Israel-Palestine hold

talks as violence

continues in ME

AP, Ramallah (WB)

violence.

nesses said.

soldier was hurt.

Israeli troops rocketed a Palestinian

office building and fought a heavy

battle with Palestinian gunmen

yesterday just hours after high-

ranking security officials from both

sides held talks on how to prevent

entered Palestinian territory, wit-

ity, said he believed the meeting

could pave the way for a resumption

of security coordination, one of the

pillars of interim peace agreements.

However, Israeli officials said they

did not expect such cooperation

anytime soon. Israel has said secu-

rity coordination and a complete

cessation of violence are a prerequi-

In Jerusalem, Israeli Prime

Minister Ariel Sharon and Foreign

Minister Shimon Peres discussed

Israel's response to an Egyptian-

Jordanian peace proposal. Peres is to

fly to Cairo on Sunday to explain

Israel's reservations about the plan.

then head to Washington for talks

with US Secretary of State Colin

site for renewing peace talks.

Several Israeli jeeps briefly

Hasina-Vajpayee

FROM PAGE 1 telephonic conversation for an hour

on April 23. The passenger flight of Bangladesh Biman from Brussels in which Sheikh Hasina is due to return normal stopover for an hour in Delhi. The time of the stopover may be extended by another hour to

indicated. They however said that the Delhi programme is being worked out and is "yet to be firmed-up".

The Prime Minister is due to leave Dhaka for Brussels on the night of May 10 to attend the LDC conference. She is due to spend two days -- May 12 and 13 -- in London and reach Brussels on the night of May 13.

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria, Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil and State Minister for Foreign Affairs are also due to attend the LDC confer-

Meanwhile, reports of further build-up of BSF troops on the other side of Bangladesh's border in Fulbari and Hilli in Dinajpur and Muhurirchar in Feni reached the capital yesterday.

BSF troops were seen digging trenches there, the reports said.

UNB adds: Indian BSF went on massing troops at different frontier points, with military backup opposite Belonia in Feni district, making people panicky in border areas on both sides.

The troops reinforcement reports came while the two countries continued holding series of flag meetings and diplomatic parleys to defuse border tensions triggered by the April 18 fierce clash between Bangladesh Rifles and Indian Border Security Force at Roumari frontier.

"We heard the news that some Indian army troops were deployed near Gavebi Mosque at Belonia frontier on their side," a BDR official told UNB vesterday afternoon.

He, however, hoped everything could be resolved through discussions that are on.

Sources from Belonia front said BDR and BSF were patrolling their sides although both agreed to stop bringing in reinforcements.

Earlier on Thursday, in a flag meting at sector commander level both sides agreed to hold at least two meetings at battalion commander level while one at sector commander level every week until return of normaley.

Sources from different froms, including the convulsed Roumari, said BSI men were "threatening the villagers through their arrogant movements.

Some intruding BSF men set fire to several houses in northern Joypurhat district.

UNB Kurigram correspondent reports that BSF reinforced its troops with heavy weapons at 60 BOPs along Roumari frontier where the April 18 deadly border skirmish took place following incursion by some Indian border guards.

"A tense situation is prevailing in Pakhiura Char, Seuti Cursa, Bashjani and Khalisha Kotal border villages and the villagers left their homes out of fear," a spot report said.

Sources said BSF troops took their position digging more than a hundred bunkers around the Dahgram-Angarpota enclaves.

In the face of provocative activities by the BSF, BDR jawans have on May 17 with her entourage has a been kept on the alert. But "we are now observing their moves, ... we don't want any confrontation but want to build confidence," said one facilitate the meeting, the officials official.

Sources said BDR officials yesterday talked to their counterpart over telephone urging them to hold meetings immediately to defuse tensions in frontier areas.

The tensions that originated from Padua from April 15 following construction of a road by the BSF, erupted into a skirmish at Roumari killing 16 BSF and three BDR men. Following hectic efforts, shooting has been stopped in the frontier areas, but tensions still persist on both sides.

Despite the incident, the Indian authorities have agreed to allow movement of Bangladeshi citizens through Tin-Bigha corridor from morning to evening from yesterday morning. And the decision has already begun to be implemented relieving people of the Dahgram-Angarpota enclaves of their miser-

Earlier, the frontier people would move through Tin-Bigha corridor, the only outlet for them, 9 hours with breaks.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

a poverty-free Bangladesh.

city's Paltan Maidan.

production.

time in history.

FROM PAGE 1

general election.

nominees.

the Election Commission.

The EC is expected to place the

proposal before the President after

the caretaker government takes over

so that the new provisions become

effective before the upcoming

must have a bank account to keep

accounts of election expenses for its

Commission may, by order notified

in official Gazette, debar any

political party from fielding candi-

dates for the next election following

such order, if it is satisfied, after

giving the party a reasonable oppor-

tunity of being heard, that it has

contravened any provision of the

According to the proposed mea-

sures, candidates as well as political

parties have to submit statements of

Every contesting political party

As per the proposal, "The

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

vesterday sought people's mandate

in favour of Awami League in the

forthcoming general election and in

return she promised for establishing

Bangladesh if you cast vote for 'boat'

for another term," the Prime

Minister told a huge gathering in the

ruling AL, was speaking in a

reception accorded to her by

Bangladesh Krishak League, the

peasants' wing of her party. A new

title "Krishak Ratna" was conferred

on her at the reception in recogni-

tion to her contribution to achieving

Thousands of farmers from far-

flung districts of the country con-

verged to the Paltan Maidan yester-

day to rejoice their success in food

Bangladesh produced over 25

million metric tons (MT) of cereal

crops (rice, wheat and maize) last

year. The production volume sur-

passed the domestic consumption

level by a million MT for the first

Krishak League president Rashed

Musharraf and general secretary

Harunur Rashid Howladar greeted

of the AL-backed cultural group

crest of the organisation as artistes tillers.

EC: Polls expenses

the self-sufficiency in food produc-

Hasina, also the president of

"We'll build a poverty-free

Under the Indira-Mujib agreement in 1974 relating to Tin-Bigha, India got the southern half of South Berubari union no 12 and the adjacent enclaves while in exchange Bangladesh is supposed to get Dahgram and Angarpota localities.

The treaty further stipulates that India would "lease in perpetuity" to Bangladesh an area of 178x85 meters near "Tin-Bigha" to connect Dahgram with Panbari mouza in Bangladesh mainland in Kurigram

BIC help

the possibilities of future assistance. He is expected to visit the Bangabandhu Bridge.

JBIC, a development finance institution of Japan government for external supports, so far has extended 4.8 billion dollars in credits against 68 projects, including Bangabandhu Bridge, Chittagong airport development and greater Dhaka Telecom projects.

The Finance Minister expressed his gratitude to the government of Japan for its continued support to the large infrastructure projects of Bangladesh. "Cooperation in infrastructure sector helped a lot for betterment of the economy and poverty reduction," he said.

Kibria gave an overview of Bangladesh economy and various reforms carried out by the government in different sectors.

The JBIC DG assured continued assistance of the Japanese government to development efforts of Bangladesh.

monitor whether the contesting parties follow the rules on expenses. ERD additional secretary Sarwar Kamal was also present in the meet-The inspectors will work independently and submit reports directly to

Zimbabwe nicely poised

The former national captain built a useful partnership for the seventh wicket with 34-year-old debutant Enamul after overnight partner Mushfigur Rahman fell in the sixth over of the day.

It appeared that Mushfig was in a hurry to return to the dressing room. His attempts at fishing outside the off stump came to an end when he edged a delivery from Streak behind the wicket.

Akram struck three boundaries during his knock. He also hooked Watambwa for a six, which could have been a catch at long leg if Nkala

had not crossed the rope. Enamul celebrated his debut for 71.

Presented by a select group of

children, the colourful programme

at the South Plaza lasted for a little

over one hour. Popular actor Aly

Zaker was the anchorman on the

discriminatory conduct, torture and

exploitation; all should carry out

their responsibilities to the children

and take proper care of them; the

children should be saved from war

and the curse of HIV/AIDS; every-

body should listen to the children

and basic rights should be ensured

children also presented the theme

song of the campaign: All words and

deeds should be centred on the

As soon as she climbed the

podium, Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina protested the sitting

arrangement that pushed the chil-

dren away from the dais. "We are

here to protest the rights of the

children, but I find the adults before

dren have been kept away," she said

pointing her finger at the children

sitting in the left and right sides.

me. It's unfortunate that the chil-

Besides their demands, the

child should be subjected to any teachers.

him at the Bangabhaban.

occasion.

for them.

children.

with an unbeaten 20. The left-arm spinner scored most of his runs against his Zimbabwean counterpart Raymond Price including four

Zimbabwe started well with Guy Whittall and Dion Ebrahim putting on 90 runs for the first wicket before Whittall, who scored a century in the first Test, was run out by Sharif's throw from mid-off for 59.

Ebrahim top-edged an attempted sweep of Bangladesh skipper Naimur Rahman to Akram at short fine leg. Ebrahim scored 39.

and left-arm spinner Price with four

steps for welfare of children, the

prime minister advised the kids to

tell the truth under all circum-

stances, study attentively and to go

Unicef, in association with BRAC,

The brief programme came to an

Alo and Save the Children, organ-

end with the prime minister, accom-

panied by the dignitaries and a

group of children, releasing colour-

Two CID officials

But two other members of the gang

fired at Tarapada and Delwar,

snatched the arrested and fled the

identified as Tayab Ali, was shot in

During the incident, a passerby,

The two CID officials were also

elsewhere in world.

FROM PAGE 1

ful balloons and pigeons.

scene, CID source said.

shot in their legs, police said.

not be known immediately.

The pledge form provides that no by the advice of their parents and

Streak finished with four for 38,

Returning Officers concerned within 15 days of the election for scrutiny.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is being presented with a decorative boat by leaders of the Krishak League yesterday.

Hasina promises poverty-free

Bangladesh if voted to power

chorus number welcoming her at

Organisation (FAO) representative

to Bangladesh KB Shrestha and

Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in

Bangladesh Shahta Zarab spoke

adherence to the path of food

In her address, Prime Minister

said that during her stay in power for

last four years, 10 months and four

days, her government had already

laid a solid foundation of economic

development in the country and if

voted to power for another term, she

promised, Al. would build up a

society free from the curse of pov-

She attributed the success in

food production to the farmers of

the country and also appreciated

the role played by Agriculture

Minister Matia Chowdhury and her

food and agriculture advisor M

Sheikh Hasina also gave a

In this respect, she mentioned

the subsidy given to agriculture

sector, streamlining the fertiliser

management, providing share-

croppers with collateral-free loan,

the Prime Minister by presenting a and waiver of import taxes on power ministers and AL leaders were also

Acknowledging power disrup- programme.

detailed description of steps taken

by her government for augmenta-

tion of Tood production in the coun-

Anisuzzaman.

briefly appreciating Bangladesh's

The UN Food and Agriculture

Awami Shilpi Goshti presented a tions in Dhaka, Prime Minister said.

Bangladesh Krishak League accorded a reception to the Prime Minister at Paltan Maidan yesterday.

the programme.

autarky.

"Every political party shall, along with the said statement of expenditure, furnish to the Commission a separate statement, certified to be correct and complete by the secretary of the party, showing the opening balance of the party funds on the date of announcement of the programme of election by the Commission, the closing balance of the funds on the date of completion of election in all constituencies and the total amount received by the party, as donation or otherwise, during the period between the said

two dates.' The Election Commission in an observation said, "It was an open secret that the political parties prefer tycoons as their candidates because money matters in the election and the richer candidates easily win the electoral race.

"The Election Commission is in their respective parties.

expenses to the EC and the sure that money plays an important role to persuade the voters in the election". As a result, money drives out worthy people from the electoral race, it observed.

It is an up-to-date notion that only donation can ensure one's candidature in national election and such donation marks the electoral process with stigma by bringing muscle power in a democratic practice, the Commission pointed

Under the existing law, a candidate has to submit his statement of election expenditure within 15 days from the day of voting. But the EC has no arrangement to monitor it effectively.

According to available statistics, in the current Seventh Jatiya Sangsad, the ruling Awami League has 43 percent of its MPs belonging to the business community. The percentage is 68.5 in opposition BNP and 63 in Jatiya Party. Such businessmen are the biggest donors

Arnab murder: 2 arrested in Satkhira

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

CID police on Thursday night arrested two persons including a local AL leader from Parulia in Debhata upazila in connection with their alleged involvement with the sensational Arnab murder case.

The arrested are Alhaj Rafiqul Islam of village Khejurbaria in Debhata upazila and member of Satkhira district Awami League Convening Committee, and Raihan, 28, of Parulia and a Jubo League activist.

CID inspector and IO of the case SM Shah Jahan arrested the two following confessional statement of the main accused of the case Mukul

Arnab Das, 8, was brutally murdered on June 18 last year as an act of revenge following a land dispute. His body was recovered on the same day from a bush 300 yards from his house.

PHOTO STAR

"we tried our best to provide unin-

terrupted supply of electricity to the

She emphasised on 'one home,

rural areas, so that farmers can

one farm' policy that her govern-

ment had undertaken for the benefit

of one million farmers' families in

programme, Agriculture Minister

Matia Chowdhury said Bangladesh

leapfrogged from a good-deficit

within a span of less than five

years time. "When we took over

power in 1996, the country had a 40

lakh (four million) food deficit," she

recent World Bank (WB) report

on Bangladesh, where, she said,

the WB had failed to appreciate

the country's success in agricul-

tural in the second half of the last

Rahmat Ali, State Minister for

Shipping Mofazzal Hossain

Chowdhury Maya, AL publicity

secretary Abdul Mannan and lead-

ers of different front organisations of

the party spoke at the function

chaired by Krishak League

president and Minister of State for

Land Rashed Musharraf. Cabinet

present at the reception

State Minister for Cooperatives

Matia bitterly criticised a

country to a food-surplus one

Earlier, speaking at the reception

irrigate their croplands."

the country.

recalled.

decade.

Relatives of the victim caught Mukul Gazi suspecting his involvement in the murder and handed him over to the police. Mukul made judicial confession to a first class magistrate naming three persons involved in the murder. But local people alleged that the then IO o the case forced Mukul to make false statement in order to save the real accused. This created strong resentment among the locals.

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim visited Saihati village on April 5 to take stock of the situation and by order of the minister, the CID arrested Sushil Dafadar, the most wanted man of the sensational murder case.

Mukul Gazi and Sushil Dafadar were taken to the CID headquarters for joint interrogation.

Child burnt alive, 9 houses gutted in Barisal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A four-year-old child was burnt alive and at least 10 people were injured, three of them seriously, in a fire at fishermen's pally at village Charlamia under Daulatkhan thana of Bhola Thursday night.

Nine houses were gutted in the fire that originated from a house. Fire lighters from Bhola rushed to the spot and extinguished the

Local people estimated the loss

of property at Tk 10 lakh. The seriously injured Jamal, 45, his wife Khannia! 35, land Kaden 92 were admitted to Daulatkhan thana health complex.

18 injured as villagers clash in Rajshahi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

At least 18 people were injured, six of them seriously, in a clash between two rival groups of villagers at village Tarapur under Puthiya upazila in the district today.

Police sources said, the clash ensued as a sequel to previous enmity over a disputed land.

Both groups used lethal weapons during the clash that continued for about half an hour.

At least 15 people from both the groups were injured in the clash. Of them, four were admitted to local Health Complex. They were identified as Siddique, 52, Emran, 30, Razab Ali, 30, and Jalil, 28.

Ctg journalists FROM PAGE 12 not allowed to purchase these hides

sources added. His cadres beat up some busi-

nessmen and the hides purchased by them were looted by Mamun Mamun controls everything in

those areas and he is allegedly involved in 'illegal arms business. Nobody dared to open his mouth against Mamun in those areas. Every night he used to move

driving a car at GEC crossing like 'second Ershad Shikdar,' sources

In an interview with army radio on Israel's independence day Three Palestinians and an Israeli Thursday, Sharon said that "after soldier were wounded in the examining the plan, it is clear to me exchange of fire north of the West that there must be changes, sub-Bank town of Ramallah, witnesses and doctors said. The army said no stantial changes in it." Yesterday's clashes began after Earlier in the day, Israeli and Muslim noon prayers when about Palestinian officials held security 2,000 Palestinians marched to an talks. A senior Palestinian official, Israeli army position north of speaking on condition of anonym-

and an Israeli freeze of settlement

construction, followed by a resump-

tion of talks on a final peace deal.

Israel wants better guarantees that

Palestinians will cease attacks, and

has said it will not agree to stop all

settlement construction. Sharon

has also said he wants to negotiate a

long-term interim agreement, not a

full peace treaty.

Ramallah. At one point, Palestinian gunmen opened fire at Israeli troops, and a firefight ensued. Among those wounded was a

Palestinian security official who was hit in the chest. When the fighting intensified, Israel fired seven rockets at the Palestinian Bureau of Statistics, located in Palestinian territory, witnesses said. The missiles heavily damaged the facade, and three Israeli jeeps were seen in the area. Several tank shells hit the headquarters of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement in El Bireh, a town next to Ramallah. Some windows were shattered.

In the Gaza Strip, meanwhile, a bomb exploded near a Jewish settlement, wounding an Israeli civilian The initiative calls for a cease-fire and a soldier, the army said.

Diarrhoea claims 80

Powell.

to give re-hydration therapy. Normally, oral therapy is recommended but in severe cases, intravenous therapy is required. But that should be done in consultation with a doctor.

If diarrhoea persists for about a week, one should take advice of a doctor. If bleeding occurs, doctor should be consulted immediately. In some cases, fever (high tem-

perature) occurs with diarrhoca Initial first aid for this is fluid replacement and sponging the body with tepid water. Paracetamol tablet may be used, but it may irritate the bowel more. If fever is excessive, or there are other causes for concern, doctor should be consulted, they

usually implies inflammation of the doctor.

stomach, associated with an infection. Most commonly, this is viral in origin, but occasionally it may be due to contaminated food.

In case of persistent vomiting, lasting more than a few hours, or associated with constipation, high fever, abdominal pain or blood in the vomit, doctor should be consulted immediately.

Patients should take clear fluids, preferably at a strength equivalent to body fluids. The fluid should contain electrolytes (sodium and potassium) and glucose.

One of the most palatable options is simple lemonade.

Frequent vomiting may cause strain inside the stomach or oesophagus, leading to bleeding. If this Vomiting during diarrhoea happens it is advised to consult a

Will anyone rescue?

FROM PAGE 1

not speak. She does have no guardian to take care of her or a shoulder to cry on.

It now seems that until someone comes forward to help her out, she is destined to stay in the prison.

The Narayanganj Bandar thana

police picked up the girl under Section 54 of the CRPC on May 27 last year from a road of the port town. As the little girl could not speak, the police could not record any useful information to return her to her guardians.

Later, when the girl was produced before the court, the magistrate ordered the police to find out her parents and return her to her family. But as the whereabouts of her parents remained unknown, she was sent to the Narayanganj jail on

noticed that the girl was mentally

disturbed and she was sent to Dhaka for treatment. The treatment continued for quite some time and she was transported between Dhaka and Narayangani several times.

On November 26 last year, she was transferred to the Dhaka Central The jail authorities now have run

out of ideas as to what to do with her. Recently, they wrote to the authorities concerned to send her to a government home and there was no reply, as usual. But the little girl is not alone at

the 'safe custody'. There are 31 other girls of different ages who have been kept in the Dhaka Central Jail, some of them for more than three years! The number across the country stands at around 220. Most of these unfortunate girls are either victims Meanwhile, the jail authorities or witnesses in a case, jail sources



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'Say Yes for Children' President: Political stand-off painful election of Gopala as the king of ness."

Her protests encouraged the

Article."

Highlighting her government's know from history the reasons of downfall, the reasons of spreading hatred among the people and immediate gains or loss of shortsighted and motivated actions of the creators of history."

However, the President hoped that the present political crisis Plan International, daily Prothom would eventually lead to moderaised the programme, also held tion and an honourable and equitable solution to the problem that democracy faces today would be found.

> "This is not relying on empty hopes, but being imbued with the spirit of the past, a past that unconsciously guides our present as it indeed has done in 1952, 1971 and 1990. These were our moments of glory, a glory that is a reverberation millions of men and women." of our achievements during the last 12 hundred years or so."

President Shahabuddin said the has no future. We must train our

Identity of the terrorists could

children who gave the PM a big He also spoke of the harsh reality kings, he said although present and anti-climax of destiny: "We also situation with its chaos and confu- presenting a pictorial account of the ages," he pointed out. sion is "somewhat unnerving and glory and heritage. President baffling, the nation had similar Shahabuddin said the book lavishes experience in cataclysmic events of a loving care on narrating the envi-

> "This was the victory of the collective will of the people charting entire East." out a democratic course for its of affairs in steering the nation as the all converging on a glorious triangle

> The President said the "greatest of character and integrity. The the political wisdom of our ancesyoung must also value the freedom tors in the election of Gopala followthat was won at the cost of blood of ling the anarchic conditions of the

back at its glorious past sitting idle ment by the Buddhist rulers.

Lauding the writer's attempt at dented growth during the middle culture and education in which Bangladesh. "they become torch bearers in the

destiny," said President three different perspectives the Shahabuddin who came at the helm Buddhist, the Hindu and the Muslim this book. first head of non-party caretaker giving us a solid foundation of our nationhood," he said.

crisis facing this nation today is lack that the book contains an account of loreigners. Matsannaya and the consequent ples of the beauty of this country He said a nation that simply looks prosperity and scholarly achieve- which is seldom portrayed in the

"It also narrates with equal skill past of a nation is never dead it is young minds, give them a good the contribution of the Muslims in Department of Archaeology Dr latent in people's minds. "The seed education and equip them with making education a universal pheof our forefathers' greatness lies knowledge to face the challenge of nomenon. It also shows how the Bangladesh has lost many of dormant in our collective uncon- the future. But education independent Muslim rulers were its architectural glories but what alone would be deemed mere skill if 'secular' in their patronisation of has survived is also not insignifi-Citing from ancient story of it does not inculcate a moral aware- Bangla language and literature cant.

Presiding over the publication ceremony, Prof M Harunur

Rashid said the book brings out the 1950 when the entire nation willed a able achievement of our forefathers ethos of the Bengali nation now moderate path and implemented its in the field of art, architecture, living within the territory called Author of the book, Enayetuallh Khan, said Bangladesh having a

"Our past has been enriched by negative image, which she does no deserve, prompted him to publish He said his attempt was aimed at

President Shahabuddin noted people of the country and to the Participating in the discussion on the book, Barrister Syed Ishtiaci Ahmed said the book holds exam

> Former director of the Nazimuddin Ahmed said

which experienced an unprece-

presenting the nation's glorious past so little known to most of the

West.