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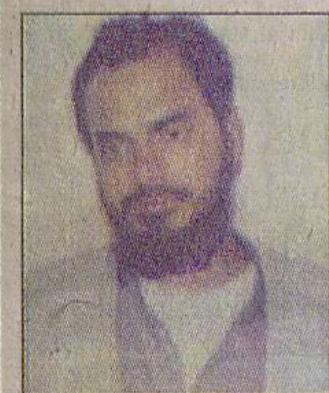
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BDR captures JMB top terror Saifullah

Rab rushes to C'Nawabganj to take control

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) captured the sixth Majlis-e-Shura member of the outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen



Khaled Saifullah

Bangladesh (JMB) Khaled Saifullah at a bordering village of Shibganj upazila in Chapainawabganj last night.

Lt Col Lutfar Rahman, commanding officer (CO) of BDR 6 Rifles Battalion, acknowledged the arrest, reports our staff correspondent in Rajshahi.

With the latest arrest, six out of seven members of the JMB top decision-making tier have been put behind bars. Salahuddin is still at large with a Tk 10 lakh bounty on his head.

A BDR patrol team of Teknaf border outpost (BOP) led by Havildar Yakub arrested Saifullah at a tea stall, 500 yards off the BOP around 12:30am when he was having tea. The outpost is about one and a half kilometres away from the Indian border.

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4 JMB leaders implicated in Prof Yunus murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police yesterday implicated four top leaders of outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in the Prof Yunus murder case.

The police showed the four JMB leaders arrested in the case and took three on seven-day remand. They are Rajshahi division commander Shafullah alias Tarik, Eastern Rajshahi zone commander Abu Isa alias Enamul, training commander Golimir Rahman alias Golam Mostafa, and bomb expert Abdul Matin alias Boma Matin.

Tarik was responsible for commanding Rajshahi zone covering Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Natore and Naogaon districts. Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)

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Ershad won't contest by-polls in Gaibandha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad yesterday decided not to contest the by-election in Gaibandha-4 parliamentary constituency in the face of severe opposition from party presidium members.

JP leaders, who had divided over Ershad's willingness to contest the by-election in Gaibandha-4 scheduled for May 9, at a meeting yesterday convinced the party chief to change his decision.

"The party chief will not contest the by-polls. The party will nominate its candidate," JP Presidium member Kazi Firoz Rashid told The Daily Star yesterday.

The meeting also decided to start a month long election campaigning across the country. The tour schedule will be declared in a couple of days.

Ershad was convicted in the Janata Tower case and has been barred from contesting elections.

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CONTROLLING INSTITUTIONS
JCD, Shibir clash in power battle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Clashes between two main pro-government student organisations -- Jatiyatabdhi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir -- are raging across the country again as both are desperate to dominate different educational institutions and capture tenders.

Since the BNP-Jamaat coalition's assuming office in October 2001, at least one activist of BNP's student wing JCD and one of Jamaat-e-Islami's student front Shibir have been killed and about 200 of both organisations injured in such clashes.

After a spate of violence in the



A student of the Institute of Fine Arts in Dhaka draws folk-motif on pottery yesterday ahead of Pahela Baishakh, which marks the beginning of a Bangla new year. The designed pots were sold at Tk 200 to Tk 500 each.

No immediate hike in fuel prices, says energy adviser

UNB, Dhaka

Energy Adviser Mahmudur Rahman yesterday ruled out any possibility of fuel price hike soon. Indicating the coming general elections, he told reporters: "In the present reality, I don't think the government will be interested to raise petroleum prices."

Rahman's remarks came following the World Bank's suggestion for enhancing the fuel price to minimise the loss of state-owned Petroleum Corporation of Bangladesh (BPC).

A mission of the multilateral donor agency, led by its senior economist Sandeep Mahajan, made the suggestion at a meeting with Finance and Planning Minister M Saiful Rahman at his

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JMB
Sedition case hearing May 7

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed May 7 for hearing on charge framing of the first sedition case against eight Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) leaders and activists.

Judge Mohammad Golam Hossain of the Additional District Judge and Bankruptcy Court set the hearing date after scrutinising the case docket.

The accused are Mohammad Rafiqul Islam alias Senu, 22, Mohammad Wahab, 26, Yaqub Ali, 21, Anwar Hossain, 23, Faruq Hossain alias Kosai Faruq, 25, Mohammad Wahiduzzaman alias Pintu, 20, Abdus Salam, 22, and Nurul Islam, 23. Of them Senu is now in custody while the others are still at large.

Sub-Inspector Iqbal Hossain, also the Investigation Officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet on December 27 last year against the accused to a first class magistrate's court in the city, showing 25 people as prosecution witnesses.

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25 injured in clash at Mohakhali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Clashes between Jatiyatabdhi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) at Institute of Health and Technology at Mohakhali in the capital left at least 25 activists injured yesterday morning.

The activists of JCD and ICS, student wings of ruling BNP and its alliance partner Jamaat-e-Islami, got engaged in the clashes over leadership of the institute and previous enmity between the two organisations, police and witnesses said.

JCD activists beat up Shibir activist Farooq on Monday on the institute premises, ICS said.

The following day, Shibir leaders threatened JCD activists from

Thaksin hands over power to deputy



AP, Bangkok

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra handed over power to a longtime friend and fellow police officer yesterday, less than 24 hours after saying he would step down over allegations of corruption and abuse of power.

Thaksin made the announcement that Deputy Prime Minister Chitchai Wannasathit would replace him in a speech to supporters outside his Thai Rak Thai party headquarters. The move follows two months of protests calling for his resignation.

"I have decided that if I have to rest to let the country move forward, I want to rest now. I have appointed Chitchai to do my work

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PHOTO: STAR

The magistrate of a mobile court examines coconut waste allegedly used in making spurious butter oil (ghee) at a factory in Goran in the city yesterday.

Anti-graft body sinks in deep legal abyss

Busy spending money to counter 78 writ petitions against its actions; no organogram yet in 17 months

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), which was supposed to bring the corrupt to justice, itself is now facing 78 writ petitions against its actions, including submitting charge sheets for misappropriating Tk 850 crore.

The situation has evolved as the 17-month-old institution resorted to framing charge sheets and filing First Information Report (FIR) without fixing any organisational structure to itself as required by the law.

Sources said at the High Court (HC) the ACC has appointed a panel of five lawyers, one of whom charges Tk 1 lakh for appearing in the court in a case for the first time and then Tk 25,000 per hearing.

THE PETITIONS

Forty-eight of the writ petitions have challenged the legality of the charge sheets in some cases filed by the ACC on the basis of investigations conducted by the Bac. Another seven petitions challenge the ACC's filing of FIRs on the basis of Bac inquiry.

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HEROIN SMUGGLING TO UK Tax intelligence checking returns of BD Foods

JASIM UDDIN KHAN

Income tax intelligence launched an investigation of BD Foods Limited and King and Co by scrutinising their income tax returns, to detect if there is any disparity between their actual incomes and their declared incomes.

The drive was launched recently following a report prepared by the National Board of Revenue (NBR), which found some of the directors

of the companies guilty of smuggling heroin in the guise of exporting legitimate products to the United Kingdom.

A primary investigation report found that a leading private company, BD Foods Limited, and its sister concern King & Co manipulated the entire export process to smuggle the illicit drug to the UK.

If the companies are involved with such international drug

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Rallies in Khulna, Pabna for power

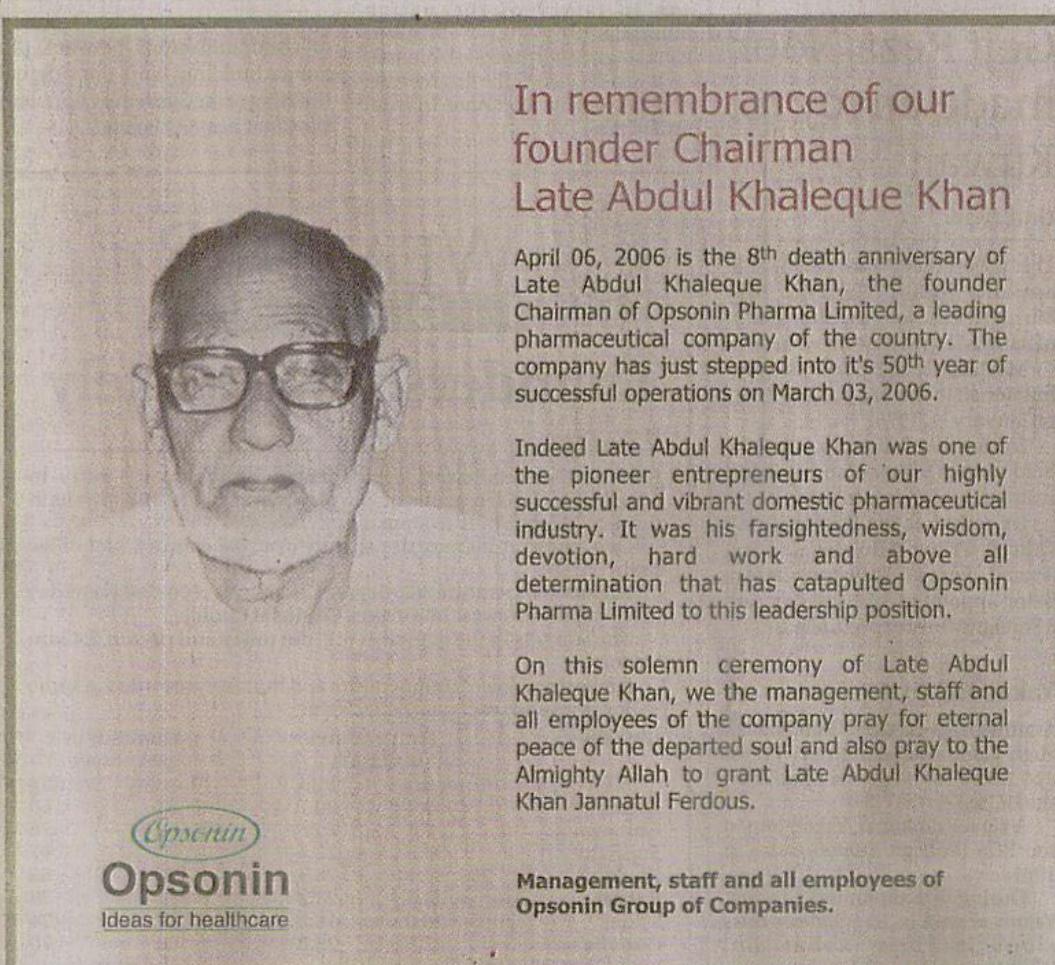
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna regional unit of Bangladesh Shop Owners Association (BSOA) laid siege to Bidyut Bhaban (office of the PDB) yesterday noon and submitted a memorandum to the managing director of West Zone Power Distribution Company demanding uninterrupted power supply to all the shopping centres from 6:00pm to 10:00pm everyday.

At a rally in front of Bidyut Bhaban speakers said severe load shedding of electricity has crippled the economic backbone of the southwestern region of the country and caused serious water crisis in Khulna city.

They demanded immediate installation of a 210MW power plant in Khulna that was a

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In remembrance of our founder Chairman Late Abdul Khaleque Khan

April 06, 2006 is the 8th death anniversary of Late Abdul Khaleque Khan, the founder Chairman of Opsonin Pharma Limited, a leading pharmaceutical company of the country. The company has just stepped into its 50th year of successful operations on March 03, 2006.

Indeed Late Abdul Khaleque Khan was one of the pioneer entrepreneurs of our highly successful and vibrant domestic pharmaceutical industry. It was his farsightedness, wisdom, devotion, hard work and above all determination that has catapulted Opsonin Pharma Limited to this leadership position.

On this solemn ceremony of Late Abdul Khaleque Khan, we the management, staff and all employees of the company pray for eternal peace of the departed soul and also pray to the Almighty Allah to grant Late Abdul Khaleque Khan Jannatul Ferdous.

Management, staff and all employees of Opsonin Group of Companies.

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