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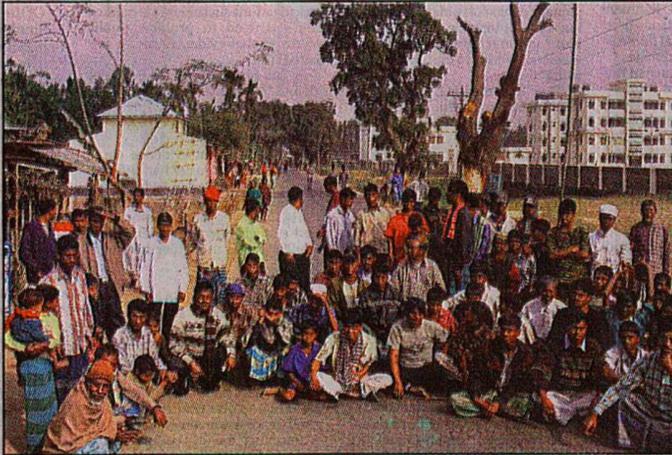
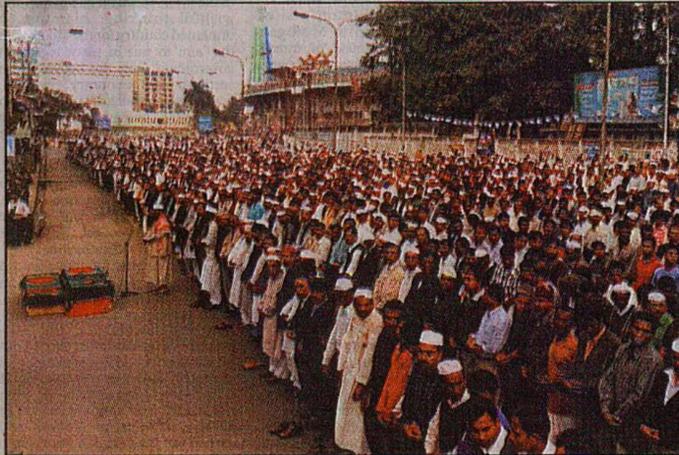
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From left, the second namaj-e-janaza of Awami League leader Shah AMS Kibria and AL activist Abul Hossain in progress on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital; pickets block the main road of Habiganj town during yesterday's dawn-to-dusk hartal there, and grief-stricken Sheikh Hasina consoles Asma Kibria, wife of the slain opposition leader, at the latter's Dhanmondi house yesterday.

Indian PM, UK minister condole death of Kibria

UNB, Dhaka
Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh conveyed their deep condolences to Asma Kibria on the tragic death of former finance minister and Awami League leader Shah AMS Kibria MP.
Navtej Sarna, official spokesman for the Indian ministry of external affairs, yesterday said, "All right-thinking persons must join in condemning such violent acts of terrorism, which constitute a direct attack on the fabric of democracy that the people of Bangladesh are striving to create for themselves."
Sarna said, "The perpetrators must be identified and due justice meted out."

Kibria killed as part of cleansing design: Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition of carrying out a plot to kill senior and popular leaders of her party to cling on to power and to gain advantage in the next election.
"Shah AMS Kibria was killed as part of the BNP-Jamaat-led government's cleansing operation against Awami League to hang on to power. The government high-ups instructed to kill Kibria," Hasina, also the president of AL, said at a press conference at party's Dhanmondi office.
"Their plan is also on to kill the local leaders and the prospective

party candidates for the next election," she alleged. "Two of our lawmakers have been killed in only eight months."
Announcing a 60-hour hartal that starts today to continue till 6:00pm on Monday protesting the Thursday's blast, Hasina said she is afraid similar attacks would be made on her party colleagues shortly.
"Sensing no possibility of winning the next election for their sheer failure to govern, the alliance government is desperate to continue in power. And so, they've engaged killers to wipe out Awami League," she said.
Pledging to continue tough agitation programmes along with

other opposition parties, the AL chief said, "Our movement will go on until the government stands down." She said tougher programmes would be announced soon to that end.
"I'd heard about a secret meeting of BNP leaders at the house of the in-laws of the prime minister's son (Mahbub Bhaban in Dhanmondi) only a day before the August 21 grenade attacks," Hasina said adding, at first she did not believe the news of the meeting that discussed killing AL leaders, but later after the August 21 carnage she got convinced of the motives for the blasts.
"I have information that the BNP leaders held another meeting on the

Countrywide waves of condemnation

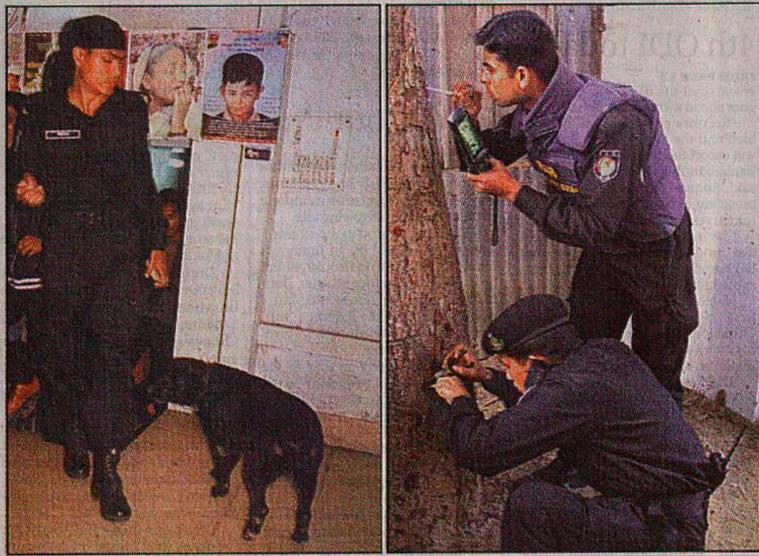
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Thursday's grenade attack on Awami League (AL) rally in Habiganj, which left former finance minister SAMS Kibria and four other AL leaders dead, sent shock waves through the country yesterday as
SEE ALSO PAGES 8,2
grief and widespread condemnation poured out.
Different political, socio-cultural, human rights and strongly organisations yesterday strongly condemned the deadly blast that was almost identical to the August 21 attacks on Sheikh Hasina's rally in the capital last year.
Leaders of these organisations demanded proper investigation into Thursday's blast as well as all other similar incidents to mete out punishment to the culprits.
They said that the government's long-standing indifference to the recurrence of attacks on rallies and functions of different political and cultural organisations.
They also demanded compensation for the families of the victims and the injured.
Blaming the BNP-led four-party

Tough security in Iraq for tomorrow's polls

Land borders closed, travel restriction slapped, exiles start voting, 6 killed in attacks
REUTERS, AFP, Baghdad
Iraq clamped tough security measures across the country yesterday, sealing land borders and curbing travel to foil insurgents bent on wrecking tomorrow's election, but a car bomb and attacks killed six people.
Voting began for Iraqis overseas. In Australia, Iraqis danced in the streets, proudly displaying blue ink on their fingers, which showed they had cast the election's first votes.
"When I look at the ink on my finger -- this is a mark of freedom," said Kassim Abood, outside a polling booth in a disused furniture warehouse in western Sydney. "I didn't think I would live long enough to see this moment."
Iraq's government is imposing extraordinary security restrictions to try to safeguard the polls. Land borders were closed from Friday and travel between provinces inside the country is also banned. An extended curfew has been announced in most cities, from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. (11 a.m. - 10 p.m. EST).
Two days from the main vote Sunday, a suicide bomber killed four people at a Baghdad power station and an Iraqi soldier and policeman were killed in attacks in the troubled cities of Samarra and Kirkuk.
The US military warned that attacks could spiral out of control as Iraqis brave insurgent threats to vote in what is being hailed as the first democratic election in half a century.
Since Wednesday, at least 48 Iraqis and seven US troops have been killed in insurgent attacks. A helicopter crash also killed 30 American Marines and one sailor on Wednesday, the deadliest single incident of the war for the US military.
President Bush has urged Iraqis to "defy the terrorists" and vote in the country's first election since an American-led invasion toppled Saddam Hussein in April 2003.
Insurgents have told Iraqis not to vote. The al-Qaeda leader in Iraq, Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, says his followers will launch attacks on polling stations and has condemned Iraq's Shias, most of whom are backing the polls.
The Islamist militant Army of Ansar al-Sunna also issued a "final warning" on Thursday to stay away from the polls, saying anyone who voted would be marked for death, either during or after the election. Iraqis who vote will have their fingers marked with ink -- potentially making them a target for attacks.
The ballot is the cornerstone of a US plan to transform Iraq from dictatorship to democracy but it risks worsening the insurgency by further alienating minority Sunni Arabs, and could end up fomenting sectarian strife.

Rab dog squad searches AL central office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The dog squad of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday searched Awami League (AL) headquarters in the Bangabandhu Avenue for 'illegal substances' while shocked AL leaders and activists were preparing for the funeral of Shah AMS Kibria.
The Rab men, however, did not find any 'illegal substance'.
A five-member team with two dogs entered the AL office at Bangabandhu Avenue at 1:40pm and searched AL's volunteer wing Shechchasebak League's office on the ground floor.
The Rab team later searched AL's youth wing Jubo League office and AL Dhaka Mahanagar office on the first floor.
"We've found nothing 'bad' here," Havilder Dibendu told reporters after the 15-minute search.
"We search venues before each programme for security of the party or organisation concerned", he said, adding, "We don't move without the instructions from our higher authorities."
"DMP made requisition for the dog squad for the search," a top Rab official said, adding, "We provide service including that of the dog squad whenever police or other law enforcing agencies make such request."
Resenting the search, AL leader Obaidul Qader said, "I don't know why they come always after an incident. They came here after the August 21 grenade attacks too."



Rapid Action Battalion's dog squad searches the Awami League headquarters on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital yesterday, left, and its bomb squad collects from a tree splinters and other bits of evidence from Thursday's grenade attack on AL rally on Boidder Bazar Government Primary School premises in Habiganj.

Exempted from hartal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Hospitals, ambulances, newspapers' vehicles, kitchen markets, drug stores, food shops, utility service vehicles and garbage carrying vans will remain outside the purview of the opposition-called 60-hour hartal from 6:00 am today to 6:00 pm on Monday.

PBCP leader killed in 'crossfire'

UNB, Natore
A regional leader of an outlawed party was killed in 'crossfire' between police and his accomplices at Khirpota village in Singra upazila early yesterday.
Police nabbed Entaj alias Enta, 38, regional commander of Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP--Lal Pataka) from Baioni village in Singra upazila Wednesday night.
Acting on his statement, police along with Entaj went to Khirpota on Thursday night to arrest his accomplices.
When police reached near the house of Rawshan member, the cohorts of Entaj opened fire, forcing the law enforcers to return fire.
Entaj was caught in the encounter as he tried to escape. He was rushed to Singra Health Complex where doctors declared him dead, police said.
Two police constables, Miladunnabi and Aminul Islam, were also injured in the shootout.
A pipe gun and 12 rounds of bullet were recovered from the scene.

Beaten out to the streets

CHRISTINE WANNER
Left to fend for themselves on the streets, abandoned and run away children lead vulnerable lives. Two years ago one young girl - let us call her Leyla - was one of the 700,000 street children in Dhaka. Now she dares to tell her story, a traumatic experience shared by many street children.
"It is too difficult to tell the things I went through in front of all," Leyla says with surprising certainty. We sit in the girl's hostel of Aparajeyo-

Bangladesh, an NGO where she has found shelter since when she was twelve years old. Leyla shares a room with ten other girls. They leave, as Leyla wishes.
We sit on a simple woven mat. Metal boxes line the walls, filled with the personal belongings of the girls. Slowly but clearly Leyla starts:
"When my mother died, my father could not take care of me, as he was working as a rickshaw puller. I then came to a house in Dhaka as a domestic worker. But the relationship between the couple was full of

tension. The husband suspected his wife of betraying him. He therefore instructed me to observe her and to report everything to him.
His wife threatened me. She said: 'If you ever tell him anything, I will beat you up!' As the husband would not believe me when I told him, 'I could not observe anything special,' he hit me. 'What did you tell him?', his wife used to ask me. From her too, I got my daily punches. I really tried to stay at that place, but I could not bear it. So, I ran away."

Giant crocodile 'Dhalapahar' in Khulna dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna
Giant crocodile 'Dhalapahar' living in the lake adjacent to the mazar of saint Hazrat Khan Jahan Ali (R) died on Thursday morning after struggling for life for over 25 days.
Dhalapahar sustained severe injuries in a duel with another giant crocodile 'Kalapahar' on January 2.
Khadems of the 700 year-old mazar alleged that careless treatment provided by Veterinary Surgeon Dr Shukhendu Shekhar Gain and Surgeon of Mirpur National Zoo Dr Selim Iqbal led to the deterioration of Dhalapahar's condition and its death.
Meanwhile, two living crocodiles in the lake including Kalapahar stopped taking food after the death of Dhalapahar, Khadems said.



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4th ODI today

SPORTS REPORTER
Amid heightened security the fourth one-day international between Bangladesh and Zimbabwe will go ahead at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today despite a non-stop 72-hour hartal across the country called by main opposition Awami League.
The Bangladesh Cricket Board has arranged additional security to

Prayer Timing

| January 29 | | |
|------------|-------|--------|
| | Azan | Jamaat |
| Fajr | 5-35 | 6-10 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 4-15 | 4-30 |
| Maghrib | 5-46 | 5-50 |
| Esha | 7-15 | 7-45 |

Source: Islamic Foundation

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