## The Daily Star

# NEWS

Govt order to stop

FROM PAGE 1

items

the ministry

members alleged.

industry.

those.

gists observed.

examining the artifacts that include

a furnace, earthen pots and bronze

Head of the JU excavation team

Prof SS Mostafizur Rahman has

confirmed receipt of the March 9

letter signed by Manoj Mohan

Mitra, senior assistant secretary of

archaeologists drew a huge atten-

tion of the archaeologists from

home and abroad but the govern-

ment, instead of assisting the

found at the site suggest the prac-

the ancient period, the archaeolo-

Talking to The Daily Star yester-

now examining the relics to make a

final report on the archaeological

site. "Obviously we will give back

the national treasure but we have

to analyse and make report out of

"We have been digging the site

to reveal the history of a glorious

civilisation with the prior permis-

sion of the government. We have

not done anything wrong," he said.

tion that ended on February 8, the

team discovered a furnace from

the mortar pavement at the site.

Experts believe it had been used in

domestic work or to melt iron.

During the third-phase excava-

The discoveries of young

the cost of the Magurchhara gas field

as cost recoverable. Therefore the

expenditure of \$380 million excludes

the Magurchhara field," said a com-

Unocal. We can settle the issues

easily and very amicably," he said

citing the example of how British

company Cairn dealt with similar

worth \$330 million with Cairn and

Shell for their operation in blocks 15

and 16, most of which deal with

expenditures outside budget.

Petrobangla itself was partially at

fault for not properly handling all the

Justice Kamal said in the present

system, all eyes are on only one

person, the chief justice, when he

performs as the sitting chief justice

and also after his retirement. "Making

comments on anybody's being the

head of the caretaker government is

embarrassing and contemptuous for

us. I'm very shocked to see this

come with two friends on a night

here and see how many people

have come to bear witness to the

passing of this great Pope. But it's

also very sad, very emotional," she

said, as solemn music and pravers

in many languages echoed from

faces for signs of exhaustion or dehydration. Paramedics in bright

orange stood by with stretchers,

while officials unloaded trucks of

A few km (miles) away at Termini

Rome's main train station, hordes of

pilarims pouring out of the con-

course and into the middle of the

street to pore over maps caused

Barbosa, a Spanish builder, had just

arrived by train from the airport after

mpulsively catching a flight to

Rome, and did not know how long he

would stay since he had not found a

staying ... If you have inner peace,

the when, where and how doesn't

matter." said his Colombian girl-

friend Mojin her hair in dreadlocks

and a woollen blanket wrapped

"We're not sure where we are

Armando Antonio Monteiro

bottled water for free distribution.

Watchful volunteers scanned

"It's a beautiful experience to be

train from a village in the heel of Italy

situation." he added

loudspeakers

traffic chaos

return flight.

Petrobangla had audit objections

"We don't want a dispute with

petent Petrobangla source.

situation

budget issues.

# **ICRC demands probe** into Iraqi prison riot

#### AFP, Baghdad

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) demanded an investigation into a riot at the US-run Camp Bucca prison camp in southern Iraq.

Meanwhile, an Iraqi general was kidnapped in Baghdad and the US military announced the deaths of four of its troops, while the country's splintered Sunni Arab community quarreled over a vice presidential candidate

"We are asking the US army to investigate the cause of the riot which happened at the detention centre" Camp Bucca, Rana Sidani, spokeswoman for the ICRC, told

The US military announced early Tuesday that 12 Iraqi prisoners and four US prison guards were wounded when inmates rioted at Camp Bucca Friday, torching tents and hurling rocks in Iraq's largest US-run detention centre. The riot at the desert camp in

southern Iraq, where more than 6,000 prisoners are held, was first reported by radical Shiite cleric Mogtada Sadr's movement and confirmed by the ICRC.

The US military had said initially it was unaware of the violence and only came forward with details after the ICRC revelations.

The violence erupted when inmates "protested the transfer of unruly detainees to another compound," the military said.

"During the disturbance, the detainees chanted, threw rocks and set several of their tents on fire. The disturbance was brought under control with only minor injuries to four guards and 12 detainees." The ICRC spokeswoman said at

least 14 detainees were lightly wounded and possibly more when US soldiers fired rubber bullets to end the riot, which happened as an ICRC delegation visited the camp.

comments against the press, saving

lums who do not believe in press

situation in the country as not con-

genial to independent journalism

and urged the government high-ups

to act as a supporting force in coun-tering those who threaten press

minister asserted that the present

government will not enact any law or

take any step contrary to the inde-

pendence of the press, though there

are pressures on him from certain

quarters to do so

Defending himself, the law

They also interpreted the present

such remarks encourage the hood-

freedom

"We heard shots and saw smoke. It lasted one hour. We were a kilometre (half a mile) from the incident. We asked the American forces what happed and they told us

Govt to update

lightly wounded.'

atmosphere existed in Camp Bucca, where many detainees are ignorant of their legal status and complain about living conditions. "The detainees complained

where they are living in the desert in tents where it is hot in the day and too cold at night," Sidani said.

"Many of the detainees complained they were not aware of the reasons for their internment or its duration. The Americans consider them 'security detainees'. There is no clear trial or legal process. In this climate, it takes one incident to

The US military and Iraqi govern-

on Fallujah last November.

Sadr follower Saheb al-Ameri. secretary general of the Shahidallah charitable organisation, said the unrest was provoked by the refusal

treatment to a detainee who had fallen sick and who was a member of the Sadr movement Other inmates became violent

bullets and beat some prisoners. wounding 70 to 100 of them, he said, adding that since the riot, nmates have had no water or electricity

crowd and killing four detainees.

sullied the reputation of the US

they had problems with the prisondetention system in Iraq. ers." Sidani said.

"The soldiers fired rubber bullets and at least 14 detainees were The ICRC warned that a tense

about their conditions at the camp

ignite things.

ment reviews every 90 days the more than 10,000 detainees to determine whether they are still viewed as a security threat, should be forwarded to a criminal court or released.

The prison population has swelled since the US-led offensive

of prison authorities to give medical

and US soldiers then fired rubber

Camp Bucca was the site of a huge riot on January 31 that spread through four compounds, housing more than 2,000 detainees, and ended with US soldiers firing into a

The latest riot comes almost a year after details emerged of the Abu Ghraib prison scandal that

ters were making irresponsible

comments about the media, which,

he said, would encourage the

people working against the press.

Referring to a comment of Moudud

he said, "We rather have witnessed

an exercise of the 'freedom to lie' not

by the mainstream media outlets but

by the state-owned news agency

within just three days of the minis-

University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh School of Social

Harun-ur-Rashid also spoke.

placed the MMC study report.

Dhoni drives

with 94 still needed off 12 overs.

Left-arm seamer Ashish Nehra

picked up four for 72 and occasional

the programme and KM Robiul Alam

ter's comment."

hman

In other violence, the general commanding the Iraqi interior ministry's 1,600 strong armoured brigade was kidnapped in Baghdad Tuesday morning as a pair of bombs

ripped the capital, killing a civilian and wounding six others, security sources said. Strings of co-

# op

FROM PAGE 1 that Bangladesh and China have a

very good defence cooperation. When asked if Khaleda-Wen's talks would also focus on the purchase of military hardware, he said, "I don't think so." But he agreed that the two prime ministers would discuss entire gamut of bilateral

issues, including defence cooperation He said Dhaka will seek Beijing's support for enhanced capacity building of the police and other lawenforcement agencies.

Depicting a dismal trade scenario, the foreign secretary said the two-way trade stood at \$1143 million in 2003-04. Bangladesh imported goods worth \$1079 million against its export of \$ 46 million to

On duty-free access of Bangladeshi products, he said 84 items will enter the Chinese market from January 2006 under the Hong Kong Agreement to narrow the trade gap

He said Chinese companies registered 107 projects with Bol with investment prospects of \$246.75 million till March this year.

Asked about recent Dhaka-Beijing bickering on Taiwan issue, the foreign secretary clearly said Bangladesh firmly believes in one-China policy with Taiwan being a

province of China. He said the Chinese premier will lead a 102-member team that includes four cabinet ministers, four city, possibly of the oldest civilisavice-ministers, senior officials and a

Wrong identity

FROM PAGE 16

large number of businesspeople. tion in this region. Bangladesh Ambassador to China Ashfaqur Rahman and other senior foreign ministry officials were present at the press briefing.

Tender delays may

FROM PAGE 1 Khilgaon police in Dhaka taking him to be

Iqbal Hossain Farid Khokan, son of late Jaban Ali Khan of Mahespur village of the same upazila, a listed criminal accused and convicted in a number of cases.

To prove his identity, innocent lqbal showed police a certificate from the local union parishad chairman and also presented witnesses. But police defiantly ignored all that and arrested him. The arrestee was then sent to

Barisal iail as an accused in a case filed with Bakerganj Police Station in February 2002.

Science Dean Prof Shakhwat Ali The truth came to light when Khan chaired the discussion, where Liakat Ali Khan, assistant public Dhaka University Department of prosecutor (APP) of Barisal Bar, Mass Communication and learnt about the arrest of the accused Journalism Chairperson Prof Golam in the case, Iqbal Hossain Farid alias Press Information Khokan, as an accused in another Department Principal Information Officer Abu Zafar, Jatiya Press Club case filed with the same police station on January 11 this year. General Secretary Shawkat The APP then submitted a prayer Mahmud, Daily Jugantor Deputy to the court on April 2 for release of Editor Sohrab Hasan and Crime the innocent person. Reporters Association of Judge Muhammad Asaduzzaman Bangladesh General Secretary

### During the first-phase excavation in 2000, a team of JU students

led by Prof Mustafizur found some Sources said the Ministry of symbols of an ancient fort city of Cultural Affairs in a letter asked the 450 BC. Pundrabardhan, now team to stop excavation and return known as Mahasthan Garh, is a the artifacts found at the site. The civilisation of 400 BC. team of archaeologists are now

"If we want to say anything about the civilisation, we have to keep on excavating the site. It's a huge task. Now we are just assuming things based on some artifacts," said Prof Mustafizur who along with his students arranged funds for the excavation. Asked why the ministry directed

him to stop excavation. Mustafizur blamed one official of the Department of Archaeology. "It is nothing but professional jealousy, he said.

#### excavation, has stopped the digging of a glorious past, the team 'Improper probe, Many experts believe the dis-FROM PAGE 16

coveries revealed that the area of strong evidence. Prosecution was the eastern limit of Mauryan witnesses, who have so far deposed Empire and that Buddhism was in the court, gave no important practised there. The remains of the information required for conviction Wari-Bateshwar also show that the of the accused, he mentioned. region was developed in trade and

Thirty-four out of the 54 prosecution witnesses have so far deposed. The knobbed pottery pieces The investigation officer of the case failed to name in the charge tice of Buddhism in the locality in sheet any 'reliable eye-witness', the special PP said. The charge sheet was submitted

day, Prof Mostafizur said they are on June 20 last year naming 12 outlaws as accused. Of them, BDR Altaf and Mofiz

died in 'crossfire' last year. Four accused -- Sumon alias Nuruzzaman, Bulbul alias Bulu, Bomaru Akram and Shaon -- are in Khulna jail while six others -- Disco Sattar, Bellal, Omar Faruque, Mithul, Shawkat and Sarwar -- are absconding.

Manik Saha was killed in a bomb attack on January 15 last year near Khulna Press Club. A case was filed with Khulna Police Station without naming any accused.

Of the four arrestees, Sumon Earlier, the team discovered the made a judicial confession without mortar pavement and a road. After directly admitting to his involvement the discovery, a carbon-14 dating in the incident but disclosing the showed the two villages (Wari and names of 'killers and planners' of the Bateshwar) were part of an ancient murder. The charge sheet however did not mention their names, sources said.

Local journalists might demand reinvestigation of the case

any date for the contract signing. The installation must be completed by October of this year, when an international consortium is slated to finish the installation of the halfbillion US dollar South East Asia-Middle East-Western Europe- 4 (SEA-ME-WE-4) submarine line, delivering the connection at Cox's Bazar pointBangladesh.

So far, however, no company has been chosen despite the looming May deadline for bids, because the tender process has hit several snags. The Cabinet Purchase Committee late last month rejected a proposal to award a contract to install an optical fibre link between

tender evaluation and re-evaluation committee pushed the highest bidder Siemens as "responsive" This was done even though one of the members in the evaluation committee repeatedly dissented.

BTTB Chairman Nurul Islam however, expressed his optimism at a workshop last week to connect the country with the information superhighway "in due time."

The BTTB is optimistic about putting in place the missing optical fibre link in time, but observers of the sector have expressed deep scepticism.

Earlier, the BTTB took eight months just to complete the bidding

### **Ancient Maya** entrepreneurs made salt

### **REUTERS**, Washington

Ancient Mayan entrepreneurs working along the coast of what is now Belize distilled salt from seawater and paddled it to inland cities in canoes, all without government control, researchers reported on Monday.

They found evidence of 41 saltworks on a single coastal lagoon and the remains of a 1.300-year-old wooden canoe paddle.

Their study, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, shows the extent of trade just before the Mayan civilization in that region mysteriously fell apart.

"The discovery of the saltworks indicates that there was extensive production and distribution of goods and resources outside the cities in the interior of the Yucatan," they wrote.

"To me the exciting thing is that, in addition to the paddle ... these saltworks that we have found in the lagoon indicate the importance of non-state-controlled production in pre-industrial societies," said Heather McKillop of the Department of Geography and Anthropology at Louisiana State University, who led the study.

"I think at some point there was a complex system of production and located in the same geological area trade that is only beginning to be figured out, including, probably, explosion took place in 1997 due to overland transport using human the negligent operations of US porters and also travel up and down river and lagoon systems using sold its concerns to Unocal. canoes," she added in a telephone

interview Although Mayan art depicts canoe traders, the discovery of the paddle fragment is the first wooden artifact from the period, McKillop said.

McKillop and colleagues discovered the salt factories by snorkeling in the clear waters of the Punta Ycacos Lagoon on the coast of Belize. They date to between 600 and 900 AD

"They were abandoned about AD 900, at the same time as the inland cities were abandoned," she said

Ceramic pots at the sites suggest Maya workers boiled seawater to collect the salt.

The trade clearly went both ways. In the salt-producing areas, McKillop's team also found artifacts that would have been made inland.

"There are little figurine whistles and also some pottery with stamped decorations around the shoulders of jars and outsides of vessels," she said

Before her team's search, four other salt workshops had been found in the lagoon but the extent and details of the regional saltmaking operations were unclear.

### PM says FROM PAGE 1

statement at a public meeting at Moulvibazar Government High School ground after the inauguration of gas extraction from the

# \$200m audit objections

FROM PAGE 1 million, which is cost-recoverable, in blocks 12, 13 and 14 between 1995 and 2003. Of this sum, Petrobangla's audit raised objections on \$200 million.

On the other hand, Petrobangla as so far cleared \$175 million to Unocal against its cost-recoverable investment in the Jalalabad gas field.

According to a breakdown of the total cost-recoverable expenditure. Unocal spent \$192 million to evelop the field, which was given to Unocal's predecessor Occidental as an incentive. The field was discovered in the early nineties by a corrupt and failed Canadian company called Scimitar.

In the same blocks, Unocal

The Moulavibazar gas field is

discovered the Moulavibazar gas

field, which came online last month

where the Magurchhara gas field

company Occidental, which later

**FROM PAGE 16** A group of girl scouts had come by bus from Nantes, in western France.

Their leader was holding a guitar

above her head so they would not

get separated and they were singing

proof of love for the Pope!" said 18-

year-old Marine Naudet, wearing a

eige uniform with a red and white

Big groups of young Italians sang

kerchief and waving a small French

and clapped as they joined the scrum, carrying banners with mes-

sages for the Pope from parishes al

over the country. "We miss you, John Paul. Thank you," read one

banner from Bari, in southeastern

Other pilgrims carried wooden

crosses, flags from countries as

distant as Ecuador and Nigeria, and umbrellas to shield against the sun.

On the Via della Conciliazione the

mood was more sombre, partly

because people there had already

been waiting for hours but also

because of growing emotion as they

neared St. Peter's Basilica where

we were singing and laughing, but

the closer we get to the basilica, the

sadder we feel," said 21-vear-old

over the Tories has slipped to

between 2% and 5%. They suggest

the Lib Dems trail the Tories by

But one of the polls also sug

gests the Tories are 5% ahead of

Labour among those "certain to

Monday but MPs and peers are

likely to wind up this Thursday or

business managers will have to

discuss which outstanding pieces of

duced after last year's Queen's

has admitted his controversial plans

for identity cards and a new offence

of incitement to religious hatred may

Chancellor Gordon Brown began

frenetic day of campaigning by

Conservative leader Michael

trumpeting his record in an early

morning speech in London about

choice" as he launched his cam-

paign in London before heading off

for eight years of broken promises

to support a party that has taken a

stand and is committed to action on

"They can either reward Mr Blair

"Or they can vote Conservative

Lib Dem leader Charles

Kennedy has already visited

Manchester and Newcastle on a

whistle-stop tour of key seats to

light policies to appeal to ethnic

launches its campaign, based on

The Scottish National Party

to events around the country.

the issues that matter."

begin his campaign.

paigning by his rivals.

minorities.

Speech may not get through.

legislation can be passed this week.

Government and opposition

About half of the 28 bills intro-

Home Secretary Charles Clarke

between 10 and 16 points.

vote"

Friday.

be shelved.

the economy.

"When we started this morning

the Pope's body was lying in state.

**BEARING WITNESS** 

'This is extraordinary. What a

at the top of their voices.

"Unocal however does not claim

after an investment of \$49 million.

Cairn is now fully cooperating The Jalalabad field started gas with Petrobangla on the issue and production in 1999 with a reserve of has settled the majority of the audit 1.6 trillion cubic feet, and presently objections by regularising the produces 180 million cubic feet a day budget and reducing some of its claims. "Unocal can follow that (mmcfd) of gas -- the majority free gas for Petrobangla as per the PSC. example," the official quipped. Unocal spent another \$97 million

in block 12 for a seismic survey, a Ex-CJ Mustafa three-dimensional survey, drilling of exploratory wells and discovery of the Bibiyana gas field in 1999 -- to FROM PAGE 1

mented.

date Unocal's biggest find in "I am finding many proposals in Bangladesh. newspapers regarding the chief of Unocal has committed \$230 the caretaker government and also million in investment to develop the the objections to such proposals. It field, which is expected to come would be better if any retired chief online in 2007. For exploration activities in blocks 13 and 14, justice could be made the head of the . caretaker government," he com-Unocal spent \$41 million.

Vatican gridlocked

"The government will not impose anything," he said, "as we believe in unrestrained freedom of the press."

Taking part in the discussion, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam referred to the government's criticism of the media for tarnishing the country's image "How can the media and asked, improve the country's image when the government is yet to take a single step to halt corruption?"

He said, "A responsible government should take account of the media reports and inquire the facts. And if the reports are found true, the government should act immediately.

Instead of blaming the media. the government should co-operate with to unearth unethical business practices, corruption in the bureaucracy and elsewhere, appropriation of public property by politicians and abuse of power, said the senior journalist

spinner Yuvraj Singh claimed three The Daily Sangbad Executive for 55. Editor Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul also lamented that some senior minis-

The next match will be played in Jamshedpur on Saturday.

FROM PAGE 1

# Los Angeles Times wins major Pulitzer

#### **REUTERS.** New York

Gareth Cook of The Boston Globe won for explanatory reporting for his articles on stem cell research, while Julia Keller of the Chicago Tribune won in the category of feature writing for her account of a deadly 10-second tornado.

The Associated Press staff won for breaking news photography for its pictures of combat in Iraqi cities, and Deanne Fitzmaurice of the San Francisco Chronicle won for feature photography for her essay on a local hospital's efforts to treat a badly injured Iragi boy.

Gissler noted the danger and limited mobility reporters face in Iraq. "The war in Iraq seems less present this year ... probably because of the barriers to coverage," he said.

The award for commentary went to Connie Schultz of The Plain Dealer in Cleveland for her columns on "the underdog and underprivileged," while the prize for editorial writing went to Tom Philp of The Sacramento Bee.

The prize for editorial cartooning went to Nick Anderson of The Courier-Journal in Louisville,

Kentucky For fiction, the Pulitzer went to "Gilead" by Marilynne Robinson, published by Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

The prize for drama went to "Doubt, a parable" by John Patrick Shanley, and the prize for history went to "Washington's Crossing" by David Hackett Fischer, published by

Oxford University Press. The Pulitzer Prize for biography was awarded to "de Kooning: An American Master," written by Mark Stevens and Annalyn Swan and published by Alfred A. Knopf.

Stevens and Swan are a husbandand-wife team, the Pulitzer administrator said.

The Pulitzer Prize for poetry was given to "Delights & Shadows" by Ted Kooser, published by Copper Canvon Press, while the award for general nonfiction went to "Ghost Wars" by Steve Coll, published by The Penguin Press.

Coll also won a Pulitzer in 1990, when he shared in the explanatory iournalism award while at the Vashington Post.

The prize for music was given to the Second Concerto for Orchestra by Steven Stucky.

heard the case and ordered release MMC Executive Director of Iqbal Hossain Masud. Quamrul Hasan Manju moderated

The judge also asked the authorities concerned to take action against the police personnel involved in the incident for negligence to duty.

Alia Madrasa FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh University of sixes in his 56-ball 71. But it was all Engineering and Technology over for the visitors when he (BUET) and Dhaka Medical College became the seventh wicket to fall to avert any untoward incident

> The authorities formed another committee Monday night to probe the incident, though there was a committee for that purpose.

### 2 accused

FROM PAGE 16 their bail prayers and sent them to iail

On April 1, 2004, lawenforcement agencies seized 10 truckloads of illegal arms and ammu-nition from the CUFL Jetty in Chittagong. Later, two cases were filed in this

connection against 45 people. Of them, 22 were arrested, 13 released on bail, five surrendered and the

rest were absconding. The court fixed April 10 to frame charges against the accused and asked police to produce arrested Yakub Mollah, one of the main accused in the cases, in the court on the day.

### Housewife

FROM PAGE 16 said in the inquest report adding that

it bore marks of injuries. Sufia's sister Sakhina alleged that AI Amin murdered her sister after an altercation over dowry Monday night. Locals said Al Amin is a drunkard and used to torture Sufia for cash.

The body was sent to the Mitford lospital morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, a mob yesterday beat one Badshah, 25, who claimed himself to be an employee of a hotel at Sadarghat, for making an attempt to abduct a boy.

"When children were comina out of Taqwa Jame Mosque at Khilgaon Block-C at 4:30pm, the youth tried to take one with him," said a police official who took Badshah to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) for treatment of his injuries.

Cox's Bazar and Chittagong due to alleged corruption and price manipulation. The committee meeting asked the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications to re-tender the work.

The committee also asked the authorities to punish officials concerned for advocating a contract that could have been concluded at a price Tk 17 crore lower than the one sought

The BTTB wanted to award the contract to German company Siemensthe highest bidder in the project, which outlined a cost of 47 crore whereas Canadian bidder Nortel offered the lowest bid of Tk 30 crore.

The cabinet purchase committee meeting also noted that although the project's technical subcommittee announced the lowest bidder, Nortel, as "responsive", the

# Hasina for Asian

#### FROM PAGE 1

Kibria, and another planned by religious bigots, targeting secular symbols in the country, according to a message received here.

The opposition leader said an early national election is the answer to tackling this situation in Bangladesh. "However, what if the ruling regime plans to manipulate the election by placing chosen people in important supervisory positions? And, that too, despite a caretaker or interim government, and an election commission. both of which are meant to be neutral and impartial.

Hasina said arrangement has also been made to appoint an official politically inclined to the ruling party as the chief election commissioner

"Since it's our internal crisis, all 14 parties in the opposition are making preparations to resolve the crisis." she told the meeting.

The opposition leader said an Asian election support institute, if established, could with the active cooperation of the APA, equipped with Asian political experience, contribute effectively to conducting free and fair elections in Asiar countries faced with such a crisis and averting political disasters.

On natural disaster, she said Asia has often been confronted with natural calamities and there has never been dearth of assistance from allover the world.

Hasina proposed for establishing an Asian relief and rehabilitation ocedure for the fibre optic link

between Cox's Bazar and Chittagong, but this time it received only seven months to finish not only the bidding but the physical installation of the cable.

The submarine cable project itself has already been delayed by more than four years. Bangladesh finally signed an agreement with a consortium of 16 international telecom operators in March last

year, after sitting on the project for four years. The submarine system will span around 20,000 km across the eastern and western worlds to set an ultra fast terabit per second connectivity. Bangladesh will receive a 10

gigabyte bandwidthenough to supply the country's internet and telephony demands for the next 10 years. Presently it consumes about 150 megabytes of bandwidth.

fund to channel such assistance

swiftly and effectively with permanent available financial and material resources.

"The fund could receive, collect and disburse aid and assistance in coordination with governments of the affected countries." she noted. On illegal migration and unscru-

pulous business of women and child trafficking, she said an established Asian institute of migration (AIM) could, in coordination with the existing UN Agency for Refugees. deal with the displaced people in a

the House of Representatives of the Philippines General Assembly, chaired the meeting

Pakistan National Assembly, Samdech Krom Preah Norodom Rananriddh, president, National Assembly of Cambodia. Rene Vender Linden, president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar of Bangladesh Parliament and Alhaj Syed Abul Hossain MP also spoke at

former finance minister.

Last month, Vu went to Habiganj, visited the place of occurrence and

reportedly talked to some of the chargesheeted accused now in custody

Moulvibazar field Presided over by M Naser Rahman MP, the meeting was also addressed by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain, Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris FROM PAGE 16 Chowdhury and former state minis-

ter Ebadur Rahman. The prime minister said people want progress, peace and environment for doing business and education of their children. They are "fed up with the opposition party's poli-

The prime minister said it has again proved that BNP is not only a successful political party, but also a successful government.

Criticising the main opposition for their "anti-development" activities and "false propaganda" both at home and abroad, she said communal harmony is prevailing in the country with people of all faiths living peacefully and performing their religious activities.

Listing her government's various development activities the prime minister said foreigners remarked that a 'silent revolution' has taken place in education and health sectors and many could learn from Bangladesh.

Earlier in the day, the prime minister inaugurated Moulvibazar gas field, terming it a milestone on the road to higher stages of development of the country to fulfil people's long-cherished desire.

She urged people to stand united in the struggle for economic emancipation as they did in the struggle for independence in 1971.

The new gas field, developed by Unocal Bandladesh in 18 months time, will produce 70 mmcfd initially. With the beginning of production in the Moulvibazar field country's total gas production reached 1,470 mmcfd that exceeds the total domestic demand for about 1,450 mmcfd.

The US-based international oil company, Unocal, has developed the field under a Gas Purchase and Sales Agreement (GPSA) signed with Petrobangla, the state-owned hydrocarbon agency.

Some 50 percent of the gas produced in the country is consumed in power generation while the rest goes for manufacturing fertilizer, fuelling transport, and commercial and domestic usage.

valuable gas resources are playing an important role in the industrial and economical development of the country.

She said the government has planned to expand the gas network to Rajshahi and Khulna cities

# Blair sets May 5

"trust", in Dundee on Wednesday 'increasingly authoritarian" party. The Green Party has said it is Four opinion polls published on fielding 25% more candidates at this Tuesday suggest Labour's lead

election. The UK Independence Party says its campaign will focus on the effect unlimited immigration from within the EU will affect British public services

### Diarrhoea

The Queen is expected to dis-FROM PAGE 1 solve Parliament formally next

Since the beginning of March this year, we have observed higher number of patients visiting our hospital in Mahakhali, compared to two previous years. This is not usual as the increase generally occurs in April " Dr Md Abdus Salam director ICDDR B's Clinical Science Division, told The Daily Star vester-

dav The causes for the periodicity of higher number of diarrhoeal attacks during two seasons in Bangladesh are not precisely known, experts said, adding that some of the germs that cause diarrhoea, become abundant or multiply in large scale due to favourable environment during these periods.

Experts have predicted that the Howard said voters faced a "clear number of diarrhoeal patients in the coming few weeks will substantially rise

### Banned

#### and vote for another five years of FROM PAGE 16

markets and file spot cases. Mobile court is also active here to curb the business of banned polythene

Md Riaz Uddin, director of the environment department, stressed the need for playing active roles by law enforcers to stop the sale and use of banned polythene bags.

"With limited manpower it is very In Newcastle he said people tough for the environment departwere turning to his party as the "real ment to resist illegal traders of alternative" and promised to shun what he said was negative cambanned polythene shopping bags," he said.

"I'm going to address people's Dhaka Water and Sewerage hopes, not play on people's fears," he said. In Wales, Plaid Cymru MP Authority (Wasa) also expressed its grave concern over coming back of Simon Thomas will stress the danbanned polythene bags that disrupt gers of using "fear" to gain votes as the sewerage system. he visits a Cardiff mosque to high

"Wasa felt a great relief when the government banned polythene bags in 2002, but to our worry, this problem has emerged again in recent times," said a Wasa high official.

planned manner Jose de Venicia Jr, speaker of

Chowdhury Amir Hossain, speaker

the meeting. US embassy

FROM PAGE 1