Asian bird flu

Pakistan had detected a form of bird flu in its chicken population. The commissioner for livestock husbandry said it was not a strain of bird flu that can spread to humans -something that has happened in other parts of Asia.

"We have confirmed this. The strand that jumps to humans is not in them," Commissioner Rafagat Hussain Raja said.

Faizullah Kakar, an official at the WHO (World Health Organisation) office in Pakistan, said it had no confirmation of an outbreak of bird fluin the South Asian nation.

The disease has already hit Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Thailand, South Korea and Vietnam, with a weaker strain in Taiwan.

In response to the swift spread of the outbreak, countries around the world have banned imports of live and frozen poultry from the infected

The WHO pleaded yesterday with the global scientific community to accelerate the search for a cure. Attempts to tackle the virus are being frustrated by its fast rate of mutation as well as its spread across at least eight countries

Update of bird flu outbreaks across Asia:

Thailand

Thailand has announced it now has 10 suspected human cases of the bird flu virus as well as three confirmed

It earlier reported the country's first confirmed death from the disease. A six-year-old boy from Kanchanburi province died late on Sunday night in a Bangkok hospital.

Suphan Buri and Kanchanaburi are the epicentre of Thailand's bird flu epidemic, which has forced a cull believed to have killed nearly 11 million chickens across 24 of the

However, the agricultural ministry has revealed that the virus has now been detected in poultry in eight more provinces

kingdom's 76 provinces.

South Korea

South Korea has reported a new suspected case of bird flu, prompting massive quarantine efforts. An exclusion zone has been established around a farm, south of the capital Seoul, where thousands of chickens The disease has hit 16 areas in

South Korea, forcing the slaughter of nearly two million chickens and ducks, since it surfaced on December 15.

Vietnam Vietnam has been the worst affected

by the re-emergence of the bird flu.

The World Health Organisation estimates that six people have since died of the human form of the dis-

An eight-year-old girl has also tested positive and is in critical but stable condition, and the WHO says nine other people - some of whom have already died - could have contracted the virus.

Indonesia

Indonesia's government has been accused of covering up a widespread outbreak of bird flu after reports that the disease was first detected up to o months ago.

Until Sunday, officials had blamed an outbreak of viral disease among poultry on a contagious

Although no widespread cull has been ordered, the government says around 4.7 million fowl have died or been killed, mostly on the islands of Bali and Java

On January 15, Taiwan confirmed o farms in the island's south had detected a different strain of bird flu the less virulent H5N2 variant - and ordered culls of 55,000 chickens. No detections have been made since.

Japan

A farm was found to have bird flu in early January. Agriculture authorities banned the trade of poultry from farms within a 30-kilometre radius and nearly 35,000 birds were culled

The outbreak appears to have been contained and no human infections have emerged.

Cambodia

Bird flu has been found in samples of chickens from a farm outside Phnom Penh that was among three where 3,000 chickens died in recent weeks.

The UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation warns this could be the tip of the iceberg as Cambodia lacks the means to tackle the disease.

A Vientiane-based UN official says thousands of chickens have died in Laos from suspected bird flu.

He has urged the government to come clean about the outbreak to prevent human infections. He says until Friday, the ministry of agriculture was talking about fowl cholera.

Samples from infected chickens in Laos have been sent to Vietnam for

Pakistan is the latest country to announce it has detected bird flu.

An official of the agriculture ministry says the virus has been found in chickens in the southern port city of Karachi.

Modhupur eco-park

of the government. "Fundamentalism, crime and

corruption have taken centre stage in politics. All governments stoked communalism," Larma alleged. Professor Mesbah Kamal of

Dhaka University, Pankaj Bhattacharva, leader of Gono Forum, and Sanjeeb Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adibashi Forum, Piren's widow and two children.

Sanjeeb accused officials of bribing higher authorities for transfer to the forest department and exacting the money through illegal logging of trees in the 21,000-acre Modhupur National Park. He also accused the officials of

shifting the blame onto the indigenous people and filing false cases against them, adding the Garos were implicated in up to 30 cases of

In Dhaka yesterday, the forest minister at a press conference defended his position on the eco-parks and said: "No locals will be evicted because of the Modhupur project. Traditional farming will not be hindered and no toll will be slapped on people's movement in the project area.

He promised that the project would not harm traditional lifestyle and heritage -- a concern that wrecked the Garos over the years.

The minister claimed the government complied with most demands of the indigenous people and both parties reached a consen-

"But a set of people is trying to mislead the indigenous people and create anarchy in the project area," Shajahan said referring to Larma's visit to Modhupur.

"The project is intended to protect biodiversity and open a sanctuary for birds and animals," he said, adding a plan was laid out to protect about-to-be-extinct plant

species and wildlife, constructing a $61,000 \mathrm{ft}$ long wall around 3,000 acres of forestland.

On the installation of recreational infrastructure like cottages and picnic spots, State Minister for Environment and Forest Zafrul Islam Chowdhury said: "We are only developing some facilities outside the boundary wall, where thousands of people usually go for

Female examinee

men assured them of releasing Rani by 5:00pm yesterday. However, Rani was not freed until 8:00 last

Rani's uncle and one of the cousins who came to the campus on Sunday said the JCD men have threatened that if they disclosed the incident, they would kill both of

Some JCD leaders said that it is an affair between Rani and Himel who have been seeing each other for some time and they have nothing to do with the incident. A top leader of the hall unit of the JCD said Rani and Himel have married on Sunday in presence of one of her relatives

Dulal and Ripon's friends said they told them that they were also kidnapped from the business studies faculty by a group of JCD men of Muhasin Hall led by Hasibul Hasan Hasib and Emdadul Haque Emon. The JCD men also assaulted them while they were confined to the hall thevadded

Ehsan Ullah, assistant commissioner, petrol (south), of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said they have started an investigation into the incident after the university proctor informed them about the incident

DU Proctor AK Firoz Ahmed however said he does not know anything about the incident. "I'm going to ask police to investigate the incident," he said.

More graft at DFP

As per the agreement, the 4 percent agency commission (\$3,723.68) to the local agent was to be paid in local currency at the rate current on the date of lodgement of the import bill.

But the entire payment, including the local agent's commission, was made in foreign currency violating the agreement and also without permission from the higher authori-Official documents show a letter

of credit (LC) was opened against the total contract value of \$1,04,115.68, inclusive of the local agent's commission. The officials deduced that the

local agent's commission was paid in foreign currency as the LC was opened for the entire project cost.

The DFP also purchased spare equipment for its Sound and Projection Unit at a cost of \$50,173.75 (around Tk 29 lakh), again with 4 percent commission for the

Although the agreement provided that the local agent commis sion (\$15,648 US) would be paid in local currency, the payment however was made in foreign currency because the DFP authorities opened LC for the entire cost.

Moreover, the agreement provided that the local agent's commission was to be cleared only after satisfactory completion of the project. But officials alleged that Project Director Shahid Shahidullah in collaboration with the DG issued a letter to pay 80 percent of the total freight charges ahead of completion of the project.

The officials also said the DG signed the addendum of the contract thout the ministry's approval.

High officials of the ministry said the ministry goes for a thorough investigation, more corruption and irregularities would be detected in the DFP affairs.

UPDF men block Rangamati roads

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The United People's Democratic Front (UPDF), an anti-CHT peace accord group of indigenous people, yesterday enforced a day-long road blockade programme on the Ranga-mati-Mohalchhari-Khagrachhari and Rangamati-Nariarchar highways protesting the killing of its

Supporters of the UPDF marched major streets of Rangamati town and put up barricade on the Rangamati-Moalchhari Highway at around 10:00am.

They later held a rally at Kutukchhari Bazar. Speakers at the rally blamed activists of Parbatya Chattagram Jano Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), the pro-CHT peace accord organisation, for the killing of their leader Tarit Chakma.

Sachib Chakma, convenor of Rangamati UPDF, presided over the

On Sunday morning, armed miscreants allegedly belonging to the PCJSS sprayed bullets on a group of villagers, killing Tarit and injuring two other indigenous men at Pukurchharivillagein Rangamati.

PM returns

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia returned home last night, ending a four-day official visit to Indonesia

Ministers, chiefs of the three services, diplomats and high civil and military officials received the prime minister at Zia International

BNP-AL key

Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU).

Bhuiyan and Jalil entered the latiya Press Club auditorium within minutes of each other and shook hands amidst a big round of

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Sadek Hossain Khoka came in a few minutes later and sat beside the two top leaders.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said the onus of uniting the "divided" society rests primarily with the political parties. "It is unfortunate that we are

living in a society where not only the politicians but the civil society members, who are expected to guide the nation out of any national crisis, are also divided," he said. Mannan's views were echoed by

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil who said there should be initiative to work together and overcome the schism everywhere in society. In his speech, Bhuiyan proposed

a fresh dialogue between the governnent and opposition to bring the AL back to parliament. He said both the government and

the opposition should work together in national interest and that in spite of their political differences there should be at least some degree of consensus on certain national

"We are very much sincere about a dialogue and want to resolve all the problems through discussion," Bhuiyan said addressing Jalil. "Let's sit together and discuss all the disputes between us," he said.

Jalil said the government could ensure the opposition's return to the Jatiya Sangsad by creating a sound atmosphere in the House. "The government has to lead the way to the House."

Earlier, AL leaders Abdur Razzak MP, Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid, Tofail Ahmed, Gono Forum General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, and business leaders Abdul Awal Mintoo, SM Nurul Huq, Aftabul Islam and AK Azad also spoke on the

same note. Business leaders unequivocally lauded the unity of reporters under DRU's banner and hoped that their unity would inspire political parties and organisations to work together.

The speeches were followed by a cultural programme.

DRU President Alamgir Hossain chaired the function.

Dhaka accepts

But Mir Nasir claimed no US pressure was there on the government to take the decision. "It was not a directive. Rather, it was an advice and request form the US for taking extra security measures.

On the training of flight marshals, the state minister said, "We have trained manpower in our armed forces.

"We can not allow an outsider with arms as marshal on our flights as that would frighten passengers. If the US opts for higher training, then it will have to train our flight marshals up at their own cost," the minister added.

Two-year-old

FROM PAGE 12 abducted at around 10:00am on Sunday.

Mohammad Sohag, a neighbour, phoned the victim's father in the evening and demanded Tk 2 lakh in ransom, police said.

Receiving the call, Anwar odged a complaint with Pahartali Police Station.

A police team went to Shuvapur Bazar in East Joypur village and recovered the boy and nabbed Sohag and his accomplice Mohammad Selim for their involvement in the abduction, sources said.

Police brought back the alleged abductors and Anik to Chittagong early yesterday. A case was lodged.

Importers, C&F agents to go for indefinite strike at Benapole port

Four organisations have decided to go for an indefinite strike at Benapole land port after Eid-ul-Azha protesting alleged harassment by Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) person-

Importers Unoin, C&F Agents Association, Transport Owners' Association and Port Handling Workers' Union have said they face harassment by the BDR personnel on almost all regular imports from

They said the BDR men seized two consignments of imitation jewellery imported through CRF at Lauzani and Dighirpar last week despite having valid documents.

The government earns over Tk through Benapole land port. Recently, import of non-CRF goods was banned in the port and computerised tax paying system intro-duced here to prevent tax evasion.

Outlaw posters at DU

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) (ML-Janajuddha), which claimed responsibility for the recent killing of journalist Manik Saha in Khulna, has posted posters at the Dhaka University and some other parts of the city including Motijheel commercial area.

Believed to have been posted on Friday night, the PBCP posters, commemorating the wresting of its supremo Comrade Tapan from a court in Khulna on January 26, 2002. urged the people to annihilate the class enemies and establish people's rule in the country.

Sources said the PBCP with the help of some left-leaning student organisations on the campus posted the posters. At least two leftleaning student organisations are allegedly sheltering the PBCP men in the city, they added. The outlaws are trying to create panic among the students in particular and the residents of the capital in general, many Many of the students and teach-

ers of the university have expressed concern over the PBCP posters on the campus. Seeing the posters on the campus, one student questioned the efficiency of the intelli-

The PBCP is said to have four

divisional units in Dhaka, Khulna Rajshahi and Sylhet. The Dhaka city unit mainly does the public rela tions in the city and keeps in touch with all regional leaders. It also maintains ties with the ruling and opposition leaders of each region who are based in Dhaka.

Intelligence sources said some outlawed parties including the PBCP, Biplobi Communist Party, Sarbohara Party and Sramajibi Mukti Andolan have been operating from the city's Shahbagh, Elephant Road, Katabon and Uttara. Police believe the operatives of

the outlawed parties are associated with the DU students and some of them have been staying at the university dormitories. A senior police official request-

ing anonymity said they are finding

it difficult to track down or recog-nise the persons who put posters at DU Proctor AK Firoz Ahmed said, "We informed the law enforcers and DU security personnel so

that no banned party could put their posters at the DU." "I told the security officials of the university and intelligence agencies, who are working on the DU campus, to keep an eye on the campus at night and observe which organisations put posters here," the

Mystery disease

treatment alone," Dr MA Faiz of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) said, confirming the disease only as viral infection without establishing an immediate link to the bird flu virus that

has broken out in much of Asia. "We are prescribing antibiotic and antiviral medicine, nutritious food and steroids for them as the disease is still unknown," he said.

The disease that causes high fever, headache, vomiting and spells of unconsciousness has stalked some villages in Rajbari, Manikganj and Tangail. "We have quarantined the

patients as a precautionary step,

he said, adding hospitals could not identify the virus as they have no adequate equipment for diag-No-one with symptoms of the disease was admitted to the DMCH yesterday, where three

died apparently from the same viral infection on January 23-24. The health ministry said no new patients were admitted to hospitals or health complexes in

Rajbari, Manikganj and Tangail. The Health Directorate instructed the principals of medical colleges to ready teams, each composed of a medicine specialist, a paediatrician and a cardiologist for quick service.

2 shot dead, 1 bullet hit in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified assailants gunned down two youths in separate inci-dents at Pallabi and Kotwali last night while a stray bullet wounded stationery shop owner at Khilgaon.

Police said unidentified gun-men sprayed bullets on Manna, 25, in front of Sultan Molla School at Mirpur Section-12 at about 8:30pm. At least eight bullets hit different parts of his body, killing him on the spot, police said.

Pallabi police sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy. Police said the killing might have links to gangland turf war. No case was filed till 10:00pm.

An armed man chased down a youth inside Pragoti Stationery Shop at Shahid Hasan Ali Lane in Babubazar and shot him dead at about 8:15pm. Kotwali police sent the body to

Mitford hospital for autopsy. The officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station said the victim could not be identified. Meanwhile, a stray bullet hit

Mizanur Rahman Mizan, 28, in the

left leg at about 5:30pm when he

was walking in Jhinuk International Hotel, a residential hotel, on Wapda Road in Khilgaon. The victim, owner of a stationery shop at Bandar in Narayanganj, was admitted to the DMCH and later shifted to Pongu

The control room of the Health Directorate that reported 66 patients with the symptoms over the last two weeks is coordinating information about the disease. At least 45 patients with high

fever are undergoing treatment at

Goalanda Upazila Health

Complex, Rajbari Sadar Hospital and Faridpur Medical College Hospital. Two are being treated at Mirzapur Health Complex and three at the DMCH that released a patient from Goalanda yesterday. "We don't have reports on new mystery disease patients here after January 19," Rajbari Deputy

Commissioner Bijonkanti Sarker told The Daily Star last night. A Health Directorate press release said the ICDDR (International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research and ICDDR,B (International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh) are monitoring the

The report on the tests of samples collected from patients and sent to the Center for Disease Control in the US will reach Dhaka in two weeks

AL demands withdrawal of court reforms bill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League has demanded withdrawal of a new bill introduced in

parliament on Sunday. Briefing newsmen at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid feared that passage of the bill -- Court Reforms Implementation (auxiliary provision) Bill, 2004 -- would cause immense sufferings to people seeking justice and create 'judicial

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed introduced the bill in the House to facilitate what he said were reforms in case management and court administration. The bill provides for suspension

dualism'

two years, on an experimental basis, in the Supreme Court and five selected district courts to bring reforms in the age-old judicial Demanding withdrawal of the bill yesterday, Hamid said opera-tion of the existing laws could not

be suspended in some selected

courts just for the sake of experi-

of operation of the existing laws for

He opposed what he said is using the justice-seeking people of the five districts as guinea pigs for introducing different laws for different areas of the country. The AL could not oppose intro-duction of the bill on Sunday

House boycott since the budget session in June, 2003. AL lawmakers Fazle Rabbi and Mahbubur Rahman were also present at the briefing.

because of the party's continuos

Looted ansar rifle recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Paikgachha police Sunday recovered the looted rifle of an ansai lance naik from a pond at Katakhali village in Rarhuli union.

Police found the .303 rifle of Lance Naik Jamal, reportedly snatched away by an outlawed gang, in a pond of Bhuban Mohini Girls High School in the noon, source said sources said.

Police also seized a motorbike allegedly used by the gang, sources added.

On January 21, the outlawed gang shot dead Village Defence Party member Abdul Jalil before looting the ansar's rifle.

Site for Padma Bridge to be announced March 10

UNB, Dhaka

The site for construction of the much-awaited Padma Bridge will be announced on March 10, bringing an end to the controversy over

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), now carrying out feasibility study to select the site for the country's largest bridge, will make the announcement here on the day at a national seminar on Padma Bridge. JICA will consider Maowa-Janjira

possible site for the proposed bridge on the basis of their May 2003 to January 2004 survey, a meeting reviewing the progress of the JICA feasibility study was told yesterday. Communications Minister Nazmul Huda was present as chief guest in the meeting, where deputy team leader of the 26-member JICA

point or Paturia-Daulatdia point as

placed a progress report on their Matsuzawa mentioned Maowa-Janjira or Paturia-Daulatdia as the probable sites for the bridge, which will establish direct road link between Dhaka and the country's southwestern region.

study team Katsufumi Matsuzawa

He pointed out comparative features of the two probable sites. These include investment expenditure of the project, construction of approach road, design of the main bridge, river training, land acquisition, telecommunication, setting up gas pipeline and electric transmis-sion line, protection and developsion line, protection and develop-ment of environment in the project area and compensation to the

The JICA deputy team leader also said that the survey team would complete the feasibility study by the stipulated time. The communications minister said construction of the bridge will

start with financial and technical help from the donor countries and

affected people.

international agencies immediately after the completion of the feasibility Communications Secretary Syed Rezaul Hayat, and other senior officials of the communications ministry, Jamuna Bridge Division, and Roads and Highways Department were present in the meeting, said an official release.

Outlaws gun down ISD

activist

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia The outlawed Biplobi Communist Party yesterday gunned down a Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) activist at Mirpur upazila in Kushtia.

A 10-member gang stormed into the Halsa village residence of JSD activist Aslam Mondal, son of Fakir Mondol, and shot him dead at around 2:00am, police said.

Police recovered the body in the morning and sent it to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy. A case was lodged with Mirpur Police Station.

Nawabpur

FROM PAGE 12 Tejgaon area the next day.

"We want a proper investigation into the case," said Mir Nizam Uddin Ahmed, chairman of Bangladesh Electrical Association. Police should immediately identify the driver and CNG three-wheeler that carried him that night and nab the killers."

sense of insecurity among local people, particularly traders, Nizam mentioned. "We want an extortionmugging free locality and security of traders," he added. Earlier, the trade bodies jointly brought out a procession on January 22 and issued a 3-day ultimatum till

The murder of Siraji created a

January 25 to press their demands. Siraji lived in Nawabpur, went to another place and his body was recovered from Tejgaon, said Subinspector Khalil of Tejgaon Police Station, who is investigating officer of the case. But his family members' statements concerning the time they last saw him created confusion about

the killing and dumping of his body

at a place away from his locality, he

The trade bodies include

Bangladesh Electrical Association, Bangladesh Agricultural Machinery Merchants' Association, Bangladesh Hardware and Machinery Merchants' Association, Bangladesh Pipe and Tube-well Merchants' Association, Bangladesh Motor Parts and Tyre-Tube Association, Bangladesh PVC Pipe Manufacturing Samity, Bangladesh Engineering Shilpa Malik Samity, Bangladesh Autorickshaw Spare Parts Merchants' Association Nawabpur Shop Owners' Samity.

WB blamed

cine to the health centres by next

Health Minister Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain told the meeting the WB in its latest report appreci-ated development of the health sector. Primary healthcare has improved and polio has been eradicated, the report said.

The parliamentary body expressed concern at the death of children and also cattle in Goalanda because of a mysterious disease and asked for urgent measures to combat the disease

Health ministry officials pointed out sample has been sent to US for tests to ascertain the nature of the The committee also discussed

allegations against some doctors at different public hospitals and asked the ministry to transfer them imme-No doctor should be allowed to stay at a place for more than three

years under the existing guidelines of

the health ministry, the committee chairman noted. However, some doctors quit government jobs if they are trans-

BTTB Cellphone

FROM PAGE 12 told newspersons emerging from the meeting.

"The decision of the cabinet committee was right, but it was not properly reflected in the media reports," said the chairman.

"The purchase committee found technical errors in the assessment process. As many as 250,000 cellphones are to be introduced in first phase, but the BTTB has to put in place the technology capable of supporting 10 lakh cellphones. So the cost will be high. For this, the purchase committee suspended the tender for certain periods," said

Haque. The chairman said Tk 459 crore is needed to purchase the machinery for 10 lakh cellphones and Tk 307 crore for 2.5 lakh cellphones.

Post and Telecommunications

Minister Aminul Haque told the committee that BTTB's cellphones would hit market by June and added that the process would not be stalled because of the cabinet committee's decision. The committee yesterday at its meeting suggested the ministry to bring the NWD (inter-district) call ferred to rural areas.

cuss this in detail at its next meeting. The meeting discussed activities of the family planing directorate and recommended to the ministry place-ment of the jobs of field level health workers under the revenue budget. About 7,000 health workers' jobs are still under the development budget

try to pay their salary soon. Chaired by Mashiur, the meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban was attended by committee members and officials concerned.

addressing traffic problem in the capital. Special security measures points and 16 cattle markets in the

concert with respective market committees at the marketplaces. Community policing will be encouraged at these places to supplement the efforts for controlling traffic flow.

Directives were issued during the meeting to "strictly curb extortion, toll-collection and black marketing of tickets" at bus, launch and railway

goes on trucks, buses, launches and Black marketing of ticket, harassment of passengers, adulteration of food items, hoarding and snatching are among other offences to be

Instructions were also issued to check use of fake notes in the markets and for regular monitoring of market prices.

The state minister directed the

police officials to raid and dismantle slums that harbour criminals and criminal activities. The meeting decided to expand the network of mobile courts up to

charges for land phone down to the level of local calls.

Judicial council FROM PAGE 1

in submission of the report.

not be known immediately. Talking to the press yesterday Rokanuddin said he knew that the report was submitted but not its content. He also lamented the delay

of misconduct, the president will remove him. However, if the judge proves innocent, he can file a defa mation suit against the person making the allegation. Rokanuddin at a meeting of the ssociation on October 1 last year alleged that Judge Shahidur took Tk

from the court of a fellow judge in a woman repression case. The council heard deposition of eight persons including the additional judge, Bar president and client Nasim Sultana Kona. During the council sittings, Shahidur cross-

Kona, daughter of a retired High Court judge, allegedly gave Shahidur the bribe for fixing bail for a relative. But he could not arrange the bail. Kona then informed the Bar president about it.

examined all the witnesses.

Shahidur all along denied the allegation and also submitted a written statement to the council. According to Rokanuddin, when the judge sought money from Kona, she was first hesitant to pay as he was no longer a lawyer. But he assured her that the judge in the case con-cerned was his close friend and that he could easily manage the bail.

Shahidur was appointed addi-

tional judge on April 24 last year

amidst objections from the Bar association senior lawyers of the

Supreme Court. They alleged that he

Brunei to recruit

During the talks, the two leaders discussed bilateral and international issues of common concern, includ-If the report holds the judge guilty ing trade, investment, labour and

> Sunday on a two day visit at the invitation of Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah, offered places for the Royal Brunei Armed Forces in the Defence Services Command and Staff College

Bangladesh and Brunei expressed satisfaction with excellent bilateral relations and close cooperation in various fields and agreed to work together in the United Nations

and cooperation in socio economic peace and stability. Khaleda expressed her sincere appreciation to Sultan Bolkiah for his

from the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) that decided to boycott Justice Husain's swearing-in ceremony at Bangabhaban at

setting the first precedent for breach of seniority in CJ appointment. On the other hand, Justices Amin

Hasan who was appointed to the post on June 22, 2003.

right," he said, referring to the times Justice Husain was bypassed. On the other hand, SCBA President Rokanuddin Mahmud

He said the judges who were thus wronged should resign in protest of

The committee decided to dis-

and they are not getting their salary for the last few months.

The meeting requested the minis-

Security scurry

The police will take action in

The mobile courts were directed to take action against the transgressors of law for crimes such as plying unauthorized and defective vehicles, violation of traffic rules, illegal parking, illegal constructions, occupation of footpaths and roads, carrying excess passengers and excess car-

Kanchpur Bridge in Narayanganj, Aminbazar of Dhaka and Tongi of Gazipur district. The district administrations concerned have been asked to deploy two mobile courts each at places under their jurisdic-

mittee would discuss all aspects relating to the formation of a joint commission at the level of foreign

Khaleda Zia, who arrived here on

50,000 from a client for fixing a bail and other military Institutions in Bangladesh.

> The two sides agreed to strengthen traditional friendship development in an environment of

> Asean Regional Forum (ARF). Khan, state Minister for expatriates welfare and overseas employment Quamrul Islam, Foreign Secretary Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury, Prime Minister's Political secretary Mosaddek Ali and Bangladesh High

Commissioner to Brunei Habibul

10:00am today. President Iajuddin Ahmed will administer the oath of office to the Justice KM Hasan, the outgoing

and Karim had themselves been appointed to the Appellate Division on January 11 and May 15 of 2001, bypassing both Justices KM Hasan and Mudassir Husain, who were senior to all judges of the High Court Division then.

was a victim of past injustice. "We have corrected a wrong by doing the

serve its purpose of politicising the judiciary.

Dhaka University's law department. Justice Husain is married to Syeda

(UN), Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and Non-Aligned Movement (Nam).

country's support to Bangladesh's candidature for the top OIC job and Bangladesh's membership to the Foreign Minister M. Morshed

while he was its office-bearer.

CJ, was also appointed to the post bypassing the same two judges,

Meanwhile, SC lawyers and officials bade farewell to Justice KM

He was appointed assistant attorney general in 1977 and deputy attorney general on January 8, 1984. Husain also worked as part-time lecturer at Dhaka's Central Law

Majida Khatun, a social worker, and has three daughters and a son.

Mudassir Husain

Defending the appointment, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed told jour-nalists yesterday that Justice Husain

told The Daily Star that the govern-ment handpicked the chief justice to

Islam Bhuivan took part in the meethad siphoned off association funds

the unfair appointment, adding that they should have also protested the first breach of seniority when the previous CJ was appointed. He said since independence, the most senior judge of the Appellate Division was appointed chief justice, a practice which was honoured even by the autocratic regime of Ershad.

But both the instances of breach occurred during this government's

Nonetheless, he said, the SCBA will felicitate the chief justice in the interest of the bench and the Bar, and

also in light of the chief justice's position. Profile of Justice Husain The newly appointed Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain was born on March 1, 1940 in an aristocratic

zamindar family of Habiganj.

Appellate Division on March 5, 2002.

He did his BA and LLB from Dhaka University. Enrolled as a High Court advocate in 1965, Justice Husain was appointed High Court judge on February 18, 1992 and elevated to the

College during 1966-78 and was examiner and question-setter at