Press stands patriotic in Jamaat for a fundamentalist Muntasir freed times of national crisis

City roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The press in Bangladesh has always played a significant role since the inception of the country and especially at times of national crises

Although the press apparently looks divided, it alone stood 'unitedly, courageously and patriotically' to uphold the sovereignty of the country, its image and the national entity. But the successive ruling parties have not given due importance to the press because of their 'ignorance,' which obstructed its proper growth.

This was the unanimous view of participants at a roundtable on "Media Aggression Against Bangladesh" in the city vesterday, organised by the Centre for Human Rights.

The called for ensuring full freedom of the press and building a 'defensive' mechanism to fight media propaganda against Bangladesh.

The speakers said the recent campaign in a section of the international media greatly damaged the image of the country. Only the domestic media can give a befitting response to such malacious campaigns and help restore the country's

The participants included political leaders, educationists, former civil and military offcials, journalists, lawyers and businessmen. Former secretary Dr Shah Mohammad Abdul Hannan chaired the discussion and Barrister Abdur Razzak moderated it.

Several speakers blamed Bangladesh missions abroad for their 'inactivity' and said it seems the diplomats based there are just doing government job. They 'not pro-active'

Relief Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf,

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima Rahman, Cultural Secretary

Nazmul Ahsan and Director General

of Bangla Academy Monsur Musa

reminded all concerned of the respon-

tions of common people are well-

reflected in Jasimuddin's writings, she

noted and recalled the poet's contribu-

tion to enriching the country's folk

qualified translators and publishers to

take initiative to translate the works of

eminent writers in foreign languages

which can bring international repute

uphold Bengali literature before the

world," she said assuring her govern-

ment's all possible assistance in this

seized two more packets of gold

chains hidden under a passenger

later handed over to the Airport

Police Station. A case has been filed

with the police station in this regard.

seized gold ornaments at the cus-

toms warehouse. A departmental

case was also filed in this connection.

The customs deposited the

The sweeper was arrested and

7.5 kg gold

seat of the aircraft.

"Cross the language barriers and

The prime minister in her address

also spoke on the occasion.

progress of the nation

and in many cases they are 'over

Speaking on the occasion. Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan lauded the role of the domestic media and said the press here stood unitedly when a section of the international media launched an orchestrated campaign against the country

He mentioned that the two foreign journalists who came to Bangladesh and wrote fabricated and imaginary reports did not visit any part of the country. "They even did not come out of their air-conditioned rooms and wrote reports without any attribution,"

Referring to his recent meetings with a number of world leaders and ministers, the foreign minister said most of them did not believe those

Now the impression of most world leaders including those of the USA is that Bangladesh never patronises terrorism and fundamentalism. he

Morshed Khan thought that publication of reports against Bangladesh in a section of the international media might have been initiated and funded some guarters. This is becoming clear to all gradu-

The minister brushed aside the contention that Bangladesh is a moderate Muslim democracy and said " Bangladesh with a Muslim majority is truly practising modern democracy.'

"If anybody terms Bangladesh a Muslim democracy, then I will say there is Christian democracy where

Army pullout Secular spirit FROM PAGE 1

sibility towards society and the state that restrains one from self-destruction Sources at the civil and military and vengeance and paves the way for administrations said although there are cantonments in Dhaka and Paying due tributes to the great Chittagong there may be some bard. Khaleda Zia said Jasimuddin is the pride of the nation and his works need more research and analysis. Hopes, expectations, sorrows happiness, exploitation and depriva-

hend further breakout of violent crimes in absence of the army. However, army intelligence wil keep vigil on the situation. Moreover, if need be the army may assist the Rapid Action Team (RAT) composed of highly trained police-

men which is likely to swing into action from January 17. Sources said one of the reasons of troops pullout is that most soldiers will get busy with the winter exercise. Troops are to engage in the winter exercise which is crucial since their promotion and posting

mance in the exercise. Sources said the troops withdrawal goes along schedule and that it has nothing to do with the Union Parishad elections to get

underway on January 25. Government policymakers believe the troops deployment has greatly contributed to a fall in crime incidents. But the deaths of more than 44 people following arrest and detention during the drive has drawn scathing criticism for the

Domestic event

reported deportation move and following the developments in this regard.

A Reuters report from New Delhi, quoting the Indian interior ministry, said Tuesday that India would deport more than 20 million 'illegal Bangladeshi immigrants on security

actions against Bangladesh might be the latter's "Look East" foreign policy

and move to forge closer ties with China in particular.

"totally untrue and baseless" Indian China for power generation. "The Look East policy is not against

any country. It's an extension of our policy of bettering relations with all countries including the neighbours in South Asia," he said. "We've been having deep relations with China for long and it's not directed at any third

"We've not as yet received any official communication from Indian side about the reported deportation move," he said. He also said Dhaka has asked its mission in New Delhi to report on the issue. "Bangladesh's

action depends on the Indian follow-Even West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharjee was not

decision, he said referring to reports

The foreign secretary also informed reporters that two Bangladesh-India joint experts groups would meet in Dhaka in the third week

The first joint meeting at secretary level and the other at joint secretary level would discuss issues, including smuggled goods. sharing of common river waters and

common borders, he added. He termed the meets as very important being held against the backdrop of recent difficulties in the bilateral ties between the two next-

Asked about the postponed Saarc summit, the foreign secretary said it was the responsibility of Nepal, the current chair of the South Asian grouping, to take initiatives for reconvening the 12th summit by persuading both India and Pakistan.

door neighbours.

"But Bangladesh wants reconvening of the summit at the earliest possible time, keeping bilateral issues out of

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan was told by his Nepalese counterpart on the sidelines of BIMSTEC ministerial meet in Colombo last month that Kathmandu would initiate talks with India and Pakistan, the foreign

Bangladesh: Shahriar STAFF CORRESPONDENT The coalition government, especially its partner the Jamaat-e-Islami, is intentionally destroying the

image of Bangladesh as a liberal

democratic country with an aim to

turn it into a fundamentalist one.

said writer-iournalist Shahriar Kabir.

leaders and activists in the name of

army drive, and the tortures and

deaths in custody substantiates

He was speaking at a press

conference on 'Human rights in

Bangladesh: Repression on diver-

gent views' organised by the South

Asian People's Union against

Fundamentalism and Commu-

People are losing confidence in

law and order as the government is

misusing the Special Powers Act,

Grameen Bank chief executive Prof

Muhammad Yunus has said micro-

finance has made the foundation for

initiating a full-scale attack on

poverty, targeting to halve the

"The base has been established -

now we've to look for the next tier."

he told the concluding session of an

international seminar yesterday,

highlighting the benchmark suc-

cesses of two decades of micro-

finance activities, of which he is a

Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation

(PKSF) organised the two-day

international seminar on "Attacking

poverty with micro-credit" at its

conference room at Agargaon. Prime

Minister Khaleda Zia opened the

seminar Wednesday, also attended

by South African first lady Zanele

changed lives of 12 million families in

an orchestrated manner and in

He said micro-finance has

number of poor people by 2015.

nalism in the city yesterday.

this," he said.

"The arrests of AL and BNP

believes in modern democracy and is practising it," he added. About freedom of the press in Bangladesh, the foreign minister saidhe said the press is enjoying full

Christians are majority, Hindu

democracy where Hindus are major-

ity and Jewish democracy where

jews are majority. Bangladesh

freedom and there is no restriction on it. The press here is enjoying maximum freedom compared to that in the other Third World countries, he

Journalist Sadek Khan said both the government and the media in Bangladesh should develop a defensive mechanism to face any media propaganda against the country. Prof Ataur Rahman of Dhaka

University said the country's diplomatic missions abroad miserably failed to come up with a defensive strategy when a section of the international media launched false campaigns against the country. Former foreign secretary MR

Osmani said the diplomatic missions abroad should be more active to protect the image and interest of the

Former vice chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Emajuddin Ahmed said India has launched 'anti-Bangladesh campaign' through the pressure on us' in various ways.

"We must have our own agenda and the government should develop a diplomacy involving educationists, media and professionals to counter any campaign against the country,

The media in Bangladesh is playing a wonderful role but it has to be more active to uphold the image of the country, Emajuddin observed.

Major Gen. (Retd) Ghulam Qader categorically denied Indian charge that Bangladesh provides training to its insurgent groups and said India makes such charges just as a tactic to overcome its own internal prob-

Major Gen. (Retd) Syed Mohammad Ibrahim said politicians, intellectuals, media men and such others in the country are divided. "We are fighting against each other and this should be stopped at any cost immediately."

Editor of the weekly Holiday Enayetullah Khan said the domestic media is playing its due role, rather, the government is not doing so.

Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam emphasised full freedom of the press and said the media should be allowed to work on its own.

About the reports Bangladesh in a section of the international media. he said it is wise for the government to invite the editors and senior journalists of the media concerned to visit Bangladesh so that they can realise that the country is not at all a safe haven for terrorists.

Former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury expressed concern that Bangladesh is being polarised day by day and said it is really very bad for the country.

Attorney General AF Hasan Arif said information management in Bangladesh is not good and it should be developed for further responsible iournalism.

divergent opinion, noted Shahriar. The government has innovated a system of punishing the accused before his crime is proven for which

preventive detention to muffle

Bandladesh cannot claim to be a civilised democracy." he added. Shahriar narrated the physical

and mental torture perpetrated against him during his detention. He was also disallowed to meet his lawyers, he noted. 'A large number of prisoners in

the jails where I had been are leaders, activists or supporters of the AL who are being deprived of their basic human rights," Shahriar said. "They are not getting proper food or a place to sleep," he added.

The speakers said the present government is violating the constitutional rights of the people, but hardly any case is being filed against it. Moreover, they alleged that in many Section 54 of the CrPC and the cases the verdicts given by the

Micro-credit paved the path for

full-scale war on poverty: Yunus

particular, it has empowered women

institutions (MFIs) need a legal

framework guided by an independent

tions often raised against MFIs for

charging high interest rates and

The man who criticises us for high

interest rate himself does not know

what rate we charge," he told the

same venue in the evening, he also

encountered the notion that micro-

finance did little to alleviate poverty.

"First make a list of poor people in a

village, then follow it every year, you

will see the result." said Dr Yunus, the

Managing Director of Grameen

But Grameen Bank can be gues-

tioned for the affairs of its members

only, not of the street beggars, who

are not members of Grameen Bank.

torturing the borrowers for recovery.

He denied the common allega-

"All these stories are made up.

Later, at a press conference at the

micro-finance commission, he felt.

For the next step, micro-finance

lower courts reflect the government's wish since the judiciary is influenced by the executive wing.

The political forces should come together to protest the latest trend of arrests and harassment of and torture on the dissidents, speakers at the seminar said.

"When a violation of human rights takes place, we sue the state. But the violators are not held personally accountable," said Barrister Tania Amir.

Professor Kabir Chowdhury said special tribunal comprising five High Court justices should be formed to investigate the deaths in army custody to ensure human

Human rights activist Ajay Roy, Ferdousi Priyabhashini, Wahidul Hague, Justice K M Sobhan and Advocate Syed Rezaur Rahaman were present in the occasion. among others.

but often referred by many as indica-

tors of Bangladesh's poverty situa-

does not believe in giving relief to

poor people," he told a questioner

who asked about the bank's

response to emergencies like

disasters or cold waves. "Whatever

the bank gives, it takes money back

for creating an emergency fund

meant for future use in emergen-

"In principle, Grameen Bank

out any specific charge and placed on a three-day remand for what was said to be involvement in subversive

On December 12. Muntasir was sent on a one-month detention under the Special Powers Act.

On January 5, the High Court declared his detention illegal. He was released after the court order reached the Dinajpur Jail vester-

Ordinance to curb FROM PAGE 1

the issue in the upcoming session of the parliament.

Matia Chowdhury, a presidium member of the party, observed that by indemnifying the troops from any challenge for their actions during the Operation Clean Heart 'the government has established the right to

Mercury dips

FROM PAGE 1

Forty-year-old Islam Mollah died vesterday in Charashdirajpur village. In Iswardi, a 75-year-old man (name unknown), Fatema, 65, and Maiful, 70, died on Wednesday The correspondent also said

relief was inadequate and most people in char areas did not get any warm clothes distributed by the district administration. Hundreds of people, most of

them with cold-related ailments, were admitted to various health centres in the district

Cold-related diseases are on the rise in the capital as well. Hundreds of people are reported to have been hospitalised over the last couple of days. They complained of throat infection, headache and pneumo-The children with pneumonia are

the worst affected. According to sources, several children, especially newborns, have been admitted to hospitals in the past few days. The BSS reported 31 deaths from cold in three districts in the last

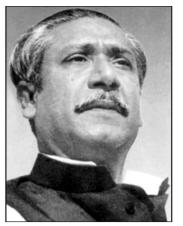
36 hours. The news agency reported that ife in Joypurhat, Panchagarh, Dinajpur, Kurigram, Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Gaibandha and Bogra came to a

Immediately before his arrest, Bangabandhu called upon the people to free the country from

Pakistani occupation at any cost.

Bangabandhu

The nation achieved victory in its Liberation War on December 16 1971 and the then Pakistani authorities were compelled to free the



Bangladesh leader from jail Bangabandhu returned home on January 10.

The Awami League (AL) and its front organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to mark The national flag and the party

flag will be hoisted atop the AL central office and the Bangabandhu Bhaban in the city and party offices across the country at 6 am. Party leaders and workers will

assemble in front of the Bangabandhu Bhaban at 7 am to place wreaths at the portrait of the Father of the Nation. They will also place wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar at 7:30 pm. Wreaths will also be placed at the

mazar of Bangabandhu at Tungipara in Gopalganj.

This time the AL is holding the day's main programmes at Tungipara. A discussion meeting will be held there in the afternoon. Party President and Leader of the Opposition in the Jativa Sangsad Sheikh Hasina is likely to be present there.

Meanwhile, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil in a statement yesterday asked all units of the party and its front organisations all over the country to organise processions, rallies, discussion meetings and milad mahfil to mark the day.

NGOs say no

FROM PAGE 12

Mbeki.

per cent service charge would have an adverse impact on the donors, who funded NGO activities. They also said that obtaining certificates would be a timeconsuming bureaucratic tangle.

The leaders put forward alternative proposals to streamline development activities, the meeting sources said.

nation to work closely with the government for poverty alleviation and economic emancipation of the low-income group. The NGO activities are reciprocal to government activities and

there is no alternative to coordination between the government and NGOs, the leaders told the meet-The leaders initiated a move to formulate rules for selfregulation aimed at ensuring more transpar-

ency of NGOs and services to the

its NGO regulations.

They underscored formation of "small NGO foundation" to provide healthcare and education services to the people at the

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Industries Minister MK Anwar Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk and Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid attended the meeting on the government side. Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury of BRAC, Khusi Kabir of Nijera Kori, Rasheda K Chowdhury of Campaign for Popular Education and Bitu de Costa of Karitas represented the non-government

Officials of the NGO bureau and the ministries concerned also

and paying back -- they could not rotate the money for years if there

Dr Kamal

of the country.

the Constitution, he said there are provisions for indemnify, but it should come only after parliamentary debate on the issue

He pointed out that Article 46 puts a limitation, stating specific circumstances under which indemnity can be applied. It should be discussed whether the indemnity ordinance was prepared according to Article 46, he said

As per the Constitution, any one can challenge in court legitimacy of

Former law minister Abdul Matin Khasru has termed the ordinance 'anti-constitution' and 'in contrast' with its basic structure.

"No constitution support legitimising killing of members of the public," he said in his immediate

Indemnity

mental or financial nature between October 16 and January 9.

In addition, no complaints can be lodged against the person or persons who had ordered the Operation Clean Heart

during the joint drive it would automatically be cancelled, the ordinance says. The government launched the Operation Clean Heart on October 16 through an order. Members of the

in custody and hundreds have been injured since the drive began sparking off criticism for human rights violation.

The joint forces have so far arrested more than 11,000 people, including some 2,400 listed crimi-Human rights violation by the

cases filed against some army personnel for torture and deaths of innocent people.

The drive will continue but the scope and nature of the joint forces will change, said Moudud. However,

deported as this category is believed to have 'a large number of

Bengal wants

Bangladeshi migrants'.

Delhi Police Commissioner RS Gupta, who was also present at the news conference, said two thousand Bangladeshis, who had been overstaving in the capital, were deported last vear.

A day after the Indian deputy prime minister had suggested deportation of 'illegal migrants'. The Hindu, in its editorial, commented that "by raising the illegal immigration issue, LK Advani has reverted to a subject, which evokes obsessive interest and fervent passions within his party".

"The manner in which he (Advani) attempted to link the issue of illegal immigrants with that of internal security was unwarranted,

unsubstantiated and insidious. "The challenges this country faces on the internal security front go well beyond that posed by illegal mmigration. For those within the Sangh Parivar, conflating the two issues (of illegal immigration and internal security) has been a customary way of addressing the problem of illegal immigration, thereby giving it a communal colour

and an emotive character." The Hindu also said Advani's call "to throw them out" was "easier said than done, given the enormous nature of the issue.'

It said the task of distinguishing between Bangladeshis and (West) Bengalis is far from easy. "The problem is compounded by

the fact that many of the Bangladeshi immigrants now hold ration cards or voters identity cards

New Delhi's imagination, the option of mass-scale deportation is rendered even less realistic Meanwhile, The Hindustan Times said it was "important to see

the illegal immigration issue for what it is and to refrain from exploiting it in a manner that is political, prejudiced and essentially divisive." "It is possible that the en masse throw-them-out policy, if imple-

mented, might backfire," it said in an editorial comment. "If 20 million Bangladeshi migrants are in India, then identify ing and deporting them would be

near-impossible ... there is reason to take the Home Minister's (Advani's) directive to throw out illegal Bangladeshi

mmigrants with a pinch of salt. "The Bangladeshi question has been raked up time and again by the Sangh Parivar, often as a political

Turkish Airlines

be revealed only after analysis of the black box," Sener said after arriving in the city to oversee the investigation and visit survivors.

Prime Minister Abdullah Gul also arrived in Diyarbakir yesterday.

might have contributed to the crash, suggesting the plane should not have attempted landing in such poor conditions, and criticised alleged shortcomings at Diyarbakir airport.

The press lashed out at the authorities for failing to install at all Turkey's airports a device the Association of Airline Pilots said would have minimised the risk of a

The Instrument Landing System (ILS) device is used to assist with low-visibility landings.

"Seventy five killed all because of a one-million-dollar device," read the headline of the mass-circulation Hurriyet daily.

crash as a "chain of errors".

UP polls

acceptance of faulty nomination papers, distortion of nomination papers by the local authorities, misspelling of name and incorrect age in the voters' list and the case of

dual voters Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Syed yesterday heard such complaints from the contenders who continued crowding the EC secretariat for last few days for a

nothing about the complaints, since only the appeal authority's decision is final. "Any order passed [on an] appeal shall be final and shall not be called [into] question in any court,' the law savs.

Syed told them that he could do

"If the local administration deliberately commits any wrongdoing then the commission will take necessary action against the wrongdoers after proper investigation," the CEC told the crowd.

He assured that he would look into the cases and requested the candidates to come again on Saturday. Many of the candidates apprised

the CEC of the existing law and order in their respective areas and demanded deployment of army personnel during the polls.

Asked about election preparations, an official at the EC Secretariat said everything but the security arrangement is almost complete.

ing the Indian media reports on the

grounds. The foreign secretary dismissed the notion that the recent Indian

The foreign secretary termed as media reports that Bangladesh is trying to procure nuclear reactors from

the forum." he said.

secretary told reporters.

early hours of October 17 last year, aiming to quell violent crimes across

Some 44 people so far died during the joint drive while 11,245 were arrested, including 2,482 listed criminals. During the same period 2,028 arms and 29,754 rounds of ammunitions were recovered.

army camps outside the cantonments in these two major cities Because the authorities still appre-

greatly depend on their perfor-

14 more FROM PAGE 12

four people including a pourasabha A team of joint forces raided different areas of Mirpur thana area and arrested Saiful Haq Khan Chowdhury alias Faruq. They also arrested Alauddin Hossain, a BNP activist and a top criminal of the town, from Aruapara area, police said. Hossain is the director of the Kushtia

criminals - Delware Hossain Dili and Kawshar Ali - from Mirpur thana area vesterday morning. In Sherpur, the joint force arrested five people, including a ward commissioner, and recovered some

Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The joint forces also arrested two

The joint forces arrested a wanted criminal, Abu Taleb, from Bakshiganj and three others with 2.5 kilograms of marijuana. They also recovered smuggled timbers worth about Tk 15 lakh from Bakshiganj bazaar. Our Barisal correspondent

reports that the joint forces arrested a

person and seized firearms from his

possession from Awliapur in Bakeragni upazila In Chapainawabganj, the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) arrested a man along with some Indian currencies from the bordering village of Ajmatpur in Shibganj upazila.

The police headquarters in press release yesterday said 1,271 people, including 19 identified criminals, have been rounded up from different parts of the country in the last 24 hours ending 6:00am yester-They also recovered six firearms.

21 rounds of bullets and an explo-

nelp the government implement

grassroots level

sector.

grassroots people, which would AL hartal

united programme

briefing.

plan at 7:00pm. "We have got positive responses and we hope to launch united programmes in future," the

former commerce minister told newsmen later The AL had contacted the leftleaning 11 parties, pro-Ershad and pro-Manju factions of the Jatiya Party and two factions of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), one led by Hasanul Haq Inu and the other by Nur-e-Alam Jiku for a

still in a meeting when the AL made the call unilaterally. "Rise in fuel price would adversely affect our agricultural production. Commuters have to pay more and prices of essentials would swell further to make life

The left-leaning parties were

He added the price hike would compound the misery of people already burdened with deteriorate ing law and order, killings and rapes, and human rights violations. The AL general secretary

hoped the people would give a

befitting reply to the government's

misdeeds by making Thursday's

miserable," Jalil told the press

shutdown successful. Abdus Samad Azad, Zillur Rahman, Sajeda Chowdhury, Matia Chowdhury, Syed Ashraful Islam, Abdul Mannan and Ivy Rahman were also present at the press conference.

Earlier, the central AL leaders

addressed a demonstration against the fuel-price hike at the The Dhaka city unit of the AL

organised the demonstration and later brought out a procession denouncing the government's indifference over price hikes of essentials and now fuels.

Addressing the programme,

senior AL leaders criticised the

government for giving a cold

shoulder to the Election Commission over army deployment in the upcoming Union Parishad (UP) polls. They urged other opposition political parties to forge unity

against the tyranny of the BNP-

Jamaat alliance. With Mohammad Hanif in the chair the rally was addressed, among others, by Abdus Samad Azad, Zillur Rahman, Abdul Jalil, Abdur Razzak, Sajeda Chowdhury, Matia Chowdhury, Syed Ashraful Islam, Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Abdul Mannan, Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed, Abdur Rahman, Ivy Rahman and Ahsanullah Master.

Vietnam FROM PAGE 12

East policy," he said The Vietnamese resident mission in Dhaka, which was first

opened in 1972, was shut down in Shamsher told the weekly press briefing at the ministry that re-

opening of the mission of Vietnam.

which is fast emerging as a major economic player in South East Asia would strengthen relations between the two countries.

Bangladesh opened its resident mission in Hanoi in 1993.

cies," he added. He said overlapping of MFIs in rural areas is not a problem from a commercial point of view so long as

borrowers can afford to pay back. PKSF Managing Director Dr Salehuddin Ahmed said microfinance has had a significant contribution to poverty reduction, although it could not be measured against the wide canvas of poverty

PKSF Chairman Prof

Wahiduddin Mahmud said the

contribution of micro-finance.

however small it may be, should not be underestimated in the perspective of rural life. There may be some setbacks, which would account for hardly 5 per cent of the total operations of micro-finance. "Many people are taking money

was no viability," he said.

this ordinance, he added.

The Joint Drive Indemnity Ordinance 2003 says no one can seek justice and no complaints can be lodged against any person involved with the joint drive for any arrest, death, torture, violation of rights and if any damage of physical,

And if cases or proceedings were filed in any court regarding any act

armed forces, paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), police and ansars are engaged in the anticrime drive. As many as 44 people have died

army during the drive has also become evident following several

FROM PAGE 12 cause but the definitive results will

Turkish media hinted pilot error

Newspaper Vatan described the

It said the airport's Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Range

(VOR) - a directional beacon which helps a pilot find his bearings in relation to a ground station - had not been functioning at the time of the

"With Dhaka sometimes giving the impression that the steady wave of emigration to India is a figment of