Fuel price hike again

used by the poorer segments of the society have been raised, it will hurt the poor the most."

Over 90 percent of petroleum consumed in Bangladesh are diesel and kerosene. The rural people use 30 percent of the diesel and the major bulk of kerosene. Both these products are used largely in agriculture, for water pumps and transport, and thus act as a major cost factor for the country's food production and supplies.

Bakht also questioned the motive of this price hike, when the recent announcement of the new pay scale for state employees has already worsened the over 6 percent average inflation. "Apart from donors' pressure," he surmised, "it might be the case that anticipating a hike in market prices following the new budget, the finance minister wants to complete such unpleasant tasks in advance.'

He suggested that the government should take measures to offset the negative impacts of this price hike.

BIDS Senior Research Fellow Dr Sazzad Zahir said. "The price hike in diesel will raise the irrigation cost. But it does not always happen so that a cost hike in irrigation brings about an increase in commodity

"If the commodity price remains unchanged, then this price hike in diesel price will wholly affect the farmers, reducing their income," he pointed out, adding, "That would mean a negative impact on the rural

On irrigation subsidy, Dr Zahir said, "Though the situation demands the subsidy, under the prevailing weak governance it would only add to the wide-scale corruption and misuse of the facility." "So," he said, "it would be better to keep the price of diesel

Energy ministry officials last night also reiterated the age-old claim that huge quantity of petroleum is 'being smuggled to India, as it is costlier there'. The government has been presenting this argument time and again since 1991, when a litre of petrol cost Tk 13.

Today, the price of diesel in India Tk 41 a litre, petrol Tk 57 and octane Tk 65," said one of them. However he did not say any thing when it was pointed out to him that the newly adjusted prices still leave enough profit margin for 'smug-

After coming to office, the BNPled coalition government first increased the prices of kerosene, diesel, petrol and octane on December 27, 2001. That time, the prices of kerosene and diesel were increased by Tk 2 per litre to Tk 17, petrol to Tk 28 from Tk 23 and octane to Tk 30 from Tk 25. It also increased the price of jet fuel a couple of times.

Until December last, the government increased the price of diesel thrice, kerosene four times, and petrol and octane twice.

The government last increased the price of diesel and kerosene by Tk 3 a litre in January this year. That time it also increased the price of

The World Bank and International Monetary Fund have been hammering on the government to increase the petroleum prices, making it a condition for their Development Support Credit-3 and Poverty Reduction Growth Facility

Disbursement of both the loans has remained suspended, as the government did not increase petroleum prices and fulfil some other conditions. Yesterday's price hike will allow Bangladesh to get these loans next month, sources said.

the court on the legality of the

construction of the building,

ownership of land and safety

mitted within one week from the

reopening of the court after the

workers Md Kamal Hossain,

Monjurul Islam, Mozaffar and Md

Motalib, rights bodies Ain o Shalish

Kendro, Bangladesh Environmental

Lawyers Association, Bangladesh

Legal Aid and Services Trust,

Bangladesh Society for the

Enforcement of Human Rights,

Bangladesh National Women

Lawyers Association, Centre for

Sustainable Development

Karmajibi Nari, Nijera Kori and

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, Tanjibul

Alam and Igbal Kabir moved the

communications of Kamalganj

upazila headquarters with

Srimangal, Bhanugachh, Adampui

and Patrokhola have been dis-

50,000

FROM PAGE 1

marooned

Dr Kamal Hossain along with

The reports will have to be sub-

The petitioners are injured

conditions of the buildings.

vacation next month

HC asks why not

management, land, and environ-

The deputy commissioner of Dhaka, chief inspector of factories of Raiuk, chief executive officer of Savar Cantonment Board, director general of Fire Service, president of BGMEA and three owners of the sweater factory are the other respondents.

The court asked them to show cause why they would not be directed to take legal actions against the persons responsible for the April 11 building collapse that killed at least 80 people and injured more than 90

The respondents have also been asked why they would not be directed to ensure appropriate protective measures to prevent such disasters in future and also to protect the families of the victims of

The court asked them why they would be directed to inform whether Narayangani and Chittagong are properly constructed through appropriate legal formalities.

The court further ordered the DC of Dhaka, Rajuk and the BGMEA to produce their investigation reports before the court.

The chief inspector of factories, Rajuk, and the CEO of Savar Cantonment Board and the Dhaka DC have been

Rab asked

FROM PAGE 16 Battalion) members under the

existing laws. He has also asked the members of the anticrime elite force to track down the organised gangsters

engaged in collecting ransom by

telephone and cell phone. Addressing an operational briefing at the conference room of the home ministry, the minister said the government provided all kinds of facilities to Rab to make it an elite

"I urged the Rab members to perform their duties eyeing on the expectation of the people so that people will love them," Babar told

journalists emerging from a fivehour-long meeting. The state minister has expressed his concern with the incidents of robbery in the capital

and on the highways and asked them to intensify their vigilance.

During the meeting, the Rab members were also asked to gear up their vigilance in the capital as well as elsewhere in the country.

The meeting discussed strengthening the Rab force, arranging modern training for them to tackle various crimes and updates of smuggling incidents, silent ransom collection and recovery of drugs.

It also discussed to expand intelligence network to monitor the activities of Rab.

The minister also asked to continue rewarding the Rab members for their good performance and punishment for their negligence of

Home Secretary Safar Raj Hossain, Inspector General of Police Abdul Quayum, Rab Director General Abdul Aziz Sarker, former director general of Rab Anwarul Igbal (on special invitation), Rab battalion commanders and other senior officials were present.

RU JCD men block highway for 2 hours

Activists of Rajshahi University Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal unit barricaded the Rajshahi-Dhaka highway near Kajla for two hours yesterday to get a Raishahi University teacher's motorbike released.

At around 5:00pm a traffic sergeant Golam Morshed seized a RU eacher, Ariful Dolon's bike alleging that he was not carrying any valid documents. Dolon, a teacher of the Institute of Business Studies, went to the campus and informed the JCD leaders about the incident Rafiqul Islam, a former RU JCD organising secretary along with other JCD activists Romel, Miran, Shafin went to the local police station and demanded release of the bike. Being refused the activists put up logs on the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway, interrupting traffic movements for the next two hours. At around 7:30pm, Rapid Action Battalion members with the help from the local police station finally managed to drive the agitators away and brought back order. Akram Hossain, officer in charge of Motihar police station, told that the agitating students withdrew the siege after RU Proctor Shamsul Islam assured them of immediate release of the

Illegal operation

He said they also inspected two passenger launches but did not find

The other team led by Magistrate Fazlur Rahman raided Narayanganj area and seized six vessels. Of those, one vessel was fined Tk 30,000 and the other five Tk 20,000 each. Employees of two of the vessels claimed to have survey certificates and registration but could not produce those at that time.

clampdown on river vessels with a view to ensuring discipline and order in the shipping sector following a series of launch disasters in the country, said sources.

On the first day, 30 cargo vessels were seized and fined for plying the waterways without necessary

'We have filed the petition in the interest of the public. We want voters to cast their votes on the basis of correct information. If people do not know about the candidates, it will create scopes for lawbreakers to become lawmakers," Advocate Abdul Momen Chowdhury, one of the three petitioners, told reporters.

The two other petitioners are Advocate KM Zabir and Advocate moved the petition along with Abdul Momen Chowdhury.

Bloated ADP

The old Dhalai Bridge in

Kamalganj has become vulnerable. Meanwhile, the Manu river is also flowing over the danger mark near Chandnighat bridge and Manu railway bridge.

People of the area including Haiinur and Mahtahnur under Kulaura upazila and Adinabad area Tengra union under Rajnagar upazila are working to protect the Manu river flood protection embankment which is now under threat at different points due to rise of river

Water of the Manu river is entering villages near Joypasha and Laskarpur of Kulaura upazila.

AL, BNP men's

an appeal to the political parties not to allow their supporters to engage in political activities abroad, meeting sources said.

They noted at the meeting that workers form party units, continue their political activities and engage in internal feuds. A number of workers do not even obey the rules of the country they reside, the members alleged.

State Minister for Expatriates Welfare Quamrul Islam told the meeting that Bangladeshi workers form party units in different countries and that the Awami League and the BNP have more than one chap-

ter in some countries. 'When we go to these countries three or four groups come to welcome us and they arrange receptions that create conflicts among them," sources quoted the minister as telling the meeting.

A lawmaker echoed the state minister and said by doing politics, Bandladeshis abroad are tainting the image of the country in the eyes

of the international community. The meeting also discussed the recent attack on the Bangladesh embassy in Kuwait and asked the ministry to initiate necessary steps to stop a repeat of such an incident.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

FROM PAGE 1

survey certificates. The team led by Abdur Rahim also arrested eigh employees of those vessels.

They would be released if the owner of the vessels pay the fine. Otherwise, they would be sentenced to up to two years," Rahim told The Daily Star over telephone vesterday evening.

The government launched the

HC asks EC

chairman or director.

'Since the court has our prayer, it is now the responsibility of the EC to decide how it will inform the public the whereabouts of the candidates," he added.

FROM PAGE 1 The ADP has been revised down to

Tk 20,500 crore. The local currency component has been reduced by Tk 100 crore from the original while the foreign component by Tk 1,400 crore.
The non-ADP development

funds of the current fiscal year have been increased to Tk 993 crore from Tk 860 crore.

Nazrul

The programmes include placing of wreaths at the poet's grave on the premises of Dhaka University Mosque, discussions, rallies and cultural functions.

Born on this day in 1899 at village Churulia of 24 Parganas district in West Bengal, India, Nazrul through his powerful poems had inspired the people to fight against injustice and repression of the colonial rule.

The fearless voice of the poet also earned him the wrath of the British rulers who had jailed him several times for igniting people's desire for independence through his

Nazrul's songs and poems were also great sources of inspiration for freedom fighters during the Liberation War in 1971.

President lajuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina paid glowing tributes to the late national poet on the occasion of his

SCBA mulls

FROM PAGE 1

ban vis-à-vis their movement against controversial judge Faisal Mahmud Faizee and other issues.

Since the ban applies to the agitation focussed on Faizee and the Supreme Court itself, the lawvers viewed that it was time for agitation against the government, as it is responsible for politicising the judge appointment process.

They resolved that a final decision will be taken at another meeting scheduled for late last night and the Bangladesh to India for installing the decision will be made public through pipeline through Bangladesh terria press conference today.

Hasina says Aziz

post," Hasina, also chief of the main opposition Awami League (AL), told reporters at the National Orthopaedics Hospital in Dhaka.

Hasina spoke to the journalists after visiting her injured party leaders there.

She ruled out the possibility of co-operating with the new CEC. 'How can we co-operate with him (new CEC)?" She would not, however, comment on whether they would wage a fresh movement against new CEC MAAziz.

On Monday, the AL formally rejected the new CEC's appointment, saying that the government has made the appointment unilaterally in a bid to politicise the Election Commission targeting the next general election.

She took a swipe at the government for not caring to take opinions of the opposition parties before making the appointment. The former prime minister said she sent at least two letters to the then leader of the opposition (Khaleda Zia) inviting her to a dialogue before the appointment of immediate past CEC MA Syed. "But there was no response (from Khaleda)," she added. The opposition leader once

to the caretaker government system and the Election Commission for the election to be credible. She said the more the government is getting alienated from the people because of its misrule, the

more it is increasing its persecution

again stressed the need for reforms

"They are killing popular Awami League leaders across the country They are carrying out their brutal

Hasina referred to the major grenade and bomb attacks in the country during the reign of the present government and said, "The perpetrators are not being nabbed because the government high-ups are involved in those heinous crimes.'

Turning to the recent launch disasters, she said the government is doing nothing to save the victims. "Even the bodies are not being handed over to the families.'

Hasina went to see Mohammad

Wares Ali, general secretary of

Meherpur district unit of Awami Krishak League, the peasants' unit of the AL, at the National Orthopaedics Hospital. Wares's mother and wife broke down in tears seeing Hasina at their side. Assailants attacked and critically

wounded Wares while he was returning home at Bidyadharpur from a party programme at Meherpur on May 18. Hasina then visited Bhupesh

Barua, a Raozan Chhatra League leader who is receiving treatment at the same hospital She then went to Mirpur National

Heart Foundation to see Aminuzzaman, brother-in-law of her

New CEC also wants

in 1996 and confirmed by the Awami

League government. There was no objection against him. He said those who have rejected

his appointment are entitled to their

own opinion and it is their political

right to oppose the appointment. "I do not think there should be any agitation or wrong impression aligning me that I am biased to any political party. I am everybody's man...I am nobody's man," Aziz told

the journalists yesterday at his He said lawyers protested the appointment of the then CEC when he had gone to the Supreme Court premises to take oath. But nobody demonstrated against his appointment on Monday when he went to take oath, the CEC said.

"I will not go beyond the dictates of the constitution, my conscience and (my duty towards) welfare of the country," the CEC said in a desperate bid to pacify the opposition.

the main opposition Awami League in the Narsingdi-1 by-elections slated for June 22, which will be his first test, Aziz said, "I am very happy to know that the main opposition party will join the by-election. It shows that they have accepted me."

He said the EC would try its best to see that the elections are free and fair. "(My) shoulders are very small, but the burden is huge," the CEC said about his duties.

FIRST WORKING DAY

CEC Aziz yesterday entered his office at 9:00am and three election commissioners Shafiur Rahman, M Munsef Ali and AK Mohammad Ali called on him immediately afterwards. Officials at the EC secretariat called on him in the afternoon.

The CEC said he received a few phone calls from his former colleagues and friends to congratulate him. But no political leaders rang him up to congratulate him, he

Private firm in talks

The cost is estimated at US\$ 974

a neutral country in the Far East, will buy gas from Myanmar and sell it to

ministers' meeting, held in Yangon on January 12-13, decided among other things that the pipeline will be built, owned and operated by an international consortium company and hoped that the three nations would soon sign an MOU to this

to India. MHL now requires approval from the Bangladesh authorities to have access to the Right of Way (ROW) through the Bangladesh

Ahmed said there are two route options for the pipeline through Bangladesh from the Rakhine Coast. One route proposed earlier will go through Paltwa and Aijwal in Mizoram through Tripura and enter Bangladesh at Brahmanbaria crossing the Jamuna River and pass by Jessore to enter West

Bengal at Bongaon. The second route will be to enter Bangladesh at Teknaf along the coast to Feni through Brahmanbaria where a spur-line from Tripura can be connected with the gas fields of Tripura. The crossing of Jamuna River to Jessore and Bongaon

An economically feasible route would be recommended in the project report to be prepared by the consortium company, he told report-On economic and social bene-

drawn through Bangladesh it would bring an investment of US\$ 350-600 million for Bangladesh segment. might receive some US\$ 100 million

and distance covered within Bangladesh territory. In addition to the cost of Right of Way (cost of land), GTCL may receive about US\$ 24 million a year

ing on the volume of gas transmitted

ters Dhaka and New Delhi are Mizanur Rahman Shelley, chairman of MHL, chaired the press

Mob kills mugger, extortionist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An extortionist and a mugger died yesterday after being critically njured in mob beatings in city's

In Kafrul, four armed extortionists tried to break into two garment factories -- Valentine Garments and BRB Garments -- in North Ibrahimpur at about 1:30pm yesterday. As security guards of the factory stopped them at the entrance they threatened them with guns.

Locals, at that time, rushed to the two and took them to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) at about 4:15pm.

Doctors declared Nasir dead on arrival while Shamim was undergo-

In the other incident, when a gang of five muggers stopped a pedestrian at gunpoint in Santarkul

man cried out for help. As locals went to his rescue, the muggers started running towards Banasree area. But the mob chased them and caught four of the muggers -- Zahir, 18, Yunus, 18, Ahmed Ali, 17, and Masum, 22, -- inside Banasree Project area. They gave them a savage beating before a police patrol could rescue them and send to the DMCH. The four were given first aid. But as Zahir's condition wors-

vesterday. Police said they found a pistol with Zahir. The rest three were produced before the court yester-

Ghalib remanded

UNB, Sirajganj

A court here yesterday placed four people, including Dr Asadullah Al Galib, leader of the outlawed Jamiatul Mujahideen, on a threeday remand in the Ullapara

Grameen Bank blast case. Police produced Galib Secretary of Jamiatul Muiahideen Nurul Islam, Organising Secretary Abdus Salam Salafi and librarian of Atrai Agrani Degree College ASM Azizullah before the Court of First Magistrate, seeking a 10-day

After hearing the case, the court granted three days' remand for the accused.

Investigating Officer (IO) ASP Abdus Sobhan of Shahajadpur Circle will interrogate them during the remand. Galib was brought to Sirajganj

from Gaibandha district jail, while three others from Naogaon jail. Three bombs were exploded at the Ullapara branch of Grameen Bank on February 16 this year, iniuring four people and damaging

important documents of the bank.

16 fall sick

FROM PAGE 16 unconscious state. All of them regained consciousness by 4:30pm Of them, 13 were released from the

Purnendu Saha of CMCH yesterday Sources and relatives said after the marriage ceremony on Monday night, some members of the bridal party went to bride's house at Kattali. There

they went to sleep at around 3:30am

hospital while three others will have to

stay for at least another day, said Dr

on completion of a few more rituals. The incident of poisoning became known at around 6.00am when members of a band party, which played music during the ceremony, went into the house for tips. Despite repeated knocks on the main gate, none of the family members responded from inside, said sources.

After a few minutes, the band party

members scaled the boundary wall and entered the house. They found the 16 lying unconscious in the rooms of the single-storey building. With the help of locals, they immediately took the victims to the CMCH. The cause of the gas poisoning could not be known till filing this report at 7:00pm last night. Jharna Saha, a member of the bride's family, said that

she suspects someone from outside

might have sprayed poisonous gas in

the rooms. Another source however

said it could be an accident poisoning

resulted from malfunctioning of a "The incident happened soon after the generator was switched on follow-

ing a power failure," she told The Daily

Illegal Bangladeshi FROM PAGE 16 the neighbour," Patil told reporters in

the job of the state police to identify illegal immigrants and repatriate

The issue of illegal immigrants

issue discussed at the meeting. Maharashtra Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh. his Gujarat counterpart Narendra Modi, Goa Governor S C Jamir and central and state home department officials

Association (AMSA) were arrested in northeastern state of Assam when they tried to enforce a daylong bandh (strike) which affected normal life in certain areas.

AMSA called the strike to protest

Kibria killing case

FROM PAGE 16 The rule came upon a writ petition filed on May 14 by the four accused - Shahed Ali, Jamir Ali, Joynal Abedin Mumin and Tazul Islam.

The petitioners are among the 10 accused in the charge-sheet. They had made confessional statements to a magistrate about their involvement in the murder of Kibria, killed in the January 27 grenade attack in Habiganj. In the petition, eight high govern-

ment officials including the home

The petitioners' counsel Barrister Rafigul Islam Mia yesterday told reporters that the four accused had been put on remand for 45 days and tortured brutally, both physically and mentally, to make the confessional statements

They were also threatened that if

they did not give the statement they

would be killed in "crossfire" with

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Mia

forced to sign on a white paper.

Former finance minister and AL lawmaker Kibria and four others were ened, Khilgaon police took him killed in a grenade attack at a public again to the DMCH at 10:30 Monday rally in Baidderbazar, Habiganj on connection with the incident.

city of Mosul, police said vesterday. hours after two car bombs killed at

Separately, gunmen opened fire on a four-car convov carrying conservative Shia legislator Salamah al-Khafaji, one of the most prominent women in Irag's new parliament. The lawmaker escaped unharmed, but four of her body-

the Baghdad area had rounded up 428 suspected insurgents.

to the international airport.

Residents called police about a

(IKNMB). In the face of police action, IKNMB Nayeb-e-Amir Nur Hossain Nurani cancelled the rally but called on his men to assemble at the same place at 5:00pm.

Addressing the Kashimari rally, KNMB leaders threatened to attack drawn by May 30.

again also by May 30. The signboard read: 'A place of worship for the Ahmadiyya Community, Sundarban Bazar' and advised Muslims not to mistake the place for a mosque. The Khatme Nabuwat leaders, who had already cancelled the June

reception. Religious bigots on April 17 attacked Ahmadiyyas at Sundarban Bazar Shyamnagar, injuring over 50 people, including women and chil-

dren, and looted at least 10 houses.

Police Station. The religious bigots also held a rally Kaliganj Fultala at 3.00pm the same day, urging police to observe the duties of a Muslim and not to

enemies of Islam'. Addressing the rally. Nurani said: 'Police have violated the constitution as well as Islam by trying to revent them from holding

ing rallies in Satkhira with prior permission from the home ministry. The civil society members under the banner of Samprodayeek Samprity Committee will hold a rally tomorrow at Shaheed Abdur Razzak Road. Justice KM Sobhan

will preside over the rally.

3 killed FROM PAGE 15 Dhaka bound passenger bus, in an

attempt to save a cow. collided with

a brick laden truck, police and

witnesses said. Abdus Salam, 38, a teacher of the Kashor High School and Quddus, 45, a member of the Kachina UP, succumbed to their njuries while being carried to hospital. The other dead could not be identified. Critically injured Sirajul Islam,

hospitals and clinics. Cops nab 566

45, Suruj, 40, Saiful, 46, Idris, 34,

Monir, 25, Saleha, 32 and 15 others

were admitted to different local

FROM PAGE 16

203 people

THE CRIME WAVE

eight police stations -- Hazaribagh Khilgaon, Badda, Kafrul, Dhanmondi, Sabujbagh, Uttara and The special detective police

team Cobra caught the remaining

At least 10 incidents of robbery were

recorded in Mirpur area from end of April to date, when robbers looted Tk 10 lakh in cash and valuables and hurt two city dwellers, police sources said. Robbers knifed primary school neadmistress Talukdar Shahnaj

and gold worth about Tk 5.17 lakh from her Harirampur house in Uttara on April 17. On April 1, robbers looted cash, gold and valuables to the tune of Tk 7 lakh from Shyampur residence of

Police Sub-Inspector Abdus Sattar

Kabir Lily to death and looted cash

posted at Keraniganj. A gang of robbers stabbed Nasima Akhter, wife of a police havilder, at their house on Ulan Road in Khilgaon on May 20.

man also were injured; none of the

school's students were believed to

be among the casualties.

At least 620 people, including 52 US troops, have been killed since April 28, when Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari announced his new Shia-dominated government. Washington hopes his government will eventually train police and an army capable of securing Iraq, allowing the withdrawal of coalition

appeared to target the majority Shia community whose representatives won a majority in January's landmark general elections and who now lead the coalition government. The bloodiest attack came late

Many of Monday's attacks

Monday when two suicide drivers ploughed into a crowd in the northern town of Tall Afar, killing at least 35 people. The double attack took place "a few minutes after mortar bombs were fired at two houses in the

according to Abdel Ghani ali Yahia an official with the Kurdistan Democratic Party, one of two political factions which control the northern Kurdish provinces "Local people gathered at the site to help... and two car bombs

then rushed in and exploded." he At least 25 people were also wounded in the attack in Muallimin, a majority Shia and Turkmen area of Tall Afar, a town 400km north of the

Another 11 people were killed and 11 wounded, many of them children, when a car bomb exploded outside a Shia prayer room in Mahmudiyah, a lawless ethnicallymixed town in an area just south of Baghdad dubbed the Triangle of

Judge, Shoaib, PP apologise

to High Court

CONTEMPT CHARGES

STAFF CORRESPONDENT A Dhaka court judge, the public prosecutor (PP) and the sacked managing director (MD) of Ingilab TV appeared in person before the High Court to face

contempt charges yesterday and tendered unqualified apologies for the The High Court Division Bench of ustices Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Emdadul Hag Azad on May 16 issued a suo moto contempt rule on the three after the sacked MD was

granted bail in a sedition case in the lower court while the matter was

They were asked to appear in person before the court yesterday. Judge Mohammad Shamsul Alam Khan of the Court of First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Dhaka PP Abdullah Mahmud F

The judge and the PP in a written statement offered their unconditional apology, while Shoaib verbally apoloaised to the court.

three to personally appear before the same day. The metropolitan sessions judge's court granted bail to Shoaib on April 30 in a sedition case upon a bond of Tk 1 lakh with four guarantors. The PP did

not oppose the bail petition despite

being the prosecution lawver since the case was filed on January 24 last year. During hearing on the bail petition, PP Hassan had told the court that he proper quarantors.

proved. The prosecution had also opposed the bail petition, saying Shoaib through his activities had offended the religious sentiments of Muslims. On March 28, the HC bench in a

Shoaib's getting bail in the lower court drew the attention of the HC bench that viewed the matter tantamount to contempt to court. Police arrested Shoaib from Zia International Airport on November 29, 2003 for his alleged ties to Mossad, Israel's counter-intelligence agency.

Shoaib was scheduled to present a paper at a seminar in Tel Aviv, and faxes and e-mails seized from his possession proved that he had passed sensitive information out, stated the complaint.

Tk 12 crore from the Jews in Israel was also found on him. The fund was sought to publish three dailies, namely the Dainik Sonali Din, Dainik Rupantar and Dainik Paribartan, the complaint

Referring to the participation of

The consortium, may be based in

principal buyer India. In Bangladesh, it will engage GTCL, a subsidiary company of Petrobangla for maintenance and security of the pipeline within Bangladesh territory. Ahmed said the tri-nation energy

effect. In reply to a query, he said MHL has got the approval from both the Myanmar and the Indian authorities to buy gas from Myanmar and sell it

segment will remain unchanged.

fits. Ahmed said if the pipeline is He said Bangladesh government a year as wheeling charges depend-

for their services. Ahmed, however, would not comment on the conditions set by

them.

Khilgaon and Kafrul areas. Three muggers and an extortionist were also arrested during the incidents.

scene and joined the guards to confront the gang. They caught two extortionists -- Nasir, 25, and Shamim, 23, and beat them up, injuring critically. Police rescued the

ing treatment. Police recovered a Germanmade revolver with one bullet from them.

of Badda at 1:30pm Monday, the

night. He died there at 12:30am day and sent to jail.

Police were not informed of the matter till yesterday evening.

"This campaign may also hurt Bangla-speaking population in the country, particularly from West Bengal," Patil said, adding that it was

was discussed at a meeting he had with chief ministers of Guiarat and Maharashtra, sources said. However, while talking to reporters. Patil maintained silence on the

attended the meeting. Meanwhile, about 500 activists of All Assam Minority Students'

against the "quit" notice issued to suspected Bangladeshi migrants by some youth organisations.

They claimed that they had been forced to make the confessional statement.

secretary, inspector general of police (IGP) and IG (Prisons) have been made respondents.

said. He alleged the accused were The four had pleaded for retraction of their confessional statements several times in the Habiganj court, but were rejected, Mia said.

January 27. Abdul Majid Khan, a district AL leader, filed two cases in The charge-sheets for both the cases accused 10 BNP men including these four.

least 20 people there late Monday.

guards were critically injured. The US military announced that a two-day operation involving more than 2,000 Iraqi soldiers and police the largest-ever joint campaign in

But insurgents continued to wreak havoc in the capital despite the ongoing crackdown in the Abu Ghraib area, which targets militants believed responsible for multiple attacks on the US-detention facility there and the road linking downtown

suspicious-looking car parked opposite the Dijlah Junior High Muallimin district of Tall Afar. School for Girls in Alwiyah, near eastern Baghdad's well-known Withaq Square, a Christian neighbourhood. As bomb disposal experts approached the vehicle, it exploded and killed six bystanders,

Satkhira bigots FROM PAGE 1

the Ahmadiyyas again if a case filed against IKNMB leaders is not with-They demanded that a signboard, which they posted on the Ahmadiyya complex with police assistance on April 17, be hung

1 programme of laying siege to local Ahmadiyya complex, claimed that 106 Ahmadiyyas were converted to Muslims yesterday and a grand rally will be held at Sved Salauddin Chattar on May 31 to accord them a

Following the attack, Ahmadiyyas filed a case with the Shyamnagar

pending with the High Court. protect Ahmadiyyas as 'they are the

MD Salauddin Shoaib Chowdhury He claimed that they were holdwent to the High Court and stood in the dock for about two hours

> The court gave Shoaib until June 20 to file a written apology and all the

would have no objection to the bail move since the court grants bail with On April 2, the same court rejected the bail petition of the accused on the ground that the charges brought against him had been primarily

rule ordered the government to explain within 10 days as to why Shoaib would not be granted bail. The law stipulates that no lower court pass any orders on a matter if any rule on the same matter is pending

with the higher court.

Mohammad Abdul Hanif, officer-incharge (OC) of Airport Police Station, filed a sedition case against Shoaib with the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka on January 24 last

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