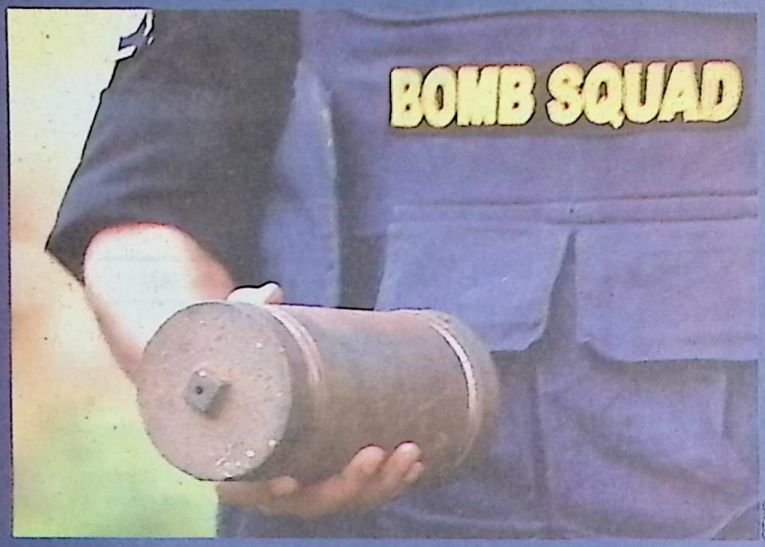
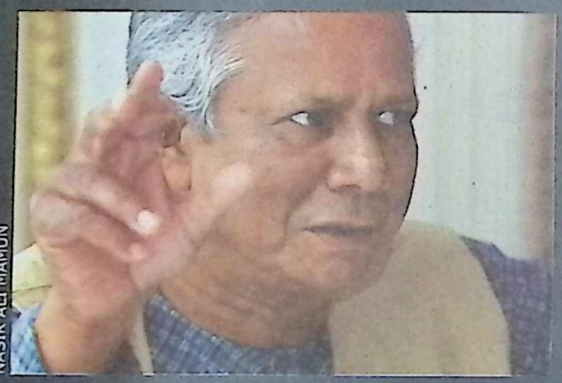


STAR

Bombs, again

Three near-simultaneous explosions in the early hours of May 1 rock the railway stations in Dhaka, Chittagong, and Sylhet, causing law enforcers to speculate as to whether the militants who carried out the countrywide serial blasts on August 17, 2005 are regrouping. Aluminium plates recovered from the blast sites bear inscriptions of "Zadid al Qaeda, Bangladesh" and single out NGOs and Ahmadiyas for condemnation.



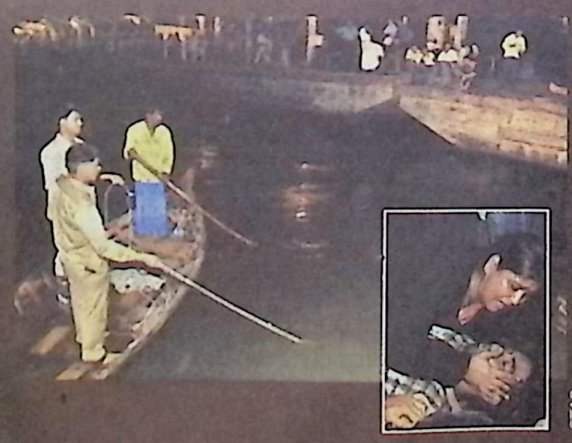
NASIR ALI MAMUN

Prof Yunus withdraws

"I am writing this letter to you to inform you that I am standing aside from my efforts to form a political party," writes Prof. Muhammad Yunus in an open letter to the public, published on May 3, adding, "I have seen those who initially encouraged me gradually losing their enthusiasm." The letter is his third open missive to the public, after his February 11 letter in which he solicited opinion as to whether to join politics and his February 22 letter in which he announced his intention to form a new political party.

Death on the Buriganga

At least ten people drown in the Buriganga following clashes involving two groups of picnickers and Ansars on board a launch at Sadarghat on May 4. The altercation initially breaks out when two groups of youths begin a brawl over a female entertainer. The fight is rekindled when the launch reaches Sadarghat terminal in the evening, and heavy-handed intervention by Ansars only aggravates the problem, causing many to leap into the water for safety.



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