



PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SINDER

A girl hangs fish on a pole to leave them to dry off on the bank of Karnaphuli river in Chittagong yesterday. Dry fish producers are now busy as this season is the most appropriate time to produce dry fish.

## Bomb hits petrol tanker in Pakistan

**AFP, Chaman**

A bomb attached to a petrol tanker travelling from Pakistan to supply US forces in Afghanistan exploded yesterday but caused no casualties, officials said.

A convoy of four petrol tankers was near the town of Chaman, which borders Afghanistan's insurgency-hit Kandahar province, when the bomb exploded, a paramilitary commander told AFP.

The explosion overturned the tanker and a huge blaze started shortly afterwards, but no one was hurt and the other three tankers moved to safety, the official said.

The tanker driver fled unhurt after the explosion, witnesses said. Nobody claimed responsibility for the attack, but similar bombings in the past have been blamed on Taliban fighters.

## India swears in first 'untouchable' chief justice

**AFP, NEW DELHI**

India yesterday swore in its first Supreme Court chief justice from the oppressed group at the bottom of India's caste hierarchy once known as "untouchables".

President Abdul Kalam administered the oath to Konakuppakatil Gopinathan Balakrishnan, 61, at a simple ceremony in New Delhi.

"He is getting a good position, he has achieved this. I am very happy," Balakrishnan's octogenarian mother KM Sharda told India's NDTV television network after attending the ceremony.

Balakrishnan, the country's 37th chief justice, will serve until May 2010. He has already served as a senior judge on the Supreme Court since 2000.

The new chief justice was born in a village in the southern state of Kerala, and comes from a humble background.

A handful of Dalits, the name adopted by the group, have made it to the country's top posts in recent years, including former president KR Narayanan, who died in 2005.