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**EC office siege**  
Ctg four-party  
alliance protests  
police action

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, June 4: The 4-party opposition alliance today held a rally and brought out procession in the port city.

The activists of the alliance led by its local leaders marched towards Election Commission office to lay siege to it at Jamal Khan Road at 12:30 pm. But they were intercepted by police.

Later, they brought out procession in the city protesting police action.

Earlier, the alliance held a rally in front of the local press club with alliance convenor and city BNP president Mir Md Nasir Uddin in the chair. Former minister Abdullah Al Noor, Dostagir Chowdhury, Moulana Abu Taher and Molnuddin Kaderi Shawkat addressed the rally.

## US-Russia accord on plutonium disposal, early missile warning

MOSCOW, June 4: US President Bill Clinton and Russian President Vladimir Putin conceded differences over a proposed US missile defense programme today, but both declared they found common ground for resolving the issue at two days of summit talks, reported AP.

At the same time, the two leaders signed agreements committing their countries to dispose of 34 tons of weapons-grade plutonium each and to provide each other with early warning of missile and space launches.

Clinton and Putin issued a joint "statement of principles" on missile defense that Clinton described as "an attempt to bring our positions closer together."

Both described their first meeting since Putin was sworn in last month as a search for common ground.

Clinton said that, while they couldn't agree on everything, they at least spelled out their

differences with "clarity and candor. And I appreciate that."

Putin praised Clinton's negotiating style of "not trying to find dead ends and problems."

Clinton said the joint statement "makes clear that there is an emerging ballistic missile threat which must be addressed, but we have not agreed on how best to do so."

"We have acknowledged that the ABM (Anti-Ballistic Missile) treaty foresees the possibility of changes in the strategic environment that might require it to be updated."

The statement was issued in Russian, but an English-language version was not immediately available.

Clinton said US and Russian experts would work to try to narrow their difference on missile defense in the coming days.

Putin also acknowledged that new global threats exist and said "there are a lot of problems" with the ABM treaty. He said the two leaders "have a commonality" in seeing the

threat, adding, "we're against having a cure which is worse than the disease."

Clinton is considering proceeding with a plan to develop a limited missile defense against attack from so-called rogue states such as North Korea and Iran. Russian officials, saying such a system violates the nearly 30-year-old ABM treaty and could escalate the arms race.

Clinton stressed that he had not yet made a decision on whether to move ahead with such a missile defense system — aside from whether it is prohibited by the ABM treaty — and won't do so until the fall.

Clinton described the plutonium and missile launch agreements as "major steps to reduce the nuclear danger."

Disposing of the plutonium would cost a total of 5.75 billion dollar — 4 billion dollar in the United States and 1.75 billion dollar in Russia. Other countries will be asked to contribute, said another US official.

Both spoke on condition of anonymity.

The Russian plutonium is to be converted for use in civilian nuclear power reactors. Some of the US material will be used for reactors, the rest will be buried.

The International Atomic Energy Agency will monitor the carrying out of the agreement, which could take 20 years, said the official, who briefed reporters under rules that withheld his name.

The 10-year agreement on early-warning cooperation calls for completion of a center in Moscow in the fall of 2001, to be manned around the clock. Within a minute of launch, the other side is to be notified in order to allay "uncertainties" about the intention of the launch.

Information about launches by other countries also will be provided, but only if the missile or spacecraft crosses the territory of the United States or Russia, a senior US official said.

### Businessman murder: None arrested yet

By Staff Correspondent

None was arrested in connection with the killing of businessman Asaduzzaman Khan in front of a restaurant at Topkhana in the city on Saturday night.

With the victim filed a case with Ramma police station yesterday, accusing eight people of their involvement in the killing.

Local sources said Asad was killed as a sequel to previous rivalry between Rejal and Asad group, both backed by the ruling party, over toll collection in Topkhana area.

Asaduzzaman Khan, 35, business partner of Metro Hotel at Fakirpore and his friend Sabuj were shot in front of Cafe Jheel when they were coming out of the restaurant after taking meal at about 8:30 pm.

**Shad Ershad appears before CMM's court**

By Court Correspondent

Shad Ershad, son of former president H M Ershad, appeared before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court here yesterday.

Shad was accused of abducting a teenaged girl. The next date for his appearance in the same court has been fixed on July 4.

Shad was arrested on March 4 on the basis of a case filed with Gulshan police by the victim's father.

After 10 days of confinement at the Cantonment police station, Shad was granted ad-interim bail by the Special Court for Women and Children Repression Prevention, Dhaka on March 14.

Earlier, the investigation officer sought time to complete his investigation into the case.

But the court did not give any decision on the prayer.

### Hunger strike today demanding repeal of Vested Property Act

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Shikkhak Sainity (BSS) (Teachers Association) will submit a memorandum to the Speaker and Members of Parliament today (Monday) at 11 am to press home their 14-point demand including nationalisation of their services.

Teachers from Dhaka, Comilla, Brahmanbaria, Tangail, Kishoreganj and Mymensingh will assemble at the Central Shaheed Minar at 10 am to take part in the procession towards the Jatiya Sangsad, BSS press release said yesterday.

The BNP procession was led by Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Dr Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain, Tariqul Islam, Anwar Zahid, Mirza Abbas, Sadek Hossain Khoka, Shahjahan Siraj, Prof Shahidul Islam, Mashru Rahman, Zainal Abedin Faruq, Md. Bakul, Abdus Salam, Md. Fazlul Hasan Tripathi, Shirin Sultan, Sirajul Islam Selim and Maj. (Retd) Manjur Qader.

Jatiya Party leaders Mostafa

### Nobel laureate Miller dead

CHICAGO, June 4: Nobel

Prize-winner for economics Merton Miller, praised as the "founder of modern finance" who helped corporate executives boost their firms' value for shareholders, died Saturday. He was 77, reports Reuters.

Miller earned the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences in 1990 for his theories on financial economics, according to a statement by the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, where he was a professor.

"Merton Miller is widely considered to be the founder of modern finance," Robert Hama, the school's dean, said.

"He helped revolutionise corporate financial practice, changing it from a loose collection of rules to a sophisticated approach to maximising shareholder value," the business school's statement also said.

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### BCRA president files diary with Motijheel thana

By Staff Correspondent

President of Bangladesh Crime Reporters Association filed a general diary with the Motijheel thana yesterday for necessary investigation and action in connection with threats against himself and office-bearers of his organisation.

The association is demanding removal of the DMP commissioner Matur Rahman and withdrawal of case against organisation's vice president Anumir Rahman Taj.

Unidentified people are threatening the office-bearers and active members of the association to implicate them in cases under the Public Safety Act, the diary noted.

The press conference was also attended by Shudhananda Mohadev, Nirmal Chandra Bhoumik, Christopher Gomez, Hubert Gomez, Subrata Chowdhury, Basudeb Dhar, Nirmal Chatterjee and Chanranath Poddar.

**Sadipur Bridge opens to traffic**

SYLHET, June 4: The

Sadipur Bridge, constructed at a cost of Tk 13 crore, on Dhaka-Sylhet highway has been opened to traffic, reports UNB.

Under the project, Roads and Highways Department also

sidestepped approach road on

both sides of the bridge.

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