

## Hasina, Khaleda greet Sonia, Manmohan

BSS, UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday greeted Congress leader Manmohan Singh on his party's massive victory in the Lok Sabha elections.

"I have great pleasure in extending on behalf of the people and the government of Bangladesh, our warmest congratulations to you on your re-election as the Prime Minister of the Republic of India," said Hasina in a statement.

She also made a phone call to Singh to congratulate him. The "emphatic victory" she said, was a testimony of the people's confidence and satisfaction.

The people of Bangladesh always recall with gratitude the assistance and support of India and its people during Bangladesh's Liberation War. Hasina expects to work closely with Singh in the coming days "to raise this excellent relationship to an even more meaningful level."

Earlier, Sheikh Hasina greeted India's Congress

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## Political partners in crime to be caught

Vows govt as 2 ex-NSI chiefs remanded in 10-truck ammo haul

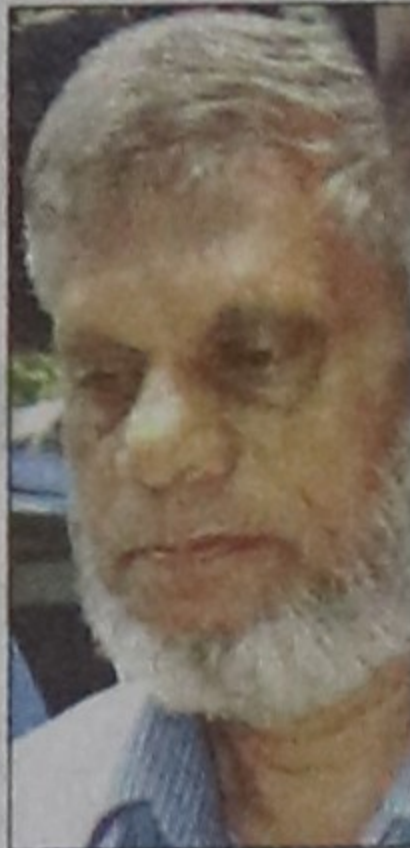
STAR REPORT

The government yesterday expressed its firm stand on bringing to book all political bigwigs and high government officials if investigation finds their involvement with the smuggling of 10-truck-load of arms and ammunition in Chittagong in 2004.

"Anyone linked to the incident using political identity, government position and state mechanisms will be brought to book. The government will not spare anyone," State Minister for Home Tanjim Ahmad Sohel Taj said yesterday at his office one day after the arrest of two former National Security Intelligence (NSI) directors general.

The arrested NSI DGs--Maj Gen (ret'd) Rezaqul Haider Chowdhury and Brig Gen (ret'd) M Abdur Rahim--were yesterday placed on a three-day remand each in connection with the sensational Chittagong arms haul case.

Referring to the confessional statement of arrested former NSI director (security) Sahab Uddin, the public prose-



Maj Gen (ret'd) Rezaqul Haider Chowdhury, left, and Brig Gen (ret'd) M Abdur Rahim, right. In our photo caption on page 1 yesterday Rezaqul Haider and Abdur Rahim were identified incorrectly. We regret the inadvertent error.

cutor said both the former NSI chiefs helped transport the deadly consignment through Bangladesh from China before it was hauled at the Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Company Ltd jetty in the early

hours of April 02, 2004.

Our Chittagong office says as journalists took chances to ask Abdur Rahim a few questions during the court proceedings, he told them that Sahab Uddin implicated him intentionally to save himself. He was holding the holy Quran on the chest during the whole time.

At one stage of the remand hearing, Rezaqul Haider wanted to speak to defend himself, but the court did not allow him as the state lawyer raised objection saying the defence lawyers had already told whatever he had to say.

The court of Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Mahabubur Rahman granted three days' remand against the Criminal Investigation Department's (CID) prayer for five days' remand each, rejecting defence petitions for cancellation of the remand prayers.

From the court the CID took both the former NSI chiefs to its Chittagong divisional headquarters at Dampara Police Lines in the city for interrogation.

The two former NSI chiefs were

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## Act fast to save rivers

JS body asks industries, environment ministries to stop pollution

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary body yesterday expressed concern over river pollution and asked the industries and environment ministries to take immediate measures to save the rivers, especially the Buriganga, Turag, Balu and the Shitalakhya, from pollution.

The parliamentary standing committee on land ministry also asked the ministries to take measures so that industrial waste, especially of tanneries, do not end up in the rivers.

The committee will sit with high officials of industries and environment ministries in its next meeting to discuss the issue in detail.

The body in its meeting yesterday also asked director general (land record) and deputy commissioners concerned to conduct a fresh survey to identify areas of rivers and canals across the country that have been gobbled up by encroachers so that they could be recovered.

The committee members in the meeting said rivers are the lifelines of Bangladesh and if they cannot be saved, the country will not be saved, meeting sources told The Daily Star.

The three-and-a-half-hour-long meeting was held at the parliament building.

AKM Mozammel Huq, chairman of the body, stressed the need for immediate action to protect the Buriganga, Turag, Balu

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## KHALEDA'S CANTT HOUSE Supplementary plea filed for HC stay on govt notice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday filed a supplementary writ petition with the High Court (HC) seeking a stay order on the government's show cause notice over her cantonment house.

The HC might hold hearing of this petition today along with a pending writ petition filed by Khaleda challenging the legality of the government notice asking her to leave the cantonment house.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed and Justice Moeenul Islam Chowdhury yesterday permitted Khaleda to swear affidavit through her authorised person to file the petition along with her pending writ petition.

The bench on May 12 accepted Khaleda's writ petition, as three judges of the HC felt embarrassed and one judge refused to hear the same petition.

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## Tigers to put down arms

70 Lankan rebels killed while trying to escape final battle

AFP, AP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels yesterday said they would put down their weapons after a 37-year battle for an independent ethnic homeland, with their last remaining fighters encircled in the jungle.

Troops on Sunday killed at least 70 rebels trying to escape the 0.4-square mile (1-square kilometre) patch of land that government troops have surrounded, the military said. However, the Tamil Tigers' top commanders remained at large. The military said the rebel leadership was likely still in the conflict zone and was planning a mass suicide.

Thousands of Sri Lankans poured into the streets Sunday morning, dancing and setting off celebratory fireworks, after President Mahinda Rajapaksa declared victory in the country's quarter-century civil war with the separatist rebels.

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PHOTO: AFP

This handout picture of May 16 released by the Sri Lankan Defence Ministry yesterday shows troops after capturing the last patch of coastline in the Mullaitivu district held by the Tamil Tigers, leaving the rebels completely surrounded and cut off from any sea escape.

## BNP finalises leaders of convening committees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP has finalised names for conveners and joint conveners posts in its organisational district units' convening committees to reorganise the party at the grassroots level.

However, a few of the names are yet to be finalised and discussions were going on last night to finalise them, sources said.

Party leaders said the BNP would announce the names this week after dissolving the existing committees of its 75 organisational district units.

According to the party's decision, conveners and joint conveners will form

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## Amini sent to jail

Charged with bomb attack on May 1 rally

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Mufti Fazlul Haq Amini, chairman of a faction of Islami Oikya Jote, was sent to jail after he surrendered before a Dhaka court yesterday in a case filed against him and nine others on charge of bomb attack on a Sramik League procession on May 1 this year.

Metropolitan Magistrate Tofail Hassan passed the order rejecting his bail prayer in the case when Amini along with his lawyers appeared before it.

Two other accused in the same case--Moulana Kamal Uddin Saleh and Moulana Hafez Badrul Islam--also were sent to jail yesterday on surrender.

Moving the bail petition, lawyers told the court that their clients were implicated in the case as part of a conspir-



Fazlul Haq Amini

acy to harass them. On the day of incident, the time of occurrence was shown at 7:00 pm

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আরো একটি অর্থনৈতিক সম্ভাবনার দ্বার উন্মোচন

**ঢাকার মোহাম্মদপুরে**

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## JU SEXUAL HARASSMENT HC orders re-probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday declared illegal Jahangirnagar University authorities' decisions of exonerating drama and dramatics faculty member Sanowar Hossain Sunny from sexual harassment charges and suspending six students on charge of assaulting him.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Quamrul Islam Siddiqui also directed the JU authorities to hold a fresh enquiry into the incident and take action against the alleged persons. The bench insists that neutral persons conduct

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**OnlinePoll** ✓

Does the government's ongoing crackdown on militants make you feel safe from terrorist attacks?

☐ Yes (40.75%) ☐ No (55.49%) ☐ No Comments (3.76%)

**Total votes: 665**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Law enforcers in the city decided not to seize over four lakh rickshaws with fake documents considering the livelihood of rickshaw pullers and owners. Do you support this?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

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