# Civil society seeks US envoy hammers to talk river-link with Indian CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civil society members in a letter vesterday sought an audience with Indian Chief Justice VN Khare and eight other Supreme Court judges to convey Bangladesh's concern over the giant neighbour's mega river-link project.

The move came following Indian Supreme Court's endorsement of the project and insistence on adding pace to the scheme, which Bangladesh fears will bring ecological ruin to it.

In a press release, Bahreen Khan, senior staff lawyer of Bangladesh Environmental Lawvers' Association (Bela), said copies of the letter were also sent to Bangladesh's Chief Justice KM Hasan, Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Vina Sikri, Bangladesh's Water Resources Minister M Hafizuddin Ahmed and his Indian counterpart Arjun Charan Sethi.

Several other ministers and opposition leaders of both nations received the letter, he added.

Signatories to the letter are: Bela Director Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Dhaka University teacher Dr Asif Nazrul, Chairperson of Coalition of Environmental NGOs (CEN) Atiq Rahman, journalists Enayetullah Khan, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and Mostafa Kamal Majumder, NGO activists Farhad Mazhar, Khushi Kabir, Mahfuz Ullah and Masood Alam Ragib Ahsan and Chairman of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh Quamrul Islam Siddique.

The letter reads: "We hereby express our deep concern about the move taken by the government

reforms in the administration of

universities while addressing the

gold medal-awarding ceremony of

Sushikkha Barsha (good education

year)- 2003 at the Teachers-

Students Centre (TSC) of Dhaka

A total of 45 students of various

departments and institutes of

Dhaka University, who secured

first class first position and high-

est grade points in honours exam-

inations this year, were awarded

Khaleda distributed gold med-

als to the recipients and mother of

one of them. She also gave away

MA Gani Memorial Award to a

student among the recipients from

the Computer Science department

Farruk and State Minister for

Education Ehsanul Huq Milan also

addressed the function chaired by

DU Vice-Chancellor Prof S M Å

Ministers, MPs, diplomats,

The prime minister lamented

academics, university teachers and

that the reputation of a university

that was once known as the Oxford

of the East -- a reference to the DU -

to a large extent.

told the audience.

- has, unfortunately, been blurred

sphere of education is responsible

for this. Fame of the university has

been damaged due to various

conflicts of interest beyond educa-

tion as well as political envy and

violence at different times," she

A lot of valuable time has been

It will be painful to say that the

objective of education cannot be

fulfilled if congenial environment

does not prevail at the highest

the country. Conflicts and

educational institutions of

thinking, she observed.

wasted, inflicting losses on the

students as well as the country, she

"Lack of fair and peaceful atmo-

students attended the function.

Education Minister Osman

for securing the highest marks.

University (DU).

gold medal.

PM blames teachers

of India to implement a multimillion dollar river-linking project to divert vast quantities of water from the rivers of Brahmaputra and Ganges, the two major river systems shared, among others, by

India and Bangladesh. "We are distressed to note that such a mega project is being undertaken by India unilaterally without any consultation with lower riparian Bangladesh, a country created and sustained by the waters of these shared resources upon which such project shall have devastating

The letter is a follow-up to a previous one given by the same group on September 8, requesting he Indian chief justice to review the October 31 Supreme Court order that virtually endorsed the

The new letter was mailed in view of non-response to the earlier one and Indian Supreme Court's further intervention in the writ petition that brought the earlier

reports that the Indian Supreme Court in November gave New Delhi six weeks' time to file an affidavit, giving details of progress made under the second action plan of the

declined to accept Indian official position that the river-link project was in a mere conceptual stage, saying New Delhi had carried out feasibility studies on six links under

## hammers on gas export

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT** 

US Ambassador Harry K Thomas yesterday reiterated Bangladesh should export natural gas, suggestin the world's medium income

"I believe the country should export gas. As per our (US) survey, export gas. As per our (05) survey, there are unexplored gas reserves in the country," he told the press following his meeting with State Minister for Energy Mosharraf Hossain at the Secretariat yester-

"Bangladesh can become a country of the middle-income group through deciding to export

Mosharraf also maintained the same line, saying, "We have untapped gas reserves. There are prospects of (gas) export although the government has not taken any decision yet."

The theory is contrary to the observation of Petrobangla, which foresees a gas crisis in future.

However, the minister was of the opinion that crisis in future could be tackled through "importing" gas. He cited the example of Norway that had gas deficit but eventually became an exporting country after striking huge untapped resources.

The two also discussed the Petrobangla report on the gas supply and demand with forecasts

Petrobangla owes US company Unocal three-month's outstanding bills. The billing status is normal,

To the south of Bangladesh, only Myanmar exports gas using pipeline from the gas field that involves Unocal. However, years of the gas export to Thailand failed to improve the economy of Myanmar, which is limping with acute energy shortage and low foreign currency reserve for the last

# Pallabi murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

University will get deviated from its

course of forward march and isolated from its tradition if it deviated from this responsibility,' she observed. Responding to the demands placed by the DU vice-chancellor,

the prime minister announced that a 500-seat women's residential hall would be constructed on the railway land close to Curzon Hall.

taken to renovate SM Hall and FH Hall. Land and building of Atomic Energy Commission on Dhaka University campus will be handed over to the DU, incomplete construction work of Senate Bhaban completed and arrangement made to allot plot to teachers at Uttara and Purbachal

FROM PAGE 12

Students Centre (TSC) on the day. Pro-Awami League teachers of the university boycotted the function in protest against awarding students by the prime minister, instead of the president who is the chancellor of the university.

student wing Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) earlier declared Monday as a 'Resistance Day' and vowed to resist the visit of Khaleda on the campus.

Hundreds of BCL workers and leaders tried to bring out a procession from Madhu's Canteen at about 12:30pm donning black clothes but the police held them back within the canteen area till the

violence dominate over sound the foot of the Aparajeo Bangla The prime minister quoted where they said the prohave violated the university rules by inviting the prime minister

> the occasion. BCL President Liaqat Sikder said it was not acceptable that the PM should visit the campus during vacation. The student community has boycotted her, Liagat said Presided over by the BCL DU unit President Delwar Hossain, the rally

was also addressed by its General Secretary Nazrul Islam Babu, Mamunur Rashid Shuvro and Hemayet Uddin Khan Himu. Progotishil Chhatra Jote (PCJ), a platform of left-leaning student

organisations, also brought out a procession on the campus protesting the arrival of the PM. But police intercepted the procession in front of the DUCSU building when it was marching towards the TSC. Some activists of the PCJ blindfolded the eyes of the sculptured faces on the Aparajeyo Bangla with black rib-

All academic activities and distribution and submission of admission forms for the first-year honours session of 2003-04 remained suspended vesterday. However, admission forms will be available from today until December 28.

ing that it will bracket the country

up to 2020.

panies in Bangladesh.

sources said.

## Family files case

case with Pallabi Police Station Sunday at the killing of her husband and teenage son Saturday morning.

Chan Mian alias Kala Chan, Ashik, Murad, Sagar and two unidentified youths stormed into their residence at Rahmat Camp in Mirpur and killed her husband and 14-year-old son, alleged Sahida Khatun, wife of salt trader Fakhruddin, in her complaint.

"Chan fired point blank to my husband's head and Ashik shot him in the chest." the complainant said.

Ashik have carried out the grisly murders at the behest of

Sahida hinted that some locals and traders, who owe her husband huge amount of money, might have masterminded the murders.

Meanwhile, the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka yesterday granted Raju, Shakil, Ejaj, Hasen, Mustak Hossain and Rubi. all arrested in connection with the murder, two-day remand each.

orime suspect Chan, an accused in 12 criminal cases including three for murders, police said.

Chan and his accomplices might have killed the 50-year-old trader and his son as he refused to pay them toll, police suspect.

ship of land could also have led to the murders, police added.

However, police failed to nab Chan and his close associate Ashik till the writing of this report at 8:30

## Lalmonirhat AL

in the local units of ruling coalition leader Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) responsible for the killing and called the dawn-to-dusk hartal in Lalmonirhat district for today in The BNP leaders dismissed the

allegation and said internal feud in the main opposition party was the cause for his death. The AL leaders and activists

staged a demonstration in the district headquarters yesterday and demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the killers.

Halima Khatun, wife of Suruj, blamed a local gang for his killing and demanded exemplary punishment to the killers.

Faruk, 18, elder son of Suruj and a student of Lalmonirhat Govt College, said his father told the family on many occasions that a gang was trying to kill him.

and Shisti, 8, repeated the same words in between sobs. Enayetunnesa, mother of the

victim, wailed beside them and demanded trial of the killers fitfully. Local deputy commissioner and police superintendent visited the scene and assured locals of justice.

A case was filed with Aditmari Police Station, but no-one was arrested until filing of this report last

## Academic deadlock

that injured six people, two of them students.

They snapped telephone connections to the building and burnt an effigy of Vice-chancellor Professor Jasim Uddin Ahmad at around 5:00pm.

The demonstration came after the JU Teachers Association (Juta) went on an indefinite strike, leading to suspension of classes and examinations and session logiam -- an issue the students have been calling on the VC to resolve since November 6. Amid frayed tempers, the stu-

dents brought out a procession from the social science faculty and paraded down campus roads before they locked Professor Enamel Huq Khan, pro-VC, ABM Enayet Hossain, treasurer, and Dr Moshiur Rahman Khan, proctor, in the administrative building from 11:00am to 5:00pm.

The demonstrators will be fasting unto death on the campus from today in a desperate bid to force the JU authorities to bring a quick solution to the stalemate.

"We feel cheated. The VC assured us on November 10 of breaking the deadlock during Eid vacation. But it is still going on," said an angry student, asking not to be named.

Slogans like "Quit, quit, failed VC" against Professor Jasim Uddin reverberated through the campus. During the siege, the students

issued a 30-minute ultimatum to the authorities to meet them for talks over the issue, but none of

AL calls hartal

them showed up prompting the demonstrators to go on the rampage and vandalise the administrative building.

One of the injured students is Ahad, while the other could not be identified immediately.

The injured employees -- Abdul

Kalim, Abul Hossain, Kafil Uddin and Ramzan Ali -- were taken to the JU medical centre. The agitators also locked the Agrani Bank (JU branch), examina-

tions office and transport office

from 12:00pm to 5:00pm, leaving

officials stranded inside. JU bus services from the camous to Dhaka were off because of the movement and the students also threatened to keep the vehi-cles out of service until the dead-

Teachers have been skipping classes since Juta went on the strike on October 15 to press elections to the VC panel that took centre stage in the charter of demands. 'The date for the elections to the

VC panel will be declared by December-end. Students may backtrack until then," the pro-VC Juta's other demands include

punishment to an activist of . Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the student chapter of the ruling BNP, who locked in the authorities of Shaheed Salam Barkat Hall on August 10.

Juta scheduled a meeting for January 1 to launch a tougher programme to push ahead with

party's Dhanmondi office with party President Sheikh Hasina in the chair. The hartal is also to protest the

deterioration of law and order and price hike of essentials. As per a previous decision, the

on January 3. But it took the hartal decision just a day after ruling BNP men attacked and foiled Munshiganj AL's triennial council and left at

AL was to observe a 'demand day'

least 50 injured. The AL is also scheduled to hold a mass rally at Paltan Maidan on January 10 and Sheikh Hasina, also the leader of the opposition in parliament, will announce from the rally 'final agitation programmes' to dislodge the government.

"The hartal is to protest autocratic activities of the BNP-Jamaatled alliance regime ... If the government wants to resist it or any other programmes, we will go for indefinite hartal across the country," AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil told reporters after the presidium

The meeting accused the government of trying to thwart AL's reorganisation efforts by foiling rogrammes at places, Ialil said. "The rulers are afraid of the planned anti-government move-ment by the Awami League and they are out to foil it through atrocities on opposition leaders and He alleged, "The government has created a situation where the opposition party cannot hold political programmes and even a peaceful council.

Blaming a local BNP lawmaker for foiling the Munshiganj AL council, Jalil said his party took permission from the authorities for holding the council. "The local deputy commissioner in an interview with BBC Radio admitted that he knew nothing about the protest rally of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (BNP's student wing) at the same venue same time," he added.

The AL presidium termed Sunday's incident at Munshiganj a threat to democracy, Jalil said.

While the BNP chief and prime minister is calling for opposition cooperation, her party men are foiling AL's peaceful programmes, Jalil said and asked, "Is it democ-

On the recent death of Amar Das (a suspect in Chittagong business magnate Jamal Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury abduction case), he said the AL presidium felt that Amar Das was tortured to death just to save BNP men involved in

He also mentioned that a union parishad chairman in Lalmonirhat was killed on orders from local BNP leader and 24 minority families of Singra in Natore came under attacks by ruling alliance men

## Behind bars sans trial

robbery, abduction, smuggling and possession of illegal firearms and explosives are currently pending with the Court of Dhaka District and Sessions Judge, the Court of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge and the Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka, court sources said

Preferring anonymity, an official of Dhaka Central Jail said a large number of such accused continue to languish in other prisons across the country without trial due to the same problem.

"Why should I have to spend vear after vear in jail without trial. What if I'm acquitted of the charges or given a prison sentence less than 11 years. How can I get back those years lost in jail," said Jahangir while standing in the dock on October 21.

The 155 other inmates of Dhaka

Central Jail have similar stories. Despite repeated reminders. the prosecution failed to produce their witnesses. These witnesses have constantly avoided giving deposition ignoring court orders mailed to their addresses, said a lawyer on condition of anonymity.

He said the courts concerned refused to grant bail to the accused despite a Supreme Court (SC) decision that undue delay in holding trial due to the prosecution's fault will constitute valid grounds for bail. Law, Justice and Parliamentary

Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed said the situation is being monitored and the ministry 'would take measures' for the deserving accused to get bail after assess ment of their cases. He however said nothing could be done by way of compensation

for those acquitted or sentenced to

a term lesser than their period of

incarceration as there is no such law addressing the issue. Metropolitan Public Prosecutor (PP) Abdullah Mahmud Hassan defended the prosecution's side saying it is the police's responsibility to produce witnesses before the

He also said court issued sumthrough the Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner, inspector general of police or the home ministry.

But the process of issuing summons or warrants is so complicated

A noted lawyer expressed the view that the accused should be released on bail in case of long confinement pending trial or that arrangements should be made for quick disposal of the case.

of fundamental human rights," he

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Shahudul Haque declined to comment on the issue saying he didn't have knowledge of the

#### Outlaw

FROM PAGE 12

The other arrestees include his (Paresh) wife Khukumoni Roy, 30, son Babul, 8, Pratima, 30, Jitendra Sarker, 70, and alleged human trafficker Sajid, 34. Tk 1 lakh was recovered from them.

The BCP leader is being interrogated at Shovna camp of joint forces in Dumuria upazila.

Acting upon a tip-off, a team

Police mentioned that charges have been pressed against Paresh in journalists Nahor Ali and Shukur Ali murder cases filed with Dumuria Police Station. He is also an accused in Khulna district Jubo Dal Secretary Molla Siraj murder

#### **Merchant shot** dead in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Abdul Majid Shaikh, 50, timber merchant and a Jatiya Party member, was gunned down by unidentified assailants near his house at Mechaghona village under Dumuria upazila at 7:45pm Sunday.

The attackers shot into his chest, abdomen and ears from close range, leaving him dead on the spot.

Police recovered two used shells of

rifle bullets from the place. None was

arrested till the time of writing this report yesterday evening. Evewitnesses said the murder was committed right in front of his neighbours. His wife alleged the killers were firing blank shots and shouting slo-

gans in favour of outlawed New

Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP) while leaving the place. Family sources alleged Majid Shaikh, an influential member of Khulna district unit of Jativa Party, was killed for refusing to pay toll to the

NBCP activists. Police, however, said the murder was a sequel to a family feud. Majid Shaikh was having strained relations with his first wife for marrying a 21year-old girl early this year.

### Villagers kill lame tigress

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT** 

Locals thrashed to death a tigress at Maddhya Amurbunia village under Morelgang upazila at the edge of the Sundarbans on Sunday,

A tigress from Chandpai forest range sneaked into cattle sheds of Azizul Islam Khan and Shahjahan Mallik in the early morning and feasted on five calves, a forest official

Azizul and Mallik tried to drive the tigress out of the village but it attacked them, injuring both critically. By that time, villagers in hundreds gathered and beat the animal to death, he added. An official of Chandpai forest range told The Daily Star over phone

measuring five feet 10 inches, had leg injury and entered the village to look or easy hunts. "As forest offices do not have tranquilliser to numb wild animals, we could do nothing to save the tigress before angry villagers started beating it," he added requesting

that the tigress, of 12 to 14 years and

anonymity. A general diary was lodged with Amurbunia police.

### **ICD** men beat up four BCL leaders on SSMC campus

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT** 

Activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal beat up four leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League on the Sir Salimullah Medical College (SSMC) campus vesterday as they tried to resume their activities there.

Two of them -- Organising Secretary of SSMC BCL Muntahir Raja, and Library Secretary Mominul Hasan Kallol -- were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The two others are Publication Secretary Sagar Kumar Sarker and Office Secretary Jahan Shams Nitol.

The JCD made the attack when BCL President Shahriar M Sadeq, General Secretary Kamrul Hasan Shamim and Finance Secretary Harunur Rashid along with the four were talking with other activists in front of the academic building at around 12:00 noon.

their 'order' not to come to the col-

lege campus," Rashid said. The BCL leaders were staying off the campus since the JCD ousted them immediately after the BNP came to power in October 2001, he said, adding that "after formation of our committee on December 17, we decided to enter the campus at any

# 2 gunned down FROM PAGE 12

business in Daulatpur and lived in Shewrapara in Dhaka.

Montu, son of Hazi Nur Mohammad of Agargaon, saying he was behind the gangland turf Police could not give details

Mohammadpur police recovered Tk 4,500 and a mobile phone from Rezaul and another mobile phone from Anwar.

A report on the construction site of a proposed bridge near Tangnabaro border in Myanmar was handed over to the communications minister at the meeting, sources said. The proposed 91-km cross-

Among others, Syed Rezaul Hayat, communications secretary, and Sheikh Rabiul Islam, chief engineer of Roads and Highways Department, were present at the

# Biman flights

operated by pilots from Singapore -to tackle the situation.

A Biman flight was stranded in New Delhi as pilots refused to fly it home, and flights to Hong Kong and Singapore were also delayed.

Biman operates on seven domestic points with six captains and 12 flight officers and runs 12-15 domestic and eight international flights a day.

Earlier at a special general meeting on December 16, Bapa raised the four-point demands with the December 21 deadline: increased salaries for the crew, commissioning of an alternative institution or aviation medicine experts for medical check-up, employment of cockpit crew's children in Biman and relaxing of rules to help Bapa get registered as a collective bargaining agent.

Under the present agreement, oilots should get a two-day break after a flight, but they had to oper ate because of pilot shortage before, the Bapa chief said.

Bapa says Biman that has 141 pilots on contract needs at least 200 for smooth operation of flights to 26 international and seven domestic destinations with 17 aircraft.

A Biman official accused Bapa office bearers of trying to cash in on the Hajj pilgrimage rush to press their demands, adding: "A group is trying to create an artificial crisis in

#### Terror alert

FROM PAGE 12

ordered the color-coded alert system raised to orange -- denoting a high risk" of terrorist attacks -from yellow, which the Department of Homeland Security defines as "a significant" or "elevated" risk of terrorist attacks.

It is the fifth time the orange alert has been activated since the system was instituted in March last vear.

"The information we have indicates that extremists abroad are anticipating near-term attacks that they believe will either rival or exceed the attacks that occurred in New York and the Pentagon and the fields of Pennsylvania," said Ridge, who met early on Sunday with President Bush's homeland

security advisers. They recommended the change to Bush, who immediately "concurred with the decision," a White

House official said. At a hastily arranged news conference, Ridge said security would be beefed up at the nation's airports and more agents would be deployed along its borders. Coast Guard air and sea patrols will also increase to protect the nation's critical ports and shipping lanes.

sive and considerable protections have been or soon will be in place all across the country," Ridge said. US officials singled out New York and Washington as possibly

plans to the terrorists. But exten-

"We will not broadcast our

## Rejoinder

FROM PAGE 12 It said while the report claimed that Bangladesh did not get the second tranche of the IMF credit due to failure to fulfil the donor's conditions, "the fact is the issue of the second tranche of the PRGF credit has not been placed in the board

#### meeting. Our reply:

The rejoinder does not contradict with the report. The IMF meeting on the issue was originally scheduled for December 15, the date was shifted to December 17 and then the IMF suspended the meeting till the first week of January. The report nowhere mentions or implies the loan has been 'cancelled'. Rather it points out that the IMF has given Bangladesh some time to fulfil its conditions.

their own interests."

Biman sources said a pilot is to fly 40 hours a month in line with the agreement and gets full salary even if he does not fly an hour. The pilots are paid double for flying extra

Biman pays the pilots salaries and allowances according to the rules of International Civil Aviation Organisation, Nasiruddin said on hopes they would protect the interest of Biman.

A team of pilots led by Captain Arif, Bapa general secretary, met the state minister who assured them of considering their

#### Bomb attack on police van to free criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A police van carrying two criminals came under bomb attack at 8:30pm on Sunday near Mujgunni, in second such bomb attack on police in the city in the

lastsixdavs. Constable Abdus Sattar of Khalishpur Police Station and Jahangir, a driver of an autorickshaw received splinter injuries from four powerful homb explosions. One of the hombs hit the police van while the others exploded on Khulna-Jessore highway, disrupting traffic movement for overanhour.

According to the officer-in-charge (OC) of Khalishpur Police Station, the bomb attack was launched in an attempt to snatch two criminals Moni Kanta Lashkar, 30, and Zillur Rahman, 32, arrested earlier with bomb-making materials. But none of the attackers could be arrested till the filing of this reportlastnight.

The condition of severely injured Sattar and Jahangir, now undergoing treatment at a private clinic and KMCH, issaid to be critical

## Adamjee

FROM PAGE 12 must complete transfer of 962 pieces of machinery from the mills premises to other government jute mills. Of these, 562 pieces have already been replaced.

The rest machinery will be sold

through tender at international and national level. The floating of tender must be held within 30 days and the sale must take place within 45 days. Such tight schedule was set as the authorities have so far sat on clearing the jute mills premises even after 18 months of its closure. The World Bank that advocates unbundling of state owned enter-

prises, has been criticising the

government for going slow on the

issue as it believes that conversion of the area into an industrial zone would be more useful. An inventory committee on Adamjee mills reported that the total wealth of Ada at Tk 1038 crore. The value of the land within the mills premises is Tk 525 crore and that outside the premises have a total value of Tk 81 crore. The value of its machinery is

Tk 258 crore, infrastructure Tk 125 crore and others Tk 48 crore. Yesterday's meeting however did not discuss landed property issues. This issue is likely to figure in the next meeting, sources said.

A report on the feasibility of

converting the Adamiee mills area

into a garment and textiles industrial zone will be placed before Prime Minister Khaleda Zia soon. Meanwhile the prime minister has approved a proposal to set up an

inland container terminal on 25 acres of the Adamjee Jute Mills land. Yesterday's meeting was also participated by Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, State Minister for Jute Lutfor Rahman Khan Azad former minister Zahiruddin Khan and chief of

 $Transcom\,Ltd\,Latifur\,Rahman.$ 

# Libya seeks

snap checks

The UN nuclear watchdog says it may begin inspecting Libyan nuclear sites as early as next week, hours after Tripoli said it will allow

Agency, said he would visit Libya for talks. "Inspections will follow, as early as next week," he said.

the International Atomic Energy

Mohamed ElBaradei, head of

ElBaradei said he would lead the first inspection mission -- which will include senior IAEA officials --to take stock of the state of Libya's nuclear facilities.

Libya is already a signatory of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). But the protocol allows for tougher, short-notice visits of

nuclear programme. "We are turning our swords into ploughshares, and this step should be appreciated and followed by all other countries," Libyan Prime Minister Shukri Ghanem told the

The United States imposed sanctions in 1986, accusing Libya of supporting terrorist groups. Ten years later, America passed the Iran and Libva Sanctions Act that threatened to penalise the US partners of European companies that did significant business in

voted to abolish its sanctions on Libya in September, the deputy US ambassador to the world body, James Cunningham, said US sanctions on Libya would remain "in

When the UN Security Council

With Friday's decision, Libya believes it has wiped the slate

## 2 US soldiers

FROM PAGE 1 on December 13, troops have

Libya and Iran.

rounded up suspected insurgents in swoops on mainly Sunni Muslim towns north and west of Baghdad.

bedrock of Saddam loyalists. U.S. officers said the captured man, Major-General Mumtaz al-Taji of the former intelligence department, was detained overnight in searches in the central town of Baquba, 65 km (40 miles)

tance to U.S. occupation and a

former Iraqi soldiers and directing attacks against U.S. occupation

## Voltaire: "I differ with your opinion

**BB-BoI** 

FROM PAGE 12 while BoI survey puts the amount at \$168.7 million.

ing during the period was \$18.5 million while the amount was 21.1 million as per the BoI survey. The BB governor recently told The Daily Star that any BoI findings

"We need to scrutinise all

\$88.3 million as against 97.9 million reported by the BoI. Finally, as per the central bank's estimate, intra-company borrow-

The BB statistics shows rein-

vestment during the period was

relevant authorities of the BB before they are published. The governor has already asked BoI authorities to coordinate with the central bank in future FDI

on FDI should be shared with

figures as there could be many gaps in the information provided by companies. Therefore, we have asked the BoI to send us its company-wise FDI survey report. If our scrutiny finds the claims satisfactory, we will accept its figure," the governor said.

The press release quoted

The signatories to the letter

historic role of Dhaka University during the British and Pakistani regimes, she said the perspective has now changed. "Now is the time when education, research and practice of knowledge will be the main and only pursuit of a university. Dhaka

but I will protect your right to

Mentioning the glorious and

speech till death.

Also necessary steps will be

DU students

The opposition Awami League's

arrival of the prime minister. The BCL later held a brief rally at government university authorities

instead of the chancellor to grace

bons in protest at the visit.

Thomas meanwhile urged the minister to expedite the payment of outstanding bills of US oil com-

Wife of Fakhruddin Ahmed lodged a

Local criminals led by Chan and Mohammad Ali, Nano, Noore and Bulu, she further alleged.

Raju and Shakil are brothers of

A row over business and owner-

FROM PAGE 1 markets and construction of a District AL leaders held his rivals

Suruj's minor children Sumi, 13,

mons on the witnesses to appear before it as well as bailable or nonbailable warrants against them

and the authorities concerned so negligent that hearing dates often expire before the witnesses receive court orders, said the PP.

"Otherwise, it will be a violation said requesting anonymity.

of the joint forces followed the microbus from Kapilmuni in Paikgachha upazila of Khulna and caught Paresh and the others when they were getting down at Amtala Road in Satkhira. Captain Touhid of Bangladesh Rifles, who is in-charge of Shovna camp, led the operation.

## "They attacked us as we ignored

Police linked the killing to war-motivated killings. about the killings until 10:00pm.

> Work on road construction of two bridges and two kms of new road for the project, they

> > border highway would be built from Ramu of Chittagong to Buchidang in Yangon at an estimated cost of about Tk 400 crore, sources added.

full force."

nuclear sites by IAEA experts. Iran signed the protocol on Thursday, amid international concerns about the nature of its

British Broadcasting Corp.-- a clear reference to the United States, the one country that maintains sweep-

The Sunni areas have been the scene of the fiercest armed resis-

north of Baghdad. He is suspected of recruiting

forces in the area