

The World On Time

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Newsmen in

Ctg, Khulna,

protest attacks

Ward commissioner Mamunur

Rashid Mamun sued under the

Public Safety Act (PSA) for assaulting

two senior journalists of the daily

Purbakone here, was yet to be

Police sources said efforts were

on to arrest Mamun. They were

keeping watch on some possible

hideouts in Raozan and Fatikchhari

in addition to other areas, police

Police raided a hideout at

Home ministry reportedly put

Haladia union of Raozan thana to

pressure on Chittagong metropoli-

tan police (CMP) to arrest Mamun

before Prime Minister Shelkh

Hasina's visit to Chittagong on May

to arrive in Chittagong on May 1 to

continued their agitation

programme demanding immediate

observed a 3-hour work abstention

from 12 noon as part of their five-

However, Chittagong journalists

Chittagong journalists yesterday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Narsingdi

arrested.

arrest Mamun.

1, sources said.

arrest of Mamun.

address a workers' rally.



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### Miscreants who stabbed Dr Abu Abdullah yet to be arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are yet to arrest the culprits who stabbed Dr Abu Abdullah Director General of BIDS, at his Dhanmondi residence in the city on Friday night.

A gang of three led by Nurul Amin Rani, son of a BNP lawmaker, entered Abdullah's house at Road No. 11/A.

Sources said Rani and two of his associates went to the house in a private car at about 11 pm. Rani went to the third floor of the house while his two associates were staying inside the car.

Rani asked Dr Abdullah to bring back his (Rani's) former wife Zerin. an adopted daughter of Dr Abdullah. At one stage, he stabbed Dr Abdullah in his forehead and some other parts of the body. He immediately left the house, leaving Dr Abdullah in an unconscious

Abdullah was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). His condition was stated

to be critical. Golam Mostafa, brother of the victim, filed a case with Dhanmondi thanain this connection.

When contacted, Dhanmond police said they were looking for the miscreants.

### Delhi says Pak-Bangla war games were routine in nature

PTI, New Delhi

The recent joint naval exercises by Bangladesh and Pakistan were carried out in international waters and were routine in nature, a defence ministry spokesman in New Delhi said yesterday.

He said the exercises were of passing nature and it was not required to be conveyed to neigh bouring countries. No international convention has been broken, he added.

The spokesman said the programme of the Pakistani warships; which were on their way to Singapore for the international maritime defence exhibition had been scheduled in advance and the ships were routed through Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

He said that Bangladesh Navy had participated in the first ever international fleet review held by India and the two countries had conducted joint exercises two years back.

### US 'disappointed' at mass arrests in Pakistan

REUTERS, Washington

The United States has said it was "disappointed" at the mass arrest of potential demonstrators in Pakistan in advance of a rally set for next Monday.

Pakistan's military rulers said on Friday they had arrested hundreds of political workers and could detain more to stop the pro-democracy rally planned for Karachi.

State Department spokesman Charles Hunter said yesterday, "We were disappointed the government of Pakistan has taken this step, which was similar to actions taken in Lahore last month."

"The government's preemptive arrest of potential demonstrators without appropriate justification calls into question its commitment SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

### Policeman, son killed in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ihenidah

A police constable and his son were killed in a road accident on the Kushtia-Jhenidah Highway at Chariar Bill yesterday morning.

Police and witnesses said Wajed Ali, 41, a constable of Kushtia thana and his son Shanta, 5, died and his wife Mamtaj Begum, 36, received serious injuries when a pickup van bit their motorcycle at 11 a.m. yes-

terday. The injured were rushed to the Shailkupa Upazila Health Complex immediately after the accident. Doctors declared Wajed dead while Shanta died after he was admitted to

the hospital. Mamtaj is now fighting for her life. A case was filed with Shailkupa thana in this regard. None has been arrested so far.

# Hardliners now desperate to create rift in BNP

### Khaleda does not call them at policy meetings

REZAUL KARIM

BNP hardliners, sidelined in the party for their ill-conceived decisions in the past, are now desperate

They said the party had to pay a lot due to wrong steps taken at the influence of hardliners. They influenced party chairperson Khaleda Zia to float the 4-party alliance "unnecessarily" and take "imprudent and unrealistic decisions in the past few years".

"They (hardliners) are now completely cornered in the party after HM Ershad quit the alliance and joined hands with the government", a front ranking leader of the party

hardliners in party's policy-making

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

higher than the previous years.

lanuary this year.

Diarrhoea: Child dies,

500 more hospitalised

Diarrhoea claimed another life on Friday, raising the death toll to 81 while at

Diarrhoea has affected over 36,500 people so far across the country since

According to sources, a child died of diarrhoea at the International Centre

The control room of Directorate of Health said yesterday evening that 49

According to the officials of Health Department of Dhaka City

The ICDDR, B statistics show that since March this year 7, 736 patients of

The simplest treatment for diarrhoea is to give patients re-hydration

According to the control room of Directorate of Health, three deaths were

for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR, B). More 394 patients

patients have been admitted to different hospitals in Patuakhali. 24 in Bhola,

Corporation, the diarrhoeal attack in the city during this season is not

unusual, but this year the number of diarrhoea-infected patients is much

diarrhoea have been treated at the centre, 80 per cent of whom are children

below five. The admission of 562 patients in one day last week was the highest

therapy. Normally, the oral re-hydration therapy is recommended but the

intravenous therapy certainly after consultation with a doctor is required in

least 558 more were admitted to different hospitals across the country.

were admitted to the ICDDR, Buntil 5:30 p.m. yesterday.

79 in Pirojpur and 22 in Barisal since yesterday morning.

record and the number of deaths since March is 33.

create a conflict in the party and among Khaleda's family members and mislead the leaders.

As part of their "evil design", the to create a rift in the party, sources hardliners recently printed posters and leaflets and launched wall writing to bring Khaleda's eldest son Tareque Rahman in the leadership by replacing his mother.

A poster in the name of "Tareque Zia supporters group" with the photo of late President Ziaur Rahman said, "Bring Shaheed Zia's worthy heir Tareque Zia in leadership and strengthen the antiautocracy movement".

The leaflet said, although Khaleda Zia is very popular there is stagnation in the leadership because of her "illness", which is As Khaleda does not call the seriously hampering party's organisational activities as well as the

meetings now, they are desperate to current anti-government move

Similar wall writings were also seen in different areas in the city. These created a strong resent-

ment in the rank and file of BNP. None believes that Tareque Rahman or any of his supporters is behind Party insiders said leaders and

activists of BNP and its front organi sations over the years never saw Tareque Rahman interfering in party activities. So this type of activity can not be done by him. Investigations by the party

revealed that a section of leaders belonging to the hardline group · were involved in it, the sources said. They said a member of BNP Standing Committee, a member of

the Chairperson's Advisory Council SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

# shower in city

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

A much-awaited shower, accompanied with squally winds, drenched the city yesterday evening, bringing relief to the citizens sizzling under

recorded at 4 mm by the Meteorological Department here. The squally winds rising up to 59 km per hour and lasting about 15

ties in some areas. It caught pedestrians unprepared. But some, especially street

northern areas of Dhaka district at

mm rainfall at Mymensingh, 7 mm at Ishurdi, 1 mm in Tangail and

scorching heat for the past weeks.

minutes from 8-40 pm disrupted power supply and tore down shan-

enjoying the showers.

Another gust blew over the about 8:25 pm at 56 km per hour.

Rains accompanied with squally

# Much-awaited

children, were seen frisking and

winds rising up to 56 km per hour also blew over Mymensingh town vesterday. The Met office recorded 8

### day agitation programme demanding arrest of Mamun and his accom-They would form a human chain But the rainfall was scanty, in front of the Chittagong Press Club

at 10 am today. Khulna UNB adds, in the wake of increasing

attacks on the press, newsmen in Khulna yesterday demanded setting up of a special tribunal to expedite the trial of the killers of journalists.

In a protest meeting at the Khulna Press Club they expressed concern over attacks on newspaper offices and newsmen, and killing of journalists.

The meeting, chaired by Begum Ferdousi Ali, President of Khulna Press Club, was addressed by Shahabuddin Ahmed, Humayun Kabir Balu, Wadudur Rahman Panna, Makbul Hossain Minto,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

### Boy rescued: Two Reazuddin made alleged traffickers Khaleda's held in Khulna press advisor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Editor of the Financial Express Reazuddin Ahmed has been appointed press advisor to BNP Chairperson Klaheda Zia.

The BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament approved the appointment on Friday. The appointment was finalised before the opposition's last three-day countrywide hartal, party sources said.

But Anwar Zahid, who is holding the post for long, was not informed about the new appointment till yesterday, the sources said.

Talking to The Daily Star, a senior BNP leader said Anwar Zahid need not be formally informed about the decision. "He will know it automatically following the new appointment. It not necessary to inform him or formally remove him from the

He claimed that the decision to replace Anwar Zahid was taken after some intra-party conflict, he claimed.

Zahid, who belongs to BNP's hardline group, played a key role in floating the 4-party alliance by influencing the party chief.

house. Bhutto and Lipi also could Reazuddin's appointment will be announced through a press statement soon, they said.

> The epicentre of the temblor lay the few faultlines located in the

Residents of the capital's high-There were no reports of any rise buildings, particularly in west Delhi, rushed out of their homes in

# Awaiting their turn... women of different ages queue up with pitchers and buckets to collect water from the lone

PHOTO STAR

tube-well in the neighbourhood near Babubazar police barrack in the city yesterday. The Prime Minister is scheduled

# UNDP won't release funds till impasse over SEMP resolved

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The row between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) over the Sustainable Environment Management Programme (SEMP) has taken a serious turn with UNDP informing the government that it would not release any more funds

"I hereby notify you formally that been taken to protect the financial with immediate effect and until the current impasse over SEMP is resolved. UNDP will not release any funds to any of NEX (nationally executed) projects in Bangladesh by means of quarterly advances," a letter written by Jorgen Lissner, UNDP chief in Bangladesh, said.

Economic Relations Division (ERD) committed" Secretary Dr AKM Mashiur Rahman on Sunday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

One of the five boys lifted from

different places of Khulna allegedly

by child traffickers was rescued on

Friday while four others remained

Abdul Aziz Shikder, of Boyra

Madhyapara under Khalishpur

and Lipi, 25, in this connection.

The 9-year boy is Al-Amin, son of

Police arrested two Bhutto, 32,

A case was earlier lodged with

Police said Lipi is not only a child

Lipi's accomplice Hira is another

Khalishpur thana by Al-Amin's

lifter, but also a drug trafficker hav-

female child trafficker in the gang.

Both Lipi and Hira are working

under Butto, one of the armed cad-

Bhutto and Lipi told police that a

certain officer of a nationalised bank

in Khulna is one of the three persons

who provides 'necessary logistic

four minor boys 'kidnapped' from

Khulna during last three months

have been confined in a house in

Al-Amin could not identify that

not say anything about the house

where Al-Amin was also confined.

res of Ershad Shikder, police said.

ing link with an inter-district gang.

untraced.

father on April 24.

for finance and MOEF, Principal we are not prepared to risk a repeti-Secretary to the Prime Minister and tion of this traumatic experience in MOEF Secretary Harunar Rashid, anyother UNDP-funded projects". who is the National Project Director (NPD) of SEMP.

honour "our commitments only in response to 'Requests for Direct Payment' from respective National Project Directors. Lissner said the decision has lettersaid.

and managerial integrity of UNDP's

assistance in Bangladesh. inconvenient for "our partner institutions" and "our finance section million dollars. staff", we see no other way to protect the integrity of UNDP's programme in Bangladesh "against the type of The letter was addressed to transgressions that the NPD has payments to SEMP components

> He said, "We feel that SEMP has NGOs. been 'hijacked' in clear violation of

Copies were sent to the ministers solemnly signed agreements, and

He also demanded refund of Tk

33.44.423.20 from MOEF, given by Lissner said that UNDP would UNDP. There was no response despite numerous requests in this regard. "The secretary's inaction in this matter is a very serious violation of existing NEX guidelines", the

It was the most serious development so far between the MOEF and UNDP over the SEMP, the first such He also said, though it will be project taken by UNDP in Bangladesh with a budget of 26-

> About two million dollars were spent till September last year when the MOEF Secretary suspended executed by the government and

> > SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## 17 lakh new voters in Khulna division

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

There has been an increase of 17 lakh voters in Khulna division, who will be playing a vital role in deciding the fate of candidates in the upcoming parliamentary elections. There were a total of 69,99,352 voters in 37 constituencies of ten districts

during national elections held on June 12, 1996. But according to the new voters' list, the number of voters stands 87,17,925. According to sources in local election office, there were a total of 10,86,540

voters in the six constituencies of Khulna district during 1996 general elections. The number has risen to 13,24,440 this year. A total of 7,03,286 voters were enrolled from four constituencies of

Bagerhat district in 1996. According to new voters list, the number has risen to 8,09,384. A total of 10,82,319 voters have been enrolled for the upcoming national

elections from five constituencies of Satkhira district. But during 1996 general elections there were 9,05,329 voters, EC sources said.

In the six constituencies of Jessore district, there has been an increase of 2,82,927 voters this year. The number was 12,00,600 in 1996.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

### Sifting through sand for pebbles... whenever there is excavation of roads by utility service providers, these people support including funds' required the Jatiya Party faction led by H M for drug and child trafficking in the Ershad quit the four-party opposi-Tipu Treatment Fund Khulna-lessore belt. tion alliance. Zahid was involved in Police quoting Al-Amin said that

lessore town.



Will journalist Tipu remain disabled? The Daily Star- sun such

> Donate generously to this Fund Save Tipu from Disability

Send donations to: Savings Account No. 25002111 Dhaka Bank Ltd. Karwan Bazar Branch, Dhaka

## Tremor jolts Delhi

UNI, New Dellni

Panic-stricken residents rushed out of their homes as a mild earthquake region. epicentred near the Delhi-Haryana border shook the national capital region yesterday morning.

3.8 on the Richter scale struck at 0836 hours and its epicentre was located at 28.8 degrees North and 77.2 degrees East in Sonepat on the Delhi-Haryana border, the India which claimed thousands of lives. Meteorological Department said.

damage or casualties. "We did not receive any emer-

gency rescue calls following the tremor," Delhi Fire Service personnel told UNI.

on the Rohtak-Sohana fault, one of

capital in 1960, measuring 6 on the Richter Scale, was also located in the The tremor with an intensity of same region at 28.3 degrees North and 77.4 degrees East.

Yesterday tremor which lasted a few seconds comes three months after the massive Gujarat quake

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### News Analysis

## Vajpayee, Sonia turn up the heat at budget session

show up with their children. They collect pebble and brickbats and sell those at twenty taka a sack.

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, From New Delhi

The acrimonious budget session of the Indian parliament has come to an end with a war of words between Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Leader of the Opposition Sonia

The bitter note on which the session ended yesterday came somewhat as a surprise as the two leaders had met only a few days ago to end a long parliamentary stalemate created by the Opposition, particularly Congress, to press for joint parliamentary committee into internet media group's, expose of

corruption in defence deals. If Vajpayee, in his concluding remarks to the session, adopted a combative posture attacking the into the expose cannot go on at the

Opposition for paralysing parliament and Congress for its "personal" attacks on him, a usually reticent Sonia Gandhi was at her aggressive best in response to the

members in the past.

Later, the prime minister said, "I am a member of Parliament for forty years. Never was I subjected to such abusive words." Rejecting the Congress demand

for a joint parliamentary committee (JPC) inquiry into the expose, he said he had only spoken about the government's readiness to consider the demand with "an open mind". "But open mind does not mean

an empty mind," he said.

JPC probe, the opposition rejected the proposition, he said. The prime minister referred to BJP "diatribe" against her family the Congress invocation of morality

same time. When the government

initially expressed willingness for a

and probity in public life in the context of the news portal's expose and said morality could not be confined to only one side. In a veiled warning to the main opposition party, he said many issues have and will come up in which the party could find itself in the dock on ques; tion of morality. After Vajpayee's speech, Speaker of Lok Sabha GMC Balayogi

adjourned the house sine die. Even as newsmen prepared to leave the Vajpayee said investigation by a press gallery, Sonia Gandhi stunned JPC and the ongoing judicial probe everyone with her emotional out

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## The last major earthquake in the

"Helt the earth sway beneath my feet just as I was getting up in the SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

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