# Bird flu likely to spread in Asia

The bird flu virus that has hit several countries in Asia is likely to spread to Europe, the Middle East, South Asia including Bangladesh and Africa, a UN food agency warned yesterday.

The Food and Agriculture Organization has urged nations at risk to increase surveillance and prepare national emergency plans. It warned the virus is likely to be carried over long distances by wild water birds.

It said India and Bangladesh, which currently seem to be uninfected, are also considered to be "at

risk."
"Bangladesh, and to a lesser of domestic ducks and are situated along one of the major migratory routes. They have the potential to become new large endemic areas of bird flu infection," the FAO warned.

Birds flying from Siberia, where the virus has recently spread, may carry the disease to the Caspian and Black Seas "in the foreseeable the Rome-based agency

said.
"These regions and countries in tial gateway to central Europe for the virus," the FAO said in a state-

The FAO said bird migration routes also run across Azerbaijan Iran, Iraq, Georgia, Ukraine and some Mediterranean countries and warned bird flu outbreaks in these areas were possible. The H5N1 bird flu strain has

killed almost 60 people in Asia, but it does not spread easily among humans -- a situation experts fear could change if the virus mutates, leading to a dangerous pandemic. In Russia, the outbreak has killed

about 11,000 birds and prompted

of expression and repression on

communalism from Bangladesh. For

this, unity of all progressive and demo-

cratic forces is a must," Rokan

have to be taken to root out all militant

and extremist groups in the country." It

also demanded recovery of illegal

istration, intelligence and law enforce-

ment agencies free from politicisation.

extremism and training of militants at

educational institutions will have to be

enquiry commission to investigate all

bomb blasts, grenade attacks, political

killings and arms smuggling in the

the United Nations should be invited to

help the commission, the declaration

Earlier, addressing the concluding

session of the convention, senior

leaders of different opposition parties

stressed unity of all progressive

democratic and pro-liberation forces to

fight 'terrorism' under the BNP-

involved in 'terrorist activities' and its is

not possible to combat terrorism

The present government itself is

It seems Bangladesh is heading

If necessary, anti-terrorism unit of

It demanded formation of a neutral

It emphasised keeping the admin-

Any form of propaganda on

arms and destruction of those.

stopped, the declaration said.

country in recent years.

**OPPOSITION FOR UNITY** 

Jammat-led coalition rule.

keeping it in power

The declaration said. "Steps will

"We will eliminate terrorism and

minority people.

stressed.

officials to slaughter 127,000 others to halt the virus' spread. No human cases have been registered there. Experts say they are concerned the situation, but have also expressed optimism that European countries could stamp out bird flu

before the virus takes hold and

Many experts said the virus

would be detected more quickly in

Europe than in Asia, and noted that

with animals, as they do in much of

also is better equipped to shelter its

birds from contact with the wild

ducks blamed for the disease's

officer, Joseph Domenech,

expressed concerns that "poor

countries in southeast Europe,

where wild birds from Asia mingle

with others from northern Europe,

may lack the capacity to detect and

warned "as long as the H5N1 virus

circulates in poultry, humans con-

risk, especially those along the

humans, domestic poultry and

wildlife should be reduced and

closely monitored. On farms and in

markets, domestic birds should be

In the statement, FAO also

The agency said countries at

deal with outbreaks of bird flu."

The European poultry industry

However, FAO's chief veterinary

people do not live in close quarters

spreads among people.

Southeast Asia.

spread, experts said.

tinue to be at risk."

shootout when he attempted to flee, police said.

constables were injured in the

gunfight. One pipe gun and two bullets

Police said Takbir was accused n seven cases including two for murder.

### Dhabi Group

FROM PAGE 16

received Nahiyan at the Zia International Airport.

policymaker and also the chairman of the Dubai based Bank Al-Fallah. inaugurated the first branch of the bank in the capital's Motijheel area.

clients of the bank at a city hotel Nahiyan, also a federal minister will call on President lajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda

Zia todav. The Middle Eastern corporate giant Abu Dhabi Group is likely to nvest in tourism, telecommunica-

intending to set up a five-star hotel, a mobile phone company and a pharmaceutical industry as part of its overseas business expansion programme and to earn speedy return from the fast growing sectors.

Earlier an advanced team of technical experts and executives headed by the chief executive officer of the Dhabi Group Bashir A Tahir arrived in the city on Saturday to do the spadework for the negotiations to be conducted by their chair-

### HC bench

The chief justice will now take up the matter and refer it to a new bench for further hearing.

"I have never seen such a differ-Court judges over granting of bail. said Galib's counsel ABM Nurul Islam.

Galib was arrested on February 22 and a number of cases were filed against him. He is now in Rajshahi jail.

unitedly should not keep mum anymore. We will have to move together to resist the defeated forces' bid to make nigh commissioner in Dhaka.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President

Hasanul Haq Inu said the BNP-Jamaat-led government must be dislodged as, he said, it is patronising terrorist elements.

Other speakers included AL leader Amir Hossain Amu, Workers Party General Secretary Bimal Biswas, Jatiya Party (Manju) Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam and Supreme Court Bar Association President Mahbubey Alam

### Govt moves on

"A month's target has been set for the companies which are better placed to float their shares." Saifur told reporters after the meeting, "while two months have been allotted to those for whom the process is

seen to be a little complicated." The meeting also asked the

Osmania Glass, Atlas Bangladesh, National Tubes. Eastern Lubricant and Padma Oil can hit the market in a month's time, a meeting source guoted a Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) high official as

telling the meeting. will also be ready for floating by September. Adviser to Energy Ministry and Board of Investment Executive Chairman Mahmudur Rahman told the press. Before that they have to restructure their capital

base, he added. A reform programme is going on in the gas sector, which will be completed by December, said Mahmudur, adding, "Then we will

nies. Yesterday's decision was seen by many a quarter as a positive development that might break the decade-long standstill in the privatisation process of the SOEs.

Saifur said some directors of the SOEs are reluctant to go with the move. "They are afraid, if shares of the companies are offloaded, their directorship will also go," he remarked, explaining the sluggishness in the privatisation drive.

The meeting discussed in detail how to ready the SOEs in oil, gas, telephone, power, fertiliser, bank and insurance sectors for public subscription. It decided that those SOEs have to be turned into public limited companies and made profitable, before going for their privatisation, meeting sources said.

The meeting directed the ministries concerned to work out plans for making the losing concerns profitable within two months' time. After that another meeting will be held to discuss those plans and decide how to proceed for the partial privatisation.

Privatisation Commission Chairman Enam Ahmed Chowdhurv. Governor of Bangladesh Bank Dr Saleh Uddin Ahmed, SEC Chairman Dr Mirza Azizul Islam, and the secretaries of ministries concerned including Finance Secretary Siddiqur Rahman Chowdhury were present at the meeting.

### BSF returns

Dhaka yesterday morning.

Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, 30, of

Putia village in Kosba upazila, was admitted to the hospital at 3:00am and died at 8:00am.

College and Hospital (DMCH), Rafiq's body was handed over to his relatives vesterday evening.

ing. They arrested Takbir alias Lata, 40, from the spot, while others

Laxmikundu village at around 1:30am to recover illegal arms following his confessional statement. Police said as they reached the spot, Takbir's accomplices opened fire on them. Police fired in and two top Shia officials blamed return which resulted in a half an insurgents for the stampede, saying

ere retrieved from the spot.

This latest death raises the death toll to 29 in "crossfire" in the district since November last year.

The oil-rich gulf country

Later he hosted a dinner for the

tion and pharmaceutical sectors.

Galib while Justice Rezaul opposed it and dismissed the bail prayer.

ence of opinion between two High

### Fresh US travel

FROM PAGE 16 around the US government facilities n and around Dhaka.

In the latest information sheet the US Department of State mentioned the August 17 blasts and said in the past few years various groups targeted cinema halls, shrines, political gatherings, and the British

The US Embassy has seen an ncrease in anti-American protests following Friday prayers at the national mosque largely in part due to the US nvolvement in Iraq and thus the Americans are urged to avoid travel to Dhaka on Fridays if possible.

American citizens have also been urged to avoid all political demonstrations as these are inclined to violence. They are advised to exercise caution and remain inside their residences or workplaces whenever possible.

Due to kidnappings of foreign nationals. US citizens are advised against travelling to the Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban unless it is urgent. Individuals who choose to visit these districts are urged to exercise extreme caution.

### Biman

adding, the autonomy of the corporation is only in book.

The parliamentary body also discussed the activities of the tourism directorate under the civil aviation and tourism ministry.

#### BNP celebrates

FROM PAGE 16 was held on September 1-2 in 1993 and the central committee was reconstituted on several occasions.

To celebrate the 27th founding anniversary in a befitting manner, the BNP has chalked out a threeday elaborate programme.

The celebration kicks off today with a discussion meeting at the city's Mahanagar Natya Mancha at 4:00pm. Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is expected to attend the meeting.

Earlier in the morning, leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations will offer fateha and place wreaths at the mazar of late president Ziaur Rahman, who founded the party on September 1 1978. Party flags will be hoisted atop at all party offices in the morn-

On the second day of the celebration tomorrow, a photography exhibition will be held at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will inaugurate the exhibition at 10:00am.

On September 3, a colourful procession will be brought out in the city at 3:00pm. District and thana units of the

BNP will also organise similar programmes to mark the party's founding anniversary.

## 700 die in Iraq

being trampled" after panic swept a throng of thousands as they headed

to a religious ceremony, an Interior Ministry official said. "An hour ago the death toll was

695, but we expect it to hit 1,000," said Dr Jaseb Latif Ali, a general manager at Iraq's Health Ministry. Interior Minister Bayan Jabor

was a suicide bomber in the crowd. Tensions are high among Iraq's rival religious and ethnic communities ahead of a referendum on a new constitution for the post-Saddam Hussein era.

a terrorist spread a rumour there

Television images showed people clambering down from the bridge to escape the surging crowd, and piles of slippers left behind by the crush of people.

Hysterical women knelt over corpses, wailing and praying. Ambulances rushed to the scene and people carried bodies on stretchers while others lined the river banks and crowded the bridge. Scores of bodies were covered

clothes or plastic sheeting. One hospital said it had received at least 100 bodies by 12:30 (0830 GMT). A hospital source said bodies were also being sent to two nearby

with whatever was around -- foil

SUICIDE BOMBER A police source said swarming

crowds had been heading to the Kadhimiva mosque in the old district of north Baghdad when someone shouted there was a suicide bomber among them. "Hundreds of people started

selves off the bridge into the river, the source said "Many elderly died immediately as a result of the stampede but dozens drowned, many bodies are

running and some threw them-

still in the river and boats are work ing on picking them up." Earlier at least seven people were killed in three separate mortar attacks on the crowd heading to the mosque to celebrate the martyrdom of Musa Al-Kadhim, a revered

religious figure among Shias.

her dead child in al-Nu'man hospital. Dozens of bodies were strewn across the floor. The hospital was filled with the

disconsolate men and women searched for, and found, loved Doctors and orderlies were treating many of the injured on the floor or on trollevs in corridors. A child lay unconscious on a stretcher,

with an intravenous drip dangling

Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafar declared three days of mourning and President Jalal Talabani said ir a statement that it was "a great tragedy which will leave a scar on our souls".

Explosions were heard across Baghdad on Wednesday morning. A Reuters correspondent

reported hearing six mortar rounds exploding near the main airport. although the U.S. military had no nformation of any attacks there. INSURGENCY UNABATED Despite the draft constitution, there

has been no easing in an insurgency waged by Sunni Muslims, dominant under Saddam, and international guerrillas inspired by Osama bin Laden. The US-led coalition invaded Iraq in March 2003 and has been

battling insurgents while Iragis have tried to form a new post-Saddam constitution and government. The persistent fighting has helped to push down President George W. Bush's approval rating to

a career low of 45 percent on concerns over the war and soaring fuel prices, according to an ABC News/Washington Post poll published on Tuesday. The US war in Iraq now costs more per month than the average monthly cost of military operations

according to a report issued on Wednesday. The report, entitled "The Iraq Quagmire" from the Institute for Policy Studies and Foreign Policy in Focus, both liberal, anti-war organi-

in Vietnam in the 1960s and 1970s,

sations, put the cost of operations in Iraq at \$5.6 billion per month. This breaks down to almost \$186 million a day.

"By comparison, the average cost of U.S. operations in Vietnam over the eight-year war was \$5.1 billion per month, adjusting for inflation," it said.

#### **DHAKA SHOCKED**

Bangladesh yesterday expressed its deep shock at the tragic death of a large number of people in a stampede on a Baghdad bridge over the Tigris River near Kadhimiya Mosque in Iraq, says UNB.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, "We convey our deepest condolences and sympathies to the members of the bereaved families and pray for salvation of the departed souls."

The spokesman also said Bangladeshis pray for the early recovery of the persons injured in the incident, expressing the hope that the people of Iraq will be able to overcome their shock and grief soon and carry on with their life and

## Galib's nephew

and Darul Hadith Salachhia

Madrasa in the city. Sattar, arrested by Directorate General of Forces Intelligent (DGFI) earlier on Tuesday, used to supply 70 copies of "Paharika", an Ahab publication, to Sadrul to maintain a strong network among the subscribers police said

They have arrested Sadrul to ascertain whether he provided raw materials for the bombs used on August 17 countrywide attacks from the TSP factory, police added.

Following his statement, police also arrested Jahangir Alam, 25, of Naldanga of Natore, Arshadul Alam, 50, of Kalagachhia of Homna, Comilla, and madrasa quard Abdus Sattar Mollah, 34, of Kalatali of Rupgani, Narayanganj, from Chittagong, and Ahmed, 30, of Hajipur of Satkhira, from Banglabazar in Dhaka.

Arshadul was in charge of carrying out the bomb attacks in Comilla, police

Investigators continued interrogating 17 suspects at the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC) in Dhaka and police are carrying out operations to arrest suspects on the basis of information given by the arrestees at the JIC and other places.

Meanwhile, State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar vesterdav told the BBC Bangla Service that 'remarkable progress" has been achieved in the last two weeks in the investigation of August 17 bomb blasts.

Police also arrested at least three people yesterday who were directly involved in the August 17 bomb attacks, sources said. Our Chittagong correspondent reports Sadrul Alam, Jahangir and

Arshadul were placed on a seven-day remand each for interrogation. A five-member team of police and intelligence agencies started interrogating the three at the Detective

Branch (DB) office of the Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP). The law enforcers on Tuesday night also nabbed Azizul Haque Farazi, 46, of Gilabari of Islampur, Jamalpur, from Ambagan Flora Pass Road on suspicion and were interro-

aatina him. Our staff correspondent from Khulna informs police arrested Abdur Rashid, 35, a regional leader of the bomb squad of Khulna division unit of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from Khalishpur yesterday. Rashid had been imparting training

DB official interrogating the suspect Earlier on Tuesday, police arrested second-in-command of JMB Khulna division Farhad Ahmed Bulbul from Nagarkanda in Faridour.

to JMB activists for the last one year, a

A former student of Government BL College, Farhad told police that he will not disclose anything about JMB, even if he were killed. "We have our cadres in every nook and corner of Khulna to take revenge against police excess," a DB official quoted Farhad

Our Tangail correspondent reports police yesterday arrested one Saiful Islam, 20, from his house at Sakrai Char village of Basail upazila in the

district. He has link to JMB, police said. Meanwhile Rahmatullah alias Delwar. arrested on Saturday from Baronakhia Owami Delduar in the district, admitted his link to the August 17 incident.

Hossain, 35, from Hichmi village in Sadar upazila on Tuesday night. Meanwhile, a powerful bomb and

Academy in the town vesterday. BSS adds: Police yesterday confiscated movable property of JMB leader Shaikh Abdur Rahman from his two residences at Charshi Khalipha Para and Mia Para under Sadar

upazila in Jamalpur. Following two cases filed against Rahman with Satkhira police on August 18, a first class magistrate issued the confiscation and warrant of arrest orders.

#### Indian rice

FROM PAGE 16

Gulshan police arrested six men in this connection. They are Barkat Ali, the manager of the hotel, Humayun Kabir, the driver of the car, and his

Police are looking for Joynal and

Ilias, local agents for Majid. Investigation Officer (IO) Golam Rahman of Gulshan Police Station said the police had been raiding different spots to nab the killers and local agents of Maiid. The evidences indicate it was a premeditated murder, the IO added.

Shahidul Islam of Detective Branch (DB) told the press that Maiid might have been killed due to a feud over money with his partners or rival groups. Meanwhile, sources said local

extortionists demanded toll from Majid last year when he visited the country and threatened to kill him. Majid of MN industries came to Dhaka on August 27 and stayed at the Heritage Inn Guesthouse in

Majid stayed at the Heritage Inn Guesthouse during his last three visits to Dhaka, hotel sources said. Maiid had made a one-lakh metric ton rice bid on August 22 at

collection. Shah Alam, Hazrat Ali and Shahana Akhter defended the accused.

# Rescuers battle

hurricane

Rescue teams battled through rising flood waters to find survivors of Hurricane Katrina which is feared to have killed hundreds of people along the US Gulf Coast.

rising

to find

survivors

AFP. New Orleans

floodwaters

While army engineers fought to fill huge breaches in levees designed to waters out of New Orleans, looting broke out and gas leaks caused many fires. The city's mayor warned it could be up to four months before evacuated residents could return.

The US government said, meanwhile, it would release oil from an emergency reserve in a bid to ease international worries of shortages caused by the devastating storm

Fears of a major death toll grew as the scope of the devastation became more apparent.

Vincent Creel, a city spokesman at Biloxi, Mississippi, estimated that hundreds of people may have been killed along the Mississippi coastline from Pascagoula to Gulfport, including Biloxi.

An emergency management director told the Clarion Ledger newspaper there were 100 confirmed deaths in Harrison County, Mississippi alone. Authorities told rescuers to leave

bodies to one side and concentrate on finding survivors trapped on roofs and in the attics of homes where many people took shelter when 200 kilometer (125 mile) an hour winds crashed into the coast on Monday. Mississippi Governor Halev Barbour said that 90 percent of buildings in the worst-hit area of the

### Machine gun

Gulf Coast in his state are "totally

FROM PAGE 1 not be known immediately.

Official sources said 21,300 bullets and 32 pistols were seized in the last fourÊdays from this bordering area.

Security forces continue with the oint search operation started on Saturday, suspecting huge arms and ammunition are hidden in the

AL terms HC

FROM PAGE 1

country's politics, democracy and rule of law," said AL presidium member Suranjit Sengupta. The observations in the verdict have upheld the superiority of the constitution, he said. It has made the government nervous and that

dimension to the history of the

was reflected in the midnight drama that followed the verdict, he added. "Why were they so nervous when the verdict did not criticise the present government?" he asked.

which is a kind of interference to independence of judiciary, he said. AL presidium member Tofail Ahmed said what they were saying over the past two decades has been

at the law minister's statement

The people have been surprised

proved true by the verdict The nation has now learnt through the verdict 15 years of rule between 1975 and 1990 was illegal, Tofail added. "The basic principles of the constitutions were distorted by former president Ziaur Rahman."

He (Zia) allowed religion-based

politics in the country and that was the root of the countrywide explosions on August 17, Tofail said. Suranjit said the verdict would

help continue the constitutional rule and sovereignty of the country. Referring to the law minister's political background in politics, he said Moudud's statement was unexpected, contradictory and motivated. "He (Moudud) should not talk in favour of martial law as he was once jailed for 10 years by a

martial law court," Suranjit added. "Just a few days ago the law minister described the martial law a jungle law'; he should appreciate the verdict," he continued.

### / to die

FROM PAGE 16 as the charges brought against them were not proved The convicts can appeal to the

High Court against the verdict within

30 days from the day of receipt of the judgement copy, the court said. Another Dhaka court earlier sentenced Pappu and Lalu to 17 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for possession of illegal firearms

Pappu is accused in nine criminal cases including five murder cases while Jasim is accused in five including three murder cases. Lalu and Reaz are also accused in five criminal cases including three murder cases. Victim's parents Mahfuzur

Rahman and Anwara Begum were present in the court during the deliverv of the verdict and expressed their satisfaction over the judgement. A gang led by Pappu used to demand toll from Imon's paternal

Imon from Kazi Nazrul Road and took him to Government Primary School on Noorjahan Road in Mohammadpur where they shot him. Convict Shah Alam, during investigation, gave a confessional statement to a magistrate saying

## SC stays verdict

Ali sought the court's permission to deliver his submission since he had earlier moved for the owner of the cinema hall in 1994.

According to Bangladesh Legal Practitioners and Bar Council Order and Rules, 1972, an advocate cannot move against a client if he had earlier moved for him in the same matter. "I moved in the High Court and

Supreme Court earlier as counsel for owner of Moon Cinema Hall. So. I did not attend the court during the hearng of this case in the High Court [on Monday]," Mohammad Ali told the court.

But, since it is now a matter regarding the constitution, he, being the chief law officer of the state, felt to present his submission on it.

The court permitted him.

On his hasty move to have a stay on Monday's judgement, Mohammad Ali said, "The High Court verdict has unsettled the settled matters. In this context, I met the chamber judge as a stay is very urgent. It was night by the time necessary papers for the petition were

Quoting a verdict delivered by Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed regarding the eighth amendment of the constitution, the AG said there is no scope of controversy on what people accept and what is considered a part of the constitution. "But the High Court has gone beyond its jurisdiction and opposed the Supreme Court verdict [the one delivered by Justice Shahabuddin] by declaring the constitution's fifth amendment ille-

Opposing the stay prayer, counsel for Moon Cinema Hall Barrister Azmalul Hossain said the High Court in its judgment had not passed any order or direction to the government and that is why there is nothing to hurriedly pass any stay order. "It is not so urgent a matter that it

needed to call the justice while he was sleeping and get the stay in the dead of the night. The government staged a drama centring a small cinema hall." he said.

"The High Court has condoned some aspects of the fifth amendment to the constitution. So, there is no scope of saying that it will create chaos, as the government is saying,

he said. Azmalul, meantime, informed the court that his client opposed AJ Mohammad Ali's moving in the court against him as he had moved for him

Kalyan Trust, Advocate Khondker Mahbubuddin Ahmed said. "It is very urgent to stay the High Court order because if the property [of Moon Cinema Hall] gets out of the Trust's possession, it will face financial loss." After hearing both the sides for

resuming later passed the two-month stay order. Meanwhile, the autumn vacation the Supreme Court begins Saturday. As the courts do not work on Thursday and Friday for weekly

holidays, the vacation apparently

starts from today.

### Probe into finances

NGOs, particularly Qawmi madrasas that are not recognised by the government.

Some Islamic NGOs get foreign funds for non-conventional sectors like promoting Islamic culture by bureau Mostag Uddin Ahmed howproviding 'iftar' to people at mosques ever declined to say anything in this during the fasting month of Ramadan and sacrificing animals on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha An Islamic NGO run by militant

leader and Rajshahi University

teacher of Arabic Dr Aasadullah Al Galib. who is now in iail custody, had provided over Tk 12 lakh for iftar at people, not for arms training. None of different mosque in Rajshahi during the last Ramadan, the sources pointed out. The Islamic NGOs also get donations from individuals in the Middle Eastern (ME) countries for building

Intelligence agencies suspect a major portion of the money is used for arms training of Islamist zealots. Islahul Muslimine, an Islamic NGO formed by Moulana Fariduddin Masud, arrested on charges of militant links, had transacted around Tk 1.50 crore last year. The government is looking into how and where

the money was spent, sources

Another NGO -- Al Markajul Islami

"Islamic NGOs get foreign funds

for various projects. So, it is very

difficult to trace the links between

mosques and looking after orphans.

run by a lawmaker get foreign donation for buying ambulances for carrying patients and dead bodies. Rabita Al Alam Al Islam, a Saudi Arabia-based international NGO runs several hospitals in Cox's Bazar

and the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Officials of the Association of Muslim Welfare Agencies in

funds for militants comes through unofficial channels like hundi. It is very difficult to stop such flow of money without stopping hundi business in the country, they said. Islamic NGOs mainly operate in

Rajshahi. And Islamic militancy grew in those areas. The banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh started work in Rajshahi and then in other areas Several hundred mosques were constructed or renovated in those areas in recent past by the Saudi

Arabia-based Al Haramain Islamic

Islamic NGOs are also active in the rural areas of Khulna and Satkhira districts, sources men-

mentioned.

tenth wicket was 46 between Mohammad Rafique and Mushfiqur

Shahriar Nafees Ahmed.

Tharanga, who lost his senior

partner Sanath Jayasuriya after putting on 51 in eight overs, added another 77 with Atapattu but he should thank Nafees and Mohammad Ashraful for dropping him on eight (off Syed Rasel at second slip) and 58 (off Aftab Ahmed at point). The left-hander eventually reached his first one-day fifty but soon perished for 60 (80 balls; 8x4) when he was bowled by Aftab Ahmed. Atapattu's 55 came off 92 deliveries but he was also floored by slip fielder Nafees off Tapash Baisva, who had earlier clean bowled Jayasuriya for 25 to make the first breakthrough for Bangladesh. Nafees' miserable day in the field continued when he missed another catch offered at

Man-of the-match Jayawardene found no support from the tail but the stylish right-hander kept the scorers busy with trademark drives, pulls, late cuts and sweeps which fetched him eight fours. He completed his fifty in the very last ball of the innings with a single but was run out while attempting a second. Three wickets fell in the final over

these NGOs and militants although the government monitors progress of the projects. Efforts are on to unearth the links," said a high official of the NGO bureau. Director General of the NGO

Bangladesh (Amwab) denied involvement of Islamic NGOs with "We are working for welfare of the

the registered Islamic NGOs has links to militancy." said one official. But sources pointed out that the

the poverty-stricken northwestern districts like Rangpur, Dinajpur and

Foundation. The government has it for alleged links to militants, and Kuwait-based Revival of Islamic

# Tigers off on wrong

Opener Upul Tharanga and skipper Marvan Atapattu both made scratchy half-centuries but it was Mahela Jayawardene's explosive 35-ball 50 that really bolstered the innings after Bangladesh bowlers had pegged them back by giving away just 94 runs in 20 overs of fielding restrictions. The Tigers never looked like challenging the second highest total against them by Sri Lanka despite the pitch being perfect for strokeplay. They lost five wickets in the space of 24 runs to slump to 103-8 but a Bangladesh record 54 runs stand for the tenth wicket between Khaled Mashud and Tapash Baisya saw them crawl to 181-9 in 50 overs. Bangladesh's previous highest partnership for the

Rahman against Pakistan in Multan n 2003. Mashud's 39 on his 100th ODI appearance made him joint topscorer in the innings with opener

long off from Chaminda Vaas.

and two of them went to debutant Syed Rasel, the left-arm swing bowler who finished with 2-42 and was by far the most impressive

Bangladesh bowler.

straight drives to get the Tigers off to a flying start in their chase but was run out for 14 in the fifth over. It was his call but the veteran opener was too slow to return to his crease after being sent back by Nafees for what was an improbable single. First-change paceman Dilhara Fernando bagged Tushar Imran and

Ashraful in successive overs and

hopes of a fight ended when

Javed Omar struck two beautiful

Nafees, who was going fluently, was spectacularly caught by a diving Tilekeratne Dilshan off his own bowling. It was all over when Bashar was controversially given out lbw by umpire Ashoka de Silva to legspinner Upul Chandana when the

ball was clearly going out after pitching on the off-stump. Farveez Maharoof returned to destroy the tail in his second spell. finishing with 3-29, but Mashud and Baisva delayed the inevitable. They also made sure that star offspinner Muttiah Muralitharan went without a wicket for the first time in a match

### Cabinet Division

FROM PAGE 16 The ACC, after passing an act in

Bank (WB).

against Bangladesh.

But the commission has failed to start its anticrime operation due to slow pace of preparing its organogram. The cabinet division, of late approved a temporary organogram

for the commission following the

constant pressure from the World

February last year, was established

on November 24 the same year.

Though the commission's organogram is supposed to be drafted according to the article 30 of its act, it has failed to do that for indifferent attitude of the government, it is alleged.

The commission will start its anticrime drive with 40 allegations filed with the now defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac).

### FROM PAGE 16 died at Orthapaedic Hospital in

routes of migrating birds, should step up surveillance of domestic poultry and wild birds, as well as ready emergency plans. It said affected countries should battle the bird flu virus at its origin, in poultry. "Close contacts between

strictly separated from wild animals to the greatest extent possible," said the agency. "Vaccinating poultry could also be considered in at-risk Call for unity to fight

> those who fought the Liberation War is difficult. People want to see them on a common platform.' Dr Kamal went on, "We should visit all areas of the country to unite people in our drive to build a secular, demo-

cratic and prosperous society, uphold-

Abdul Jalil said the BNP-Jamaat-led

Awami League General Secretary

ing the spirit of the Liberation War."

institutions destroyed day by day, he

"I don't think forging unity among

coalition in its four-year rule has turned Bangladesh into a 'valley of death' and created a panicky situation. "State terrorism is going on with the patronisation of ruling alliance men,"

"We, who fought the Liberation War

Bangladesh a neo-Pakistan." Jali Communist Party of Bangladesh President Manjurul Ahsan khan also stressed unity to fight terrorism.

Eminent jurist and Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain said unity for healthy politics is a must to overcome the present situation in the

the SOEs that are profitable and have no other hindrances to float their shares on the stock market within the next month.

ministries concerned to plan how to make the SOEs in oil, gas, telephone, power, fertiliser, bank and insurance sectors ready for public subscription within the next two months and report back. Among others, Eastern Cables.

The state-owned oil companies

consider how to bring in privatesector capital in the gas compa-

After autopsy at Dhaka Medical

## Outlaw killed

cadres were holding a secret meet-

managed to escape. Later police took Takbir to

hour-long gunfight. Takbir died on the spot during the

A sub-inspector (SI) and two

Chairman Mahmudur Rahman

Sources said the company is

Reuters Television showed a woman weeping over the body of

sounds of screaming and wailing as

UNB adds: Joypurhat police arrested a JMB leader named Dulal

some bomb-making materials were recovered from near Darul Islam

four business partners. Habib was arrested from the dining room of the hotel where he hid himself after the shooting.

Deputy Commissioner (DC)

Banani. He tried to change his hotel but the hoteliers negotiated with the local goons and assured Majid of his security

Disaster Management and Relief Ministry in response to an international tender called by the ministry. He had left Dhaka on August 22 only to return on August 27.

and ammunition.

uncle who ran a cable TV business. The gang on April 29, 2003 kidnapped

that the gang led by Pappu killed Imon as he protested their toll Special Public Prosecutor Nurul Iman Babul appeared for the state while advocates Wadud Bhuivan.

Moving for the Muktijoddha

about 45 minutes, the court was adiourned for five minutes and