### Opposition MPs baton-charged

exploded inside a room of a threestorey building near the Kotwali thana unit BNP office at Bangshal in the city at about 1 pm.

They are lewel, 22, and Mohammad Ali, 25, admitted to DMCH under police custody.

Jewel sustained injuries on his face and in the left eye and Ali in both his eyes. Jewel's condition was critical, hospital sources said.

Police also arrested another person -- Nurul Amin-- from the spot on charge of making bombs. Police claimed that said, Jewel, Ali and Amin belonged to BNP's

youth front Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal. Talking to newsmen, local people and some employees of a leather, factory on the first floor of the building claimed that the youths went there from the local BNP office and were making bombs in a small room at a corner on the floor. They were injured when a bomb went off, they

But leaders of Kotwali thana unit of BNP brushed aside the allegation. "We do not know them. They are not BNP workers," one of them, Abdur Rahim, told newsmen at the local BNP office.

factory told The Daily Star that immediately after the explosion, Ali went into hiding inside their factory but police caught him later.

He said, the factory workers were witnessing a BNP procession led by Sadek Hossain Khoka passing through the North-South Road. Suddenly they heard the sound of a big explosion.

#### Disaster management FROM PAGE 12

campaign on what to do before and after a tremor.

"We're preparing a booklet containing the tips which will be broadcast in radio and TV and published in newspapers." Kundu

added. He further said the authorities are contemplating to activate the Civil Defence network in association with the Cyclone Preparedness Programme (CPP) volunteers to

respond to quake emergency. "We've attained the capability to respond to emergencies like cyclones and floods which occur frequently," he added.

He also said a network of 37,000 volunteers under the CPP could be activated within a short notice. helped by an elaborate network of radiolinks.

If the Civil Defence, Fire Service and other voluntary organisations could be networked and organised to meet the quake emergency, the country would be better prepared, he added.

A drill for better preparedness is also being planned, Kundu said.

### Hartal

FROM PAGE 12 Alam said there has been an acute space congestion at sheds and yards due to suspension of delivery of goods for hartals.

One hour after the explosion, a pool of blood and bomb-making materials were seen on the floor of the small room.

Haji Masud, a businessman, who resides in the building opposite to that, told this correspondent that he heard a big sound of a bomb explosion at around 1 pm. "I peeped through the window and saw smoke billowing from inside the building beside the BNP office."

As on the previous day, chase and counter-chase between BNP activists and police took place on the road from in front of BNP head office at Naya Paltan to Kakrail crossing.

At around noon, police charged batons and lobbed tear gas shells to disperse a BNP procession when a bomb was exploded near the policemen standing in front of the barbedwire barricade at Kakrail crossing.

Two policemen -- Sajedul Islam and Abdus Samad -- were injured in the explosion.

The five BNP lawmakers who came under baton charge there were Joinal Abedin Farug, Mujibur Rahman Sarwar, Ehsanul Haq Milon, Amanullah Aman and Nazimuddin Alam. They were however seen leading processions in the One of the workers at the leather same area later in the afternoon.

BNP activists burnt an effigy of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the Bijoynagar Road in the after-

Pickets damaged window shields of the car of a Special Branch Police Superintendent at 11.15 am on the Bailey Road near Siddeshwari Girls College.

In another incident at

# EC invites parties to talks

Dholaikhal, two persons were listed the ruling Awami League, injured when a bomb was exploded Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). there at about 3 pm. They are fruit Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and vendor Abdur Rahim Bhuiyan, 25 other nationally known parties for and scrap trader Yunus, 28. They

sending invitations.

The Commission earlier sent a

The proposal said: For the sake of

good governance and for encourag-

ing an environment of political

parties themselves, it is worth seri-

ous consideration that the political

leadership in the country arrives at a

consensus at least to provide for a

legal framework requiring legisla-

tion of an Act to provide for registra-

tion of political parties with the

the EC has to maintain a register of

political parties to register therein

any political party that files with it

report against the identified terror-

ists who fired from the Igbal-led

A source said the prime minister

Discussion on the recent politics

warned that actions would also be

taken against those party men who

of violence, especially the role of

HBM Iqbal MP in Tuesday's violence

was the focal point of the meeting,

inside sources said. Though the 67-

member ALCWC meeting was

heavily attended, a few leaders

some AL leaders were criticised by

meeting yesterday observed that a

gunshot from the procession led by

Alhaj Moqbul Hossain killed Sajal

Chowdhury in February 1999. Jewel,

son of Kamal Mojumder MP, is the

accused in the Shipu murder case;

Dipu Chowdhury, son of Mofazzal

Hossain Chowdhury Maya, is the

the ALCWC meetings. The ALCWC

In the past, terrorist activities by

According to the proposed law,

proposal to the Ministry of Law for

enactment of a law to regulate activ-

ities of political parties.

Election Commission.

FROM PAGE 1

procession.

shelter these goons.

spoke on the occasion.

were admitted to the DMCH under The CEC informed that he had police custody. talked to many of the leaders - both Unlike on two previous days, in the ruling and in the pposition motor vehicles rolled on the city parties- in the last couple of days. streets in plenty yesterday. By early They agreed to come up with sugafternoon, many inter-district buses gestions for the proposed reforms. also started leaving different bus Guidelines are important for terminals for their destinations.

democracy and all the democratic However, educational institunations followed such practices, the tions, business houses and shop-Commission argues. ping malls remained closed for the The Constitution says: A political third consecutive day yesterday. party includes a group or combina-tion of persons who operate within

Chittagong reported that two peror outside the Parliament under a sons were injured in bomb blasts at distinctive name and who hold Nimtala under Bandarthana. themselves out for the purpose of propagating a political opinion or They are Azizul Haq, 47, and Md engaging in any other political Mostafa, 35, both dock workers. They were injured while getting into

Our Staff Correspondent from

an auto-rickshaw at 7-30 am, police Police suspected that they were

carrying the bombs. Condition of Haq, who lost his private part in the explosion, was stated to be critical. He was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Mostafa was given first aid. Delivery of goods to and from the

port remained suspended during the hartal hours. A UNB report from Rangpur said, clash between pro -and anti-hartal activists left 10 people injured in the

Police lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the clashing groups.

and employees involved in the

process of money grabbing at vari-

The officials are: Deputy

Assistant Engineer Hawlader Gias

Uddin, Assistant Engineer Shah

Alam, Executive Engineer

Mohammad Mazibur Rahman

ous stages of the phony deal.

an application for registration signed by the Chief Executive of the body or association.

Nine basic information, including the name and address of the auditor of the association, a state ment affirming the body or association's commitment to a free and fair election, and a copy of the last annual income and expenditure, are required to get a political party registered with the EC.

It noted that the total absence of any regulation allows political parties to use their unrestricted influence to raise funds and indulge in the use of these funds in any manner as they may deem fit. Affluent persons and business firms contribute huge sums to political parties in the hope that if elected to power, the party would squarely return such favour.

The other proposals include increasing the limit of expenditure of a candidate in parliamentary polls to Tk five lakh from the existing three lakh, strengthening the election tribunals and restricting a candidate from contesting for more than two seats. These proposals were pending with the law ministry for nearly two years.

Former CEC Mohammad Abu Hena sent the proposals to the law ministry in 1999 for enactment of laws and constitutional amendments to some extend for the purpose. But, the proposals were shelved at the Law Reforms Commission and brought no result

Action against troublemakers

murder case.

of a few people."

image.

League.

main accused in the Tarajuddin

of ChiefWhip Abul Hasnat Abdullah,

Hasina said, "I've taken steps

against the son of my cousin, why

wouldn't I take steps against other

years, we have painstakingly built a

positive image of the party. We can

not let this be destroyed by the acts

of her party to see if Tuesday's vio-

lence in Igbal's procession was an

act of sabotage to blemish the party

Nasim supporting the prime minis-

ter's stand said, "None but Sheikh

Hasina is indispensable in Awami

Ahmed maintained that a certain

quarter was trying to create anarchy

in the country in a planned manner.

She, however, asked top leaders

Home Minister Mohammad

Commerce Minister Tofael

She said, "In the last four and half

unruly persons (in the party)?"

Referring to the arrest of the son

### AL lawmaker

FROM PAGE 1 lished in the newspapers. Moreover, the main culprits are still roaming freely and led processions on Wednesday and yesterday, he

The leaders observed that the AI lawmaker has tarnished the image of Bangladesh by leading the killings in broad daylight.

Bhuiyan demanded immediate arrest of Dr Iqbal and his gang of terrorists, killers of Sajal Chowdhury, Advocate Nurul Islam of Laxmipur, businessmen Shipu and Tarajuddin.

Addressing a post-hartal press briefing at 29 Minto Road, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said that Tuesday's killing of opposition activists and common people by a ruling party MP and his armed cohorts greatly shocked the ordinary citizens and has served to present the country to the world as an uncivilised repressive state.

Bhuiyan said people of the country spontaneously observed the two-day hartal to protest the killings. He thanked the people for making the hartals a complete success.

He alleged that the government is still attacking the opposition all over the country. AL terrorists attacked opposition activists yesterday in different parts of the country, including Dhaka, Mymensingh, Tangail, Bhairab, Alamdanga and Sirajganj, he said.

The BNP secretary general observed that people from all walks of life have already started to take to the streets in support of the opposition's movement and that a massive oust-government movement is expected soon.

"The closer the elections come, the

more such incidents would rise. If

we are not careful from now on,

Awami League will face more crisis,'

ruling party has decided to remain

inactive about the movements of

fundamentalist parties concerning

fatwa (edict). The party leaders

opined that whatever action the

ruling party would take involving

the pro-and anti -fatwa movement,

it would create a negative impres-

four-party alliance including the

BNP were also discussed at the

meeting. Besides, it was proposed

that the central leaders would go on

organisational tours across the

Azad, Agriculture Minister Matia

Chowdhury and Finance Minister

SAMS Kibria attended the meeting

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad

country through March 17 to 26.

among others.

Strategies to cut the vote of the

sion among the general voters.

The sources further said the

he said.

### PSA turns a year old

FROM PAGE 1 Morshed Khan was once again charged along with 17 of those lawyers including Barrister Nazmul Huda MP.

Though armed goons from an Awami League procession led by Dr HBM Iqbal attacked the opposition procession and killed three activists ast Tuesday, a PSA case was filed against Mirza Abbas and 17 others belonging to BNP. Iqbal and his hired goons are remaining beyond legal action.

Before the enactment of PSA, the opposition as well as all human rights organisations termed it as a 'black law'. As it was absolutely nonbailable, the president initially declined to give his consent to the act. Later as the ruling party lawmakers relaxed the section of bail option, the president gave his con-

Later in the first parliamentary session this year, the president's speech held that crime trend had declined due to the enactment of the law. Prime minister also made similar claims.

The PSA was enacted with an objective of making prompt arrest and trying criminals specifically public properties, damaging motor seem to be very dangerous." vehicles, extortion, mugging and similar crimes. Maximum punishment under this act is death penalty. Under PSA cases the authorities

must complete investigation within 30 days. However, if the magistrate permits, the time frame of investiga-

tion may be extended by another 15 days only conditionally.

Joint Secretary (Police) of Ministry of Home Affairs Yakub Ali also in charge of PSA Review Cell said, "As this law is very stringent, police must be very careful about

framing a case under PSA." Asked how much the PSA had been successful in attaining its objectives to uproot terrorism and violence, he said, "It is all too successful. Otherwise nobody could protect their vehicles or participate

in tender bidding." Among 2072 PSA cases, police framed charge sheet for 1313 cases under which 7484 persons were accused, gave final reports on 400 such cases, are still investigating 359

ones and trying 1041. Of all the PSA cases, 624 cases were in the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) area. In Chittagong metropolitan area were 197 cases, in Khulna 160 and only 33 in Rajshahi.

### Live bomb

FROM PAGE 12

were so sure that those were not powerful remote control or timing devices, a confident involved in terrorism, destruction of Mohsinuzzaman said " It does not

"Besides, it is safe when an explosive is kept in the water. That is why we have still kept the bomb in the water in a big bucket", he explained. The OC however assured that

they would soon inform the army bomb experts.

### Local lads

defending champions Sri Lanka thrashed Oman by ten wickets and Pakistan, who finished runners-up on home soil in last year's inaugural edition, humbled Kuwait by 152

India, one of the four teams from Test-playing nations in Asia, are however yet to reach Dhaka. They were supposed to arrive in the city last night.

However, it was a perfect start for the hosts who wanted to make their mark alongside the Test cap aspiring young cricketers of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The home team, chasing a modest Nepalese total of 175 for nine in the stipulated 45 overs, raced on to score 176 for three in 32.5 overs. Shafiul led the successful chase with an unbeaten 82 off 109 balls. Coming in to bat at number three

after opener Nafis Iqbal fell for only six, the young right-hander from Khulna put on 92 runs with his more aggressive partner Mohammad Ashraful.

Ashraful, who hammered a brilliant hundred against the same team in Karachi last year, blasted a 47-ball 42. In a brutal display of stroke-making, the exciting righthanded opener smote seven

sweetly-timed fours. After hitting consecutive boundaries off Irfan, he missed the third completely and got bowled. Shafiul clubbed nine boundaries

in his undefeated knock that earned him the man-of-the-match award. Although the Bangladesh batting

was disciplined, the bowling was completely wayward. Their three seamers Mortaza, Sharif and Talha Jubair were guilty of contributing heavily to the 50 extras after skipper Nafis sent the opponents in. Talha gave away 16 runs in his

two erratic overs that yielded ten The boys of the Himalayan

Kingdom found a wily campaigner in Deepesh who notched a composed 78 off 120 balls. Bangladesh will take on

Singapore in their second Group B match at the Jagannath Hall ground Earlier, State Minister for Youth

and Sports Obaidul Quaderdeclared the 10-day meet open. BCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury and former Indian captain Ravi Shastri, as an ICC (International Cricket Council) ambassador, also attended the opening ceremony.

# Crores in foreign funds

Tariqul Haque.

for spending several crores of taka without required authorisation from the NGO Bureau. In the process, some "top foreign banks" have also been served with show-cause notices for violating the rules and releasing the foreign funds without an authorisation from the bureau.

"At the end of each year these NGOs are required to submit an audit report prepared by one of the 50 listed Chartered Accountancy firms, which we are by law compelled to accept," said the source.

Other sources said that a section of these accountancy firms 'specialised' in adjusting various "financial irregularities." The NGO Bureau is so poorly manned and equipped that unless there is a directive from the "top" to investigate an alleged irregularity, it is happy with the auditors' report.

"It is impossible for the NGO Bureau to find out if one of these institutions has sacrificed 100 bulls during an Eid or has offered iftar to 5,000 people or fed 10,000 orphans, or the money has been handed over to one of the fundamentalist groups, "said another source.

not only fuelled fundamentalism, but also 'encouraged other groups in the same sector' to conduct various undesirable activities in the country," said a top official requesting anonymity.

local fundamentalist groups were these groups have received 'armed training' in Afghanistan and are "highly motivated," he said quoting

a police report. and funded by undisclosed

"The dormitory halls of the Dhaka University are regularly checked for outsiders. If you go to some of the dormitories of the quomi madrassahs you will find guests from other countries," the

of madrassah students, teachers "These government lapses have have already started 'infiltration'

the country where an estimated 1.5

government-funded madrassahs are known as alia madrassahs. "In government madrassahs the

curriculum includes all subjects like in Bangla medium or any other institutions and since 1985 and 1987 their qualifications are nationally recognised," Rahman explained. "On the other hand, the quomi

madrashas have strictly Islamic curriculum and their graduates usually end up as workers in the Middle East or home tutors of Quran or imams. But they do not qualify for any government jobs, because their qualifications are not recognised," the Registrar said. Rahman said that the quomi

madrashas depend almost entirely on donations. There are many Muslim countries, which offer them

"During Ramadan and other religious festivals groups of people The police official said that after from quomi madrassahs travel to these countries to raise funds," he

Over the years these overseas connections have become more "institutional," he added.

The Bangladesh Quomi Madrassah Education Board (BQMEB) is situated at a modest rented flat in the city's Purana Paltan area. The BQMEB was created to update a 200-year old curriculum of the quomi madrassahs.

Shibbir Ahmed, who identified

himself as the assistant controller, said that there were about 3,000 quomi madrassahs registered with the board. There is an equal number of quomi madrassahs in the country that do not bother to register with the BQMEB. And there are several other boards working independently without any monitoring.

"Most of the quomi madrassahs are residential and students do not pay any charges. So the madrassah people have to raise money. At times they receive donations from abroad and they also travel abroad for collection," said Shibbir.

Shibbir said that the BQMEB has been watching the recent incidents involving fundamentalists. "The problem is BQMEB does not have any power to do anything about it."

"Our borders are virtually open. Anyone can smuggle in money, guns and 'skilled' manpower to fuel fundamentalism," said the police official adding that the government was aware of the situation and would soon crack down on these elements.

### Still no action FROM PAGE 1

It may be mentioned that even after two years of ministerial order, police are yet to arrest Liton, allegedly a worker of Haji Selim MP. In the newspapers of January 27, Liton was seen chasing down a pro-hartal procession at Topkhana Road, brandishing a shotgun during an opposition-called hartal the previous day.

Scanning the pictures of Tuesday's Malibagh incident in the newspapers, including The Daily Star, the sources in police identified some of the gunmen.

The young man wearing a striped T-shirt with a pistol in his hand just beside Iqbal was identified as "commando Dulal" who was accused in a number of cases, including a mur-

Another person wearing jeans, white running shoes and half-sleeve shirt was Hannan, younger brother of expelled Jubo League leader

Besides, Arman, a ring leader of

Mogbazar area, Jubo Leage leader Kiran, Khorshed Alam Mithu, Apu, Badal, Nannu, Panna could be identified by the sources in police

and witnesses. All of them belong to the Five Star group, one of the two leading groups in the city's underworld and Iskatan area which is known as their den.

Some known cadres of Tejgaon, Dhaka University and Ramna areas were also seen in the procession, sources added.

Jubo League leader Kiran has been the main accused in the case filed with Tejgaon thana on charges of hurling petrol bombs which resulted in a fire that gutted two thousand shanties and killed at least one person on January 24.

When contacted Tuesday night, Tejgaon police said Kiran has been absconding since then. However, the newspaper pictures showed that he accompanied the ruling party lawmaker when the BNP procession came under attack the same morn-

## Private operators seek reduction

FROM PAGE 12

subsidy for vegetable transport," said a senior official. He said Biman charges US\$ 0.91

the all routes. However, according to Biman's cargo department, the rate varies from one route to the other. On Dhaka-London route, the rate is US\$

1.25. minister disclosed that the government had already taken a decision to introduce an open-sky policy at the MA Hannan International Airport in Chittagong to facilitate exports.

Presently, exporters are allowed to use a 'very limited' space on Bangladesh Biman's passenger flights, which falls ways short of their demand.

The meeting also decided that the civil aviation authority would develop cold storage facilities at the ZIA for agricultural and vegetable

item exporters. The exporters said that quality of tables to ethnic markets in the regard."

the products suffers due to lack of European countries for the expatricold storage facilities at the airport. ate Bangladeshis," he said. "But we They also demanded introduction of cool chain transport facilities in the country for maintaining quality of exportable agricultural products and vegetable items.

"To increase the export volume, we need regular air-cargo services to carry our goods from Dhaka to major destinations of the world," said ASM Ahsanuzzaman At the meeting, the civil aviation Chowdhury, president of the Bangladesh Fruits, Vegetables and Allied Products Exporters' Association.

The market for fresh vegetable is unlimited and there is no lack of supply as farmers produce fresh vegetables throughout the year, he "Supply of vegetables is plenty

and the price is also very low. The country can earn huge foreign currencies if those are exported abroad," Ahsan observed. "As there is no adequate transport facilities, we only supply vege-

can also win a place in the supermarkets of these countries if the transport facilities are improved." Although there is a World Bank-

funded project for development of

However, officials at the Hotex Foundation told The Daily Star that they were trying to produce some quality vegetables in the country to feed the supermarkets in the devel-

oped world. "We want to enter the supermarkets in the developed world and it needs quality item," said an official on the project which cost more than

The project has introduced scientific processes of cultivating quality vegetables in the country, he claimed. "A number of export villages have also been set up at Comilla and Chandpur in this



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#### DESA's paper projects The committee listed 21 officials

FROM PAGE 12 maintenance in Gulshan and Uttara zones and Balancing of overloaded transformer at various points in

Gulshan zonewith an estimated cost ofTk 1,49,72,514.51. Quoting various papers and evidences, the report said that the running capital was supplied to the contractor for completion of the jobs. But, there was no progress in reality. The papers were produced only for grabbing money in the

name of the projects, the report said. The projects were considered as "important" for improving the entire electric supply system in Dhaka at the time the projects were taken up. But after investigation, the committee said these so-called important projects did not improve

the system at all. which also includes Executive Engineers Manzur-ul-Ehsan and Shafiul Islam as members, said all the parties involved in the project approval are equally responsible and action should be taken against them. It also suggested financial discipline in DESA.

Two business firms M/S Bangla Electric Company and M/S RM Engineers were awarded the entire tion of electric lines under the projects. The committee found that M/S Bangla Electric Company was while M/S R M Engineers Tk advance.

work for the renovation and protecpaid Tk 64,24,683 for two projects

33,96,253 for the other project in সংবাদ/কুলখানী

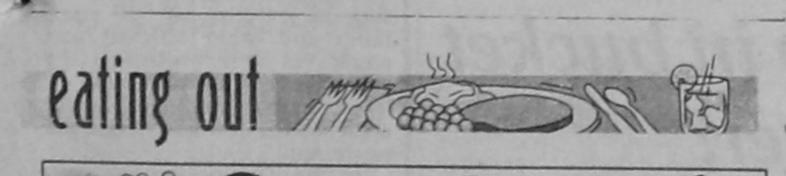
> ১৩/০২/২০০ইং তারিখ রাড ১২.৩০ ঘটিকার সময় তলশান গ্ৰুপ ক্লিনিক-এ ইস্তেকাল করেন (ইনালিল্লাহি রাজেউন)। হরতাল জনিত কানণে আত্নীয় স্বজন কাউকে এই মৃত্যু সংবাদ জানাইতে পারিনাই বলে আমরা আন্তরিক ভাবে দু:বিত। অদ্য ১৬/০২/২০০১ইং তারিখ রোজ তক্রবার বাদ আছর মরহমের নিজ বাসভবন ( বাড়ী নং-৪০ রোড নং-२৫, छमगान, जाका-১২১২) मिनाम छ माग्राव মাহফিল অনুষ্ঠিত হইবে। আত্মীয় বজন, বন্ধু-বান্ধব

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বিনীত আরজ ১। মো: রফিকুল আনাম ২। মো: মাজহারুল আনাম

৩। মো: সাদরুল আনাম ৪। মো: রাইসুল আনাম ৫। মো: তানবিরুল আনাম



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Bhuiyan, Superintendent Engineer Harun-or- Rashid, Additional Chief Engineer Kazi Zahrul Azam, Divisional Accountant Abdul Khaleg Bhuiyan, Accountant Abdus counts) Faruk Ahmed, Deputy Director (Admin) Tayibur Rahman, Steno Typist Abdul Aziz, Abdul Malek and Delwar Hossain,

Salam, Assistant Director (Ac Storekeeper Sayedur Rahman Bhuiyan, Store Officer Huzzat Ullah, Deputy Assistant Engineer In his report, the committee, Rafigul Islam, Deputy Divisional Engineer Abdus Samad Executive Engineer Shafiqur Rahman, Superintendent Engineer Khan Lodi Shafiul Haq, Accountant Mohammad Selim, Deputy Assistant Engineer Mohammad Salimullah and Assistant Engineer

> A police official said that several million students are enrolled. The suspected to have built strong ties with their counterparts in India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and even some North African countries over the last five years. Many members of

"After the killing of police constable Badsha Mia, we found strong evidence of outside involvement with a network of quomi madrassahs, which are independent

sources," he said.

official said. recent incidents involving a section and some so-called religious leaders, the home ministry has taken up a plan to monitor the entire network. Undercover security men

into the madrassahs. According to Mizanur Rahman, Registrar of the Madrassah Education Board, there are 7,500 government-funded madrassahs in

vegetable export from the country, some exporters alleged that they were not getting any support.

Tk 12 crore.