# The Baily Star

## **Clashes** leave 20 injured at Pabna UNB, Pabna

Twenty people were injured in clashes between rival groups in the town yesterday, police and witnesses said

They said the clash ensued when a gang of miscreants allegedly led by Awami League worker Sharif stabbed three youths, Faisal alias Raki, Shamim and Shahidul, at Poilanpur at about 7.30 pm.

Feuding groups chased each other and blasted crackers during the hour-long clash that left 10 people wounded. Police later arrested Sharif and his brother Zahurul. In another incident, 10 people

were injured as two rival groups of ruling BNP clashed at Dilalpur in lleagues.

the town last night. Of the injured, Nipu, 24, was sent to Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

A tense situation was prevailing in the town following the incident.

Meanwhile, Raikumar, 38, a teacher of Hatkhali nongovernment primary school in Sujanagar, was injured in an attack by miscreants in the morning.

He was rushed to Rajshahi Medical college Hospital in serious

## BCL to enforce strike at CU today

CU CORRESPONDENT

condition

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Chittagong University unit will enforce a day-long strike on the campus today demanding arrest of those responsible for attack on its leader Ehsanul Haq Kanez.

Kanez, a leader of BCL university unit, was beat up by Shibir cadres at university railway station on Wednesday while returning to the port city from campus.

BCL at an emergency meeting on Sholashar railway station premises yesterday demanded of the authorities to arrest the culprits within the next 48 hours, otherwise it threatened to enforce an indefinite

strike on the campus. Leaders of the student body also urged the university authorities to ensure security of their leaders and activists on the campus. dead and two others injured.

#### UNB, Dhaka **Alcatel anomalies** The Election Commission yesterday formed a one-member committee to look into the alleged violation of

### FROM PAGE 1

Catherine Soubise, area sales manager of Alcatel, officially apologised to the ministry, saying that 'Engineering in France' was totally incorrect.

euro quotation from Alcatel and asked the mobile operators to The ministry also found the implement the project. Alcatel BTTB to have wrongly stipulated proposed 480,533 euros for 'Engi-Uttara's 6,000 lines in the 24,000neering in France' in this deal. line proprietary works contract with

## 'Terrorists may pose as journalists to kill Zahir'

### BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan

Terrorists posing as journalists could try to assassinate former Afghan king Mohammed Zahin Shah, a British military spokesman warned yesterday following intelligence reports that al-Qaeda extremists were plotting to kill the

ex-monarch. "There has been intelligence that an assassination squad posing as media could threaten the king. Lieutenant Colonel Paul Harradine told a press briefing at this base north of Kabul.

Harradine urged reporters to be on their guard for any unfamiliar

"Look around you during the day, they could well try to embed here to get favour. Harradine's warning came after

Italy revealed Thursday that plans the king to return home last month were postponed following intelligence reports that al-Qaeda extremists were planning an assassination attempt

The late leader of the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance, Ahmad Shah Masood, was killed last September by suspected members of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network posing as journalists.

The 87-year-old king, who returned to his homeland Thursday after 29 years of exile in Italy, survived an assassination attempt by a man posing as a Portuguese journalist at his home on the outskirts of Rome in 1991.

US military spokesman Captain Steven O'Connor also warned that al-Qaeda could try to launch an attack against the interim Afghan government led by Hamid Karzai.

"We know that there are pockets of al-Qaeda that want to disrupt the new Afghan interim administra tion... and so the mission is to find those pockets and destroy them."

## Fresh gunfight

FROM PAGE 1 recovered some ammunition from his possession. Details of the incident could not

On Friday, PCJSS and UPDF tivists also fought gunbattles at illage Navanga and Boro

BTTB. In return, each mobile opera-

tor was to get sufficient interconnec-

The BTTB obtained a 4,068,450-

tion with the BTTB network.

## City corpn polls Criminals must be discarded thru' ballots: CEC UNB, Dhaka

Chief Election Commissioner M A Sayed yesterday said some of the criminals are contesting the coming City Corporation elections because of legal loopholes, but they must be

discarded through ballots. He was talking to a 12-member delegation of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission that met him in his office with a set of recommendations for ensuring the elections free and fair.

The CEC underscored the need for arresting the listed criminals to make the April 25 elections smooth, free and fair. He also stressed the need for recovery of unauthorised arms and keeping the criminals out of the cities during the polls, said a BHRC press release.

Welcoming the election observers from home and abroad during the polls. Saved said their reports would be valuable

The delegation informed the CEC that 10 mobile teams of BHRC would monitor the polls in Dhaka City, 6 in Khulna City and 5 in Rajshahi City besides one observer in each polling centre.

## Kushtia incident: 55 AL men sued **OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia**

president Jahangir Alam Jhulu at

the attack immediately after the

incident, but AL denied the charge

in DCC Ward no 8

BNP blamed Awami League for

midnight on Wednesday night.

As many as 55 leaders and activists of Daulatpur upazila unit of Awami League have been sued for their

alleged involvement in the killing of two BNP men at village Majdiar on Saturday. Two BNP activists -- Pintu Farazi, 36, and Saiful Islam, 23,

were gunned down when a gang of unidentified assailants attacked a BNP meeting in the residence of Daulatpur upazila BNP vice-

EC to probe alleged be known till 8 pm yesterday. violation of rules by commissioner Doluchhari under Kawkhali upazila of the district, leaving two people candidate Newton

# FROM PAGE 1 "reign of terror" in the country where

the coalition activists are unleashing violence and other crimes with the police protecting them. "Police are arresting innocent

people on false charges while letting go of the listed criminals as they belong to the ruling coalition.

Referring to the graft charge Denmark labelled against the shipping minister, the opposition leader said the donor country was compelled to bring the charge and withdraw Tk 264 crore in aid earmarked for the shipping sector. "It's an unprecedented slap not only on the coalition government's face, but also on the whole nation's. This is what the BNP-Jamaat rule has earned the nation '

Denouncing the coalition's rule in the past six months, the immediatepast prime minister told the meeting that a state minister attacked a government secretary as the latter declined to approve of his corrupt practice.

"What a shame! The level of corruption has reached to such an extent that the government has withdrawn graft charges against many including the prime minister's son and the home minister.

However, Larma said many other

issues could not be discussed as it

was not possible in the 60-minute

the issue of outlining the jurisdiction

of different regional bodies and

authority in the region. We think it

should be sorted out and the

Regional Council and the Zila

Parishad have to be made opera-

tional," said Larma, also the chair-

people also came up during the

The issue of rehabilitation of hill

According to sources, the PM

assured the PCJSS leaders of total

cooperation to the local administra-

tion in the improvement and mainte-

nance of peace and discipline for

unhindered development of the

chief to play a greater role in the

development process and mainte-

nance of law and order in the region.

said Moni Swapan Dewan, deputy

Larma however told the prime

minister it was not possible for him

minister for CHT Affairs.

However, the PM asked PCJSS

man of the CHT Regional Council.

He also said that they brought up

"Still, the army enjoys supreme

FROM PAGE 1

administration.

discussion.

CHT

meeting

## Scrap new black law: Hasina | Sandwip clashes Friday evening. The clashes lasted "Had they been honest they

would have dared to face the trial in

NEWS

the court and would not have abused state power to drop graft charges." Quoting press reports, the AL

leader said the women are no more secure in the country. "Acts of rape by the ruling coalition activists are being reported everyday... They have surpassed previous records of violence against women."

Hasina bitterly criticised the government and the Election Commission for their inaction against the wanted criminals contesting the city corporation elections. Referring to the chief election commissioner's comment during the general election that "all the crooks have fled", she asked the CEC if these wanted candidates are crooks or gentlemen.

Ridiculing the fact that 11 ward commissioners have been elected unopposed in Dhaka, the opposition leader said, "In fact, none dared to contest against these notorious armed goons." She also accused the police of failing to protect those running the city race without the support of any political party while sheltering the BNP-Jamaat nomi-

PM, Larma talk CHT accord

to play a greater role in the region

unless the CHT Regional Council

was empowered 'properly', accord-

that she would soon visit the CHT to

meeting very highly as the BNP

opposed the peace accord signed in

1997 between the Awami League

government and the PCJSS, the

political front of now defunct

Shantibahini (that fought for auton-

omy of the hilly region), ending

decades-long armed insurgency in

unhappy with the AL government for

what it said slow implementation of

BNP strongly opposed the peace

treaty and also held a long-march in

protest at the treaty. The BNP also

promised to scrap the treaty when in

scrapping of the peace accord was

discussed during yesterday's talks,

ways to resolve conflicts between

the rival groups in the three hill

However, nothing in the line of

The meeting also discussed

However, the PCJSS was

Then in the opposition, the ruling

see the development progress.

The prime minister also told him

Political observers rate the

ing to meeting sources.

the CHT.

office.

vesterday

the peace accord.

meeting sources said.

### nees having criminal records The Al leader told the meeting that the government had restricted the issuance of on-arrival visa only

to stop foreign journalists from reporting the ongoing "persecution. misrule and corruption". "By so doing, the government is trying to isolate Bangladesh from the rest of the world."

Castigating the ruling coalition for bringing sedition charges every now and then, she argued agitation against a political government is by no way a revolt against the state. "In fact, they have confused the ruling party or the government with the state while pressing sedition charges against the opposition activists. I doubt whether they know the definition of the state."

AL presidium members Abdus Samad Azad and Syeda Sajeda Choudhury, party's General Secretary Zillur Rahman and other leaders including Motia Choudhury, Mohammad Hanif, Abdus Shahid, KM Jahangir and Mofazzal Hossain Choudhury Maya also spoke at the public meeting.

Emerging from the meeting,

Larma told newsmen that the meet-

ing was 'cordial and constructive'

He said he discussed law and order

CHT peace accord and overall

Asked about the implementation

development of the region.

resolved through discussion

battle that left two persons dead.

killed and two others injured in a

fresh fighting in Rangamati hill

district following a conflict between

the PCJSS and the UPDF (United

People's Democratic Front), which

opposes the peace accord.

ocess.

town resisted the move and laid a siege to it.

The clashes erupted when people of the new town joined police to facilitate the shifting

tear gas shells during the clash. People of the old town used lethal weapons and brickbats during the clash

policemen were injured in the clashes that continued for about two hours

With their help, a fresh move was taken to shift the UNO Office that resulted in bloody clashes from

FROM PAGE 12

According to her statement, she went to her sister's house in Masdair area in the town on March 31. While she was returning home in a rickshaw, Dipu and his accomplices arrived in a microbus and stopped her. They then bundled her up into the vehicle and drugged her with chloroform. When she came around, she found herself in a tin-

shed. The next morning, the criminals numbering about six, blindfolded her and took her to the first floor of a building after driving around for about an hour and a half. There she was kept in a room for the next 16 days. She was given only dry food during this period. A tall man

guarded her all the time. of the treaty, Larma said, "It is under After 10-12 days, Dipu showed Political Secretary to the PM her a newspaper and said. "Your Haris Chowdhury told the newsmen story is now published in the paper, your husband and in-laws will not any problem in hill districts would be take vou now.

On the evening of April 16. Mukta The PCJSS met the PM the day was blindfolded and taken for a ride after two tribal groups in Chittagong in a vehicle, and later dropped off Hill Tracts (CHT) fought a bloody near Shapla Chattar in Motiiheel On Friday, two tribal people were

Mukta said she could also identify the other criminals if they were produced before her.

Police is yet to nab Dipu. There is however allegation against police of trying to 'save' Dipu as he is a cadre of the ruling party.

The High Court yesterday granted

four months anticipatory bail to

former works minister Engineer

filed a case against him for his

alleged involvement in corruption in

allotting plots at Banani and

Engineer Mosharraf Hossain

vesterday surrendered to a division

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption

The victims were identified as Khoai Marma, 35, and Promod Bikash Chakma, 42. Anticipatory The UPDF blamed the PCJSS for the killings. bail for engr

State Minister for Works Alamgir Kabir, and PCJSS leaders Goutam Chakma and Rupayan Dewan were also present at the meeting

#### **Fact-finding mission** Graft case Rafigul asked to edy for thousands of innocen appear before Palestinian people", US Undersecretary of State for the Middle court May 9 East William Burns was quoted as COURT CORRESPONDENT saying after inspecting the camp

The Metropolitan Sessions Judge's An aide who travelled with Burns Court, Dhaka yesterday directed former state minister for power Prof and who spoke on condition of anonymity also said the under-Rafiqul Islam, an accused in a graft case, to appear before it on May 9.

hundred people of the old part of the over two hours

While talking to this correspondent at CMCH, the injured persons alleged that police and the people of new town backed by local MP Mostafa Kamal Pasha attack the

DHAKA SUNDAY APRIL 21, 2002

town.

Police fired over 600 shots and

At least 15 people and five

After the clash Thursday evening, a team of 70 policemen was sent to Sandwip from Chittagong in the next morning.

Housewife Mukta

of shifting the UNO office began during Ershad rule and a new buildhouse the UNO office. The office at

The OC did not allow Jamal's mother Ramiza Begum to meet her son and misbehaved with her when she went to the thana next morning, family members alleged. They also alleged that police showed Jamal 'arrested at 10 am on Thursday' and did not produce him

said

before court even after 24 hours to torture' him in custody. Police informed Jamal's family Friday morning that while fleeing the thana, he jumped into the Shitalakhya and was 'missing' since

agitating people of the old part of the

said, "I was standing in front of a

shop near the police station

Suddenly I heard indiscriminate

firing and fell on the ground with a

bullet hitting me." Injured Monir

Hossain said, " Kamal Mia (Mostafa

Kamal Pasha MP) backed the

attackers as he wants to take the

Following Friday's clash, another

eam of 150 policemen led by an

ADM and an ASP was sent from

But his supporters said the process

ing was constructed at Haramia to

its present location very often goes

under water during tidal surge, they

The MP could not be contacted.

UNO Office near his house."

hittagong yesterday.

AL activist

FROM PAGE 1

One of the injured, a van driver,

But family members and local AL leaders alleged that he was tortured to death in custody and his body was thrown into the river.

A search was conducted in the Shitalakhya yesterday and Jamal's body was recovered at about noon. There were marks of torture in most parts of his body.

It was alleged that the OC also tortured other youths picked up in connection with a dacoity at Targaon on the night of April 13.

Meanwhile, six AL activists were arrested at Kapasia vesterday when they were demonstrating against 'police atrocities' resulting in the death of Jamal, Local AL leaders demanded a judicial probe into the incident

Earlier on Friday, assistant subinspector at Kapasia thana Abu bakar Siddique and quard Altaf Hossain were suspended for negli aence of duty.

## Shihab murder FROM PAGE 12

charge sheet to the CMM's Court, Dhaka on Thursday against six people

bench comprising Justice A K The accused are Monir Hossain Badrul Haque and Justice Nazrul Liton, Abu Syed, Faisal Sharif Razu, Mahbubul Haq Rubel, Imrar Hossain Sabuj and Mohammad Nasim Sheikh. Of them, Liton and Syed were arrested. The four other accused have been absconding since the incident. Liton and Sved gave confessional statements before a magistrate disclosing the names of four other accused Razu, Rubel, Sabuj and Nasim The IO dropped the names of the arrested Rashedul Islam Rashed Julekha Akhter, her husband Fazlul Hag and daughter Kankon Akhter Kanok from the charge sheet as their involvement in connection with the case, were not found during the investigation.

FROM PAGE 12 election rules by commissioner The resolution, which made no candidate for Ward-8 of Dhaka City mention of Israel, said the council Corporation Saidur Rahman "welcomes the initiative of the secretary general to develop accu-A meeting, chaired by Chief rate information regarding recent Election Commissioner MA Sayed at events in the Jenin refugee camp the EC Secretariat, constituted the through a fact-finding mission." committee with EC Deputy Secretary

It called for "the lifting of restric-

tions imposed, in particular in Jenin.

Alcatel Meanwhile, the BTTB general

manager (North) officially opposed the Alcatel exchange in Uttara.

In his letter to the BTTB chairman on January 16, he wrote that installation of a non-proprietary 6,000line Alcatel exchange would occupy the floor space of another 14,000line exchange in the pipeline

He recommended that Uttara's existing Japanese exchange should be expanded and provided with 3.840 new connections until the 14,000-line Canadian exchange is commissioned by the third quarter of this year

All these issues prompted the MOPT to preclude the payment of 205,345 euros for 'Engineering in France' and to scrap Uttara's 6.000 lines from the Alcatel contract.

But a vested group has been allegedly pressing the government to retract these decisions.

Meanwhile, Alcatel has suffered another setback from the country's private sector.

CitvCell. GrameenPhone. AKTEL and Sheba were to finance Alcatel's network expansion for the

## **Biodiversity protection** Spelling out what the conference

#### FROM PAGE 12

measures to be taken, if need be by using financial assistance from other countries, and promised to "promote forest law enforcement and address related trade", which is diplomatic language for taking on illegal logging.

The two main negotiating camps the Europeans led by France and Germany and the main producers of tropical wood led by Brazil and Malaysia, expressed their satisfaction at the outcome of the conference.

French Environment Minister Yves Cochet said in a press statement that the question of the future of forests had been dealt with and the EU had "won its case" on the issue of illegal logging.

Faber, hailed the conference outcome as "a breakthrough", but environmental group Greenpeace said the conference was a failure.

"We came here with high hopes to reverse the trend of ancient forest destruction," a Greenpeace statement said

"We are left only with minor steps that fail to match the scale of the crisis."

days Abdur Rakib Saber, senior advisor to GrameenPhone's managing director, inquired with Alcatel about this issue. Here again, Soubise apologised and explained 'Engineering in France' the same that she had done to the way

MOPT earlier. "The government's way of doing business is different than ours and we will stand by the decision of not paying for Engineering in France,' said Faisal Morshed Khan, manag-

ing director of CityCell. There is no precedent for making

such payments to any vendor, said Khan, who is also chairman of the Arab-Bangladesh Bank. "We cannot take the risk of being implicated for money laundering by paying half a million dollars for such a superficial service.

The mobile operators are reportedly negotiating with another incumbent vendor to expand the BTTB network

failed to do, Greenpeace said it

would not "stop further industrial

activities in intact ancient forests"

nor ensure that timber and other

forests products are produced and

traded in a legal and ecologically

responsible way.

The private operators have refused to disclose the details of the new deal.

The EC will take action according to the recommendation of the committee, said a press release of the EC Secretariat.

Newton.

The allegation made by Ward-8 commissioner candidate Saidul Chowdhury Ripon was discussed in vesterday's meeting.

(Law) to submit its report within two

Election Commissioner Shafiur Rahman, Election Commissioner M M Munsef Ali, Election Commission Secretary S M Zakaria and other officials were present.

### PDB gas bills FROM PAGE 1

If this week's meeting fails, Petrobangla would seek the finance ministry's guidelines before going for actions against PDB as per law, sources said

Petrobangla has already sought finance ministry's intervention and said PDB must clear some of its dues within this month. This has become an urgent issue for Petrobangla because it owes Shell and Unocal over 50 million dollars for purchase of gas from Sangu and Jalalabad das fields.

Petrobangla, which contributes around Tk 1500 crore to the national exchequer in the form of taxes and duty and another 100 crore as dividend, is faced with liquidity crisis due to non-payment various stateowned clients as well as private clients

Different clients owe Petrobangla over Tk 1400 crore. Of this, Tk 512 crore is due from PDB which consumes half of the 1100 million cubic feet per day (mmcfd) gas production. Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) owes Petrobangla Tk 240 crore -- equivalent to 14 months' bill.

Of the huge arrears, Tk 3500

writers who are involved in stealing

of power and revenue, causing a

loss of over Tk 30 crore a month

DESA is unable to fully pay PDB the

initiated many reforms in the power

sector. Donors have given many

prescriptions. But nothing was done

so far to streamline sale and distri-

bution of power and make it politics-

free," one source noted

"So far the government has

nonthly power purchase bills.

The conference also did not On the other hand, PDB itself is "commit to even the most minimal crippled by liquidity crisis as its funds to pay for forest conservation clients have not paid over Tk 5500 and sustainable use" crore and the government did "During the 12 days that delenothing to bring the situation to a tolerable level.

gates met to discuss the fate of the ancient forests, another 360,000 hectares of ancient forests were lost crore is due from DESA alone. - that's an area the size of over half a Troubled by a section of unscrupumillion football fields.' lous meter readers and ledger

The conclusions of The Hague conference are set to provide key input to the second Earth Summit, scheduled for Johannesburg in September. That summit hopes to build on

the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit in Brazil, which commits signatory countries to sustainable use of the planet's wildlife every living thing from bacteria to whales.

on the operation of humanitarian organisations" including the Red Cross and the UN relief agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA.

The Palestinian observer to the UN. Nasser Al-Kidwa, said on Friday that "we believe that a serious war crime, a serious massacre was committed, and that some people will have to be held responsible and may be brought to justice."

For his part. Gissin said "there was not a massacre in the camp, but a very hard battle which cost of lives of 23 of our soldiers in a camp which had become the capital of Palestinian terrorism.

"According to our estimates there would be about 50 Palestinians killed." he said, adding that 10 bodies "had been boobytrapped to explode when Israeli soldiers went to evacuate them".

On the ground, Hossam Sharkawi, the Red Crescent official in charge of emergency services in Jenin, said "three people have been wounded, one seriously, by an explosive device in the camp."

The devastation of the Jenin refugee camp was a "human trag-

# **Businesman abducted**

the abductors.

#### FROM PAGE 12

police and the OC of Kotwali thana visited the victim's house following the incident. Police recorded a general diary (GD) in this regard.

Members of the Non-tribal Contractors Samity here met the DC and also staged a rally in front of his office at around noon yesterday.

Led by President of the Samity and a BNP leader, Moshiul Alam Humavun, the agitated contractors barricaded Chittagong-Rangamati highway blocking traffic movement for about one and a half hours.

Speakers at the rally accused CHT Regional Council Chairman Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma and 'Gandus bahini' ,which opposes the CHT peace accord, of 'secrertly backing extortionists' in the hill tracts region. They blasted Shantu Larma for his 'failure to control activities' which have badly affected businessmen including contractors.

They recalled that two years ago, unidentified hoodlums kidnapped a

secretary spent three hours "speak ing with residents in the camp and the school and talking to rescue Judge Ahmed Jamil Mostafa fixed workers.'

Burns' visit was the first by a high-ranking US official to the camp since the Israeli incursion on April 3.

The dead body was found by a team of five Norwegian and two Swiss specialists, working under the International Committee of the Red Cross, and assisting about 40 local volunteers and the Red Crescent,

Sharkawi said. Israeli Defence Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer said Friday that after its withdrawal from Jenin the army would also be out of Nablus by Sunday, followed by most of Ramallah

But Israel says it will keep its tight blockade on Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in his Ramallah headquarters and on the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, where Palestinian gunmen are holed up.

The Israelis say Arafat is sheltering the killers of tourism minister Rehavam Zeevi, assassinated in October, and they want them handed over.

the date. The CMM's Court Dhaka on April 9 sent the documents of the case to the Sessions Judge's Court for trial In the case, filed with Ramna

thana, it has been alleged that Rafiq misappropriated Tk 23 crore in connection with the Meghnaghat power project.

The government paid a Chinese contractor, CWHEC, Tk 141.65 crore for developing the project site of Meghnaghat phase 1 power plant. Although the task was completed as per specifications, the minister ignored the PDB's opinion and arranged an additional payment of \$4.5 million for remedial work on the project site, the FIR alleged.

Mohammad Zahid Hossain Inspector of the Bureau of Anticorruption (BAC) filed the case on January 8 against Rafiqul Islam and former secretary for power, Arobindo Kar

Zahid Hossain, also the Investigation Officer (IO) of the case, submitted a charge sheet to the CMM's Court, Dhaka on April 8 against Rafiq. But Arobindo Kar's name was dropped from the charge sheet as his involvement in connection with the case was not found during the investigation.

### One sent to jail FROM PAGE 12

contractor named Kamal and he After hearing the case, Magistrate was released after payment of Mamun Al Rashid granted bail to ransom. But police failed to arrest Taslima Akhtar Toma considering that she has two minor children to Deputy Commissioner Dr Jafar care for, but ordered her husband Nazimuddin to the Dhaka Centra

> The couple were arrested from their house at 3/9 Salimullah Road in Mohammadpur Friday afternoon following a case filed against them for illegally occupying a tin-shed house in the city's Elephant Road area.

Musa Majid, a resident of house no. 126, Elephant Road, filed the case with Dhanmondi Police Station Friday morning accusing them of occupying his house on April 12.

He alleged that Nazimuddin and his wife along with about 30 people went to his house behind the Xian Chinese restaurant in the morning of April 12 and put up a signboard claiming themselves as owners of the house. The signboard was however removed by Musa on the same day.

Following the incident, a general diary was filed with the Dhanmondi Police and subsequently, the PMO suspended Nazimuddin on April 14.

slam Chowdhury and praved for the bail After accepting the charge sheet

Mosharraf

Mosharraf Hossain.

BSS, Dhaka

Baridhara.

The court granted four months anticipatory bail upon hearing the petition and issued rule asking the government to show cause within four weeks why the petitioner should not be granted permanent

EC warns FROM PAGE 1

The CEC at another meeting with representatives of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC), an NGO, reiterated his call for arrest of notorious criminals who are contesting the April 25 election and others vitiating the polls atmosphere.

The BHRC delegation led by Saiful Islam Dilder expressed concern over "deteriorating" law and order and requested the CEC to take steps so that tougher action is taken against the criminals in the polls race.

BHRC will monitor the polls in the three cities.

### I rial courts FROM PAGE 1

"Never use the law as a political weapon so that none can allege that it was enacted to harass the opposition," he said.

The home minister also nstructed officials to be very careful in filing cases and not to induct names of accused and witnesses at random

Joint Secretary of the Home Ministry Delwar Hossain presented the keynote paper at the seminar, which was presided over by Secretary Dr Sa'adat Hossain.

State Minister for Home utfuzzaman Babar and Inspector General of Police Mudabbir Hossain Chowdhury addressed the session which was attended by the divisional commissioners, chief metropolitan magistrates, police commissioners and other high officials.

A CMM raised the question whether the trial would be speedy in reality. While the law has specified a timeframe to complete a trial, it does not specify any time restriction at the Appeal Court level, he said.

The parliament passed the act on April 9.

According to the new law, if a criminal is arrested red-handed, the trial has to be completed in 30 days. Otherwise the trial must be completed within 60 days.

Shihab. 13. a student of class seven of Motilheel Model High School, was abducted from in front of his school on February 7. He was later killed as he recognised one of the abductors.

## Shazneen case FROM PAGE 12

### 1998. Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15,

youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, Chairman of Transcom Group, was raped and murdered at their Gulshan residence on April 23, 1998.

Latifur Rahman filed a murder case with Gulshan thana accusing Shahidul Islam alias Shahid, a domestic help at his house, on April 24, 1998.

Mojibur Rahman filed a rape case with Gulshan thana against seven people, including Shahid after six months' investigation into the Shazneen murder case.

All the accused -- Shahid Hasan, Shaniram, Badal, Minu and Parvin -- were present in the court during the hearing.

Special PP Arfanuddin Khan ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul advocate Sheikh Baharul Islam. Saima Khanam, Ali Hossain and Anwar Hossain appeared for the state while Advocate Mosarraf Hossain Kaiol and MA Kamrul Hassan Khan Aslam for the

accused. The murder case, pending with the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's court. Dhaka was earlier stayed by an order of the Supreme Court. The order will remain valid till disposal of the rape case.

The trial of the rape case began at the Special Court on July 9, 2000.

The rally was addressed by Abul Kashem, Bodrudduza Monzu, Sarwar, Motin, Mamunur Rashid, Nurul Amin Khan, JF Anwar Chinu, Jalal Uddin Chowdhury Alamgir, Awami League leader Selim, Nepal

## Ershad returns

### Former president and Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad returned

home vesterdav after a 17-dav visit to Saudi Arabia and the UK. During the visit Ershad had a

medical check-up in the King Faisal Hospital and performed Umrah in Makkah. Then he went to London en route to Dhaka

Ershad left Dhaka on April 3.

Babu and Mahfuzur Rahman. UNB, Dhaka

Ahmed Khan assured the agitators of all steps to rescue the abducted person.