

## PM to lay foundation of Rupsha bridge May 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will lay the foundation stone of over Tk 582 crore Rupsha bridge on May 30. Japan will provide Tk 422 crore for the proposed bridge.

The foundation stone of the proposed bridge was first laid by former prime Minister Khaleda Zia on December 30, 1995.

The foundation stone was later destroyed by a group of people led by ward commissioner Mohammad Hossain Mukta.

A general diary was filed with Khulna thana in this connection. But police never took cognizance of the GD entry.

Ward Commissioner Mohammad Hossain was a leader of Awami League in ward no 31 in 1995. But he was expelled from the party in 1997 for his involvement in criminal acts.

Recently, he issued a press statement against acquisition of land in a certain area.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## Meeting at EC today to review pre-election law & order

UNB, Dhaka

The Election Commission will hold a meeting with law enforcing and intelligence agencies in the city today to review the pre-election law and order.

Sources said the meeting is designed to focus on field-level experiences of the state of affairs to chalk out security measures during the upcoming general election.

Directors General of two key secret services, National Security Intelligence (NSI) and Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGI), will attend the meeting to apprise the EC of the current situation.

Inspector General (IG) of Police, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner and DIG of Dhaka Range as well as chief of the Special Branch, mainly dealing with politi-

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

## 6 killed, 19 hurt in Gazipur road accident

UNB, Gazipur

Six people were killed and 19 injured when a minibus collided with a pick-up at Nandua in Sadar upazila of the district on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway yesterday.

Police said the Dhaka-bound minibus smashed the pick-up coming from opposition direction at about 6:30 am. Four people died instantly and two on way to hospital.

Four of the dead were identified as Niamat, 30, and Tunu Mia, 20, both fish traders in Mymensingh town, and pick-up driver Manik, 30, and his helper Farhad, 15. Two other deceased aged about 35 could not be

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## INSIDE TODAY

Article 4

Standard devices for good polls need updating  
Column: JustAnother View  
By SH Imam

Focus 5

Letter from Europe Modern Spain and the Muslims

Business 6-8

Grameen Mutual Fund launched to channel rural savings to corporate world  
Four Arab states agree on free trade zone  
DSE, CSE price quotations

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
May 10		6:32 pm
May 11	5:18 am	

## Prayer Timings

May 10

	Azan	Jamaat
Fazr	4:30	5:00
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:45	5:00
Maghrib	6:30	6:35
Esha	8:00	8:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

## HSC examinations begin today Tough measures to check cheating

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations under the country's seven education boards begin today amid tight security to check cheating at the examinations.

A total of 5,69,114 examinees will sit for the examinations at 982 centres under the boards. The examinations will be held in five centres abroad.

Of the examinees, 1,64,574 will appear under Dhaka Education Board, 1,69,411 under Rajshahi Board, 69,235 under Comilla Board, 71,458 under Jessore

Board, 45,230 under Chittagong Board, 34,085 under Barisal Board and 17,091 under Sylhet Board.

A 50-member vigilance team and Rapid Action Force (RAF) have been formed. The RAF will have the authority to cancel any examination centres where massive cheating will take place.

The Ministry of Education has identified 61 upazilas, out of 463 in the country as "copy prone" areas. The ministry has asked the seven education boards in the country to take effective measures to check cheating in the centres during the examinations.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Rickshaws make way through waist-deep water in Katalganj residential area in Chittagong yesterday. Consecutive days of heavy shower have inundated some low-lying areas in the port city.

## Commentary

### A worthy example to emulate

MAHFUZ ANAM

Something quite unusual has happened in our business world. Why only the business world, it can be said to be true for our society as a whole. Someone took moral responsibility for his action and actually resigned from his elected post. We are, of course, referring to the resignation of DCCI president Benazir Ahmed. Following press reports about some controversial financial dealings of some of his companies the DCCI President decided to resign from his post while the whole thing is being investigated and final conclusion drawn. What makes the event worthy of notice is that examples of resignations from positions of power and influence are extremely rare, and if that be an elected post then the example becomes almost non-existent. Our commentary today does, in no way, preclude our further reporting and final judgement on the issue, which we will pursue with the same vigour and professionalism as we do in similar cases. Today we comment because we think it is necessary to point out that Benazir Ahmed has set a worthy example of good business practice, which must become a standard for others to follow.

By removing himself from the DCCI presidency, Benazir has done two things: first, he has saved his organisation from being dragged into a controversy which is his own. By his action he has protected the good name, prestige and image of the chamber he was elected to head. Secondly, he has clearly shown that he

did not want to use the clout of the office of DCCI president while the investigation was going on. In fact, he could have easily taken the position that he would challenge the findings of the bank in court and till a judicial verdict came he would continue to be the DCCI president. This position may have been legally defensible but not morally. We credit for not hiding behind the legality of the situation and taking the moral high ground. He passed a judgement on himself and stepped down from his elected post till the controversy is settled. The beauty of such an action is that if the court (or the investigating body concerned) finds him innocent then he can resume his elected position with increased prestige as someone who showed highest respect for and laid himself open to an unhindered investigation. It is the moral significance of this particular action (and not of Benazir Ahmed's total business record) that we want to highlight today.

Compare Benazir's resignation with actions of some other prominent business leaders of our country. There is this businessman who was caught having put water into barrels of imported consignment oil which were kept in the bank's storehouse as he was unable to repay the bank loan. When he was caught red handed he pulled a lot of political strings and postponed going to jail. The case is now pending and through some procedural

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



A dance sequence from yesterday's cultural programme at the National Museum Auditorium, organised by the Nrityanchal Sangskritik Goshti in observance of 140th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore.

## Roumari incident Dhaka rejects Indian minister's allegation

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh has dismissed allegations by an Indian minister that Dhaka triggered last month's border skirmishes near Roumari that claimed the lives of border guards on both sides.

"We do not admit (the allegations)," Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad told journalists at his office yesterday evening, refuting the allegations of the Indian minister as quoted in a press report.

The report said Indian Minister of State for Home Affairs I D Swami in a TV talk show (on Saturday) held Bangladesh responsible for last month's border clashes at Borailbari under Roumari that claimed the lives of 16 BSF and three BDR personnel.

Swami reportedly told the TV channel that it was not the BDR, but the Bangladesh government that was responsible for the incident.

Azad said, "We have stated many times earlier that BDR and the government are one. It is the same in every country."

He said both countries were now working to resolve the pent-up problems through discussions. He expressed the hope that the existing "goodwill" between the two neighbours would help resolve the problems soon.

About the proposed meeting

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

## Sramik League leader shot dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A leader of ruling party backed Jatiya Sramik League (JSL) was shot dead in Gulshan-2 in the city yesterday morning.

Mohammad Liakat Hossain, general secretary of ward no.19 (Gulshan) unit of JSL, was shot dead in front of House 8, Road 72, Gulshan-2 in the city at about 10:30am.

Police recovered the bullet-riddled body of the victim from the spot and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy. There were at least 15 bullet holes in the victim's body.

Police quoting witnesses said Liakat was having a conversation with two young men in front of Zahurul Islam's house in Gulshan when suddenly the two men pulled out their guns and shot him dead. The two then fled in a yellow taxicab.

Police said Liakat was a ward-level leader of Sramik league and so far the motive for the murder is unclear.

Another source however said that the victim might have been killed in crossfire when two groups of armed youths traded gunfire in a clash at Kalachandpur bridge yesterday morning.

No case was filed yet in this connection, Gulshan police said last night.

vehicles, one flat at Melody Apartment of Shine Pukur project at Gulshan-1, two flats at Eastern Housing at Gulshan-2, two buildings at Ashoknagar at Uttara, two plots of three bighas each at Nikunja residential area and Ashulia. He also owns a house in Long Island City in New York.

He shifted to Agargaon slum from Mirpur following an affair with one Lipi, daughter of a fourth-class government employee. He later married her and now have a son and a daughter.

Initially, he was involved in muggering on city streets and such other criminal activities, particularly in Mirpur areas.

Sagar was arrested by Special Branch of Police while he was returning from Dubai via Sylhet. He was shown arrested in three cases.

He is the main accused in Muri Milan murder case. Milan, a leader of another notorious gang - Five Star - was gunned down by assailants on the premises of the District and Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, on September 27 last year. He is also accused in Morshed Murder case.

Sagar, allegedly involved in illegal arms trading and drug smuggling, has property include three motor

## Stolen DSE computer, surveillance software recovered: 2 held

M SHAMSUR RAHMAN

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday recovered a computer with a key surveillance software, which was earlier stolen from the IT department of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE).

Accompanied by two DSE IT personnel, SEC official Farhad Ahmed went to the office of DSE broker Shamsul Alam at room 528 of the DSE building. They checked the main trading workstation and traced part of the stolen software "outside view", which can provide privileged information to any broker for making a fortune.

Two authorised representatives of the broker were also handed over to DSE. They were later taken to the police and a FIR was being filed against them till writing of this report last night.

Sources said the SEC could gather that the stolen software was installed in the computers in November 1999. They said much of the software was deleted and the SEC could only trace part of it.

The DSE has in the meanwhile sealed the broker's room and decided to suspend the broker from trading from today.

On March 30, 2001, the mainframe servers of the bourse that store valuable data had been

hacked. The key market administration and surveillance software had been stolen by an unidentified person who also had the password to log on to the servers.

The IT personnel of the DSE on March 30 saw a log-off error message being flashed by one of its secured servers where no-one other than the DSE system administrator had access.

The error message meant that someone had accessed the mainframe but did not log off systematically which might have been caused due to power failure on the user's

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

## BNP meets today to decide fate of SQ Chowdhury

REZAUL KARIM

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will hold a meeting with party policy makers this evening to take a "final decision" regarding Salauddin Qader Chowdhury MP for his "arrogant and indecent" remarks against the party leadership.

He said both countries were now working to resolve the pent-up problems through discussions. He expressed the hope that the existing "goodwill" between the two neighbours would help resolve the problems soon.

About the proposed meeting

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

## 5 Indian states go to polls today Crucial test for ruling coalition

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The stage is set for today's crucial assembly elections in five Indian states, including West Bengal and Assam. Dubbed as the "mini general elections," the state assembly polls are also viewed as a pointer of popularity of Prime Minister Atal

Behari Vajpayee's government after the tehelka.com expose of corruption in defence deals.

An estimated 13 crore voters are expected to cast their ballots to choose their representatives for 823 seats in West Bengal, Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the federally-administered territory of Pondicherry. With the official cam-

paign for the elections having ended, candidates and their supporters are now making house calls in a last-minute bid to woo voters.

The electioneering gathered feverish tempo in its last week with Vajpayee and Leader of the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

1