



INDIA AFTER POLLS

Jaswant Singh discusses what foreign policy new govt should pursue

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ASSAM CONFLICT

Nine more killed raising death toll to 32; thousands flee

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MJ'S XScape

The King of Pop's posthumous album unveiled on American TV

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Obvious result in belated raid

Main accused in N'ganj panel mayor Nazrul abduction, killing case flees safely; microbus seized; one more body found floating in Shitalakkhya

STAR REPORT

Three days after the bodies of seven abductees, including Naryanganj panel mayor Nazrul Islam, were found floating in the Shitalakkhya, police yesterday raided the house of prime accused Nur Hossain.

The three-hour raid from 11:00am at his Shimrail residence in Naryanganj yielded predictable result -- neither Nur Hossain nor his family members were found.

Police, however, seized a microbus and detained 11 persons whose names and identities were not disclosed. All of the



detainees are male and aged between 30 and 35, according to an official.

Nur Hossain, ward-4 councillor and vice president of Siddhirganj Awami League, got enough time to flee because of the laid-back attitude of police, allege locals.

On April 27, Nazrul, his four associates and lawyer Chandan Sarker and his driver were kidnapped separately, all around the same time. Police suspect one single group was behind their abduction and killing.

Nazrul's wife Selina Islam has all along
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TRADER RESCUED 2 DAYS AFTER KIDNAP -- PAGE 3



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

A black flag flutters on the central reservation at Signboard area of Narayanganj yesterday. The flag was one of hundreds the people of the district hoisted on streets and intersections to mourn the seven people recently abducted and murdered, including councillor Nazrul Islam.

So easy to be rich

Thanks to crimes, truck helper turned tycoon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Once a truck helper, local Awami League leader Nur Hossain, prime suspect for the abduction and killing of Narayanganj City panel mayor Nazrul Islam, has amassed huge wealth at home and abroad with the blessings of major political parties since late 80s.

Hossain, vice president of Siddhirganj thana AL, has businesses and assets in India and Malaysia, according to locals and some of his followers.

He did everything he could to earn wealth illegally.

He resorted to extortion in the transport sector, drug peddling, tender manipulation, river encroachment and illegal sand trade in

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Nur Hossain

Cops gag voice

Bar leading citizens from protesting abductions, killings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday tried to stop eminent citizens from forming a human chain in front of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban to protest killings, disappearances and abductions.

Under the banner of "Concerned Citizens", rights activists and family members of the eight people allegedly abducted by the Rapid Action Battalion on December 8 last year gathered in front of the parliament building complex around 4:45pm.

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RECEPTION FOR MINISTER

209 primary schools shut

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Primary school teachers of Khulna's Dumuria held a reception programme for the state minister for fisheries and livestock yesterday, keeping 209 schools of the upazila closed.

Primary teachers association of Dumuria, with permission of the upazila education officer, accorded Narayan Chandra Chanda, MP, the reception on the upazila parishad premises. The programme was held between 11:30am and 2:30pm.

The teachers also presented the state minister with a replica of a boat made of silver weighing 6.5 bhoiri. Narayan Chandra, however, later returned the silver boat.

According to students of the schools and their guardians, the reception was scheduled to be held on April 26. But it was postponed as the state minister was not available on the day.

"My son told me that the school was declared closed for today [Saturday] due to the reception programme," said a guardian whose son goes to Khulshi Government Primary School.

The teachers, however, have defended their move.

"The schools were kept closed upon the decision of all teachers. This would count as a holiday taken from the quota reserved for teachers," said Rabiul Islam, a leader of the association.

Contacted, Upazila Primary Education Officer Sumanto Kumar Podder said he had no hand in arranging the

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Narayan Chandra

8 dead as launch capsizes

35 missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A launch capsized in the Golachipa river in Patuakhali during a nor'wester yesterday afternoon, leaving at least eight people, including a child and four women, dead.

Five of the dead were identified as Rifat, 5, Lutfa Begum, 55, Monwara Begum, 30, Runiya Begum, 20, and Nipa, 25.

Of some 60 passengers aboard the launch, as many as 35 were missing till filing this report at 1:15am today. The others are said to have swum ashore.

The launch, ML Shathil, sank around 2:30pm at Kalagasia while it was going to Patuakhali from Golachipa upazila, said Badrul Alam, assistant director of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authorities in Patuakhali.

Most of the passengers were female, said Ashraf Hossain, a passenger of the launch.

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President Ziaur Rahman was assassinated in Chittagong on May 30, 1981. Two days later, General Manzur was murdered. Facts related to the planned killing of Manzur show how top military leaders at the time desperately tried to bury the truth behind the Zia killing and how it helped them seize power. Manzur was the unsuspecting victim of their duplicity, which has become evident from the depositions of witnesses and the accused and from some authoritative books on the killing. All these years since June 1981, justice for Manzur and his family has remained elusive.

Convenient amnesia

SHAKHAWAT LITON and CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

Former military dictator HM Ershad was apparently in amnesia in 1995 when the CID asked him some crucial questions about his activities before and during the gruesome murder of General Abul Manzur in 1981.

He conveniently failed to remember some of



MANZUR MURDER-8

his significant activities during the turmoil centring on the assassination of President Ziaur Rahman and also on the murder of Manzur.

Ershad even failed to remember whether he had visited the Hilltop mess in Chittagong cantonment and had meals there on May 26, 1981, four days before the assassination of Zia at the Circuit

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