Quit for failure

becomes usual then our independ-

ence would turn out to be untrue. Kamal said, "The government has been plagued with several maladies. Recently it has been afflicted with one more malady -- of denying everything by saying we have not seen or heard or the words like 'no-existence' and so on so forth. Such are the words and terms being used by finance, home and law ministers.

He said according to the ruling coalition leaders everything in the country is in order, but in reality everything is in disorder. "Homicide is not right, terrorism is not right, and we hope the government would be healed soon from its maladies.'

The leaders of Jatiya Oikya Mancha then joined in the 'Shantir Pakkhe Nileema' (blue for peace), a peaceful programme initiated by slain Kibria's family demanding trial of Kibria's killers and perpetrators of every bomb and grenade attack in the

Hundreds of people from every walk of life started thronging in front of the slain former finance minister's Dhanmondi house after 2:00pm. Men and women in blue dress lined up to join a silent procession that marched to the programme's venue, Abahani playground.

Noted poet Shamsur Rahman inaugurated the programme at around

Abbas. Hamas to hold talks in Yemen

REUTERS. Sanaa

Yemen plans to host talks this month between Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and the exiled leader of the militant group Hamas on a ceasefire with Israel, the Yemeni state news agency SABAhas reported.

"President Mahmoud Abbas will visit Yemen with Khaled Meshaal in the next few weeks to bring the points of view of Hamas and the Palestinian Authority closer," SABA quoted Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh as saying late on Wednesday.

It said Saleh voiced support for dialogue to cement a ceasefire agreed upon by the Palestinian Authority and Israel at a summit in Egypt on February 8.

Abbas, elected in January to succeed the late Yasser Arafat, is under pressure from Washington and Israel to rein in armed factions spearheading a four-year-old Palestinian 4:30pm by flying white pigeons.

Addressing the gathering, Shamsur Rahman said Kibria was a unique and peaceful character and played a significant role in country's velopment as the finance minister.

The poet urged all to take part in the non-violent programmes initiated by Asma Kibria, wife of SAMS Kibria, to build a peaceful country free from bomb and grenade attacks.

Asma said the programme is aimed at creating mass awareness and public opinion against bomb and grenade attacks, reiterating her demand for punishment of the perpe-

AL presidium members Suranjit engupta and Motia Chowdhury, ÁL leaders Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin. Dhaka University Teachers Association President AAMS Arefin Siddique also spoke at the programme.

In a bid to create public opinion around the globe for the trial of perpetrators of Habigani grenade carnage the Kibria family has launched a website. The website address is www.kibria.org.

They also urged all to continue the programme 'Shantir Pakkhe Nileema' every Thursday, wearing blue clothes.

Hasina

4 after her weeklong visit to Spain.
The source added that Hasina has stponed her scheduled US visit due to ongoing anti-government move-ment and changed political situation.

She was scheduled to go to the US in the second week of March for treatment of her ear affected by the bangs of August 21 grenade blasts on an Awami League rally

Meantime Hasina vesterday said the BNP-Jamaat-led government has no moral right to stay in power as it has completely failed to deliver, reports

The government has mislead the people by resorting to falsehood. It doesn't spare a thought for controlling price hike of essentials that made people's life miserable," she told different district-level party leaders called on her at Sudha Sadan.

Hasina blamed the government for destroying the country's image by violating human rights, killing journal ists, repressing women and unleashing corruption.

On Bangla Bhai, she said, "He was not arrested despite directive from the prime minister that means the government has no control over administration or it was an eyewash.

Hasina also demanded the proper investigation into all grenade attacks and punishment of culprits involved.

reality little dredging has been done.

shown on paper that they dredged

Sadarghat to Ashulia Bridge at a

cost of Tk 19.80 crore at a rate of Tk

of soil was dredged from Sadarghat

to Mirpur Bridge and 11.40 lakh

cubic metres from Mirpur to Ashulia

Bridge. The officials in the BIWTA

termed figures imaginative. If the

shown figures are true, there should

not be any problem regarding

navigation in the river Turag, the

verifying dredging works, the employees submitted false and

motivated reports in exchange of

bribe, a BIWTA official said request-

amount by showing excessive use of

fuel for dredging. "Of the 3,000 litres

of oil they showed as requirement for

one-day-dredging, only 500 litres

were used while the rest were sold.'

The project officials pocketed also

about Tk 40 lakh by showing con-

struction works of 10 to 11 dikes

(ditches to keep dredged-mud). But,

there was no dike in existence. The

officials earned extra money by

ted that he had heard about the

misuse of the project funds. "We

heard it frequently and in some

cases, actions were taken," he said

adding, "But it continues unabated."

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

The house of a Krishak League

leader was looted and damaged

and his family members were

injured allegedly by the activists of

ruling BNP and its front organisa-

Family sources said up to 15

armed men of ruling BNP and its

front organisations attacked the

house of SM Abdur Rab, president

of Krishak League ward No. 9, in

Kalam Mollah, Munna, Salahuddin

and Shah Alam, they ransacked the

house, looted cash and valuables

said to be worth about Tk 2 lakh, the

ter Avesha Akhter Rumi. 17. his wife

Taslima Begum, 57, daughter-in-

law Reshmi Akhter and son Ariful

Critically injured Ayesha, a first

They also beat up Rab's daugh-

Led by BNP activists Sajjad,

Nilganj Tatipara in the town.

sources said.

Islam Rivad.

BNP men

tions Wednesday night.

The BIWTA director (port) admit-

Besides, they embezzled a large

Despite availability of means for

Of which, 5.40 lakh cubic metres

120 a cubic metre

officials added.

ing not to be quoted.

selling the mud.

16.50 lakh cubic metres from

The project authorities have

Embezzlement

impossible to ply the route towards Ashulia in dry season." some BIWTA officials who attended the inauguration ceremony at Ashulia Thursday, told BDNEWS.

"The navigation condition of the river Turag is the worst," Monwar Hossain, Director (port) of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) said, "If the flow ot water is not increased, it will be tough to run vessels in the river Turag.'

According to official sources, more than Tk 20 crore was allocated for dredging and construction of dikes. A top-level official said the project officials misappropriated about two-thirds of the amount, as in

Indigenous woman raped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Fatikchhari police rescued an indigenous woman, abducted and violated by miscreants, from a remote place close to border yester-

Police arrested two suspects. The woman, 22, was kidnapped by some unidentified men on

Wednesday night from Balutila village of Dantmara union in Fatikchhari. She was taken to a remote hilly area where the gang left her abandoned after raping

On information, police rescued the woman at around 3pm yesterday and admitted her to Fatikchhari health complex for treatment.

Tata firm

FROM PAGE 12 He said the study would be completed by the end of this month (March) or by April this year. "We are in the process of completing the

Ratan Tata said he did not find any problem with investing in Bangladesh. "Our proposals are still there. We just want to take it forward. But if there is any problem outside our control, that's different,

said the industrial tycoon. The world in recent years has witnessed the Tata Group setting its sight on foreign shares, taking over Daewoo automobile plants in South Korea, acquiring a steel plant in Singapore and listing the company with New York Stock Exchange.

The group of industries plans to invest up to US\$ 2 billion in Bangladesh in projects covering

steel, fertiliser and a power plant. Ratan Tata had visited Bangladesh last October to discuss the investment proposals with the Bangladesh authorities.

Charges pressed

FROM PAGE 1

the accused picked up a 25-yearold housewife from Bishnupur village while the woman was waiting for a rickshaw to return home from Chuadanga town at about 8pm. They took her to Gokulkhali police camp and gang raped her.

Following the gang rape, Kuddus and Rokunuddin took the victim to the house of one Farhad, who lives in the area, and asked him to send her to the hospital. Before leaving, the policemen warned the victim against reportng the incident.

Human rights organisations from Dhaka and Kushtia formed a joint cell and launched a movement demanding a proper probe into the incident as well as the immediate arrest of the rapists. Police then formed a probe

body headed by Additional Police Superintendent of Chuadanga Awlad Hossain. The police authority suspended all 14 police of the camp and arrested five.

The human rights organisations, however, rejected the police probe report, calling it a fabrication that overlooked the true incidents as the report said the woman had not been raped at all. They demanded a fresh investigation by a judicial committee and started a countrywide campaign on the issue.

The victim meanwhile filed a case against 14 police of the camp after fresh medical tests at Khulna Medical College Hospital produced evidence of rape. Police arrested all 14 and sent them to ail, but nine later received bail.

On December 27. a Chuadanga magistrate court handed the woman over to the safe custody of Mahila Parishad, a Dhaka-based woman rights protection organisation, following an appeal by the organisation. The woman is now being treated there.

6 realtors

owned by ruling BNP lawmaker MA Hashem of grabbing 38.70 acres and Jamuna Group of 4.40 acres of

Of the rest of the organisations, Rahat Real Estate reportedly glommed 29.14 acres, Chhavakunia 5.17 acres and Savar Model Town 7.61 acres of forestland

Among the individual encroachers, former Birulia Union Parishad chairman Abdus Sattar was accused of grabbing 23 acres, Siraj Doctor 4.93 acres, Julmat Ali 3.10 acres, Jaman Uddin 3 acres and Alauddin 4.67 acres of forestland.

On another issue, the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) body yesterday asked the city planners, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), to file cases against all developers conducting construction or housing work without their permission.

CNG STATION PLOTS

The members of the parliamentary committee at yesterday's meeting at the JS Bhaban expressed their dissatisfaction with the communica tions ministry for violating the land rules in allocating plots for building CNG stations.

The land laws do not provide the communications ministry with any authority to lease out public land, the committee observed. "The communications ministry should have handed over the lands to the land ministry for allocation to install CNG stations, for the land ministry holds all authority to do that." committee chairman Mahbubur Rahman told reporters after the

The committee yesterday formed a sub-committee to examine the existing laws on land allocation and also to identify the area of lands leased out by the communications ministry for CNG stations.

ADP projects

items against the previous 67.

The new guideline will require the process of project paper preparation and approval to be completed in a maximum of 67 days, instead of the current 120 days, though in some cases in the past it took the officials concerned even four to five years to finalise project proposals.

The Planning Commission will have to check out the project proposals with the line ministries for any queries in 10 days and the ministries are to send back the proposals with their replies in seven days.

Under the guideline, the planning minister will have the authority to okay projects worth up to Tk 25 crore, instead of the current ceiling of Tk 10 crore.

Projects involving more than Tk 25 crore will go to the Executive Committee on National Economic Council (Ecnec) for approval. The guideline authorises a line

ministry to approve technical assistance projects up to \$1 million, against the present limit of around

In case of revisions, a line ministry will have the power to approve up to 10 percent rise in the total project cost and the planning minister up to 20 percent. If the cost exceeds by more than 20 percent, it has to be approved by the Ecnec.

For revisions, the line ministries

Plagued by pollution

goods, garment, dyeing, metal,

possible

paper goods, plastic goods and EPZ authority sources admitted the alleged discharging of untreated waste and said they would take measures to prevent it as early as

The most affected villages are Modhupur, Santaki, Kanda, Kaika Bari, Basak Bari, Dagortali, Sukandi, Bashbari, Majibari, Namopara, Nayapara and Nalam, where as a result of the polluted water the cultivation of boro in winter gets hampered and fishing by the villagers in other seasons has came to an end.

Abu Reza Khan, a member of the engineering board of EPZ said, "All the industries have effluent treatment plants, but they do not use them as we do not monitor regularly." The operation cost of the plant

"It is mandatory for the industries to use the treatment plants and buyers quiz us sometimes about it," he added.

"The World Bank is supporting the EPZ authorities to set up a central effluent treatment plant within one year, to divert sewage discharge from the affected water bodies," he said. In the meantime, the untreated

sewage discharge has dramatically altered some of the traditional means of livelihood in the village, preventing crop cultivation, harming cattle and forcing villagers to adopt new sources of income Bholanatha Rajbonshi, a fisher-

man of the Majhipara in Savar, said, "Just 15 years ago, people like us made a living by fishing in the beel and the Bongshi river. But there is no question of getting any fish in the beel now a days.' Presently the villagers depend

on water from tube-wells for day to day drinking, washing, and bathing,

but the number of tube wells is insufficient compared to their

In a survey it was also found that many farmers of Savar no longer cultivate paddy, and have instead built houses on their land that they rent out to the EPZ workers.

"I used to cultivate paddy in the Dholai beel in winter, but now I live on the income of my rented houses that I made at my vard." said Hasan Ali, from the Modhupur village. During floods and monsoons

throughout the villages, diminishing the fertility of cropland. "We used to get at least 50 mounds of rice per acre of land around the Dholai beel, but today we hardly get 25 mounds but we still

cultivate as we have to feed our

family," said Ramjan Ali of Chhantek

contaminated waters spread

To cope with the problems, some farmers, especially of the Konda village, have also started selling out the topsoil of their crop fields to developers at the rate of Tk 500 a truck.

The cattle mortality rate is extremely high in the area and the villagers blame it on the pollution, even though they do not let their cattle drink the contaminated water.

"There is severe pollution in our locality but we do not know to whom we should complain. If you can do anything for us by your writing, God will bless you," said Md. Almas, a farmer from Aluboddi village.

The villagers said they suffer from a number of diseases spread by the polluted water, including typhoid, diarrhoea and hepatitis.

"Once the chairman of EPZ came to visit our villages and he assured us that there will be no discharge of polluted water in the water bodies. But nothing has happened so far. Still we are suffering as bad as before," said Almas, a

Galib's top aides

is now considering his suspension.

Intelligence officials at JIC are now working to confirm the apparent link with militancy that led to Galib's arrest. "Now we are trying to confirm whether he was really involved in militancy and if some of the arrestees intentionally gave confessional statements saying they carried out attacks against NGOs and cultural functions at the directive of Galib." the source said.

The official added that Galib continues to deny that militants carried out attacks against NGOs by his order. He otherwise denied his involvement in militancy, saying that he believes in a peaceful means of Jihad, the official quoted Galib as

In most of the questions regarding his involvement in militant activities. Galib remains tightlipped, the official said

Members of JIC are meanwhile examining the evidence seized during a raid on Galib's house and madrasa in Rajshahi on Wednesday. "We are still checking the source of Galib's funds and checking his accounts, but have yet to freeze them," an intelligence official of the JIC said yesterday, seeking not to be named.

Galib and his associates were shown arrested in five cases, including for murder, bomb attacks, and the robbery of various NGO offices in the four districts of Bogra, Gopalganj, Naogaon, and Sirajganj on February 26.

A well-placed source in the JIC said the intelligence agency officials will vigorously interrogate Galib's three associates and crosscheck the information they provide with that given by Galib.

A professor of Arabic in Rajshahi University, Galib has already admitted having significant sources of foreign funds, which he has used to establish and maintain around 600 mosques and madrasahs across Bangladesh. Intelligence officials are also

examining a clue that Galib took

crores of taka in his possession in the name of Tohid Trust. The cases filed against Galib could be transferred to the Criminal

investigation Department (CID) in two or three days, a source in CID "Local police requested the Home Ministry to transfer the cases

and the Ministry is also thinking alike," an official in the CID said seeking anonymity. Meanwhile, RU register Abdus Salam said that none of the files and documents relating to Galib's trip to

India were available at the register's

office, and that he was unaware of their location at present. The documents were last referenced in 2002 when, following a complaint from one Shamim Al Mamun of the Kaila area, the RU authority served a fresh show cause notice against Galib for traveling to without first obtaining the RU authority's no objection certificate.

our sources said. But since then the concerned files have gone missing from the register office at RU, where they were personally maintained by the RU vice chancellor, reliable sources said.

The process continued till mid 2004.

Talking to The Daily Star, the RU VC Prof Faisul Islam Faruki denied knowing anything about the files. "I have not even heard of the incident," said the VC.

A believer of Ahle Hadith, Faruki also said, "Ahle Hadith is a movement and I am with it."

Meanwhile, the RU authority has already discontinued Galib's salary since his arrest and official sources added that a process was underway to suspend him.

"We are considering his (Galib) suspension as we learned in the newspapers that he was implicated in a number of criminal cases including a sedition charge. Yet we might have to wait until his conviction in a court," said RU register Abdus

Faulty launches

Azha, while its design was approved just a few weeks ago, said a source. He is now trying to get the vessel

surveyed and then registered for regular service, the source added. Officials at the government's Vessel Survey Office told The Daily Star that they mainly examine whether the vessel was built according to approved design. "What can

we do if the design itself is faulty?" asked an official. He admitted that a large number of vessels were registered without proper surveys due to shortage of surveyors as well as pressure from various quarters. But now the sur-

veyors are more careful, he claimed.

The shipping department at a meeting last Wednesday decided to make it mandatory for the passenger vessels, which are less than 50 meters long and have triple decks, to

The government asked the launch owners vesterday in a circular to install the ballast by March 25. The vessels that fail to abide by the decision would not be allowed to ply after the deadline, the circular read.

"The number of ferry accidents will be reduced after installing the extra weight," Captain Shafiqullah, director general of shipping, told The Daily Star. He said he had visited a number of passenger launches after the MV Moharaj disaster, and found many of them in bad condition.

The decision of adding extra weight to vessels less than 50 meters long was taken as an emergency step. Gradually, such weight would be installed to other vessels as well.

The number of passenger ves-

The customs men searched Azad's luggage and found Saudi riyal, Malaysian ringit, Singapore dollar and local currency hidden in a pair of sandals.

During primary interrogation, Azad claimed that he did not know about the currencies

He said one Mostak Ahmed of Tangail gave him the pair of sandals for his nephew living in Singapore. It has been learnt that his nephew's village home is in Comilla

In another recent currency haul, the ZIA customs seized foreign currencies worth about Tk 2 crore from the luggage of a Singapore bound passenger on February 23.

The currencies included euro pound sterling, Singaporean dollar Brunei dollar, Saudi riyal and some

Chief whip's son

Amin, who is also investigating the case, mentioned that during the oneday remand, Paban disclosed some names of his accomplices and gave important information about his illegal firearms, which was used in the shooting. So he should be confined in the jail custody until the investigation completes, the investing officer said in the report.

The defence lawyers submitted a bail petition saying their client was implicated in the case as part of conspiracy to harass him falsely.

The prosecution opposed saying that the charges brought against Paban were primarily proved. A team of DB police arrested Paban on February 28 for firing on a phone-fax shop owner at Bangshal.

Speaker, MPs FROM PAGE 12

Earlier, a number of lawmakers including Manzur Qader of BNP expressed concern over the frequent load-shedding and apprehended that it might hamper the study of the students preparing for the exams.

In response, the state minister said he is helpless because there is a shortfall in power generation during every summer. He however assured the House that he would take special care during the SSC examinations.

The state minister said special arrangements have been taken for uninterrupted power supply in the rural areas to facilitate irrigation. **OBSCENE FILMS AND**

POSTERS A number of lawmakers including Mashiur Rahman Ranga of Jatiya Party (Ershad) and MA Jinnah of BNP yesterday drew attention of the

information minister about indecent

Bangla films and posters. In reply, Information Minister Shamsul Islam said legal actions have already been taken against a number of obscene films. He said the government plans to

take stern action against the people

who produce obscene films and posters. "If necessary, a new law will be enacted to stop obscene films and posters," said the minister. **ANOTHER DULL DAY**

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday witnessed another dull day. The day's business began about 35 minutes behind the schedule. The session will resume at 4:30pm on Monday

Chinese PM

Lanka and India. "It's the new Chinese leadership's political socialisation trip to South Asia," the official said asking not to be identified.

Jiabo's visit marks the 30 years of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and China Prime Minister Khaleda Zia may

undertake a return visit to China towards the end of this year. Earlier, Zhu Rongji visited Dhaka as the Chinese the prime minister on January 12, 2002, followed by a return visit by Khaleda the same

PM opens

FROM PAGE 12 at Ashulia BIWTA landing station. Khaleda said her government wants development suitable with the country's tradition and nature and utilise the geophysical and natural

advantages for national prosperity. "Through this we can find out real Bangladesh -- we can discover the country's immense potency and potentiality -- and we can do the impossible by utilising the potential. she told the function also attended by ministers, MPs, various professionals and a large number of local

On completion of the project load on land routes will be reduced in transportation of passengers and goods between Dhaka and Narayanganj, the prime minister

She directed authorities to start the work of the second phase of the Circular Waterways Project. Khaleda said under the project

the Turag, Shitalakhya and Balu rivers and Tongi canal would be dredged and a river port set up at Tongi. If necessary, bus stations would also be set up along the route she added. She expressed the hope that

tourism industry would flourish

centring the waterways as tourists from home and abroad get a close touch of the tradition and aesthetic views of the historic city of Dhaka over this water-route Presided over by Shipping

Minister Lt Col (Retd) Akbar Hossain, the function was also addressed by LGRD Minister Abdul Dr Reaz Hassan Khandokar

Foreign currency 'Crossfire' kills 22

Principal Gopal Krishna Muhuri

Rashid fled the country last October after Raozan's top terrorist Jane Alam and his nine accomplices had been killed in 'crossfire' with Rab. He is now in Kolkata, they said.

Habib Khan was in Dhaka a few months ago, but left for Dubai at the advice of 'Gittu' Nasir, sources said.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader and top-notch terrorist Abu Tayeb, three of his gang members Baker, Halim and Millat, city Jubo League cadre Sunil and BCL cadre Dulu are also in Kollkata. Sunil left the country after the 2001 general elections, while Dulu went to Kolkata from his mother-in-law's village home in Jessore after the death of one Mahim in 'crossfire' Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD)

cadre Morshed Khan, Shibir cadres Lengra' Nasir and Sajjad Khan, and members of the now defunct National Democratic Party (NDP) Fazal Hag and Bidhan Barua are now in Dubai, sources said. Sajjad Khan, an accused in Bahaddarhat eight-murder and

cases, recently obtained bail from court and left the country last month. Sources said JCD-linked terrorsts Ekramul Haq Chhuttu, 'Etim'

Alam, NDP cadres Azizul Hag and

Liagat Commissioner murder

Jafar, Shibir cadres Gias Hazarika (on bail), 'BDR' Selim and Azam entenced to death in Principal Muhuri murder case, are roaming in Dhaka and some other parts of the

country. UP chairman Abul Kashem and Shahidur Rahman, two main accused in Jamaluddin Ahmad abduction case, have for long been

hiding in Delhi and Tripura respectively. BNP-backed top terror Osman of Fatikchhari, his second-in command Alamgir and 'Lamba' Mahbub are hiding in Laxmichhari and some remote areas in the hill tracts,

sources said. The 22 top terror killed in Rab operations so far are 'Gittu' Nasir. ldris, Mahimuddin, Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury, 'Petkata' Babar, Ahmadul Haq Chowdhury alias Ahmudya, Minhaj, Foyez Munna, Sajal Nath, Khalifa Amin, Nabi Hossain, Jane Alam and his nine associates, and Aminul Islam alias

Among other Chittagong gangsters on the Rab hit list, 'Shibir Nasir', 'Five Star' Jasim, 'Baittya Alamgir, Taslimuddin Montu, 'Baittya' Yousuf, 'Azrail' Delwar, Monzur Alam and Sarwar Alam are

Jamaat serves

Janakantha and two other widely circulated national dailies and withdrawal of all copies of the book within three days. "The book contains an appendix

under the heading 'A short special report on Jamaat's extended meetng on 'evaluation and training' which purported to reveal that our client held a meeting on 11th and 12th April 2003 wherein it designed a conspiracy against the country, and against BNP with which it has formed the Government," the legal notice read.

The notice said that Jamaat denies holding any such meeting on April 11 and 12 in 2003 at Chittagong International Islamic University Auditorium in the manner alleged or otherwise.

It (Jamaat) also denies making 'any derogatory remarks about any leader of the Four Party Alliance, or about the Prime Minister, or that it made any plan to wage war against the USA, or planned to import arms nto Bangladesh, or give arms training, or set up any arms training centres inside Bangladesh, or has any plan to change the national

continued.

notice added.

"These and other allegations made in the document, are strenuously denied by our client as being false and concocted, and a figment of imagination of the author," the

towards Jamaat. It said they [printer and publisher]

comments from any responsible member of Jamaat. Detectives seized 18 copies of Aghoshito Juddher Blueprint' and 'Brutal Crime-Documents' from the Dhanmondi residence of Sayeed

the former state minister for information, on February 18. The books portrayed rise of extreme communal forces and armed militants and brutality on the

Teachers hold

is 'patronising' fundamentalist forces to stop free thinking in the

Addressing a rally at the Shaheed Minar, leaders of the federation said important persons in different fields are being killed one after another but the government has yet to bring the killers to book. Fundamentalist forces are creating an unhealthy situation across the

madrasas and their number is now increasing fast at the public univer-

Teachers allied to fundamentalist forces are being appointed at the universities to cripple free thinking

they said. President of the federation AAMS Arefin Siddique said injustice and corruption have gripped public universities. Arefin, also president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA), called for

Akhtaruzzaman demanded immediate arrest of fundamentalists who speak against women's organisa-

Justice KM Sobahan, president

BDR foils bid to fencing border

Indian Border Security Forces' (BSF) attempts to fence the border at two points in Ramgar on Wednesday and Thursday BDR fired one round of blank

shot when BSF personnel on bordering areas

border point under Ramgar

of Bangabandhu Parishad, Subrata Chowdhury of the Supreme Court

expressed solidarity with the federation and also addressed the rally. Gazi Saleh Uddin, secretary

Bashir Ahmed and Prof Kazi Faruk Meanwhile, Jatiya Shikhhak Samity Oikyo Jote yesterday formed a human chain in the city

were stranded at Kuala Lumpui

coming back home, got flight

schedule. The Malaysian authorities said it would not take action against workers who already bought return air ticket and were waiting for flight

told The Daily Star last night no Bangladeshi workers are confined at Kuala Lumpur airport. All of them either left Malaysia or they are about to leave, he said. The minister said the number of illegal Bangladeshis in Malaysia is

very small. The Bangladesh mission

workers who lost passport and other documents. decided to take back those workers who left Malaysia during the period of amnesty last year. Around 8, 000 such Bangladeshis have already been enlisted and they are in the process of going back, sources

Around 1.13 lakh Bangladeshi workers are now in Malaysia with valid documents. Thousands came back home as Kuala Lumpur cracked down on illegal foreign workers several times in the last couple of years.

In mid-90s, the number of Bangladeshi workers in that country was over half a million and fresh recruitment remained suspended since 1997.

the name of the Republic,' the notice

The notice said the printer and publisher of the book had intention of 'making those statements known to the people at large and consequently to develop feelings of hatred, contempt, disrespect

had neither examined the veracity of the contents nor had sought any

opposition activists following the

country in a planned way to serve the interest of their foreign mentors, they expressed. The federation leaders said fundamentalist forces grew in

sities, creating an alarming situation.

united resistance to all irregularities at the universities. **DUTA** General Secretary

BDNEWS, Khagrachhari The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) foiled

Thursday tried to fence the border near Ramgar. No casualty, however, was reported. Following the incident, a company commander level flag meeting took place between the two sides. Though the Indians at the meeting agreed not to proceed with the fencing, a tense

anthem of Bangladesh, or change parliamentary elections in 2001

> Chowdhury, president of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, among others,

general of the federation, conducted Participants in the hunger strike included former DU vice chancellor AK Azad Chowdhury, Prof Hamida Banu, Prof Khalekuzzaman, Prof

demanding that educational institutions be free from hartal and politics.

Govt confirms FROM PAGE 1 airport waiting for flight schedule for

State Minister for Expatriate Welfare Mohammad Quamrul Islam

is providing them all help to return home. It is issuing travel pass to Meanwhile, Kuala Lumpur

year student at Upashahar Mohila have a ballast weighing 20 percent of sels less than 50 meters long is situation has been prevailing in the College, was admitted to Jessore will not be needed to change all their total weight, since this would Mannan Bhuiyan, Communications around 100 in the country. The project documents but to mention 250 Bed Hospital. help them to maintain balance during Minister Nazmul Huda, lawmake Earlier on Wednesday, BDR the amount of the excess cost and The sources added that Kotwali installation of the extra ballast will SA Khaleque, Shipping Secretary M Rafiqul Islam and BIWTA Chairman rough weather. Captain AKM the reasons for that. foiled another attempt at Kashibari cost about Tk 50,000 a vessel, said police refused to file a first informa-Shafigullah presided over the meettion report (FIR) in this connection. ing attended by the high officials of