

## Beg for peaceful solution of Kashmir problem

KARACHI, May 26: Pakistani Army Chief General Mirza Aslam Beg said today he favours a "peaceful resolution" of the problem of Kashmir, claimed by Pakistan and India, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reported, says AFP.

"We seek a peaceful resolution of the issue as peace sought through force can only be retained through force," Gen Beg said while addressing the student officers of the Pakistan Naval Staff College here.

"India has its own problems," he said. "Its centrifugal forces have started coming to surface, setting into pace the historical forces of drift which definitely will have effects on Pakistan and on the region as a whole."

He said Pakistan's main problem with India is the issue of Kashmir, "which needs to be resolved peacefully."

Reuter from Islamabad: Pakistan wants a strong, stable government to emerge in India following Rajiv Gandhi's assassination, able to tackle decades of suspicion and armed conflict, government officials said today.

## JCD sweeps Haraganga College polls

From Our Correspondent, MUNSHIGANJ, May 26: Jatiyatibadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) bagged all the seats in the Haraganga College Students Union elections held on Sunday.

Mohammed Tareq Kashem Khan (Mukul) and Mohammed Maniruzzaman were elected Vice President and General Secretary respectively. The election was held peacefully.

Jatiyatibadi Chhatra Dal, Chhatra League (S-A), Chhatra League (N-S), Chhatra Union and Jatiya Chhatra League participated in the polls.

## Bouddah Purnima

From Page 1 Col. 8 will celebrate the day in the hundreds of monasteries in Chittagong, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Cox's Bazar, Noakhali, Comilla and other regions. The Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed in a message on the occasion conveyed his heartfelt greetings to the Buddhist community and emphasized the message of love and peace of Bouddah for the amity of nations.

The Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, paying her rich tributes to the memory of Bouddah recalled his eternal message of love and non-violence.

The day is declared as public holiday.

In Dhaka, the day will be celebrated by Bangladesh Bouddah Kristi Prachar Sangha at Dharmarajika Vihar through a day long programme which includes a seminar in the afternoon.

The Bangladesh Bouddhist Federation's programme for the day comprises prabhat ferry, hoisting of national and religious flags, mass prayer, Buddha puja, pindadan and illumination at the international Bouddhist Monastery at Merool Bouddah.

## Floods

From Page 1 Col. 7 dykes are being repaired. He said 3540 tons of seed are being arranged for transplant aman and agricultural loans of farmers being reduced to facilitate production of crops in the district after the floodwater recedes. Besides repairing 1647 kilometres of damaged roads and 400 kilometres of bunds the government is replacing bridges which have been washed away with badly bridge and culverts. He hoped that road communication with all the upazilas would be restored in a week and breaches on dykes will be closed within a few days where work has already been undertaken with 320 tons of wheat allocated for the purpose.

Demonstrations and gheraos have taken place in some areas to protest inadequate relief.

The government have so far provided 22000 maunds of rice and 7.25 metric tons of wheat to 13,00,000 affected people till now.

According to the Minister, government opened 187 shelters where about 20 thousand people took shelter and now there are about 4 thousand people sheltered there. The affected people need bamboo to reconstruct their damaged houses before they could shift to their homestead.

Editor: S. M. Ali

"It is a strong government it can deal with problems. If it is a weak government it will be concerned with survival. It is in everybody's interest that it is a strong government," a senior official said.

## Pak copters accorded farewell

The two Pakistani U H-1 helicopters have completed their post-cyclone and tidal surge relief activities in the coastal and offshore islands of Bangladesh, according to an official source in Sunday, reports BSS.

## Khaleda

From Page 1 Col. 4 from the special Saudia aircraft at King Khaled International Airport.

Begum Zia was given a guard of honour by a contingent of the Saudi Royal Guards. National anthems of both the countries were played by the royal band.

She was then conducted to the royal lounge at the airport where she spent sometime.

From the airport the Prime Minister drove in a motorcade to the royal conference palace where she will be staying during the visit.

Earlier on her way from Jeddah to Riyadh the Prime Minister made a stopover at Medinah Al-Munawara where she was received by the governor of Medinah region, Prince Majid Bin Abdul Aziz, and drove straight to the Masjid-e-Nabawi in a ceremonial motorcade to perform ziarat at the holy shrine of Prophet Muhammad (SM).

She performed ziarat at two shrines of Kholaef Rashedin adjacent to the mosque of the Prophet (SM). The Prime Minister offered her Zohr prayer there.

## Beggars

From Page 1 Col. 7 A city shopkeeper Moqsud told this correspondent that he does not find the usual rush of beggars after the disaster as he used to before especially on every Thursday when he used to distribute some money to the beggars.

Moqsud also said that a passenger at the railway station had said very few beggars were seen asking for alms at the station. So was the case at the city bus stops.

A 55-year-old beggar Karim Sheikh told me that he could not go to the far-flung areas for relief because of physical handicaps though many of his friends had already left.

Another beggar Assia Khatun informed that her husband Moqbul and eldest son Rahim had gone to Anowara to avail relief goods.

## Nazrul birthday

From Page 1 Col. 4 took part in the discussion said Nazrul gave our culture a new meaning. He was not obstructed by the limitations of language and culture. His courage was worth following in Third World countries, Chowdhury said.

Khan Ataur Rahman said Nazrul was not only a rebel, but also a poet of romance and tragedy. He will live in the hearts of people for his songs, Khan Ataur said.

Prof Rafiqul Islam who presided over the discussion meeting said Nazrul sought to carry the society forward through contradictions.

Teachers, students and employees of the Dhaka University led by the Vice-Chancellor Maniruzzaman Miah went to the mazar of the poet in a procession in the morning. The Vice-Chancellor laid a wreath at the mazar and inaugurated a cultural function.

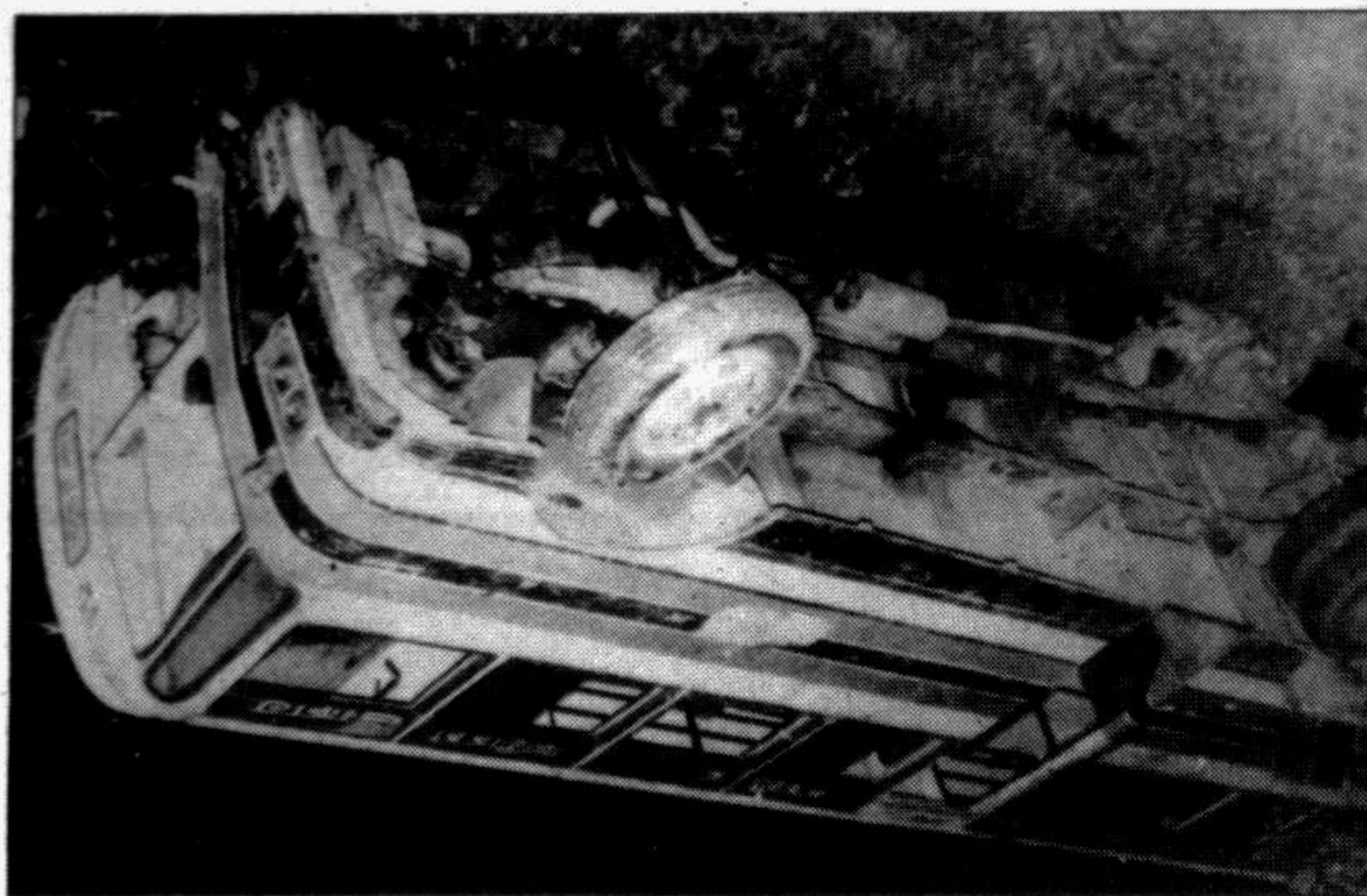
Prof Maniruzzaman Miah said Poet Nazrul was above communalism. There was no place for frustration in his works.

Pre Vice-Chancellor of the University Prof Wakil Ahmed said Nazrul was a people's poet in the true sense of the term.

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy observed the birthday of the poet by placing wreaths at his mazar and offering فاتحہ.

The Director General of the Academy Kamal Lohani was present on the occasion.

The Jatiyatibadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha, the Nazrul Institute, the Nazrul Parishad and the Bibekanda Educational and Cultural Council also organised programmes in observance of Nazrul's birthday.



The ill-fated bus, which fell into a roadside ditch near Shanir Akhra on Dhaka-Demra Highway after colliding head-on with an autorickshaw on Sunday. Eight people were killed in the accident. Story on Page 1. — Star photo

## 5 killed, 25 hurt in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

At least five people were killed and 25 others injured in separate road accidents in and around Dhaka city on Sunday, police, hospital and fire service sources said.

Our SSMCH Correspondent said that five unidentified people were killed on the spot and at least 12 others injured when a passenger bus fell into a roadside ditch after crushing a taxi near Dhania College in Demra on Sunday.

Demra police said that the Dhaka-bound bus (No-Momen-shahi Ba-205) coming from Brahmanbaria crushed the baby taxi (No-Dhaka Metro Ja-832) coming from opposite direction.

The bus fell into a ditch as the driver lost control.

Police could not identify the victims but said that the taxi driver was probably among the dead.

The dead include a seven-year old girl, two teenaged

boys and two middle-aged men.

Fire service personnel rushed to the spot and conducted a rescue operations.

The injured were treated at Sir Salmullah Medical College Hospital, Dhaka Medical College Hospital and other clinics, fire service sources said.

A case has been lodged with Demra police.

In another incident two buses collided at noon Sunday at Narshingdi road near Bulta leaving six people including a woman injured. The injured were sent to the local hospital, fire service sources said.

Four persons were injured in another collision between a truck and a jeep in front of Barchuhara Colony at Tongi the same afternoon.

Another three people were injured when a Dhaka-bound truck knocked them down, also at Tongi. They were taken to the local hospital.

## Koirala appointed Prime Minister

KATHMANDU, May 26: King Birendra has formally appointed Girija Prasad Koirala as Nepal's new Prime Minister, a Royal Palace press note announced over state radio said today.

The King formalised the appointment during a meeting with Koirala at the palace which was also attended by outgoing Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, the radio said.

King Birendra also asked Koirala to submit the names of his intended cabinet.

The king is expected to administer the oath of prime minister to Koirala on Wednesday, when he is also due to publicly announce his cabinet.

Talking to Agence France-Presse, Koirala said, "I prefer a very small cabinet for the time being and I will expand it some time later."

During the meeting at the palace the King also thanked Bhattarai for carrying out his responsibilities as interim prime minister.

## ADB assistance to road, railway sectors assured

The Asian Development Bank has assured all possible assistance in the reconstruction and rehabilitation of road and railway sectors damaged by the cyclone and tidal surge, reports BSS.

The assurance was given by N Morita, Director of ADB when he called on the Communications Minister Oli Ahmad in Dhaka Sunday.

Secretary, Railway Division Nurul Momen Khan, and Resident Representative of ADB in Dhaka B. Dahal were present.

The ADB delegation is now on a visit to Bangladesh to assess the extent of damage in the communications sector.

During the meeting, they discussed the identification of areas requiring immediate and long-term rehabilitation and also timely implementation of damaged roads and railway infrastructures.

## Congress

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to form a government after the elections.

But Rao's lack of a strong political base and the fact that he is not a parliamentary candidate in the election may rule him out of the running for the prime minister's job.

In that case, a senior party leader who has won a seat in parliament would have to be chosen as prime minister.

Rao has served in the cabinets of both Gandhi and his mother, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, herself assassinated in 1984. He did not contest the current elections, saying he was in ill health.

A decision to name Rao would disappoint younger Congress leaders, who believe only Sonia Gandhi can keep together a fractious party that has ruled India for all but five years since independence from Britain in 1947.

The Italian-born Sonia, who showed little interest in politics, appeared today to have rejected fresh efforts to draft her. She refused the party's first offer last Thursday.

The young politicians said Sonia's acceptance would have helped lay the foundations for her 19-year-old daughter, Priyanka, to enter public life.

Priyanka, who has often helped her mother in Gandhi's parliamentary constituency of Amethi, will be eligible to stand for election only at the age of 25 under Indian law.

She impressed on lookers by her composed presence during Ghandhi's funeral ceremony last Friday, evoking memories of her late grandmother.

Anita Verma, an official of the youth wing of the Congress, said party members would not hesitate to accept even political novices like Sonia or Priyanka for the leadership.

But the bid to draft Gandhi's widow generated less enthusiasm among the party's older politicians, sidelined by Gandhi after he took over from his mother in 1984.

The old guard feared that Sonia's foreign origins might be used against the party in the election by the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), whose platform is nationalism.

The BJP, tipped by polls before Gandhi's death to finish just behind Congress, had denounced the attempt to persuade Sonia to accept the presidency.

AFP adds: Congress (I) Party politicians from the state where Raziv Gandhi was killed urged his grieving widow today to succeed him as party chief as the succession issue remained unresolved.

The Tamil Nadu state chapter of Gandhi's party, India's oldest, adopted a resolution here requesting Sonia to reconsider her refusal and become Congress (I) President.

A spokesman for the Congress (I) said today that the party's highest decision-making body the Working Committee, would meet here Wednesday to discuss the question of a successor.

Spokesman Pranab Mukherjee said the meeting could not be held before Wednesday because committee members would be accompanying the ashes of Gandhi for an immersion ceremony in the city of Allahabad.

## NATO to set up 'Rapid Reaction' force

BRUSSELS, May 26: NATO Defence Ministers will approve plans this week to set up a multinational "Rapid Reaction" force aimed at deterring potential new threats to the alliance in Europe now the cold war is over, reports Reuter.

The corps of up to 100,000 men is a key element in NATO's new strategy, which provides for sharp reductions in forces and marks the biggest shakeup of the West's defences and military doctrine since the alliance was founded in 1949.

## Murder raises hopes of steering India clear of violence

NEW DELHI, May 26: Even as it mourns his untimely death, India is trying to look at the positive side of the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, reports Reuter.

His murder last Tuesday by a woman suicide bomber at a campaign rally sent a country already reeling from insurgencies, caste and religious violence as well as its worst economic crisis into deep shock.

The trauma raised the possibility of a series of changes that could start to lift the world's biggest democracy out of the deep mire into which it was sinking, analysts and politicians said on Sunday.

Gandhi, 46, was killed in the middle of India's bloodiest election campaign. At least 200 people had died in campaign violence before the woman blew him up in southern Tamil Nadu state.

"One of the good effects this calamity might have on our people is to produce a certain amount of restraint when the campaign resumes," said Bhabani Sen Gupta of the Centre for Policy Research, an independent think-tank.

About 40 per cent of India voted last Monday, the day before Gandhi was killed. Remaining polls were postponed to mid-June.

"The violence reflected the intensity of the political changes our country is going through, which in turn reflects the maturing of our democracy. In that sense it was a positive thing," an official of the National Front alliance said.

"Rajiv's pointless murder must make people stop and think about whether violence is necessary, so we hope something good will come out of this tragedy," the official said. Gandhi's centrist Congress Party, which has ruled India for all but five years since independence from Britain in 1947, for the first time is fighting opponents on the left and right. Before, it had faced a loosely allied opposition.

Congress was expected to be the biggest party in parliament, but short of a majority. The left-of-centre National Front was taking some of its traditional votes among Muslims and low castes. The surging right-wing Hindu-revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party was taking away many of its usual upper-caste votes.

Congress for all but two years since independence had been led by Gandhi's family. His grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru and then by his mother Indira Gandhi, assassinated in 1984.

"Indians were beginning to get out of the mental bind of the dynasty. The shock of Rajiv's death must lead to the thought, even in Congress, that people can no longer rely on it and do things for themselves. That's positive," Gupta said.

Congress tried to extend the dynasty by drafting Gandhi's Italian-born widow Sonia as its president. She refused and appears to be strongly resisting efforts to change her mind.

"It would have been a stupid thing to do anyway," said the National Front official, who asked not to be identified. "All that would have been needed is a picture of her in a bikini, no matter how old. In a (puritanical) country like this, that would have finished Congress," he said.

"I am glad she is saying 'no'. It's good for everyone. Now we can get down to the politics of policy instead of personality." Gandhi's death offers the possibility, many say probably, of a re-unification of parties at the centre to deal with the major challenge presented by the BJP.

The BJP has campaigned largely on charges the traditional secular politics of India, featuring special protections for the 120 million Muslim minority, discriminates against the Hindu majority. A BJP-governed India will be Hindu and proud of it, it says.

## 'Report on stopping relief wrong'

CHITTAGONG, May 26: The government Sunday described as totally wrong and misleading a report published in a section of the press saying that the government relief had been stopped, reports BSS quoting MID handout.

The handout said: "Attention of the government has been drawn to a report published in a section of the press wrongly quoting Mr Mokammel Haq, Secretary and Zonal Relief Coordinator of Chittagong, as saying that government relief had been stopped. The report is totally wrong and misleading."

## Hearing of Ershad's arms case again adjourned

By Staff Correspondent

The Special Tribunal trying Ershad's arms case has adjourned its proceedings on Sunday to resume on June 1.

The tribunal, chaired by District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Habibullah, adjourned the hearing in view of the petition of the accused in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court to review the verdict of the High Court Division, which rejected the petition of the deposed president for transfer of the case.

The Appellate Division has fixed the date for hearing the petition on May 30.

## Ajker Kagoj

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vocate Rafiqul Haq Ripon and Advocate Mala Raot appeared for the accused and made the bail petition.

The leaders of the journalists union in a statement said the union was of the opinion that in case of any conflict of this kind, matter should be resolved through Press Council though there was opportunity for aggrieved party to sue the newspaper for publication of any libelous news under existing laws.

Twenty-one university teachers in a joint statement protested the arrest of Kazi Shahed Ahmed, Chairman of the board of Editors, Natmul Islam Khan, Editor and Syed Borhan Kabir, staff reporter of the 'Ajker Kagoj'.

## The Midnight File

### Kurdish leaders to talk autonomy

BAGHDAD, May 26: Kurdish leaders have left Baghdad to consult with comrades about a plan under which President Saddam Hussein would grant them autonomy, an Iraqi official said Sunday. One week after the Kurds announced a broad agreement that would lead to self-rule for the Kurds and democracy for Iraq, there was still no announcement Sunday on whether key details had been worked out, reports AP.

### 19 Sikh separatists killed

NEW DELHI, May 26: Security forces shot and killed 19 suspected Sikh separatists in half a dozen separate shootouts in the violence-racked state of Punjab, United News of India reported Sunday. The fighting occurred on Saturday night and on Sunday, the news agency said, reports AP.

### Volcano erupts Japan

TOKYO, May 26: Mount Unzen, a volcano on the main southern Japanese island of Kyushu erupted today injuring one person and forcing some 3,500 local residents to flee. Officials at the disaster prevention headquarters of Shimabara city said people living at the foot of the volcano were ordered to leave their homes as the volcano began violently spewing lava and grey smoke this morning, reports Reuter.

### Ethiopian soldiers flee

ADDIS ABABA, May 26: Thousands of Ethiopian soldiers, sailors and airmen fled to neighbouring countries today as rebels closed in on the capital. In Addis Ababa, some 2,000 students took to the streets in a march for peace, reports AP.

## BMSA threatens action against BSC

CHITTAGONG, May 26: Bangladesh Master Stevedores Association (BMSA) here today threatened to stop all its transactions with Bangladesh Shipping Corporation from May 29 if the latter failed to clear Tk three crore due to the association, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at a local hotel this evening Chairman of the BMSA Farid Ahmad Chowdhury charged that the association members connected with BSC were not paid Taka three crore forcing them to untold sufferings. He said that BSC authorities were approached repeatedly for clearing the arrears but they had agreed to pay only Taka 25 lakh out of the total arrears of Taka three crore. We did not agree to receive Taka 25 lakh, he said.

Farid Ahmad accused that the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) had also failed to honour its commitment to pay 35 per cent enhanced wages and allowances to dock workers and employees of stevedores and that Taka 12 crore had been accumulated in this connection. The CPA, he added, had also not paid this accumulated amount causing extreme financial difficulties to the dock workers, stevedores and their employees. He further alleged that bureaucratic complacencies in CPA were hampering payment of Taka 12 crore due to the stevedores. He said that the BMSA would be forced to go for action to realise the arrears from CPA.

Hasina From Page 1 Col. 5 killing of Rajiv Gandhi. The Awami League President also had meetings with PLO Chief Yasser Arafat and Pakistan's former Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto in the Indian capital.

In a statement in New Delhi, Hasina termed the assassination as a crushing blow to democracy, democratic values and electoral process in India and the sub-continent as well.

In the tragic death of Rajiv Gandhi, she said, India lost an outstanding leader who was a symbol of national unity, communal harmony, stability and progress.

Hasina further said in his death this region and the international community lost a statesman of vision, who was committed to a better world where humankind looked forward to peace and stability as it moved towards the 21st century.

## Loan repayment

From Page 1 Col. 4 will have no role in this process but it will publish the names of those who reached understanding with their banks for repayment of credits and remained no longer defaulters, he added.

Replying to a question, the governor said total amount of bad and doubtful debts which had so far been classified by the scheduled banks stood at Taka 6000 crore. It represented 30 per cent of total bank credits of Taka 22,000 crore till date and covered credit operations in different sectors.

He said credit overdue in the agricultural sector amounted to Taka 3800 crore. A substantial portion of this amount has also been classified as bad and doubtful debts and is included in the aggregate amount.

S B Chowdhury pointed out that the sector-wise break-up of bad and doubtful debts had not been compiled as yet. He however said industry accounted for 36 per cent of total bank credits and agriculture absorbed 21 per cent. The rest of the credits went to other sectors, he added.

The governor said, the classification of bad and doubtful debts would continue to be done in the future by the commercial banks. About the published lists of large defaulters with their outstanding credits exceeding Taka 2.5 crore in each individual case, he said an amount of Taka 2300 crore was to be realised from 223 defaulters with scheduled banks, Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha and Investment Corporation of Bangladesh. Out of this amount, defaulters in the private sector owed Taka 1200 crore and those in the public sector, Taka 1100 crore, he added.

A still photograph of the woman was published in the Madras-based daily, The Hindu, on Friday. She was about 5 feet tall, had the dark complexion and features of a Tamil and was dressed in an orange and green salwar-kameez, a loose shirt and trouser combination.

The man was suspected of involvement in the assassination because of his mysterious disappearance after the explosion and because he was not a journalist, the sources said.

There appeared to be no reason for him to hire a photographer for the meeting other than as a cover, they said.

Neither the woman assassin nor the man have as yet been identified, the sources said, but an amateur video film maker took a film on which both appeared, they said.

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DU campus From Page 1 Col. 7 clashes between the two conflicting groups took place on May 15 and 16, leaving several persons injured.

The BCL activists are dominant in Zahurul Huq Hall, Salimullah Hall and Jagannath Hall while Mohsin Hall, Surjansen Hall, Jasmuddin Hall, Zia Hall and Mujib Hall are the strongholds of JCD. The activists of the armed groups are alleged also interfering in the administrative affairs of the halls.