

## Bangladesh may get Test status this year

BOMBAY, Feb 25: Bangladesh is likely to be granted Test match status later this year, a top cricket official said here today, reports AFP.

The executive board of the International Cricket Council (ICC) has recommended that Bangladesh become the 10th Test playing nation, South African cricket boss Ali Bacher said.

Bacher, who also heads the ICC's development committee, said the board's decision will be taken up at the annual meeting of the governing body in London in June.

"Bangladesh has good cricketing culture and great support for the game," Bacher told reporters during the first Test between India and South Africa.

"Former South African Test player Eddie Barlow, who coaches Bangladesh, told me that the team was ready to play Test Cricket," he said.

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## Indian troops cross into Pak Kashmir, kill 14

Delhi denies attack, Islamabad's claim

DUMBSI (Pakistan), Feb 25: Pakistani officials accused Indian soldiers today of crossing over the disputed Kashmir border and massacring 14 villagers, including four children, India, however, denied the claim, reports AP.

Several soldiers crept into Lanjod, a village barely 300 meters from the disputed border, and attacked villagers using knives and guns, said Pakistan Army Brig. Dilshad Hussein Malik.

Before the attack, Malik said Indian soldiers launched a blistering artillery assault on the area. Using the attack as cover, the Indian soldiers crept across the border, he said.

The victims were in one house for a religious gathering where they were reading the Quran, the Muslim holy book and sharing food, said a report

on the state-owned Pakistan Television.

At a nearby hospital where five seriously injured were taken, hospital officials said one of the injured died. They also said that two of the bodies had been decapitated.

But only 13 bodies, all victims of the massacre, were brought to a school in nearby Dumbasi. Three of the bodies had been decapitated. The bodies showed signs of knife and gun-shot wounds, they said.

The bodies lay on the cold cement floor of the school, wrapped in white shawls, partially visible. Dozens of women from the village gathered around the dead walling and beating their chests.

Men screamed anti-Indian slogans.

One of the survivors, Mohammed Younus, said he was

shot in the back as he leapt from a window of the house. He said as many as 15 men stormed into the house opened fire and attacked the people with knives.

"They were dressed in green uniforms, with black boots and they were speaking Hindi," the national language of India, he said when asked how he could be sure the culprits were Indian.

The government declared Saturday a day of mourning. India denied the attack occurred.

"It is totally incorrect. No such incident took place," said Indian Army spokesman, Col. Shrutikant, who uses only one name.

But in the school house in Dumbasi the bodies, many of them mutilated, waited to be

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Ekushey is over but the fair is on. These enthusiastic youngsters were seen gathering at a children's book stall at the Bangla Academy yesterday. The fair will remain open till Mar 6. — Star photo

## Intra-party clash 2 AL activists gunned down in Sandwip

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 25: Two people were shot dead and 10 others injured in a gunfight between two rival factions of Awami League in Sandwip today, reports reaching the port city said.

Local police said Mohammad Alamgir, 25, and Shayastha Khan, 20, were killed when the two groups clashed at Taltala Bazar under Sandwip thana at noon.

The injured were admitted to the Sandwip Thana Health Complex.

The two factions — one led by local MP Mostafizur Rahman and the other by then AL President Shahjahan, fought with guns and home-made bombs for establishing supremacy in local politics, police sources said.

Police rushed to the spot and dispersed the clashing groups.

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## Feni Jubo Dal activist burnt to death

From Our Correspondent

FENI, Feb 25: A Jubo Dal activist was burnt to death in his shop by his rivals at Madhubal Bazaar under Sadar police station of the district today.

The dead was identified as Sheikh Farid, 23, son of Abul Hossain and resident of Madhubal area.

According to police Farid was burnt to death by his rivals at about 2:30 am. The miscreants also locked the shop from outside.

The miscreants exploded several bombs and fired shots creating panic in the area. They also set fire to another 12 shops in the bazaar.

Local people said that they were not allowed to come forward to help the victim who was roasted inside the shop. The gang created panic by firing shots and looting the shops, they alleged.

Mizanur Rahman, District Jubo Dal president identified Farid as an active worker of the party. Jubo Dal demanded trial of the killers of Farid.

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### Prayer Timings

| February 26  |        |  |
|--------------|--------|--|
| Azhan        | Jamaat |  |
| Fajr 5:00    | 5:30   |  |
| Zohr 12:45   | 1:20   |  |
| Asr 4:30     | 4:45   |  |
| Maghrib 6:00 | 6:05   |  |
| Esha 7:30    | 8:00   |  |

Source: Islamic Foundation

## BNP drafting points for briefing Clinton

By Rezaul Karim

Senior BNP leaders are now working out the 'briefing points' for party Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia for her talks with US President Bill Clinton.

The US President is due to visit Bangladesh on March 20. A top BNP leader told The Daily Star, "They have received green signal both from the US Embassy in Dhaka and the White House about exclusive talks between Clinton and Khaleda Zia". He sought anonymity.

Quoting an official of the US Embassy, he said Clinton's programmes in Bangladesh are yet to be finalised. There is a schedule for a 25-minute meeting between the US President and the Leader of the Opposition in the tentative programmes, he added.

Another source said the BNP Chairperson at a meeting with

some party policy makers and advisors discussed the briefing points.

The meeting decided to prepare a draft for briefing on some specific issues like human rights situation in the country, government's failures, impasse in parliament, lack of good governance, political conflicts, deterioration of law and order, repression on political opponents, enactment of a "black law", state of the economy, electoral reforms and signing of treaties and agreements against the interest of the people and the country, the source added.

The BNP leaders, engaged in drafting the briefing points and contacting the US government, declined to disclose anything about their activities.

One source close to them however said they were collecting necessary information. See page 11 col 2

## Agreed minutes China to help build 2 mini power plants

Bangladesh and China yesterday signed agreed minutes paving the way for China to help Bangladesh construct two mini-hydro-electricity projects and three rubber dams, reports UNB.

A Chinese expert team will visit Bangladesh after the host country sends its Terms of Reference (TOR) on the agreed minutes to conduct a feasibility study on constructing 100-mw mini-hydro-electricity projects on the rivers Matamuhuri and Sangu.

Of the three dams, one will be constructed in Matamuhuri, while the sites for two others are yet to be selected.

After signing the minutes that followed the February 22 formal meeting, Water Resources Secretary Dr ATM Shamsul Huda told journalists the whole thing gained a momentum with the signing of the

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## UNCTAD to call confce next month Prospect of a new lease of life for IJO bright

By Mustak Hossain

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is going to convene a conference following a decision taken by the International Joint Council (IJC) to give a fresh mandate to IJO to carry forward

its assignment beyond 2000, the Chief Executive of IJO has said.

"Prospect of a new lease of life significantly improved following the decision taken by the IJC meeting in Dhaka on February 9 to request the Secre-

tary General of UNCTAD to convene a meeting," Henri L. Janson said in an interview with The Daily Star on Thursday.

The objective of the meeting is to conclude a 'successor agreement', as the present one is due to expire on April 11, he said.

"If IJO is not given a new lease of life, all its activities over the past 15 years would go in vain."

He said, "IJO was formed for research and development of the lone commodity jute and a research organisation needs time to show its result."

The prospect of a fresh lease of life for IJO seems brighter as India returned to its fold in December last. India had pulled out from the forum in January last year. Thailand had also pulled out.

"I'm hopeful that Thailand would return to the world body after a fresh mandate has been given to the IJO. I have talked with Thai officials regarding this and they responded positively," he said.

"UNCTAD sources said it is making necessary arrangements for the conference, likely to be held in Geneva from March 27 to 31."

He pointed out that EC (European Commission) commissioner for delegates Poul Nielson, during his recent visit to Dhaka, assured participation of the EC and its member states in the conference.

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## One burnt alive, 30 shanties gutted

By Staff Correspondent

A four-year-old girl was roasted alive and 30 shanties were gutted in a fire at Balur Math slum in the city's Shayampur area yesterday morning.

The dead was identified as Sumi, daughter of Hasi Begum. Fire Brigade sources said the fire originated from an electric short circuit at about 4:30 am at the slum and continued for one and half hours.

Two stationery shops and two BRAC schools were also gutted in the fire.

Three fire fighting units from the Postogola station rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze.

Fire Brigade officials said they recovered the body of the girl and handed it over to the family members.

A case was filed with Shayampur police in this regard.

## ১৩০৭তম শাখার শুভ উদ্বোধন

আজ ২৬শে ফেব্রুয়ারী  
শনিবার, সকাল ১০:১৫ মিনিটে  
হবিগঞ্জের চৌধুরী বাজারে  
উদ্বোধন করা হবে  
সোনালী ব্যাংকের ১৩০৭ তম শাখা

গণ-প্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের  
মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী  
শাহ এ. এম. এস কিবরিয়া  
প্রধান অতিথি হিসেবে শাখাটি উদ্বোধন করবেন

এই  
শুভদিনে  
সম্মানিত গ্রাহক  
পৃষ্ঠপোষক এবং  
তত্ত্বাবধায়কদের  
জানাই  
আন্তরিক  
শুভেচ্ছা

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