

## 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

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

## 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

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## 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.

Replying 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

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## \$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

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

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.

## 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.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## Fresh threat to besiege Ahmadiyya complex

Satkhira bigots demand  
withdrawal of cases

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The International Khatme Nabuat Movement, Bangladesh (IKNMB) has threatened to lay siege on the Ahmadiyya Complex in Shyamnagar on June 1 if the cases filed against the Khatme Nabuat leaders are not withdrawn.

The threat came from the central leaders of Khatme Nabuat at a religious function in Shyamnagar on Tuesday night where they strongly protested the cases filed by two

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,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## 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

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

## 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.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## 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

bringing to justice those responsible, said speakers at a meeting yesterday.

Members of 14 human rights organisations, comprising a forum newly founded in the wake of the Savar tragedy, lashed out at the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## BIMSTEC

## Funding terrorism to dominate Bangkok meet

BDNEWS, Dhaka

"Financing Terrorism" will be the main theme of the two-day subgroup 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

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## 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

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Prayer Timing		
April 28		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-29	6-34
Esha	8-00	8-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		