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## STOP THIS POLITICS

# Newsmen not spared

SHARIEF KHAN

The Airport Road was empty. A few brickbats and some burning tyres on the road showed a hartal was in progress. A couple of on-duty journalists were rushing to Tongi on a three-wheeler that had a board written "Press" on its windshield. Suddenly, near Khilkhet, some teenagers and pre-teenagers stopped the three-wheeler. Wielding hockey sticks, these kids angrily charged the journalists, "Where do you think you are going?"

One of the journalists tried to calm the situation: We are journalists. A kid asked: Show me your identity card.

Not sure if the kid could read or write, the journalist brought out his card. Meanwhile, the other kids were harassing the three-wheeler driver.

Suddenly, a person in his thirties appeared at the scene. He came quickly and drove away the kids. He was apologetic to the journalists: Sorry. Those kids don't understand things. Please go.

That was a picture of the mid-nineties, when the Awami

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A screengrab of live broadcast shows members of the South African armed forces around the coffin of Nelson Mandela before it is lowered into the grave at the great leader's childhood village of Qunu yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

## Goodbye Madiba

Laid to rest at childhood village

CNN ONLINE

With military pomp and traditional rituals, South Africa buried Nelson Mandela yesterday, the end of an exceptional journey for the prisoner turned president who transformed the nation.

Mandela was laid to rest in his childhood village of Qunu.

Tribal leaders clad in animal skins joined dignitaries in dark suits at the grave site overlooking the rolling green hills.

As pallbearers walked toward the site after a funeral ceremony, helicopters whizzed past dangling the national flag. Cannons fired a 21-gun salute, its echoes ringing over the quiet village.

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## Rizvi meets Ershad

### 65 JP aspirants get 'plough'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad and 64 other leaders of his party have been allotted the electoral symbol "plough" for the 10th parliamentary election although many of them were reportedly unwilling to contest the polls.

The Election Commission assigned the symbol yesterday though Ershad on Thursday requested the EC not to do so. He had cited the party's decision "to cancel the nomination papers of all its candidates."

Meanwhile, as part of the government's continued efforts to bring back the JP to the election, Prime Minister's Adviser Gowher Rizvi yesterday visited Ershad at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka. The JP chief has been in CMH since law enforcers took him there after "picking

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## Back to 1971?

Wonders Asaduzzaman Noor on attack by Jamaat-Shibir in Nilphamari

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The brutality and the trail of destruction left by Jamaat men in Nilphamari reminded Awami League lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor of the viciousness the nation witnessed during the 1971 Liberation War.

"As I came under attack at Ramganj Bazar, it seemed as if I was reliving the days in 1971. The attack as well as the burnt and looted houses of the Hindus in my constituency reminded me of the savagery by the Pakistani occupation forces during the Liberation War," said the Baker Bhai-famed TV actor.

Noor talked to The Daily Star yesterday over the phone. He was still struggling to overcome the trauma of the attack by Jamaat-Shibir men in his own constituency on Saturday afternoon.

The AL lawmaker and his entourage came under attack while returning to Nilphamari town after visiting Laxmichap and Palashbari unions, where Jamaat men had torched and looted the houses and shops belonging to Hindus on Thursday.

Noor escaped unhurt, but five people were killed in the attack. People in the area had never seen such violence since the country's

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## BNP warns of tougher action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir has warned that the opposition would go for tougher movement if the repression of its leaders and activists is not stopped.

"If the government continues its acts of killing,

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## War crimes witness attacked again

Bomb thrown at his house, shop partially burnt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Just five days after a prosecution witness from Pirojpur died of stab injuries, another man, who had given testimonies in two war crimes trial cases, came under attack in Faridpur early yesterday.

Ranjit Kumar Nath was lucky that the petrol bomb

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## Express grief peacefully

Mollah's counsel urges Jamaat men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the wake of large-scale violence by Jamaat-Shibir activists, Abdur Razzaq, chief defence counsel for Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah, yesterday urged Mollah's supporters to "express their grief in a

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**Rasheq Rahman's "Amar Upashonaloy"**

The album is dedicated to all the musicians, lyricists, artist of Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendro and all those who are related to the contemporary music world.

In the wonderful eve of the splendid **victory day** for the first time ever in Bangladesh, Rasheq Rahman's Album **"Amar Upashonaloy"** is going to be released all over along with facebook, youtube, soundcloud, android and of course iphone compatible format as well.

www.rasheq.com

To get the download link of any song of this album, type **RR** in the message option of your mobile phone and send it to **6161**.

**QR Code**



## 'Lawrence of Arabia' star Peter O'Toole dies aged 81

AFP, London

Irish actor Peter O'Toole, the star of the 1962 Oscar-winning epic "Lawrence of Arabia," has died aged 81, his agent Steve Kenis said yesterday.

"He was one of a kind in

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**The Daily Star**

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**ONLINE POLL**

Do you think leaders of ruling Awami League and main opposition BNP will be able to reach consensus to end the ongoing political crisis over the 10th parliamentary polls?

Yes (13%)  
No (87%)

TOTAL VOTES: 411

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think people will accept an election in which the ruling Awami League is going to win uncontested in 127 constituencies?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT  
www.thedailystar.net

**PRAYER TIMING December 16**

Azan Jamaat  
Fajr 5:20 5:55  
Zohr 12:45 1:15  
Asr 3:45 4:00  
Maghrib 5:22 5:25  
Esha 7:00 7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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