

GOVT ADS  
Dinkal, Inqilab, Sangram get the most  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The pro-BNP vernacular daily Dainik Dinkal received the highest number of government advertisements in fiscal year 2003-04 followed by Inqilab and pro-Jamaat Sangram, while Janakantha received not a single one. Out of a total of 67,491 government advertisements published in 344 newspapers in the country, Dinkal bagged 3,548, Inqilab 3,140 and Sangram 2,493. Information Minister M Shamsul Islam disclosed the figures in parliament yesterday during a question-

# US, EU, India recall envoys from Nepal

12 Maoists killed in clashes

AFP, Paris/ Kathmandu

Nepal came under international pressure Monday after the United States, European Union and India recalled their ambassadors from the Himalayan outpost to protest King Gyanendra's seizure of absolute power.

The US State Department indicated of possible international action if the king refused to heed calls to restore fundamental rights.

"The recall of our ambassador, along with the ambassadors of the United Kingdom, India and France, who are also leaving Kathmandu today, I think is an indication of the deep concern in the international community about the recent developments in Nepal," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher told reporters.

"These are widely shared among nations of the international community."

In Paris, French foreign ministry spokesman Herve Ladsous said: "In light of recent events in Nepal, we have decided -- along with our European partners -- to recall EU ambassadors living in Kathmandu for consultations."

On February 1, Nepal's King Gyanendra sacked the government, appointed a pro-royalist cabinet

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

SAARC SUMMIT  
Delhi's dealing with Dhaka lacks finesse : Kuldip  
BSS, Dhaka

Eminent Indian journalist Kuldip Nayar criticised the way the Indian government announced its decision not to attend the 13th Saarc summit in Dhaka. In "Diplomacy won't hurt," published in the widely circulated Indian Express yesterday, he said, "New Delhi was at its crudest when it conveyed to Dhaka India's inability to attend the SAARC meeting."

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

# China mine blast kills 203

AP, Shanghai

A gas explosion in a coal mine in China's northeast killed at least 203 miners, the government said yesterday, in the deadliest such disaster reported since communist rule began in 1949.

The explosion Monday afternoon at the Sunjiawan mine in Liaoning

province also injured 22 others and 13 trapped underground, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

The cause of the blast, which occurred 794 feet underground, was under investigation, it said.

President Hu Jintao and other Chinese leaders issued orders for local officials "to spare no effort to rescue those stranded in the mine,"

Xinhua said. It said they called for "strict measures" to prevent any more such disasters.

China has suffered a string of deadly mining disasters in recent months despite a nationwide safety crackdown.

A blast in the northern province

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



PHOTO: STAR

Firemen and locals try to douse fire set by pickets to a bus in front of a wholesale fish market at Jatrabari in the city during the hartal hours yesterday.

HABIGANJ PROBE  
Two BNP men remanded for third time  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two ruling BNP activists, arrested in connection with the Habiganj grenade carnage on February 2, were taken on a two-day fresh remand for the third time yesterday.

The arrestees Shah Alam of Shughor village of Laskarpur union and Joynal Abedin Jalal of Abdabkai village of the same union were produced before the Habiganj

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

# Work on leather city starts

UNB, Savar

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday inaugurated work on a nearly Tk 176 crore project for building Dhaka Leather Industry City here to relocate soon the Hazaribag tanneries, which pollute the capital's environment with tons of their toxic effluents.

On January 27, 2002, the prime

minister had announced at a leather exhibition that the tanneries of Hazaribag would be shifted to a suitable place outside the capital to make it more environment-friendly.

The modern leather industry city is primarily being built on 200 acres of land at Tetuljhara with 195 industrial units, which will directly and indirectly create jobs for nearly one

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

# Tremors jolt Ctg, Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two light tremors jolted the port city and adjoining areas yesterday afternoon.

The first tremor measuring 4.2 on the Richter scale occurred at 5:16pm and lasted for 17 seconds.

The epicentre of the tremor was 152 Km off the country's lone seismic observatory at Agrabad in the port city, sources said.

The other tremor measuring 4.3 was felt at 7:07pm and lasted for 22 seconds. Its epicentre was some 203 Km off Agrabad.

A tremor continuing for about ten seconds also occurred in the Sylhet region at 5:16, our Sylhet correspondent reports.

Reuters reports from Guwahati: An earthquake measuring over 5.0 on the Richter scale shook India's northeast at 4:45pm local time yesterday.

There was, however, no reports of casualties.

About a month earlier, authorities had issued quake warning for the area.

# 900 makeshift houses, 60 CNGs gutted in city fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A devastating fire yesterday evening destroyed at least 900 makeshift houses, about 60 CNG scooters and three motor workshops in the city's Mirbagh area, local sources said.

No casualties were reported at the time this report was filed at 9pm yesterday.

According to witnesses, the fire started at roughly 6pm when a spark inside a motor workshop, where five

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Prayer Timing		
February 16		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-52	5-56
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Hasina says clues destroyed to save masterminds  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused the ruling BNP of destroying clues to save the masterminds behind the August 21 and Habiganj grenade blasts.

Reiterating her demand for international investigations into the grenade blasts, she said, "International investigations are necessary to maintain transparency as the ruling party is destroying the clues." Hasina told reporters at a

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

# Ruling Mps censure govt for fertiliser crisis

Allege irregularities in dealer appointment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of ruling BNP and Jamaat lawmakers in the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) yesterday blamed the government for its failure to prevent what they termed an artificial crisis of fertiliser caused by unscrupulous dealers who they alleged had been

appointed in violation of rules.

They asked the government to reshuffle fertiliser dealership and issue fresh licences.

During a question-answer session, BNP deputy Shamsuddin Ahmed said a section of unscrupulous dealers has damaged the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1