Framework 2006-2010 (UNDAF) that outlines UN support, said an official announcement.

The six areas, as outlined in the UNDAF agreement, are democratic governance and human rights; health, nutrition and sustainable population; education and pro-poor growth; social protection and disaster risk reduction; gender equity and advancement of women; and prevention and protection against HIV/Aids

The UNDAF process is undertaken every five years with the aim of coordinating UN activities at the country level.

"This approach is one component of the UN reforms being implemented in countries around the globe. Each new framework builds on the achievements and progress made

previously," says the announcement. As part of the process, UN agencies working in Bangladesh in close consultation with the government completed a Common Country Assessment (CCA), which details the country's state of development.

The CCA had used a rights-based approach clustered around four groups of rights -- survival, livelihoods, protection and participation.

This analytical approach distinguishes the CCA from the more target-driven focus of the Bangladesh MDG Progress Report and the Poverty Reduction Strategy

The CCA indicates over the last decade or so, Bangladesh has made 'impressive gains in key human development indicators'

The most recent UNDP Human Development Report ranked Bangladesh 138 among 177 countries with a Human Development Index (HDI) score of 0.509, which is consistent with 'medium human development'.

'This implies the country enjoys improved macroeconomic stability lower fertility rate, greater women's empowerment, reduced aid dependency, increased food security, more effective disaster management capacity, more active nongovernmental organisations (NGOs), free and fair parliamentary elections, a vibrant and pluralist civil society marked by cultural activism and developmental debates, and an active and free press," the UN country office said in the announcement.

# Coalition men grab

The only offbeat allottees are two justices, an Awami League deputy and a Jativa Party (Ershad) law

But the authorities said there was nothing wrong in the allocation

"We have followed the same quideline in Banani-Uttara plot allocation as in case of Purbachal plots. Every minister and MP who had applied received a plot. And we future, too," asserted Housing and Chowdhury.

explained.

Kartripakkha claimed the allocation was made using a 'genuine and deserving' selection method under the Clause 8 of Dhaka Improvement Trust Rules, 1969.

applicant has to submit an official declaration that he or she does not own any property in the city. If one

"If any one is found to have received allocation of a Raiuk plot by hiding the information of owning a city property, his or her allocation would

or more plots or flats in the city, Rajuk The allottees are LGRD Minister Abdul Manan Bhuiyan, Environment Minister Tarigul Islam, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al-Noman, Shahidul Alam Talukder, Masuda Akram, son of finance minister M Naseer Rahman MP prime minister's brother retired major . Sayeed Eskander, State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Prof Rezaul Public Works Alamgir Kabir, State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman, Adviser to the Commerce Ministry Barkatullah Bulu, Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid Siddique, M Shahidul Islam MP. State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin, State Minister for Home Affairs M Lutfozzaman Babar, Sahjahan Chowdhury MP, AKM Fazlul Haque Milon MP, Abul Khair Bhuiyan MP, Abdul Hye MP, Moazzam Hossain Alal MP, Anti-Corruption Commissioner Prof M Moniruzzaman Miah State Minister for NGO Affairs Lutfur Rahman Khan Azad, State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque (Milon), Barisal City Corporation Mayor Mozibar Rahman Sarwar MP, Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor M Mizanur Rahman Minu MP, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima Rahman lawmaker from Cox's Bazar Shajahan Chowdhury, M Nazimuddin Alam MP, M Ilias Ali MP,

Mozibor Rahman Monju MP, Alamgir

Haider Khan MP, Nasiruddin Ahmed

Pintu MP, M Kabir Hossain MP,

Salauddin Ahmed MP, M Hafiz

Ibrahim MP. M Sahiduddin

Chowdhury Anee MP, M Abul

Hossain Khan MP, Deputy Minister

their votes in the two-day SCBA

election for 2005-2006, which

Judge Mohammad Mojibur

Rahman of the Fourth Assistant

Judge's court issued the order at

5:10pm following Advocate

Shawkat Ara Begum's suit praying

for an ad-interim injunction on

counting the votes and publishing

SCBA Election

for Land M Ruhul Quddus Talukdei (Dulu), Deputy Minister for Food Asadul Habib Dulu. SM Hasan Reza president's son Imtiaz Ahmed BNP leader Khainul Kabir Khokon, M Nadim Mostafa MP, BNP leader M Mofiqul Hassan Tripty, Mosiur Rahman MP, Hafiz Uddin Ahmed MP, M Habibul Islam Habib MP, Water Resources Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, Awami League lawmaker Dr Hamida Banu Shova, legal successors of late BNP lawmaker

Mahbub Hossain, University Grand

Commission Chairman M

Asaduzzaman, Nasrot Rajee, Faisal

Mahbub, Sabrina Sharmin, Kabir

Ahmed Khan, Tasnim Ahmad, Golam

Nabi Alamgir, Afifa Mustary, SM

Mostakim Reza, Zahir Uddin

Swapon MP, Prof M Shahidul Islam

Shahiduzzaman (Beltu) MP

will follow the same guideline in Shamsuddin Ahmed Esak, M Ahsan Habib, Minister without Portfolio Public Works Secretary Iqbaluddin Abdul Matin Choudhury, State Minister for Power Iqbal Hassan "As the number of plots was Mahmud, Adviser to the Foreign limited, only the ministers and MPs Ministry M Reaz Rahman, Syed were eligible to get them," he Abdullah M Taher MP, retired major Manzur Kader MP. BNP leader Fazlul Officials at Rajdhani Unnayan Kader Chowdhury, Rashiduzzaman Millat MP, former secretary Sabihuddin Ahmed, M Sahidul Islam, health minister's son Khandakai

According to the rules, every get a further plot from Rajuk.

be cancelled," Chowdhury said.

the plot recipients already owned one

Syed Manjur Hossain MP, Principal Shorab Uddin MP, National University VC Prof Aftab Ahmed, But, in the present case, most of Justice Shamim Hasnai, Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman, former inspector general of police Mudabbir Hossain Chowdhury Shah Nurul Kabir MP Alhai M Jabed Ali Chowdhurv MP. State minister for Water Goutam Chakraborty, Deputy Minister for Industries M Abdus Salam Pintu, Sultan Mohammad Babu MP, State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafrul Islam Chowdhury, Abdul Momen Talukder MP, Abeda dhury Dildar Hossain MP, Abdul Gaffur Bhuiyan MP, ABM Ashraf Uddin (Nizam) MP, Amzad Hossain Sarker MP, Mozahar Hossain MP, Mostafa Kamal Pasha MP, M Mozammel Haque MP, M Abdul Mottalib Akanda MP, Hazi M Mozammel Haque MP, Whip Muhammad Fazlul Haque Aspia, M Abdul Gani MP. Masud Ahmed Masud Arun MP. AKM Selim Reza Habib MP, Mohammed Gheyas Uddin MP, M Harunur Rashid MP, M Shamsuzzoha Khan MP and Khurrum Khan Choudhury MP. Rajuk sources said the city planners first decided to allocate 50 plots in Uttara and invited applications for them in 2004. It received a total of 535 applications. Finding that 80 of the applicants were ruling party ministers, state ministers and lawmakers. Rajuk then decided to add 50 more plots to the basket from Uttara Sector The housing and public works

### Jamaat MP

Rahman Chowdhury has claimed that his diplomatic passport has been lost and he applied to parliament for issuance of a new one. The lawmaker however would not comment on the passports of his wife and son.

The foreign ministry, however, did not issue a fresh diplomatic passport that the lawmaker applied for through the parliament secretarat. Instead, the ministry on March 10 sent back the application to the parliament secretariat along with the note verbal of the Danish embassy. It also asked the secretariat to initiate necessary steps.

"The passports were retained by this embassy as we found very clever evidence of fraud in connection with the above passports. The expert opinion of the Consular Section of the British High Commission also confirms this, sources quoted the note verbal of

the Danish Embassy as saying. The Jamaat lawmaker applied to the Danish embassy on February 23. 2005 for visa for him. Esmat Ara Begum, his wife, and AT Mahedi Chowdhury, his son.

The lawmaker in his application to the parliament secretariat on March 1 for new diplomatic passport said his diplomatic passport has been lost. He said he had filed a general diary with a police station in his constituency, Nilphamari-3, and had also placed an advertisement in a local newspaper, Dainik

The lawmaker told The Daily Star on phone last night that he had not applied for Danish visa. He also said his and his wife's passports were lost but could not say when.

### 26,348 cars

FROM PAGE 1

divisions. A total of 26,651 vehicles were purchased under the projects while only 303 vehicles were returned to the central transport pool.

355 microbuses, 1,379 jeeps, 227 cars, 534 pick-ups, 190 trucks, 18 buses, 36 minibuses, 12,537 motorcycles and 11.375 others

The ministries and divisions returned 27 microbuses, 129 jeeps, 79 cars, 23 pick-ups, one bus, one minibus and 39 motorcycles on completion of the projects.

the highest 12,322 vehicles while it returned only 17. The LGRD ministry is using 4,501 vehicles and returned 61. Primary and mass education ministry is using 2,829 vehicles and returned 56 The opposition members of the

standing committee at the meeting demanded a physical investigation of the vehicles being used by the government organs. Awami League lawmaker AKM

Jahangir Hossain told the meeting that the establishment ministry in last January said they had information about only 11 ministries but it found 43 ministries and divisions responsible for the misuse of public vehicles.

tion Chief Whip Abdus Shahid said they (opposition lawmakers) demanded discussion on the government policy on the promotion of public servants. The issue will be discussed at the next meeting.

### 7 killed, over 100

FROM PAGE 1

15 villages in Chatmohor, Bhangura and Faridpur upazilas at about

Locals said Kasiruddin, 44, of Faridpur upazila was killed in a thunderbolt during the storm.

#### PM calls

being provided and the standard of service being improved at the district-level government hospitals, she said.

Special programme has been taken for development of human resources in the health sector, the prime minister told the function adding that 'Accreditation Council' has been formed to improve professional standard of the doctors.

The prime minister later went at the medical facilities available

Khondoker Moniruddin and Director of STS Group MA Moveen also

spoke on the opening ceremony.
Ministers, MPs, PM's political secretary, diplomats, a large number of physicians from home and abroad and CEO of Apollo Hospital Dhaka Richard Larrison were present

### Saarc Summit

from New Delhi said The summit, scheduled to be held from January 9 to 11, was put off in the wake of the tsunami tragedv. which had affected three member-countries--Sri Lanka, the

Later, a curtailed two-day summit was scheduled for February 6-7, but was again postponed as India pulled out of it citing the "deteriorating" security situation in Bangladesh and political developments in Nepal.

Pakistan, the current Saarc Chairman, has suggested that the

summit. Bangladesh had repeatedly stated that it wants to host the summit any time convenient for all member-countries. But Dhaka was not yet officially informed by the current chair, Islamabad, about the reschedulina

# Dawn-to-dusk hartal

of slain AL lawmaker Shah AMS Kibria in front of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban this afternoon.

Kibria's family will display the banners of signatures collected from different parts of the country and abroad in support of its demand for an independent and fair investigation into the January 27 grenade attack that killed the former finance minister and for bringing the real perpetrators to book.

The shutdown in the port city of Chittagong was called off last night to make way for an Islamic conference in Patiya as well as to keep requests of the local business community. The opposition combine short-

ened the hartal hours for the northern district of Gaibandha up to noon to ensure unhindered relief work for about 40,000 people affected by the recent tornado.

In the rest of the country, the shutdown will be from 6:00am to Hospital, pharmacy, ambulance,

hotel, fire brigade, and press and media transports would remain outside the ambit of the strike. However, for the first time before a

hartal day, leaders of ruling coalitionbacked transport owners associations declared to defy the hartal and operate long-range buses and trucks under police protection. Leaders of Truck Owners'

Association and Bangladesh Sarak

announcement jointly on Monday and said, if necessary, they would offer the passengers a 50-percent

fare discount on the hartal day. On hartals days, usually a few minibuses and three-wheelers operate in the capital, but the longroute buses and trucks keep off the

Apart from the AL, the components of left-leaning 11-party alliance, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and National Awami party leaders from separate rallies this month had announced the shutdown, initially for March 27, but later shifted to today considering the Easter Sunday.

The opposition line-up has been agitating on street against the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition since late 2004 on a common nine-point charter of demands and protesting price spiral of essentials, deteriorating law and order, repeated grenade attacks and rise of Islamic militancy in the country under alleged government patron-

Around 8,000 law enforcers will be deployed today at different city points to maintain law and order Police have been asked to remain alert and not to allow any procession during the hartal hours.

AL and its front organisations esterday brought out processions in the city to drum up support for today's

# BTTB launches

mobile phone licence to Teletalk. Their tenure ended on January 30, 2005 and the positions remained vacant until the appointment of Reza-F-Rabbi as Vice Chairman and Justice Muhammad Abdus Salam as Commissioner on March 8, 2005. The chairman and two commissioners are yet to be appointed.

Rabbi went for a major cardiac surgery and the telecom's ministry, according to sources, pushed Justice Salam to unilaterally and illegally transfer the BTTB's mobile licence to Teletalk.

BTTB now has lost the licence and the frequency it had acquired from BTRC on September 1, 2004 Teletalk is also without a licence it requires to operate the mobile phone service. Commissioner Justice Salam

could not clarify the legality of the licence transferring process when asked by this correspondent. He, however, admitted having done it in his personal capacity. Justice Salam, who is deemed to be independent, denied having faced external pressure. "The secretary of

the telecoms ministry sent necessary documents and we just acted accordingly," admitted the BTRC commissioner unwittingly at one stage. Legitimacy of Justice Salam's unilateral approval of BTTB's licence transfer is also questionable, which he has not commented

on. Section 15(1) of the telecoms law says, "A decision of the

### Kazakh cops

Federation in pursuit of earnings. According to a report received from the Internet, they are now in a pretrial detention centre

Since the beginning of the year, Aktobe police have arrested 51 foreign nationals. They arrested 28 Commission shall be taken in accordance with the majority votes of the Commissioners present in the meeting, and in case of equality of votes, the person presiding shall have a second or casting vote

When contacted, the secretary of telecoms ministry who is also the ex-officio chairman of Teletalk, refused to comment on any of the

### MP's son beats

FROM PAGE 1 about 1:30pm.

An on-duty traffic sergeant rushed there and settled the issue. The youth drove away only to come back after 15 minutes bringing along him at least six associates in two private cars.

He then snatched the stick from the traffic constable and started beating him until he collapsed on the road, a top police official said seeking anonymity. Constable Majid was rushed to

Suhrawardy Hospital where doctors had to give him three stitches for wounds on the left side of his forehead. Later, he was shifted to Rajarbagh Police Lines Hospital where reporters were barred from talking to Majid. "I am told that the youth identified himself as a son of lawmaker Ali

Kadar. We are trying to find out the youth and the number of the private car. Once we do that we will go for legal action," said Deputy Commissioner of Traffic (North Division) Firoz Al Mujahid Khan. Dhaka Metropolitan Police

Commissioner SM Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star, "I have directed the deputy commissioner to investigate the matter and take proper action against the person responsible.

Reached by phone, a daughterin-law of Ali Kadar MP, who only identified herself as Dipti, said she does not know of such an incident.

# Govt may lose

RPCL's project.

It was found that the local agent of Lahmeyer illegally attends the RPCL board meeting and influences decisions

With cooperation from the FRD German auditors were all set to visit Dhaka in November-December to review the documents of the DNPP and another German funded RPCL project-- the Mymensingh 70mg third phase project.

The RPCL that had been vehemently opposing the audit, at one point announced that it would not use German fund for the project

As the arrival of the auditors became imminent, one Md Haideruzzaman, claiming himself to be a prospective industrialist, filed a petition at the HC saving that the audit has "made the DNPP uncertain". On November 21, the HC imposed injunction against the audit. Before the injunction's January

deadline came to a close, another petitioner in December obtained a fresh HC injunction for six months But the ERD informed Germany of this injunction only recently. Meanwhile, the RPCL secretly

went ahead with its own plans to award a contract to Swiss company Alsthom, to set up the first phase 280mg plant under the DNPP.

The local agents of Lahmayer and Alsthom belongs to the same business lobby. This unsolicited contract with

Alsthom, signed in October last year, outlines a very high cost of Tk 1000 crore and violates the private power policy and the Prime Minister's Office's specific directives.

In contrast, the 450 mw AES Meghnaghat Project was set up at a cost of Tk 1200 crore (at present exchange rate of dollar) which offered a power tariff of Tk 1.7 (2.79 US cents) per kilowatt hour. But Alsthom seeks a tariff of Tk

a very qualified company and all the RPCL plants are of very high quality.

Police still have no leads on the gang involved in illegally supplying dead chickens to city restaurants. Police continued interrogating

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

**DEAD CHICKENS** 

Cops still

clueless

Azad--arrested with 53 dead chickens at Mirpur on March 28--who admitted that he and many others like him regularly supply dead chickens to different restaurants in Mirpur and Pallabi.

"But he refused to reveal who else is involved in the illegal activity,' said Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Mirpur Police Station.

Azad was placed on a two-day remand on Tuesday.

Police said they raided areas in Mirpur vesterday taking Azad with them to nab one Abul--the only accomplice Azad has so far revealed -- but failed to arrest him. The OC said police continued

raiding different areas in Mirpur to arrest people involved in the illegal Mirpur police said they plan to start an operation to nab the

crooked restaurant owners and Azad's associates after having specific information. Police sources also said that a syndicate of poultry farm and depot employees and restaurants are

involved in the dishonest trade. Students protest | Kibria family

#### FROM PAGE 16 students took initiative to organise a

programme following resistance from teachers. The incident took place at

Jahanabai Hazrat Abu Bakkar Siddique (R) Fazil Madrasha at Dhulihar in Sadar Upazila. The local people and students said the teachers of the madrasa had collected money from the students to observe Independence Day but the madrasa authorities did not observe the day. The students demonstrated

when there was no sign of programme even two days after Independence Day. Later the madrasa authorities hurriedly arranged a simple programme comprising telwate Quran, a recita-When the authorities did not pay

heed to the students' demand for better programmes, the students demonstrated and organised a programme involving sports, drama and discussion. They also prayed for the salvation of the martyrs' soul.

A large number of local people attended the programme though the madrasa authorities were absent. A senior teacher Shawkat Hossain said the Independence Day programmes were cut short due to

#### Zakir Khan

FROM PAGE 1 efficiently and thus been considered for the post. He is currently serving retirement age for government

ranking serving and retired bureaulobbied for the post. Meantime, the PMO sources said the government is also consid-

position to a number of vital bodies on his return from Washington. They said the government may appoint him the next governor of Bangladesh Bank or the chief

election commissioner (CEC). Although the government has not finalised its decision, most policymakers prefer Akbar as the CEC considering his efficiency and non-controversial image, they

BNP policymakers believe opposition parties may not raise an objection if Akbar becomes the next CÉC. The five-year term of the incumbent CEC, MA Syeed, ends on May 22 this year.

### Mobile court

FROM PAGE 16

licence. But there is no such provi-

The meeting agreed in principle on those proposals but observed that it will require clearance from the law ministry before forming such a mobile court and making provision for depositing money by travel

ministry will give necessary clear-ance in this regard," said a high official of the civil aviation ministry after the meeting. Civil Aviation Secretary Kazi Abul Quashem presided over the meeting and representatives from the ministries of expatriate welfare and home affairs, Biman Bangladesh

proposals and think that the law

Mymensingh projects that generate present In response to Atab leaders' demand to make membership of Atab mandatory for all travel agents, government officials said there is egal barrier in the matter.

Still the civil aviation ministry will seek opinion from the law ministry in this regard, they said. The Atab leaders supported the

travel agents through mobile courts. "We need healthy growth of travel agencies in the country but not their mushroom growth which is responsible for recent fraudulent practices," said Atab General Secretary Ghuam Mustafa.

point demands, which include yearly monitoring of genuine travel agents' activities, considering educational and business background before issuing new licences and ending harassment at the

## Alliance partners skip

FROM PAGE 16 inquiry conducted by Paul Volcker, a former US Federal Reserve chairman, found no evidence that Annan had influenced bidding for a lucrative contract under the \$67 billion program to a Swiss firm that employed Annan's son. Koio.

And it said that the firm as well as Kojo Annan, 31, a businessman in Nigeria, had misled his father on his continued relationship with the firm.

But the report also said that Annan and UN officials failed to thoroughly investigate the potential Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan announced five of his party men as the commissioner candidates from five wards under his constituency, Chittagong-10.

ment, the alliance partners started announcing the names of their own candidates for different wards.

Islami Oikya Jote the same day named five candidates -- Principal Maulana Monjurul Quader Chowdhury (ward-11), Maulana Musa Bin Izhar (ward-14), Fazlul Karim Jihadi (ward-13), Prof Nazrul Islam Chowdhury (ward-20) and Maulana Abdul Jabbar (ward-2).

"We were surprised at the minister's announcement, that's why we boycotted the meeting," Musa Bin zhar told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We will be stick to our party nominations and keep bargaining for this. If BNP does not agree, we

Sources said Jamaat-e-Islami has also planned to announce the names of its own candidates for different wards. The party initially demanded 11 candidates but now it

Jamaat Afsaruddin Chowdhury at a rally at Bohaddarhat on Tuesday night declared that party leader advocate Golam Faruque will contest the polls from Chandgaon

named Showkat Ali as BNP candidate from this ward.

"The attitude of several BNP high-ups and lawmakers who are selecting the commissioner candidates is frustrating," alleged Liaqat Ali Siddiquee, publication secretary of Jamaat, while talking to The Daily

However, the coalition partners

The alliance high command has entrusted Morshed Khan, Amir

# allowed to make confessional state-

FROM PAGE 16 protest the killing of the former

The two-hour display of the banners of signatures starting at 4:00pm is hoped to exceed the 3000-foot

ength of the Manik Mia Avenue. Briefing newsmen at her residence, Asma Kibria, wife of the slain Awami League (AL) leader. requested all who seek an end to the country's existing political violence to demonstrate their commitment to justice and peace by attending the display wearing blue dresses. "I hope eaders of the ruling BNP will also join the demonstration," she said. Asma said senior artists of the

programme with their artworks protesting the deteriorating law and order in the country Kibria's son Dr Reza Kibria said, 'The business community in the country should also participate in our

peaceful demonstration as they

country would also participate in the

always call for holding such programmes instead of hartals. "We have received banners bearing signatures from 44 districts of the country as well as the USA, UK, Australia and Sweden." Asma

She said different political parties have sent her banners inscribed with signatures, including the main opposition Awami League and its different front organisation, Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh, professional bodies, socio-cultural organisations, university teachers, trade unions as well as

commoners. Kibria's family launched the mass campaign of collecting signatures on

"We have plans to hold similar displays in all divisional headquarters Asma fears govt may kill Qaiyum n "crossfire Meanwhile, Asma Kibria feared

that the government would kill Abdul Qaivum--leader of Habigani BNP and the main accused in the murder--in "crossfire" or prove him "mad" to save the real criminals behind the killing of her husband. She asked that Qaiyum be

quizzed by FBI agents to reveal the

masterminds behind the killing. "We

have read newspaper reports that the

main accused Qaiyum is not being

ment in front of a magistrate for fear that he will name those who ordered the killing," she said. On by-polls of Habiganj-3 constituency, which fell vacant after the

killing of Kibria, Reza Kibria said, "We believe the people of Habiganj are not in a position to take part in any election as a melancholy mood prevails there since the killing. He also refuted the recently submitted police charge sheet that claimed Qaiyum planned to contest

leader of Habiganj unit of BNP? There are others behind him," Reza

the nomination being a low profile

**Our Reply** 

Our report was based on various

SP's office.

torpedo decoy system from Italy and upgradation of 14 aircraft carrierbased British Sea Harrier aircraft.

Defence Minister Pranab Mukheriee told reporters here that the meeting gave the green signal to start price negotiations with Qatar on the acquisitions of the Mirage

The issue is likely to figure in talks between the Indian leaders and Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa,

operational role equipment. The cabinet committee also approved upgradation of 14 Sea Harriet fighter jets of the Indian Navy at a cost of Rs 476 crore, Mukherjee

Meantime, US Ambassador to India David C Mulford yesterday sought to make a strong case for its F-16 planes, saying American companies manufacturing them would offer a competitive price and

said earlier this week that New Delhi would "actively consider" the US offer keeping in mind the requirement of the Indian armed forces A senior executive of the US ockeed Martin Corporation on

action," he said.

is going to declare nominations of 17 party men.

Naveb-e Amir of Chittagong City ward.

The foreign minister has already

Star over phone.

continue to support Mir Nasir as the alliance candidate. Both Maulana Musa and Siddiquee said they would work for him wholeheartedly.

from Habiganj-3 constituency after killing Kibria. "How can he even get

## Rejoinder

item headlined "Home probes former Rajshahi top cop," were 'false, fabricated, manufactured and far from the truth'. He also said that he never demanded any bribes or issued death threats, and did not support criminals, including Bangla

police and intelligence reports and on interviews with highly placed police officials. The two-member committee from the home ministry is investigating allegations against him after higher police authorities reported those to the ministry Several officers-in-charge, sub inspectors and constables confessed in writing before the probe committee and higher police authority that Miah took bribes from them while some others complained that he issued threats. Allegations of issuing death threats on villagers through brokers are available in plenty with proofs. Besides, a special police report in February informed the government that Bangla Bhai escaped a police dragnet due to Miah's negligence and support. This paper on March 1 published a photograph of Bangla Bhai when he was coming out of the

# India to buy 12 Mirage

FROM PAGE 16 the navy, one submarine-fired

planes. He said although the Mirage warplanes are used, they still have 80 to 85 percent of their operational life.

who visits India in mid-April. The purchase of Dornier, to be used for maritime surveillance, would cost Rs 726 crore, a major part of which is in foreign exchange component. The purchase also ncludes spare engines as well as parts and ground support along with

said. Latest air-to-air missiles from Israel would be attached to these fighter planes, he added.

superior technology.

The Indian defence minister had

Sunday said the company was ready to provide upgraded F-16 planes along with complete transfer of technology to India. India is said to have plans to acquire 126 multi-role fighter

While announcing the decision to

American companies would be permitted to bid Indian defence requirements. Mulford suggested to journalists here that the US offer to have cooperation with India in civilian nuclear

supply F-16 planes to Pakistan, the

US last week made it known that

technology was a stand-alone proposal and not linked to Washing-

on's reservations on the natural gas

pipeline project from Iran to India

### hrough Pakistan. Annan cleared

FROM PAGE 16

conflict-of-interest and that Annan's former chief of staff and long-time ally shredded possibly relevant documents. US Senator Norm Coleman, a

Minnesota Republican and major

critic of the United Nations, called for

Annan's departure, "His lack of

leadership, combined with conflicts of interest and a lack of responsibility and accountability point to one, and only one, outcome: his resignation, Coleman said. However, the White House voiced cautious support for Annan, and Europeans were expected to rally around him. Security Council perma-

nent-member China said it was time

for the issue to be brought to a close. "I strongly hope that it is high time that we put an end to this episode surrounding the secretary-general.' said China's UN ambassador, Wang Guangya. He said he was relieved Annan had been cleared of wrongdo-

At issue is the \$67 billion, scandaltainted oil-for-food program which allowed the Iragi government under Saddam Hussein to sell oil to finance purchases of civilian goods for its people living under UN sanctions.

#### president, the general secretary, the chief election commissioner for the SCBA election and the Bangladesh

ended yesterday. The counting of votes, which started at 6:00pm, an hour after the vote casting ended, continued until the writing of this report at 8:00pm.

the results. In the suit, advocate Shawkat Ara said the names of 401 voters were enlisted both in the SCBA and the Dhaka Bar Association, violating the provisions of the Bangladesh Legal Practitioners of Bar Council Order Amendment Act 2003.

In the provisions, it is stated that no voter would cast his vote in two bar associations. Sixteen persons are defendants in the suit, including the SCBA

Bar Council secretary.

at 6:30pm yesterday.

Centre (SMRC).

press, the sources said.

The court also issued a show cause notice upon the SCBA chief election commissioner asking him to explain within three days from receipt of the copy of the notice why a temporary injunction would not be imposed upon counting votes and publishing the results.

The court order was sent to the

SCBA chief election commissioner

ministry finalised the list of allottees

recently and instructed Raiuk chair-

man to sign the allotment letters and

make a public notification in the

minister could not be reached yester-

day despite repeated attempts.

The housing and public works

Meanwhile, the pro-BNP panel bovcotted the election on Tuesday, terming the voters' list 'illegal'. Protesting the election, pro-

Saarc secretary FROM PAGE 1 courtesy call on Prime Minister

Khaleda Zia. He is also scheduled to meet Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan and Foreign Secretary Hemayet Uddin. Dorji will visit Saarc Agricultural Information Centre (SAIC) and Saarc Meteorological Research

FROM PAGE 1

Maldives and India. government lawyers also brought out a procession on the bar premises in the afternoon yesterday.

summit be held in April.
On the holding of the stalled 13th

The purchased vehicles include

The agriculture ministry is using

Committee member and opposi-

Reports from Pabna said one person was killed and over 50 were niured as the nor'wester lashed over

FROM PAGE 1 including increase in the number of beds in public hospitals. Modern medical equipment is

round the hospital taking a close look Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain, Chairman of Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited, İndia, DR PC Reddy, Chairman of STS Holdings Bhagwan W Kundanmal, Managing Director of STC Group

2.2 for the same. Besides it suggests that the tariff will increase by

4.5 percent per annum in tandem with currency fluctuation and the consumer price index while payments are to be made in Euro. The project's funds will come

from 15 Palli Bidyut Samities (PBS)

or rural consumers. Only a part of it

"This process will simply make

may be derived from the IDB.

the rural people pay undue money to benefit a business lobby, observes a source. Like in all other projects of the RPCL, Lahmayer is the project's consultant. Lahmayer was hired unsolicited on costly terms from the first RPCL projectthe 70mw Asian

it was hired for Mymensingh-2 and When it was again hired for the DNPP, the ADB categorically brought allegations of corruption in

Lahmayer is also hired as the

Operation and Maintenance (O&M)

contractor for all the RPCL power

plants. For two phases of the

140mw power, Lahmayer gets 7

Development Bank funded

Mymensingh phase-1 project. Then

million dollars for O&M annually. Yet, in case of the 115mw Baghabari projectBritish company Midland Power had offered 1.5 million dollars only. Even the O&M costs of 450mw Meghnaghat and 360mw Haripur projects are much lower than the Lahmayer's.

RPCL's parent organisation REB

defends the costly operation of

Lahmayer and the high cost of any

of the RPCL's projects saying, "It is

Quality always asks for better price. So far the government has taken no action against RPCL's for its corruption or violation of the national policies in pursuing the DNPP.

Donors, led by the World Bank, have expressed concern at the opaque dealings in the RPCL.

tion of poems and ghazals.

# the Alim examination.

on a contract as he had earlier passed the age of 57 years, the servants. The sources said a number of top

ering appointing Akbar in a key

sion for travel agents. agents.
"We in principle agreed to the

Airlines, Atab President M A Mohaimen Saleh and General Secretary Ghulam Mustafa were

move to check the licences of all

Atab leaders reiterated their 15

After the unilateral announce-

Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury and Abdullah-Al Noman with the responsibility of deciding the nominations for ward commissioner candidates