

# Security, trade

**FROM PAGE 1**  
commitment to continue efforts at all levels to further strengthen mutual cooperation.

The last such meeting was held in April 2003 in Dhaka.

"I have come here with an open mind and expect forward movement in bilateral relations," Hemayet told reporters at the Indira Gandhi International Airport on his arrival in the Indian capital.

Saran received him at the airport.

"We will discuss all issues of bilateral interests and cooperation," Hemayet said talking to newsmen before leaving Dhaka.

"We are looking for a positive consultation and attaching considerable importance to the meeting. This is also significant for our foreign policy," he added.

Asked about the issues to figure prominently at the talks, foreign ministry officials said security, border management, trade and sharing of waters of the common rivers may come up for discussion.

The Bangladesh side will reiterate the issues of duty-free access of Bangladeshi products, removal of tariff barriers and trade gap and the longstanding border demarcation.

Our New Delhi Correspondent Pallab Bhattacharya said the thrust of the talks is understood to be on security concerns of the two countries and enhancement of bilateral trade.

Hemayet, former Bangladesh high commissioner to India before taking over as foreign secretary recently, will meet Saran at 9:15 am at the Ministry of External Affairs. He will then call on Minister of State for External Affairs E Ahmed.

This will be followed by two separate sessions of formal talks at Hyderabad House throughout the day today and, if needed, tomorrow morning. The two sides are likely to come up with a joint statement at the end of the talks, sources said.

Hemayet will also call on Indian home, commerce and petroleum ministers tomorrow.

The Bangladesh foreign secretary is accompanied by joint secretaries of home and commerce ministries Elias Ahmed and Mohammad Mohsin, and directors general of South Asia at the foreign ministry Fazlul Karim Chowdhury and Enayet Maula.

Hemayet is also likely to call on Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Meanwhile, Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna said,

"The meeting provides a timely opportunity to review the entire gamut of issues between the two countries in order to strengthen mutually beneficial and friendly relations".

The two sides would discuss issues relating to security, border management, cross-border movements, cooperation in water resources, economic cooperation, defence exchanges, consular and cultural exchanges and other matters of common interest, he said.

Besides officials from the ministries concerned, the Indian delegation led by Saran will also include representatives from states bordering Bangladesh.

Official sources said the two sides will discuss pragmatic solution to the border problem which erupts from time to time.

Bangladesh is opposing erection of a fence by India 150 yards inside the border, saying it violates a 1975 bilateral agreement on not constructing any 'defensive' structures.

India argues the structure does not violate the agreement. It has stopped fencing work at places where Bangladesh opposed specifically.

## Tk 12 LAKH MUGGING Two JCD men remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday remanded the two students of Dhaka College and its pro-BNP Jatiyatalabi Chhatra Dal (JCD) unit leaders for three days in connection with mugging Tk 12 lakh on Sunday.

Motijheel police arrested Golam Ohab Liton, science and technology affairs secretary of JCD Dhaka College unit, and Azizul Haq, a member, after they mugged the sum from a jewellery shop employee.

But the police failed to nab Ruhul Amin, assistant general secretary of the college unit JCD, who fled with the money.

Dhanmondi police on Sunday night seized about Tk 10 lakh from a room at the International Hostel at Dhaka College following the arrestee's statements.

Sub-inspector (SI) Akhteruzzaman took the arrestees to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka seeking a five-day remand.

Magistrate Mir Ali Reza of the Speedy Trial Tribunal after the hearing remanded them for three days.

Assistant Commissioner (Motijheel) Reza yesterday told The Daily Star police are raiding different places in the city to hunt down Ruhul.

Meantime, Office Secretary Mizanur Rahman of the JCD Dhaka city (North) unit in a press release yesterday said Liton and Ruhul were expelled from the wing on December 11 last year.

Aziz was never a member of the JCD, student wing of ruling BNP, claimed the release.

## Double crime

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Manzur Morshed Labu.

The arrest, however, stemmed from a gross mistake in identity. The police were looking for a suspect named Milon Shaikh, the thirty-two-year-old son of Amzad Shaikh of Shai Khpara staff quarter of Khulna city. An FIR-named Milon Shaikh as an accused in the murder of Manzur Morshed Labu, Secretary of Sonadanga thana Awami League, who was killed in a bomb attack in late January last year.

But the Investigating Officer (IO) of the case, SI Narhu Gopal, arrested the minor boy Milon Howlader after being bribed by the real suspect, Milon Shaikh, police later determined. The minor Milon was picked up on the night of May 2 last year. The IO of the case then sent him to court on May 5, showing him arrested in the murder case.

SI Gopal submitted a chargesheet for the murder case to the CMM Court on May 23 last year, accusing six persons of the murder. The minor boy Milon Howlader was named among them after the real culprit, Milon Shaikh, bribed the IO with Tk 2 lakh in order not to be chargesheeted.

Senior officers of the Metropolitan Police later investigated the incident and determined that SI Gopal had falsely implicated the minor boy in the murder case. SI Gopal was dismissed from police service on March 15 this year.

Despite the investigation by the Metropolitan Police, the innocent Milon has been languishing in jail only for bearing the same name and also for failing to pay bribes to the investigating officer, the family of the victim alleged.

"My innocent son is still in jail. I want justice from conscious people of the society, who are fervently requested to help me get my son out from behind bars," said Yunus Howlader, father of the minor Milon.

Meanwhile, the real accused, Milon Shaikh, is yet to be arrested.

## Grabbers filling

**FROM PAGE 1**  
"We possess this property for three generations and we have the documents. We are filling it up to set up a wholesale centre of brick and sand," he said.

The canal is being filled up with garbage. The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) staff are selling the garbage instead of dumping in the selected dumping site.

"We have to spend some money to collect the garbage," Alamgir said. The DCC cleaners and truck drivers supply garbage at Tk 150 to Tk 200 per truck.

"It is a source of income of the garbage cleaners and truck drivers," said a local tea-stall owner.

Indiscriminate filling up of wetlands in and around the capital has become rampant due to lack of monitoring by the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk).

The wetlands are being filled up one after another. Now the wetlands in the suburb area are sold at Tk 4/5 lakh per katha. Influential people are grabbing this land and filling them up, locals say.

"Filling up wetlands is illegal but we do not have adequate manpower to monitor the earth-filling activities," said Rezaul Karim Tarafdar, member (estate) of the Rajuk.

Asked about the filling up of Hikkar Khal, he said, "I came to know about this particular issue. I will take care of it."

Seven metres of land on both sides of the flood protection embankment belongs to Water Development Board, sources said.

No construction is allowed there without permission. But the board does not take any step to protect the land.

# 23 policemen killed

General Hospital revised his earlier count of 20 dead to 13, saying he miscounted bodies amid the confusion. Massive car bombs usually scatter body parts over wide areas and emergency services often miscount them.

Dr. Tahseen Hassan reported that Irbil Teaching Hospital received one body from the blast. Another injured man died at yet another hospital.

The attack occurred on a main street that leads to the oil-rich northern city of Kirkuk, which is south of Irbil, police said.

The bomber, wearing a police uniform, slammed his car into a gathering of some 200 traffic policemen in a courtyard behind the headquarters at 8 a.m., police Lt. Sulaiman Mohammed said.

At least 20 died and 100 were wounded, said Dr. Mohammed Ali of Irbil Hospital.

The attack occurred on a main street that leads to the oil-rich northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk, which is south of Irbil, police said.

Irbil is one of two major cities in Iraq's northern Kurdish region, which has enjoyed autonomous rule since 1991 under Western protection. The area has been largely sheltered from the incessant violence wracking the remainder of Iraq, but has seen several major bombings blamed on militant Muslim groups.

The bombing came a day after Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari said there are many relatively stable areas in Iraq, such as Irbil and Basra in southern Iraq.

Iraq's Kurds make up 15 percent to 20 percent of Iraq's estimated 26 million people. The community had been oppressed for decades by Iraq's Sunni Arab minority, but has been empowered since Saddam Hussein's ouster two years ago.

Iraq's new president, Jalal Talabani, is a Kurd.

The attack came amid a surge in violence since the Shia-led govern-

ment of Prime Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari was announced April 28. At least 1,182 people have been killed since then, according to an Associated Press count based on police, hospital and military reports. On Sunday, a suicide bomber blew himself up in a popular Baghdad restaurant, killing 23 people, including policemen.

Elsewhere, a band of insurgents launched a bold assault on a Baghdad police station killing eight policemen and an 8-month-old baby early Monday, police said. At least 23 were wounded.

The attack on the Baya police station in southwestern Baghdad began just before dawn and included two car suicide bombs, mortars, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms fire, police Capt. Talib Tamir said.

Gunmen killed three members of the Kurdish Peshmerga militia Monday near a camp in the town of Hit, 85 miles west of Baghdad. Dr. Muhanaad Jawad said from the capital, where the bodies were brought.

A US military patrol exchanged gunfire with insurgents around dawn, close to the Baya commando police station in southern Baghdad, said a statement.

"When an Iraqi police patrol responded to the incident, terrorists detonated a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device, killing four police and wounding four others. One Iraqi police is missing," said a statement.

Another Iraqi security forces member was killed and 15 were wounded when their unit also responded to the first attack, it said.

An Iraq defence ministry source said the second attack included mortar fire against the police, and added that five insurgents had been arrested.

US forces responded with ground and air forces, the US statement said, adding that no US casualties were reported.

# Judge, accused, PP

**FROM PAGE 16**  
pending with the HC.

Following the court order, the three first appeared in person before the court on May 24, and stood in the dock for about two hours.

Again yesterday, Judge Mohammad Shamsul Alam Khan of the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, PP Abdullah Mahmud Hassan, and MD Salauddin Shoaib Chowdhury were in the dock for about two hours.

When the three offered unconditional apologies in writing, the court exempted the judge and the PP from appearing in person.

The Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court on April 30 granted Shoaib bail in the sedition case filed on January 24 last year. The bail was set at a bond of Tk 1 lakh with four guarantors. The PP did not oppose the bail petition despite being the prosecution lawyer.

During hearing on the petition, PP Hassan had told the court that he would have no objection if the court grants the bail with proper guarantors.

The same court on April 2 rejected the bail petition on the grounds that the charges brought against Shoaib had been primarily proved. The prosecution too had opposed the petition, saying Shoaib by his activities had offended the Muslims.

On March 28, the HC bench in a rule ordered the government to explain within 10 days as to why Shoaib would not be granted bail.

The law stipulates that a lower court must not pass any order on a matter, which is pending with the Higher Court.

Shoaib's securing bail in the

lower court drew attention of the HC bench, which regarded the matter as tantamount to contempt of court.

Police arrested Shoaib at Zia International Airport on November 29, 2003 for his alleged ties to Mossad, the Israeli secret service.

Mohammad Abdul Hanif, officer-in-charge (OC) of Airport Police Station, filed a sedition case against him with Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka on January 24 last year.

Shoaib was scheduled to read a paper at a seminar in Tel Aviv, and faxes and e-mails seized from his possession suggested that he had given away sensitive information to others abroad, said the complaint.

A project profile seeking a fund of Tk 12 crore from the Jews in Israel was also recovered from him. The fund was sought to publish three dailies, namely the Dainik Sonali Din, Dainik Rupantar, and Dainik Paribartan, added the complaint.

## Saifur blasted for skipping JS budget discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling BNP lawmaker Manzur Quader yesterday blasted Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman for his absence in the House during discussion on the proposed budget for FY 2005-06.

"Finance Minister hardly attend the House when the lawmakers come up with suggestions of their own on the proposed budget for the next fiscal," Manzur Quader told the Jatiya Sangsad, speaking on the proposed budget.

"Even when he attends the House, he keeps himself busy most of the time talking to others," he said as the ruling party lawmakers from the back bench supported him by thumping on the desks.

Saifur Rahman was not present when the lawmaker was making the speech. He joined the House after Maghrib break.

"How would he [Saifur] bring changes in the proposed budget if he does not listen to the lawmakers?" he questioned.

Quader said finance secretary and other high officials of the ministry should also be present [at the guest gallery] and take note of what the lawmakers have to say about the budget.

The ruling party lawmaker was critical also about recent statements made by US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia and US ambassador in Dhaka who questioned democratic practices and the state of inter-communal relations in Bangladesh.

The BNP lawmaker said, "The US raises questions about democracy in Bangladesh, and at the same time it maintains relations with military-ruled Pakistan, and countries like China and Myanmar."

Alleging that an 'well-orchestrated propaganda campaign' is being run against Bangladesh, he demanded the government allocate Tk 500 crore to fight the 'propaganda'.

## Top criminal Arman placed on fresh remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday took Arman Khan, one of the 23 top listed criminals, on a fresh seven-day remand to grill him about the murder of an unidentified man in Khilgaon in December last year.

Arrested on June 4, Arman had been on remand for the last 17 days – the first 10 days in an arms case and another seven days in a murder case.

The previous investigation officer of the Khilgaon murder case on June 16 filed a petition in the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka accusing Arman of the killing of the unknown man. The court granted the petition.

Arman was placed on the fresh remand following a petition filed by Rab-4 Sub-Inspector Rifat Khan Rajib. The petition said Arman and his accomplices had killed a man on December 18 last year at East Rampura in Khilgaon.

## AL, BNP RALLIES Section 144 imposed

BDNEWS, Sirajganj

Rallies of the ruling BNP and the Awami League (AL) could not be held at Chhongachha Union in Sadar upazila of the district yesterday as the district administration imposed Section 144 in and around the venue.

The AL later held its rally at Phulkocho Primary School ground under the same union.

The AL called the rally at Chhongachha Union Parishad (UP) playground at 3:00pm yesterday protesting the attack on the budget session of the union parishad on June 11 by a gang of criminals.

On the other hand, the local unit of the BNP called a meeting at the same venue at the same time.

Several people, including Chhongachha Union AL General Secretary SM Jinnah, were injured in the attack.

## 394 killed

**FROM PAGE 16**  
according to Odhikar, a rights watchdog.

An Odhikar report says there has been a human disaster on the border because of the killings and abduction of Bangladeshis by the BSF and Indian assailants.

Moreover, 480 Bangladeshi nationals were injured, 469 arrested, 498 abducted, six women were raped and 43 people including eight children went missing, the report says.

Besides, 1,890 Bangladeshis faced human rights violation by the BSF and Indian criminals, especially on the north and southwestern borders from 2000 to May this year.

Odhikar compiled the statistics after scanning reports run by the leading newspapers in Bangladesh.

The rights organisation said the BSF is more aggressive in the north and southwestern bordering regions.

BSF and Indian criminals have killed the farmers when they were working in their fields, says the report. The present scenario is so worsening that the BSF threatens to kill the Bangladeshi farmers if they harvested crop in their own land.

## Tigers face

**FROM PAGE 1**  
eleven from the 13 probables on Tuesday afternoon, it is highly unlikely they will change the winning combination in the day-night contest against the hosts.

Bangladesh, who stunned the world defeating Australia by five-wicket at Cardiff on Thursday, are oozing with confidence before the rematch against England against whom they suffered a 10-wicket defeat in the tournament opener at The Oval.

Starting the tri-nation tournament as rank-outsiders, Bangladesh will now go into the match second in the table with England at the top with two victories.

"To be honest, after two games and we are placed second and most people would be surprised but the mood in the dressing room after that victory is very high.

"We are looking very positing in our next game against England," said the Bangladesh coach.

He also said that those people constantly criticising Bangladesh for the past one-and-a-half months, should stop in their tracks for a while after the win against Australia.

Skipper Habibul Bashar, who also attended the briefing, said they want to play positive cricket as they had done against the Australians.

"We are not thinking in the line of winning or losing. We know we played good cricket against Australia and we want to carry it in the next four games," said the Bangladesh captain, who put on a match-winning 130 runs for the fourth wicket with centurion Mohammad Ashraful.

Bashar however admitted that England on current form was a better side than Australia.

"They have one or two bowlers who are very quick and an all-rounder in Kevin Pietersen," he said.

But conditions in Nottingham, which is as hot as it was in Cardiff, were inspiring for Bashar's men. The heat was also felt during training where Whatmore dictated the two-and-a-half hour nets session wearing only his shorts, a scene one could see frequently in Dhaka.

# Court asks for report

**FROM PAGE 16**

Jagannath Das Khokon granted the petition for showing Bidisha arrested and fixed yesterday for hearing on the issue of interrogation.

Defence lawyers advocates Kamruzzaman Mahubb and Ashraf-UI Alam yesterday told the court that Bidisha has been fighting for life since she was arrested.

She was shifted to BSMMUH following a High Court (HC) order issued in response to a petition challenging the legality of her remand. As the matter is pending with the HC, the lower court should not pass any order on it, the defence lawyers said.

Court Inspector Abdul Mannan Sarker opposed it and said Bidisha was shifted to prison cell following a writ petition filed in connection with the case for cheating, theft and threat on Ershad's life. The matter is not connected with the money laundering case, he added.

Earlier, the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court rejected Bidisha's ad-interim bail petition and fixed July 4 for next hearing of the bail petition.

Ershad filed a case against Bidisha with the Gulshan Police Station on June 4 for theft, rampage and giving threats, another on June 5 with the First Class Magistrate's Court, Dhaka for cheating him after marriage, and the third one with the Mohammadpur Police Station on June 8 for passport forgery.

Bidisha, arrested on June 4 and later taken on a three-day remand

for interrogation in connection with the first case, was granted bail in all of the three cases but could not be released as she was shown arrested in the money laundering case.

## Land ports

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Sonamasjid and Hill are the largest and the government will charge Tk 30 lakh and Tk 14.25 lakh from the two ports as fixed royalty.

The private operators will have to build required infrastructure in the ports, such as office building, port yard, godown, weighing machine and tower, besides making security arrangement and installation of other equipment needed to run the ports effectively, Tajul Islam said.

Earlier in 2003, the government floated tenders inviting applications from private companies who are interested to develop and operate the land ports on BOT basis.

For each land port, the winning bidder will be required to finance, procure, construct, and operate the port facilities for 25 years.

Out of the 13 land ports in the country, the government runs Benapole, while Teknaf was leased out to another private operator.

The remaining ports in Burimari, Darsana, Bhomra, Haluaghat, Tamabil and Akhaura will also be given to private sector after evaluation of the performance of the five ports.

# Hurried move to pay

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Publishers and Sellers Association submitted a memorandum to Project Director Delwar Hossain requesting him to make the submission of income tax certificate mandatory for being qualified as publishers for the project.

"But the project director did not entertain our request and the project officials were rather eager to protect the interest of these unknown publishers," said a publisher of Bangla Bazar requesting anonymity.

"The tender assessment committee asked for only attested copy of the trade licence from the publishers, but it is not difficult to manage a trade licence in exchange of bribe," he said, adding that the income tax certificate can be the only real proof of a businessman.

He alleged that these publishers have neither income tax certificate nor affiliation with any organisation of trade bodies.

Allegations are there about widespread irregularities in the project. On May 26 and 28 The Daily Star published two reports headlined "School books in political grip" and "Too hard for school kids to grasp," pointing out that the books were selected on political considerations, without judging their quality. Even the publishers of some of these books do not exist at all, the reports said.

However, the education ministry still did not take any initiative to find out the irregularities in the project.

The Directorate of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education through a newspaper advertisement in January last year invited book lists from publishers under nine categories.

The categories are textbooks, Liberation War affairs, national heritage, computer education,

## OIC closer

**FROM PAGE 1**  
"It is imperative to establish a free trade area among member states in the short term," said Rahmouni Houcine, deputy director general of the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade based in Morocco, adding that it could be set up within 10 years.

"Efforts should focus on creating a favourable environment to liberalise trade among the OIC countries that is consistent with the new international economic and trade order," he added.

Fourteen countries have signed and ratified the trade framework agreement. They are Malaysia, Indonesia, Iran, Bangladesh, Turkey, Lebanon, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Cameroon, Pakistan, Guinea, Uganda and Jordan.

This week Malaysia is hosting the annual meeting of the OIC's financial arm, the Islamic Development Bank.

IDB officials have said the meeting may approve the creation of an international Islamic trade financing firm, with an initial paid-up capital of \$1 billion, to spur intra-IDB trade.

Malaysia also wants the IDB to launch a \$10 billion Islamic bond fund for infrastructure in another effort to help close the gap between rich and poor Muslim nations.

Other issues to be considered are the admission of a new member, Nigeria, and the election of the IDB president. The present chief, Ahmad Ali, completes his five-year term this year.

About 2,400 people, including finance ministers, central bank chiefs and Islamic bankers and government officials, will attend the meeting, held in Malaysia for the first time since 1978.

# Project cars offered

**FROM PAGE 1**  
"Sometimes we work until midnight driving for those officials and their families," said an LGED driver.

At the secretariat yesterday, this correspondent found six drivers hanging the LGED identity cards around their necks waiting in front of the LGRD ministry. They said the high officials of the ministry use the vehicles.

One driver who drive the car of a deputy secretary told The Daily Star that more than 20 LGED cars are being used by the LGRD ministry officials. "We work for LGED, but the service is handed over to the deputy secretary in the ministry," he said.

However, the rush of such luxury vehicles in the secretariat reduced following resignation of the state minister for energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain in a car scandal. Many officials now refrain from bringing such cars to the secretariat.

The parking space and the road in front of the LGED head office in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar always remain blocked with latest model luxury cars.

The officials also use the project cars for sending their children to schools in the morning and for shopping in the evening, the drivers said.

Sources said the use of official cars was prohibited after office hours during the Ershad regime. But the restriction was withdrawn following pressure from the bureaucrats.

Most of the cars used by the high officials are brought from donor-funded projects. Some of those cars were given them on completion of the projects while some others were requisitioned from the under-implementation projects.