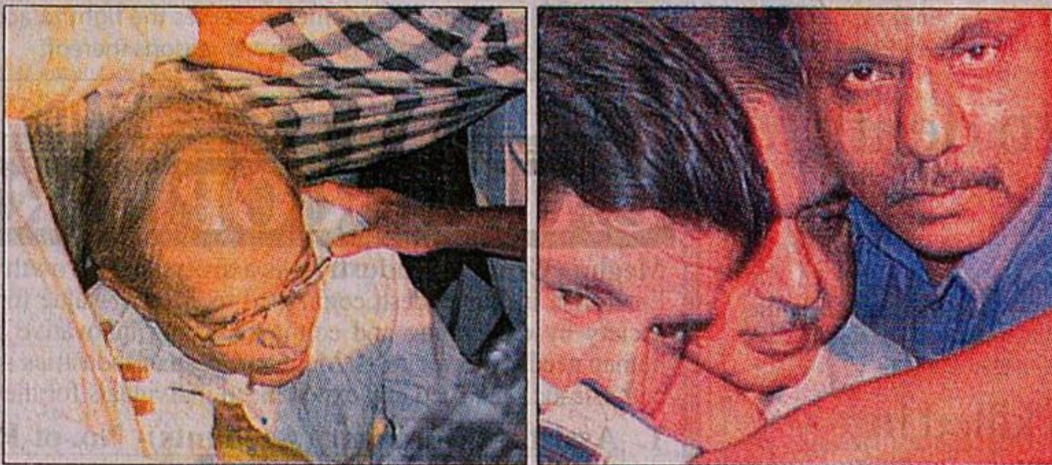
At least 30 people were injured when activists of ruling BNP's front organisations allegedly swooped on the audience at a mass dialogue of Jatiya Oikya Mancha and Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) at Rangpur Town Hall yesterday.

Oikya Mancha Convenor and Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain, BDB President Badruddoza Chowdhury, Secretary Abdul Mannan and BDB Spokesman Mahi B Chowdhury, MP, however, escaped unhurt.

Police deployed in and outside the town hall were mere bystanders during the onslaught, witnesses alleged.

Jatiya Oikya Mancha and BDB leaders described the incident as

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Party activists shield Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain, right and Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh President Badruddoza Chowdhury from the attack by ruling BNP-backed Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal and Jubo Dal men on a mass dialogue of the Jatiya Oikya Mancha at Rangpur Town Hall yesterday.

Verdict in Jail Killing Case today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court passes the judgement in the historic Jail Killing Case today, having deferred it twice last month.

Mohammad Motiur Rahman, Judge of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, which has been set up near Dhaka Central Jail, is slated to read the judgment at 10:30am amidst tight security.

The judgment comes about 29 years after the brutal assassinations of four national leaders, who led Bangladesh's government in exile during the Liberation War in 1971. The trial had long been entangled in repeated interventions by different governments and various judicial knots.

Syed Nazrul Islam, acting president of Bangladesh government in exile, Tajuddin Ahmed, its prime minister, M Mansur Ali, finance minister, and AHM Qamaruzzaman, home affairs, relief and rehabilitation minister, were killed inside Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

AL finally joins JS bodies

Hasina asks deputies to speak against 'corruption, misdeeds' of govt

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The main opposition Awami League (AL), in a significant development in its political strategy, has finally started joining the parliamentary standing committees in the face of mounting pressure from the party deputies.

The AL lawmakers yesterday attended three standing committee meetings at the directive of party high command, a move that came more than a year into the formation of the vital parliamentary bodies.

Leader of the Opposition and AL President Sheikh Hasina has directed her party deputies to raise their voice against 'corruption' and 'misdeeds' of the BNP-led coalition

government through participating in the committee system.

Abdul Hamid, deputy leader of the opposition, conveyed the party chief's directives asking the lawmakers to play an effective role, sources said.

Most of the parliamentary bodies including standing committees on various ministries were formed in July last year. The opposition members were included in the committees last month just before prorogation of the last session of parliament.

The AL lawmakers did not join the 44 standing committees, although they are participating in the meetings of House Committee, Private Members Bills and Resolution Committee and Business

Advisory Committee.

In the absence of the main opposition lawmakers, the parliamentary committee system virtually became ineffective as the ruling coalition-dominated committees hardly played their due role in overseeing government functioning.

As the main opposition lawmakers have started joining all the standing committees, the committee system is likely to be able to function effectively and help ensure transparency and accountability of the ministries.

"We have asked party lawmakers to reveal the real picture of corruption in the ministries by participating in the committees and let people

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



THERE SHE GOES... Young Bangladesh batsman Mohammad Ashraf ul hooks New Zealand fast bowler Ian Butler for a six on the opening day of the first Test at Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Ashraf ul hooks hosts' blushes

SPORTS REPORTER

A responsible innings by Mohammad Ashraf ul helped Bangladesh recover from a familiar collapse to reach 165 for six at stumps against New Zealand on the opening day of the first Test at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Khaled Mashud, who led Bangladesh in the absence of Habibul Bashar, was 12 not out with Manzarul Islam batting on 16 after a brilliant sunny day allowed a full 90 overs.

The home side got off to the worst possible start after stand-in captain Mashud won the toss decided to bat, losing three wickets for only five runs by the seventh over. But Ashraf ul and vice-captain Rajin Saleh salvaged the side with a 115-run stand, a fourth wicket record for Bangladesh at this venue.

Ashraf ul's 67 off 136 balls was a

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Robbers loot 4 rifles from launch ansars

UNB, Kishoreganj

Robbers looted money in cash and other valuables from the passengers of a launch and four rifles and ammunition from on-duty ansars on the river Ghoratra in Kishoreganj on Monday night.

The victims said a gang of armed robbers in the guise of passengers boarded the Sunamganj bound launch, MV Prince, at Ashuganj.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

70 wounded in JCD, Shibir clash at Islamic University

UNB, Kushtia

At least 70 people were injured in a series of clashes between the activists of Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) in and around Islamic University yesterday.

Campus sources said the clash began at about 4:00pm over possession of a seat at Shahid Zia Hall, in which 12 activists of both the groups were injured. Proctor with the help of police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

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Durga Puja begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hindus celebrate Mahasaptami, the first day of Durga Puja, today at Puja Mandaps across the country.

Mahasaptami Puja will be offered at 9:00am. Bhog or food and fruits will be offered to Devi Durga today, which will later be distributed among devotees.

Durga, worshipped as the goddess of supreme power, came to earth yesterday for a four-day stay.

The government has formed a monitoring cell and opened a control room to ensure security following press reports and allegations of insufficient security at Puja Mandaps.

"We have formed a social coordination committee with local legislators, chairmen, members, commissioners and devotees of both Hindu and Muslim communities at every Puja Mandap to ensure

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Khatunganj onion traders strike against Rab action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Onion dealers of Khatunganj in the port city yesterday observed strike and staged demonstration rallying and bringing out a procession to protest Monday's drive by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Chittagong against them.

They held a rally chaired by Jamshed Sawdagor at Hamidullah Khan Market, one of the wholesale markets of onion, where the Rab conducted raids. Later, they brought out a procession.

The dealers put off sales, forced suspension of loading and unloading of goods, and restricted movement of trucks and other vehicles delivering onions to and from

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উন্নয়নশীল বাংলাদেশ। আজ স্বয়ংসম্পূর্ণ খাদ্য।
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