

## JCD cadres bash BCL activist at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) cadres bashed a rival Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activist on Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus yesterday.

Led by Alhaj, six activists of the JCD, ruling BNP's student wing, beat up Al-Mamun Mintu, a BCL activist and post-graduate student of history, with sticks near Dairy Farm gate at around 5:00pm.

Parvez Mallik, JU unit president of the JCD, watched the incident, witnesses said.

Mallik said they bashed Mintu as he beat up a JCD activist on March 25.



PHOTO: STAR

Traders at Kamrangirchar yesterday kept their shutters down and flew black flags protesting the recent murder of Gram Sarker chief Haji Mizanur Rahman who was gunned down last week.

## New SCBA committee takes over amid protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The newly-elected office-bearers of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) from the Awami League-backed Ainjibi Samannaya Parishad yesterday took charge of the bar amid protest from a section of pro-BNP lawyers.

A group of lawyers of the BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Oikya Panel chanted slogans when newly-elected SCBA President Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud and other office-bearers from the Samannaya Parishad went to the takeover ceremony at the SCBA auditorium yesterday.

The Parishad swept the SCBA polls.

Pro-BNP lawyers said the

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# SL set for hung parliament

### Chandrika's party on for win

REUTERS, Colombo

Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga's party has inched closer to a general election win, but looks short of a parliamentary majority, complicating efforts to restart peace talks with Tamil rebels.

It was a mixed message from voters, ousting Ranil Wickre-

single's United National Party (UNP), but giving large minorities to the island's ethnic divide.

"This is not a good thing. The country did not need another minority government," Rohan Edrisinha, a legal expert at the University of Colombo, said after Sri Lanka's third parliamentary election in four years.

The Elections Commission said with more than two-thirds of the votes counted yesterday, Kumaratunga's United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) had 47.6 percent of the vote, compared with 37.3 percent for the UNP.

An all-clergy party of Buddhist

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# Deep water crisis grips city suburbs

MORSHED ALI KHAN

Millions of people living at the city's periphery are in an acute water crisis due to rapid decline in ground water level during the current lean period.

While the army is facilitating water distribution in the city proper, residents of suburban villages of Kholamora, Jhaochar, Shoalmachi, Waaspur, Kanchpur, Zinzira and Trimohoni said most of the tube wells they depend on for water have run dry.

Some villagers said several years ago they used to depend on river water for daily use. "Now the

water of the Buriganga, Turag or the Trimohoni is so polluted that we dare not touch it," said Monwara Begum of Jhaochar.

She also said water crisis is now all-time high as all ponds in her village have been either filled up for housing purposes or polluted with fish feed.

Monwara has five children. Her husband is a fish trader at Swarighat. She said she did not get enough time to bring fresh water for her family every day. As a result, her children are falling sick, going without a bath for days.

In Waaspur, most of the

tubewells are empty of water. Housewives having the responsibility to procure water find it hard to walk miles to fetch water for their families.

"Most of the shallow tube wells were installed in the last 10 years as river water becomes unusable in summer. Most of them are now out of order and the working ones require a lot of manual labour to run," said Monir Hossain, a former Union Parishad member of Jhaochar.

According to the experts of the Water Supply Authority (Wasa), the water level of the city has dropped to

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## Extortionists gouge out eyes of drug peddler

Mob pounds muggers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extortionists yesterday gouged out the eyes of an alleged drug peddler at Lalbagh in the capital after he had refused to pay them toll while a mob pounded two alleged muggers in Shyampur.

Agang of 10 extortionists, including Mintu, Swapan and Labu, dug out the eyes of Emran Hossain, 30, at around 4:00pm as he declined to pay the gang their demanded money, witnesses said.

He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in critical condition.

According to locals, Emran used to sell marijuana and phensidyle in Moulavibazar area and regularly

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## BNP leader shot dead in Chuadanga

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Unidentified assailants Friday gunned down a Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader and teacher of a primary school at Jibonnagar in Chuadanga.

A seven-member gang shot dead Abdul Huq, 50, president of Baka union unit of the ruling BNP and teacher of Kandapur Primary School, in Hashdah village when he was returning home from a grocery shop at about 10:00pm, police said.

A case was filed with Jibonnagar Police Station, but police failed to nab any of the killers till the 6:30 last evening.

## JP alleges pressure to prevent it from anti-govt movement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Party (Ershad) yesterday accused the government of putting 'undue pressure' on the second largest opposition for keeping it

away from the anti-government opposition movement and distorting information about its lawmakers' meeting with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

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## Murder case filed against 4 cops

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A mother filed a murder case against four policemen of Shyampur Police Station with the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka yesterday.

Jabeda Begum of 313, Muradpur at Noakhali in Shyampur accused Md Anwar Hossain, divi

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PHOTO: STAR

Pro-government lawyers yesterday vandalised furniture at the Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium where a function was scheduled to hand over charge to the association's newly-elected office-bearers.

# Pvt firm lobbies for lizard skin export consent

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Forest is allegedly giving a company, owned by one of its ex-official, a dispensation to export 12000 pieces of lizard skin, a forest department source claimed.

The company, named Haque

and Brothers, applied to the forest department seeking permission for exporting lizard skins that are collected directly from the wild.

Although there is no census of lizards in Bangladesh, the company cited "the large population of lizard"

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# Acid horror in Kishoreganj

### Baby burnt to death; parents seriously burned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Assailants burnt a one-and-a-half-year-old girl to death and injured her parents seriously with corrosive

acid tunnelling their way into the victims' mud house in Kishoreganj early yesterday in an apparent attempt to settle a score.

Police and hospital sources said Khadija died on the way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), while her father Abdul Awal, 35, and mother Dolena Begum, 26, are being treated for burns at the Acid Survivors Foundation in Dhaka.

Awal, a carpenter, alleged Khokon, a youth of his home village Neyamatpur, masterminded the grisly attack to avenge a quarrel.

"When he was passing by my

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Prayer Timings		
April 4		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-21	6-24
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation