from Rajshahi that people in

Bagmara, where the JMJB

unleashed a reign of terror, believe

men al-Qaeda remnants. "Their oft-

repeated talk about Laden and al-

. Qaeda made us believe they are al-

Qaeda members," a resident said.

The 50-minute video disc was

screened for new JMJB members to

watch at Razakar Ramjan Kaya

Anwar was killed as punishment for

Officials ponder

passengers on board on Sunday

Reports received from

Jahajmarar Char said the speeds of

swirling currents there varied

between 9 to 13 nautical miles an

hour and filled the 125 feet double-

deck vessel with mud and sand,

raising its weight by 150 to 200

capacity of the Rustam and Hamza

the salvage tugs deployed by

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport

Authority (BIWTA) to lift the vessel,

Seventy-five frogmen of naval

rescue ship BNS Shoibal also failed

to attach towline to the launch despite

several attempts since Wednesday

because of heavy currents and dark

in the depth of water, said Lt Emdad

commander of the ship.

The port officials of Chandpur

vowed to continue the operation until

the salvage of the Digonto, but

experts said official abandonment of

I am trying to get the message

Regarding Brian Lara, whose last

Test innings was the world record

400, Whatmore said they plan for

everyone and not just one particular

Everybody is human, Tendulkar is

human. So you just have to stick to

West Indies will start favourites but he

wanted his boys to go out there with a

would expect the West Indies to win

but we will have a real go at them. We

want to make an impression. It's not

like that they will go out there and get

600 because we are Bangladesh.

They might still get there but we will

make them fight for every run.

However, the goal remains persona

on the ground which has proved

batsman-friendly so far. The first

match played here was in June 2003

when Sri Lanka and the West Indies

played out a draw. Lara made 209

while Wavell Hinds also scored a

hundred. Sanath Jayasuriya also got

a ton. This year, West Indies comfort-

Habibul Bashar (captain), Hannan

Sarker, Javed Omar, Rajin Saleh,

mmad Rafique, Tapash Baisya,

England in back-to-back ODIs.

**BANGLADESH TEAM** 

This will only be the second Test

"We all know what Lara is capable

But he's human after all.

Whatmore acknowledged that

"Considering past history, people

across," said Whatmore.

vourtask."

point to prove.

improvement.

the drive was only a matter of time.

stood at 120 tonnes.

Officials said the combined

after being caught by a storm.

FROM PAGE 1

"Bangla Bhai showed his new

VIDEO PILFERAGE

training camp in Bagmara.

People in Bagmara call JMJB

Bangla Bhai has links to al-Qaeda.

Bangla Bhai

Afghanistan, many of them as

abouts of these Afghan returnees

returned home and are suspected to

be members of the JMJB Majlish-e-

Shura, the militant outfit's highest

Bangla Bhai to eliminate outlaws in

Atrai. Raninagar in Naogaon.

Bagmara in Rajshahi and Naldanga

and Singra in Natore," a JMJB

operative said, asking not to be

One such Laden's aide is Abdur

The JMJB opened 10 camps in

Rahman, popularly known as Shai

Bhai, commander of the JMJB camp

Bagmara, Durgapur, Atrai and

Naldanga in its intense hunt for

outlaws, with more such camps to

The operations style of JMJB

changed after the picture of a

hanged man triggered sharp reac-

Some of the al-Qaeda trained

ists in secret, as the group sus-

pended its anti-outlaw overt drive.

The JMJB operatives will now go

raiding the houses of suspected

outlaws, capturing and handing

At least eight people with sus-

pected ties to the banned Purbo

Banglar Communist Party have

been killed since the JMJB

launched its anti-outlaw operation

on April 1. The killings prompted the

underground men to fight back and

slaughter four alleged adherents of

The JMJB is allegedly demand-

ing part of the crops in the northwest

as religious contribution to raising

fund for the organisation and up to

Tk 2,000 in cash from ordinary

and might not suit slow bowlers.

Fellow left-armer Mohammad

Rafique is the lone specialist spinner

in the side. Tareq, who has put

together a string of impressive

performances in the one-day-

internationals for Bangladesh, will

share the new-ball with Tapash

Baisya. The 22-year-old didn't

feature in any of the three ODIs on

this tour but bowled steadily against

the West Indies Board XI in the three-

day match in Grenada. All-rounder

Mushfiqur Rahman will come in as

spinner is going to get out of this

wicket so it could become a gamble if

we go with two similar kind of

"Tareq has the ability to bring the

Coach Day Whatmore had one-

on-one interviews with the players,

particularly the top order batsmen

after the team-returned to their hotel

ball into the left-handers and that was

one of the considerations for picking

him." added Faruque.

"We are not sure how much a

first change.

Our staff correspondent reports

Test starts today

farmers, locals alleged.

them over to the police.

Bangla Bhai.

tions across the country last week

in Vitigram under Raninagar.

be set up in Bogra.

Twenty of them reportedly

"They are now working with

bodyguards. The present where-

are mostly unknown.

decision-making body.

training course specially designed

The first batch of 730 Rab members went into the extensive training course at Ansar camp in Shafipur from Tuesday and the remaining force will undergo the

"It'll take around four months to impart training to 5000 Rab forces and then we will start our full-fledged activities," Anwarul Iqbal, director general (DG) of the Rab, told The Daily Star yesterday.

However, sources inside the crackdown force said the Rab has already started intelligence work in different parts of the capital.

On a question, labal, also an "Our eight to 10 teams are additional inspector general of gathering intelligence in different police, said no such problem parts of the city," said a top Rab persists in the force as the government and the authorities concerned

before us, we are strictly instructed not to go for any action," he added.

action is due to complexities that arose over a rank dispute between police and army officials. Dissatisfaction surfaced among regular police officials following appointment of superintendent of police (SP) in the same rank with army major in the Rab, another source said.

six superintendents of police (SP) Rab officials

still high among police officials as an

same rank of an additional SP in the force. An army captain is a government official with the pay scale starting at Tk 6,150 while an addi-Some top police officials vented

army captain has been given the

their anger that in 1986, the autocrat Ershad government passed warrant of precedence, in which the army officials of the rank of major or above were upgraded one step equalling in rank a major with an SP. The SP and lieutenant colonel however, wear the same badges

placed the officials in the battalion

many of their colleagues first

expressed willingness to join the

Rab as the elite force members will

be given 30 percent forces' allow-

ance and 30 percent disturbance

allowance. They, however, started

lobbying for moving out of the

crackdown force due to the crisis

Armed Police Battalions (Amend-

launch the force and the govern-

ment will have to allocate Tk 80

crore a year to run its operations.

ment) Act 2003 in last July.

The Jatiya Sangsad passed the

Tk 402 crore is being spent to

over rank dispute.

A number of police officials said

having considered all aspects.

added.

despite the government order, they

Police said Joy is wanted in 10 murder cases filed with Rupsha, Terokhada and Bagerhat Police Stations. He hailed from Ikhrhi Katenga village under Terokhada

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia returned home last night concluding her fourday visit to Shanghai in China where she attended a global conference

and military officials were present at the airport to receive the prime

### Faruque's bail

The lower court on May 23 rejected Faruque's bail petitions and placed him on a three-day remand in the cases.

Biswas in Savar in connection to the two out of the 15 cases against the

External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh yesterday assured his Bangladesh counterpart M Morshed Khan over phone that India wanted to resolve all outstanding issues with Bangladesh and strengthen bilateral

Morshed called Natwar to tell him that he would visit New Delhi carrying letters of felicitations from Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for the new losain constituted the special bench Indian premier Manmohan Singh and

> o work together for further strengthening the existing bilateral relations. Indian National Security Advisor JN Dixit, who was in the minister's

room, also spoke with Morshed. This was the first official contact between Bangladesh and India since

starting on May 31.

Meanwhile, the common mininum programme announced by the ruling coalition yesterday said in its foreign policy agenda that outstanding issues with Bangladesh would be

### DCC

BDB candidate Mannan applied

sion on it and sent the application to

RO arranged a meeting for allocation of symbols among the candidates. As several candidates demanded 'Kula', the RO allocated the symbol in favour of an independent candidate through

Court, which asked the RO to reconsider allocation of 'Kula' to the BDB candidate. But the RO on May 25 once again refused him the election

### Caribbean flood

poverty and only a quarter of Haitians has access to safe drinking

bering about 3,500 foreign troops, was sent to Haiti to try to restore Aristide in February, the latest chapter in a long history of political

In the Dominican Republic, President Hipolito Mejia declared a day of national mourning for

Enriquillo, a lake where they had against walls, clinging to tree trunks and buried in the mud

Dogs trained to sniff out bodies were sent to join the recovery effort. Relief workers wore surgical masks against the stench of decomposing flesh and hauled bodies on stretch ers, while rescuers hacked through the rubble of stick shacks with

Many were buried in mass common graves. Authorities worried about diseases breaking out if bodies were left unburied Bulldozers dug holes to bury others where they were found, in ground where buildings stood a few days

# **PBCP** leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Detectives yesterday brought the Khulna divisional secretary of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party's (PBCP) M-L faction, who was arrested in the

made secretary of the underground outfit after the death of Abdur Rashid Shaikh alias Tapu in a

### PM returns

on poverty.

hearing on the cases with the lower court records

NGO's top officials, sources said.

the change of guards in New Delhi.

Natwar meanwhile recalled Indian ambassadors and high commissioners at Saarc and Asean nations for a two-day meeting,

conducted a three-day campaign in the areas about the drive.

The drive involving four platoons of police was led by Magistrate M Nurul Alam and started at 10am to continue until 2:00pm.

The magistrate said the drive aimed to free illegally occupied part of the road to reduce traffic congestion and facilitate smooth movement of vehicles and pedestrians.

drive. But they fear motor parts shops would again occupy the road and footpath.

reoccupied by the same people," said Jafar Ahmed, a local resident. Asked about this, the magistrate said police will remain deployed to monitor the situation for at least one

was a deal. But Rubaie told a Baghdad news conference that he understood that the U.S. military would respect the

And Iraqi fighters continued to load pick-up trucks with mortars, machineguns and other heavier weapons, while staying on in the city

with their personal automatic rifles. A deal with the radical young preacher could staunch a major source of trouble for U.S. troops as Washington prepares to hand over to an Iraqi interim government on June

### TROOPS KILLED

Three US marines were killed in action in the restive western Iraqi province of Al Anbar, the US-led coalition said in a statement yester-

The statement said that the three were killed Wednesday "while conducting security and stability operations" but gave no further More than 800 US soldiers have

according to a tally based on Pentagon figures. Of those, 586 have been killed in action. Meanwhile, four Iraqis were killed, including a town council official, and 19 others wounded Wednesday in

two attacks northeast of Baghdad

A town council official was killed on a motorway when gunmen overtook his car and opened fire, shooting him in the head, said police.

Hikmat Abdel Hussein, a member of the town council of Beni Saad, 20 km south of Baqubah, was killed and

northeast of Baghdad, police said.

### Cop dies in accidental gunshot

UNB, Gazipur

A police constable was shot dead by a colleague inside the armoury of Security Printing Corporation

Nazar Ali, 25, died instantly as he was hit by a bullet fired accidentally from the rifle of Taib Ali, another police constable, while cleaning his

But another source said Taib Ali shot and killed Nazar Ali following an altercation.

### **Philippines** foreign secy due May 30

Philippines Foreign Affairs Secretary Delia Domingo-Albert will pay an official visit to Bangladesh May 30-31 at the invitation of her counterpart M Morshed Khan.

She will hold official talks with Morshed Khan on bilateral relations and discuss ways for cooperation in trade, commerce, maritime and other regional and international issues of mutual concern.

recruits video footage on warfare training in Afghanistan and mobi-Delia Domingo-Albert is expected to call on President lajuddin lised support for an Islamic move-Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda ment," a senior police official said. 7ia and hold meetings with the Anwar Hossain, a JMJB memhealth and family welfare minister ber, went missing after the disc was and the education minister stolen from the camp in the first week of May. JMJB sources say

### anxious to return to Dhaka

BSS, Dhaka

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Choudhury, who

"I am determined to return to

He said that he was making a good recovery and was in good spirits, a British High Commission press release said.

The high commissioner also expressed gratitude for the messages of support he has received

those who were injured in the blast, and to the families of those killed.

### Student released

Ishtiaq Rizvi alias Rushu, 17, a secondary school student from Hamzerbagh High School. They asked his father Golam Rabbani, deputy manager of Hafiz Jute Mills, to pay them Tk 10 lakh for his son's

Four armed men picked Ishtiaq up in a CNG-run three-wheeler from front of Tayebia mosque in Bibirhat after the Maghrib prayers.

### CHT blockade

Khagrachhari and Bandarban protesting security forces' raid on PCJSS Guimara upazila office and arrest of 17 leaders and activists Tuesday.

It also demanded immediate release of the Tuesday's arrestees and withdrawal of what it said was false cases against them.

security personnel also raided Mohaionpara area in the district headquarters vesterday in search of PCJSS leaders and activists.

injured yesterday in police batoncharge and attacks by anti-blockade workers of Samo Odhikar Andolon (a platform of Bangalee settlers). In Rangamati, the blockade was

observed peacefully. Road transports and river vessels did not ply in the CHT, but the PCJSS allowed movement of auto-rickshaws for HSC examinees

Reports received from Bandarban said the blockade there passed off peacefully, too. A press release issued by the

PCJSS central office in Rangamati vesterday condemned the 'mass arrests' of its leaders and activists and what it said was atrocity com-

### BOU students

FROM PAGE 12 of textbooks. "As the fifth semester

students are the first batch of threeyear BA and BSS course, they are facing this trouble," one source said

Asked about the book crisis, Director of Dhaka Regional Centre Fateur Rahman said. "We have supplied most of the textbooks and hope we will be able to supply the rest by next week."

### Robbers take

up the guard and Khaled's driver

they forced Khaled to usher them into his apartment on the 7th floor." The robbers rang the doorbell and asked Khaled to respond to his

wife's enquiry. As she opened the door, the robbers herded all family members into a room at gunpoint. In the half an hour-long operation, the robbers left the house with

sets, police said. filed a case with Motijheel Police

culprits or recover anything till filling of this report at 7:15pm

# Proshika president

body on Tuesday evening at its head office.

Oxfam Netherlands sent letters of concern to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar urging them to ensure legal safe-guards against 'arbitrary detention' of both Faruque and Biswas.

They urged the Bangladeshi authorities 'to ensure that under no circumstances they are tortured or subjected to other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of punish-

the government to allow the detainees access to lawyers, family, and medical attention. Oxfam also appreciated Proshika's operations that 'worked for the poor.'

Advocacy Institute has sent a letter to the Bangladeshi Ambassador to the United States, Syed Hassan Ahmed, asking him to communicate its concern over the 'failures of Bangladesh government to comport to democratic norms and procedures' to the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

Advocacy Institute in the letter also observed that the arrest of the leadership of Proshika did not go

Anwar Choudhury among 70

They also visited the shrine spot

where the previous blast took place

killing five people. The detectives

video-taped some places of both the

spots yesterday. Later, they held a

meeting with the district police

Emerging from the meeting, Shaw told reporters that it was too

early to reach any conclusion about

the incident and that they were

happy with the co-operation they

"We are still reviewing the situation and things are yet to be

decided." he said when asked when

the British High Commission's

role to form a 'criminal protection committee' in the area to fight

robbery, abduction, rape and other

criminal offences, which might be

A joint force camp has been set

Meanwhile, Jhenidah police

recovered the body of abducted

transport trader Asaluddin, 40, of

Arpara under Kaliganj upazila in

Jhenidah from Khamarkumra field

the reason behind his abduction.

up in the area after the incident.

Sylhet office would reopen.

Captors free

received from Bangladesh

UK team

FROM PAGE 1

authorities.

iniured.

# held

zzaman of Kakdanga village under Kotalipara upazilla of Gopalganj district. Sources said he was the founder member of Kakdanga Darul Ulim Hafizia Madrasa and a relative of Mufti Abdul Hannan Munshi of Katalipara. Earlier on Tuesday police held one Paritosh

headway in the investigation of the bomb threat till yesterday. They (police) were quizzing both the arrestees and checking three films that had been seized from the

### JS probe

FROM PAGE 12

more than the actual market price. Following a heated debate between Huda and the committee members, a sub-committee was formed to probe the allegations and submit its

maintenance projects worth Tk 300 crore during the monsoons. "Roads and Highways Department asked 81 private firms to complete the

tee chairman said. The committee instructed the ministry to initiate necessary steps to stop irregularities in toll collection at Meghna-Daudkandi Bridge, as Irregularities in toll collection at the bridge are being reported fre-

## 3 more pvt operators

district headquarters, Tongi and Dhaka excluding Dhaka city, Jinjira and Savar.

The commission has segmented the country Central. South-East. South-West, North-East and North-

The Central zone covers Dhaka city, Jinjira, Savar, Narayanganj district headquarters, Gazipur district headquarters and Tongi, which has been out of bounds to open licensing regime as WorldTel Bangladesh Limited served a legal notice on the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications in early January not to open Dhaka city to the other

The ministry awarded licence to WorldTel in July 2001 to run 300,000 operator Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB), for four years from the date of commencement of service. Bangladesh's teledensity is still

the lowest in South Asia, according to statistics of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). Only 1.56 of 100 inhabitants here have telecoms access, the 2003 data of the UN telecoms watchdog say.

Cell phones outnumber fixed-line telephones in Bangladesh, which has 0.55 fixed phone per 100 inhabitants. The number of mobile phones per 100 people stands at

Currently, the country has around Telecom Authority (BRTA). The cellular phones provided by four operators in foreign ventures number

The OPEC ministers are due to

meet in Beirut next Thursday to

discuss a Saudi Arabian proposal to

probably have to raise production

allocations by more than 2.3 million

bpd, 10 percent, to have any hope of

with estimates of Opec production

already that much over official

output limits, anything less than 2.3

million bpd would do little to reas-

He said the options being consid-

ered for a meeting of the Opec

countries on June 3 in Beirut were

for increases of two million bpd, 2.3

He acknowledged in Jakarta that

denting bulls' enthusiasm.

sure traders of more supply.

the peak-demand summer driving season, supply security fears and bullish speculators.

cates that price of oils on the international market will decline further hoped

lost more heat yesterday morning as traders held their nerve despite a report of tight US inventories, locking in profits ahead of a likely production boost by Opec (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) producers next week.

North Sea crude oil for delivery in July fell by 35 cents to \$36.73 in early deals. New York's reference light sweet crude for delivery in July dipped 23 cents to \$40.47.

cents to \$40.80 a barrel on according to reports.

"The third (option) we have a

Saudi Arabia has already made a commitment to deliver real extra volumes of about 10 percent in June, taking its production to 9.1 million bpd, whatever Opec

# Rab yet to get

for them, Rab sources said training in phases, they added.

official seeking anonymity. "Even if any offence takes place

The delay in putting the force into

The government finally removed from the elite force following a series of brainstorming meetings with top

Despite the move, frustration is

### Mystery deepens over FROM PAGE 1 Kula. The by-poll was slated for June

Court records show the returning officer (RO) of the constituency filed the petition with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, which is tantamount to jumping the hierarchy of the Election Commission (EC).

But the RO, Mia Mostak Ahmed,

last night told The Daily Star that he did not file any petition and added: "I have no jurisdiction to do so. I may be made a party to the case without my knowledge. Additional Attorney General Abdur Rezzak Khan came up with a

different story. First he told The Daily

Star that it was filed by the EC, a claim

denied by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MASyed. Later, he said it was the RO who filed the petition. But then he said: "I cannot recall who did it. Ask the

Advocate on Record Mohammad

advocate on record about it.'

to check with the records.

of the court documents, said: "The EC as well as the RO filed the peti-But when he was told that the CEC and other commissioners have

denied going to court, he said: "I have

said: "It will be a lie if I say I cannot

recall the petitioner's name. I am

Pressed to divulge the name, he

Wahidullah, who maintains records

refraining from speaking. You better contact Additional Attorney General AJ Mohammad Ali. When contacted, Mohammad Ali said the EC filed the petition. But later

he said: "Contact the advocate on record. When he was told about the advocate on record's version, Mohammad Ali said: "You come to court and see the records for your-

self." The record shows the RO as the petitioner The mystery became apparent when leading lawyers including Dr Kamal Hossain and Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud questioned the government's involvement in the

office went to court to file the appeal. CEC Syed, who holds a constitutional post, was totally ignored in filing the case, raising a host of questions about the motive for such a move. In his reaction to The Daily Star, Syed said: "The Election

Commission (EC) has not filed any

case when the attorney general's

petition against the stay order of the High Court. Usually, we do not move any petition in such a situation." The government's becoming a party to the case as the attorney general's office moved the appeal in favour of the RO has whipped up the

AK Mohammad Ali, election

commissioner, told The Daily Star

last night: "We have not appealed

against the stay order, nor have we

given permission to anyone to do it

## for us. The court will decide whether

controversy even more.

officer of the constituency and his men, intelligence agents, áctivists of Jatiya Party leader Azam Khan and lawyers crowded the courtroom yesterday and the noise they generated apparently prompted the

special arrangement for journalists who come to court to discharge their professional duties. But the judge ruled it out. Rokanuddin later told journalists court is a public place and everyone has a right to enter it, adding that neople came to court after knowing

about the court proceedings in

newspapers. He termed the ruling unexpected. Dr Kamal Hossain, another counsel, told the press that there is no such instance in the world where journalists are barred from hearing the case proceedings. He noted that iournalists should have the freedom to gather information since that is the RO can file the petition on his

Dr Kamal on behalf of Mannan yesterday phoned the CEC and wanted to know whether the FC filed any appeal petition. The CEC's reply was in the negative, sources close to

Dr Kamal said. The government became hyperactive to counter the High Court's stay order. The attorney general's office on behalf of the RO appeared before the chamber judge of the appellate division Wednesday.

ay the High Court order.

But the chamber judge did not

The government then asked the

chamber judge to request the chief

justice to form a special bench for the

hearing of the appeal. The formation of a special bench became necessary as the High Court goes on vacation on Saturday. Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir

the same night. The bench yesterday heard the petition and adjourned the hearing until 10:30am tomorrow. EC Secretary SM Zakaria

became hyperactive sending EC

officials to court to collect stay order

documents on Wednesday. Contacted, Zakaria declined to comment on the issue but said, "It is sub judice to talk about it and we are waiting for the court's judgment." During yesterday's hearing former justice TH Khan moved the

petition for the RO and argued that Mannan's writ petition to the High Court seeking 'Kula' as election symbol is not maintainable. Two additional attorneys general were present during Khan's argument. The appeal by the RO is more

intriguing as legal experts point out

that the RO acted as a 'judge' when

he rejected 'Kula' to Mannan. Now the 'judge', in this case the RO, cannot appeal against a higher court's verdict.

to the EC on May 10 for "Kula" as election symbol. But the EC did not take any decithe RO for necessary measures. According to the election law, the

Mannan then went to the High

FROM PAGE 12

The peacekeeping force, numorder after an armed revolt forced out former President Jean-Bertrand upheaval in the country.

In the devastated Dominicar town of Jimani, bodies were taken from the mud and from Lago been swept by the raging waters. Corpses were found crushed

hatchets searching for corpses.

Ministers, diplomats, high civil

FROM PAGE 12
The court fixed June 5 for full

High Court area and the Detective Branch of Police nabbed Proshika Vice-president David William

### Anti-Dhaka river

FROM PAGE 1

Congress President Sonia Gandhi.

FROM PAGE 12

People of the area welcomed the "Today they (DCC) are freeing the road but tomorrow it will be

month. A high level meeting of DCC officials and Dhaka Metropolitan Police (traffic) took this decision on May 24, he added Fazlul Karim, president of Dhaka Truck and Mini Truck Malik Samity said, "Setting up a truck terminal on

people have grabbed the land the DCC gave us for a terminal." DCC and traffic police officials assured the samity that the land would be recovered from illegal occupants. A meeting with the truck owners on this issue will be held on May 31, they said.

a road is illegal. But influential

### Police seized black masks, swords belts and diaries from Bangla Bhai on August 17, 2002 and linked him

and his cadres as the leader and

activists of another Islamic militant

organisation. Harkat-ul-Jihad, with

their stronghold in Mollahat in the

After arrest, Bangla Bhai went

behind the name of Siddigul Islam.

southwestern district.

Dreaded boss

son of Nazir Hossain of Karnipara village in Gabtali upazila in Bogra. The AL leader lodged the first nformation report with Mollahat Police Station, accusing Bangla Bhai and 14 others. But police dropped from the chargesheet five accused, including Bangla Bhai,

who was in Bagerhat Jail for three

police in Bagubah said

Iraq cleric offers truce

his driver wounded.

Police arrested Taib Ali. They sent the body of Nazar Ali to Gazipur Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

# **Envoy Anwar**

is under treatment at a London hospital, is recovering fast and will return to Dhaka as soon as his doctors allow. Acting British High Commissioner Robert Gibson said quoting a message from Choudhary

Dhaka as soon as my doctors allow," Anwar Choudhury said in his message to the acting high commis-

since the explosion in Sylhet on May He expressed deep sympathy to

FROM PAGE 1 is believed to have been involved the abduction, sources said. Abductors, meanwhile, kidnapped

FROM PAGE 1 three hill districts -- Rangamati,

Sources in Khagrachhari said

Five pro-blockade pickets were ably chased 280-plus scores on consecutive days when they met

Mohammad Ashraful, Faisal Hossain, Mushfiqur Rahman, Khaled Mashud (wicketkeeper), Mohaduring the blockade Tareq Aziz Khan and Manjarul Islam

and taped their mouth. At gunpoint

Tk 5.26 lakh in cash, 111 tolas of gold ornaments and five mobile Khaled's brother Didar Hossain

increase to make a "psychological

with the elementary fair play that it, along with many others, had always expected from Bangladesh. The letters came following a report by Amnesty International on

May 24 that said Kazi Farugue and David William Biswas were held incommunicado and were at grave Meanwhile, in Dhaka, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) held a rally and formed a human chain to protest at Faruque's arrest. Coalition for the Urban Poor (CUP), a coalition of 48 Non-Government Organisations (NGO), in a press

release yesterday also expressed

grave concern at the arrests and

subsequent halt in Proshika's

# One more on charge of bomb threat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

The arrested man was identified as Hafez Mohammod Akhtaru-

Meanwhile, police made no

# was sold at Tk 1.50 lakh to 2 lakh

maintenance work in June to September. But, the quality of work amid the rains will surely be not good. So, we have asked to start the work in the dry season," the commit-

### behind the killing. quently." Maniur Hossain said

contact with them.

FROM PAGE 1 Sylhet, Habiganj, Moulvibazar, Sherpur, Jamalpur, Netrakona, Mymensingh, Kishoregani, Tangail, Munshigani, Manikgani, Narayanganj excluding the district headquarters, Gazipur excluding the

Westzones.

### about 2,300,000 fixed-line phones in the capital, along

FROM PAGE 12

months. However, analysis indiin the coming weeks," the minister According to reports oil market

The price of benchmark Brent

Wednesday, showing a drop of over \$1 since it peaked at \$41.85 in

significant increase so as to give a psychological impact to reducing oil prices," Purnomo was quoted by nternational news agencies as

million or more than 2.3 million.

### Court bans FROM PAGE 1

udge to clamp the ban. Only 10/12 journalists were present at the time. Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud one of the counsels for the petitioner, urged the court to make a

what they do.

TH Khan, the lawyer for the EC, said he has no idea why the judge gave the ruling.

## brought to Khulna

capital Tuesday night, to Khulna. Mashikul Islam alias Joy, 34, was

police-outlaws shootout.

Sources say police officials also suggested that the JMJB change its operations style. JMJB leaders now plan to take action against seven leftist extrem-

On May 22, a National Security ntelligence team held Faruque in

The two foreign ministers agreed

bowlers. That's why we have decided to strengthen the batting more by choosing Faisal," said chief selector and team operations manager Faruque Ahmed on Wednesday.

following practice on Wednesday. The batting has been a problem area for the Tigers throughout the heaps. Earlier, the authorities tour and the coach emphasised on the importance of not dropping concentration for a moment. "The batters are painfully aware of the fact that they have not done well so far. They are technically capable

### and I have no doubts about that. It's just that they have to guard against losing early wickets. Tino Best may be their fastest and there will be others coming at you if the West Indies go with four fast bowlers as expected. But they can't continue

bowling at the same level forever. So

After hours of silence from the U.S. side. Sadr aides threatened to suspend the withdrawal until there

now died since the start of the US-led invasion of Iraq in March last year,

Earlier, three people were killed and 18 wounded when a car bomb exploded at Balad Ruz, 75 kilometres

Limited here yesterday morning. Police sources said Constable

In their letters Oxfam also urged President and co-chair of

**Tungipara** 

Police vesterday arrested one more person in connection with the threat to blow up the tomb of Banga-bandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Tungipara of Gopalganj

report within30 days.

The JS body yesterday also asked the ministry to stop 80 road

yesterday morning.
Al-Amin, the victim's son, told police that an armed gang of six forcibly took his father into a microbus from near their house at around 11:00 but did not make any Police could not tell the reason

with the state-owned telecoms

1,000,000 fixed telephone lines installed by the BTTB, Sheba Telecom and Bangladesh Rural

# Govt plans no oil price

"We'll be affected only if high lift the cartel's official production price continues in the coming ceiling by at least two million barrels per day (bpd). Opec President Purnomo Yusgiantoro said the cartel would

The contract had fallen by 44

electronic trading on May 17,

### Station in this connection. Police held security guard Fazlul US oil prices, however, eased Haq for interrogation. Police said with Opec's president trying to soothe the market by saying the they could not arrest any of the cartel was considering a big output