

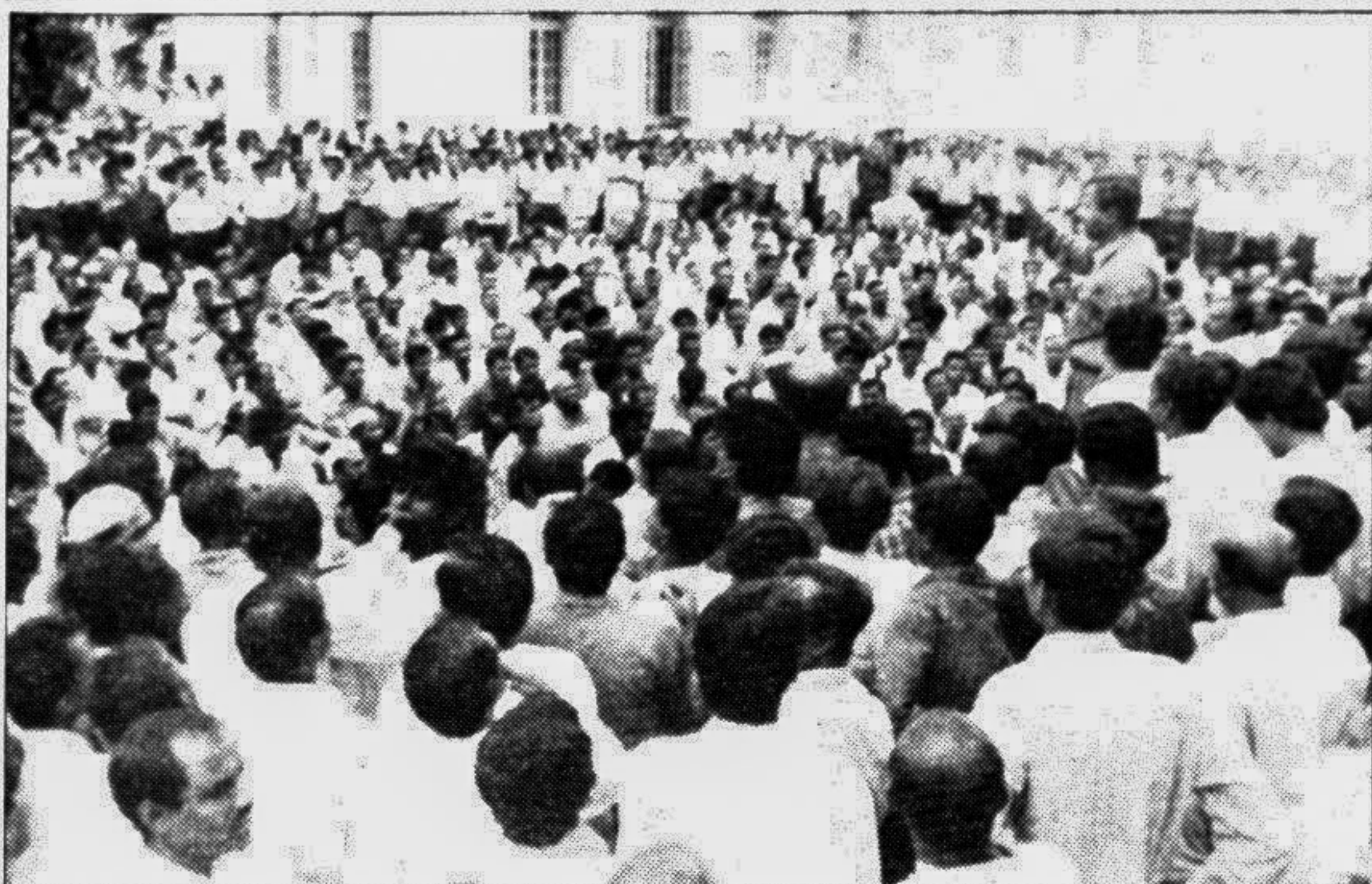
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**FedEx**  
Federal Express

The World on Time



Government employees holding a rally in the Secretariat yesterday protesting the new office timing and demanding new pay scale. — Star photo

## Sectt employees

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stoppage from 10 am till Sunday, capped by rallies, they said at the rally.

If the demands are not met by that time, a fresh programme will be announced on Sunday, they said.

The leaders said they have great expectations from the government which came to power with their support.

At least a dozen employees, including some women were injured in Monday's clashes with police as they staged demonstrations in defiance of a ban on agitations inside the Secretariat.

Establishment Secretary Mahe Alam issued a notification to all ministries on Monday ordering all vehicles out of the Secretariat parking bay, Transport Pool, outside the Secretariat have enough room for parking, he said.

Police guarded the outer perimeter of the sprawling complex in central Dhaka, further tightening security in and

around the Secretariat yesterday.

On the Secretariat Link Road and Abdul Ghani Road, parking space was brimming with vehicles, some spilled over to the precincts of the National Press Club.

But some vehicles were seen parked inside the Secretariat in defiance of the order.

Visitors, however, had problems as there had been restrictions on entry before 2 pm. Only the privileged ones could enter with passes from secretaries, under new restrictions.

Sources said the authorities are likely to follow carrot-and-stick policy in dealing with the situation. During preliminary talks, indications were given that the employees would be provided with some incentives, like dearness allowance, before Pay Commission report.

But there are differences among the authorities on office timing. Everything depends on how the mediators manage to tame the agitations, the sources said.

## Taliban capture Golbahar, part of Jabal os-Siraj

PUL-I-KHUMRI (Afghanistan), June 3: Afghanistan's fundamentalist Islamic Taliban militia said it had captured the town of Golbahar, north of Kabul, in a big offensive today, reports Reuters.

A senior official said the Taliban had seized Golbahar and part of the nearby town of Jabal os-Siraj from forces loyal to opposition leader Ahmad Shah Massoud.

"This morning the Taliban launched a very wide offensive on Golbahar, clearing the area. We have also captured the rear of Jabal os-Siraj and Massoud's forces are now surrounded there," Taliban Information Minister Amir Khan Mutaqi told reporters.

There was no independent confirmation of the fall of Golbahar. The Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) said Taliban jets had pounded the village earlier today.

Massoud, who is based in the Panjsher Valley, captured Jabal os-Siraj on Friday, cutting off a Taliban force now based in Pul-i-Khumri, north of the Hindu Kush mountain range.

Jabal os-Siraj, 70 km (44 miles) north of Kabul, sits at the foot of the strategic Salang Pass, a key artery connecting the Afghan capital with the north of the country.

If the Taliban manage to retake Jabal os-Siraj, they would still need to force a way through

several other opposition-held areas to resupply their comrades in Pul-i-Khumri.

Mutqi denied reports that Basir Salangi, one of Massoud's commanders in the Salang Pass, had rejoined his former chief after apparently defecting to the Taliban last week.

"Basir Salangi is still with the Taliban, but some of his men are with Massoud," he said. It was not clear if the territory Salangi controls, just north of Jabal os-Siraj, remained open to the Taliban.

The beleaguered Taliban in Pul-i-Khumri were consolidating today after giving ground on Sunday and Monday.

## Probe into Bandarban incident complete

BANDARBAN, June 3: A one-member probe committee, formed at the directive of the Home Minister, has completed investigation into the May 31 police excesses in the district headquarters.

Additional Divisional Commissioner, JP Tanchangya, who came from Chittagong on Sunday interviewed a cross section of people including local political leaders and officials.

He told UNB before leaving here that he would submit his report to the higher authorities soon suggesting transfer within seven days of the officials responsible for the incident.

It may be mentioned that local residents brought out a procession in the town on May 31 demanding restoration power and water supply which were snapped on May 19 cyclone. Police attacked the procession injuring some of the demonstrators.

A dawn to dusk hartal was observed on Monday demanding punishment and removal of the persons responsible for the police excesses.

## Raozan plant

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190 MMCFD. If the second unit of the Raozan Power Plant begins operation in July, the authorities will have to augment this supply to a minimum of 240 MMCFD.

This augmentation can not be done right away," an official source said. "In order to do it, we might have to reduce gas supply to some other sectors."

The Raozan-1 unit cost Tk 552 crore to build in late 1993, under a China Machinery and Equipment Import and Export (CMEC) turn-key project. Although this unit made a faulty start due to poor construction and some 467 technical faults, the government approved the second unit at a cost of Tk 600 crore in 1993.

The CMEC also did not settle the PDR's Tk 52 crore compensation claim in 1993, lodged because of the delay in the implementation of the first phase of the project.

## 2 bodies found in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent  
NARAYANGANJ, June 3: Police recovered the bodies of two persons here today.

The first one identified as Harun-or-Rashid, was recovered from in front of the Sumilpara Union Parishad office under Siddirganj thana at 8 in the morning. Son of Fayezuddin of Godnal, Rashid was a truck driver and his body bore stab injuries. He was 32.

Police also recovered the body of one Salahuddin, son of Abdus Salam of Rajbari area under Bandar thana, from the Shitalakhyia river near No 2 Dhakeshwari area at none. He was about 20.

Police suspected that Salahuddin might have drowned as he was missing since he went to take a bath in the river yesterday evening.

## CAAB probe body fails to submit report

The enquiry committee of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB), formed to probe the boarding of Mahbub, a Biman Airbus and his consequent death, could not submit its report yesterday, reports UNB.

"Finally we failed to submit the report, but we are hopeful to submit it tomorrow," said a committee member.

He, however, said their investigation was almost completed.

## Lightning kills 2 in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, June 3: Two people, one of them an employee of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), were killed by lightning yesterday, reports UNB.

When contacted last night, Mohammad Abu Hena told The Daily Star that preparations were being taken for holding the by-polls in a free, fair, responsible and transparent manner.

"We'll not hesitate to take any measure to ensure fairness and transparency in the by-election," he noted.

The CEC also expressed happiness that all the major parties were going to contest the by-polls.

Asked about BNP's demand for appointment of returning officers from the judiciary, the CEC said that the existing laws did not permit him to do so as he was not empowered to take action against judicial officers.

"The law needs amendment and it can't be done right now," he explained.

The ruling Awami League and opposition BNP and Jatiya Party have, meantime, asked their candidates to collect nomination forms.

AL and BNP will interview their candidates on June 6 while the JP interviewed its candidates yesterday. The last date for submitting nomination papers to the EC is June 8.

Shan Ara, a class ten student of the Sonargaon Choudhuryganj Government High School and raped her at a local hotel on May 28 after his proposal to marry the girl was rejected.

Sudhir also poured poison into Rawshan's mouth while carrying her back home where she died.

The members of Sudhir's family attacked Rawshan's friends when they visited the victim's house last night. Angered by this, the villagers attacked the houses of Sudhir and his relatives and set fire to six houses.

Police rushed to the spot and picked up one Jalil from there. A temporary police camp was set up in the area to contain further violence.

He also demanded an end to government "torture, harassment and repression" on the employees.

In another statement, Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal convenor Begum Khurshid Jahan Huq MP condemned the Monday's "police attack" on the employees, including women.

"The nation now needs an

## 'Vitamin A can help reduce child mortality rate'

Vitamin A has gained the status of seventh vaccine by playing an important role in reducing child mortality rate, according to a report of International Vitamin A Consultative Group (IVACG), reports UNB.

About 23 to 34 per cent child mortality can be reduced by maintaining normal Vitamin A status.

"Community trials achieved this impact within a brief (4-6 months) period through universal periodic supplementation in the form of either megadoses, small weekly doses or Vitamin A-fortified foods," says the IVACG report.

Vitamin A deficiency is endemic in developing countries like Bangladesh.

"It's possible to prevent the death of many under 6 years children in Bangladesh with regular intake of sufficient Vitamin A," said Dr Badrul Alam, a clinician of the Institute of Public Health and Nutrition (IPHN).

## Hasina greets Lionel Jospin

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina congratulated French socialist leader Lionel Jospin on his appointment as Prime Minister of France, reports UNB.

In a message of felicitation yesterday she said, "It affords me great pleasure to convey to you on behalf of the government and the people of Bangladesh our warmest and heartiest congratulations on your appointment as Prime Minister of the Republic of France."

The prime minister wished her new French counterpart all success in the discharge of his onerous responsibility.

Bangladesh and France enjoy excellent relations, she said, adding "I have no doubt that our ties will be even further strengthened during your tenure."

## Adarsha Gram Project 2746 families rehabilitated in 10 months

Under the Adarsha Gram Project from July '96 to mid-April this year, 2746 landless families were rehabilitated in 55 villages.

Officials sources told BSS yesterday that the rehabilitation programme that achieved 81 per cent of its target will continue till December.

The Adarsha Gram Project was introduced by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in February, 1972, to rehabilitate landless people in khas lands at Poragadia village under Ramgati thana of Laxmipur district.

## EC steps

From Page 1  
entertained because of legal binding, an EC official explained.

Meanwhile, Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena attended office yesterday, ending one month's leave.

The CEC passed a hectic day yesterday meeting his colleagues who apprised him of the developments that took place during his absence.

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"The nation now needs an

He said improved Vitamin A supplementation can reduce the duration, severity and complications associated with both measles and diarrhoea.

Diarrhoea and measles are still leading causes of infant and child morbidity and mortality in developing countries.

The IVACG that carried out a research in six Asian and African developing countries found that the reduction in child mortality was due to a fall in diarrhoeal and measles-related deaths.

Clinical trials of children hospitalised with measles showed that a large-dose of Vitamin A had beneficial effect on mortality in previously deficient children, with case-fatality ratios reduced on an average by 66 per cent.

Vitamin A not only prevents nutritional blindness among the children but also plays a vital role in the overall development of children and increase resistance to infection.

Dr Alam said IPHN had launched a programme across the country to eliminate Vitamin A deficiency and its consequences.

The programme is aimed at enhancing production and consumption of Vitamin A rich foods and increasing awareness about the usefulness of Vitamin A in reducing mortality and morbidity in pre-school aged children.

The Nutritional Blindness Prevention Programme that began in 1973 helped reduce the prevalence of night blindness in the country from 3.76 per cent in 1973 to 1.1 per cent in 1996.

## 4 more women in Gujral's cabinet

NEW DELHI, June 3: Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral today appointed four women politicians as federal ministers to give wider representation to women in his government, reports AP.

Gujral's government has been criticised by women activists for its failure to keep a promise to introduce legislation to reserve one-third of seats in Parliament for women.

Gujral has supported the move, but some important leaders of his Janata Dal Party, the main group in his center-left coalition, have publicly voiced opposition.

With the appointment of Ratnamala Sannur, Kamala Sinha, Jayanthi Natrajan and Renuka Chaudhury, the strength of the Cabinet, including Gujral, has gone up to 44.

So far there was just one woman minister in the Cabinet that was installed in April.

The portfolios of the new ministers were not announced immediately.

## Contractor shot in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, June 3: A contractor sustained bullet wounds when terrorists fired on him at Kulshi in Panchalaish thana here today, reports UNB.

Police said four gunmen shot at Mohammad Nasiruddin when he was passing by the area at 11 am. He was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Family sources said some terrorists recently demanded Tk 10,000 from Nasiruddin.

## Newsman assaulted in Chandanaish

CHITTAGONG, June 3: A local correspondent of a national daily was assaulted by armed terrorists in front of Chandanaish Girls' College today, reports UNB.

Mohammad Naimuddin, correspondent of the Bangladesh Patrika, came under attack for writing a story on terrorism.

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## 'Implement Wage Board award without delay'

Union leaders demanded of the government and owners of newspapers and news agencies to implement the Fifth Wage Board Award without delay, reports UNB.

Reviewing the gazette of the Wage Board Award, a joint meeting of different bodies yesterday said the final report had not incorporated the recommendations for removing anomalies with dearness allowance (DA) for newspaper industry after announcement of national pay scales.

It demanded that any inconsistency in this regard be removed by giving DA after announcement of pay scales.

The meeting was attended by leaders of central coordination committee comprising three federations of newspaper industry, central action committee and local action committee, presidents and general secretaries of different unions, and chiefs and deputy chiefs of different units of DUJ.

## EU aid package for cyclone victims

BRUSSELS, June 3: The European Union head office announced a 385,000 US dollar aid package today for victims of the cyclone which devastated Bangladesh in May, reports AP.

According to a statement from the EU Commission, the money will allow the International Federation of the Red Crescent to provide temporary housing to thousands of people who lost homes and possessions in the disaster, which left about 100 people dead.

About one million people were left homeless after the cyclone battered southeastern Bangladesh on May 19, killing 106 people.

## Strike at Shahjalal Varsity continues

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, June 3: The second day of the indefinite strike called by the BCL at the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology passed off today.

The university authorities suspended the examinations scheduled for today and yesterday. The authorities also held meetings with the BCL leaders to end the strike.

The BCL called the strike from yesterday after the issuance of 'show cause' notices on 22 of its activists.

## 'India deploys missiles near border with Pakistan'

WASHINGTON, June 3: India recently moved a few medium-range ballistic missiles to a prospective launch site near the Pakistan border, the Washington Post reported today, quoting unidentified US officials, reports AP.

The officials said the move raised fresh concerns the two countries may have entered a provocative phase in their long-standing arms race.

The newspaper report said the missiles, called Prithvis,

**Gulf War veteran convicted of Oklahoma City bombing**

DENVER, June 3: Timothy McVeigh was convicted Monday of blowing up the Oklahoma City federal building in a murderous attack against the US government, in the deadliest act of terrorism on American soil, reports AP.

The 29-year-old decorated Gulf War veteran could get the death penalty for the April 19, 1995, blast that killed 168 people and injured hundreds more. A federal jury took 23 and an half hours over four days to convict McVeigh of all 11 counts of murder and conspiracy.

McVeigh showed no reaction, wearing the same impassive expression he had when he was arrested. Afterward, he was escorted back to jail pending a sentencing date Wednesday when jurors will decide if he should be executed or spend the rest of his life in prison.

**23 hospitals**

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hospitals in five districts. Five hospitals in Bogra, Dinajpur, Khulna, Faridpur and Comilla will be turned into 500-bed hospitals. It will take about three years to implement the project after it is approved by the Planning Commission, said a high official of the Directorate of Health.

**Corruption case**

From Page 1

bought to construct the Zilla Parishad Bhaban when he was chairman of the parishad (Dec 12, 1989 to Sept 29, 1990).

In another case, Muni was charged with misappropriating over Tk 10.62 lakh showing overvalue of a land purchased for construction of the central bus terminal in the town.

could carry conventional not nuclear warheads and had the range to hit Pakistan's capital at Islamabad, or major cities such as Lahore or Rawalpindi.

It said US intelligence agencies have concluded that fewer than a dozen missiles are now located near the city of Jullundur in the state of Punjab in northwest of India.

The report quoted, some US officials as expressing uncertainty why the missiles were moved to that site at a time when senior Indian and Pakistani officials have tried to improve dialogue between the two countries and reduce tensions.

The newspaper quoted an official as saying the US objective of trying to prevent an arms race on the South Asian sub-continent might be unraveling.

One official said the movement of the Prithvis was the first operational deployment since it was developed more than a decade ago, according to the report. But other officials said they were not sure if all the equipment and troops needed to launch the missile were at the site.

"The best judgement," one official said, is that not all the required material is not there.

Another official said there was certain to be a "bad reaction, even an overreaction in Pakistan" to the reported deployment.

There was no immediate comment from the US State Department on the report.

## Noise pollution

From Page 1

those areas. It said in the hospitals a lot of noise was usually generated by staff and visitors talking loudly.

It suggested that a general awareness should be created among the members of the public. Voluntary organisations should be encouraged to take up programmes to fight the pollution.

Municipalities and other government departments should take steps to stop indiscriminate use of loudspeakers, high