## Indian team

FROM PAGE 1 here yesterday where they were again assured by Dhaka of a "foolproof" security for the cricketers during their stay here.

The team will visit Pan-Pacific Hotel Sonargaon, where the Indian cricket team will be based during their 20-day stay in Dhaka, and Bangabandhu National Stadium, the venue for the first Test and the last two one-day internationals.

The team will submit a report on whether it is safe for the squad to go

through with the tour. State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar told reporters at the home ministry yesterday, "We have investigated the matter and it is a hoax. No such organisation exists on Bangladeshi territory."

"We have assured them of the highest security for the cricket team as we plan to make every effort to ensure their safety," he added.

Emerging from the meeting at

the home ministry, Reazuddin Al Mamun, Media Committee chairman of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), told reporters, "We had a cordial meeting. They were really concerned about the security of the Indian cricketers but, we have

### Two hurt in Rab action at Tongi, Sylhet die

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth, who received bullet in the Rapid Action Battalion's (Rab) November 19 Tongi operation that killed three people, died at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

Meantime, another youth yesterday died from alleged torture by the Rab members at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College and Hospital, reports our Sylhet correspondent.

Kawsar, 20, son of Nazibullah of Gutia village in Tongi, Gazipur, received bullets in his legs and abdomen in the Rab operation that also killed his father, brother Shamsul Haq, 25, and neighbour

The elite force claimed the three were killed and Kawsar and two others were bullet-hit in Rab action. But villagers who hold local robbers responsible for the incident said they called in the Rab an hour after

the gruesome killings Rafiqul Islam, Kawsar's cousin, alleged the cobbers are still threat-ening the villagers with more deaths. "Led by Sadu, they showed up several times and told us that they will kill four more," Rafiqul told

The Daily Star yesterday. Most of our men who left the village in fear still dare not return home due to the threats, said Mohammad Imran.

In Sylhet, the Rab nabbed Abdul Haque, 32, of Khoshir village in Beanibazar, and two others for their alleged involvement in heroin and liquor business Friday.

Sources said the Rab beat up and injured the arrestees and handed them over to police. Next day, they were admitted to hospital where Haque died yesterday.

#### Strike at Benapole land port stops trade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Trade through Benapole land port remained suspended since Sunday noon due to an indefinite strike called by the Indian truckers demanding release of their two fellows.

On November 19, Bongaon police arrested truck drivers Chandan and Robin at Petrapole suspecting their involvement in looting two trucks laden with goods exported to India by a garment industry of Dhaka

The Indian truckers began the strike on December 5 as the deadline they had given earlier to release Chandan and Robin expired on December 4.

According to Benapole Customs

sources, the indefinite strike has virtually paralysed export-import trade between the two countries The Indian National Security Adviser JN Dixit called on Saifur through the land port.

A large number of trucks laden with goods perishable and non-perishable remained stranded on both sides of Benapole and Petrapole borders since Sunday noon, the sources said.

## Short circuit

FROM PAGE 12 of the three-member probe com-mittee and director (Administration, Operations and Development) of Fire Service and Civil Defence.

The opposition members lauded other steps of the government that ensured a "peaceful and congenial atmosphere" during the Eid and The probe committee estimated damage of around Tk 51 crore that contradicts the traders' estimate of Durga Puja. They noted with satisfaction the efficient handling of the situation during the just concluded Biswa

around Tk 200 crore.
Brushing aside the allegation of arson, Razzak told reporters that the committee interviewed all the people concerned including those who alleged arson but did not find

anyevidence.
"We did not have any sort of pressure from any section concerning the investigation," Razzak said, claiming the report fair and unbi-

"The market had illegal and complex electrical connections like a web that had the risk of causing such accidents," said another mem-

The committee made a number of recommendations regarding safe electrical connections and fire extinguishing systems in the city

## WB lending

FROM PAGE 1 them as satisfying conditions.

assured them of their safety during

inspection team after their visit to

the hotel and the first Test venue

tomorrow (today)," Babar said. "If possible, they might visit the venue for the second Test match in

Chittagong. If it is not possible tomorrow (today), they will visit it

Speaking to reporters on their arrival at Zia International Airport

yesterday, KBS Katoch, member of

the security team and joint-

secretary of India's external affairs

bility of the threat being a hoax. But

ministry, did not rule out the possi-

he was reluctant to reach a conclu-

sion before their own investigation

'We have come to check the full

Indian officials in New Delhi and

Indian High Commission officials in

Dhaka have said the tour, now

scheduled to start on December 8,

would be on hold until the Indian

authorities assess the finds of the

five-member inspection team. Apart from Azad, the other four

members of the inspection team are

Indian cricket team's Tour Manager

Sudhakar Rao, Indian cricket

board's Director Of Commu-

nications Amrit Mathur and

Director of Indian Ministry of Home

Pakistan before the historic Indo-

Pak Test series in March this year

where he was responsible for giving the Indian team the go-ahead to visit

Pakistan for their first full-tour of

The Indian High Commission

officials here said the embassy had

received a letter faxed on Sunday

from Islamist outfit Harkat-ul-Jihad

threatening the cricketers with

serious consequences if they went

ahead with the trip. Little is known about the group

Two boys were burnt to death and 17

others injured in a fire at Dharail

bazaar in Ullapara upazila of the

Sources said the fire originated

Seven of the injured were admit-

ted to hospitals and clinics while the

rest given first aid. The cause of the

Delhi for best

FROM PAGE 1 with Bangladesh "right from the

beginning."

He said the two countries were

enjoying "very good political, eco-nomic and social relations." Saifur said Singh assured him that trade imbalance should not

continue for long as it is and it

should be reduced on practical lines through corrective steps. The finance minister said he also

uggested export facilitation to

Bangladesh for the northeast Indian

market by removing non-tariff barriers like the problem of banking

under which presently letter of

credit (LC) opening requires permission from the central bank of India.

into the matter.

He said the Indian prime minis-

Saifur said Singh had congratu-

counterpart, P Chidambaram, at the

agreed to reduce the trade gap

Rawshan meets

FROM PAGE 12 quick arrest of price spirals caused by the devastating floods.

They thanked the prime minister for the post-flood rehabilitation programmes taken by the govern-

Referring to the improvement of law and order and the development

programmes taken all over the coun-

try, the prime minister said the wel-fare of the country takes preference

"The development programmes of the government are designed for

irrespective of the elected repre-entatives of the area," she told the

The parliamentary party delega-tion included Moshiur Rahman, TIA

Fazley Rabbi, Karimuddin Bharsha, Tajul Islam, Hafizuddin, AKM Mostafizur Rahman, Mojibur

Rahman, Golam Habib Dulal, Noor

Mohammad, Mohammad Ali, M Solaiman and Motiur Rahman.

over anything else in their politics.

balanced development

IP lawmakers.

tween the two countries

Rahman at his hotel suite.

Saifur said Chidambaram had

2 boys die in

market fire

district early yesterday.

and injuring 17 others.

recovered the bodies.

Shafiqul, 12, of Dharail village.

UNB, Sirajganj

Azad also led the security team to

Affairs Shantanu Mukherjee.

Pakistan after 14 years.

and home ministry briefings today.

security of the Indian cricket team,"

Katoch said. "We will give our deci-

sion tomorrow (today)."

the day after."

"We expect a decision from the

The amendments have already been okayed by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs and will be sent to parliament soon.

"Fighting corruption is one of the Bank's key objectives for growth," said a WB official. "The tendering process is a major area of corruption. The changes proposed will create more scope for corrupt practices as unscrupulous people will get more time to tamper with bid documents. Similarly, procurement without competition always breeds

Every development credit agreement on investment projects spells out how goods and services would be procured through competitive bidding. The ongoing projects had been signed before this move to amend the procurement guideline and so if these two clauses are changed, they will violate the con-

One of the major implications of the changes will be that all ongoing projects will be delayed leading to other complications.

"The Bank has already expressed its reservations about the proposed change," said an official. "Even if it decides to accept the amendments, all investment agreements will have to be changed. This would take quite some time.

On November 3, a meeting of the planning ministry decided to change the process of procurement to accommodate a range of objections and demand of different min-

Following this, World Bank Country Director Christine Wallich wrote to Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman saying that the changes would affect the Bank's lending and give rise to corruption.

### National plan

FROM PAGE 1 the Ministry of Social Welfare in collaboration with the National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD).

The prime minister urged the private social-welfare organisations and conscious citizens to supplement government efforts in trans-forming the disabled population into human resources.

Referring to the function, the orime minister said this fair proved that the handicapped can also actively participate in economic and productive activities.

Minister for Social Welfare Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, from a grocery shop of the bazar at about 3:00 am and soon engulfed the adjoining shops, killing two employ-Khandakar Mahbubuddin MP, ees of a sweetmeat shop instantly president of NFOWD Khandaker uhurul Alam, Managing Director of the National Foundation for the Development of the Disabled M Ishaq Bhuiyan and Social Welfare The dead are Alauddin, 13, and On information, police went to Secretary Kazi Monwarul Huq also the spot yesterday morning and

addressed the function. Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury, diplomats and representatives of a large number of national and international social-welfare organisations were present.

The prime minister opened the fair by releasing pigeons and balloons. She went round different stalls and witnessed a cultural programme performed by the dis-abled artistes.

## Civil, defence

FROM PAGE 1 smuggling of forest resources, especially timber, can be checked.

The official announcement says the taskforces will carry out sudden raids on railway stations, roads and highways and water-ways to check illegal timber transportation and take legal action on the spot.

Tariqul said his ministry has taken all-out steps to protect the forest resources and will do everyter assured him that he would look thing possible to check smuggling They have taken up a massive plan to increase the volume of forests in the country, he added. lated the Bangladesh government for restoring macro-economic stability. Earlier in the day, the finance minister had talks with his Indian

When asked, he admitted several forest officials were suspended for their alleged involvement in timber smuggling and the ministry has started taking departmental action against them.

#### One-fourth ACC

chosen from among the govern-ment high officials who earlier

worked with the Bac on deputation. "We have been asked to scrutinise the staff on the basis of their ACRs (annual confidential reports), skill, honesty, involvement in corruption or irregularity, and see whether their lifestyle is consistent with their earnings," one of the

committee members said. There are some other criteria, which the member would not dis-

"We have provided them with specific criteria for staff selection," ACC Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan told The Daily Star yesterday without detailing further.

About the allegation of corrup-tion by Bac staff, one of the commit-tee members said, "There are allegations against many staff, but we did not find enough evidence. Maybe action could not be taken earlier against some of them for the lack of

evidence." Asked to comment on the selection of the scrutiny committee members and their honesty, ACC Director General MA Matin told The Daily Star that the Commission selected them only after being sure that they are good men. "Commission has trust in them."

# BDB, Oikya Mancha Three Marines FROM PAGE 12 although he walks with a limp, said a report from the Philippine embassy in Page held.

November, two such mass dialogues ing to the ruling BNP.

Badruddoza yesterday said successive governments ruled the country ignoring people's voice.
"We want to formulate a people's manifesto on the basis of suggestions from people," he said.

dialogue programme." He also alleged the coalition

Referring to 'crossfire' incidents as stated by Rapid Action Battalion, the BDB president said, "Killing of some criminals will not improve the situation, rather, godfathers of the

Responding to a question on a persisting debate about Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Dr Kamal Hossain said people are now hostage to corruption and criminal activities. The prevailing politics breeds corruption and criminal activities pushing the country to a vulnerable state, said Dr Kamal, also president of the Gono

contain corruption and criminal

in Rangpur and Mymensingh were foiled by activists allegedly belong-

Criticising the government 'bid to foil' the BDB-Oikya Mancha movement, the former president said this showed the rulers got scared of the 'success of our mass

government did not allow the BDB to hold any public rally in the capital since its formation.

criminals have to be rooted out."

Rahman and late president Ziaur Rahman, the BDB chief said, when he was in the BNP, he never showed disrespect to Sheikh Mujibur

People have to forge unity to

The Oikya Mancha convenor also criticised successive governments for not taking effective steps to resolve unemployment problem.

"The country does not belong to any individual or any particular group, rather the masses own the country. This is why a people's manifesto is necessary for the country," said Dr Kamal

Replying to a question he said, "Get united against MPs who don't attend parliament sessions but

rry to seek employment. About 6,000
Filipinos are believed working in Iraq,
most of them with private contractors
serving US-led coalition forces. remain busy with other activities." Mohammed Mostafa, a businessman present at the dialogue, said the government is indifferent to A Filipino accountant, Robert skyrocketing prices of essentials. Tarongoy, employed by a Saudi

Abul Hossain, a garment worker, alleged their employers harass them at their workplace and deprive them of their basic rights.

Several discussants blamed a section of politicians for harbouring

The government should first take action against godfathers and then it should go for action against other criminals, said Mohammed Mahiuddin, a student.

Mohammad Shamsul Haque, Narayangani district convenor of Oikya Mancha, chaired the mass dialogue. Leaders present included Gono Forum General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, BDB Secretary General Abdul Mannan, Organising Secretary Mahi B Chowdhury MP and Joint Secretary Firoz M Hasan, BDB Narayanganj district unit leader ATM Kamal and Oikya Mancha leaders Mostafa Mohsin Montu, Samsuzzoha, Mafizul Islam Kamal and Abdur

## Govt should've

to make the payment, for contempt of

After hearing, a bench of Appellate Division of the Supreme Court set today for delivering its verdict upon the IGP's appeal petition against the High Court verdict.

A four-member full bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain heard the petition yesterday.

Saying that the honour of the judiciary has been put into question and that the institution must be saved, the court maintained that the highest officer of the police department had behaved arrogantly with the court and underestimated it.

What would his subordinates learn and do if he, being the head of an institution, behaves this way, the court wondered. An HC division bench last January

had found IGP Shahudul Haque guilty of "gross misconduct" in a contempt case and slapped the fine on him. The HC had also fined three traffic

men for the same offence, but exonerated two others from the contempt of court charges. The police boss had to face the contempt proceedings for his remarks in a written reply to certain queries in a contempt case earlier initiated against

the five traffic policemen for showing disrespect to a sitting HC judge at Farmgate in Dhaka. On his way to court, the flag car of the judge was stopped roadside by the on-duty traffic policemen to let a

police officer's vehicle pass in June last

FROM PAGE 12 environmental conference in

The Status of Coral Reefs of the

World 2004 also said that another

"24 percent of the world's reefs are

under imminent risk of collapse

through human pressures, and a

further 26 percent are under a

"The major emerging threat to coral reefs in the last decade has

been coral bleaching and mortality

associated with global climate change," it said. Bleaching is a mass death of corals caused by a sudden

Even so, it said some reefs had

recovered sharply from a 1998 bleaching which seriously dam-aged 16 percent of all reefs world-

wide, especially in the western Pacific and the Indian Ocean.

that were seriously damaged in

1998 are either recovering well or have recovered," it said. Some of the report's highlights were issued

It said the 1998 warming had

been the most serious in 1,000

years but was likely to happen

about every 50 years in future, largely because of heat-trapping gases in the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels in cars, facto-

Corals are formed by a build-up of limestone skeletons left by tiny

marine animals called polyps. The

graveyards can become giant struc-

tures like the Great Barrier Reef off

Australia, colorful homes to thou-

sands of species from sharks to

the world should do more to cut

pollution, restrict fishing and fight

to curb emissions of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide to protect

The WWF environmental group,

which took part in the report, urged

governments meeting in Buenos

The report said nations around

in Bangkok last month.

ries or power stations.

seaweed.

SKELETONS BRINGLIFE

"About 40 percent of the...reefs

rise in ocean temperatures.

longer-term threat of collapse."

Buenos Aires lasting until Dec. 17.

Most coral reefs

As the HC ordered the IGP to explain the manners of his men, the police chief came up with a countercharge in his reply and defended the law-enforcers.

He had said, "The judge himself, by issuing the contempt rule against the traffic policemen, became liable to be prosecuted under the criminal law on charges of wrongful confinement, prejudicial act, obstructing public servants from discharging public function and threatening them."

During yesterday's hearing the court said the Supreme Court is custo-

dian of the constitution and protector of all citizens' rights. Authorities of the executive and the judiciary are to cooperate the Supreme Court. But the IGP by his conduct challenged its Senior Advocate Khondker

Mahbubuddin Ahmed MP and Barrister Mainul Hossain, who appeared for the appellant, pleaded for mercy on the IGP.

The IGP, whose contract expires in arch next year, meanwhile, left for New York yesterday and will visit the UN Peacekeeping Department. From New York, he will go to Lyon, France to visit the Interpol Secretariat to meet its secretary general, a Police Headquarters press release said.

The hearing of a writ petition challenging the validity of Shahudul's service as IGP, meanwhile, will be held at the High Court tomorrow.

Supreme Court Advocate MK Rahman filed the petition on March

Aires to set a goal of limiting a rises

in temperatures linked to global

"To save coral reefs, govern-ments must reduce carbon dioxide

emissions quickly, but also create

Simon Cripps, head of the WWF's

global marine program.

emperatures have risen by 0.6C

warming to 2.0 celsius (3.60F).

marine protected areas,"

since the late 1800s.

reefs for food.

Hasina

visit to the US and the UK.

However, she did not name the

Talking to reporters at Zia

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), which

attributed deaths of some 60 people

International Airport, the AL chief said, "The BNP-Jamaat-led alliance

is patronising criminals for its own

purpose. How crime can be elimi-

nated by the people who are the originators of it?" she asked.

its front organisations went to the

to attend an international confer-

ence in New York and also for better

treatment for hearing injuries she

was suffering since the August 21

The AL chief will hold a press

conference today at 3:00pm at her

party's Dhanmondi office. She is

likely to speak about the latest politi-

cal scenario and the AL's united

move with other opposition parties

in the oust-government movement.

airport to receive Hasina.

grenade attacks.

The central leaders of the AL and

Hasina left Dhaka on October 21

FROM PAGE 12

to 'crossfire'.

#### FROM PAGE 12 valked away from the place, police

said, quoting a witness.
Police could not nab or identify

One shot dead

Manila pulled out its small mili-

tary contingent from Iraq and banned the deployment of Filipino

workers there after a Filipino truck

driver was kidnapped by Iraqi mili-

tants and threatened with death.

The truck driver was later

released after the pullout of the

Filipino troops.
Despite the ban, Filipino workers

already working in Iraq refused to leave while other Filipinos have been

sneaking into the war-ravaged coun-

Arabian trading firm, was kid-napped by Iraqi militants on November 1. His fate remains

the miscreants till 7:30pm. Meanwhile, police recovered the body of an unidentified man, aged about 35, from a water-body at

Sector-12 in Uttara yesterday. The body did not bear any marks of injury, police said.

## House tutors

FROM PAGE 12 letters to Vice-Chancellor Prof. SMA Faiz on Sunday night for "harassment by some ICD-backed outsiders".

The sources said the 12 acting house tutors, along with six other teachers who have finished their term recently as house tutors, went to the VC's office and

submitted their resignations. However, the VC did not receive the letters officially. He assured them of taking "immediate steps" against the persons concerned.

One of the house tutors, seeking anonymity, said a group of JCD activists confined some teachers to the hall office a few days ago, but the provost "didn'ttake any action against them".

Meanwhile, the Provost of the hall Nim Chandra Bhowmick called a meeting of house tutors at 7:00pm

#### Industrial emissions

FROM PAGE 12 emissions, bio-mass burning and re-suspended dust.

"Air pollution from industrial sources is lower than vehicular sources and that is why we have not considered setting standards for industrial emissions, Dr

Khaliquzzaman said.

About massive air pollution caused by the tanneries, brick kilns and other industries in the country, Khaliquzzaman said that those were "localised problems" not effecting the people in general.

It may be mentioned here that air pollution in the city's Hazaribagh, Rayer Bazar, Lalbagh, Basila, Kamrangirchar and Washpur areas ---- where tannery wastes are ple have developed various respira-tory and skin diseases, according to findings by environmental groups. The poisonous air causes erosion of

corrugated tins, ornaments and all corrugated tins, ornaments and all utensils. According to a report quoted by the Ministry of Environment and Forest, tannery wastes affect about one million people, making the Hazaribagh tanneries one of the single largest urban polluters in the world.

An official source in the Ministry of Environment and Enrest said that

of Environment and Forest said that the government does not want to "upset" the influential industrialists by setting any standards. He said their reports showed that among the industries there are serious polluters of the land, air and water but nothing drastic could be done to stop them.

During winter about 5,000 brick kilns around the city spew huge amounts of black smoke into the atmosphere, enveloping the city with smog. This causes various respiratory problems.

## US consulate

FROM PAGE 1

Then some military people came, both sides were firing and we were in between. We were all on the ground and some people were injured," he said from his bed at King Fahd hospi-

US President George W. Bush said the attack showed "the terrorists are still on the move" and linked them to insurgents in Iraq, where violence threatens elections set for January.

"They want us to leave Saudi Arabia, they want us to leave Iraq, they want us to grow timid and weary in the face of their willingness to kill randomly, kill innocent people," Bush

US embassy spokeswoman Carol Kalin said five local staff, including a guard, were killed. She withheld their

CERTIFICATE DOCTORING

### **Body finally** meets on strategy

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University's (CU) much-talked about committee formed to work out ways to cancel the doctored certificates yesterday met to set its strategy while only 18 days are left

The meeting was held at the Pro Vice Chancellor's office yesterday afternoon with the committee chief Professor Dr M Shamsuddin in the

Members of the five-member committee--Professor Dr Sirajul Islam, Professor Quazi Mostain Billah, Professor Md Nurul Mostafa and Md Morshed Mahmud Khan were also

## AL for ADB-style

FROM PAGE 1 2004 was placed in parliament on October 31 amid widespread criticism by the opposition political parties, civil society and rights groups. The AL lawmakers in parlia-ment protested the bill and said it is against the constitution and fundamental rights of people.

"I have pointed out my party's position on the proposed bill and she (Wallich) is satisfied with our explanation," Jalil told The Daily Star last night after the meeting held

at his Gulshan residence. The 1973 immunity given to the ADB bars the state from prosecuting the bank or its staff. However, it does not give immunity to the hank from legal proceedings by individuals. The proposed bill bars individuals from seeking legal help against the

The AL at a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on finance ministry on November 27 demanded revision of the bill so that the institution enjoys immunity from judicial proceeding by the state only, not individuals.

## Forced Labour

FROM PAGE 1
The rescued hailed from Chittagong,

Cox's Bazar, Pirojpur and Barisal districts. They were identified as Rafiqul, 24, Noor Mohammad, 20, Mofizul, 24, Jamal, 30, Kalam, 24, Rezaul, 12, Mahmudul, 14, Ismail, 14, Abdun Noor. 13, Idris, 14, Mansoor, 20, Sarwar, 17, Akhter, 18, Zubair, 9, Jahangir, 13, Mohosin, 9 and Alam,

They were working for nine dry fish farms, where they were not allowed minimum facilities and wage. The employers forced them to continue the job in subhuman conditions making it impossible for

them to escape, police said. SI Mominur Rahman of the 50member Dublarchar Police Camp led the operation.

Including these 17, as many as 161 children and youths were rescued in last one month from Dublarchar, mainly a fishermen's village adjacent to the Bay of Bengal.

nationalities but security sources said

theywere Arabs and Asians. Witnesses said the militants had hauled down the U.S. flag and burned

it after bursting into the mission. A Saudi security official said the militants entered the compound through a side door where mail is delivered, but the US official said at least some had used the main

### AL, allies to announce agitation plan Dec 11

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the mainstream opposi-tion parties will sit with Awami League (AL) chief and leader of the opposition Sheikh Hasina in a couple of days to finalise their next agitation programmes that is likely

to be announced on December 11.
Leaders of the AL, left leaning 11party alliance, Jatiya Samajtantrik
Dal (JSD) and National Awami Party (NAP) at the meeting in AL central office also discussed their preparations ahead of the December 11 human wall to show no-confidence on the alliance government. Senior leaders of the parties in

separate teams will begin three-day mass contact programmes at different places on the 900-kilometre route of the human wall from The opposition parties will also hold four combined rallies in

Comilla and Bogra on December 8,

and Rangpur and Sitakunda on "Our preparations to make the human wall from Teknaf to Tentulia a success are going on very well," AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil told newsmen after the meeting. Presided over by Amir Hossain

Amu, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Abdur Razzak, Rashed Khan Menon, Manjurul Ahsan Khan, Mujahidul Islam Selim, Bimal Biswas, Dilip Barua, Obaidul Quader, Syed Zafar Sazzad, Pankaj Bhattacharya and Abdus Samad.

## Optional books

FROM PAGE 1 the very first time to have seven books for class IX and X printed by private publishers for the academic year 2005. These are for algebra, general science,

social science, physics, history, English grammar and business studies (Byabsa Porichity).

The rationale behind such decision was to upgrade curriculum and unload some of its responsibilities,

Earlier the NCTB formed Independent Textbook Evaluation Committee (ITEC) comprising academics, government officials and private sector representatives to

The committee so far has finalised of six

November 28 and two on December 2. It had decided to approve several textbooks for a particular subject. Primarily as many as 16 books have been selected for general science, 27 for business studies, 22 for algebra, 18 for history, eight for social science-8 and 13 for physics.

So many books on one subject would confuse the students and indulge discrimination in standard of education, alleged one teacher. Besides, it will confuse the teachers

evaluating exam sheets of the public examinations, said the teacher seek-Senior officials of the NCTB at a parliamentary committee meeting had earlier gave assurance that students will get books for the next academic year timely. NCTB Chairperson

Dilara Hafiz could not be reached for The NCTB will hand over printing of 71 textbooks to private sector in 2006 and 2007.



Interested candidates are invited to apply for the following full-time positions available from January 2005 at Presidency University. Deadline for receiving applications is December 23, 2004

Qualifications

**Faculty Position** 

Lecturer	Electrical and Computer Engineering	reputed foreign university. At least one article in a conference proceeding or journal as the first author.  •B.Sc. in Civil Engineering and outstanding academic performance are required for Junior
Associate	Civil Engineering/	Lecturer position.  • Ph.D. from a reputed foreign university. The
Professor/	Electrical and	candidate should have outstanding academic
Professor	Computer Engineering	achievements and publications in refereed journals.

Assistant Professor for Associate Professor position: at least five years of teaching experience for Professor position.

· At least three years of teaching experience as

• M.Sc. in Civil Engineering from BUET or a

Pro Vice Chancellor Presidency University

Tel: 8857617-8, 8859142

## Department

# Lecturer/Junior Civil Engineering/

# Computer Engineering

Salary is negotiable and competitive. Application (two sets) in sealed envelop, including CV,

copies of academic certificates and transcripts, passport sized photograph and salary expectation,

House 11/a, Road 92, Gulshan - 2, Dhaka - 1212 email: provc@presidency.edu.bd

#### The report said the major success of the past five years had been strict protection of a third of the Great Barrier Reef by Australia. The United States is taking similar steps off Hawaii and Florida. But 75 percent of coral reefs are in developing countries where human populations are rising rapidly and millions depend on

Position

should be sent to: