'Terror financing'

were also closed permanently, said

After the closures, most of the medical equipment and furniture of the two organisations were handed over to another NGO -- Kuwait Joint

ABU MOAZ & MEDICAL CENTER The Daily Star on March 28 reported that RIHS was using its bank accounts to meet its office expenses despite a government ban on releasing fund to the suspected

donor to militants. Government later found that the joint bank account at Bank Asia belongs to Zafar Musa Abu Moaz and RIHS' Bangladeshi office secretary Fazlur Rahman.

Although the withdrawals were ostensibly for office use, the cheques did not carry any seal of the

Abu Moaz, however, was ousted from Iraq for his alleged connection with an international extremist outfit,

Ikhwanul Muslimin, said sources. In the second week of March cash amounting to Tk 1 lakh and other valuables were stolen from the kidney dialysis centre, but mysteriously no complaint was lodged so

KAMAL & EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

Following strong intelligence insistence on banning RIHS since the arrest of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh chief Abdur Rahman in last March, the government so far objected to the presence of six foreign nationals at RIHS office in the country.

Sudanese citizen Kamal Hossain was one of them. The others are -- Sajlee Rifat Osman Muhammad, Abbas Bao, and Muhammad Ahmed al Sheikh of Sudan, Abdur Rahman of Yemen. and Zafar Musa Abu Moaz of Iraq.

Investigators found some of them to be connected with Ikhwanul Muslimin while some were ousted from their home countries for links with militancy.

section and Higher Islamic Education Institute under RIHS at Uttara in Dhaka were also closed last year for alleged connection with

PREVIOUS DEPARTURES

Following the August 17 countrywide series of blasts last year, five foreign officials of RIHS left the country under government pres-

Before joining RIHS the five officials -- two Sudanese nationals two Algerians and a Libvan -- had worked for Al-Haramine in Bangladesh, another international NGO alleged to be a donor to Al Queda and now banned worldwide.

All 14 foreign Al Haramine officials left Bangladesh when the government banned its activities in 2004. But the five returned later and joined RIHS secretly.

Investigators found RIHS, also known as Jamiatul Ihya ul Turath, to be accused of aiding militant activities in India. Pakistan and Afghanistan, and of providing aid to militant leader Asadullah al Galib and his men in Bangladesh with most of their funds.

Galib and Rahman established relations with RIHS with recommendations from Indian militant leader expelled from Bangladesh in 1988.

2 street urchins

Shahidul, who sustained injuries to his chest, said he along with three of his friends went to the Buriganga to bathe around 12:00noon and found a bottle wrapped with tape near a

He threw the bottle at the river but it hit a nearby wall and exploded also injuring the right eye of Miraj.

3 Neptune-size

planetary system orbiting the star HD 69830.

The star is 41 light years from Earth in the Puppis constellation and is about four-fifths the mass of our Sun.

The three planets are big, being 10, 12 and 18 times larger in mass than the Earth. That makes them about the size of our Neptune. although a lot smaller than Jupiter, the biggest planet in our Solar System--and they appear to be solid

planets too, made of rock, not gas. The two innermost planets are probably so close to HD 69830 that they would be blisteringly hot, but the outermost one lies in what planet experts call the Goldilocks zone--a comfortable distance where liquid water could exist.

Another discovery is that HD 69830 also hosts, like our Sun, an asteroid belt, the rubble left over from the building of planets from dust and gassy debris that clump together through gravitational

No one is suggesting that these planets contain life or the conditions it and it would be ludicrous anyway to think of them as a potential home from home, given that our puny chemical rockets and their passengers could never reach

But it shows that with patient searching and the right tools, astronomers can uncover eversmaller exoplanets in ever-wider orbits from their star, which may one day lead to finding copies of Earth.

'The planetary system around HD 69830 clearly represents a Rosetta stone in our understanding of how planets form," said Michel Mayor, also of the Geneva Observatory, referring to the stone that opened the way to understanding the hieroglyphics of ancient Egypt.

"No doubt it will help us better understand the huge diversity we have observed since the first extrasolar planet was found 11

Observatory in La Silla, Chile.

star, the light from the star "wobbles planet's size, density and orbit.

Safe water scarce

water and sanitation projects in Bandarban quoted the DPHE officials of Rangamati as saying that around 75 percent of the water sources like ring wells, rain water harvesting system, deep set pumps. gravity flow system, and infiltration gallery, which are installed by the DPHE in assistance with NGOs, are

On the other hand, Executive Engineer of Bandarban DPHE Mohammad Mostafa said of the 6,158 water sources installed in Bandarban, 5.004 are functional.

The executive engineer, however, admitted that there are fund constraints for repairing the dvsfunctional water sources in the hilly districts while parts of many water sources installed in the public places were stolen due to lack of

Besides, some areas of the hill districts are so remote that it is very hard for us to reach and install or repair the installed water sources, he said.

Putting aside the debate over the number of functional or dysfunctional water sources, the important matter to consider is that majority of the CHT people are deprived of pure drinking water and sanitation facilities, making them suffer from diarrhoeal diseases.

Sanitation and hygiene are deeply linked to access of pure drinking water, SMA Rashid, executive director of NGO Forum said adding that his organisation initiated a 3-vear project in 2004 for installing suitable water sources and sanitary latrines in the 72 villages in the three hill districts.

Twelve local NGOs are implementing the project funded by the European Commission (EC).

A three-member EC team during their May 14 visit to Bandarban appreciated the NGO Forum's style of work that includes installing water sources and creating mass awareness on sanitation.

The three planets were found after a two-year monitoring of the star using a 3.6-metre telescope at the European Southern

When a planet moves in front of a in response to the gravitational pull. The "wobble" gives clues to the

had to suffer from diarrhoeal dischildren, is the key to creating eases and some even died due to awareness among the hills people lack of pure drinking water before Dr Stefan Lock, second secretary to setting up ring wells in the village," the delegation of the EC to Bangladesh, said, adding, "Once they are informed of their basic said Ching Murma. NGO Forum officials visiting the needs, they will be aware of those

6 killed FROM PAGE 1

lightning while working in his mango orchard at about 3:30pm. He died

and try to achieve qualities to meet

At Jibanpur village, Tafijul Islam, 20, son of Ainul Huq, was killed by lightning in front of their house at about 2:00pm.

One killed

FROM PAGE 1 police in Rajshahi

Police said Jahurul was arrested at Baliaghata in Natore on Thursday

Following his information, a police team took him to Bangali Char to recover hidden arms. But as they reached there his accomplices started firing towards the team.

Police retaliated which led to a gunfight. Jahrul was caught in the line of fire as he tried to escape. He was rushed to a hospital in Bagha but the on duty doctors declared him

An accused in eight cases including four for murder, Jahurul the police say, had led the triple murder at Char Fatepur on April 20.

A country shutter gun and two bullets were recovered from the spot, police said.

Turkey crash

pull the truck driver out of the wreck-

Local TV reports said the lorry was carrying illegal immigrants.

Correspondents say Turkey is a major transit point for migrants attempting to enter Europe illegally.

Heroin smuggling

FROM PAGE 16 the team is ill and a fully-fledged

will start after he joins. As part of the ongoing investigation into the smuggling, the BB asked all commercial banks on Mav 3 to report within a week all banking information of the 12 business houses on a Criminal Investigation Department (CID) request. The CID

scrutiny of all banking information

sources said. The banks, however, failed to report within the stipulated time.

deemed the banking information

vital for its investigation, BB and CID

The eight sister concerns of BD Foods Ltd have the same address--9 DIT Avenue, Motijheel, Dhaka. They are Universal Trade International, Al Ajmir Trade International, King and Company, Camellia International, Oriental Export, Greenway Traders, Famous Business Internationals, and BD Sea Food.

The BD Food Corporation, another BD Foods concern, is located on Sagarika Road in Chittagong

The remaining two business houses on the suspect-list are NHB Corporation at 28/G/1 Toynbee Circular Road in Motijheel, and Rainbow International at Al Baraka Tower, 252 New Elephant Road.

Meanwhile, sources said the probe team members are quizzing detained BD Foods Chairman Badruddoza Chowdhury Momen intensively, but he did not divulge any significant information yester-

Momen admitted to the investigators on Wednesday that he smugaled some contraband items outside the country

MAINUDDIN REMANDED

Md Mainuddin, manager of King and Company, was shown arrested in the heroin smuggling case filed with the Sutrapur Police Station and taken on a three-day fresh remand.

The CID produced Mainuddin before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court, Dhaka yesterday with a prayer for a seven-day

Kushtia

According to sources. Daily Aiker Alo ran a news on May 3 headlined, "Judge assaulted for not granting bail: Nine Kushtia lawvers appeared before High Court in a court violation

On May 7, KBA leaders served a legal notice to the daily saying the news false, baseless, and fabricated and asked the daily to apologise within 36 hours or face legal

The daily however published a rejoinder within 14 hours but KBA leaders alleged the paper had not done enough.

144 imposed

FROM PAGE 1

declared a three-day Islamic discussion programme in the area.

Three platoons of police were deployed in the area vesterday morning to avoid any untoward situation

The Ahmadiyyas alleged that local zealots are trying to foil their programme.

Legal experts

FROM PAGE 1 Council Rokanuddin Mahmud demanded punishment of those involved in making "false" voter list.

"The names of fake voters will have to be excluded from the list to make the electoral roll acceptable and fair one," he said.

Former SCBA president Advocate Mohammad Ozair Farooq said CEC Justice MA Aziz and two election commissioners--Justice Mahfuzur Rahman and SM Zakaria -should be punished with imprisonment, fine and impeachment, as they have committed serious criminal offences by betraying the nation.

"As a Supreme Court judge, the CEC has violated his oath and ignored the High Court judgment over preparation of the electoral

Former SCBA president Advocate Mahbubey Alam said the CEC and two other election commissioners have committed criminal offences by betraying the nation.

(EC) is a constitutional body, allegations should be brought separately against the members of the EC through forming supreme judicial council," said the former SCBA president.

Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, former judge of the High Court, said the election officials as well as the election commissioners are accused of committing criminal offences in making "false" voter list.

"The three EC members have

been hatching conspiracy of holding a farcical election. They should be punished under the existing electoral and criminal laws," he said. Former SCBA secretary Advocate M Enayetur Rahim said all the three members of the Election

Commission are involved in making

"They have violated their constitutional oaths by acting as per suggestions of the BNP-Jamaat alliance," he alleged.

Submarine cable

(SEA-ME-WE-4) submarine cable line, spanning about 20,000 km across the eastern and western hemispheres

Fujitsu and Alcatel last month completed installing all necessary equipment at the landing station in

Old T&T area of Zhilanga However, the country will have to wait another month to get access to the superhighway due to a delay in laying an optical fibre cable link between Cox's Bazar and Chittagong. Although the Turkish contractor Hesfibel was supposed to finish installing the 160km cable ink by last November, it is expected to complete the task in next month

From the SEA-ME-WE-4 telecom network providing an ultra-fast terabyte-per-second connectivity, Bangladesh will subscribe a 10gigabyte bandwidth, enough to the country's internet and telephony demands for the next 10 years. Presently it uses about 150megabyte bandwidth.

The submarine cable network starts from Malaysia and ends in France, touching Thailand, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Tunisia, Italy, and Algeria. The landing station in each of the countries except Pakistan has already been set up, while India has installed two landing stations in Chennai and Mumbai.

The Cox's Bazar landing station construction work worth Tk 15 million started in April 2005. Besides the station, there are an administrative and two residential buildings, and a dormitory inside the com-

AFP reports: "The connection with the submarine cable system will immediately connect our telecom backbone with the highspeed global telecom system known as the information super-highway," Abdul Malek Akhand, chairman of the state-run Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) told the news agency.

The link will give Bangladesh better voice and data transmission bandwidth enabling the country to

call centres, data processing and medical transcriptions for the first

time, he added. Bangladesh turned down an earlier opportunity in the late 1980s and analysts say the decision has hampered the growth of telecom and outsourcing services. The country has only a small number of

"It's a very good news for us. The submarine cable will increase our bandwidth many times more than the present rate and it will lead to a fall in internet charges," said Ershad Shafi Chowdhury, general secretary of the Internet Service Providers Association.

"But it's not the end of the story The telephone board has yet to upgrade the domestic cable system and other infrastructure, making i almost impossible to reap the benefit immediately," he added.

N districts

FROM PAGE 1

132 kilovolt grid line at 6:07pm on Thursday, power supply in the northern region was disrupted, said a news release of Power Development Board yesterday. As a result power generation at 100 megawatt (mw) Baghabari unit, 90mw Westmont unit and 125mw Barapukuria unit stopped, the release added.

In another incident three power units in Sylhet, Fenjuganj and Mymensingh became inoperative following a fire in a transformer in Ashugani power station at 6:19pm.

Two probe teams headed by General Manager of Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB) Amir Khasru and its GM Ruhul Amin have been formed to look into the causes of the sudden disruption in power supply in the northern disricts and the accident in Ashugan

Both the committees are supposed to submit their reports within

Crimes rise

visits, the underworld dons organised their groups, reasserting their leadership, and went back to their

Recently, Mukul, one of the

chargesheeted accused in the case

filed in connection with the August

21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally in 2004, visited the country, the sources said. The latest police count reveals that 73 people were killed during the first four months of this year in

Dhaka alone. Besides, 67 cases of mugging, 14 robberies and 589 theft were lodged with different police stations here. However, the real number of crime incidents except murder is much more higher than what the

police records show, as victims often do not inform the police about the incidents. In about 90 per cent cases, mugging victims preferred not to file any complaint.

at least 25 people have been killed this month.

Besides, car-lifting--often accompanied by the killing of the

driver--also became a headache for the law enforcers Alarmed by the sudden rise in

crimes, Babar held a marathon meeting with Rab and directed it to curb the slide in law and order--the result of slackened police efforts. The police department was also

alerted in this regard at the last meeting of the home ministry, but it failed to contain the law and order. A top Rab official said around 600 Rab members are patrolling the

gence wing members are working to catch the criminals. Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner SM Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star yesterday that they have geared up efforts to arrest the criminals. He said police patrol and other steps have

city round the clock while its intelli-

been strengthened to check crimes. Asked if he has reports about the top criminals' recent visits to the country, the commissioner said he does not have any such report.

Industrial wastes

Both local entrepreneurs and foreign investors have demanded that the government immediately declare the industrialised area an 'ideal industrial city' and a munici-

The industries are contributing a

ment of security with additional police patrol, setting up of a fire station and street lights in all the roads and lanes.

Abdus Salam Murshedv, managing director of Envoy Group, said though they have maintained international standard in setting up industries in these areas with modern equipment and facilities for the workers, they are facing shortage of workers due to lack of adequate domestic gas line in those areas.

to live in these areas due to absence of gas facilities and we have to bring workers from the capital, which adds to the costs," Salam, also a vice-president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGEMA), NM Ziaul Haque, another local

entrepreneur, said due to lack of infrastructure development in these areas, the industries could not flourish fast. Saying that the government is earning around Tk 4 crore per month as revenue, Ziaul, also managing director of Mascot Plaza Ltd said the government should look into their problems and take immediate steps to solve them.

Despite investing a huge amount of money, they are not getting facilities of infrastructure development there, he added.

Moudud

FROM PAGE 1 the grassroots level BNP activists. said he himself had detected the

areas under three different polling stations so that they can vote at all three centres, one after another." He described the incident as a gross irregularity and said he has

Bangla reported. detected if the entire voter-listing process is properly scrutinised by the field level workers, the minister

When his attention was drawn to the EC's not replying to any of the western rail corridor' allegations regarding the voter list, When in full operation, Phulbari coal mine will produce more than 15 he said, "We can't give any direcmillion tonnes a year (Mtpa), plus an tions to the Election Commission as it is a constitutional body. He however said he hopes the

Civil society most of it by trains to Khulna and then by barges to sea-going ships at

FROM PAGE 16

of Comilla will speak at the discus-

sion jointly organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Prothom Alo. The Daily Star and Channel i. Distinguished members of the Nagorik Committee 2006 who are

preparing a vision paper for Bangladesh will also be present at the dialogue scheduled to begin at 9:00am at Bir Chandranagar Auditorium in the district town, says a CPD press release.

Voter list scandal

FROM PAGE 1 have used a false identity where he claimed himself to be a teacher, and prepared the list in March, a month before his appointment as an enu-

merator. The EC officials yesterday kept waiting throughout the day for Aminul to submit the 900 registration forms. Later some of them including a deputy election commissioner went to Agargoan, searching for him but to no avail.

When asked how did Atikul get the registration forms even before his recruitment, District Election Officer-3 and Registration Officer Samsul Alam could not give a satisfactory answer.

Atikul had used the seal of Mohammadpur Pre-Cadet Academy and High School while submitting the forms. But the election office showed him as a teacher of Shyamoli Pre-Cadet Academy. The headmaster of Shyamoli

have any teacher by that name and none of his teachers are working as enumerators. Locals said Atikul is married to a Jatiyatabadi Mahila Dal leader of DCC ward No. 41 and a close asso-

Pre-Cadet Academy, the only insti-

tution by that name in the locality

Mominul Islam said he does not

ciate to the local commissioner. He prepared the voter list in March while a district election officer in a letter asked Aminul on April 2 to

appoint Atik as an enumerator. Aminul yesterday told the press that his current physical condition did not allow him to go to the election office and his doctors too have told

secure and so he has been living somewhere else. He earlier told the reporters that he had been instructed by the election officials to include fake

He said he was not feeling

names in the voter list. During the visit to Agargaon, this correspondent found that many of the voters do not live at the addresses they used in the forms. For instance, Hemayet Howladar, Sabuj Sardar, and Akhtar Hossain do not live at 152/Ka/9 Agargaon, the address they mentioned in the

The residents of the house said they know only two out of 14 names mentioned in the list. The forms also listed several

garment workers without mention-

ng that they work at garments. They

Electoral reform FROM PAGE 16

paign is to mobilise public support in

favour of "Dhaka siege programme'

on June 5 to force the government to

accept the opposition's reform proposals for free and fair elections. Central leaders of the main opposition Awami League will also hold workshop at upazila headquar-

Besides, Awami League will hold an extended meeting at the Institution of Engineers in the city n May 27-28 to discuss the June 5 siege programme with the party's district unit presidents and general secretaries.

The leaders of 14-party combine, divided in two teams, will visit eight northern districts during the threeday mass campaign. The first team, led by AL presidium member Abdur Rajjak MP, will begin campaign from Panchagarh and the second team. led by another AL presidium member Suranjit Sengupta MP, will start from Lalmonirhat on May 20.

Phulbari

FROM PAGE 16 investors and international financiers, who had committed a huge fund to dig out coal from Phulbari.

The company's proposals also include building a 500 MW coal-fired

power plant at the mine site at an estimated cost of \$ 476 million. Provision has been made for addition of a second 500 MW plant later. Asia Energy also unveiled plans to float stock market shares in Bangladesh. The company had signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with

Merchant Bank Equity Partners Ltd for initial public offering (IPO) later RAILWAY TO EARN \$2 BILLION Meanwhile, the company vesterday presented a paper to Bangladesh Railway (BR) saying that the BR

transporting its coal to market and its equipment and supplies to the mine over a period of 30 years. But the BR will need to invest \$250 million to upgrade its tracks and

would earn more than \$2 billion

buy new rolling stock for the railway David Schonfeld, Asia Energy's rail development manager, outlined the projected revenues in a presentation to BR Director General KMA Rob and senior officials. He explained the company's vision for a 'world-class

products, most of which will require transport by train. Schonfeld said as a result, BR's freight traffic will grow more than six fold to 26 Mtpa from 4 The company plans to export initially the bulk of its coal production-

Akram Point, and the rest directly by At the early stages, about three million tonnes of coal will be sold

Asia Energy will also use the railway to transport heavy equipment, fuel and other supplies it will have to import to operate Phulbari

India to join US-backed

join the project which will now be renamed TAPI (Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistàn-India pipe-

line), he said. Besides the fact that Iran was bargaining for a very high price for the gas it wants to sell to India through Iran-Pakistan-India pipeline and in its liquid form (LNG), the pipeline from Turkmenistan would be easier to implement than IPI line as it already has the backing of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Iran's controversial nuclear programme and Washington's strong reservations have clearly cast a shadow on the future of the proposed eight billion dollar Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) pipeline. Moreover, unlike IPI, the TAPI

project does not run the risk of being blacklisted for participation by US and European financiers and com-The US has been encouraging Pakistan to abandon the IPI project

and consider TAP for meeting its gas needs. The proposed natural gas pipeine would stretch from the Turkmenistan/Afghanistan border in south-eastern Turkmenistan to

Multan, Pakistan (1,271km), with a

640km extension to India. The estimated cost of the project s 2.9 billion dollars for the segment to Pakistan and an additional 600 million dollars for the extension to

3 killed

FROM PAGE 16 gang slaughtered him and hung his body upside down from a tree.

Police recovered the body vesterday and sent it to Meherpur General Hospital for an autopsy. In another incident at Harbhanga n the same upazila, a member of an outlawed party shot his own brother

The incident happened following a feud between them over share of their ancestral properties Manun around 12:00midnight

Monirul to Gangni Upazila Health Complex but he succumbed to his niuries on the wav

armed cadres of New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP) shot dead Atiur Rahman, general secretary of Khet Mujur Samity, Rajbari district unit, when he was returning home at Radhakantapur in Sadar

Police quoting some witnesses five times in the head chest and two people on suspicion of their involvement in the killing.

burgeoning gas demand, it is esti-mated that substantial volumes of

gas would need to be imported. Joining the TAP project offers the possibility of an alternative source of gas supply to India," said the petroeum ministry proposal without referring to Iran. Participation in TAP would give New Delhi leverage with Iran on the IPI project, the official said, adding that mid-February the Steering Committee had given India three

months to submit a formal request India needs around 150 million standard cubic metres (mscm) of gas per day while its current availability, including LNG imports, is 92 mscm daily. This demand is estimated to jump to 313 mscm per day by 2011-12. Of the TAPI gas, India is willing to lift 70 mscm daily, the same volume that it tabled during talks with Iran.

Sutrapur PS

FROM PAGE 16

including the SI and the ASI. Jisan, a student of class five at Nawabpur Government Primary School, was missing since Thursday morning when he went to buy breakfast from a hotel near their house on BCC Road.

Firoz Hossain, who resides in a

nearby under-construction house,

found the body of Jisan lying beside the stairs on the second floor of the house. He informed Sutrapur police who later recovered the body. Assigned by duty officer Anguri Akhtar Shima. SI Abdullah made an

inquest report saying the victim was

unidentified and he was electrocuted.

and sent the body to morque for

autopsy The boy's father made a frantic search for him in the entire locality and then contacted Sutrapur police at about noon. But ASI Shima told him they had no information about any such boy.

station at about 2:00pm and filed a general diary at 3:00pm but police gave him no information about his Later, he announced in the area over miocrophone that his son was

Anwar then went to the police

a boy's body to morgue. He rushed to the morgue and identified his son' body. He also went to the house where the body was recovered. Firoz spoke in a suspicious way, he said.

Anwar alleged that owner of the nouse along with his brother, tenant and several relatives had called Jisan to the house and killed him.

Assistant Deputy Commissioner

(East) of the DMP Ashraf negotiated ifting of the PS siege. Departmental action would also be taken against the accused SI and

Dhaka, Yangon

issues, including refugee repatriation, border security, trade and investment, and issues related to

is one of the basics of Bangladesh foreign policy and underscored the importance of Bangladesh bilateral relations with Myanmar from that point of view.

east policy" Myanmar as a neigbour is also important to Bangladesh. Sharing the views, Myanmar deputy foreign minister emphasised enhancing cooperation bilaterally and multilaterally.

Royal Lake. During the meeting. Hemavet discussed some important

Minister Nyan Win at his office.

Khairuzzaman, Additional Mohammad Mohsin, Joint Secretary of the Food Ministry and Commissioner of Refugee Repatriation Commission, Shoyebur Rahman and Defence Attaché of Bangladesh Embassy in Yangon Brig Gen Shawkat Jamal

were, among others, present in the

official talks from Bangladesh side. The Myanmar delegation was composed of U Pey Than Oo, director general of the Foreign Ministry, Lt Col Win Myint, Ministry of Defence, U Htay lilaing, director, Ministry of Immigration and Population, U Myo Oo, deputy director general of the Commerce Ministry, U Maung Nyein, managing director of the Transport Ministry and U Sai Thein Maung, deputy managing director of the Ministry of Construction.

the LTTE "will invigorate the hardline elements in the south, including those in the present Sri Lankan government urging the military defeat of the LTTE and silence those advocating a negotiated

tread a hardline individualist path." US Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Camp ended a visit to Sri Lanka on Tuesday by

"We think the LTTE is very deserving of that label. We think it will help cut off financial supplies and weapons procurement and the like." he said. The US banned the LTTE in

1997, five years after India outlawed the group, holding it responsible for the assassination of former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. Canada labelled the Tigers a "terrorst" group last month.

attacks and resume talks. He was to hold talks with his Japanese counterpart Taro Aso in Tokyo on Friday as part of his effort

More than 200 people died last month, the bloodiest in four years.

In the latest violence Friday, two

soldiers were shot dead at a de facto

front line in north-central Vavuniya

district, the army said.

Tigers were believed killed in fresh clashes with a breakaway faction in northeastern Sri Lanka, military officials said, citing intercepted radio communications.

There was no immediate comment from the rebels on either

lot to the country's economy and playing important role in socioeconomic development of the area. They also put several demands including immediate solution of drainage problems, road development, setting up of gas line and assurance of its supply, improve-

"The workers are less interested

"We are getting only five mega-

watt electricity for around 300

industries and most of the daytime

we have to witness load shedding.

We run our industries with the help

of backup generator," said M

Siddigur Rahman, chairman of

Sterlings Apparels Limited at

irregularities while visiting the constituency last week. "They are listed as voters in

already made a complaint to the Election Commission (EC), the ATN This sort of ill practice could be

commission will address the questions raised.

> locally, which will be transported by trains to industrial centres such as Gazipur. As local consumption and demand increases, more will be kept back for domestic use.

shot his elder brother Monirul as he was sleeping in his room and fled Family members tried to take

> Police sent the body to Meherpur General Hospital yesterday morning for an autopsy.
>
> Meanwhile, Rajbari police said

upazila around 10:30pm. said a gang ambushed Atiur as he reached Binodpur. They shot him abdomen point-blank leaving him dead on the spot. Police arrested

the maritime boundary betweer Bangladesh and Myanmar. Foreign Secretary Hemavetuddin stressed that maintaining good relation with neigbours

Hemayet said alongside "look

Before the bilateral talks. Mayanmar's deputy foreign minister and the foreign secretary held an exclusive tete-a-tete at Hotel Nikko

issues of common concern. After the talks, the foreign secre-

tary called on Myanmar Foreign

"The more the international community alienates the LTTE, the more the LTTE will be compelled to

saving Washington had "encouraged the EU to list the LTTE" as a terrorist group.

The EU freezes the assets of

groups on its terrorist list. The designation also allows for special cooperation measures to combat them. Sri Lankan Foreign Minister

Mangala Samaraweera said in Tokyo on Thursday that he hoped Sri Lanka's donors would use their influence on the Tigers to stop their

2002 ceasefire in force only on

to seek international help to curb

mounting unrest, which has left a

"The latest Friday morning attack came in the wake of a string of LTTE attacks on army forward defence lines, sentry points and detachments in the past couple of days," an army statement said.

Separately at least five Tamil

missing. At about 05:00pm, some people informed him that police sent

Bangladesh Ambassador

EU to slap terror