Malaysia launches

"With this crackdown, my friend who has been giving me shelter has told me to leave his house because he fears he may also be arrested. I have no home now. Please help me," he

Another Myanmar migrant, Morani, 32, had camped outside the UN agency for the past week with her four-year-old daughter to obtain a letter to prevent arrest or deportation.

"I am afraid of being arrested. We do not have any travel documents. We do not want to go back," she said.

Morani, whose husband works in the plantation sector in northeastern Kelantan state, said they had been in Malaysia for the past 12 years. Malaysia is deploying tens of

thousands of volunteers and officials to hunt down the illegal immigrants. "We know many of the illegals have gone into hiding," Mahadi Arshad, director general of the 300,000-strong

civilian security force volunteers, told Mahadi said they would launch their blitz from late Monday. "We know

where they are hiding." Some 35,000 volunteers who have received special training would be involved in the operation along with hundreds of immigration and police officials, he said.

The crackdown would be Malaysia's largest blitz to flush out illegal immigrants in three years. A similar nationwide sweep was carried out in 2002 following the end of a four-

The operation has been criticised

by human rights groups which say it is open to abuse.

Amnesty International earlier this month urged Malaysia to halt the planned deportation of illegals amid fears some could face execution or torture in their home countries.

Migrants from Myanmar, Nepal and Aceh could be subjected to serious human rights violations if they were sent home in the crackdown, it

Before the recent amnesty began on October 29 last year, Malaysia estimated there were more than a million illegal workers in the country, mostly from Indonesia but also from the Philippines, Myanmar Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka.

Nearly 400,000, mostly Indonesians, left without facing any penalty during the first three months of the amnesty, but others have remained, clinging to jobs in the construction, plantation and service industries in the face of unemployment at home. Outside the Indonesian mission, hundreds of illegals were waiting with their luggage for buses to transport them to Port Klang, west of here to board an Indonesian navy

"I came to Malaysia legally but my boss did not pay my salary for seven months. So I decided to run away from the company and worked illegally as a rubber tapper for the past three years,' said Rahim, 21, from central Java

ing news after news on Bangla Bhai

based on pre-physiological con-

police report, Mia questioned the

manner in which it was obtained.

"You (journalists) must have sup-

ever, have told The Daily Star that

they have the bromide copies of the

Asked to explain why, on May 23

2004, he greeted Prof Lutfar, who he

"Lutfar didn't commit any crime

then. He is now wanted in Mahbub

work with our own opinions.

he responded saying, "No.

At one stage, he, however, said

is now looking for. Mia responded

Mia also denied his meeting with

Asked to comment on the special

cepts," he said.

murder case.'

Rajshahi SP helped

him as the man behind the police failure to nab Bangla Bhai, the country's top most wanted criminal.

Bangla Bhai himself came to Rajshahi along with his militant group to meet the SP at his office on April 24 last year, and local photo-

the interviews of Bangla Bhai and the SP together in its 'exclusive'

Sources also quoted the SP as telling Prof Lutfar Rahman, the JMJB leader at Bagmara who led the JMJB's Rajshahi march on May 23 last year, "I (SP) will be always

Fazle Hossain Badsha, politburo member of the Workers' Party, has also alleged Masud's close link with Bangla Bhai, quoting local people.

Some government high-ups asked higher police authorities a few months back to investigate the allegations following repeated branches.

special report stated that Bangla Bhai escaped police arrest on various occasions -- even after the order of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia -- due to the 'unwillingness of that "He (Mia) let Bangla Bhai get away " it said.

The report also stated that the SP himself confessed to his links with Bangla Bhai before investigating officials and failed to defend the

"As he is an rank-holding official, a lenient view might be taken on his admission of quilt," a senior official, forwarding the report to the top

Various sources also told of police administration's inaction during Bangla Bhai's reign of terror. A gram police at Hamirkutsa bazaar in Bagmara village, for example, said he saw policemen beside Bangla's camp, where tortures occurred.

Local people also told this correspondent during his several visits to Bagmara, Raninagar and Atrai upazilas in the last two months that the killings and tortures at the hand of Bangla Bhai and his men occurred in the presence of police

police took away the injured persons from Bangla's camp," he said.

The Daily Star spoke with Masud Mia for an hour at his office on Sunday noon when he denied the allegations against him.

Asked about JMJB, Mia countered with his own question, "Is JMJB any registered organisation? Where did you get that name? People were being killed one after

another. Do you hear of any killings He continued, "Why would I help Bangla Bhai? He is a criminal. You

made him the most powerful criminal. So where is he hiding now? It is only you (journalists) who are writ-

Huda irked

Raising a point of order in the Jativa Sangsad yesterday, the communications minister said that the finance ministry has yet to release any funds in the current fiscal for development works of roads in different districts. He said the dry season between December and March is the appropriate time for the

Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Shahjahan Chowdhury said the

where they will be buried today with full militarý honour.

keeping mission in recent years.

Of the nine killed, Captain Shahid Ashraf Khan hailed from Kahalu upazila of Bogra district, warrant officer Sohrab Hossain Talukdar from Dhuly Gathy of Netrokona, Sergeant Sirajul Haque from Mehendiganj of Barisal and Corporal Ataur Rahman Sarker from Palashbari of Gaibandha.

Leading Seaman Nurul Islam hailed from Monglaport of Bagerhat district, and privates Abdus Salam (1) from Arajee Choraikhola of Nilphamari, Abdus Salam (2) from Charbongkhari of Manikganj, Zahirul Islam from Shibganj of Bogra and Belal Hossain from

Bangladesh, reports BSS. Jack Straw also affirmed the

United Kingdom's determination to support the United Nations in ensuring that those responsible for the attack are brought to justice.

UNB adds: Awami League President and Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina will pay homage to the mortal remains of the nine Bangladeshi peacekeepers at the Army Stadium today.

to Yunus, asking him to settle the

ASI Habib seeking order of noninterference from the local police The court order went in favour of

yesterday at 11:00am.

police, beat them up and snatched away the shotgun and bullets. Officer-in-Charge of Gabtali

You know well we can't always admitted the incident of gun snatch-Asked if his action was influenced by his superiors' instruction,

nection until vesterday evening

HC rejects ex-IGP's FROM PAGE 12 petition

The High Court vesterday rejected the petition of former Inspector General of Police Shahudul Hug seeking for discharging the rule against him since he was no longer in service and the President had condoned his offence.

Dismissing his petition the bench of Justice Mohammad Jovnul Abedin and Justice M Miftah Uddin Chowdhury ordered that the rule pending against him would be heard on its merit.

The court on March 22 last year had issued the rule upon Shahudul Hug to explain under what authorities he was holding the office of IGP despite conviction in a contempt case in January 2004, which was upheld by

the Supreme Court. Khandker Mahbubuddin Ahmed MP, counsel for Shahudul Hug submitted that since he is no more in service and the president has condoned his

offence of misconduct the rule against him became infructuous. Opposing his contention advocate MK Rahman who had filed the writ submitted that continuation in office by Shahudul Hug after the court verdict in a suo moto contempt case was illegal. Citing precedence he contended that even if Shahudul resigned, dismissed or his offence was condoned the case

pending against him would not affect. It

should be heard and disposed of on its

Women's Reserved

Bill passed to allow time extension

UNB, Dhaka

Elections to 45 reserved seats for women in parliament will have to be completed on or before March 7 this ear according to a bill passed by the House last night.

The bill provides for extending the time from 45 days to 90 days to complete the election since the date of enforcement of the Jatiya Sangsad (Reserved Women Seat) Election Act, 2004 on December 8 last year.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Barrister Maudud Ahmed piloted the bill, which was

With the election of 45 women members, the strength of national parliament will increase from 300

The 14th amendment of the constitution introduced 45 reserved

Peacekeepers

The nine soldiers serving as UN peacekeepers in northeastern Ituri region of Congo, a stronghold of several ethnic and political armed militias, were killed at Bangladesh time 2:15pm Friday in one of the bloodiest attacks on a UN peace-

Astodrone of Noakhali.

UK CONDOLENCE

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw expressed his deepest condolences for the government of Bangladesh and bereaved families of the nine UN peacekeepers from

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Choudhury conveyed the condolences of British Government to Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan.

Mob beat police

Gabtali Police Station issued a letter

Yunus then filed a case against

Yunus, but the two brothers along with the police went to grab the land Angry locals surrounded the

Police Station Latifur Rahman

None was arrested in this con-

Lists of promotees

with the final approval of the president.

Promotion to the two posts will be effective in a day or two if the PMO does not raise any major objection regarding the names of the officials the lists, said officials concerned

The government this time nstructed the SSB to see the matter of promotion liberally and recommend the names of all the officials who have fulfilled the promotion

criteria, they said. Around 500 senior assistant secretaries and 275-deputy secretaries of different batches have fulfilled the promotion criteria,

JP to form alliance FROM PAGE 12

electoral alliance with any major political party."

"The JP is more interested in forming electoral alliance with likeminded political parties," he added.

The former president said the JP will try to secure at least 100 seats in the next general election Blaming both the BNP-led coali-

tion government and main opposition Awami League for series of bomb attacks across the country since 1999, he said confrontational politics between the two major parties is hindering the country's development process.

He also criticised enforcing frequent hartals and urged the political parties to find out alternative political programmes to realise their demands. The Saarc summit should have

been held as the government took sufficient security measures, he said. BNP Joint Secretary and Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman, ASM Abdur Rob and JP Presidium Member Rowshan Ershad and JP leader Quazi Zafar Ahmed also addressed the inaugural session of the council.

Iwo sisters

FROM PAGE 12 Pithua village in Kishoreganj, was living at a rented house in Jolonda

for the last four years. He often used to tease Pakhi Begum, 13, daughter of Nurul Islam Chandu, and also proposed to marry her. But his proposal was

Police said Bachchu killed Pakhi a student of class six, and her sister Sumaiya Begum, 2, with a sharp weapon when their parents were not

They added that neighbours rushed to the scene, hearing groans of the sisters, and caught Bachchu with the weapon at his hand. They handed him over to police.

Galib's 3 top aides

police sought a 12-day remand to

interrogate him in connection with the

recovery of explosives and bomb-

making circuits, fuse, switch and tape.

militant leader in two cases filed after a

bomb attack on a jatra show at

Laxmikola village in Bogra's

Shahiahanpur on January 14 that

Law enforcers arrested Galib, chie

of Ahle Hadith Andolon Bangladesh

and Arabic teacher at the Raishahi

University, his second-in-command

and Ahab Nayebe Amir Samad Salafi,

general secretary Nurul Islam and

organising secretary Azizullah from

Naodapara in Rajshahi on

been underway since Thursday to

ascertain how a private television

channel secretly taped a video inter-

view of Galib with assistance from a

sub-inspector while Galib was kept at

Rajshahi metropolitan court custody

after his arrest. The policemen

expected to be questioned in this

regard include officer-in-charge (OC)

of Rajpara Police Station (PS) Fayezur

Rahman, OC of Boalia PS Ahmed Ali,

court inspector Rezaul Karim, sub-

inspector Alamgir Hossain, havilders

Illias and Siddik, constables Abdul

Halim, Abdul Hamid, Rustom and

as Galib told the TV channel that the

government arrested them for interna-

tional pressure," said a source in local

policemen, senior officials of Rajshahi

Metropolitan Police (RMP) said

actions might be taken against

RMP Deputy Commissioner

Rawshan Ara said: "We've already

completed process for issuance of the

explanation letters. We will send those

is completely our departmental issue.

It is not necessarily that they would be

they initiated investigation on instruc-

punished for the interview".

Refusing to elaborate, she said, "li

Local police officials, however, said

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday,

responsible persons.

in a day or two."

After interrogating a number of

"The government felt embarrassed

Meanwhile, an investigation has

killed one person and injured 40.

Police will seek fresh remand of the

Salafi, Nurul Islam and ASM Azizullah in order to interrogate them in connec-

The three will be sent to Dhaka for interrogation at JIC.

sponsored Al Markaiul Islami's Salafi Dakhil Madrasa, Nurul Islam, a lecturer of Islamic studies at Gangni Degree College in Meherpur and Azizullah, librarian of Atrai Degree College in Mohonpur in Rajshahi, were sent to Gopalgani from the Rajshahi Central Jail yesterday morn-"They are likely to reach Gopalganj

by 8:00pm and we, if possible, will

seek the remand today to send them to JIC for interrogation," Gopalgan Superintendent of Police Mirza Abdullahel Baki told The Daily Star vesterday afternoon. A large contingent of police from

On Saturday and Sunday, a Rajshahi metropolitan magistrate court issued custody warrants against them following the Kotalipara Brac office robbery case along with six other cases filed in Bogra. Naogaon.

authorities handed over them to

seven militants, led by Selim Uddin of Bondor in Narayanganj, were held while fleeing from a Kotalipara Brac office robbery in Gopalgani on January 17. They later admitted to police and a magistrate that they were members of Ahle Hadith Jubo Shangha run by

Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB). Trained in Afghanistan, as well as at Cox's Bazar, Myanmar and Arakan they are experts in using guns and making bombs, they also admitted. Meanwhile, a team of law enforc-

ers has been interrogating Galib in Dhaka since Sunday, in connection with a case filed after the recovery of a large cache of explosives from Chalksudhu village in Gabtoli upazila in Bogra on January 16. On Saturday night, a Bogra court

keep the market stable," he told The

Daily Star. As the lawmakers questioned the food ministry's role in keeping the market stable, ensuring reserve of food grains and providing fair price to farmers, the ministry officials said the market would become

stable soon as a result of OMS. But Abu Hena said the OMS price of rice is also high. "If you want to make the market stable, you should lower the price under OMS. he told the ministry officials.

The government is selling rice at Tk 14.50 per kg in the OMS which was Tk 12 earlier.

Acting Secretary of the Ministry of Food and Disaster Management Fazlur Rahman told the parliamentary body meeting that price of food grains generally increases during the no-harvest period of February-March and October.

The food secretary said price of atta has risen because of low production of wheat as the farmers switched to maze last season

Newspaper counsels

argued at the court that if the newspapers had not published the reports after obtaining the information, that would have been journalistically unethical and would have hurt public interest.

The publication of these

reports has also created the scope to avert such mistakes in the future, Dr Kamal said at the High Court bench comprising Justice MA Matin and Justice AFM Abdur Rahman during the hearing of a contempt petition. The Prothom Alo and the Bhorer Kagoj in their October 30 reports said Additional Judge

certificate is allegedly fake. The judge's father Mohammad Faiz filed the contempt petition on November 8. As the hearing resumed yesterday after a long break, Dr Kamal submitted that the newspapers did not question how the judge was conducting his job or whether he is efficient or not. Rather they published a news on

the basis of an incident when the

judge was a student. Therefore,

Faisal Mahmud Faizee's LLB

the question of contempt of court does not arise. The counsel added that if the judge was aggrieved by the reports or if he felt that these reports had wrong information, he could have filed a defamation case. The reports do not undermine the court, rather wanted to ensure and uphold the court's dignity.

Representing the petitioner, Barrister Azmalul Hossain arqued that those reports spread venom against the judge and the court. If such venom is spread, the court has the right to punish the culprits Bhorer Kagoj counsel Barrister

Rokanuddin Mahmud, and Dr

Kamal's aides Barrister Sara

Hossain and Barrister Mustafizur

hearing

today.

The chief justice on October 31 last year withdrew Faizee in the face of allegations of his tampering with the LLB certificate and lawyers' threat to boycott his

2 die, 160 hurt

admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital in critical condition. They were Antar, 7, Rifat, 9, Mizan, 48, lakub Ali, 65, Janera Begum, 60, her husband Jabbar Mia, 70, and Hena Begum, 40, and an unidentified man aged about 30. The rest were released after first aid at the Sadar hospital and two local clinics.

A salvage crane from Akhaura Railway Junction rushed to the spot immediately and cleared the compartments off the tracks. The reason for the derailment, however, could not be known till yesterday.

In separate incidents, two trains escaped accidents on Sunday morning in northern districts.

crore for motor vehicles, Tk 32 crore Kanchan Express to stop. Train service on that line was suspended for about four hours.

the funds will be utilised.

Donors

FROM PAGE 12

should not interfere with how the internal political management of a country operates. On one side they talk about democracy and on the other they will interfere with the politicsthis is not desirable." Saifur told journalists at the Zia International Airport yesterday

"The donors should limit their advice to economic management. he quipped

"How could they hold a meeting on Bangladesh without our participation? I will ask this guestion to Patel." Saifur pointed out, adding, " will also tell them that we are not obligated to the donors. Our obligation to them is relevant only to the level loans they have given us." "Bangladesh is a democratic

country. The people have elected

the government. How the govern-

ment will run is decided by the parliament, which represents the people," he noted. On the question of Bangladesh's cancellation of the annual development forum meeting with the donors, Saifur said, "We had decided to hold this meeting every alternate year following a discus-

sion with the World Bank. The forum, which last met 10 months ago, no longer promises financial allegations, Saifur noted, but merely discusses the government's commitments.

"We have made a lot of promises in the last meeting which can not be fulfilled in just 10 months. This needs time. That is why we decided for a biennial meeting instead of annual one," Saifur quipped. Saifur will participate in a WB

seminar on integrating global initiatives into coherent country programmes on Tuesday and Wednesday. Sources said that Saifur will also meet European Union ministers and leaders in London and Paris to create a positive impression on Bangladesh.

JS sessions FROM PAGE 12

House at 5:30pm when there were 85 lawmakers.

But after the Magreb break, the session again suffered a quorum crisis and the House sat with 52 members and 15 minutes behind

On Sunday, the House started half an hour late and with 50 law-On February 10, the parliament

session suffered the worst quorum

crisis, compelling the speaker to

adjourn the House after two abortive attempts to start the sitting. Interestingly, except for the February 10 sitting, no member drew the chair's attention to the prevalent quorum crisis. As per the Rules of Procedure, the speaker adjourns the House for lack of

quorum only when a member draws Against this backdrop, the ruling party attempted to ensure the presence of its lawmakers in the House and convened a meeting of the whips on Sunday, but only three of the seven whips were present at

the meeting. Though most of the whips were present in the House yesterday,

they failed to bring other lawmakers. Amid the quorum crisis, the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday witnessed a dull day. The questionanswer session began with the absence of the member who was scheduled to place the first ques-

Water project

cost of Tk 954 crore, unduly focussed on comfort of officials and hiring consultants and out-of-

proportion equipment. The original project sought 62 photocopiers, 510 personal computers, 123 air conditioners, 102 slide projectors, 102 fax machines, 416 motor vehicles while it was designed to employ 508 officials

After the report, the project underwent revisions and the cost was slashed to Tk 879 crore from the original Tk 954 crore.

But a new component for flood rehabilitation schemes was included in the project, which required a block allocation of Tk 181 crore. Of this, Tk 120 crore will be funded by the World Bank (WB) and the rest by the government. The Ecnec now slashed alloca-

tion for this component to Tk 120

crore with the entire funds to come

from the WB. The funds cannot be

used as block allocation, the Ecnec Sunday's meeting also slashed the proposed cost for hiring consultants for the project to Tk 40 crore from Tk 98 crore.

It also rejected proposals seeking Tk 18 crore for construction of a building for the project and Tk 10 crore for a study under it. The WDB also sought Tk 20

for training and Tk 10 crore for various equipment. Two thirds of these costs have been slashed, meeting sources said. On the allocation of Tk 60 crore

The WB will provide Tk 618

Delhi agrees

such proposal as yet, the sources

pointed out. Similar proposals to increase export-import with Nepal and Bhutan should also be framed for discussion with India so that Bangladesh can pinpoint how and where it wants a corridor through India.

On these proposals. Dhaka will have final understanding with New Delhi and sign a bilateral agreement before signing a tri-nation gas pipeline agreement

Dhaka will just lag behind unless t can present such proposals at the coming tri-nation gas pipeline meeting, the sources said. If all goes well, practical work for

the gas pipeline might start after a

year, they thought. Back in January, at the ministerlevel meeting on tri-nation pipeline in Myanmar, Bangladesh and India had also agreed on the corridor access to Nepal and Bhutan and the need for steps to reduce trade gap. State Minister for Energy AKM

Mosharraf Hossain on his return

from that meeting had categorically

said Dhaka would not sign the tri-

nation agreement unless New Delhi

signed the bilateral treaty with Bangladesh. But cancellation of the Saarc summit gave rise to doubts on whether this understanding will

continue. At last week's meeting, the sixmember Indian delegation was not open to these proposals on the first day. But they eventually agreed as Bangladesh pointed out this pipeline would mainly benefit India and that why Bangladesh would agree to give it (India) pipeline access unless t got similar benefits

The Indian team also distributed

a paper suggesting it wanted rail

transit through Bangladesh and

another paper showing the status of

Indo-Bangladesh relations. The Indian side also went on saying Nepal does not have enough hydropower to sell "In this negotiation over the tri-

nation pipeline, Bangladesh's

concern was to ensure a balance between the three countries. This is why Bangladesh insisted on involving an international consortium to set up the gas pipeline," one source

As per the proposal, the transnational pipeline will begin from Myanmar to transmit gas to India's Tripura and then enter Bangladesh in the east and pass through the

a weak party in the deal.

pipeline will continue to serve India as long as it goes through Bangladesh. This is why the project needs a balanced approach and involvement of an international consortium, sources mentioned.

charge from a company than from a nation like India.

The project committee will be given six months to review and recommend various tariffs the places through which the pipeline

will pass and various types of detailed agreements. The agreements would include sales and purchase, use of Bangladesh land. and with Gas Transmission Company Ltd (GTCL) for its sole rights to operate the pipeline inside Bangladesh. Although the pipeline was conceived eight years ago, Myanmar

ing on the idea. The Mvanmar Bangladesh and India to sit on energy issues in Yangon in early

insurgents have battled since

In Mosul itself, four police officers

patrolling in the west of the city were

shot dead by unknown attackers

firing from a car, a police com-

Another policeman was killed

and one wounded when their patrol

came under fire in the Amerli area

some 180km north of Baghdad

South of Baghdad, the bodies of

five Iraqis wearing army uniform

were found late Saturday, said a

doctor at the hospital in the city of

cation papers and were discovered

with their throats slashed" in a car in

Police found the body of a head-

body of the woman dressed in a

Siniyah area, some 200km north of

the capital, while the bullet-riddled

corpse of a businessman who

worked with US forces was found in

A soldier's body was found in the

"The five bodies had no identifi-

Kut where the corpses were taken.

110 killed in Iraq

FROM PAGE 1

mortar shells to cause "the maxi-

army and police and who have chosen to live in peace," said Walid Janabi, governor of Babil province of which Hilla is the capital.

civilians who wanted jobs and shopkeepers trying to survive." he A fire officer on the scene told AFP that his colleagues had found the hands of the suicide bomber

Koran in the wreckage.

attack in Iraq in a year. Bomb attacks against Shias in Karbala and Baghdad killed more than 180 people in March 2004, while 105 people were killed in the northern city of Arbil in February 2004 in suicide bombings targeting Kurdish political parties.

had taken shelter. In other violence, four US sol-

point, the US army said yesterday. Two Iraqi soldiers were killed in a aun battle south of the restive city of Samarra, while an Iragi soldier and translator died in a mortar attack near Dhuluiya, north of Baghdad,

Iraqi security officials said.

in a bomb attack.

eight people, one of them a headless woman with a note attached denouncing her as a spy, six of them Iraqi soldiers and the eighth a businessman who was working with US The latest unrest came as one of the groups blamed for many attacks

Police also found the bodies of

man. Two American soldiers were killed in a bomb and gunfire attack in

action Saturday in the violenceplagued province of Babil, south of the capital, the military said. On Sunday, a bomb ripped

Alil, near the main northern city of Mosul, killing at least five people and wounding three, Iraqi security officials said.

west to West Bengal of India. Under this plan, Tripura will

pump gas in the pipeline that will transmit it to West Bengal through Bangladesh. This makes Myanmar If Myanmar has no gas, the

Besides, it will make it easy for Bangladesh to ask for due wheeling

The three nations agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in March or April. Under this MoU, a tri-nation project committee will be set up for a detailed technical

had in recent times started hammergovernment then invited January. The minister-level meeting ended with a positive note.

November.

mander said.

police said.

mum number of victims", said police forensics chief Thamer Sultan. "This criminal act targeted citizens who did not have any ties to the

Deputy governor Hassun Ali Hassun called it "the most odious crime ever committed in the town. The attackers had killed "innocent

attached to the steering wheel of the vehicle and a burned copy of the

The bombing was the worst

The latest attack came as the Iraqi government was expected to shed light on the arrest of Saddam's half-brother amid speculation he was handed over by Syria where he

diers were killed in separate attacks, including one in Baghdad check-

wounded during a small arms attack on a police station in Baguba, the US military and Iraqi witnesses said. The US military on Sunday announced the death in Iraq of three more of its soldiers, as insurgents shot dead five Iraqi policemen and at least five other people were killed

A civilian was killed and two were

mocked claims by Iraqi security chiefs that the noose was tightening around its leader Abu Musab al-Zargawi, the country's most wanted

Baghdad on Saturday, the US army And a US marine was killed in

through the town hall in Hamma al-

According to the US military there were eight dead and two wounded in the attack, 20km south of Mosul, where US troops and

less woman in the western Al-Ad district of Baghdad. "A piece of paper, with the word spy written on it, was found near the

black robe." a policeman said.

Suwaira, the doctor said.

an area 120km north of Baghdad.

Four children The plaintiff in the case accused Chittaranjan and his family of ransacking and looting his house following a dispute over land on Gopal Singha Lane in Nandan

Kotwali police arrested Minoti and Sagar and sent them to jail immediately after the case was filed with Kotwali Police Station. They were release on bail on February

Metropolitan Magistrate Ali Noor granted them bail

JS body

months

Kanan in the city.

FROM PAGE 12 The high-powered parliamentary body on privileges headed by the speaker at a meeting in last month formed the two-member sub-

committee and asked it to place

the recommendations in two

Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain, convenor of the subcommittee, had convened the meeting. It was scheduled to be held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban at 11:00am yesterday. But waiting for BNP lawmaker Mizanur Rahman Minu, the other member of the committee, for about one and half hours, he postponed the meeting at about 12:30pm, sources said.

Besides, Prime Minister's

Parliamentary Affairs Advisor

Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and

Awami League lawmaker Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, who were tasked with making suggestions for the sub-committee, did not turn up for the meeting. The sub-committee, however,

would sit soon, sources said.

development works.

funds during the rainy season when rough weather and rain hamper the development works of roads.

plied the allegations against me." journalists captured the JMJB operations commander in frame Bangla Bhai, saying that the allegawhile he was coming out of the tions were false and that the photos were artificially prepared. A television channel also aired Photoiournalists concerned, how-

with your (JMJB) movement as I am

reports by the intelligence Following the investigation, the

allegations brought against him.

level, wrote.

and many villagers. "Bangla tortured outlaws, calling people to witness. Sometimes,

FROM PAGE 12

finance ministry usually releases

Galib's three associates Samad

tion with the Brac office robbery case.

Salafi, also principal of Ahab-

Rajshahi and Gopalganj escorted the three to Gopalgani after the Raishai iail

Sirajganj and Gaibandha. The Kotalipara case was filed after

They also admitted to working underground for Jama'atul

placed Galib on a 10-day remand as

BNP MPs critical FROM PAGE 12 The committee also asked the ministry to achieve the procurement target during the next boro season to face emergency needs as its procurement target could not be

reached during the past aman

season due to floods, said the

The lawmakers observed the

ministry did not initiate appropriate

committee chairman.

measures against the unscrupulous traders responsible for unusual price hike of food grains. "As the traders may manipulate the market, the government should take appropriate steps against the

unscrupulous traders." said a mem-

Committee Member and BNP

lawmaker Abu Hena said they want

effective steps to control the price of

food grains. "If necessary, the

ministry should change its policy to

now it reached Tk 18 to 20.

ber of the committee. BNP lawmaker Rustam Ali Farazi said the party had pledged before the election that price of rice would be under Tk 12 per kg. But

Rahman were also present at the The hearing will continue

FROM PAGE 1

Eyewitnesses and railway police said rail workers noticed some nuts and bolts and clips missing from the Parbatipur-Panchagarh rail tracks at Kamarpara of Parbatipur upazila at about 8:30am Sunday. Shortly afterwards, they waving a red flag signalled Thakurgaon-bound

bound Sundarban Express from Iswardi managed to avert derailment near Iswardi Bypass Rail Station in the early hours of Sunday. It stopped as locals forbade it to move by raising their hands. Officials said miscreants had removed three sleepers and other

fittings from the rail tracks.

In another incident, Dhakafor agriculture assistance service, Ecnec asked the water board to discuss the matter with the Agriculture Ministry and decide how

> crore, the Netherlands Tk 125 crore and the government the rest amount for the project.