

Young Indian tsunami survivors play on swings amidst the debris in Nochikuppam, near Chennai yesterday. The worst tsunami affected Indian state was Tamil Nadu which recorded 7,968 dead with 6,053 deaths in Nagapattinam alone.

**Naga rebels to hold talks with Delhi soon**

AFP, Guwahati  
Government negotiators and north-eastern separatists are expected to meet later this month for talks on ending India's longest-running insurgency, a rebel spokesman said yesterday.  
"We expect the talks to be held at the month-end and issues pertaining to integration of all Naga-inhabited areas in the northeast will be discussed," said V.S. Atem, a senior leader of the Isak-Muivah faction of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN).  
Final dates for the talks in New Delhi are yet to be finalized.  
The two sides entered into a ceasefire in 1997 in Nagaland.

**Cong to contest 80 seats in Bihar Assembly polls**

PTI, New Delhi  
Congress will contest 80 seats in the upcoming assembly elections in Bihar, highly-placed party sources said yesterday.  
"We have decided to contest 80 seats and now it is up to them to think about tie-ups," the sources said.  
However, the RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav at a press conference in Patna said that Congress would not put up candidates against sitting members of the RJD and the Left parties.  
He also said that there will be an alliance between RJD, Left and the NCP.

**India seeks solutions to row with Pakistan, China**

AFP, Kolkata  
Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said Wednesday he wants "out-of-the-box" solutions to settle his country's long running disputes with neighbours Pakistan and China.  
Singh told a meeting organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), India had to forge strategic relationships with the world, including Pakistan and China.  
"We must move away from incrementalisation to seeking out-of-the-box solutions to the challenges we face," said Singh.  
"Whether it is the challenge of development and political and social stability within South Asia or the challenge of stabilising our relations with Pakistan and China," he added.

**Pakistan's largest gasfield stays shut**

AFP, Quetta  
Pakistan's largest gasfield remained shut and under guard by soldiers Thursday amid an uneasy calm after days of bloody clashes with tribal rebels that have left eight people dead.  
Armed tribesmen kidnapped 12 employees of Pakistan's main power and water company near the Sui gas plant in southwestern Baluchistan province, but officials said it was unclear if the incidents were linked.  
Rebels have been launching rocket attacks on the state-run plant since last Friday, following the alleged rape of a woman doctor there. Local tribes have waged a long campaign to get more royalties and jobs from the gasfield.  
"This situation is peaceful, we have enhanced the security of the area, which is also under air surveillance," Baluchistan home minister Shoaib Nausherwani told private Geo television.  
Pakistani authorities have deployed more than 1,000 paramilitary and regular army soldiers along with helicopter gunships to protect the Sui plant against further attacks.

**US Congressmen to oppose sale of F-16 jets to Pakistan**

AFP, New Delhi  
Any proposal by the United States government to sell F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan would be met with strong opposition in Congress, two Democratic lawmakers and members of a pro-India lobby group said here yesterday.  
Senator Jon Corzine and Representative Frank Pallone were in New Delhi to meet with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh as part of a four-nation tour of countries hit by the December 26 tsunami.  
The two discussed defense issues with Singh such as the Indian navy's cooperation in relief efforts, but not a possible sale of the advanced fighter jets to Pakistan.  
Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf reportedly asked to buy as many as 25 F-16 fighter jets when he visited Washington and met President George W. Bush in December.

**Norway makes a move to salvage Lankan talks**

AFP, Colombo  
Norway will next week launch its first post-tsunami attempt to salvage Sri Lanka's faltering peace process, diplomatic sources here said yesterday.  
Top peace envoy Erik Solheim is due here for talks with Sri Lankan leaders as well as Tamil Tiger guerrillas to try to end a 21-month impasse in the negotiations, diplomats involved in the process said.  
They said Norway's Foreign Minister Jan Petersen and his deputy Vidar Helgesen were also expected to make separate visits next week to try to bring the parties back to the table.

**Pakistan to free al-Qaeda-linked suspects**

AFP, Peshawar  
Pakistan is to free up to 25 suspected al-Qaeda-linked militants seized in a volatile region bordering Afghanistan before a Muslim festival next week, the military said Wednesday.  
All the suspects were arrested or surrendered during two big military operations in March and June last year in the South Waziristan's Shakai valley, considered a militant stronghold, a military statement said.  
"The military authorities in recognition of unprecedented support and cooperation of the tribesmen have decided to release apprehended men of Shakai Valley before Eid al-Azha (January 21)," the statement said.

**Nepal divided over polls as time for talks runs out**

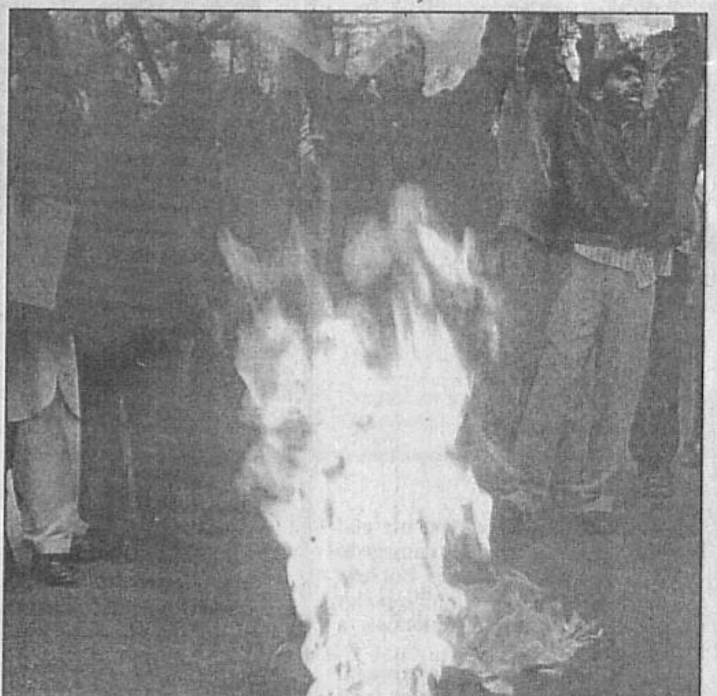
REUTERS, Kathmandu  
Nepal's ruling coalition was split yesterday about plans to call an election despite Maoist threats and their refusal to come to the negotiating table.  
Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba has given the rebels until midnight on Thursday to accept his invitation for peace talks aimed at ending an eight-year civil war. Failing that, Deuba has said he would push ahead with elections anyway.  
The plan is causing deep misgivings in his four-party coalition, some members of which feel elections are impossible without peace.  
"We want the government to declare a unilateral ceasefire to create a conducive atmosphere for talks with the rebels," said Amrit Bohara, a senior member of the Communist Unified Marxist-Leninist (UML) party.  
Bohara stopped short of ruling out elections, but other party members were more forthright.  
"There is no way elections can be held," said the UML's Pradeep Nepal. "The government has no presence in the countryside."  
Squabbling among Nepal's fractious parties is not new.  
Analysts said the UML, the biggest party in the coalition, was unlikely to pull out of government if Deuba pressed ahead with polls this year, but its comments reflected deep and widespread misgivings about his plans.  
Maoists, who exert some form of control over most of the Nepali countryside, have vowed to "shatter" the polls. Fighting since 1996 for the abolition of the monarchy, they say a vote should first be held to decide on the king's powers.  
The overstretched army concedes it cannot beat the rebels on the battlefield alone, but insists it does have the strength to secure any election.  
"We can reorganise our structure, maybe go on the defensive in other places, but in places where the polls should take place we'll be very offensive," army spokesman Brigadier-General Deepak Gurung told Reuters. "If it is a success in one area it will have an avalanche effect on others."  
Despite the rebels' threat and concerns of his own allies, Deuba has little choice.

**Indian FM to visit Pakistan next month**

AFP, New Delhi  
Indian Foreign Minister Natwar Singh will make a three-day official visit to Pakistan next month, the foreign office said yesterday, as the peace process between the South Asian rivals edges forward.  
"The dates for the External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh's visit to Pakistan have been fixed between February 15 to 17," foreign office spokesman Navtej Sarna told AFP.  
He said details of the visit would be announced at a later date.  
However, official sources said the visit was "expected to take the relationship further (and) shows a certain momentum."  
"Exchanges and discussions are a regular feature of the relationship which has come long way" since April 2003 when former Indian prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee extended a "hand of friendship" to Pakistan.

**Lenders talk to LTTE as tensions mount**

AFP, Colombo  
International lenders were in talks yesterday with Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels amid tensions between the guerrillas and the Colombo government over tsunami relief efforts.  
The country directors of the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank and senior officers of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation were holding a series of meetings with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the World Bank said.  
It said the talks with the LTTE's political wing leader S. P. Thamilselvan were part of their "coordinated needs assessment for rebuilding the tsunami-affected parts of Sri Lanka".  
"The team is expected to return Thursday evening or early Friday after a number of meetings with the rebels," a World Bank official told AFP.  
The government has said that it needs about three billion dollars for rebuilding affected areas, including the guerrilla-held areas of the island's north-east.  
The latest meeting with the lenders came a day after the Tigers accused the military of threatening volunteers in relief centres managed by a Tiger affiliate, the Tamil Rehabilitation Organisation (TRO), in the island's east.  
"On Monday the (police) Special Task Force entered a TRO camp in Ampara district and threatened the volunteers into handing over the key."



Pakistani Shia activists chant anti-government slogans as they stand behind a barrage of burning tyres during a demonstration in Islamabad yesterday to protest the death of a Shia leader. A prominent Shia leader, Agha Ziauddin, who was wounded in an ambush last week that sparked bloody sectarian riots in northern Himalayan gateway town of Gilgit, died in a hospital in nearby city of Rawalpindi.

**PAKISTAN SAYS Talks on Baglihar only if India stops work**

PTI, Islamabad  
Pakistan has said it would not hold talks with India on resolving differences over the Baglihar hydro-power project until New Delhi stopped work on it.  
It was essential that the work on the project be stopped before any bilateral negotiations were held, Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman Masood Khan told state-run PTV last night.  
Media reports here also quoted officials of Pakistan Foreign Office as saying that Islamabad would only attend another round of talks with India on Baglihar issue if the work on the project was stopped.  
Khan was quoted by 'The News' daily as saying India was unwilling to stop the work on the project because it could have "political compulsions" for the Congress-led government.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
District: Barisal

শ্রিয়জনকে বই উপহার দিন  
বেগম খালেদা জিয়া  
মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী

**Invitation for Tender**  
Loan No. 1952-Ban (SF) & Grant from KfW [BMZ 2002 66 817]  
Memo No: LGED/EE/Barisal/2005/84 Date: 04/01/05  
**CORRIGENDUM FOR TENDER NOTICE**  
IFT No. 19/2004-2005

The Contract Code No: 05/BR-9/BRG/27 E, Serial No: 5 of the tender notice for Rural Development Project (RDP)-25, IFT No. 19/2004-2005, Vide Memo No: LGED/EE/Barisal/2004/4801, dated: 06/11/04 has been held up due to unavoidable circumstances. The pre-bid meeting will be held on 26/01/05 in lieu of 20/01/05. The other conditions will remain unchanged as per tender notice. Interested pre-qualified contractors/firms under Rural Development Project (RDP)-25 may obtain necessary tender documents during normal office hours on all working days up to 05/02/05 from concerned offices.

DFF-860/10/01/05  
G-59 Executive Engineer  
LGED, Barisal.

**Research Fellowship**

Applications are invited from Bangladeshi candidates for AKM AZIZUL HAQ AND HUSNIARA HUQ RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP. The applicant must be a student of M.Phil or Ph.D. and should have research works within the broad areas of Education and Development. The area of proposed research must be either on Pre-colonial, Colonial and Post-colonial Education and Culture or on Impact of Emigrants on the National Economy of Bangladesh.

Applications should be submitted along with a study plan, CV, names of two referees (one should be the supervisor and other should be the head of the institution/department) and a photograph.

The last date of applications: 5 February 2005.

Send the application to:  
General Secretary  
Asiatic Society of Bangladesh  
5, Old Secretariat Road, Nimtali, Ramna, Dhaka-1000

**BANGLADESH INLAND WATER TRANSPORT AUTHORITY**  
141-143, MOTIJEEL COMMERCIAL AREA, DHAKA-1000

**SECOND EXTENSION OF TIME OF BID DOCUMENTS**

EXTENSION OF TIME OF BIDS FOR BOT CONTAINER TERMINAL AT KHANPUR, NARAYANGANJ, BANGLADESH (REF: INVITATION FOR INTERNATIONAL RE-TENDER WAS PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY NEWSPAPERS ON 17-10-2004 AND 18-10-2004 RESPECTIVELY AND FIRST EXTENSION OF TIME OF BID DOCUMENTS UPTO 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, 2005 WAS PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY NEWSPAPERS ON 12-12-2004, 13-12-2004 AND 14-12-2004 RESPECTIVELY).

The bid documents for the above-mentioned BOT Container Terminal at Khanpur, Narayanganj may be purchased from Accounts Department of BIWTA, BIWTA Bhaban (9<sup>th</sup> Floor), 141-143, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh, during office hours every working day at the cost of Tk 30000.00 (Thirty thousand) only per set up to 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2005 (Wednesday) and the same must be delivered on or before 14-00 hours on 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2005.

All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

Director of Planning  
BIWTA, BIWTA Bhaban  
141-143, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000  
Bangladesh

GD-33

আর্থনীয় ঈদুল আজহা সংখ্যা  
আত্মজীবনী, স্মৃতি কথা, উপন্যাস,  
গল্প, প্রবন্ধ এবং 'সুনামি' নিয়ে  
নির্মলেন্দু গুণের বিশেষ রচনা...

২০০০

নেসক্যাফে-কফিমেট-সাপ্তাহিক ২০০০  
ভালোবাসার গল্প

গল্প লিখলেই পুরস্কার, সেরা ৫০টি গল্প ছাপা হবে ডায়ালগটাইম সংখ্যায়। সেরা গল্পটি নিয়ে তৈরি হবে নাটক। প্রচার হবে ১৪ ফেব্রুয়ারি রাতে চ্যানেল আই-এ বিস্তারিত দেখুন সাপ্তাহিক ২০০০-এ

গল্প পাঠানোর শেষ তারিখ ২ ফেব্রুয়ারি এখন বাজারে

৯৬/৯৭, নিউ ইন্সটন, ঢাকা-১০০০, ফোন: ৯৩৪৯৪৫৯, ৯৩৫০৯৫১-৩

**মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, ঢাকা**  
বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নং- ১৯৬/নতুন/২০০৪/৫০৫১ তারিখঃ ১০/০১/০৫

অত্র বোর্ডের আওতাধীন সকল ইংরেজি মাধ্যম বিদ্যালয়ের রেজিস্ট্রেশন প্রক্রিয়া The Registration of Private School (সংশোধিত) Act 1989 এবং বেসরকারী স্কুল (ইংরেজি মাধ্যম) রেজিস্ট্রেশন বিধিমালা ১৯৯৯ এর আওতায় আপাতী ৩১/০১/২০০৫ ইং তারিখের মধ্যে অবশ্যই সম্পন্ন করতে হবে।

উল্লেখ্য যে, রেজিস্ট্রেশন বিধিমালা ১৯৯৯ এর আওতায় নির্ধারিত ফরমে উক্ত রেজিস্ট্রেশন প্রক্রিয়া সম্পন্ন করতে সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে বিদ্যালয় পরিদর্শক, মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, ঢাকা-এর সাথে যোগাযোগ করতে বলা হলো।

আতাউর রহমান খান  
বিদ্যালয় পরিদর্শক  
মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড  
জিডি-৩৪ ঢাকা।

**বাংলাদেশ চিনি ও খাদ্য শিল্প করপোরেশন**  
আদমজী কোর্ট, ১১৫-১২০, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০

No. BSFC/Sales/Molasses/Export/2004/370 Dated: 13-01-2005

**AMENDMENT INTERNATIONAL TENDER FOR EXPORT OF MOLASSES**

This is for information of all concern that the International Tender No. BSFC/Sales/Molasses/Export/ 2004, Dated: 19.12.2004, invited for export of 15,000 M. Tons of Steel Tank Molasses, published in The Daily Observer and The Daily Star on 22.12.2004. The date of opening of the tender is hereby shifted from 15.01.2005 to 30.01.2005. All other terms and conditions including the time of opening shall remain unchanged.

S.F-197  
GD-35

**Md Mamoon-Ur-Rashid**  
Chief (Sales)

**Bangladesh Shilpa Bank**  
Head Office  
8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka  
Web site: www.shilpabank.gov.bd

**Tender Notice**

Bangladesh Shilpa Bank invites sealed tender from the bonafide offset printing presses having modern photo-compose, graphics, colour scanner and all related machinery/facilities for printing its Annual Report for FY 2003-2004. Tender schedule may be obtained from the Finance, Planning & Research Department of the Bank located at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of BSB Building, 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka within office hours on every working day up to 06.02.2005 on payment of non-refundable fee of Tk. 200.00 (Taka two hundred) in cash. Tender shall have to be dropped with tender security money of Tk. 2,500.00 in favour of "Bangladesh Shilpa Bank" in the form of Pay-Order/Demand Draft from any scheduled bank. Tender will be received in the "Tender Box" kept at Finance, Planning & Research Department (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor) of the Bank up to 12.00 Noon on 07.02.2005 and will be opened at 12.01 PM on the same day in presence of the tenderers or their representatives (if any). No tender schedule will be sold on the day of opening of tender.

Bangladesh Shilpa Bank reserves the right to accept any tender in full or in part or reject all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever and the Bank's decision in this regard will be final.

**AKM Mukter Hossain**  
Asstt. General Manager  
Phone: 9555584

GD-36

**Bangladesh Open University**  
Library & Documentation Division  
Gazipur-1705  
☎: 9810702, 9800801-06/350

BOU/Lib/30(2)/95/10 Date: 12 January 2005

**Tender Notice**

Sealed tender is invited from the bonafide book dealers, sellers, publishers and agents for supplying of local and foreign books and journals at the library of Bangladesh Open University. Tender schedules along with general terms and conditions will be available on all working days (Sunday to Thursday) till 08 February 2005 on payment of non-refundable cash Tk 1000/- (one thousand) from the Finance and Accounts Division at the campus of BOU, Gazipur-1705. Tenders should be dropped in the tender box kept at the library of BOU, Gazipur-1705 up to 1-00 PM of 09 February 2005 and will be opened at 1-30 PM on the same day in presence of the tenderer (if any).

**Muhammad Saadat Ali**  
Librarian-in-charge, BOU  
GD-39 for Vice Chancellor