

## Dhaka signs Convention

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has signed the Stockholm convention on 'Persistent Organic Pollutants'.

The convention was adopted at the summit on 'Persistent Organic Pollutants' in the Swedish capital yesterday.

Forest and Environment Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, who is leading a three-member team in the two-day summit, signed the agreement, according to a message received here yesterday.

The convention contains issues relating to production, use and import-export of toxic organic and chemical substances, particularly those pesticides that pose threats to the existence of the living creatures by continuously polluting the earth.

Sajeda Chowdhury addressed the summit on the concluding day.

# Landmark UN treaty to outlaw 'dirty dozen' of POPs signed

## US amongst 90 signatories to the Stockholm Convention

AFP, Stockholm

Officials from 90 countries signed a landmark UN treaty here yesterday outlawing or restricting a "dirty dozen" chemical pollutants blamed for causing death and disease worldwide.

The United States, under intense international criticism for calling into question an earlier treaty aimed at resolving the more serious environmental threat posed by global warming, enthusiastically signed up to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

"Acknowledging the compelling scientific evidence that highlights the dangerous nature of POPs and their impacts around the globe, we have arrived at a treaty that commits nations to a higher standard of environmental responsibility and protection of human health," said the top US environmental official, Christine Todd Whitman.

"President (George) Bush has endorsed the treaty himself and we intend to move expeditiously to submit the treaty to the US Senate and to send implementing legislation to the Congress," she said.

Whitman went on to defend Bush's decision to back away from commitments made under the so-called Kyoto Protocol to cut back on industrial emissions of pollutants blamed for causing global warming, but promised Washington would soon take steps to tackle the problem.

"Clearly the Kyoto Protocol as it is today is not something that the US would sign," she told reporters after signing the POP treaty.

"Only one industrialised nation has in fact signed" the Kyoto agreement, Whitman said. "The US is not the only one that has concerns with the current protocol."

Washington has come under heavy criticism around the world after the administration of President George W. Bush announced in March that it would not ratify the Kyoto agreement.

But Whitman said climate change experts were working on a new US initiative that they planned to present to Bush "shortly, so that he'll be able to make a determination as to what he wants to present to the rest of the world as we engage in this."

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## Batamul blast Sanskritik Jote renews demand for spl tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Sammilito Sanskritik Jote (SSJ) yesterday demanded formation of a special tribunal to punish the culprits of Ramna Batamul bomb blast.

Speaking at a press conference at the National Press Club, they disproved the idea of little progress in the investigation of bomb blast on April 14 that killed ten people and injured many others.

The speakers referred to the Udichi bomb blast in Jessore that took the authorities eight months to submit the charge sheet. Moreover, some of the charge-sheeted accused got interim bail. The trial could not start due to stay order for twelve times by the High Court.

The criminals commit the same crimes again, going unpunished, the speakers observed. Questions about the capacity and honesty of the law-enforcement agencies and the judicial system are being raised, the cultural leaders said.

Asked why they seek setting up of a special tribunal despite the existing law, they said the lengthy procedure of judiciary made it necessary. The leaders said they have full respect for the judicial system. The miscreants would engage them

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## Hearing on writ challenging PSA continues

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Hearing on the with challenging Public Safety Act (PSA) continued yesterday at the High Court with Dr M. Zahir, counsel for 16 lawyers and BNP MP M Murshed Khan, describing it as a "draconian law". Section 16 of PSA denies bail to a defendant in 90 days and gives "ample opportunities to police to abuse it", he said.

The counsel said the very purpose of the law has not been achieved since its enactment last year.

Citing a report in The Daily Star on rising murders in the capital, 38 in 20 days of this month, he said it failed to curb crimes.

Rather, innocent people have been falsely accused and harassed by police. The law is a "slur on the judiciary as it curbs its authority."

Citing the case against Murshed Khan, he said the defendant, charged by police for 'kicking' a pan of halim (an iftari item), could be detained for 24 hours for this but he faces 14 years' detention under PSA.

He pleaded for abolishing the law as it goes against fundamental rights granted by the Constitution.

Barrister Maudud Ahmed also started his arguments on behalf of the 16 lawyers and Murshed Khan yesterday. The hearing will continue.

## Corruption case against KCC mayor, 7 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

District Anti-corruption Bureau (DAB) has filed a case against KCC Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman and seven others for recruiting seven persons to KCC violating rules and regulations.

Anti-corruption official Abdul Baset filed the case with Khulna thana on Tuesday under Sections 420/467/468/471/109 BPC and 5(A) of the Anti-corruption Ordinance, 1974.

The accused in the case are Mayor Tayebur Rahman, KCC Chief Engineer Liaquat Ali Sharif, former assistant secretary of the Ministry of LGRD Md. Moniruzzaman, ward commissioner Moniruzzaman, former chief engineer Shah Alam, former acting secretary Kazi Abdul

Khaleque, former health officer Dr. AKM Abdullah, executive engineer Abdul Hannan.

It is stated in the FIR that Mayor and seven others appointed seven persons to different posts of KCC from June 1994 to March 1995 violating recruitment rules of the government.

Those appointed illegally are revenue officer Anisul Huq, assistant accounts officer M M A Wadud, deputy collector of taxes Shuja Haroon Huq, assistant superintendent of taxes Nawshad Ahmed, sub-asst. engineer Monirul Islam, health assistant Asma Khatoon and vaccinator Monowara Khatoon.

All the accused were members of the recruitment committee and finally selected the seven without

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## Indian ministers for closer BSF-BDR cooperation

BSS, New Delhi

The Group of Ministers (GOM) headed by Home Minister L K Advani in a report released yesterday suggested closer cooperation between the border guards of Bangladesh and India to curb smuggling and criminal activities on the borders between the two nations.

The report, prepared by the GOM comprising the home minister, Defence and Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh and Finance Minister Jaswant Sinha, pleaded for renewed efforts to formalise cross border trade between the neighbours to curb large-scale smuggling.

A joint Indo-Bangladesh expert group has already been set up and foreign, home and commerce secretaries' level talks are pursuing

it vigorously, the report said.

The report, released at a press conference addressed by GOM members yesterday said, "Notwithstanding the friendly ties between India and Bangladesh, much of the illegal cross border activities take place at the behest of Pakistani ISI which has also spread its tentacles in that country."

The GOM expressed the view that it was an area where concerted diplomatic actions needed to be taken and urged the Ministry of External Affairs to take diplomatic initiative in this direction.

It said the joint Indo-Bangladesh guidelines for border authorities, 1975 laid down clear and precise rules and procedures to guide the border troops of both the nations

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## 15 Bangladeshis held on border in Jammu

UNI, Jammu

The Border Security Force (BSF) arrested 15 Bangladeshis on Indo-Pakistan border in Jammu region Wednesday. The BSF sources said here that BSF personnel deployed on the border held all the 15 Bangladeshis from Punsar area of Kathua district while they were trying to enter the Pakistan side. They were later handed over to the police.

## Bid to enter JS Bhaban: 1 held

BSS, Dhaka

A young man was caught with a knife on Monday as he tried to enter the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban illegally, a Parliament Secretariat press release said here yesterday.



A faction of Bangladesh Primary Teachers' Association (BPTA) and Coordination Committee of Government Employees organised a rally at the Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday.

## CCCI president Javed resigns

Staff Correspondent, Ctg

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries president Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed has tendered his resignation on 'personal ground'.

The resignation is expected to be accepted at a meeting of the board of directors at chamber office today, chamber sources said.

Javed, son of Awami League leader Aktaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu, resigned after the end of his one-year term as CCCI chief.

Another director of the CCCI board Farid Ahmed Chowdhury is likely to replace Javed, said senior vice president S M Nurul Huq while talking to this correspondent.

"It has already been unanimously decided by all directors to nominate Farid Ahmed Chowdhury for the post of president of Nurul Huq said.

When contacted Javed said "I resigned as my term of one year ended".

## CAAB security man beaten by army officer at ZIA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A security personnel of the Civil Aviation Authority was beaten up allegedly by an army officer at Zia International Airport yesterday.

The incident took place at VIP terminal gate at about 8:10 am following an altercation between captain Kamal and security personnel Abdul Khaleq. At one stage, Kamal beat up Khaleq mercilessly.

Khaleq was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

No case was filed in this connection till filing of this report last night.

## Teachers, employees urge govt

# Accept all demands including 30pc DA without delay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of primary school teachers and government employees at a 'grand rally' in the city yesterday urged the government to accept their various demands including 30 per cent dearness allowance without delay.

They decided to stage a sit-in in front of the Sangsad Bhaban on June 18 if the demands are not met by then.

The sit-in and some other programmes were announced at the rally held at Paltan Maidan.

Before staging the sit-in, they will hold a rally at Mukhtangon.

The teachers and employees will also agitate at the government offices from June 11 to 13.

Meanwhile, the Jatiya Sangsad goes into session on June 6 and all sorts of public gathering in areas around the Sangsad Bhaban remain banned as long as its session continues.

Thousands of teachers and employees attended the Paltan rally

yesterday, organised by a faction of Bangladesh Primary School Teachers Association (BPTA) and the Coordination Committee of Government Employees (CCGE).

The rally was held to press home a 21-point demand of the teachers

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## AL leader slaughtered in Chuadanga

UNB, Chuadanga

Unidentified assailants slaughtered a freedom fighter and local Awami League leader at Munshiganj here Tuesday night.

Police said Ibne Sayeed Kochi, also chairman of Jehala union, was killed at about 8:30 pm while he was returning home from a local bazaar.

The reason behind the killing could not yet be known.

Will journalist Tipu remain disabled?



The Daily Star- প্রথম আলো

Tipu Treatment Fund

Donate generously to this Fund

Save Tipu from Disability

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

পাকিস্তান	২৩৬	১০৩/২০০১
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সময়—৩ ঘণ্টা		
পূর্বমান—১০০		
[দ্রষ্টব্যঃ—সকল প্রাপ্তের মান সমান। যে-কোন পাঁচটি প্রশ্নের উত্তর দাও।]		
১। মদিনা সনদের প্রধান শর্তগুলি কি কি? ইহার তত্ত্ব আলোচনা কর।		
২। সমাজ সংস্কারক হিসেবে হযরত মুহম্মদ (সঃ) কৃতিত্ব মূল্যায়ন কর।		

Oblivious of history?...The question paper for Islamic History first paper in the ongoing Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations under the Dhaka Education Board has raised question about the board officials' sense of history. The code word printed on the 'Ka' set of questions was Pakistan. The question paper generated anger amongst teachers, students and the public alike, many of whom even suggested that this had been done deliberately.

## Tribal terrorists abduct 2 truck drivers in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENTKhagrachhari

Tribal terrorists kidnapped two truck drivers and set ablaze a truck in Araimile area near the district town in the early hours of Wednesday.

Police and witnesses said the terrorists put up a barricade on the road beside Agriculture Research Centre, stopped two wood-loaded trucks coming from Dighinala and demanded tolls from the drivers.

As they (drivers) failed to do so, the terrorists took them to a nearby jungle at gunpoint.

They also set fire to a truck. Being informed, police and army personnel rushed to the spot and started rescue operation.