

## BDR, BSF hold flag meeting

*BSF abducts two Bangladeshi farmers in Lalmonirhat*

**BSS, Rajshahi**

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday held a battalion commander-level emergency flag meeting near Sonamasjid Land Customs Station in Chapainawabganj.

Both sides met after BSF members shot dead two Bangladeshis near Chalkpara border area under Shibganj upazila Tuesday evening.

During the two-hour meeting, the BDR protested frequent killings of Bangladeshis inside Bangladeshi territory by BSF members, sources said.

The meeting also discussed border situation and both sides agreed to continue their efforts to restore peace along border areas to diffuse tensions.

Lt Col Shaheed Uddin Khan of the 6th Battalion of the BDR led the home side, while NK Nayal, 63rd BSF Battalion Commandant, headed the Indian side.

Meanwhile, our Lamoni rhat correspondent adds the BSF members yesterday allegedly abducted two Bangladeshi farmers from near

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PHOTO: STAR

Scouts having a field day with small things at Mauchak in Gazipur on the second day of the Seventh Bangladesh and Fourth Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Scout Jamboree yesterday.

## GLOBAL WARMING

# Quarter of land life faces extinction by 2050: Study

**AFP, London**

Over one million plants and animals -- a quarter of all life on land -- could become extinct in just decades due to man-made climate change, scientists say.

The main culprit for this change, they say in an article due out Thursday in the British journal

Nature, is greenhouses gases, which are churned out by automobiles and industry and trap heat in the earth's atmosphere.

"An immediate and progressive switch to technologies that produce little or no new greenhouse gases, combined with active removal of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, could save a million

or more species from extinction," lead author Chris Thomas, a biologist from University of Leeds, said in a statement.

Thomas's team studied six regions rich in biodiversity, representing 20 percent of the planet's land area, and made projections for the survival of 1,103 species

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# 9 killed as US chopper crash-lands in Iraq

**REUTERS, Abu Ghraib**

A Black Hawk helicopter came down in Iraq yesterday, killing all nine US soldiers aboard; it was not immediately clear if it had been shot down.

News of the incident near the restive town of Falluja, west of Baghdad, came as US authorities released about 60 Iraqis from what was Saddam Hussein's most notorious prison, the first batch to be set free under a new amnesty program.

At the Abu Ghraib prison near the capital, which once housed Saddam's enemies, the freed inmates were brought out in two open trucks late in the afternoon and let out a mile away.

Honking their car horns and raising huge clouds of dust, hundreds of people who had been waiting outside the jail all day set off in pursuit. Later, they surrounded the freed men, searching desperately for friends and relatives.

Many of those released looked relieved but some were bitter.

"I'm very happy to be free," shouted Kamal Risaeya, 32, an identification tag still hanging from his leg. "I'm just looking forward to seeing my family."

Risaeya said he was detained in Saddam's hometown of Tikrit and held for five months. He said he was not harmed in custody.

But another man, who refused

to give his name, said he had been mistreated. His voice shaking with anger, he said: "I'm free, but now I will attack them."

The downed Black Hawk was on a medical evacuation mission with four crew and four passengers aboard, the military said.

"There are no survivors," a US military spokeswoman said.

Another spokesman said all were US soldiers but neither knew if it had come under fire.

Last week, an OH-58 observation helicopter was shot down by guerrillas near Falluja. One pilot died, the other was wounded.

Thursday's crash was the  
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## UN top official for peacekeeping due today

**UNB, Dhaka**

Under-Secretary General for the UN Peacekeeping Operations Jean Marie Guehenno arrives in the capital today on a two-day visit.

Guehenno, a French national, will be accompanied by two senior officials of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

He is expected to meet a number of senior civil and military officials

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## By-election to Kushtia-1 JS seat Feb 29

**BSS, Dhaka**

The by-election to the Kushtia-1 seat of the Jatiya Sangsad will be held on February 29.

The seat fell vacant following the death of former state minister Mohammad Ahsanul Haque Mollah, MP.

The Election Commission (EC) in

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Prayer Timings		
January 9		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-45	6-10
Juma	12-15	1-20
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-36	5-41
Esha	7-00	7-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		

# PM finds talents lacking in administration

## Stresses quality recruitment

**UNB, Savar**

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia sees a dearth of talent in all spheres of national life, including government administration, and said emphasis will now be given on recruitment of talented persons.

She said the situation can be changed through quality training.

The prime minister made the observations while inaugurating an international training complex and the 32nd foundation training course of Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPATC) here yesterday.

Addressing the civil servants, the prime minister said BPATC was no more a dumping ground and mentioned that she had given particular responsibility to her principal secretary to assemble talented and skilled personnel at the centre for providing high-quality training.

Referring to reforms made by her government Khaleda said, "We have laid stress on a knowledge-based administration."

"From now on arrangement will be made for civil servants to receive

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# Bush asks Congress for new immigration rules

**REUTERS, Washington**

President Bush unveiled an election-year proposal Wednesday to let millions of mostly Hispanic immigrants work legally in the United States in what would be the biggest overhaul of US immigration law in almost two decades.

The effort to court Hispanic-American voters and patch frayed relations with Mexico faced an uncertain future on Capitol Hill, where the guest worker program

creating a three-year renewable temporary work permit drew skepticism from Republicans and Democrats alike.

The Bush administration sought to balance the concerns of politically important Hispanic groups seeking to legalise immigrants' status and major employers who want workers for low-paying jobs. Others worry about security

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PHOTO: STAR

Leaders and activists of the 11-party left alliance shout slogans during a demonstration in Kanchpur in Narayanganj yesterday against the rule of the BNP-Jamaat coalition, law and order downslide and price spiral of essentials. The alliance put up two-hour barricades on highways and railways.

## Abducted schoolboy rescued at Hathazari

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

A joint police team yesterday rescued a schoolboy, five days after he was abducted, from Hathazari in Chittagong and held three alleged kidnappers.

Raiding Farhadabad area, Pahartali and Hathazari police recovered Rajin Iqbal Jonny, son of

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