



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION  
TODAY'S ISSUE 20 PAGES



REGD. NO. DA 781 VOL. XV NO. 105 DHAKA THURSDAY MAY 5, 2005 COMMITTED TO People's Right to Know BAI SHAKH 22, 1412 BS RABIUL AWAL 25, 1426 HIJRI 20 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE: TK 10.00 www.thedailystar.net

## Jubo Dal leader, alleged robber die in 'crossfire'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A leader of ruling BNP's youth wing Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal and an alleged robber were killed in 'crossfire' between their associates and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police in Pabna and Keraniganj early yesterday.

Meanwhile, Begum Kaosari Islam, widow of Meghna upazila Awami League (AL) leader Mofizul Islam, alias Dudh Mian, who was killed in 'crossfire' on Tuesday in Keraniganj, urged Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and the Rab chief to punish the law enforcers responsible for killing her husband.

Dudh Mian, an AL supporter and a fruit trader, was not involved in any crime, she said.

Rashidul Islam, alias Nati Babu, SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Irked EC warns Ctg div commissioner

### Asks him not to overstep jurisdiction over CCC polls

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday directed the divisional commissioner of Chittagong to refrain from activities beyond his jurisdiction after he recently held a high-level meeting and took some vital decisions related to election.

The EC at an unscheduled meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner MA Syed observed that Divisional Commissioner Ashraf Moqbul does not have the jurisdiction to hold such meeting and take decisions regarding polls, sources said.

The directive came only two days after withdrawal of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Commissioner Amjad Hossain for his failure to perform duties impartially in the run up to May 9 polls of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC).

"We directed the divisional commissioner to refrain from such unnecessary activities and extend all-out cooperation to the returning officer," Election Commissioner AK Mohammad Ali told The Daily Star after the EC meeting.

"All activities of local administration should be done in the name of the returning officer who is the only authorised officer. Otherwise legal question can be raised," he added.

The EC also directed the returning officer, Mohammad Golam Quddus, also additional divisional commissioner of Chittagong, to take effective measures against violation of electoral code of conduct by the contenders in the polls.

The divisional commissioner on May 2 held the high-level meeting at his office and took several decisions to ensure free and fair election and sent the meeting's minutes to EC.

Apart from decision about the SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Mohiuddin gets death threat to quit polls race

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Mayoral candidate of the Awami League (AL)-backed Nagorik Committee in the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) election ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, also incumbent mayor, has been threatened with death if he does not quit the polls race and resign as mayor immediately.

The threat came in an anonymous letter to him yesterday.

"Your body will float on the river Karnaphuli if you do not quit (polls race) in support of Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin (ruling alliance mayoral candidate)," said the letter sent by post.

It also asked AL President Sheikh Hasina not to come to Chittagong to avert an incident like the one on August 21 last year (grenade attack on her rally in the capital).

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



PHOTO: STAR  
Army personnel patrol Chittagong city to assess the pre-poll situation yesterday, five days ahead of the Chittagong City Corporation mayoral elections.



## Blair sniffs victory in polls today

AFP, London

Britain's politicians were embarking on one final campaign push yesterday, a day before an election which appears increasingly likely to hand Prime Minister Tony Blair a third straight term in office.

Blair was expected to make his government's handling of the buoyant British economy during its eight years in power the centrepiece of his final push ahead of the polling booths opening on Thursday morning.

"Now the people are in the SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Suicide bomber kills 60 in Iraq

### 2 US soldiers slain in Baghdad

REUTERS, AFP, Arbil

A suicide bomber struck the offices of a Kurdish party in northern Iraq yesterday, killing at least 60 people in the bloodiest attack since a new government promising stability was formed a week ago.

Witnesses said a crowd had gathered outside the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) office, which also served as a police recruiting centre, when the bomber hit.

A health ministry official in Arbil said 150 people were wounded. Hospitals said they were overwhelmed with casualties.

Twelve other people, including a foreign private security guard, were killed in other violence in Baghdad and north of the capital, while the US military also announced that two of its troops had been killed Tuesday.

The bloodshed came a day after a new government was sworn in and three months after historic elections that Iraqis hoped would lead to improved security.

Iraqi politicians, who squabbled for months before forming an incomplete cabinet, accuse insurgents of trying to spark a civil war with bombings designed to deepen sectarian tensions.

The Kurdish north has been relatively free of the suicide bombings and shootings gripping other parts of the country.

The KDP is one of two main parties in a Kurdish coalition that came second in the January 30 polls, which sidelined Sunni Muslims dominant under Saddam Hussein and turned the Shias and Kurds into the new powers.

Insurgents have stepped up attacks since Iraq's first democratically elected government was formed last week, with car bombs and other attacks killing about 200 people.

A doctor at Al Jumhuri hospital in Arbil, one of three medical centers treating victims of the bombing, said he had received 60 casualties so far. SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## Indian strike halts trade thru' Bhomra, Benapole

UNB, Benapole

Export-import through Benapole and Bhomra land ports was disrupted for the second day yesterday as the port users on the Indian side continued their strike.

Talks between the strikers and Benapole customs officials at Benapole check post yesterday ended without any results.

Indian port users are demanding restoration of previous rules for SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## CJ's OATH, CONSTITUTION VIOLATION

# Former judge goes to president for justice

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

A former High Court judge yesterday appealed to the president to ask the Supreme Judicial Council to probe alleged violation of the constitution and oath to office by the chief justice (CJ) and take action against him accordingly.

Abdus Salam Mamun, the former additional judge who was not confirmed as permanent judge, said in

his application that Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassar Husain 'has ceased to be capable of properly performing the function of his office and is guilty of violation of the constitution amounting to gross misconduct'.

He alleged that the chief justice did not process the file for his appointment as permanent judge although there were no adverse remarks about his performance as

an additional judge. Mamun also accused the chief justice of nepotism and bias for allotting an office car to a judge and residential accommodation to another judge, but he did not allot any to him (Mamun).

He appealed to the president to take the matter into cognisance and the attached writ petition and refer the matter to the SJC for inquiry and SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## ILLEGAL MANPOWER EXPORT

# 3 immigration cops, 8 others freed on bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to three immigration cops, a security officer and three brokers, arrested on charges of sending four people to Dubai with fake passports.

Rejecting an objection from the prosecution, the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka also bailed the four people arrested on charges of using fake passports.

Granting bail three days into the arrest has created mixed reaction SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## MCCI rallies against interest rate hike

### Asks PM to intervene

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Any hike in bank interest rates now will be a serious setback for the country, as it is passing through a very delicate phase trying to adjust to the post-MFA (multi-fibre arrangement) scenario, a business delegation yesterday told the prime minister.


A new global economic order is emerging, with all countries working hard to improve their market competitiveness, noted the newly elected office bearers and leaders of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) at a meeting with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the city's International Conference Centre. They said Bangladesh's success

in addressing the new challenges largely depends on the cost and availability of funds.

In response, Khaleda assured the business magnates of taking all necessary steps in this regard.

The gradual reduction in bank interest rates in the recent years reflects a praiseworthy and timely policy support of the government to businesses, observed the chamber leaders led by MCCI President Kutubuddin Ahmed.

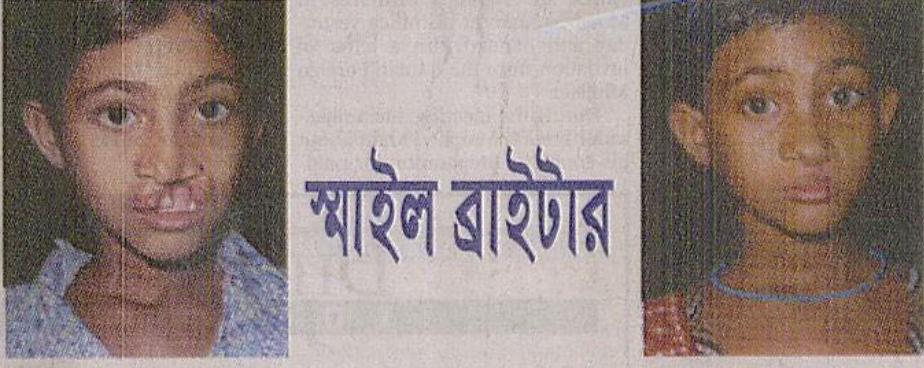
As a result, investment picked up leading to an increased contribution of the manufacturing and services sectors to the GDP, they pointed out. But the recent decision of the Bangladesh Bank to scale up bank interest rates has triggered much SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



## Chehlum

The Chehlum Of Late Quazi Fazlul Haq, an eminent philanthropist and pioneer of plastics industry in Bangladesh, Managing Director of HAKS Industries Ltd., Founder of Sonargaon Quazi Fazlul Haq Women's College, Trustee of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), Past President of Rotary Club of Dhaka North, and Life Member of Bangladesh MBA Association will take place today, May 5, 2005 at 11.00 am on the campus of Sonargaon Quazi Fazlul Haq Women's College. The family of Late Quazi Fazlul Haq earnestly requests all his well-wishers to pray to the Almighty for the peace of the departed soul.

**Family Members**



## স্মাইল রাইটার

অপারেশনের আগে      অপারেশনের পরে

চৌটকাটা যতটা না স্বাস্থ্যগত সমস্যা তার চেয়ে বেশী সামাজিক প্রতিবন্ধকতা। চৌটকাটা ছেলে মেয়েদের পড়াশুনা চালিয়ে যাওয়া, সামাজিক আচার অনুষ্ঠানে যোগদান করা কিংবা বিয়ে দেয়া ইত্যাদি নানাবিধ প্রতিবন্ধকতার সম্মুখীন হতে হয়। এ অবস্থা বিবেচনা করে-

### ডাচ-বাংলা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

প্লাস্টিক সার্জারীর মাধ্যমে চিকিৎসা প্রদান করে চৌটকাটা ছেলে মেয়েদের মুখে হাসি

ফিরিয়ে আনতে ২০০৩ সাল থেকে একটি অনন্য সাধারণ চিকিৎসা কর্মসূচী গ্রহণ করেছে।

### ডাচ-বাংলা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

দেশব্যাপী চৌটকাটা ছেলে ও মেয়ে (অনুর্ধ ২০ বছর) যাদের অভিভাবক নিজ খরচে প্লাস্টিক সার্জারী করতে অক্ষম তাদের জন্য বিনা খরচে প্লাস্টিক সার্জারীর ব্যবস্থা চালু রেখেছে। এ উপলক্ষে বগুড়া জেলা শহরে মে মাসের শেষ সপ্তাহে বগুড়া জেলা ও পার্শ্ববর্তী অঞ্চলসমূহের চৌটকাটা ছেলেমেয়েদের প্লাস্টিক সার্জারীর ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হয়েছে। বগুড়া জেলা ও পার্শ্ববর্তী অঞ্চলের চৌটকাটা প্রতিবন্ধীদের নাম, যোগাযোগের ঠিকানা ও অন্যান্য বিস্তারিত তথ্যসহ ২০ মে ২০০৫ তারিখের মধ্যে নিম্ন ঠিকানায় দরখাস্ত করার জন্য আহবান জানানো যাচ্ছে।

**সমস্বয়কারী**  
ডাচ-বাংলা ব্যাংক ফাউন্ডেশন  
১৯৫, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা (৫ম তলা)  
সেনা কল্যাণ ভবন, ঢাকা-১০০০।

**ডাচ-বাংলা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড**  
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