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## Bangabandhu murder HC accepts names of 11 state defence lawyers in death ref

The High Court yesterday accepted the names of 11 state defence lawyers submitted by the solicitor for 11 absconding convicts in the Bangabandhu Death Reference Case, reports BSS.

On May 3, a High Court Division Bench comprising Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin and Justice ABM Khairul Huq directed the solicitor to ensure whether state defence lawyers on behalf of the condemned absconders have been appointed or not.

The court had fixed May 15 for the order regarding the appointment of state defence lawyers.

As per directive of the court the solicitor yesterday submitted the list of the names of 11 state defence lawyers for 11 absconding condemned persons to the court.

The state defence lawyers are JK Paul, Zahedul Bari, Mohammad Waliul Islam, Mohammad Zahurul Islam Mukul, Khandker Golzar Hossain, Saifuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, MA

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## PCJSS, TRWA men boycott CHT Task Force meet

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 15: Parbaty Chatterjee Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) and Tribal Refugee Welfare Association (TRWA) for the third time boycotted the meeting of the Task Force on Refugees in CHT held here at Chittagong circuit house today.

The two representatives — Sudasindu Khisa of PCJSS and Bakul Chakma of TRWA — boycotted the meeting protesting the Task Force move to repatriate internal non-tribal refugees in CHT, sources said.

The meeting over today Task Force chairman Dipankar Talukder, MP, told the newsmen that a list of 1,28,364 families of internal refugees was finalised for repatriation.

The list included 90,208 families of tribal and 38,156 families of non-tribals, Talukder said. The rehabilitation work would start on receipt of order from the ministries concerned, he added. The non-tribal internal refugees were scrutinised from among those living in CHT between the period of 1975 to 1992, Talukder said.

Replying to a question he said it was nowhere written in the peace accord that non-tribal refugees should not be rehabilitated in CHT.

Both tribal and non-tribal should get equal treatment in the CHT to establish peace, chairman of the Task Force said. The internal refugees

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## Removal of former president: Rule nisi issued on 4 CCCI leaders

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 15: A High Court Division Bench of Supreme Court today issued a rule nisi upon four leaders of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) including present president Saifuzzaman Chowdhury regarding removal of former president and change of power there that took place on March 14.

The court also stayed the resolution of March 14, circular of May 10 and actions hereafter for ten days. The rule nisi and stay order came following a writ petition lodged by the former (removed) CCCI president Md Kamaluddin Ahmed.

The rule nisi asked the respondents to show cause as to why they should not be ordered to cancel the impugned resolution of March 14 and impugned circular of May 10 for not being in conformity with the provisions of the articles of the association. It also ordered the respondents to certify and transmit the report to the court by May 21.

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Children of eleven freedomfighters walked barefooted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday, their hands and feet cuffed, demanding extradition of the absconding convicts in Bangabandhu Murder Case.

— Star photo

## Regional cooperation key to economic growth Visiting Bhutanese FM tells newsmen

By Diplomatic Correspondent

Foreign Minister of Bhutan Lyonpo Jigme Thinley yesterday said regional and sub-regional cooperation is essential for economic development of SAARC states and the region.

SAARC has a crucial role to play as a development forum in the region and cooperation among the member countries will continue despite postponement of the Summit, he told newsmen emerging from official talks here.

"We see postponement of the (SAARC) Summit as a temporary halt. It will have no effect on technical cooperation among member states."

Thinley who arrived Dhaka on May 13 on a five-day official visit visited besides South Asian regional cooperation, sub-regional cooperation envisaged in the South Asian Growth Quadrangle comprising Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal should also be seriously pursued.

He said, in the era of globalisation, the need for cooperation at both regional and sub-regional levels are "essential and imperative."

Responding to a question, he expressed the hope that the SAARC Summit would take place shortly, but in the meantime cooperation and understanding at all levels would continue.

The official talks were held for nearly two hours at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The home team led by Foreign Minister Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi, Acting Foreign Secretary Dr. Toufik Ali, Director General of SAARC Munshi Faiz Ahmed, D G South Asia Mondul Ali and Bangladesh envoy to Bhutan SS Chakma.

The Bhutanese side led by the foreign minister included its ambassador Lhatu Wangchuk and other senior officials.

The two ministers met the press jointly. The visiting foreign minister responded to all questions by newsmen. Thinley has the distinction of being the first Chairman of Bhutanese Council of Ministers following amendments to the governing provisions by King Jigme Wangchuk.

He described Bangladesh-Bhutan relations as "excellent," and said the talks were "very productive, fruitful and substantive."

Asked what issues he discussed, Thinley said, "No issue was discussed. We are the best of neighbours. We do not have any (outstanding) bilateral issue. We only discussed agenda for more trade, better cooperation and ways to increase people-to-people contact."

Asked what was the outcome of talks regarding reported opening of a second overland transit route between Bhutan and Bangladesh, Thinley said, "We have agreed that these matters will be discussed at trade talks with a Bhutanese trade delegation which due to arrive in Dhaka."

He said the Bangladesh-Bhutan trade agreement will expire in September and all trade modalities will be addressed then.

It was learnt that the second transit route through Dalu in Bhutanese and Naakugan in Bangladesh was identified earlier.

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## Khulna dist, city units of APAC formed

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, May 15: All-party Action Committees of city and district units have been formed in Khulna after a marathon meeting of the opposition liaison committee with city BNP president M Nurul Islam in the chair.

The 161-member city committee will be run by five co-convenors. They are city Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman and M Nurul Islam of BNP, city JP president Abul Hossain, city Ameer of Jamaat Mian Golan Parwar and city president of IOJ Moulana Sakawat Hossain. The 161-member city committee of APAC has been formed with 76 from BNP, 35 from JP, 30 from Jamaat, 15 from Islami Oikyo Jote and 5 from other opposition parties.

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## Israeli parliament approves WB land transfer

JERUSALEM, May 15: The Israeli parliament approved the transfer of Arab villages near Jerusalem to full control of the Palestinian Authority in a vote Monday that followed a heated debate lasting more than four hours, reports AFP.

Fifty-six MPs voted in favour of an Israeli cabinet decision earlier Monday to hand over the villages of Abu Dis, Azariyah and Suwahara to the Palestinians, while 48 voted against and one abstained.

Prime Minister Ehud Barak had described the vote as a vote of confidence in his fragile coalition, after the National Religious Party said it would quit the government over the land transfer.

The three villages are currently in area B of the West Bank, where Yasser Arafat's self-rule authority already has civilian rule but where Israel maintains security control.

But Barak said the transfer would not take place until the situation in the Palestinian territories was clear, following a fourth day of violent clashes.



An Israeli sniper aims at Palestinian protesters during clashes near the Jewish settlement of Nezarim in the centre of the Gaza Strip yesterday. Clashes between Israeli troops and Palestinians erupted following protests to mark the 'Nakba' or the 'catastrophe' of Israel's founding 52 years ago.

— AFP photo

# Sensitised society, empowered women can end repression

Workshop on NCBP told

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a workshop entitled "NGO Committee on Beijing Plus Five, Bangladesh (NCBP)" in the city yesterday emphasised the creation of awareness in the society and more empowerment of women to stop repression on them.

They said that the government and the NGOs had taken various steps for the women's advancement but such steps had not been implemented effectively so far.

Expressing concern over the rising rate of women's and children's repression in the country, the speakers said the women continued to be in a vulnerable position due to lack of accountability and co-ordination among the operation of the government and non-government agencies.

NCBP, a coalition of over 225 NGOs and women groups, was formed in 1999 aiming at reviewing the projects and programmes of both the govern-

ment and NGOs. The coalition is also trying to implement the proposal for the Platform For Action (PFA) in collaboration with the government.

The speakers condemned the political parties for politicising the women's issue and stressed the need for political commitment to stop repression on women and their advancement in the society.

Chaired by Salma Khan, chairperson NCBP and president, Women for Women, the workshop was also addressed by Dina Haq, joint secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, Maleka Begum, member, NCBP-steering committee, Prof. Jahannara Haq, member, NCBP-steering committee.

Motlur Rahman, Editor of Daily Prothom Alo, addressed the function as chief guest while Mahin Sultana, member of NCBP-steering committee placed an alternative NGO re-

port on Beijing Plus Five Bangladesh at the workshop. A total of 242 representatives from various government and non-government organisations attended the workshop.

In her report, Mahin Sultana said five years have elapsed since the Beijing conference but we could not do anything worth mentioning for the welfare of the women. "So, we should find out our lapses in the past and list what we need to do in this regard in the future."

She said government had taken some plans for the advancement of women but steps had not yet been taken to implement those steps properly. She, however, said that the government could not implement the plans without the involvement of relevant sectors of the government and NGOs.

She also said that the government had taken up negligible measures for incorporating women's development in differ-

ent planning of the government. "A majority of government officials in the planning level were found to be quite unaware of national and international commitments on equality of women."

Mahin Sultana said women's equality and development were not incorporated in the light of national target achievement in different development projects under the ministries. "Disparity between men and women is not explicitly recognised in the projects. So the projects did not succeed in eradicating the gender difference and distributing the benefits of the development projects equally between men and women."

She said that the NGOs were continuing their efforts towards implementation of the Platform For Action (PFA), adopted in Beijing conference in 1995.

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## 3 BCL leaders chargesheeted for assaulting woman at TSC

By Staff Correspondent

Three leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League unit at Dhaka University were chargesheeted yesterday in connection with a case for sexually assaulting a woman at the TSC of University on the night of December 31 last year.

The Detective Branch submitted the chargesheet to the CMM's Court after about four months' investigation, police said.

The chargesheeted persons — Fazlul Haq Russel, Khan Mesbahul Alam Tutul — are now in the Dhaka Central Jail. The other chargesheeted accused — Chandan — is absconding.

Russel and Tutul were temporarily expelled from the DU for their alleged involvement in the incident.

## Murder of 2 brothers Police yet to nab Kamal Pasha

By Staff Correspondent

Police yet yesterday failed to trace Kamal Pasha, the main accused in the murder of two brothers at Mohammadpur in the city on May 5.

But residents of the area alleged that Pasha was seen moving around in the locality. They wondered how Pasha, a 'notorious killer' could move freely despite deployment of police in the area.

Two brothers — Ashfaq Hossain Jewel, 28, and Mohammad Ali Rebel, 24, were gunned down within 15 minutes by professional killer Kamal Pasha on May 5, said an FIR.

## 39 Rohingyas arrested

COX'S BAZAR, May 15: The Alikadam Thana Police in the Bandarban district arrested 39 Rohingyas including 18 women from different areas of the Upazila recently, police said, reports BSS.

Police raided Fazal Colony, Sabarpara, Noapara, Amtalipara and Panabazara and arrested the Rohingyas. They entered Bangladesh recently.

# Early entrance planned to reduce session jams

By Mizan Ali

In a bid to reduce session jam and eliminate late admission system, public universities and medical colleges across the country will allow applicants to sit for admission tests soon after publication of their HSC 2000 results, sources said.

The decision was taken at a recent meeting chaired by the education minister, Vice-chancellors of all the public universities, chairman and members of the University Grants Commission, and the education secretary attended the meeting.

Almost all the public institutions for higher education currently have, on an average, two years of session jam caused by unscheduled closure, the sources added.

When contacted, Professor A K Azad Chowdhury, vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, confirmed that the decision had been taken to prevent loss of a year due to late admission.

Even before the students begin classes at the universities, Professor Chowdhury said, they lose a year. Session clogging is also caused by unscheduled recess, often caused by clashes between rival student organisations, he added.

Although necessary infrastructure is there, he said, public universities would need logistic and financial support to hold admission test for an additional batch of students every year. The government, he added, has already pledged to ensure that.

Dhaka University would need additional budgetary allocation of about two crore taka for this purpose, Professor Chowdhury said.

DU presently gets about Tk 100 crore annually including revenue and development budget, he added.

Rejshahi University is now burdened with a session jam of about two years, its Vice-chancellor Professor Sayedur Rahman told The Daily Star recently.

He, too, blamed political violence on the campus in this regard.

At one time, the university lagged four to five years behind schedule, he said. During 1991-92, it was three and a half years. Since 1997, the situation has progressively improved.

In the last three years, there

was hardly any unscheduled closure that helped reduce session backlog, he added.

For Chittagong University, things have not been that smooth. It has just come out of nearly five months of closure.

Following armed clashes between the ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League and Islami Chhatra Shibir on May 10, the academic activities had remained suspended before dialogue between university authorities and students resulted in resumption of classes on May 10.

Jabangirnagar University has now a session jam of about two years now. JU remained closed for about six months in 1998-99, after the issue of sexual harassment of a few female students had led to student unrest.

Shahjalal University, which earlier had no session jam, would now lag about six months behind because of the ongoing closure, caused by trouble arising out of a controversy over naming of some academic and administrative buildings of the

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## 28 hostages freed, 7 still held at daycare centre in Norway

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, May 15: The Additional District and Sessions Judge, Bagerhat has sentenced accused Enayet Hossain alias Manju Molla to death and another accused Shukh Mia to suffer life term in the sensational Matin murder case recorded with Mollat thana on February 20 of 1996.

The chargesheet was submitted on October 14 by S. I. Syed Abdullah who investigated the case.

According to prosecution story: Abdul Matin, son of Shaikh Afzaruddin of Kodalia village under Mollat thana of Bagerhat was brutally killed by the accused in February, 1996.

The murder was committed following a dispute over a fish enclosure at Mollat, as stated in the FIR.

the police commissioner from nearby Stavanger, Olav Soenderland, as saying.

Negotiations were continuing with the suspect, police said. The man, who according to the internet tabloid VG Nett is likely the father of one of the children, burst into the building early Monday and threatened to kill all 25 children and 10 adults.

Police were able to identify the man, who was reported to be in his forties.

Stavanger police acting press spokesman Anders Bang Andersen told NTB, "We know who the man is because he called from the daycare center at 11:06 a.m. (0906 GMT) on May 15."

Some 20 police officers were stationed around the daycare center throughout Monday.

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