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## Truce talks in Rwanda amid heavy fighting

KIGALI, May 30: Rwandan rebel and army commanders opened UN-mediated truce talks in Kigali today, amid heavy fighting which prevented UN troops from evacuating civilians. UN officials said, reports AFP.

Gunfire erupted outside the UN headquarters at the Amahoro Hotel minutes before army Brigadier General Marcel Gatsuzini arrived in a white

### Border trade

From Page 1 Col 5

marily allow the sale and purchase of goods between the two countries via Teknaf border of Bangladesh and Maungdaw region of Myanmar located in the Rakhine province.

Trade will be carried out by maritime transports across the Naaf river. Special ferry service will be opened in the river for this purpose. A customs checkpoint will be set up and other infrastructural facilities will also be made available in the area for conducted trade through the border.

Trade between the respective zones of the two countries would be conducted in accordance with the foreign exchange regulations in force. Payments would be effected through the Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank and the Sonali Bank of Bangladesh.

The trade accord will be valid for one year, but will be automatically renewed if no side objects.

The goods likely to be exported to Myanmar under the trade accord include cosmetics, toiletries, newsprint, fertilizer and pharmaceutical products. The items which are likely to be imported include timber, forest products, bamboo, fresh vegetables, chilly, spices, betel nuts, shrimp and livestock.

UN armoured personnel carrier (APC).

His armoured vehicle broke down 300 metres (yards) from the UN headquarters delaying the opening of the talks by 30 minutes as two others APCs were sent to collect Gatsuzini, accompanied by four senior army officers.

Colonel Frank Mugabage, representing the rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front, arrived a few minutes later and went into the talks, mediated by UN Deputy Force Commander Brigadier Henry Anyidoho of Ghana.

### Appointments

By Staff Correspondent

The government has made some appointments in the position of joint secretaries.

Member of the Land Reforms Board Md Ashrafuddin has been appointed joint secretary of the Ministry of Works.

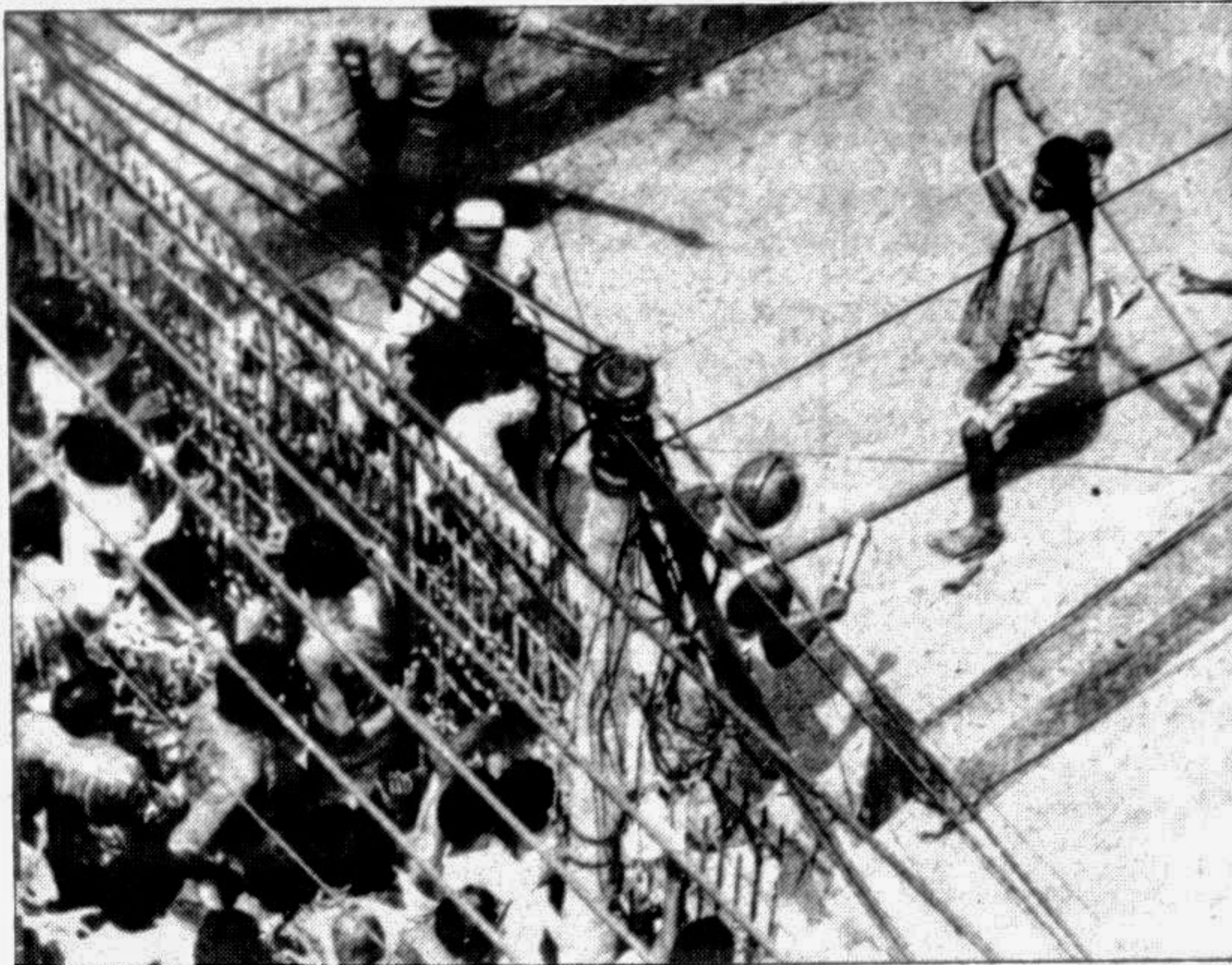
Matiur Rahman, Director of the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation, has been appointed Joint Secretary of the Land Ministry.

Member of the RAJUK F M Yahya Chowdhury has been appointed Joint Secretary of the Road Transport Division.

Joint Secretary of the Economic Relations Division A F M Sarwar Kamal has been appointed Economic Minister of the Bangladesh Embassy in Bonn.

Deputy Secretary of the Economic Relations Division Syed Shah Alam has been appointed Economic Counsellor at Bangladesh Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Military Estate officer of Dhaka Cantonment M Abdul Karim has been appointed First Secretary (Economic) at the Bangladesh Embassy in Brussels, Belgium.



A bamboo-welding young man rushes towards a fireman preparing to fight a blaze at a plastic factory, seemingly ignoring a call for restraint from a policeman (L) while a milling crowd watches the scene at Bara Katra in the city yesterday.

### Plastic factory, houses gutted in city

By Staff Correspondent

A plastic factory and some houses were gutted in a big fire at Bara Katra, in the old part of the capital yesterday.

Some ten people suffered minor injuries when they started running for safety. All of them were given first aid.

Both police and fire servicemen said that the fire originated from an electric short circuit around 10 in the morning and gutted Madina Plastic Factory at 16/1 Bara Katra and 20 other houses.

A group of angry people assaulted firemen reportedly for their late arrival.

A fire service spokesman said the delay was due to the traffic jam in the narrow streets and alleys in the old part of the city.

Seven units from four fire service stations — Lalbagh, Palashi, Sadarghat and Headquarters — rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control within an hour, he added.

Fire servicemen said the total loss could not be estimated immediately.

### 36 held for selling US Green Card lottery forms

By Staff Correspondent

The Detective Branch (DB) of police yesterday arrested 36 people in the capital for selling forms and envelopes illegally for the US Green Card lottery 1994.

All of them detained in he city's DB office at Minto Road are likely to be produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court today (Tuesday).

A special team raided Gulistan, Motijheel and Farmgate areas and arrested the people for selling the forms and envelopes. The raid that began at 12:30 pm continued for two hours, according to police.

A police officer said the people were selling the forms and envelopes without any prior permission. "The arrested people were accused of cheating the innocent people", said the police officer.

The US State Department recently announced its Green Card lottery — Diversity Visa (DV) -1 programme '94.

### Bar Council debars lawyer

The Bangladesh Bar Council, in a recent decision, has debarred Advocate M A Hamid of Rajshahi from legal practice for a period of ten years because of serious professional misconduct, reports BSS.

The case, in brief, is that Hamid received Taka 3,500 from one A Majid, the complainant, to file an appeal in the Administrative Tribunal.

Advocate Hamid cheated Majid by misappropriating the money and did not file the appeal as promised. When complainant Majid wanted back his money, Advocate Hamid decline to return the cash.

## Azam tried to return to Dhaka in '71: Yusuf

Gulam Azam's attempt to come back to Dhaka from Karachi on December 3, 1971 speaks of his intention to identify himself with the then East Pakistan which was converted into Bangladesh. Azam's counsel A R Yusuf, Bar-at Law told the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday, reports BSS.

As the court resumed the ninth day's hearing on the appeal against the verdict of the High Court division restoring Azam's citizenship, Yusuf submitted arguments against those made earlier by Attorney General Aminul Huq.

In reply to the Attorney General's contention that Azam is a citizen of Pakistan — he came to this country with a Pakistani passport and had extended his visa twice — Yusuf submitted that Golam Azam was in Pakistan under compulsion and he obtained a Pakistani passport only as a travel document.

Elaborating, Yusuf said that Golam Azam had left Dhaka for West Pakistan on November 22, 1971 for 10 days to attend his party's working committee meeting in Lahore when no passport was required for travelling between the then East Pakistan and West Pakistan.

He said Azam was coming back to Dhaka by a PLA flight from Karachi on December 3 but when the plane approached near Dhaka, war started between India and Pakistan and Dhaka airport was bombed. So, the aircraft with all the passengers, was diverted to Colombo and as Karachi airport also came under bomb attacks, the flight was taken to Jeddah. That, after ceasefire, the 'distressed passengers' went back to Karachi and thus Azam was stranded in Pakistan.

Yusuf submitted that after 11 months of 'compulsory stay' in Pakistan, Azam left for London in early December, 1972 and until yesterday he had never visited Pakistan.

He said when Azam was in London for five to six years almost in a 'stateless condition' he could have gone to Pakistan like others, but he did not do so.

Yusuf said when Azam arrived in London from Pakistan, he was disqualified from becoming a citizen of Bangladesh and, therefore, the doors of the Bangladesh high commission in London were closed to him.

Yusuf said Azam had always upheld the interest of the then East Pakistan.

### Farakka issue

From Page 1 Col 8

Bangladesh is also expected to reiterate condemnation for the unabated Serbian aggression on the predominantly Muslim republic in the Balkan peninsula.

Dhaka's resolute stand on the issue is "Bosnia-Herzegovina is an independent and sovereign state and its territorial integrity must be protected."

Dhaka is expected to support a move for peaceful resolution of the conflicts and civil wars in Yemen and Rwanda.

In reply to the Attorney General's argument that Azam had abandoned his permanent residence in Bangladesh, Yusuf said if a person goes to another country with the intention to live in that country permanently and indefinitely and in effect he has implemented that intention only, then his earlier permanent residence is abandoned.

Yusuf relied on a decision of the Pakistan Supreme Court published in the XXV Dhaka Law Report (DLR), the Supreme Court, and two decisions of the House of Lords — Bell against Kennedy, reported in the 1886 Law Report and Uday versus Uday, reported in the 1869 Law Report.

He submitted that Azam did not want to reside permanently in the then West Pakistan (Pakistan).

The hearing resumes today.

### NDP leader

From Page 1 Col 4

He felt that it would be short-sighted to see the demand for a caretaker government as an isolated issue.

Rather, efforts need to be made both by the government and the Opposition to evolve constructive ways for making representative government functional and accountable.

The BNP leader was critical of some government leaders for terming the demand unconstitutional. "If the demand is a violation of the Constitution why does the government not take action against the violators?" he posed.

The government, which seems paralysed, must talk sensibly for resolution of the problem, he said.

Explaining the situation that prompted the Opposition to raise the demand, Chowdhury said the BNP government has created an impression that a democratically-elected government is inefficient and incompetent.

On the functioning of the Election Commission, he referred to the Article 126 of the Constitution which envisages that the duty of all executive authority shall be to assist the Election Commission in the discharge of its functions.

But, he said, the activities of the Election Commission are mainly confined to preparing ballot boxes and appointing polling officials. "It is basically a monitoring office, providing only logistic support to conduct voting."

Chowdhury said the main problem is the law and order situation during elections, the control of which is in the hands of the executive of the party in power. This problem must be addressed for ensuring fair voting, he said.

During elections, the NDP leader suggested, the controlling authority for law and order must be vested in a neutral and non-partisan authority — the Election Commission.

Asked about the present stand-off on the question of a caretaker government, he hoped that a solution might be worked out during the budget session of Parliament beginning June 6.

## 6 die in separate incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

At least six people were killed in separate incidents in the capital and Narayanganj on Sunday and Monday.

Two persons were killed in road accidents while four others reportedly committed suicides.

A 35-year-old unidentified man was run over by a minibus near the Kanchpur Bridge around 1 pm yesterday while Asfar Uddin, 70, was smashed under a truck near Rampura Bazar late Sunday night.

A teenage girl, Kohinur Begum, killed herself by hanging in Amulia village of Demra late Sunday night. She was a daughter of a day-labourer, Ali Rahman.

She was buried yesterday with the permission of a magistrate. No autopsy was done.

Three others — Zillur Rahman, 35, of Banani, Delwar Hossain, 20 and Abdul Gani, 25, of Narayanganj — died in the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) after taking insecticide. All of them reportedly committed suicide.

All the bodies were sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

## Number of smokers rises by 4 pc

The number of smokers in Bangladesh rose by around 4 per cent this year despite anti-smoking campaign by national and international organisations.

Tobacco industry sources told UNB last night that bidi manufacturing registered an increase of nearly 4 per cent during the current fiscal year. Cigarette production, however, declined by the same percentage.

The sources estimated manufacturing of bidi at about 800 crore per month. The monthly cigarette production is around 1.2 crore. Cigarette constitutes only 10 per cent of the tobacco industry in the country.

## Schoolboy stabbed to death

By Staff Correspondent

A schoolboy was stabbed to death when two groups of armed men clashed at Mohakhali Madhyapara in the city last night.

The victim Abu Zafar Khokon appeared in the SSC examinations from the Dhanmendi Boys High School this year. He was attacked by the armed men when he was returning home at Madhyapara from a nearby audio video centre.

## 2 mugged near police control room at Shahbagh

A group of muggers prowling around the Suhrawardy Uddyan early Monday attacked and robbed two vegetable vendors, reports UNB.

Five teenage boys, carrying daggers and knives, swooped on the two vendors who were on their way to Kawanbazar to buy vegetables from the wholesale market. The victims were robbed of their money.

The incident occurred at about 5:15 am in front of the mazar of national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam, near the police control room.

## GF seeks govt action against 'Fatwa' mongers

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of the Gono Forum Monday urged the government to take stern action against those repressing the country's poor and women in the name of fatwa.

The Forum leaders in a statement expressed their concern over the continued incidents of harassment and torture by a section of "religious" leaders of the country.

"They were pushing the country backward by launching pre-planned attacks on the projects involving women's literacy, rural employment and women franchise," they said.

The Forum leaders pointed out that this section had earlier attempted to thwart the progressive movement and worked against the independence movement of the country.

## The Midnight File

### South Africa becomes NAM member today

CAIRO, May 30: The Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) here Monday welcomed South Africa to join the grouping of more than 100 nations following its first all-race elections last month. The Egyptian news agency Mena reported, senior NAM officials raised the South African flag after deciding to accept its application. Mena said. It will officially become the 109th member on Tuesday when foreign ministers open a conference, reports AFP.

### Tuzla airport comes under heavy shelling

TUZLA (Bosnia-Herzegovina), May 30: Bosnia's Tuzla-Dubrave airport, which is under UN protection, came under heavy shelling today, a United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) officer said. "We're being shelled, we're on red alert and everyone is in the shelters," the duty officer at the airport, some 20 kilometres (12 miles) south-east of the town of Tuzla, told AFP by telephone.

## Test-firing of 'Prithvi' early next month

NEW DELHI, May 30: A test firing of India's "Prithvi" ballistic missile, which was postponed to avoid angering US officials during Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's official visit to Washington, has been rescheduled for early next month, reports AP.

The surface-to-surface missile will be test fired between June 4 and six, the United News of India news agency reported Monday.

A government notification has been issued for moving the people around the firing range to nearby shelters, the news agency said.

Rao told parliament on May 12 on the eve of his departure for US that there was no pressure on the country to abandon its missile programme.

Rao and President Clinton discussed strained relations between the two countries over India's nuclear and missile programmes.

The "Prithvi," which means earth, is to undergo its 13th

test launch before being deployed by the army along India's western border with Pakistan.

The Prithvi missile can carry a one-ton payload up to 250 kilometres (156 miles). It could thus target many cities in Pakistan, with which India has fought three wars.

The United States has been trying to persuade nuclear-capable India and Pakistan to scale down their ballistic weapons programme. Last month, US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott visited the two countries and discussed ways New Delhi and Islamabad could reduce tensions and prevent an arms race in South Asia.

The Prithvi, along with a longer range Agni missile, are the showpieces of the project to develop missiles, which India says are needed for air defence and to counter the threat posed by Pakistan's deployment of Chinese-made M-11 missiles.

### DMFA final

From Page 1 Col 8

Hammedan Sporting Club, beat Abahani 1-0 to scramble into the semifinals where they prevailed over Mohammedans 5-4 in a marathon encounter, culminating in tie breakers Saturday.

In the second semifinal the following day, in another grueling battle spanning 120 minutes Abahani came back from behind to dash star student Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kriha Chakra's hopes of a vent, vidi, kick-type of soccer coup with a 2-1 win.

Radio Bangladesh and Bangladesh Television will cover the match live.

### No-Tobacco Day

From Page 1 Col 3

sion calling for the people to beware of the health hazards posed by tobacco.

"It is our moral duty to halt the silent but dangerous killer," the President said in his message.

Biswas said the media could play a great role in making the people aware of the harmful effects of the high-risk behaviour. "It is our moral obligation to open the window to a tobacco-free world through our own behaviour and selfless endeavours."

The Prime Minister in her message termed tobacco harmful to public health and emphasised the need for making people aware of the health hazards and motivating them to shun smoking. She wished World No-tobacco Day a success.

The Leader of the Opposition urged the experts and concerned people to come forward to create awareness among the people about dangers of smoking. The success of anti-smoking movement is a necessary pre-condition for the development of public health in Bangladesh, Hasina said.

### Inflation rate

From Page 1 Col 3

0.5 billion in Nepal, 0.08 billion in Bhutan, 0.04 billion in the Maldives, 1.4 billion in Sri Lanka and 1.2 billion dollars in Pakistan.

Sri Lanka had the highest per capita income of 550 US dollars among the SAARC countries while it is 470 dollars in the Maldives, 440 in Pakistan, 415 in India, 220 in Bangladesh and 180 dollars in Nepal.

## Black US Muslim leader shot

WASHINGTON, May 30: A former "Nation of Islam" leader Khalid Abdul Muhammad was shot at and wounded today at a parking lot in the University of California, Riverside, after he finished a speech, reports PTI.

However, he was not seriously injured.

## Kamal repeats call

From Page 1 Col 3

modalities of holding a discussion to get out of the present impasse could be worked out. "Discussions could as well be held in Parliamentary committees, is not in the House, itself, he hastened to add. "There is no alternative to dialogues and discussions in a crisis situation like the present one."

Dr Kamal Hossain thought democratic pluralism is the essence of a multi-party democratic society. In such a society, all matters must be discussed unitedly to put pressure on the government to achieve national consensus on fundamental issues.

Referring to the vicious effect of black money and mass-tamism (terrorism) on elections, he said all political parties on both sides of the fence must concertedly combat these menaces. There cannot be free and fair elections as long as these menaces are allowed to have free play during polls.

He also called for concerted effort to fight campus violence, communalism and for countering preachings of the pseudo godman and religious pundits.

In reply to a question, the Forum chief said a caretaker government is no guarantee to a free and fair election. He called for evolving an effective mechanism to ensure free and fair elections.

Dr Kamal urged all political parties to go to the people and explain that in the event of unfair and rigged elections their franchise would become the biggest casualty.

He agreed with a questioner that there could be a referendum on the demand for holding elections under a caretaker government. He also suggested issuance of identity cards to individual voters and investing the Election Commission with wider powers, etc., as steps towards ensuring free and fair elections.

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