

## Parliament may censure Wahid again

AP, Jakarta

Indonesia's Parliament looked set to press ahead with a censure motion against President Abdurrahman Wahid despite an uncharacteristic apology by the embattled leader, lawmakers said yesterday.

It was also unclear whether a call for peace by Wahid in a televised national address on Friday would be enough to prevent violent protests from breaking out before the legislature meets on Monday.

Parliament first censured Wahid on Feb 1. If it does so again, he could be impeached over corruption allegations during the coming months.

Thousands of Wahid supporters arrived in the capital on Saturday. Some have formed paramilitary groups and have said they are willing to die for him. Anti-Wahid groups have pledged to hold rival demonstrations.

Security around Jakarta was tight. The first big test for police and troops will come on Sunday, when Wahid loyalists are to hold a mass Islamic prayer rally. Organizers have said the event will be big, but peaceful.

Foreign embassies have requested extra security and uniformed personnel were stationed at potential trouble spots, although the city was quiet.

Cabinet held an unscheduled meeting yesterday without Wahid and Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri, his most likely successor.

"We are coordinating our actions to anticipate developments so that there will not be a state of emergency," security minister Gen Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said.

Palace officials said the president was visiting the island of Madura, off the coast of East Java, where he is revered as an Islamic cleric and sage.

## RU Shibir rally foiled: 21 held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police foiled a Chhatra Shibir rally on Rajshahi University campus and arrested 21 students yesterday morning.

The incident occurred when Shibir activists were holding a rally on the campus protesting a move by the RU authorities to expel its 15 leaders and activists for their alleged involvement in the clash with the ruling party backed Bangladesh Chhatra League on November 16 in 1999, police and witnesses said.

Police beat the Shibir activists indiscriminately.

Later, police locked the door of library and beat up the students there.

A Shibir press release yesterday condemned police attack on their rally and demanded release of the arrested activists.

## Newsman

FROM PAGE 12  
Abdullah Al Mamun and Wahid-uz-Zaman.

Journalists at a meeting at the press club yesterday urged the authority to ensure their security and demanded punishment to the terrorists.

Speakers at the meeting said on Thursday Janakantha correspondent Mustafa Kamal Sarkar and Aker Kagoj correspondent Benazir Ahmed were threatened of their life for publication of reports that went against the terrorists. The threat came from mobile telephone No 017680427.

Inqilab correspondent Sarkar Adam Ali is under continuous threat since last one month.

## Gournadi BCL cadre held on charge of raping college girl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Police arrested a ruling party student front cadre and one of his associates on charge of raping a college girl at Gournadi in Barisal Friday night.

Victim's mother filed a complaint with Gournadi thana in this connection.

Police rushed to her house and rescued the girl, Habul Peada, reportedly a BCL cadre and one of his associates Karim were arrested.

The girl, a degree student of Gournadi College, was sent to Barisal Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) for medical test yesterday.

Habul Peada is married and father of two sons.

## JCD factions clash at CU: Four injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg

Four JCD activists were injured when two factions of the organisation clashed at the Chittagong University yesterday.

The clash began when Milton, leader of a rebel faction, attacked JCD activists Khorshed, Jasim and Mizan at 11.30 am. Milton beat them mercilessly.

But within hours Khorshed-group, in retaliation, manhandled Milton on the campus.

CU Proctor Prof Towhid Hossain Chowdhury fined Khorshed Tk 1000 and Milton Tk 500 for creating trouble on the campus.

## 5000 telephone lines out of order at Mirpur

UNB, Dhaka

About 5,000 telephone lines in city's Mirpur area went out of order due to damage of underground cables on Thursday and Friday.

The telephone lines were went out of order as workers of Dhaka Urban Transport Project digging roads in the area, a BTB press release said yesterday.

The BTB technicians have already started repair works on urgent basis with the target to restore the telephone lines within a week, the press release added.

The telephones remained out of order at Kalyanpur, Paikpara, Ahmednagar, Pirerbag, Darus Salam Road, Mazar Road, Golartek, Gabtali, Rupnagar and Section 11 and 12 under Mirpur Exchange.

## One shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A young man received bullet injuries in his right leg when some miscreants fired on him in the city's Rampura area yesterday afternoon.

The victim was identified as Liton, 25, convener of ward-22, Rampura unit of Mukti Juddha Jubo Command and a grocer in the area.

Police said a group of armed assailants went to his shop in front of Power House at about 2.15 p.m. and demanded toll. On his refusal, they shot him in the right leg.

Sources also said Liton had an enmity with the miscreants.

He was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. A case was filed with Khilgaon police in this connection.

## Khulna voters

FROM PAGE 12

A total of 4,32,759 voters have been named in the fresh voters' list from two constituencies of Narail district. But in 1996, the number was 3,30,395.

The previous number of voters in two constituencies of Magura district was 3,88,653. But this year it has risen to 4,96,053.

There were a total of 7,81,177 voters in four constituencies of Jhenaidah district during 1996 parliamentary polls. But according to fresh voters' list, the total number stands at 9,74,529.

The total number of voters in four constituencies of Kustia district is now 10,03,627 which was 8,40,594 in 1996.

In the two constituencies of Chuadanga district, 4,82,694 voters were named in the 1996 voters' list which has risen to 6,01,134 this year.

There were a total of 2,98,023 voters in the two constituencies of Meherpur district in 1996. The number has risen to 3,76,120 this year, according to new voters' list.

## Freedom fighters

FROM PAGE 1

fought together for the sake of the motherland and are now financially well off should come forward to help the distressed freedom fighters stand on their feet.

Dr. Zafarullah Chowdhury said he had noticed a recent trend of freedom fighters seeking help from the government.

Freedom fighters should not beg, they should try to be self-reliant instead, he said.

Major General (ret'd) Ejaj Ahmed Chowdhury and Major General Ibrahim, Bir Protik, also spoke on the occasion.

The reunion was inaugurated by hoisting of national and freedom fighters' flags and by singing national anthem. The FF Council members also observed a minute's silence to pay tribute to the martyred freedom fighters.

The FF Council awarded all freedom fighters who attended the reunion with a medal for their role in the War of Liberation.

Later, freedom fighters' representatives from 64 districts, 11 sectors and three forces namely Z, K, S planted tree saplings on the PIA Hall premises.

More than one thousand freedom fighters under 11 sectors attended the two-day council.



A woman supporter of Trinamul Congress (TMC) shouts party slogan in favour of TMC candidate Madhabi Mukherjee (2nd from R) during an election campaign in Calcutta yesterday. Madhabi Mukherjee, the noted Bengali film actress, fights against Buddhadev Bhattacharya, the Chief Minister of the West Bengal, from the Jadavpur Constituency in the forthcoming assembly polls on May 10.

## India announces truce with Naga rebels

AFP, New Delhi

India announced a ceasefire with the most powerful tribal insurgent group in the country's troubled northeast yesterday in a bid to end five decades of bloodshed.

The government said the year-long ceasefire with a powerful faction of the splinter-ridden National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) of Nagaland state would "come into effect immediately."

"It has been jointly agreed between the government of India and the NSCN to announce a formal ceasefire declaration for a period of one year with effect from April 28," Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani said.

Officials here said the bilateral truce was put in place at 4:00 pm (10:30 GMT) on Saturday.

There are three main militant groups in Nagaland, a mountainous state bordering Myanmar, of which the banned NSCN is the most powerful. The other main group is the Naga National Council.

The NSCN is split into two rival factions, one led by Thuingaleng Muivah and Isak Chishi Swu, and the other headed by S.S. Khaplang, who leads an estimated 2,000 outlawed rebels.

New Delhi also urged other insurgent forces in the northeast "to shun the path of violence and to come forward for talks to sort out any issue that may be there between them and the Centre and state governments."

## Examinees lay siege to JN Varsity College principal's office

UNB, Dhaka

Some 100 examinees of the Masters 1st Part (Preliminary), Political Science, of Jagannath University College Centre laid a siege to the Principal's office protesting 'delayed decision' of the authorities.

They also brought out a procession and held a rally in front of the National Press Club.

The examinees said the question paper asked them to answer five out of total 15 questions within two and half hours. After one and a half hours of the examination, the teachers asked them to answer 10 questions when they had only one hour in hand.

They said the Principal talked to the Controller of Examination, who assured him of looking into the grievance of the examinees.

## US 'disappointed'

FROM PAGE 12

to protect civil liberties such as the freedom of assembly, which is a key component of good democratic governance," he said.

Hunter repeated the US view that Pakistan should return rapidly to democratic civilian government. The current military government of Pakistan took power in a coup in October 1999.

"In the interim internationally recognized rights should be respected," the spokesman added.

## MPs owe Tk 3cr phone bills

FROM PAGE 1

Advocate Abdul Latif tops the defaulting ruling party lawmakers with Tk nine lakh 50 thousand in unpaid bills.

Segupta Yasmin, a member of the parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications, owes BTB Tk three lakh 12 thousand 614 overdue.

Mustafizur Rahman of Chittagong-3 has unpaid bills of Tk 3 lakh 15 thousand 680, Golam Mohammad Siraj (Bogra-5) Tk six lakh 65 thousand, Zainal Abdein Eruk (Noakhali-1) Tk five lakh 58 thousand, Zainal Hazari (Feni-3) Tk two lakh two thousand, Syed Ashrafur Islam (Kishoreganj-3) Tk five lakh 36 thousand, Mohammad Shahjahan (Noakhali-4) Tk three lakh 17 thousand, Ali Reza Raju (Jessore-3) Tk three lakh 78 thousand, Nadim Mustafa (Rajshahi-4) Tk three lakh 43 thousand, Kabir Hossain (Rajshahi-2) Tk three lakh 90 thousand, AKM Mustafizur Rahman (Kurigram-1) Tk four lakh 31 thousand, Sultan Mohammad

Monsoor Ahmed (Moulvibazar-4) Tk four lakh 89 thousand, Karimuddin Bharsah (Rangpur-4) Tk three lakh 90 thousand, Nazimuddin Alam (Bhola-4) Tk five lakh 17 thousand, Latif Siddique (Tangail-4) Tk three lakh 86 thousand, Barkatullah Bhulu (Noakhali-2) Tk two lakh 79 thousand, Dr. HBM Iqbal (Dhaka-10) Tk one lakh 80 thousand, and Dr. Mizanul Huq (Kishoreganj-4) Tk one lakh 12 thousand, Sadek Hossain Khoka (Dhaka-7) Tk 74 thousand, Rawshan Ershad (Mymensingh-2) Tk 58 thousand, and Morshed Khan (Chittagong-10), who is also chairman of the country's first cellular mobile phone company, Tk 64 thousand.

Kader Siddiqui, a former MP has Tk one lakh 67 thousand against his two telephone bills outstanding.

The MPs have not paid to heed to repeated BTB reminders to settle their arrears. Each lawmaker gets a monthly telephone allowance of Tk 4,000.

Meanwhile, 178 MPs of the third parliament and 281 of the fourth still

owe the BTB more than Tk 3.51 crore in outstanding telephone bills.

No action has been taken against the defaulters except a few letters of reminder issued to them.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST) has issued a legal notice against the secretary of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications (MOPST), chairman, chief accounts officer and director (revenue) of BTB for necessary steps to realise the outstanding telephone bills amounting about Tk six crore.

In its petition, the BLAST says MPs are privileged citizens of the country. They get special facilities and draw a monthly telephone bill of Tk 4,000, but still do not pay their telephone bills.

It further says the ministry and the BTB have not taken appropriate measures to realise the telephone bills outstanding with lawmakers of different parliaments.

The BTB disconnects general subscribers' telephone lines if their bills remain outstanding for more than three months.

## Misfielding helps hosts

FROM PAGE 1

close calls. First, makeshift wicketkeeper Mehrab Hossain messed up a clear stumping chance off Naimur. Then the sturdy fast bowler got a benefit of doubt from Zimbabwean umpire Russell Tiffin after apparently gloving a leg-side delivery from Sharif to the wicketkeeper.

Habibul Bashar began the funny fielding by flooring Andy Flower on three.

The only exception to it was a brilliant piece of fielding from Javed Omar that derailed Andy from his road to history.

Andy was only 27 runs shy of creating a world record of eight successive half-centuries in Test cricket when Javed fielded brilliantly at point and unleashed a lightning throw while still on the ground, catching the home wicketkeeper stranded out of the non-striker's end after being sent back by Alistair Campbell.

Overnight 144 for two, Zimbabwe

started the day with a bang with Campbell smashing the first four balls to the fence. Campbell pulled the first three deliveries of left-arm pacesman Monjurul Islam through mid-wicket, and cut the fourth past gully.

He extracted two more runs off the sixth ball to finish with 18 runs from the first over of the day.

Dropped once by Aminul at mid-on, Campbell went on to score 73 with the help six fours off 135 balls. His three hours vigil at the crease came to an end when the left-hander swept a sharply turning delivery from off-spinner Naimur straight to Mushfiquir Rahman at short mid-wicket.

His overnight partner Stuart Carlisle however failed to add a single run to his previous score of 21. He pushed a delivery from Shrif a bit hard and was caught at forward short leg by Bashar, ending a third-wicket stand of 60.

(Scorecards and more stories on Page 13)

## Electrical goods gutted in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Electrical goods worth over Tk 15 lakh were gutted in a fire in the PDB godown at Khalishpur in the early hours of yesterday.

The fire originated from electric short circuit. Fire Brigade sources said.

Eight fire fighting units from Khulna, Khalishpur and Daulatpur rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze.

## Tremor

FROM PAGE 12

morning. And the first thought that came into my mind was the Gujarat earthquake. My husband and I ran down the two flights of stairs," said a school teacher living in one of the multistoreyed apartments in the Pashchim Vihar area of north-west Dhaka.

## Diarrhoea

FROM PAGE 12

deaths with 6667 affected until April 23 in Noakhali.

In Bagerhat, with 4779 people affected, 10 deaths have been reported. In Feni with 5364 affected, one death reported and in Bhola with 2,555 affected, 10 deaths reported since January.

In Pirojpur 2282 people were affected, in Patuakhali 1354 affected with three deaths and in Barisal 442 affected with one death.

UNR reports: Three patients have died of diarrhoea in Pirojpur and Jhalakathi each and four in Barguna so far.

Doctors suggest that patients consult doctors if diarrhoea lingers more than a week. In some cases, bleeding occurs, and consultation with doctors is suggested. But as long as the blood loss is not heavy, the patient can wait for one day.

## Vajpayee, Sonia

FROM PAGE 12

burst.

"For years, they (BJP) have crucified my husband (Rajiv Gandhi) in the House... My mother-in-law (Indira Gandhi) was insulted by you day in and day out. Even today, they are calling me and my children thieves," she said. "We will not take all this lying down."

Questioning Vajpayee's criticism of the opposition for stalling parliamentary proceedings, Sonia said, "Is it for the first time that the House was stalled? Was it not stalled when he (Vajpayee) was the Leader of the Opposition?"

Sonia continued to pour out her anger outside the parliament also. Reacting to the government's stand on IPC, she said, "It is utter rubbish."

There are instances when IPC and judicial probe have gone on side by side, she contended.

The expression of cumulative resentment by Vajpayee and Sonia are likely to set the stage for another round of bitter political standoff between the government and the principal opposition party outside the parliament, which will be echoed in the run-up to assembly elections in five states, including West Bengal, on May 10.

Vajpayee's party BJP is not a force to reckon with in any of the five states, but Congress hopes to regain power on its own in Kerala in the south and Assam in the east. The stakes are high for both and this will ensure a no-holds-barred war of attrition in the coming weeks.

## Students' body in Assam

FROM PAGE 1

deploying just paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF).

"When there is a minor skirmish along the western frontier, Delhi reacts immediately. But when it comes to the borders in the eastern sector, particularly Assam and the other northeastern states, the government takes it lightly," said ASU advisor Samujjal Bhattacharya.

"If New Delhi fails to deploy the army along the India-Bangladesh border and does not issue shoot-on-sight orders against infiltrators, we shall launch a vigorous mass movement including an indefinite general strike," he said in state capital Guwahati.

ASU president Prabin Boro said the "porous" international border had led to an "unabated influx of Bangladeshis into Assam which was altering the region's demographic profile."

India shares a 4,000 kilometre border with neighbouring Bangladesh.

The ASU's swarming came on the heels of recent border skirmishes between India and Bangladesh earlier this month, in which 16 BSF troops and three others were killed.

PTI adds: The weapons handed

over by the Bangladesh Rifles to BSF on verification have been found to be that of the 16 BSF men killed by BDR on April 18 in Mankachar sub-division of Assam.

BSF sources from Shillong told the news agency that the weapons 11 SLR, four carbines, one pistol, two grenades, two wireless transmitters and large cache of ammunition had been examined and verified at Turain Meghalaya.

The Bangladesh Rifles had handed over the weapons on Thursday at Mankachar border outpost and BSF Commandant of 118 BN, S K Zutshi had received them from Col Sadiq of BDR.

Meanwhile, the two injured jawans Akshay Kumar and Bimal Kumar who were returned by BDR on April 22 at Mahendraganj bordering Meghalaya. Bangladesh were being questioned about the events leading to the killing of 16 of their colleagues.

Refusing to divulge the statements of the two jawans as the inquiry was "official and not for media coverage," the sources said, the findings would be submitted to the centre on completion of the probe.

## UNDP funds

FROM PAGE 12

There was trouble between MOEF and UNDP on other issues like reconstruction of a project review committee, dissolution of project monitoring unit, advertisements for hiring people for the unit and a recent audit report.

The UNDP had complained that the MOEF Secretary took all the decisions unilaterally, ignoring UNDP.

It resented a recent special audit report prepared by MOEF, saying it was contrary to its (MOEF) previous years' audit report and UNDP's audit. It was also contrary to a special review conducted by a high powered UNDP team headed by former UNDP chief in Dhaka Erling Dessau, who had cleared the SEMF.

Lissner also complained to the Chief Comptroller of Audit and Accounts about the quality of the auditing and its inconsistencies with previous audit reports.

## BSF build-up on at several border points

FROM PAGE 1

Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Atal Behari Vajpayee in New Delhi, during a stopover by the former on her way back from the 10th DCC conference.

He said the Prime Minister may stop over in Delhi on her way to Brussels, but Vajpayee would be on a tour to Malaysia at that time.

Therefore, the meeting may take place on her return trip.

She may reach Delhi on May 16 and hold the talks on May 17, he said. The itinerary is "yet to be framed up," he reiterated. Hasina, he said, has voiced her desire to visit India to express sympathy for the Gujarat earthquake victims.

ance between the two countries. He said the prime minister was also planning to visit Delhi to open the newly constructed chancery of the Bangladesh High Commission.

The foreign secretary dismissed Indian media reports that Bangladesh Army has been posted at the frontiers.

"There are claims of deployment (of Bangladesh and Indian soldiers) from both sides; but, so far as we are concerned, there is no truth of our Army's movement in anyway," he asserted.

Ali said that the government has received post-mortem reports of the Indian BSF personnel from the Mymensingh Medical College and has asked for another report, Ali said.

About the probe into Indian allegations, he said, "We have to look into every aspect, including how the

intrusion took place and the sequence of events."

Meanwhile, fresh BSF reinforcements in the border have sent "shockwaves of tension" across the border villages, said BDR sources.

Over the past three or four days, it has been reported that motorised vehicles and lorries carrying uniformed BSF personnel are on night patrol on the bordering roadways. These vehicles moving in a convoy suddenly stop and troops disembark, often crossing or coming close to the Bangladesh border area, sources said.

Steps must be initiated at the diplomatic level to stop all night-time movement in the name of patrol in order to defuse the border situation," said senior BDR official.

"In the interest of restoring border peace, BSF should be desisted from troop movement at night," he added.

Night movements of BSF have also been reported from Jyotpurhat, Rourmari and Belonia.

The BSF should be advised to respond to requests for holding flag meeting to restore normalcy on the border," another official said.

The foreign ministry, however, said yesterday that they were monitoring the situation and were keeping abreast of the border situation.

Meanwhile, our Rajshahi correspondent reports that movement of BSF has markedly increased in the border areas of Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj over the last two days.

The BSF is reported to be increasing manpower, building up arms and ammunition stockpile, including heavy ones, setting up telecommunications, making roads and digging bunkers.

The most active BSF outposts are Rajapur, Akhriganj, Char Ashariadaha, Char Langwola, Char Manikchar and Narkhali of Indian Murshidabad and Alipur, Krishnapur, Kumerpur and Adampur of Malda.

Indian army has also been deployed in the bordering Lalgola of Murshidabad at a mango orchard with military vehicles and heavy arms.