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**2 young men stabbed to death**

By Staff Correspondent  
Two young men were stabbed to death in the city yesterday. Shahabuddin Ripon, 29, of Ulan Road under Khilgaon police was murdered by unidentified miscreants. His body was recovered from southern side of Rampura TV Station at about 4:30 pm and sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Victim's father Serajul Islam filed an FIR accusing unidentified people of the killing.

None was arrested till writing of this report last night, said Khilgaon police. Biswajit Majumder, 30, son of one Monoranjan Majumder of Shakhari Nagar Lane was stabbed to death in front of his house in the old part of the city yesterday morning, said police and hospital sources.

Biswajit came under attack at about 11:30 am near his house under Sutrapur police station in the city, police said.

Ram Prashad Majumder, brother of the victim, filed a case accusing seven people of the killing, police said.

Neighbours of Biswajit and residents of the area, however, said the young man was killed by a gang of ruffians against whom he had earlier registered complaints with the local ward commissioner.

Sutrapur police said Biswajit was murdered as a sequel to previous rivalry.

None was arrested in this connection till filing of this report last night, police added.

**Jubo League leader shot dead in Ctg**

CHITTAGONG, Apr 22: Armed assailants shot dead a Jubo League leader while a city ward commissioner accompanying him escaped unhurt at Bakolia tonight, reports UNB.

A gang of 7-8 masked gunmen intercepted Bakolia Ward Commissioner Shahidul Alam and Jubo League leader Bashir Ahmed, 25, on their way to Bagarbeel area at 8 pm for party work, police and witnesses said.

The miscreants started indiscriminate fire on them, leaving Bashir Ahmed dead on the spot, a witness said.

Shahidul Alam fled to a nearby home.

**Rape: Female SI suspended for refusing to accept case**

By Staff Correspondent  
A female sub-inspector of Mirpur thana was suspended for refusing to register an FIR and instead registering a general diary of a rape victim, DC West of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Mushtaque Ahmed, told The Daily Star over telephone last night.

Action against the female SI was taken on the basis of a preliminary inquiry, Mushtaque said.

The rape victim, a maid of one Noor Mohammad of Mid Monipuri Para, was allegedly raped about three months back. He had undergone an abortion recently. She went to the police station to register a case against Noor Mohammad after her abortion, sources said.

Mushtaque could not confirm why the victim reported it to police three months after the incident. When asked where the victim underwent the surgery, he said the maid mentioned neither the name of the doctor nor the clinic.

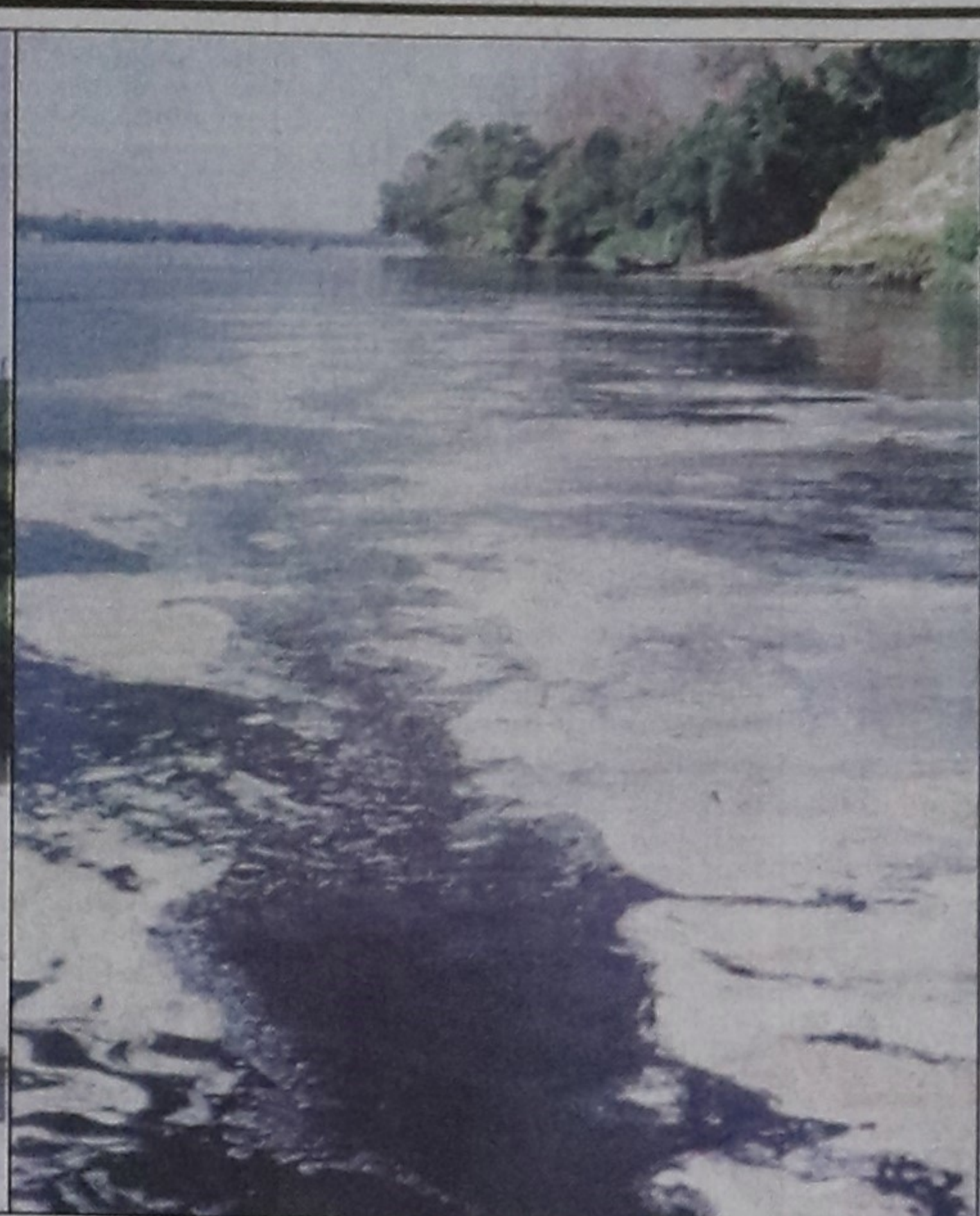
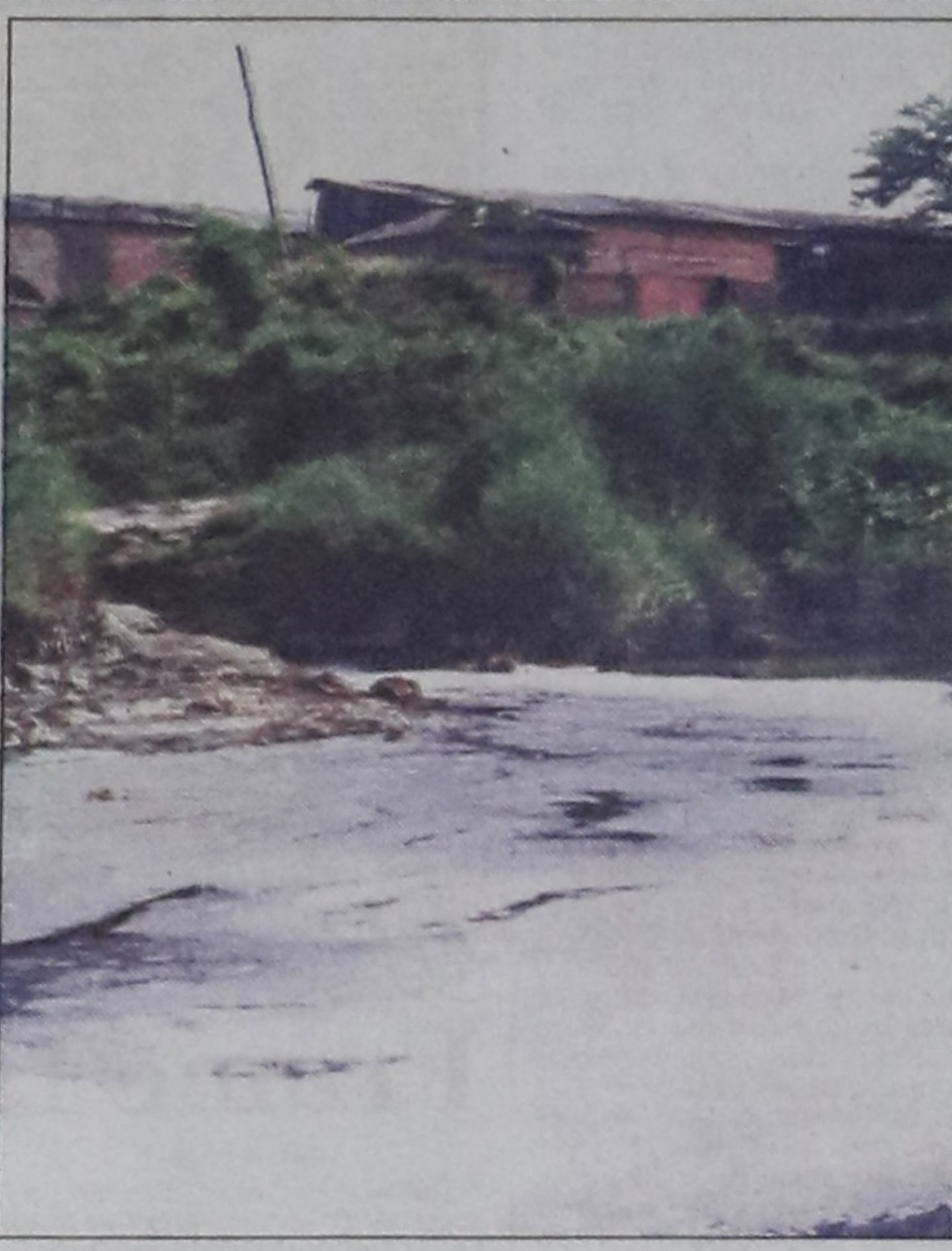
**Govt urged to take legal steps against Amini**

By Staff Correspondent  
Two organisations have appealed to the government to immediately take legal measures against Fazlul Haq Amini who reportedly gave a call at a rally in Brahmanbaria on April 19 to 'kill Kazi Faruque wherever you find him'.

The National Committee for Beijing Plus Five Review, Bangladesh, and the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB), in separate press releases, expressed their surprise that the government was yet to take any action against the offender.

The remarks were not only a violation of human rights of a law abiding citizen but also an insult to the government and the existing laws of the land, the organisations observed.

ADAB said it is concerned about the life of Kazi Faruque. The government's indifference in this regard would harm rule of law and democracy, it added.



Bangladesh observed the 'Earth Day' yesterday pledging to protect the fragile mother earth. But unabated industrial pollution threatens the country's rivers. A Department of Environment survey identified like froth on the water, (3) river current sweeping the chemical waste to the Bay of Bengal and (4) a man searches for dyed fish in the polluted water. — Star photo by A K M Mohsin.

**7th National Immunisation Day today**

The 7th National Immunisation Day (NID) will be observed across the country today giving the first dose of polio with an objective to eradicate the disease from the country by the year 2000, reports BSS.

The second dose of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) will be given on May 29. The same day Vitamin A capsule will also be given to children of the under five age group to stop night blindness.

Over 20 million under five children will be covered by the seventh NID programme through 120,000 centres.

Elaborate arrangements have been made to make the NID programme a success. A total of 50,000 health and family planning workers along with a huge number of volunteers and NGO people will join the programme.

Mobile teams were formed to reach the hitherto 'unreached' children in remote areas — be it in the enclaves, the streets, char and haor areas, slums, brothels, mills and factories.

The government has decided to use Air Force helicopters to reach the children in Ruma, Thanchhi and Alikadam upazilas of the Bandarban hill district.

The programme starting at 8 am will continue till 4 pm in the rural areas but it may continue till evening in the urban areas.

**Judiciary is still the best: Chief Justice**

Chief Justice Latifur Rahman said the country's judiciary is still the best compared to other state organs, reports BSS.

"By and large the judiciary is the best compared to the state organs, including the legislative and executive bodies," he said while inaugurating of a six-day training course for district and sessions judges at the old High Court bhavan.

However, Rahman said the judiciary in Bangladesh has been passing through a crucial time since it can not free itself from doubts and allegations.

Rahman said corruption in the judiciary is common all over the world, including Bangladesh. Although it remained at the microscopic level in Bangladesh, corrupt judges will be plucked out of the system at any cost soon, he added.

Director General of the Judicial Administration Training Institute Justice Mohammad Badruzzaman chaired the function. Course Director Hasan Shaheed Ferdous also spoke.

Rahman advised the judges to be attentive to their respective courts and to manage their courts efficiently.

Rahman also pointed to President Shahabuddin Ahmed's dismay over reports that judges weren't attending courts on time.

"If judges are not careful

about the time schedule then who else will be accountable to his conscience," said Rahman.

The chief justice emphasised the need for proper management of the courts. A judge can easily dispose of a number of pending cases by applying the court management technique.

He also asked district judges to transfer ready cases to nearby subordinate courts to help ensure their quick disposal.

Justice Latifur Rahman emphasised the need to provide training to judges and said training would be extended to judges of the superior courts.

"This training programme is essential for the district judges," he said.

The district judges have a vital role to play in reducing the load of cases, since they can transfer cases to the subordinate courts where cases are not readied and remained idle.

Justice Rahman said district judges are the chiefs of apex courts of the district and they have many functions, including the affairs of the subordinate courts.

"I call upon the district judges to be honest, look into the matters of the subordinate courts and help assistant judges manage their respective courts," said Rahman.

Justice Badruzzaman said existing provisions are sufficient to dispose of cases quickly.

**Shechhasebak Dal leader murdered in Narail**

NARAIL, Apr 22: The convener of district Shechhasebak Dal was hacked to death by his rivals at village Auria in Sadar thana on Friday night, reports UNB.

Family sources said Azizar Rahman came under attack by the assailants at 10 pm while returning home from a neighbour's home after watching TV.

The miscreants chopped Azizar Rahman with sharp weapons, leaving him fatally injured. He died on way to Sadar Hospital.

Police arrested one Nazim from the village after the victim's brother filed a case accusing 21 people.

**10 hurt as rival BNP men clash at Gopalganj**

From Our Correspondent  
GOPALGANJ, Apr 22: At least ten people were injured in a clash between two factions of BNP district unit at the Water Development Board Rest House in the town today.

The trouble erupted when the second session of the biennial conference of BNP Gopalganj district unit was going on at the public hall auditorium in the afternoon.



Chairman of Chittagong Stock Exchange Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury speaking at the e-commerce seminar organised jointly by The Daily Star and CSE in Chittagong yesterday. Sitting on the dais are: DCCI President Aftabul Islam, Executive Director of Axiom Technology Rizwan Bin Faruq, CSE chief executive Waliur Maruf Matin, CSE director Salman Ispahani and Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam. — Star photo



**Pakistan to oppose India's bid to win UNSC seat**

ISLAMABAD, Apr 22: Pakistan will oppose its arch-foe India's bid to win a permanent seat in the United Nations' Security Council, Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar said today, reports AP.

Sattar told a news conference that India doesn't deserve Security Council's membership because it has failed to implement UN resolutions on the disputed Kashmir region.

**Fitness stickers, route permit Process comes to a halt**

By Staff Correspondent  
The issuance of fitness stickers for vehicles and route permit by Bangladesh Road Transport Authority has come to a halt due to 'bureaucratic complications,' sources concerned said.

In a circular earlier, BRTA had said it would complete issuing these windshield stickers by February 2, 2000. Vehicle owners were asked to display the stickers on the windshields. This was done to ease the law enforcing authorities' detection of defaulters regarding fitness certificate, route permit and tax payment. At present BRTA is able to issue only tax clearance stickers.

A BRTA source said the bureaucratic procedure for procurement of second lot of stickers

**BNP leader's house at Barisal ransacked**

From Staff Correspondent  
BARISAL, Apr 22: Armed men attacked and ransacked the house of a BNP leader in the town last night.

Witnesses said, a group of armed men stormed into the house of Advocate Nazrul Islam Rajan, joint secretary of BNP district unit and president of district Juba Dal at around 10:30 pm. They ransacked the house and his law chamber during an hour long attack.

The gang also exploded crackers and fired shots during the attack.

Rajan is the younger brother of principal Abdur Rashid Khan, organising secretary of BNP Central Committee. Rajan claimed that the ruling party-backed armed cadres launched the attack.

**Guardians of 132 students submit memo to PM today**

The guardians of 132 female HSC candidates of Motijheel Model School and College will submit a memorandum to the Prime Minister today to press for their demand, reports UNB.

In the memo, they will appeal to the Prime Minister so that their children are allowed to sit for the examinations beginning on April 27.

The guardians will start a procession towards the PM office from the college campus at 9 am.

Dhaka Education Board blocked 132 female students from taking part in the examinations due to some faults in their registration forms regarding optional subjects.



RAJSHAHI POLLS: (From top) Ruling party activists attacked journalists at Bagha High School Centre, the damaged vehicle of Nurul Islam Thandu at Baduria and voters queue for their turn at Halidagachi School Centre at 10:30 am. — Star photo

**Khaleda's directive Form All Party Student Councils across country**

Khaleda Zia directed student leaders of the allied parties yesterday to form All Party Student Councils across the country to help the opposition's oust the government movement, reports UNB.

The opposition leader made the call during a meeting with student leaders from the Chittagong All Party Chhatra Oikya who called on her at her 29 Minto Road official residence last night.

The leaders appealed to Zia for her instructions to form student alliance across the country in the midst of the party's current crusade.

They also told Zia seven student activists had been killed in Chittagong at the hands of ruling party 'terrorists'.

"You will be remembered in the history of the democratic movement for carrying out a movement at the cost of life," Zia told the student representatives.

Zia said the government, isolated from the people and scared of the unity of opposition alliance, was issuing threats against the opposition and the people.

She asked the student leaders to strengthen the unity of the alliance to dislodge the government.

The former prime minister said the people have lost their confidence in the government and it has "lost the soil under their feet."

**No difference in JP on unity, says Ershad**

Jatiya Party chairman H M Ershad yesterday said there is no difference in his party regarding opposition unity and all parties should shoulder the responsibilities in maintaining unity, reports BSS.

He was discussing with leaders of All Party Students Alliance of Chittagong who called on him at his Baridhara residence here. Jatiya Party secretary general Nazimur Rahman Manjur, organising secretary Abu Sufian, former CUCSU VP Mazharul Haq Shah Chowdhury and Jatiya Chhatra Samaj president Moniruzzaman Titu were also present.