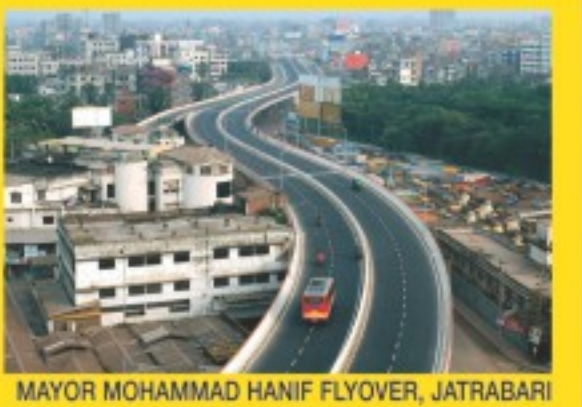


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FOR A DROP TO DRINK



Pitchers, cans and bottles are queued up at a tap of a Wasa pump station at Goran in the capital yesterday. People of Goran, Madertek and Bashabo have been lining up here for water for the last three years as the water supplied to their homes reeks. The supplied water can be used for washing up things but cannot be used for drinking. *Top right*, a woman holding a child takes water home on a rickshaw. *Bottom right*, children pause to rest as they take bottles and cans of water home from the pump station.

PHOTO:
SK ENAMUL HAQ

Indian polls face security challenge

Maoist rebels kill 14 as election held in four states; Rahul files nominations

STAR REPORT

Maoist rebels killed 14 people in two poll-related blasts yesterday in an insurgency-hit region of central India, police said, highlighting the major security challenges faced in staging the nation's marathon general elections.

The violence, the deadliest since the elections began last Monday, came as Indians cast ballots in the southern resort state of Goa and in the far-flung northeast in another round of the multi-phase elections that wind up May 12 with results four days later.

Most of those killed yesterday were

charged with ensuring election voter safety or other polling-related tasks.

Seven polling officials died when Maoists blew up their bus in the state of Chhattisgarh, senior police officer Gurjinder Pal Singh told AFP. Five others were injured.

There was no voting in Chhattisgarh yesterday -- polling began there on April 10 with two more rounds scheduled in the state on April 17 and April 24.

However, in Goa, Assam, Tripura and Sikkim, hundreds of thousands cast their vote in the fifth phase of elections, marking

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Mamata defends stance on Teesta

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The Teesta water-sharing issue with Bangladesh and exchange of adversely-held enclaves yesterday figured for the first time in West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's Lok Sabha election campaign and she defended her opposition to the Teesta deal.

Mamata told an election rally in Cooch Behar bordering Bangladesh that her government would take a view on the enclaves issue after ascertaining the wishes of the people residing in the adversely-possessed areas.

In 2011, Mamata, then an ally of the Congress-led UPA government, had backed out from Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Bangladesh opposing the Teesta water-sharing treaty between India and the neighbour.

Touching on Teesta water-sharing and defending her stand on the issue, Mamata said "Why did I speak out on Teesta (water sharing)? Now you are seeing that Teesta has dried. The situation has been made such that in the coming



SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

3 Shibir men held

Pakistani flag, Jihadi books seized from Satkhira Jamaat office

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Three activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir were detained in Satkhira while they were allegedly planning subversive acts.

Police seized a Pakistani flag, a number of Jihadi books, video cassettes and over a hundred sticks while detaining Tamim Ahmed, 24, Iqbal Hossain, 23, and Monir Hossain, 24, from the district unit office of Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday. Monir is the president of Satkhira town unit Chhatra Shibir.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

AL'S DHAKA CITY THANA UNITS Councils held yet leaders not elected

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Conferences of 41 thana units out of 49 under Dhaka city unit Awami League were held after more than a decade, but the meetings could not pick the new thana leadership.

In every council session, party men of the respective thanas had high hopes of getting new leadership. But they were frustrated that no election was held in the meetings to pick new leaders, pointing to lack of democracy within the party.

AL sources said elections were not held at the thana level as per the directives of city AL leaders. After completion of all the thana councils, AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will announce the committees as the councillors have given her the responsibility.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Books of street vendors at Nilkhet in the capital burn during a clash between the shopkeepers and students of Dhaka University yesterday. The clash ensued after a shop owner beat up a student of the university during an altercation over returning of a book. *Inset*, police with a riot car trying to control the situation.

PHOTO: COURTESY

DU students clash with book traders

18 hurt

DU CORRESPONDENT

At least 18 people, including 16 Dhaka University students, were injured in a clash between DU students and traders of Nilkhet book market over changing a book at a shop there yesterday afternoon.

Around eight bookstalls on the pavement by the market were torched and another eight vandalised during the clash.

Witnesses said some shopkeepers around 5:25pm beat up Noor, a first year student of public administration department, following an altercation with the student and his two friends at Sonia Medical Book Store over changing a book which Noor had bought earlier.

Hearing the news, over 100 students of Sergeant

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

PRAYER TIMING April 13		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-28	6-28
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

RAMNA BATAMUL BLAST

Wait for justice could end after 13 years

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

As the nation prepares to celebrate Pahela Baishakh tomorrow, the horrifying images of the bomb attack at Ramna Batamul 13 years ago still haunt people and they are still waiting for justice to be delivered.

However, their wait could be over within

a few months as the trial is done and just one technical issue could hold back the declaration of a date for verdict delivery.

Ten people had died in the attack on the crowd that gathered to watch Chhayanaut's programme welcoming the Bangla Year 1408 (April 14, 2001).

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Horrific torture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Marks of burns and thrashing on his little malnourished body have shocked medical staff at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Ten-year-old Masum weighs just 14 kilograms. He was subjected to severe abuse and suffered extreme malnutrition, according to the doctors' observations noted down in the patient's file.

In the face of acute poverty, his father, a farmer, sent him at this early age to the capital to work as a domestic help, said Mohammad Sadek Ali, a cousin of the boy. Another cousin Yasmin brought him along from Kishoreganj to Dhaka city around two and a half months ago and arranged a job for him at a house in Mohammadpur near Shia Mosque.

"The people at the house where I worked fed me once a day. I was given some rice in the morning and that was it,"

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Masum

The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with the BNP's claim that the administration and the Election Commission were openly biased towards the candidates backed by the ruling party in the recently held upazila elections?

Yes (87%) No (13%)

TOTAL VOTES: 238

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Gonatantrik Odhikar Shurokkha Parshad's demand to bring hartal under a legal framework so that it does not turn violent?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

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