

**EPCOS SIEMENS**  
Power & AC Capacitor

Sole Distributor:  
**S. A. TRADERS & CO.**  
Phone : 9568340, 9565492  
Fax : 880-2-956526-28  
E-mail : satco@dhaka.net

# The Daily Star

TODAY'S ISSUE 20 PAGES

**PHILIPS 29" Pixel Plus**  
100 Hz Real Flat TV

TO  
**People's Right to Know**

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XIV No. 121

DHAKA SUNDAY MAY 23, 2004

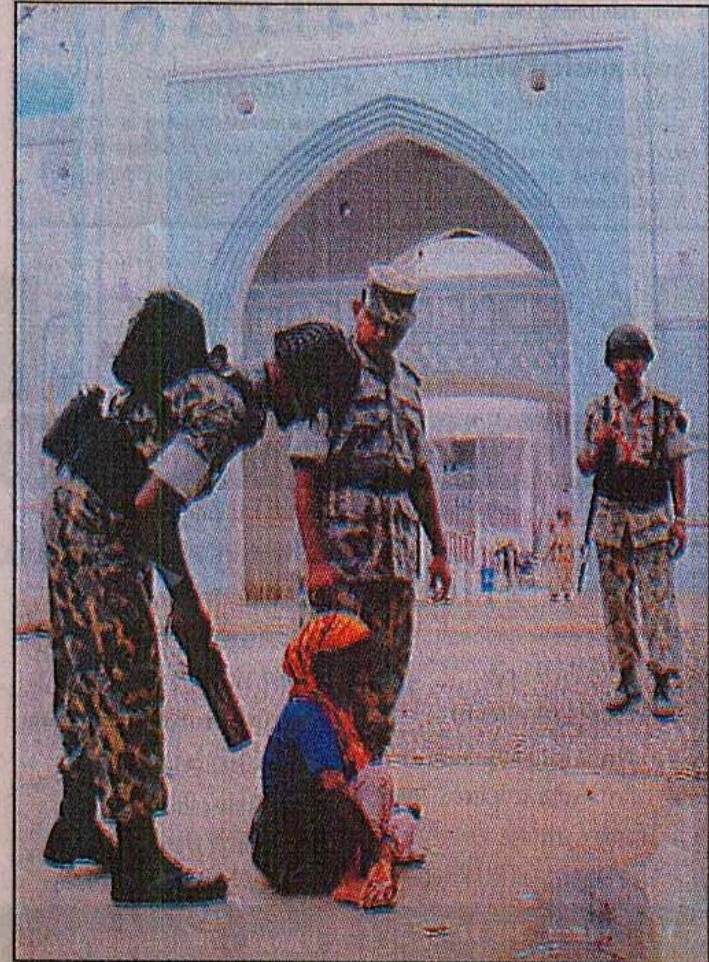
www.thedailystar.net

JAISTHA 9, 1411 BS

RABI-US-SANI 2, 1425 HURI

20 PAGES PRICE: Tk 7.00

## UK mission off-limits to public, injured cop dies



Paramilitary BDR forces use metal detectors on a beggar in front of the Shahjalal shrine yesterday.

### High security across country; 9 remanded

STAR REPORT

A police officer yesterday succumbed to his injuries sustained in Friday's bomb attack at Hazrat Shahjalal's shrine in Sylhet, raising the death toll to three, with law enforcers still clueless to the outrage.

Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of Police Kamal Uddin, one of over 70 people injured in the explosion, died at 3:00am at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

A high security alert was issued across the country following the post-Juma violence that wounded the new British envoy to Bangladesh

and prompted the British High Commission yesterday to announce its Dhaka and regional offices off-limits to public until further notice.

The main opposition Awami League (AL) and the ruling four-party alliance yesterday held separate press conferences in Sylhet where they blamed each other for the blast. The AL has called hartal on May 27 in Sylhet protesting the attack.

Two separate cases were filed against unspecified people with Sylhet Kotwali Police Station in connection to the blast. Police yesterday arrested five persons

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

## Govt may seek UK intelligence help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan said yesterday Bangladesh might seek help from British intelligence agencies, if needed, to help investigate Friday's bomb blast that

injured British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury.

"We have a strong understanding between the two countries, and if it is needed, of course we will ask for it," Morshed said when asked if

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## Envoy visited shrine without prior notice: DIG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Police Headquarters yesterday said the British High Commissioner (HC) to Bangladesh Anwar Choudhury, who was wounded in the Friday's bomb blast at Hazrat Shahjalal Shrine in Sylhet, went at the mazar beyond his scheduled itinerary.

"The Police Headquarters was not informed of the visit at all as a result adequate forces could not be deployed there prior to Mr Choudhury's visit there," Deputy Inspector General of Police (establishment) Abdul Mannan told journalists during a monthly opinion-sharing meeting at the Police Headquarters.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

## Eerie similarity in bomb materials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, From Sylhet

Explosives used in Friday's bomb blast at the Shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal (R) in Sylhet were very much similar to those used in January 12 blast during Urs, the annual religious congregation of the shrine, said a high police official.

Police sources said the bomb that was hurled on Friday targeting the British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Choudhury and his companions, was a powerful hand grenade.

The army explosives experts of Sylhet Cantonment visited the spot immediately after the blast and collected evidences. They are how

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## 5 Indians found hiding in DC10 at ZIA

Arrestees say they were booty for human smugglers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five Indian nationals were discovered and arrested yesterday noon inside a Bangladesh Biman aircraft at Zia International Airport (ZIA), 16 hours after it had arrived from Hong Kong on Friday night.

The arrestees are Pargas Singh, Nirmol Singh, Manjeet Singh, Mangas Singh and

Sandeep Singh, all of whom police confirmed to be Indian citizens.

According to another source, the prime minister is scheduled to take the same plane to China tomorrow. Without confirming or refuting the information, Bangladesh Biman Managing Director Akhtar Hossain Khan said the PM would fly in one of Biman's six DC aircraft.

On whether the arrestees meant any threat to the state security, Akhtar said, "We have handed them over to police. After they and other agencies have finished with quizzed them, we will come to know for sure about their motives."

Biman officials detected the five, aged between 25 and 30, inside the plane when it was

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



Five Indian nationals, who holed up in a Bangladesh Biman aircraft at ZIA, were arrested yesterday, 16 hours after the aircraft arrived from Hong Kong.

## Hasina blames it on Jamaat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday blamed ruling coalition partner Jamaat-e-Islami for Friday's bomb explosion at Hazrat Shahjalal Shrine in Sylhet and demanded investigations by international agencies into all bomb explosions and arms catches in the country.

"We are demanding involvement of experts from Scotland Yards, FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) and CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) in the investigations into arms hauls and bomb blasts, including the recent blast at Hazrat Shahjalal Shrine which left British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Choudhury injured and at least three killed," said Hasina.

She also demanded of the government to make the probe reports public.

Hasina, also president of main opposition Awami League (AL), made the demand while addressing the newly-elected chairman of Kushia municipality and other party leaders and activists at the party's Dhanmondi office. Senior party leaders were also present at the programme.

"The government will admit [its] involvement with the bomb blasts

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## Manmohan sworn in

Over 65 ministers to take oath; portfolios not yet announced

REUTERS, New Delhi

The hero of India's economic reforms, Manmohan Singh, has taken over as the 13th prime minister of the world's biggest democracy, bringing the venerable Congress party back to power after eight years.

More than 65 ministers, decided after marathon negotiations within the Congress-led coalition, were also to take the oath yesterday.

President Abdul Kalam administered the oath of office to Singh in the main hall of the presidential palace, watched by Congress leader Sonia Gandhi and her two children and scores of political leaders and officials.

Singh, after signing his oath, folded his hands in a traditional greeting to Kalam and then to a beaming Sonia, who declined to become prime minister.

Of the ministers, 28 will be of cabinet rank, including former finance ministers Pranab Mukherjee and P Chidambaram. No portfolios have been announced.

However, local media said Singh



Manmohan Singh

was likely to retain the defence and finance ministries for himself. Former diplomat Natwar Singh was likely to be made external affairs minister.

Manmohan Singh, a 71-year-old economist, kicked off India's economic reforms more than a decade ago. He was designated prime minister this week after Gandhi, who had led her Congress party to a shock election win, declined the job. Singh, a Sikh, is India's first non-Hindu prime minister. Dressed in

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## Khaleda, Hasina greet Manmohan

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday felicitated Dr Manmohan Singh on his assumption of office of the prime minister of India.

Khaleda Zia in her message said the emphatic election victory of the Congress and its allies is a clear reflection of the trust and respect they enjoy among the people of India.

In the message she said: "I wish you all success in the task you now undertake. You are personally well-known in Bangladesh and held in high esteem. We are aware that you bring to this office vast experience and proven wisdom. We are confident that India will stand to gain immeasurably from your leadership."

Khaleda said Bangladesh attaches great importance to its relations with India. The extent, depth and the multifaceted nature of the ties between the two countries call for continuous engagement at all levels of the relations.

"I am confident that these cordial and friendly relations set out by history and nurtured by our common culture and traditions would be further strengthened in the days ahead to the mutual benefit of our

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

## Proshika chief Qazi Faruque arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Proshika President Qazi Faruque Ahmed and Vice-president David William Biswas were arrested yesterday in fund embezzlement and cheating cases filed with Pallabi Police Station.

A team from the National Security Intelligence (NSI) hauled Faruque to the NSI office from the Supreme Court (SC) premises as he came out of the chamber of his lawyer Rokanuddin Mahmud in the afternoon.

Detective police arrested David from Savar.

Both the arrestees were at Pallabi Police Station till about 9:00pm. Sources said Pallabi police had sought help of the NSI to arrest the Proshika president in two cases.

The NSI first took Faruque to its Bally Road office and then sent him to the Detective Branch (DB) office at Minto Road, where DB officials quizzed him, sources said.

He might be taken to the Joint Interrogation Cell for quizzing, a top police official said.

The Bureau of Anti-corruption filed 15 cases against Faruque and some other Proshika officials



Qazi Faruque Ahmed

recently. Warrants of arrest in two cases were issued against him.

Faruque, now on anticipatory bail in a case, went to the SC in connection with bail for the other Proshika officials accused in the case. He also wanted to file a writ petition seeking to prevent law enforcing agencies from conducting raids on Proshika office and his house.

Earlier, police had raided different places in the capital in a bid to arrest the Proshika chief, who went into hiding in the wake of the mass arrests ahead of the main

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

## JS goes into budget session on June 9

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad (JS) goes into its budget session on June 9 and the national budget for 2004-05 fiscal is likely to be placed before the House the next day.

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday summoned the 12th session of the current parliament. Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman will place the budget for next fiscal year and revised budget for 2003-04.

The JS sits within only 23 days of prorogation of its 11th session. The last one, winter session, ended on May 17 after a marathon run through spring and summer sittings.

Although it began on January 18, the winter session had 43 working days for its proceedings due to several long adjournments. The much-talked-about 14th constitutional amendment was passed during the session.

The main opposition Awami League (AL) is also likely to join the 12th session, sources said.

The main opposition, which stayed out of the JS since June 25 last year, joined parliament on May 12 to voice protest against the killing of its

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

## Army deployment before by-polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday decided to deploy army three days before the June 6 by elections in Dhaka-10 and Munshiganj-1 constituencies, to

ensure free and fair polling.

At a law and order review meeting held at the EC conference room yesterday, the EC decided in favour of deploying army as a mobile force from June 3 to continue till the day

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## Bashar rested

RABEED IMAM from Grenada

Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar has been rested for the three-day practice match against the West Indies Board XI that is scheduled to start after lunch on Saturday because of a wet outfield at the Queen's Park Stadium here.

"I'm carrying a slight strain in my groin but that's nothing serious. We decided to accommodate all the players who have not had a game so far. That's the reason why I'm not playing," said Bashar.

Rajin Saleh will now captain the side in their only warm-up fixture before the first Test starts on May 28.

The team management also decided to rest all-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman and left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique and Manjarul Islam Rana. Alok Kapali and left-hander Faisal Hossain will both get a chance to impress the selectors and it appears that it could be a direct toss up between the two for a place in the first Test at St Lucia depending on their performance.

The three-day match has been seriously affected by rain. The Tigers

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

## Govt divided over Bangla Bhai arrest

Some ministers and ruling BNP policymakers strongly favour the killer group activities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is sharply divided over whether to arrest Bangla Bhai, dreaded operations commander of Islamist outfit Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) blamed for killing at least eight outlaws in the country's northwest since April 1.

Highly placed sources said the dilemma has stalled the execution of a home ministry order to arrest JMJB chief Azizul Islam alias Siddiqur Rahman alias Bangla Bhai.

The self-styled vigilante outfit bludgeoned to death three alleged leftist outlaws in Naogaon last week and is preparing to punish seven more people including a former

legislator and four union parishad chairmen.

Some senior ministers and ruling BNP policymakers strongly favour Bangla Bhai's arrest on the grounds that there cannot be a private force parallel to the law-enforcement agencies to launch an anti-outlaw drive.

"Whatever this Bangla Bhai is doing is totally illegal because the law does not permit his actions. On one hand, it proves that the government has failed and on the other, it is ruining the image of the country. Consequence of such a militant force will be dreadful," said an influential cabinet minister, on

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

**Standard Chartered**

*We believe*  
seeing is believing

Standard Chartered Operation Theatres & Children's Ward at Islami Eye Hospital

**Bangladesh International Tutorial**

1983

B.I.T. is pleased to announce the opening of its new premises in Uttara. The campus is on sixteen bighas of land.

The Senior School (Class IV - XII) is finished. Construction is underway for the Junior School (Play Group - Class III) - it is expected to be complete by August 2005.

Five bighas of land has been allotted for the playing fields. Transportation is taken care of by Securex Pvt. Limited.

The new session commences on August 2004. The Admissions Office will be open from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. - Saturday - Thursday. Please feel free to come and visit our new campus.

**Contact Address & Telephone Numbers**

**Bangladesh International Tutorial**  
Plot # 13, Road # 1/A, Sector # 14,  
Uttara Model Town, Dhaka.  
Telephone # 8956801-3, 8956951-2 (Uttara Office)  
9886016, 8810044 (Gulshan Office)