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# No Palestinian state if violence continues

## Declare Israel, Russia; gunmen briefly take over Palestinian parliament buildings

AFP, Moscow/Gaza City

Russia and Israel agree there can be no prospect of a Palestinian state unless the radical Islamic Hamas movement renounces violence, the Russian foreign ministry said in a statement yesterday.

The announcement came after Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni rang her Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov Friday evening to discuss Hamas' landslide victory in the Palestinian parliamentary election.

"They (the ministers) stressed that the prospect of creating an independent and democratic Palestinian state depends on... the renunciation of violence and terror, the disarmament of illegal armed groups and the recognition of Israel's right to exist," the minister said.

Meanwhile, Fatah gunmen, angry at Hamas victory, briefly took over Palestinian parliament buildings in the West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday, firing in the air. There were no reports of casualties in either incident.

Lavrov and Livni agreed "all participants in the Palestinian electoral process should respect the principle of a peaceful solution, within the framework of the roadmap", the statement said.

Both countries acknowledged that the Palestinian election "was conducted in an orderly fashion and respected recognised standards", it added.

Russia is a member of the international Quartet seeking to implement the moribund roadmap for peace between the Israelis and the

# 2 children die, 23 houses gutted in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two brothers were burnt to death while at least 23 houses were gutted and a bus was damaged in two separate incidents of fire at Badurtala and Dampara in the city on Friday night and early yesterday.

The dead of the Badurtala fire incident were identified as Md Rafiq, 8, and Md Nasir, 4.

Fire service sources said the fire broke out at around 9:40pm on Friday night from the gas burner of the house of Abu Bakar Siddiqui in a colony near Badurtala Jangl Shah

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# Shibir men cut tendons of Jubo Dal leader

UNB, Gaibandha

Tendons of hands and legs of a Jubo Dal leader were severed allegedly by Shibir activists on Friday.

The victim, Mushfiqur Rahman, a leader of Jubo Dal Polashbari unit, came under attack by Shibir cadres while he was going to Polashbari from Merihat in a motorbike.

The Shibir cadres beat him up and cut tendons of his arms and legs. A case was filed with Polashbari Police Station, accusing

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# New US envoy Patricia Butenis joins next month

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Patricia A Butenis, who has been nominated to be the next US Ambassador to Bangladesh, is expected to join her post here next month after her hearing before the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations scheduled for February 2.

Currently serving as the Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM) in Islamabad, Patricia Butenis will be the 12th US ambassador to Bangladesh.

The post of US ambassador in Dhaka remained vacant since

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BNP men lie on the ground in front of Chittagong Circuit House yesterday to prevent Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman from joining a Jamaat-e-Islami rally in Satkania.

# BNP men lie on Noman's way to stop him from Jamaat rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Leaders and activists of Satkania upazila BNP yesterday laid in vain a siege to the Chittagong Circuit House to stop Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah-Al Noman from attending a rally of ruling coalition partner Jamaat-e-Islami.

The minister managed to come out of the Circuit House at around 1:00pm, ignoring a kind of human blockade by the local unit of the ruling party. At that time, he assaulted Daily Jugantor's photo-journalist Didarul Alam, said witnesses.

Noman, also a joint secretary general of BNP, was the special guest at the Jamaat rally.

Several hundred leaders and activists of local BNP from Satkania and Lohagara arrived at Chittagong Circuit House in the morning to prevent Noman from joining the rally.

They staged demonstration

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A fishmonger campaigns to sell a stingray on a city road in Barisal. The over 150kg sea fish was caught yesterday in the river Kirtankhola and sold at Tk 80 per kg.

# ROHINGYA REFUGEE CAMPS

## Foreign diplomats for better living conditions

PORIMOL PALMA, back from Cox's Bazar

Expressing concern over the poor living conditions of Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar and lack of facilities for secondary level education of their children, a delegation of foreign diplomats and UNHCR officials in Bangladesh yesterday said they would report to their own capitals for inclusion of the issue in international agenda for its resolution.

The delegation also urged the government to allow free movement of the refugees who have been living in two camps -- one at Nayapara in Teknaf and the other at Kutupalong in Ukha -- so that they do not feel confined and living in a prison-like situation.

Briefing journalists at the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) sub-office at Cox's Bazar after visiting the two refugee camps on Friday, members of the delegation said basic human rights of the refugees are not being ensured.

Australian High Commissioner in Dhaka Douglas Foskett, Swiss Ambassador Dora Rapold, Norwegian Ambassador Aud Lise Norheim, Swedish Ambassador Britt F Hagstrom and UNHCR Country Representative Christopher Beng Cha Lee were present at the briefing.

Stressing the need for upgrading health and education facilities in the refugee camps, the Norwegian ambassador said Bangladesh has done well in the field of children's education, and it should do the same also for the refugees' children.

Presently 20,984 Rohingyas are now living in the camps. And 236,599 Rohingyas have been repatriated since 1992. An influx of the Rohingyas from Arakan in Myanmar followed religious and political persecution by the ruling junta.

The rate of repatriation drastically fell with only 92 sent back in the first half of last year. The process totally stopped in July creating concern among government officials involved in it.

Meanwhile, the UNHCR and European Commission have been asking the government to initiate steps for secondary level education

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# Australian Open goes to Mauresmo

AFP, Melbourne

French third seed Amelie Mauresmo won the Australian Open women's final on Saturday after her eighth seeded opponent Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium retired.

The win, which came when the scores were 6-1, 2-0 in Mauresmo's

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# KIBRIA KILLING

## We've report on PMO staff's link with murder

### Claims Hasina, reiterates demand for UN investigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday demanded a special team of the United Nations investigate the killing of former finance minister SAMS Kibria.

"We just cannot expect fair trial of the killers of Awami League leaders from this alliance government, which itself had come to power by illegal means. So I want a special team of the United Nations to investigate the killing of Kibria," she told a memorial meeting for SAMS Kibria at the auditorium of Diploma Engineers Institute in the capital.

Hasina, also president of AL, said a local BNP leader alone cannot have a man like Kibria killed and the government obviously had a hand in the murder. "We have information about involvement of an official at the Prime Minister's Office in Kibria killing," she said.

The AL president urged the people to join the movement to see off the ruling alliance, which, she said, has killed several thousand AL men and plundered thousands of

crores of taka.

She said mayor, ministers and lawmakers of BNP are launching TV channels one after another with the money they have stolen from the exchequer. She said people get killed whenever they raise voice against the looting.

On the August 17 blasts across the country, Hasina said the militants could not have succeeded in staging the blasts simultaneously across the country without support from the government.

She said, "Even our valiant freedom fighters could not blast five bombs at a time during the Liberation War."

Hasina said switches of the grenades are in the hands of the government and whenever they want a grenade to explode they just press the switch. The government did not want any blast incident during the Saarc summit, so there was no explosion.

She said the ruling alliance has all along been behind the rise of militancy. It even expelled one of their lawmakers who dared to

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# KANSAT COP FIRING

## Shibganj OC closed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The officer-in-charge (OC) of Shibganj Police Station was stand-released yesterday over Kansat police firing that left seven people killed on January 23.

OC Shahabuddin Khalifa, who arrested three rural power subscribers' leaders sparking a movement in the area, was closed to Rajshahi range of police.

Inspector Golam Kibria of Rangpur police will replace him.

Meanwhile, Monirul Islam Chowdhury of Trimohini, who was believed to have been killed in the police firing, returned home alive on Friday.

People continued agitation for the sixth consecutive day, halting trade through Sonamasjid land port. Yesterday was the second day of the indefinite strike at Kansat.

A magistrate court in Chapainawabganj will today hear the bail prayers of the arrested Palli

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Lumberjacks chop down trees on Road No 11-A in Dhanmondi as Public Works Department will build government quarters on this land.

# Saarc foreign secys to meet in Dhaka on April 10-12

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation's (Saarc) Standing Committee, comprised of foreign secretaries of member states, is expected to meet in Dhaka on April 10-12 to prepare plans and programmes for the next decade.

A highly placed source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the committee would meet with five topics in the agenda.

Formalising the membership of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

# 13 die in Nepal as violence flares up

AFP, Kathmandu

Eleven Maoist rebels fighting to overthrow Nepal's monarchy and two soldiers have been killed in a battle in the eastern part of the Himalayan kingdom, the army said yesterday.

The clash, which began late Friday, was the latest violence ahead of the first anniversary on Wednesday of the seizure of power by King Gyanendra.

"Eleven Maoist bodies were recovered from the clash site at Hatuwagadhi area in Bhojpur,

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Prayer Timing		
January 29		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:35	6:10
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:15	4:30
Maghrib	5:46	5:50
Esha	7:15	7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Year Long BUET Test Results Prove Ensured Strength

Shah Cement "BUET Test Result" - 2005

Month	BUET Ref. No.	American Standard (ASTM)		
		3days (PSI)	7days (PSI)	28days (PSI)
		1740	2760	4060
Shah Cement "BUET Test Result"				
		3days (PSI)	7days (PSI)	28days (PSI)
→ January'05	4293/04-05/CE	2580	3730	5370
→ February'05	4699/04-05/CE	2980	3990	5160
→ March'05	5915/04-05/CE	3030	3600	5780
→ April'05	6219/04-05/CE	2710	3250	5520
→ May'05	7053/04-05/CE	2880	3630	5200
→ June'05	9151/04-05/CE	2650	3000	4270
→ July'05	0318/05-06/CE	2600	3050	4800
→ August'05	1471/05-06/CE	2880	3770	5080
→ September'05	2076/05-06/CE	2690	3390	4690
→ October'05	3112/05-06/CE	2900	3580	4780
→ November'05	4244/05-06/CE	2580	3690	4950
→ December'05	5111/05-06/CE	2910	3820	4980

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