# Panam Nagar

During the British rule, the English rulers built a modern building, the company 'kuthi.' there.

From the end of the 19th century to the beginning of the 20th, Hindu landlords and the merchants put up residential quarters on both sides of

Two bridges on the Pankhiraz canal between Dulalpur and Panam add to the archeological riches of the old town and speak of opulent Mughal architecture.

The deputy commissioner of Narayanganj leased out some of the structures in the past, said Dewan Delwar Hossain, director of archeol-

ogy department. "Virtually we are yet to do anything with Panam. We have submitted a Tk 13 crore project to the government and expect to plunge into action after the government approval," the director

told The Daily Star yesterday. Following the government order, some locals have thrown up new houses in the protected area with the intention of making some quick money as compensation from the govern-

ment during eviction. At least four newly corrugated iron

roofs shone in bright sunlight to announce their existence on Friday. But all other historic buildings nearby stood in virtual ruin: Images

carved on their pillars and walls were peeling off, doors and windows rotting nd rickety cast iron grills falling apart. Locals occupied some of the

buildings as residents or trade centres adding pace to their destruction by Saidur Rahman, chairman of Sonargaon Pourasabha, has been living at the Nilkuthi changing its

eneer of plaster sat incongruously on the wall of the kuthi, a building constructed by British indigo traders. The chairman said the Nilkuthi was his personal property that he inherited from his father who bought it from the

original design and structure. A new

The chairman will have to leave the Nilkuthi as it sits in the protected area now." said Mohammed Abu Musa, director of the Bangladesh Folk Art and Craft Foundation at

Sonargaon. "It's a really praiseworthy decision of the government to save our heri-

tage," he added. Archaeological engineer Abdul Hakim said his team would conduct a survey in the Panam area to find out personal property there.

"Compensation would be given to real property owners," he said.

Hakim said he was aware of new settlers in Panam town and would take necessary steps.

Morshed leaves

for NY to attend

**UNGA** session

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan

left Dhaka yesterday for New York to

attend the 58th Session of the United

During his two-week stay in New

He is also scheduled to meet

York, the foreign minister is scheduled

to hold 15 bilateral meetings with his

President of Senegal Abdoulaye

Wade, Sri Lankan Prime Minister

Ranil Wickremesinghe and the

president of the 58th Session of the

Petrobangla on Tullow's position on

the transfer saying the firm does not

endorse such a deal and had no

Chevron and Texaco informed

Petrobangla about the deal that

transfers their 60 per cent share in

belongs to Bapex, the government

agency responsible for gas field

transfer deal was made secretively

and the companies implemented

the transfer in the stock market to

Nico on September 15, the day

Petrobangla functionary yesterday

confirmed the development but

avoided commenting on it. He said

the agency in charge of looking after

the production sharing contracts

(PSCs) on gas blocks with interna-

tional oil companies (IOCs) is now

reviewing the legality of the transfer.

was made legally and what our role

should be in the matter," he said.

"We will not only examine this deal,

but the entire legal aspect of the

PSCs vis-a-vis such transfers," he

Success in reaching the MDGs will

depend not just on a faster eco-

nomic growth and the flow of

resources but on the ability to trans-

late those resources into basic

services, especially in health,

education, water and sanitation, the

Too often, the delivery of ser-

Some countries have tried to

The World Bank said giving

vices falls far short of what could be

address the problem, especially by

involving poor people in service

delivery, and showed impressive

parents voice over their children's

hospital management and making

can contribute to improving out-

It urged the donors to deliver

The new World Bank report

foreign aid in ways that promote, not

undercut, better services for the poor.

warns that broad improvements in

human welfare will not occur unless

poor people receive wider access to

affordable, better-quality services in

health, education, water, sanitation

powerful examples of where ser-

vices do work, showing how govern-

ular successes and miserable

failures in the efforts of developing

countries to make services work

The main difference between suc-

cess and failure is the degree to

which poor people themselves are

involved in determining the quality

and the quantity of the services they

needed in many parts of the world -

will also not be enough, as public

funds are often spent on the wrong

services and people are sucked

away by corruption, the report

Spending more money -- badly

It says there have been spectac-

ments and citizens can do better.

However, the report provides

and electricity.

comes in human development.

education, patients the say over

results, the report revealed.

achieved, especially for the poor.

Bangladesh

"We will see whether the deal

Talking to the BSS, a

before they announced the deal.

exploration and development.

Earlier on September 16,

The remaining 10 per cent share

Industry sources said the share

Tullow slams

prior knowledge about it.

FROM PAGE 12

Block 9 to Niko.

counterparts from different countries.

Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

BSS. Dhaka

## Presence of criminal with ministers draws flak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The presence of a top criminal at a ward BNP conference Friday in presence of Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman and State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasir has sparked strong resentment among the rank and file of the ruling BNP in Chittagong.

Wanted by the Chittagong Metropolitan Police, listed criminal Morshed Khan was seen on the same dais with the two government ministers during the biennial conference of No 19 South Bakolia Ward of BNP at Charchaktai City Corporation High School ground under Bakolia Police

Wishing anonymity, a leader of Chittagong City BNP, however admitted that Morshed was present at the conference, which was addressed by Noman as chief guest and Mir Nasir as special guest

He said Morshed came to the meeting venue at the head of a huge procession immediately after the two ministers arrived there at the around 5:15pm. He climbed up the stairs of the dais, positioned himself behind the ministers and stayed there until the end of the conference, the BNP leader told The Daily Star.

He said Morshed was not invited to the function but no action was taken to remove the criminal probably in view of the trouble it might create

### Everest FROM PAGE 12

October for hone their climbing

Professor Abdullah Abu Saveed was present as chief guest at the press conference. Besides, trekkers Enam-ul-Haque, Sirajul Haque Sagor, Mashharul Ameen Milon, Enamul Haque Talukdar, Muntasir Mamun Imran, Rifat Hasan and Khaled Sajal were present.

The press conference over, a slide show of the group's trekking experiences on the Annapurna Mountain and base camp of Everest was arranged.

## Acid-burnt

FROM PAGE 1 while her husband Yunus Shiekh

suffered burns in some parts of the Badal Mirdha, Nasima's brother, rushed to his sister's aid on hearing

her cry and had his chest, hands and legs burnt in the process, as he embraced her without knowing what was going on. Yunus chased the criminals in

vain, but identified Mahfuz, Kalam Mollah, Anwar Hossain Mollah, Sadeq Hossian Mollah, and Pannu Mollah, while they were running away.

The burnt were rushed to Rajair

Thana Health Complex. Nasima and Badal were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday morning as their conditions deteriorated 'They came to throw acid on my utility agency budgets transparent

11-year-old daughter Mousumi They also abducted her from Madaripur about two months back and kept her confined at Jatrabari in Dhaka for three days," Nasima told The Daily Star yesterday.

Earlier, Nasima said she had lent Sirajul Hag Tk 1 lakh at the rate of Tk 10,000 interest a month

three years back. called local seniors three months back, as Sirajul returned no money even after 32 months. In presence of the seniors he offered me a marriage between Mousumi and his 25-year-old addicted and criminal son Suman and termed the money would-be dowry. On my refusal, Sirajul picked her," Nasima

said. "Families and local influentials met twice and told me that Mousumi cannot be married off to somewhere else 'after she passed three days with males no matter how old she

is'," she said. "But we continued to refuse and filed a case against Sumon and his parents for kidnapping my daughter," Nasima continued. "And they threatened me 15 days ago of dire consequences if we did not withdraw the case within one week.

# against four in **Sultana Panni** murder case

**COURT CORRESPONDENT** 

The Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Dhaka, yesterday framed charges against four accused in the Sultana Khan Panni murder case

The accused are the cook of the victim's house, Alauddin Munshi, caretaker Mehedi Mamun Rana and their friends, Nasir Uddin and Emdadul Haq. Judge Motiur Rahman fixed October 4 for trial of the case.

Sultana Khan Panni, 70, wife of former deputy speaker Humayun Khan Panni, was strangled at her Dhanmondi residence on May 19. The victim's daughter, Sonia Khan

Panni, filed a murder case with Dhanmondi Police Station the same The Detective Branch (DB) of Police pressed charges against the four on July 16, showing 26 people as

Earlier, the accused had made confessional statements before metropolitan magistrates on different

### 15 families FROM PAGE 12

prosecution witnesses.

the place but came back with a large group of people armed with lethal weapons and iron rods. They swooped on the indigenous

villagers and damaged the house of The members of some 15 fami-

ies left the village and did not return till the filing of this report yesterday Dulal Murmu told newsmen that ne complained to the UNO who

asked Mohonpur police and the local UP chairman to take necessary actions in this regard. The UNO could not be contacted mmediately

But Sub-Inspector Sanaullah of Mohonpur Police Station said they did not know anything about the

### Dhaka, Yangon FROM PAGE 1

prototype of Chinese type-58 stake mines and type-59 pressure mines. The mines are produced under a Chinese-aided project near Pye (Prome).

Other coveted items in the Myanmar weaponry are a Special Combat Vehicle (SCV) which is roofmounted with 12.7mm Herstal machinegun, a bonnet-mounted 7.62mm light machinegun, bonnetmounted 84mm Carl Gustav M2 rocket launcher and 81 and 60 mm

The military tie-up move follows the strengthening of bilateral ties in economic fields and Dhaka's assurance to Myanmar of not allowing use of Bangladesh's land, air or sea spaces by any power hostile to Myanmar.

Both Bangladesh and Myanmar maintain close military ties with China and Dhaka thinks the 111 000 str Myanmar armed forces are capable of increasing military deterrence along the Bay of Bengal if a strategic partnership is forged. Sources said collaboration will also

include understanding of the structures of the armed forces of the two countries and likely missions to facilitate joint operations in future.

On top of the agenda is naval cooperation at the Bay of Bengal. Capt Aung Thau, deputy commander of Myanmar's Danyawadya naval base, will aid the Myanmar delegation to discuss naval issues when the delegate meets Navy Chief Rear Admiral Shah labal Muitaba.

Col Aung Ngwe, a senior officer of Myanmar's office of naval intelligence, s also aiding the delegation on discussion of naval intelligence matters.

Col Pin Naing Tun, acting commander of Myanmar's aircraft maintenance base, will aid the chief of Myanmar delegation during discussions on technical air collaborations.

Col Han Pint, defence attache of Myanmar embassy in Dhaka, was not available for comments on the significance of the high-level military delegation's visit to Bangladesh.

### Iraq council FROM PAGE 12

missed her car, then opened fire with Kalashnikov assault rifles.

A neighbour, Khola Ibrahim, said she was in her kitchen when she "heard shooting, very heavy shooting."

Another neighbour, Saba Adel, said al-Hashimi's brother - who acted as one of her bodyguards knocked on her door crying out "My sister, my sister!'

Saba Adel said she saw another bodyguard lying on the sidewalk wounded in the arm and leg. An Iraqi security official said al-

Hashimi was brought to the hospital at about 10:30 a.m. and immediately was taken to surgery for a bullet wound in the left side of her abdomen.

She was then taken to an unknown location in a US military ambulance while still unconscious. said the official, who would not give

Al-Hashimi is one of three women on the 25-member council. She was preparing to leave for New York as part of an Iragi delegation that will attempt to assume Iraq's seat at the UN General Assembly.

Al-Hashimi is a Shiite Muslim and a career diplomat who led the Iragi delegation to a donors' conference in New York this summer. She holds a degree in law and a doctorate in modern literature.

# Charges framed CPA joining

conference in Dhaka because her past government offered to host the

"But unfortunately, this government did not take us into cognizance and discuss anything with us," the UNB quoted her as saying.

Citing the inclusion of only two deputies from her party in the 25member CPA steering committee, she said the attitude of the government showed that it did not expect the AL members in the conference.

The deputy speaker yesterday talked to Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid and urged the AL legislators to join the meet. He told The Daily Star that all the demands of the opposition were met. "Now they should join the conference,"

He said, "The prime minister wanted to know preparations for the conference and was satisfied with the

"The prime minister also wanted to know about the main opposition's participation in the conference and asked the speaker and me to communicate with the opposition," said the deputy speaker. "She also wanted to know about

the inclusion of her two political secretaries in the steering committee." Some senior AL leaders met Friday

to review the overall situation following a direction of Hasina. "The ruling party has made parlia-

ment ineffective... the CPA is a minor issue. If we join the conference and make it successful, will the ruling party allow us to speak in parliament?' asked Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, presidium member of the AL. Selim further said the AL leaders

would discuss issues like the party's participation in the CPA conference law and order and the ongoing parliamentary stalemate with the Commonwealth high commissioners

Cargo Services Ltd., as his name

has not been registered with the Registrar of Joint Stock in Dhaka.

has disbursed honorarium and 49

Dato Mohd Zin Bin Mohamed every

month since the inception of the

GSA." said the complaint, a copy of

which has been obtained by The

plaint that the original GSA agree-

ment with MAS was signed by Zin as

the chairman of Silkways on

September 21, 2000. The company,

however, obtained clearance from

the BB by allegedly hiding the

foreign national's presence on the

board as Silkways is incorporated in

Bangladesh with the Registrar of

Joint Stock as a fully Bangladeshi-

The alleged money-flight scam.

considered to be politically sensa-

tional for both Bangladesh and

Malavsia, took a new twist on

September 11 when a shareholder of

MAS sued the chairman of Silkways

Cargo Services Ltd. of Bangladesh,

Zin Mohamed, and MAS in the

Malaysian High Court for alleged

wrongdoing in under-declaring

weight of goods carried by the air-

national news agency Bernama

Jeyapalan Mahesan, a shareholder

of MAS, alleged in his lawsuit that

Zin had knowingly represented

himself as chairman and owner of

Silkways Cargo Services Ltd. But

Zin is not a registered member of

Zin has been receiving funds from Bangladesh without informing the

relevant authorities in Bangladesh.

ing the scam, told The Daily Star

that a foreign national could in no

way hold the office of chairman in a

fully Bangladeshi-owned company

registered with the joint stock com-

Another official of the bank's

BB officials, who are investigat-

Jeyapalan also told the court that

Silkways board

According to the Malaysian

owned company.

It has been alleged in the com-

per cent of profit share monies to Mr.

Silkways Cargo Services Ltd.

Earlier, Speaker Sircar, head of the steering committee, and Deputy Speaker Hamid, head of the coordina tion committee, refused to exclude the two non-MPs from the steering com-

After Denis Marshall, secretary general of the CPA, invited the opposition leader to join the conference and address the inaugural ceremony, the situation started taking a dramatic turn. The high commissioners from Britain and Australia met the deputy

decision to boycott the conference. The CPA has so far held 48 conferences with the presence of the government and the opposition of the host

speaker last week and expressed

concern over the main opposition's

Not happy with the ruling party's attitude towards the opposition, the AL is not participating in the preparatory activities of the conference.

The fifth meeting of the steering

committee was held vesterday in the absence of the AL. Much of the preparatory work, however, is complete

### Proteas tour FROM PAGE 12

Africa is unable to tour Pakistan at this time due to yesterday's bomb blast in Karachi and the deteriorating security situation in Pakistan, UČB media officer Gerald de Kock said by telephone from

Johannesburg. De Kock said there was still hope the two teams could meet at an alternative venue.

The UCB has offered the Pakistan Cricket Board the option of playing the series in South Africa or at a neutral venue," he said

maker Teresa Kok Suh Sim, who

had filed the complaint, was sched-

uled to meet the BB governor on

August 30. But she cancelled the

appointment later for unknown

from The Daily Star, Teresa said,

"My lawyer had set up an appoint-

ment with the governor of the central

bank and a few other related agen-

cies/personnel. But my trip was

cancelled due to the assassination

Replying to an e-mailed guery

Malaysian Airline GSA

reasons.

FROM PAGE 12 Minister M Saifur Rahman also told donors at the Paris Aid Consortium meeting in 1995 that Dhaka would go for a unified healthcare delivery

Based on this concept, the government in 1998 launched a \$2.9 billion Health and Population Sector Programme (HPSP).

Under the HPSP, over 13,000 community clinics were constructed in the last five years to deliver unified healthcare services. Millions of taka were spent to train doctors, nurses and paramedics and health and family planning field workers

BMA President M A Hadi told The Daily Star yesterday, "At a meeting of the newly-elected BMA executive committee and central council members last year, the prime minister reiterated her commitment to the unification process in the light of the 1995 ICPD agreement.

"I have no idea why the government is suddenly reversing its deci-

"We will continue to persuade the government to go in line with the ICPD agreement and adopt even more efficient healthcare system," Hadi added

However, Health Secretary A F M Sarwar Kamal said yesterday the decision against unification of the two wings of the health ministry was already discussed and approved at the cabinet meeting on September 1. "This is being done to avoid clash of interests of health and family planning personnel," he said in reply to a Meanwhile, a World Bank official

said, "As long as the reform action plans are in place, we are happy. The decision that has not yet been formally communicated to the bank does not add any new element to our partnership with the government.

'Donation/Zakat' and 'Business

Development' heads. Another

minister, also from Chittagong,

received Tk 1 lakh under 'Business

Development' head while a third one

The Silkways MD again admitted

giving free tickets and Zakat to 'a

received a free ticket.

# Family planning | CHT refugees

received their wages since the fourparty alliance government took office n October 2001

A high official at the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs said, 'As none has been appointed to the top post of the taskforce after the former chairman guit two years ago, the office has not been functioning effectively.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Dipankar expressed his dissatisfaction and concern about the future of the office. He blamed the government for neglecting the issue of rehabilitating the refugees.

He demanded reorganisation of the taskforce with public representatives. " Abandoning the relief programme, before the refugees could be rehabilitated, has been a big blow to the local people," he said.
"There is none here to look after

us, though we have requested the four-party alliance government to look into our problems," said Prafulla Kumar Chakma, vicepresident of the Returnee Tribal Refugee Welfare Association (RTRWA). "We have long been expecting

benefits on the basis of the 26point charter that we reached with the government in late 1996. It inspired 66,600 indigenous people of 12,000 families to return from neighbouring Tripura state of India." Prafulla told The Daily Star.

"The decision to stop monthly distribution of relief materials to feed the returnee refugees has created great frustration among them and most of the refuge families are now facing extreme hardship," Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) chief Jyotirindra Bodhipriya alias Shantu Larma observed. The matter was included in the

1997 peace accord, he said. Prior to the signing of the peace

agreement on December 2, 1997 the refugees returned home in six batches with the support of the

government. According to the peace agreement, the then AL government formed a nine-member taskforce headed by Dipankar Talukder for rehabilitation of the refugees and set up its office at Khagrachhari

district headquarters in late 1998. In August 2001, Talukder resigned before taking part in the October 1 parliamentary election. The post has since been lying

Meanwhile, 10 TCHTRRA staff members have not been paid their wages in the last two years, said an

employee seeking anonymity. "The government has not taken the initiative to restart the office. Shantu said and demanded immediate steps to rehabilitate the refugees who returned following the government assurance.

Controversy arose following inclusion of 38,000 Bangalee families on the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) refugee list. The PCJSS and other local representatives walked out of a taskforce meeting, protesting the inclusion of Bangalee settlers on the list of refugees.

Residents of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), belonging to differindigenous communities, crossed the border after facing persecution by plain-land settlers the seventies and the eighties. They took shelter in the bordering Tripura state, a PCJSS and refugee leader said. After a long bargain with the

refugee leaders, the then Awami League government assured the refugees of getting back their ancestral homes, arable land, jobs and supply of food until they are fully rehabilitated after returning to

# Win or whitewash

ation of South Africa's tour next week The game will also mark the end of Bangladesh's 38-day tour of Pakistan. The home side has already whitewashed the tourists 3-0 in the Test

match in Multan by 137 runs and then suffered a 74-run defeat in the second at Faisalabad. They lost the third match by 42 runs at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore. But despite losing 42 matches on a

Mahmud's men came agonisingly close to end the jinx at Rawalpindi Thursday night, only to be denied by a rock-solid Yousuf Youhana. The Pakistan middle-order bats-

victory with a superb 94 not out in that cliffhanger.

nation for the finale. But Whatmore.

Makeshift Mashud scored a duck while opening the innings with Hannan, forced the Bangladesh thinktank to bring Habibul Bashar back into

The 33-year-old also said his young team was on the right track despite the defeats.

"We have achieved our first target of raising the performance graph. We came lose to winning once in both the Test and one-day series. So, if we can win the last match it will be a big boost for us," Mahmud said.

Rawalpindi match. The home side is likely to bring back Shabbir Ahmed to open the bowling with Umar Gul.

Bangladesh lost the first one-day

trot, Bangladesh showed a marked

improvement after the opening one-

daver at Multan and Khaled

man stood between Bangladesh and

After that heart-breaking fivewicket defeat, coach Dav Whatmore has decided to retain the same combi-

ment to open the innings with wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud backfired at Rawalpindi, has planned to revert to an orthodox combination The opening stand has remained an Achilles heel for Bangladesh in the series, with the best partnership yielding as few as nine runs so far.

the opening slot.

"We couldn't field well in the last two overs, perhaps the players were never before in a situation like that but I am sure we will do better in the final match," said Bangladesh skipper Khaled Mahmud yesterday.

Pakistan made one change for Sunday's match. Controversial pacer Junaid Zia, the 19-year-old son of Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Tauqir Zia, was dropped after the

18 'extremists' FROM PAGE 1

According to reports received in Dhaka, acting on a tip-off, Boalmari police raided the rented residence of upazila BNP Vice-president Kamruzzaman Mia alias Esken and made the arrests

However, the BNP leader was not arrested Police said the arrestees con-

fessed to coming to Faridpur from Jamia Islamia Nurul Ulum Kawmi Madrassah at Jibantala in Bhaluka upazila of Mymensingh to raise funds for an 'armed revolution' to resist the enemies of Islam.

A senior police official said they nabbed them when they were discussng formation of a 'militant group'.

Police showed them arrested under Section 54 of Criminal Procedure Code and produced them before court yesterday with a prayer to remand them for seven davs. Moulana Abdur Rouf is a teacher

of the madrassah. He and the princi-

pal together came to the residence of

Kamruzzaman and the 16 others ioined them from different parts of the country later, police and local people The subscription receipts were written in the name of Islami Shashantra Chhatra Andalan and the

audio-cassettes had titles like Action. Jago Mujahid, Bir Mujahid and Hoonker. The flag had a red and green star and the book was in Arabic. Earlier, the arrestees made religious deliberations at Andharkotha Jame Masjid at Boalmari Friday night and had dinner at Kamruzzaman's

house, from where they were arrested. The BNP leader used to supply food to them, local people said. Kamruzzaman's son Sohel, 24, a student of the madrassah, is absconding. He is allegedly linked to the

extremist group. Bhaluka police said a strong police squad was sent to the madrassah

ocated in a remote hilly area. Principal Shahidul İslam denied his involvement with any extremist group and said he came to Boalmari at the nvitation of his student Sohel

mutually agreed terms," the envoy

trade relations between

Bangladesh and northeastern

states of India, he said this must be

viewed in the overall context of

relations between the two countries.

to treat the northeast as a locked

backyard or a captive market of

cement plant as a good example,

where limestone from Meghalaya

will be used to make cement in

"A narrow approach which seeks

Asked about the prospects of

# Gas export

FROM PAGE 12 ing goods and services that can find a place in the Indian market on their own on a competitive basis.

About Dhaka's demand for dutyfree access, the diplomat said Bangladeshi exports already enjoy preferential market access to India. Under the South Asian Free Trade Arrangement( SAFTA), he added, Bangladesh enjoys a minimum tariff preference of 50 percent on over 2.000 tariff lines.

Besides, duty-free access has been granted recently on 79 items. These have resulted in some increase in Bangladesh's exports. but he noted it had only a marginal mpact on the country's trade deficit. Asked about the opposition to

pipeline -sale of gas to India, Tripathy said India had always been of the view that it is the sovereign privilege of Bangladeshis to determine whether they have some surplus gas that they would want to "Since we are an energyBangladesh will be shortsighted and self-defeating," he observed. "We should, however, try to leverage the inherent complementaries between the economies of the two countries." Tripathy said, citing Lafarge-Surma

Bangladesh. Similarly, an Indian business team recently discussed the possibility of setting up fertiliser plants using Bangladeshi gas.

Tripathy said during the last Joint Economic Commission( JEC) meeting, held in Dhaka in July, India had expressed its keenness to introduce this service, which oper-

# foreign exchange policy department said Malaysian opposition law-

one till last evening. his body was taken there at around 1:00pm.

member of Lalasarai unit of ruling BNP, out of his residence at 5/1, Damalkoat to go to Savar. Osman got in a black taxicab with the two conspirators -- Sharif and

Liton. Kafrul police said. when it reached the Bikrampur Mistanna Bhander at Kachukhet and got out to buy cigarettes, allowing their associates to ambush Osman. Family members said Osman

worked for formation of a Lathi-Banshi committee (a citizen committee against crime and extortion) a vear back and drove away local criminals and extortionists. Angry at his role, the criminals might have killed him, they alleged. Kafrul police conducted a block raid in the area immediately after the

suspicion. They were being interrogated till filing of this report last However, Osman has also two assault cases filed against him with

Rana, Abdul Hekim and Emon on

the opposition leader in Bangladesh (Monzurul Imam in Khulna). My colleagues were worried about my security in your country, so the trip was called off. Talking to The Daily Star,

Managing Director (MD) of Silkways

Sk. Farid Ahmed admitted that his

company was neither a joint venture, nor did it have any foreign Asked about Zin Mohamed, the Malaysian lawmaker, the Silkways

MD said. "We appointed him as our executive chairman. Brushing aside allegations of transfer money illegally and sharing 49 per cent of the company profits with Zin, the Silkways MD said, "We don't pay him (Zin) any monthly honorarium, neither does he get any profit. We just keep him as our executive chairman for business

development interest." But The Daily Star obtained a document that shows the 'chairman' of Silkways received Tk 3.94 crore in the last three years. To cite a few examples, the chairman received Tk 8.12 lakh on August 16, 2000, Tk 2.95 lakh on June 12, 2001, Tk

19.52 lakh on May 3, 2002 and Tk 12.25 lakh on July 13, 2003. Asked whether it is legal to have a lawmaker of another country as company executive chairman, Farid

claimed there was nothing wrong. Apart from the allegations of illegal money transfer, there are accusations against Silkways of paying undue financial benefits to

several ministers in Bangladesh. A ledger of Silkways shows a minister from Chittagong received Tk 342,500 and Tk 50,000 from the GSA in two instalments under

# 3 killed in city

Station, which failed to arrest any-At Kafrul, Osman Ghani died on the spot when a bullet fired by a gang of 6-7 hit his head at around 11:30am. Doctors at the DMCH declared the 35-year-old dead when

The attackers positioned themselves at the Kachukhet area and two others went to call Osman, a

Sharif and Liton stopped the cab

incident and arrested Uzzal, Fakka

Meanwhile, at Dhalpur in Demra

local criminals gunned down a Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) sweeper and wounded three others yesterday as a sequel of previous About 25 operatives of local Nasir group allegedly sprayed

bullets indiscriminately in front of the

mosque inside 'Citypolli Basti' at

8:00am. Kamal and his nephew

Babu were then going to work place at Jurain by a rickshaw. The gang sprayed about 30 rounds of bullet on him, exploded homemade bombs and then left the place leaving them critically injured Kamal received six bullets in his chest, abdomen and back.

Babu and Saddam, an employee of nearby shop, received bullet injury while the rickshaw-puller, Mannan Mia, received bomb injury. Doctors at the DMCH declared Kamal dead after relatives rushed him there at about 9:15am.

Nasir got furious at Kamal as he

helped police seize 8000 bottles of contraband phensedyl last Wednesday, locals alleged. The victim's elder brother Moniruzzman filed a case with the Demra Police Station against local not give up criminal Dilumuddin, Raza, Nasir. Sina, Mamun, Shamser, Kailya Khokon, Malek, Swapan, Baksu, Razzab, Shaizuddin and Linkon

and 12 unidentified others. Police arrested Shaizuddin

### few ministers' but strongly objected to terming those as bribes "We might have given some tickets as gifts and Zakat to some honourable people in the government. Zakat was meant for distribution among the poor in their constituencies. That again, we didn't give it

in cash, but in saree and lungi," said Farid, the MD. He said the costs of 'gift tickets' and Zakat clothes were shown under the 'Business Development head in the GSA's ledger. The MD suspected that by

launching a campaign against

Silkways, the Malaysian opposition MP, Teresa Kok, was trying to politically defame and harass 7in Mohamed, who is the chairman of the Backbenchers' Club in Malaysian parliament. In April this year. Teresa alleged in Malaysian parliament that Silkways cheated in cargo weight

She also held a news conference to air her allegations. Later, a \$60 million suit was filed against Teresa, according to Bernama, the Malaysian national news agency. Farid told The Daily Star that the defamation suit has not been settled as yet.

and paid money to MAS officials.

# Security up at Khagrachhari to

Authorities yesterday tightened security in Khagrachhari fearing another spell of violence in the form of a showdown by Bangali settlers.

Four platoons of police mostly in

riot gear were deployed at district

headquarters to thwart attempts of

violence during a scheduled

programme today, officials said. The programme is allegedly organised by Bangali settlers under the Bangladesh Nationalist Party's (BNP) banner to protest chairman of Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity Shantu Larma's recent comments. officials added

"We have taken all out measures

to keep the situation under control,'

Superintendent of Khagrachhari

police Matiur Rahman Sheikh told The Daily Star yesterday. The BNP activists launched a heavy campaign to draw massive crowd during the programme, locals

During a recent visit to

Khagrachhari, Larma blamed local

ruling party lawmaker for the August

26 incidents at Mahalchhari. About 400 ethnic people of nine villages became homeless as Bangali settlers reportedly torched their houses at Mahalchhari and left one killed and 20 others injured.

### Ayodhya FROM PAGE 12 had political overtones and BJP would face it legally as well as politically, he said.

Referring to the Rae Bareli court's

order to frame charges against BJP leaders, Naidu said: "Let the law take its own course" but added: "We shall fight the legal battle and will certainly The BJP president said it was the erstwhile Congress government

which had filed the case but BJP-led deficient country and are looking at NDA government had decided to fight all possible sources to meet our the legal battle rather than choosing to needs, we will certainly consider withdraw the chargesheet. buying gas from Bangladesh on

# quell tension STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg