# NEWS

# Ways to protect business interests must to face global trade challenges

## Khosru tells int'l employers' confce

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Business organisations will run into a crisis unless they developed strategies to protect and promote their business interests in the context of the global trade challenges, Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury warned yesterday.

"The readymade garment sector, in collaboration with top interna-tional organisations, has already established a unique culture of corporate responsibility by taking children out of factories and putting them in educational and vocational institutes to acquire skills necessary to develop their full potentials," he said.

Khosru was speaking as chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of the 6th Asia-Pacific High-level Employers' Conference at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka yesterday. He said several other sectors

needed to take up similar programmes to save the children engaged in "the worst forms of child labour'

The commerce minister said globalisation is yet to be equitable because the least developed countries (LDCs) continue to find it difficult to have their due share in the world market. "The share of LDCs in world trade shows a marked decline -- from 0.7 per cent in the 1980s to 0.4 per cent in the 1990s -- and the slide continues.

Referring to the latest World Investment Report compiled by the UNCTAD (United Nations Confe-rence on Trade and Development), he said FDIs only flowed to a handful of developing countries while LDCs were left out of the process.

The minister urged employers' organisations of developed Asian countries to help their counterparts in small countries like Bangladesh frame a corporate code of conduct based on Asian values and culture and with a view to gaining social confidence on businesses.

Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF) in collaboration with International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Organisation of Employees (IOE), Geneva, and Japan Business Federation (JBF) is organising the three-day conference.

Other speakers at the conference included Francois Perigot, president

# of IOE, Hiroshi Okuda, chairman of JBF, Yasuyuki Nodera, regional director of ILO (Asia-Pacific),

Amanullah Aman, state minister for labour and employment, and CK Hyder, secretary general of BEF.

should also realise that some

Yasuyuki Nodera said globalisation has generated some nisunderstandings as well as fears. BEF President M Anis Ud Dowla

another.

"Many of these buyers also tend to go elsewhere after suppliers have spent time and money fulfilling their equirements," he observed. CK Hyder said free trade should

it hasn't been so is alarming. "Often there are trade barriers. These issues need to be addressed.

countries are participating in the conference.

# FROM PAGE 1

off-limits.

The test of General English (Compulsory) will be held today. Students who bought the

Earlier, rickshaws were banned on the Mirpur Road between Gabtali and Russell Square on December 20 last year. expressed angers at rumourmongers. "All my money went in vain," said an examinee in the city's Dr

Meanwhile, different rickshaw owners' and pullers' associations protested the government move to make roads off-limits to rickshaws and threatened to wage a move-ment unless the decision was

# Economic coordination

cial

#### FROM PAGE 1

tries," he observed.

A Planning Commission official blamed monga or near-famine in the northern region on the lack of coordination, saying it could have been avoided if the council had acted properly.

"We seldom heard of monga in previous years because of govern-ment's Food For Work program

convict, Diarul Alam alias Didar.

Francois Perigot said businessmen should take up the challenge to fulfill people's expectations. "We fulfill people's expectations. must face these challenges Consumers, on the other hand.

demands will remain unfulfilled.

who chaired the conference said ousinesses couldn't afford to remain ndifferent to social expectations. At the same time, he said, businesses need to have the organisational ability to resist undue demands from special interest groups including some foreign buyers who impose compliance requirements one after

fair and equitable, but the fact that

A total of 100 delegates from 21

# Rickshaw ban

making brisk money exploiting examinees' anxiety. On the change of question paper for the Bangla exam, he said New Market was supposed to go

he knew nothing of it. "As banning rickshaws on these roads will affect the poor, we will conduct a survey before taking the final decision," said a DTCB offi-

rumoured 'leaked questions' at high prices felt cheated and

rescinded. A group called Committee to

Resist Rickshaw Eviction (CRRE) brought out a procession from Nilkhet to protest the planned rickshaw ban and marched through to Shahbagh. He cheated us. No question matched with the real question papers.

# WHO okays use of new **Didar gets life** combination Aids pills

#### A court here yesterday sentenced a **REUTERS**, Nairobi top criminal to life imprisonment

**Top criminal** 

in Fatikchhari upazila in 2001.

later recovered by police.

the state.

FROM PAGE 1

newspapers.

pressed charge against Didar.

**BCS** question

A source in the PSC, however, said

tive set of question papers amid

widespread allegations of leaks in

Many examinees believe the

Mohammad Shohrab Ali, a

member of the PSC, told The Daily

Star that they were happy, as the

allegations proved false. He said

some unscrupulous people spread the rumours with the intent of

commission conducted the test

with a new set of questions.

Malika College centre.

Abdur Razzak, who along with

four other friends bought a set of

puestion papers rumoured to be

eaked at Tk 1,000 on Sunday, said:

the commission used an alterna-

BSS, Ctg

for gunfight with police at a village The World Health Organization said yesterday it had approved for Judge Mohammad Abdur use three separate three-in-one Rahman Patwari of the Court of combination Aids treatment pills under a new plan to rush anti-District and Sessions Judge handed down the verdict in absence of the retroviral (ARV) medicines to three million people

Acting on a tip off, Fatikchhari WHO officials said the pills, key ARVs to the world's poor, were made by India's generic drugs firms Ranbaxy Laboratories and police went to Chandunia village on January 28, 2001 to nab Didar and his accomplices. Sensing presence of the police, Didar and Cipla Ltd. and combined the drugs his men opened fire. Police lamivudine, stavudine and returned fire. After an hour-long nevirapine.

gunfight with police, Didar and his Making the announcement accomplices fled the spot, leaving WHO Assistant Director-General arms and ammunition that were Jack Chow told a news conference that research was helping simplify After investigation, police Aids therapy and his organization now recommended just four treat-Public Prosecutor Kafiluddin ment regimens, whereas previ-ously it recommended 35. Chowdhury pleaded on behalf of

> Of the four, the most appropriate regimen for people living in deep poverty is so-called fixeddose combination therapy that combines medicines in a pill that needs to be taken only twice a day in the morning and evening, WHO experts say.

"The exciting development of single pills containing all three drugs will make treatment even simpler," Chow said.

FROM PAGE 1

"Today, we are pleased to

Accord was signed between the

PCJSS and the past Awami League

government on December 2, 1997.

inked with a broad perspective,

for changing the fate of the hills people and restore their rights

that were being denied for

decades. But it could not change

the fate of the poor ethnic com-munity of the CHT. Both the

governments in the last six years --

former Awami League and the

present BNP-Jamaat alliance

to implement the accord.

governments -- seemed reluctant

"Implementation of the pact has

accord from the very beginning as

the prime minister kept the CHT

ministry in her own hands," said Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, the

chairman of the CHT regional

council. "I don't see any difference

between the past and the present governments so far as the imple-

mentation of the accord is con-

cerned," he said. "The government

will be fully responsible for any

situation arising out of the non-implementation of the accord," he

After the signing of the peace accord, the Awami League govern-

ment could only form certain

committees and establish some

offices in their three and half years

in power. But in the real sense they

taste of development, as the

could not go far enough to imple

ment the accord.

The peace agreement was

#### this single pill three drug combina WHO officials said it was the first time WHO had approved the use of a three-in-one combination pill that was suitable for what WHO

announce that WHO has

prequalified three preparations of

Man to die

for killing

**COURT CORRESPONDENT** 

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a man to death for killing his wife

Judge Hussain Shaheed Ahmad of the Court of Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge gave

the verdict at a crowded courtroom in presence of convict Mohammad

The convict can appeal to the High Court against the judgement within seven days.

that Shahadat Hossain beat his wife Sharifa Khatun alias Nayan Tara and his son Ronny dead fol-lowing a family feud at their Uttar

Bhasantek residence in the city's

Cantonment area around 8:45am

The court framed charge against him on August 19, 1998.

government is fighting the polls in Madhya Pradesh," said the state's

BIP with "terrorising" voters during Monday's voting. Casting her vote, Dikshit said Congress had turned the capital of 14 million people into a

"We have done our job and now

we await the approval of the people of our work," the charismatic leader

In the fray for the 590 assembly seats up for grabs Monday are 5,348 candidates including eunuchs, street baukor and former princes

Voting was not without hitches.

In Rajasthan's Alamsar seat, Begum Nazia, 93, found that she was identi-

fied as a 36-year-old voter and in the

state capital of Jaipur Chief Electoral Officer Lalit Kothari was embar-

Officer Lalit Kothari was embar-rassed when the voting machine

Vajpayee himself was not due to

broke down and he could not vote.

vote as his parliamentary constitu-ency is in Lucknow, capital of the

The northeastern province of Mizoram, which is ruled by a

regional party, voted November 20.

BDR deployed

northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

hawkers and former princes.

were examined during the trial.

Sixteen prosecution witnesses

The prosecution story in brief is

wife, son

and son in July 1997.

Shahadat Hossain.

on July 27, 1997.

Sonia

modern city.

said.

terms "front line" conditions of extreme poverty. Prequalification means the WHO experts have visited and

inspected the factories making the pills and satisfied themselves the product is safe, effective and of good quality.

WHO is not a global regulator of pharmaceutical production but its recommendations guide government policymakers around the world, and government purchasers feel confident buying products that have the WHO seal of approval.

stavudine and nevirapine are controlled by multinational drug companies GlaxoSmithKline Plc Bristol-Myers Squibb Co and Boehringer Ingelheim, respectively

dose combination anti-Aids pills seen as workable in settings of poverty, experts say.

Mohammad Kafiluddin, brother of the wife, filed a murder case with Cantonment Police Station accusing Shahadat the The patents for lamivudine, same day. The investigation officer of the case pressed charge against Shahadat on November 3, 1997.

To date the brand pharmaceutical companies have not co-operated to combine their medicines into a single pill; only generics companies offer fixed-

FROM PAGE 12 Madhya Pradesh. "It seems the entire federal

**PCJSS** siege Congress Chief Minister Digvijay Singh of desperate pre-poll cam-paigning by the BJP and its coalition partners. ing the signing of the peace pact, are yet to get back their land. The Hindu nun Uma Bharti, running for the chief ministerial post in Madhya Pradesh for the BJP, scorned government has also not taken Singh and said her party would sai any significant initiative to rehapast the Congress, which has run the state for 10 years, when the results bilitate the refugees in the CHT. Rather the CHT Development are declared on Thursday. Board has undertaken steps to Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit too predicted a win with "distinction" for Congress in the 70-seat city assembly and charged the

settle the Bangalees permanently, said a PCJSS leader.

However, 71 army camps were pulled out from the region till 2000 following the signing of the peace accord while other camps are yet to be withdrawn, according to officials. But PCJSS leaders said that only 31 army camps were pulled out of the total of more than Withdrawal of the camps 400. from the region was one of the

become totally uncertain now. The government has been violating the provisions of the accord. The PCJSS's demands include proper implementation of the CHT peace accord, removal of Wadud Bhuiyan, president of the CHT Development Board, appointment of a full minister at the CHT affairs ministry and withdrawal of security camps from the region.

United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF), another platform of the indigenous people, has been opposing the accord from the very beginning.

"We knew it all along -- the government signed the accord as an eyewash. The pact would not change the fate of the indigenous people of the CHT region. Only full autonomy can change the situation," said a top leader of the UPDF.

FROM PAGE 12 Awami League President and

# Shantu warns

#### Mesbah Kamal

Mujahidul Islam Selim, general

secretary of the Bangladesh

Communist Party, said the govern-

ment should first decide whether all communities of the country

have the right to govern themselves

or only powerful communities

Worker's Party Chairman

Rashed Khan Menon said that the

government should take the matter

seriously and sincerely try to

Prof Ajay Ray said that the army was administering the CHT region and that should not continue any

onger in any democratic country.

proper development was not possible in any divided society as in

Drama acitivist Mamunur Rashid, Sumanalangkar

Mahathero, Yusuf Islam, Dr

Sadeqa Halim, Neem Chandra

Bhoumik, Nasrin Siraj, Santashito Chakma Bakul also addressed the

meeting. Prof HK Arefin delivered

Jamal for past two days following an instruction from the higher

The IO went to the mayor's

office on Sunday, but the mayor

was not in office due to illness, the

DB Shafique Uddin said, "We are

trying to collect information from

the mayor as he recently made a

was burnt in a brick-kiln after he

statement about the fate of Jamal.

It will be helpful for us to take a line

of investigation in this regard and

that is why we want to talk to the

mayor. We now want to meet the

mayor for this purpose," the assis-tant commissioner added.

Meanwhile, the drive to rescue

Jamal has almost fizzled out

although some raids were con-

ducted a week back after his family

members met the prime minister

Police officials said the source

Jamal's wife Nazma Chowdhury

tion from political channel that my husband is alive." "But we have not

been informed about the where

abouts of my husband," she added.

"We have received informa-

"We want to verify the mayor's

Assistant Commissioner of the

authorities, DB sources said.

Dr Kazi Faruk Ahmed said that

would dominate others.

resolve it.

ne CHT region.

the welcome address

Ctg mayor

FROM PAGE 12

sources added.

was killed.

Their interest and ours do not clash apparently," he said.

The former chief justice said that the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) had shown lot of patience until this time and hopefully it would show more. He expected the leaders would avoid any sort of violence in the country.

Bangladesh Adiyasi Forum and Research and Development Collectives (RDC) jointly organised the roundtable

Besides the leaders of the PCJSS, esearchers, media personnel, politicians and members of the civil society attended the roundtable Rupayan Dewan, vice president of the PCJSS and Dr Mesbah Kamal presented keynote papers at the meeting.

Shantu Larma accused the government of not implementing the peace pact. He said that they have achieved the peace accord after 20 years of struggle. There was a lot of bloodshed and sacrifice behind the peace pact and that cannot be wasted in such a way, he said. The people of the CHT region were divided, he said, due to the conspiracy of the party in power.

Secretary General of the Bangladesh Áwami League Abdul Jalil said that they had the goodwill to implement the accord. But they could not do so due to some obliga tions that were difficult to avoid at that time. However, he said, now it should be made a national issue so

that it could be implemented. The speakers urged to form a forum on CHT comprising members of the civil society and politicians to monitor the situation and public statement that Jamal's body take necessary steps. They said that CHT problem was not a regional one and should be raised at the national level to resolve it.

Rupayan Dewan described the little progress and achievements of the peace accord under the present government. He said that the government was slowly vitiating the situation in the CHT owing to its lack of goodwill in implementing the pact.

Bazlur Rahman, acting editor of The Sangbad, said that the present government should make its stand on the peace accord clear.

and home minister, sources said. The government has been pitting the Bangalees against the indigenous people, observed Dr network could not be re-established to collect information about the abductee.

## Slain journalist FROM PAGE 12

Earlier, Lucky filed another naraji petition to a Magistrate Court on September 15. But the court rejected the petition on October 27.

On May 20, 2001, Criminal Gas supply Investigation Department (CID) of police filed charge in the case FROM PAGE 1 accusing 16 persons of the murder. But the CID reinvestigated the case pressure are Tejgaon, Gulshan, Banani, Baridhara, Mirpur, Mohakhali, Moghbazar, Malibagh this year without Lucky's consent and submitted an extended charge and Khilgaon sheet

The new charge sheet included Rahman's close friend Farazi Ajmal Hossain who is also vice president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists and senior staff correspondent of Daily Ittefaq.

Unidentified assailants gunned was already performed from

its implementation. The council is supposed to receive data relating to monetary expansion and government bor rowing from banks and assessment on the impact of government

aggregates and balance of payments from the central bank.

The commerce ministry will simultaneously at different centres impact of tarif ing t trade and policies on the economy to the notice of the council

economic policies on monetary

The examinations were held

subjects of the test -- Bangla, English, International Affairs,

Some 47,000 examinees are sitting the exams for about 4,500 cadre service posts.

Some said their last minute preparations were hampered by the flying rumours of leaks. Photocopies of hand written questions of five compulsory

approval no-one usually monitors

Mathematics and General Science sold as high as Tk 5,000 a set at different educational institutions and dormitories in Dhaka and elsewhere in the run-up to the examinations.

"This year, the government converted the programme into Money For Work scheme for even a better impact. But the coordination was untimely and the programme reached the area after monga took a serious turn in early November," he added.

The council was formed by amending the Bangladesh Bank Order on back of the realisation by the government and donors that lax coordination was eating into the economy.

The council brought together the commerce minister, Bangladesh Bank governor, finance secretary, interna resources secretary and planning commission (programming) member.

One of the key areas of the council's responsibility was to monitor the implementation of the budget.

The budget is placed before parliament in June and after

# Freedom fighters

#### FROM PAGE 1

out massive programmes for welfare of the FFs and their heirs.

She said steps have been taken to honour and recognise the contributions of the FFs at state level by building mausoleums at the places where the Birshresthas embraced martyrdom.

The prime minister said each family of the Birshresthas was being given state honorarium of Tk 5,000 per month. At present families of 5,734 wounded and mar tyred FFs are being provided monthly honorarium and other facilities through Bangladesh Freedom Fighters Welfare Trust.

She handed out gifts to the nearest ones of 51 gallantry awardees including Birshresthas captain Mohiuddin Zahangir, sepoy Hamidur Rahman, sepoy Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Mohammad Ruhul Amin, flight lieutenant M Matiur Rahman, lance naik Noor Mohammad Sheikh and lance naik Munshi Abdur Rauf.

Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain, Bir Pratik, former chief of staff Major General (retd) KM Shafiullah, Bir Uttam, and Major General (retd) Amin Ahmed Chowdhury, Bir Bikram, were among the recipients.

The reception was attended,

## Soft loans FROM PAGE 12

9 and 15 percent, provide the soft loans.

For subsidised lending, they get refinancing from Bangladesh Bank at 1.5 percent interest rate make good the loss.

Recently, a forum of settlers under the banner of Khagrachhari Parbatya Bangalee Dalpati Kalyan Parishad appealed to the prime minister to provide them soft loans. This triggered the PMO to direct the finance division to find out a solution.

The finance division after reviewing the lending facility in the hills said as per the constitution. the present system does not ensure equity in the region.

among others, by State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Rezaul Karim, chiefs of the three services, principal staff officer of the AFD and senior civil and military officials.

Earlier, Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury, Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admira Shah Iqbal Muitaba and Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshall Fakhrul Azam paid a courtesy call on the prime minister at the AFD.

### **Deported workers** FROM PAGE 12

(BMET) to give immigration certificates to the workers coming from Korea.

The special desk at ZIA is working round the clock, while the counters at the Bureau are kept open till 8:00pm, the sources pointed out.

The launch of new work permit stem in Korea has created new opportunities for the foreign work-ers especially for Bangladeshis. Any person will get permit now if he or she gets a job in Korea.

Earlier under the quota system, Seoul used to take 8,800 workers annually from Bangladesh Currently there are around 26,000 Bangladeshi workers in Korea many of whose job tenure ended recently

in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna and London.

FROM PAGE 12

Mosharrafadded.

incorrect.

HIV/AIDS.

Bangladesh

try representative.

Mujib Medical University.

over the discussion meeting.

the day.

Committee, presented the key-

note paper on the overall scenario

of the disease worldwide. Prof Dr

The PSC cancelled the 24th BCS preliminary test held on February 28 over allegations of question leaks and held the test again on August 8 amid further allegations ofleaks.

Welfare Minister Khandaker

Mosharraf Hossain yesterday

disclosed that 115 more people

were tested HIV positive this year

raising the total to 363. Out of 57

AIDS cases, 30 patients have died,

A member of National AIDS

Committee said that the news of

136 new HIV patients as published

donors are yet to start their development work. However, the UNDP formally announced launching their development activities in the region from last July. Land Commission, the vital World AIDS Day

said

body constituted to resolve land disputes in the CHT, is yet to begin its activities while clashes over land are upsetting the peace process. Most of the 64000 indigenous internal refugees, who have returned home from India follow-

## Police seize arms

#### FROM PAGE 1

is also characterised by dark shad-OWS

in different dailies on Monday was "The police are involved in some regular but unreported crimes. Based on our tip-off, Suneeta Mukherjee, UNFPA's country representative in police seize illegal or smuggled Bangladesh, said half of the newly goods and share only a small part of the goods with us," an informer infected patients are youths and so the young generation should be told The Daily Star. informed about the dangers of

"When we demand the just share of the goods, they often threaten us with arrest or other Though the country is a low humiliation," he added. HIV/ AIDS prevalence country, it is

Jalal Ahmed Shafi, a Detective at a critical point as the condom usage rate is low here and drug Branch informant was murdered abusers are among the vulnerable and his body was dumped in an groups, said Dr Sunitee Acharya, overhead water reservoir on the roof of the DB office on Mintoo WHO representative in Road, as he demand his source money, he alleged. Bangladesh is bordered with

India, the second largest HIV "The DB has never resolved the case because it will expose the infected country in the world; the crimes of high police echelons,' country is therefore at high risk for the HIV/ AIDS epidemic, said he said.

Morten Giersing, UNICEF's coun-In many cases, lives of police informants become vulnerable as police fail to protect them from An estimated 13,000 people are criminals. This is another reason iving with the virus in the country why informants do not always give but the actual figure would be more taking those who are yet to be vital information, sources said.

diagnosed, said MA Hadi, vice-Police intelligence agents are chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh also accused of taking bribes from leading criminals and working Earlier, ASM Motiur Rahman, perfunctorily. chairman of the National AIDS

The arrests of Nurul Absar from Chittagong and Absar Ali, a mason from Badda in Dhaka, were examples of mangled intelligence.

Mizanur Rahman, director general The agents branded them as of health department, presided members of the international rackets without knowing any-CARE Bangladesh, Dhaka thing. They were later found Ahsania Mission, Bangladesh innocent.

Medical Association, Bangladesh More than 1,000 intelligence Red Crescent Society and Banglaagents work for the SB, DB and desh Parliament Members Group other departments in Dhaka took separate programmes to mark alone, but their output pales beside their size.

After the signing of the accord, the hills people did not get the

The BNP and the Jamaat-e-Islami, key constituents of the current coalition government, vehemently opposed the signing of the accord, terming it a serious threat to independence and sovereignty.

The present government did not make clear their position on the peace accord. It has however filled some vacant positions as per the accord, but has been violating some clauses of the accord. It has also taken measures to cut different facilities to the hills people and increase those of the Bangalee settlers. The government is yet to make separate voters' list of the natives of the region, alleged a PCJSS leader.

## Childhood FROM PAGE 1

a tribunal after his release was snarled up in red tape. Son of late Abdul Mannan

Jamal was affectionately called Biman by his mother. He landed a job at a Syedabad hotel and dreamt of growing responsible.

But police dashed his dreams, as they arrested him on a 26, 2001 in a blanket sweep against criminals.

Jamal was taken into police remand twice for six days and a mindless legal system sent him to Dhaka Central Jail -- again to be shuttled to the Tongi correctional centre as he was a teenager.

filed by one Kazi Masud with Sutrapur Police Station against some unknown criminals for terrorising

a r e a Jamal was among the seven restees for whom police filed the

Dhaka on July 3, 2001, stating that none of them was involved in the crime.

docket to the Public Safety Tribunal that received the police report on November 18, 2002 and directed the authorities to release all accused.

All but Jamal were freed. Blast filed the petition with the

tribunal on September 17 this year for release of Jamal and the tribunal responded instantly. Again, the release order did not

reach Tongi for reasons best known to court officials.

The legal aid group again pleaded to the tribunal on Sunday and it once again directed the authorities to free amal.

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina visits scene of the blood-bath at Shilpara today. She is also expected to address a public rally at Banshkhali, party sources said.

Visitors from different sociopolitical organisations continued to pour into Banshkhali regularly to visit the scene of the carnage.

Supporters of Chattagram Mahanagari Puja Udjapan Parishad marched down the city streets yesterday after a rally demanding an immediate judicial enquiry into the bloodbath. They also submitted a memorandum to the prime minister through the deputy commissioner of Chittagong.

The Parishad also announced a set of agitation programmes protesting the carnage.

The programmes include a two-hour sit-in on Chittagong Press Club premises from 2:00pm on December 2, protest rallies across the city and different upazilas of Chittagong on December 3 and 4 and another protest rally at Central Shaheed Minar at 3:00pm on December 5.

## Badda arms haul

FROM PAGE 1 Badda police sources said plain-clothes and uniformed law enforce ers are still stationed at different points.

Rasul said hunt is on for one Lincoln of Ashkona in Uttara, who he believes, carted the arms to the shop. "He is an identified drug smuggler and involved in the gunrunning.

It was learnt that Lincoln has hideouts at Tongi Board Bazar and nearby areas.

"We have already raided these places but could not find him, Rasul said.

Meanwhile, Mehedi Hasan Manik, owner of Tulir Parash, the signboard shop from where the arms and ammunition were recovered, was placed on a seven-day remand yesterday.

DB Inspector Sirajul Islam, who is probing the case, produced Manik before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate yesterday.

In his remand petition, the inspector said Manik knows if more arms are kept hidden and he needs to be quizzed to solve the case.

Denying his involvement in the gunrunning, Manik told police Lincoln took the key of his shop on Saturday afternoon saying he would stay there because he had quarelled with his parents. Lincoln remained inside the shop at least till 8:00pm, Manik said.

i his office on Jur 16, 2000. Lucky lodged a first infor-mation report with Jessore Kotwali Police Station the same day.

midnignı November 30 without causing any major disruption in supply, sources added.

Saddam Hussein's regime had

links with bin Laden's militant

contend that large-scale suicide

bombings are carried out by for-

eign militants whereas light

weapon and rocket attacks against

In Seoul, President Roh Moo-

Hyun's national security team met

yesterday to assess plans to send

thousands of South Korean troops

to Iraq after the first South Korean

Young-Kwan insisted, "This case

will not affect the issue of sending

troops to Iraq. There has been no

change in our policy on the troop

and two seriously wounded when

their vehicle was ambushed near

Another accused

the Iraqi town of Tikrit.

for Poppy

murder held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two South Koreans were killed

But Foreign Minister Yoon

casualties in the Iraqi conflict.

their troops are typically perpe-

trated by Iraqi insurgents.

US-led coalition forces in Iraq

Officials concerned attributed

the probable supply disruption to commissioning of a 'tie-in' at Tejgaon to improve overall gas

pressure in the Tejgaon-Gulshan

circle. A trial shutdown of the line

# US troops kill 54 Iraqis

network.

dispatch.'

#### FROM PAGE 1

city, where Washington's public enemy number two in Iraq, Izzat Ibrahim al-Duri -- Saddam Hussein's longtime deputy and the alleged paymaster of many attacks against the coalition -- maintained two houses that were destroyed by US warplanes in mid-November.

> The troops "repelled multiple ambush attempts on two separate logistical convoys, killing 46 attackers, wounding at least 18 and capturing eight" during the afternoon, said the US spokesman.

He said US forces destroyed three buildings used in the attacks and notably fired tank guns against the attackers, who were wearing the black uniforms of pro-Saddam Fedayeen fighters.

"We're sending a clear message that anyone who attempts to attack our convoys will pay the price," said MacDonald.

The US military has taken off its gloves in its battle with Iraqi insurgents in the past couple of weeks, aunching massive counterinsurgency operations both in and around Baghdad and in the 4 ID's operational area in north-central Iraq.

Sunday's bloodshed topped a series of assaults on the US-led coalition and its allies in Iraq over the weekend, taking the lives of seven Spanish intelligence agents, two Japanese diplomats, a Colombian and two South Koreans as well as two American soldiers, in what US commanders called a deliberate attempt to intimidate Washington's allies.

> Meanwhile, three men suspected of belonging to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network were captured by US troops in the main northern Iraqi city of Mosul, a US military spokesman said Monday.

The suspects, whose nationality was not disclosed, were arrested in Mosul two weeks ago and transferred to Baghdad, said Major Hugh Cate from the Mosul-based 101stAirborne Division.

US President George W. Bush's administration has long argued that toppled Iraqi president

Banshkhali police yesterday held another accused in the sensational Rafeza Khanom Poppy murder In a raid, police held Ladaiya at Baharchhara under Banshkhali at around 2:00pm.

Abdul Kader, domestic help at the victim's house and arrested in connection with the killing, in a statement given before a Magistrate's Court, confessed his involvement in the murder and disclosed names of Ladaya and two sclosed names of Ladaiya and two others.

However, police failed to nab Halim and Anam, the other accused.

Kader and three others allegedly daughter of Advocate Ilias Chowdhury, former chairman of local Union Parishad, on the Eid night.

Kader claimed he had affairs with the 17-year old girl and her marriage date was to be fixed on November 28.

final report with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court,

The CMM's court sent the case

The case he was arrested in was