# Corruption charge

FROM PAGE 1 Minister Dr Kamal Uddin Siddiqui on January 30 served a show-cause notice to APS-1 to the PM Shamsul Alam for abusing power for personal benefit, buying a house under false name etc.

According to the show cause, the APS tarnished the image of the prime minister by first taking allotment of a house meant for a secretary-level officer

The second allegation says that the APS purchased a house for Tk 2.77 crore in the name of his brotherin-law from an auction of the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk), on false pretense.

The principal secretary's notice published in most national dailies on February 9 generated widespread discussion in all levels. Many felt that it was only the tip of the icebergs as many other officials of PMO indulged in corruption. The APS in his reply of the show-

cause denied all the allegations put against him.

Officials said that the APS in a very brief reply of the show-cause denied the charges brought against him by the principal secretary.

The APS concerned is of the rank and status of a senior assistant secretary of the administration. He served as protocol officer to the PM during Khaleda Zia's previous tenure and was later appointed as APS to the Leader of the Opposition from 1996 to 2001.

Shamsul Alam's wife Khadiza Khanam, who was a major in the nursing department of Bangladesh Army and attached to the PMO during BNP's previous regime, is now serving as protocol officer-2 at the PMO on contract.

Sources said officials at the PMO who made huge amount of money through corruption and abuse of power in the last three and a half years panicked at the principal secretary's move and worked as a group to convince higher authorities to drop any investigation against Shamsul Alam, fearing greater revelation of corruption.

A section of officials at the PMO made all efforts to convince the prime minister and other policymakers of BNP to drop the APS issue as investigating the allegations might embarrass the government further.

According to highly placed sources the principal secretary has been asked by his higher authority at the PMO not to proceed further and bury the issue permanently. Since then, the principal secretary

### Unusual life FROM PAGE 12

sort of think you have a good idea what's going on," she said in a telephone interview. "But the ocean is a big place and there are still important opportunities for discov-

ery." The Lost City was discovered by accident in 2000 as Kelley and others studied undersea areas near the midocean ridge.

They returned to the area in 2003 to analyze what they had found and were startled to learn how different the new vent environment and its residents were from the ones studied before

Galib's paper

and it was not moved yesterday, too, FROM PAGE 12 the day is not far when people will throw you to the dustbin like rubbish," it read. The monthly was published at a time when its editorial chairman. Galib. remains arrested with his documents seized, while its editor Muhammad Shakhawat Hussain and assistant editor Kabirul Islam have fled and its authority remains closed. Meanwhile, the investigating officials at the joint interrogation cell in Dhaka apparently failed to get any new information from Galib even though seven days of Galib's 10-day remand have already expired. "There is no significant development today," a top official of an intelli gence agency, involved in quizzing Galib and others, replayed his Friday's comment vesterday In its Internet edition, the Bengali monthly published an English versior of its editorial, under the title 'Lying (falsehood) and journalism'. It read, "Foreign radios and almost all Bengali and English newspapers, but a few of Islami ideals in the country run reports linking Prof Dr Galib and Ahle Hadith Andolon Bangladesh with militants are false, baseless, intentional and quite laugh provoking [sic], the editorial starts.

has kept silent and the issue has been sent to the deep freeze. Meanwhile the BDNEWS, Dhaka accused is continuing his service as APS to the PM and not a minimum action has been taken against him.

Sources said government agencies have been instructed not to investigate the corruption issue of the APS fearing that digging of the incident (DMP) might reveal other names who com-

mitted similar or bigger corruption. "The APS is a hardcore man of the Hawa Bhaban and other corrupt and influential section of BNP. He is so influential and well connected that nobody can touch him." said a cabinet inister on condition of anonymity.

According to PMO insiders, section of influential officials at the PMO, some BNP leaders and their relatives, including the APS purchased 14 government abandoned houses in city's posh Gulshan, Baridhara and Banani areas at much lower price secretly. It has been learnt that similar house at a throwaway price was bought by some very senior

rson at PMO Though the RAJUK floated tender in May last year to sell the abandoned houses, eligible buyers could not get tender copies from banks as they mysteriously disappeared. ospective buyers were told not to try as the matter was 'settled'. As a result, the 14 government men purchased the houses easily, as others could not

participate in the tender. Reliable sources said 13 other BNP men, who purchased the abandoned houses, became united immediately after the show-cause notice was served against APS Shamsul Alam and they launched a combined move against the principal secretary and charged him with "sabotaging and destroying the image of the government"

All the buyers of the abandoned houses have now joined in a campaign against the principal secretary and they are attempting to remove him from the PMO, arguing that he may start corruption proceeding against others, thereby further embarrass the

#### IO moves FROM PAGE 12

Wednesday night without any preliminary investigation. According to Jessore Court

Inspector Dinabandhu Das. Khalil in his petition mentioned that investigations have found Imon a minor boy and innocent, and cannot be implicated in the case. But his age was not mentioned in the FIR lodged by the plaintiff, Jessore BNP leader Abul Kalam Shamsuddin Khalil added in his submission.

All family members of Jessore Krishak League leader SM Abdur Rob including his son Imon and a college-going daughter were accused in the FIR recorded with the consent of Kotwali PS Officer-in-Charge Abu Hena Mostafa Kamal The implication of a six-year-old in a rape case triggered widespread indignation among the masses and even the senior police officials.

The prime accused in the case, Abdur Rob, went to court on Thursday noon with Imon in his lap to seek bail. But the bail petition could not be moved that day as office hours had already expired

CNG graft probe PVT CAR REQUISITION SC stays HC order on DMP

#### FROM PAGE 1

requisition of private cars plying in the city. The HC order came follow-

ng a writ petition filed by Kafil Uddin,

a leader of Bangladesh Bus-Truck

an appeal against the HC order,

The government yesterday filed

Chamber Judge of the Appellate

Division Justice Amirul Kabir

Owners Association.

seeking a stay on it.

Withdraw

Raishahi SP

Left parties asks govt

Left-leaning 11-party combine yester-

day demanded immediate withdrawal

of the superintendent of police (SP) of

Rajshahi for 'not carrying out' the

government order to arrest militant

ment to ensure security of opposition

eaders including 11-party's Fazle

In a letter to State Minister for

Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar, the

11-party said SP of Rajshahi Masud

Mia made no efforts to arrest the

Jagrata Muslim Janata, Bangladesh

(JMJB) leader even after the prime

minister's directive in the wake of

newspaper reports on JMJB's militant

The SP seems to ignore the gov-

ernment press note banning the

militant groups, a press release of the

alliance said yesterday. The civil society of Rajshahi also

Fazle Hossain Badsha, unless alleged militant leader Galib and

others arrested are not freed by March

Sources said the step has been

also been initiated due to the offi-

cials' involvement in opening fake

beneficiary owners' (BO) accounts

The SEC on February 12 sus-

pended a Tk 55 crore public floating

of Premier Bank after around

25,000 BO accounts suspected to

be fake had been found in an inves-

BO accounts were opened by

Premier Bank's depository partici-

accounts with Premier Bank.

BDB to work

opposition parties forever.

branch managers to open a huge

number of accounts and MD Mazid

BDB said they will select fresh

activists for the BDB and train them

for 100 constituencies to start work

for the next election and extending

our organisational network there,

He said BDB is the lone anti-

"But we have been facing brutal

hartal party who have not given any

street programme for many days

goons wherever we want to work.

he said, adding, "Soon we will

expand our organisational network

in the whole country and the BDB

will able to build a positive image in

development process of countries

like Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Thailand

and Singapore and implement that

ing development activities running. The FNB leaders in a resolution

Muhammad Ibrahim, M Azharul

Islam and Sheikh Asaduzzaman

Khokon among others spoke at the

meeting organised at the auditorium

BDB General Secretary Abdul

"BDB wants to learn from the

"We have selected candidates

with the principles of BDB politics.

A SEC probe found that 15,000

dress

SEC to sue

which is a criminal offence.

Kazi Iftekhar Hossain

FROM PAGE 12

tigation

address al all

FROM PAGE 12

said Mahi

party network.

less than a year."

in our country," he said.

press conference.

Attacks

ocal administration.

of WVA

FROM PAGE 1

activities in the northern region.

done as yet, it mentioned.

The alliance also urged the govern-

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

kingpin Bangla Bhai.

Hossain Badsha.

the meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

"I did not dissolve the subcom-The Supreme Court yesterday stayed until March 31 a High Court order about requisition of private mittees today as I should give a chance to them to explain their positions." he said. "I will ask them cars by Dhaka Metropolitan Police to submit their probe reports at the next meeting. If they fail again, then I Earlier on February 12, the HC stayed the DMP functioning on will execute my decision."

The parliamentary standing committee formed a sub-committee to probe alleged irregularities in the import of CNG-run autorickshaws on January 7 last year comprising BNP lawmakers. The subcommittee was asked to submit its probe report in a month, but it could not complete the report even after getting time extension on four occasions.

Chowdhury sent the matter to the Another sub-committee to probe full court of the Appellate Division for hearing. Additional Attorney General Fida rregularities in the allocation of land to set up CNG refuelling stations M Kamal moved for the governwas formed on February 14 comprising BNP lawmakers. It was also asked to submit its probe report in a month, but it took time extension twice

The subcommittees had earlier alleged that the communications ministry did not cooperate with the investigation. "But the ministry said

# Grafts fail Dhaka

NEWS

it has submitted all necessary

documents to the probe bodies,

The chairman said he had per-

sonally contacted the convenors

Sangsad, held its meeting yester-

League lawmaker Sheikh Fazlul

Karim Selim at yesterday's meeting

wanted to know the probe reports on

CNG (compressed natural gas)

autorickshaws and demanded

discussed the activities of railway

and asked the ministry to submit a

detailed report on railway lands at

the next meeting. It also discussed

the activities of Bangladesh Road

The governments of Bangladesh

and the United States signed a Letter

of Agreement (LOA) in September

2002 for providing equipment and

forensic technical assistance to the

DNC and its central chemical labora-

ment continues to support

Bangladesh's counter-narcotics

efforts through various commodities

said drugs seized by Bangladesh

authorities from January through November 2004 are as follows: 12.3

percent decrease over the amount

seized during all of 2003); and 2,094

ampules of pethidine injection (about

a 57 percent increase over the

estimate of the number of addicts in

Although they could not tell the

exact border point Bangla Bhai

slipped through, the sources said it

might be somewhere in Sapahar

upazila. "He has many activists

there to help him escape into India,

said a JMJB regional operations

On Bangla Bhai's ultimate desti-

nation, he said, "He may go to any of

the three countries -- Afghanistan,

Pakistan or Iran," stressing on

It said there was no consensus

amount seized during all of 2003).

Bangla Bhai

Bangladesh.

FROM PAGE 1

commander.

According to the DNC, the report

and training assistance programs.

The report said the US govern-

Transport Corporation (BRTC)

The parliamentary body however

day after a five-month break.

discussion on the issue.

said the committee chairman

he added.

#### FROM PAGE 1

district along the Burmese (Myanmar) border and cannabis production in the southern char (siltisland) regions, it added.

However Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) of Bangladesh has strongly denied the allegations of opium production in Bandarban

Porous borders made Bangladesh an 'attractive transfer for drugs transiting in the poinť region, the report said, adding that Bangladesh government officials charged with controlling and preventing illegal substance trafficking lack training, equipment, continuity of leadership, coordination and other resources to detect and interdict the flow of drugs.

submitted a memorandum to the "Corruption is a major problem at district administration to stop such inaction of the SP but nothing was all levels of society and government in Bangladesh. Authorities involved in jobs that have an effect on the drug Meanwhile, a JMJB letter to differtrade facilitate the smuggling of ent newspapers threatened to kill narcotics," the report said. leaders of Awami League, Jatiya Party and other opposition parties, including

victed, officials receive a reprimand at best and termination from government service at worse, it said, adding adjudicating authorities did not take hese cases seriously.

2004 with a mandate to investigate operate effectively and independ-

The report however said the Bangladesh government does not, as a matter of government policy encourage or facilitate illicit production or distribution of drugs.

DNC's counter-narcotics initiatives and program activities are seriously hampered by the ineffectiveness of the National Narcotics Control Board (NNCB), the highest governmental body, to fulfill the

## Dhabi team

#### FROM PAGE 1 kinds of telecommunications.'

The delegation earlier held talks with the Post and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Hague and discussed issues relating to telecoms, sources in the ministry said

The group has also submitted a proposal to build a five-star hotel in Cox's Bazar in joint venture with the

Earlier on Wednesday, after a meeting with the delegation. Board of Investment (Bol) Executive Chair Mahmudur Rahman told the media that if all of its projects get government approval the total investment required would be to the tune of \$2 billion

Other Bol officials also confirmed that Dhabi Group's investment package would be the second largest one by any single investor, surpassed only by Tata, which is now carrying out the preliminary work to implement its \$2 billion investment in steel, power and fertiliser sectors

would consider its proposal to develop a tourism facility centre in Cox's Bazar

delegation members went to Chittagong to conduct a preliminary feasibility study on opening a branch of Bank Alfalah in the port city. That day the rest of the delegation met State Minister for Power lobal Hasan Mahmood. State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin and Bangladesh Bank Governor Fakhruddin Ahmed.

The groups proposed project portfolio also include upgrading of the Dhaka-Chittagong highway into an expressway and setting up of a 500MW power plant.

Besides Tahir, the other delega tion members are Bank Alfalah CEO Parvez A Shahid, Warid International-Abu Dhabi CEO Ali Al Awais, Adviser to the Dhabi Group Board of Directors Marwan Zawaydah and Bank Alfalah Corporate Architect Ahmed Muktar.

#### Govt mulls FROM PAGE 1

abroad have become ineffective and failed to speak on behalf of the government to the international communities in dispelling the ongoing anti-Bangladesh propaganda.

The missions also missed the export targets set for the last financial year. sources said.

The recent donors' meeting in Washington indicated that the international communities are not happy with the government. A number of powerful countries like UK, Japan, Germany and Denmark were critical of Bangladesh and suggested economic sanctions on

Time to think

(blueprint of an undeclared war).

Earlier on February 18, Detective Branch (DB) of police confiscated a number of copies of his two newly published books --Aghoshito Juddher Blueprint and Brutal Crime Documents -- for Liberation War." suspected seditious contents. The first one reportedly portrays the

takes to harass me and my party, I will not allow any single action go unchallenged to uphold the values we earned through our Liberation War.'

Party should remember that their ideals and those of Jamaat are not the same, and should act on that

Judge Dhaka FROM PAGE 12

is far ahead of its neighbours in South Asia in regard to its achievements in different social sectors. He recalled that Bangladesh has achieved significant progress defying all man-made and natural disasters. The country deserves appreciation and accolades, he noted.

He said it is astonishing that with a vast population of over 14 crore people the country has achieved self-sufficiency in food sector. The country has also earned marked development in the human development index (HDI). It also made progress towards meeting the objectives of the millenium development goals (MDG) set by the United Nations. Significant progress has been made in the fields of immunisation, supply of drinking water, women education and health care.

Saifur Rahman observed that continuous dialogues between the members of the global civil society will help create a positive image of the country abroad.

Solidarity Organisation. He said Stephen Tim gave assurance the Myanmarese group operates a that Britain would continue its develnumber of camps in various parts opment assistance and cooperation of Myanmar to provide ICS cadres owards Bangladesh

He also lauded the contributions of the Bangladeshi diaspora in the UK in different spheres of economy and culture in Britain.

the leads, BDR officials issued a red

Col Sharif said BSF could not push

in anyone as they [BDR] were

BSF herded a group of people into a

camp at Naodapara across the

alerted to such possibility.

BDR 6 Battalion Commander Lt

According to local sources, the

alert in the area.

# Borders remain tense

#### FROM PAGE 1 general-level meeting in Dhaka on April 12-17

RAMGARH MEETING BDR 33 Battalion Commander Lt Col Sharif Haider led the Bangladesh delegation at the fivehour meeting that began at 1:00am. A meeting source said that BSF at the meeting accused BDR personnel of launching an unprovoked

border BDNEWS reports from attack on their men who were fenc-Chuadanga: A battalion coming the border. In reply, BDR said mander-level flag meeting between BDR and BSF was held at that for the last seven days they had requested their Indian counterparts Chuadanga border point yesterday. to stop fencing in violation of the Sources said 18 Rifles Battalion 1974 treaty. But as the BSF mem-Commander Lt Col Abu Sufian bers did not pay any heed to the Talukder and 2 BSF Battalion

#### kilograms of heroin (about 15 percent increase over the amount seized during all of 2003); 1,720.2 kilograms of marijuana (about 10 percent decrease over the amount seized during all of 2003); 853 ampules of T D Jasick injection (about 77 percent decrease over the amount seized during all of 2003) 248.8 liters of phensidyl (about 34

If caught, prosecuted and con-

About the Anti-Corruption Commission formed in November corruption and file cases against government officials, it said serious questions remain about the commission's ability and commitment to ently.

and members of the subcommittees requesting them to attend the meeting. But they are busy with political programmes at their constituencies. government. The parliamentary standing committee, which is supposed to sit

once in a month in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Jatiya Committee Member and Awami

The delegation told the Bol they

Bol sources said Group Chairman Nahayan Mabarak Al Nahayan, a member of the UAF royal family, might come to Bangladesh next month, if negotiations on investment proposals in telecoms and acquisition of Samil Bank of Bahrain by Bank Alfalah, a concern of the group, make any notable progress.

Earlier on Thursday, some

Jamaat shelters at least 16 radical groups in the country, said the AL leader, adding: "Its goal is to establish a Taliban-style Islamist

DHAKA SUNDAY MARCH 6. 2005

rise of extreme communalism and

Islamist militants in the country

while the other depicts the alleged

brutalities on the opposition activ-

ists since the 2001 general elec-

Abu Sayeed at yesterday's

press briefing alleged that some

unknown people have been threat-

ening [over telephone] to kill him

since Aghoshito Juddher Blueprint

came on the market. He has filed a

general diary (GD) with the

Dhanmondi Police Station and

requested necessary measures in

Mujahideen Bangladesh leader

Asadullah Al Galib and Jagrata

Muslim Janata, Bangladesh

(JMJB) chief Maulana Abdur

Rahman are in fact the creation of

Jamaat-e-Islami. Galib has

recently been arrested for sus-

pected involvement in subversive

component of the ruling four-party

alliance, had funnelled Tk 1 crore

20 lakh to Taliabans after the US

He said al Qaeda had engaged

many Bangladeshi militants in the

Afghan war against the US. "They

did it through Pakistan's Inter

Services-Intelligence (ISI), and

Jamaat was involved in the pro-

He also alleged that Jamaat and

ts student wing Islami Chhatra

Shibir (ICS) have links also with

Myanmar-based Rohingya

attacked Afghanistan in 2001.

Sayeed said that Jamaat, a

He alleged that Jama'atul

FROM PAGE 12

tions.

this regard.

acts

cess all along.

with guerrilla training.

regime in Bangladesh." On March 2 legal notice that

called for a note of apology, he said, "Why should I make an apology, rather they [Jamaat] should ask for pardon for the crimes they committed during the

"Whatever measures Jamaat

The Bangladesh Nationalist basis, he observed.

### Jamaat ministers FROM PAGE 12

links with the militants and it appears the government is protecting this party.

Jamaat is a component of the BNP- led ruling alliance and it holds two cabinet posts The discussion on the historic

March 7 speech of Bangabandhu, setting the tone for the 1971 War of Liberation, was organised by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Memorial Trust.

Hasina said the recent ban on two extremist groups and arrest of militant leader Galib is an 'evewash' only to please Bangladesh's development partners.

The opposition leader also accused the BNP leadership of criminalisation of politics and said it has become very difficult for honest people to do polítics in the present situation.

Hasina urged people to intensify the on-going movement against the coalition government to end its 'misrule'. "We have to unite to save the country from extremist groups," she added.

Prof Ajay Roy presented the keynote paper and those who took part in the discussion included Mustafa Nur-ul-Islam Ashrafuzzaman Khan, Rafigul Islam and Abul Barakat.

nant using a single ac accused did not c court, Inspector Dinabandhu said. According to a source, an inquiry

has been initiated into why OC Mostafa Kamal gave permitted recording the FIR without any preliminary investigation, while a Kotwali SI said on condition of anonymity that Kamal has been asked to show

cause his role in this regard. But neither Jessore Police Super Shahidul Islam nor OC Kamal could be reached over phone for their comments and confirmation yester-

### Kibria's murder FROM PAGE 12

elimination design, they said. Senior Awami League leaders including Zillur Rahman, Suranjit Sengupta, Abdul Motin Khosru, Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, poet Syed Shamsul Haq and advocate Tarana Halim among others took part in the

memorial discussion. The meeting also registered protest against the killings one after another in grenade and bomb attacks.

"Although Kibria was a sitting lawmaker, there was not a single police personnel at his meeting venue in Habiganj," said Abdul Motin Khosru, adding that it was "a designed killing in connivance with the government." The spree of grenade attacks

began since the biggest ever Chittagong arms haul with which frontline leaders of ruling BNP were found involved. Khosru said.

"The killers of Bangabandhu and Kibria are interlinked by the same ideals," said Suranjit Sengupta, "So, it is futile to demand justice from the ruling coalition."

All the incidents since 1975 are interlinked in a well-designed blueprint against Awami League, said Zillur Rahman, whose wife lvy Rahman was killed in the August 21 grenade attack last year.

"These incidents should not be considered in isolation," said poet Syed Shamsul Haq. Jote activist advocate Tarana

Halim, who spoke as one of Kibria's family members, said that if the killers of Kibria go unpunished, "none of us will remain safe in the society." As to sending helicopter to bring

Kibria from the spot of grenade attack, she said that the government claim is a blatant lie.

Film director Alamgir Kumkum, actor ATM Shamsuzzaman and Kibria's daughter-in-law Rina Sultana Kibria also spoke.

objectives of the Narcotics Control Another 3,000 accounts also had Act (NCA). another lone address, while about

The 19-member NNCB, made of 5,500 BO accounts did not have any up of 12 ministers, six elected members, and the DNC director general. The central bank in its separate nvestigations into the probe also is charged to meet quarterly, but no detected a number of irregularities meetings have been held since a in opening of a huge number of bank single meeting was conducted in 2003. There is no master plan for There are also allegations that combating drug trafficking and abuse the Premier Bank board of directors in Bangladesh, the report said. chairman put pressure on different

"Regular police and the BDR are viewed as so corrupt and inept at combating everyday crime that a new 'Rapid Action Battalion' (Rab) force was recently set up by the central government."

Customs, the navy, the coast guard and the DNC suffer from the torture and violence upon the under-funding, under-equipping, understaffing and lack of training, it In reply to question, Mahi B added. Chowdhury, the lone lawmaker of

There is no DNC presence at the country's second largest airport, in Chittagong, which has direct flights to Burma (Myanmar) and Thailand. To date, no random searches of crews, ships, boats, vehicles, or containers are being performed at the country's largest seaport in Chittagong.

Bangladesh is a party to the 1988 UN Drug Convention. It has a memo-randum of understanding on narcotand is working for strengthening the ics cooperation with Iran, an extradition treaty with Thailand, and it participates in information sharing with the government of Myanmar, it attacks by the government-backed

# PM calls for farm

#### FROM PAGE 1

adding that already 700 officials and scientists have been appointed to that end. Nearly 4000 agricultural employees have so far been given promotion.

Mannan was also present at the The prime minister announced that from now block supervisors, the field-level agricultural employees, would be Deputy Assistant Agriculture Officer (DAAO) of which prevailing hostile situation of their ence at the same venue last year. ocality and sought ways to get rid of

She informed that some 2,500 agricultural diploma-holders were tant agriculture officers last year.

ment projects giving maximum priority to agriculture, farmers and villages," she said, describing her government's pragmatic steps and programmes aimed at bolstering agriculture in order to ensure a poverty- and hunger-free

Some 30 thousand male and female farm workers from across the country as well as the rank and

Bangla Bhai's preference for Afghanistan.

Bangla Bhai's spiritual leader and JMJB chief Abdur Rahman however is still in the country, the sources confirmed.

According to them, Bangla Bhai will stay in India for a couple of weeks before taking to road heading for any of the aforesaid Muslim countries.

They Bangla Bhai changed his earlier plan to surrender in face of strong opposition from his followers and decided to go abroad instead. He along with a group of follow-

ers even had gone to Rajshahi on Saturday from Raninagar in Naogaon to surrender to the police. But he later changed his decision on repeated requests of his followers. who decided to carry on JMJB activities working side by side Ahle Hadith Andolon Bangladesh of Asadullah Al Galib to bring about an Islamic revolution, sources said.

Under protection of an influential quarter within the ruling coalition, local police and administration, the JMJB unleashed a reign of terror in the northwestern region in the name of uprooting communist outlaws known as Sarbaharas. In 10 months until it was banned on February 23, the JMJB killed at least 22 people and maimed and tortured many more

file of the agricultural department

attended the three-day conference. The theme of the conference was 'Technology-based Agriculture for Poverty Reduction".

Agriculture Minister MK Anwar, State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Fazlul Huq Milon MP, Chairman of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council Dr Mohammad Nurul Alam Director General of the BARI Abdus Sattar, block supervisor Ziaul Haider Palash and a peasants representative, Mohamamd Anwarul Huq, among others,

addressed the function. Before her speech, the PM distributed National Agriculture Award 1,409 among 32 male and female farmers and agriculture officers for their outstanding contributions in various fields of agriculture

She also inaugurated a five-daylong Agriculture Technology Fair 2005 on the BARI premises and went round some stalls

Bangladesh, but the United States did not respond to their proposal.

After assuming office, the fourparty alliance government adopted the 'look east' foreign policy, but the move did not succeed. Bangladesh-China relations had faced strains over the opening of Taiwanese office in Dhaka, drawing widespread criticism.

The parliamentary standing committee on foreign ministry has recently observed that the 'look east' policy has been on paper, not in reality.

Relations with India also deteriorated in recent times. A number of government policymakers have partially blamed the foreign minister for his failure to maintain good relationship with the biggest neighbour.

They believe the Saarc Summit was postponed due to the strained relations with India.

#### 61 promoted FROM PAGE 12

(PMO), Ministry of Establishment or served as private secretary to influential ministers or deputy commissioners dominated the promotion list.

The Ministry of Establishment had prepared a list of 275 deputy secretaries from BCS different batches, who fulfilled the promotion criteria, but finally approved 71 of them for promotion. This has created resentment among the rest, sources mentioned.

When contacted, a top official at the PMO said there will be more promotions to posts of joint secretary by the end of this year. The government cannot promote at a time all officials who fulfilled promotion criteria for lack of vacancies.

The official rejected allegations of politicisation saying that promotions were given on the basis of merit and efficiency of the officers. (Full list on page 2)

## Tamabil port

FROM PAGE 1 Meanwhile, operation at the Sutarkandi Land Custom Station remained suspended for the third consecutive day yesterday. The snap at the land port started after a coal-laden Indian truck plunged into a canal damaging an already rundown steel bridge on the way to Sutarkandi on Thursday. Since then some 100 trucks have remained stranded near the LC station.

protect the border.

The BDR officials also said that the fencing if continued would disturb peace in the bordering areas and that they are resolved to resist any acts that breach the treaty

**TENSION IN LALMONIRHAT** Our Lalmonirhat Correspondent adds: Fearing a bloody face-off between BDR and BSF, more than 2,000 families have already fled their houses while others prepare to follow at bordering Singimari and Burosrodubi of Lalmonirhat yester-

day. Both the sides continued to mobilise troops along the border over Indian attempt to fence. The tension mounted since February 15 when BSF tried to fence the border 90 yards off the zero point near Singimari.

Meanwhile, though BSF has expressed intent to sit in a flag meeting, no meeting was held till yesterday evening, sources said. UNB adds from Chapainawabganj: BDR personnel were on alert yesterday for an Indian attempt to push in through

Chakpara frontier in Shibganj upazila. Sources said that locals on Friday informed BDR that some six unidentified women were found on the no man's land. Later following

CONGO TRAGEDY

# Rice condoles

### death

UNB, Dhaka

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has expressed deep condolences at the death of nine Bangladeshi peacekeepers in an ambush in Congo.

In a message to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, Rice said, "I wish to extend my condolences to the Government of Bangladesh and the families and friends of the Bangladeshi soldiers who were killed on February 25 while serving with the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

She said this "tragic loss underscores the risks braved by Bangladeshi peacekeepers as they perform their important service. The contribution by Bangladesh to UN peacekeeping opera- tions worldwide is deeply appreciated".

nander Commandant Sol led the two sides in the meeting.

The meeting discussed measures to improve law and order at the border points and stop theft of pillars along the 155-km border.

At the meeting, BSF assured that there would be no attempt on their part to push in people across the border

Earlier on February 23, BSF tried push in 12 Indian Bangalees. BDR sent letters three times protesting the incident and invited BSF to a flag meeting.

The three-hour meeting has quelled the tension in the bordering areas.

The BSF had been persistently carrying out their push-in bid for 10 days through the border since February 23

### **Child burnt** to death in Faridpur

BDNEWS, Faridpur

A child has been burnt to death in a house and 15 shops were gutted elsewhere in Nagarkanda upazila.

Sources said the fire in Kagdi Bazar originated yesterday afternoon from electric short circuit and burnt down 15 shops.

In another fire, the house of Abed Sheikh in Baushkhali was burnt to ashes Thursday night.

Abed's two-year-old son, Rafiqul Islam, suffered serious burns and died at Faridpur Medical College and Hospital Friday.

The damage has been estimated at Tk 15 lakh.

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#### districts several times

SIB officials said neither Galib nor any of his associates visited the madrasas with valid travel documents.

"But when Galib visited Aligarh University in Uttarpradesh for his research work, he always carried

oper visa," said an official. Galib is known among the teachers and students of the university, he said, adding that the SIB is investigating into Galib's possible connections with Student Islamic Movement of India and Jamiyat-ul-Mujahideen, two outfits of India.

she had pledged at a similar confer-

it. They urged the government to take stern action against all kinds of terrorist activities to keep the ongogiven appointment as deputy assis-"We are implementing developalso decided to go ahead with preventive activities with the help of FNB Vice-chair Rasheda K

Chowdhury, members Shah-e-Mobin Jinnah, Zakir Hossain, Dr Bangladesh