### The Baily Star

# NEWS

support the conclusion."

ous threat.

mass destruction.

occupation of Iraq.

battlefield shells.

ous threat'."

He said he was "disappointed"

by the quality of the intelligence in

the September dossier as it did

not provide "any recent and

alarming" intelligence to suggest

that Iraq was a current and seri-

Iraq probably had no weapons of

Cook restated his belief that

He said: "Such weapons

require substantial industrial

plant and a large workforce. It is

inconceivable that both could

have been kept concealed for the

two months we have been in

possibility that we may unearth

some old stock of biological toxins

or chemical agents and it is possi-

ble that we may yet find some

constitute weapons of mass

destruction and would not justify

the claim before the war that Irag

posed what the prime minister

described as a 'current and seri-

Palash killing

"Nevertheless, this would not

"I have never ruled out the

## Well defined foreign, defence policies key to national security

### Speakers tell BIISS discussion

#### **STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Bangladesh lacks well defined foreign and defence policies, crucial to national security, speakers told a discussion meeting yesterday. None of the present and past

governments streamlined the foreign and defence policies, said the speakers at the discussion titled "Challenges to the Security of Bangladesh", organised by the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) on its silver jubilee anniversary.

They also criticised the 'poor' budgetary allocation for the foreign ministry, which they say reflects the government's neglect to the nation's image building. Former BIISS director general

Brigadier (retd) M Abdul Hafiz, said in his keynote paper Bangladesh is still in the process of nation building with accompanying trauma and upheaval -- common in the formative stage of any country as security is to be safeguarded from both external and internal threats.

"National security has been vaguely defined as the absence of threat to the nations' core values but none could give an absolute definition of it because security is an

inherently relational concept," he told the discussion meeting, attended by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Reaz Rahman as chief guest. Hafiz said the core values mean

differently to different people depending on the material circumstances in which they live and the geopolitical environment from which they operate. Although national security at the

end of the day is protection of core values, the perception of the values is widely diverse, he said. To the Americans, it is to perpetuate their quality of life, whereas for a Moldavian, it is just the physical survival from the devouring sea in which the island is sinking.

To Iran, it is to safeguard the ideology of revolution, whereas in Bangladesh it is, among others, the conducive condition for uninterrupted socio-economic development for its 120 million people, he cabinet secretary Mojibul Hug.

told the session, chaired by former Brigadier (retd) Shakawa Hossain, attending the session, said

Bangladesh lacks a defence policy even after 31 years of its independsion

Reaz Rahman said the government spent only Tk 36 lakh on external publicity a year, while India spent Tk 360 crore on the same cause. Foreign policy is not a constant matter: it changes with time, he said.

> The issues relating to the foreign policy have been evaluated over the last three decades and they are a top priority for the government as were for the past governments, Rahman said. He underscored redefinition of the UN role in ensuring security of small states.

National security of a country largely depends on good governance, the rule of law and democratic values, Mojibul Huq said in his speech. Abdur Rob Khan, BIJSS research

director, presented another keynote paper on the discussion theme. Anwar Hossain, former director

general of Bangla Academy, Professor Shahid-uz-zaman of Dhaka University, Maj. Gen. (retd.) Mahmudur Rahaman, Brigadier (retd) Mohammad Zaman and Lt. Col. (retd) Saifur Rashid, among others, took part in the open discus-

### Megawati flies in today

#### FROM PAGE 1

Khaleda will hold official talks tomorrow on bilateral matters and regional and international issues of

common concern Officials said trade and economic cooperation between the two

countries would top the talks. The two sides are expected to explore cooperation in the fields of trade and investment and sign agreements and memoranda of understanding (MoUs).

Megawati and Khaleda are the only women currently at the helm of two major Muslim countries and both are struggling to resolve a multitude of domestic problems, especially poverty.

The two leaders will also discuss international issues like the postwar situation in Iraq, Palestine-Israel conflict and the roadmap for peace in the Middle Fast. The Jakarta Post quoting a

senior diplomat vesterday reported that the Indonesian president's visit to Bangladesh would be a major boost for bilateral relations had been slightly overlooked in the past decades. Indonesia was among the first countries to recognise Bangladesh after its independence in 1971.

will join the nearly 90-member entourage later.

The presidential entourage will include top policymakers, leading industrialists, entrepreneurs and businessmen.

Her husband Taufiq Kiemas and their daughter will also be in the entourage. According to The Jakarta Post

the plan for an Indonesian president's visit to Bangladesh was drawn during the brief tenure of former president Abdurrahman Wahid, who was forced to step down in July 2001

Megawati decided to go ahead with the plan, citing the importance of improving the long-standing

relations, it added. Officials here said during the visit, Dhaka will stress bridging the trade gap and seek to increase its exports to Indonesia, which has now has a trade surplus.

The US military says Operation

But many Iraqis say US raids have

AFP adds: The US army has

"In Tikrit and Kirkuk, coalition forces

"In the Baghdad area, coalition

conducted 36 raids and detained 215

individuals," Sergeant First Class

detained 371 people in the Baghdad

Desert Scorpion aims to win hearts and

minds as well as hunt die-hard Saddam

loyalists. The mission involves humani-

been heavyhanded, with houses ran-

tarian aid as well as raids.

Last year, Bangladesh imported from Indonesia mineral products, plastics, chemicals and machinery million \$174 and exported jute, leather and ready-made gar During her stay in Dhaka, ments worth \$ 5.60 million. Megawati will also have meetings Bangladesh will offer to export with Leader of the Opposition in pharmaceuticals, silk fabric, spe-Parliament Sheikh Hasina, the cialised textiles, melamine prodforeign minister, Commerce ucts, ceramic tiles, sanitary goods, Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud light engineering products, accumu-Chowdhury and some other top lator battery, baggage and artificial political and business leaders. flowers Though Jakarta so far has no major investment here, Dhaka will Kazi Zafar seek Indonesian investments in garments and textiles, energy, FROM PAGE 1

telecommunications, cement, pharmaceuticals and machinery and investment in export processing zones on ioint venture or on a buyback basis.

> The Jakarta Post quoted the Indonesian foreign minister vesterday as saying that the trips to Bangladesh and Mongolia were aimed to renew relations with the

two Asian countries. 'This is going to be an important visit," Foreign Minister Morshed Khan said, noting that both countries are members of the UN, Non-Aligned Movement and OIC and hold common views on internationa issues.

Officials said Megawati's visit is considered significant as Bangladesh is contesting for the office of the OIC Secretary General. Khaleda will host a dinner today

in honour of the Indonesian leader at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. President lajuddin Ahmed will

host a state banquet in her honour at

#### Suppl budget with Tk 2,150cr **Cook pours fuel**

impact on poverty reduction.

of the ADP. Projects, which were

direct bearing on poverty eradication.

He said, as there was a bigger

budget deficit during the AL rule, it (AL)

had to rush for high-interest suppliers'

credits. "Now we're bearing the burden

of high interest payments of suppliers'

of the direct foreign investment (FDI),

Saifur Rahman bounced the blame

back on Kibria saying that the slide in

bourses during his (Kibria) period

"We will shift the manuscripts

Vice-Chancellor SMA Faiz who

The Dhaka University library with

and abroad for decades. But their

numbers are decreasing day by day

because of the present sordid state.

section to the around floor with modern

power supply and air cooling system if

the DU authorities permit. I have

On Kibria's observation on low flow

credits worth 500 million US dollars."

chopped off, he said, had no direct

#### FROM PAGE 1

treasury and opposition benches including the former finance minister SAMS Kibria took part in general discussion on the supplementary budget. Prior to passage of the supplementary budget last night, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman made his summing up deliberation, in which the minister gave a rebuttal to his predecessor's (Kibria) speech.

Saifur Rahman justified the big size of the new revenue budget saving that the government has to keep budgetary allocations for paying huge arrears unpaid by the previous AL government.

The finance minister, however, assured the parliament that there was nothing to be worried about the economy now. He noted that after the introduction of the floating exchange rate, taka is going great guns against the US dollar, manifesting the strength of Banaladesh's economy.

Of the additional money spent on non-development heads in the outgoing fiscal, the finance division spent the highest amount of over Tk 1030.322 crore followed by the education ministry with Tk 168.618 crore home ministry with Tk 133.55 crore and communications ministry with Tk 92.25 crore.

Of the additional expenditures made under the development head in 2002-03, the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief topped the list with an expenditure of Tk 90.96 crore followed by power division spending Tk 64.02 crore and energy and mineral resources division Tk 59.97 crore. In his summing up speech, Saifur

Rahman quoted the WB, IMF and ADB to say that the budget deficit was as high as six percent during the AL rule, whereas the deficit was lowered to 4.7 per cent in the last fiscal and to 4.2 per cent in the current fiscal.

Referring to the doubling of foreign exchange reserves from one billion dollars to two billion dollars, the finance minister gave much credit to the government's anti-hundi drive and diverting remittances through banking channels. He said in the last one year the remittance volume went up by 25 per cent following the clampdown on the illegal money transfer system hundi.

Replying to Kibria's deliberation in pushed the investors away. He the parliament made on the previous claimed that 70 percent of the listed day, Saifur Rahman said the develop-FDIs during the AL rule (1996-2001) ment budget was shrunken from Tk have no real-life implications as 20.000 crore to Tk 17.100 crore not those remained investments in because of inefficiency but because of shedding of some non-priority projects papers only.

### **Macro-neglect to DU microfilms**

#### FROM PAGE 1

such decrepit condition that it is difficult to work with them, they said. "Sharada Tilok", a Sanskrit puthi more than 550 years old and rare Bengali works from the Middle Ages

like "Padma Puran", "Yusuf Zulekha' and "Padmabati" by Alawal are some of the notables among the most decrepit volumes.

Some rare newspapers from the last century, which chronicled the events of division of Bengal in 1905, division of the Indian subcontinent in 1947, Amar Ekushey February in 1952, mass revolution in 1969, independence of Bangladesh in 1971 and many major social and cultural movements are decaying in the dusty, damp atmosphere.

The manuscripts are crammed in 49 shelves in a room that is so small that it hinders the staff to dust and air them and there is also shortage of manpower, the sources said. "We have informed the DU authorities several times about our problems but they are yet to take any step to improve the situation." said a staffer

The microfilmed newspapers and periodicals are kept in a room where the air-coolers are active only in the office hours, whereas the coolers should work round the clock, at least in the hot and humid months. The office of the microfilm section remains open

Sona Mosque land

FROM PAGE 1

stop harassment of traders", said Lutfar Rahman, president of Sona Khan of Chapainawabganj BDR Mosque Importers and Exporters' denied the allegations and said the truck was carrying gun-manufac-

Group. But violating the decisions, the

librarian as its convenor to supervise from 9:00am to 5:00pm. It works five and a half days a week and remains the manuscripts section seems closed on government holidays. A stringed by procedural and other microfilm reader and a microfilm and handicaps. fiche reader have been lying in dam-Dr Muhammad Serajul Islam, the

age for years, said the sources. present librarian and convenor of the In warmer months, it takes at least committee, told The Daily Star that four hours to lower the room's tempersome microfilmed manuscripts have ature to a required level after switching been lost to time. A process to reprint on the coolers. The outmoded and them is underway, he said. inefficient air coolers in the manuscripts and microfilm section cannot

maintain the required temperature at 18 to 20 degrees Celsius. The level of humidity should also be between 52 and 58 per cent all the time but there is no proper humidity control arrange-

conditioning and humidity control systems, more rooms and increased manpower are needed to maintain the puthis and microfilms properly and index them systematically.

scripts section on a typical summer day was recorded at 34.50 degrees Celsius and humidity at 71 per cent while temperature of the microfilmed newspaper section was 28.4 degrees and humidity 62 per cent with the air coolers and the humidity control students and researchers from home machine running for at least three

hours The five-member manuscript committee set up in 1980 with the

Lieutenant Colonel Shahid Uddin

Foreign currency

FROM PAGE 1 It was probably destined for Dubai said the officials

The aircraft left the airport at 12:20am instead of 10:45pm.

A departmental case was filed

and a general diary recorded with

FROM PAGE 1

rity committee, which meets in private, is also going to look at rag's WMD.

The finance minister was critical of The Foreign Affairs committee, his predecessor's observation that the chaired by Labour's Donald Anderson, will consider whether budget has no link with poverty reducthe government presented "accution. Saifur Rahman said 42 percent of rate and complete information to the money allocation under both reve-Parliament" in the period leading nue and development budgets has up to military action in Iraq.

Anderson has already suggested the intelligence committee's findings would have a "credibility problem" because of its closeness to Blair.

The Foreign Office has said it will co-operate with Anderson and his committee.

Downing Street has rejected calls for a full public inquiry into its pre-war claims about Saddam Hussein's weapons capability. Blair has denied accusations a

dossier about Saddam's threat contained intelligence information which had been doctored, insisting he stands "100%" by the evidence shown to the public about Iraq's alleged weapons programmes.

Asked if intelligence had been 'sexed up" to back the decision to go to war, Cook said: "I think there was a selection of evidence to

road for 3 hrs

**OUR CORRESPONDENT.** Barisal

Traffic on the Barisal-Dhaka high-

way was disrupted for about three

hours yesterday as local people

blocked the road at Shikarpur under

Uzirpur police station protesting the

Police and eyewitnesses said,

Ibrahim, 8, son of a local

rickshawpuller, was killed on the

spot when a Dhaka-bound passen-

ger coach ran him over on the

approach road of Shikarpur Major

Jalil Bridge near Jayasree at about

Road communication resumed

at around 2:00am when the protest-

ers removed the barricade following

intervention by local administration

to his family after autopsy.

Uzirpur police station.

FROM PAGE 12

Ibrahim's body was handed over

A case was registered with

11:30am.

officials.

death of a boy in a road accident.

#### FROM PAGE 12 Death in road mishap party office. The processionists turned violent when they reached Protesters block the Paltan crossing, damaging at least one bus and five shops in the Dhaka-Barisal area.

Police arrested Sonia Akhter Tuhin, Biplobi Al Majhi, Sabina Islam Ruma and Nishi from the spot. Six separate cases were lodged against them

Police sources said they are still trying to unearth the motive behind the killing of Palash, but they suspect that the killing could have been a sequel to an internal conflict.

Assistant Commissioner (Mirpur police) Kamrul Ahsan said they might get some clues when a case is

Dhanmondi police said Palash was accused in a case of setting a vehicle ablaze. He was also a witness in BCL leader Dabloo murder case.

In the FIR. Moktadur said an unidentified man came to the counter of Sony Enterprise at about 3:15pm and wanted to know about Palash. The man went out after identifying Palash and soon after that seven to eight persons entered the counter and sprayed bullets on him

### Legal help on AES plan

the existing AES staff after the 'selloff'

Globeleq late last year. Responding to the AES-Globeleq appeals to allow the selloff by relaxing the no-sell clause, the PDB and the Power Division have been negotiating on how Globeleq would carry out certain responsibilities as per contract. Following criticism that such selloff will not be useful for the PDB in terms of quality or finance and that there is no reason to bend the rule to allow the sell-off, the power board formed a committee in April. The committee felt that the sell-off and transfer of the AES projects to

To ensure power supply and

plant maintenance, the internal contracts of the AFS with Mitsubishi Heavy Industry and Nichimen Corporation of Japan. and Ansaldo Energia of Italy should continue to evolained the PDR to the Power Division earlier this month. It also pointed out that Globeleg has agreements with Universal Energy Services (UES) and North American Energy Services (NAES) of USA to handle emergency situation. But sources at the PDB said the power board neither has any idea about the UES and the NAES nor has it had a look into any contract between these companies and Globeleg. The two Japanese and one Italian companies can only guarantee the equipment perfor-

requested the vice-chancellor to allocate extra funds," he said. Alongside more efficient air-The temperature in the manu-

has been in the chair since September last said a project was working to modernise the manuscripts preservation system at the library. "We are conscious about the manuscripts as they are valuable assets of the univer-

sity." he said. an enviable collection of rare books, puthis and pandulipis, newspapers and periodicals, maps and other reference materials served teachers,

However, this was not followed by steps to improve relations despite many similarities between the two countries, the newspaper added.

Megawati will be accompanied by several ministers concerned with economy and finance. Minister for Foreign Affairs Hassan Wirayuda

### **US** forces

destroyed in a blast as it drove through a tunnel in central Baghdad. Two Iraqis were wounded. US troops and Iraqi police said the explosion was probably caused by a land mine that had been planted there.

US convoys pass through the tunnel sacked and civilians assaulted. Many say several times a day. they want occupying forces to leave Iraq as soon as possible.

At dawn on Tuesday, troops blocked streets with armored vehicles and searched houses in Baghdad across the Tigris river from the sprawling Republican Guard palace complex, which once housed some of Saddam Hussein's elite forces and is now home to the US-led administration trying to impose order in Iraq.

One woman told soldiers that several people in the district were former supporters of Saddam's Baath

party. "Six or seven houses in my street are inhabited by Baathists. They have machineguns and other weapons," she said. "They shoot in the air at night and we can't sleep."

Soldiers said they had seized several weapons during house- tohouse searches. A two-week amnesty for Iragis to hand in heavy weapons ended on Sunday. Anyone caught with illegal firearms now faces a fine and up to a year in jail

US forces launched a new mission on Sunday, Operation Desert Scorpion, to hunt for pro-Saddam guerrillas Washington blames for the spate of ambushes in Iraq.

US Central Command said the operation was "designed to isolate and defeat remaining pockets of resistance that are seeking to delay the transition to a peaceful and stable Iraq."

In 36 raids around Tikrit -- Saddam's home town - and Kirkuk, US forces detained 215 people, Centcom said Troops also performed "humanitarian fuel escort missions." yesterday

1989 to 1990 during the Ershad regime, was sentenced to 15 years' jail in absentia in November 1999 in one of half a dozen corruption cases

On return home in late 2001, Zafar was sent to prison. However, he secured bail from the High Court appealing against the jail sentence and in four other corruption cases.

On a petition filed through his lawver Khan Saifur Rahman on Mav 10 last year, the High Court granted Zafar permission to stay six months in Australia for medical treatment. Reports from Australia appear-

ing in the press said the Australian povernment has ordered investigation into granting asylum to Zafar, who was convicted for corruption.

area and northern Iraq as part of His lawyer yesterday denied all Operation Desert Scorpion aimed at allegations against his client pubrooting out armed resistance, a military lished in the media.

"I'm thinking of filing a defamation suit in connection with the false reports," Khan told UNB yesterday.

During the July-March period this

fiscal, export price dipped by around

substantially during this period,"

President of Bangladesh Garment

Moniruzzaman told The Daily Star

to pull down the prices further. He

however hoped the price situation

expansion of markets for Bangladeshi

Exports fetched \$5.255 million

products in Canada and Australia.

He said buyers are still negotiating

### Export target

forces conducted 11 raids and detained FROM PAGE 1 earnings at the previous level.

official estimate.

vesterday.

### Mugger

156 individuals." she said.

spokeswoman said Tuesday

Mayra O'Neil said.

FROM PAGE 1 Accused in a murder case filed with the Mirpur Police Station. Jahangir spent a term in jail as a convict in an extortion case and was released recently. Meanwhile. Savar police recov-

ered the body of a young man from the roof of Adhar Chandra High School at 10:30 pm yesterday. Unidentified people tied up

Molin, the young man, and cut his throat with a sharp weapon sometime early in the morning yesterday. The body also bore two marks of stabs in the abdomen. Police said the victim was an

employee at a shop at Savar bazaar His brother Jalil filed a murder case with the Savar Police Station BDR continued to take trucks to their camps in the name of checking and in most cases the trucks were released after 'partial unloading' which caused financial loss to the traders, he said.

"The BDR forcibly seized a truck carrying 20 tonnes of ship scraps worth about US \$14,000 from the customs godown on June 15 night. It was part of the 'plan' to paralyse the port," Lutfar alleged while reading out a written statement.

Chapainawabganj chamber president Abdul Wahed and Rajshahi chamber general secretary Abu Taleb also spoke at the press conference.

Regional Customs Commissioner Ali Ahmed claimed that the BDR was not authorised to seize anything from the customs checkpoint. He said. "The BDR men seized the truck at tion

### Jhum farming

#### FROM PAGE 12

Talking to a group of journalists on Saturday last, Jhumiyas in Khagrachhari said that due to loss in per capita land availability, they could no longer afford to keep the lands in the hills fallow for five years. They have to return to the same hill every alternate vear.

"With the population growth, slashand-burn has become much more intensive, and much less sustainable. Cultivated areas are larger, and fallow periods are shorter. The result is permanent deforestation, and widespread soil erosion," said a report prepared by the Taiwan-based Food 8 Fertiliser Technology Centre (FFTC). 10 per cent while export volume rose "The situation today in slash-and-burn by about 16 per cent, according to an areas of upland Bangladesh is typical of much of Asia's slopelands. The "Export earning showed a poor recovery mainly due to the price fall in fallow period has fallen to only three to four years, which is not enough to the global market, which still continrestore soil fertility. Crop yields are ues. But the export volume rose falling, leading to even greater pressure on land and more environmental Manufacturers and Exporters destruction," the FFTC report added. Association (BGMEA) Quazi

Indigenous farming communities living in the three hill districts Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban grow vegetables, maize and spices along with rice. The seeds of paddy, cucumber, turmeric and ginger are put together and sown in on would improve gradually with the the same hill patch. The slash-andburn method gives the growers relief from fatiguing cultivation of different crops at different times.

during the July-April period of the Nayanjyoti Roaza is a Jhumiya current fiscal, up by \$378 million from who has less than one hectare of land the corresponding period of last fiscal.

turing metals worth about Tk 2 crore for smuggling across the border when it was caught (unclaimed) near

the zero line. airport The traders could go to court if our action was illegal, but they are not going to do that," Khan told The Daily

Criminal case

FROM PAGE 1 Ministry and switching off the microphone of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina.

After hearing, Magistrate Emdadul Haq took the case into cognizance. He asked the DMP commissioner to file a case under the relevant sections after investiga-

in Alutilla, a hilly range, in

as hills people have no permanent Khagrachhari. Roaza said in the past land ownership, they're less interested in growing longer-duration plants,' explained Azad Azad is of the view that ihum culti-

the hills every alternate year owing to the pressure of population growth. must be aware of soil erosion and deforestation.

university in a study on the lives of hill-

uneconomic and the plough was introduced instead."

Amarendra Tripura, also the same land.

The Deputy Director of the Department of Agriculture Extension at Khagrachhari, AK Azad, acknowledged the fall in acreage under slashand-burn. and attributed this to leasing of more lands to well off settlers from

tivity of shifting farmers, we're trying to supply high yielding varieties to them." "We advise them to go for jhum a

year in a particular hill and then grow fruits and timber trees in rotation. But

the Airport Police Station. The currencies were placed in the valuables warehouse at the

#### Ctg triple murder FROM PAGE 1

Kashem, 50, Abul Bashar, 40, and Badsha Alam, 30, all sons of Abdul Khaleque dead at 11.00am on May

Kalam claimed he was granted bail by the High Court.

"We are now verifying his claim," Additional Superintendent of Police (north) Hasib Aziz told The Daily Star

With prime accused Kalam, police so far arrested five persons.

Prof Amena Mohsin Of Dhaka

"But the incidents take place when

we are not there," he said. "We

could catch them if the traders

through the local cable operators to

raise public awareness about the

"We are going to advertise

informed us timely."

extortionists," he added.

Globeleg was 'acceptable' The same committee however asked the government to make sure that Globeleq abide by the eightyear no-sell condition after giving its nod to premature sell-off by the AES.

Having formed only a year ago, Globeleq is financially strong but lacks the experience of running large-scale power plants. The PDB however says that the two plants would continue to be operated by

mance and do not provide other services, they confided. The AES Meghnaghat 450 MW

project began commercial operation in November last year and the Haripur 360 MW more than 18 months ago.

### SC grants govt leave

FROM PAGE 1

He added that they wanted the court to call for the records to know whether or not the chief justice did recommend for the additional iudaes.

When the court asked Azmalul if the recommendations had a legal basis, the lawyer said since the chief justice had made the recommendations, it certainly carries weight and needs to be looked into seriously since it is the constitutional convention.

If that should be the case, the court observed, then the assistant judges might want to know the proceedings of the higher judiciary.

On May 27, a three-member HC bench asked the government to help. produce all records including the recommendations of the chief justice. A hearing on the writs was scheduled for June 16 before the bench headed by Justice Hamidul

On June 14, Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Syed JR Modassir Hossain stayed the proceedings following a provisional leave to file an appeal petition by the government against a May 27 High Court order.

On May 4, three former addi-Frustrated with the police inactional judges filed a writ petition with tion, a mob beat to death an extora High Court Division Bench chaltionist, Arif, and injured two of his lenging the government's nonaccomplices when they went to confirmation of their services collect toll at Harun Rent-a-Car although they said the chief justice Service at Kazipara Monday night.

had recommended for them Moreover, two lawyers filed similar writ petitions. One of the lawyers demanded to know what the chief justice recommended in the first place and that he himself should be

made a party to the case. Discontent in the judiciary over political interventions in the appointments of the judges came to a head when the government on February 20 declined confirmation of six additional judges.

#### Ctg businessman FROM PAGE 1

challenged the vehicle near Kumira Seeing the cops, Alam cried out for

Police rescued him and arrested Md Mofassarul Quader alias Yasin, 28, a Shibir activist and student of Sociology department of Chittagong College, from the vehicle. driver. Kanu Dutta Nath. 35. was also nabbed and his taxi seized. They were handed to Pahartali

police. However, another kidnapper Alamgir, a JCD activist and student of Mostafa Hakim College, managed to escape.

Jubo Dal president of Chhoto Kamaldah, Tabarak Hossain, hired him to abduct Alam and offered Tk.1 akh for the job, Yasin told police.

The victim's son Anwar Hossair filed a case with the Pahartali Police Station.

they could give the hills five to seven years of respite before slashing and burning the bushes again for fresh cultivation. But now they have to rotate vation should remain intact as a rich tradition of the indigenous people but at the same time the shifting farmers

"In the past, bushes and trees used to grow in the hills owing to long gaps and once we burnt them, the land became ready for fresh cultivation. But now as there is almost no vegetation (due to short fallow period), we've to

Jhumiya, said generally they get 800 harvest vegetables and spices from

plainland.

He said, "To augment the produc-

weeds." Roaza said. Another Jhumiya of Alutilla range, Rabindra Tripura, said that government took some upland areas for development of orchards and tree

plantations. to 900 kilograms of rice from every acre of ihum land. Besides. they also

apply weedicide to destroy the tiny

Crime warp FROM PAGE 12

people said, "The hills people began to lose their rights when the British colonial rulers arrived in the region. They denounced the slash-and-burn mode of cultivation as 'primitive'. The fallow periods were considered