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# The Daily Star

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## ADP likely to remain unchanged

The size of Annual Development Programme (ADP) of the current fiscal year (1996-97) is expected to remain unchanged in view of better utilisation of budgetary allocation, a senior planning ministry official said.

The official told BSS yesterday that the original ADP was estimated at Tk 12,500 crore in the current fiscal with Tk 5,200 crore of the fund coming from the foreign donors.

A draft proposing to keep the size of ADP unchanged has been prepared by the planning ministry for placing it to the forthcoming extended meeting of the National Economic Council (NEC) for approval. The meeting is expected to be held on April 15 with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. The ADP

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## Steps taken to set up seven power plants: Noor Uddin

By Staff Correspondent

The government has taken preliminary steps for setting up seven power plants, mostly with private investment, having capacity of around 1700 MW to meet the growing demand for power in the country, Energy Minister Noor Uddin Khan said yesterday.

Presently the country's power units can generate around 2200 MW power, but they are now generating around 1600 MW mainly due to gas supply shortage. The demand for power in the year 2000 will shoot up to 3150 MW from the present level of 2100 MW, the minister said quoting a forecast.

"Which means we will have to have at least 1050 MW more in power generation," he told a group of editors of different national dailies at a meeting at the state guest house Padma. Noor Uddin Khan said that Bangladesh was literally "float-

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## Samad Azad leaves for Seoul today

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad leaves for Seoul today in quest of Korean investment and jobs for Bangladeshis, reports UNB.

His three-day official visit to the Republic of Korea (ROK) begins on Wednesday, said an official release yesterday.

He will be accompanied by Director General (Far East) Sirajul Islam and Director Shahadat Hossain of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Foreign Minister will carry a letter from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for South Korean President Kim Young Sam.

During the visit, Azad will hold an official talk with his Korean counterpart, Yoo Chang-ha, covering entire bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of common concern.

Matters relating to expansion of bilateral economic co-

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# Hasina ready to discuss all issues with Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her willingness to discuss with Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Khaleda Zia, all issues now facing the nation and participate in a live Television programme to answer all questions.

"I am willing to discuss all issues directly with the people. Let her also come on Television and discuss with the people. Journalists can be present and ask all sorts of question."

She made the above offer while talking to editors of national dailies and news agencies at the International Conference Centre (ICC) in the city.

In a spirited appeal she invited the major opposition party to shun politics of negativism and of misinformation and indulge in constructive criticism. "I am always ready to sit with the Leader of the Opposition and discuss national issues. What is needed is sincerity," she said.

"After being elected, we offered ministerial and deputy speaker's position to the BNP so that we can run the country together. But instead of cooperation, we only got obstruction," said the PM while recounting her government's effort to involve the Opposition and bring about a consensus in

governing the country.

Replying to a question on arrests being made without specific charges and charges were being framed after arresting people, Sheikh Hasina said that all arrested persons had specific charges against them and were involved in destructive activities.

"We challenged the opposition to give us names as to who were held without charges. The list submitted by the BNP to President Shahabuddin has been examined. Most of them have been found to be criminals. Few BNP workers involved had specific charges

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## Arrest killers of JCD workers: Khaleda

# Seven-day deadline to govt



BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia consoling parents of Nasir at their house during her visit to Feni yesterday. — Star photo

From Nazmul Ashraf

FENI, Mar 31: BNP chairperson and leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia today gave a seven-day ultimatum to the government to arrest the killers of two of her party workers here and initiate their trial.

"Otherwise we will announce tough agitation programmes separately for the Chittagong division," she told a large public meeting on the Shahidullah Kaiser Road at Panchagarh in the town.

Two pro-BNP political activists, Tushar of JCD and Nasir of Jubo Dal were killed here allegedly by activists of ruling Awami League.

"Killing of workers one after another has pushed us to the point of no return. We won't allow any more. It is time to retaliate," the BNP chief said.

Charging the government for not allowing the administration to deal with such acts of terrorism impartially, the for-

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## Rules of Procedure BNP members walk out of JS body meeting

Star Report

The BNP members on the Jatiya Sangsad Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure walked out of a meeting of the committee yesterday, following a sharp difference of opinion with their ruling party counterparts on the criterion for constituting the ministerial committees in Parliament.

"We walked out of the meeting in protest against the ruling party's departure from an earlier commitment that the membership on the parliamentary standing committees would be distributed proportionately according to the parliamentary strengths of the parties and groups concerned," Opposition Chief Whip Khan-

daker Delwar Hossain told The Daily Star last night.

A ruling party member on the Sangsad body on Rules of Procedure told this correspondent on the condition of anonymity: "We have decided to form the committees in the light of the precedence set by the BNP in the fifth Parliament."

Asked to explain as to why his party had earlier accepted the BNP proposal, the AL leader evaded a direct reply. But he said that some of the ruling party members opposed the idea later. "Besides, there was no such example in parliamentary democracies of the world that permits the proportionate dis-

See Page 12 Col 1

## Gayebana janaza for two killed in Feni today

The Bangladesh National Party (BNP) will hold gayebana janaza and bring out mourning processions throughout the country today in memory of its two leaders killed in Feni, reports UNB.

JCD leader Ashfaqur Rahman Tushar and Jubo Dal leader Nasiruddin were killed by assailants in Feni town on last Thursday and Saturday respectively.

Meanwhile, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday strongly protested the filing of 'false' cases against the leaders of the BNP and its front organisations.

In a statement he said, the government in a fresh move had filed 'false cases' against Jubo Dal leaders Barkatullah

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## ADB, WB willing to fund water, energy projects in S Asian region

By M Anwarul Haq

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank (WB) are willing to fund projects in the water, energy and infrastructure sectors in the South Asian sub-region comprising Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and the eastern states of India, based on the outcome of feasibility studies, sources concerned said.

ADB has already prepared a concept paper while the World Bank has commissioned an extensive study of the potential and prospects of undertaking projects on a sub-regional basis.

Meanwhile, the focus is now on the one-day meet of the foreign secretaries of Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and India in Kathmandu taking place tomorrow to where the concept of sub-regional cooperation is likely to be officially endorsed among the four geographically contiguous nations of South

Asia.

The meeting spread over two sessions is due to be inaugurated by Nepalese Foreign Minister Prakash Chandra Lohani while the deliberations would be chaired by acting Nepalese Foreign Secretary Kumar Prasad Gyawali.

The Asian Development Bank has already prepared a concept paper on the potential of sub-regional cooperation centering the "Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna (GMB) ecological region." The ADB's Director for Programmes, based in Manila, is due to attend the Kathmandu meeting.

Talking to The Daily Star Bhanuphol Horayangura, ADB Resident Representative in Bangladesh, confirmed the bank's participation at the Kathmandu meeting and said the ADB was willing to provide a grant for the study of the first

phase of the concept. He said further financial involvement will be based on identification of projects based on feasibility reports and "subject to discussions in Kathmandu."

The ADB Representative said the Bank has provided substantial financial assistance for projects in education, road construction and infrastructure development in the Mekong Basin Cooperative region.

Pierre Landell-Mills, the World Bank Resident Representative in Bangladesh talking to The Daily Star, said the Bank has already undertaken a study on possible projects on a sub-regional basis. He said the concept paper after the completion of the study would be presented at a workshop in July. The paper, called "Development Triangle" will contain the ideas and opportunities for cooperation.

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# Portfolio investors now hesitant, says WB Resident Mission chief

World Bank's Dhaka Resident Mission Chief Pierre Landell-Mills said Bangladesh capital market earned the reputation as a problem area, shying away portfolio investors, reports UNB.

"This is something to worry about," he said in his brief comment on the capital market while meeting the members of the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) at a city hotel yesterday.

FICCI President Mahbub Jamil chaired the meeting, attended by representatives of different foreign companies oper-

ating in the country.

Landell-Mills said the portfolio investors became shy of investing here as the major players in the international business hubs are worried about the developments that have taken place in the market.

"Now the real challenge is to rebuild the confidence that there will be an opportunity once again, to bring private capital in new ventures through the stock market," he said.

The World Bank mission chief observed that the recent crisis exposed the need for reforms in the capital market and

## Capital market needs reforms

strengthening the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the market regulator.

Landell-Mills in his address reviewed the state of economy and said the report that the economy is passing through a recession is not correct.

"It appears that the economy has slowed down, but it is not a recession," he said. He noted that exports are not performing up to the mark, but said there was still scope to recover as it did in previous years.

## Cabinet okays khas land policy

The cabinet last night approved the agricultural khas land management and settlement policy, an official hand-out said, reports BSS.

The approval was given at a cabinet meeting held at the cabinet room of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The cabinet also decided to provide tax holiday facility to those entrepreneurs and institutions who would pay 7.50 (seven and a half) per cent income tax on investment in new industry.

The cabinet also approved the proposal for amendment to section-21 of the Drugs (Control) Ordinance, 1982 to control publicity of exaggerated and fraudulent advertisement in the name of medical treatment.

## Detention of 4 BNP leaders: Hearing of writ Thursday

The hearing of writ petitions against the orders of detention of four senior BNP leaders has been deferred till Thursday morning, reports BSS.

A High Court division bench comprising Justice M M Haq and Justice M Hasan Amin passed the orders following a prayer for time from the state.

Deputy Attorney General Kaiser Uddin Ahmed sought further time to submit the reply to the showcause notice, served on the government.

The day was fixed for hearing the writ petitions, Khondakar Mosharrar Hossain, former cabinet minister, M A Mannan and Gayshehar Roy, former state ministers and Mirza Abbas, former mayor of Dhaka City Corporation were arrested on March 20 and given detention for 30 days under the Special Powers Act.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed appeared on behalf of the petitioners.

The High Court issued rule on March 23 after writ petitions were filed on behalf of the detained persons.

## BU award given Mother, widow of Col Taher demand retrial

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday formally handed the gallantry award 'Bir Uttam' to the mother of Col (Rtd) Abu Taher for her son's heroic role in the Liberation War, reports UNB.

Begum Ashrafunnesa, the octogenarian mother of the great warrior, received the medal from the Prime Minister in presence of the widow of Col Taher at the Prime Minister's office in the morning.

"After refusing to receive the award on several occasions, we have finally decided to accept it from the present pro-liberation government," said Lutfa Taher, the widow of Taher.

Col Taher was the Commander of Sector 11 during the Liberation War and lost a leg while

See Page 12 Col 4

# Gowda asked to seek vote of confidence by Apr 7

NEW DELHI, Mar 31: India's President today ordered Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda to prove within a week that he can still muster a parliamentary majority after losing critical support from the powerful Congress Party, reports AP.

The intervention by President Shankar Dayal Sharma will force an early showdown between Gowda's crippled United Front coalition and the Congress, which put in its bid to form the next government.

On Sunday, Congress told Sharma it was withdrawing its support from the coalition, stripping it of its informal majority in parliament.

After consulting legal experts, Sharma instructed Gowda to summon the parliament from its recess and seek a vote of confidence by April 7, the President's office announced.

If Gowda loses, he must resign.

Barring a major realignment of forces, India may hold an early election, the second within one year.

Gowda rejected calls for his immediate resignation and vowed to stay and fight. Congress leader Sitaram Kesri had urged him to step aside in favour of a Congress government.

"There is no question of my resignation or suggesting dissolution of the House," Gowda told supporters at his home, Press Trust of India reported.

"The trial of strength will be held on the floor of the House," he said. He brushed aside questions about how he could survive a no-confidence vote without the backing of Congress. "We will take care of it," he said. Earlier today, Kesri sent a

letter to Sharma formally stating a claim for Congress to form a government.

He told newsmen later that the next government would be a Congress-led coalition, but he did not say who its partners would be.

Gowda today called a meeting of the Steering Committee of his 14-party United Front coalition to seek a way out of the crisis.

Newspapers said the alliance may choose another leader. Likely candidates would be Jyoti Basu, the veteran communist leader from Calcutta, or G K Mooppanar, the regional boss from the southern city of Madras.

Opposition BJP leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee said another election is likely since no party could command a majority in parliament.

## Work permits for 1.5 lakh illegal Bangladeshis in Malaysia in process

The government has decided to take stern action against those who have illegally sent Bangladeshis people to Malaysia which caused misery to thousands of job seekers, reports UNB.

It has also made an arrangement with Malaysian government for giving work permits to some 1.5 lakh Bangladeshi workers who became illegal immigrants after December 31.

The Malaysian government gave a deadline, December 31, for the illegal workers living in the country to collect valid papers. These one and a half lakh people had entered Malaysia in various ways during the last few years.

The government has taken immediate steps to issue passports to these illegal workers and the Bangladesh High Commission in Malaysia has already issued 50,000 passports

to them. The rest one lakh will get the passports within next two months.

This was disclosed after a high-level meeting on manpower export to Malaysia was held at the Prime Minister's office yesterday afternoon with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. It directed the mission in Kuala Lumpur to work day and night for issuing passports.

The meeting decided to take steps to stop illegal manpower export to various countries, including Malaysia, and to issue passports using modern technology to ensure validity.

It decided to strengthen the immigration system of the country to plug conduits of illegal manpower export. It also decided to gear up publicity against the trend of going abroad illegally and projecting its bad impact on national life

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## ICC TROPHY



## Bangladesh face Hong Kong today

Bangladesh will face Hong Kong today in one of the four inaugural matches in the eight-team second round of the ICC Trophy in Kuala Lumpur, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Betar will provide running commentary from 7.30 am (BST).

Bangladesh will meet Ireland in their second match on Wednesday and play against Holland, the third finisher of last ICC Trophy, on Friday after a rest day on Thursday.

## Fire at raw jute godowns at N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

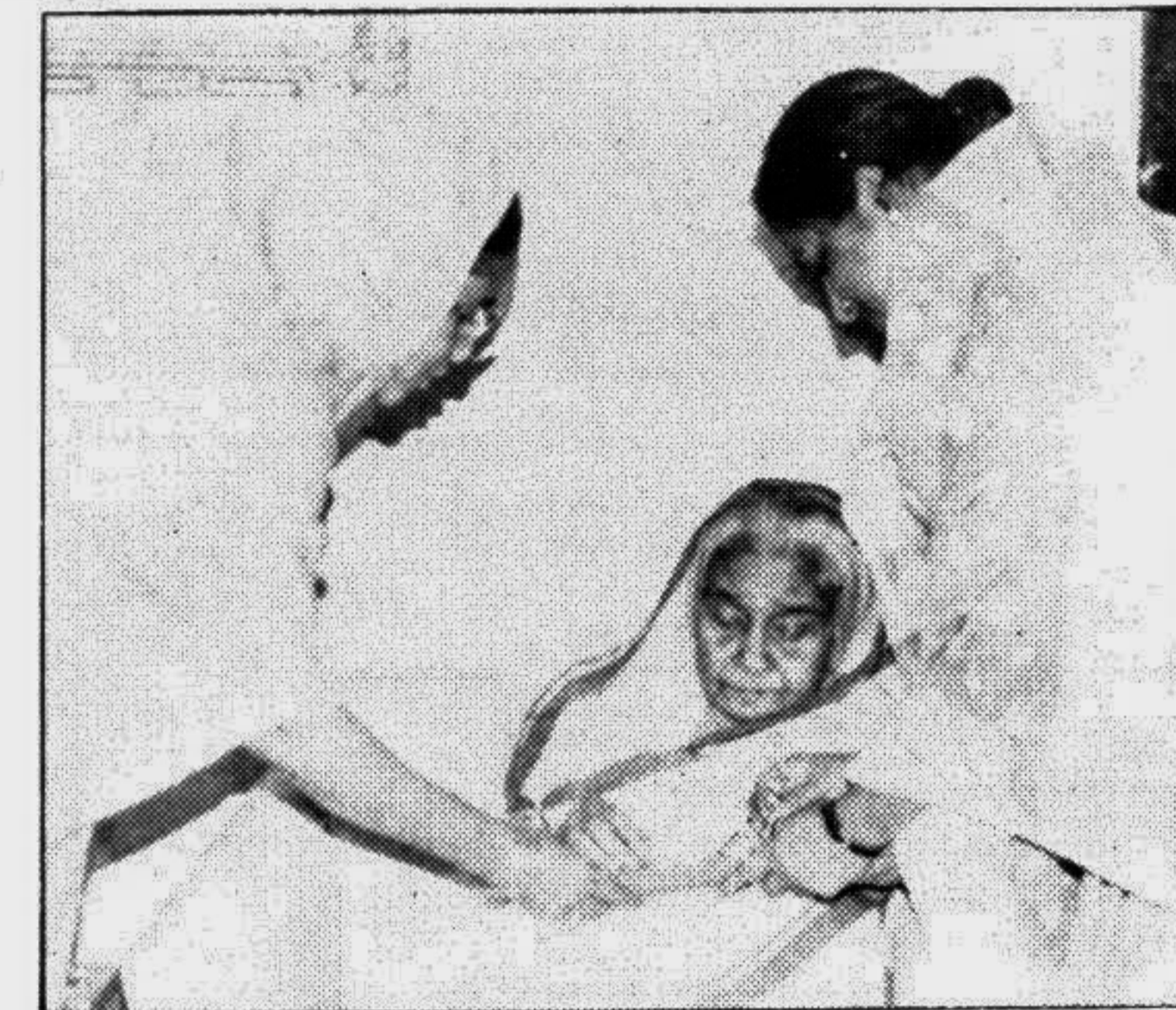
NARAYANGANJ, Mar 31: A total of 18 godowns of Popular Jute Exchange at Tolarom Moor here caught fire at around 6:45 am yesterday, according to witnesses.

The fire was brought under control at around 11:00 am, said Fire Brigade officials adding that dumping work was continuing even at night. No case of injury or casualty was reported. The extent of the damage could not be known immediately.

The cause of the fire in the godowns of the raw jute exporting company was not known, said fire brigade officials.

The owners of the company could also not be contacted.

See Page 12 Col 5



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina handing over the 'Bir Uttam' award of Shaheed Col (Rtd) Abu Taher to his mother at her office yesterday. — PID photo

## City AL leader murder: 2 held

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons have been arrested in connection with the murder of Abdus Salam, a leader of Awami League in Demra area.

According to the police, Aftabuddin and Lahaddin taken into custody for interrogation are among the 14 persons listed in the FIR lodged in connection with the murder Sunday night.

Abdus Salam, 45, Vice President of AL in Ward No 88 under Demra thana sustained fatal injuries in his chest and belly as an unidentified gang opened fire on him at about 9 pm Sunday. He died shortly afterwards.

Meanwhile, the Awami Jubo League will hold a rally in the city today to protest the killing of its leaders and workers across the country.

The rally, to be held at Bangabandhu Avenue, will be presided over by the Jubo League chief and addressed by ministers Abdur Razzak, Tofael Ahmed, Mohammad Nasim,

## Discontent among aspirants No change in Ctg city AL's leadership likely

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Mar 31: The triennial conference of councillors of Chittagong city Awami League will be held tomorrow amid simmering discontent among partymen as a new leadership is unlikely to emerge in city committee, party insiders said.

A total of 445 councillors are expected to attend the conference to be held at the Engineers Institute here at 10 am after a gap of four years.

New faces who were aspiring to take the leadership are no more in the race as incumbent president of the city committee M A Mannan and General Secretary Mohiuddin Chowdhury are reportedly trying to hold on to their positions, the insiders added. Mannan is also State Minister for Manpower and Mohiuddin is Mayor of the

Chittagong City Corporation.

The incumbent president and general secretary could hardly spare time for organisational activities of the party that triggered a simmering discontent among the councillors as well as party workers, the insiders said. Most of the councillors are reportedly wanting a change in the leadership, they said.

Aspirants for the post of general secretary of the city unit were Khorsheed Alam Sujon and A Z M Nasir. Nasir was reportedly linked with Akhtarzaman Babu group, party sources said. Organising Secretary Enamul Hoque Danu and Joint Secretary Sekandar Hyat Khan had bright chances to replace Mohiuddin if he stayed off, the sources said. But

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## Fire at Ctg Zia Museum

CHITTAGONG, Mar 31: A fire broke out at the Zia Museum in the city's old Circuit House where former President Ziaur Rahman was assassinated in May 1980, reports UNB.

A security staff of the museum, Ramzan Ali, fainted while trying to put out the flame.

Matiar Rahman, Assistant Curator of the museum, said the fire was noticed at the VIP relax room on the third floor of the museum at about 1.45 pm.

He said the security staff rushed to the scene and brought the fire under control using the museum's own extinguishers and sands before the firefighters reached the spot.

Rahman said the fire, which originated from the blast of a tube circuit, partly gutted a lying carpet on the floor. The incident was reported to the Director General of the National Museum.

## 100 shops looted in Bandarban

COX'S BAZAR, Mar 31: A group of armed tribals stormed the Baichari Market in Naikchonghari thana of Bandarban hill district and looted cash and goods worth about Tk eight lakh on Sunday evening, reports UNB.

Witnesses said about 50 armed tribals attacked the market, 30 miles from Bandarban town, at about 8 pm, looted cash and goods from more than 100 shops, and fled into a deep forest.

Fifteen people, including an army habilder, Abdul Hamid, 30, were injured as the gunmen fired indiscriminately during the operation. Hamid came to his village home on leave.

A case was filed with Naikchonghari police.

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