FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh and India and that they

have worked," the foreign secretary

in constant touch to defuse the

tension. He said he had telephonic

conversations with the Indian High

Commissioner in Dhaka several

times and the BDR officials have

been asked to get in touch with their

return bodies of eleven BSF person-

nel killed at Roumari, he said. Two

other BSF men are undergoing

BSF personnel killed at Roumari, the

foreign secretary said, "These (11)

are in our possession and we can

return what is in our possession. It

may so happen that some dead or

injured could be in another's terri-

Wednesday confirmed death of 16

returned after their treatment in

are being treated for their injuries.

Withdrawal from Padua

Muazzem Ali said a flag meeting

was held at Tamabil earlier in the day

and the Padua issue was resolved

peacefully. "Our forces have already

Padua and lifted the encirclement of

the camp where the BSF personnel

assured that road construction by

that patrolling by BDR men would

Mukti Bahini during the Liberation

War was later taken over by the BSE.

The Padua camp set up by the

Responding to questions, the

were lodged and we have been

the Indians would be stopped."

be allowed there.

Asked about the bodies of other

Indian counterparts.

treatment in Dhaka.

BSF men in Roumari.

yesterday.

He said the two governments are

# Russia, China, India, Pakistan condemn Batamul blast

BSS, Dhaka

Russia, China, India and Pakistan yesterday condemned bomb explosions during the Bengali New Year celebration at Ramna Batamul on April 14.

In separate messages, Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and spokespersons of Russian. Chinese and Pakistan governments have expressed deep sympathies for the bereaved family members.

Vajpayee denounced the bomb blast as a heinous incident and said. "this most unfortunate incident yet again reminds us of the threat which terrorism poses to democratic societies."

Expressing sympathies to the

### Businessman

Unidentified gunmen shot Shahin, a garment cut piece trader, in his chest. Local people rushed him to Samarita Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

The reason behind the killing could not be known till filing of this report last night.

Victim's father received the body at Samarita Hospital and took it to his residence at Kazipara Garden Road in the city. Policesent the body to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital vesterday for autopsy.

Victim's father filed a case with Tejgaon thanain this regard.

#### WB may turn back FROM PAGE 1

government. WB has already spent more than

half of its promised amount for the project.

When the project is completed, WASA would be able to supply another 22.5 core litres of water daily. At present it supplies 120 crore litres per day while the demand is about 145 crore litres at the maxi-

Asked about pollution of Shitalakkhya and Balu rivers, WASA officials said they have already taken up projects in this regard, which include rehabilitation of sewer line in the northern portion of WASA network.

A 96 crore project was given pre-ECNEC approval yesterday. Under the project, jointly financed by Japan and Bangladesh government, the trunk sewer lines from Badda to Tejgaon, Tejgaon to Bashabo and Bashabao to Syedabad will be rehabilitated, sources said.

#### Hawkers

FROM PAGE 12

keep the city roads and pavements free of hawkers.

Meanwhile, DCC is yet to take any fresh initiative to evict hawkers from their re-occupied places. When asked, Fazle Elahi, Chief Estate Officer (CEO) of DCC, said they will discuss the matter with DMP in a couple of days because DCC is unable to conduct any eviction drive without force from DMP.

He however said, "We are yet to officially receive any document regarding the High Court order".

families of the victims he said all civilised nations should work together with a total commitment to combat the menace.

The Russian government condemned the bomb explosion and termedit as 'heinous act'

The government of China conveyed its sympathy to the government of Bangladesh along with the bereaved families of the deceased.

The spokesperson of Pakistan foreign office branded the occurrence as 'an unfortunate incident'. "We condemn all acts of terrorism," he added.

#### Two newsmen

office till 3:30 am and beat them. The gang also ransacked the newspaper office before leaving. A case was lodged with Panchlaish police in this

Chittagong Union of Journalists and local Press Club held a protest meeting yesterday and demanded arrest of the culprits within 24 hours,

### We are ready to meet any onslaught: Abul Hasan

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, when asked for his reaction on the border incidents, said, "Every inch of the sovereign country is sacred and the defence of it is paramount."

He went on, "The nation fought hard under the leadership of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Shiekh Mubibur Rahman to achieve independence. Our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has time and again reiterated that no violation of our territorial integrity will ever be allowed. We are committed to peace both at home and in the region, but we are also equally prepared to meet any onslaught on our soveriehgn

The state minister added, fervently hope we shall resolve the unfortunate situation through

### Jubo Dal leaders

It is alleged that police refused to receive the complaint about missing of Jubo Dal leaders.

Shahera Khatoon, elder sister of slain Jubo Dal leader Ansar was allegedly refused by OC of Terokhada thana when she went to the thana to file a case. Later, she filed a case with the upazila court on

Police said bodies of Jubo Dal leaders were dumped in Bashuakhali beel.

Police quoting employees of the fish enclosure said that the Jubo Dal leaders were shot and stabbed by the

Motive behind the brutal doublemurder is yet to be known. But sources said the murders are sequel to political rivalry.

A case has been lodged with accusing 22 persons.

#### Terokhada thana in this connection Dhaka.

# Hasina urges Khaleda

project of the prime minister under which the distressed aged people will be provided with shelter, food clothes and a family environment. At the complex, 100 old people including 60 women, and 400 children will live together.

The first Shanti Nibas is built in Faridpur at a cost of Fk 2.22 crore. Six such homes will be built in six divisions by the Social Welfare Ministry. Forest and Environment

Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, State Minister for Social Welfare Dr. Mozammel Hossain, Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Dhaka

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Divisional Commissioner AR Khan and Social Welfare Secretary Mohammad Rafiqul Alam also spoke on the occasion.

Sheikh Hasina also urged the people to vote for Awami League for the next term to ensure economic emancipation of the masses, while addressing a huge public meeting at Nagarkanda MN Academy ground yesterday afternoon.

Paridpur District Awami League convenor Imamuddin Ahmed presided over the meeting.

Hasina urged the people to build up resistance against the "evil forces" who are out to destroy hardwon independence and democracy through terrorist activities.

They even did not let the common people hold a traditional function to celebrate the Bengali New Year," she said of the Ramna Batamul bomb blast on the Pahela Baishakh while addressing a public meeting at Baliakandi Stadium in Rajbari.

### Business leaders

FROM PAGE 1

with Hasina and Khaleda will focus mainly on the political situation, Latifur Rahman said, "Our main objective is not to concentrate on political issues. All issues that hamper normal economic and business activities will come up during the discussion."

He said confrontational politics, hartal, law and order situation and issues related to governance will be the main issues for discussion.

But they not play the role of mediator to resolve the present political crisis.

Asked whether their stand against hartal could be termed a pro-government move, Foreign Chamber President Wali Bhuiyan said, as businessmen they were always against all activities that hamper businesses, be it hartal or political confrontation on streets.

He said, "People of all walks of life are against hartal. Nobody wants hartal except a few who have their own political interest."

The business leaders also demanded one-day weekly



Yussuf Abdullah Haroon, President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) briefing newsmen about FBCCI's future programmes on present political and economic situation at the FBCCI Board Room yesterday. Latifur Rahman, President of MCCI, Benajir Ahmed, President of DCCI, and Prof. Masuda M Rashid Chowdhury, Director, FBCCI, are also seen in the picture.

### KCC in disarray

beliefs. During a recent interview with Khulna correspondent of a Dhaka-based Bangla daily Ranjit alleged that the mayor cannot toleratehim since 'lam a Hindu'.

His allegation against the Mayor angered not only about 80 per cent ward commissioners, but almost all officials and employees of the corporation as well, who have been non-cooperating with him.

However, Ranjit denied the charge yesterday terming the report of the Bangla daily rubbish and said newsmen are in the habit of twisting the truth. Nine ward commissioners were present in the office of the KCC Secretary Mohammad Alimushaan when Ranjit made the remark at 12.15 p.m. yesterday. The ward commissioners including Jubo League leader Hafizur Rahman strongly objected to such remark against the press and asked Gharai not to vitiate the healthy atmosphere of the KCC, which, he said, is being slowly politicised.

The ward commissioners said that they were all united behind the mayor against any attempt to politicise the Khulna City Corporation.

#### HC order

embankment-cum-road along the river bank, which would help demarcate the Buriganga," he said.

But sources in the Planning Commission said the Ministry of Water Resources recently asked them not to allocate the Tk 19 crore which it had asked for earlier to free the river from encroachment and pollution. Many officials of the BWDB have resented this and said the government is reluctant to 'disturb' before the coming general election hundreds of influential persons who have encroached upon

of the Buriganga. "We have a list of people who are encroaching upon the Buringanga and running big businesses. They have strong links with the ruling party. None can evict them without green signal from the highest authorities," said an official prefer-

ring anonymity. Different government agencies have conducted several surveys of the river to determine the extent of encroachments and pollution. All this was done under public pressure to save the Buriganga, the lifeline of

#### Batamul carnage

FROM PAGE 12 burial. He returned to the city on April 18.

SB however could not cite any concrete basis for suspecting Matiur's involvement in the explosion. The officer concerned told the Daily Star that they were to hand over Matiur to the DB yesterday.

Matiur Rahman is the Imam of Uttarpara Noorani Jame mosque and secretary of Jamiatul Hizbullah led by the Pir of Sarsina Shah Mohammad Majibullah. He is also a senior teacher at Shamsul Haque School at Par Dagair.

Matiur passed Dakhil in 1982 and Alem in 1984. He passed Fazel from Sarsina Jamiya Islamia Madrassah.

He obtained his honors in Islamic Studies from Dhaka University in 1989 and Master's degree from the same university in 1993.

Matiur is also a lecturer of Islamic Studies at Matuail's Haji Abdul Latif Bhuiyan College.

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#### Khaleda blames AL polls. Although the AL joined in the puppet government in Bangladesh,' polls, but failed to foil the anti-

FROM PAGE 1

the bomb explosion at CPB's meeting did not form any judicial inquiry committee to probe the incident and find out the terror-

Government's reluctance to form judicial inquiry commission after all the major bomb explosions proved that it is not sincere to identify the terrorists and want continuation of such barbaric

Justifying her allegation, Khaleda Zia said the AL killed Chhatra Dal leader Suman at Noakhali four hours after taking oath on June 23, 1996 and started running the country through killing, and in nearly last five years killed several hundred opposition leaders and activists and innocent people across the country.

She said the AL is killing at least one opposition activist almost everyday and cited that Juba dal leader Saidul Islam Sohel was killed at Kalabagan on Wednesday and another one at Mirpur on Tuesday.

"The Awami League does not believe in democratic politics and politics for the people, development and it know nothing without killing, loot and corruption. The Awami League did politics of killing in the past and continued it," she added.

The BNP Chairperson said the Prime Minister herself and her government have miserable failed to run the country and it is wise for her to quit from power right now and advised to hand over power to a Caretaker government.

She said the Prime Minister tell lie in the street, inside parliament and also did not hesitate to tell lie even from the Holy city of Madina during performance of Hajj. She said the PM tried to mislead people through announcing to hold election before June 12.

About her 4-party alliance, the Leader of the Opposition said the BNP uncompromisingly fought for democracy from 1982 to 1990 and people gave befitting reply to those participated in 1986 parliamentary

autocracy movement and similarly any one's quit from 4-party alliance might not affect the unity and the

Without naming HM Ershad, she said the people have witnessed the drama in the jail and the person has again identified as betrayer. "People are now very much clear why 90 years old islami Oikva Jote Chairman Azizul Haq is not released and another one freed. It also proved that only those who are compromising with the government are getting release from jail," she added.

Khaleda Zia said alliance leaders, including Azizul Haq, Fazlul Haq Amini, ARM Abdul Matin, would be released soon as the government would be toppled from power soon through movement. "We will send them (AL) to that place where they (AL) kept opposition leaders and activists under false charges," she added.

The opposition leader said the AL government is also harassing JP secretary general Naziur Rahman Manjur to split the alliance. She demanded immediate release of all arrested BNP and other opposition party leaders and workers. She also called upon the countrymen to spontaneously observe the 72-hour hartal from 6am on April 23 to 6am on April 26.

Jamaat-e-islami Ameer Matiur Rahman Nizami demanded unconditional apology of India for attacking in Bangladesh border at Kurigram and killing BDR jawans. Side by side he thanked the BDR personnel for their courage and resisting the Indian attack.

He said the Indian troops killed a total of 142 BDR jawans and people in nearly last five years of AL rule.

Nizami said the attack in the border is not an isolate matter from the prevailing politics of Bangladesh as the government is trying to create an unstable situation ahead of the general elections.

"India is creating unwanted incidents to save its subservient and

he said and added that a series of incidents like attack on Baitul Mukarram mosque, bomb explosion at Ramna Batmul, publishing of a news report in Indian paper regarding plot to assassinate Sheikh Hasina and attack in Bangladesh border might have connection.

Acting Chairman of Jatiya Party (M-N) Dr MA Matin also demanded unconditional apology of India for attacking Bangladesh without any provocation.

About Ershad, he said Ershad did not sit under the leg of Khaleda Zia for maintaining the unity of the alliance, it is his (Ershad) habit. He also ruled out the allegation that Khaleda Zia misbeheaved with Roushan Ershad and said that he was present at that meeting.

He said the unity of the alliance is very much in existence and would continue the unity at any cost. Acting Chairman of 101

Muhiuddin Khan alleged that the government is harassing students or hundreds of madrasha in the country and conspiring to blame Islamic forces as terrorists following the BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in his speech

thanked the patriotic BDR jawans for fighting courageously with the Indian attackers and said the BDR troops protect the borders from the attackers for a good number of times during the rule of AL. Presided over by city BNP President Sadeque Hossain Khoka

MP, it was addressed, among others, by JP leaders Sunil Gupta and Saifur Rahman, Jamaat leaders Muhammad Kamaruzzaman and ATM Azharul Islam, and IOJ leaders Ahmed Abdul Qader and Abdur Rab Yusufi The meeting over, leaders and

activists led by Khaleda Zia, Matiur Rahman Nizami, DR MA Matin and Muhiuddin Khan brought out a big procession at 5:42pm that paraded different city streets, including Motijheel, Fakirerpool, Naya Paltan, Paltan and ended in front of Jatiya Press Club at 6:40pm peacefully.

# Mixed fortune for Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 1 The experienced right-hander

however got himself out in a peculiar fashion. After sending Blignaut through covers for a lusty four, Aminul went on to his back foot in 16. the next ball, exposing all of his stumps, and then edged a rather straightish delivery into the safe hands of wicketkeeper Andy Flower. Although Zimbabwe captain

Heath Streak had the morning laugh after winning the toss and sending in the visitors on an ominously greenish wicket, which was tipped to assist fast bowlers tremendously. But his broad smile faded into frustration as the wicket started to help the Bangladesh batsmen for stroke

Opener Mehrab Hossain eased off the pressure when he played some glorious shots in front of the wicket. He struck the first boundary

of the day, an off-drive against Zimbabwean captain Heath Streak, but he soon paid the price of being too adventurous, edging in to the slips off debutant pacer Blignaut for

Blignaut struck again 13 deliveries later. This time the tall rightarmer drew one down Habibul Bashar to slash a wide delivery outside the off-stump for a simple catch to Murphy at point for a duck. Debutant opener Javed Omar

and country's lone Test-centurion Aminul got the Bangladesh innings back on track, putting on a record third-wicket stand of 84 on this ground. The previous record of 70 was held by Andy Flower and Guy Whittall against New Zealand last

It was also a record third-wicket Test. partnership for Bangladesh, eclipsing 66 between Habibul Bashar and

Aminul in their inaugural Test against India.

Javed marked his debut with a confident 62. He struck nine boundaries including some eye-pleasing square drives before falling to legspinner Brian Murphy in the 43rd Akram Khan raised hopes for big

knock as he started to middle the ball right from the beginning of his innings. He was never looked in any trouble until he was undone by a superb piece of fielding by Blignaut. Akram was out for 21 while chasing for a second run off the bowling of

Expect for Blignaut, all the Zimbabwe bowlers failed to exploit the seaming condition. Blignaut took four wickets for 74 on his debut

> (Scorecards and more stories on Page 13)

Upazila election in the air to test the opposition.

BDR roll back foreign secretary said Bangladesh feels that it (Padua) was a case of "unauthorised occupation by

India", while the Indian position

was that it was an "adverse posi-

tion". He however added that it was

under "our control even before

BDR and media

Meanwhile, BDR high officials yesterday declined to talk to the media. When contacted, they said BDR has made preparations to they have been instructed by "higher authorities" not to talk to the media.

BSS from New Delhi adds, India and Bangladesh have agreed to restore status quo ante on the common border and the two governments are in touch with each other both in Dhaka and New Delhi in connection with the latest development in the border areas in Meghalaya, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Both Bangladesh and India on Delhi yesterday.

"In keeping with the traditional and close friendly relations between He said the two BSF men will be the two countries it was agreed that the status quo ante would be Dhaka. Asked if they were in custody restored on India-Bangladesh or being treated as prisoners as they border," the spokesman said while

intruded into Bangladesh territory, briefing newsmen here. he replied, "No, they are not. They He said the two governments regret the loss of lives "in this unfor-The foreign secretary said the tunate incident and had agreed that frontier at Tamabil was peaceful utmost restraint should be exercised to prevent recurrence of such inci-

reiterated that it was in the interest of both the countries to work together in the spirit of mutual withdrawn from their positions at cooperation to address border issues through institution and mechanism. Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh yesterday told the

The government of India, he said,

of India was unacceptable and the government was working for achieving status quo ante at the earliest. Singh shared the concern of the members over the killing of 16 BSF

Rajya Sabha that Bangladesh Rifles

Assurance has also been received (BDR) attack on the eastern border

jawans.

#### Dilip-Alfaz murder Five PBCP men chargesheeted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Charge sheet of Mir Elias Hossain Dilip and Alfazuddin Murder Case was submitted to Jhenidah court on Wednesday.

Five armed cadres of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) were chargesheeted in the case. The chargesheeted accused are Abdur Rashid alias Tapan of Jhenidah, Rafiqul Islam Hitler of

Khulna, Rabi of Chuadanga, Akash and Zafar of Jessore. Tapan is a zonal leader of the PBCP. All the five ccused are absconding Mir Elias Hossain Dilip, General Secretary of 'Sramajibi Mukti Andolan' and his close associate

Alfazuddin were gunned down on January 15 last year at Pagla Kanai crossing of Jhenidah town. The IO of the case was OC Abdul Gaffar of Jhenidah Sadar thana. He took 15 months to submit the charge

#### Matia

FROM PAGE 12 rating the correct data and factual information relating to the agriculture sector.

The agriculture minister further mentioned that the government had a production target of 25 million metric tons of food grain by the year 2002 but the country already achieved it two years earlier in 2000.

She further said that the government had been consistently successful in increasing food production through appropriate policy guidelines, efficient management practices and effective development programmes that helped reduce hunger and poverty in the country.

# College STAFF CORRESPONDENT

clash at Titumir

BCL factions

Two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) clashed on the Titumir-College campus in the city vesterday, leaving five students injured. Four of the injured were identi-

fied as Atiqur Rahman Swapan,

Anwar Hossain, Harunur Rashid

and Mofijur Rahman all BCL activ-

ists. But the identity of a female student who was also injured could not be known. The clash erupted at about 12:15 pm, police said. A tense situation

### 5 of bridal party drown in Bay

was prevailing on the campus.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CIR

Five people including three women of a bridal party were drowned and ten others were injured when a boat capsized in the Bay between a small offshore island of Moheshkhali and the coastal Banshkhali thana here on Wednesday.

The boat carrying the bridal party was returning to Ghatidanga of Moheshkhali from Jalodi Ashkariapara of Banshkhali when it was caught in a storm and capsized at around 12:30pm.

The ill-fated victims were identified as Nurul Alam, 24, Md. Zakaria. 35. Rabeya Begum, 18. Minara Begum, 21, and Zarina Begum, 25.

# Upazila polls

FROM PAGE 12 dent replied in the nagative.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, several influential ministers confirmed that there was no initiative on the part of the government to hold the election. But, they gave strong indications that the government had tossed up the issue of

huge election," Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed said. He, however,

would not elaborate. The Election Commission, too. is not in a position to conduct the local polls at the moment when it is busy preparing for the upcoming general election, according to officials at the commission. They said delay. they did not receive as yet any instruction from the government to hold the polls.

dates back to late 1998 when the AL government had a bill passed in the parliament reviving the controversial local government body, introduced during the Ershad regime and abolished by the government of long as Awami League is in office. Khaleda Zia.

apparently because of the EC's reluctance, the government recently changed the Upazila Parishad Act. taking back the authority to decide on the timing of the local polls. Since the change in the law by the cabinet

and subsequent approval by the parliament during its last session. speculations ran high that the ruling party might announce Upazila polls to upset anti-government agitation before the general election. Speaking at a press conference

soon after the cabinet approved the government's authority on the Upazila election in February, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had posed "We're yet to decide on such a the question as to whether there was anything wrong in holding the longpending local polls before the election to parliament. Local Government Minister Zillur Rahman and other senior AL leaders also said on a number of occasions later that the ruling party preferred the local body polls without further

Nevertheless, some ministers also had made it a point that the latest change in the Upazila Politicking with Upazila polls Parishad Act did not necessarily mean that local polls had to be held immediately, as the recent indications drew flak from the agitating opposition that reaffirmed its position not to contest any election as

"We have made it clear time and Failing to go for the Upazila polls again that there is no practicality in holding the Upazila election now. People will not accept any election before that of the latiya Sangsad," BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told The Daily Star

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parties may contact at 019-348153 immediately.

#### ADB forecasts 5.7pc growth FROM PAGE 1 tion is encouraging, the momentum of the non-oil exporting developing

that this is particularly important because the export base is small and concentrated in a few commodity

On the other hand, the country's GDP during 2001 with sustained import requirements will remain high to sustain higher rates of economic growth, and foreign exchange reserves are thin. The issue has assumed even greater importance because the garment exports will be subjected to the full force of global competition at the end of 2004, he observed.

Narhari said another bumper hensively reform the financial harvest is anticipated, and what is sector, encouraging is that the manufacturing sector is expected to grow by about 10 per cent. While the recent improvements in revenue mobilisa-

needs to be sustained. Despite a mild boost in revenue performance, the fiscal deficit is likely to remain at about 6 per cent of

pressures on government expenditures prior to the general election. according to the development The outlook says if the country is to achieve higher growth and consequently, reduce poverty, the government will need to carry out a wide range of policy measures to compre-

It also says the steep increase in cent in 2000. The slowdown comes the oil prices in September last year further weakened the growth prospects and the balance of payments the technology boom moderates.

countries. The major challenge facing South Asia is pervasive poverty, and

efforts to reduce poverty have not been particularly successful due to relatively low economic growth, high population growth, low human development, and inadequate targeting and delivery of social According to the ADO, developing Asia will continue to be one of

the world's fastest-growing regions this year despite a slowdown in growth to 5.3 per cent from 7.1 per as demand for Asia's products slows, especially in the United States, and