

Top IOJ leader killed in Ctg Family suspects Jamaat link

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Unidentified criminals on Saturday night brutally murdered a top Islamic Oikya Jote (IOJ-Amini) leader Iqbal Bin Yakub in Chittagong.

Police recovered the body of the 32-year-old Chittagong unit IOJ convenor from the KB Abdur Sattar Road side, adjacent to the Goods Hill residence of Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, parliamentary affairs advisor to the prime minister, at around 11:45pm.

Criminals bludgeoned the head of Iqbal, also the vice president of the Chittagong Shop Owners Federation, with heavy weapons before strangling him. Bruises were found on his head, inches over his

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Ministers, MPs took all benefits depriving others

Say aggrieved BNP grassroots leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The grassroots level leaders of the ruling BNP yesterday accused the ministers and party lawmakers of enjoying all the 'benefits' since the four-party government's assuming office, depriving the field level leaders and workers.

They pointed out the growing internal feuds of the party in different units and asked the party high command to take immediate measures to resolve the conflicts.

The district, upazila and municipa-

lity level leaders attending the second day's pre-election meeting and Ifar party also accused some ministers and lawmakers of trying to form party committees at districts with their own men.

Party Standing Committee Member Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddiqui expressed similar views and criticised the ministers and party lawmakers who are keeping the field level workers at a distance.

"If the ministers and the lawmakers eat up everything, what will be left for the other leaders and workers?"

Tanvir questioned amid clapping from the grassroots level leaders.

Referring to party founder and late president Ziaur Rahman's "one man-one post" policy, he said: "Now the lawmakers and ministers are also serving as president of the district units of the party. Each person is holding three to five posts."

As many as 1,500 leaders of 38 districts under Dhaka, Khulna and Barisal divisions attended the last day's programme of the two-day meeting organised by BNP Senior

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SAARC SUMMIT Security teams from India, Maldives start arriving from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Advance security teams from India and the Maldives will start arriving in Dhaka from today to check the security arrangements for the upcoming 13th Summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc).

Highly placed sources said the security teams from the two Saarc countries will visit all the venues where the Saarc leaders will attend meetings and other programmes during the November 12-13 meet.

Other member states will carry out

similar security check-ups by their own security staff stationed at their respective missions in Dhaka, they added.

According to a source, security officials of the Indian High Commission in Dhaka have already been working here to ensure the security of the Indian prime minister.

India is giving high importance to the security aspect of its prime minister in the wake of the August 17 nationwide serial bombings in Bangladesh, the source told

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JS body questions Armed Forces Division's functioning under PMO

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The parliamentary standing committee on the defence ministry yesterday questioned the functioning of the Armed Forces Division (AFD) under the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) in the parliamentary system of government.

The AFD is doing important and sensitive tasks, but its activities remain beyond any parliamentary scrutiny as there is no parliamentary standing committee on the PMO, the committee members observed at a meeting.

"The Armed Forces Division remains beyond our jurisdiction as it does not function under the defence ministry," Committee Chairman

Mahbubur Rahman told reporters after the meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The committee members observed the AFD is the continuation of the system that existed in the presidential form of government.

"The Armed Forces Division is the legacy of the system that existed during the martial law period after August 15, 1975. It has some flaws in its functioning," committee member and AL lawmaker Shawkat Ali told The Daily Star.

"There is no need to keep the division under the Prime Minister's Office," he said.

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Jamaat man linked to militants freed on political pressure

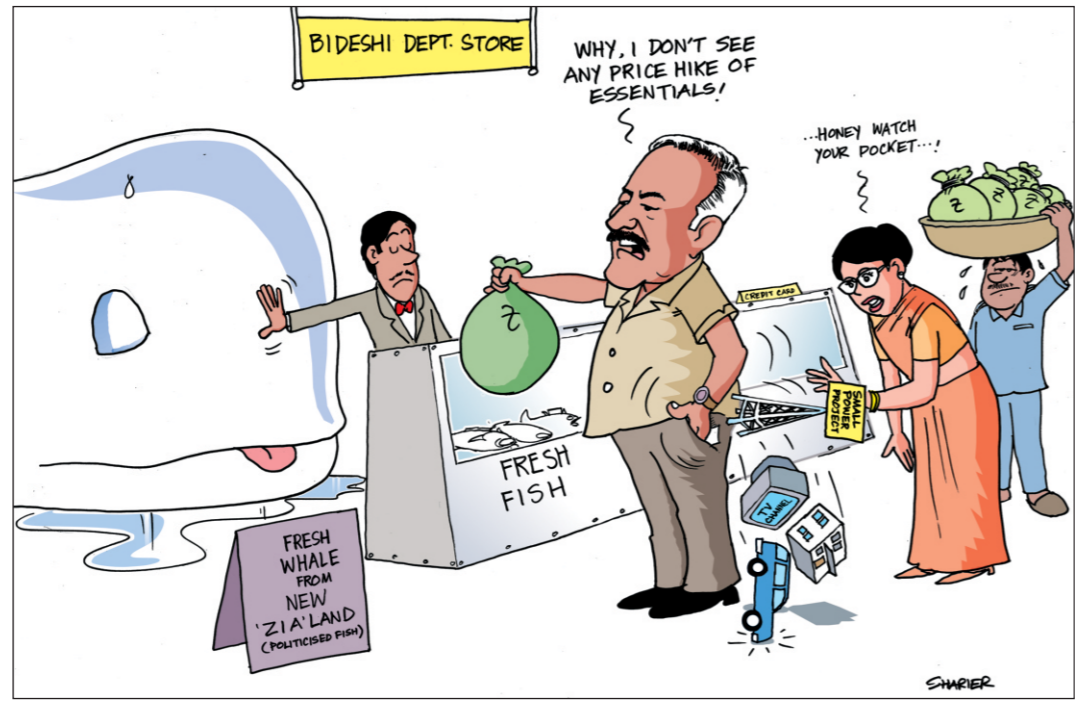
JAHANGIR ALAM, Netrakona

Netrakona police have released a Jamaat-e-Islami-turned-BNP leader, bowing to political pressure despite clear evidence that he had helped the August 17 bombers of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

Maulana Abdur Rahman had aided some JMB operatives, who are allegedly responsible for the blasts at six points across Netrakona on August 17, in renting a house in the district town.

He would frequent the

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Commentary

Media: Whipping boy of every unsuccessful government

The answer is in the mirror and not in the media

MAHFUZ ANAM

Ironically both M Saifur Rahman and Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan are singing the same song that some Awami League leaders sang during the last year of their tenure. At that time we were the favourites of these two leaders. This writer recalls how repeatedly, warmly and enthusiastically Mr. Rahman would congratulate The Daily Star for its 'bold and uncompromising expose of AL mis-

deeds'. On several diplomatic receptions he took this write by the arm and introduced The Daily Star to any new ambassador, diplomat or UN personnel in town as 'the best example of courageous journalism'. So why our sudden fall grace? Have we changed or have Mr. Rahman and Mr. Bhuiyan? Well, they were opposition leaders then and are ministers now, on the buttered side of the bread, so to speak. We think that should explain to our readers a lot about why this

venom against the media. We can say it with some confidence that should Saifur Rahman and Mannan Bhuiyan be in the opposition in the future we will again become their favourites. That is because we will write and expose with the same professionalism and patriotism, as we did earlier and are doing today, any misdeeds of any future government like the ones BNP is committing presently.

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SEPERATION OF JUDICIARY Govt seeks 21st extension of deadline today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government makes today the 21st appeal to the Supreme Court to extend the deadline for separation of the judiciary with the expiry of the last six-month-long extension to this end.

The Supreme Court (SC) had repeatedly expressed its grievance during these appeals about delaying the separation again and again. It also reprimanded the government saying, "Take time for the entire year of 2005 or for the eternity -- is it a separation or a hide and seek?"

Attorney General (AG) AJ Mohammad Ali yesterday told

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REPORT CARD ON MINISTERS 4 years in office

Controversies, graft charges plague Huda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda has been at the centre of controversies and allegations of corruption time and again in the last four years of the coalition government. He also figured prominently in the media for controversial statements and tall talks.

Huda was quite apt in promising mega projects for the development of the communications sector. But many of his pledges proved elusive and did not materialise.



He faced strong criticism from the people in general and the civil society in particular for allotting 10 kathas of railway land in the heart of the capital to a human rights organisation led by his wife. The civil society members also organised a 'human chain' protesting the allotment and demanding his resignation.

The minister was also blamed for involvement in corruption relating to the import of compressed natural gas (CNG)-run autorickshaws. The parliamenta-

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Bomb-like object, threat note sent to Gopalganj judge

Chargesheet against Abdur Rahman, brother submitted

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday recovered from the district and sessions judge's residence in Gopalganj a bomb-like object and a note threatening to take action against the judge if he does not conduct court proceedings as per Islamic law.

Meanwhile, police in Gazipur submitted a chargesheet against 15 Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) men, including Shaikh Abdur Rahman and his brother Ataur Rahman alias Sunny for blasts at nine places in the district on August 17, reports BDNEWS.

The charge sheets were not

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MOMIN KILLING Ex-Motijheel OC Rafiq surrenders, sent to jail



Police take ex-OC of Motijheel Police Station Rafiqul Islam to jail from a Dhaka court yesterday.

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Suspended officer-in-charge of Motijheel Police Station AKM Rafiqul Islam was sent to jail yesterday as he surrendered to a court seeking an interim bail in the Dhaka Commerce College student Kamrul Islam Momin killing case.

Judge Mohammad Momin Ullah of the Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Dhaka rejected the bail petition of Rafiqul, prime accused in the case. Earlier, the former OC surrendered to the court at 10:00am with an army of lawyers.

Moving the bail petition, Advocate Habibul Islam Bhuiyan read out the FIR (first information report) Momin's father

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