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City BNP President Sadek Hossain Khoka MP addressing the Mukhtangan rally yesterday, organised by the four-party alliance to protest blasts at Ramna Batamul, CPB's Paltan Maidan rally and Udichi's function in Jessore.

## Ramna Batamul blast Opposition demands judicial probe

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a rally yesterday demanded judicial probe into the bomb incident at Ramna Batamul on Pahela Baishakh.

They said, "We will not remain silent if there is an attempt to harass the opposition leaders and workers falsely implicating them in the incident."

They were addressing a rally organised by the All Party Action Committee in front of the Mukhtangan.

Presided over by City Action Committee convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka, MP, it was also addressed by Mirza Abbas, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Shamsuzzaman Duda MP of BNP, A T M Azharul Islam and Majibur Rahman of Jamaat, Tayebur Rahman, Shamim Al Mamun and Saifur Rahman of JP, Ahmed Abdul Karim of IOJ, Shafiqul Alam Prodhan of Jagpa and MA Rashid of NDA.

They also paid homage to the memory of those who were killed in the incident.

They criticised government for its "failure to hold trial of those responsible for the killings at Udichi function at Jessore and CPB meeting at Paltan."

Describing the government as "subservient" for withdrawal of BDR from Padua, they said, "we congratulate the BDR for resisting the aggression of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) in Kurigram."

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## Remain ready to face any situation, PM tells armed forces

UNB, RAISHAHI

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday praised the armed forces for earning trust and confidence of the people and asked them to remain always ready to face any situation to protect the country's independence and sovereignty.

"You'll have to remain always ready, keeping the people with you, to face any situation for safeguarding our sovereignty and independence," she said addressing the flag

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## Businessmen want Saturdays open to offset hartal impact

STAR REPORT

Battered by frequent hartals, the country's business community has urged the government to declare Saturday a full working day until there is a positive development regarding the present political crisis.

Expressing their concern over the frequent hartals that would reach 204 hours alone this month with the next 72-hour starting Monday, they also asked the political parties to settle their differences through dialogue.

The call came at a press conference held at the National Press Club yesterday.

President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), the country's apex business body, Yussuf Abdullah Haroon read out a written statement urging the banks to keep clearing houses functional during the hartal days. He also asked the government to take steps to ensure smooth port-related activities seven days a week.

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## VVIP flights Biman pressing for payment of Tk 17cr dues

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Biman is pressing the government for payment of Tk 17 crore in arrears for VVIP flights used by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Biman sources said that after repeated reminders the managing director of Biman wrote a letter on April 14 to Foreign and Civil Aviation Ministries, requesting for payment of the dues.

The sources said Biman sent the reminder facing a liquidity crisis. The flights include both international and domestic which were used by the Prime Minister on different occasions in the recent past.

## Girl killed while playing with gun at Feni

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

A minor girl was killed when the gun she was playing with accidentally went off at village Bijoying under Sadar upazila yesterday morning.

The victim was identified as Sadman Saika Tazin, 4, daughter of Shahabuddin of village Ratanpur of the same upazila.

Sources said Tazin went to the house of her maternal uncle Sohag, a local Jubo Dal leader, along with her mother.

She found the gun and started playing with this. Suddenly, a bullet came out of the gun and hit her. Tazin died on the spot.

## 'Demarcate city lakes to save those from encroachment'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop here yesterday emphasised immediate demarcation of lakes in the city, and saving those from further encroachment and pollution to ensure an eco-friendly environment.

Expressing deep concern over the quick disappearance of the lakes in the city at the workshop titled, "Lakes of Dhaka City: Problems and Prospects," at BUET auditorium, they feared that the rest of the water bodies would disappear if a concerted effort was not taken urgently.

Bitterly criticising the government and its various institutions for their failure to preserve the lakes, the speakers called for coordination

among Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), Dhaka WASA, DESA, Land Commission and Rajuk.

Co-organised by Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), The Daily Star and Bangladesh Scout, the workshop was moderated by Prof. Nizamuddin Ahmed of the Architecture Department of BUET.

Four teams comprising students of the Architecture Department presented separate papers in the workshop after completion of a three-week survey on four lakes in Dhanmondi, Banani, Gulshan and

Sonargaon. The students in their presentations identified illegal establishment and encroachment, dumping of waste and lack of coordination among government institutions responsible for the hazardous situation of the lakes.

They alleged that a section of influential people were gobbling up lake areas and open spaces to construct high-rises and other structures illegally, and recommended their immediate demolition.

They also made a series of recommendations to preserve and develop the lakes, which include reclamation of natural boundary of lakes, ensuring free flow of water and connection to the natural

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## Batamul blast Shadhin remanded for one more day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The CMM's Court yesterday placed Mizanur Rahman Shadhin, one of the suspects arrested in connection with the Ramna Batamul bomb blast, on remand for one more day.

Shadhin was arrested on Saturday night from a quarter of a

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## Will journalist Tipu remain disabled?



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## Nagorik Andolan vows to foil conspiracies against independence

BSS, Dhaka

The first National Convention of the Combined Citizens' Movement (Oikyaabaddha Nagorik Andolan) yesterday took a fresh vow to build "poverty and rajakar" free Bangladesh, thwarting evil designs of the anti-liberation forces.

The convention resolved to unite the members of the civil society across the country to foil conspiracies against the country's independence and sovereignty.

It urged the pro-liberation, progressive, democratic and patriotic forces to work unitedly for ensuring good governance, unfettered democracy and implementation of ideals and spirit of the War of Liberation.

Held at the Mirpur Indoor

Stadium, the convention was presided over by CCM president National Prof Kabir Chowdhury while its secretary general Dr Qazi Faruque Ahmed explained the objective of the organisation and its future course of action.

CCM national committee members Ajoy Roy, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Abed Khan, Shaharar Kabir, Ramendu Majumder, Nurul Islam, Aroma Dutt, Chowdhury Korshed Alam, Rokeya Kabir, Hasan Halizur Rashid, Shamoli Nashrin Chowdhury, Shirin Akhter and Kallyan Shaha addressed the convention.

Divisional, district, metropolitan and upazila level CCM leaders including Principal Asht Baran Majumder, Mobasher Ullah

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## Discussion on Batamul blast Impartial investigation, quick trial of culprits demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted citizens at a discussion in the city yesterday stressed the need for speedy, transparent and impartial investigation into the Ramna Batamul bombing and quick trial of the culprits.

They were also unanimous on mounting pressure on the government, particularly its detective and law enforcement agencies, and the judiciary to ensure punishment of the culprits in all the major incidents of bombing.

Chhayanaui organised the discussion at the Liberation War Museum to seek suggestions on what action to take against bomb attack on its Bangla New Year celebration at the Batamul.

Representatives of different organisations and noted personalities spoke on the occasion with Chhayanaui President Dr Sanjida Khatun in the chair. They all expressed deep concern over the incident and subsequent political over it.

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