

AL sticks to

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today, Talukder said.
The Awami League, meanwhile, has so far made no decision to withdraw the hartal, said AL leader Saber Hossain Chowdhury.
The examinees under the Dhaka Education Board were already victims of a shutdown enforced by the AL in the capital Wednesday in protest of the killing of its city unit leader, advocate Khorshed Alam Bachchu.
The Bangla second paper examination under the board was also postponed due to the strike, as were the Hadith third paper of the Alim examination under the Madrasa Board and exams under the Vocational Education Board across the country.
Saturday's hartal is also to protest the killing of Khorshed Alam Bachchu.
Meanwhile, the main opposition AL could not manage to secure the support of its left 11-party allies for Saturday's hartal. "It is Awami League's hartal and they will observe it... we have no comment about it," said Mujahidul Islam Selim, general secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh.
Education Minister M Osman Farruk MP in a statement also urged the opposition to withdraw

29 more bodies

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waves are very big now and the rescue ship can hardly remain steady," he added.
The twin-decker M.V. Raipura went down in a tropical storm on Tuesday afternoon with more than 200 passengers in the Jamuna river at Aricha about 100 km west of Dhaka. About 20 people survived, while more than 150 were trapped inside the ferry, witnesses said. The ferry was registered to carry only 120 passengers.
People present at the spot believe that nobody can survive so long under water.
"It is quite unlikely that anyone would survive so long under water. If anyone survived it would definitely be a miracle," a BWTVA official monitoring the rescue said, requesting anonymity.
Firemen and local people recovered 29 bodies yesterday from spots three to five km downstream from the accident. Four additional bodies had earlier been recovered from the river.
"As we tried to salvage the sunken vessel, some bodies came out and floated away," said Reaz Ahsan Khandakar.
Relatives took away the bodies of 10 to 12 persons from the spot for burial while Manikganj Pourasava was taking preparation to bury the unidentified people.
Our Manikganj correspondent reports that hundreds of relatives, many wailing or beating their chests in grief, raised their hands in prayers for their missing loved ones, many of whom were traveling in search of work in the Aricha river port district.
The anguish of those waiting is quickly mounting, as they have been staying there for more than two days and still have no word when their wait will come to an end.
Tensions flared yesterday, as some started shouting and cursing the authorities.
"Do something to speed up the

50 wounded as JCD

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JCD's former RU unit vice-president Abdus Samad Pintu, Suhrawardi Hall unit Joint Convenor Sairaj and members Malek, Sumon, Jewel, Selim, Samu, Mamun and Al Ameen Siddik and Kabir of Aslam-led faction, and Masud Rana, Akram Hossain, Miran, Shahin and Babu of Rafique-led group were critically wounded.
The Rajshahi University correspondent of Daily Naya Diganta, Sardar Anisur Rahman, also received serious wounds when the police threw him on the ground and roughed him up as he was taking snaps of the clashes that continued for over one and half an hours. The injured were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital.
Rajshahi Metropolitan Police with reinforcements from Armed Police Battalion clubbed the feuding groups after noon to bring the situation under control.
Police arrested 18-year-old youth Sirajul Islam of Meherchandi area in the northwestern city on the campus with a bag loaded with six crackers on him.
Sirajul told the police in presence of journalists that Rafique's men gave him the crackers and asked him to use those "at the right time". He also named about half a dozen people who used to train him in exploding the homemade bombs.
"We will investigate Sirajul's version and arrest the people responsible," said Akram Hossain, officer-in-charge of Motihar Police Station.
About the police attack on journalist Anis, RMP Deputy Commissioner Lokman Hakim said action would be taken "if our investigations find any policeman guilty".
The Aslam-led faction termed the incident "pre-planned" and blamed the violence on the university authorities.
"Our opponents (Rafique group) swooped on us along with a huge number of outsiders," he said and alleged that the "pro-Jamaat-e-Islami" vice-chancellor (VC) was aiding and abetting the hoodlums on the campus for personal and political ends.
Aslam's loyalists, however,

Saturday's hartal for the sake of the HSC. Alim, Fazil, and Kamil examinees.
The Daily Star yesterday received dozens of phone calls from guardians of HSC examinations wanting to know whether Saturday's examinations are postponed or not. They also demanded that the opposition withdraw the hartal for the sake of the students.
"There is no instance where political parties enforce hartal during public examinations like SSC and HSC," Mohammad Sharifullah, father of an HSC examinee, said.
"Hartal for a day to protest the killing of one of their (Awami League) leaders was acceptable, but this hartal has no justification," Mariom Karim, mother of an examinee, told The Daily Star over the telephone.
Quamrul Hasan, an HSC examinee, phoned The Daily Star office yesterday evening and blasted the opposition for calling the hartal. "They do not care about the thousands of students who are sitting for the most important examination of their lives," he said.
Meanwhile, the National University has postponed all examinations for Saturday and rescheduled them for 2:00pm on May 27 (Friday).

rescue process," one man, a relative of an ill-fated victim, shouted at rescuers yesterday. "Don't come up with another excuse or put the blame on the weather alone."
Ferry accidents taking hundreds of lives have become a common phenomenon each year, despite repeated government promises to better legislate the sector. The death toll has reached more than 4,000 in the last ten years, of which the government officially admits not less than 3,000.
The Aricha tragedy came three days after another packed ferry, the twin-decked M.V. Prince of Patuakhali, sank in a storm in the turbulent Tentulia river 350 km south of Dhaka, killing nearly 100 people with 20 still listed missing.
Shipping goes
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developments in the international shipping sector have created new opportunities for Bangladeshi ship owners.
The country's export-import is rising but the number of ocean-going ships in the global market is declining in the wake of strict rules and regulations imposed by the international maritime organisation (IMO) to stall plying of defective cargo vessels, they pointed out.
Against this backdrop, Bangladeshi ship owners are expanding their fleet. The number of Bangladeshi-owned ocean-going vessels has risen to 17 from about 10 a few years ago.
Another one dozen big vessels were procured by local businessmen during this period but they were registered with other countries for various reasons, mainly lower registration fees, shipping sources said.

assaulted six teachers for their "close ties with administration", swore at them and chased them out of the auditorium premises, where the council was being held, when they had gone there to enquire about the violence.
The teachers who came under the wrath are Proctor Prof Shamsul Alam, assistant proctors Dr Nizam Uddin, Prof Mainuddin, Dr Khondoker Imamul Haque and Dr Mokhesur Rahman, and Students Affairs Adviser Prof Zahid Hasan Milky.
Talking to reporters, Aslam demanded removal of Vice-chancellor Prof Faisul Islam Faruki. He said the authorities helped Rafique's group to damage JCD's image and allow the Islamic Chhatra Shibir to have an upper hand on the campus.
"We asked the authorities many times not to allow terrorists and expelled leaders on the campus. But they never listened to us," Aslam complained.
Intelligence sources confirmed Rafique met the vice-chancellor at his residence even on Wednesday evening.
The vice-chancellor could not be reached for comment, but the students affairs adviser said the allegations against the authorities were not true.
Rafique denied the charges and slapped similar allegations on Aslam.
The council was, however, held amid tight security after a two-hour break and many injured JCD leaders attended it with bandages on their heads and hands.
Central JCD Organising Secretary and Chief Guest at the council Abdul Quader Bhuiyan Jewel attributed the violence to internal feuds. "Both groups are fighting for leadership. We will try to declare the RU committee within a month," he said.
Rajshahi Divisional Assistant Organising Secretary Mahamud-unnabi Swapan chaired the council, while assistant joint secretaries Abu Bakar Siddique and Abdul Motin, among others, attended it.

Tarique meets

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quoting reliable sources at the US State Department.
But officials at the Bangladesh embassy kept mum on the meetings.
The report said Tarique had talks with FBI top officials at its headquarters. State Department officials however declined to comment on it.
FBI officials apprised the BNP leader of their secret and open missions to deal with crimes across the world. The meeting mainly gave Tarique an idea of how the FBI functions and how Bangladesh can benefit from its experience in curbing crimes.
Pentagon officials also gave Tarique an idea of their experience of international terrorism and suggested what Bangladesh should do in the present global context. The FBI and Pentagon officials expressed satisfaction at Bangladesh government's role in the current war on terrorism, the report quoted the sources as saying.
The News World said Tarique's visit to different installations in US Security Zone and meetings with the security and intelligence officials created much curiosity in the US. Political leaders or officials of any country can visit the US as guest of its government but secrecy of any visit gives rise to questions, it noted.
On Tuesday evening, Tarique, eldest son of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, had a meeting with the leaders of US Chamber of Commerce. He exchanged views on investment in Bangladesh and apprised them of the investment opportunities in the country.
On Wednesday, the BNP leader met influential US Senator John Mac Cain and Congressman Joseph Crowley, head of Bangladesh caucus in US Congress.
The same day, he met the Chairman of the National Democratic Institute, and South Asian Affairs Director of International Republican Institute. He also held talks with officials of the US Business Advisory Council in New York and officials at Microsoft Headquarters in Washington.
When contacted, close aides to Tarique and other BNP leaders in Dhaka confirmed his meetings with US defence and intelligence officials.
Tarique had earlier received an invitation from the US government, and the meetings were scheduled ahead of his visit, one aide said on condition of anonymity.
He declined to give details saying, "it is top secret."
When asked, an official of the US embassy said he is not aware of Tarique's meetings with US officials.

Hasina

FROM PAGE 1
She also mentioned Hasan's former career as an ambassador during the previous BNP rule. The AL chief said her party will resist elections under him.
Hasina was holding meetings with the leaders and workers of different levels of her party at Cox's Bazar Circuit House. She met separately with the presidents and general secretaries of the party's district and upazila committees.
Besides, a delegation of Rakhaiane Development Foundation led by its President Ushit Mong and General Secretary Kathing Aung, met the leader of the opposition at the circuit house.
The opposition leader came down heavily on the critics of hartal, saying that the killings and repressions cannot go without protest. She urged the AL leaders and activists to strengthen the party by organising people.
Hasina said people want to get rid of the 'misrule'. They don't want to see the alliance government in power any more.
Reiterating the demand for reforms of the caretaker government system and the Election Commission (EC), Hasina said people's right to vote must be protected by foiling the alliance government's plot to rig elections. She said reform in the caretaker government system and the EC is a must to protect people's right to franchise.
AL presidium members Motia Chowdhury, Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser, Joint Secretary Obaidul Kader, Organising Secretary Abdul Mannan and Bir Bahadur MP were present.

AL brings out

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Bangabandhu Avenue, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil directed the AL leaders and activists to take revenge of all the killings under the BNP-Jamaat coalition government.
"It is not time to protest killings anymore, it is now time to take revenge of the killings," Jalil said adding that life has become the cheapest thing under the BNP-led coalition government.
He said the government has totally failed to ensure the security of people's life and maintain law and order. He urged the people to stand united to oust the coalition government and establish the rule of law in the country.
Presiding over the rally, city unit AL President Mohammad Hanif said although the present government often claims that the law and order situation has improved, the killing of Bachchu near a police station on Tuesday has proved the contrary.
"Whenever the coalition fails to confront the Awami League politically, it goes on killing our leaders," Hanif said demanding punishment of the culprits responsible for the killing of Bachchu.
AL Presidium Member Toifal Ahmed and city AL General Secretary Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya also spoke on the occasion.

Shady deals of oil

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route has become an underground network for siphoning, with oil traded in the dark of night in exchange for rice, chickens, fishes and cash. Sometimes, huge amounts of oil are even pumped to hidden tanks in nearby villages and unknown shoals, or to barrels waiting on smaller trawlers, and then sold to the local markets, they said.
Locals in Bhola told The Daily Star that siphoning is a long-standing practice, as old as the nation itself.
"We have been observing this crime since the independence of the country," said Asif Hasan, a prominent journalist of the area.
Approximately Tk 3 crore is being siphoned off per month from the Dhaka-Chittagong route, according to the calculations of a high official in the ministry of shipping, who asked not to be named.
SHADOWY FIGURES BEHIND ASHADY TRADE
According to sources, a large crime syndicate comprised of local mastans, political high ups and government officials in the area are involved in the crime.
Local people further alleged that local administrations and police stations are regularly paid off by the syndicate to deter any actions against the malpractice.
The deputy commissioner of Bhola, Mohammad Abdul Mannan, admitted the presence of such activities but declined to make any specific allegations. "We have heard about the crime but nobody has come forward with a specific allegation," he said.
He also denied the allegation that the local administration is involved with the crime, saying instead that the administration's district law and order committee was preparing to launch a drive against it. He added that the police have been asked to perform regular patrols on the rivers to apprehend criminals on the spot.
Other sources paint a different picture, however, saying the oil siphoning syndicate controls a vast route and a widespread system of corruption involving crores of taka. "It is a big racket involving many people from laskars to high government officials," said a competent source. The share of money collected through siphoning even finds its way to government high officials sitting in related ministries, the source added.
Of a total fleet of 100 tankers in the country, 70 ply the Dhaka-Chittagong route. According to the shipping ministry official, 90 percent are engaged in the illegal pilferage.
Sources went on to detail a complete picture of the pilferage operation. The siphoning begins when the oceangoing mother vessels, which come from abroad, anchor at the outer anchorage of the Chittagong port.
The oil tankers, which transport crude oil from the mother vessels to the refinery, make underhanded deals with the vessel staff to procure additional oil. The discrepancies are hidden by doctoring huge gaps in the actual loading and loading records on the books.
The additional oil is then conveyed through a far-flung network of illegal channels, sold at the rate of Tk 15 to 20 per litre, as compared to the market rate of over Tk 30.
The trade in oil is lubricating the pockets of scores of people involved in the racket, including officials of government-owned Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
An owner of an oil tanker, for example, normally earns only Tk 7-8 lakh per month by transporting oil through the official channel.
But if he exploits the unofficial channel, he can earn even more than Tk 50 lakh per month, said sources involved with oil transport business.
The shipping ministry official added that, in at least one case of which he is aware, a syndicate paid Tk 5,000 per trip to the manager of a ship company.
The spoils of the illicit trade are also making many crewmembers rich, with incomes well beyond their normal salaries. The kind and money earned is distributed among the staff according to their position.
The average salary of a cabin crew, for example, is between Tk

2,800 to 5,000, but most manage to rake in over Tk 10,000 to 15,000 per month.
The unofficial income of a shipmaster is more than Tk 50,000 per month, though they officially receive a salary of only Tk 8,000 to 12,000.
But it is not only the crewmembers that profit from this illicit trade. This reporter also observed two government-appointed pilots siphoning oil from the tanker. One boarded from near Ramgati, Noakhali, and another from Chandpur. Both disembarked with a container full of petrol, the first at Chandpur, the second at Fatullah, where he sold the petrol to a road-side vendor immediately after arriving on land.
The laskars said the pilots are officially required to guide the ship, receiving a remuneration of Tk 300 per trip. But most do nothing but take oil from the ship as a gift.
"They are useless but we are forced to receive them as per a government rule," said Humayun Kabir, the shipmaster of the MT Madina.
T M Gias Uddin, the president of the Bangladesh Oil Tankers Owner Association, admitted that siphoning does take place on some scale, but claimed that 98 per cent of tanker owners are not involved.
The owners of oil tankers are the elite of society, and hardly any of them want their ships involved in such crimes, Gias observed. He added that the association has attempted several times to stop such activities, but has not had much success, in part because of the involvement of high ups within the syndicate.
He observed that siphoning will not cease until the oil companies are privatised.
"If the oil companies are fully privatised, the efficiency would be increased significantly," he claimed.
CHECKS, BALANCES, AND WORKAROUNDS
Private sector oil tankers are contracted by the government to carry and deposit oil at three main government-owned oil depots at Fatullah and Godnail in Narayanganj, namely Padma, Meghna and Jamuna. In return they receive a rent charge, around Tk three lakh per trip in the case of the MT Madina.
Later, the oil is distributed to different areas in the country via small bergs and trucks.
Oil company officials said they closely monitor the quantities of oil on their ships. Officials at Meghna Oil Company told The Daily Star that amounts of oil loaded and unloaded from the ship are recorded at both points along the voyage. Any deviations in quantity are deducted from the rent of the vessel.
Company officials said, however, that they accept a certain percentage as a system loss because of wastage during transportation. But if the wastage is beyond that limit, action is taken, they maintained.
But corrupt shipmasters circumvent such checks by loading additional oil on to their ships at the storage depots, paying a kickback to the loaders.
The many allegations of siphoning remain unreported. Even reports of siphoning or official actions against it are kept secret, the officials said, adding that pervasive corruption makes the problem difficult to trace and stop.
"It is very difficult to trace irregularities when corruption takes place with the connivance of government officials and private sector people," said an official of Meghna Petroleum Limited, requesting anonymity.
When contacted, Mostak Mollah, deputy general manager of Jamuna Oil Company Limited, told The Daily Star that private oil tankers are separately enlisted with each government oil company for carrying oil. The company takes administrative action, including recovery of lost funds and cancellation of contracts, if any gross discrepancies are reported, Mollah said.
He was unable to say, however, how many actions have been taken recently as a result of siphoning.

CEC to give proposals

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freely due to interference from the executive.
The EC put the reform issues high on its agenda after Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) polls of May 9 had revealed some fundamental flaws in polls management.
The secretary to the EC secretariat did not attend any of the meetings prepared to the CCC polls. The EC faced difficulties monitoring the polls.
There were reports of a conflict between the CEC and SM Zakaria, the EC secretary, who has been avoiding EC meetings for about a year.
The CEC had requested the government to withdraw Zakaria from the EC secretariat. The government did not respond to the call, instead it granted Zakaria a few months' extension after his tenure ended in last March.
REFORMS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT POLLS
The existing electoral rules allow deployment of army personnel only in the parliamentary elections. There is no provision for army deployment in the local government polls.
The government however deploys army to maintain law and order in the city corporation elections, which has become a convention.
During the last Union Parishad (UP) elections in 2002, a rift developed between the government and the EC as the government refused

to deploy army in the elections.
The EC will have legal power to recommend army deployment in the local government elections once the fresh rules are formulated.
The EC has also observed that in the absence of electoral enquiry committees the EC cannot take actions against irregularities in the local government elections. The enquiry committees play a vital role in checking such irregularities.
DISCORD IN EC
The CEC's move for the EC reforms has been a matter of discord between the election commissioners. Election Commissioner Safur Rahman apparently avoided the move by not attending any EC meeting on the reform proposal.
Sources said Safur may join a UNDP project in Afghanistan to work on electoral reform as an expert for six months.
Another Election Commissioner M Munsef Ali yesterday told journalists that he did not know that any reform proposal was finalised. He however admitted that they discussed the proposals at the EC meeting on April 16.
The CEC said the commission has approved the reform proposal and it is now final.
Sources said an election commissioner yesterday asked the CEC to discuss the reform issue at an EC meeting, but the CEC declined to discuss it again.

Free drugs for TB to people living with HIV

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The health ministry yesterday started giving free drugs for tuberculosis (TB) to 'people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA)' of Ashar Alo Society, an NGO run by the PLWHA to support themselves.
Health Secretary AFM Sarwar Kamal handed over a set of TB drugs (combination therapy) to Habiba Akhter, executive director of Ashar Alo Society, on the health ministry premises in the afternoon.
According to the health ministry statistics, one person dies of TB every 10 minutes and one is infected every two minutes in the country. This severe situation has placed Bangladesh in the fifth position in the world in terms of burden of TB patients.

Little progress

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told The Daily Star yesterday adding, "We do not have any precise supply."
The investigators yesterday recorded statements of two witnesses from Tejgaon area. One of the witnesses, an owner of a tea-stall at Tejgunipara, said he had seen four armed youths in the lane since the morning.
"They were not local boys," said a DB source quoting the witness, adding that they even bought cigarettes from that shop and the shop owner had not seen them in the area before.
Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition in parliament and AL Chief Sheikh Hasina visited Khorshed Alam's Tejgaon residence yesterday afternoon and consoled his family members.
Hasina during her half an hour stay with Khorshed's family urged all to observe the countrywide hartal tomorrow in protest of the murder.
Several thousand AL supporters gathered in front of the house of the slain law affairs secretary of Dhaka City AL and chanted slogans demanding punishment of the killers. The AL supporters then brought out a procession in the area.
AL leaders yesterday brought out a procession from their Bangabandhu Avenue office and paraded the adjacent roads protesting Bachchu's killing.
Residents of Tejgaon said Khorshed Alam was a calm and peaceful neighbour, while the AL activists said he was a dedicated party man serving AL supporters and leaders through his profession.
He dealt with the political cases mostly and fought for the AL activists and leaders without any fees, said the party men.
"We never realised he was such a big leader," said laundry man Zakir who resides next door and has served Khorshed.
Eight police personnel have been posted in front of Khorshed's residence.

CID quizzes 14
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accused who were granted bail on April 23.
Apart from this, charges were pressed against 43 accused in the arms haul case. Of them 13 accused are absconding, 16 in jail while the remaining 14 are on bail.
Earlier, ten truckloads of arms were seized at Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Ltd on the south bank of the river Karnaphuli on April 1, 2004.
When contacted, Mostak Mollah, deputy general manager of Jamuna Oil Company Limited, told The Daily Star that private oil tankers are separately enlisted with each government oil company for carrying oil. The company takes administrative action, including recovery of lost funds and cancellation of contracts, if any gross discrepancies are reported, Mollah said.
He was unable to say, however, how many actions have been taken recently as a result of siphoning.

Sircar, Moudud

FROM PAGE 20
"The Bar Association has been voicing the demand for Faisal Mahmud Faizee's withdrawal because the debate over his LLB certificate has not been settled yet and his work as a judge is immoral and indecent since he himself sought justice... The Association's demand is targeted at protecting the image of the highest court and the judges."
The release went on: "Although members of the association have not created any obstruction in the work of the Chief Justice or any other judge, the two persons (the speaker and law minister) have given false and misleading statements."
The SCBA leaders said there is no scope for raising a point of order on the SCBA's ongoing movement as per the rules of procedure of parliament.
"The Speaker himself violated the rules of procedure by illegally allowing a discussion on the matter and issuing a ruling under Article 301 of the rules of procedure. The ruling is out of his jurisdiction," the press release noted.
The May 17 decision to cancel the membership of Sircar and Moudud, both barristers, which was taken at the emergency general meeting, was unanimous, it said. "The membership of Moudud and two others were cancelled on December 2, 1990 as per a decision of the general meeting in the same manner."
"So, proper steps have been taken against them as per the constitution of the Association," the press release argued.
Sammilita Ainjibi Samannay Parishad, a lawyers' body, meantime, has urged all lawyers for a country-wide daylong court boycott tomorrow to protest the speaker and law minister's remarks and murder of Advocate Khorshed Alam Bachchu.
Its Convener Barister Amir-UL Islam and other leaders in a joint statement asked all lawyers to boycott the court, hold meetings and rallies, and offer prayers in their respective organisations.

Dhaka, Hanoi eye

FROM PAGE 1
potential sectors such as pharmaceuticals, leather, jute, agro-based industries, agricultural equipment and ICT.
Bangladesh recognised the commendable achievement of Vietnam in the field of agriculture.
The two sides showed keen interest in strengthening the existing cooperation in the field of agriculture, particularly in agro-processing, manufacturing agricultural equipment, bio-technology, farm management, intensive method of cultivation, research and exchange of training programme.
Both sides felt the need for more exchange of visits and enhanced interaction between the business communities of the two countries. In this context, they emphasised close cooperation between the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and the Vietnam Chambers of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) under the existing framework.
They agreed to promote cooperation on other fields such as culture, education, tourism, export and help forge people to people contact

between the two countries.
During the visit, the two prime ministers expressed satisfaction that the two countries share common perceptions on major regional and international issues and also work in close concert within the UN, Nam, G-77, ACD and other regional and international forums.
The leaders discussed the issues of Bangladesh's membership bid for the Asean Regional Forum (ARF), the Ganga-Mekong Cooperation Initiative and the proposed East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC).
Vietnam supported Bangladesh's greater participation in Asia's cooperation arrangements, including ARF.
Bangladesh also reaffirmed her support for Vietnam to join the WTO.
The Bangladesh prime minister extended her warm and cordial invitation to Prime Minister Phan Van Khai and Madam Phan Van Khai to visit Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time. Prime Minister Phan Van Khai accepted the invitation with pleasure. The visit will be arranged through diplomatic channel.

service, seen as promoting peace in the Himalayan region, claimed responsibility for the first blast May 11, a car bomb that killed two people and injured 34.
No group has claimed responsibility for the second blast, a grenade attack near a school the following day that killed a mother and daughter and injured 50 people, many of them students.
The bus service, launched April 7, established the first link in nearly 60 years between the two sides of the territory held in part by nuclear-armed Pakistan and India but claimed in full by both.
The bus is seen by many as the most significant fruit of a slow-moving 16-month peace process between India and Pakistan which have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir.
Over 40,000 people have died in the insurgency since the revolt erupted in 1989, according to an official count. Separatists say the toll is at least double that.

CMCH top PDB
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He said switching off the power when a number of patients were waiting to undergo emergency operation was a punishable offence.
On hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Monwarul Islam ordered officer-in-charge (OC) of Panchlaish Police Station to carry out an inquiry into the matter and take necessary legal actions.
The court also directed the OC to keep it informed of the findings of the inquiry and the steps taken.

UK envoy wants
assured that the UK would remain engaged with Bangladesh government to make the situation better.
He hoped that Bangladesh would make effort to address some of the areas that cause concern and it is the first duty of the government to get right law and order for making progress in every sector.
On human rights condition in Bangladesh, Choudhury said the British government has undertaken several projects in conjunction with Bangladesh government to protect the interests of minoritriestral people in Chittagong, Ahmadiyyas, Biharis and the Hindus.
Asked about fundamentalism and extremism, the high commissioner said this needs to be checked and be vigilant against the rise of these forces. He noted that Islam stands for peace, but it has been "hijacked by some extremist groups".
Asked if Labour Party defeat in the Bangladesh-British-dominated East London seat in this month's general election on Iraq issue would affect the bilateral relations, he replied in the negative.
Admitting that the war on Iraq is a divisive issue in Britain, he said George Galloway's win would not affect the ties with Bangladesh. "That's the strength of our democracy. Democracy produces interesting results and that is the beauty of democracy."
On bilateral ties, he said the bilateral relationship is now stronger than ever before. "Bangladesh is an important country that deserves our full attention and engagement."
He said Britain remains engaged to strengthen democratic foundations and promote constructive engagement between political parties and encourage positive use of democratic institutions, including parliament.
The United Kingdom is the largest bilateral donor to Bangladesh, Choudhury said, adding the annual aid programme increased to \$250 million last year, which is a 50 percent increase, to support the government's PRSP and reduce the level of poverty in the country.
Calling corruption a cancer that stops growth, he hoped that the Anti-Corruption Commission would start taking action against the menace.
DCAB President Shamim Ahmad chaired the function.