NEWS

EPI-BFEW consortium, they said.

Keeping in mind the extreme

urgency for increased water supply in

Chittagong and the project's high

priority status on the government's

priority list, TEC evaluated the submit-

ted bids with a little bit of leniency and

views the offers submitted by both

DCL and EPI as substantially respon-

But since there prevails a differ-

ence in opinion among its members.

TEC referred to Central Procurement

Technical Unit (CPTU) seeking advice

and comments, said one of the TEC

clarifications given by DCL in accor-

lance with the guidelines provided by

This TEC member rather alleged

The other eight members of TEC

CPTU and evaluated the bid as sub-

that Abhilash has been trying to favour

the second lowest bidder from the very

beginning and steered everything in

said they finally recommended DCL

and Associates, whose offer they

found to be very much within the

officially estimated cost of the con-

struction work amounting to Tk 86

insurance, 10 percent performance

guarantee and 5 percent discount on

every item on the bill of quantity. Given

the scenario DCL-SBA has no scope

of getting around without fulfilling the

requirements or following the agreed

project director while talking to The

ng and re-evaluating the bids.

The 3-member re-evaluation

Outcome of the re-evaluation

however could not be known. A report

on the re-evaluation will be placed at

the next meeting of the Cabinet

Meanwhile, with only one third of

Purchase Committee with recommen-

their total demand for water met, the

residents of the port city said they

expect a speedy re-evaluation and implementation of the project.

BNP cadres beat

On Monday afternoon, Abul Kalam

him to local Kutubpur High School in

the name of solving their dispute in

A sub-inspector of police was

At one stage, the ruling party

At about 10:00pm yesterday, the

Police sent Babar's body to

Meherpur General Hospital for an

house and beat him dead.

autopsy.

Besides, DCL offers 110 percent

stantially responsive," he said.

"TEC went for examination of the

sive, sources said.

members.

that direction

crore.

dations.

FROM PAGE 16

Protests in Nepal over delay in clipping king

Govt preparing to set free Maoists

REUTERS, AFP, Kathmandu

Hundreds of Nepalis took to the streets of the capital yesterday, burning tyres, uprooting pavement barriers and roads as they protested blocking against a delay in plans to curtail the king's powers. The demonstrations came a day

after the country's new, multi-party government deferred tabling a landnark resolution in parliament to check King Gyanendra's powers, saying it needed to expand cabinet and debate the move there first.

The government, formed last month after weeks of often violent demonstrations against the king, urged calm and assured people that the resolution would now be tabled on

Thursday. The protesters came in buses to various places around the capital and used the vehicles to block roads, witnesses said.

They shouted slogans against the king and the political parties, burned tyres on roads and uprooted metal barriers separating pavements from roads. Four vehicles were also damaged in the protests. Dozens of protesters also gathered

outside the secretariat which houses parliament and the prime minister's "Down with monarchy"

"Gyanendra thief, leave the country" "Down with corrupt leaders", the demonstrators shouled

"I don't think these leaders are capable of doing this," said Govinda Ravamaihi one of the protesters referring to the special proclamation that needs to be approved by parliament. "This protest is to put pressure on

them. We have to continue to fight to win our rights." he said. Cutting the king's powers was a key demand of pro-democracy pro-

testers during weeks of demonstrations last month, which led to King Gyanendra reinstating parliament and handing the administration to a multi-

Heroin smuggling

FROM PAGE 16 ministry, as they are still interrogating a mastermind behind the internationa drug running arrested recently.

Two detainees in their confessional statements before a magistrate last Sunday named BD Foods Limited Chairman Badruddoza Chowdhury Momen as the mastermind behind the trafficking of 22.5kg heroin to the UK. Badruddoza was arrested the same day in the evening.

Badruddoza, now on a seven-day remand, is being quizzed at the head-quarters of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police. But, the probe team member declined to disclose what they have extracted so far from Badruddoza.

Meanwhile, the CID has launched a drive in Dhaka and some other parts of the country to hunt others involved in the drug trafficking.

The multi-agency law enforcement team started the investigation on a home ministry directive after a National Board of Revenue (NBR) inquiry had found five Bangladeshi business firms' involvement in heroin smuggling to the UK. The NBR took up the inquiry last year as the UK customs in a message through the British mission in Mumbai, India accused BD Foods Ltd, Emdad Traders, Jamil International, MM Enterprise, and Green Heaven Enterprise of trafficking 75.5kg heroin to the UK. Bank I td

party government. The proclamation is expected to wrest control of the army from the king and give it to parliament. The administration would no longe tyres and put barricades on the be known as "His Majesty's highway at about 8:30am. Government" and the king's key advisory body, the Raj Parishad or Privy Council, is likely to be abolished. agitating workers and confirmed

FROM PAGE 1

outpost along with the vehicle.

made a negotiation with the gar-

Later police held talks with the

that the driver, with his truck, was

still under their custody. The driver

was produced before the court

around 10:30am. but it took a long

US authorities

regret for sufferings of the passen-

Bangladesh Embassy in

Washington is in constant contact

with the State Department and the

FAA to make sure the Biman flights

can operate smoothly, the foreign

Meanwhile, Biman officials have

contacted its attorney in US to

examine legal competency to seek

compensation from the FAA for

restricting its flight from landing in

The flight had left Zia

nternational Airport at 8:20am

(BST) on Saturday for New York and

was scheduled to land at JFK Airport

Biman authorities on Sunday

asked the Federal Aviation Authority

'This was a mistake", according to

explain in details for taking such a

After discussion with the FAA,

Engelken expressed deep sorrow to

the Biman authorities through

Bangladesh Mission in USA.

at 6:30am (BST) on Sunday.

New York-bound flight.

the Biman release.

operate in the USA.

Tk 448cr

FROM PAGE 1

decision.

ministry release said.

New York.

gers caused by the FAA's mistake.

Road communication resumed

vesterday noon.

FROM PAGE 1

flight or not

time to clear off the iam

and the injured by Monday night.

BNP to ask AL FROM PAGE 1 Discussing the last AL letter where

the opposition said the government must exclude the Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote representatives from its delegation if the talks have to take place, the meeting decided not to go for any dialogue with preconditions. A letter conveying this decision

I soon be sent to the AL, a senior BNP leader told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity.

'The BNP might agree to sit in a one-to-one talks on the reform issues if the opposition withdraws their condition," he added.

Some ministers at the meeting proposed for appointment of two new election commissioners. The prime minister did not oppose the proposal but suggested consulting nior lawyers in this regard.

"We're hopeful about appointment of two new election commissioners soon." said the BNP leader. After the terms of M Munsef Ali and AK Mohammad Ali expired on April 18, no one has been appointed

the posts. Earlier on January 16, the government appointed Mahfuzur Rahman and SM Zakaria as election commissioners.

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Law Minister Mudud Ahmed. Aariculture Minister MK Anwar, Commerce Minister Hafizuddin Ahmed and State Minister for Home Affairs

Lutfozzaman Babar were present at the meeting. ACC files

FROM PAGE 1 names.

Apart from the fixed deposit Mizan"s family also has two luxurious flats in the capital, two multistoried buildings, 2.43 acres of land in his nome district Rajbari, a plot ir Mohammadpur, one car and a substantial amount of gold ornaments. It was primarily proved in the

investigation by the ACC that Mizan amassed the wealth beyond his known sources of income. Therefore as a public servant, he has committed a punishable offence under Section of Corruption Prevention Act 1947 and 109 of the Penal Code, according to the FIR.

The ACC on Monday filed another FIR with Ramna Police Station against a government official and a bank executive for misappropriation of Tk 7 ACC Assistant Director Abdullah-

Office (PMO) in principle approved Al-Jahid filed the case against former the procurement proposal for 28 senior assistant secretary of the Ministry of Science and ICT Mizanur Rahman, currently senior assistant secretary of the Ministry of Establishment, and Abdus Salam assistant general manager of Pubali

GDP growth RMG workers handed him over to Kamtal police

FROM PAGE 1 Later, the owner of the truck

crisis, which is likely to hit the industrial growth severely. **BBS PROJECTIONS**

ment workers through police promising to compensate for the dead According to the BBS provisional estimation, the manufacturing sector, As the owner failed to keep his which represents 16.5 per cent of the promise by yesterday morning, a GDP, rose by 10.47 per cent in FY06. rumour that the police have whereas its average growth rate has released the driver triggered fury been 6 to 8 per cent in the last five among the workers. They set fire to vears

> The construction sector rose by 8.37 per cent this year, compared to last year's 8.31 per cent. This sector represents 9 per cent of the GDP basket.

Fishery that accounts for 5.03 per cent of the GDP also grew by 3.89 per cent against 3.64 per cent in FY05.

The transport, storage and communications sector, which represents 10 per cent of the GDP, rose by 8.25 per cent in FY06 compared to 7.92 per cent in FY05.

Wholesale and retail trade representing 14.12 per cent of the GDP marked a 7.26 per cent growth in FY06 compared to last year's 7.06 per cent. failed to identify whether this partic-Real estate, renting and business ular flight was a regular scheduled activities representing 8.14 per cent of the GDP have marked a 3.69 per cent It said the US official also

growth, which was 3.65 per cent in expressed State Department's deep Y05. Community, social and personal

services representing 7.52 per cent of Commission to maintain an effecthe GDP marked a 4.08 per cent tive framework within which nongrowth compared to last year's 4.05 profit organisations can operate per cent and work with NGOs. "The Among other sectors, mining and Commission ought to be empowquarrying contributed 1.14 per cent to ered to deal with the incorporation the FY06 GDP, electricity, gas and or establishment of NGOs, apex bodies and licensed certification

water 1.64 per cent, financial intermediation 1.70 per cent, public administration 2.76 per cent, education 2.46 per cent, and health and social work 2.25 per cent. This year mining and guarrying

grew by 8.73 per cent, electricity, gas and water 7.72 per cent, financial intermediation 7.12 per cent, public administration 8.21 per cent, education 7.98 per cent, and health and social work 7.13 per cent.

FINAL ESTIMATE OF

through Bangladesh Mission in US FY05 GDP GROWTH to let them know the reasons for The BBS final estimate puts the denying landing permission to the growth of agriculture and forestry sector in FY2004-05 at 1.80 per cent In response, Director of US State which in its provisional estimation was Department for Southern and negative. (-0.37 per cent). Viddle Asia Affairs Engelken said,

In FY05 the growth of manufacturing has been reset at 8.19 per cent from 8.43 per cent in the provisional Engelken said the State estimation and construction at 8.31 Department asked the FAA to per cent from 8.69 per cent.

Rehana applies

Deputy General Manager (Public FROM PAGE 1 Relations) of Biman Sayed Ahsan A High Court bench fixed next Hossain Kazi said Engelken also

Sunday for hearing on the applicaconfirmed that there is no question tion. of restricting Biman's flights to Rehana assumed the ownership of the house-21 on Dhanmondi road-6 on July 11, 2001 by paying "stipulated consideration money" to the government, the petition said. The plot is adjacent to Justice Hasan's residence.

In her application Rehana said on June 27, 2005, she learnt from some newspapers and from the caretaker she appointed to look after the property that the house

PM asks imams Glitch in tender process FROM PAGE 1

responsibility is to give proper guidance to people," she told the religious leaders and imams.

The prime minister praised the positive role played by the religious leaders in creating public opinion against the terrorist acts by some misguided elements on August 17 last vear and at different times later. She hoped that they (imams and religious leaders) would continue their efforts in this regard in the days to come.

The prime minister stressed the need for modern education and science alongside religious education and making country's education timeworthy by removing discrepancies in the education system.

She said necessary steps are being taken to that end and urged the imams and religious leaders to play their role in this area.

"Islam is a religion of liberalism and humanism. This religion teaches us peace, amity, equality and empathy Therefore, it is our moral responsibility and obligation to ensure the rights of every citizen of the country, irrespective of gender, and right to practise religious values," Khaleda

observed.

She said no nation can advance ignoring the present and without lishing an independent NGO setting the future

goal. "So we will have to make proper and realistic application of our religious knowledge to meet the present demand and attain the future goal.'

The prime minister said the imams are being imparted training on reproductive health, family welfare and planned family, gender issues, safe motherhood, maternal and

Child health care, ensuring children and women's rights, anti-dowry activities, combating terrorism, prevention of HIV/AIDS and conservation ofenvironment

She said nearly 55,000 imams have so far been trained at seven imam training institutes and all imams of the country will be brought under this training programme gradually.

Mentioning laudable contribution of imams and muazzins towards social advancement by teaching poor children and by eradicating illiteracy through adult education under mosque-based Child and Mass Education Programme, she said the government has raised the allocation for this project to Tk 216 crore in the fourth phase from Tk 94 crore in the third phase.

It is expected that employment opportunity of 21,000 people will be generated under this project, she said.

She said the government has allocated Tk 4 crore for the newly constituted ImamMuazzin Welfare Trust and it will be increased gradually. Imams and muazzins can improve their financial position by taking interest-free loan from this fund.

The prime minister distributed awards to eight best imams of the country for their extraordinary contribution to human resource develop-

State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharraf Hossain Shajahan, Delwar Hossain Saidee MP, UNFPA Executive Director Thoraya Ahmed

Foundation Md Fazlur Rahman

FROM PAGE 16 Development Construction Ltd and Associates (DCL) in association with an Indian firm Sebabrat (SBA), DCL-SBA offered to complete the construction in the first phase of the project for a price of Tk 63.4 crore

Different electronic and print media on the day following the purchase committee meeting on February 1 published reports that the project was approved.

But, in reality all other projects that were placed before the purchase committee meeting were approved while the Mohara project failed to obtain the approval of the purchase committee due to a 'note of dissent' by one of the nine TEC members.

The purchase committee asked the project authorities to place the bids n its next meeting after re-evaluating the tendering process and the TEC recommendations.

A 3-member committee was formed comprising the secretary of Local Government Department, director general of Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) and a professor from BUET for re-evaluation.

TEC member, Abhilash Zutsi, also the team leader of a consultant firm Desh Upadesh Limited (DUL) of India. in his note of dissent said the bid submitted by the lowest bidder DCL and Associates is 'non-responsive' meaning its submission does not conform to the specifications agreed upon at the tender adjustment meeting (ŤAM).

upon minutes of TAM. claimed the He rather preferred to offer the contract to EPI- BFEW, a consortium Daily Star. of Engineering Project India Ltd and Banaladesh Foundry and Engineering committee held seven meetings Works Limited. EPI-BFEW consorbetween April 17 and April 28 discusstium submitted the second lowest bid of Tk 94.55 crore

Abhilash in his note of dissent said the deviations made by DCI -SBA in the priced BoQ (Bill of Qunatity) amounts to 'material change' to the original design of the project.

Instead of incorporating necessary modifications as desired and agreed upon at TAM the bidder DCL-SBA ntroduced a new design parameter the note said

Nomenclature and new layout of items are causing 40 percent reduction in civil work and implementation qualities, affecting the financial dimension of the project, the note of dissent said

DCL-SBA categorically refused to guarantee the clarity of treated water 1 NTU (Nephelometric Turbidity accompanied by some BNP cadres went to the house of Babar and took Unit) as specified in the requirement of the project, instead it wanted to keep the clarity below 5 NTU. Abhilash alleged in his note. NTU is a measure arbitration. of clarity of water and if it is over 5 NTU then the opacity of water is visible to

present there at that time, sources average human eyes. Besides, capacity specifications said. and country of origin of some of the cadres swooped on Babar and beat vital equipment in the DCL-SBA bid do him up mercilessly. Babar returned not conform to the agreement reached home injured in TAM, the note said

The rest of the TEC members BNP men again went to Babar's ound the deviations in DCL-SBA's BoQ as 'minor'.

Such deviations were also found in the BoQ of the second lowest bidder

Population programme

has been published in various newspapers regarding allotment of ment. one katha land of the property, the land has not yet been handed over

powers of the state, which allows

and use of their funds, the report suggested disclosure of audit reports to the public. "Though the existing laws do not make making audit report public mandatory,

bodies," says the report.

voluntary disclosure would improve public accountability and

transparency," the report added. The report also suggested harmonising and in cases modifying the laws and regulations related to the NGO sector to a uniform one. It advised the government to do away with the arbitrary

the government to interfere in NGO structures like dissolving or suspending the governing body and replacing it with another.

and "naked" act by the government,

the application says the petitioner

and her lawyers were surprised

since the matter is sub judice as

Explaining the necessity of the

injunction on handing over the land,

the application says though news

pending in the High Court.

to anyone.

economist of the WB, said he is not against the idea of NGOs conducting voter education programme. "It is the content of the programme which is important," he said referring to the voters' training

programmes undertaken by

The WB advocated for estab-

About the transparency and

accountability of the NGO activities

In FY01, the last year of the imme-

diate past Awami League govern-

ment, the BBS in its provisional esti-

mate set the GDP growth at 6.04 per

cent. But, soon after the change of

government, the bureau in its final

report lowered the percentage to 5.27.

per cent, which in FY03 the BBS set it

"NGOs are not political parties,

why should they do politics," he

said replying to a question on the

NGOs' alleged involvement in

But, Zaman, also a senior

WB for free

at 5.26 per cent.

FROM PAGE 16

politics.

NGOs

The GDP growth in FY02 was 4.42

ACC chairman FROM PAGE 16

Patel on Monday reportedly called the commission, the country's lone anti-graft watchdog, "a big joke and ineffective".

"It's very unfortunate...I'm unhappy for the comments made by Mr Patel," Justice Khan told the news agency at his office, adding, "I don't know on what basis he made the remarks.

He said, "Those who say the ACC is ineffective are ignorant of facts...They don't know what has been done in the last few months despite the absence of an organogram and rules.

The ACC chairman said, "We're not sitting idle, we're trying our best to combat and prevent corruption with our limited resources.

In the last few months, the commission has submitted charge sheets in 56 corruption cases and filed 20 FIRs (first information reports), he said.

FROM PAGE 16

point for the Libvan people, so too nuclear programmes.

Libya, which is led by one-time US ation

Govt mechanism

FROM PAGE 1 not attend the meeting

"We've asked the commerce ministry to keep the prices of essentials including sugar within reach of the ordinary people," Redwan Ahmed said.

"I think the ministry should have a covert mechanism to control the prices. They [government] should not completely depend on the private sector." he observed.

He also suggested that the government begin open market sale (OMS) of sugar.

The price of sugar has risen astronomically and there got to be a syndicate behind this. The government will have to track down the culprits if it has to improve the market situation," a source quoted BNP lawmaker Monirul Huq Chowdhury as telling the meeting.

"It's solely the government's responsibility to contain the skyrocketing prices of essentials. But currently Mujibur Rahman Manju were present none of its [government] mechanisms is working," noted the committee. at the meeting.

US resumes

nations have repeatedly said since then they would work to restore ties as Libva followed through on its pledge. "Just as 2003 marked a turning

could 2006 mark turning points for the peoples of Iran and North Korea," said Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice who is leading international pressure on the two countries to limit their

antagonist Muammar Gaddafi, badly needs foreign investment in its energy industry. Its Foreign Ministry called the US move a "significant step" toward improving all areas of bilateral cooper-

Referring to the sale of sugar

through the Trading Corporation of

Bangladesh (TCB), AL lawmaker

Rafigul Anwar alleged that the ward

commissioners and ruling alliance

men had "looted the sugar instead of

miserably to arrest the soaring prices

of daily necessities, as the ruling party

we sought from the ministry an expla-

nation of the price situation," Rafiqul

commerce secretary informed the

meeting that the ministry has already

taken measures to keep the prices at a

Committee members former

mmerce minister Altaf Hossair

Chowdhury, Mohammad Yunus, LK

Siddique, Karim Uddin Bharosha

lovalists are involved in it.

Anwar told The Daily Star.

reasonable level.

He said the government has failed

"The meeting ended abruptly after

Referring to the OMS system, the

selling those to the common people".

Ali Aujali, the Libyan Liaison Office chief in Washington, said the decision would benefit US oil companies. "Now I think they can compete with the other companies and they can go ahead with their job in Libya," he said.

When contacted, the army headquarters said tanks are not being procured right now. But it is under consideration in the 'perspec-

tive plan' of the army. They said they have plans to upgrade the old tanks. But the job of upgrading is not starting right away. Before the upgrading, there will be systematic trial, which will take time.

On the navy's purchase of MPAs. the army headquarters said the world considers MPA as the fastest and most reliable platform to monitor the maritime region. The operating cost for MPA is also significantly ower than patrol naval ships.

Bangladesh has 44,000 square miles of maritime area. A navy ship takes three days and three nights to monitor such a huge area. The MPA can do this job in 2 to 3 hours, they mentioned.

Bangladesh Navy started the process of adding the MPA to its system in the mid-nineties. It underwent various levels of scrutiny before the government gave its approval in principle. Accordingly, two MPAs are being procured as per rules and regulations.

Myanmar concerning the project are

On Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline,

Patel said second secretary-level

trilateral meeting is scheduled for

meetings," the minister added.

is being examined.'

observer.

Committee of the Turkmenistan-

Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP) pipe-

line has invited India to become a

partner in the project and "the matter

minister visited Ashqabat.

Committee meeting of TAP as an

FROM PAGE 1

continuing.

was illegally and unlawfully taken by the government to set up Dhanmondi Police Station there. After that she filed a writ petition

with the High Court. After hearing the court on February 6, 2006 issued a rule on the government to show cause why the impugned action shall not be declared to have been taken without lawful authority.

Respondents of the rule are-secretary of the ministry of works. home secretary, inspector general of police (IGP), commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, deputy commissioner of Dhaka and officerin-charge of Dhanmondi Police Station.

Rehana and her lawyers were waiting to have the rule heard. But they came to know from the national newspapers on May 15 that the respondents had allocated one katha of land from that property to Justice KM Hasan, says the application.

Terming the allotment a "blatant"

to him."

RU syndicate

FROM PAGE 1

candidates as permanent teachers, Gas pipeline excepting Shahal Uddin, a teacher working in the department on temporary basis for past couple of India bypassing Bangladesh," he months said in reply to a question.

Shahal Uddin was also an activ-The state-run Gas Authority of ist of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), India Ltd (GAIL) has prepared a student wing of the Jamaat-efeasibility report on the project, he Islami said, adding that discussions with

A teacher of the department seeking anonymity told the newsmen that the selection committee members did not regularise him as he failed to satisfy them as a teacher

May 22-24 at Islamabad. "Various But the pro-Jamaat teachers of the university have been pressing project related issues including the selection board members to those relating to the project strucappoint him as a permanent teacher ture, framework agreement and through a fresh selection, otherwise pricing will be discussed in these they won't let the syndicate meeting to take place. Patel said the Steering

Pro-Jamaat teachers are the majority in the Rajshahi university teachers' organisations and other teacher groups.

The selection committee, however, regularised the appointment of An Indian delegation led by the Abdur Rahim Sagar, another 'controversial' teacher loyal to Jamaat, Turkmenistan on February 14-15 to at the same department. participate in the 9th Steering

Department sources said Abdur the appointment of Abdur Rahim Rahim misappropriated admission test duty money by forging the immediately

Advocate Mahbubey Alam and Obaid, UNFPA Country Barrister Shamsuddin Choudhury Representative Suneeta Mukherjee Manik moved for the petitioner. and Director General (DG) of the

The counsels for Sheikh Rehana Islamic at a press briefing at the Supreme also spoke at the function. Court Bar building said the government has shown disrespect to the Sunnv court by allotting a part of the property to someone when the matter is

FROM PAGE 16 This is for the fifth time the hearing pending with the High Court. on charge framing against the Advocate Mahbubey Alam said

accused was adjourned. allocation of any part of the land The other accused in the cases during any case pending over the land amounts to contempt of court. "Justice Hasan's move to have the land is discourteous, so the action of the government in allotting the land Rahman alias Habib, 23, Abdur Rahman Masud, 19, Musa alias

Shamsuddin Choudhury yesterday served a legal notice to the housing and public works secretary informing him about the filing of injunction

application in the High Court.

employee of the department.

against him.

Jamaat background.

Justice department.

Rahim guilty and suggested taking

punitive action against him. But the

department chairman at that time

Prof Asma Siddika, also loyal to

Jamaat, did not any take any action

Prof Rabiul Islam told the newsmen

that nobody could complain or take

action against Rahim due to his

department and Progressive

Teachers' Association members

expressed deep concern over

appointing the 'controversial'

teacher Abdur Rahim as a perma-

nent teacher. They also guestioned

Some senior teachers of the

Earlier, Department Chairman

are JMB chief Abdur Rahman's son Nabil Bin Abdur Rahman, 16 regional commander of Gazipur Enavetullah Jewel, 19, Habibur

Mintu, 23, Nurul Islam alias Uzzal, Meanwhile, Barrister 24, Faisal Ahmed, 23, Monowar Hossain, 21, Arman Bin Azad, 34, and Shoib Ahmed, 25 Meantime, another Dhaka court

could not frame charges against five JMB members in two cases as one of them was not produced before it vesterday

Judge Mohammad Momin Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court fixed June 14 for framing charges against the signature of an administration accused and directed the jail authorities to produce them before it on A probe committee, formed to that day. investigate the incident, found

The cases -- one under the Arms Act and the two others under the Explosive Substances Act -- were filed with Uttara Police Station on January 5.

The accused in the cases are Wahidul Islam, 20, Shafiqul Islam, 30, Hafez Ibrahim, 30, Abdullah Al Faruq, 21, and Hanif, 22.

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on March 30 pressed charges against the five JMB members, showing 36 people as prosecution witnesses.

The investigation officer dropped the name of Shakil alias Mollah Omar from the charge sheet as he was killed in a fight with the law enforcers in Comilla on March 12.

how a teacher already proved quilty Raiding the house of Ruhul Amin of a charge could be regularised. Bhuiyan at Courtbari in Uttara in the They also demanded immediate capital on January 5, a Rab team removal of him from the Law and seized 19 items of arms, explosives. books on jihad and bomb making Bangladesh Chhatra League materials and arrested Wahidul (BCL) and Progotishil Chhatra Jote Islam, Shafiqul Islam and Hafez (PCJ) of RU yesterday in separate Ibrahim statements demanded cancelling

Following information extracted from them, Rab arrested Abdullah Al Faruq and Hanif.

ROM PAGE 16 from complications of pregnancy and childbirth each year, she said in an exclusive interview with The

Daily Star yesterday. While progress has been made to reduce maternal deaths in Bangladesh, much more remains to be done to save lives and achieve the millennium development goals (MDGs), Thoraya said.

The UNFPA chief thought Bangladesh would not be able to reach the MDGs if human and financial resources and institutions are not put in place. "However, we are hopeful that Bangladesh can do it with a big push." she added.

In the context of South Asia Bangladesh is doing better than some of its neighbouring countries, she pointed out.

Thoraya heads UNFPA, the world's largest multilateral source of population assistance, since January1in 2001 with the rank of under-secretary general of the Islam United Nations. She is the first Saudi Arabian to head a UN agency.

She said, "I don't think there is a lack of resources in Bangladesh. It is a country attractive to many donors and money is flowing in. What is important is how this money is used. It is very important that

funds that are coming are used effectively, efficiently and with FROM PAGE 16

Roy.

ministry.

accountability. Thoraya came to Bangladesh from Japan, which is a donor for UNFPA. "Japan asked me how we are spending the money they gave us for using in different countries including Bangladesh."

Lauding Bangladesh's success in certain areas, particularly girls' education, she said education will change the quality of a girl's life and her family.

Experience and studies around the world show that when women and girls are empowered through education, and especially secondarv education, and have access to health services and employment. they become the driving force in social and economic development. she mentioned.

One of the strategies of girls' education, particularly secondary schooling, is to reduce the incidence of early marriage and pregnancy, Thoraya stressed. Early marriage deprives girls of their childhood as well as education needed to build their future.

Bangladesh does not have a very good primary healthcare

system, which means basic health services, she said.

"You cannot improve maternal health if you don't have services available. Healthcare system will not be working very well if there are not enough trained human resources. It is the money, people and the institutions...We need all three together to improve the maternal healthcare facilities.' She mentioned that UNFPA is working with the Bangladesh gov-

ernment and its development partners to improve safe motherhood. This means we are working to improve access to family planning. skilled attendants at birth and modern obstetric care. You should not have maternal death if you have these three in place."

Asked whether Islam permits family planning, which is a major issue in the rural areas of Bangladesh, she said a form of natural family planning is there in

Thoraya went on, "Principle of family planning is there in Islam. But the most important thing is that we do deliver the information correctly.'

Bogra cops

Earlier, SI Abdul Latif and Jubo Dal leader Haroon-ur-Rashid filed four cases against more than 600 activists of the 14-party opposition alliance including Jubo League Bogra unit President Monjurul Alam Mohan and Secretary Sagar Kumar

Alamgir Kabir FROM PAGE 1

According to an official handout yesterday, the prime minister has given Alamgir Kabir the new portfolio as per the Rules of Business.

Earlier on April 24, the government relegated Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury as minister without portfolio and transferred Commerce Ministry Adviser Barkat Ullah Bulu to the

Ministry of Women and Children Affairs with the same position. Water Resources Minister Major (Retired) Hafiz Uddin Ahmed was given the additional

responsibility of the commerce