Jubo League man

Kushtiacorrespondent.

After the shootout, the police seized arms and ammunition from

In Kushtia, a wanted leader of

outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML) Sirajul Islam alias 'Koshai Siraj,' 36, was killed in another shootout between the police and the PBCP men at Kazipur in Daulatpur upazila early yesterday. NARAYANGANJ INCIDENT

A team of Rab-3 raided the house of Shafiqul, a member of Shiddhirganj Jubo League convening committee, at Ailpara at around 4:00am Monday. Failing to arrest him, the team arrested his brother-in-law Liton and tenant

Akhtar Hossain Later, the Rab members searched the nearby house of Shafiqul's uncle and arrested him.

Nasima Begum, mother of Shafiqul alleged the Rab men were accompanied by local BNP activists during the raid. Shafiqul tried to avoid arrest giving a false identity but BNP cadre Sumon exposed his identity to the Rab, she alleged

Nasima said the Rab men then dragged Shafiqul out of the house and shot in his leg. They also asked Nasima and her two daughters not to disclose anything about the incident and the names of the BNP men who helped

The Rab men then took the Jubo League activist to Rab-3 office at Adamjee. The family members of Shafiqul alleged they heard gunshots from the Rab office. The Rab members did not let them meet the arrestee,

theysaid.

The body of Shafiqul was found yesterday at Siddhirganj on the bank of Shitalakkya.

Officials of Rab-3 said they arrested

12 accomplices of notorious 'Mati Bahini' including Shafiqul from Ailpara in the early hours Monday. Following his statement the Rab raided a cement factory in the early hours yesterday and seized some arms and ammunition.

During the arms seizure operations, the Rab officials said, the accomplices of the arrestees attacked the Rab team from a boat in the Shitalakkya river that triggered a gunfight between them. Shafiqul received bullets while escaping from the custody and died on the spot. The attackers managed to flee with the

The victim's mother further alleged that she gave Tk 1 lakh to one Rab source for his release. Shafiqul was killed by Rab on the instruction of

the BNP leaders, she said. Rab-3 Commanding Officer Lt Col Gulzar denied the allegations and told The Daily Star last night that there is no room for bribing the Rab. "We do not consider the political identity of the criminals...We follow our own intelligencesources, "hesaid. JHENIDAH INCIDENT

Two alleged BCP cadres, Mazid and Rajkumar, were arrested by a team of Jhenidah police at Paharkata village in Sadar upazila Monday night, the

The team came under attack by the outlawed men at around 12:45am while returning to the police station after raiding a couple of spots for arms

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Sadar Police Station said the BCP men opened fire on the police van when it reached Madhabpur. The lawenforcers returned fire and the gunfight continued for five hours. At least 150 rounds of gunshots were exchanged.

Rajkumar and Mazid received bullets while trying to escape from the van and died on the spot at around 4:30am. Their accomplices fled, the

Sub-Inspector (SI) Fazlur Rahman and Constable Mafizul Islam were also injured during the shootout. They were admitted to Jhenidah Sadar

The police recovered four pipeguns, one shutter-gun, one foreign made revolver, ammunition and three otherweapons from the spot.

KUSHTIAINCIDENT The police nabbed Sirajul Islam, a regional leader of the outlawed PBCP rom a house at Badda in the capital on Friday night. He was then sent to

Kushtia for quizzing.
Following his confessional statement, the police raided Kazipur village to seize firearms at about 4.30:am yesterday. When the police team reached the village, the PBCP cadres opened fire on police triggering a

Both sides traded around 100 shots during the hour-long shootout. Siraj tried to escape during the encounter and died on the spot receiving bullets

Police recovered one foreign-made revolver, one rifle and four bullets from the spot and sent the body to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy.

Siraj, who allegedly led a triple murder incident at Kazipara on October 22, was accused in 17 cases

Nation mourns

FROM PAGE 1
Central Jail on this day in 1975. The many of the 23 accused died during

day is known as Jail Killing Day.

A Dhaka court on October 20 handed down death sentence to three, life imprisonment to 12 and acquitted five in the long-awaited verdict of the historic Jail Killing Case. Families of the leaders, how ever, rejected the verdict and termed it politically motivated and a farce.
Ruling BNP lawmaker KM
Obaidur Rahman, Shah Moazzem

Hossain, Nurul Islam Manzoor, Taheruddin Thakur and Additional Foreign Secretary Khairuzzaman freed on bail immediately after the ruling coalition took office, were cleared of the charges.

The AL alleges that the govern-ment interfered in the trial for the gruesome murders of the four leaders who spearheaded the Bangladesh government in exile during the War of Independence.

The killing of four close aides to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman came two months and 18 days after Bangabandhu along with most of his family was assassinated by some disgruntled army men out to eliminate the leadership that guided

Bangladesh during the war.

A murder case was filed with
Lalbagh Police Station the following day of the killing, but the then gov ernment halted the process of trial by promulgating an ordinance that indemnified the assassins.

The BNP-led government reinstated Major (retd) Khairuzzaman in his foreign ministry job last year, while Obaidur, Manzoor and Moazzem secured bail after the coalition took office.

Of the convicts, three with death sentence and nine with life term are on the run. Three others with life

The AL will hoist the national and party flags at half-mast and black lags at party offices in Dhaka and elsewhere in observance of the Jail

Leaders and workers of the AL and its front organisations will wear black badge to in a show of mourn-

The day's programmes also include garlanding the portrait of Bangabandhu, placing wreaths at the graves of the national leaders at Banani Graveyard and offering fateha and organising milad mahfils and special prayers. The party will also hold a discussion at the Auditorium of the Institution of Engineers at 11:00am tomorrow which senior AL leaders will address

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil in a statement yesterday urged party ders and workers to observe the Jail Killing Day programmes in a befitting manner.

In a message issued on the occa-The sacrifice of the four national leaders would never go in vain. It will continue inspiring people forever."

"The judgement of the case

delivered on October 20 is not a verdict delivered out of the judge's conscience, rather one directed by the government," reads the mes-

The trial was influenced by reinstating and promoting an accused on trial before the verdict. There are reasons to believe that the trial was reduced to a farce to save the self-declared killers. It has been proved again that the rule of law has been threatened because of the misrule of the alliance government."

FROM PAGE 12 However, the Tigers were never up to the task and crashed to 86 all out in

18,000-strong crowd. New Zealand opener Peter Fulton had smashed 11 runs in the first over bowled by Tapash Baisya but had no clue to a Nazmul Hossain inswinger which cut in sharp and uprooted his middle stump in the next over.

17-year-old Nazmul, playing only his third ODI, then removed danger man Nathan Astle (27) who played on to a delivery.

Left-arm spinner Manzarul Islam Rana sent back Hamish Marshall, brilliantly stumped by Khaled Mashud and soon Craig McMillan was also walking back to the pavilion caught behind off Tapash with the scoreboard reading 77-4.

Cairns then showed all his experience and even though Brendon

six off Nazmul. Man-of-the-match Cairns was the last man to get ou when he was clean bowled by Nazmul in the last over. The pace man who bowls with a whippy Makhaya Ntini-like action had removed Andre Adams in his previous delivery to end with career best figures of 4-40.

Bangladesh's batting nightmare began in the very first over when local boy Aftab Ahmed, having hit a boundary off the first ball, was

Medium-pacer Mills then removed Javed Omar, Rajin and Mohammad Ashraful in an inspired spell to reduce the home side to 27-4

the ninth over. Captain Habibul Bashar in his comeback match after more than two months out, raised hopes but medium pacer Scott Styris had him

Mills finished with 4-14 from seven overs while Vettori, who celebrated the role of captain for the first time in the absence of Stephen Fleming with a wicket with his first ball, returned with enviable figures

retain the same side for the daynight second match on November 5 The third game on November 7 will also be a day-nighter.

Divided America

voting at the local firehouse near his ranchin Crawford, Texas.

"I believe I'm going to win," Bush told reporters before heading to the battleground state of Ohio to thank Republican election volunteers and then returning to the White House. "My hope, of course, is that this elec-tion ends tonight."

In his own drive to get voters to the polls, Kerry met Democratic activists in Wisconsin, a battleground state that allows same-day registration, and hammered Bush on his conduct of the

"You have a choice, all Americans have this choice today," the Massachusetts senator sale before heading home to Boston to vote. "George Bush made his choices ... He made a choice without a plan to win

Analysts predict the highest turnout for 40 years and both candidates were still campaigning on election

day.

With the race so close, there are fears of a repeat of 2000's disputed result and subsequent legal wran-

from the two political parties, as well have been drafted in amid reports of lost ballots, confusing voter technologyand intimidation of voters.

However, Bush and Kerry have both said they do not think a pro-tracted legal battle is likely.

In one sign of the legal battles, US Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens allowed Republicans to chal-lenge voter qualifications inside

The first votes to be cast and counted on election day were on the east coast, in New Hampshire's North County, where a survey of a few dozen voters showed a narrow lead for Bush. SWINGSTATETENSION

Two of the biggest battlegrounds, Florida and Ohio -- both in Bush's column in 2000 -- were too close to call

yesterday.

In Florida, each campaign said it was encouraged by the early voting. But the state's size and the diversity of its electorate, coupled with the emo tions remaining from the 2000 recount, make it perhaps the most difficult battleground state to read.

Although a reported two million On Monday, people in some parts of Florida queued for several hours to

take advantage of the last day of early Tensions are also high in the state of Ohio, which like Florida could prove

decisive in the poll outcome.

Ohio, which no Republican has lost and still won the White House, appeared to be a tossup. The University of Cincinnati's Ohio Poll yesterday put Bush at 50.1 percent and Kerry at 49.2 percent, and a Columbus

Kerry must win at least one of those two states to have a realistic shot at victory, while a Bush loss in Florida would leave him in danger unless he could steal Pennsylvania or some Midwestern states like Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa -- all won by Gore

Pennsylvania, once seen as leaning to Kerry, may have tightened up over the weekend. A victory by Bush in Pennsylvania, which Democrat Al Gore won four years ago, would create a huge hurdle to Kerry's hopes of winning the White House. Democratic strategists said they expect to win the state, albeit more narrowly than they once believed.

Three upper Midwest states also main close. Minnesota continues to tilt toward Kerry, with Bush still hoping for an upset. In Wisconsin, both sides said the outcome is likely to be determined on the ground today. Bush strategists believe Iowa is the most likely state to take from the Democrats, but one adviser to Kerry said yesterday the state has begun to

movehisway. Bush's campaign also sees New Mexico as a potential pickup, and Kerry's team believes the Democrat will take back New Hampshire. Democrats see Nevada as still in play but the Bush camp believes it will remain in the red-state column. Bush is still fighting to win Michigan but

appears to have an uphill fight.

Analysts say a higher than usual turnout may benefit Kerry, as firsttime and occasional voters are more likely to vote for change. However, Americans are not in the habit of changing leaders during wartime and may in the end decide to stick with

(REUTERS/AFP/AP/WASHINGTON POST/BBC)

FROM PAGE 12

During interrogation Mahbub disclosed that Jamal had been killed but he declined to give details, Rab

officials said yesterday.

The Rab handed over Mahbub, allegedly involved in the abduction on July 24 last year, to the Crimina Investigation Department (CID) of the police, now probing the abduc-tion case, for further interrogation,

Nazma Begum, wife of Jamal Uddin, yesterday told The Daily Star that Kasem chairman and Mahbub were involved in the abduction. "He (Mahbub) can tell the whereabouts of my husband ... I believe he knows everything."

CID investigation officer Anway Hossain also said he has got enough information about the involvement of Kala Mahbub in the abduction of

Kasem chairman of Fatikchhari and another accused Shahid chairman of Anwara upazila went into hiding after the abduction. The Osman Bahini chief has also been on the run since the Rab started raiding his dens in Fatikchhari.

Polls either under

at the International Conference

She delivered her speech after listening to as many as 25 leaders of district, upazila and municipality units of the BNP Rajshahi City Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu also spoke at

BNP Standing Committee Member RA Ghani and ministers and MPs from Rajshahi division were The prime minister said the

create an issue to launch a movement. But the people did not respond to its evil attempts, she added. Referring to the improvement of law and order following the measures taken by the government, she said the opposition does not want the

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) as it has

stopped terrorism and extortion in the country.

Responding to the demand of the field level party leaders and workers for holding upazila parishad elections, the prime minister said the matter is under active consideration

of the government. She urged the party men to be

Rickshaw

release a rickshaw even though it has all the valid papers to meet the costs best known by the on-duty police-

But, when asked, police Sub-Inspector Abul Kashem in charge of the dumping site denied the allega-tion saying,-"No money is being taken to release rickshaws having

valid papers." Earlier, during a visit at about 12.30pm to New Market in front of Balaka Cinema Hall, about 20 rickshaws were found being seized. A number of their owners are seen engaged in negotiation with brokers in presence of traffic sergeants and police to procure release of their

One Mohammad Golap was bargaining with a broker to get back his rickshaw seized a few minutes ago from the New Market area. At first, he proposed to give Tk 300, but eventu-ally the deal was settled at Tk 700 to gethis rickshawback.

Although representatives of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) were supposed to accompany the Dhaka etropolitan Police (DMP) teams, DMP traffic teams alone are conduct-ing the seizing, as the DCC's officials concerned have been engaged in renewing rickshaw licences since make it victorious in the next general elections. She also asked them to settle differences, if any, among

themselves, and project the govern ment's success to the people.

Referring to some current issues, she said the problem of electricity in some areas is due to fall in the pressure of natural gas. The problem of loadshedding in rural areas will be over by January next with the

improvement of gas supply from the Sangufield, she hoped. She said the government has adequate stock of food and the recent price hike was due to the extensive mage caused by the exceptionally bad weather. The situation, however improved with huge production of vegetables in the last few days, she added.

India withdraws

FROM PAGE 12

from a two-day trip to New Delhi with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's official letter of invitation to Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to attend the 13th South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) Summit in Dhaka next Morshed had also proposed a Saarc Standardisation Institute to institutionalise uniform standards

for product certification in Saarc "A draft for the standardisation institute would be prepared in consultation with other Saarc coun-

tries and submitted before the Saaro council of ministers for approval," said Morshed. During his two-day visit, the foreign minister met with Prime

Minister Manmohan Singh, External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh and Commerce and Industries Minister Kamal Nath. Morshed said the Indian prime minister reiterated his support for Saarc, saying India would cooperate

in every possible way for the success of the Saarc Summit. Asked if the border skirmishes between the Border Security Force (BSF) and the Bangladesh Rifles were discussed during his meeting with Natwar Singh, Morshed replied that they had discussed the matter

and the Indian side sought 'consular access' to 18 Indian nationals who were recently arrested with illegal weapons while trespassing onto Bangladesh territory. Morshed also sought the support of the left-front leaders in Delhi in

opposing India's river linking pro-

CU moves to act

the findings to the university syndi-cate, which sent the same to anticorruption department.

As the scandal of judge Faisal

Mahmud Faizee broke, intelligence agencies and government depart-ments concerned became active to collect the findings of the probe body headed by Abu Saleh, a teacher of CU chemistry department. Saleh could not be contacted as he is staying abroad.

A member of the probe body, Azizur Rahman, said "I cannot remember details of our findings. I can only say that changing of marks, rubbing, overwriting and other forms of tampering with mark sheets were detected in the investi-

"We found massive irregularities in the results.....But I do not know what happened later," said Rahman,

now chairman of CU botany depart-The then Deputy Controller of Examinations Habibur Rahman and Section Officer Nasir Uddin who were in charge of the confidential section of tabulation sheets, were terminated at that time for their involvement in the manipulation of results, sources said.

Nasir became a millionaire by ruption, they added.

Chittagong Court have stopped coming to court after the result scandal of 110 lawyers came to light through press reports, sources said. Chittagong Bar Association has already formed two committees to probe the scandal.

"The probe bodies will sort out the names of the lawyers who are engaged in practice with fake certificates," Bar President Ibrahim Hossain Babul said. "We will ask

allow them continue practising and their names will be sent to the Bar Council for cancellation of their enrolment," he added.

Mohakhali flyover

Project Director Shahabuddin said former officials of Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB) misguided the WB.

"We had several meetings with the WB and they are convinced with our arguments. There is no doubt about the safety of the flyover," said Shahabuddin.

Sources in the WB said there was concern and finally they gave the green signal last week after checking all technical issues. WB sources, however, said, "We

are not fully happy with the situa-tion. Authorities have to finish all other work as early as possible to make it safe The much talked about flyover costing around Tk 114 crore was

scheduled for opening on November 7 but the authorities

Revolution and Solidarity Day. Construction of the 1.12 km long

on December 6, 2001 to be complete by June this year. The deadline was extended to September for installing shock transmission units (STUs) to protect the flyover from damage by Yet only 21 STUs out a total of 42 have been installed into the flyover.

and 17.9 metre wide flyover began

The flyover can be opened tomorrow though it is not 100 percent safe, said a highly placed source at the DSM consultant.

"If an earthquake hits Dhaka, not only the flyover, the whole city will be damaged," he said.

Starving people ferret

the same village. He said recurrent floods this year have damaged all his crops. "I planted seedlings three times but all were washed away by

floodwaters," he sulked.

Zakaria plans to move to Munshiganj after Eid for work as a day-labourer. Across the river, people in Morneya village alleged that the government relief did not reach

them. Most of the people in the

village have been the worst victim of

river erosion, having lost houses and other properties to the erosion. Chairman of Morneya Union Parishad Shamsul Alam however denied allegations of not reaching government assistance to these villages. "Almost all families, except

the village was under ward no. five and that ward got 268VGF cards. The army personnel are visiting door to door and enquiring about food assistance to the poor against the

total population of around 40,000 got VGF cards this time. The government also supplied 10 kgs rice against each card, he claimed. He, however, admitted that there

was a shortage of food among the people. "This is because people of this area do not have work during Bangla months of Ashwin and Kartik."

Saifur names 16 cos as defaulting Tk 16cr in taxes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The finance ministry has identified 16 companies that have defaulted on taxes of over Tk 16 crore, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman told the House yesterday adding steps for legal actions have already been initiated against the companies.

Of the income tax and VAT (value added tax) defaulters, M R Chemicals alone evaded paying Tk 15 crore to the government, Saifur said in response to a query of a lawmaker. However, the period of the default was not mentioned during the discussion.

In the list of the tax defaulters the finance minister submitted to the House, the other companies are: Rainbow (Tk 21.57 lakh), B Douza and Co (Tk 65,000), Abahoni Banijya Sangstha (Tk 3,772), Farco Syndicate (Tk 8.77 lakh), Ahmed and Brothers (Tk 91,552), Saikat Trading Agency (Tk 20,986), City Trade International (Tk 1.44 lakh) Paradise Fashion (Tk 80.33 lakh) Silver Syndicate (Tk 1.03 lakh) Kavazi Nariman and Co (Tk 5,794) Ankhi and Brothers (Tk 3.70 lakh), Paradise Corporation Pvt Ltd (Tk 4.49 lakh), Party Centre (Tk 1.23 lakh), Ananda Ullash Community Centre (Tk 51,380) and White Palace Community Centre (Tk88,444).

The finance minister said steps are one way to recover the unpaid taxes according to Section 128 of the Income Tax Ordinance 1984 and Section 37 of Value Added Tax Act

7 Indians pushed back

UNB, Thakurgaon

Seven Indian nationals were pushed back through Panchagarh border in the early hours yesterday.

Local BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) Commander Lt Col Mustafizur Rahman said the Indian nationals were pushed back at 2-30am. They

are Amena Begum ,45, her two daughters and four boys. They told BDR that the Indian border guards pushed them at gunpoint through Harinamari border at

dead of night on October 30. Sources said the BSF (Border Security Force) have assembled several hundred Indian Muslims at different points of Baliadanga border to push them into Bangladesh.

Another report from Panchagar said lathi-banshi (stick and whistle) committees have been formed at the frontier villages to resist Indian

Moudud

withdrew Faizee from the bench in face of the allegation and lawyers' threat to boycott his court. He also thrust full responsibility of the bench upon Justice Ali Asgar Khan, Faizee's senior judge in the bench, after Asgar declined to sit with him

in the court. The minister, however, ques-tioned the role of Bangladesh Bar Council for not noticing the matter

"I've heard he (Faizee) was a junior of the present president of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA). Why wasn't it (certificate tampering) noticed that time?

Two major dailies reported that Justice Faizee, one of the 19 additional judges whose appointment on August 23 drew sharp criticism from different quarters, tampered with his mark sheet of the LLB examinations he sat from Chittagong Law

College in 1989. An inquiry committee of Chittagong University unearthed

SCBA on Monday sent to the chief justice some documents in support of the allegations of tampering with the examination results by Faizee following Chief Justice's query made in a meeting with the SCBA leaders and senior lawyers on

Saturday.

FROM PAGE 12 Foreign ministry officials, some diplomats and journalists witnessed the explosions.

According to an international estimate, nearly 60 to 70 million landmines were indiscriminately laid in the ground in at least 70 countries of the world.

The landmines injure or kill approximately 26,000 civilians every

Convention on May 7, 1998 and it ratified the convention on September 6, 2000. Under provision of the convention, state parties are required to complete destruction of its antipersonnel stockpiles within four years from the date of becoming a

Another 13 countries have signed but not ratified the convention yet. "Thus we may consider that 147 countries have legally committed to the core obligations of the treaty,"

Canada, awarded as the most

Mob lynches 4 'robbers'

FROM PAGE 12 had its fan broken. Soon we jumped into the river as locals in another trawler were chasing us," said one of the robbers, Shaheen, who is now under police custody with a wound in the head. He took first aid from Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).

A robber shot the nearly 50year-old boatman in his leg and he fell into the river. Police could not say anything about him.

The robbers fired three times to force the mob give up the chase. But soon the locals caught 'Kala' Ripon, Johnny and Jewell. Around 200 locals who gathered on the riverbanks beat the three dead on the Before lynching, the robbers admitted that 'Kala' Ripon, a neigh-

them with information including the recent selling of a piece of land Later, the mob searched out 'Dhola' Ripon who was walking on

bour of Moktar, used to provide

a road at CharWazpur and beat him to death. Three operatives of the gang Shaheen, 'Murgi' Tipu and 'Chakma' Faruk, a close associate of Nabi, a notorious criminal of Mohammadpur, swam across the river, but locals on Mohammadpur

before turning them in to the police. Worker Abdus Salam, 42, received a bullet in the chest and was first rushed to the DMCH and then to the Chest Diseases Hospital at Mohakhali.

embankment caught and beat them

Another member of the gang, Sumon, however managed to slip Locals said the river bandits from Mohammadpur and Mirpur

used to carry out robbery in Basila,

Char Wazpur and surrounding

areas. The police and locals could neither recover the looted money nor the gold ornaments and other

goods from the robbers. 'Murgi' Tipu, however, said some locals snatched the money

and other goods from them. Tipu also said they had five firearms,

which they dropped into the river.
PROCESSION Locals of Char Wazpur took out a procession in the area protesting

the robbery yesterday. A few hundred locals brandishing bamboo sticks demanded exemplary punishment to the arrested robbers. They also

demanded a permanent police

Altat

camp in the area.

FROM PAGE 12 Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed stood to respond to the AL lawmak ers' protest and asked the opposition deputies why they were raising

such strong protest.
Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid then brought the absence of commerce minister to the law min-

ister's notice and termed it a violation of the rules of parliament. Moudud then looked at the commerce minister's seat and

found it vacated. Earlier, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Jativa Sangsad, ruling BNP lawmaker Manzur Ouader read his call attention notice about mixing chemicals in food grains. Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid Siddiqui, who was presiding over the session, gave floor to the commerce minister for response. But Altaf was not available in the House and did not even arrange for someone else to respond

to the notice for him. The deputy speaker, apparently baffled in the face of opposition protest, said he had seen the commerce minister in the House only a

The deputy speaker then shifted the notice to the next day's business. The Rules of Procedure of the Jatiya Sangsad say a minister shall attend the House to respond to a call attention notice that is already accepted by the House. He may do it

Govt interfered

have evidence of interference in the trial by the government and demanded of the Speaker to hold a discussion on the issue in the House.

has evidence enough of the law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry's interference in the trial. In this connection Nasim said The government replaced the previous public prosecutor with a new one who was partial to and acted in favour of the defendants in

Initiating the attack frontline AL

shouted -- shame, shame, But Law Minister Moudud Ahmed termed Nasim's speech politically motivated' and 'completely out of order'. He said he would reply to the allegations if the

opposition submits a formal notice.

Speaker to expunge Nasim's speech from the House proceedings When, in face of repeated attack from the opposition bench, the law minister tried again to take the floor to counter the accusations, Local Government and Rural Develop-

ment Minister Abdul Mannan

Bhuiyan restrained him. Speaker Jamir Udddin Sircar

expunged Nasim's speech from the

Moudud also demanded the

sparked a spell of heat in the House. Taking the floor AL lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta said the state's role as prosecutor in criminal cases has

The Speaker's decision of

expunction of Nasim's speech

prompted the AL lawmakers to burst

into protest against the chair that

lost all credibility due to the 'naked'

intervention in the Jail Killing Case.

"The law ministry has played a dishonourable role to save the killers rather than proving the case." He reiterated the AL demand of the Speaker to hold a discussion on

As the Speaker again turned down the opposition demand for a discussion saying the matter is subjudice, AL lawmaker Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim taking the floor said the Speaker has the right to allow a discussion on the issue at the stage. "We want to discuss about the

The Speaker also asked the opposition deputies to submit a notice on

government accounts for slow Saifur criticised some donor

interfere all too often." The present government is not interested in receiving this sort of

said Bangladesh has got \$7277.42

interest on the loans. \$931,355 million and loans of

\$397.313 million.

withdrawn proposed assistance during the last three years of the government. Referring to having a national

budget without foreign assistance, he said it is still not possible, as the country's foreign direct investment is not adequate.

lawin the country.

the issue. When AL lawmakers said they already have submitted that, the Speaker said he would examine it.

Half of last 8 years

Saifur said his ministry has strengthened the Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) for quick implementation of the projects. "We have also shortened the time to prepare project

implementation of projects and poor utilisation of external aid. countries for imposing strict conditions and excessive interventions. "Some countries like Denmark give us a small amount of money, but

FOREIGN LOAN Replying to another question, Saifur

years and paid \$ 1271.28 million as The minister said in last three years of the present government, the country received \$1328.66 million in financial aid. This includes grants of

He said none of the donors has

million in foreign loans in last eight

Saifur Rahman once again rejected the recent Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) report that tagged Bangladesh as the

utive years. "When there are many developed countries where corruption involving billions of dollar is rampant, they (TIB) brand a country like Bangladesh corrupt, which is not fair," he said replying to a question from Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shaheed. He said the donors praised

most corrupt nation for four consec-

the African nations misappropriate most of the loans," he said adding, But ironically, the African countries are not branded as corrupt". Saifur said, "I am always against such listing that brands a country corrupt on the basis of local newspaper reports. I rejected the 2001 TIB

management. "Bangladesh repays

its loans and interests in time while

rule when Bangladesh was labelled as the most corrupt country." FLOOD REHABILITATION

PROGRAMME

The donors pledged \$519.47 million in financial aid for flood rehabilitation programme. But we are yet to receive any significant amount of the promised assistance, Saifur told

instalment by the end of this year,"

Saifursaid. He said the ADB has tentatively pledged \$200 million while the WB

makers criticised the government for making delay in flood rehabilitation programmes, Saifur said though the government has not yet received any foreign assistance in this regard, it has already allocated

Cairns thumps

31.5 overs, their fourth lowest total in ODIs. The day had begun encourag-ingly for the home team infront of an

McCullum was out cheaply, the veteran all-rounder steadied the innings with a 49-run sixth wicket partnership with Scott Styris (43 off 55 balls). Once set, Cairns cut loose ership with Scott Styris (43 off in the end overs smacking five sixes and one four in an innings lasting 83 Cairns brought up his fifty with a

sion, Leader of the Opposition and AL President Sheikh Hasina said,

trapped lbw by Kyle Mills,

of 3-4 from 3.5 overs. Bangladesh have decided to

states taken by Bushin 2000.

Bush sounded confident after Centre (ICC).

opposition party has been trying to

In Florida, thousands of lawyers

polling stations in Ohio, a develop-ment that Democrats fear could be used to intimidate their core voters.

people have already cast their ballots in Florida during two weeks of advance polling, turnout was expected to be heavy on election day.

Dispatch poll on Sunday called the race 50-50, the closest in the poll's

Ctg magnate

Rab sources said.

making huge money through cor-Meanwhile, some 20 lawyers of

them to bring no objection certifi-cates from CU authorities within one week. "If they fail to do so, we will not

planned to open it three days earlier due to the busy schedules of the prime minister and other ministers on November 7, the National

for mine, got some sort of assistance this time," he said. On the allegation made by people in Moubhashi village, Alam said

A total of 2,500 families out of a

Moudud said.

Bangladesh

year, some 8,000 to 10,000 of them are children. In keeping with its constitutional obligation towards complete and general disarmament and a deep commitment to humanitarian principles, Bangladesh signed the Anti-Personnel Landmine

party. A total of 134 nations are state parties to the convention. the military officer told the function.

peaceful country of the world, has provided \$2.8 million in financial assistance for meeting the expenditure of the destruction operation.

leader Mohammad Nasim said he

the case," to which AL lawmakers it for the sake of establishing rule of

> irregularities in handling the case not about the verdict."

House proceedings. He also declined to allow any discussion on the issue terming the matter

proposals," he said. He, however, did not agree with the Awami League (AL) lawmaker Dr Abdur Razzak that politicisation of the administration by the alliance Bangladesh for its better financial

report during the Awami League

the House. "We look forward to a significant

will grant \$190 million. When the opposition AL law-

Tk 2,006 crore for flood rehabilitation projects from its own fund.