# NEWS

Executive Minhaz Uddin, Network

Administrator Ariful Huq Mollick and

An investigation revealed that a

large number of BO accounts were

opened with Equity Partners

Securities Limited (EPSL), the broker-

age house of EPL, ahead of sched-

uled subscription date of Premier

Bank initial public offering (IPO), an

whether opening of the large number

of BO accounts is linked with Premier

Bank IPO scam as Equity Partners is

pended a Tk 55 crore IPO of Premier

Bank after around 25,000 BO

accounts suspected to be fake had

been found in its preliminary investiga-

A SEC probe found 5,000 BO accounts that were opened by

Premier Bank's depository participant

using a single address. Another 3,000

accounts also had identica

addresses, while about 5,500 BO

accounts did not have any address at

Bangladesh Bank in a separate

investigation into the Premier Bank IPO scam also detected a number of

rregularities in opening a large num-

ber of bank accounts with different

account and BO account to be eligible for applying for IPO, investors rush for

opening the accounts to get primary

shares that carry good prospects. According to SEC rules, an inves-

tor can apply for two IPOs at the maxi-

mum, one in single and another in joint

used the bank itself and its depository

participant wing to open thousands of

pank and BO accounts, mostly fake, to

book maximum IPO in share allotment

JU students

as boy killed

Vehicular movement on Dhaka-

Paturia highway remained suspended

for three hours yesterday as

Jahangirnagar University (JU) stu-

dents barricaded the highway protest

The accident occurred when a

"He was crossing the road near

dragged him about 20-fóot away,

Pabna-bound bus of Shyamoli

Paribahan knocked down Abdul Aziz

ing the death of a boy in an accident.

in accident

JU CORRESPONDENT

at about 11:30am.

barricade

lottery, sources said

road

The management of Premier Bank

As one must have both bank

Premier Bank branches.

name

The SEC on February 12 sus-

He said SEC is investigating

SEC official said.

issue manager of the IPO.

Compliance Officer Md Jalal Uddin.

# Mirpur arrestee 75 injured in Clash in clash in remanded Tungipara

# His opinions found 'harmful to Islam'

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man arrested from Mirpur on Sunday, after making comments and leaflets to other parts of the country. Talking to The Daily Star, police opinions that law enforcers deemed harmful to Islam and other religions officers said they were looking into whether Toaha has links with any was remanded vesterday.

Ramna police produced Imamuddin Mohammad Toaha bin Habib before the Court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka yesterday with a seven-day remand petition

But Metropolitan Magistrate Syed Mujibul Haque granted only a twoday remand.

Police arrested Toaha from his house in the second colonv at Maiar Road in Mirpur Sunday after he floated an Islamic platform, Sattyabad Andolon, at the National Press Club the same day.

In the forwarding submitted before the court, police said Toaha's opinions and comments. written in his books and other publications, might prove harmful to Islam and other religions, creating social violence.

"He failed to give a satisfactory explanation for his confusing opinions and comments," read the forwarding.

"The posters and leaflets, as well as the books seized from Toaha's house, are creating an adverse effect and reaction among followers of Islam and other religions," it added.

Police said Toaha failed to prolinking Toaha with Dr Asadulah Al duce government permission for the Galib and Bangla Bhai, claiming that distribution of different publications and the marketing of his books. Sattybad Andolon opposes national

While submitting the remand prayer, police pleaded that he needed and international militancy, which are against Islam.

Centre (TSC) and included two plays, 'Girl', performed by CARE cultural

activists, and 'Cyclone', performed by

the ASF activists.

Jatekin

emerged.

### OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gopalganj At least 75 people were injured, 24 of them critically, in a clash between two groups in Kushli village in

Tungipara upazila vesterday. Tungipara police said two cousns locked in an altercation over Tk to be thoroughly guizzed to ascertain 100 that precipitated into a threehis objective, including whether he hour-long clash involving two rival has any patron for the activities and aroups. whether he circulated his books and

Police rushed to the spot and quelled the situation. The critically njured were admitted to Sheikh Sahera Khatun Red Crescent Hospital.

# Ctg RMG

FROM PAGE 12 Garments sector leaders said RMG production in many factories in Chittagong has dropped sharply due to unpredictable and deteriorating power supply over the last few days. "If the situation worsens further, we apprehend loss of some markets abroad because power

supply crisis is hampering shipment of garments on schedule," Nurul Haque said. If we produce 1.000 pieces of

garments in one hour of uninterrupted production, we can hardly make 50 pieces due to power supply crisis ," mentioned Nurul, also senior vice president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry(CCCI).

Some garments owners already failed to meet shipment deadline in the last three days and some of them now have problem with their foreign buyers. "The owners are now forced to go for overtime work for which the cost of electricity almost doubles in peak hours," he said.

The BGMEA leader urged the

government to suspend the existing

tariff variation (peak and non-peak

including Sylhet-bound Parabat and

Joyontika, Noakhali-bound Upakul,

overcome the present situation.

to the government for this.

Rail link

evening vesterday.

sources.

said

# Borders under watch PAY COMMISSION

FROM PAGE 12 Meanwhile cadres of Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) are still roaming about freely, allegedly with cooperation from police in Rajshahi and Naogaon, despite the government ban on JMJB as of February 24, local inhabitants said.

Police sources insist that Bangla Bhai will not elude their grip. "We have no reports on the whereabouts of Bangla Bhai for the last seven months. Our five teams, including a special force, are out in the field tracing him. Bangla can't cross undetected through police vigilance in the Rajshahi division," additional DIGAminul Islam said.

He added that police are using

# Building

FROM PAGE 1 the downtown yesterday morning

Leakage of gas from a cylinder at the house caused the blast. firefighters and police said.

Inmates Abdul Gafur, a teacher of Fakiruddin School and College, and his wife Nazma Akhter sustained serious burns all over their bodes.

As soon as Gafur lit a cigarette, there was explosion with a huge bang at around 6:45am, Nazma said, adding that she had smelt gas before he incident.

Five rooms of the ground floor were badly damaged and a window grill was flown some 150 feet off the house. Afterwards the whole building collapsed.

"Lighting of the cigarette ignited the explosion in the gas-filled apartment and the vacuum created from the explosion destroyed the rooms, said Sheikh Mizanur Rahman deputy director of Fire Service and Civil Defence.

Neighbours rushed the injured to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital and as their condition deteriorated, they were shifted to Shah Garib Newa Clinic in the city.

The doctors attending the couple stated their condition as critical Firefighters reached the spot shortly and doused the fire

### hours) and introduce a flat rate for power and other utility services for a **Bigots plan to** certain period this year to help besiege Nurul said they (BGMEA and CCCI) would soon make an appeal Ahmadiyyas

# **OUR CORRESPONDENT,**

Activists of International Khatme Nabuwat Movement, Bangladesh announced to besiege the Ahmadivva establishment here on March 11 at a meeting held on Al-Falha Madrasa premises yesterday.

The dead, yet to be identified, is Presided over by Mufti Mamunur aged around 35. Apparently a Rashid, the meeting demanded passenger, he died as a bogey fell declaration of the Ahmadiyya comon him. The driver and his assistant munity as non-Muslim.

of train 803 and a guard of the oil Central leaders of the Islamist containing train were among the outfit Amir Mahmudul Hasan, Naibiniured and admitted to Dhaka e-Amir Mufti Nur Hosain, Secretary Railway Hospital, said railway General Muhammed Nazmul Hug among others, addressed the meet. The accident happened when They also brought out a proces-

rain-803 from Chittagong ignored a sion in white clothes and paraded the signal to halt and let the Chittagongthoroughfares of Gaibandha town. bound fuel tanks change the track to

their best tools to arrest the militant leader and that vigilance along the bordering districts has been tightened following reports of his plan to slip into India.

"Crossing the border for Bangla Bhai is not a joke. But he can do it through comparatively flexible borders like Godagari and Shapahar. where the Islamist extremists might have some base. Yet, there will be local smugglers who will challenge anyone unknown to their own business," explained a top-level source from the Bangladesh Rifles.

Several officers-in charge (OC) and sub inspectors of various police stations in Rajshahi and Naogaon have been facing pressure not to touch JMJB cadres, who have, along with Bangla Bhai, openly murdered and tortured several people since April of last year, said competent

sources Masud Mia, the Rajshahi Superintendent of police who was ordered to be transferred to Dhaka CID on Saturday, allegedly threatened several OCs against arresting JMJB cadres or helping journalists to write reports, a senior police official said, quoting verbal complaints by some OCs.

# Jamaat's dirty face unveiled

Says Jalil

# BDNEWS. Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday said Jamaat e-Islami leaders were now talking irrelevant as their 'hatred and dirty faces' have been unveiled.

In a statement, Jalil strongly condemned Jamaat leaders' remarks, which they made from a rally saying all information regarding terrorism in the country will be known if Sheikh Hasina, Prof Abu Sayeed and a few editors are arrested.

Jalil said Jamaat, under the guise of their Islamic slogans, is associated with international terrorist network in one hand, and on the other hand patronising local armed militant groups.

"All these were published in national and international press. Jamaat-e-Islami is also actively associated with militant recruitment by al-Qaeda through ISI of Pakistan while al-Qaeda is associated with Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO)," he said.

The AL general secretary said apart from Jamaat's association with international terrorist networks. they are also closely associated with at least 16 armed militan fundamentalist groups.

"The suggestion of Fazlul Hug Amini to raid the Shibir offices also proved that Jamaat-Shibir are involved in armed militancy," Jalil said

# **Body formed** to implement report

### BDNEWS, Dhaka

The cabinet yesterday formed a fivemember body to formulate guidelines for implementing the recommenda tions made by the pay commission from January 1 this yea

After examining the pay commis-sion's report, official sources said, the committee would submit its report within one month. The committee, headed by cabinet

secretary, was formed at a meeting at the Prime Minister's Office with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the chair.

Other members are secretaries of finance. defence and establishment and principal secretary to the PM. The pay commission submitted its

report on February 2. Earlier, three pay commissions were formed in 1985, 1991 and 1997.

Top outlaw killed in 'crossfire'

### **OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia**

Top outlawed leader Abdus Samad Tikka was killed in a 'crossfire' between his accomplices and police at village Dahkula in Sadar upazila in the district early yesterday.

With the incident, 'crossfire' death by Rapid Action Battalion and police Since June last year rose to 241. Tikka, 38, a leader of outlawed Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF) was accused in 40 cases including 18 of

murder, police said. Lalpur police of Natore district at first arrested Tikka from a tea stall at Gopalpur Bazar on Monday last. He was sent to Natore jail under section 54 of CrPC.

On information, a team of Kushtia Detective Branch police rushed to Natore and identified the arrestee as Tikka, the outlawed leader.

Kushtia police arrested him from Natore jail gate when he came out of jail on bail Saturday. During interrogation in Kushtia,

Tikka admitted his involvement with the underground party and confessed to possessing a large number of firearms hidden in different places of the region including his village Dahkula in Sadar upazila.

Accompanying Tikka, police started for village Dahkula to seize firearms as per his confession.

As the police reached Borozpara area of the village, the GMF cadres opened fire, triggering an hour-long shootout with police.

Meantime, Tikka, trying to flee from police van, got caught in the 'line of fire' and died on the spot, police said, adding that his accomplices managed to flee.

### Tullow strikes FROM PAGE 1

plant for gas production from Bhangura of Debidwar in Comilla. If the proposal is accepted, Tullow will produce 40-45 million cubic feet perday (MMCFD) from the field.

Petrobangla signed a production sharing contract (PSC) with Tullow, ChevronTexaco and Bapex for the block on April 11, 2001.

Under the PSC. the

SEC wants issue furnish the capital market regulator with the father's name, joining date, FROM PAGE 12 public offering (IPO), to send particu-lars of four officials of the company and present and permanent addresses

its brokerage house. photographs and other particulars of In a letter, the SEC instructed EPL the four officials by tomorrow. The officials are EPL Executive Managing Director Saiful Islam to Director Md Sayadur Rahman, EPSL

# Missions asked to boost trade

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The foreign ministry has directed Bangladeshi missions abroad to boost trade, investment and manpower export in line with the government's policy emphasising economic diplomacy.

Replying to lawmakers' queries Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday in parliament said that the government has taken measures to recast some of its foreign missions to face the changing political and economic scenario in global context.

He told the House that the present four-party alliance government has initiated steps to strengthen the diplomatic and economic relations with the Islamic countries Responding to a query, Morshed

said the Organisation of Islamic Conference plans to hold an emergency meeting to discuss different issues relating to world situations.

"The OIC is considering holding the emergency conference shortly. But the date has yet to be finalised," he said adding, "Bangladesh will attend the conference.

Referring to the 13th Saarc summit, the foreign minister said, "We hope the summit would be held in an appropriate time this year."

Responding to a query of the ruling BNP lawmaker, the foreign minister said a section of newspapers and some political leaders are running anti-Bangladesh propaganda abroad.

"We should develop a nationallevel awareness to combat such propaganda," said the foreign minister. He informed the House that 64 heads of state and 41 heads of government visited Bangladesh from

1972 to December 2004. Morshed said some countries ncluding Japan and UK have invited Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to visit there this year.

Arrested Khulna Addl SP accused in trader's killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Former additional superintendent of Khulna police Mofazzel Hossain has been named prime accused in a case filed with the Cognisable Court of Dakop upazila of the district today for the murder of prominent businessman and shrimp trader Abdur RobAzad.

17, son of Shamsuddin of Raghurampur village in Mymensingh, The complainant in the case, Rob's wife Mosammat Rexona Azad, has also named 26 others as co-accused. Meanwhile, a Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday rejected the bail prayer of Mofazzel and a couniversity's Prantik gate when the bus (Dhaka-Metro Ba-11-1307) hit and accused in the case for bomb attack on journalist Dip Azad

leaving him dead on the spot," a witness said. The co-accused in Rob murder case include police sub-inspectors The news prompted the JU students, already angered by frequent accidental deaths of fellow students, a Abu Taher and Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman, constables Mujibar Rahman, Joina Abedin, Abdul Alim leacher and others, to take to th Abu Nasser, Mohammod Alamgir, Nazrul Islam and Majidul Islam of street. They barricaded the highway at Khulna district detective branch, Ajmol 11:45am and vandalised two buses Hossain of special branch and Witnesses said the agitating students Touhidur Rahman and Kanti Marma became furious when Shah Alam She also named 21 eyewitnesses sub-inspector of Rapid Action to the murder. Battalion (Rab) - 4, threatened them In the case, the complainant stated with 'handover of more bodies if they that the accused led by Mofazzel killed did not clear off'. her husband on the road in front of Dakop UNO office at about 2:00pm on However, the law-enforcers left the spot in the face of students' protest. Vice-chancellor Prof Khandaker January 3 in presence of the eyewitnesses she named. Mustahidur Rahman reached the spot "The accused beat my husband to two hours after the incident and helped death on the spot. They also looted his ease the situation. The students lifted the barricades at 2:45pm after the JU licensed revolver, Tk 1,92,000, some business-related papers and his cell authorities started construction of speed-breakers near the Prantik gate. phone," she added. She also mentioned that her father-Police sent the body of Aziz, a in-law had lodged a case with Dakop Police Station on January 6 naming house help of JU Assistant Registrar Dr Abul Kalam Azad, to Dhaka Medical ollege and Hospital for autopsy. Mofazzel as the main accused for murdering his son. But the case had to Additional police were deployed to avert any untoward incident. be withdrawn in the face of death threats from Mofazzel and other Earlier, the Roads and Highways

International Women's Day traces it Women," placing emphasis on estab-lishing the rights and security of origins to this day in 1857, when female workers of a sewing factory in New York, USA fought with local police to President lajuddin Ahmed and FROM PAGE 1 protest against a 12-hour workday, low pay and unhealthy condition at Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in separate messages on the eve of the day workplaces. The day was later declared expressed their firm conviction that the Mymensingh-bound Egarosindhu spirit of the International Women's Day and Isha Khan remained sus-International Women's Day during the will inspire the country's womenfolk to pended till filing this report in the second International Socialist

ing gender equality is not only women's

responsibilityit is the responsibility of all

ofus,"he added. Bangladesh will observe the day

with the theme "Stop Violence Against

militant organisations, including the

recently banned Jagrata Muslim

Janata Bangladesh and Jama'atul

madrasa in Pirojpur, Toaha told police

during his interrogation yesterday that

he floated the organisation to estab-

lish his own opinion about Islam, claiming himself to be an Islamic

Toaha's brother, Dr Bahauddin

Mohammad Yusuf, as saying that his

Sattyabad Andolon sent to The Daily

organisation did not have any con-

Sunday), Sattyabad invited all to

God's true path, leaving the path of

terrorist fundamentalism and the

falsity of democracy-communism,'

reads the fax message, signed by

Toaha termed as false reports

one Shafiullah Heera.

ection with militant activities.

brother was a bit mentally challenged.

Police, meanwhile, quoted

Meantime, a fax message from

yesterday claimed that the

'From the press conference (of

The son of a principal of a

Muiahideen.

thinker.

Star

Int'l Women's Day

do their best to establish women's Women's Conference in Copenhagen in 1910 following a proposal by German Socialist Movement leader Klara Various government, nongovernment, social, cultural, legal, civil society, political, international organisations have chalked out elaborate ogrammes to be staged today. The organisations involved include:

the Ministry of Women and Children's

Affair; the Ministry of Local

Government, Rural Development and

Cooperatives; the National Garments

Workers Federation: Jativa Nar

Programme; the Acid Survivors

Foundation; the Health Rights Project; the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters

Association; the Bangladesh Garment

Workers Protection Alliance; the

okkyamancha; the World Food

International Women's Day is an occasion marked by women's groups around the world. It is also commemorated at the United Nations and is designated in many countries as a national holiday.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in a message said, "Over this decade, we have noticed tangible progress on many fronts. Life expectancy and fertility rates have improved. More girls are enrolled in primary education. More women are earning than ever before. At the same time, new challenges have

community to remember that promot-

# More changes FROM PAGE 12

announcement, Secretary incharge of the Ministry of Information Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury, who was also holding the charge of director general of Bangladesh Television has been transferred to the Ministry of Environment and Forest.

Chairman of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation Mahbubur Rahman has been made secretary in-charge of the Ministry of Information.

Former additional secretary Ferdous Ara Begum, who was made officer on special duty (OSD), has been made director general of BTV.

Ferdous Ara, who is wife of the prime minister's Press Secretary Tajul Islam, was promoted to the post of joint secretary under the president's quota immediately after the BNP-led coalition came to power. She was promoted to the post of additional secretary last year again under the president's quota Both the times, she was promoted despite her failure to fulfil the normal promotion criteria, official sources said.

Ferdous Ara was posted at the Economic Relations Division (ERD) as additional secretary but her posting was cancelled within a few days as the finance ministry declined to accept her in the minis-

try, the sources mentioned. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Abdul Momen has been appointed executive director of Dhaka Transport Coordination Board Saifuddin Ahmed, newly promoted joint secretary and private secretary to the LGRD and Cooperatives minister, has replaced Momen as CEO of the DCC. He is among the 61 newly promoted joint secretaries who got posting first.

Director of the now defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption Mujibur Rahman Hawlader has now become joint secretary at the Ministry of Establishment and deputy secretary at Parliament Secretariat Afzal Hossain has become chief metropolitan magistrate of Raishahi.

Meanwhile, seven deputy commissioners and four additional commissioners, promoted to the post of joint secretary on March 5, have been asked to continue in their respective posts until further orders.

Samajtantrik Mahila Forum; the International Women's Day Observation Committee: Action or Disability and Development; Samajtantrik Protirod Committee;

Jativo Nari Sramik Trade Union kendro Democracywatch; and Bangladesh National Women's Lawyers Association.

# A party FROM PAGE 1

country with foreign help when Bangladesh is heading towards self-sufficiency. 'They want to go to power riding on the shoulders of their foreign

masters ... they do not want welfare of the people," she said.

"This country will not run at anybody's dictate," the prime minister said, reminding that the independence of Bangladesh was not attained at anybody's mercy. "The people are the guardians of the country...the people of this country have shed blood for the independence," she said and urged the people to stand united against all conspira-

The prime minister was addressing a mammoth public meeting during her daylong visit to the northern district of Thakurgaon, where she inaugurated an important irrigationm-water-supply programme.

Processions from all around the town swarmed into the meeting at Boro Math that was chaired by State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir

opposition camps, including former League leader Nurul Islam, formally joined the BNP at the meeting.

The prime minister in her address also warned that foreign elements, witnessing progress of Bangladesh under this government, are also conspiring. "Those who want to make Bangladesh dependent are conspiring," she told her audience. "They have their lackeys inside

the country," she warned the people, asking them to identify them. Those who do not evaluate the

people of the country and seek foreign assistance cannot be 'friends' of the people and well-wishers of the country, she said.

# Qatar PM

# FROM PAGE 12

same day, a diplomatic source said vesterday The details of the visit of the

prime minister of Qatar are being worked out through diplomatic channels, the source added.

might have been sleeping at that time, and as a result, his train crashed on the oil tankers," said a railway official.

make way for it, the railway sources

"The driver of the container train

Six bogeys of container-803 and 11 bogeys of the oil tanker train derailed. The bogeys that were crumpled badly in the crash blocked the railway tracks. A salvage train reached the scene at 9:00am and

> started rescue operation. Meanwhile, Bangladesh Railway esterday ran the Dhaka-Chittagong train under special arrangement via Mymensingh Train services were likely to return to

normality by last night, said a source. The railway authorities formed a four-member probe committee and asked it to submit a report within next three days.

Local lawmaker Zahid Ahsan Russell and railway high officials visited the spot.

Nearly 500 accidents take place every year because of drivers' disregard for signals and the rundown railway tracks, said railway sources.

# Saudi prince

FROM PAGE 1 Chairman Mahmudur Rahman

He will also exchange views with the leaders of business communities, according to a diplomatic source.

Dhaka, Yangon

The Saudi prince will arrive by a special flight.

A large number of politicians from airman of Harirampur and Awami

homes on March 12, following a diplomatic negotiation between the two neighbouring countries. Myanmar has also decided to release 75 Bangladeshi prisoners from different jails of the country.

Mvanmarese prisoners are in Cox's Bazar jail, transferred from different ails, awaiting repatriation to Myanmar. However the Yangon

authorities have agreed to accept only 115 prisoners in the first batch.

FROM PAGE 1

At least 300 Myanmarese prisoners, including several Arakanese insurgents, will remain in Bangladesh, as their jail term is not vet finished.

prime ministers will be held the

The foreign ministry sources said the decision was taken as a gesture of warm relationship between the

two countries following the visit of Myanmar Foreign Minister Nyan Win to Bangladesh.

### FROM PAGE 12

has been better as compared to many other recipients, as the country could graduate from pov-

erty to non-poverty level status. The minister linked the outcome with the improvement in the country's human development indicators that cover health, education, mortality rate and the rate of school enrollment.

Donors to adopt

Under the result-based aid strategy, he explained that the programmes would be designed as per the development policy of a particular country, but it would have to be accountable and transparent. The donors would then take into account the results of the aided projects, he said.

Saifur, however, indicated that the donors would not offer blank cheques so that one can get aid easily. "People in Bangladesh don't want to pay taxes, why the donors will provide aid so easily?" he said. "We want to graduate out of aid."

As per the changing concept, he said the programmes would be framed based on the existing institutions of the respective governments.

To make the programmes expeditious, the conference also called for harmonization of differences among the donors from their respective country perspectives. he said.

On aid review missions, the finance minister said Bangladesh receives 250 missions, which went up to 310 in case of another coun-

# PM to visit

### FROM PAGE 1 Lee Hsien Loong

During her visit, Khaleda will Presently about 172 hold talks with Loong on March 21. She will also meet the Singapore president at Isetan the same day and attend a dinner to be hosted in

her honour by premier Loona. Khaleda will deliver a lecture under the auspices of the Institute of South Asian Studies on March 22 and return home the same day.

She will also attend a reception organised by Bangladeshis on March 20.

Meanwhile, the prime minister is likely to visit Vietnam in the third

week of May. The date of her visit, however, is being discussed at diplomatic levels, a foreign ministry source said.

try, to become busy with their

affairs "So many accountability points

hamper day to day activities of a government." he said, and urged the donors to reduce the missions and assign the local office for the task. "I hope it will be implemented," he added.

Saifur said the conference observed that the worldwide unrest like terrorism and corruption has been the outcome of deprivation over the years, and the situation would not improve unless the world community can revoke the deprivation through rational distribution of resources.

### Hasina to talk FROM PAGE 1

terrorism and human rights abuse by the alliance government tarnished the image of the country abroad. "Over the last three years, they have assassinated 38,000 people. They injured thousands of people and made thousands of families helpless."

The government was killing people through Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) without any trial, but the godfathers of all criminal activities inside the government remained out of touch, she said.

The opposition leader directly accused Jamaat-e-Islami, a major ally of the BNP-led alliance, of patronising all grenade attacks and bomb blasts.

She said all illegal arms, smuggling and grenade attacks would be unearthed if a top BNP leader and a member of the cabinet were arrested

Hasina said Jamaat does not work for Islam and they are working in a planned way to capture state power with a high political aim. They are engaged in conspiracy against the country and providing arms training facilities in many places, she said, adding that many Jamaatrun hospitals provide arms training

to their activists. Referring to death of nine peacekeepers in Congo, Hasina said she was not allowed to pay tribute to the martyred peacekeepers. "Though national mourning day was declared and we observed mourning, BNP

insulted them," she said. Top AL leaders were present at the briefing.

operator of the block had an abortive drilling at Lalmai in Comilla. Later, it conducted drilling in

Bhangura and found presence of gas. After many tests, Tullow found six prospective zones. Gas was detected in five of the zones.

After conducting tests at D and E layers, Tullow informed that the gas reserve in Bhangura is 457 billion cubic feet (BCF).

The Tullow flowed gas at a rate of 54 MMCFD in D layer and 24MMCFD in Elayer.

# 5yr girl

FROM PAGE 12 yesterday surrendered to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, seeking bail

Moving the bail petition, Advocate Mohammad Ali prayed to the court to take action against the IO for bringing charge of theft and trespassing against a five-year-old girl. Accusing such a little girl in a

criminal case has created mixed reaction among the lawyers, litigants and others on the court premises.

accused.

brought.

Hussein Hamdani.

15 killed

police, said Tariq Ibrahim, a medic at

Baqouba's main hospital. He said at least

26 people were wounded, including one

three roadside bombs and small arms

attacks three checkpoints, one of them

just south of Bagouba in Muradiyah, said

afterward on a highway south of the city.

and wounded a third in a drive-by shoot-

ing in the eastern slum of Sadr City, said

Dr. Abdul Jabar Solan, director of a

hospital where the casualties were

roadside bomb targeting a joint US-Iraqi

military convoy exploded in the south-

eastern New Baghdad suburb. The

explosion missed the convoy. damaging

two passing cars and wounding four

people, including two girls, said 1st Lt. Ali

An investigation into the shooting

death of a Bulgarian soldier last week in

raq showed that US troops were proba-

bly responsible, the Balkan state's

Defense Minister Nikolai Svinarov told a

The minister confirmed an anony-

mous claim posted on a Bulgarian army

news conference in Sofia on Monday.

Two civilians were also killed when a

The assaults included a car bomb,

civilian caught in the crossfire.

police Col. Mudhafar al-Jubbori.

FROM PAGE 12

Those who accuse underage children in criminal cases should be punished, a senior lawyer told The

Daily Star asking not to be identified. On August 14, Ashik Ali of Pallabi filed a case against Akhi and nine others following an altercation over tube-well water on August 5. The IO pressed charges against seven accused on August 3 last year.

# Crackdown

FROM PAGE 1 operate. He said, "The two organisations have been banned on the basis of statements made by a number of

hoodlums arrested by the police.' Replying to BNP lawmaker M Akbar Ali, the state minister for home said that he is not familiar with the term 'crossfire'.

"We don't use the term crossfire,' he said adding that some criminals have been killed in encounter with police when their accomplices attacked the law enforcers to snatch the criminals.

He said that of the 23 top listed criminals. 9 have been arrested, and the police are hunting for the rest.

Babar told the House that the overnment plans to strengthen the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab). Replying to M Mozammel Huq of BNP, he said that the government equipped Rab with modern arms and ammunition, transportation, and sophisticated equipment for intelligence, bomb disposal and communidisrespected the martyred and cation

He said 5,521 people are now website earlier on Monday, which said working in Rab while 40 in Cheetah the soldier had been killed by US military and 123 in Cobra.

Department had removed eight speed-breakers from the highway along the university seven days before the postponed Saarc summit. The speed-breakers were built after JU of Baghdad, where insurgents launched student Jakia Sultana Sumi was killed a series of apparently coordinated attacks that killed seven soldiers and five in an accident on September 6 last

vear.

### Chief whip's son FROM PAGE 12

Refused bail twice on March 1 and 3. Paban obtained the bail a week after his arrest but learnt on receiving the bail orders that he had been placed on a 30-day detention.

Insurgents also fired a mortar around The jailer of Dhaka Central Jail near the blue-domed governor's office, Kamrul Islam, confirmed the detencausing no casualties, a spokesman for the US 42nd Infantry Division, Maj. Richard Goldenberg. He said Iraqi police tion order.

Judge Mohammad Matiur Rahman of the Court of Metropolitan came under small arms fire shortly Sessions Judge granted Paban ad-interim bail upon a bond of Tk 30,000 In Baghdad, gunmen killed two police with two guarantors.

The court issued the order following a criminal appeal filed on February 5 against the order of the ower court. Moving the bail petition, advo-

cates Sanaullah Miah. Masud

Ahmed Talukder, Borhanuddin and

Towhidul Islam Gazi told the court

Paban was falsely implicated in the

saying the charges brought against

Detectives arrested Paban, 24, son of Chief Whip Khondaker

Delwar Hossain, from a stationery

shop in Armanitola on February 28

for ransacking a phone-fax shop

shop owner, Mohammad Alamgir,

filed an attempted murder case on February 25. Paban was remanded

The arrest was made after the

and creating panic by shooting.

for one day on March 1.

Paban were primarily proved.

The prosecution opposed it.

case as part of a plot to harass him.