US-led forces kill 70 Taliban rebels

REUTERS, Kabul

US-led forces killed around 70 Taliban rebels during clashes in southern Afghanistan, the US military said yesterday, raising the number of insurgents killed to 100 over the past three days.

Afghanistan is suffering its worst spell of violence since US-led forces toppled the Taliban in 2001. It comes ahead of Nato troops taking over military control in the violent south from the United

Last week the US-led coalition announced a major offensive, codenamed "Operation Mountain Thrust", to push deep into the Taliban's southern heartland.

A clash erupted on Friday after about 40 Taliban fighters attacked coalition forces in the Tarin Kot district of the southern province of

They all were killed," Soldier Chris Miller, a spokesman for the coalition forces, told Reuters of the Talihan casualties

In another incident, coalition and Afghan forces attacked "a large group of extremists" in the Zharie district of neighbouring Kandahar

Bangabhaban

province, killing 25 rebels in a battle that lasted three hours, a US military statement said.

Four more rebels were killed in a firefight with a coalition patrol in Kandahar on Friday night, Major Quentin Innes, a coalition spokesman, said.

ately available for comment, but have rejected reports of big losses in recent weeks.

troops had killed about 31 Taliban insurgents in the south on Wednesday and Thursday.

voiced concern over the deteriorating security situation in the south despite the presence of foreign forces, saying rebels are expanding their influence in several parts of

More than 1,000 people, including more than 40 foreign soldiers, have died this year. Around 400

were killed in May alone.

return from Singapore on June 20 and the speaker is continuing to be the acting president. On arrival at Zia International Airport, the president was driven to CMH in a

flag, but the car carrying the acting president at the airport flew the flag of the president. The ministers, who had initially taken the decision that lajuddin would resume his duty upon his return from Singapore, were stunned by the sudden change in

car that carried only the national

the decision, sources said. The government could have replaced the president through proper steps without getting into the nasty controversy that is now haunting it," a very senior policy maker of the government told The

Daily Star. Amid such a situation, President lajuddin Ahmed yesterday returned to Banghhaban and he was driven to Bangabhaban in a car that again carried only the national flag, and not the president's flag.

But he did not take back the charge of presidency raising questions in people's mind about the status of the presidency. Now, President Iajuddin will take rest staying at Bangabhaban and Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar will continue as the acting president in Bangabhaban. This is the first of such a situation in Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, yesterday morning the seven-member medical board headed by National Professor Brigadier (retd) MA Malik examined the president's health and suggested that he should be discharged from the hospital.

'The president's health condition is now satisfactory, so we suggested him to go to Bangabhaban. We hope the condition will gradually improve further," Prof Malik told The Daily Star

yesterday. Sources said the medical board will examine the president's health again after two weeks. The president was advised to take rest for eight weeks from the day of his bypass cardiac surgery on May 26

at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore. The president's health condition is now much better. But we suggested him to take rest for four more weeks," another physician told The Daily Star wishing ano-nymity. "We hope the president will be able to discharge his duties

after completion of the rest Meanwhile, the status of the presidency has been a much debated issue-recently and the return of President Iajuddin Ahmed to Bangabhaban without taking charge of the presidency

deepened the controversy. This kind of an incident never occurred. It would be a different matter if the president was in CMH. But he returned to Bangabhaban and he did not say that he needs rest," a former senior bureaucrat told The Daily Starwishing anonymity.

Justice Ghulam Rabbani, former judge of the Appellate

Loan defaulters

FROM PAGE 16

outstanding loan of Tk 1,837 crore until March 31, 2006.

The Bangladesh Bank has taken over the Oriental Bank and appointed a BB executive director its administrator for salvaging the

problem stricken bank. To protect the interest of depositors and maintain public confidence in banking system, the BB dissolved the board of directors of Oriental Bank and removed its

chief executive. The BB has also launched a special investigation into misappropriation of the bank's money.

owner of the group and his family members feel insecure as unknown people identifying themselves as Rab members wandered around his Gulshan house on Friday.

The Taliban were not immedi-

The US military said coalition

The rebels have stepped up attacks this year in their southern and eastern heartland where they enjoy considerable support from

Local politicians have recently

is no scope for the speaker to

continue as the acting president.

"When the president returned

from Singapore the acting presi-

dent automatically became the

unable to do his job, the president

must say so himself, and not the

doctors, since the president is not

in a comma or any other critical

situation," Justice Rabbani argued

adding, "So far we know the presi-

dent did not say so. So the speaker

Parliamentary Affairs Minister

Moudud Ahmed, and

Parliamentary Affairs Adviser to

the Prime Minister Salauddin

Quader Chowdhury last week in

former chief justice echoed them

and said there is no controversy

over the status of the presidency.

Some people are intentionally

creating the controversy, he

unable to discharge his duties due

to his illness. It does not matter

whether the president takes rest at

Bangabhaban or in a hospital. The

speaker will act as the president

until the president resumes his

chief justice said it is not manda-

tory that the president has to say

that he wants to take rest. "The

physicians have advised him to

take rest. It's enough," he argued.

mer chief justice also former

chief adviser to a caretaker gov-

ernment, Justice Latifur Rahman,

but he declined to comment on

scene and rescued all the 65 people

on board, including 36 crew and

labourers of the vessel, with the

help of the local people who

reached there by fishing and

speedboats. Sources, however,

claimed that a crew of the tanker

bring the raging blaze under con-

ever, could not be confirmed as of

slightly injured. Four of them were

identified as chief officer Jahirul

Islam and cleaners Mir Hossain,

Chittagong Medical College

They were admitted to

Of them, the three cleaners were

released after receiving first aid

while Jahirul was undergoing

treatment, the hospital sources

Chairman AMM Shahadat Hossain

and other top port officials visited

procured about 25 years ago at a

According to sources, the

Merchantile Marine Department

(MMD) and the Bangladesh

Shipping Corporation formed two

separate committees to probe the

Habibur Rahman heads the four-

member MMD probe committee.

Principal Officer Captain

cost of Tk 50 crore, sources said.

the spot in the afternoon.

PROBE COMMITTEES

FORMED

accident.

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA)

The 138-metre long tanker was

Fariduddin and Zakir Hossain.

The navy men also managed to

The cause of the accident, how-

Among the rescued, seven were

65 rescued

FROM PAGE 1

was missing.

trol at around 2:30pm.

5:30pm yesterday.

Hospital (CMCH)

The Daily Star contacted for-

Replying to a query, the former

"President Iajuddin Ahmed is

However, Law Justice and

cannot act as the president."

from his illness

asserted

office," he said.

"If President Iajuddin Ahmed is

speaker again," he said.

to lend people crores of taka. Police arrested Bulu on May 31 after his former wife Hosne Ara Naznin and a landowner filed Division of the Supreme Court, separate cases against him. He was said Iajuddin Ahmed is now the released on June 16. president of the country and there

Bulu's family

intimidation

The media consultant of BNS

Group yesterday said MNH Bulu,

Bulu and his family members

are now in greater anxiety after the

Rab office concerned told them

that no Rab member went there,

BN\$ group's media consultant

Shahabuddin Shikder told a press

conference at Dhaka Reporters

He said the unknown men are

people of a ruling BNP minister

and the managing director of

Boishakhi TV who have 'hands'

behind filing six cases against Bulu

went to Gulshan Police Station on

Friday to file a case about the inci-

dent, but police refused to record

between Bulu and the BNP minis-

ter is expected to be resolved in a

week as the minister assured them

of returning several crore taka that

how Bulu earned such a huge

amount of money that enabled him

But he did not reply when asked

the minister borrowed from Bulu.

He, however, said the strife

Shahabuddin also said they

to harass him.

tells of Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following Bulu's filing a case against Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas for issuing 'death threats' to him over a business feud involving Boishakhi TV on May 30, Buly faced several cases one after

3 killed

FROM PAGE 16

criminal cases filed against him, including murder cases, with different police stations of Khulna and

Rab personnel arrested BCP Operations Commander of Jessore Abdur Razzak, 30, around 10:00pm on Friday at Abhaynagar upazila in Jessore, another Rab press release said. Following his information, a Rab team went to Durgapur in the same upazila to recover hidden

the parliament said in accordance rms and arrest his cohorts. His gang members opened fire on the is discharging duties as the acting team as they reached the area president and the president will around 3:00am yesterday and resume his office after recovering Razzak was found dead following the Rab's encounter. He was caught Talking to The Daily Star yesterday on condition of anonymity, a

in the line of fire, Rab claimed. One pipegun, two shotgun shells and two used bullet shells were recovered from the spot while none of the miscreants were caught. Razzak was wanted for several murders and other criminal activities in cases filed with different olice stations in Khulna and

Meanwhile, another BCP Operations Commander of Narail, Junaid Hossain, 30, was killed in an 'encounter' between the members of his party and Rab around 3:30am. He was arrested at Narail town on

During interrogations, Junaid told Rab about his hidden arms cache. A Rab team along with Junaid went to Mirzapur area of Sadar upazila in Narail where Junaid's gang men shot at the Rab team forcing them to retaliate. During the gunfight, Junaid tried to escape but he was hit by bullets and died on the

Two pipeguns, four shotgun shells and one used bullet shell were recovered from the spot. Rab however failed to capture any outlaws. Junaid had several criminal cases including murder cases filed against him with different police stations of Jessore and Narail.

Hasina meets

FROM PAGE 1 On bilateral plane, the Bangladesh leader stressed the need for settling longstanding issues amicably through discussions in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect.

Earlier, Hasina had met with Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh on Thursday and ruling UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi, Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee and State Minister for External Affairs E Ahmed Friday.

Asked about the outcome of the parleys with both the ruling and the opposition leaders of India, Chowdhury said: "There is meeting of minds" as far as issues concerning the region as well as BangladeshandIndia.

This is an opportunity for us to share our views with the Indian leadership," he added. Hasina went to India on June 21

orimarily to receive Mother Teresa Award, but she later cancelled her trip to Kolkata to attend the award giving ceremony.

The AL chief is scheduled to return to Dhaka from New Delhi via

Kolkata today.

HSC exams

FROM PAGE 16

and Handicrafts 2nd paper under Dhaka Board scheduled for today will now be held on July 1.

These examinations have been deferred due to unavoidable circumstances, a press release of the Dhaka Education Board said yes-

Grassroots BNP men

"We will investigate the allegations and if they [lawmakers, min-isters and senior leaders] are found guilty they would not get party tickets in the coming election, said a BNP leader seeking anonymity at party's central office on

Sources in both central office and Hawa Bhaban said they are receiving 30 to 35 complaints every

Grassroots BNP leaders of Dhaka City, Jamalpur, Kushtia, Khulna, Barisal, Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Jhalakati and Jhenidah wrote letters addressing the party high ups expressing grievances about activities of a number of legislators. They alleged a number of ministers and legislators have lost popularity due to their involvement in corruption and violence.

Meanwhile, Hawa Bhaban officials led by Tarique Rahman, senior joint secretary general of BNP, is working to solve the organisational problems like internal feud. Hawa Bhaban men recently warned a number of lawmakers and leaders of their unpleasant activities in their constituencies, sources added.

Contacted, Hawa Bhaban spokesperson Ashik Islam admitted that they are receiving letters from the field-level workers. But he termed this 'demands for develop-ment work'. "Most of the letters came with the demands for development work and we have sent those to the ministries concerned. A few letters were about our organisation and party activities and we asked the district level leaders to

look into it," he told The Daily Star

yesterday. -BNP Central Office Secretary Mofiqui Hasan Tripti also acknowledged the matter. He told The Daily Star that it was not too unusual a matter as BNP is a big political

party.
"We are receiving letters from our workers and supporters and sending those to party secretary general after accessing their importance," he added.

The BNP high command, especially Hawa Bhaban, welcomed the letters because they thought that it would be helpful to pick better candidates for the next general elections, said a mid-level central leader of BNP.

Sources said, Tarique Rahman in his view exchange programme held in different areas across the country requested activists and supporters to inform him about the activities of his party men and development works as well. He gave them his office address, fax and telephone numbers to the grassroots leaders and asked them to let the party policymakers know what is going on at its lower tier.

Stone extraction

FROM PAGE 16 landslides have already taken place particularly in the rainy

Sources said illegal stone col-lection continues throughout the year but during the dry season it

There are at least 30 such illegal extraction sites at Bhajanpur, Majhipara, Buraburi, Boalmari, Mandalpara and Bhutipurkur villages under Tetulia in Panchagarh. This correspondent visited one such pit in Ghagra village in the upazila

Local people said they earn Tk 30 to Tk 35 for extraction of one cubic feet of stones. Accumulated stones were seen piled up in the yards of almost every house.

The villagers said the district administration and the Department of Forest (DFO) are indifferent to the illegal practice. They said they never face any obstruction from the administration in extracting and transporting the stones.

The DFO in Panchagarh had once issued 'permits' for stone extraction without any study on

ecology. Issuance of permit was stopped in early 1994 but extraction continues.

Earlier, stones used to be collected by some construction contractors on orders from government departments concerned for their use in building roads and protecting river embankments.

As there is a good demand for stones and the business earns hefty profit, some powerful syndi-cates have been formed with blessings from certain people in the administration and DFO, the

sources said.

As the pebbles available in this region are lucrative, illegal extractors operate more than 100 pits in Tetulia area, said Md Hamidur Rahman, president of Stone Workers Union in Bhajanpur village. He supplies stones to big

buyers. MA Rashid, divisional forest officer of Panchagarh Forest Division, said they will take actions against the illegal extrac-tors. Illegal extraction of stones is threatening the ecological bal-ance in the district, he said adding that the practice also affects sub-

Anti-Ahmadiyya

FROM PAGE 16
Abdullahpur at 6:00am, you'll see
Abdullahpur burning if the police attempted to stop us," Noor Hossain Nurani, the self-declared militant leader and chief of the anti-Ahmadiyya outfit, said in the

The bigots announced their agitation programme for hartal and the Thursday's lay siege of Zia International Airport after police foiled their attempt to attack an Ahmadiyya mosque in Ashkona on

The activists, split into several groups, will start to picket in the areas under Khilkhet, Uttara, Airport, Turag, and Tongi police stations since 6:00am and will continue to do so all day long, orgaisation leaders said. Dhaka Metropolitan Police

(DMP) however said they would not let the fanatics hamper public life in anyway. "We'll not let them take to the streets," DMP Commissioner SM Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star last night, adding that police have taken all necessary measures to prevent any 'troubles' the zealots might try to create. Who gave the DMP commis-

sioner the power to take away our hartal?" Nurani said, learning about the police move. About 10 platoons of police and

armed police battalions were deployed at Ashkona and Airport area to foil their yesterday's agitation programme which was sched-uled to take place near the north gate of Airport Haji Camp at 4:00pm.

The law enforcers kept the extremists confined to the Baitus

Aman Mosque before the sched-uled time and did not let them demonstrate. Terming Prime Minister

Khaleda Zia and her alliance gov-ernment a betrayer, Nurani threatened to topple the government if their three-point demand was not met. "We would now go for attacks, one after another, if the Ahmadiyyas were not declared non-Muslim," he said at the rally.

Rodriguez silences

forcing Jared Borgetti, who was

returning after missing the last two games through injury, to head Juan Riquelme's swirling corner into his own net in the 10th min-

Lacking the incisive passing and running of Lionel Messi and Carlos Tevez, both benched by coach Jose Pekerman despite their outstanding display in the goalless draw against the Netherlands, Argentina looked onedimensional against the more dynamic Mexican side.

Borgetti, who scored 14 goals in Mexico's qualifying run, was a constant threat to Argentina, whose strikers were continually thwarted by the stout defending of the outstanding Marquez, Carlos Salcido, Ricardio Osario and Andres Guardado.

Last-ditch defence by West Ham defender Lionel Scaloni deflected Borgetti's header in the opening minutes, Heinze was forced into a sliding block on a vicious shot after 14 minutes, and goalkeeper Roberto Abbondanzieri then tipped a blistering 25-yard shot over the

Marquez was on hand in the 18th minute of a gripping game to parry a shot by Crespo after a slicing through ball from Esteban

Cambiasso. Crespo was almost on the scoresheet five minutes later, the

Chelsea striker's lob off a delicate Cambiasso chip beating goalkeeper Oswaldo Sanchez but also the far post.

The first-half ended in controversy when Heinze, who put in for him a rare sloppy performance in the first-half, miscontrolled a simple pass from Abbondanzieri and gifted the ball to Francisco Fonseca before hacking down the Swiss referee Massimo Busacca

doled out a yellow card for the Manchester United defender but it could easily been red.

Fonseca had a clear chance in the 54th minute, failing to control a ball with just the Argentine keeper in front of him. Straight up the other end,

Sanchez beat away a shot from Rodriguez, largely outmuscled until then. And Sanchez made the save of the match a minute later, showing great reflexes to parry a well-driven Javier Saviola shot around

the post. With replacement Zinha running the show for Mexico in midfield, Fonseca stabbed the ball wide after meeting Gonzalo Pineda's deft cross with four min-

utes of regulation time to play. Zinha went close to equalising in the 107th minute but his effort was fired wide and the two-time World Cup winners were content to run the clock down against their flagging opponents.

Govt fails

and services prompt these patients to go abroad for treat-ment, he said. "But the fact could be reversed just by promoting private healthcare in the country by providing quality services, setting up modern medical equipment and scaling up medical education," he added.

The government's keen interest in the sector, especially by exempting taxes on medical equipment imports, allowing setting up of referral hospitals, and formulating a policy for pri-vate hospitals, clinics and diagnostic centres will help develop the private healthcare system, Murshed observed.

He pointed out that the country is facing a great crisis as there are only a little more than 42,000 registered doctors, 20,000 nurses and some 4,000 technicians, meaning there is a huge shortage of nurses and technicians. This presents a sorry picture compared

to developed countries, he added. Prof MA Hadi, president of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), said a large number of people have no access to healthcare and want treatment free of cost. On the other hand, affluent people are going abroad even for check-ups.

"This practice should be changed. Confidence should be built in our healthcare system. The politicians should also stop going abroad thus making examples for

others," he said.

The doctors in the country should be trained up, he said, pointing out that hiring foreign doctors is not wise. The govern-ment should set up proper policy in this regard, he noted.

Awami League (AL) MP Dr MA Mannan said the country needs at least 1.5 lakh doctors, but there are only 42,000. The number of nurses and technicians also could not be increased as per the needs, he

AL MP Asaduzzaman Noor said the private health institutions have become centres of exploitation. "Failing in the public sector, patients go to private hospitals but so many unnecessary tests leave them empty-handed." Highlighting the low standard

of medical education, he pointed out that the private medical colleges are getting worse. There is no regulatory system to monitor their quality while appointment of teachers in many public medical colleges is made on political grounds, he alleged.

Dr M Shamim of Labaid Cardiac Hospital mentioned a number of problems in private healthcare, including lack of nurses, government subsidy and training facilities. Despite these shortcomings, cardiac and eye patients need not go abroad, he said, adding, "We can treat them in the country now.

He regretted that the government did not allow him to establish a nursing institute.

Stressing the need for quality in healthcare service, Dr Mahbubur Rahman Chowdhury of Bangladesh Eye Hospital said doctors should continuously go through the learning process. They should regularly read jour-"Exchange of training programmes between the public

and private sectors can be the best practice in this regard," he said, adding that increasing services will decrease the treatment cost. Dr Amzad Hossain of Dhaka Medical College criticised nurses for their attitude to patients, say-ing their approach is below stan-

dard and should be changed

through proper training. He also said the country's medical colleges lack adequate infrastructure and quality teachers. "This will make the next medical generation crippled if measures are not taken immediately.

Valeri Taylor, coordinator and founder of Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed, Ann Mitcetche, health adviser of AB Foundation, Dr Dinesh Nair of World Bank, Dr Omar Faruque Yusuf of Chittagong Medical College, AL Health Secretary Dr Mustafa Jalal Mohiuddin, among others, spoke at the roundtable chaired by Health 21 Chairman Shajahan N Samad Chowdhury. The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam moderated the discussion.

RU authorities

FROM PAGE 1

for the exams. They also chanted slogans against university authorities and the department chairman concerned who were trying to prevent him from taking the exams. The department authorities had earlier said Salehi would not be

allowed to sit for the exams as he

had attended classes only one day

and he was a criminal in police A group of ICS men led by former RU ICS president Rezaul Karim laid siege to the office of RU Vicechancellor (VC) Prof Altaf Hossain in the morning as the VC and the department authorities had a

closed door meeting inside the Sources said the VC at first gave verbal permission for Salehi's taking the exams but gave a written per-mission later after the teachers of the department concerned mounted pressure on him for the

written permission. Rajshahi police earlier sought cooperation from the university administration to arrest Salehi in connection with the Taher murder

A teacher of Geology and Mining Department told The Daily Star that he was disappointed at the 'surrender of university administration to the Shibir threat'. He said it was painful for him to see a killer of his senior colleague allowed to sit for exams rather than being punished.

Tamil rebels extend EU truce deadline

REUTERS, Colombo

Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers yes extended a deadline for European Union truce monitors to withdraw from the island, while the army accused the rebels of shooting dead two soldiers in the northwest.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil

Eelam (LTTE) have thrown the

Nordic Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission into crisis by insisting that staff from three Scandinavian EU member states are withdrawn after the bloc banned the rebels as a terrorist group. The Tigers initially gave peace

broker Norway a month to replace the 37 monitors from EU members Sweden, Finland and Denmark, out of a total of 57 -- far short of the six months the mediators say they

The monitors said the deadline had now been pushed back to September 1, which means they now have a little over two months, still less than they need. "We have extended the period

according to a request from the Norwegian facilitators," S. Puleedevan, head of the Tigers' peace secretariat, told Reuters by telephone from the northern rebel stronghold of Kilinochchi.

(Norwegian ambassador Hans) Brattskar discussed with us the deadline, saying they needed more time," he added. "That's why we extended the period.

Norway has said 20 monitors from non-EU states Norway and Iceland are not enough, and analysts fear it could create a vacuum at a time when increasingly frequent ambushes, shootings and clashes are stretching the 2002 truce to breaking point.

Nordic foreign ministers are due to meet in Oslo on June 29 to discuss how to replace the EU moni-

More than 700 people -- more

than half of them civilians -- have been killed so far this year, and tens

from their homes. About 3,000 Tamils have paid smugglers to ferry them to neigh-

of thousands have been displaced

boring India so far this year. Some 200 people fled this week alone after four fishermen in the north-western district of Mannar were shot dead and one woman was killed, and dozens of people were injured when a grenade was thrown into a church, in attacks residents blamed on the military.

The violence continued on Saturday, when two soldiers were shot dead while they were searching roadside scrub for landmines along the road to Mannar. The military blamed the attack on the

Further north in the army-held enclave of Jaffna, a suspected rebel group ordered shopkeepers to keep heir stores shut in protest at killings of Tamil civilians the Tigers blame on the military and the desecration of an LTTE war memorial in government territory.

Public transport was at a standstill, Jaffna's streets were empty and banks were closed.

"Today it's OK, being a Saturday," said retired irrigation technician Nawan Kunathasan. But next week, if there is going to be a boycott, it's our own people who are going to be badly affected.

Jaffna will be crippled."

"It looks as though both parties are provoking each other," the 61-year-old added. "Before sitting for peace talks, violence must come to

an end. With the government opposed to the Tigers' demands for a separate homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east, many diplomats and analysts believe the rebels are spoiling for a return to a two-decade-old conflict in which more than 65,000 people have already been killed.

Govt pry teachers

AL-backed teachers association's General Secretary Kazi Fazlul Huq said they expect realisation of their 21-point demand including the elimination of wage dis-

crimination through their hunger strike. He said around five thousand teachers had joined their hunger strike at Muktangon and the number will increase in a few

Several hundred community primary teachers under the banner of Bangladesh Community Primary Teachers Association have also been continuing their fast-unto-death strike at the Central Snaheed Minar demanding nationalisation of their jobs.

Referring to the incumbent LGRD Minister and Secretary General of the ruling BNP Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan's assurance during their movement on October 5, 2000, president of the association Habibul Ahsan Bulbul said, "He assured us that if they can go to power, they will recognise our demands.

But the teachers did not get anything even at the eleventh hour of the BNP led four-party alliance government's tenure, he added. "Now they are just overlooking

our demands, nobody came to us," Hafijur Rahman, secretary

general of the association said,

adding that they are determined

to carry on the movement, as they

cannot rely on the verbal assurances from the DG (Primary Education) and the PM's office. Now only the 76 thousand

teachers of some 19 thousand

registered non-government

primary schools are in the classrooms after realising their demand for 100 per cent of thegovernment benefits that was approved in the recent budget. Meanwhile, Jatiya Shikkhak Karmachari Front, a platform of non-government high school and college teachers and employees led by Prof Kazi Faruque Ahmed

will also observe day-long hunger strike at the Central Shaheed Minar today demanding implement the additional 10 per cent salary from the government exchequer. Shikkhak Karmachari Oikya lote, another platform of nongovernment high school and college teachers and employees led by Selim Bhuiyan, will hold a

the capital today demanding nationalisation of their jobs. Under the banner of BCS (General Education) Association, government college teachers will observe work abstention today demanding departmental pro-

grand rally at the Muktangon in

Different political, cultural and human rights organisations yesterday expressed solidarity with the government primary and community primary teachers and termed their demand logical.

10:00am tomorrow. The coffin will be

kept there for sometime for all

intending to pay homage to the war

carried to the Martyred Intellectuals

Graveyard in Mirpur to bury with

state honour. Motorcades will squad

just after the burial of the coffin,

liberation war ministry sources said.

Matiur Rahman was born on

October 29 1942. He joined the

Pakistan Air Force in August 15, 1961

and was commissioned on June 23,

Matiur left Bangladesh for West Pakistan on May 7, 1971 with his wife

Milly Rahman and two minor daugh-

"I knew about his plans to defect with an aircraft," Milly Rahman told

ters, family sources said.

The Daily Star.

preventhim.

Building of a mausoleum will start

the hearse carrying the coffin.

MATTUR'S LIFE

Afterwards the remains will be

Matiur's remains

FROM PAGE 16 at last his remains are coming home, enabling people to pay homage to him," Milly Rahman said in a voice choked with emotion yesterday afternoon before going to the airport.

Several cabinet members and government high officials were also present at the airport. As part of the highest state honour, the Armed Forces Division and Bangladesh Air Force coordinated the honour guard at the airport. A motorcade carried the coffin

Mosque of Bangladesh Air Force through Mohakhali Flyover and Shahid Zahangir Gate to keep it there overnight. State Minister of Liberation War Affairs Prof Rezaul Karim at a press conference yesterday said Matiur Rahman's elder brother Khorshed

towards the Kurmitola Central

Alam accompanied a six-member government team to Pakistan to bring the remains home. "It took three hours to dig out the grave and process the remains of Matiur Rahman. Then it was put into the coffin to bring home," said the

minister. The three wings of the defence forces, the Army, the Navy and the Air Force would pay the highest respect to the hero at the National Parade

Square, he said. The minister parried the reporters' repeated questions about whether "war criminals" who are now cabinet members would be presentatthe programme.

In the presence of the president, the Namaz-e-janaza of Matiur

On August 20, 1971 Matiur Rahman piloted a T-33 trainer aircraft from Karachi, Pakistan, towards India in an attempt to defect from the Pakistan Air Force and join the Liberation War of Bangladesh. He couldn't complete his desired mis-

sion, as the plane crashed when the

other pilot Rashid Minhas tried to

"I came to know about his death

on August 21," Milly Rahman said. The family of Matiur Rahman came back home on September 29 in 1971, family sources said. Matiur Rahman was awarded the

title Birsreshtho, the highest gallantry award for heroic achievement Rahman and a special prayer will be in the Liberation War. An air base in held at the National Parade Square at Jessore is also named after him.