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### Borders under watch to catch Bangla Bhai

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Law enforcement agencies have beefed up vigilance along the border with India in Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj and Naogaon districts, and denied reports that Bangla Bhai has slipped into India.

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### Chief whip's son detained

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday detained the chief whip's son Khondaker Akhter Hamid Paban, an arrestee in an attempted murder case, after he obtained bail.

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### Premier Bank Scam SEC wants issue manager's information

STAR REPORT

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday asked Equity Partners Limited (EPL), issue manager of Premier Bank's initial

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Prayer Timing		
March 8		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-20	5-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-03	6-07
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

# Ctg RMG units face market loss over power outage

SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Chittagong

About 40 percent of 512 Readymade Garment (RMG) factories in Chittagong are facing shipment schedule problem and fearing loss of markets due to erratic power supply for the last three days.

Load shedding rose to 140mw on Sunday and 171mw on Saturday against the demand for 460mw of

power in peak hours in Chittagong, sources said.

Of the RMG factories, nearly 40 percent do not have their own generators as alternative source of power and they depend solely on PDB power supply for uninterrupted production, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Director SM Nurul Haque said

yesterday.

Chief Engineer of Power Development Board (PDB), Chittagong Kabindra Nath Sen yesterday admitted an acute shortage of power supply in the port city. "As an interim step to meet the crisis, we started keeping streetlights off on one side from Sunday," he said.

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# 15 killed in Iraqi suicide bombing

## Insurgents kill 16 other Iraqis, Bulgarian soldier slain in US 'friendly fire'

AFP/AP, Samarra, Baghdad

Fifteen people have been killed and another 23 wounded in a suicide bomb attack on Monday in Balad, north of Baghdad while 16 other Iraqis killed in a series of insurgent attacks, Iraqi police said.

A suicide bomber blew up his vehicle at the house of an Iraqi army officer, a local police officer said, adding that at least two soldiers

were among the dead.

Guerrillas launched a series of attacks with bombs and gunfire in Iraq yesterday, killing 16 people and wounding dozens as the country took its first major step toward forming a government whose most crucial task will be dealing with the insurgency.

Most of yesterday's fatalities occurred in Baqouba, 55km northeast

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

# Investigator showcaused for charging 5yr girl

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued a show-cause notice on an investigation officer (IO) of a criminal case for pressing charge against a five-year-old girl.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Mizanur Rahman discharged Akhi Akhter from the charge brought against her. He also directed the IO, Sub-inspector (SI) Bazlar Rahman of Pallabi Police Station, to appear before the court on March 17.

Akhi, daughter of Tareque Ahmed of Pallabi, along with her mother Fatema and sister Jahura

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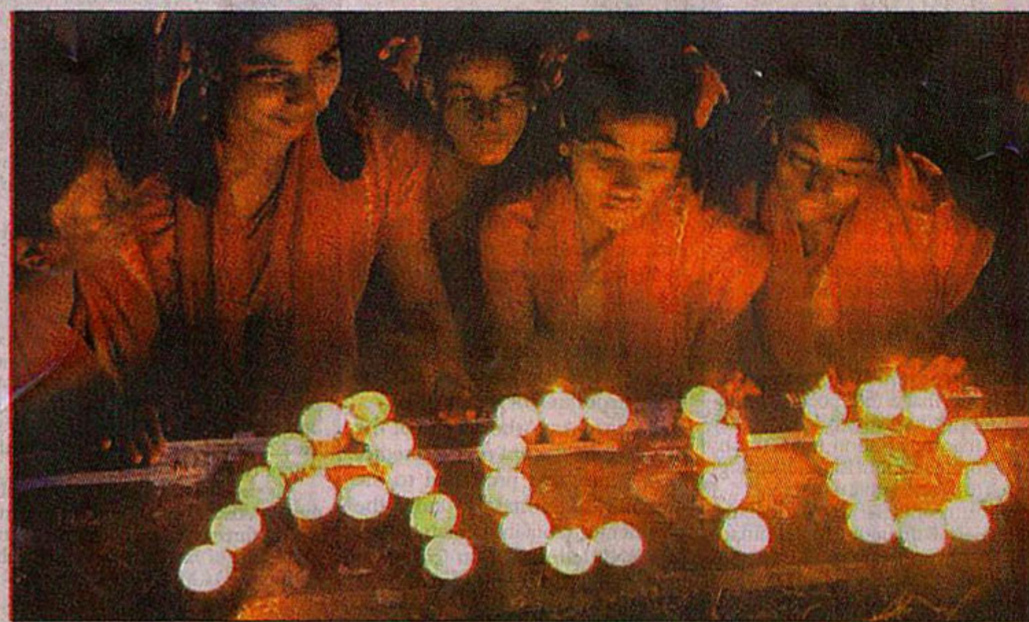


PHOTO: STAR

Long way to go...women who fell victim to acid attacks light up candles at TSC circle yesterday with a vow to stop such violence on the eve of International Women's Day.

# Int'l Women's Day today

## Acid victims form human chain to protest attacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Women's Day will be observed in Bangladesh today, as elsewhere around the world, with numerous women's rights groups and international organisations staging a series of elaborate programmes to highlight the struggle of women to achieve equality, justice, peace and development.

In anticipation of the event, acid victims yesterday joined a protest vigil and formed a human chain at Dhaka University to protest acid attacks and torture of women. The protest, organised by the Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF), was held in front of the Teacher Student

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# PM to visit Singapore March 20

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will set out for Singapore on a three-day official visit on March 20 at the invitation of her Singapore counterpart Lee Hsien Loong.

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# Donors to adopt result-based policy

## Saifur tells media on return from Paris meet

UNB, Dhaka

The development partners at the Paris aid conference have agreed to the need for changing the outdated aid policy and adopt result-based strategy instead of imposing "so-called" conditions.

They also endorsed the need for timely disbursement of aid as committed and also reducing the number of donors' review missions that affect other government activities.

These were incorporated in the Paris Declaration (of the confer-

ence)," Finance Minister Saifur Rahman told reporters on his return from the conference yesterday.

He raised the concerns of the aid-recipient countries while making his keynote speech on March 2 at the High Level Forum on "Joint Progress towards Enhanced Aid Effectiveness: Harmonization, Alignment, Results" to make aid more effective.

The finance minister led a four-member Bangladesh delegation to the February 28-March 4 forum, attended by 55 partner-countries,

including Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal from Saarc region, and 35 bilateral and 25 multilateral agencies.

Saifur was one of the key speakers in a roundtable on "Integrating Selected Global Initiatives and Cross-cutting Issues" that took stock of progress in harmonization, alignment issues and identifying areas on which further intense work is focused.

Replying to a question, he said the result of using aid in Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

# Qatar PM arrives April 17

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani will arrive on April 17 on a one-day official visit to Bangladesh at the invitation of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

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# IMPOSSIBLE



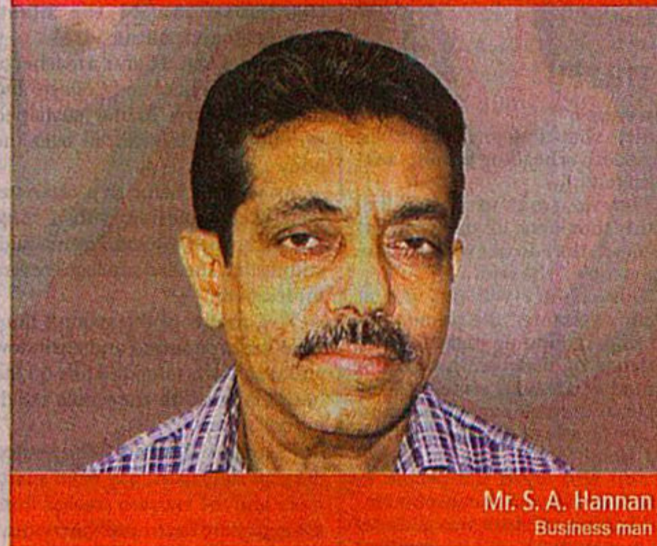
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