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PHOTO : STAR  
Dr M Zahir speaks at a meeting yesterday protesting Thursday's attack on senior lawyer Dr Zakir Hossain allegedly by the ruling party activists at the rally of an alternative political stream at Muktangan. The Supreme Court Bar Association organised the meeting. Sitting from left are Barrister Amir-ul-Islam, vice-chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council, Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud, president of Supreme Court Bar Association, and Advocate Subrata Chowdhury, member secretary of the Sammilita Ainjibi Samannaya Parishad.

## Tigers kill 58 people in Sundarbans last year

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tigers of the Sundarbans forest killed 58 people in the Sathkhira range last year.

According to sources, 60 others have survived tiger attacks in the swampy jungles during the period. The victims were mostly fishermen, woodcutters and honeymen.

**Qazi Faruque reelected Adab chairperson**

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Qazi Faruque Ahmed has been reelected chairperson of the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (Adab) for a two-year term.

The election was held at the 29th Annual General Meeting of the Adab on Friday.

The AGM was scheduled to be held at the ICMAB auditorium at Nilkhel, but the venue was shifted to Proshika hall room in Mirpur at the last minute following an attack on the original venue.

The meeting also adopted a resolution condemning the attack.

collectors who had ventured into the forest.

Left with permanent disability, the survivors are now passing their days in extreme hardship.

Three tigers were also killed by the villagers in the last year, said sources at the western wing of the Sundarbans Forest Division.

One big cat was shot dead at Kadamtali village in February while another was beaten to death at Harinagar village in May.

And the third big cat lost its life in Kalbari village also in May.

The Sundarbans Forest Division maintains records of the victims killed by tigers while venturing into the forest with official permission, Sathkhira Range officer Kazi Nurul Karim said, adding that it does not keep records of the poachers who lost their lives to the big cats.

Tigers enter human habitats when there is scarcity of natural prey in the forest, he said.

## 12 shops gutted in Mirpur

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twelve shops were gutted in a fire at Baghbari Bazaar in Mirpur in the early hours of yesterday.

The blaze that started at around 1:30am caused an estimated loss of Tk 3 lakh.

Firefighters from Mirpur unit brought the fire under control after struggling for about an hour.

They, however, could not say what sparked off the fire.

## 5 robbers held with arms in city

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested five robbers with arms and ammunitions while preparing for a robbery at Badda in the early hours of yesterday.

Being tipped off, police raided a house of one Iman Ali at East Badda at around 2:50am and found five robbers Wasim, 20, Sujan, 19, Sohel, 20, Rubel, 18 and Sharif, 19.

Police arrested them and seized one foreign-made pistol, one foreign-made revolver, one local-made LG, 13 bullets, one Chinese axe and one knife.

## Buet convocation tomorrow

### UNB, Dhaka

The seventh convocation of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) will be held tomorrow.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, also chancellor of the university, will preside over the convocation.

She will distribute certificates among 11 Ph.D. holders, 311 post-graduate and 1,914 graduate students.

Thirty-eight students will also be awarded gold medals for their outstanding results.

About 4,500 students, teachers and guardians are expected to attend the ceremony.

In the previous six convocations, a total of 25 Ph.D. holders, 1,148 postgraduate and 11,986 graduate students have been conferred degrees.

The Buet authorities announced their programmes at a press conference yesterday.

Chairman of the Seventh Convocation Steering Committee Prof. Shamim-uz-Zaman, Buet Controller Asadullah Khan, Prof. Maksud Helali, Prof. Nizam Uddin Ahmed and Prof. Alamgir Mujibul Haque were present at the press conference.

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University representative, Ms Patricia Stewart, will conduct an academic advice and assessment session.

### Interview Sessions

Venue : Women's Voluntary Association (WVA)  
20, Dharmundi, Road # 2, Dhaka  
Date : March 15, 2004  
Time : 10.00 am - 5.00 pm

Venue : BRAC Centre Inn Meeting Room # 2 Mohakhali, Dhaka  
Date : March 16, 2004  
Time : 10.00 am - 5.00 pm



FOR FURTHER DETAILS CALL NOW OR VISIT  
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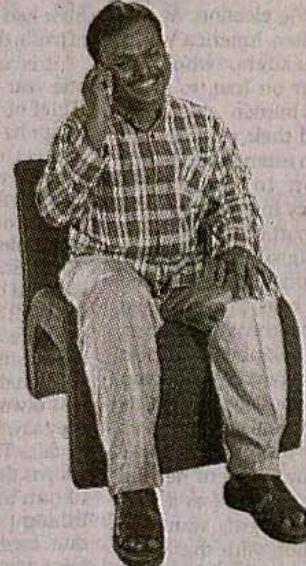
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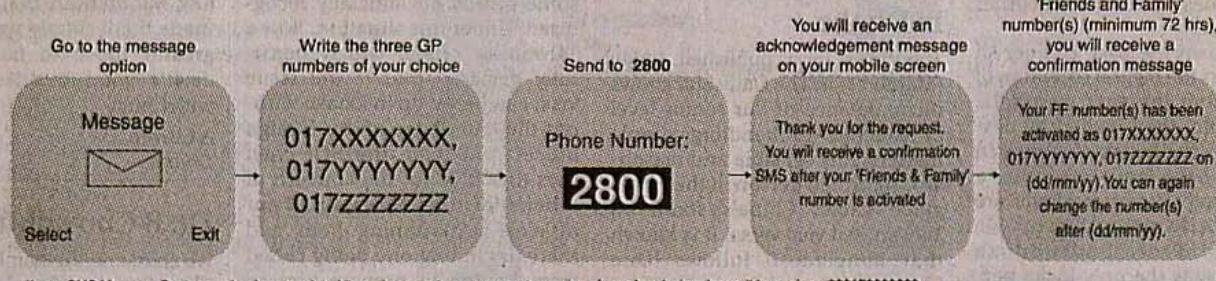


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3rd issue focuses on festivals around the world

Amitava Kumar on street festivals

Angus Calder on Edinburgh Festival

Carl Muller on Sri Lanka's river of faith

