### Protest at move to change name of Sufia **Kamal Nat'l Public Library**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of the country's leading intelligentsia yesterday formed a human-chain at Shahbagh in the city protesting at the government move to change the name of Sufia Kamal National Public Library.

Four socio-cultural organisations -- Jatiya Kabita Parishad, Bangali Sangskriti Kendra, Bangabandhu Abritti Parishad and Daak Dive Jai -- organised the hour-long human-chain in front of the library from 10:30am, participated by their members as well as other eminent poets, writers, teachers, students and cultural activists.

The previous government of Awami League named the library after one of the country's most revered poets, late Begum Sufia

Terming the government decision anti-people speakers at the protest programme demanded to **SEE PAGE 11 COL 6** 

Free occupied

Long march by activists

Environmentalists yesterday

demanded immediate resumption

of the government measures to free

the illegally occupied banks of the

From a long march in the morning from Sadarghat to Kamrangir-

char, staged by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (BAPA), under

the banner of 'Save the Buriganga'

participants also demanded that

the recommendations of a taskforce to restore navigability and smooth flow of water in the

river be implemented immedi-

Eminent economist Professor Mozaffar Ahmed, convenor of

Save the Buriganga', inaugurated the long march, which was joined

Mozaffar Ahmed, while address

**SEE PAGE 11 COL 3** 

banks of

Buriganga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

REUTERS, Taipei

Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian survived an assassination attempt yesterday while campaigning on the eve of a presidential election, escaping with a bullet wound to the

TODAY'S POLLS TO GO AHEAD

during campaign

Vice President Annette Lu was also wounded in the attack in the southern city of Tainan but was not badly hurt, officials said. The pair were rushed to hospital, but a hospital official said later that they had left to fly back to the capital.

Officials said today's election would go ahead as planned.

Chen and Lu had been travelling in an open-top jeep through Tainan streets, waving to crowds, when unknown assailants shot at them at 1.45pm local time. Police said they believed two

China had no immediate com-

standard handguns had been used

and at least two shots fired. They

had vet to make any arrests.

ment. Beijing regards Taiwan as a renegade province to be recovered, by force if necessary.

Taiwan president shot

Chen, who was not wearing a



Chen Shui-bian

Environment activists under the banner of 'Save Buriganga Movement' march on the riverbank yesterday, demand-

ing immediate resumption of a government drive to remove encroachment on the lifeline of Dhaka.

hospital in Tainan, his home town, where he received 14 stitches in an 11-cm long, three-cm deep wound. Television reports said the 54-yearold president was able to walk in for

Lu, 59, was hit in the right leg and had to be assisted but her condition was not serious, officials

It was unclear if the attack in a country where such political vio-lence is virtually unknown would affect the election outcome. Analysts said most voters had already made their choice based on policy and were unlikely to be swaved by emotion now.

Chen's chief of staff, Chiou Iien, told a news conference that the president had called for calm.

Both the DPP and the opposition Nationalists called off campaigning after the shooting.

Officials had voiced worries that

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

buried alive in Jhenidah earthslide

3 children

ISD activist

Kushtia

murdered in

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia An activist of Jatiya Samajtantrik

Dal (JSD) was murdered by unidentified assailants at village

Kakiladah in Mirpur upazila of the

Police quoted family sources as

saying a gang of seven stormed into the house of Osman Ali, 45, of the

village at around 11:30pm and

picked him up at gunpoint. The

gang took him to a nearby field and

They said Osman was accused

Police recovered the body and

sent it to Kushtia General Hospital

for autopsy. A case was filed with Mirpur Police Station.

of murder in five cases filed with

Mirpur, Bheramara and Daulatpur

district on Thursday night.

slit his throat.

Police Stations.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Three children were buried alive under huge chunks of earth while playing in a roadside ditch at Solemanpur under Moheshpur upazila in Jhenidah Thursday afternoon.

They are Zohurul, 8, son of oynal, Torikul, 10, son of Saker Ali, and Rafiqul, 10, son of Sukur Ali.

Local people and hospital sources said a side of the 15-footdeep ditch suddenly collapsed and came crashing down on the children, killing them on the spot.

The bodies were later recovered by locals on the scene.

### Police, local admn foil bid to expel Ahmadiyyas

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Police and local administration have foiled an extremist bid to evict Amtali upazila in Barguna. Sources said the Amtali chapter

of an extremist outfit called 'Inter-

national Majlish-e-Tahaffuj-e-Khatm-e Nabuwat' called for expulsion of Kadianis from the Amtali area unless they were officially declared non-Muslims by Some 1000 local Kadianis,

popularly known as Ahmadiyyas, were thrown into a state of panic after extremist leaders made the calls for their expulsion at religious gatherings on March 14 and 15.

The matter was brought to the notice of the upazila nirbahi officer SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

## THE STRENGTH WITHIN

# World on tip of fingers

ASHFAQ WARES KHAN

Harbilash doesn't think about it, he doesn't want others to think about it. His world is just as fruitful as a craftsman at his local markets, with or without what others call his 'disability'.

For Harbilash, the world is on the tip of his fingers, both literally, and figuratively. The fingers, as he says, are the most important things in his life because they help him attach to the world, earn a living, and in effect, reinforce his belief that he can make it on his own as a craftsman despite what others call his

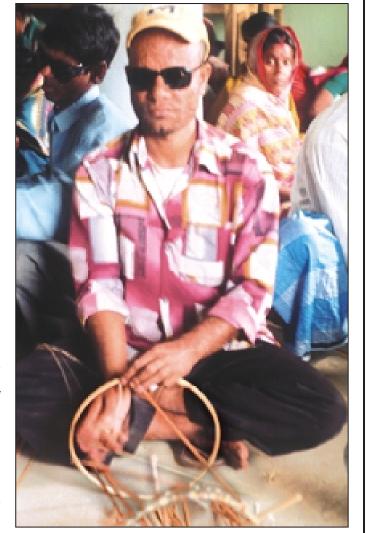
disability -- his blindness. Training other craftsmen and women these days and a businessman of handicrafts in his own right, Harbilash, a man in his late 20s living in Agailjhara union in Barisal, was afflicted with the curse of blindness at age two because of small pox.

From that point on, Harbilash felt his way the objects around him and started to depend more and more on his limbs, especially on his hands, to feel the world.

The youngest in a family of nine, Harbilash's attempts to even help around the house were always resisted by his older siblings because they felt he was incapable of doing anything effective and it would be a waste of everyone's time.

"They all wanted me to act like beggars, and it didn't matter how many times I told them that I didn't feel sorry for myself, they only spoke of me as some one who is defective and a burden," says Harbilash.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



Bakhtiar at a centre for rehabilitation of the visually challenged at Agailjhara in Barisal makes a stool. He is a craftsman despite what others

# Fighting on for 'capture' of al-Qaeda's No. 2

Pakistani forces vesterday stepped up an offensive they believe has cornered and perhaps wounded Osama bin Laden's deputy Ayman al-Zawahri, using artillery and helicopter gunships to attack militants near the rugged Afghan

Fighting spread yesterday to two more villages in South Waziristan, where hundreds of paramilitary forces began an operation against al-Qaeda and Taliban fugitives four days ago. Townspeople said heavy guns fired through the night and they saw jet fighters in the area, although it

wasn't clear if the aircraft had

opened fire.

Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharraf said a "high value" target was believed trapped, and three senior Pakistani officials told The Associated Press late Thursday that intelligence indicated it was al-Zawahri.

Pakistani forces battled with hundreds of militants in five villages near South Waziristan's main town of Wana, pounding fortress-like mud-brick compounds as entrenched suspects fought back. An intelligence official said "dozens" were killed Thursday, and some of their hide-outs had been

At least 41 people -- 15 soldiers

and 26 suspected militants -- were killed earlier this week in fighting in

This semiautonomous tribal region, which has resisted outside control for centuries, has long been considered a likely hiding place for the top two al-Qaeda leaders -- but there was no indication bin Laden was with the Egyptian-born al-Zawahri. However, the two have travelled together in the past, and bin Laden and al-Zawahri appeared jointly in video tapes released shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States.

The United States has offered a \$25 million reward for information leading to al-Zawahri's capture. On SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## PBCP-Janajuddho claims it killed Mongla BNP leader Two picked up as suspects

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna** 

The Janajuddho faction of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-J) in a fax message yesterday claimed responsibility for the Thursday night's murder of Mohammad Abdul Baten, president of Bagerhat district unit of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal.

The fax message signed by PBCP-J Khulna Bagerhat Regional Committee Secretary Ripon Ahmed and sent to Khulna Press Club at 7:05pm vesterday said MA Baten was killed for deceiving the toiling masses and for his immoral character. It also labelled him as a class enemy and a debauchee.

MA Baten, 50, was bombed to death in a drive-by attack near his Madrasah Road house in Mongla town at about 8:00 Thursday night. Witnesses said the attackers hurled a bomb at his head from a running motorbike when he was returning home alone from Mongla BNP

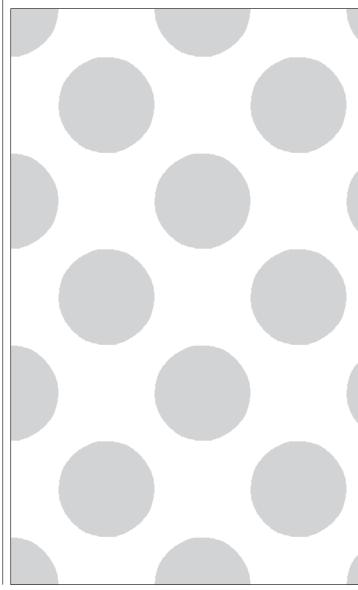
Besides being the president of Bagerhat district unit of the workers wing of ruling BNP, Baten was also the vice president of the district unit and president of Mongla upazila unit of BNP. He was the first elected chairman of Mongla Pourasabha and held the office for 18 years in a row.

The assassinated leader was buried at his family graveyard following namaj-e-janaza at several places, including the district BNP office, after jum'a prayers yesterday.

Meanwhile, police on Thursday midnight arrested two young men, Shamim, 22, and Salam, 23, as suspects. Police also nabbed Rakibul Islam, 30, driver of the motorcycle used by killers, at Joymoni village under Mongla upazila early yesterday morning. The motorcycle (Kushtia-Ha-11-1744) was recovered from Boroitala

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Prayer Timings		
March 20		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-55	5-
30 Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-16	6-20
Esha	7-45	8-15
Source: Islamic Foundation		



EDITOR: MAHFUZ ANAM-Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd., 229 Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1205, 8124966, Fax: 8125155, 8126154, GPO Box No: 3257, www.dailystarnews.com, E-mail: dseditor@gononet.com, dsreport@gononet.com, dsreport@gononet.com