# Leaders shocked

From Page 1 Col. 8 Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, the Prime Minister said the late Congress (I) President was "a brave leader and an uncompromising advocate of democratic values "

"We in Bangladesh are indebted to him for his sincere efforts to strengthen Bangladesh-India relations."

She said the Indian leader's outstanding contribution to his nation and to the cause of regional and international peace and amity will long be remem-

Begum Zia also conveyed heart-felt sympathy and condolence and said "at this hour of grief, the people of Bangladesh join you in mourning his death."

In a separate message to Sonia Gandhi, wife of late Rajtv Gandhi Begum Zia expressed shock and outrage at the killing of the illustrious Indian leader.

Begum Zia recalled his "consistent efforts" in strengthening relations between the two countries and said that in Bangladesh, the Indian leader "will long be remembered as a sincere friend."

Expressing heart-felt sympathy, Begum Zia wished Sonia Gandhi and members of her family courage and fortitude to bear the irreparable loss.

#### Hasina

Sheikh Hasina expressed her profound shock and grief at the brutal killing of Rajiv Gandhi.

The Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief described the assassination as a "political killing."

This is a severe blow to democracy of India and a threat to Indian politics, she said, adding "political killing does not bring positive results for any country.

Hasina said Rajiv was assassinated the same way his mother Indira Gandhi had been killed in 1984.

She feared that the demise of Gandhi might pose a threat to parliamentary democracy in

### APSU.

From Page 1 Col. 5 from Ganatantrik Chhatra Front joined pro-BNP Chhatra Dal while some JCD students joined pro-Awami League

Chhatra League. JCD in a statement expressed its surprise at the welcome of a group of students by Chhatra League, who are it said associated with the Obhi group and organised resistance against the popular students movement against Ershad. According to available information, some of the students, who have recently joined Chhatra League were involved in Dr. Milon's killing. At least five of them are wanted by police in connection with Dr. Milon's murder case.

DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman announced that the students who identified themselves as leaders of JCD were expelled much earlier for their alleged association with Ershad's cronies like Obhi-Niru. He requested all the democratic organisations not to accept them in their organisations.

The APSU leaders were meeting on Wednesday till writing this report at 9-30 pm to discuss the issue and take action against the cronies of Ershad.

# From Page 1 Col. 7

trial units which were damaged in the cyclone. He noted with satisfaction that some affected industries after repair had already resumed produc-

Saifur Rahman emphasised for bringing back discipline in the financial sector and said the interest of local industry would be protected at any cost. The Finance Minister said

the government was working for creating a proper environment so that foreign investors feel safe and encouraged to come here and make invest-

He assured the BCI members that procedural hazards would be removed and simpli-

Referring to the Board of Investment (BOI) created by the past government, the minister said instead of promotion. BOI was a hindrance to industrial growth. He said the present government would reeast BOI in a manner so that it truly functioned like a promotional organisation.

The minister appreciated the suggestions put forward by BCI members for solving the problems faced by them. He said the government was in favour of ensuring national development through a democratic process, but cautioned that in such a process all parties could not be satisfied.

India and her integrity as well.

Meanwhile, our staff correspondent adds: The Central Executive Committee of the Awami League yesterday condoled the death of former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.

In a resolution adopted at the committee meeting held Wednesday afternoon at Bangabandhu Bhaban rice tributes were paid to the memory of Gandhi. The resolution said that the killing of Gandhi was a blow to the democracy in India and it would create obstacle to the peace, stability and progress in this sub-continent. The meeting also condoled

the death of AL leader Ilias Ahmed Chowdhury MP. Awami League chief Sheikh

Hasina presided over the meeting.

Awami League will hold a condolence meeting to mourn the death of Gandhi and AL leader Ilias Ahmed Chowdhury on Saturday afternoon at the central office of the party.

### 10 killed

From Page 1 Col. 8

Ansars. Six of the victims were identified as Ansar Belayet Hossain (32), Ansar Aminul Islam (50), Ansar Tipu (25). Ashraf, (50), a peon of Panchagar DC and the niece of Panchagar DC's driver Shamsunnahar (12) was taken with a bashed in head to Sadar Hospital where she died.

Five of the injured were admitted to the Sadar Hospital while the rest were sent to the DMCH and the Pangu Hospital. The injured include two women and a child.

The DC of Manikganj told The Daily Star that the Ansar truck was coming from North Bengal.

The driver of the bus lost and rammed the control truck.

The truck Dhaka Metro Na 7241 was badly smashed. Its driver Mohammad Ali was also injured.

After hitting the truck, the bus driver tried to speed away but the passengers persuaded him to stop. He escaped after parking the vehicle.

The DC said he found smashed body pasted to the wheel of the bus.

#### Anwar

From Page 1 Col. 2 Justice M. Abdul Jahl and Justice M. Badruzzaman delivered the judgement on the writ petition of Anwar Hossain

challenging his detention. Hossain was arrested on April 29, the day after he was sworn-in as a member of the Jatiya Sangsad. He was detained under Special Powers

Rafigul Hoque and Khondaker Mahbub Hossain appeared for Anwar Hossain, while J R Modesser Hossian, Deputy Attorney General and Obaidur Rahman Mostafa, Assistant Attorney-General, appeared for

### JCD-BCL ties

From Page 1 Col. 7 trance of these elements into

the Dhaka University campus. The rally organised by Chhatra League (N-S) was addressed by Roknuzzaman Rokon, President of BCL Dhaka University unit.

He said the incident of providing shelter to the alleged murderers of Dr Milon not only marred the reputation of the student community but also was a betrayal of the aspirations of the democraticminded people.

Meanwhile, movement of armed outsiders has significantly increased in the campus and the general students are frightened of any untoward incident which might further affect the whole student com-

The All-Party Students Unity (APSU) met last night in an effort to resolve the dispute between the JCD and the BCL over sheltering of the alleged murderers of Dr. Milon.

The APSU failed to solve the matter and is expected to resume its efforts today.

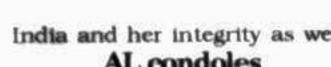
BSS adds: DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman MP, in a statement last night condemned the role of Bangladesh Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and the Bangladesh Chhatra League (A-A) for allegedly giving shelter to the murderers of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon under their party banner.

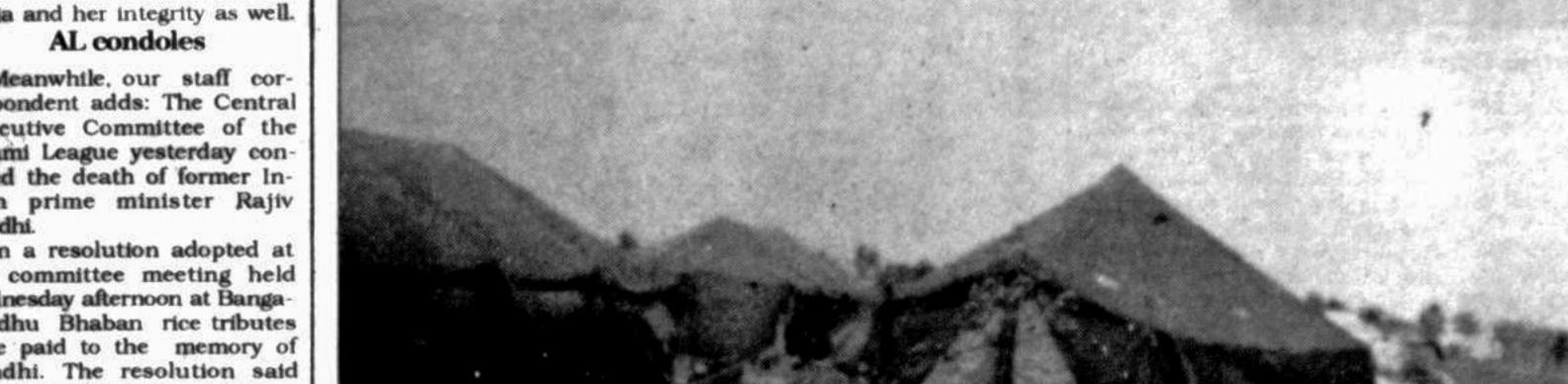
The DUCSU VP said that the culprits, after being expelled from the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal earlier, were taken into the folds of the Chhatra Tuesday.

Aman claimed that the act indicated the political stand of the Chhatra League.

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set up by US Task Force in the cyclone-hit areas of Chittagong to facilitate relief and rehabilitation - Star photo

# Mourners turn violent

From Page 1 Col. 5 An anonymous caller to a local newspaper claimed responsibility Wednesday for the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, an editor said.

The caller said the action. code named Operation FV for Final Vengeance, was to exact revenge for minority groups in India and Sri Lanka, seeking their own homelands, the editor said.

The caller said the assassination was to avenge "all injustices done to Tamilians, Sikhs, Kashmiris and northeasterners," the editor said.

Police said investigators would not dismiss the call

He said the police are keeping a close watch on flights leaving for Sri Lanka.

India has declared week of mourning for the slain Congress leader, who was Prime Minister until 1989. His body was brought to New Delhi Wednesday and taken to the home of his late grandfather. now the Nehru family museum.

body of Rajiv Gandhi will be cremated with full state honours on Friday at 1600 hrs. an official spokesman an nounced here today, reports

The funeral procession will start from Teen Murti House at 1400 hrs and reach Shakti Sthal via India Gate.

Flags are flying at half mast. The government has announced a week-long mourning as a mark of respect for Gandhi who was killed near Madras last night in a bomb explosion. All schools and colleges.

central and state government offices and public sector undertakings remained closed today.

Soon after his return from Orissa in the early hours. Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, met President, R Venkataraman for about an

They were later joined in discussions by the Chief Election Commissioner TN Seshan.

This was followed by an emergency cabinet meeting which adopted a resolution recording its deep sense of grief at the tragic death of

Rajiv Gandhi. The funeral will be attended, among others, by the US Vice President Dan Quayle. Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and British Foreign

Secretary Douglas Hurd. Police believe Gandhi was killed by a suicide woman assassin who strapped explosives onto her body and detonated the bomb when she approached him with a garland of flowers, Press Trust of India reported.

A senior police source confirmed one unidentified female victim appeared to have wires attached to her corpse. Gandhi's body was flown to this stunned capital Wednes-

His widow, Sonia, wept uncontrollably and hugged the couple's daughter Priyanka as the women stepped down from the Air Force Boeing 737 that had flown them to Madras

to bring Gandhi's body home. The teak coffin, draped in the orange, green and white flag of the Congress Party, was brought past surging crowds straining at police barriers outside 'Teen Murti House'. now a museum honouring Nehru.

Gandhi's Italian-born wife Sonia and their daughter Priyanka, both dressed in mourning white, accompanied the body. The Gandhis' son. Rahul, is on his way back to India from the United States, where he is studying.

Police fired tear gas shells and charged with canes to hold back mourners. "Rajiv Gandhi is immortal," shouted scores of people who had managed to break into the mu-"We'll kill his assassins.

shouted others. "Keep cool, keep cool," So-

nia Gandhi told a distraught friend as they waited in the ambulance carrying the body for the crowd at the entrance to the museum to be dis-

Completely covered by the national flag, the body was kept on a raised platform in a small room. It was covered with rose petals and lilies. Incense sticks were placed at the four corners of the bier in keeping with Hindu custom. At

the head was Gandhi's portrait. Gandhi sat impassively near the body wearing dark glasses as people filed past, some weeping, loudly. Among phose who visited

Teen Murti were Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, President Ramaswamy Venkataraman and Vice President Shankar Dayal Sharma. The portion of the flag cov-

ering Gandhi's face was flat. The bomb apparently blew his

Many in the crowd were weeping openly. "Say it isn't true, say it," shouted one man. He subsided

into broken sobs when a friend walked up and hugged him. Wailing mourners smashed through steel fences and gates and pured into Gandhi's home when the body was brought

from a city hospital. Infantry columns prowled the streets of the capital while elsewhere in India violence was reported in several cities in the wake of the assassina-

Transport services were disrupted in some areas, a curfew was imposed in four cities in Andhra Pradesh state and soldiers were put on stand by status in Rajasthan and Karnataka states.

Caretaker Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar ordered a nationwide security alert and

appealed for calm. The army was asked to stand by in Jammu, winter capital of Kashmir state, after 15 people were injured in police action to quell violence connected to Gandhi's murder, the Press Trust of India (PTI)

Police burst teargas shells to disperse mobs which attacked vehicles and petrol stations in the city, PTI said. Army troops marched through sensitive Jammu areas in a deterrent show of strength.

In New Delhi, an officer in the Police Control Room said mobs had gathered at several points, "but there has been no major incident of violence.

Twenty columns of infantry were reported in New Delhi streets.

Dramatic scenes took place at Gandhi's residence, Teen Murti, where security forces used rifle butts, batons and tear gas to try to push back 1,000 mourners determined to get inside for a glimpse of their slain leader.

At least 200 succeeded in smashing through the gates and scaling the high bambootopped cement walls, after which they ransacked an offi cial reception room inside the residence, witnesses said.

Many of the mourners were weeping, while others cursed the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (Indian People's Party), blaming the rightwing group for Gandhi's shock assassination.

Four cities in southeastern Andhra Pradesh were placed under indefinite curfew after police failed to quell outbreaks of violence.

One girl died in a police firing in Vijayawada as rioters torched a cinema owned by opposition politician N. T Rama Rao in the state capital Hyderabad, where scores of garages and stores were also gutted. In Gandhi's hometown of

Allahabad, in Uttar Pradesh

state, three people died and

12 were injured in street vio-

lence only hours after his death. West Bengal state mourners picketed airport terminals in Calcutta crippling air services, and blocked road

and rail traffic. Home Ministry officials said.

Train services in several other states were disrupted or officially cancelled Wednesday amid fears that mourners would set railway cars on fire.

In the southwestern state of Kerala, clashes with police were reported as crowds halted buses and laid boulders on train tracks. In Bombay, Congress (1

supporters hurled rocks and clashed in residential and office blocks, prompting police to ban public gatherings and the carrying of firearms in the city, PTI said. Similar orders were also

imposed in Bihar and Madhya

Pradesh states amid fears of

attacks on rival politicians by Congress partisans, PTI said. In the former French enclave of Pondicherry, three people were injured when police fired on a mob of 500

which attacked liquor stores. In Tamil Nadu, mourners ransacked the offices of several non-Congress parties, blaming them for Gandhi's assassination. They also torched several vehicles and damaged government cars and trucks.

Crowds of people angered at the assassination set fire to the home of a political rival Wednesday and assaulted foreign cameramen.

Furniture inside the resi dence of Ram Vilas Paswan, Gandhi's neighbour in the central New Delhi neighbood of Janpath, was set ablaze, police said Paswan, a former Labour Minister, is a member of the Janata Dal Party which defeated Gandhi's Congress Party in the 1989 general elections.

Police fired shots in the air to ward off the angry shouting crowd. There were no injuries. Paswan was not at home. The mob also attacked foreign television crews and an

Associated Press photographer, shouting "death to the Angry crowds rampaged through Madras' streets, looting shops, hurling stones and setting vehicles alight. Two workers for a political party

which opposed Congress were

killed in separate clashes. Po-

lice killed a third person when they opened fire to disperse a Three other people were killed in the neighbouring states of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala. But there were no reports of serious outbursts of violence in northern India, where political rivals battled repeatedly during the election

#### campaign. BJP posters torn

The posters of BJP leader LK Advani were set on fire by some persons after the news of Gandhi's killing spread like a wild fire in the city of Ahmed-

#### Probe

The government today decided to set up a high-powered probe headed by a Supreme Court Judge to investigate into the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Official sources said the probe would be assisted by a

#### LTTE accused

special investigating group.

A Sri Lankan Tamil party accused rival Tamil Tiger guerillas of assassinating Gandhi and said the killing was aimed at destabilising the entire South Asian region.

The Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) said it had "no doubt" that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), was responsible for the bomb attack which killed the former Indian leader in south India. Another Tamil group, the

Eelam People's Democratic

will be telecast live

Doordarshan on Friday after-

Party (EPDP) said it could not Foreign Minister Anisul Islam rule out the involvement of the Mahmud against his detention Tigers in Gandhi's assassinawas rejected Wednesday by the Second Additional Judge. Doordarshan Ismail Mian, reports BSS. The counsel of Islam then The funeral of the former filed a petition for adjourn-Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi

Sonia

From Page 1 Col. 5

Party spokesman Pranab

Mukherjee said the Congress

leaders unanimously elected

the Italian-born Sonia Gandhi

at an hour-long meeting while

her husband's body lay in state

made before Mrs Gandhi was

informed of the decision, party

leaders said. Her response was

put the politically inexperi-

enced Mrs Gandhi in a leading

position to become prime min

ister, would perpetuate the

dynasty that has ruled India for

37 of its 43 years as an inde-

the history of the Congress.

said senior party leader, a

close friend of the Gandhi fam-

ily. "We have taken a decision

and we will abide by it," he

born widow had the support of

younger members of the

Congress inner-circle.

The 42-year-old Italian-

Mukherjee said the deci-

sion of the 18-member

Congress Working Committee

the party's supreme decision-

making body, was binding on

Mrs Gandhi, "The question of

acceptance does not arise," he

to be an appeal for a sympathy

vote in the national election.

which has been postponed un-

But it was not clear how

long Mrs Gandhi would remain

party leader after the election.

The working committee can

replace her by calling a party

Gandhi family in similar cir

cumstances twice before. In

1966. Indira Gandhi was

elected party president and

prime minister after the death

in office of Lal Bahadur

Shahstri. Pasty leaders thought

Mrs Gandhi, the quiet daugh-

ter of India's first Prime

Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru

would be a compliant puppet.

sassinated in 1984, the party

again turned to the new head

of the dynasty, her son Rajiv

Gandhi, then still new to poli

Flood

From Page 1 Col. 4

still living in makeshift shel-

ters as their house were yet to

be repaired. A total of 17,338

houses were damaged fully and

32,844 partly in the district,

according to the available re-

Habiganj

swelled but was flowing 40 cm

below the danger level keeping

said the river swelled by 10

cm in three hours from 5 pm

adjoining the Tripura Hills.

the other seven upazilas of the

district are affected. About

4.000 people of the district

are reportedly affected by

waterborne diseases, the

sources said adding that the

number of women and chil-

dren were high among the af-

been sent to the district, the

inadequate. About 5,000 acres

of land with IRRI and Boro

crops were under flood water.

Anis's bail

prayer

rejected

The bail prayer of former

ment of the hearing. The judge

adjourned the hearing till June

Fresh supplies of ORS have

Relief operation was still

the situation unchanged.

on Wednesday.

lected people.

control room said.

The Khowai at Habigan

The control room sources

Except Chunarughat upazila,

When Mrs Gandhi was as-

Congress has turned to the

til mid-June.

election.

She wasn't.

ports.

The appointment appeared

"It is a crucial moment in

pendent nation.

The choice, which would

not immediately known.

The announcement was

ister, report agencies.

MOSCOW, May 22: Thousands of workers in the Byelorussian capital of Minsk and several other cities went on strike Wednesday after the republic's parliament refused to consider demands for political reform, opposition leaders said. Zenon Posdnyak, chairman of the Popular Front opposition said thousands of workers at more than a dozen enterprises in Minsk, Soligorsk, and Orsha had put down their tools to

Byelorussian workers on strike

# **Assassination historical**

LONDON, May 22 : Stkh separatists in London said Tuesday the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was a "historical inevitability" because "He had violated the sacred temple" at

Amritsar, reports AFP. "Everybody has to be sad when a man is killed but for Gandhi, as for Indira Gandhi before him, it was a historical inevitability. All those who violate the sacred temple, die," said Jagjit Singh Chohan, a spokesman for the Sikh's Khalistan organisation.

Chohan said, adding that he did not know who was responsible for the assassination.

"But I believe that prayers Mr. Gandhil is a response to

"I am afraid that there will

and expressed their gratitude

Sandwip hospital at Harishpur

Mrs. Quayle then visited

to her for going over there.

# Marilyn Quayle

From Page 1 Col. 8 Mayor Advocate Mir Nasiruddin and other dignitaries.

At Chawktal union relief centre in Sandwip she visited food storage facili ties and shelters being built there by members of the JTF She talked to the US soldiers and praised them for carrying on humanitarian works there.

They said army and civil medical teams working almost round the clock had checked spread of diarrhoea in the area

At Sarikail union Mrs. Quayle visited some medical centres where saline water is being prepared and distributed among the people. She talked to a group of children gathered there and wished them happiness. The children greeted her

She went round different sections of the hospital and talked to the doctors. She donated some medicines to the hospi-She distributed relief mate-

rials at Mustafizur Rahman College relief camp among a large number of women affected by the cyclone and tidal surge. She also visited CARE relief camp there.

Mrs. Quayle will stay on board Tawara tonight and leave for Matarbari in Moheshkhali tomorrow morning. She holds a press conference tomorrow morning at the JTF headquarters here.

## Ershad's trial

From Page 1-Col. 5 that the Judge was biassed, the

court observed. In the petition on behalf o the accused Ershad his Lawyers brought seven allegations against the tribunal which included. (a) The Judge of the Special Tribunal had rejected a petition under Section 526 to transfer the case to any other court; (b) One 30.06 rifle, claimed by the accused to have been deposited at the Army museum, was not brought to the Tribunal even after repeated request by the Defence: (c) The Judge himself had made some observa tions in the Court which were manifestations of his bias towards the Prosecution; d) The Judge of the Tribunal had once, in an act of prejudice made a comment that the accused will have to bear the responsibility for possessing bullets of a 30.06 rifle as the bullets could be fitted in any rifle of that particular bore; (e) The informant of the case who was declared 'gained over' by the Prosecution side was made the Court Witness No 1 and given the opportunity to be cross-examined by both the Prosecution and the Defence and: (f) Both the Judge and the Prose cution are hostile to the Defence and sometimes supply

Court has made up its mind to convict the accused. All these allegations had been strongly intercepted by the Attorney General during

answers to the Prosecution

Witnesses during the proceed

ings of the Court and that the

the hearing. In the judgement the High Court Division Bench clearly elaborated all points and said that under Section 165 of the 'Evidence Act' the Judge can ask any question to anyone for the ends of justice.

According to the law the Judge can ask any relevant or irrelevant question to any witness for which he can't be termed as biassed, the judgement observed. The judgement further added that if any side of the

case did not avail the first chance under Section 526 and come to the High Court during the second chance, the High Court generally did not entertain the petition. Besides any petition under 526 should be intimated to the

court and the Prosecution at a

proper time but in this partic-

ular case that procedure had not been followed by the De-The judgement which was delivered by Justice Anwarul Haque Chowdhury also said that cartridges of one weapon can be used in a weapon of the same calibre. So here the Judge had rather cautioned the accused that he would have

to prove that he had proper li-

cense for the cartridges in his

possession. So the allegation of the Court's bias about the comment. "You will have to bear the responsibility of these cartridges' can't be accepted. the judgement observed.

The judgement added that the grounds produced by the Defence in favour of the allegations did not suffice the evi-

dence reasonably. Referring to the newspaper clippings of the 'Daily Star and the 'Morning Sun' produced by the Attorney General as evidence against the allegations Justice Anwarul Haque Chowdhury said that the reports were written methodically and diligently covering

the proceedings of the case. He also referred to a judgement on such a case of one Gulzar Hossain. The case was brought to the then East Pakistan High Court in 1967 and subsequently to the Bangladesh Supreme Court in 1973 but everytime the case was rejected and observations were made that a judge cannot he biassed because the Judge of any Court cannot deliver his judgement beyond evidence and laws.

Justice Kazi Anwarul Haque Chowdhury clearly said that in this case the Judge did not exceed the permissible limit within the ambit of the law and as such the rule is discharged.

The High Court also di-

rected the Court below

(Special Tribunal) to continue the proceedings of the case in conformity with the law. Concurring the judgement delivered by Justice Anwarul Haque Chowdhury, the other Judge of the High Court Divi-

sion Bench Justice Habibur

Rahman Khan Also clarified some points. He said that under Sub-Section 9 of the Cr PC the petitions should be intimated to the trial court and the Prosecution before taking advantage of section 526 of the Cr.

The Attorney General Aminul Haque who appeared for the state in the Court was assisted by Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, Deputy Attorney General Hasan Artf, Shamsul Alam Amirul Kabir Chowdhury, Assistant Attorney General Gazi Abdul Hannan, and Mostafa, Public Prosecutors, A. Mannan Bhutyan, Farid Ahmed, Bashir Ahmed, and Azizul Islam Khan

The defence was represented by Advocate Strajul Haque, Barrister Kazi Shahdat Hossain, Advocate Sharif Ahmed, Advocate Mufizur Rahman Magumdar and Advocate Yousuf Humayun. The defence may seek ver-

Bacchu.

dict of the Appellate Division on this case. The Special Tribunal will

resume the trial May 26.

# The Midnight File

### 300 held for coup plot in Tunisia

TUNIS. May 22: At least 300 people, including 100 soldiers, have been arrested in an Islamic fundamentalist plot to overthrow President Zine Abidine Ben Ali, Interior Minister Abdallah Kallel announced Wednesday. Kallel said at a news conference that the outlawed An-Nahda fundamentalist group hoped to install an Islamic state. The announcement came after a pro-government newspaper reported Saturday that a plot by An-Nahda to overthrow Ben Ali in October had been uncovered and 100 people arrested, reports AP.

protest the government's inaction, reports AP.

# inevitability: Sikhs

"I don't believe in bullets,"

are a force and (the death of our prayers," he said.

be much more violence in the region. Thousands more will be killed," he said.