## Munshiganj by-polls

The seats fell vacant when Mahi and Mannan resigned from the Jatiya Sangsad and the BNP on March 10 to join the Bikalpa Dhara, founded by former president

Talking to The Daily Star, some BNP lawmakers said the victory of BNP candidate Mosaddak Ali from Dhaka was a must to turn the tide in favour of the ruling alliance.

They felt a defeat would spur the opposition parties to question the government's moral authority to

BNP Vice-chairman M Shamsul Islam, a lawmaker for Munshiganj-3, brushed aside the opposition claim that Munshiganj-1 brought to light the government's poor popularity form.

"People's opinion has not been reflected in the Munshiganj-1 by-election as the Bikalpa Dhara activists captured some polling centres and rigged votes," Shamsul, also the information minister, told The Daily Star.

#### 'ERODING POPULARITY'

Immediately after unofficial declaration of Mahi's victory on Sunday night, Badruddoza, who was forced to quit the presidency under impeachment threats, said it was a victory against unbridled crime corruption and price spiral of essentials under the coalition.

AL Presidium Member Abdus Samad Azad said the ruling party's failure to win the by-election despite rigging votes showed the government's eroding popularity.

"The result of the by-election proves the government has lost people's confidence and supports our demand for midterm polls," Mohammad Hanif, Dhaka City AL president told a discussion yester-day.

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon also echoed the same view, saying it would spur the opposition movement against the

from mainstream political parties.

The militant activities of the

IMIB came after some relatives and

friends of local lawmakers were

killed in armed attacks blamed on

underground operatives of the

banned Purbo Banglar Communist

leaders Rabiul Islam and Rezaul

into custody for interrogation after

two JMJB members were killed in

It turned out that Moshiur

Rahman, officer-in-charge of

Raninagar Police Station in

Naogaon, suspended on charge of failing to arrest Bangla Bhai, was

among the interrogators, accused

of intimidating Rabiul Islam and

Rezaul into giving statements to

JMJB operatives abducted

court against an unnamed quarter.

Niranian from Kashiabari village in

Atrai upazila in Naogaon on Friday

Falsely declared

Police took two suspected PBCP

Party (PBCP).

recent outlaw attacks.

Bangla Bhai

unity triumphs against misrule despite all odds and obstacles. So far we know, BNP men tried to win

Islami begged to differ.

"Weak candidate in Mahi's family borough and Awami eague's full-backing resulted in ne alliance defeat," Abdul Kader Mollah, publicity secretary of the party, told The Daily Star.

government, but a victory could contribute to its image," he said, adding, "The alliance was working seriously to retain Dhaka-10 seat."

#### **STRONGWATCH**

media and observers' watch helped people uphold their verdict in Munshiganj-1 constituency despite attempts by the supporters of BNP candidate Momin Ali to rig

and journalists moved frequently from one polling centre to another during the prestige electoral clash between the ruling alliance and the Bikalpa Dhara.

They entered polling centres in large groups, asked election officials including presiding officers about the irregularities they saw and cross-checked every bit of information they got from voters

The authorities deployed two ompanies of army men, paramili-ry Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and police in force to ensure peace in the constituency where all the 89 polling centres were marked as

But experts say it was the media and poll watchers who helped ensure largely fair polls in the

Some organised outfits of criminals and outlaws are repeatedly

There are allegations that police often ask the victim's family to buy

preferring anonymity, that "the criminals even threaten us to kill the victim if we launch tougher action." The victim's family sometimes also asks us not to move, he added.

### 25 BRTC buses

Police officials, asking not to be FROM PAGE 12

named, said the police administration in Naogaon was divided over the order to arrest Bangla Bhai: one groups wants to carry out the prime minister's directive to arrest him but the other declines.

Rajshahi Deputy Inspector General Noor Mohammad denied such rift among the police admin-

### Tigers stare

FROM PAGE 1

innings defeat, the Tigers were cruising well with skipper Habibul Bashar and Manjarul Islam Rana displaying the kind of determina-tion required under the circum-

But the scenario changed abruptly when left-handed Manjarul was out for 35 flashing offspinner Omari Banks straight to Lara at gully.

Bashar, 77, soon followed him after being adjudged leg before to paceman Pedro Collins in the next

room without bothering the scorers. for 8 in 40.4 overs. Ashraful (3) and Rafique (0) were left with the daunt-

till filing of this report at 11.10pm. Bashar had hit five fours including a classy off-drive off Ramnaresh

ing task to minimise the humiliation

Sarwan to reach his 17 th halfcentury in Test cricket. Manjarul, the luckiest Bangla

deshi batsman on planet earth, had edged and poked his way. He was almost caught in the slips off a Tino Best delivery in the first over of the day but the ball eluded everybody. then escaped being run out while trying to take a run as the throw did not hit the stumps.

The two have put on 88 already

### acid seized at Benapole **UNB**, Benapole

Customs at Benapole land port yesterday seized 90 metric tons of sulfuric acid imported from India through false declaration.

Officials said Bangladesh Phos-phate Company of Meherpur imported the consignment in five tan-kers from Exim Associates of India. On secret information, customs seized tankers and found the con-

signment was imported through false declaration. Following the seizure, the C&F (clearing and forwarding) agent concerned has threatened Joint Commissioner of Customs Hossain Ahmed with death, offi-cials said.

They said Bangladesh Phosphate Compay had earlier imported goods from India through false declaration, which were The importer has been strongly lobbying to secure release of those consignments.

schoolboy,

expatriate

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

lakh for his release.

Abductors yesterday freed a schoolboy of Kumarkhali but kidnapped an expatriate, the third case of abduction in the last three

up Sajib Uddin 15, son of Nasir Uddin and student of class nine,

from near his house in Pouro Bazar in Kumarkhali and demanded Tk 7

Sources said Sajib's family

bought his freedom for Tk 1.5 lakh after negotiations.

"We did not seek police help as the captors threatened to kill my son," Nasir Uddin, father of the victim, told newspersons.

Police said they did not take any

Abductors, meanwhile, kid-

napped Yunus Ali, 34, son of Manir Uddin of Hasimpur in Kumarkhali, and demanded Tk 10 lakh for his

Family sources said Yunus, who has returned home from Malaysia

recently, went to Mohendrapur village to realise Tk 2 lakh he had

Village to leafise Its 2 lakin in Italian length to one Tuzam Uddin. The kidnappers picked him from Mohendrapur bridge at gunpoint

Yunus' family also did not file

Kidnappers killed nine out of 72

any case on receiving death threat

people including 24 students they took hostages in the district since

January. Police succeeded to rescue only four, while seven are still

and the rest paid their

at around 7:30pm.

from the abductors.

captors for freedom.

nove as no-one filed a complaint.

pick

"It has also proved people's the seat capturing polling stations and using threats, but failed."

But coalition partner Jamaat-e-

Poll experts believe mounted

Several hundred poll watchers

carrying out abductions, police and the victims said.

A high official of police said,

deckers

A quarter is destroying state property this way at a time when the BRTC submitted Tk7 crore DSL (Debt Service Liability) to the government exchequer for the first time since its launching in 1961, he

"Despite incurring losses, the government used to run the BRTC services to ensure that no transport service does monopoly business. As it is now making profit and has gained a competitive position, bus owners' association is opposing the BRTC," Taimur added.

Asked on why the state-run service did not insure its carriers despite recurrence of such incidents, the BRTC chairman said they tried to plug expenses in premium deposits as their vehicles faced fewer accidents.

"We will have think anew as the Taimur said.

Fire extinguishers will be placed n all BRTC buses soon, he said, adding the organisation will buy an ambulance with first-aid facilities to rush to the spot if any BRTC bus

is damaged or accidents occur. On what precautionary measures the BRTC will take to prevent recurrence of arson attacks during coming hartals, the BRTC chairman asked the government to take

tougher action.` He asked passengers to remain careful while in BRTC buses and urged them to capture any person if he or she tries to damage any state-offed vehicle. "We'll give

reward for this," he added. To create awareness among people, the BRTC will soon display the buses that were burnt and could not be rebuilt at Paltan Maidan or Bangabandhu National

Stadium, Taimur said. "We have decided to give Tk 20,000 to the families of each of 10 people who died in the Friday night arson attack on a BRTC double decker bus near Hotel Sheraton

crossing," Taimur said and asked the victims' families to contact the BRTC authorities.

#### Canadian

FROM PAGE 12

cern at the serious health condition of Proshika President Qazi Faruque Ahmed and Vice-president David

"It has come to our attention that both are being held without access to adequate medical care, risking serious long term health impacts," the letter said. It urged the state minister to

ensure regular access of the detain-ees' family members to Dhaka Central Jail where the Proshika top officials are held. The letter also drew attention of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

## 1 killed

Angry supporters of Mahi, who was reelected MP in Sunday's parliamentary by-election in Munshiganj-1 constituency, put up barricades on the Munshiganj-Dhaka Highway at Nimtala Dhaka Highway at Nimtala.

and staged a demonstration at Chawkbazar here demanding arrest of the killers of Masum in next 24

Mahi defeated four-party alli-ance candidate Momin Ali by a big margin in the by-election to retain his seat, which fell vacant after his resignation from the ruling BNP.

## Abductors free | Dutch court fine

ment fails to pay 4.2 million euro (Tk 32 crore) in fine for not pur-chasing computers from a Dutch

menting an education ministry project funded by a grant of the Netherlands.

law, foreign affairs and economic relations division (ERD).

"This was a one-sided judgement, which was made without hearing Bangladesh's version," Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman told journalists after the meeting at the secretariat. "The government was not even given any scope for an

Bangladesh could not even appeal, as the case was settled about four months before it came

Netherlands government had agreed to provide about Tk 49.95 crore as grant for introducing computer courses at secondary and higher secondary levels in 3,382 educational institutions under a project that was scheduled for implementation by March

The ERD unilaterally signed the agreement with the Dutch company Tulip Computers International BV in June 2001. As per Dutch law there is no scope for

After BNP came to power, the

government cancelled the pro-curement initiative, finding the price offer to be 'inflated and unso-

The government also decided to purchase 10,000 computers at its own expense, at which the Dutch company hit back with a lawsuit.

"We neither got any money nor any computer. Yet, we are being compelled to compensate for the deal. This is sheer injustice." said Saifur with a tinge of frustration. 'The committee we've formed will decide on our next course of action and then we will explain the matter to the Dutch envoy here.'

The foreign ministry will communicate with all the EU ambassa-dors here in an effort to put the issue to rest, sources said.

#### Militant camps FROM PAGE 12

Suspect arrestee Md Tusher was implicated in the case filed with Rangunia Police Station.

Asked about the delay in filing the cases, the police officials said they took time to determine the

Police said they got the identity and other details of the suspect masterminds and trainers of the camp in Rangunia but declined to reveal anything. In separate raids on June 1, police busted the two arms training centres, arrested the three suspects

Iskander and Enamul, mean-while, were placed under another five-day remand yesterday on completion of the first five-day remand.

and seized some training materi-

Police suspect the people behind the two camps have link to the Islamist outfit Harkatul Jihad.

# RMG export may fall

categories like shirt, jacket and sweater, Bangladesh owns competitiveness in terms of quality and price. Export orders in these categories have also been increasing in the current fiscal.'

regime,] have to close down, which would affect export volume, but big RMG [ready-made garment] manufacturers will have chance to boost export after the quota withdrawal, Prof Mustafizur maintained.

force next year the upcoming budget should include measures to face the [post-MFA] challenges.

such measures and incentives for the RMG sector. One of them said the government might set up a linkage fund which would provide loans at lower-than-market interlinkage industry.

On remedial policy response, the IMF said the impact of the MFA quota removal could be mitigated "through a more aggressive exchange rate movement, a more rapid reduction in anti-export bias, and a more concerted effort to improve the investment climate and upgrade infrastructure."

The Fund said, even if the government adopted those measures, The RMG exports could still fall, to virtually no growth in FY05, and a decline of 5 percent in FY06," as the measures would take some time to

While examining the extent of negative impact of quota with-drawal, the IMF study report recalled the 30-percent plunge that Bangladesh experienced in its exports to the US market of products whose quotas were removed in FY 2001-02. In that fiscal, the country's overall exports to the US

That year in European Union (EU) market, Bangladesh's exports of products whose quota were removed fell by 20 percent, but its total exports to Europe fell by only two percent, due in part to the Everything but Arms initiative that the EU had introduced in March

Though Bangladesh will lose its quota preference in the US market after 2004 and its preferential access to the EU market will also diminish, the Fund said, "With duty-free access to the EU and Canadian markets, Bangladesh will be somewhat sheltered from the full effects of competition.

percent respectively.' policy measures to face the chalthe government of extending its support to counteract the impact of quota removal on the country's

## 9 Iraq militias

One 13th Corps Support Command soldier is dead and one is injured as the result of a mortar attack on their base camp near Baghdad at about 8:00 am," the statement said, without elaborat-

Three Iraqis, including a member of the former Iraqi Baath regime, were killed in two separate attacks in the northern ethnically divided city of Kirkuk.

"Masked men fired eight bullets into 45-year-old Shamal Mohieddin, a former Baath official, at his house in Kirkuk's Hussein neighbourhood," police chief Turhan Yuseftold AFP. In a separate incident, police colonel Sarhad Qader, said "the

bodies of two Arab brothers, Sattar and Basek Saleh, who were 25 and 28 respectively, were found in the street riddled with bullets and with their hands tied.' However, according to plans resented by the US-run coalition in Iraq, somé 60,000 former militia-

men will have entered the programme by July 1, with the vast majority joining Iraqi security forces, about 10,000 going into retirement and others getting new job training or joining private security firms.

A senior coalition official said \$200 million, to be administered by Iraq's Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, had been set aside for paying pensions to veterans or to provide jobs, training and education to former fighters. "To reward former resistance

fighters for their service, opportunities have been created for them to join state security services or lay down their arms and enter civilian life," Allawi said in his statement. "Those who choose to return to civilian life will receive valuable job training and other benefits. By

doing this, we reward their heroism

and sacrifices, while making Iraq

stronger and eliminating armed

forces outside of government Coalition officials estimated that 90,000 militiamen would be brought under the reintegration programme by the time Iraq holds its first democratic elections in

provision for Sadr's militia, esti-mated to be up to 10,000 men strong and Iraq's largest security threat after the Sunni-led anti-American insurgency. By not becoming party to the agreement, Sadr's militia is now

officially recognised as an illegal body, officials said, and members of his militia will be banned from years after leaving the organisaoutside of state control, as pro-

and lawlessness over transition and reintegration will be dealt with harshly," Allawi said. The parties that have agreed to the plan include Ahmad Chalabi's Iraqi National Congress and prime

Shi'ite party, numbers about 15,000, officials said.

has long been pressing for factional militias to disband, but many groups, particularly Kurdish and Shi'ite parties, wanted to keep their armed wings Iraq's interim constitution, agreed in March, outlawed militias

Iraq's U.S.-led administration

on the streets that they were not. While the agreement may put Iraq on the road to bringing its militias under control, there is not

## **Govt agencies** asked to repay **BPC** dues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs yesterday asked various government agencies to clear their dues with Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) in specific instalments.

The government agencies owe the state-run corporation over Tk 2700 crore for purchase of oil, meeting sources said.

Bangladesh Biman has Tk 457 crore in arrears. Biman, however, claims the outstanding bill is actually Tk 329 crore. The cabinet committee ordered the national airline to repay Tk 300 in 20 equal instalments. It also decided Biman would have to pay

The BPC's biggest defaulter

the BPC in cash for purchase of oil in future. The Power Development Board (PDB) has Tk 110 crore arrears with the BPC. The committee asked the PDB to pay the sum in 11 equal instalments of Tk 10 crore.

Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation, defence ministry and some other govern-ment establishments have also been asked to pay off their dues.

### Dhaka sees Iraq interim govt positively

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh yesterday described the formation of the interim gov-ernment in Iraq as a positive development in the process of establishing the will of the Iraqi people.

It also welcomed the appointment of Ghazi Ajil Al-Yawar as the president of the interim government, a spokesperson for the foreign ministry said.

Bangladesh hopes that the interim government will take all necessary measures to establish security, peace, stability and maintain territorial integrity and restore full sovereignty of Iraq for the benefit of their people, he said.

### Nurul Islam

FROM PAGE 1 'highly classified information'

violating the Official Secrets Act. It was probably Bac's first instance of filing a case under the 80-year-old act, sources said. The three employees of the PMO

accused in the case are: Dinarul Islam, private secretary to prime minister's private secretary, Syed Nurul Islam, computer operator, and Mohammad Selim, data entry property. operator. Bac alleged that Nurul in con-nivance with the employees leaked

information keeping the prime minister in the dark that hurt national interest and security. The anti-graft body accused him of taking away 12 compact discs (CDs) written with two sets of notes and summaries of sensitive more files and notes containing Prime Minister Khaleda Zia'

signature with intent to leak out Bac inspector Md Julfiker Ali filed the case with Tejgaon police

station. A 12-member Bac investigation team earlier seized 12 compact disks (CDs) from Nurul Islam desk in the PMO.

Bac alleged the former acting secretary deployed the computer and data entry operators Selim to prepare the CDs. The secretary used e scanner and CD writer kent in

his and his personal secretary' The anti-graft body also recovered photocopies of 654 pages of summary of information signed by Khaleda and kept in three files.

## PM asks cops

FROM PAGE 12 received by State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Shahudul Haque and Principal of

the Police Academy M Anisur Rahman. The prime minister recalled the heroic role of the members of police force during the Liberation War that remains a glorious chapter of national history

She further said the police created a glorious tradition through their utmost sacrifice during their "All of you are the successors to the tradition and the responsibility

is incumbent upon you to uphold that dignity and tradition from right now," the prime minister told the new officers. She said the officers of the police cadre will have to attain necessary skill and quality to perform their duties accurately.

The prime minister informed them that the government had taken various initiatives to modernise the police force as good governance and development are complementary and the police have a great responsibility to help achieve both the goals.

Khaleda said the government is working for development following a roadmap. "Increase of invest-ment, production and export is imperative for the development and you have to ensure a congenial environment.'

Post and Telecommunications Minister M Aminul Haque, Prime Minister's political Secretary Harris Chowdhury, Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation Mizanur Rahman Minu, BNP leader Begum Sarwari Rahman MPS, elite and Sarwari Rahman, MPs, elite and guardians of the new officers were present at the function.

# Outstanding issues and the states will be given special and the states will be given special

was indicative of "people's rejection of the forces of divisiveness and intolerance," Kalam raised the issue of "most gruesome" riots in

"It is a matter of serious concern that the forces of communalism have been able to vitiate the atmosphere in the country leading to outbreak of riots, the most gruesome face of which was witnessed recently in Gujarat," he said without naming any party or outfit.

Gujarat is ruled by Bharatiya Janata Party whose federal coalition government was voted out of power in the elections.

Pointing out that the verdict of

recent general elections is "for establishing the rule of law and repairing our secular fabric," the president said. He said the government is determined to combat communal forces and would adopt all mea-

sures to promote and maintain communal peace and harmony so that minorities feel completely secure. Kalam also said the government would enact a "model law to deal with communal violence and encourage states to adopt it".

"My government is committed to preserving, protecting and promoting secular values and enforcing the law without fear or favour to deal with all obscurantist and fundamentalist elements that

seek to disturb social amity and peace," he said. The government would examine the question of giving constitu-tional status to the Minorities Commi-ssion, would strive for recognition and promotion of Urdu language and set up a com-mission to look into direct affiliation of minority professional insti-tutions with central universities,

Kalam said. He also promised the govern-ment would take steps to spread modern and technical education among minority communities.

Referring to Jammu and Kashmir, Kalam said the government would uphold the state's special constitutional status and hold sustained dialogue with all groups and different shades of opinion there in consultation with the democratically-elected state government. The state will be given assistance to rebuild its infrastructure quickly, he added.

He said the government was determined to tackle terrorism, militancy and insurgency in the northeastern states of India as a

Referring to education, the president said steps would be taken to "remove the communalisation of the school syllabus that

has taken place in recent years". Professional competence will be the sole criteria for appointment prestigious institutions like Indian Council for Historical Research, Indian Council for Socia

and Training, he said. The Congress and the Left parties in the past accused the previous BJP-led government of communalising education and appointments to leading research

The president unveiled the economic agenda of the Congress-led government saying pace of rural development would be accel-erated, public investment in agriculture would be stepped up significantly to substantially boost farmers' income and a substantial

economic reforms but said, "These reforms will have a human face and will ensure that the benefits flowing from such reforms reach the urban poor and rural areas where the vast majority of our population

He said the government would ensure that the economic maintains a growth rate of at least seven to eight percent every year for a ustained period and in a manner

that generates employment. The debate on the motion of thanks on the president's speech

## 40 feared dead

Sitaram Singh, a lawmaker from Sheohar. "At least 25 others have died

away by the strong current of the Bhagmati," Singh said. Dubaghat is 70 miles north of

But 15 people remain unaccounted for and may have been washed

Patna, the state capital. Sinha said a team of divers was

India, where villagers living along rivers often use rickety, unsafe boats and life jackets are seldom

FROM PAGE 1 the naked eye, and worse still through an open telescope or

binoculars can result in blindness. mer Johannes Kepler in 1627 and first viewed by Briton Jeremiah

Horrocks in 1639. People who want to follow glide from their homes must use an exposed fresh (un-used) X-ray film, which is light darkish black. This big sheet must be placed over the lens of the tele scope or binoculars before watch

It will prevent direct rays of the sun from causing permanent damage to the eyes. The viewfinder of the telescope should be covered as well People can visit one of the many

Enthusiasts in Dhaka can rush to the National Science and Techno-logy Museum from where

they will be able to witness the rare event from 11:15am to 4:00pm.

magnificent display in the Kalabagan Krira Chakra playground through Celestron 8-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain Telescope and other

equipment. The special alignment of the Earth and Venus required to bring about this event occurs in irregular

lar historical significance. The 17th and 18th Century transits were used by the astronomers of the day to work out fundamental facts about the Solar System. Employing a method of triangu-

about 149.6 million km (or 93 million miles).

their first real handle on the scale of he Solar System and the Universe beyond.

And several research groups will be looking for this dip in light with detectors that will soon fly on space telescopes looking for Earth-sized planets around distant stars.

three-year health programme as an integrål part of it. Noting the astounding delay, the World Bank (WB) withdrew about half of the \$52-million fund it had provided for the HIV/AIDS

the ministry and the Unicef are now in the process of selecting suitable NGOs to carry out the major project components, like interventions among vulnerable groups, safe blood transfusion and communications and advocacy In addition, Brac will implement a separate HIV/AIDS

programme involving 15 million Swedish kroner.

and the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecnec) resulted in the delay of almost two and a half years for the project design to be finalised and okayed by the Ecnec, sources said.

Programme (NTP), which was On an average, 300,000 new TB

In case of the National TB

Health Organisation on an internationally recognised prescription --DOTS -- to combat the second most killer disease in Bangladesh. "We now realise it is time for partnership and such alliance has

already proved effective," said a

contracted out 30 such CCs each of

senior NTP executive.

which is meant to provide 6,000 people with basic health and family planning services. The British overseas funding agency DFID in partnership with Bangladesh Population Health Consortium is now running six of the CCs and the USAID in co-

dozens of the CCs in rural areas.

Meanwhile, the health secretary at a recent press briefing said the

There are lot of possibilities of change in the situation for Bangladesh in the coming days, she said, praising some of the initiatives taken recently, including

which is 0.2 percent higher than the grants coming from other donor countries. It is likely to increase to 1.0 per

US dollars, which went down to 10 million US dollars this year. The area of funding is good governance, education and private

Speaking at a "Face to Face' programme with women journal ists here yesterday she said increased funding might depend on improvement in the situation, as they are "accountable to the taxpayers" in disbursement of their

appointment of ombudsman. The Scandinavian diplomat said even being a less populous country, they allots 0.93 per cent of the GDP to development partners

Norwegian annual grants for Bangladesh were worth 16 million

cent as Norway gives priority to social welfare for any development, she mentioned.

Answering a question, the Norwegian envoy said it is very difficult to see objectively the report on Bangladesh as the 'most corrupt' country but it caused

However, praising the nation as very friendly, the envoy said it is very contradictory to perceive the country vulnerable for women with highest number of repression

She laid emphasis on their direct involvement in politics. She also urged the women ournalists to play their roles in

establishing good governance. The programme, held at Bangladesh Centre for Develop-ment Journalism (BCDJC) and Communication conference room

Mahi put off his victory march

Bangladesh's flag will become liable to confiscation in EU territo-ries in case Bangladesh govern-

company after an agreement. The computers and accessories vere intended to be used for imple-

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs yesterday assigned Education Minister Dr Osman Faruk to head the committee that includes representatives from the ministries of education,

to know about it in February. In December 2000, the

appeal once a verdict is made

[Due to the expiry of quota gime,] "Small industries may

The professor said as phasingout of quota for RMG comes into Finance ministry sources said the next budget might have some

est rate to the sector's backward

balance of payment.

January next year. But the agreement makes no

holding political office for three "As of now, all armed forces vided by this order, are illegal. Those that have chosen violence

Accord, both former exile move-

yet any clear process for monitoring and verifying the demobilisation agreement.

fell by 16 percent.

Bangladesh's key competitors will continue to face duties in these markets on the order of 12 and 22 While discussing the issue with the government last month, the IMF Poverty Reduction Growth Facility mission asked to take enges. The mission also promised

minister Allawi's Iraqi National

Iraq's biggest militia is the peshmerga, divided between the KDP and PUK Kurdish political parties, which numbers around 5,000. The Badr Organisation, the militia of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, a

and ahead of Monday's agreement, U.S. officials had often said militias were disarming, although it was clear from the presence of fighters

# matter of urgent national priority

Astronomers recommend indirect projection as the safest way to observe the passage of Venus across the Sun, which was predicted by the German astrono-

institutional internet sites plan-ning to stream pictures. But this is an event that should be caught in some fashion.

NGOs getting bigger

project. Donors are also pressuring the health ministry to hand over the project's management to According to official sources,

The Tk 640-crore National Nutrition Project, funded by the WB and other donors and sched-uled to take off in July 2000, could manage to launch only recently due to bureaucratic tangles.

Then, months were spent just to elect the NGOs to be assigned with the 23 area packages of the project which aims to reduce critical and acute malnutrition, particularly among women and children.

Ten NGOs -- Brac, TMSS, Shed, Sard, Bees, Bosd, Vard, UJMS, SGS

and Heed Bangladesh -- are now implementing the project in 105

assistance to upgrade and expand their infrastructure.

Science Research and National Council for Educational Research

portion of government investment would be channelled to villages. Kalam talked about speeding up

were rescued by local villagers, said

carrying out search operations with help from volunteers from nearby villages. Boat accidents are frequent in

Venus blocks out

pairs, with the next set for 2012. The phenomenon has particu

lation (parallax), they were able to calculate the distance between the Earth and the Sun - the so-called astronomical unit (AU) - which is

The movement of the planet in front of the Sun will bring about a tiny drop in the brightness of the

#### (Courtesy: BBC ONLINE and Reuters) Bangladesh Astronomical Association will also organise the

Disagreements between the WB

Against this backdrop, the WB withdrew Tk 150 crore from the project funds in February last year.

This allowed scientists to ge

launched in 1993, its failure to contain the increasing prevalence of pulmonary tuberculosis (TB) has prompted the government to go for extensive partnership with NGOs to detect and treat TB cases. cases are detected every year despite spending of millions of dollars provided by the World

The government is also engaging NGOs to provide healthcare under the Community Clinics (CCs) project, as over 11,000 CCs built since 2001 still remain unutilised due to political reasons. The health ministry has already

operation with National Service Delivery Project is operating another six. The Canadian International Development Agency in association with some local NGOs is in charge of several

health ministry plans to give away some 200 more CCs to NGO part-

# Norwegian aid dips

and violence cases. ing setting up anti-corruption commission and considering and repression to achieve their

> bringing change in society, saying that women journalists are doubly vulnerable, but have the power to make things different. as a journalist, said journalists' education is very important in

# "It was virtually no loss to the

vulnerable by the district adminis-

in ransom for his release. A JMJB leader popularly known as Montu demanded Tk 1.8 lakh in illegal toll from Pradeep Sarker of Khasgarh village in Raninagar on

bid of the dreaded outfit. Sources

said the JMJB demanded Tk 20,000

Mushfigur Rahman and Khaled Mashud returned to the dressing Bangladesh were reeling on 160

concern among the donors to

"It should be taken into consid-

perceive the image of the country.

eration of Bangladesh for image building at international level," Lise Norheim told the news-

From her visits to different rural areas, the ambassador said many women proved their abilities to fight against the discrimination

Lise Norheim, who also worked

was conducted by Rosy Ferdous of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha. Nayeemul Islam Khan of the BCDJC was also present.