# Allawi nominated as Fisherman transitional Iraqi PM

AP, Baghdad

The Iraqi Governing Council on Friday nominated one of its own members, Iyad Allawi, a Shia Muslim physician who spent years in exile, to become prime minister of the new government to take power June 30, members said.

The chief US administrator in Iraq, L. Paul Bremer, was at Friday's council session and congratulated Allawi on his nomination, said Mustafa al-Marayati, an aide to council member Raja Habib al-Khuzaai.

The council also planned to nominate a president and two vice presidents. But it was not known whether UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi has approved the choices.

Brahimi has been leading the process for drawing up the new government, which also includes 26 Cabinet ministers. The final lineup is scheduled to be announced by

"The whole process is based on guidelines and recommendations made by" Brahimi, said al-Marayati. Allawi was endorsed unanimously by the 25-member council,

Allawi was formerly secretarygeneral of the Iraq National Accord, an opposition group made up in part by former military officers who had

council member Mahmoud Othman

defected from Saddam Hussein's

Faced with ongoing violence in Iraq, the council members chose Allawi because they believe the military experience within his party puts him in the best position to cope with the security crisis, according to his aide, Ibrahim al-Janabi

His cousin, Ali Allawi, is Iraqi defense minister. Allawi was also rumored to be close to the CIA during his years in

the Iraqi opposition movement, nich date back to the 1970s. During his years in exile, Allawi

was the little-known favorite of CIA officers wary of dealing with the flashier, better-known exile leader

Chalabi, popular among the architects of the Iraq invasion at the Pentagon, has fallen out of favor in recent months after his information about Saddam's weapons of mass destruction was discredited.

While living in London in 1978, Allawi survived an assassination attempt believed to have been ordered by Saddam

His Iraqi National Accord group advocated a coup against Saddam but an attempt in 1996 failed. Afterward, Allawi continued to enjoy strong Western support, including within the State Department and Britain's MI-6 intelligence service.

# Bangla Bhai's men

The JMJB men picked up Khejur along with Badshah and Bashar from Simba village in Raninagar and Ala from Sharia village in Atrai in Naogaon on May 19 in apparent backlash two days after the PBCP killed two JMJB cadres.

The militant outfit members announced by loudspeaker on the night of May 19 that they would slaughter the three in public the next

day.

Badshah, bludgeoned to death, was found hanging from a roadside tree in Nandigram in Bogra, not far away from Naogaon. Ala, believed to have roles in a string of killings, was learnt to be alive, while Bashar was rescued seriously wounded on

#### **SÓUTHWEST-BOUND JMJB**

Sources said Bangla Bhai, dreaded operations commander of the JMJB, has sent a message to his followers at Mollahat and Morrelgani upazilas in Bagerhat to prepare for an outlaw cleansing operation. Intelligence agencies have been

put on high alert in Khulna and Bagerhat to track down the followers of Bangla Bhai, who are operating in different guises especially in shrimp enclosures A district special branch official

said Bangla Bhai's followers are part of Jamaatul Mujahideen, another Islamist outfit. with their stronghold in Mollahat and Morrelgani.

"We are on high alert to prevent Bangla Bhai's so-called call for a

hat," a senior police officer said. Bangla Bhai has reportedly asked

his men to fan out across Khulna and Bagerhat where Jamaat-e-Islami Bandladesh, partner of the ruling coalition, has a stronghold. Asked, Jamaat legislator from

Khulna-5 constituency Mia Golam Parwar said his party has no connection with Jamaatul Mujahideen and the so-called movement of Bangla

#### TALE OF TORTURE

Villagers of Vitigram in Naogaon said the JMJB men forced girls and women into their camp at Siddigia Fazil Madrasa and tortured them. The villagers declined to give further details for security reasons. JMJB men extorted over Tk 6 lakh

in the last few days from areas close to their main camp in Raninagar.

Raninagar with a promise to fight the outlaws, but later vowed to establish an Islamic rule and began collecting tolls to raise a fund for it

Bangla Bhai branded landowner Jagannath of Baragachha village in demanded money from him.

On his refusal, Bangla Bhai men pulled down his house and looted his property on Tuesday night to pay the fare of vehicles they used in their showdown in Raishahi last week.

Locals said the JMJB operatives demanded Tk 3,000 from Rafiqul of Kawragini village and tortured him at their camp, as he did not pay.

They snatched 11 motorbikes, 17 cellphones from Abadpukur area to use them for their organisation. They later returned three phones in exchange for money.

Top JMJB cadre Anwar who went missing several days ago is not found until yesterday. A source said the JMJB men might have killed him charging him with passing a video disc on Taliban training in Afganistan to reporters

#### **NOTRUST IN POLICE**

The JMJB men spread a reign of terror and killed at least 10 people in their two-month vigilante action in Atrai and Raninagar, but no-one wants to file a case. Talking to The Daily Star,

Raninagar and Atrai residents said they do not trust police to disclose JMJB torture. "They have played as JMJB's aiding force over the last two months." a local said, questioning the sincerity of police to arrest the JMJB operatives.

After much insistence, an elderly villager said: "You saw what police did when they (JMJB) made an announcement by loudspeaker to kill three outlaws and hung one's body from a tree the next day.

### **STILLACTIVE**

Although Bangla Bhai went into hiding on Tuesday night, sources said his adherents are still on the prowl. JMJB operatives work in 150 units in Atrai and Raninagar. Some JMJB operatives were

found guarding different points in some villages, but police did not identify them as JMJB operatives.

A source says Bangla Bhai is now staying in the house of an influential political leader of Natore and controlg JMJB vigilante activities.

Talking to reporters Thursday Naggaon Superintendent of Police (SP) Fazlur Rahman said: "Despite our frantic efforts over the last four days, we have failed to arrest Bangla Bhai. You (journalists) have many sources, please let me know if you

The Daily Star alerted the police officer on May 19 to JMJB men's announcement of slaughtering four outlaw operatives, but he then dis-

#### They set up camps in Atrai and have any information about his whereabouts."

## Gazipur companies

turmoil

Like Tusuca, about 1,000 mills and factories in the district suffered similar production loss due to the

The industries also could not go for shipment of cargo, resulting in a stockpile of goods and delay in export, industry sources said.

Moreover, several thousand poultry farms could not supply eggs to the capital as vehicles stayed off the road to Dhaka. They also had difficulty collecting poultry feed.

At least half a dozen factories at Tongi BSCIC industrial estate and beside Dhaka-Mymensingh highway were attacked and workers and employees driven away by demonstrators after the legislator was

All factories located beside the highway kept production suspended for four days and those a little away from the highway somehow operated partially, industry sources said.

assassinated, witnesses said.

"We faced a lot of problems carrying out export orders. Many shipment schedules were revised following discussions with the buyers," said Mominul Islam, gen-

eral manger of Nightingale Fashion Limited, at Konabari BSCIC indus-But AKM Mozammel Huque, president of Gazipur district AL,

said: "Attacks on some factories

were stray incidents. We kept garment factories out of the purview of hartal programmes.

Huque, also chairman of Gazipur municipality, said he and his party want to keep economic activities unaffected during political programmes

Meanwhile, 129 large and medium industries located at BSCIC industrial estate at Konabari are also facing other problems. The authorities made little efforts for development of the industrial estate and repair of roads since it was established in 1987. Factories at the estate are also suffering because of frequent power failures, sources in the industries said.

All factories have to use their own generators during power disruption that increases the cost of production, they mentioned.

They alleged the BSCIC authorities handed over plots to them without arranging utility services like gas, telephone and electricity. Entrepreneurs had to access the rvices on their own.

BSCIC officials however said they are not supposed to provide these services and there are other

government agencies to do the job. About repair of the roads, they said it could not be done due to nonavailability of funds.

### escapes tiger attack

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira** 

A fisherman on Thursday survived the attack of a tiger in the deep forest of the Sundarbans.

Critically injured, Abdul Majid, 35, son of Safed Ali of Pankhali village in Shyamnagar upazila, is now receiving treatment at Satkhira General Hospital for injuries in his head, chest and hands

Majid's family said he along with six other fishermen was fishing in Haribhanga Canal under Koikhali forest range when a Royal Bengal

Majid fought for his life as others fled. After about an hour, four fishermen arrived on the scene and rescued Maiid.

### Ahmadiyya

avert any untoward situation. Sources alleged police made a deal with the IKNM leaders to maintain

at Engineers Institute yesterday.

the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

of Bangabandhu at Tungipara in

further alleged that the bomb blast

at Hazrat Shahjalal Shrine was

carried out at the instigation of the

top leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami, "the

big partner of the government, to kill

The attack and assault by the

religious extremists and their free

movement across the country were

tarnishing the country's image

abroad and making it friendless,

activities continued, the independ-

ence, sovereignty and state security

called upon all to launch a united

movement to hasten the fall of the

present government at the critical

They also called for making the

Meanwhile, Awami League (AL)

President and Leader of the

Opposition Sheikh Hasina yester-

day accused Prime Minister Khaleda Zia of establishing commu-

nal forces in the country "politically,

socially and economically" destroy-

ing the spirit of the War of

establish the religious fundamental-

ists in the country. Her main task is

to build a stronghold of Jamaat-e-

Islami in the country," said the AL

She was addressing the national

"She (Khaleda) came to power to

The AL leaders said if such

The Awami League leaders

the British high commissioner."

The Awami League leaders

Gopalgani," it said.

they said.

would be at stake.

iuncture of the nation.

Independence.

June 5 hartal a success.

Religious bigots

When contacted, a senior police official on condition of anonymity said, "We met the IKNM leaders on Thursday night and asked them not to go unruly to avoid police action."

The demonstrators in caps and coloured ribbon around their heads marched from Jamiatul Falah mosque premises to the Ahmadiyya mosque at around 4:00pm.

They staged a sit-in and the leaders spoke from a make-shift dais, as police barred them from reaching the mosque. The central leader of IKNM

Mohammad Hasan Mamtaji, Naveb-e-Amir Mufti Nur Hossain Nurani, among others, addressed

### Govt employees

FROM PAGE 12 Besides, the six-point demand asked the government to up the age limit of the government jobs to 60 years from 57. It also demanded ensuring equal class and pay scale for the employees with equivalent status and qualification.

The leaders in the press conference urged the government to respect their right to organisation in accordance with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) conven-

Among others, Mahfuzur Rahman, executive president of BTCGES, Moinul Haq Bhuiyan, secretary general of BTCGES, attended the conference.

#### Shrine blast

FROM PAGE 12

at the shrine area since the blast. The number of people joining the Friday prayer was a little less yesterday compared to usual Fridays sources said.

Besides police, teams of Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), National Security Intelligence (NSI), local Special Branch (SB) of Police are investigating the blast incident. Eight teams are working to nab the suspects in different areas.

Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Munshi Atiqur Rahman of Criminal Investigation Depart-ment (CID) from Dhaka assumed the charge of investigating the main case after it was transferred from the Kotwali police. Some officers from the capital joined him yesterday.

The DIG of Sylhet held a review meeting with the different agencies yesterday afternoon at the district police office.

### Resilience

FROM PAGE 12

Shammi and her friends explained that they could only afford to record what is needed -- the answers to questions for exams -- everything else, including literature had to take a back seat.

The talking library, reads out not only the knowledge of the technical but also opens them to the world of literature, tells them the stories that narrate the same resilience and strength that they exhibit through

#### Delhi wants

FROM PAGE 12 South Asia, he said.

"Our priority is to cultivate good relations, reduce tensions and increase areas of agreement with our neighbours.'

India and Pakistan have fought wo of their three wars over Kashmir. They came near to a fourth war in 2002 but were pulled back by international diplomacy. Former prime minister Atal

Behari Vajpayee launched a fresh peace bid last year and the two countries' foreign secretaries in February held talks on resolving a wide range of disputes, including Kashmir. After the change in government,

Pakistan Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri called Singh and both pledged to accelerate the peace initiative. Singh added he welcomed the 'improvement" in Indian-US rela-

tions brought about by the previous Hindu nationalist-led government. "We will carry it forward, deepen it, widen it and strengthen it," he said. During the 45 years of previous

Congress rule India, which led the Non-Aligned Movement during the Cold War, tilted toward the former

council of Bangabandhu Prokousholi Parishad (BPP), a proregion and rule of Wadud Bahini in Awami engineers forum, at the "The religious extremists are Engineers Institution in the city. also threatening to blow up the tomb

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and other leaders observe a one-minute silence for the peace of

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the beginning of the national council of Bangabandhu Engineers Council

Hasina alleged that the fundamentalist forces were being put in educational institutions, nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), banks, hospitals and in many other social organisations.

She urged the pro-liberation forces and the democratic-minded non-communal people to be united irrespective of opinion and party affiliation to "free the nation from the misrule of the BNP-Jamaat alliance

### Before wedding

FROM PAGE 12

She left house Thursday afternoon to distribute invitation cards for her wedding on June 4. She telephoned her family at around 9:00pm from her maternal aunt's house at

Her family alleged Liton, a school dronout abducted Shampa on her way back home and killed her.

Quoting a domestic help at Liton's house, they said the JCD cadre stopped Shampa while she was returning home on Thursday night and forcibly took her to his house. She was beaten to death and her body was thrown down from the roof of the four-storey building. Liton is absconding since the incident.

Sources said Liton, brother-in-law of a Chittagong city BNP leader, is an accused in many criminal cases and released from jail three months

The victim's younger brother said they will file a case accusing Liton.



Arrested criminal Yeakub with M-16 rifle at Fatikchhari police station

## Kuldip: Secularism

needed for the common man," Navar said.

Navar, seeing this as a lesson to Bangladesh and Pakistan, was hopeful of a South Asian economic

Sophisticated technology such as computerised system will cut jobs and the government cannot stay in power for long unless it can find a way to balance the blow to the labour force, he said.

Describing the attempt to redefine the Indian culture along the lines of Hindu nationalism as the bane in the BJP rule, Nayar said the BJP's implicit patronisation of the Gujarat carnage also succeeded in tarnishing the Hindu nationalist party and the immediate past prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's credibility in the government. He also predicted that funda-

mentalism and fanaticism in South

Asia "will not go very far because

history of pluralism

Nayar observed that the elections really proved that the Indian elections is like "28 countries going to election simultaneously", adding a coalition of parties that dominate states will not necessarily be weak. The Indian communist parties

"have made another historical mistake by not joining the government", he said, adding they are "running away from their responsibilities" and they could have provided fruitful advice for Congress on governance. Asked if the Congress will have

strained relations with the left front, Navar said the reforms in West Bengal indicate that even the leftists are willing to welcome reform. On future relations with

Bangladesh and the new Congressled administration, Nayar said Bangladesh has certain needs and India should think whether it can fulfil them, especially on trade and water-share issues.

He said messages from the new people just want to get on with their lives" and religion-based politics will government are positive and indifall flat as the region has a strong cated India's stronger relations with its neighbours

#### Air force men blew up bridge in bid to kill Musharraf AFP, Islamabad

More than a dozen Pakistani air force technicians, directed by al-Qaeda and Islamic clerics, planted powerful C4 explosives on a bridge and blew it up as President Pervez Musharraf's car drove over it in December, a report said yesterday.

Musharraf escaped death by a matter of seconds on December 14, only to be targetted in a second attempt on Christmas Day, this time by two suicide bombers who rammed explosives-laden trucks into his

Aday after Musharraf revealed on television that several low-ranking army and air force officers had taken part in the assassination plots. The ws daily carried a detailed account of the first of two attempts. The plots were conceived by a

foreign al-Qaeda agent and executed by a Pakistani operative for the international terror network, Musharraf had earlier told the local Geo TV channel.

"We can say that the first attempt was a near-exclusive job of more than a dozen Pakistan Air Force brainwashed technicians, unnamed intelligence official told The

#### **PCJSS**

FROM PAGE 12 Khagrachhari and Bandarban -- on Wednesday demanding release of its 17 leaders and activists arrested

by the security forces in Guimara A press release issued by the PCJSS said the blockade has been suspended till Sunday after the administration officials at the meet-

ing assured them of releasing all their activists. PCJSS leaders Sudha Sindhu Khisa, Raktatpol Tripura, Upendra Lal Chakma, deputy commissioner, superintendent of police and politi-

cal leaders attended the meeting. The PCJSS warned that it would announce an agitation programme from May 31 if all their arrested activists were not released by

### Criminal held

Lelang Union at around 1:00pm. Sensing the presence of police, Yeakub and his accomplices opened fire on police. Police returned fire, leading to a gunfight that lasted for half an hour.

At one stage, Yeakub surrendered to the police with one M-16 rifle 40 bullets and three magazines, while his accomplices managed to escape.

A case was filed with Fatikchhari Police Station. Nazim, chief of the criminal gang, was arrested in Dhaka on May 11.

#### Iwo Japanese

FROM PAGE 12 Baghdad's Yarmuk hospital.

The convoy came under attack at Yusufiyah, 20km south of the Iraqi capital, as she returned from a trip to the Shia holy city of Najaf.

Khufaii, a dentist, replaced another woman on the council who was killed in an attack outside her Baghdad home in September last year. Akila al-Hashemi, a secular Shia Muslim, died three days after being shot. The interim council's rotating

chairman Ezzedine Salim was killed eleven days ago in a suicide bombing outside the headquarters of the US-led coalition in Baghdad.

#### Outlaw shot dead FROM PAGE 12

came under armed attack by a

group of PBCP cadres when arrested Swapan was being taken to Sonakhali for recovery of arms. They tried to snatch him. "My forces had to open fire to repulse the armed attack," the

police super said. Officer-in-charge (OC) of Fakirhat Police Station said Swapan was

an accused in seven murder cases. Security measures have been strengthened in all police stations of Bagerhat district.

# Police not equipped

FROM PAGE 1

are very important for attracting foreign investment.'

Accelerated economic growth is the main instrument to reduce poverty as it can create more jobs. he said, adding alleviation of povertv was the main weapon for bringing peace and security in society.

"It is not possible to alleviate poverty with only resources. We have weaknesses in institutions and we have to improve economic governance and address waste and inefficiency," Saifur added.

Inequality and injustice are inbuilt in the present economic order. There are one billion poor people around the globe and it is not easy to scale down the number, he said, and remarked that poverty reduction would not be very easy in the way being pursued now.

It is not possible to scale up poverty alleviation with only onetenth of resources, the finance minister said.

"We are getting only one tenth of our needs. The process going on to alleviate poverty with micro-credit programme in which Bangladesh is in the forefront is not enough and sustainable.

After so many years of continued efforts poverty did not decline substantially, he said.

From the 1990s, poverty is gradually coming down and reducing one percentage point a year, he said, adding the poverty rate dropped to 30 percent from 50

Demanding market access to the developed and developing countries, he said: "We want trade, not

Bangladesh should not be in the Least Developed Country (LDC)

category any more, he remarked. If there is no pro-poor growth any country may face the fate like

South India, he feared. The finance minister urged the non-governmental organisations to participate in poverty alleviation programme.

On a question on the government-NGO relations, he said the government would not allow any NGO to participate in the political process. "They have no business in Referring to the Shanghai con-

in micro-credit and success in poverty alleviation, women education and primary healthcare were highly appreciated there The conference told donors that imposing a policy did not help a

country to solve its problems, the

ference, he said Bangladesh's role

solution must come from within the Citing the example of Bangladesh, he said: "We need a very comprehensive approach in

the power sector. **Education Minister Osman** Farug and Advisor to the Foreign Ministry Reaz Rahman also spoke at the press briefing

#### Bashar repairs damage Omar not out him when he unnecessarily threw Bashar not out

FROM PAGE 1

the ball on his follow through at Bashar and it hit the hip of the Bangladesh captain. Thankfully, Bashar didn't let the incident upset

Javed played two trademark square cut boundaries and was ooking solid as well. There was a minute's silence

before the players took the field in memory of the late Alf Valentine, the West Indies Test spinner of the 50s who passed away this month

Scoreboard at lunch on the first day of the first Test between Bangladesh and West Indies at St Lucia yester-**BANGLADESH:** First innings

SCORECARD

Hannan Ibw b Collins

Extras: (lb-2, nb-7) Total: (For 1 wkt in 26 overs) 101 To bat: Rajin Saleh, Mohammad Ashraful, Faisal Hossain, Khaled Mashud, Tapash Baisya, Mohammad Rafique, Tareq Aziz Mushfigur Rahman Fall of wkt: 1-0. **Bowler** 34 Collins

Edwards 22 0 21 Lawson 0 17 Dwayne Toss: Bangladesh Umpires: DJ Harper (Aus) and JW

TV Umpire: BEW Morgan

# Tales of horror

villager of Bagmara.

checkpoints set up in the villages of the area has undertaken a single operation against the JMJB. "Police just guard their own camps." notes a

Police on the other hand grumble that villagers inform only the journalists not them about the whereabouts of the JMJB men. A local of Bagmara explains the villagers' behaviour saying they are more afraid of police who they fear will betray them to the Islamist outfit, also known as Bangla Bahini, and "Bangla Bahini will kill any one as soon as he informs police

of its activities.' Talking to The Daily Star, Rajshahi DIG Noor Muhammad admitted to the failure of police to nab Bangla Bhai, which he said was his force's only priority at the moment. "Bangla Bhai's group is not our headache at this moment. I have instructed all superintendents of police (SPs) in Raishahi not to hesitate in taking action against any officer-in-charge (OC) or any policeman if one shows negligence in catching Bangla Bhai,

Rajshahi SP Masud Mia, who

earlier praised the JMJB actions, said

15 police posts were set up in

Bagmara, Puthia and Durgapur upazilas and two operations teams, each under an assistant commissioner of police, were formed to catch Bangla Bhai. Referring to the bamboo sticks and hockey sticks JMJB militants used in their May-22 showdown in

the divisional police chief said.

can it be a crime to wield sticks against firearms (of outlaws)?" Describing the Bangla Bahini's worth, the district police chief said, "Thanks to the JMJB vigilantes, police since April 1 have extracted confessions from (communist) outlaws on eight murders and recov-

Rajshahi city, the SP asked, "How

ered 10 firearms and 50 bullets." SP Mia also told The Daily Star that police at Taherpur arrested one outlaw, Mission Das, who he said confessed to being involved in the murders of local BNP leader Prof Abdul Wahed and Awami League

During visits to villages that until

#### eader Alo Khondoka JMJB OUTRAGE

recent times were infested with JMJB vigilantes, a group of reporters met many villagers narrating, between sobs, tales of torture and horror they suffered at the fanatics' hands. JMJB cadres would pick up villagers at their will. Workers of opposition political parties and opponents of local influential political leaders though were their main targets they would freely levy and extract tolls and ransoms from their victims' families

Local residents alleged members of some 30 families including eight women were tortured in Bhiti Siddikia Fazil Madrasa, the JMJB stronghold n Raninagar upazila. On May 19, JMJB men abducted

Idris Ali, a local Awami League leader of Shimba village. Idris, they accused, was an outlaw operative. Bangla Bahini left its Bhiti camp on Tuesday, but Idris is still missing.

Match Referee: RS Mahanama

Locals narrated how on May 17 about a 300-strong JMJB force backed up by a number of policemen besieged Shimba and Bhitipara villages, occupied the madrasa. declared a 22-day vacation and set

up the camp in it.

the madrasa fled in fear. But the vigilantes forced a night guard, Abdur Razzak, to stay with them. On maimed Razzak behind.

The teachers and the principal of

"They called me an aide to the

outlaws and demanded Tk 5.000 in

protection money. As I failed to pay, they maimed me," recounts Razzak On May 20, JMJB men abducted dav-labourer Shamsuddin from his home. He was mutilated, too. His wife Piara Begum went to the madrasacamp several times and begged for his release. The vigilantes asked for a toll of Tk 20,000. After three days, Piara managed to bring her husband

back in exchange of Tk 10,000 in The villagers said common people had no access to the camp, but it was always open to policemen, and police were seen to frequent it. But, as an explanation of the alleged association of police with the JMJB OC of Raninagar Police Station Moshiur Rahman said, "We followed our seniors' orders." He also claimed not to be aware of any incident of

cked up Abdus Sattar from a shop n Dakmandop village under Singra upazila and took him to their madrasa-camp in Jagadishpur, Atrai. One of the victim's relatives said they contacted the camp in-charge Abul Hossain, a madrasa teacher and former president of Atrai Jamaat-e-Islami, and requested him to release Sattar, "We gave him (Abul Hossain) Tk 50,000 to release him. But, Sattar is still fighting for his life."

JMJB men also abducted Madan Sanyal and Shyama Prasad from Bisha village and Raisuddin from Shimul Kuchigram village and took them to the Jagadishpir camp, where

house of Abdul Malek and Ratan and told their family members that he had instruction from Bangla Bhai to take

police. Singra police came to the spot and rescued Isha, only to set him free on their way back to the police station, locals alleged. OC of Singra Police Station Badrul Alam admitted the incident but

# torture by Bangla Bahini. In Natore, Bangla Bhai's men

they were brutally tortured. Locals said a JMJB activist named Ishaq Ali Isha came to the

steps against the two for their involvement with Purba Banglar Communist Party. As Isha demanded Tk 100,000 for sparing Malek and Ratan, villagers confined him to a room and called

declined to explain it, saying, "I am not bound to explain it to you (journal-SP of Natore Sayed Nazrul Islam

claims there is no activity of the JMJB in his district, adding, "Yet, we are actively searching for them.