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NEWS BRIEFS

Reception to
mayors May 7The Bangladesh City and
Municipal Employees Federation
will accord a reception to the
four mayors of Dhaka, Chit-
tagong, Khulna and Rajshahi
city corporations on May 7 at
12 noon in front of the Nagar
Bhaban in the capital. LGD
and Cooperatives Minister
Abdus Salam Talukdar will at-
tend the function as the chief
guest.Cloth shop gutted
By Staff CorrespondentA cloth shop in the New
Market was gutted yesterday.
Both fire service and police
said that the fire originated
from an electric short circuit
in the Khan Brothers around
11 in the morning. Two units
of fire service from Palashi and
Mohammadpur brought the
flame under control within half
an hour. The owner estimated
the loss at Tk 50,000. No ca-
sualties were reported.

PLO, Israel sign pact, finally

CAIRO, May 4: Israeli Prime
Minister Yitzhak Rabin and
PLO leader Yasser Arafat over-
came a last-minute dispute and
signed a historic accord
Wednesday giving Palestinians
their first taste of self-rule, re-
ports AP.The agreement came after
more than six months of nego-
tiations and nearly 27 years of
occupation by Israeli soldiers
in the Gaza Strip and Jericho,
the areas to be turned over to
Palestinian control.A smiling Arafat was the
first to begin signing the 200-
page document in three thick
black books and a stack of files.
But then he briefly walked out
of the hall in a dispute over the
documents.He returned minutes later
and signed documents he ap-
parently refused to endorse
earlier, writing notations on a
disputed part of the papers.
Rabin then signed one document
after an aide translated
Arafat's Arabic writing.The dispute produced an
extraordinary scene as
Egyptian President Hosni
Mubarak, US Secretary of State
Warren Christopher and otherdignitaries appeared to be ne-
gotiating on stage as speeches
continued.Egypt's Middle East News
Agency said that the confusion
was apparently over a map of
Jericho, whose exact size is
still being negotiated. Arafat
apparently did not sign the
map, and then Rabin also re-
fused to sign it.CAIRO, May 4: Israeli Prime
Minister Yitzhak Rabin said to-
day PLO leader Yasser Arafat
had asked for up to a three-week
delay in implementing the han-
dover of authority to Palestinians
in the Gaza Strip and Jericho be-
cause they were not ready, re-
ports Reuters.Mubarak, however, who
presided at the signing cere-
mony, said the agreement
meant 'a revolutionary change'
in relations between Israel and
the Palestinians."We are living today one of
those historic moments when we
witness the signing of the
... agreement on establishing
the Palestinian authority in the
Gaza Strip and Jericho as the
first stage of Palestinian-Israeli
peace," Mubarak said.Standing nearby as he
spoke were Rabin in a dark
suit and Arafat in military uni-
form and black-and-white
checked head dress.With the signing, Israel is to
begin withdrawing troops from
Gaza and the West Bank town
of Jericho. The Jewish state
also will release in the coming
days 2,500 Palestinians im-
prisoned during the struggle
against occupation.Also, the first of 9,000
Palestinian police named by
the Palestine Liberation
Organization move into the
Jericho area on the West Bank
and the Gaza Strip.Israel is pledged to com-
plete the troop pullout in
three weeks.Mubarak, Christopher and
Russian Foreign Minister
Andrei Kozyrev signed as wit-
nesses, with the American and
Kozyrev representing their na-
tions as sponsors of the Middle
East Peace process.Christopher said the
agreement would not end con-
tention in the Middle East but
was changing the shape of con-
tention.

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(From L to R): Foreign Ministers Shimon Peres of Israel, Russian Alexander Kozyrev, Egypt's Amr Moussa, Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak entreat PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat after he refused to sign a document of the Gaza-Jericho autonomy deal in Cairo yesterday.

8 die in Bhaluka
bus accident

From Our Correspondent

BHALUKA (Mymensingh),
May 4: At least eight passen-
gers of a minibus were killed
and another 40 injured, five of
them critically, when the ve-
hicle collided head-on with a
truck at Hajirbazar here on the
Dhaka-Mymensingh highway
this morning.Four of the dead were iden-
tified. They are: Bulbul Ahmed,
35, a diploma engineer of Azz
and Company of Motijheel
Commercial Area, Dhaka who
hails from Dhanikhola village
of Trishal thana under Mymen-
singh district, Dula, 30, a
constable of the Uttara Police
Battalion, Dhaka, Mamtaz Ali
Mridha, 35, of Natore and
Hasan Haider, 30, of Kishore-
ganj. The identities of the
remaining four could not be
known immediately.Of the injured, 21 were
admitted to the Mymensingh
Medical College Hospital
(MMCH) where the conditions
of five persons were stated to
be critical.According to police and
eye-witnesses, the accident
happened at about 7:00 am
when the Dhaka-bound truck
suddenly hit the overloaded
minibus coming from the op-
posite direction.

See Page 12 Col 6

PM inaugurates
Batexpo today

By Staff Correspondent

A three-day Bangladesh
Apparel and Textile Exposition
(BATEXPO) begins today at the
Sonargaon Hotel to promote
the export of domestic prod-
ucts.The BATEXPO, organised by
the Bangladesh Garment
Manufacturers and Exporters
Association (BGMEA), will be
inaugurated by Prime Minister
Begum Khaleda Zia in her
official capacity.

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All issues can be solved in JS: PM

By Staff Correspondent



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the opening sitting of the 14th session of the fifth Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

The Leader of the Jatiya
Sangsad and Prime Minister
Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday
made an appeal to all the
Opposition MPs to attend
Parliament session for resolv-
ing the national problems
through discussions on the
floor of the House.She was addressing the
14th session of the country's
Fifth Parliament which began
yesterday.The Premier's call came as
all Opposition MPs are boy-
cotting the current session to
press home their demand for
an early elections under a
care-taker government.Terming the law-makers as
her allies and friends and re-
calling their contributions to
the restoration of democracy,
Khaleda Zia said, "We hope, we
would be able to reach agree-
ment on the ways of solving all
problems through discussion
in the House."She said, "Out of three na-
tional objectives — indepen-
dence, democracy and eco-
nomic development — indepen-
dence, democracy and eco-
nomic development are the
most important."

See Page 12 Col 1

BDR, BSF exchange
fire in C'nawabganj

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, May
4: Members of the Bangladesh
Rifles (BDR) and the Indian
Border Security Force (BSF)
exchanged fire across the
Dilbowa border area under
Bholahat thana here today fol-
lowing a clash between vil-
lagers on both sides of the
border.However, no casualties were
reported.Official sources here said a
colonel-level flag meeting has
been convened for tomorrow
morning between the BDR and
the BSF at the Sona Masjid
Border outpost to defuse the
tension.According to sources, some
Indian nationals from Peyaza-
mbhar of Maldah sneaked into
Dilbowa village of Bangladesh
and allegedly took away some
cows from the villagers at
about 9 last night. The vil-
lagers, however, managed to
apprehend three of the Indian
intruders.As a sequel to this, the
Indian villagers, reportedly in
cooperation with the BSF,
again entered into Bangladesh
and kidnapped two citizens
and their cows at about 8:30
this morning.At this stage, the BDR per-
sonnel fired blank shots to
chase the Indians away. The
BSF members also fired 30 to
40 times.Tension was prevailing at
the Dilbowa border area till
filing of this report at 10:15
tonight.India denies
airspace
violationIndia has denied that its Air
Force fighter planes had vi-
olated the Bangladesh air-
space, as reported in the press, says
UNB.In a statement made avail-
able to the press in Dhaka
yesterday, a spokesman of the
Indian government said it had
made enquiries and found that
Indian Air Force planes did not
make any sorties over the
Bangladesh territory.He said the investigations
had been carried out in re-
sponse to a query about some
press reports in Bangladesh al-
leging that Indian Air Force
fighter planes had violated the
Bangladesh airspace.The investigations reveal
that Indian Air Force planes
did not make any sorties in the
area concerned and there was,
therefore, no question of any
airspace violations taking place
from our side," said the state-
ment issued by the Indian
High Commission here.Opposition rejects
PM's speechThe Opposition has re-
jected Prime Minister Begum
Khaleda Zia's appeal for joining
the current Parliament ses-
sion, saying she had over-
looked the national demand
for a caretaker government to
hold general elections, reports
UNB."We would have been happy
if she (Prime Minister) had
committed in Parliament a bill
for a caretaker government."But she ignored the national
demand," Leader of the
Opposition Sheikh Hasina told
reporters at a press briefing
shortly after Begum Zia's
speech in the House last night.Leader of the House Prime
Minister Begum Zia in her
official capacity.

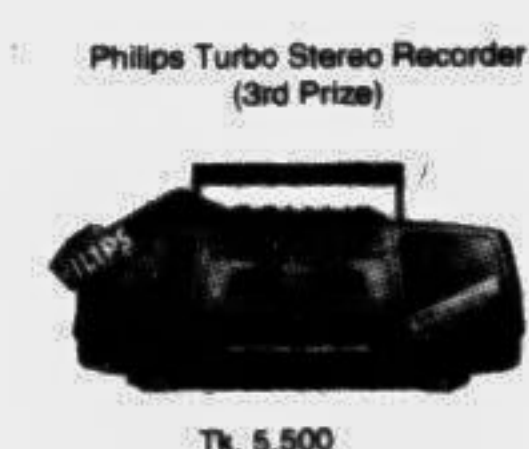
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The Daily Star
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Quiz CompetitionROUND 4
IS NOW ONWin a Powervision 21" Colour TV of
Tk. 26,950 and many other fabulous prizesYour chance to watch the World
Cup '94 final by winning our
Bumper Prize of an all-paid trip
to Los Angeles and a super ticket
to the July 17 final. Plus
US\$1000 as pocket expenses.
—See Page 11 for details

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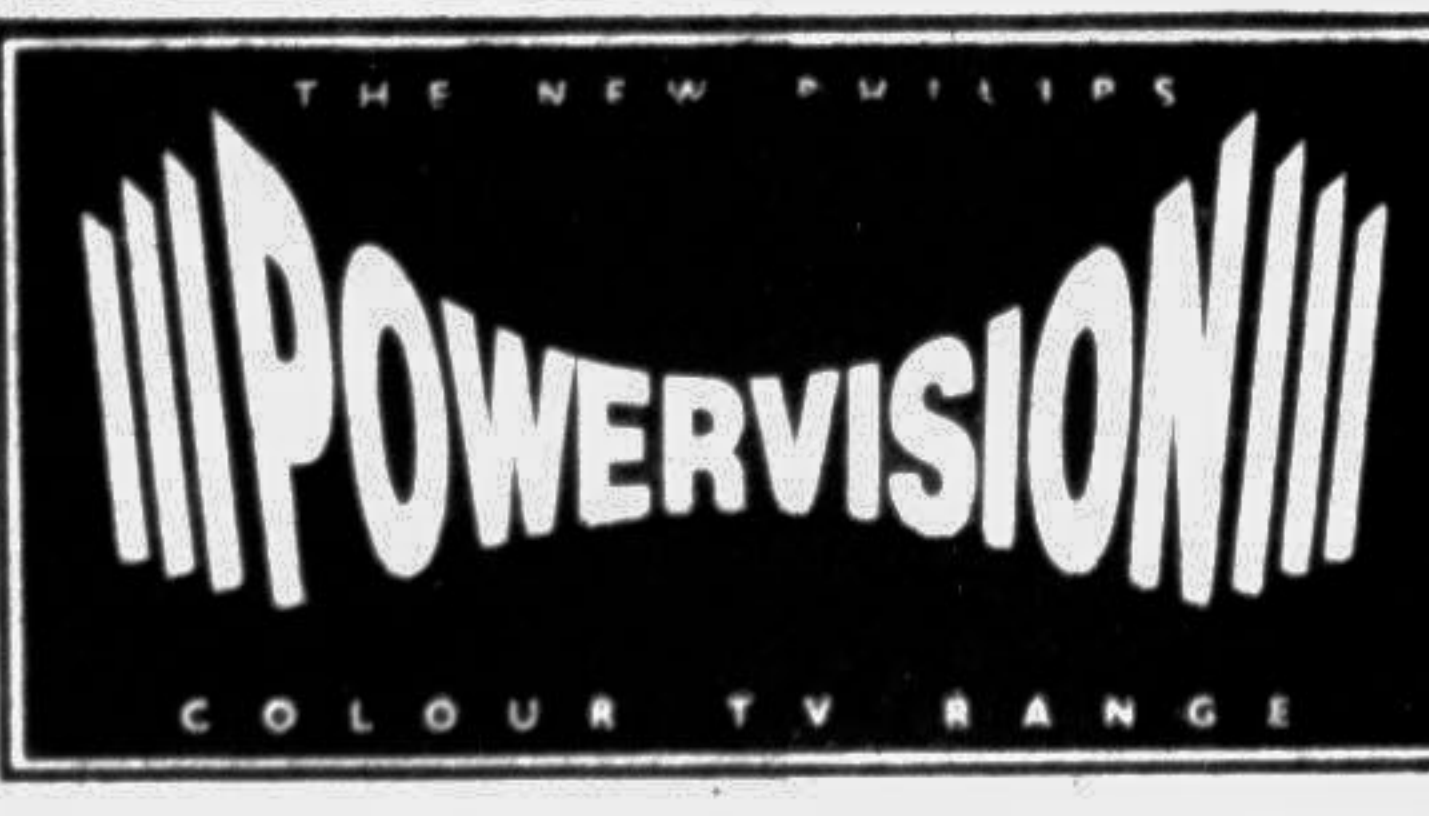
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PHILIPS

Last entry date for Quiz 3 has been extended up to 7 May.

CHT peace talks resume today

From Staff Correspondent

Both sides are expected to
have crucial talks for a political
solution to the long-standing
CHT issue.The Shantibahini team will
be brought to the meeting
venue from Dudukchhari border
village of Panchhari thana
by helicopter in the morning.
They will be flown back after
the talks.The security in the border
areas of Panchhari in
Khagrachhari district has been
relaxed by withdrawing eight
camps ahead of tomorrow's
talks in fulfillment of a pre-
condition of the rebel leaders
to facilitate their arrival, offi-
cial sources said.The sixth round of talks was
held on November 22 last year
at the same venue.The cease-fire now in force
in the CHT districts expires on
May 15.India's Tripura State Gov-
ernor Romesh Bhandari and a
delegation of Chakma refugees,
led by Upendra Lal Chakma,
chairman of the Refugee
Welfare Association separately
visited the CHT last month to
see the rehabilitation of 379
families of Chakma refugees
repatriated in February this
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