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# Hindu houses, shops looted

12 hurt in attack by 'Jamaat men' in Lalmonirhat

S DILIP ROY, Lalmonirhat

Hindus came under attack allegedly by activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir at Patgram upazila in Lalmonirhat for the second time in a month yesterday.

The attackers beat up at least 12 women and children and torched and looted at least five shops and two houses at Ghoshpara village of Jongra union on the third day of the opposition-sponsored 71-hour blockade.

The incident fuelled concerns over a fresh spell of attacks on the Hindus as men of the village have fled in fear of further attacks.

Earlier on October 28, Jamaat-Shibir men along with BNP activists unleashed a terror on another Hindu majority area at Shafinagar in Bawra union during hartal, torching at least 18 shops.

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PHOTO ON PAGE 6

# Dr Kamal under fire at AL meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Without mentioning the name of eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday alleged that the president of a political party is creating obstacles for the government to oversee the national election as per the constitution.

"The man had framed the constitution and now after becoming a civil society member, he is advising us to violate it," she said.

Hasina, also the president of ruling Awami League, made the remarks at

# Ershad expels, gets 'expelled'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A presidium member is expelling his party chief!

Within half an hour of receiving the orders of his removal around 12:30pm yesterday, Kazi Zafar Ahmed issued a counter statement expelling Ershad from the Jatiya Party.

Lying in his hospital bed around 3:15pm, Kazi Zafar told The Daily Star that he had sent the "expulsion orders" to Ershad, even asking the JP chairman to stay away from party activities.

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# Five BNP leaders denied bail again

Mir Nasir arrested

COURT CORRESPONDENT

While five BNP leaders, including Moudud Ahmed, MK Anwar and Rafiqul Islam Miah, have again been denied bail in two cases filed for murder attempt and violence, their party colleague Mir Nasir was arrested in Chittagong yesterday evening.

Law enforcers arrested BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's adviser Mir

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RAMU MAYHEM  
'Mastermind'  
arrested

STAR REPORT

Detectives yesterday arrested one of the key accused in last year's Ramu atrocities case at Naikhongchhari in Bandarban.



Tofayel Ahmed

Tofayel Ahmed, a suspended chairman of Naikhongchhari upazila, and a local Jamaat leader, is accused of orchestrating the attacks, looting and burning of Buddhist temples and houses at Ramu and Ukhia in Cox's Bazar on September 29 last year.

Tofayel was taken into the custody of Cox's Bazar

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PRAYER TIMING		November 29
Fajr		Azan Jamaat 5-10 5-45
Juma		12-30 1-15
Asr		3-45 4-00
Maghrib		5-19 5-22
Esha		7-00 7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

German envoy for release of BNP leaders

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

German Ambassador in Dhaka Albrecht Conze yesterday hoped that both the major political alliances would "act responsibly" ahead of the Bangladesh visit of a senior UN official.

UN Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Oscar Fernandez-Taranco will arrive in Dhaka on December 6 on a four-day

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON  
Labourers wait at Mirpur-1 in the capital yesterday hoping to get some work. But hartal, blockade and violent political programmes have dried up their job market.

# Bad days for the poor

Working class feels the pinch of blockade

HELEMUL ALAM and JAMIL MAHMUD

Street violence during the last 71-hour blockade could not prevent the working classes from coming out of their homes on account of necessity. They had a choice between staying at home in fear and starving or going out to earn their living. They chose the latter.

Many bus and CNG-run auto-rickshaw drivers, labourers and passersby fell victim to arson attacks, vandalism and explosions by pro-blockade activists but that hardly

lessened the desperation of the working class people.

Talking to The Daily Star, day labourers, commuter bus drivers and conductors said they knew they might become victims of the mindless violence anytime but they had to risk their lives to feed themselves and their families.

"Everybody has a fear of losing life; so do I. I don't want to drive in such a situation but there is no alternative," said Rafiqul Islam, 35, driver of a commuter bus on the Gabtali-

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