



HOW LONG?

1) This old man is no more. After three days of battle for life, Abdus Sattar gave way to the savagery of blockaders who burnt him alive inside a battery-run auto-rickshaw at Badarpur in Patuakhali on Saturday. This photo was taken the next morning when he was being treated at Sher-E-Bangla Medical College Hospital in Barisal. The same day he was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the madrasa teacher in his sixties breathed his last at 9:30pm yesterday. 2) A man wrapped in bandage symbolically represents a burn victim in front of the capital's National Museum yesterday during a protest against the burning of people to death. 3) A bus burns at Fatullah of Narayanganj following an arson attack by opposition activists. 4) Panic-stricken pedestrians run for safety after a cocktail explodes near them at the capital's Fakirapool. 5) Inter-district buses sit idle at Mohakhali terminal due to the countrywide blockade. 6) An auto-rickshaw set ablaze by blockaders in Jatrabari.

PHOTO: STAR, FOCUS BANGLA, COURTESY

NURUL ISLAM KILLING CID finds it 'arson' but fails to trace perpetrators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though the Criminal Investigation Department's (CID) investigation found the fire incident that killed Nurul Islam and his son as an "arson", its perpetrators are yet to be identified let alone arrested five years into the incident.

The fire broke out at their Lalmatia residence in the capital on December 3, 2008. Tamohar Islam died instantly while Nurul succumbed to his wounds the next day. Nurul was to run the 2008 national election as an Awami League-led alliance candidate.

CID Inspector Shahnur

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JU teachers start sit-in before VC's house again

JU CORRESPONDENT

Agitating teachers of Jahangirnagar University started an indefinite sit-in in front of Vice Chancellor Prof Anwar Hossain's official residence on Monday night shortly after his return from 12 days of sick leave.

When he was on leave between November 20 and December 2, the agitators had confined the two pro-VCs, demanding an immediate VC panel election to replace Prof Anwar.

Last evening, about five hundred teachers, staff and students brought out a torch procession shouting slogans against the VC.

"We will not back off from the ongoing movement until our demand is met," said one of the protest leaders Prof Kamrul Ahsan.

Prof Anwar, however, called the sit-in a confinement. In a press release, he urged a postponement of the demonstration, saying the JU authorities would gradually take initiatives to meet the chancellor's directives to arrange a VC panel election.

The majority of JU teachers have been demanding Prof Anwar's resignation since February accusing him of committing irregularities in teachers' recruitment, spoiling teacher-student relations, and misusing university funds.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Yusuf's lawyers' continuous absence prompts closure of cross-examination

*Proceedings against Mobarak, Khokon adjourned
as defence, prosecution fail to produce witnesses*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday closed the cross-examination of another prosecution witness in the case against Jamaat-e-Islami leader AKM Yusuf as his senior counsels were absent again.

The tribunal closed the cross-examination of Babul Kumar Mistri, the 14th prosecution witness, when a junior defence counsel also expressed his inability to cross-examine him.

Earlier, the three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan closed the cross-examinations of 12th and 13th prosecution witnesses on similar grounds as senior defence counsels have been absent from the tribunal during blockades of the opposition alliance.

The tribunal had fixed yesterday to cross-

examine Babul but Gazi HM Tamim, the junior defence counsel, sought a three-day adjournment as Syed Mizanur Rahman, the defence counsel conducting Yusuf's trial, could not appear before the court due to "avoidable situation."

However, the tribunal, irritated by repeated time petitions on similar ground, rejected Tamim's petition. It asked Tamim to cross-examine the witness, but when he declined, the court closed the cross-examination.

"Everyone, including the judges, witnesses, and even family members of the accused, can appear before the court but only he [Mizanur Rahman] cannot. It seems he is determined not to appear before the

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GENERAL ELECTION

AL not worried about rebel candidates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling-Awami League is not worried about its rebel candidates challenging party-backed candidates in the upcoming parliamentary polls in around 100 constituencies.

The rebels have even gone up against AL big shots including Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, deputy leader of the parliament, Matia Chowdhury, agriculture minister, and Kazi Zafrullah, AL presidium member.

ATM Halim, Faridpur district AL leader, filed an application to contest in Faridpur-2 constituency as an independent candidate. Sajeda will contest there on AL ticket.

An upazila chairman filed an application seeking candidacy as an independent candidate to contest in Sherpur-2 constituency against Matia.

Nixon Chowdhury, nephew of AL President Sheikh Hasina, who sought to be an independent candidate in Faridpur-4, will challenge Zafrullah.

After the AL refused to give them tickets to contest in the polls, they filed applications to contest as independent candidates.

A good number of sitting MPs have also decided to contest as independent candidates after the AL turned them down.

Before the last date for withdrawing candidacy on December 13, AL high-ups will communicate with party

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INDO-BANGLA LAND BOUNDARY DEAL BJP likely to block bill in upcoming parliament session

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Efforts by India's Congress-led UPA government to bring a constitutional amendment bill on the Land Boundary Agreement with Bangladesh in the winter session of parliament, beginning on Thursday, may hit a roadblock with the main opposition BJP still having strong reservations about the proposed law.

Asked about BJP's view on the reported move of the government, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Sushma Swaraj on Monday said, "There was no discussion with us by the government on this issue."

On whether BJP will allow the government to introduce the bill in the Rajya Sabha, upper house of the parliament, she said the party would discuss the matter in a meeting of BJP's Parliamentary Party executive and later with opposition National Democratic Alliance floor leaders today.

The constitutional bill that envisages exchange of land and enclaves cannot be cleared without BJP's support as it will require the nod of two-thirds of lawmakers present and voting and a minimum of 50 percent of the members being

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EPP Group to hold hearing on Bangladesh politics in Brussels

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

European People's Party (EPP) Group in the European Parliament will hold a hearing on the "political situation in Bangladesh" in Brussels, Belgium tomorrow in which Awami League and BNP leaders will give speeches.

According to the EPP website, the group will hold two sessions.

HT Imam of AL, SM Asaduzzaman Ripon of BNP, and Information Commissioner Prof Sadeka Halim will address the first session titled "Political situation in Bangladesh: What is at stake? Can non-party caretaker government guarantee free and fair national elections in Bangladesh?"



Labourers busy removing the toll booth on Buriganga Bridge at Babu Bazar in Old Dhaka yesterday as the Ministry of Communications decided to make the bridge toll-free as vehicles remain standing to pay toll at both ends of the bridge, creating severe traffic congestion.

PHOTO: STAR

7 containers of imported fabrics seized at Ctg port

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Customs intelligence officials yesterday seized seven containers of fabrics, imported under zero duty facilities at Chittagong Port one and a half years ago, on suspicion that the importers are trying to smuggle the goods out of the port.

The investigators said the importers possibly wanted to have the goods released illegally on opportunistic moments and sell those on the local market instead of manufacturing and exporting finished products, a condition to enjoy total duty waiver on textile imports.

The fabrics are worth

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