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# Births, deaths must be recorded

Birth certificates now required for passport, marriage registration, admission to educational institutions

**UNB, Dhaka**

Parliament yesterday passed a bill making registration of birth and death of Bangladeshi citizens mandatory.

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan piloted the "Birth and Death Registration Bill 2004" which was passed by voice vote rejecting the opposition's amendments.

With the passage of the bill, the Birth and Death Registration Act of 1873 was repealed totally, while the Birth, Death and Marriage Registration Act of 1886 partially.

Under the provision of the bill, SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

# Women's swimming falls victim to bigots

**SPORTS REPORTER**

Islamic fundamentalists might have lost a battle in Dhaka a couple of months ago but they came out winners in Chandpur on Tuesday when they stopped women from swimming in the Eighth national long-distance swimming championship.

Four female swimmers of the country including ace natant Sabura Khatun were set to feature in the 10 km swim on the Dakatia river in Chandpur but their desire to compete in the annual event of Bangladesh Swimming Federation (BSF) came unstuck following threats from Anti-Islamic Activities Prevent Committee (AIAPC).

The AIAPC leaders including the SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

# Rab raids money exchange firms, seizes Tk 1cr bills

Moneychangers say Tk 3cr taken away, claim money was authorised

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

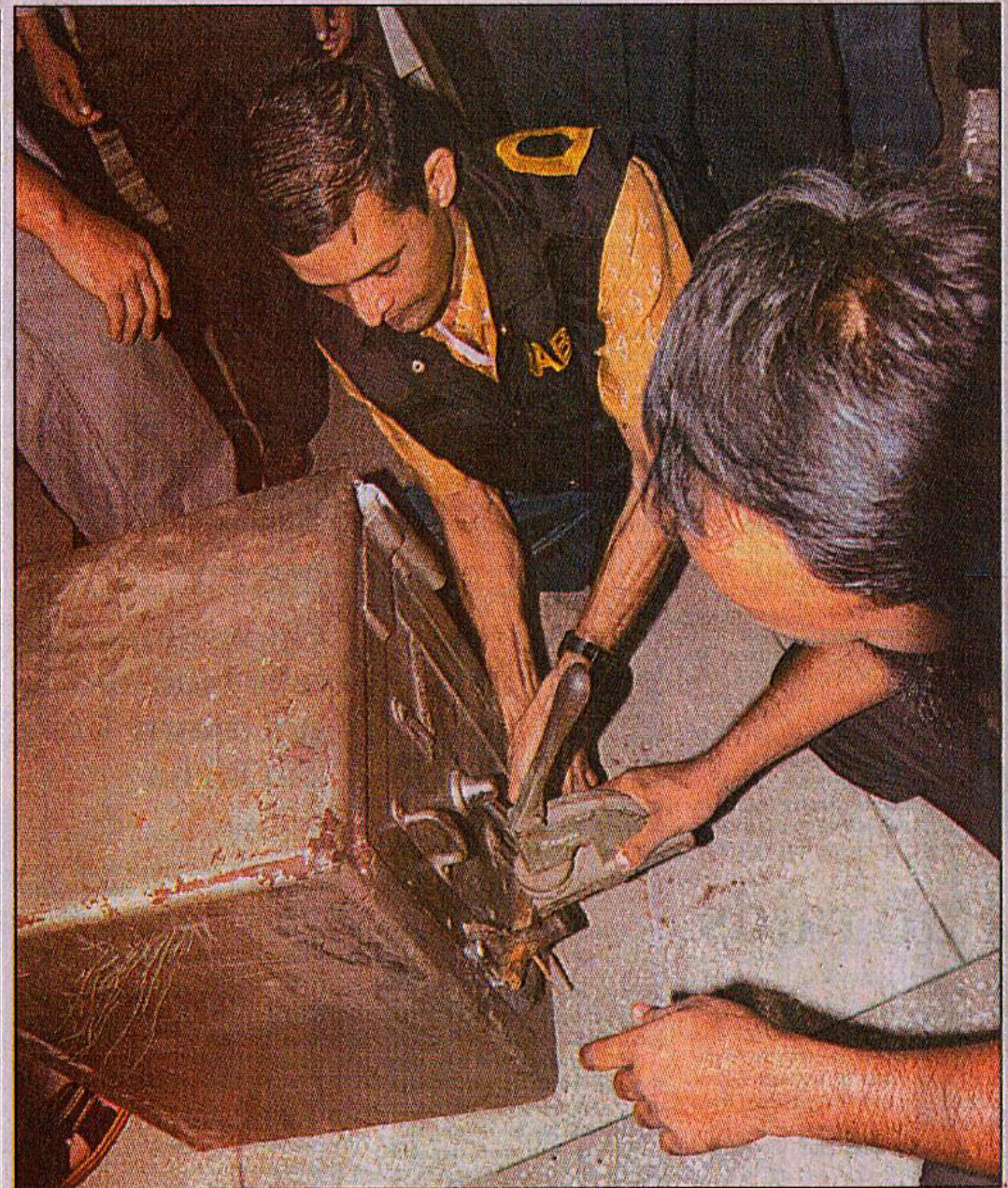
Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday raided 11 money exchange firms in Purana Paltan in the capital and seized some Tk 1 crore in what it claimed were unauthorised local and foreign currencies.

Rab officials said the currencies were seized, as many moneychangers were possessing amounts of money higher than permitted.

Plainclothes members of Rab-4 raided Shokh Shopping Complex in the area at about 3:00pm on information that a gang at the market is involved with laundering and currency smuggling in the guise of moneychangers.

Additional forces led by Lt Humayun, senior assistant director of Rab, rushed to the spot and joined the two-hour operations. Rab arrested Jahangir, Taslim, Palash, Hanif, Chhoton, Reaz and Tobarak Hossain in the raid.

Rab officials said most of the SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Members of Rapid Action Battalion break open an iron safe at a money exchange firm at Purana Paltan in the capital during a raid yesterday to seize 'unauthorised' currencies.

# War crimes case filed against Rumsfeld, others in Germany

**AFP, Berlin**

An international legal team filed a criminal complaint in Germany yesterday against US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and other top US officials over the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal in Iraq.

The New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR) and Berlin's Republican Lawyers' Association said they and five Iraqi citizens mistreated by US soldiers were seeking a probe by German federal prosecutors of leading US policymakers.

They said they had chosen Germany because of its Code of Crimes Against International Law, introduced in 2002, which grants German courts universal jurisdiction in cases involving war crimes or crimes against humanity.

It also makes military or civilian commanders who fail to prevent their subordinates from committing such acts liable.

"We filed these cases here because there is simply no other place to go," CCR vice president Peter Weiss said in a statement.

"It is clear that the US government is not willing to open an investigation into these allegations," SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

# PM calls to free campuses from conflict

**UNB, Kushtia**

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday urged all to work together to build up an educated nation and keep the campuses free from conflicts and controversies.

She said: "We want to see our universities as the centres for practising intellect and free thinking... We want them to bring together meritorious and diligent scholars who will work as think-tank for the nation."

She was speaking at the silver jubilee function of Kushtia Islami University at Shantidanga-Duralpur.

The prime minister, also the chancellor of the university, formally opened the silver jubilee programme by releasing a flock of pigeons and colourful balloons.

Earlier, she also inaugurated the newly built Mir Mosharraf Hossain academy building on the campus, constructed at a cost of Tk 4.40 crore.

She said the Islami University should teach the real values of Islam, the religion of humanity and peace.

Khaleda paid tribute to the memory SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

# 200 shanties gutted in Ctg

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

A devastating fire gutted over 200 shanties of a slum near Central Railway Building (CRB) in the port city yesterday.

The fire raged through the slum, illegally thrown up on railway land to the east of Boiler Avenue, at around 1:15pm, fire service sources said.

The fire spread fast and gutted the shanties, rendering some 2,000 people homeless.

Firefighters extinguished the fire after two hours of frantic efforts.

# JS adjourned after MP falls sick

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Parliament was suddenly adjourned yesterday as a lawmaker fell seriously ill while he was speaking on a call attention notice about the problems of his constituency.

Abdul Karim Abbasi, a BNP lawmaker elected from Netrokona-1, suddenly felt pain in the chest and fell down on the floor at around 7:15pm.

His colleagues rushed forward and brought him out of the chamber.

AL lawmakers and physicians Dr. Amanullah and Dr. Sirajul Akbar examined him and gave first aid.

Shortly afterwards, Abbasi was sent to the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases.

Dr. Amanullah, who is a heart specialist, told reporters that Abbasi had his sense and pulse, and he also opened his eyes.

The lawmaker might have some myocardial infarctions but he is out of danger now, Dr. Amanullah observed.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

# Tullow strikes gas in block 9

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Irish company Tullow Oil along with Canadian Niko Resources and Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Company (Bapex) have struck a second gas field in block 9 in Bangora, close to Comilla, Tullow announced Monday.

Back in May, the oil companies struck gas in the same geological layer in Lalmai, some 40 km south of Bangora.

Tullow chief Aiden Heavey regards the expansion of gas from Lalmai to Bangora as having considerable upside potential, although Petrobangla officials say both the gas fields are "moderately good" in size.

But Petrobangla is upbeat about both the discoveries, saying these fields, if found commercially viable, can start pumping gas in to the national gas grid in less than two years.

The newly discovered field is located close to existing pipelines, and there is a ready market for new sources of gas in Bangladesh.

Tullow's official announcement

says, the Bangora-1 well was drilled to a depth of 3,636m and encountered a number of gas bearing reservoirs between 2,580m and 3,285m. Having completed the well, the three lowermost zones were production tested, recording an aggregate flow rate in excess of 120 million square cubic feet per day (mmcf/d).

Tullow plans to carry out a comprehensive appraisal programme over Bangora and the earlier Lalmai discovery, including further seismic, drilling and extended well testing.

Aidan Heavey, chief executive of Tullow, comments, "Following on from the earlier discovery at Lalmai, we have now had gas discoveries at each end of a 40 km long anticlinal structure. We intend to carry out an accelerated appraisal programme and deliver gas to the market at an early date."

A senior Petrobangla official said that presently the gas production capacity is 1365 mmcf/d against a maximum demand of 1350 mmcf/d. Gas demand is rising sharply by more than 10 percent annually. "Therefore any new discovery has SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

**World Peace 10th Prayer Meeting 2004**

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**PROGRAMMES THURSDAY DEC 02 & FRIDAY DEC 03, 2004**

- 1) SEMINARS AND POWER POINT PRESENTATIONS ..... 11 A.M. - 12.30 P.M.
- 2) INTERACTIVE MEETINGS AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION ..... 10 A.M. - 5.00 P.M.

**VENUE: BRAC CENTRE INN AUDITORIUM, MOHAKHALI, DHAKA.**

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