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## 200 hurt in RU clash

JCD, Shibir men backed by cops, BDR attack students, teachers protesting hoodlums' intrusion into females' dormitory, university closed

ANWAR ALI and ABU KALAM,  
Rajshahi

About 200 students, teachers and journalists were injured in a daylong violence on the Rajshahi University (RU) campus yesterday prompting the authorities to close the university until November 21 and ban political activities on the campus.

The violence erupted following intrusion of three unidentified youths into Tapashi Rabeya Hall Friday night that sparked massive protest by the students and teachers.

The protestors fought with the controversially appointed employees and teachers aided by the police, paramilitary BDR, pro-government Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) activists until 3:00pm, turning the campus into a battlefield.

To quell the violence, RU authorities ordered resident students to vacate halls by 4:00pm declaring the Eid vacation from today instead of November 2.

The RU syndicate at an emergency meeting last night suspended all political activities on the campus.



PHOTO: STAR

General students haul an injured comrade to safety in a daylong violence triggered by the police, pro-government student activists and staff on Rajshahi University (RU) campus yesterday.

## ADB to raise support to \$1b

VP tells Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will raise its financial support to Bangladesh up to \$1 billion in the coming year.

The donor agency is ready to help in carrying out the post-flood rehabilitation programme in Bangladesh and the process is underway, visiting ADB Vice-President Liqun Jin told Prime Minister Khaleda Zia when he made a courtesy call on her at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) yesterday.

The ADB top executive said they had brought internal reform in the bank to expand assistance to deserving countries.

And Bangladesh is a "deserving country" on their list, he remarked, lauding massive economic progress of the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

The vice-president said that ADB felt "greatly honored being associated with the successes of Bangladesh".

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## BANGLADESHI DRIVER'S ABDUCTION Kidnappers keep mum, Morshed may fly to Iraq



PHOTO: AFP

Najnin Akhter, wife of the abducted Bangladeshi truck driver in Iraq, and their daughter Sadia Akhter hold a newspaper carrying the kidnap story at the Jeetpur village, Feni yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The foreign office yesterday said Islamic Army of Iraq (IAI) has neither made any contact with Bangladeshi authorities nor claimed any responsibility for the abduction of Bangladeshi lorry driver, Abul Kashem Faruk, until last evening.

Talking to reporters at his office yesterday, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan confirmed the identity of the abducted truck driver. Faruk, 43, son of Abdul Hadi of Jitpur village under Sonagazi upazila of Feni, has been living in Iraq for the last seven years and worked for a Kuwaiti firm, Joshim Transport Company.

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## The Daily Star receives e-mail threatening to kill Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An e-mail sent to The Daily Star yesterday threatened to kill Leader of the Opposition and Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina either in the US or in the country soon.

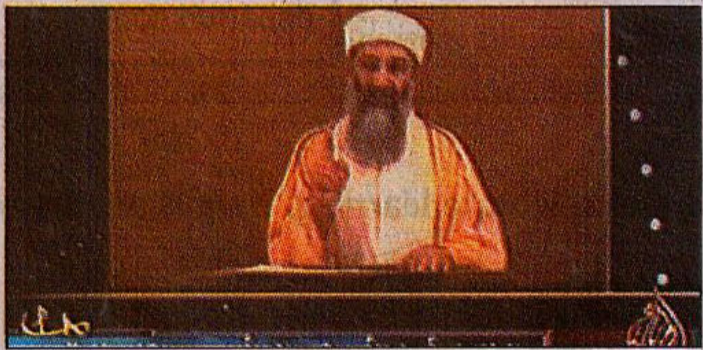
The e-mail reads: "Hello Sheikh Hasina, this is Al-Qaeda Group from your surroundings. Very soon, you will be killed by Al-Qaeda Group wherever you are. We want to (know) you through this newspaper about your death process. Be ready in USA or in Bangladesh. Yours enemy, Al-Qaeda Group Dhaka, Bangladesh."

Hasina is now in the US on a month-long visit and expected to return on November 21.

The reporting section of

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## Laden warns of another 9/11 unless US stops threatening Muslims



AP, Cairo

A frame grab taken on October 29 from a videotape aired by Al-Jazeera news channel shows al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden delivering a message addressed to the United States.

Osama bin Laden, in a statement directed to the American people days before the presidential election, says the United States must stop threatening the security of Muslims if it wants to avoid another Sept. 11-style attack.

In the video aired Friday, the al-Qaeda leader acknowledges for the first time that he ordered the Sept. 11 attacks and said he did so because of injustices against the Lebanese and Palestinians by Israel and the United States.

Laden refrained from directly

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## 8 Marines killed, 9 hurt in Iraq

AGENCIES, Baghdad

Eight US marines were killed and nine wounded in military operations yesterday in the restive western Al-Anbar province, said a US military statement, without providing further details.

"Eight Marines assigned to the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force were killed in action and nine others were wounded in action today while conducting increased security operations in the Al-Anbar provin-

ince," said the statement without providing further details.

At least seven people were killed and several wounded when a car bomb ripped through the streets outside Al-Arabiya television's offices in Baghdad yesterday, a US military officer at the scenesaid.

Captain David Mineschek said seven people had been killed and many more wounded when the car bomb exploded in the central Mansour neighbourhood.

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## Bush, Kerry quick to cash in on threats

AGENCIES, Washington

A taped threat by al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden has thrust security to the top of the US campaign agenda, just three days before voters cast ballots in a presidential race polls show to be a dead heat.

US President George W Bush and Democratic Senator John Kerry both promised to hunt down and destroy al-Qaeda after bin Laden's taped threat on Friday was broadcast on the Arab television channel Al Jazeera. But the rivals differed

sharply on who would be most effective in executing that mission.

The tape, in which bin-Laden openly taunted Bush and told Americans "your security is not in the hands of Kerry or Bush," caught the Kerry camp by surprise but only briefly interrupted a frenzied final dash for votes in Tuesday's tight election.

The political impact of the tape could cut both ways. It bolsters Bush's argument that the world is a dangerous place and plays to his

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## 2 get 5 years' RI for threat to blow up PMO

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Court yesterday sentenced two youths to five years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for threatening by email to blow up the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

Metropolitan Magistrate Nani Gopal Biswas of the Speedy Trial Court-7 gave the verdict in presence of the convicts Khondaker Hasan Shahriar Dipu, 22, and Shafayet Wahid Sohel, 29.

The court also fined them Tk5,000

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## 18 Indians pushed in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) made three more push-in bids yesterday on Panchagarh and Nilphamari borders amid reports of Bangla-speaking Indian Muslims being herded along the Indian border to continue the process.

Ten Indian nationals - a man, six

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## India calls push-in reports baseless

UNB, Dhaka

India yesterday termed Bangladesh media reports on BSF (Border Security Force) bids to push Bangla-speaking Indian Muslims into Bangladesh incorrect and baseless.

A press release of the Indian High Commission in Dhaka said no "push in" of any Bangla-speaking Indian Muslims has ever been made by BSF. "The question of forcing Indian citizens into the territory of any other nation by any Indian authority

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## CERTIFICATE 'TAMPERING' SC Bar asks HC judge to stand down

Tells chief justice to remove Justice Faizee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday in an unprecedented move asked an additional High Court judge to stand down immediately for what it was his tampering with the LLB certificate.

As the bench of Justice Mohammad Ali Asgar Khan and the judge in question, Justice Faisal Mahmud Faizee, sat for the day, Bar Secretary Bashir Ahmed accompanied by a group of lawyers rushed to

court and drew the judges' attention to press reports about the alleged fraud by Faizee.

Waving newspapers that ran news about the tampering of the LLB certificate, the secretary told court that Justice Faizee should not sit on any bench on moral grounds.

Senior Judge Asgar Khan retorted that it is the chief justice who constituted the bench and Faizee cannot stop presiding over the bench without his orders.

A visibly shock-still Justice Faizee

did not utter a word and kept his head down during the incident.

The Bar leaders met with Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassar Hussain at his chamber and urged him to withdraw the accused judge from today. Otherwise, they said they would boycott Faizee's court.

The chief justice assured the bar leaders of looking into the matter.

Sources said Justice Faizee might be temporarily withdrawn from the bench in the face of press reports

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## Ministries hobble on foreign fund use

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Finance Division will not release domestic funds to ministries that do not utilise foreign aid after it was found that a number of key ministries performed poorly in utilising external assistance.

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman told reporters about the fresh stance after a review meeting yesterday on the status of implementation of Annual Development Plan (ADP) in the first quarter of the ongoing 2004-05 fiscal year.

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### SPENDING-SHY MINISTRIES

Funds released, local resources and foreign aid utilised

- Communications: 27pc, 11pc and 8pc
- Health: 27pc, 3pc and 1pc
- Education: 39pc, 20pc and 2pc
- Primary and mass education: 26pc, 1pc and 20pc
- Local government: 25pc, 21pc and 10pc
- Post and telecommunication: 9pc, 3pc and 0pc

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