

FOREIGN WORKERS  
Kuwaiti minister  
warns against  
exploitation

AFP, Kuwait City

Kuwait's labour minister warned employers yesterday against the exploitation of expat labourers in oil-rich emirate which is home to hundreds of thousands of low-paid workers, mostly from Asia.

"The ministry will not hesitate to impose maximum penalties against businessmen who do not abide by the law," Faisal al-Hajji told Al-Qabas daily.

Companies which delay payment of salaries to foreign employees will have their recruitment files closed and be barred from bidding for government tenders, said Hajji, who is social affairs and labour minister.

The ministry will also withdraw

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DOUBLE MURDER  
PROTEST  
Satellite  
channel  
blackout  
till 6pm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Cable Operator Association of Bangladesh (COAB) enforced a 24-hour strike halting its service from 6pm yesterday protesting the murder of two cable operators.

Some unidentified criminals killed cable operators Sayem Rahman alias Mithun and Shariful Islam at the Banasree Housing Project in city's Rampura on Monday.

"We have decided to halt our service for 24 hours protesting the

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SAVAR BUILDING COLLAPSE  
Govt fails to bring  
culprits to book

Observe rights bodies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The failure to arrest the owners of Spectrum Sweaters Industries Ltd., even though more than 16 days have passed since the tragic building collapse at Savar, exposes the government's sheer indifference to

## BUDGET FORECAST

# Scholarship for girls up to degree level

Fund to boost teachers' pay, says Saifur

UNB, Dhaka

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said stipend for girl students would be extended up to graduate level from the next fiscal year.

The forthcoming budget will also increase allocation for student scholarships and sanction funds for paying more teachers under MPO (monthly pay order) as well as recruiting some 250 doctors.

Many school and college teachers, who remained out of the government's MPO, will be brought under the budget for the fiscal year 2005-06, which will also have a funding provision for recruitment of 250 doctors.

"The officials concerned have been asked to work out the number of scholarships," Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman told reporters, giving an outlook of the education and health sector

plans for the next budget discussed at a pre-budget meeting at the finance ministry yesterday.

Replies to a question, he said the railway sector has been incurring a loss of Tk 300 crore to Tk 400 crore annually.

As part of the pre-budget series, the meeting with the ministries of education, primary and mass education, health and family welfare, communications and food and

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Students of Sher-e-Bangla Girls School and College in Old Dhaka demonstrate in the street yesterday against a teacher's alleged sexual advances towards a class-five student.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

200 students protest teacher's 'advances'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 200 students of Sher-e-Bangla Girls' School and College took to the street in Old Dhaka yesterday to protest a teacher's alleged advances to a class five student six days ago.

The student's mother filed a case to Sutrapur Police Station against the teacher under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act with Sutrapur Police Station the same day.

Allegations are there that authorities of the institution took no step against the teacher although they were informed of the matter immediately after the incident. Mahmuda Akhter, the mother, said

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## \$2.5B INVESTMENT

# Four govt teams to liaise with Tata

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday decided to form four teams to mediate and coordinate the US \$2.5 billion investment proposals from Tata, as it plans to start formal talks with the Indian industrial giant from the third week of May.

To be formed by the first week of May, the teams will negotiate the investment proposals with Tata officials, government stakeholders and donors, it was decided at the

first meeting of the high-level government committee on Tata's offers, held yesterday at the Ministry of Industries.

Industries Minister Matiur Rahman Nizami, State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AK Mosharraf Hossain, Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Kamal Uddin Siddique, and Board of Investment (BoI) Executive Chairman Mahmudur Rahman attended the five member committee meeting. The absentee member

of the committee, State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud, was on an official tour at Sirajganj.

The meeting sources said the government is intending to send a letter to the Tata for formal negotiations by May at the latest.

Both the government and Tata executives are eyeing to conclude of all the negotiations by August 31 and to launch a groundbreaking by November of this year, they said.

The meeting also discussed

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Cops beat up  
ansars for  
protesting  
bribery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police on Tuesday beat up and injured two ansar personnel at Zia International Airport, (ZIA) allegedly for refusing to pay the cops bribes.

The Ansar personnel, Nazrul Islam, 22, and Mehedi Hasan, 29, were released from Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

They said they were driving away in a black taxicab parked at a no parking zone at around 7:30pm when a few traffic constables stopped them.

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Fresh threat to besiege  
Ahmadiyya complex

Satkhira bigots demand  
withdrawal of cases

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Ahmadiyya members on Tuesday. The Khatme Nabuat leaders demanded withdrawal of the cases by May 30, otherwise they will lay siege on the Ahmadiyya Complex at Jyotindranagar in Shyamnagar. They said they were falsely implicated in the cases.

IKNMB's Nayeb-e Amir Noor Hossain Nurani, other leaders Maulana Abdul Khaleq, Maulana Abdul Maled Al Madani and Mufti Hafizur Rahman, among others,

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Murder charge framed against  
Haji Selim

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against former Awami League (AL) lawmaker Haji Mohammad Selim and five others in the Jubo Dal leader Abdul Hannan murder case.

The others are Golam Mohammad, Hedayetul Islam, Mofizul Islam Miah, Ali Ahmed and Delwar Hossain.

After scrutinising the case docket and other documents, Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 rejected their discharge petitions and framed charges against them.

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BIMSTEC  
Funding terrorism  
to dominate  
Bangkok meet

BDNEWS, Dhaka

"Financing Terrorism" will be the main theme of the two-day sub-group Bangkok meeting of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) beginning today.

Two representatives from Bangladesh, one each from the foreign and home ministries, will attend the meeting of BIMSTEC, a

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Rajuk reform must  
for safe building

Roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is high time, the city-planning authority, Rajuk, is reformed and restructured to ensure strict compliance with the building codes and safe construction, said architects, engineers and environmentalists at a roundtable yesterday.

"Drastic overhauling and reorganisation of Rajuk with people's

participation is a must, a crucial demand of the time, as it has turned into a bureaucratic establishment," observed Dr KM Maniruzzaman, a teacher at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

Sharing his views at the

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### Prayer Timing

April 28		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Magrib	6-29	6-34
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

