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# Bibiyana power project draws 6 bidders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six international and local consortium and companies have submitted their papers yesterday for the pre-qualification bid for the 450 megawatt Bibiyana Power Project under the Power Cell of the Ministry of Power.

This is the second time a bidding is being held for this project.

According to sources, the participating companies are CMEC and NSRD - a Chinese joint venture, Globelec of UK, Independent Power Corp of UK, the Hong Kong based MPC with local company Shasha Denims, local Summit with GE of USA, Malaysian company Ranhill Berhad and another Malaysian company YTL.

The pre-qualification round is expected to complete within June.

This would be the first large power project under the new government as it struggles with difficulties with all gas-based power projects due to severe shortage of gas supply and pressure in the country.

The Bibiyana power project was pushed by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) in 2007 last year, much later than the other unimplemented larger power projects as Meghnaghat 2 and 3 and Sirajganj. The concept was to utilise gas from the Bibiyana field operated by Chevron, which controls almost half of the country's gas supply at the moment.

This is the second time the Power Cell is

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An employee of Northern Apparel Ltd at Agrabad, Chittagong, smashes the glass of a cubicle yesterday as the garment workers went on a rampage demanding arrear wages. Inset, the vandalised sewing machines.

## RMG factory vandalised for arrears

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Enraged workers went on a rampage at a ready-made garments factory in the port city yesterday as the factory owner failed to pay wages of last month.

Workers alleged that the authority breached their verbal promise to pay the arrears twice, once on April 15 and later on April 20. Finally, they fixed yesterday for the payment following a meeting with Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) officials.

Sources said the workers became infuriated seeing police inside the factory premises early in the morning.

Over 200 workers, mostly female, of the Northern

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## Startling confession from CUFL's ex-MD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Former managing director of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL) Mohsin Talukder yesterday implicated the then industries secretary and Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) chairman in the offloading of the 10 truckloads of arms and ammunition hauled in 2004.

Mohsin in his confessional statement on the second day of his two-day fresh remand mentioned about former BCIC chairman Maj General Imamuzzaman. He also claimed to have informed the then industries secretary Nurul Amin who was staying at the CUFL rest house the night the consignment reached.

The former CUFL MD made the hour-long confessional statement after he was brought to the court around 12:30am. Metropolitan Magistrate Osman Gani recorded the three-page statement, sources said.

In the confessional statement Mohsin Talukder said he was

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## BDR MUTINY Probe body examining TV coverage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The national committee formed to probe the BDR mutiny is now examining the electronic media coverage of the BDR mutiny and conversing to senior journalists of private TV channels about it.

The committee has already held talks with heads of news of several satellite TV channels in the last two days at Pilkhana and discussed the role of media coverage during the mutiny.

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## JS probe finds Hamid clean

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary sub-committee yesterday said Abdul Hamid was not involved in any irregularity in recruiting employees during his over three-month tenure as the speaker of the House in the seventh parliament.

"We did not find any irregularity by Abdul Hamid who had served as speaker for three months and eighteen days in the seventh parliament," Mujibul Haque Chunnun, chief of the sub-committee, told reporters at the parliament building after a three-hour-long meeting of the sub-committee.

"He (Abdul Hamid, present speaker of the House) recruited a total of six employees (three on permanent and three on master roll basis) in line with the rules. We have examined all documents but found no irregularity in recruiting employees during his tenure," Chunnun said.

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## 73 killed in twin suicide blasts in Baghdad

al-Qaeda boss in Iraq captured

AFP, Baghdad

The Iraqi military announced the capture yesterday of the man they say is the head of al-Qaeda in Iraq, as at least 73 people were killed in two bloody suicide bombings.

"Abu Omar al-Baghdadi was arrested today in Baghdad," Baghdad security spokesman Major General Qasim Atta told AFP. "It was Iraqi forces who arrested him based on an intelligence tipoff from someone."

Baghdadi is said to be the leader of the Islamic State of Iraq, a self-styled umbrella organisation for al-Qaeda affiliated insurgent groups fighting US and Iraqi forces.

He has been reported captured or killed several times in the past.

But the US military claims there is nobody called Baghdadi in the Islamic State of Iraq, and that it is merely an Internet-based organisation.

The Iraqi military's announcement came amid a surge in bloodshed in two attacks on Thursday.

In the deadliest strike, at least 45 people, including Iranian pilgrims, were killed when a suicide bomber struck a restaurant in a town northeast of Baghdad, a military official said.

Another 28 people, including children, were killed in a suicide attack on a police patrol in

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People of Moghbazar Wireless Railgate area yesterday queue up their water vessels and wait for the Wasa tanker to arrive as they are suffering from acute water supply shortage.

## Indian envoy meets Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia and Indian High Commissioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty agreed that there should be regular discussion at all levels between Bangladesh and India for further strengthening bilateral ties.

They discussed the happenings in both the countries as well as in the neighbourhoods.

Both sides also expressed a unanimous opinion that the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Rajasthan win a humdinger

AFP, Cape Town

Yusuf Pathan slammed 18 runs off four balls as the Rajasthan Royals snatched victory over the Kolkata Knight Riders in a 'super over' after their Indian Premier League match ended in a tie at Newlands Thursday.

Kolkata needed only seven to win off the last over of the normal match, bowled by teenaged left-arm fast bowler Kamran Khan.

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## Meeting with Nasaka ends without result Myanmar vows to continue construction on border

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

The battalion-level flag meeting in Myanmar territory between border force BDR and Nasaka ended yesterday without any understanding to resolve the dispute over construction of embankment within 50 yards of the zero line.

Nasaka told the meeting that they would continue to build the dam saying the construction at the Myanmar border of Naaf river is going on the basis of the agreement of the two foreign

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**চেহলাম**

আমাদের প্রাণপ্রিয় ছেলে, সৈয়দ মুহাম্মদুল বারী অস্ত্র'র চেহলাম আজ ২৪শে এপ্রিল, শুক্রবার, বাদ জুম'আ ধানমন্ডিহু বাসভবনে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

উল্লেখ্য, অস্ত্র, মরহুম সৈয়দ আব্দুল বারী (প্রাক্তন জেলা প্রশাসক) ও মরহুমা জোবেদা বারীর নাতি এবং মরহুম সৈয়দ মোহাম্মদ জোবায়ের (প্রাক্তন সচিব- বাংলাদেশ সরকার) এর ভাতিজা।

সকল শুভানুধ্যায়ীগণকে চেহলামে উপস্থিত হয়ে মরহুমের আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনায় শরিক হবার জন্য বিনীত অনুরোধ জানাচ্ছি।

মুরসালিনা মোবিন হিমা (মো), সৈয়দ মোবিনুল বারী টুন (বাবা)  
মোবাইল: ০১৯১৩-৩৮০০০০

## ASK worried at deaths of 16 BDR men

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), a human rights watchdog, expressed deep concern yesterday over unnatural deaths of 16 Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) jawans after the mutiny at Pilkhana.

The ASK demanded

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Prayer Timing		
April 24		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-25	5-00
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-27	6-31
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Millions vote in 2nd round of Indian polls

Brisk voting reported in 12 states, violence in Jharkhand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

An estimated 55 percent of nearly 195 million Indians exercised their franchise yesterday in the second phase of parliamentary elections.

Yesterday's polling was marred by stray violence in the eastern state of Jharkhand where Naxal's landmines and indiscriminate fire injured two polling officials.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, accompanied by his wife Gursharan Kaur, cast his vote at a polling centre set up in a school in Dispur under Guwahati Lok Sabha constituency in Assam.

Voting began on moderate to brisk note in 140 constituencies spread across 12 states in the second round of the five-phase elections

amidst deployment of thousands of security personnel.

The second round of the polling was comparatively peaceful after 16 people were killed in Naxal triggered violence during last week's first phase of voting.

The second round of polling, the biggest of the five phases, involves people from India's rural heartland, the IT centre of Bangalore and some states where Naxal rebels are strong.

The second phase of polling covering the highest number of constituencies, 140, saw the exercise completed in 265 parliamentary seats - nearly half of the total of strength of Lok Sabha, 543 seats. In the first phase of polling, 125 constituencies were decided.

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## Tamil Tigers still cordoned off Lanka rules out amnesty

AFP, AP, Colombo

Tamil Tiger rebels encircled in a tiny strip of land by Sri Lankan troops are still putting up stiff resistance despite calls for their surrender, the military said yesterday.

The army said the guerrillas controlled a mere 10-12 square kilometres (around four square miles) of territory on the north-east coast, where thousands of civilians are still trapped by the fighting.

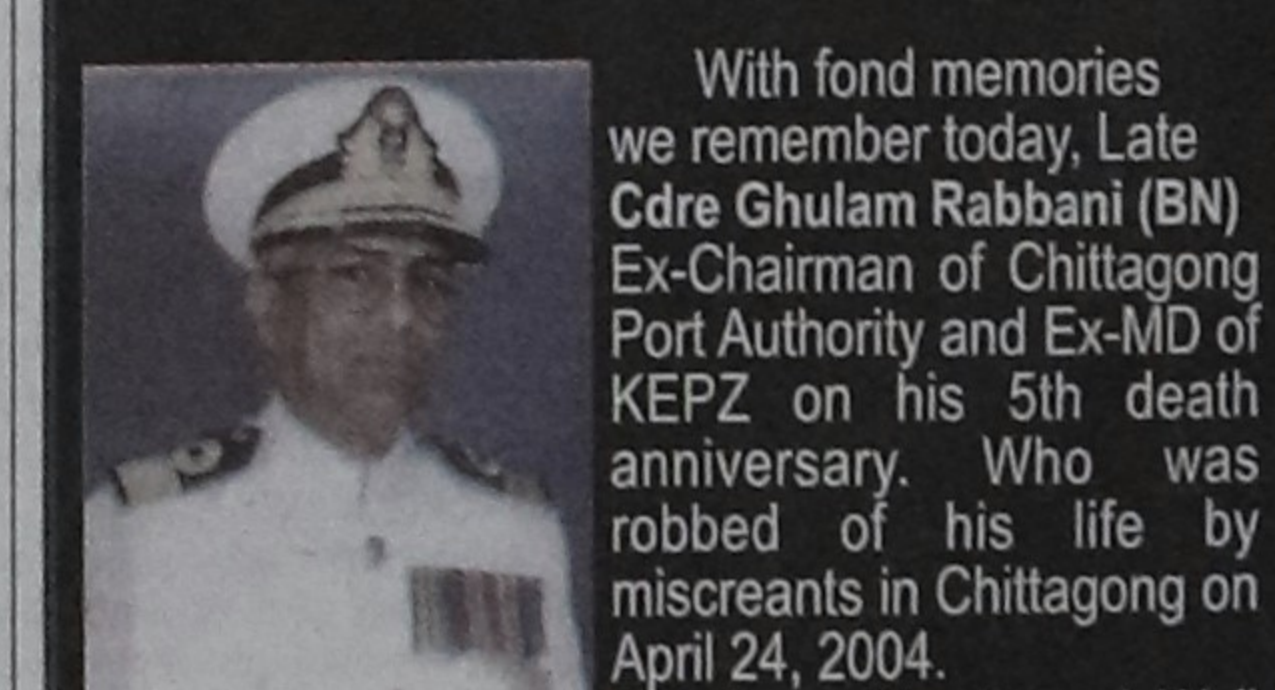
Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara, the island's military spokesman, said the Tigers were using artillery and tanks.

"There are sporadic clashes but our priority is to get the civilians out. We can finish them off very quickly after the civilians get out of the way," he said.

"We can claim we have completely defeated the Tigers when we have captured the remaining area," he said. The defence ministry, meanwhile, said guerrilla resistance was "dwindling."

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## IN REMEMBRANCE



With fond memories we remember today, Late Cdre Ghulam Rabbani (BN) Ex-Chairman of Chittagong Port Authority and Ex-MD of KEPZ on his 5th death anniversary. Who was robbed of his life by miscreants in Chittagong on April 24, 2004.

Relatives, friends and Well wishers are requested to remember him in their prayers. Qur'an Khatam, Prayer and Feeding the destitutes have been organized.

We the family members appeal to our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for re-opening of the case for a fair trial and justice.

-Bereaved Family