

## GK project

**FROM PAGE 12**  
said in the official note on the decision to re-tender." He went on, "If the ministry sends any proposal with specific suggestion, the cabinet purchase committee can consider it. But the ministry can decide on its own if it wants to re-tender it. It does not need the cabinet committee's decision on this matter."

Sources say a business group using political connection had been trying to get last year's bidding scrapped and a fresh tender floated so that a pre-determined company gets the deal for a much higher cost.

This scheme is being implemented mainly by using a Japanese Debt Relief Grant Aid of \$17.99 million.

Although the WDB found Ebara's financial proposal and technical qualification outstanding, the water resources ministry, through its inter-ministerial tender committee, stopped the project awarding, saying that the WDB did not ensure wider participation in the tender.

The tender committee in last November said the scheme should be re-tendered as per the Public Procurement Regulations, 2003.

On January 10, parliamentarian from Kushtia Shahidul Islam complained to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on water resources ministry that the inter-ministerial tender committee's attempt to re-tender the project was suspicious, baseless and made with "ill-motives".

Later, a sub-committee of the parliamentary body investigated the re-tendering process and found that the inter-ministerial tender committee ignored the WDB technical committee report for awarding the work to the lowest bidder. It remarked that the suggestion to re-tender was faulty.

"This type of decision is unacceptable in the national interest," the sub-committee headed by Kazi Rafiqul Islam, MP, said in its report, which was later sent to the water resources ministry.

The standing committee then suggested the ministry to go ahead with the existing offer of Ebara as it was cost effective and transparent.

But the ministry once again ignored this suggestion.

### Background of the Project

The ministry has been trying to get

## Govt may seek

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Bangladesh would seek help from Britain to probe the incident.

Speaking at a press briefing at the foreign ministry, he said, "We condemn in the strongest possible terms the heinous and cowardly act."

The explosion at the shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal in Sylhet led three people killed and the envoy and about 70 others injured.

"The government is determined to find out who are behind this act," said Morshed. "We do not want to comment on the investigations obviously because of security reasons."

"We know what happened, but we do not know who committed the act and why. The investigation will continue until they are found," he said.

"Jumping to conclusions will distract us from the investigation, so we need to exercise restraint," Morshed replied when asked if religious militants were involved in the incident.

Morshed read out a letter sent by British Foreign Secretary Jack

## Army deployment

**FROM PAGE 1**  
after election. Police, BDR, armed police, ansars will also be deployed to ensure security.

"We have to make sure that that voters cast their vote without any difficulty," Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Syed told the meeting.

The CEC asked the law enforcers to discharge their duties efficiently and honestly so that the polls are held peacefully.

They also assured the CEC of all out cooperation and said they have already take necessary measures to maintain law and order.

The CEC told newsmen that he received some allegations of violation of electoral code of conduct and directed the returning officers to take stern action against the persons responsible.

Election commissioners, home secretary, EC secretary, inspector general of police, chief of armed forces division were among others who attended the meeting presided over by MA Syed.

## Make wealth

**FROM PAGE 12**  
finance minister said, "This is a bad practice and it is non-transparent. I will propose a bill in parliament to curtail such practices."

A BNP MP pointed out, "We came to power by making public commitment against corruption and crime. We must keep it. We should take two steps first – to determine the source of black money and recover default loans."

He asked what is the source of income of customs officials sporting expensive cars.

## UK mission

**FROM PAGE 1**

Including a leader of the AL's student wing Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), taking the total number of arrests to nine.

An intelligence source said Scotland Yard and MI-5, the UK agencies for national criminal investigations and military intelligence, might initiate probes into the terrorist act.

Our Sylhet correspondent adds: The regional office of the British High Commission and Visa Application Centre in Sylhet were kept closed yesterday.

Police and paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles kept the spot of explosion at the shrine's main gate and adjacent places cordoned off. Shoes and chappals left by people who fled in terror after the bomb went off are still lying scattered in the area.

ASI Kamal Uddin, who joined Sylhet Special Branch of Police on May 19, succumbed to his injuries 3:00am yesterday. He received splinters while working as a body-guard of the British envoy.

After the namaj-e-janjana held at Sylhet Police Lines in the afternoon, his body was sent to his village home in Muradnagar, Comilla.

One of the bomb casualties whose identity could not be ascertained immediately was identified yesterday as Hobiul Miah, 35, son of Tahir Ali of Baishntia, Khadimnagar. The body of the apparently innocent victim was handed over to his family in the afternoon.

The five who were arrested Yesterday are Selim Ahmed, BCL Sylhet district unit joint convener, Harunur Rashid, BCL Sylhet district unit social welfare secretary, Abdul Mukhtar, a local BCL leader, Shafiur Rahman Solaiman, a businessman and brother of local Juba League leader and Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) Ward Commissioner Azadur Rahman Azad, and Shirajul Islam.

Earlier on Friday night, police arrested four persons including BCL Sylhet City Unit Convener Habibur Rahman Selim and Central Committee Member Alam Khan Mukti, and local leaders Abdul Quaiyum and Khokan Ali in Dargah Gate area.

All the nine arrestees were produced before a magistrate's court yesterday. The court placed all of them in five-day police remand.

The ruling coalition in Sylhet has announced to observe May 28 as 'Doa Dibash' (prayer day). According to the announcement, special prayers will be offered at mosques, temples and other places of worship on the day. Prayer and a milad mahfil will also be held at Hazrat Shahjalal Mosque that day after the juma prayers.

At a press conference yesterday, SCC Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran alleged the security arrangement in the shrine area last Friday for a VIP like the British high commissioner was very poor. "It was a failure on the part of the local administration, specially of the police," he said.

Briefing journalists yesterday, Foreign Minister Morshed Khan said, "The high commissioner's condition is much better now. He is talking with his relatives and visitors."

"He received pellets in his legs and small pieces of steel objects hit under his thigh," he told reporters at the foreign ministry, adding, "He may be flown to London for further check-up."

The foreign minister said, if needed, the government might seek help of foreign investigation agencies. "But, we have received no such offer yet."

After visiting Hazrat Shahjalal's shrine yesterday, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Shahudul Haque refused to make any hasty conclusion about the motives and identities of the attackers. "It is very difficult to jump to any conclusion at this point," the IGP said, adding police would hold talks with the injured and locals to pinpoint the place of occurrence and identify the attackers.

Security was beefed massively up at and around all diplomatic missions, key point installations and other important places in the capital. Security checks have been introduced at all entry points to the city.

Our Chittagong correspondent reported that security was also intensified at all key point installations, shrines, diplomatic missions and foreign offices based in the port city from yesterday.

President Prof Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday visited British High Commissioner Anwar Chowdhury, who is under treatment at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH). Expressing his deep anguish over the incident, the president said, "We will always remain beside him."

"The people of the country have condemned the heinous incident and the government has already taken appropriate steps to nab the culprits," President Ahmed said when Major General Ali Akbar apprised him that appropriate measures had been taken for proper treatment of Chowdhury and that he would recover soon.

There were few surprises in the policy agenda, which also called for deeper ties with the United States and promoting friendly ties with neighbours, including old enemy Pakistan. "I think the approach is right," said Tapan Kumar Bhaumik, of the Confederation of Indian Industry lobby group.

"It is an extension of reforms to those areas which were neglected. Reforms will be taken to the state level which is what is required now." But another analyst said the devil would be in the details.

"The government has set growth targets, but it has not spelt out how it will bridge the deficit and meet those targets," said Gopi Shenoy, assistant vice-president at IDBI Capital Markets.

At least 18 regional, socialist and communist parties have pledged to support the coalition. The communists have said they will not join the government but the others have been jockeying for ministerial positions.

## Hasina blames

**FROM PAGE 1**

Hasina, also the former prime minister, asked the government to immediately stand down for what she said was its failure to ensure people's security and due to the fact that even lawmakers and foreign envoys were not safe under its rule.

The AL chief referred to the bomb blasts in Mymensingh, Satkhira, Dinajpur, Tangail and Joypurhat and huge arms hauls in Chittagong, Bogra and Kuril in Dhaka (and said an international probe is necessary to find out where the munitions came from, who sent them, what materials were used in the bombs and who carried them).

She alleged that Jamaat was always against the shrines and Urs and that leaders of the 'fundamentalist party' including its lawmaker Delwar Hossain Saïdeed publicly delivered speeches many times against the shrines and asked people not to go there.

"They (Jamaat adherents) were involved with the previous bomb blast at Hazrat Shahjalal Shrine and are also with the latest one... they are doing so to scare common people off the shrines," she said.

## US probes

**FROM PAGE 12**  
President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali opened the session.

The Arabs "look forward to results that would rise to their ambitions of cooperation and solidarity," Ben Ali said to open the meeting of Arab kings, emirs, presidents, prime ministers and delegates from the Arab League's 21 countries. He asked delegates to stand in a moment of silence for the Palestinian victims of Israeli attacks.

A draft resolution to be submitted to the leaders for approval includes a strong condemnation of the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by US soldiers, while backing trials for officials of the former regime of Saddam Hussein for crimes committed against Iraqis and others during their rule.

"The leaders strongly condemn the crimes and inhuman and immoral acts" committed by troops against the Iraqi people, particularly those imprisoned. The draft resolution demanded trials and punishment for the perpetrators' "ugly crimes."

"Preliminary estimates suggest the death toll could be 35 although it could be even more. It is unlikely there would be any survivors as the spot where the bus finally landed is rocky."

Incessant rains and heavy mudslides in the state could have been the cause of the accident, the official said, adding that the bus had been carrying at least 45 passengers.

In the northern Himalayan state of Himachal Pradesh, at least 29 bodies were recovered Saturday after a truck carrying workers plunged into a gorge in a remote forested region late Friday, a police spokesman said.

## AL calls hartal

**FROM PAGE 12**  
international probe into the incident and immediate release of the party men arrested after the bomb blast.

They said the target of the bomb attack was British High Commissioner Anwar Chowdhury. They blamed "government-patronised fundamentalists" for the attack that left three people dead and about 70, including the British envoy and the deputy commissioner (DC) of Sylhet, injured.

Our Staff Correspondent from Sylhet reported that the four-party alliance at a press conference yesterday afternoon strongly condemned the blast at Hazrat Shahjalal Shrine and announced a protest programme.

The programme includes mourning procession and rally in Court Point area today, special prayers at mosques and other places of worship on May 28 and special munajat and milad mahfil at the mosque of Hajrat Shahjalal (RA) after Juma prayers the same day.

The alliance leaders demanded publication of the probe report of January 12 blast at the shrine. They,

however, ruled out the necessity of enquiry by any international agency. On the other hand, City Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran at a press conference yesterday morning strongly blasted Friday's bomb attack.

The mayor in his written statement alleged that the security arrangement in the shrine for a VIP like the British high commissioner was too poor. It is a failure of the local administration, he added.

## Manmohan sworn in

**FROM PAGE 1**  
increased investment in agriculture, D Raja, a Communist Party of India leader, told Reuters.

The government would encourage foreign investment and reduce the fiscal deficit but slow down privatisation of state firms, other party officials said.

There were few surprises in the policy agenda, which also called for deeper ties with the United States and promoting friendly ties with neighbours, including old enemy Pakistan. "I think the approach is right," said Tapan Kumar Bhaumik, of the Confederation of Indian Industry lobby group.

"It is an extension of reforms to those areas which were neglected. Reforms will be taken to the state level which is what is required now." But another analyst said the devil would be in the details.

"The government has set growth targets, but it has not spelt out how it will bridge the deficit and meet those targets," said Gopi Shenoy, assistant vice-president at IDBI Capital Markets.

At least 18 regional, socialist and communist parties have pledged to support the coalition. The communists have said they will not join the government but the others have been jockeying for ministerial positions.

## AHSANULLAH MURDER Accused landlord sent to jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The North Badda house owner who sheltered the three accused of murdering lawmaker Ahsanullah Master was sent to jail yesterday.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police produced Kabir Hossain before the First Class Magistrate's Court, Gazipur on completion of his five-day remand.

Police yesterday raided the house of prime accused Kana Hafiz's sister in Joydevpur but returned empty handed.

CID sources said of the three accused and four suspects now in jail, some have admitted that Kana Hafiz initiated gunfire on the meeting of the Awami League's volunteer wing Shechchhasebak League near the slain legislator's house in Noagaon in Tongi on May 7. Ahsanullah and schoolboy Omar Faruq Ratan were killed and at least five others injured in the indiscriminate fire. Two people died receiving bullets later while protesting the killings the same day.

The four-member CID team that is currently probing the case is interrogating the three accused, Mahbub, Monir and Dulal, who are on a 10-day remand and will be produced before the court on May 26. The CID arrested the three listed in the FIR (first information report) from Kabir's house in Purbanchal in North Badda on May 14. The other accused, whose name could not be known, managed to flee.

Kabir admitted to police that four accused hired a room in his house at Tk 700 a month immediately after the killings.

Asked on the interrogation, head of the team Assistant Superintendent Khalequzzaman said, "We're verifying the information they're giving us. We don't want to disclose anything without verification."

The college authorities also formed hostel committees that included 20 representatives of general students for each hostel to look into irregularities. No JCD leaders were on the committees.

The authorities attempted to allot seats to students on the basis of their merit and need and evict students staying illegally at the dormitories.

Most all teachers at the college were against the JCD's illegal activities. Many of them said JCD leaders were agitating as they feared they would no more be able to continue their illegal practice of taking money from the newcomers in exchange of hostel seats.

"We have been driven out from the college as we opposed JCD's illegal activities," one of the teachers said. "Our departure from the college is a silent protest against all illegal activities," she said in an emotion-

choked voice.

Meanwhile, Prof Feroza Begum of Bangla College and Prof Jahan-e-Gulsan of Dhaka Music College, newly appointed principal and vice-principal of Eden College, took over charge on May 13. Former vice-principal of the college Tahmina Hossain joined as head of Bangla department at Badrunnesa College the same day.

Earlier, JCD leaders strongly opposed TCHMina's transfer and confined her in the office on May 12. "We have complaints against the principal but not against the vice-principal and other teachers," one JCD leader said.

Prof Dilara Hafiz, who has been transferred from the post of Eden College principal and made Chairman of National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), joined her new post on Wednesday. She told The Daily Star over telephone, "Unruly students wanted to establish their supremacy at the college but we did not allow them to continue their illegal activities."

"I have left the college as I did not want to compromise with my conscience on the unruly students' illegal activities," she said in an emotion-

choked voice.

Meanwhile, Prof Feroza Begum of Bangla College and Prof Jahan-e-Gulsan of Dhaka Music College, newly appointed principal and vice-principal of Eden College, took over charge on May 13. Former vice-principal of the college Tahmina Hossain joined as head of Bangla department at Badrunnesa College the same day.

Earlier, JCD leaders strongly opposed TCHMina's transfer and confined her in the office on May 12. "We have complaints against the principal but not against the vice-principal and other teachers," one JCD leader said.

Prof Dilara Hafiz, who has been transferred from the post of Eden College principal and made Chairman of National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), joined her new post on Wednesday. She told The Daily Star over telephone, "Unruly students wanted to establish their supremacy at the college but we did not allow them to continue their illegal activities."

"I have left the college as I did not want to compromise with my conscience on the unruly students' illegal activities," she said in an emotion-

choked voice.

Meanwhile, Prof Feroza Begum of Bangla College and Prof Jahan-e-Gulsan of Dhaka Music College, newly appointed principal and vice-principal of Eden College, took over charge on May 13. Former vice-principal of the college Tahmina Hossain joined as head of Bangla department at Badrunnesa College the same day.

Earlier, JCD leaders strongly opposed TCHMina's transfer and confined her in the office on May 12. "We have complaints against the principal but not against the vice-principal and other teachers," one JCD leader said.

Prof Dilara Hafiz, who has been transferred from the post of Eden College principal and made Chairman of National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), joined her new post on Wednesday. She told The Daily Star over telephone, "Unruly students wanted to establish their supremacy at the college but we did not allow them to continue their illegal activities."

"I have left the college as I did not want to compromise with my conscience on the unruly students' illegal activities," she said in an emotion-

choked voice.

Meanwhile, Prof Feroza Begum of Bangla College and Prof Jahan-e-Gulsan of Dhaka Music College, newly appointed principal and vice-principal of Eden College, took over charge on May 13. Former vice-principal of the college Tahmina Hossain joined as head of Bangla department at Badrunnesa College the same day.

Earlier, JCD leaders strongly opposed TCHMina's transfer and confined her in the office on May 12. "We have complaints against the principal but not against the vice-principal and other teachers," one JCD leader said.

Prof Dilara Hafiz, who has been transferred from the post of Eden College principal and made Chairman of National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), joined her new post on Wednesday. She told The Daily Star over telephone, "Unruly students wanted to establish their supremacy at the college but we did not allow them to continue their illegal activities."

"I have left the college as I did not want to compromise with my conscience on the unruly students' illegal activities," she said in an emotion-

choked voice.

Meanwhile, Prof Feroza Begum of Bangla College and Prof Jahan-e-Gulsan of Dhaka Music College, newly appointed principal and vice-principal of Eden College, took over charge on May 13. Former vice-principal of the college Tahmina Hossain joined as head of Bangla department at Badrunnesa College the same day.

Earlier, JCD leaders strongly opposed TCHMina's transfer and confined her in the office on May 12. "We have complaints against the principal but not against the vice-principal and other teachers," one JCD leader said.

Prof Dilara Hafiz, who has been transferred from the post of Eden College principal and made Chairman of National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), joined her new post on Wednesday. She told The Daily Star over telephone, "Unruly students wanted to establish their supremacy at the college but we did not allow them to continue their illegal activities."

"I have left the college as I did not want to compromise with my conscience on the unruly students' illegal activities," she said in an emotion-

choked voice.

Meanwhile, Prof Feroza Begum of Bangla College and Prof Jahan-e-Gulsan of Dhaka Music College, newly appointed principal and vice-principal of Eden College, took over charge on May 13. Former vice-principal of the college Tahmina Hossain joined as head of Bangla department at Badrunnesa College the same day.

Earlier, JCD leaders strongly opposed TCHMina's transfer and confined her in the office on May 12. "We have complaints against the principal but not against the vice-principal and other teachers," one JCD leader said.

## Bangla Bhai arrest

**FROM PAGE 1**  
condition of anonymity.

Some other BNP leaders, mostly from greater Rajshahi region, however, have been opposing the home ministry order since its issuance and supporting the Bangla Bhai outfit all the way.

Allegations are there that a cabinet minister, a deputy minister and several lawmakers hailing from greater Rajshahi region are backing Bangla Bhai. They maintain that local people have welcomed Bangla Bhai and his men since police have completely failed to tame the outlaws in the northwest.

Home Ministry officials said the May 17 meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Law and Order chaired by Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan discussed the matter. It asked the home ministry to go for immediate legal action against Bangla Bhai.

The officials said State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babar, on instructions by the cabinet committee, ordered the inspector general of police the following day to arrest Bangla Bhai. High civil and police officials claim that the split in the government over the issue has rendered them helpless.

A top home ministry official told The Daily Star yesterday, wishing anonymity, that the order to arrest

Bangla Bhai is not being implemented due to heavy pressure against the arrest.

Sources at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said the minister-in-charge of Rajshahi, a deputy minister and several lawmakers of Rajshahi region recently brought the issue of elimination of outlaws to the attention of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

They told her that police failed to protect local people of greater Rajshahi who have long been repressed by the outlaws. The police failure prompted local people to launch the JMJB and the hunt for outlaws in the area side by side with the law-enforcing agencies.

They also argued that a stop to the ongoing vigilante operations of the JMJB would only fuel outlaw activities.

Home ministry officials also said they have information that besides the local ministers and lawmakers, some Islamic organisations and ruling coalition partner Jamaat-e-Islam's local units are indirectly supporting Bangla Bhai.

A home ministry official quoting intelligence reports said that two religion-based parties, including the Jamaat-e-Islami, are not only backing the JMJB and Bangla Bhai, but also helping the Islamist outfit with manpower and light weapons.

## JCD calls the shot

**FROM PAGE 12**  
the JCD staged a weeklong demonstration on the college campus from April 16 demanding removal of the principal for alleged corruption and admission-fee-hike.

JCD leaders met the education minister to press home their demands on April 24. The college authorities also formed hostel committees that included 20 representatives of general students for each hostel to look into irregularities. No JCD leaders were on the committees.

The authorities attempted to allot seats to students on the basis of their merit and need and evict students staying illegally at the dormitories.

Most all teachers at the college were against the JCD's illegal activities. Many of them said JCD leaders were agitating as they feared they would no more be able to continue their illegal practice of taking money from the newcomers in exchange of hostel seats.

"We have been driven out from the college as we opposed JCD's illegal activities," one of the teachers said. "Our departure from the college is a silent protest against all illegal activities," she said in an emotion-

choked voice.

Meanwhile, Prof Feroza Begum of Bangla College and Prof Jahan-e-Gulsan of Dhaka Music College, newly appointed principal and vice-principal of Eden College, took over charge on May 13. Former vice-principal of the college Tahmina Hossain joined as head of Bangla department at Badrunnesa College the same day.

Earlier, JCD leaders strongly opposed TCHMina's transfer and confined her in the office on May 12. "We have complaints against the principal but not against the vice-principal and other teachers," one JCD leader said.

Prof Dilara Hafiz, who has been transferred from the post of Eden College principal and made Chairman of National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), joined her new post on Wednesday. She told The Daily Star over telephone, "Unruly students wanted to establish their supremacy at the college but we did not allow them to continue their illegal activities."

"I have left the college as I did not want to compromise with my conscience on the unruly students' illegal activities," she said in an emotion-

choked voice.

Meanwhile, Prof Feroza Begum of Bangla College and Prof Jahan-e-Gulsan of Dhaka Music College, newly appointed principal and vice-principal of Eden College, took over charge on May 13. Former vice-principal of the college Tahmina Hossain joined as head of Bangla department at Badrunnesa College the same day.

Earlier, JCD leaders strongly opposed TCHMina's transfer and confined her in the office on May 12. "We have complaints against the principal but not against the vice-principal and other teachers," one JCD leader said.

Prof Dilara Hafiz, who has been transferred from the post of Eden College principal and made Chairman of National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), joined her new post on Wednesday. She told The Daily Star over telephone, "Unruly students wanted to establish their supremacy at the college but we did not allow them to continue their illegal activities."

"I have left the college as I did not want to compromise with my conscience on the unruly students' illegal activities," she said in an emotion-

choked voice.

Meanwhile, Prof Feroza Begum of Bangla College and Prof Jahan-e-Gulsan of Dhaka Music College, newly appointed principal and vice-principal of Eden College, took over charge on May 13. Former vice-principal of the college Tahmina Hossain joined as head of Bangla department at Badrunnesa College the same day.

Earlier, JCD leaders strongly opposed TCHMina's transfer and confined her in the office on May 12. "We have complaints against the principal but not against the vice-principal and other teachers," one JCD leader said.

Prof Dilara Hafiz, who has been transferred from the post of Eden College principal and made Chairman of National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB), joined her new post on Wednesday. She told The Daily Star over telephone, "Unruly students wanted to establish their supremacy at the college but we did not allow them to continue their illegal activities."

"I have left the college as I did not want to compromise with my conscience on the unruly students' illegal activities," she said in an emotion-

choked voice.

Meanwhile, Prof Feroza Begum of Bangla College and Prof Jahan-e-Gulsan of Dhaka Music College,