

## Boundary talks

**FROM PAGE 1**  
have decided to meet once a year and agreed to schedule a visit to the enclaves and adversely held territories to work out a solution to the issues of dispute.

Both the sides hoped the visit would take place before the next JBWG meeting.

The two sides agreed to hold the next JBWG meeting in New Delhi at a mutually convenient date to be decided through diplomatic channel.

Resumption of the JBWG talks after four years got green signal from premiers of the two countries during Khaleda Zia's March 20-22 visit to India.

Although the Dhaka meeting created frustration among different quarters for failure to reach a solution to the boundary issues, the JBWG expressed satisfaction over its outcome.

"Importance of the meeting lies in the fact that it is taking place after four years and in an excellent atmosphere. We were able to appreciate each other's point of view and tried to understand position of each other," said Mohan Kumar, joint secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs, India.

The third of its kind, the JBWG meeting was held at State Guest House Meghna with Home Ministry Joint Secretary (Political) Akhtar Ahmed leading the 19-member Bangladesh delegation and Mohan Kumar heading the 16-member Indian side.

There are 3-km of undemarcated border at Lathitla in Kulaura in Sylhet, 2 km at Muhurichar in Porshuram, Feni and 1.5 km at Daikhata-Dumabari at Berubari in Lalmonirhat.

Although there are clear guidance in the Bangladesh-India Land Boundary Agreement signed on May 16, 1974, by the then prime ministers Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Indira Gandhi for resolution of the problems, the dispute continues due to non-ratification of the agreement by India.

Bangladesh ratified the agreement through the Third Amendment to the Constitution on November 28, 1974.

At the Dhaka meeting, Bangladesh side placed past and present records, documents and maps to oppose the Indian team when it asked for demarcating the 6.5km border in their favour prior to settling the other issues, said meeting sources.

When Bangladesh raised the issue of ratifying the 1974 agreement, the Indian side reiterated its precondition of demarcating the 6.5km border, which they placed at the second JBWG meeting.

"The issues are a legacy of the past and are complex and difficult and it will be a mistake if anyone thinks these can be solved in six or

12 months," Mohan Kumar told reporters when asked about the long delay in settling the issues.

He however avoided replying to a query on barriers to resolution of the issues and said, "Only five years passed since formation of the JBWG. We've made progress and will meet now every year. The regular meeting itself constitutes a pressure point."

He went on, "What we've agreed today is a beginning of a process which, we are hopeful, will lead to an eventual settlement of the issues."

Akhtar Ahmed termed the issue of barriers 'irrelevant' and said, "Let us look forward rather than to the past."

Bangladesh officials pointed out that non-implementation of the 1974 agreement is the cause of occasional outbreak of fierce skirmishes along the border.

"India is yet to allow our people unfettered access to the Tin-Bigha corridor," a foreign ministry official told The Daily Star yesterday pointing out India's disregard to the 1974 agreement.

## Yet another case

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Ayesha Begum had entered into a contract with Bulu for sale of their 13.33 acres of land at Bhaluka in Mymensingh district for Tk 5 crore.

According to Hossain, the couple and Bulu had executed two agreements -- an unregistered one on March 18 and the second one, a 'Bainapatra', on April 6 this year and duly registered it at the Sub-Registrar's Office at Bhaluka.

After that, Bulu issued four cheques totalling Tk 5 crore payable at different dates at the Southeast Bank, Principal Branch, Dhaka, Hossain said.

Hossain went to the bank on May 15 to cash a cheque of Tk 50 lakh that he had received from Bulu, but the cheque was dishonoured, the complainant said.

Later, he served legal notice upon Bulu on June 8 through his lawyer Nuruzzaman Nani asking Bulu to pay the money within 30 days from the receipt of the notice.

Bulu received the notice two days later but he did not make any move to pay the money. Rather, he threatened Noor Hossain and his wife with death over cell phone on several occasions, the complainant added.

Bulu was arrested at his Banani house on May 31 after his wife Hosne Ara Naznin and Abdus Salam Majumdar filed two separate cases against him with Gulshan Police Station.

He filed a criminal case against Hossain and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas and Managing Director of the TV channel Boishakhi Kazi Mohammad Shahidullah the previous day, accusing them of threatening him with death unless he handed over his share of the TV for free.

## Jagannath University

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Four policemen were also wounded, one critically.

The police resorted to baton charge and lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the students. During the clash, traffic on the roads adjacent to the campus came to a standstill, leading to a snarl-up over two hours.

Witnesses said the fighting broke out when several hundred Shibir cadres, mostly outsiders, attempted to take out a procession at around 11:00am.

Resolved not to allow any Shibir activities on the campus, leaders and workers of AL-backed BCL, BNP-backed JCD and Chhatra League (JSD) soon chased the Shibir activists.

But the Shibir men carrying bags full of brickbats retaliated throwing stones at their rivals.

In the face of counter-attack, the activists of BCL and JCD retreated and later regrouped.

By this time, more than 100 policemen deployed since morning took position in the middle of the feuding groups.

They baton-charged the Shibir men and drove them out of the campus through the main entrance. At the same time, they were firing tear gas canisters at the united students' group.

Major parts of the campus and the main entrance were littered with brickbats.

More than a hundred cadres who were staying outside the campus joined in the fighting, trying to reinforce the Shibir position, students alleged.

They said some people waiting at the main entrance on a dozen motorbikes rushed the injured Shibir men to different hospitals and clinics.

The university authorities had instructed the police to allow only the students with identity cards after 8:00am. Police said they started checking IDs after 10:00am as the two teachers supposed to help them in the checking turned up much later.

Campus sources said by this time several hundred Shibir activists coming from Rajshahi and Chittagong universities and other institutions across the country took position inside the campus.

They [outsiders] were assigned to capture Jagannath University, added the sources.

At around 2:00pm, Vice-chancellor Prof Sirajul Islam Khan

came to the campus after a meeting at the education ministry. He was furious with the police, asking them how some 400 outsiders entered the campus and why they have charged baton on the students.

In reply, the police said they could not check the students in time as no teachers came to their assistance before 10:00am.

"The failure of the police is responsible for today's incident," the VC told reporters.

He said, "We feared that situation could get worse today (Monday) and so we requested the police authorities to deploy additional forces to stop further escalation of violence on the campus."

Senior vice-president of Jagannath University BCL Sohel Rana claimed that at least 25 BCL men were injured while JCD said eight of its activists sustained injuries during the clash.

Niamul Haq Naim, president of Jagannath University Shibir, said, "More than 50 of our workers were injured in police beating, so we will take position against the police."

**CLASSES SUSPENDED, PROBE BODY FORMED**

The university authorities at an urgent meeting last night decided to suspend classes till July 20, a press release said.

They also formed a seven-member committee headed by the registrar to investigate the incidents of the last two days.

The committee has been asked to submit its report to the vice-chancellor within the next 10 days.

Meanwhile, the BCL central committee at a rally on Dhaka University (DU) campus yesterday vowed to resist Shibir at educational institutions across the country.

President Mahmud Hasan Ripon and General Secretary Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Roton, among others, spoke at the rally.

Protesting the Shibir "attempt to occupy the Jagannath University campus", Jatija Samajtantrik Dal-backed Chhatra League brought out a procession from New Market in the city yesterday.

## Petition filed

**FROM PAGE 1**  
other accused -- Shahab Uddin Laitu, former president of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, student wing of the ruling BNP, Yusuf bin Jallil and Abu Iqbal.

However, the trial of the case against the minister's brother Mirza Khokan and another accused Sumon will continue.

According to the prosecution, over 150 people led by the then Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mirza Abbas brought out a procession during a hartal called by BNP, the then opposition party, on February 13, 2001.

They attacked a procession of the then ruling party Awami League near Rajarbagh Police Lines.

As the BNP processionists fired shots at the police barracks, constable Abu Naser, 27, was bullet-hit on the third floor of Rajarbagh Police Lines. He died on the spot. Constable Partha Roy was also seriously injured during the firing.

Subedar Jamal Uddin filed a murder case with Motijheel Police Station the same day. The investigation officer pressed charges against Mirza Abbas and five others on July 11, 2001.

The home ministry in a letter on June 19 this year informed the district magistrate of Dhaka that it had decided to withdraw charges against Mirza Abbas and three others as the charges were "politically motivated".

The ministry asked the district magistrate to hand over the matter to the metropolitan public prosecutor (PP), who will arrange withdrawal of the case with permission from an appropriate court.

## Barisal criminal

**FROM PAGE 1**  
On the statements of the arrestees, a RAB team took Ratan to C & B road area of Barisal city at around 3:30am yesterday to arrest his accomplices and recover the hidden firearms.

Sensing the presence of the RAB team, Ratan's cohorts opened fire, forcing the law enforcers to retaliate.

According to Rab, Ratan received bullets during the "shoot-out" and died on the spot.

One gun and two cartridges were recovered from the spot.

## 6 JMB men

**FROM PAGE 1**  
of Narayanganj.

According to the prosecution, the JMB militants had set off the bombs on the premises of local Collectorate Bhaban on August 17 last year.

After the incident, a case was filed with Sadar Police Station. On November 10, CID Inspector M Atahar Ali Sheikh submitted a charge sheet against the six.

Sessions and Tribunal Judge M Nazrul Islam found the JMB men guilty of setting off the bombs and handed down the verdict.

## Shazneen case

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Hasan, and acquitted one in the sensational case.

The five convicts are Shahidul Islam alias Shahid, a domestic help at the Gulshan residence of Shazneen's family, Hasan, a contractor for renovation of their house, Badal, his assistant, and two maids, Estema Khatun Minu and Parvin.

The HC acquitted mason Shaniram Mandal of the charge.

Fifteen-year-old Shazneen, the youngest daughter of leading businessman Latifur Rahman, was raped and killed at their Gulshan residence sometime between 8:00 pm and 10:15pm on April 23, 1998, the day a party was hosted by Rahman.

## Viral fever

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Hospital who sells tickets at the court.

Only 13 doctors were there to examine the 700 patients.

Most of the babies were suffering from viral fever, cough, cold, pneumonia, and typhoid.

Dr Mahbubul Hasan, deputy director of the hospital, said, "We have employed two more doctors at the outdoor section to deal with the flood of patients. We are getting less dengue patients this year."

Meanwhile, drug traders' business is booming just by selling different fever and cold medicines, the traders claimed.

"The sale of these medicines have increased by manifold," said a medicine trader of Medicine Park at Hatirpul Bazar.

## Kibria killing

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Habiganj AL leader Majid Khan filed two cases -- one for the killing and the other under Explosives Substances Act.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) submitted a charge sheet in the murder case on March 20, 2005. Since then, Kibria's family as well as the complainant have been calling for further investigation as they pointed out the investigation was not properly done.

Eight of the 10 charge-sheeted accused are behind bars now. They are Habiganj district BNP Vice-President AKM Abdul Quayyum, Joyнал Abedin Jallil, Jamir Ali, Joyнал Abedin Minna, Tajul Islam, Shahed Ali, Selim Ahmed and Ayat Ali. The other two -- Muhibur Rahman and Kajal Miah -- have been on the run since the gruesome killing.

## Cabinet purchase body

**FROM PAGE 1**  
"We don't approve awarding such a job to just one company," Saifur told the press.

The home ministry also did not have the project processed through the finance ministry or get any clearance though the project is supposed to be funded under the revenue budget. As a result, the selected bidder -- G&D GmbH -- itself became confused about its fate.

"It appears that the project (home ministry terms it a programme) is being pushed ahead only in the interest of a business lobby having political connection with the highest level. This lobby just wants commission from the German company," said a well placed source.

"This lobby plans to get its commission by taking the deal to an agreement level at the fastest possible pace by ignoring regular procedures. It is not really interested in implementation of the project."

A heated debate took place at the purchase committee meeting yesterday. All the committee members felt that a project demanding such a huge spending cannot be placed for approval this way.

"The members noted that in the past, the Election Commission had taken an initiative to issue voters' ID card. The project was shelved after wastage of a lot of public money. From this experience, we need to seriously think about going for another ID card venture," said a source who was present at the meeting.

"Some members of the committee said if this scheme is approved, a vested interest lobby will just drain out the money without delivering the products," he added.

Regarding the draft law on NID

card, the cabinet committee observed that this draft has no merit since it was not framed in the appropriate process. The cabinet needs to discuss the ID card issue because it is so important, and determine how it will be funded. The cabinet should first give a decision, and then the law ministry will frame a draft law. The draft will undergo review and exchange of opinion on it. The home ministry cannot arbitrarily push ahead an ID card project on its own, the members said at the meeting.

The committee was agreeable to MRP. But when members started questioning home ministry officials about various cost components of the project, they failed to give satisfactory answers. "It seemed that they have no clear idea about what they want to achieve through this project," a meeting source noted.

The committee directed the home ministry to give a breakdown of the cost of each component of the MRP project. It also asked the ministry to determine the cost of first phase of the project since it would be wise for the government to fund the whole scheme phase-wise.

The home ministry proposed that in the first phase, the contractor will provide 50 lakh passports and necessary hardware, software, local and foreign manpower and consumables to the immigration and passport department. The offices to be covered in this phase are its head office in Dhaka, national issuance centre, its offices in six divisional headquarters and 12 district headquarters.

At yesterday's meeting, Saifur expressed his surprise at how the home ministry selected one German company only. He noted that at first there was 34 companies, yet the

ministry selected only four and finally one. He said a single company does not have the expertise to cover all aspects of the MRP, therefore many companies should be involved in it.

Sources mentioned that in conceiving and estimating the components of such a sophisticated technical project, the home ministry did not hire any internationally reputed consultant. Most of the concepts were prepared by bureaucrats and an IT consultant hired by the ministry.

The IT consultant, friend of a powerful minister's son, is a Bangladeshi American and he was illegally given a monthly fee of Tk 3 lakh tax-free. The home ministry argues that he was given tax-free payment to avoid double taxation but rules demand that anyone generating local income should pay tax locally.

Another source pointed out that the home ministry also ignored the International Organisation on Migration (IOM), a United Nations body that deals with immigration issues. The IOM is helping different countries to introduce machine-readable passport and visa, and is working in Bangladesh for the last two years for this purpose.

With a foreign ministry official heading the IOM as resident representative, this UN body held a workshop and participated in the exercises of the home ministry on this issue. Though it was willing to assist the home ministry on this scheme, the ministry simply ignored it.

## Citizens' body wants CEC

**FROM PAGE 1**  
dialogues. Besides, the discussants attached great importance to the voter list for the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

Professor Mahmuda Islam said the activities of the CEC and EC have raised questions among the people and that is why there should be an immediate change.

The committee was formed with Professor Rehman Sobhan as its convener on March 20 following a dialogue organised by the CPD, the Daily Star and the Prothom Alo.

It has organised eight regional dialogues in Mymensingh, Jessore, Comilla, Barisal, Sylhet, Rangamati, Chittagong and Rangpur. Around 2,500 people participated and of them, 575 spoke at those dialogues.

On the basis of the dialogues, the committee has prepared a list of proposals for necessary electoral and political reforms, said Syeduzzaman.

Democracy within the political parties should be encouraged. Decision-making, leadership scrutiny at different levels and nominations should go through a participatory process, he said, reading out the list.

A person aspiring to parliament should have party membership at the local level and can get the nomination only after being active in local politics for at least three years, said the noted economist citing from the proposals.

As the opposition political parties have reservations about the chief of the next caretaker government, he said, the citizens' committee has no opinion in this regard.

Referring to the constitution, Syed Manzur Elahi, former adviser to the caretaker government, said there is no mention about the age of the caretaker government chief but it has been stated that it should not exceed 72 years.

The government raised the age limit for chief justice to 67 from 65 but it did not up the age limit for all the public servants, causing controversy, he said

adding that things like this should not be done on an ad hoc basis.

For registration before the election, political parties should submit a copy of the party constitution, names of the party leaders, election manifesto, minutes of the meetings where election manifesto and party candidates were finalised, audit report and necessary information about sources of the party's finance, he said.

On a comment made by the leader of the opposition that citizens' committee is conspiring against democracy, Syeduzzaman explained that only the political parties could be the driving force behind a democratic system. She would be the right person to answer why she had made such remarks, he added.

He said the committee has plans to sit down with the major political parties. Debapriya, member secretary of the committee, said they will send formal letters to the leaders of two major political parties.

Deputy speaker of the parliament should be nominated from an opposition political party and chairperson of the Public Accounts Committee should also be a lawmaker belonging to the opposition, recommended the committee.

It also suggested that the members of the parliamentary standing committees and their chairpersons should be chosen in proportion to the parliamentary seats of the parties.

Registration of the political parties should be made compulsory, it said adding that the members of parliament should make laws and look into whether laws are enforced but they must not be involved in the development and administrative works.

They can however draw attention of the administration and ministries concerned to the problems of their constituencies.

Public servants should not be allowed to contest an election before

three years have gone since their retirement, Syeduzzaman said adding that there are many bad examples in this regard.

Explaining the issue, Mujibul Huq said the present system allows a public servant to exploit his or her position for political purposes and the situation is not transparent at all. "Things can improve if there is a gap of at least three years," he added.

Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed said these recommendations are not merely of the citizens' committee, rather they are from the people of the country.

People are worried about the existing political crisis, he said adding that politicians themselves are not happy with the present political environment.

Debapriya said political reforms are needed along with electoral reforms. The committee will hold a series of dialogues in Dhaka next month to take experts' opinions and it will also organise a national conference in November.

Professor Rehman Sobhan, convener of the committee, M Hafizuddin Khan, former adviser to the caretaker government, Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and Laila Rahman Kabir, former president of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), also spoke on the occasion.

## Quake triggers

**FROM PAGE 16**  
"Waves suddenly came and we ran to the hills. Four people from my group are still missing," said a woman who gave her name as Teti, and who said she had been accompanying Dutch tourists when the waves hit.

"Many small hotels were destroyed," she told EISHinta radio. "Hotels on the beach front of Pangandaran ... the front parts are hit. Boats have been thrown into hotels," she said.

She told the radio that she saw three bodies being collected by residents. Pangandaran is on the south coast of West Java province.

Another resident said the damage was "very bad."

"Children were crying and many are injured," he told EISHinta.

Local military chief Asap Kurniadi said waves were as high as three meters (about 10 feet).

"The tide wasn't too long and now water has returned to the normal level," he said from the West Java town of Garut.

The earthquake at 3:19 pm (0819 GMT) also rattled the capital Jakarta. An aftershock measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale followed about an hour later.

A tsunami warning was issued Monday for India's Nicobar islands following a big underwater earthquake off the south coast of Indonesia, a top local administrator said.

## Hotel staff

**FROM PAGE 16**  
the hotel, took Abul Hussain to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Jahir said the extortionists had been demanding toll from the hotel manager for the last few weeks.

Victim's brother filed a murder case with Ramna Police Station.

## Israel's no to int'l force

**FROM PAGE 16**  
and 12 soldiers have been killed in the violence on either side of the frontier.

Civilian installations, petrol stations and factories elsewhere were also hit, security sources said.

Israel's six-day-old offensive against Hezbollah following the capture of two Israeli soldiers has been primarily an aerial campaign, but government spokesman, Asaf Shariv, said the Israeli army chief of staff confirmed that ground troops had gone into Lebanon, if only briefly.

A military official, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the information, said that a small group of Israeli troops had crossed into Lebanon overnight to attack a Hezbollah position, but then returned to Israel.

"There was a small operation in a very limited area overnight," the source said. "That is over."

Israel has been reluctant to send ground troops into southern Lebanon, an area that officials say has been heavily mined by Hezbollah and could lead to many Israeli casualties.

In the occupied West Bank, Palestinian gunmen ambushed a group of Israeli troops, killing one and wounding at least two in the old city of Nablus, witnesses and military sources said.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Security Council members will start hammering out a detailed agreement on deploying a multilateral security force to Lebanon.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said the force would be essential to stop Hezbollah rocket attacks and give Israel a reason to halt its devastating strikes which have wrecked roads, bridges and power plants across Lebanon.

But Israel said it was too soon to talk of deploying the force. "We're at the stage where we need to be sure that Hezbollah is not deployed at our northern border," government spokeswoman Miri Eisin said.

Hezbollah, which captured two Israeli soldiers and killed eight others last week, is seeking the release of Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. It has not commented on international efforts to halt the fighting.

Israel is demanding the disarming of Hezbollah in line with UN Security Council resolutions -- a task that is beyond a fragile Lebanese government dependent on consensus among rival sectarian groups.

Lebanon, just emerging from three decades of Syrian tutelage, fears that any attempt to tackle Hezbollah directly would re-ignite civil war and split its army.

Hezbollah rocketed Haifa on Sunday, killing eight people in its deadliest attack on Israel, prompting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to warn of far-reaching consequences for Lebanon.

Hezbollah chief Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said the rocketing of Haifa, Israel's third-biggest city, was retaliation.

## JCD man killed

**FROM PAGE 1**  
10:00am and after laying the stone attended a meeting there.

At about 11:00am, he went to attend another programme at Vadeshwar.

Meanwhile, supporters of lawmaker Makbul started gathering at a community centre half a kilometre from the meeting place.

At about 11:15, Makbul went to the community centre and after some time they learnt that JCD leader Enam Ahmed was killed in a shootout with their opponents.

Armed with sticks and weapons other than firearms, Makbul's supporters took position in front of the upazila health complex.

Addressing a rally there, Makbul uttered abusive words to Inam Ahmed Chowdhury.

At one stage,