

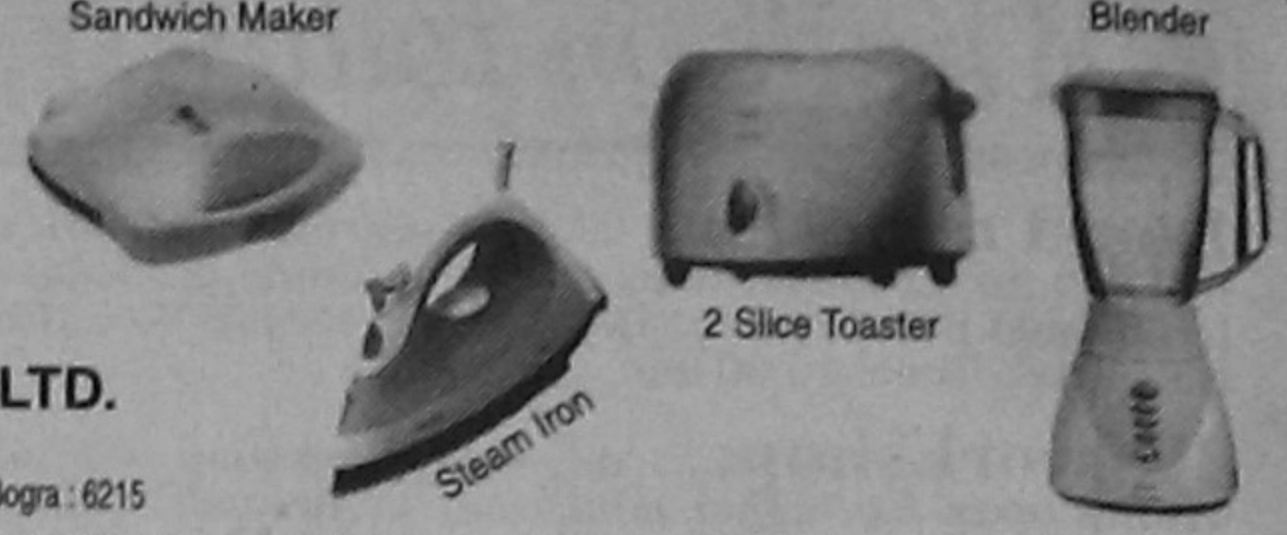
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**Extortion
50 hurt as traders,
BCL activists
clash in Natore**

NATORE, May 6: At least 50 people were injured, 12 with bullets, in a clash between businessmen and BCL activists over toll collection at a bazar here this evening, reports UNB. Of the injured, 12 were admitted to Natore Sadar Hospital while others to different clinics. Police and local people said the clash ensued when Santrash-Chandabaz Protirod Babsayee Sangram Parishad (Terrorist-Extortionist Resistance Action Committee of Businessmen) held five BCL activists for demanding illegal toll from a shop owner at Railway Station Bazar at about 7 pm. Hearing the news, their supporters equipped with arms came and snatched the BCL activists held by the businessmen. They also damaged the office of the businessmen. The BCL activists hurled home-made bombs and opened fire leaving more than 50 people injured.

**Teacher sued for
beating student
in Chittagong**

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, May 6: Police began a hunt for a teacher of the Government Collegiate School as a doctor filed a case against him for allegedly beating his son. Police raided the residence of teacher Aminul Haq last night on charge of beating Proshenjit Chowdhury, son of Dr Ashis Chowdhury. Proshenjit is a student of Class IX. The teacher was not available at his residence during the raid, police said. Proshenjit sustained injuries in his body as he was beaten by Aminul Haq in the classroom on April 25, family sources said. Proshenjit is now under treatment, family sources said adding written complaints were also submitted to the headmaster of the school and higher authorities.

**Kamil exams
begin**

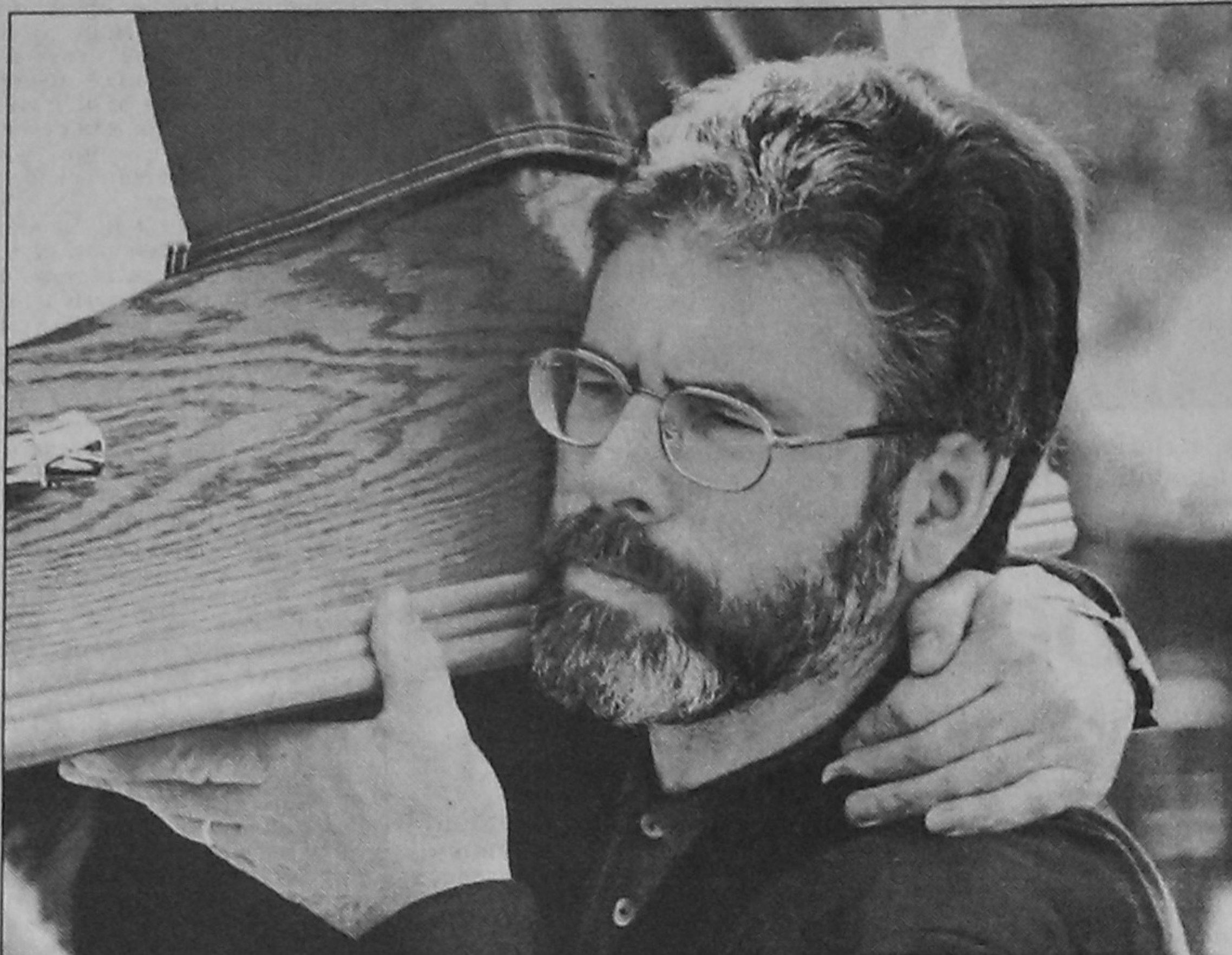
By Staff Correspondent
"Kamil" examinations under the Madrassah Education Board (MED) began throughout the country yesterday. According to the MED officials, a total of 13,516 candidates sat for test on Hadith 1st paper. On the first day, some 82 candidates were expelled for cheating at different centres in 12 districts. Of them, five examinees were expelled in Khulna, 12 in Rangpur, three each in Joypurhat, Satkhira and Magura, eight in Dhaka, five in Jamalpur, seven in Cox's Bazar, three in Kurigram, 18 in Mymensingh, two in Chuadanga and 13 in Chapainawabganj.

**Extortionists go
on rampage at
Barisal ghat**

BARISAL, May 6: Extortionists went on the rampage at launch ghat here today for non-payment of daily tolls, reports UNB. A gang of terrorists backed by a political party used to collect Tk 500 daily from the leasee of No. 6 launch ghat known as Dhaka ghat, witnesses said. Failing to get the toll in last four days, the gang ransacked the BWTG ticket counter and furniture of the leasee at about 7:30 pm.

SUST

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When contacted, the VC said the date for resumption of classes will be announced considering the security arrangement. We will have to talk to the local administration on security arrangement, he said. Students of SUST are eagerly waiting for resumption of the classes, which remained suspended since February 23. A deadlock has been prevailing on the campus for a long time over naming of some buildings and halls of SUST. All the Islamic rightist groups in Sylhet along with BNP and Jatiya Party are opposing the naming of halls and buildings of the university after Bangabandhu and Jahannara Imam. The students of the university went on a fast-unto-death in Dhaka and broke it on the fourth day on April 29 after President Shahabuddin Ahmed assured them of all possible help to resolve the crisis. However, the VC who has been awarded "death sentence" by the rightist groups at that time had assured that Syndicate would take decision about reopening of the university in its May 6 meeting. Since then the students were waiting for the crucial Syndicate meeting that began at noon and ended at 2 pm.



Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams carries the tricolour draped coffin of IRA hunger striker and Maze Prison 'blanket' protester Kieran Nugent in West Belfast yesterday hours after a 'deal' was tabled by British and Irish governments at Hillsborough linking a return of devolved government to Northern Ireland linked to IRA movement on arms issue. — AFP photo

IRA to begin disarming soon

BELFAST, May 6: The Irish Republican Army announced today it will soon begin disarming, a hugely significant development in wider efforts to revive the Northern Ireland peace process, reports AP. The outlawed IRA issued its statement a day after the British and Irish governments announced ambitious plans to transfer power back to the province's suspended Catholic-Protestant administration on May 22 — and, controversially, to extend the deadline for total IRA disarmament from that date to June 2001. "The IRA leadership will initiate a process that will completely and verifiably put IRA arms beyond use," the IRA said in a statement issued to journalists in Belfast. "We will do it in such a way as to avoid risk to the public and misappropriation by others to ensure maximum public confidence," the group said. The IRA welcomed other commitments given by the two governments as part of negotiations this week in Northern Ireland. These included a promise to parole all remaining IRA prisoners held in British and Irish jails by July 28, and to pass legislation by November reforming Northern Ireland's predominantly Protestant police. Before calling a 1997 truce, the IRA killed about 300 officers as part of its 27-year campaign to abolish Northern Ireland as a Protestant-majority state linked to Britain. To work, the governments' formula will require support from the Ulster unionists, the major British Protestant party within the four-party Cabinet proposed as part of the Good Friday peace accord of 1998. The Ulster Unionists in December agreed to form that historic coalition alongside the IRA-linked Sinn Fein party — but only on condition that the IRA would begin scrapping its hidden stockpiles of weapons in response. When that didn't happen, Britain reimposed direct rule of northern Ireland in February, and the IRA in turn broke off all contact with an international disarmament commission. Saturday's IRA statement for the first time offered a firm sense that the shadowy group would start "putting weapons beyond use" — the latest euphemism being used within Northern Ireland negotiations to describe disarmament. Previously the IRA had rejected the whole concept as equivalent to surrender. The dramatic IRA statement came as Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble — the Nobel laureate who holds the top post in the suspended administration — convened a private meeting of his party's bloc of lawmakers to discuss strategy.

**Abducted child
rescued in city:
2 arrested**

By Staff Correspondent
Khilgaon police yesterday arrested two alleged kidnappers from Madangoli of Goran and rescued a four-year-old child. The arrested are Iqbal, 11, and Sohail, 20. Golapi Begum, mother of the victim filed a case with Khilgaon police in this regard. The abducted child Yousuf was handed over to his mother, police said. Police said Iqbal and Sohail confessed that they had abducted two children — Rana and Rubel — from Goran area and sold them to the child traffickers at ZIA two months ago.

**Accused in
murder case
abducted**

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, May 6: A group of terrorists kidnapped a young man from Lamapara under Fatulla thana today. Police said the victim, Dayal, 35, is an accused in Jubo League leader Israfil murder case. Witnesses said, the terrorists came in a motorbike and a microbus and swooped on Dayal while he was sitting at a tea shop. They dragged him into the microbus at gun-point and fled away. Police arrested two persons — Aziz, 25, and Fazal, 35, in this connection, but could not rescue Dayal till filing of this report last night.

**One lost hand
in blast while
making bombs
in Chittagong**

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, May 6: A young man lost his left hand in explosion while making bombs in a house at Bakalia in the city this afternoon, police said. The victim Md Masud, 24, was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital under police guard. Masud was injured while making bombs in a house at Syed Khan Colony of Bakalia under Chandganj thana at 3 pm today. The left hand of Masud was flown away. Some bomb making materials were recovered from the spot, police said.

News Analysis

Delhi refused to bail out SL because of 'political realities'

From Pallab Bhattacharya
NEW DELHI, May 6: Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee government's rejection of military intervention in Sri Lanka or supply of arms to bail out the island nation's government is based on the national policy, officials here said. The parametres of India's approach to the developments in Sri Lanka have been clearly laid out by External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh in the last few days both in and outside parliament. India has made it clear that its first priority is to see unity and integrity of Sri Lanka is protected. Second, India will not intervene militarily in the island nation again after the bitter experience of 1987-1990 when Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF) went through a bloody and thankless stint there. Third, India across full respect to the aspirations of the minority Tamils in Sri Lanka and this objective could be achieved only through peaceful negotiations between Lankan government and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Finally, India is of the view that there is no scope for either political or military intervention by outside powers in the ethnic problem of Sri Lanka, the officials said. India's response to the assistance sought by the government of President Chandrika Ku-

**Sharif govt used to bug
judges, politicians: AG**

ISLAMABAD, May 6: Deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government tapped telephones of judges, journalists, opposition politicians, newspapers reported today quoting Pakistan's attorney general, says AP. Attorney General Aziz A Munshi told the Supreme Court on Friday that Sharif's government tapped telephones of scores of people, including Chief Justice Irshad Hasan Khan, former prime minister Benazir Bhutto and cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan, according to the English-language daily The News. Munshi was defending the military takeover of October 12 before the Supreme Court. Army Chief Gen Pervez Musharraf overthrew the elected government in a blood-

**Arrest killers
of 2 brothers:
Khaleda**

By Staff Correspondent
BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday met the family members of two brothers, who were killed by terrorists at Mohammadpur on Saturday morning. Ashfaq Hossain Jewel and Mohammad Ali Rebel were murdered one after another within fifteen minutes by a professional killer. A heart-rending scene was created when Khaleda Zia reached the residence of the two victims at Kazi Nazrul Islam Road in the evening. She stayed there for some time and consoled the family members. Local people, who were present at that time, expressed grave concern over deterioration of law and order and demanded trial of the killers of the two brothers. In reply, Khaleda Zia said the entire country has now turned into a safe den of the terrorists. She demanded immediate arrest and trial of the killers. BNP leaders Khandaker Mahabuddin Ahmed, Sadek Hossain Khoka MP, Abdus Salam, Azmal Hossain Pathan, Afjalul Haq and KM Ahmed Raju accompanied the BNP Chairperson, said a press release. Love Bug From Page 1 AP adds: Agents of the Philippines' National Bureau of Investigation were following leads that the virus maker was a 23-year-old man who lives in Manila's lower middle-class district of Pandacan. Bureau officials refused to comment on the progress of the investigation, but sources said agents could not obtain search or arrest warrants because courts were closed for the weekend. US Embassy spokesman Tom Skipper said the US government was cooperating with Philippine law enforcers in the investigation, but declined to elaborate. The initial profile of the virus maker was culled from information shared among Access Net and other Philippine ISPs. Carlotta, however, said the information is still "very, very sketchy." "Pandacan is a very big area. It's like a needle in haystack," he said. Carlotta said the virus maker may have only wanted to collect passwords to get free internet access. "If he has got graver intentions from what he's done, I am not aware of that and it's purely speculation. I might even say that he probably wasn't aware of the gravity of what he did," he said. The virus crippled government and corporate computer networks around the world, by some estimates infecting tens of millions of computers, spreading not only over e-mail like last year's Melissa virus, but through instant messaging systems that let people chat in real time on the Internet. "LOVEYOU" was uploaded into the servers of Philippine service provider SKYInternet as early as April 28, but remained dormant until Thursday, technical consultant Toby Ayre said. Access net suspended the creation of new e-mail accounts in an attempt to foil the hacker.

**2 Jubo League
activists held
in Khulna**

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, May 6: Two Jubo League activists were arrested on charge of an armed attack on a house at RN Das Lane at midnight on Friday. The arrested are Akluddin, 28, and Nazim Hossain, 25. According to Kotwali thana police, the Jubo League activists went to the residence of late Syed Molla, a veteran leader of the Muslim League and a collaborator of Pak occupation forces during 1971 Liberation War. They stormed into the house and fired several shots and exploded bombs. The Jubo League activists fled the scene after police reached there on receipt of information. The motive behind the attack was not stated in the FIR lodged by one Atiar Rahman Molla, a relative of the house owner. A case, has been recorded with Kotwali thana under Section 10 of the Public Safety Act. Investigation is going on to find the motive of the attack, police said. The arrested persons are armed cadres of AL mayoral candidate SMA Rob.

Protest: ADB confce

From Page 1
Nations (ASEAN) and its powerful neighbours dodged the furor, and later announced a plan to expand a currency swap arrangement to fight off future financial crises. Meeting on the sidelines of the ADB talks, the ministers agreed to widen an existing ASEAN swap network to include heavy weights Japan, China and South Korea. The move could arm nations with billions of dollars to deter speculators and check the spread of currency meltdowns like the one which devastated Asian economies in 1997. No potential value of the accords was discussed at the meeting and the circumstances under which it would come into force are still unclear. "The idea is now more or less concrete ... though it is yet to be worked out in detail," said Thai Finance Minister Tarrin Nummanaherninda. Protestors who earlier brought transport links to and from the conference venue to a halt fled to march on a city-centre hotel where talks were due to take place on Sunday. But a police spokesman warned: "There is no way they are going there." There were no reports of injuries after today's violence but a number of protestors fainted in the intense heat. Demonstrators chanted "ADB — go home." "ADB is killing Thailand" and brandished colourful banners lambasting bank policies. They claimed the bank had done nothing to improve the lot of people in Asia, home to 70 per cent of the world's poor, according to ADB figures. A delegation of leaders presented a list of demands for more effective poverty reduction measures and complaints at ADB loan conditions meant Thailand could not afford to increase the minimum wage. But ADB Vice President Myoung-Ho Shin, who met the protestors, said both sides were working towards the same goal — a drop in poverty rates. "I don't know why they are protesting," he said. Inside the venue, delegates heard a call for a new fight against deprivation and continued economic reform in the wake of the Asian crisis. The East Asian financial crisis will go down in history as ... a wake up call for several countries," said Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai in an opening speech. "We must not become complacent nor be locked into a false sense of security," he said, adding it was critical that reform was sustained. Finance Minister Tarrin expressed sympathy with the protestors outside but warned them "globalisation is here to stay." The ADB should be "re-dedicated" to eliminating economic deprivation in the region, he added. Tadao Chino, president of the ADB, said Asia faced many challenges but they could all be summarised in one mantra — "the challenge of poverty reduction." Representatives of a wide coalition of non-governmental organisations met in Chiang Mai ahead of the conference and claimed the bank was corrupt, poorly managed and unable to alleviate poverty. Security forces were on maximum alert after kidnappings involving Muslim rebels in the Philippines and the seizure of a hospital by Myanmar rebels in Thailand earlier this year.

ADB help

From Page 1
cant achievements in poverty alleviation and social development. In his speech in the inaugural session, Chino made a reference to his recent Dhaka visit and cited Bangladesh's success stories in poverty reduction. Kibria also had a meeting with his Indian counterpart, Yashwant Sinha, in Chiang Mai today. The two ministers discussed matters of bilateral and regional interests.

EU: Impasse

From Page 1
impasse, which is seriously disrupting development prospects in the country. A few days back, the EU envoys held a meeting with senior Awami League leader Amir Hossain Amu and before that they also met with important leaders of the opposition BNP, he said. The outcome and contents of those discussions are very useful for both the sides," the ambassador said. "We are persuading both the government and opposition leaders to play due role to put Bangladesh on the global map of investment destinations." Replying to another query, he said the contents of the discussions should not be made public. The envoy described the existing bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Germany as excellent and said the two countries are very good development partners since the independence of Bangladesh. He said the total German aid to Bangladesh so far is estimated at 3.5 billion US dollars. German investment presently in Bangladesh is 20 to 25 million US dollars. Bilateral trade is in favour of Bangladesh which exports goods worth about one billion DM a year as against Germany's export of around 200 million DM. The ambassador said Germany will shortly recruit 20,000 computer experts from non-European countries including Bangladesh. The German government recently decided to grant temporary work permit to 20,000 computer experts for five years. The work permit is as good as green card issued by the US authorities. There is no quota for any country and details are being worked out, the envoy said. The others who spoke included Director of GTZ Dr Tabatabaai and Director of the Goethe Institut in Dhaka, Dr Markus Litz. Earlier, DRU President M Anwarul Haq made introductory remarks while its General Secretary Monwarul Islam welcomed the guests.

**Barisal city
BNP treasurer
kidnapped**

BARISAL, May 6: Armed terrorists stabbed and kidnapped city BNP Treasurer Rezaul Haq Bayezid from Amanatganj in the town this evening, reports UNB. Witnesses said the terrorists numbering eight to ten attacked the Amanatganj office of the Power Workers' Union at about 7 pm. They stabbed Bayezid, also younger brother of city BNP General Secretary Ebadul Haq Chan, indiscriminately prior to kidnapping him. He could not be rescued till filing of this report at 10 pm. Bayezid's family blamed Jubo League leader Panama Faruq and his associates for the attack and abduction.

Programmes for celebration of birth centenary of eminent scientist and educationist Dr. Muhammad Quadrat-i-Khuda

- May 8 at 7-30 am : Placing floral wreath at graveyard and Ziarat, Banani, Dhaka.
 - 9-00 am : Rally from BCSIR (Science Laboratory) premises Dhaka to Department of Chemistry, Dhaka University (Carzon Hall campus).
 - Participated by : Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), Dhaka University, Bangladesh Association of Scientists and Scientific professionals, Bangladesh Scientists Association and Bangladesh Scouts.
 - 3-00 pm : Discussion on life and works of Dr. M. Quadrat-i-Khuda in BCSIR auditorium, Dhaka.
 - May 10 at 9-00 a m : Scientific seminar (day-long) in BCSIR auditorium, Dhaka.
 - May 14-15 : Open exhibition. All laboratories of BCSIR will remain open from 9 am to 5 pm
- Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), Dhaka**