

**BTTB CELLPHONE
Writ petition
filed against
licence transfer**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A writ petition was filed yesterday challenging the legality of the transfer of cellular phone operating licence of Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) to another company 'Teletalk Bangladesh Ltd' and the allocation of radio frequency in favour of the company

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**Police beat up
trader, dump
him into jail**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police mercilessly beat up a businessman from old town on Sunday night and took him to jail, even though the businessman, accused in a case, showed a bail order to the police.

Haji Ashraf Ahmed, a businessman of the city's Agamashi Lane under Kotwali thana, alleged that

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**Rescue goes slow on
lack of equipment**

PINAKI ROY and SHAMEEM MAHMUD

Inadequate equipment has slowed down the rescuers from pulling those trapped under the rubble of the collapsed building at Baipail in Savar.

"We do not have equipment to carry out such a massive rescue operation," Selim Newaz Bhuiyan, deputy director of Fire Service and Civil Defence, told reporters. About 1,500 rescuers from the Fire Service and Civil Defence, the army, the Rapid Action Battalion and the police, who were conducting operations with insufficient equipment, seemed helpless as the screams of trapped workers emanated from beneath the debris.

Following the collapse, which left no less than 22 people dead and some 350 trapped, three hundred workers are now busy with spades, axes and hammers at the site. Even a

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PHOTO: STAR

A worker lies dead and buried under debris at the scene of yesterday's building collapse at Savar, which killed at least 22.

**Qatar emir
arrives
April 15**

BSS, Dhaka

Emir of Qatar Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani arrives in Dhaka on April 15 on a two-day state visit to Bangladesh. He will lead a high profile 65-member delegation including three ministers.

President Iajuddin Ahmed will receive the Emir at the VVIP terminal of the Zia International Airport.

Four agreements and two memorandums of understanding (MoUs) are expected to be signed during the forthcoming visit of the Emir,

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**5 more bodies
recovered as
sunken trawler
salvaged**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

At last the sunken trawler that capsized Saturday morning has been salvaged, revealing 5 dead bodies inside.

The ill-fated trawler was recovered at noon yesterday by two divers of BIWTA and four local officials, using a crane and a ferry of BIWTA.

Inside were found five decomposed bodies and several gunny

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CCC POLLS

**23 file papers for
mayoral race**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A total of twenty-three candidates for the mayoral post, including BNP-backed four party alliance candidate Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin and Awami League-backed Chattagram Nagorik Committee candidate ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, yesterday submitted nomination papers for the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) polls, scheduled to be held on May 9.

Besides, 481 nomination papers, including 394 for commissioner (general) posts under 41 wards and 87 for 14 reserved seats for women commissioners, were submitted.

Returning Officer (Additional Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong) Golam Kuddus received the nomination papers for the mayoral candidates while nine assistant returning officers received those for commissioner posts at nine separate booths set up at the returning officer's office.

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**China, India sign
border accord**

AFP, New Delhi

India and China yesterday signed a landmark accord aimed at resolving a boundary dispute that has bedevilled relations between the Asian giants for more than four decades, the Indian foreign ministry said.

The agreement, signed by India's national security advisor M.K. Narayanan and Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Dai Bingguo sets out the "guiding principles" to be followed in settling the China-India boundary dispute, a ministry statement said.

"The differences on the boundary question should not be allowed to affect the overall development of bilateral relations," the agreement, released by the ministry, says.

"The two sides will resolve the boundary question through peaceful and friendly consultations. Neither side shall use or threaten to use force against the other by any means.

"The final solution of the boundary question will significantly promote good neighbourly and friendly relations between India and China,"

it said.

India and China will "make meaningful and mutually acceptable adjustments to their respective positions on the boundary question, so as to arrive at a package settlement to the boundary question," it added.

"The boundary settlement must be final, covering all sectors of the India-China boundary."

Bilateral "strategic and reasonable interests, and the principle of mutual and equal security" will be kept in mind while arriving at a final settlement, the agreement says.

The accord will help special representatives named by India and China in 2003 negotiate territorial claims as experts delineate the boundary on a map and on the ground, Indian officials said.

The dispute is the consequence of a brief but bitter border conflict in 1962 that left relations between the world's two most populous countries in shreds.

India says China is occupying 38,000 square kilometres (14,670 square miles) of Indian territory in Kashmir illegally ceded to it by Pakistan in the 1950s.

**DCC cleaners
remove posters
from walls**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) under its special cleanliness drive yesterday cleaned walls, footpaths and drains at different parts of the capital.

Cleaners were engaged in removing posters from walls, sweeping footpaths and spraying bleaching powder in open drains at 11am along North South Road. A vehicle also watered the roads to remove dust and filth from the street. Cleaners were also found removing posters and graffiti from walls at Topkhana Road and Segun Bagicha.

As part of its plan, the DCC will invite distinguished personalities of the country to watch the cleanliness activities.

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Prayer Timing		
April 12		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-24	6-28
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

**Banks object to
NBR move**

Say disclosure of professionals' statements to scare away depositors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief executives of about 50 commercial banks yesterday requested the Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor to prevent the National Board of Revenue (NBR) from obtaining bank statements of different professionals, including developers, doctors and engineers.

The bankers said at a meeting with the Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed that the move will scare away depositors and set off a flight of money to foreign banks.

They criticised the NBR move to

obtain bank statements and urged the Governor to immediately discuss the matter with the NBR Chairman.

As part of measures to stop tax evasion, the NBR recently sent letters to different banks asking them to provide the deposit statements of certain professionals.

"We have registered strong protest to the Bangladesh Bank Governor about the move," notes M Aminuzzaman, managing director of National Bank and president of the Association of Banks.

"The governor has assured us

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**BJP lawmakers
revolt against
party chief**

UNB, Dhaka

The lawmakers of Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP), a component of ruling four-party alliance, yesterday asked their party chief to retract his recent remarks against the BNP-led coalition government or face disciplinary action.

The four lawmakers of BJP in a joint statement protested the "misleading and motivated" remarks of the party chairman at a meeting of the party last week. Nazir Rahman Manjur has no right to give such

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**Highest security
for today's 4th
Indo-Pak ODI**

BBC ONLINE, undated

Security in Ahmedabad is at its highest as India and Pakistan prepare for Tuesday's fourth one-day international at the Sardar Patel Cricket Stadium.

More than 15,000 policemen and soldiers will help prevent trouble in

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