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Wishing the
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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.

They were dressed in green uniforms, with big 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. Shrirkant, who uses only one name.

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

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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-electric 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-electric 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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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.

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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 Shyastha Khan, 20, were killed when the two groups clashed at Taltala Bazaar 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.

Gas export only after meeting domestic needs for 50 yrs

PM at TV programme 'Deshbashi Mukhomukhi'

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said Bangladesh could export natural gas in the form of value added products like electricity only after assessing its reserves and meeting domestic needs for 50 years.

"We are yet to assess our reserves," she told a questioner in a BTV programme 'Deshbashi Mukhomukhi' last night, if the foreign companies could turn the gas into value added products like power, fertiliser and petro-chemicals, those could be exported, she added.

About taking time on signing of production sharing contracts and bloc bidding, she said her government is committed to safeguarding the country's interests. That is taking time. "If we went for taking commissions, which was the practice before my government came to

power, we could have rushed through the process".

The one and half an hour programme, the second by the PM, was conducted by Anisul Huq. A five-member panel comprising Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, Economist Debpritya Bhattacharya, Columnist Abed Khan, Acting Editor of the Ittefaq Rahat Khan and Headmistress of Udayan School Shaymoli Nasrin Choudhury put questions. The Audience also asked questions.

Economy

On economic performance, Hasina told another questioner that despite severe floods, the economy had done well, posting a continuous growth rate of over five per cent, even rising to 5.9 per cent once, during her

tenure.

"We have restored financial discipline in the banking sector, curtailing loan default culture. Whatever depression is taking place is transitional because people are not taking loans to follow the default culture. They know they have to return the loans", she said while answering a question on sluggish investment.

On the port situation, the Prime Minister told a panel questioner that the problems besetting Chittagong Port are due to businessmen who take time to clear their goods, manipulating by vested quarters creating labour trouble and threats from the Opposition.

Public Safety Bill

Replies to another question, See Page 12 Col 6

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1307th শাখার
শুভ উদ্বোধন

আজ 26শে ফেব্রুয়ারী
শনিবার, সকাল 10:15 মিনিট
হবিগঞ্জের চৌমুরী বাজারে
উদ্বোধন করা হবে

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প্রধান অতিরিক্ত হিসেবে শাখাটি উদ্বোধন করবেন

এই
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