## Ex-Bac staffs' expenses | Bidisha

Maniruzzaman also learnt that many of the officers possess property in different names.

The commissioners found it hard to conduct the screening 'in a short time'. "If there were time available more authentic details could have been learnt about the Bac staff," said another source.

"It is difficult to know elaborately about one's lifestyle. We've heard so many things, but many were difficult to prove," added the source.

Up to 80 percent of the staff might be found unfit to work in the commission if they are screened on the basis of lifestyles along with other criteria, observed another source

ACC Commissioners Prof Maniruzzaman Miah and Maniruddin Ahmed in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the commission earlier are carrying out

the screening.
Though the two commissioners were supposed to work together, they did the job on their own. They submitted the results to ACC Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan also separately last Thursday,

said sources. The commissioners dealt only with the first and second class employees numbering about 325, whereas the former Bac staff number more than 1,100. Officers who have been screened are of ranks ranging from sub-inspector to

During the scrutiny, the commissioners took into consideration the Bac staff members' annual career records (ACR), skills, dossier, integrity, honesty, lifestyle matched against earning, and disciplinary

Maniruddin Ahmed focused mainly on comparison of income with lifestyle while Prof Maniruzzaman looked into the procedures followed for the staff's appointment to the Bureau.

The entire screening process has all along been shrouded in secrecy. The commissioners found papers and documents missing from personal files of a number of Bac staff. They, however, managed to collect the documents and necessary information in somewhat different ways, said a source.

The commissioners found lack of transparency in the process of many officers' appointment to the Bac. Besides, there were records of departmental proceedings against many others for various irregulari-

Considering the appointment procedures and department records, 25 to 30 percent Bac staff may face the axe

Sources said the commission will sit to finalise the list after ACC secretary M Ataur Rahman returns from abroad in the third week of this

They will send the final screening results to the government and ask it to withdraw the staff who the ACC

The Anti-Corruption Commission Act (ACCA) empowers the commission to decide who are to be absorbed in the commission and

The staff who will not be assimiated into the commission will not lose job, as the government will withdraw them on its [ACC] request.

## Iran elections

hardline former police chief Mohammad Bager Qalibaf.

But Rafsanjani, 70, is hoping his image as a savvy deal-maker and pragmatic centrist can lure the voters who want to see the country - under pressure over its nuclear programme -- ease its way out of

international isolation. With campaigning banned on the day before the election, Moin's camp was anxiously waiting to see if its natural support base -- proreform youth disgruntled by broken promises of change -- would be motivated to vote.

While opinion polls in Iran are to be treated with the utmost of caution, they have indicated Rafsanjani will fall far short of the 50 percent required to win outright amid a late

charge by both Qalibaf and Moin. After what has been a fiercely fought election campaign, President Mohammad Khatami issued a stark warning that an "organised movement" was bent on disrupting the vote, already marred by smear

campaigns and violence. "I see with regret and worry from the reports that it seems there is an organised movement to hurt and to harm the healthy and the glorious process of the elections," he said,

quoted by official media. The infringements "include disruption of gatherings, beating people up, the distribution of illegal pamphlets, spreading of lies in order to ruin the reputation of candidates regardless of their political inclina-

tion." he said. There is little doubt Iran has never known an election campaign like this -- finely balanced until the very last moment and with candi-

dates using every conceivable media outlet to spread their mes-The country has been plastered with colourful campaign posters of the candidates while the state

first time, given the hopefuls a relatively equal say. There has been an unprecedented cut-and-thrust in the political debate, with crucial issues like

broadcasting apparatus has, for the

renewing relations with the United States, the power of Iran's supreme leader Ali Khamenei and personal liberties openly debated.

In a last minute twist, Mohsen Rezai, the weakest of the hardline candidates, stepped out of the race Wednesday in a move that could aid the three ultra-conservatives left in the race and in particular Qalibaf.

A former police chief and veteran Revolutionary Guards commander, Qalibaf has reinvented himself from a uniformed officer into a smiling besuited technocrat and taken steps to increase his appeal to the political centre Rafsanjani, a pillar of the regime

for much of the past 26 years, has cast himself as a pragmatic moderate striving to save Iran from extremists and also tried to show his human side with an intimate, turbanless campaign video.

But Moin's pro-reform supporters, who were out in force across the capital late Wednesday handing out campaign literature to passing motorists, have been hoping for an upset similar to Khatami's spectacular 1997 landslide upset win.

The wave of popular euphoria that brought Khatami to power has long dissipated amid dashed hones of a programme of far-reaching weakness in the face of powerful

The hope for the reform camp is that young voters will be persuaded to cast their ballots at the last minute, propelling their candidate into an unpredictable second round. The latest projection by one

polling institute said Rafsanjani was due to poll 24-28 percent, Qalibaf 14-16 percent, and Moin 12-15

Also crucial will be the turnout figure with the authorities looking for participation of well over 50 percent to legitimise the regime after an embarrassingly low participation in parliamentary elections last year.

# Citigroup, UNCDF

The Daily Star, the Daily Prothom Alo, ntv and Dhaka Sheraton Hotel joined the programme as partner organisations The GMA has been launched to

mark the International Year of Microcredit 2005 as suggested by the UN. Its objective is to recognise and

honour the best practices among micro-entrepreneurs and enterprises in Bangladesh that have been linked to a traceable source of micro-finance, organisers said. Adverts will be published in time

in various newspapers seeking applications and nominations from interested individuals and organisations.

The organisers said the Advisory

Council will judge the candidates and select the winners. Earlier, the 13-member Advisory

Council was formed to evaluate the performance of microcredit operators and microentrepreneurs. Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) Managing Director and governor of Bangladesh former Bank Fakhruddin Ahmed heads the council.

He told the press conference Bangladesh has the largest operation in micro-finance programmes in the world and is the pioneering country to introduce micro-credit

programmes.
"Micro-credit and micro-finance play important roles in poverty eradication and empowerment of vulnerable groups particularly of women. It has proven to be an effective anti-poverty tool. This certainly is one of the effective means to reach the Millennium Development Goal," he added.

"Over the past five years, the micro-finance sector worldwide has grown at an average rate of 25 percent to 30 percent with 63 of the world's top micro-finance institutions having an average rate of return of about 2.5 percent of total assets." he said.

"And in countries like Bangladesh, repayment rates are as high as 97 percent."

The awards will recognise the entrepreneurial skills of the underprivileged, who have exhibited their resilience by emerging from below the poverty line, creating jobs and adding value to the society, he

Eminent economist Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud said currently about one crore people are directly involved in the micro-credit programmes in Bangladesh.

There is no other programmes the world that could directly engage so many people," he added.

He called upon the leading private banks to come up with micro-credit programmes across the country to facilitate poverty alleviation.

Former governor of Bangladesh Bank Dr Mohammed Farashuddin Brac Executive Director Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury, Editor of Prothom Alo Matiur Rahman. Managing Editor of The Daily Star Sved Fahim Munaim. Bangladesh Shilpa Bank Chairman Abu Ahmed and Director General of Prime Minister's Office Nasimul Ghani, among others, were present

Police Station Kazi Nure Alam filed the case yesterday against Bidisha on charges of funnelling abroad local and foreign currencies worth Tk 21 crore. The Criminal Investigation

gate the case. Nure Alam, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, filed it under Section 13 of the Money Laundering Control Act 2002 following the approval of Bangladesh Bank on June 14.

Department of the Police will investi-

The IO submitted a petition for showing Bidisha arrested in the case and permission to interrogate her at he prison cell of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BŚMMUH) where she is confined to. Metropolitan Magistrate Jagannath

Das Khokon granted the petition and fixed June 20 for the next hearing on whether to allow the IO to interrogate Bidisha.

Bidisha, arrested on June 4 after Ershad filed a case for theft and make ing threats on his life, is now languishing at the BSMMUH prison cell. Later, the government filed another case accusing her of possessing two pass-

ports.
She was granted bail in both cases but was not released, as she was shown arrested in a case filed by Ershad for cheating on him after

Moving the bail petition in the cheating case, Bidisha's counsels Zahirul Islam and Kamruzzaman Mahbub told the court that their client was tortured inhumanly in remand though she was seriously ill.

They also submitted that their client was not getting proper treatment at the prison cell of the BSMMUH. Moreover, hey argued, Ershad is still Bidisha's husband, as the bill of divorcement is yet to be effective and, so the case is

District Public Prosecutor (PP) Mohsin Miah said the lower court neither rejected nor granted the bail petition and fixed June 18 for further nearing on the issue. So, she should

STATE TERRORISM Bitterly upset at the latest arrest in the money laundering case, one of Ridisha's counsels Barrister Taniihul Alam, said yesterday, "All of these are examples of state-sponsored terror-

He said the government has shown total disregard for the rule of law. "This will erode the people's confidence in the law-enforcement agencies and the entire institution will be called in ques-

### Govt critical

Steering Committee with cooperation from Lord Avebury, a member of the House of Lords, organised the conference titled 'European human rights conference on Bangladesh: Extremism, intolerance and violence to be held at the School of Oriental and African Studies in the University of

A number of members of the European Parliament and Swedish parliament, lawmakers from different Commonwealth countries and human rights activists will attend the conference, organisers said.

Slain former finance minister and Awami League leader Shah AMS Kibria's son Reza Kibria will be among In an aide memoire submitted to

the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on Wednesday, Bangladesh High Commissioner to UK AH Mofazzal Karim pointed out that the organisers are holding the conference and also seminars to vilify the govern-ment by distorting facts about Bangladesh, and are trying to outwit

Mofazzal also met Tom Philips, director general of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and briefed him on the subject.

"The campaigners are trying to hoodwink the world by withholding vital information about Bangladesh government's commitment to uphold numan rights, consolidate democracy maintain law and order and bring the perpetrators of crimes and violence to justice " a foreign ministry press release said quoting the high commis-

of the conference did not invite any representative from the Bangladesh government but a press release of the conference steering committee said they

nvited government representatives. "Despite unwillingness of the organisers to allow any government representative to participate in the conference, the high commissioner succeeded in persuading them to allow six representatives from the government side," said the foreign

ministry press release.

The steering committee said, "The Bangladesh high commissioner has promised to attend (the conference) and has been offered the opportunity of presenting the government's point of view during the plenary session and of having the last word

at the end of the session." The high commissioner and the overnment representatives from Dhaka, including lawmakers Khondoker Mahbubuddin Ahmed and Ziaur Rahman Khan, will participate in the conference to uphold the positive image of Bangladesh and oppose the anti-Bangladesh propaganda, the

foreian ministrv said Majority of the participants are either from among the organisers themselves or from agencies associated with them. Many of them belong to the main opposition party in Bangladesh, it added.

## Mobile courts

From page 1

raided a mango depot at Shah Ali Market in Mirpur-1 and arrested 11 traders along with manages and some preservation of fruits. The court sentenced each of them

to one month's rigorous imprisonment and also fined Tk 1,000 each. In default, they will have to serve one more month in iail. Another mobile court headed by

Metropolitan Magistrate ABM Abdul Fattah arrested 10 fruit traders at Kaptanbazar for spraying toxic chemicals on mangoes. The court senenced them to one month's imprisonment and fined them Tk 1.000 each.

The same court also convicted the owners of two filling stations in Mirpur and fined them Tk 28,000 for frauduence in selling petroleum. Another mobile court led by Metropolitan Magistrate Abdullahel

Baki sealed three polythene factories in Lalbagh. The court arrested 10 people for running the factories and filed three separate cases against them

## Rab retrieves hand

FROM PAGE 1 Nazrul Islam -- an accused in a number of criminal cases including one for the murder of Sub-Inspector

Raiding the same village, a Rab-4 team recovered a grenade of the same model and an ivory on January 10 this year and arrested Mohammed Hossain, Rahim and Mamun.

Tipped off that Nazrul has several illegal firearms in his possession, the Rab team headed by Lieutenant Humavun Kabir raided Borodeshi villagé in Aminbazar under Savar at 3:30am yesterday. However, they did not find Nazrul or his other associates there, but

arrested Anju to quiz him about the whereabouts of Nazrul and the illegal firearms. The team searched out the grenade abandoned in the bush behind Aniu's house and later took him to Rab-4 office at Paikpara in Mirpur for interrogation. "It is a high-powered Arges model grenade," Major Samad, the second-in-command of Rab-4, confirmed while talking to The Daily

gests it was manufactured in 2001. Rab sources said its body is made of high quality olive green plastic and the safety pin is blackish

The grenade contains about

Star yesterday. It contains 95 grams

of high PETN explosive, said a Rab

press release. The inscription on the grenade head '02/01/2001' sug-

5,000 steel balls and each ball acts as shrapnel after it goes off. It explodes four to five seconds after the safety pin is pulled out and the blast covers 15 to 20 metres of area. The elite force suspects the

session and Anju was its carrier and that the gang may be in possession

of more explosives and firearms. Anju, however, did not admit to possessing or carrying the grenade. We will further interrogate him today and turn him in to the police for legal action," said Major Samad.

'Although the gang chiefly controls drug trade, we have information that they have large numbers of illegal firearms and explosives," he

He said Nazrul. Anar and Mintu known as Agargaon Mintu, run the operations. Mintu controls the passport brokers in Agargaon. The grenade is similar to the 20

the police recovered from the capital's Kuril Badda. They had also seized four AK-47 rifles, 990 bullets two foreign-made revolvers, seven revolver bullets, two 2-kg plastic explosive bombs, four time bombs half a kilogram of gunpowder, six electric detonators, four-and-a-halfyard detonation wire, two firing devices with charger, two time devices and a walkie-talkie from a shop, Tulir Parash, that belonged to the ruling BNP-backed Ward Commissioner Hazrat Ali.

Similar grenades were used in the assassination attempt on opposition leader Sheikh Hasina at the Awami League rally, leaving 20 including AL's women affairs secretary Ivy Rahman dead and some 200 others wounded. The grenade blasted at the Sylhet shrine killed three and wounded Bangladeshborn British High Commissioner

## Top trade bodies

ill-gotten wealth and, at the same time, cause frustration to the honest

This budgetary proposal should be dropped altogether to improve the image of the country, which regrettably is being rated for the last few years as one of the most corrupt countries in the world," they added.

Mahbub Jamil, president of the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mahbubur Rahman, president of the International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh; Syed Manzur Elahi, chairman of the Bangladesh Association of Banks; Kutubuddin Ahmed, president of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Aftab-ulslam, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh; Sayeeful Islam, president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry; AK Azad, president of the Bangladesh Chamber of Industries; Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, president of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry; M Ali Behrouze Ispahani, chairman of the Bangladesh Jute Mills Association; and M Shamsul Alam, chairman of

the Bangladesh Insurance Association, signed the statement. In the statement they said: "At the most, the government could allow this facility for the very fast time provided a higher income tax of minimum 30 to 40 percent is

charged to whiten black money, once for all." The continuation of the scheme for whitening black money by paying 7.5 percent income tax is a reversal of the finance minister's pronounced stand to bring in accountability and transparency in the tax administra-

tion, the business leaders felt. About the imposition of Tk 1,200 tax on SIM card, they said it will badly affect the social empower

ment aspect of mobile phones They observed that the tax on SIM card not only will cause reduction in the collection of VAT, but also reduce import duties and corporate taxes from the mobile phone operators as this will dampen the expansion of tele-density. It will also affect investment in the sector.

By withdrawing the tax on SIM card, the revenue could be increased manifold every year through VAT on the new connections, the businessmen observed.

Simultaneously, the mobile phone operators should also reduce their tariff structure and withdraw the incoming charge following similar practices in the neighboring countries, they said.

The decision of lowering tax on mobile set is a positive step as this will act as a stimulating factor for the market growth and will discourage smuggling.

Commenting on the budget posture, they said: "The ambitious expenditure programme ought to be kept under constant review. Under no circumstances, the government should increase its borrowing from the banking system.

It appears that in a bid to enhance mobilisation of internal resources, taxes and levies, in some cases, have been proposed without considering their economic consequences, they said, adding that it is well known that imposition of taxes or levies does not automatically improve the tax-GDP ratio.

The budget has made very little allocation for development of infra-Rocca's statement to the US House structure including power generation, distribution and transmission, Subcommittee on Foreign Relations which indicates that hardly any in Washington on Tuesday, the law substantial improvement in the power situation could be expected n the near future, the leaders context. pointed out.

"The enhancement of corporate tax rate for non-listed companies is except one word or one sentence. not an investor-friendly step, belying When his attention was drawn to our campaign for a liberal tax a report of the Human Rights Watch,

which said Bangladesh is being The insurance sector also stands turned into an Islamic republic from to be badly hit by the budgetary a secular state by a quarter under provisions restricting allowable management expenditures for the patronage of the alliance govinsurance companies, hence this ernment, Moudud said: "May be it is provision should be withdrawn, their opinion. Many minds may have pending amendment to the relevant many opinions; that does not matter Act of 1938 to suit the demand of the We are not suffering from any bank-21st century, they said. ruptcy. I think we are capable of looking after ourselves.'

"We welcome the three-tier

customs duty, which was proposed by the trade and industry bodies but the customs duty rates have not been reduced to the requisite level for items essential to the growth and attainment of competitiveness," the

A high rate of customs duty is illadvised as competitiveness of Bangladesh industries is the urgent need of the hour for survival in a

globalised economy, they felt. They said the budget's provision for boosting agriculture production and better facilities of rural infrastructure is timely and it will be a pity if the same is termed as politically 'motivated.' For bringing the poverty level down by 50 percent within 2015, rural investment is a pre-

condition, they added. Budgetary provision for creation of funds for the 'monga' stricken and retarded people, increased allocation for encouraging girls' education and a fund for the rehabilitation of retrenched and retired garment workers and increased honorarium for freedom fighters are indeed laudable, the business leaders

### Ctg chamber

FROM PAGE 20 He urged the prime minister to make immediate initiatives in resolving the

power outage. He said exportable readymade garments (RMG) sector and the industries that produce perishable goods are the worst victims of the power failure.

Referring to the government initiative to set up small power plants (SPP), Javed said it could be an effective alternative in the present situation.

#### Moudud

FROM PAGE 1

Thomas at a briefing with the Diplomatic Correspondents Association Bangladesh (DCAB) on Tuesday said if the major political parties do not work together on the issues of national interest, people will look for alternative, which will not be good.

Moudud said as an admirer of Bangladesh, the US envoy wants to see democracy on a firm footing and expressed no doubt about the fairness of next elections

He said people of Bangladesh had waged a long-drawn struggle for establishing democracy and will continue to sustain democracy defying all odds and obstacles fears and apprehensions.

"People will not accept anything other than democracy," the law

minister told reporters. "We don't have any difference of opinion with him (Thomas) as we also feel that a sound political culture needs to be nurtured so the democratic process can be maintained and further strengthened," he

Moudud said Thomas appraised

achievement in democracy, social development, action against extremism and economic developbe addressed later. ment as a well-wisher of the country. About US Assistant Secretary for South Asian Affairs Christina

Quazi Mesbauddin Ahmed, minister said: "We should not pick member of the Planning up words, rather judge it in its entire Commission, made a demonstra-He said, "99 percent of her words about Bangladesh were good

Discussants included lawmake

Amin Uddin.

ATM Obaidullah, project implementation specialist of the UNDP attended the discussion.

## Niko claims bought for Bapex

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Niko Resources (Bangladesh) Ltd yesterday issued an explanation about the news published in different newspapers regarding a luxurious car given to State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain.

Niko claimed the car was pur-

chased as per a Bapex-Niko joint venture agreement (JVA). "In the

article 8, it is specified that Bapex

owns all items purchased by Niko's

cost for investment in the joint venture project," the explanation further says Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (Bapex) and Niko had jointly approved the purchase of the car for

Bapex use. The approval was made with all necessary documentation and pursuant to the provisions of the JVA, it says.

As a result, the car is purchased under Banex ownership and was delivered to and received by Bapex officials, it claims,

#### Court orders

took George in body armour to the court on completion of his five-day remand. About 50 law-enforcers escorted George to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate,

The IO pleaded for a 10-day remand saying George has given important information, which they are now checking, and may have more information to reveal.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) arrested George from Daudkandi in Comilla on June 10 and showed him arrested in the

### Seven cops

Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) of Meherpur Israil Hossain vesterday morning rescued the seven from the village and arrested

The arrested are ASI Altai Hossain, constables Mahafuz, Abul Bashar, Yunus Ali, Bijoy Kumar Babu, Helal Uddin and Habibur Rahman. The arrested were not sent to jail as police were interrogating them. The five absconding are SI

Khorshed Alam, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel Jahangir, Alabesh, ansar member Rashid and chowkidar Susanta. Additional Deputy Inspector General (ADIG) of Khulna Sohrab

Hossain yesterday visited Meherpur. When contacted, ASP Israil Hossain told The Daily Star that if found guilty, all the accused will be

## MPs sceptic

ossain, Opposition Chief Whip Md

Abdus Shahid were also present. Sircar said, "We have to start from the union level to eradicate poverty, involving the respective public representatives. Otherwise. poverty alleviation will not be possible only by preparing papers sitting here (capital) because the elected public representatives know best about the problems of their respec-

tive areas. Criticising the NGOs for charging high rates of interest for providing micro-credit Sircar said their activities will alleviate poverty if they can provide loan taking only service charge instead of interest, and the donors also donate funds only

taking service charge on the money. He also stressed the need for improving the quality education to eradicate poverty. Delwar said, "There is no

PRSP although they know well what the problems in their constituencies He called for forging political consensus on national issues. said the MDG will not be achieved

involvement of public representa-

tives (MPs) in the formulation of the

JP legislator Rawshan Ershad until "we can control population growth, raise literacy rate and

generate employment opportuni-

ties." The PRSP has to

such crucial matters, she added. Replying to questions, economist Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, a member of the PRSP framing group, said the PRSP focuses on punishment and improvement of the system to curb corruption. He said there is a lapse in the PRSP about land use and khas land, which will

Zillur called for a unified social protection policy, and said a seminar will be arranged to frame such a policy for the wellbeing of the peo-

tion on the PRSP goals Lawmaker Abdul Alim moderated the discussion.

ers Rustom Ali Faraji, Khadiza Amin. Mashiur Rahman Ranga Salauddin Ahmed, M Matiur Rahman, Majibur Rahman, Akbar Sultan Mohammad Babu, Shahjahan Chowdhury, Syed Manjur Hossain, M Mosharraf Hossain. Mohammad Ali and MM

## Watchdogs' role

FROM PAGE 1 than 14 crore people. As a consequence, the ministry is unable to conduct its affairs properly, critics say. Mizanur Rahman Sinha, the state

minister for Health and Family Welfare, refused to comment on this issue.

"I do not want to say anything about this," he told The Daily Star.

Many ministers and several government officials concerned refused to speak with the correspon-

dent about this issue. Other government agencies suffer from similar staff constraints. The Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute (BSTI) is responsible for ensuring the guality of all food products throughout the country, but has only 13 field officers to carry out this colossal duty. In Dhaka, only 18 sanitary inspectors of the Corporation are tasked with ensuring the food quality for more than ten million people.

In addition to their individual constraints, these agencies also lack proper communication lines with one

another, critics say.
"Even though the government agencies are working, they do not have co-ordination among each said Qauzi Faruque, the general secretary of the Consumer Association of Bangladesh (CAB). The government has recently made

efforts to crackdown on adulterated food. Following reports published in The Daily Star, the home ministry formed mobile courts and instantly jailed several people for spraying poisonous chemicals on mangoes and

"We have ordered to take actions against the culprits," the state minister for home affairs told reporters following a meeting at the ministry on Wednesday.

Critics welcome these efforts, but say that, without strong laws and a strong regulatory system, the real masterminds and moneymakers will "Not only is the government not formulating new strict laws, even the existing laws also are not being imple-

mented. So the culprits always remain out of touch," said Faruque of CAB. A solution exists, critics say, but the political will necessary to implement it

Chittagong punched the air amidst

applause from the stand when he

pushed for a single at square-leg for his third one-day fifty.

His partner in an absorbing 96-ball

stand Rafigue scored a responsible 30

off 57 bails. The southpaw better

known for his big hitting ability, how-

ever, played sensibly but not before

hitting the first six of the innings -- an

by Mashrafee-bin-Mortuza,

with Nazmul Hossain before the

innings folded in 45.2 overs. But Bangladesh were heading for

trouble after being sent in by England captain Michael Vaughan in overcast

conditions. Wickets fell quicker than

Opener Javed Omar moved

the rain had come and gone interrupt-

quickly to 13 on a wicket that can be

best described as a batting paradise. But the lone consistent performer of

the tour so far paid the penalty for

playing across the line against Jon

I ewis. The debutant fast bowler then

removed Mohammad Ashraful for a

first-ball duck with a perfect delivery on

the off-stump for the just arrived

batsman that took the edge and went

into the waiting hands of a busy

after four overs, Nafees Iqbal punched

what could have been the hattrick hall

for Lewis for three but the out-of-form

opener became the third victim of

Lewis in the 10th over -- edging to slip

Steve Harmision, coming as first

change for Darren Gough, then ripped

through the middle order in a whisker

The tall fast bowler dispatched off

Tushar Imran (10), Habibul Bashar

(19) and Khaled Mashud (1) in 17

deliveries conceding just eight runs.

Tushar was unlucky to be played on.

Bashar tried to slice a rising ball that

was too close to cut and Mashud

played a funny shot and was caught

while tentatively playing at a delivery -

after scoring a solid-looking 19.

With Bangladesh reduced to 19-2

England wicketkeeper Geraint Jo

ing the proceeding thrice.

Aftab

Collingwood.

FROM PAGE 20

remains in short supply, much like the government's staff "The impact of adulterated food In 1995, the government drafted the Consumer Rights Protection Law. which calls for a special tribunal to try

## innings only 21 overs old. The young-right hander from

Foreign envoys to make the next general election free fair and transparent through long-term

far as we can to extend our assistance for holding the next general election in a fair and transparent way," Thomas

said the US is closely observing the progress of the case.
"I assured her [Hasina] that we are

Bangladesh. Thomas also told Hasina that the

nade attack," Jalil said. Expressing doubt about the Criminal Investigation Department's claim of finding the clues to the incident, the AL general secretary said 'After ten months of the incident the government's attempt to link up the

oring the perpetrators of all grenade attacks under justice, he added.

al-Hassaniani and Dr. Bahaa al-Din al-Bakri of the city's hospital. The officials identified the dead judge as Salim Mahmoud al-Haj Ali. Mosul is 360km

constitution. A Shia-dominated parliamentary committee drafting Irag's new constiution offered a compromise to the country's Sunni Arab minority in an to break a deadlock over

tee chairman Hummam Hammoudi's

The surge in attacks appeared aimed at derailing efforts by Shia and Kurdish politicians to bring the disaffected Sunni Arab minority into the political process, particularly the drafting of the new constitution. The new charter must be approved by parliament by mid-August and put to a nationwide vote two months later. If passed, it will be the basis for a new election in December A car bomb exploded early yester

day in northern Baghdad, injuring five Iraqi soldiers, police Capt. Ahmed alstreet and detonated by remote con-

Some proponents of the law say the business community may be to blame for the delay. "I do not know the reasons why the government has not formulated the law. But some quarter of the

Various civic organisations, including CAB, have been pushing for years for

passage of the law, hoping it will give more teeth to the prosecution of

crimes and ensure regular monitoring.
But its passage has dragged on for

more than a decade. In January, the

law was finally passed in a cabinet

meeting, but again it was delayed, and

now remains shelved in the law

Despite repeated attempts, the

aw minister could not be reached for

comments.

Members of the business community disagree, however, saying the law would be beneficial to them as well as consumers. "This law is necessary for the enhancement of business in the tried hard to implement the law." said Monjur Ahmed, advisor to the

Ahmed, who represented the business community in the draft committee of the law, speculated, however, that others in the business quarter of business community.

viewed for this series, common people have repeatedly urged the government to crackdown on adulterated food. It is not only a matter of the present, they say, but the future. The government should stop this practice, otherwise our future genera-

Failing to do so will have grave repercussions, experts warn. Dr. Saiful Islam, a prominent child disease expert, warned that adulterated food poses serious health hazards to

from cancer and genetic damage. The chance is very high," he said.

On the killing of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria, Thomas

that she received in the August 21 grenade attack," the US ambassador Quoting Thomas, Jalil said, "He [Thomas] believes that if the links of

US assistance to Bangladesh will continue in the future no matter who ever comes to power through a democratic way.

August 21 grenade attack by arresting a person is politically motivated." The

Regarding the opposition parties' ioint proposal on the caretaker government reforms, Jalil said a combined proposal will be placed before the nation after Dr Kamal Hossain returns

# 6 GIs killed in Iraq

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seemed close to agreement on a demand by Sunni Arabs for more participation in the effort to draft a

The offer suggested that 13 additional Sunni Arabs join the committee in a parallel body. The head of a major Sunni religious organisation and a spokesman for the community's argest political party rejected commit

business communities may oppose the law." said Professor Anawar Hossain the convenor of the law's draft commit

Federation of Bangladesh Chamber Commerce and Industries (FBCCI).

community may be against it. "But it would create obstacles to a certain While the passage of the law stalls. the public is waiting. When inter-

tions will suffer from deficiencies should realize the situation, said Sharifa Khatun, a housewife from Azimpur, underscoring the long-term effects of unchecked adulterated

upon children is very serious. If a minor boy or girl consumes DDT [a toxic chemical used in pesticides or carcinogens mixed in food, they could suffer

observation," AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil told reporters quoting Thomas as saying.
"We, the United States and other foreign countries, will do everything as

vigilant on the Kibria killing case. We also discussed her safety and injuries

Kibria killing could be unveiled, it would lead to the discovery of the sources of all grenade attacks in

"They feel that if the FBI and Interpol were allowed to work freely, it would be possible to find out the criminals behind the August 21 gre-

government has made no effort to

northwest of Baghdad. In Baghdad, Iraqi legislators

demands they have a bigger say in drawing up the charter.

Another car bomb struck an Iraqi

caused the highest daily death toll in more than three weeks appeared

posted on a militant web site

#### two civilian cars, leaving the pavement stained with blood. Kirkuk is 180 miles north of Baghdad. On Thursday, five Iraqi soldiers were wounded when their convoy was hit by a car bomb in the Sulaikh district on the capital's northern end, an

interior ministry source said.

military convoy in the northern city of

Kirkuk, injuring five soldiers and an 8-

Talabani said. The attack slightly

damaged three military vehicles and

year-old boy, police Capt. Farhad

100 pounds of explosives and disguised in an army uniform blew himself up in a crowded mess hall Wednesday as brutal attacks across Iraq killed more than 50 people. In a dramatic raid, Iraqi and US forces freed Australian hostage Douglas Wood held by insurgents for 47 days. The swell in violence

med at derailing stepped-up efforts

by Shia politicians to bring the disaf-

A militant strapped with more than

fected Sunni Arab minority into the political process. The two groups are al-Qaeda in Iraq claimed responsi-

army base in Khalis, about 68km north of Baghdad. The attacker "was invited to this lunch, and we ask Allah that he finishes his food in paradise," al-Qaeda said in an Internet statement

trying to write a groundbreaking constitution and gain necessary approval to allow government-building to move forward. bility for the mess hall bombing at an

#### effortless heave over the head of England medium pacer Paul It was the second highest individual told the reporters after the meeting. score ahead of a flowing unbeaten 29 dominated a 31-run last wicket stand