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# Five killed in blasts near Modi's rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

At least five people were killed and 66 injured yesterday in a series of bomb blasts near the venue of BJP prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi's rally in Patna minutes before he reached there to address a huge gathering.

Hours before the multiple explosions, a crude bomb went off in a newly constructed toilet at Patna railway station, two kilometres from the venue in Patna, capital of the eastern state of Bihar where the party had shared power as a junior coalition partner of ruling Janata Dal (United).

Vimal Karak, deputy superintendent of Patna Medical College Hospital, said the five had died of blast injuries and the injured were being treated for the same injuries.

Five low-intensity bombs detonated on the outer periphery of the Gandhi Maidan, the venue of the rally, said Indian Home Secretary Anil Goswami.

One of the bombs exploded in front of a cinema near the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Returning to the country after performing Hajj, a group of pilgrims gets stranded at Shahjalal International Airport unable to avail any transport to go to their home district Bogra as the opposition alliance enforced a 60-hour hartal from yesterday. *Inset*, a tired octogenarian Shamsunnahar stuck at the airport.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ



## Rejoinder, our reply

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has refuted a report headlined "Dipu Moni flies off the handle" published in The Daily Star on October 24. Following is the full text of the rejoinder:

We are disappointed to see an esteemed daily like The Daily Star resorted to "tabloid gossiping" not only without any verification of the facts but based entirely on reporter's wildest of imaginations.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

## Hanif falls from Hasina's grace



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mahbubul Alam Hanif is apparently not in Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's good graces anymore. He was removed from the post of her special assistant following an unusual exchange of words between him and Hasina two weeks ago during a grassroots meeting.

"The government cancelled

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## QAWMI MADRASA POLICY Hefajat warns of civil war

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Radical Islamist group Hefajat-e Islam has warned of a civil war if the government goes ahead with its plan to control Qawmi madrasas like state-funded Alia madrasas.

"We won't allow Qawmi madrasas to be controlled by the government. Lakhs of people will be killed if anyone tries to control Qwami Madrasa," Junaid Babunagari, secretary general of Hefajat, told a press conference in Chittagong yesterday.

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## AL gears up for polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a clear move to have election preparations done early, the ruling Awami League has decided to start distributing party nomination forms from November 10.

The decision was made yesterday at a meeting of Awami League Parliamentary Board at Gono Bhaban with its chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The party also decided to increase the price of

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

## Journos come under attack during hartal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

At least five journalists, including a district correspondent of The Daily Star, were assaulted in three incidents during hartal hours yesterday.

Habibur Rahman, Pirojpur correspondent of The Daily Star, and Sirajul Islam of Bangla daily Khabarpatra came were attacked by activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) in Zianagar upazila of the district around 1:00pm.

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## POLITICAL VIOLENCE US, Japan worried

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United States and Japan have expressed concern over the escalation of violence and deaths across Bangladesh, and called on

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

PRAYER TIMING			October 28
Fajr	Azan	Jamaat	
Zohr	4-50	5-25	
Asr	12-45	1-15	
Maghrib	4-00	4-15	
Esha	5-32	5-35	
	7-15	7-45	
Source: Islamic Foundation			

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