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'KASHMIR A FLASHPOINT'

Nawaz Sharif says it can trigger another Indo-Pak war anytime

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BRAZUCA UNVEILED

Fifa presents the official ball for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil

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Defiant Ershad in a sticky stew

His house cordoned off; JP ministers to quit polls-time cabinet today

SHAKHAWAT LITON, RASHIDUL HASAN AND PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

Upsetting the government plan to hold the national elections on January 5, Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday asked the JP ministers to resign from the polls-time cabinet and the party's parliamentary aspirants to withdraw nomination papers.

"This election will in no way be credible since all political parties are not contesting it. There is no question of [the JP] taking part in the polls. I will not participate in this

election even if it costs me my life," Ershad told reporters at his Baridhara residence after it was cordoned off by more than 300 Rab personnel around 3:30pm.

The deployment of law enforcers around his residence led to speculations that he might be detained any moment.

However, Rab-1 Commander Kismat Hayat told reporters that the law enforcers were there to ensure Ershad's security. The Rab official said he had met Ershad, and that the former president was satisfied with the

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Bodies lie crushed inside the mangled wreckage of a carriage of Padmarag Express at Burangi of Sagata upazila of Gaibandha yesterday after opposition activists removed fishplates of the track, causing the train to derail, inset.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

India for 'maximum parties' in polls

Indian foreign secretary tells senior journos; meets Hasina, Khaleda, Ershad

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

India wants the participation of a "maximum" number of parties in a peaceful and violence-free election in Bangladesh, Indian Foreign Secretary Sujatha Singh told journalists yesterday, ending her 24-hour whirlwind Dhaka tour.

She held meetings with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and opposition leader Khaleda Zia, among others, but very little



Sujatha Singh

result, if Singh was

could be known about the messages she conveyed to the two leaders.

Singh had separate tête-à-tête with Hasina and Jatiya Party chief HM Ershad, but Khaleda declined to have any one-to-one meeting.

The BNP chief instead met the Indian top diplomat in the presence of party leaders. As a

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BLOODSHED IN BLOCKADE

5

dead yesterday

22

in last 5 days

19

during Nov 26-28

TRAINS MADE TO DERAIL, AGAIN

3 killed, 45 injured

Clash with cops leave 1 killed, 50 hurt in Feni

STAR REPORT

Three passengers were killed and 35 others injured as four coaches and the engine of Padmarag Express veered off the tracks in Gaibandha yesterday after blockaders ripped up fish plates and

clips from the rail lines.

Similar acts of sabotage caused the derailment of two trains in Khulna and Chandpur, leaving at least 10 passengers injured and suspending Dhaka-Khulna and Chandpur-Chittagong rail communications.

Wahidur Rahman Babu, a victim of an arson attack on a bus near Shishu Park last Thursday, died at the burn unit of Dhaka medical College Hospital early yesterday, as the opposition's 131-hour blockade entered its fifth day.

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Unable to do anything about her son's pain, the crying mother could only touch Riad's head with love yesterday as most of his body is burnt and bandaged. Riad has been in the burn unit of DMCH since last Thursday when pickets hurled a petrol bomb into his bus near Shahbagh.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Why should I cry for justice?

Asks tearful mother upon death of her badly burnt son

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

This time it is a son, whose sole purpose was to find his father gone missing two and a half years ago.

Dhaka College student Ohidur Rahaman Babu, a victim of last Thursday's arson attack on a bus near Shahbagh, died yesterday at 4:45am in the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

He had suffered 28 percent body burn and was put on life support about three days ago.

With Babu, the number of deaths from the Shahbagh bus arson rose to three. Last Friday, cousins Nahid and Robin died.

Arson attacks claimed a total of 11 victims during opposition alliance's hartals and blockades since October 26.

First-year student Babu was confident that he would survive the ordeal. He kept promising to his mother that as soon as he is released from the hospital, he would resume search for his father.

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Ohidur Rahaman Babu

Law and order satisfactory!

Amu tells media after inter-ministerial meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though the ongoing political violence has been taking a heavy toll, killing and injuring innocents, government high-ups yesterday said the overall law and order situation was improving significantly.

Emerging from an inter-ministerial meeting on law and order situation at the

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PADMA GRAFT CONSPIRACY Bangladeshi surrenders in Canada, gets bail

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh-born Canadian citizen Zulfikar Ali Bhuiyan, who is facing allegations of bribery with employees of Canadian SNC-Lavalin to secure a contract for Padma bridge project, surrendered to the authorities in Canada on Tuesday.

The 48-year-old businessman surrendered to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's (RCMP) national division and secured a bail.

The Canadian Globe and Mail reported that the RCMP division had



Zulfikar Ali Bhuiyan

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