# Jamaat main patron

**FROM PAGE 16** through patronisation of terrorism

and corruption.
"BNP and Jamaat have created a reign of terror across the country... And Jamaat is the main patron of terrorism, all the terrorists here are being sheltered by Jamaat," she told reporters at Zia International Airport prior to her departure for London en

Hasina will visit Strasbourg, France, at the invitation of Rene Vander Linden, president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE). From Strasbourg, she will go to Moscow.

In a blistering attack on Jamaat she alleged that Jamaat has been training terrorists through its 14-15 outfits with the help of BNP under a design to eliminate the Awami League and cling to power.

"BNP and Jamaat are responsi-

ble for all the killings and grenade attacks, but after all incidents, they have shifted the blame on the Awami League.

The Al chief also came down heavily on "Hawa Bhaban" when she said the bhaban decides who will be killed next. "If searched, one would find a hit list of the Awami League leaders and activists in the computer of Hawa Bhaban." she

On the August 21 grenade attack, she said police have not yet

arrested anyone involved in the incident. "Now the government intelligence is trying to implicate AL leaders in the deadly attack, Hasina added.

Defending her allegation, she said another proof of the government's involvement in the attack is that law-enforcement agencies did not hunt down the attackers even after 10 to 12 grenade blasts and gunshots at her rally on that day.

She questioned the CID's sudden claim of finding the clue to the August 21 attack after the passage of 10 months when, she alleged, the government destroyed all evidence behind the CID's claim," she told the

## Big fire burns

Bank Bhaban at about 5:30am, firefighters said.

The firefighters with 15 vehicles put out the fire after struggling for four hours. Furniture, airconditioners, computers and other office materials worth around Tk 40 have been destroyed, they

Panic gripped the entire area as soon as the fire broke out. Hundreds people thronged the spot halting traffic movement on the adjacen

# Bidisha's bail plea

FROM PAGE 1
not getting proper treatment at the prison cell of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMUH). Earlier, Bidisha was granted ad-interim bail in three cases, filed by Ershad and But police filed the money laun-

dering case when Bidisha was about to be released from the jail on Thursday.

The counsel for Bidisha also said the case was filed to harass her politically, and the government has done it for petty gains. Ershad too should be accused in the case as the date of occurrence was during their coniugal life, they said adding the former president is included as the accused, vital clues to what really happened will come

Moreover, the section under which the charge has been brought is bailable, the lawyers argued.

Ershad, chairman of Jatiya Party (JP), stands accused in 18 criminal cases, and of those, he was convicted in three cases. Three other cases are now at the stage of verdict while the rest are pending with different courts.

He has filed the cases against Bidisha just to save his own skin and avoid the arrest, Shafiuddin

Înspector Sairul Islam told the court that the accused had funnelled the currencies illegally and the investigation regarding the case is at primary stage. He said another court on Thursday already fixed June 20 as the date for hearing on the issue of interrogation at the prison cell (of BSMMUH).

Meanwhile, the same court ected the bail petition of Jasmin alias Sangma, domestic help of Bidisha, accused in the case filed for theft, rampage, and making threats on Ershad's life

Ershad filed the first case against Bidisha with Gulshan Police Station on June 4 for theft, rampage, and making threats, the second case on 5 with the First Class Magistrate's Court, Dhaka for cheating on him after marriage, and the third one with Mohammadpur Police Station on June 8 for passport forgery. She was granted bail in all three cases.

Then on June 16, Officer-in-Charge of Gulshan Police Station Kazi Nure Alam filed the money aundering case. He, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, filed under Section 13 of the Money Laundering Control Act 2002 follow ing the approval of Bangladesh Bank on June 14.

Bidisha, arrested on June 4 is now at the BSMMUH prison cell

## Khulna stopped

(GKDACC) in protest against nonallocation of funds in the proposed national budget for the fiscal 2005-2006 for implementation of some development projects in greater Khulna.

ruling BNP and Jamaat, extended their support to the daylong shutdown to protest non-allocation of funds for the development pro-

Padma bridge at Mawa point, supply of gas in greater Khulna through pipeline, installation of a 250mw power plant, deep sea port at Akram point, infrastructural development of Mongla Port, completion of stalled work of Sheikh Abu Naser Specialised Hospital, construction of an airport and reopening of all closed Jute mills, Khulna Newsprint mill and hardboard mill.

the ground floor of the factory.

"I was working on the 1st floor and suddenly saw a spark on the ground floor," said Sumi Akhtar, a machine assistant, adding, "In no time I heard

"Seeing everyone running for the ground, I followed them and suddenly found myself under the feet of hundreds in the narrow stairs." she told reporters.

rushed to the spot but it had already been doused when they arrived, firefighters said, adding that the

of the board," firefighting sources

Nine of the injured, eight of them women, were admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) at 11:00am.

their bodies. The hospital authorities, however, later released them after providing first aid.

### Driver held

FROM PAGE 16

"I lost control of the bus after crossing the Shahbagh intersection and hit her," Manik told reporters while in the Rab custody

after the incident, he said. The other helper of the bus,

Aslam Hossain, 22, arrested on June 2, is now in jail. The regular driver of the bus is

FROM PAGE 1 A joint team of army and police

arrested the nine suspected Manipuri insurgents in a predawn raid at Kalaghata under Bandarban

Abdur Rakib, officer in charge of

Bandarban Police Station, said information obtained from the once the information is verified.

the arrestees, admitted his involvement with the People's Liberation Army of Manipur (PLAM).

PLAM in 1999 but currently is not active anymore in the party. He also said that PLAM is not at all a militant organisation, rather it has long been running a conventional movement for liberation of the

### MP aspirants

the High Court, in which the contenders will have to submit the required information to the returning

officers (RO). The RO will make the information public through the media to inform the voters of the candidates.

The High Court on May 24 ordered the EC to gather information on the runners in the upcoming parliamentary elections and make them public to help voters properly choose their representatives.

Apart form academic qualification, profession, source of income. criminal records, if any, the contenders will have to inform the EC about whether they had been members of parliament before and the role they played individually and collectively in fulfilling the commitment given to the

The candidates will also have to report to the RO about the amount of loan taken from the banks and financial institutions (personally, jointly or through dependants) or loans taken from the banks by the company of which the candidate is the chairman or director.

The court directives would for the first time be implemented in the Sunamganj-3 by-elections slated for July 20, according to the decision of the EC meeting chaired by Chief Election Commissioner MAAziz.

"We approved the format and affidavit to implement the High Court directives. We will start implementing the measures from the Sunamganj by-elections," Election Commissioner M Munsef Ali yesterday told The Daily

The meeting also discussed the Narsingdi-1 by-elections scheduled for June 22 and asked officials to discharge their duties properly to hold the polls in a free and fair manner.

# Disqualified Chinese

implemented after a year's delay and it is not functioning properly since its launch two months ago.

The last cancelled bid for Fenchuganj plant drew an offer of \$85 million (around Tk 500 crore) from Japanese company Sumitomo Corporation. The other cancelled bids simi-

larly generated wider participation and lower price offers, but every time pressure from the lobbies trying to win the bid using political connections led to their cancella-

Sources said when the PDB floated the sixth tender for the project in October last year, two companies participated in it, Sumitomo and Harbin.

The tender rules dictate that the bidder must have 10 years of experience in setting up and operating combined cycle power plants. Harbin lacks this experience but the PDB overlooked it. The company only worked partially in a major power project in Pakistan, which is not considered a qualification as per the tender rules. In November, Sumitomo with-

drew from the bid, alleging the PDB sided with Harbin which is not supposed to be considered technically qualified under the bidding criterion. The cabinet committee vester-

day also approved appointment of a consultant at a cost of Tk 17 crore for Bangladesh Post-Flood Road Recovery Assistance Programme. funded by the World Bank.

Moreover, it okayed a proposal to

are assigned to appropriate compa-

nies, said Japanese foreign ministry

they will have to resume working in the

same sectors they belong,

Bangladesh Ambassador M Serajul

Islam told the Daily Star at his Tokyo

"But this is not a manpower agree-

ment. This is rather an agreement to help the Bangladeshi workforce in the

SMEs to improve their skills through

hands-on experience and technology

for the Foreign Affairs Ministry of

Japan, also told The Daily Star at his

Tokyo office that his country will give

special emphasis on human

resources development for

Bangladesh through various

ogy and knowledge so that when they

return to their country they can imple-

some as teachers, students and

service holders. However, there are an

estimated 3000 to 7000 more

Bangladeshis living and working

illegally, according to expatriates and

in Japan ranges between 2.5 million

The typical pay in different sectors

diplomatic sources.

Presently some Bangladeshi

ment those." Aisawa said

"We want to help Bangladesh in

Ichiro Aisawa, Senior Vice Minister

transfer," Islam added.

"Upon their return to Bangladesh,

officials requesting not to be named.

PM may sign

LONDON HR MEET Dhaka to counter lease out, on a commercial basis

the marketing and distribution of

Dhaka Electric Supply Authority

(Desa). A company named Basic

Engineering has been assigned to

do the job. The company will pay

Desa Tk 2.28 for sale of per kilowati

Appointment of a consultant for

Dhaka Urban Transport Project

(DUTP) at a cost of Tk 65.99 crore

The purchase committee, mean-

while, sent back a proposal on

procurement of equipment and

services from a Chinese company

for a telecom sector project on the

around of corruption and irregulari-

The US\$ 9.43 million digital

telephone exchange installation

and expansion scheme was

planned for implementation with the

fund generated as a surplus of a

suppliers credit from China for a

is an extension of the larger project,

the Bangladesh Telegraph and

Telephone Board (BTTB) planned to

award the contract to the company,

which received the work order for

the original project, without inviting

tion in the process of project prepa-

ration and awarding of contract. The

Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC)

has also filed a case in this connec-

and Japan, this number may decrease

in the coming years, diplomatic

Bangladesh's support to Japan in its

bid to become a member of the United

Nations Security Council (UNSC) may

place Bangladesh in a priority position

On the other hand, considering

There are allegations of corrup-

fresh tender.

Since the planned new scheme

similar but larger telecom project.

has also been approved

**BTTB PURCHASE** 

**PLAN SENT BACK** 

ties, reports BDNEWS.

### criticism today electricity in Siddhirganj on behalf of

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

campaigns.

general elections.

Bangladesh to be held at the House of

Slain Awami League (AL) leader and former finance minister SAMS Kibria's son Reza Kibria raised the issue of sliding law and order Participants representing Bangladesh government, including the envoy, reportedly said the law and order is good excepting some 'fallout' of the previous AL rule.

'encounters' and earned the wrath of who took a serious note of 'extrajudicial' killings, reports said.

pants as he gave importance to the sentiments of 140 million people over the rights of what he termed a paltry one-lakh Ahmadiyya minority.

they were trying to preach.

men the visiting government delegates will hold a meeting with interested members of the public to discuss the overall situation in Bangladesh at London Muslim Hall.

## EU unity bid

"In reality we were close to an agreement," added French President Jacques Chirac. "I deplore the fact that the United Kingdom refused to contribute a reasonable and equitable share of the expenses of enlargement.

"I hope we can move forward from here," Blair told reporters, as in terms of warfare. "Our people

between countries like Britain, which want a lean market-oriented alliance, and others who want a deeper alliance with social benefits

### 3 criminals FROM PAGE 1

highway robber, who was arrested during a gunfight between police and robbers on Friday, was killed in upazila early vesterday.

Upazila. Sagar, 28, arrested from the spot

pledge made to the people and the

or quasi-judicial. "... When a former judge cannot assume the office of Sagar was rushed to Chandina Upazila Health Complex where Chief Election Commissioner on doctors declared him dead. retirement, the question of a sitting

# Mosharraf resigns

corruption in the previous BNP regime,

resigned on health grounds, the sources added. Although an investigation committee clearly blamed Niko that sealed the unsolicited deal in Bangladesh using

political lobby in the "alternative power

house" of the government, it has not

been punished or penalised so far. The Tengratila blowout damaged at least 10 billion cubic feet (BCF) of gas worth \$2.5 million, apart from severely damaging the geological

Instead of punishing Niko and its drilling contractor, who is backed by the "alternative power house", the minister punished the managing director of Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration Company (Bapex).

country's one and only joint venture agreement in the gas exploration and development sector. The agreement was signed in defiance of the resistance and reservations by Petrobangla experts. A Petrobangla evaluation found

gas fields during the second round block bidding in 1997. Earlier yesterday, on his return

from a US trip, Mosharraf told journalists that he would not return the Tk 1 crore 2005 model Lexus car to Niko, as there was "nothing wrong in it".

would not be derived from the sale of Bangladeshi gas.

However, the unusual joint venture agreement between Niko and Bapex provides that all costs are to be borne by Niko, which is recoverable when Niko starts producing gas from a gas field. It means Niko's spending is basically funded by proceeds from gas

around 20 to 40 million cubic feet per day (mmcfd) gas from its small Feni Niko is liberally spending on gov-

ernment officials, including the minister, sources said. Recently, it sponsored a trip of several high Petrobangla officials. Talking to the press at his residence, Mosharraf said, "There is no

question of returning the car. This is ust a conspiracy to hurt the image of the government and the party (BNP). Because if anyone can find something against a minister, that hurts the government's image. "This is just blowing a small issue out of proportions. It is unjustified to call

this a gift. I will use this for official purposes, it is not for my personal use. It will go back to Bapex once I am done with it." he said. The Bapex MD himself delivered the car to him. "I liked the car. I used it

for a couple of days and then asked them to install a flag stand," Mosharraf Mosharraf's driver received the car rom Niko Resources on signing a

paper. "This was not appropriate. My personal secretary should have done that," Mosharraf said. "As a joint venture partner, Niko can give anything to Bapex. When

they will leave Bangladesh, their assets will be with Bapex," he added. Mosharraf said if he had received a car from the government car pool, he would have considered returning the

Lexus to Bapex. "All companies under Petrobangla have multiple cars given by foreign companies," he added. However, none of such cars comes even close to Lexus; all of them are jeep that came as part of the projects for pipeline laying or driving on rough

terrain. There is no Lexus or Mercedes in Petrobangla's stock sources confirmed. Before indulging in Lexus, Mosharraf had been using two Pajero eeps from the Gas Transmission Company Ltd (GTCL) and another from Titas Gas. One of these cars was

returned recently. His son uses one Pajero and his private secretary the other, sources said. Mosharraf claimed that he was not aware of the Tengratila investigation report's estimate that more than 10

BCF gas was damaged in the Tengratila explosion. He claimed that "compensation" is being "paid" by He also justified Niko's giving him

the car. "They have another car of the type. So they thought of giving one to Bapex NIKO DEAL

### A faulty and unusual contract has kept

Niko Resources unaccountable to Petrobangla, the oil and gas regulatory authority that constitutionally regulates all oil companies working in Bangladesh under production sharing contracts (PSCs). Niko has no contract with

Petrobangla as the government highups violated all rules and regulations to award the Tengratila gas field (also known as Chhatak West Gas field) along with two other fields through a joint venture with Bapex. Bapex has been given 40 percent

share in a trade-off that allows Niko access to these fields, but Bapex has virtually no role in the operations.

This field as well as Feni and Kamta fields were originally ringfenced as "marginal gas fields" for future use of Petrobangla. Niko got all these in addition to an unexplored field known as Chhatak east through an unsolicited deal. But for any other oil company, the

rule is that they must come through competitive bidding and sign PSCs that give the companies specific

### 60 killed FROM PAGE 16

foreign fighters are believed holed up in Al-Anbar, a broad swath across western Iraq. According to the US military, nsurgents cross into the country from

Syria along its porous and desolate border, where US marine air strikes

In case of the rule for giving away the ring-fenced gas fields, if such a field is located within a block where an oil company is operating under a PSC

that company gets priority. The Tengratila field is located within block 12 where Unocal is operating. When the government, under the influence of a certain "Bhaban"

handed this area to Niko back in April 2003, Unocal protested. Petrobangla had also expressed reservations about the joint venture between Niko and Bapex on the grounds that it does not follow any

the energy ministry argued that the government is represented here through Bapex's joint venture involve-

former energy secretary Towfik-e-Elahi during the Awami League regime. However, the company got a stronger lobby in the certain "Bhaban' after the BNP came to office.

marginal gas field with a small reserve. It started supplying gas to Petrobangla without fixing a price, thanks to Mosharraf's relentless pressure on

stakes from US giant Chevron-Texaco in the Block 9 oil and gas exploration. Mosharraf's questionable roles

After getting the portfolio, Mosharraf strongly promoted gas export by US company Unocal. At the same time, he played contradictory roles when Petrobangla tried to file a compensation claim against Unocal for the gas lost to the Magurchhara blowout. At first, he did not allow Petrobangla to file the \$685 damage claim for the loss.

government would take Unocal to court over the matter. However, there has been no such move. The Daily Star in an in-depth report in 2002 showed a corruption involving

Tk 60 crore in a pipeline project of Titas Gas. The report showed that more than half the money was swindled and despite internal investigation reports submitted to the minister, he backed The Daily Star also exposed a

corrupt meter reader who made millions by swindling Titas and owns huge assets, cars and an industry. The inister again did not punish him.

The minister had been interfering with appointments in the nine autonomous bodies of Petrobangla. The Daily Star reported that some of these appointees were involved in big-time corruption and systematically raised crores of taka every month through different illegal means. The minister never acted to remove the officials or

About Tk 200 crore is drained out of the Titas gas every year. Sources say a part of this sum ends up in the pock-

Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), and the industries secretary After the fall of Ershad regime.

In 1997, Mosharraf took money from Marubeni for a trip to London and Hong Kong.

1999 World Cup and the next one over India in December last vear both came when they batted first.

It was also evident in the morning when Australian captain Ricky Ponting won the toss and decided to bat.

Opener Adam Gilchrist was the first moon when New Zealand umpire Billy Bowden raised his crooked finger amidst applause from the stand where the English supporters also joined a few hundred Bangladeshis.

Australia had a goose bump when Ponting (1) also departed in the same fashion -- coming out of his crease and missing a good length delivery from Tapash Baisya.

mid-off off a no-ball by Tapash.

Clarke then led the recovery putting on 108 runs for the fourth wicket. Martyn and Clarke struck 54 before Tapash

a fairly defendable total clobbering 51 runs in the last five overs. Katich scored a breezy 31 and Hussey struck 31 off 21 balls.

# Opposing the petition, GRO Trade, security

Bangladesh High Commission in India will assist the foreign secretary in the

continue efforts at all levels to further strengthen bilateral cooperation Hemayet pointed out. "Our cooperation with India is multifaceted...we have interaction not only at the official level but there is intensive engagement between the

significance as both the countries

have reiterated their commitment to

and people of various walks of life of He said the engagements provide a strong foundation for enhanced

business communities, civil societies

bilateral cooperation between the two close neighbours. "We are going to emphasise the positive elements that underpin our cooperation which. I think, will facilitate looking for ways and means to address some of the issues where there may be differences of views. I am confident that our meeting will facilitate

building a strong partnership for progress for the mutual benefit of our people," said the foreign secretary, who flies to New Delhi tomorrow. Asked about the issues to figure prominently at the talks, he said secu-

rity, border management, trade and sharing of water resources of common rivers may come up for discussion. The Bangladesh side would reiterate the issues of duty-free access of

## **UP** member beats up 2 govt staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Two government staff were critically injured in Charghat upazila last night when a union parishad (UP) member and his associates beat them up with hammers. Golam Rabbani, upazila project

implementation officer and his

assistant Manjoor Ali were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College

Hospitál with serious wounds ŏn heads and other parts of body. A group of criminals led by Bhai Laxmipur UP member Abdul Hamid waylaid the officials in front of Charghat dak bungalow at around 7:30pm while they were on their way home by a motorcycle.

They felled the two on the ground and beat them with a hammer. The attack was made after the officials' denied the UP member some 1800-kg government-allocated wheat for "works" that

In the morning yesterday, the UP member, known as a BNP adherent, threatened to kill Golam Rabbani over mobile phone. A case has been filed accusing Abdul Hamid and others, but police

could not arrest anyone till filing of

were not actually done, sources

barriers and trade gap, he said. "I do not want to speculate anything about

the meeting because we are due to discuss all bilateral issues. After the formal talks, Hemayet is expected to meet a number of Indiar leaders to discuss further expanding

bilateral cooperation Our New Delhi Correspondent Pallab Bhattacharya said the Bangladesh foreign secretary is likely to pay a courtesy call on Indian President A P J Abdul Kalam and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh besides meeting ministers for commerce Kamal Nath, petroleum Man Shankar Aiyar and water resources Privaranian Dasmunshi. He might also

have talks with Minister of State for Home Sriprakash Jaiswal The foreign secretary-level meeting is expected to revive prospects of regular official-level talks between the

two countries, which appear neglected for too long, sources said. Differences on a range of issues, including security, trade and river water-sharing, often tended to cloud Indo-Bangla ties for long but two recent developments appear to have brought a ray of hope for a turn-

First. Bangladesh's recent drive

against Indian insurgents in its southstern region has been taken note of New Delhi. The second. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh asked ministries to put a new thrust on the economic content of India's relationship with its neighbours. Pointing to an 'extraordinary crisis' in Indo-Bangladesh relations, strategic affairs analyst C R Rajmohan said, "This unprecedented juncture in Indo-Bangla relations can no longer be

managed by officials. It demands a

political intervention at the highest

level. And the initiative must necessar-

ily come from the Indian prime minis-

calendar too demands a purposeful

. the prime minister's diplomatic

## Ratsanjani

engagement with Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 16

appeared to have won the votes of Iran's pious poor, trading on his credentials as a former instructor with the Basij militia, the zealous enforcers of Islamic revolutionary principles. In a campaign where others broke taboos by advocating better ties with arch-foe America, Ahmadinejad said

To secure a first-round victory, one of the candidates needed to obtain at least 50 percent of ballots cast. No presidential election in Iran has one to a second round since the 1979

this was "not the key to all our prob-

amic revolution. "It has been a completely unpredictable election and one still cannot foresee the final result," Deputy Interior Minister Mahmoud Mirlohi told reporters earlier as the count contin-

coalition. The Tongi plant was

All political parties, including the

The projects are construction of

## 15 hurt in RMG

factory caught fire at around 9:45am and reached the electric board on

everyone shouting 'fire'".

Firefighters with three vehicles

stampede injured at least 15. "It only gutted the electrical wires

The injured had injuries all over

driving the bus at the time of the accident as the driver Zahirul Islam was sitting behind.

He was living in the tin-roofed rented house of one Dudu Miah

programmes. still absconding 22 days into the mproving efficiency of its human resources including those in the Indian 'rebels' private sector. Overseas trainees may work in Japan to acquire the technol-

trainees are working in Japan under a Police sources said though six of Japan International Cooperation the nine were shown as Indians, for Agency (JICA) programme. But the nsufficient evidence a case was new agreement will increase this filed under section 54 against four number drastically. while another case against two for There are around 5000 illegally entering the Bangladeshi Bangladeshis legally in Japan, some of them as Permanent Residents,

arrestees has been sent to the concerned police station for verification. The next steps would be taken Meanwhile, Khagemba, one of

ven a vear to 5 million ven (or around US 25,000 dollars to 50,000 dollars) He told journalists that he joined making even a short term job for a Bangladeshi most lucrative, despite Japan's very high cost of living. Japan now has similar training programmes with different countries allowing about 200,000 people to work. Of them, there are 80,000

if it plays the right cards. Shifting Bangladeshi government decisions and disrespecting a state to state agreement with the change of

government has remained a major ment, diplomatic sources in both

Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) fertiliser factory 2 agreement with Japan, signed at the fag end of the previous Awami League rulehad literally pushed back Japanese cooperation till mid 2003 when the agree ment was reinstated. With its aging population set to

## region for Bangladeshi job

**PADMABRIDGE** Diplomatic sources requesting anonymity said that the visit of Khaleda Zia

may get to see the signing of another

construction of the Padma Bridge requires huge investment and Japan s not in a position to fund it alone," said a Japanese foreign ministry official. Japan has already funded and is now conducting a feasibility study for

this bridge. The primary impression

given by the Japanese experts suggest that Bangladesh should get more donors in order to implement such an enormous project. The Bangladeshi prime minister is also expected to participate in the 14th

### Chinese trainees. However, due to diplomatic tensions between China Economic Co-operation. Why holding 2 offices

judge from May 23.

Mannan Khan and Nazneen Nahar Dipu filed the petition on June 11 asking for an explanation as to under what authority Justice Aziz

The HC partly heard the petition

that day and ordered the petitioners

to gather from the Supreme Court

claims to be simultaneously holding

registrar whether Aziz is still holding the office of Appellate Division judge. The court also directed them to inform it of their findings during yesterday's hearing. The counsel for the petitioners vesterday told the court that the lawyer filing the petition, Advocate M Saleem Üllah, on June 12 asked in writing to the SC registrar for

providing them with information on

whether CEC MAAziz is still holding

office of a judge, but they are yet to

The counsel also told the court citing press reports that quoted the newly appointed CEC as saying that he had not resigned as a judge. Advocate MI Faruki moved for the petitioners, while Deputy

Attorney General Zaman Akhter

Bulbul opposed the petition.

get a reply.

The petitioners submitted that Aziz violated the terms of the oath of office he had taken on January 7, 2004 as a judge when he accepted the office of CEC by taking a different oath on May 23. So, he ceases to hold the office of a Supreme Court

hurdle for the Japanese government to come forward helping Bangladesh in many areas- especially in invest-

Japanese and Bangladesh camps The cancellation by the BNP government of the 75 million dollar

increase rapidly in the coming decade and the overall population set to shrink to 10 crore in 2025 from its present 12 crore. Japan holds a prosperous

agreement on the Padma Bridge "However this is not yet final. The

meeting of the Japan Bangladesh Joint Committee for Commercial and

.. After taking oath as Chief

Election Commissioner, respondent

1 (Aziz) has not been performing his

constitutional duties as a judge of

the Appellate Division for which he

had solemnly taken oath under the

cannot claim to be a judge under

oath, and as such, his name cannot

. On taking oath as CEC, Aziz

Constitution." reads the petition.

Supreme Court of Bangladesh."

office under oath violates the same,

he becomes unfit to hold another

nation under the Constitution,

CEC's office even after his retire-

Aziz would not be able to hold

maintained the petitioners.

another office.

that Aziz's holding the office of CEC is also illegal and unconstitutional, as he disqualifies himself by holding called his four accomplices Alamgir, Akbar, Hridoy and Asad --over telephone and asked them to "Once a person holding high

ment since that office is not judicial were also hurt in the incident.

# BAPEX is the partner of Niko in the

Niko was originally promoted by

In 2003, Niko developed the Feni

Later, when this claim had to be submitted, he repeatedly said the

even investigate these matters.

ets of some influential quarters to make sure the corrupt axis remains unscathed. In the past, Mosharraf was accused of taking kickbacks from Japanese company Marubeni during the controversial Kafco deal in the early 90s. This deal still squeezes out millions of dollars from Bangladesh every year, while ensuring profits for Marubeni and its partners. Mosharrat

Mosharraf was convicted of a rather insignificant graft. However, things

Tigers turn world FROM PAGE 1

But the most inspiring thing for

to go playing the second ball across the line and Bangladesh paceman Mashrafee-bin-Mortuza was over the

The scoreboard read 2-9 and Bangladesh suddenly found themselves in a position they had never been before. Australia moved to 50-2 in 15 overs and reached their hundred in 25.5 overs a situation any team in the world would feel was an achieve-

Damien Martyn and Michael

### A mix of insurgents loval to former president Saddam Hussein and

Niko disqualified to explore or develop

He claimed that the cost of the car

It is presently selling Petrobangla

Mofazzal's remarks on the minority

"the organisers didn't practise what The envoy and other Bangladesh

The high commissioner told news-

stance of the British and the Dutch, budget payments.

have confronted each other for 1,000 years," said France Soir.

Five highway robbers were killed during Friday's gunfight with police at Kalamura Bridge in Brahmanpara

come to Tirchar with Tk 20,000 to secure his release from the police. When police along with Sagar went to the spot at about 2:45pm his accomplices opened fire on them, forcing the law enforcers to

inspectors and three constables

most of the conference participants, reportedly displeased many partici-

government delegates said they were invited to participate in the conference but were obstructed when they attempted to speak.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair denied being isolated by his partners at the summit table. "We were not alone at the table,"

The budget row showed the gulf

an "encounter" between police and his cohorts at Tirchar in Chandina

high office as he breaks his solemn

managed to escape Police recovered a gun and a bullet from the spot.

### appear with other judges of the Supreme Court in official documents and publications of the The petitioners further observed

Trying to flee, Sagar was critically injured during the gunfight, police said, adding that two sub-

killed about 40 people on June 11

Aday after boycotting the much-hyped European human rights conference on Bangladesh in London, the Bangladesh high commissioner to UK convenes a meeting today in East London to counter 'anti-Bangladesh

Participants in the "European Human Rights Conference on Bangladesh: Extremism, Intolerance and Violence" held at the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London on Friday expressed concern over the rise of armed militant forces since the 2001

The Bangladesh envoy, AH Mofazzal Karim, strongly protested this, and walked out of the conference

at one stage. Sources in the British capital told The Daily Star yesterday the high commissioner is set to chair apparently a counter-meeting in East London today, four days ahead of Thursday's scheduled debate on human rights and governance in

The Bangladesh Conference 2005 Steering Committee, with cooperation from Lord Avebury, a House of Lords member, organised Friday's conference where people representing political divides in Bangladesh were locked in a heated debate over human rights and law and order back at home.

BNP lawmaker Khandakar Mahabubuddin described the 'crossfire' incidents as deaths in

Meanwhile, after walking out of the conference, Mofazzal spoke to Bangla media representatives in Britain at a Brick Lane restaurant to resent that

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder told reporters. The Dutch had demanded a cut in their annual

he reiterated his call for a root-andbranch review of the way the European Union spends its money. But the French and British described the cross-Channel clash

during the gunfight, gave some important information about his accomplices as he was interrogated, police said. As per police instructions, he

His four accomplices, however, judge (assuming the same office) does not arise," the petition con-

recognised process. Still, Niko got the joint venture and

Petrobangla.

Meanwhile, Niko also purchased

up the corrupt axis.

was the then chairman of the deal implementing authority, Bangladesh

# changed when he joined the BNP.

Habibul Bashar's men is that conditions and the wicket in Cardiff suited them most. It was a perfect setting with the temperature soaring beyond 30 degrees Celsius and the wicket -typically slow and low like the ones on he subcontinent.

ment given the strength and depth of the Aussie batting line-up. Big-hitting Matthew Hayden started slowly and once he tired to force the ball was bowled by Nazmu Hossain for 37. The left-hander added only seven runs after he was caught at

scored a workmanlike 77 off 111 balls removed both batsmen in his second But Michael Hussey and Simon Katich made sure Australia reached