# Cops foil sit-in to save Singha Bari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The three-hour sit-in programme of the committee to save the historic Singha Bari could not be held at the premises of the deputy commissioner's (DC) office due to police obstruction.

Manned by police, all entrances to the DC's office were locked since morning. At one stage, a group of lawyers headed by the Sylhet District Bar Association general secretary had heated exchange of words with police at the gate adjacent to the Bar.

Later, the lawvers took up the matter with the district judge and sought his intervention. The judge asked the authorities concerned to open the gates to the DC's office near the Sylhet District Judge's Court premises. However, by the time the gate was opened, the agitators had shifted the venue and held the rally on the main road in front of the District Judge's Court.

The rally organised by the Orpito Sompotty Ain Protirodh Andolon, Sylhet (vested property law resistance movement) demanded a judicial inquiry into the 'illegal' lease of the Singha Bari by the district administra-

Speakers at the rally also demanded immediate withdrawal of the 'illegal' lease order, fresh lease to those who have been in possession for long. They further demanded that the DC apologise for his 'misbehaviour' with the agitators.

It was announced that a mass rally would be held at the city point on June 30 to press the demands.

The rally was chaired by convenor of the Andolon and Sylhet City Corporation Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran. It was attended among others by ex-chairman of Sylhet Pourashabha AFM Kamal, District Awami League President ANM Shafique, AL General Secretary Iftekhar Hossain Shamim, former lawmaker Sveda Zebunnessa Hague Sylhet District Bar Association General Secretary EU Shahidul Islam, Ward Commissioners Azadur

## Amjad murder

Amjad Hossain was also the head master of Raninagar Pilot High School.

Police said, four to five armed activists of Purbabanglar Communist Party (PBCP) surrounded Amjad Hossain, 52, when he was talking to someone over telephone at a phone shop at about 8 pm.

As he finished talks the miscreants caught him and slaughtered by sharp weapons, police said

To protest the killing of Amjad Hossain master, Naogaon district Awami League has called a half-day hartal here today

ex-MCA Ashraf Ali, Secretary of the Andolon Lokman Ahmed.

The speakers sought cooperation

of all concerned to save the property. An organised group of land grabbers under the shelter of an influential quarter and the district administration is trying to occupy the vested property wroth about Tk 4 crore at Chouhatta ir

Members of the joint families of the Singha Bari had been in possession of the property since 1974 and government rents against the lease have also been cleared till 2001. But, since then the local administration has been refusing to receive the rents citing various reasons, sources said.

The DC recently issued allotment the land and property to some people without giving any prior notice to the people in possession. The inhabitants are now feeling insecure.

Organised quarters made several attempts in the past to gobble up the land and property by obtaining fake documents, the sources added.

Govinda Narayan Singha ajumder was the owner of the historic 'Singha Bari'. Dignitaries like Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam had visited the house. Some of his successors went to India during the Pakistan period while some others stayed behind and are still in possession.

The absentees' share was declared abandoned property in the 1973. In accordance with the government provision, the abandoned portion was leased out to other co-sharers

### **UN** resolution

under the UN "Blue Helmet" with an exception in Haiti where Bangladeshi troops worked under

the "Green Helmet." About signing of the Middle East Trade Act with the US, he said 20 countries are on the list of the US for the proposed act that also includes a provision of recognising Israel.

'There are some sensitivities in the draft of the proposed treaty. We need to examine all the provisions."

UNB also drew attention of the minister to Awami League's meeting with envoys of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) member states in Dhaka yesterday where the opposition requested them to impress upon the Bangladesh government to nominate an 'acceptable' person for the OIC secretary general.

'The opposition move is unfortunate at a time when Bangladesh's prospect for win is bright," he said.

Instead of cooperation, the opposition is trying to make the Bangladesh's candidate controver-

## **FROM PAGE 1**

while the opposition lawmakers are

not allowed to speak in parliament." The government appointed the chief justice superseding two senior judges, she said.

justice when the government is undermining the judiciary time and again and patronising the killers of Bangabandhu by rewarding them posthumously?" Hasina quipped.

severe consequences for its "misdeeds and repression.'

and we will be beside them in the future." she said adding in a choked voice that she lost her family members and returned to Bangladesh to

patronage.'

She alleged that the BNP chairperson did not follow the constitution and was playing with the people's fate.

ernment has taken loans from the

informing the people about those. "To pay back the loans, they will impose heavy burden of tax upon the people. Addressing the function,

IMF under tough conditions without

Supreme Court Bar Association Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud said the judiciary must be independent according to the constitution, but the executive has been trying to control He regretted that the opposi-

tion's voice is being stifled in parliament. "There is no difference between terrorism and torture. In fact, torture is more heinous than terrorism," he said. A large number of people

alleged to be victims of torture including journalists Saleem Samad and Enamul Huq Chowdhury, joined the programme. Some of them narrated their ordeal about how they were "tortured".

BIHR Secretary General Akram Hossain Chowdhury presented an overview on torture and urged the people to unite against such crimes.

Hospital, told The Daily Star yester-

The rare type of twinning has long been an enigma to physician across the globe. A separation operation can last more than a hundred-hour even with survival

twins were admitted to the Khulna Islami Bank Hospital 22 days after their birth on April 18 through a caesarian operation at a clinic in Raghunathpur village of Dumuria upazila, Khulna. Their parents --Jasmin Begum and rickshaw van driver Abdul Halim, have a five-year-

old daughter. Abdomens of both the infants are temporarily closed by using mesh. Walls of the abdomen will be closed once their health condition becomes

stable, doctors said. Dr Magsudul Alam, who is now supervising the anesthetic support of the twins, said, "It's a rare case but we are very hopeful about chances for their survival. It now depends on the management of the infants as they are not out of danger

The infants did not require artificial respiratory support anymore, which is a positive sign, Maqsudul

An associate professor of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMU), Dr Ruhul Amin along with a team of surgeons and anesthetists went to Khulna to conduct the operation. But as one of the The British newspaper, which did twins developed severe respiratory not give its sources, said that up to problem, the doctors were comlled to postpone the highly deli-

cate surgery there. The conjoined twins were then

The Islami Bank Hospital, a subsidiary organisation of the Islami ing all the expenses including

### Mystery shrouds tiger cub's death in zoo Newsmen barred from gathering report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The death of an 11-month old Royal Bengal Tiger cub has put the Dhaka Zoo authorities in a hot

The cub, which was among 14 tigers at the zoo, was found dead in a cage on Tuesday. How it died remains unknown. The curator repeatedly declined to comment on

However, senior zoo officials told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity that the cub was sick since last week and was not eating

Initially, the authorities had assumed the cub's weakness was the result of internal cross breeding. But its illness was never diagnosed.

The tiger couple Sanjay and Menoka gave birth to two cubs on June 30 last year. The first had died of unexplained causes earlier in January this year.

Dr Anisuzzaman Khan of IUCN, the World Conservation Union, said most of the veterinary surgeons at the Dhaka zoo are experienced only with domestic animals and have little knowledge of wild UNB adds: Officials of the zoo

yesterday held some newsmen hostage for nearly 90 minutes and refused to talk to them as they went there to report on the death of the Sources said the cub was

buried secretly and the zoo authorities did not file any general diary they were supposed to do. When Channel-i reporter

Santosh Mondol, cameraman Fuad Hasan and a staff reporter of daily Jugantor went to the zoo for reporting on the death of the cub, Curator Mofizur Rahman allegedly misbehaved with them and held them hostage for nearly 90 min-"You don't have the right to report

on the issue," Tuhin, animal and nutrition officer of the zoo, was learnt to have told the media people.

About the absence of the The Dhaka Reporters' Unity has Pakistani High Commissioner, condemned the harassment of Zafrullah said the meeting clashed reporters and cameramen at the zoo.

date for OIC secretary general.

important position since that could blur

the image of the country abroad," he

Meeting sources said the ambas-

sadors of OIC countries termed the

dispute over the candidate chosen by

the government as an internal affair of

Bangladesh and urged the AL to settle

"Otherwise, Bangladesh might

"The ambassadors told the meet-

ing that in any international forum they

support a country, not an individual",

AL presidium member Kazi Zafrullah

told the reporters in a briefing last

evening. Deputy Leader of the

Opposition in Parliament Abdul

Hamid was also present at the briefing

Ambassadors of Afghanistan

Brunei, Iran, Malaysia and Palestine

ioined the two-hour meeting along

with the representatives from the

embassies of Egypt, Indonesia and

Morocco in Dhaka. However,

envoys of Saudi Arabia and

Pakistan did not turn up. There are

13 envoys of OIC member states in

held at his JS chamber.

lose the race", observed an

the matter with the government

FROM PAGE 12

Ambassador.

pre-scheduled luncheon party at his residence. On the Saudi ambassador's absence, he said the Saudi embassy people do not usually attend unofficial

AL asks OIC state diplomats

Awami League (AL) leaders with diplomats from the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) member states

after a luncheon meeting in a city hotel yesterday. AL told them that it does not accept the Bangladesh candi-

AL leaders Abdul Hamid, Abdus Samad Azad Abdur Razzak SAMS Kibria, Kazi Zafrullah, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Syed Abul Hossain, and AL advisory committee member Faruk Chowdhury attended the luncheon

Earlier, announcement of Salauddin Quader Chowdhury's name as Bangladesh's candidate for OIC secretary general drew much condemnation from the main opposi-AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil

also wrote a letter to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on June 2, urging her to replace SQ Chowdhury with a candidate acceptable to all.

SQ Chowdhury issue apart, the meeting between AL leaders and the envoys also discussed the US proposal to Bangladesh for sending troops to Iraq and the US Senate bill that proposed 18 Muslim countries including Bangladesh to recognise Israel to get free trade facilities.

They exchanged views on the Middle East peace process and reconstruction of Iraq.

AL leaders also told the envoys that the government has appointed a former BNP leader as chief justice superseding two judges. The envoys wanted to know from the Al leaders about the newly appointed chief justice's holding any BNP portfolio in the past.

They also briefed the ambassadors about the deteriorating law and order and alleged that the government was not making parliament

The AL leaders will meet with the envoys of the European Union, SAARC, ASEAN and Far Eastern countries very soon, AL sources said. Meanwhile, BBC radio quoted the

Prime Minister's Political Secretary-1, Harris Chowdhury, as saying that there was no question of withdrawing SQ Chowdhury's candidature.

## 3 ex-bankers

FROM PAGE 1 lakh of Nasir Khan, an account holder of the bank.

Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC) Inspector Abdul Mannan submitted a charge sheet on July 14, 1992 against them.

In another case, the court handed the three bankers five-year imprisonment and fined Tk 5,000 each or to suffer one-year in prison

## BTV, Betar autonomy

He said most of the listeners of Betar are poor people and from this consideration the government decided to withdraw radio license fees in the new budget, aiming to promote public interest in broadcasting. Similarly, the process of obtaining television license has been made easy.

The minister told the reporters that BTV would soon receive assistance for establishing a full-fledged "reporting team" and would be equipped with necessary electronic apparatuses like satellite news gathering (SNG) facilities and news cameras.

Information Secretary Najmul Alam Siddiqi, Principal Information Officer Khondker Monirul Alam. Director General of BTV Mustafizur Rahman, Director General of Bangladesh Betar Shamsul Islam and other high officials were present at the press conference.

Mustafizur Rahman said BTV would rearrange its broadcast slot and start telecasting from 7:30am instead of 12:00 noon from July 1.

The morning broadcast would continue from 7-30am to 9-30am and the major attraction of the morning with BTV would be "Suprobhat Bangladesh"

The DG said BTV will have its own satellite earth station, which would bolster BTV's transmission capability and its programmes can be viewed from Japan, Indonesia, CIS countries, the Middle East, Cyprus and

Besides, he said new electronic equipment have been procured for reconstructing BTV newsroom at a cost of Tk 2.12 crore and BTV will step into information superhighway through its website with a dynamic database in July that would help people to know about its programmes through internet browsing. The BTV archives will be inaugurated on July 20.

He said steps have been taken to replace the existing 10 transmitters to improve terrestrial transmission. To this end, three VHF Band 3 Solid State Transmitters will be procured soon. An agreement has been signed to collect four most modern nonlinear editing suits to enhance quality Under the modernisation and

mprovement of quality of news and programmes project, he said a news studio equipped with the latest digital

Sinha FROM PAGE 12

Yashwant

it continues to be consistent with the past positions we have taken.

one has been referring to that part as Tibet Autonomous Region". On whether there is any change

vis-a-vis India's stand regarding Tibetan spiritual leader the Dala Lama, Sinha said, "I don't think there is any change there". To a question if he thought both

India and China were 'happy' over the understandings reached, he said. "You can have a winsituation for both'

speed to sort out issues as urgently as possible.

beginning of a new era".

Asked about 'body language' between the Indian and Chinese leaderships, Sinha said there was "great deal of warmth, cordiality and

better atmospherics. There was no no attempt on the part of either country to avoid any issue or evade or sweep an issue under the carpet. Issues were discussed frankly and freely"

between India and China were planned, the Minister said many more visits would take place before the year was out.

machinery, one drama studio, one sound recording studio and eight editina suits will be constructed soon at the extension building of BTV.

In this context, he said BTV's revenue earning has almost doubled compared to previous years. The net profit of BTV stood at Tk 79.54 crore in the outgoing 2002-2003 fiscal, which was Tk 42.89 crore in 2001-2002.

DG of Bangladesh Betar Shamsul Islam said Betar has been playing a praiseworthy role by airing 172 hours of daily broadcasts. Betar, aiming to increase the number of its isteners abroad, broadcasts news and programmes in Arabic, Urdu, Hindi, Nepali, Bangla and English. He said radio transmission began on December 16, 1939 from the radio station at Nazimuddin Road. Betar earned Tk 10.62 crore through its commercial services in the fiscal

He, however, regretted that around 40 percent of posts in Bangladesh Betar were still vacant. Out of the 2,689 sanctioned posts the number of vacant posts is 1,064.

## BB asks banks

FROM PAGE 1

Besides, each bank should publish its financial statement in the

It should also spell out the amount of foreign exchange reserve, amount in each foreign currency and the rate of exchange. The statement should also include enough explanation on mechanism of quoting foreign exchange in local currency, earning and loss in business and impact of changes in exchange rates on assets

income and spending, buying and selling of property and services rental income etc. The projected information should also have details on loan and advance position of bank directors, recovery of these loans and their transactions and investments in shares and debentures.

agement is a risky and sensitive matter and these are the key elements to ensure a strong, prosperous and transparent banking system

### Moudud

FROM PAGE 1

superseding other senior judges. But they were not allowed to speak as the Speaker switched off their micro-

walkout by the AL lawmakers, Hamid told parliament that neither Mohammad Nasim nor he was allowed to make statements on point of order. But the law minister was allowed to make a statement who quoted rule 270 (3) of the Rules of Procedure that bars comments against the president and the chief

Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid also spoke in support of Hamid, Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid session, said he did not allow Nasim to make his point the day before as he 'understood that it was not a point of order as per the rules of procedure".

Moudud took the floor and said he ustice's appointment.

Meanwhile, the standing committees on law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry and textile ministry submitted reports on five separate bills to parliament yesterday recommend-

the Bangladesh Sericulture Board (Amendment) Bill 2003 and the Bangladesh Sericulture Research and Training Institute Bill 2003.

that a few of my class seven students are addicted to drugs. I know they are good students, but drugs threaten to destroy their lives."

"Unfortunately, we dare not take

we know a gang is involved in pushing the drugs. Ateacher of a Dhanmandi-based school (name withheld intentionally)

also expressed dismay over the "Two boys were expelled last

year for addiction, but it could not act as an eye-opener for others.

mises," he said. Activists working in the drug prevention and correction fields say

most youths take drugs at an early "About one third of those who come to our centre say they picked of Mukti, a correction centre for drug "What is amazing is that over 95 per cent of the addicts we admit

have had no psychological or social problem, they try drugs as those relax mind," he added. Some of the physicians said apart from heroin, cannabis, Phensidyl and morphine, addiction

to a new generation of drugs like sedatives, stimulants and antidepressants also runs high. One of such drugs, Yaabba contains stimulant amphetamine and is smuggled in from Thailand. It

is now available at some pharmacies in Dhaka. Codinal, a sedative and Ephedrine, a common drug for treating bronchial asthma, are also

Some youths also use Amitriplin, a depressant, to satisfy their addic-

### Where would the people go for President of the Bangladesh

**World humanity** 

She warned the government of "Time has come to resist them. We were with the tortured in the past

establish people's rights. "Bangladesh has now turned into a breeding ground of killers and safe haven for criminals with government

The AL president said the gov-

## Siamese twins

FROM PAGE 1 cated operation at the Islami Bank

chances not very encouraging. Born joined at the abdomen, the

> flown in to Dhaka along with their parents.

Bank Bangladesh Limited, is bearoperation and treatment of the

2 slain outlaws Shovna UP Chairman, a former leader of Chhatradal and two former police officials of Khuna.

> Both were involved in murders, abduction for ransom, dacoity and rape. They were allegedly involved in murders of NBCP cadres Bimal. Bakhtiar. Nirmal Biswas, Biren Goldar, Anupam Mandol and Balarma Roy of Jalma Union were among others involved in looting 20 rifles and 600 bullets from store room of state-owned Daulatour Jute Mills at Khalishpur, Khulna Metropolitan

Only two months ago Jabbar

joined PBCP with 50 armed cad-

Police said. NBCP claimed responsibilities for the killing. A general diary has

been filed with Khalishpur Thana. Meanwhile, Hossain Ali alias Dinu, 40, one of the top leaders of Mollahat upazila-based unit of outlawed PBCP, was slaughtered on Tuesday at Joykhan village Police recovered his dead body

from a marsh. Witnesses said Dinu, hailing from Panipara village of Paglarhat union of Mollahat, was abducted on Tuesday evening by six armed

men from near his house. The murder is a sequel to previous enmity over possession of a fish farm at Paglarhat union, police said adding, Dinu was wanted in several criminal cases and was absconding.

## British troops

Rabee al-Malki told Reuters. Residents said the soldiers first came to the town to search for weapons on June 21. They burst into houses with dogs sniffing for weapons and with guns pointing at women and children.

After complaints from locals the

British force agreed to halt the

intrusive inspections, but two days

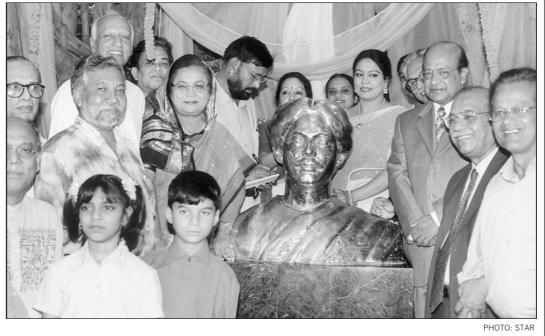
later they returned with the same attitude, the residents said. When the soldiers returned on Tuesday, thousands took to the

streets to protest.

AFP from London adds: Six British 'military police' killed in southern Iraq were massacred inside a village police station where they had gone for a prearranged meeting, the Independent newspaper reported yesterday.

80 Iraqis were also believed to have been killed in a "prolonged and fierce firefight" Tuesday at Al Majjar Al Kabir, near Al Amarah. The Sun newspaper reported

that it was believed the policemen were surrounded by a large number of Fedayeen militiamen still loyal to ousted president Saddam Hussein. who opened fire and left no survisioned in the navy and five offshore vessels capable of patrol-



The National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam Stage was opened on the Bangla Academy premises yesterday. Opening the stage and unveiling a sculpture of the poet. Health and Family Welfare Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain poses for photos

# PM: Free access

taken various measures to face severe competition in world trade in textile sector in absence of the

quota system. She said the government conducted a study to formulate adequate policies to face the challenges. Suggestions of the study that include offering market support, deregulation, lowering interest rate, imparting training, establishing central bonded warehouse and development of infrastructure are under implementation through different taskforces and committees, she said.

She hoped it would be possible to increase the exports of readymade garment following implementation of the sugges-

Navy

Khaleda Zia yesterday said that the government had taken steps for modernisation of Bangladesh Navy to make it a threedimensional force. "Efforts of the present govern-

ment are on to build up a modern, dependable and well-equipped naval force to protect precious fish, gas and other mineral resources along with providing security to commercial ships in Bangladesh maritime boundary, she said in reply to a question from BNP lawmaker M Nurul Islam (Khulna-4). The prime minister said there

is an inadequacy in the navy of frigates capable of patrolling deep She said a patrol craft named Salam and a hydrographic ship named Agradut were commis-

ling deep sea have been purchased from the Royal Navy of The government is actively

considering introduction of helicopters and maritime patrol aircraft in the navy. Efforts are also on to procure surface-to-surface missile, surface to air missile and other arsenal for modernisation of the naval war ships, she added. **Chittagong Port** 

Replying to a question on

Chittagong Port by BNP MP Sarwar Zamal Nizam (Chittagong-12), the prime minister expressed the hope that Chittagong Port will emerge as a world class port in the region by 2005. As a result, Chittagong city will turn into a full-fledged business capital, she added. Begum Zia said the problem of congestion of ships and contain-

ers, pilferage and smuggling of

goods and containers. labour relations, shortage of equipment and illegal occupation of land. water pollution and inefficiency had been there in the Chittagong Port since the past. But the situation is improving following some measures taken by the present government, she said. Replying to another question. the prime minister said members of Bangladesh armed forces are

working in eight countries. At

in the coastal belt

will be allowed bank loan for working present 2,526 members of army, 15 of navy and 14 of airforce are capital at the same rate engaged in the peace missions abroad. About tree plantation, she said the government has undertaken a programme to plant one crore saplings of coconut by June next

## Retrenchment

ment move.

the decision.

staff and their positions After finalisation of the list, the current committee will ask those on it to retire voluntarily. If they agree to go for voluntary retirement, they will be given golden handshake with some

Otherwise, the government will go for retrenchment, said a high official of Meanwhile, the workers and

employees of the BJMC staged a

demonstration at its head office yes-

terday, protesting against the govern-

They gathered in front of the BJMC

head office at Motiiheel and blocked the gate preventing all from entering the building for more than an hour. The demonstrators chanted antigovernment slogans and urged the

authorities to immediately withdraw

They also decided to stage similar

demonstrations in the mills and factories and the head office everyday till the withdrawal of the decision. In another development, the government decided to provide raw jute exporters and 100 per cent export-

oriented jute mills with bank loans at

The leather industry and some

The export-oriented jute industries

other export-oriented sectors enjoy the advantage now. The raw jute exporters will be given loan under Bangladesh Bank's Cash Against Document (CAD) for 90 days.

seven per cent interest.

The jute ministry yesterday held a meeting with the managing directors of nationalised commercial banks and informed them of the decision. The finance ministry in a previous

meeting approved the loan provision to perk up the sector.

"The Tibet Autonomous Region was created in 1965 and after that

The decision to upgrade talks on the border issue with the appointment of special political representatives, was described by the Minister as a "very big development". The desire on the part of both the countries to move forward with greater

"This was an outstanding visit The Chinese side said the first visit by Prime Minister Vajpayee as Foreign Minister in 1979 had succeeded in ice breaking. And this time, they said it has been the

"You couldn't have asked for

On whether more high level visits

said Dr Nurul Huq, medical director

up the issue with their parents since

very popular among the addicted

surplus or shortfall capitals, income per share, etc.

dailies and on the bank's website. The bank's financial statement should also clearly mention steps taken by the bank to recover outstanding loans, amount of loans written off and information about legal actions to recover loans.

It should also reflect directors'

The central bank said bank man

Referring to the previous day's

Siddiqui, who was presiding over the

had demanded expunction of Nasim's statement, as he feared that it would create controversy over the chief

ing their passage by the House. These are the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker (Remuneration and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill 2002, the Members of Parliament (Remuneration and Allowances) (Amendment) Bill, 2002, the Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2003,

## Drug abusers

FROM PAGE 12

"I know many students who abuse drugs and I saw some smoking cannabis on the school pre-

up addiction in school life. And most of them try drugs out of adventure,"