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## Moderate tremor jolts country

A 'moderate' earthquake, which lasted 50 seconds, jolted the country's southeastern and other parts yesterday afternoon, Met office sources and residents said, reports BSS.

The epicentre of the quake was some 482 kilometre off the Chittagong city. But its direction could not be ascertained by the country's lone observatory at Chittagong.

They said the quake, which was also felt in Dhaka, started at about 2.38.37 pm and lasted 50 seconds.

There was no report of damage or casualties from any part of the tremor-hit areas.

PTI reported from Guwahati that an earthquake measuring 5.7 in the Richter Scale rocked different areas in the northeastern region yesterday.

The tremor, recorded at the seismological department in the Alipore Meteorological Department in Calcutta, lasted about one minute. Met office in Calcutta told PTI.

There was, however, no report of any casualty or damage to property.

The epicentre of the quake

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4 die allegedly due to liquor poisoning at Kamalapur

By Staff Correspondent

At least four persons died allegedly after drinking poisonous liquor at a sweepers' colony at South Kamalapur in the city since Thursday night.

An official of Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) said last night that they were investigating the deaths of four persons allegedly due to liquor poisoning in the colony during the last couple of days.

However, local people said five people died and identified them as Mai Babu, 22, Pardeshi, 25, Gangaram, Ratan and Dangu, all residents of TT Para Sweeper Colony in South Kamalapur.

Of the dead, one died on Thursday, two on Friday and two yesterday, local people said.

A DNC team visited the spot and seized a few gallons of home-made liquor from the colony. They were investigating the incident, the DNC official added.

However, Shabujbagh police said last night that no such incident of death due to liquor poisoning occurred in that area.

They confirmed the death of Mai Babu and Pardeshi. According to a preliminary investigation by police, the two had

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One held on charge of firing on PM's rally in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, May 2: One person was arrested in connection with the incident of firing on Prime Minister's rally at Polo Ground here last year, reports UNB.

Advocate Sajjad Hossain, son of Nazir Ahmed of Garangia village of Satkania thana, was arrested yesterday by Dibobmoria thana police.

Masum, a leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League, student front of the ruling party, was killed in the gunfire.

The arrested man was charged with the firing during the rally, said a police press release.

CCCI programmes to protest terrorism now on May 13

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 2: Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) has shifted the date for observing the programmes protesting terrorism to May 13 from May 5.

In a press release, the chamber called for keeping the shops business houses and industries shut from morning to noon on May 13.

The chamber said that the programmes have been rescheduled due to hartal called by a student body on the same day.

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## Week-long strike postponed

# JCD activists to be rehabilitated: DU

By DU Correspondent

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal has postponed its week-long strike in the Dhaka University after a series of discussions with the university authorities.

The JCD leaders took the decision on Friday after the Dhaka University Syndicate decided to rehabilitate the displaced activists of the JCD in their respective residential halls.

The JCD was also assured that the other demands of the organisation would be considered by the authorities.

The DU Syndicate on Friday decided that the Surya Sen, Jasimuddin, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Rahman and Muktijoddha Ziaur Rahman halls of the university would be vacated today and the displaced JCD activists would be rehabili-

tated after checking their identity cards.

A DU press release also said that the BCL leaders had assured the Vice Chancellor of extending all possible help for successful completion of the process.

General Secretary of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Ishak Ali Khan Panna while talking to The Daily Star last night, however, said that BCL did not agree with the proposal of the Vice Chancellor.

There is no question of vacating the dormitories, it is a kind of harassment of the general students, he said.

If the JCD really wants peace on the campus, it should submit a list of its displaced activists, but JCD has not done so, Panna said.

Sources in the university indicated that the Vice Chancellor's attempt to solve the ongoing stalemate could be frustrated due to opposition from some hardline BCL leaders.

Meanwhile, the Education Minister ASHK Sadek yesterday met the Vice Chancellor at his residence.

When contacted, the minister said that he went to the university to keep himself informed of the events at the university and not for discussion on any solution to any crisis.

When his attention was drawn to the existing stalemate at the university, he said that the university was functioning normally. He said that the admission tests of the university was held yesterday as scheduled

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## Bombs hurled at CU VC's residence

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 2: Residence of the Chittagong university's vice chancellor Abdul Mannan came under bomb attack at Kazir Dewri in the city last night, police and university sources said.

But no casualty was reported.

Police said unidentified attackers hurled two crude bombs at the residence of the vice chancellor at midnight which exploded with big bang.

Immediately after the explosion, police rushed to the spot and began investigation.

Chittagong university administration in a statement issued to the press blamed a student front for the bomb attack but it was not named.

Chittagong University administration alleged that a university bus which came to the city yesterday evening carrying teachers for shopping night, reports UNB.

The attackers opened fire on the university bound shuttle train when it reached at Sholoshahar station at about 9 pm.

Of the injured, four received bullet wounds. They were identified as Saiful Islam, Tapas Kumar Sen, both MSc final year students of Zoology Department, Baker Majumdar of Ph-

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## 3CHT bills to be placed in JS today

By Nazmul Ashraf and Reaz Ahmad

The bills on the district councils of Khagrachari, Rangamati and Bandarban are scheduled to be placed in the Jatiya Sangsad when its session resumes at 11 this morning.

The bills on the proposed Regional Council, comprising the three districts in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), is due to be placed in parliament tomorrow.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khashru is due to table all the four bills.

Today's Order of the Day of the Sangsad only includes the placement of the CHT district council bills, a parliament official told The Daily Star last night.

A similar arrangement has also been planned for tomorrow, he added.

The process of passing the CHT bills, particularly the one on the Regional Council (RC), is likely to generate much heat in the House as both the Treasury and the Opposition lawmakers are preparing themselves to face each other on the crucial

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hear any name from Shahid that would lead it to trace any abettor to him.

The youngest daughter of Transcom Ltd's Chairman Latifur Rahman, Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15, was brutally stabbed to death at their Gulshan residence on the night of April 23.

Meanwhile, the seven-day

remand for five servants at Rahman's residence expires today.

CID officials said they did not get much useful information from them so far. The five are Humayun Kabir, Hemayetullah, Yasin, Shafiq and Faruq.

During interrogation, Shahid mentioned the names of at least four persons who, according to him, helped him in committing the crime.

But investigators found those false so far when they verified Shahid's statement about those persons, some irregular staff at Shahid's father Latifur Rahman's Gulshan residence. Shahid was still giving some contradictory and false statements to the investigating team, the sources said.

However, the team was yet to

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CID officials may pray to court for placing Shahid on remand for some more days on expiry of a five-day remand today. CID sources said.

"We may need to interrogate Shahid further to see whether there was any abettor to Shahid," said a CID official.

Shahid will be produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court today or tomorrow.

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