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People's Right to Know

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riverbank

sadarthana.

711 rifle bullets found on Bhairab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police yesterday seized 711 bullets of Chinese rifles from the Bhairab riverbank at Skid Ghat under the

Police sources said a boy found

the abandoned bullets at 9:00am.

Belal, 12, son of handling worker

Rafiqul Islam of an adjoining slum,

Business bodies

sit Feb 24 in a

political crisis

All the country's business bodies

will sit together on February 24 in an

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

bid to end

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14 NEWSMEN KILLED IN SW IN 10 YEARS

23 editors concerned over govt indifference

The editors of 23 national dailies for the first time yesterday issued a joint statement expressing deep con-cerns "at the killing of and attack on journalists in Khulna and the country's southwestern region."

We are extremely concerned about the fact that journalists are dying at regular intervals, yet the government and the administration remain indifferent and unconcerned. So far not a single incident has either been properly investi-gated or the culprits punished. We think this fact alone may have emboldened the culprits and given them a sense of impunity to act against journalists," said the editors under the banner of the newly formed Forum to Protect

They announced to hold simultaneous protest rallies in all press clubs across the country at 11:00am next Saturday. The rally in Dhaka will be organised on the Jatiya Press Club

"We call upon all journalists and every body concerned with the profession of journalism to make our rally a success," they urged.

The announcement comes two days into the death of daily Sangram Khulna Burea Chief Shaikh Belaluddin last Friday from injuries in a bomb attack on February 5, that also injured three other Khulna-

The editors signing the statement are ABM Musa of Jugantor, Enayetullah Khan of New Age, M Atiqullah Khan Masud of Janakantha, Rahat Khan of Ittefaq, Reazuddin Ahmed of News Today, Mahbubul

Alam of The Independent, Mahfuz Anam of The Daily Star, Kazi Shahed Ahmed of Ajker Kagoj, AMM Bahauddin of Inqilab, Bazlur Rahman of Sangbad, Alamgir Mohiuddin of Nayadiganto, Amanullah Kabir of Amar Desh, Moazzem Hossain of The Financial Express, Motiur Rahman Chowdhury of Manabzamin, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury of The Bangladesh Observer, Asafuddowlah of

Bangladesh Today, Golam Tahaboor

of The New Nation, Kazi Siraj Uddin

Ahmed of Dinkal, Abul Asad of

Sangram, Gias Kamal Chowdhury of

Khabarpatro, M Zakaria Khan of

Banglabazar Patrika and Shyamal

Dutta of Bhorer Kagoj. The statement reads: "We are deeply concerned over the killing of and attack on journalists in Khulna SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina puts her signature yesterday on the 'mass signature campaign' banner initiated by Asma Kibria, wife of slain SAMS Kibria, to demand punishment of the perpetrators of all grenade attacks.

effort to resolve the country's existingpolitical crisis. The decision was taken at a

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EU worried over 'crossfire' deaths

Esko calls them extrajudicial killings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Head of Delegation of the European Commission in Bangladesh Ambassador Esko Kentrschynskyj yesterday expressed deep concerns over the recent 'crossfire' deaths during operations of the elite anticrime Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

Speaking at a press conference on future development policy of the EU at the delegation office in the capital, Kentrschynskyj termed the deaths as extra-judicial killing and said the government should look into the incidents of over 200 people being killed in alleged 'crossfire'

Responding to a question, he said those killed in 'crossfire' were denied their right to justice and their human rights, as they had not been tried. Such activities are contrary to

On another query, he said it is of utmost importance for Bangladesh to separate the judiciary from the

good governance and rule of law, he

executive of the government. This is the first time an envoy of a foreign country expressed his opinion on 'crossfire' deaths in public.

The EU envoy also said the unchecked incidents of grenade and bomb attacks were also a major cause for worry. He expressed the hope that the government would take effective measures to reign in

Speaking on postponement of the 13th Saarc Summit, he said the EU has always been supporting such regional associations and has been providing technical support to

VOLATILE MONEY MARKET BB warns banks for irresponsible fund management

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The central bank yesterday warned a section of commercial banks of punitive measures including reducing their scope of business for 'irresponsible' fund management resulting in a destabilised money

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

FBI terms of reference under review

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka and Washington are still considering the details of a written terms of reference for FBI agents to investigate the January 27 grenade attack in Habiganj.

A spokesman for the US Embassy

Ruling, opposition parties face off

Over 10,000 law-enforcers to man streets as 36-hr hartal begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will form a massive security blanket in the capital during today's hartal with the ruling and opposition parties ready to face each other in the street. More than 10,000 law-enforcers

drawn from the police, paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles, Armed Police Battalion and Ansar will be deployed at different strategic points in the city to stave off any untoward incident.

The four-party ruling alliance has taken the fresh bout of 36-hour countrywide hartal as a challenge, aiming to defuse the antigovernment movement spearheaded by the main opposition Awami League (AL) and its left allies

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6 | country's politics when the opposi-

tion called for the shutdown coinciding with BNP's scheduled rallies across the country today. The ruling party blamed the opposition for creating 'anarchy' in the name of

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan on Saturday asked the opposition to withdraw the hartal and warned that the opposition would be responsible for any untoward incident, if occurred on the hartal day.

But the AL and its allies, who intensified the movement after the killing of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria in a grenade attack in Habiganj on January 27, have vowed to make the hartal a success.

To face street agitation, the home SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Spring brings festive mood to Dhaka

UNB, Dhaka

Singing and dancing and screening of films featuring Bangla culture gave the sprawling grounds in and around Dhaka University a festive look yesterday amid a twin-celebration of spring and Saraswati Puja.

The hilarious human mood matched with nature that also put forth a fresh look with trees coming

ACC in the doldrums

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chairman of the three-month old Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Justice Sultan Hossain Khan, who initially vowed to launch a 'jihad' against corruption, yesterday admitted that 'nothing of the commission made any progress.

Justice Sultan, speaking to jour-The latest heat generated in the ministry has asked the police to go | nalists at his office, however

Stop destroying democratic air

PM asks opposition

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday urged all concerned, particularly opposition political parties, to refrain from 'destroying the democratic environment and trampling human rights in the name of movement and demonstrations'.

She made the call when a delegation of the Council for National Agenda (CNA), led by its chairman Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf, called on the prime minister with a plea for banning hartal to stem the current spell of unrest.

The prime minister urged members of the intelligentsia to play a positive role in creating awareness among people about the vice of violence and hartal.

The CAN, which groups retired judges, bureaucrats, academics and Osmani, Shah Abdul Hannan SEE PAGE 11 COL 4 | journalists, demanded halting

hartal by enacting a tough law or enacting law at least to stop attempt of enforcing hartal by means of "Hartal is a destructive action

against national interest and econ-

omy. Almost all people are peaceloving and against hartal-they want to do their respective work," the delegation was quoted as saying. People's human and democratic

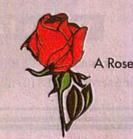
rights are being curtailed by forcing them to observe hartal, the CNA body observed.

The delegation comprised Barrister Mainul Hosein, Prof MA Majed, former advisor of caretaker government, Tobarak Hossain, exforeign secretary, Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, retired bureaucrats MM Rezaul Karim, MR

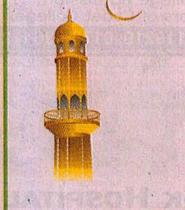
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