

## Blasts, clashes

**FROM PAGE 1**  
committee to ensure fair counting of the votes cast by some 2,300 councillors, he added.

Candidates and their supporters were in front of the AL chief's residence as of filing this report at 10:35pm.

Sources said president and general secretary might come out from Kamrul Hasan Ripon, president of Jagannath University BCL, Mahmuduzzaman Ripon, Mahfuzul Haider Roton, SM Salehin Reza, and Hasibul Islam Mithu Kotowal.

The number of president candidates came down to 14 and general secretary to 24 following announcement that those who would not poll at least 20 percent of the votes would be 'kicked out' of the organisation.

Before the polling, SSC certificates and the dates of birth were checked to make sure no one of the contenders has exceeded the age of 29 years.

Earlier in the day, as AL Joint Secretary Obaidul Quader, who is also in charge of the party's student affairs, reached the council venue at the Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB), several hundred activists led by the resolute old guard burst out chanting slogans demanding cancellation of what they said was 'illegal council'.

They damaged chairs, tables and windowpanes in and around the IEB auditorium. They damaged at least two vehicles and burned banners and posters. Rampages on the busy street in front of the IEB went on for about an hour.

Witnesses said instigated by Obaidul Quader, pro-council junior leaders and activists chased the senior leaders and beat up at least 10 of them.

Chase and counter-chase panicked the councillors into taking refuge at nearby Suhrawardy Udayan and Ramna Park.

In the face of chase by groups of pro-council activists, senior leaders left the IEB area.

At about 12:30pm, three shots were fired outside the IEB auditorium when the representatives from across the country were asked to show their ID cards. Besides, three crackers were exploded at that time, adding to the confusion and disorder at the venue.

At one stage of the melee, police chased the BCL men and took the situation under control.

Outgoing BCL President Liaqat Sikdar told The Daily Star that after an investigation actions would be taken against the persons responsible for the acts of vandalism.

Referring to the gunshots and bangs of crackers he said the ruling party men did those to mar the BCL council.

Obaidul Quader accompanied by former and present BCL leaders supervised the council.

Leader of the opposition and AL president Sheikh Hasina instructed that only those who passed SSC examinations in 1995 or later could vie for the top posts of the organisation.

Later she relaxed the age limit by

two years considering the student body's council not being held on time.

Hasina, leader of the opposition, inaugurated the two-day reunion and national council of at Dhanmondi Club Ground on Sunday.

## US trains Asian experts on counter terrorism

AFP, Colombo

Counter terrorism and anti-money laundering experts from South Asian nations began training with US experts in Colombo yesterday, the US embassy said.

Some 40 South Asian regulators and lawmen from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Maldives and Sri Lanka were attending the training sessions organised by the US department of justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The studies were also supported by Australia's Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering and Britain's Charities Commission, the embassy said in a statement.

The three day meeting would provide a forum for regional law enforcement professionals and fiscal authorities to share experience and tactics in combating the abuse of charities for terrorism, it said.

## Lightning

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Sources said the three were struck by lightning while working on their croplands at noon. They died instantly.

The injured, identified as Shamsul Haque and Abdul Haque of Burching upazila, are undergoing treatment at local health complex.

In Brahmanbaria, three people were killed as lightning struck them during rain in Bancharampur upazila at about 11:00am.

They are Wahed Miah, 25, Moslem Miah, 40, and Mohan Das.

An Army man was killed by lightning at Dhaka Cantonment yesterday evening.

He was identified as Sepoy Monir Hossain, 22, son of Abdul Hanna.

Police said Monir, posted at ST Battalion, was struck by lightning while playing at COD Parade Ground near ZIA Colony at about 5:35pm.

His body was sent to the Combined Military Hospital.

## 6 joint secys promoted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday promoted six joint secretaries to the rank of additional secretary.

More promotion at the deputy secretary level is on the cards, sources said.

The officials who got promotion are Ashraful Maqbul, divisional commissioner of Chittagong, Habibullah Majumdar, joint secretary, water resources ministry, Syed Hasinur Rahman, joint secretary, land ministry, Mokhlesur Rahman, director general (DG) of Women's Affairs Department, Khondakar Rashedul Hoque, DG of Environment Directorate, and Illiyas Ahmed, joint secretary, commerce ministry.

The Superior Selection Board sits this morning at the secretariat to take decision on the promotion of other officials, the sources added.

## Opposition

**FROM PAGE 16**  
"They (opposition) wanted to fish in troubled waters by sponsoring the bombers," she said, adding that bombings started during the tenure of the previous government but they did not take any preventive measure.

BNP Standing Committee member KM Obaidur Rahman, Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, State Minister for Liberation War Affairs M Rezaul Karim and Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury also spoke on the occasion. Local MP Ali Newaj Mohammad Khaiyam presided.

The prime minister said the people of Bangladesh want a government that can give peace, development and public security. She urged people to vote for the BNP-led alliance in the next general elections to continue the trend of development and build a prosperous and self-reliant Bangladesh.

About Padma bridge, which will connect country's southwest with the capital through this district, the prime minister said: "I also want Padma bridge so that the people of the region can move over the bridge. But the big project costs a lot of money."

She assured that the bridge would be built and, if necessary, it would be built both at Mawa and Doulatdia points.

Earlier, the prime minister inaugurated a memorial plaque for the martyred freedom fighters of Rajbari, a 100-bed girls' hostel of Rajbari Government College and a pure water-supply project in Rajbari municipality.

Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum Chittagong city unit President Advocate Md Kabir Chowdhury presided over the rally organised by Jamal Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury Mourning Rally Observation Committee.

Advocate Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury, Jalal Ahmed Chowdhury, Fauzul Amin Chowdhury and the sons of the slain BNP leader Jamal Uddin spoke at the rally.

Jamal Uddin's eldest son

## Saarc

**FROM PAGE 1**  
terrorism and trafficking of women and children in South Asia region.

Official sources told The Daily Star yesterday that the ministerial meeting would be preceded by the Saarc home secretaries meeting on May 10.

## Charge framing

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Shamim, 23, Zakaria alias Jewel, 21, Nur Azam Siddique alias Yeasir, 27, Belal Hossain alias Tamim, 21, Aleya Ferdousi, 27, and Akramul Islam, 23. They were produced before the court yesterday.

The Rab on September 8 last year arrested five of the accused at a house in East Bashabo, which was rented by Sunny to coordinate the August 17 countrywide serial blasts. The law enforcers believe he narrowly escaped arrest at that time.

Sunny, younger brother of JMB chief Shaekh Abdur Rahman, was captured by Rab in Dhaka on November 13 last year. Acting on his information, the elite force recovered huge arms and ammunition from South Manda in the city.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on October 10 last year submitted the charge sheets of two cases to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka. All of the accused, except Sunny, gave confessional statements to magistrates on different dates.

## Amini asked

**FROM PAGE 16**  
had said Faruque and other staffs of Proshika would be killed on that very night.

The Daily Bhorer Kagoj ran the news on April 20. Later, the news was published in other newspapers but Amini did not contradict the news.

Faruque filed the case with the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate against Amini on May 14, 2000. Following the hearing, the court issued summons against the accused to appear before it but Amini failed to appear before the court.

The court issued an arrest warrant against Amini on July 2, 2000. Amini appeared before the court on July 3 and obtained bail. Advocate Sheikh Rezaul Karim moved for the accused.

## Bangladesh

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Sheikh Hasina.

Time writer Alex Perry's cover report is published under the title "Rebuilding Bangladesh" -- "A nation long plagued by natural disasters, poverty, corruption and violence may finally be on the verge of a happier future."

For detailed coverage of Time magazine on Bangladesh, please see page-11.

## Shootout shrouded

**FROM PAGE 16**  
where the incident took place and policemen were probably late in reaching there, he said.

But in a blatant contradiction to the cop version the victim's family insisted that the police beat Amzad to death.

Narrating the story to journalists after deposition, a tearful Sabuj said Sub-Inspector (SI) Wahed started to beat up his father savagely after the arrest at 4:00pm Monday.

The SI asked them to come to police camp (at Koshba in Gangni upazila) and meet him. Sabuj along with his mother went to the police camp at 7:30pm, only to find his father hanging upside down from a branch of a tree on the compound.

"They (police) demanded Tk 1 lakh if we were to get back my father alive", Sabuj said. "But it seemed to us my father was not alive at that time."

Expressing their inability to pay such a huge amount of money they returned home and came to know in the morning yesterday that Amzad was taken to hospital where he died at 4:00am.

But the police have a different tale to tell. Amzad was interrogated at the camp and taken out by a police team to recover firearms.

Criminals belonging to Amzad's group ambushed them when they reached the Bhatapara primary school at about 12 midnight, police said. A gunbattle soon ensued as the police team returned fire, and Amzad was caught in the 'shootout' while trying to escape.

Police rushed Amzad to the Meherpur Sadar Hospital at about

1:00am but he died at about 4:00am.

A member of the outlawed party Janajuddho, Amzad was accused in several cases including four murders, police said.

Amzad came out of jail in 1999 serving out a life term in an arms looting case.

## JP divided

**FROM PAGE 16**  
the party today to discuss the issue.

The JP chairman was convicted of corruption and barred from contesting the last general election. According to the law, someone sentenced to more than two years' imprisonment following conviction for moral turpitude cannot take part in any election within five years of serving out the sentence.

The restriction in the case of Ershad has expired recently. The Gaibandha-4 parliamentary seat fell vacant after ruling BNP lawmaker Abdul Mottaleb died of a heart attack on March 11, 2006.

April 9 has been set as the last date for filing nominations.

Certain senior leaders of the second largest opposition in parliament said the JP might have to clarify its stance on joining electoral alliance much before the next parliamentary election. To win the Gaibandha election, it will need support either from the ruling alliance or the main opposition Awami League, said a JP high-up.

## Oli speaks out against

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Referring to the killing of Jamal Uddin, he said anyone could find out the "new nationalists" responsible for the killing if it could be known how Shahid [prime accused of the murder] elected chairman of his union.

He alleged that two local lawmakers and a state minister from outside Chittagong persuaded the state minister for home to get the killers relieved of charges.

Oli said the government in a bid to get him sidelined made eight ministers from greater Chittagong, but they failed to fulfil their commitment to Chittagong people, causing a serious damage to the party image.

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Jamal Uddin's eldest son

Chowdhury Farman Reza reiterated his allegation that local MP Sarwar Jamal Nizam and his brother Maruf Nizam were involved in his father's killing and demanded bringing them to justice.

## Additional charge

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Bhai and JMB military commander Ataur Rahman Sunny.

But the court ordered the IO to submit supplementary charge sheets to include a few other accused.

After fresh enquiry, IO Munshi Atique submitted the supplementary charge sheets on March 2 before the magistrate of the Cognisance Court that included three more accused.

The trial court again sent the bomb blasts cases to the CID on March 21 and asked it to submit fresh charge sheets after rectifying the faults in them.

The IO yesterday submitted before the magistrate of the Cognisance Court the supplementary charge sheets that excluded the name of an accused in one of the previous charge sheets.

## Commodity price

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Daily essential price monitoring report prepared by the state-run trading agency is sent to the Prime Minister's Office, all the ministries concerned and to other important government offices regularly.

Prices of some essential commodities including, lentil, powdered milk, soybean and some other commodities are still volatile because their supply depend on imports. And the cost of import has gone up as the taka lost its value by over six percent against the US dollar in the last two months.

According to traders, while some companies have already adjusted the prices of their powdered milk, some others are mulling to increase the same.

The price of a popular brand milk powder, Dano, rose by Tk 30 per kg in just one week. The price of 500 gram plastic pack milk powder ranged between Tk 185 and Tk 190 on the retail market yesterday, which was between Tk 170 and Tk 175 a week back.

"It has become very difficult to budget the household expenditure as prices of almost everything are rising but my income is not," said Anjumana Begum, a banker who lives in Mirpur.

"I need at least 4kg of sugar a month for my five-member family but I will buy only 2kg for this month as the price has abnormally gone up," she added.

According to the TCB report, the price of potato was between Tk 10 to Tk 12 a kg yesterday, the price of which ranged between Tk 6 to Tk 7 a kg during the same period last year, a 70 percent rise.

Onion price was Tk 10 a kg just a month ago, which is now selling at Tk 17 a kg. The price of a quarter dozen eggs was Tk 15 a month back, which is now selling at Tk 17.

Lentil was selling at Tk 58 a kg yesterday but the price was Tk 48 a week back. Garlic was selling at Tk 80 a kg, the price of which was Tk 70 a week ago.

"People consume more when things are cheaper but they tend to buy less when prices go up," said Abdul Matin, a retailer at the Mirpur-6 kitchen market. He also said sales of some essential items like sugar, lentil, and moog dal have gone down substantially after the price hike.

Meanwhile, the government yesterday could not launch open market sale (OMS) of sugar properly at Tk 41 a kg as announced by the commerce ministry.

In a bid to stabilise the market,

1:00am but he died at about 4:00am.

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## Smuggled chickens destroyed

UNB, Khulna

Some 4,000 out of 13,180 broiler chickens smuggled from India were burned here yesterday on suspicion that they might have been affected by bird flu.

Police seized the chickens from a house at East Link Road in the city on Saturday.

Local administration took the decision to burn the smuggled chickens

at a meeting on Monday at the conference room of the deputy commissioner (DC).

Poultry traders here alleged that the local administration was not giving satisfactory information about the remaining 9000 chickens as they removed those to another place instead of burning.

## Dhaka to focus

**FROM PAGE 16**

and the upcoming visit will further cement the relationship. "We will request the Turkish government to buy more products from Bangladesh and invest in Bangladesh," he added.

Khaleda will hold exclusive talks with her Turkish counterpart. Later talk will be held at the delegation alliance in a large format on April 13.

More bilateral trade, increased import of Bangladeshi products, strengthening the existing relationship between the two countries and wider cooperation in various areas will come up in discussions.

The Turkish prime minister will host an official banquet in honour of Khaleda on April 13.

Khaleda will travel to Istanbul from Ankara on April 14 to pay a courtesy visit to President of Turkey Ahmed Necdet Sezer. The governor of Istanbul will also call on her. The governor will host a banquet in honour of the Bangladesh prime minister on April 14.

The prime minister will also visit Indonesia in mid May to attend the D-8 summit in Bali, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey are members of D-8 group which aims to expand trade among the member countries.

Official sources said the Indonesian president personally requested the Bangladesh prime minister to attend the upcoming summit.

## Future depends

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Expressing hope that the new organisation will give a new dimension to IT education, he said it is the only sector that can bring the young people to the world even when they stay at home.

The policy makers should play a pivotal role in this regard as the country is remaining behind only due to problems in the policy, he said.

The chief guest at the ceremony, Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury said, "Information and communication technology has opened up the possibility of improved communication and decision making within the government, enabling greater efficiency in services, and ensuring a greater degree of transparency and accountability."

It is a new tool for solving the problems of poverty and sluggish economic growth, Altaf said.

"The country has immense potential and we should not miss any further train of development," DIGTEL Managing Director Sabur Khan said, adding, "We are lagging behind in IT sector due to lack of an up-to-date education system."

DIGTEL Chairman Faizur Razaque also addressed the inaugural ceremony.

## Conditions

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Wallich said though Saifur agreed to the WB rationale, he did not say whether the government would raise the petroleum prices or not.

But, coming out of the meeting Saifur said there was no discussion about fuel prices. The WB mission just specified what the government has to do to get the DSC-4, he told the reporters. The minister also admitted to having a detailed discussion about the power sector.

According to Saifur, the government is far from being anxious to carry out the WB prescription. In fact, it will now decide whether it wants to take the loan in the first place, he told the newsmen.

**DSC CONDITIONS**  
Sources said with the next general elections around the corner the World Bank may not insist on more than five to six conditions for releasing the DSC-4.

Among these, one is to develop specific terms of reference and tenure for the chief executive officers of the nationalised commercial banks, keeping in view their prospective corporatisation.

Besides, the government has to complete the privatisation of Rupali Bank by the agreed deadline. It is also required to constitute a new board and senior management structure at the National Board of Revenue in line with a strategic development plan.

As part of trade liberalisation, the WB wants the government to reduce supplementary duties on imports by at least 2 percentage points.

Finally, the government will have to implement the macroeconomic framework agreed under the Poverty Reduction Growth Facilities of the bank.

## More shipments

**FROM PAGE 1**  
are planning to file general diaries in this connection, the sources added.

According to a primary investigation report, a leading private food company of the country, BD Foods Limited, and its sister concern King & Co manipulated the entire export process of the drug smuggling.

The investigation found Badrul Haider Chowdhury, chairman of both BD Foods Ltd and King & Co, and King & Co employees Nazmul Haider Bhuiyan and Mainuddin involved in the smuggling. The UK customs filed a case with its London head office mentioning the three as suspected international drug smugglers, sources said.

Meanwhile, the directors and high officials of both the firms are remaining absent from their offices, both located at 9 DIT Avenue, Motijheel, Dhaka. When asked, an accountant of BD Foods Ltd, Syful Islam, confirmed that the directors have not been coming to the office regularly.

The sources said the UK customs also mentioned six Bangladeshi business houses--BD Foods Ltd, King and Co, Messrs Emdad Traders, Messrs Jamil International, Messrs MM Enterprise and Green Heaven Enterprise--as suspected international drug traffickers.

A three-member UK customs team is likely to arrive in Dhaka next week to further investigate the racketeering and also to provide the Bangladesh government with technological support to probe into such a high-level international drug smuggling.

The UK Customs and Excise Department in a letter sent through the British deputy high commissioner in Mumbai on May 20, 2005 first asked the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Department of Bangladesh to probe into the drug trafficking.

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