

The Daily Star

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Your Right to Know

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PHARMA GROWTH

Sales to treble by 2024, riding mainly on patent waiver by World Trade Organisation

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DEMOCRACY VS AUTOCRACY

Today marks the fall of dictatorship, but how long is the road to true democracy?

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ASSAD'S FATE

France softens tone, says his departure not necessary before political transition

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COLLECTING PERSONAL DETAILS Police move vexes people

No prior announcement, but DMP officials say it's part of crime prevention drive

JAMIL MAHMUD

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police has come up with some dubious forms, asking house owners and tenants in different areas to fill in those with personal details, creating confusion and panic among the public.

Police say they are doing it for security reasons. Three types of forms -- for house and flat owners, tenants, and mess owners and dwellers -- are available at the DMP headquarters and different police stations in the capital. Police members have also been going door to door, providing forms and collecting information, said DMP officials.

The move came a month ago, following an official order, in efforts to take additional security measures in the wake of the recent spate of targeted attacks and, particularly, to check militant threats, according to police sources.

However, city dwellers are baffled by this sudden, unannounced step.

Talking to The Daily Star, some said they feared that their personal information might not remain confidential and that they could be used to harass them.

Moreover, the forms do not bear the police monogram, meaning people have no way of knowing that these are actually police forms.

Apart from names and addresses, the forms seek

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A large cloth printed with the national flag (as it was in 1971) is being taken for drying at Roopganj in Narayanganj. The cloth is later cut into small pieces and sold in the market, inset. Every year in December, the month of victory, sales of this flag skyrocket as many people hoist it at their homes, offices and their vehicles to uphold the spirit of the Liberation War.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

CPB chief gets death threat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh President Mujahidul Islam Selim received a threat on his life via email early yesterday.

"One Nizam Uddin, identifying himself as the 'Nayeb-e-Ameer of Mission Jihad' sent me the threat from uddinnizam456@yahoo.com.au," Selim told The Daily Star.

The veteran politician received the email at 12:28am, which also had a mobile phone number (01747233070) below Nizam's name in the text. Selim noticed the email yesterday afternoon.

In the email, the sender said "...intellectuals like you are under our watch. You will be hacked."

The email also said, "If we were a part of Pakistan today, then we would have been able to hold our heads high as a developed nation in the world. Your generation has made a big mistake by liberating the country and we are paying the price."

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Bomb blasts near Kantaji Temple

6 hurt at Jatra pandal; motive unknown



QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, from Dinajpur

At least six people were injured in an explosion next to the 18th century Kantaji Mandir of Dinajpur early yesterday when spectators were watching jatra (folk theatre).

Police detained seven people for interrogation and termed it a "planned attack" but could not tell what the motive was behind the blast.

The attack took place in Kaharol upazila at a time when the country is reeling from the shock of repeated attacks on minority Shia Muslims and Christian pastors.

Following yesterday's incident, Kaharol Police Officer-in-Charge Abdul Mazid was withdrawn last night, said Dinajpur Superintendent of Police Ruhul Amin. He, however, did not say the reasons behind the move.

A bomb went off around 1:00am when artists were performing on stage at Volanath Opera Pandal set up as part of a month-long Hindu festival known as raaspujima mela organised by the temple, said police and

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The terracotta marvel of 18th century

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kantaji Mandir, a national heritage site, has been hosting raaspujima mela, an annual festival dedicated to the divine love of Lord Krishna and Radha, for centuries.

But never before devotees there had experienced anything close to yesterday's bomb explosion during a jatra pala (open-air village theatre) just outside the temple.

At the advent of Bangla rice-harvesting month of Agrahayan, devotees and heritage aficionados from home and abroad throng to the lush green courtyard of this navaratna-style temple in Dinajpur for the attraction of raaspujima, local people say.

This year the one-month-long festival began in the full moon of November 25.

Over the centuries, the temple has not only been a place of religious purposes

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PAKISTAN LYING, STILL

We have used Pakistani sources--books written by Pakistani military officers involved in the operations in East Pakistan in 1971 and the report of a chief justice of Pakistan--to compile these reports to show the extent and complicity of the Pakistan Government and its military in the genocide, destruction, and uprooting of more than a crore Bangalis in 1971. The facts speak for themselves.

The blueprint for massacre

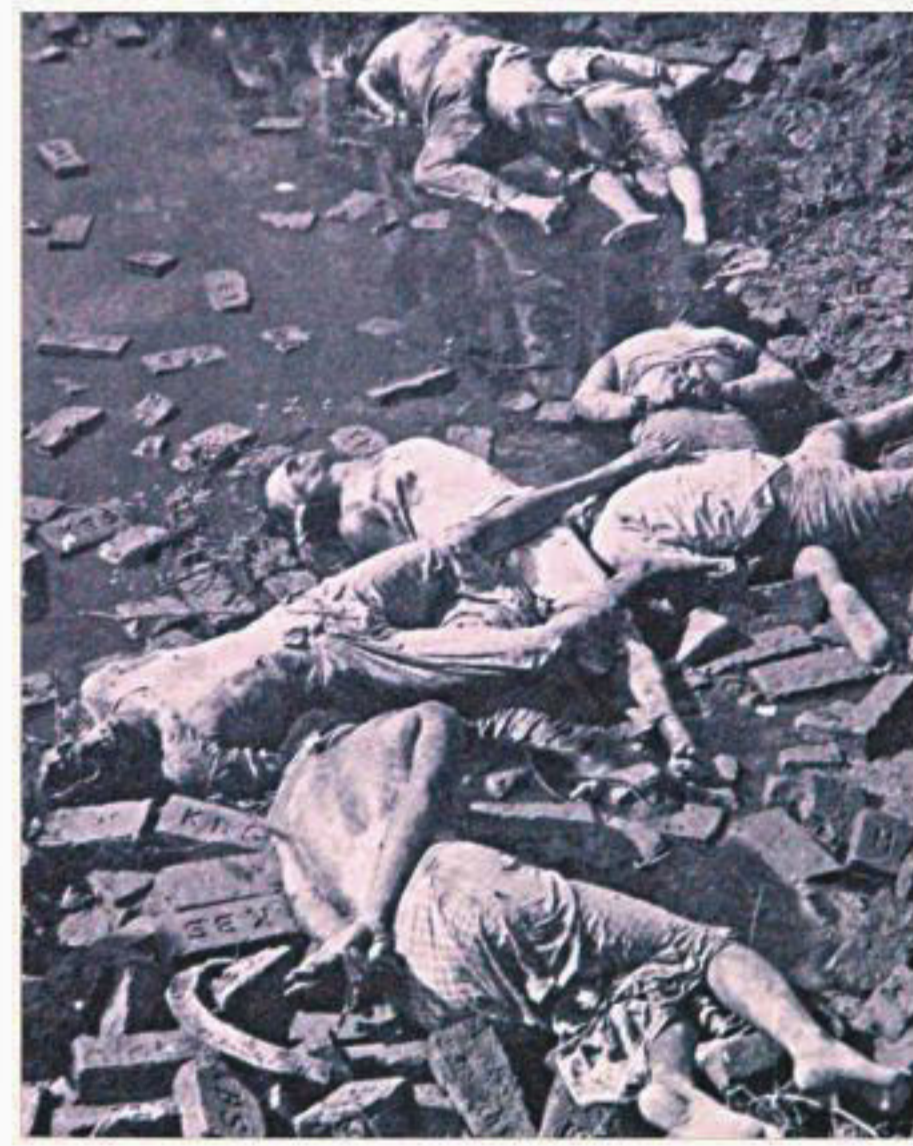
INAM AHMED and SHAKHAWAT LITON

Once the decision was made at Larkana by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and the top military rulers not to hand over power to Bangabandhu who had won the 1970 elections, the Pakistani military got down to execute a scorched earth policy in the name of Operation Searchlight.

The Butcher of Baluchistan, General Tikka Khan, was made the chief of Eastern Command in East Pakistan. After all, he had quelled the Baluch rebels. Cruel and ruthless, he would now execute the annihilation of a people.

"I want the land and not the people, Tikka has issued orders to his troops," General Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi who later took over the war from Tikka wrote in his book "The Betrayal of East Pakistan".

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CODE VIOLATION EC turns a blind eye

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and PANKAG KARMAKAR



The Election Commission and many returning officers (ROs) have turned a blind eye to the violations of electoral code of conduct by the ruling party-nominated mayoral aspirants on Thursday.

No actions were taken against the candidates even two days after the violation. Rather, both the EC and the ROs claim they haven't received any such complaints, though some of the incidents were widely reported in the media.

Elections to 235 municipalities will be held on December 30. This will be the country's first local government polls on party lines. Mayor contenders will fight the battle of ballots with their party symbols. The councillor aspirants, however, will have to remain happy with non-party symbols.

Showing no regards for the electoral code, AL-backed mayor candidates staged showdowns and brought out processions and motorcades in many places before filing nomination papers on Thursday, according to news reports.

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RELATED STORY ON PAGE 16

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