# NEWS

# Resign to fulfil

April 30 deadline had created a huge sensation and the government should step down to fulfil people's

"Instead of quitting power for mid-term election, they are trying to cling to power by hook or by crook,

by force, the future will be more dangerous," she warned the BNP-Jamaat alliance, which assumed power after a landslide victory in October 2001 general elections.

"The BNP-Jamaat alliance has Hasina said. "But it will be very difficult for them to tackle the situation if they want to stay in power by

line given by Abdul Jalil MP, the Awami League chief said that when Jalil gave the April 30 deadline, "it got huge response from people and every citizen is echoing it.

She said: "In the past, Khaleda Zia and Mannan Bhuiyan gave us several ultimatums for the downfall of our government, but failed to get any public response. What does it mean? It means, people now want the government to guit before April 30 and they've already demonstrated demanding the same."

The former prime minister said when she was in power, Khaleda Zia "threatened 88 times" to topple the Awami League government.

She said Khaleda used to declare, "the government will be toppled by September, by October, after the Éid-ul-Fitr, after the Eid-ul-Azha." But they did not receive any public response, Hasina said, as Awami League properly governed

gave the deadline and it was not even announced by me," the Awami League chief said. "The knees of the government have started trembling with a single announcement.

minded parties, she said the doors of Awami League are always open and her party has always made accommodation for others. About unity with Badruddoza Chowdhury and Dr Kamal Hossain, she said Awami League always believes in politics of understanding and accommodation

About the role of the caretake government, Hasina said there is need for reforming the provisions relating to the caretaker government to ensure free and fair voting.

She said: "People are fed up, it's clear with the reflection of their minds. Awami League does not believe in undemocratic ways. Rather, we struggled for democracy. If Awami League believed in undemocratic means, the government would have to quit in last October or December.'

people were "not getting anything good from them. People had faith and trust in the past Awami League government, but now they are passing days amid frustration and

Reaffirming her pledge to unseat the government, Hasina said since the alliance government has "failed completely to govern the country, people must be freed through movement and struggle.

Alleging that the BNP-Jamaat axis has planned to kill 50,000 people across the country, Hasina said: "Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and her son Tarique Rahman made a special and secret list of efficient organisers of the Awami League to kill them one after another. They will begin a genocide to cling to power but people of the country will not accept this.'

During the half an hour-long interview with the reporters, who accompanied her during the tour, the Awami League chief replied to questions on wide-ranging issues, ncluding the arms haul in

Renewing her demand for international probe into the huge arms haul. Hasina said she does not accept the probe committee headed by Home Secretary Omar Farook.

The government was involved in the arms smuggling, she alleged and said: "The mystery would not be unveiled if the home secretary, a leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami investigate it."

She said the deputy commissioner and the police superintendent of Chittagong, who could give more information, were not included in the probe committee.

It should also be investigated to what extent the home secretary himself was involved with the smuggling, Hasina said. "That's why we asked for international probe into the incident... such inquiries were seen in many countries of the world," she said

The opposition leader wondered how the trucks entered Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Limited (CUFL) amid

"We are anxious about the security of the police sergeant who caught the huge arms cache as the home secretary is the chief of the committee. His (sergeant's) security must be ensured." she said. About the Monday's arms recov-

ery from a nephew of a Jamaat MP Chittagong, she said. "So, you see who are using the same arms recovered in Chittagong."

Hasina alleged there are 11 secret organisations under the leadership of Jamaat leaders, which are providing training to militants "But people are not fool. They can realise who could be the probable users of such heavy arms," she

Referring to the "attack" on her motorcade on April 2 at Gournadi, the Awami League chief said the attackers tried to kill me and they might continue their bid in future.

### **HC** bans Crown, Hunter

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday declared illegal production, marketing and selling of Crown and Hunter, two brands of beverage produced by Jamuna Group of Industries as it contained liquor.

"Marketing of Crown and Hunter was against the public health and public policy," the court observed while delivering the judgment upon a writ filed by Crown Beverage Limited CBL) challenging cancellation of registration by Board of Investment (Bol) on March 4. The court, however, ordered

restoration of the CBL registration with direction that it could produce beverage without containing alcohol.

Crown and Hunter contained 0.9 and 4.8 percent alcohol, which is a violation of Pure Food Ordinance.

A division bench comprising Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Justice Abdus Salam Mamun, also made the rule absolute with an observation that the impugned order of the Bol cancelling the CBL registration was not proper.

On March 4, the Bol cancelled registration of the CBL that produced Crown energy drink and Hunter malt beverage, on ground that it did not secure permission from Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institution (BSTI) before going into production.

Barrister Rafique UI Huq and Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud appeared for the CBL represented by ts Managing Director Shamim Islam, while Additional Attorney General A J Mohammad Ali with his deputies Adilur Rahman Khan and Navema Haider stood for the government.

### Nasim Osman arrested at Benapole

UNB, Benapole

Nasim Osman, brother of Narayanganj Awami League leader Shamim Osman, was arrested by Benapole immigration police while going to India yesterday

Police said Nasim Osman was arrested with his passport, as there was a murder case against him at Narayanganj Police Station.

They said Nasim was granted bail in the case, but the court recently cancelled the bail.

### Two fall to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A construction worker and a telephone lineman died falling from buildings in the capital yesterday.

Rakib Uddin, a construction worker, slipped off the top floor of a six-storey under-construction building on New Circular Road in Ramna at around 1:30pm when working, said Harun, their supervisor.

Harun took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctor declared him dead.

In the other incident in Motijheel Mohammad Ali, lineman of Maghbazar Telephone Exchange, fell from the cornice of seven-storey Ashik Mansion at 2:45pm when he was fixing a cable. Sohel, a pedestrian, took him to

the DMCH where the doctor declared him dead.

#### Khaleda, Hasina FROM PAGE 12 nations that have made basic prog-

ress toward democracy by holding credible elections, establishing a multi-party system, building an active civil society and taking such For many years, a scholarly

debate continues over the compatibilty of democratic principles and Islam. After the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the debate has intensified, said an NDI website. It added. "A growing number of democratic Muslims around the world are ready to declare an end to the debate. From Morocco to Turkey to Indonesia, these political leaders point to the numerous examples of predominantly Muslim nations and political parties that are striving for and achieving democratic governance as evidence that Islamic culture and religious practice are compatible with democratic principles."

Sources said participants at the congress would strive to set up a platform for designing state and ocal government structures in accordance with Islamic tenets and democratic principles.

### Govt to preserve

FROM PAGE 12 A prime trade centre flourished in Narsingdi that maintained contacts with contemporary South Asian and Roman civilisations through waterwavs. Mustafizur said.

The archaeologist asked the government to task them with the site's scientific preservation, saying they deserved it since they had the necessary expertise and it was they who had discovered the site and its significance.

The excavators will wrap up their works for this season on April 11 through a closing ceremony, where they will display the artefacts they have collected from the site since beginning of their work in 2000. Hundreds of visitors, especially

school and college students from adiacent upazlias, have been thronging the site hearing the news of the discovery. Yesterday, a JU team of History, Bangla, International Relations and Geography departments visited the

## Inzi, Farhat

Test hundred and the first against India in four matches

before he edged Laxmipathy Balaji

session India's bowlers showed their

umpire Steve Bucknor turned down bowler, Irfan Pathan.

Youhana survived another close call when television replays showed leg-spinner Anil Kumble's spinning ball catch the edge before lodging in Patel's gloves, but Australian

umpire Simon Taufel was unmoved. As tempered flared on the field the Indians had another reason to feel frustrated when Bucknor rejected a confident appeal by Balaji for a catch at the wicket off

An unruffled Inzamam swept Kumble for his 12th boundary to reach his century.

"There was nothing serious on the field, we just talked in between overs," said the Pakistan captain, playing down any animosity

# Hilsa flock away

**FROM PAGE 1** of a USAID-aided fish project.

Collis said so many people are catching hilsa at the estuaries that the fish cannot come into the river from the sea. "The government must take up a strict policy to stop it, otherwise the hilsa species will collapse totally."

Adult hilsa coming from the Bay of Bengal into the rivers to spawn are netted during their upstream migration throughout the southern rivers. On the other hand, the fish fry, locally called jatka, are netted in the major nursery grounds in both inland and coastal areas during peak abundance and again during their downstream migration at the Meghna river system. The fish has been totally wiped

out from 1500-2000 km of river including Feni, Matamuhuri, upper Karnaphuli, Dhaleshawari, Kaliganga, Sitalakhya, Dhanu, Chitra and Gorai rivers.

In Padma, Kalinadi, Madhumati, Arialkha, Kumar, Nabaganga, Bhairab, Mahananda and Horasagor rivers, the fish is nearly extinct. Even 10-15 years ago, fishermen caught a lot of hilsa in

The annual hilsa catch between 1983 to 1999 from both inland and offshore waters averaged 2.03 lakh metric tons worth Tk 2,000-3,000 crore, accounting for up to 30 percent of the total fish production. But harvest from rivers has declined over the years, although total haul has increased due to heavy fishing in the sea, DoF sources said. Hilsa catch statistics show a 20

percent decline in the haul from rivers over the last 17 years. Sixty years ago, the catch was nearly double the present amount. Citing a survey, Ataur Rahman

former director general of the DoF, said hilsa landing in Barisal in 1998 was 13,300 tons, but the amount came down to 2682 tons in 2002. According to the same survey

landing rate in Cox's Bazar shows a more and less similar declining trend -- 8,100 tons in 1998, 5,200 tons in 1999, 5,700 tons in 2000, 5,500 tons in 2001 and 3,800 tons in Nowadays, fishermen have modified their conventional fishing

as large fishes are scarce these days, said Ataur Rahman. DoF sources said the government has recently taken some measures to save the hilsha. The

grill net by narrowing down the gaps

Dhalarchar, Kallarchar and Mowlabirchar to prevent netting of

"Hilsha catch this year is not too bad. You can get it in the market management, while talking to The Daily Star. "We still have a chance to

Some 4,50,000 fishermen are engaged in catching hilsa, the largest single species fishery in the country. Hilsa export fetches Tk 60-70 crore worth of foreign currency

### Govt firm

under police attack under untoward circumstances by mistake. "Journal-

ists are not being attacked as target.' Taking the opportunity of free and frank discussion, the prime minister posed a question to the reporters: Do you think that the reports being

published in newspapers are all true?

reporting, but it is the policy matter of the newspaper owners. Other reporters also echoed his remark The prime minister also agreed with them and struck a note of

humour: "So journalists have no freedom but newspaper owners enjoy the freedom.' She called for objective reporting

. We have carried out a number of good works in last two and a half years, but those were not reflected in newspapers properly," she told the executive body of the reporters'

Asked about the recent arms haul in Chittagong, the prime minister said, "It would not be wise to say anything now as the matter is under

Officer Khondker Manirul Alam were

# Traffic jam

FROM PAGE 12

the city at the moment is 3.33 lakh and manual vehicles, especially rickshaws, about 5 lakh. But, the number of vehicles is increasing much faster than the increase in road facilities, Quamrul observed.

Of the vehicles, rickshaws occupy 73 percent and buses only four percent of the road surface, though buses should occupy more, the DTCB executive director said while describing the overall project activities of Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP).

He expects to open the Mohakhali flyover, being built under the DUTP, in June for light vehicles only. The flyover will be opened for heavy vehicles in October, after installation of tremor-controlling equipment in September, he added. Construction of the 7-km

Jatrabari flyover by private finance is awaiting the approval of the Cabinet Purchase Committee, Quamrul told the newspersons. He said the project period of the

World Bank-funded DUTP was to end in June. But the bank has extended the period for some of the project components, including improvement of three bus terminals. to December this year.

The major components of the Tk 900-crore DUTP, aimed at improving the city's transport sector, are construction of Mohakhali flyover, Tongi bypass road and bridge, ninefoot over-bridges and 230-km of footpath; freeing the major city roads from manual vehicles; improving Sayedabad, Mohakhali and Gabtoli bus terminals; development of 20 intersections; installing electric traffic signalling systems at 59 intersections and repairing 60km flood-damaged roads.

On the recent demolition of roundabouts including those at Gulshan, Shahbag and Matshya Bhaban, Quamrul said it was done to make way for smoother movement and turning of vehicles at the intersections. Though he lamented the felling of some trees at the roundabouts, he claimed vehicles

were moving more smoothly there now thanks to the new scientific procedure The DTCB's future plans for the

city include a circular waterway, removal of rail crossings, construction of link roads and new bus and

the city had no professional traffic engineers, who were essential for improvement and management of traffic system. The city needs at least a hundred professional traffic engineers, he suggested.

Besides the DTCB, officials from Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkhya and Roads and Highways Department were present at the briefing held at the DTCB's conference room in the city.

#### JS body blames FROM PAGE 12

involved with irregularities in Haii management before the report goes to the prime minister." The sub-committee will cross

list of the persons responsible before minister, he said. Earlier, State Minister for

Religious Affairs Mosharraf Hossain Shajahan in a statement in the Jatiya Sangsad accused the government officials responsible of Hajj misman-The sub-committee at its March

24 meeting proposed to the parliamentary committee that a meeting of the sub-committee be held in Saudi Arabia for recording the statements of people involved in Hajj management there.

to his memory"

With Jamaat-e-Islami lawmake Delawar Hossain Saydee in the chair, the committee also discussed activities of the Islamic Foundation.

#### **Jubo League** leader stabbed to death in Joypurhat

BSS, Joypurhat

Unidentified assailants Monday stabbed to death a local Jubo League leader in Joypurhat.

A gang attacked Shahjahan Ali. 31 general secretary of Sadar upazila unit of the youth front of Awami League, on Joypurhat-Jamalganj Road when he was returning home at about 9:15pm, police said.

The gang knifed Shahjahan to death and fled the area, they added The victim's father lodged a case

with Sadar Police Station and

accused 12 people of the murder

Police held Dudu Mian, 35, and Rafiq, 34, on charge of the killing.

### Vajpayee

"Bangladeshis sneaking into India illegally are causing more complication and we are trying to stop it by fencing the border," he said.

"When I met the Bangladesh prime minister, I pointed out the problem, but unfortunately she straightaway denied any large-scale infiltration into our country, Vajpayee said.

solve their problem so that the problem of illegal migrants in Assam is not compounded," said Vajpayee. The situation in Assam is such that the illegal migrants are threatening the state's indigenous population. We will not allow the Assamese community to be reduced to a minority in their own home." he added.

cannot snatch our land and houses, Vajpayee said

ment in 1993) has succeeded in only deporting 1,500 infiltrators while the truth is that thousands of them are staying in our country illegally and some of them have the right to vote.

#### Bikalpa Dhara FROM PAGE 1

criminals". Badruddoza kicked off

the programme by tossing shoe at a

of police also followed the procession that ended at Muktangon. In a brief speech there

Badruddoza accused Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's government of protecting the corrupt people. "We have held this programme against the corrupt people, not against the government. But the government has proved that it is for the corrupt and corruption by snatching away the effigy from us.'

"And for this, major part of day's hatred is against the present government.

"People of Bangladesh are traditionally peace-loving and honest. They hate corruption as well as corrupt people. But Bangladesh has been branded as a corrupt country only for a few corrupt peo-

"Let's restore our traditional image by expressing hatred against corruption," he said, urging people to unite under the Bikalpa Dhara

### Child rape

FROM PAGE 12 MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Ibrahim was arrested following a case filed with Kotwali police. The NGO men also brought the girl's mother to the police station. Salam. the other rapist, is still at large.

#### Myanmar PM FROM PAGE 12

matters relating to the EPZs and its ment of Bangladesh.

In this connection, General Nyunt referred to the bridge and road links being built between Bangladesh and Myanmar and said, "This will pave the way for cementing the bilateral trade and business

to the investors. Later, the Myanmar prime minis-

ter went round two factories of the Youngone Corporation of South He was highly impressed to see

atmosphere prevailing in the zone. BSS from Chittagong adds: General Nyunt yesterday visited Zia Memorial Museum in the port city

and went round different sections of the museum. He signed the visitors' book mentioning "General Zia was a real

Nyunt left Chittagong for home, ending his three-day visit to Bangladesh. Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan saw off the Myanmar Prime minister at Shah Amanat International Airport.

# Heavy fighting

been killed in yesterday's fighting, but that report could not immediately be

The deaths in the past two days brought to at least 614 the number of Americans killed in Iraq since the war

The bulk of the coalition force has remained on Fallujah's edge, apparently held at bay by tough resistance from anti-American fighters against Marine forays probing the outskirts. American commanders have

vowed to root out insurgents after last

week's slaving and mutilation of four

American civilians. Scenes of Iragis

dragging charred bodies through the streets and hanging two of them from a bridge Wednesday raised revulsion in the United States and showed the depth of anti-US sentiment in the city. The assault on Fallujah, west of Baghdad, coincides with a tougher US stand on the fiercely anti-American al-

the al-MahdiArmy. US officials have suggested they will move soon to arrest al-Sadr. who announced Tuesday he left a mosque in the city of Kufa, south of Baghdad, where he has been holed up since Sunday. He is surrounded by militia-

men pledging to resist any attempt to

Sadr, who has built up a private militia,

Al-Sadr moved to his office in the nearby city of Najaf, in an alley near the city's holiest shrine, according to a top aide. Sheik Qavs al-Khaz'ali.

Asked if al-Sadr would resist if US forces try to arrest him, al-Khaz'ali replied: "God forbid if this happens, al-Sayed will win martyrdom."

Al-Khaz'ali quoted al-Sadr as saying, "My fate will be either assassi-

nation or arrested." Al-Sadr's militiamen clashed with coalition troops Sunday in Baghdad and outside the city of Najaf, to the south, in fierce fighting that killed 61 people, including eight American soldiers. Clashes also broke out Monday in a northern Baghdad neigh-

The deaths of the three US soldiers announced Tuesday occurred in a neighborhood near the scene of Monday's fighting, but the military did not release details

In Fallujah, explosions and gunfire were heard from the city through the night Monday and into Tuesday morning, apparently US troops shelling targets and clashing with guerrillas as Marines probed the outskirts with

# 2-day AL hartal starts

FROM PAGE 1 by April 30.

The programmes include rallies from April 10 to 22 and processions and street rallies in all city

wards from April 23 to 26. A joint

meeting of the city BNP will be organised on April 27. Processions and rallies will also be organised at every thana in the capital from April City BNP General Secretary

Salam announced the Abdus programmes yesterday to the reporters at a joint meeting. BNP Secretary General and

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said, "I am not worried about the Awami League's April 30 deadline, it will be faced politically. City BNP President and Dhaka Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka said the AL is trying to create anar-

chy. "We will not remain mere spec-

tators in the face of such deadline,

which is unacceptable," he said and urged the party activists to face the AL politically.

Awami Sechchasebok League (ASL), a volunteers' front of the main opposition, yesterday also brought out a procession and held a rally in front of the party headquarters on

support for the shutdown. Among others, AL leaders Rahmat Ali and Nazma Rahman, ASL leaders Bahauddin Nasim and Pankaj Devnath addressed the rally The opposition leaders urged people to observe the strike. Awami Jubo League, youth front

Bangabandhu Avenue to garner

of the AL, organised a separate rally there supporting the hartal. Jubo League leaders Fazlul Hag Atig, Amir Hossain Gazi, Mohiuddin Moh and Noor Mohammad addressed the rally, among others. Police barred Jubo League activists from taking out a procession at the end of

The government has deployed about 5,500 law-enforcers comprising police and paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles. Besides, plainclothes police and intelligence men will keep watch on opposition activists during the hartal hours.

#### JCD leader

FROM PAGE 1

hospital after buying cell phone." His father is under treatment at the

The officer-in-charge of Dhanmondi Police Station said, 'Our primary investigation reveals that the gang went to snatch telephone sets from the shop and opened fire that resulted in the death of one and injury to another."

### New SL PM

FROM PAGE 1

Despite Raiapakse's commitment to continue peace efforts, the tiny Colombo Stock Exchange shed 9.5 percent on Tuesday, the first day of trading following Friday's snap polls. The Marxist JVP, or the People's

Liberation Front which is a dominant

force in Kumaratunga's Alliance

announced it was taking four key

ministries -- agriculture, lands culture and rural industries. The full list of cabinet ministers is

to be announced Wednesday, officials in Kumaratunga's office said

#### Tackle Taliban FROM PAGE 12

recent army deployment into tribal areas to destroy Taliban sanctuaries along the Afghan border was "positive and hopeful," the Taliban and other extremist groups continued to be able "to base, train and operate from that country's territory."

fester indefinitely," he said. The radical Taliban Islamic militia was ousted in 2001 for offering sanctuary to al-Qaeda leader

Osama bin Laden. Khalilzad told a forum organised by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington that unless Pakistan rooted out Our staff correspondent from

Raishahi reports: At least 50, includ-

ing three policemen, were injured in

armed clashes between pro- and

anti-hartal activists at Puthia upazila

vesterday evening. Of the injured, bullet-hit Mizan Jovnal, Awlad, Jahangir and Dulal, all belonging to the AL, were rushed Puthia Health complex.

Sub-inspector Dipok Kumar and

constables Amirul Islam and

Station were also injured in a hail of brickbats the warring parties traded They were given first aid, police sources said The clashes erupted at around 6.30pm when police intercepted an Awami League procession in support of today's hartal. Later BNP and

aged during the clashes District AL General Secretary Tajul Islam Mohammed Faruk blamed the ruling alliance for the

### Probe committee

police officers' mess amid tight secu

FROM PAGE 1

"I was questioned for at least 15 minutes in connection with the two trawlers that docked at the Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL) jetty But the Chittagong Port Authority does not have control over the CUFL jetty,' Momin told The Daily Star after the

Some senior customs officials are expected to be quizzed today, sources

The committee yesterday also examined the registration of five of the 10 trucks -- five others managed to get away -- brought in for transportation of the arms shipment and a private car used by two men who supervised offloading of the boxed weapons from

two trawlers at the CUFL jetty. The committee summoned Shahidullah Kaiser, assistant director of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, Chittagong, to help verify the names and addresses of owners of

Dhaniyalapara, Double Mooring, Abdul Motaleb, of North Halishahar, Abul Kalam, of Pathantuli, Double Mooring and Abdur Rahim, of South Registration details of the other

names of Yusuf Sawdagor, of

The private car was registered under Nishan Apparels of 76

Panchlaish, Chittagong.
Sources said the dubious roles of some ruling coalition men in connection with the arms smuggling have come under scrutiny of intelligence agents who also pointed a finger at a 'sinister nexus' between the police and

nected with the arms shipment.

movements beyond Bangladesh

Department of Immigration. "This is not true, home ministry has not made any such list," Babar told Daily Star, adding it is very much unlikely for the home ministry to take

He said."I would have learnt even if any other ministry or government body had initiated such a move." Inspector Setara Begum, in-

charge at Zia International Airport (ZIA) Immigration, told the Daily Star last night, "We have not received any such list from the government so

alleged government-move causing sensation ahead of the opposition's much talked about deadline of April 30 for the fall of the government.

"If they want to hang on to power

arms, armed forces and money.' using those. Asked about the April 30 dead-

the country. "Today, our general secretary

Asked about the unity of the like-

The opposition leader said

taking them out of the police station Fertiliser Limited (CUFL) jetty. by nine pick-ups Sunday night. A visit to the police station yesterday found a large portion of the

seized rice and salt stockpiled in its

compound last Saturday to be miss-

ing. Instead, some movable proper-

ties attached Sunday from the house of Hazi Abdus Sobhan, owner of FT Khazar Dan, were found being stored Local people allege a subinspector and a constable of police sold the rice and salt that escaped

being included in the seizure list. But

both the cops denied outright the accusation. One of the pair, however, was seen engaged in a hot exchange of words with some labourers inside a restaurant in front of the police station yesterday afternoon. The labourers were demanding wages for loading some sacks of rice and salt on some pick-ups Sunday, while the cop was trying to avoid them saving angrily 'Where will I have the money for you?

Am I in-charge of the police station?

You better go to the OC [officer in

denied having any argument with

anybody over any wage. Asked

about the identity of the working people standing all around him, the cop said he just happened to know them and was having talk with them on some other topic.

When asked, the policeman

But the eyes of the labourers expressed something different, with faces gloomy with disappointment. Meanwhile, rumour is rife among the locals of Laldia under Karnaphul Police Station on suspected involvement of a brother of a local BNF lawmaker, labour leader Din Mohammad and Khaer Ahmad in

handling the arms and ammunition

### Outlaws

FROM PAGE 12

charge].'

officials discussed the matter with Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Ashraful Huda or Monday. They requested the DMP commissioner to deploy police at the residence of Siddique to ensure his safety. From Monday night three policemen were deployed at Siddique's residence. Speculation has it that the death

threat against Siddique might be for

arrest and punishment of the persons responsible for the deadly machete attack on Prof Humayun Azad, sending Azad abroad for treatment, and the resignation of the former home minister.

A DU top official told The Daily Star

Cops 'steal, sell'

Visiting the CUFL jetty in guise iournalists heard locals in their discussions hinting at alleged involvement of the trio in transporting the goods after hiring trucks from a eader of transport owners' association of Bondar area in the city.

Din Mohammad, who supplies labourers to the CUFL, was allegedly entrusted with the responsibility of manning the trucks hired to carry the haul with the help of Khaer Ahmad of Kottapara under Potenga Police Friends' Syndicate, Din

Mohammad's office, was found

closed vesterday and none of his

employees could be found either.

#### Local shopkeepers appeared too frightened to say anything about Din.

Islamist group Yesterday's demand is the latest in a series of anti-Ahmadiyya calls since November last year when several groups staged a string of hate-filled demonstrations against the Muslim

(Ahmadiyyas) are running illegal activities not only in Dhaka but in Chittagong, Panchagarh and Natore. Ahmadiyya publications, he said:

their activities go against the basic norms of Islam," Haq claimed. "They

Islamic Conference shows Ahmadiyyas are deceiving Khatme Nubuwat with a 33

bullets after the fierce gunfight that left two police officials injured. Police linked Shahjahan to the gang as a backer and alleged the operatives at a clandestine meeting Chhota Hatiya in Sonakania planned to kill a Jamaat cadre in the

wake of his strained relations with

the lawmaker

Farhat hit 14 boundaries during his 266-minute stay at the crease

to wicket-keeper Parthiv Patel. Inzamam, who made 77 and 0 in the first Test at Multan, was in terrific form, smashing 14 boundaries during the eventful afternoon's

displeasure when West Indian leg-before appeals against both Youhana and Inzamam off the same

Youhana was then on 35, while

coastguard has been deployed at 15 river points including Monpura,

although the size is very small," said Dr GC Haldar, an expert in hilsa save the fish, but it is essential to keep our rivers healthy," he said, adding that effective moratorium on netting small fish and fish fries is a

One reporter replied that reporters are always dedicated to objective

in greater national interest as well as for upholding image of the country.

Information Minister Tariqul Islam also took part in the talks. Prime Harris Chowdhury and Mohammed Mosaddek Ali--Press Secretary Tajul Islam and Principal Information

truck terminals. Mohiuddin Kazi from the WB said

check its finds before making the final submitting the report to the prime

agement.

The standing committee yesterday however rejected the proposal for meeting in Saudi Arabia citing

"I am ready to help Bangladesh

"Guests are welcome, but they

"The IMDT act (passed in parlia-

Convenor of national committee of the Bikalpa Dhara Badruddoza Chowdhury, Member Secretary Major (retd) MA Mannan and Member Mahi B Chowdhury spearheaded the procession from a black microbus, escorted by their private security personnel. A large number

impact on the economic develop-Bilateal trade and business relationship between the two developing countries were also discussed.

relations" Brig General Zakir briefed General Nyunt about the package of incentives being offered by BEPZa

the production-oriented congenial

friend of Myanmar and I pay respect In the afternoon, General Khin

### Shahnur Rahman of Puthia Police LGRD and Cooperatives Minister

Jamaat-e-Islami activists aided by police swooped on agitating AL activists triggering the hour-long battle that also saw firefights, sources said. Seven shops were also dam-

the vehicles. Four of the seized trucks were registered in Chittagong under the

Halishahar Sailors' Colony, Bondar. truck could not be known except that it was registered in Dhaka.

an arms smugglers' syndicate. Customs intelligence is also watch ing three foreign vessels at Chittagong port to see if they are somehow con-

### Babar

territory and sent it to the

such step without apprising me.

Earlier a newspaper reported the

"We cannot allow this problem to

Taliban sanctuaries, it would be

Afghanistan.

difficult to fully eliminate security problems in the south and east of

his robust role in steering the recent movement that demanded the

they would take all possible measures for the safety of Prof Siddique.

the legislator's brother, accused of running a smuggling syndicate based in coastal areas of Karnaphuli and Anowara, acted as the kingpin of the aunrunning operation.

The discussions also hinted that

"Ahmadiyyas are not Muslims, as

Hailing the January 8 ban on the 'The government decision proves the rationale of our movement.

"The verdict of the Organisation

rifle, a foreign-made pistol, four magazines of AK-47 rifle and 325

Muslims," he claimed. member executive committee said its leaders and activists would form committees in upazilas and districts by June 30 to gear up their movement. Jamaat cadre

FROM PAGE 1 on two-day police remand. Police seized an AK-47 assault