

### 2 killed in shootout **College principal**

arrested Leku at Tongi of Gazipur district on Thursday. Rab sources said they took Leku to Rajoir for quizzing and as per his statement, they set out to recover

illegal firearms, taking Leku with them. When the Rab men along with Leku reached Shankordipar under Badarpasha Union at about 3:00am, Leku's accomplices opened fire on the elite force, prompting them to retali-

ate. Leku was caught in the shootout as he tried to flee and died instantly, the sources said.

Rab recovered a sawn-off rifle, two pipe guns and four bullets from the spot.

The officer-in-charge of Rajoir Police Station said Leku was the listed criminal of Madaripur district and wanted in 21 criminal cases including murder, extortion and kidnapping.

He said the people of Rajoir heaved a sigh of relief at the death of Leku. Our Pabna correspondent reported that Rab-5 members arrested

Taveb Ali at Kotbari Bazar under Chatmohor upazila on Wednesday. Later, the Rab men took him to Raishahi zonal headquarters for

interrogation where he revealed important information about his arms den.

#### Edict banning FROM PAGE 1

influential persons and alems (religious leaders). The edict also includes a provision of penalty of Tk 500 for the shopkeepers who would sell anything to a woman. The edict was announced to prevent 'antisocial activities', said the announcer.

Ansar Uddin Khan Pathan, superintendent of the Sylhet police told The Daily Star that a short while ago a group of local influential people including a union parishad chairman had made a similar announcement. "We are investigating the matter," he added. A contingent of police was sent to the area.

FROM PAGE 16

more than 60.

#### On his confessional statement, the members of the elite force set out for Pabna on Thursday night, taking

Tayeb with them When they reached near Kankhola Bridge at about 2:00am, the accomplices of Tayeb opened fire on them in a

bid to snatch their gang leader. Rab returned fire Rab sources said Tayeb was shot during the encounter and died on the Rab recovered a shutter gun, a pipe

gun and six bullets from the spot. Our staff correspondent from Khulna writes: Arifuzzaman Arif, general secretary of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (ICD) Daulatpur unit, was arrested by the members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on Thursday

The Rab-6 members arrested Arif at Daulatpur bus stand and handed him over to the Daulatpur police. He was shown arrested in a bomb attack case filed with Daulatpur police on October 25

### Railway men held while trying to sell slippers

#### OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Railway employees caught staff of a construction farm when they attempted to sell 100-ft railway slippers after uprooting it in Narayanganj Thursday night.

Senior Sub-Assistant Engineer of Bangladesh Railway Deen Islam said staff of construction farm Ehsan Enterprise, which is engaged in Narayanganj Municipality road repairing works at Rail-gate area, uprooted 100-ft abandoned rail slippers at 10:00pm Thursday and loaded it on a truck.

Railway employees caught the truck when it was taking the slipper to sell somewhere.

They handed over both the truck and its driver to Narayanganj police.

### abducted in Khagrachhari

#### UNB, Khagrachhari

Unidentified miscreants kidnapped the principal of Panchhari Degree College from his house here yesterday norning Police quoted family sources as

saying that a gang of miscreants picked up Principal Samar Dutta Chakma, also an adviser to the local unit of the Awami League, at gunpoint at about 8:00am and took him to deep forest.

Local Awami League suspected that tribal miscreants were behind the abduction.

#### Khatme Nabuwat FROM PAGE 1

in the name of Islam and now betraying us," said IKNMB Joint Secretary Maolana Abu Taher.

The leaders said political parties like Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote, who always speak for Islam, failed to uphold the dignity of Hazrat Mohammad (SM) as they did not demand such a declaration in the parliament.

"If you cannot speak up in the parliament, leave the power," said IKNMB's central cabinet member Mufti Abdur Razzak, adding that December 23 is the last date and that the Muslims of the country will drag down the government from power without wasting any more time. Alhajj Noor Hossain, another leader

of the organisation, alleged that the present government is pretending to sleep on the Ahmadiyya issue. The fact is that Britain, Israel and the European Union are backing the Ahmadiyyas and threatening the government with suspension of funding, he added.

"But we ask the BNP-Jamaat government whether we the Muslims of the country brought them to power or the Western forces did that for them," he

Presiding over the rally, IKNMB Ameer Maolana Mahmudul Hasan said the Omrah being observed by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in Saudi Arabia could not be valid if she does not declare the Ahmadiyyas non-Muslims

"The contradictory policy of respectng our prophet and not paying heed to the demands of the Muslims to declare the Ahmadiyyas non-Muslims is a betraval to Islam," Mahmudul Hasan

He conducted an oath where several thousand Muslims pledged to continue their movement until December 23 demanding the declaration by the government. IKNMB's Central Nayebe Ameer

Enavetullah Abbasi, central members Maolana Ruhul Amin and Mamtazul Karimalso spoke.

production, sources said.

Gas System Limited, which is con-

nected with the national grid.

measurers to keep it stable.

The government has tarnished the

country's image for its failure to

arrange hajj flights. Thousands of

pilgrims are in uncertainty whether

they can perform the Hajj this year due

to the government mismanagement,

The government is planning mass

arrest ahead of the 13th Saarc Summit

in Dhaka. "If they torture our leaders

and activists ahead of the Saarc sum-

mit, it will be their last such move," he

political parliament' where the oppo-

said the government has made parlia-

not return to the dysfunctional parlia-

Mannan, among others, were present.

AL vows

FROM PAGE 16

elections.

Ialil added.

said.

ment"

#### Sangu FROM PAGE 1

Jia was speaking at a press conferthe technical process," CUFL Operations General Manager ence organized by the State Council, Salahuddin told The Daily Star yester-China's cabinet, amid growing internaday afternoon. tional concerns about a world-wide The thermal power plant at pandemic initiated by the bird flu.

# Strategic flaws

#### FROM PAGE 1

From the very beginning of the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition regime to date the main opposition has been persistently demanding resignation of the government. It had no major focus on issue-based movement that could have mobilised people against what the party dubbed misrule of the government.

Demanding fresh polls, the AI refrained from joining the House for about eight months and when it did join the House had already passed more than 70 workdays. In truth, the joining was but a nominal one, as the AL lawmakers faced the risk of losing their membership if they remained absent from the House for

90 consecutive days. Then it started boycotting the House, accusing the ruling BNP and the Speaker of gagging its lawmakers in parliament. According to some political analysts, the opposition party unwittingly walked into the very trap the ruling coalition had laid for it. The frequent AL walkouts actually benefited the treasury bench, which feels more comfortable in running the House with its archenemy out of the way.

Out of a total 297 workdays of the House, the AL so far has taken part only in 87 days. In consequence, its role in the JS was not strong enough to balance out different executive steps that affected people's life.

Its participation in parliamentary proceedings and its parliamentary strategy as the main opposition party were better in the fifth IS than the current one. That time, it had joined the maiden session of the House and continued until the end of 1994. The party started boycotting the House only from its 13th session and did not return up to the dissolution of parliament in 1996. The seats of the AL lawmakers in the fifth JS were vacated during its 20th session on June 19, 1995 on their absence for 90 consecutive days.

At present, the main opposition that has been boycotting the House since last year is in a dilemma whether to return to parliament or to let the seats of its MPs be vacated for absence.

Though Awami League has not shown any enthusiasm for participating in parliament proceedings, its lawmakers have been enjoying all the benefits and privileges. Some of them have also accepted perks like foreign trips.

The party needed more than a year to recover from the 2001 election debacle, which was totally unexpected to it. It nominated its lawmakers to the parliamentary standing committees about one require some more time to complete vear into their formation. And except a few senior AL MPs, most of them failed to play any significant role on the committees on different ministries, mainly due to the absence of adequate briefings by Shikalbaha, too, needs more time to the party high-ups. complete the process of returning to However, it achieved a major success in this area by compelling the The Block 16 production sharing parliamentary standing committee contract was signed between Cairn Energy PLC, Holland Sea Search on law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry to scrutinise the much Bangladesh BV, state petroleum authority Petrobangla and the govtalked-about presidential mercy to a ernment on May 5, 1994. Subsequent BNP man. The committee's examinasuccessions have resulted in the tion revealed a shady role of the law current joint venture, of which the ministry in arranging the clemency. operator, Cairn Energy Sangu Field After the 2001 general election, the Limited, owns 37.5 percent, Cairn AL experienced another debacle this Energy Bangladesh Limited 37.5 year, as the April 30 deadline set by it percent and HBR Energy Inc, a subsidfor unseating the government miscariary of Halliburton Inc, 25 percent. ried to the utter frustration of its The offshore field started supplying midlevel and grassroots leaders and gas extracted from a depth of some activists. 3,500 metres on June 12, 1998. The party could not maintain a Sangu gas is carried by a submarine pipeline to an onshore gas proconsistent stance on contesting the by-elections under the coalition cessing plant at Salimpur under regime, too. First it decided to Sitakunda upazila, some 48 km off the production platform in the Bay of boycott by-elections, later it Bengal. The Salimpur plant separates reversed the position, and then the condensate from the gas stream. again abstained from competing in Bangladesh Petroleum by-polls

#### opposition party has suffered a number of attacks and repression

from various quarters The ruling coalition has filed allegedly false cases against thousands of AL adherents. To quash ALled antigovernment movements, the government also carried out blanket arrests twice last year -

toppling the government and the October 3 opposition grand rally in the capital. A number of its frontline leaders including Ivy Rahman and Shah

ahead of the April 30 deadline for

AMS Kibria, Ahsan Ullah Master, Manzurul Imam and Mamtajuddin Ahmed were assassinated. The party came under a deadly

attack on August 21 apparently aimed at eliminating its core leadership including the party chief. The grisly grenade attacks on a Bangabandhu Avenue rally killed 22 people including Ivy Rahman and maimed hundreds of others.

After that the party, which so fai has enforced around 50 hartals, intensified its one-point movement to overthrow the government of Khaleda Zia, but has failed to turn it into a popular upsurge.

In retaliation to the attacks, the AL undertook an initiative to launch a united antigovernment movement with the left 11-Party alliance and other like-minded opposition parties. The 11-Party however did not agree to form a broad-based unity with the AL, but joined the 14party opposition line-up in staging antigovernment agitation programmes simultaneously.

The AL's attempt to get the Ershad-led JP in its oustgovernment movement also failed, as the ruling party used a number of cases against HM Ershad to manipulate and keep his party out of the proposed opposition alliance. **DUBIOUS IP ROLE** 

#### In contrast to the AL, the activities of

the IP remained confined in parliament. But the IP lawmakers could not make their voice heard on important issues for their reported 'dubious' roles in keeping good relation with the treasury bench.

One or two JP MPs however tried to criticise the government for its failure to arrest price hike of essentials, spread of Islamist militancy, terror attacks, and law and order downslide.

On several occasions JP insiders confirmed that the pending cases against Ershad were the main obstacles to the party's taking an active antigovernment stance. In fact, for the last four years, most of the JP lawmakers have been acting in parliament like pro-government opposition members.

Being the second largest opposition party, the JP tried to bargain with the treasury bench on several issues. The party lawmakers walked

out of the House on several occa-

sions, protesting against harass-

ment of Ershad, barring him from

going abroad, discrimination in

allocations of development funds

and abusive remarks by a deputy

minister against JP MPs. However,

every time they returned to the

House on government assurance to

The remaining three opposition

political parties -- Krishak Sramik

Janata League, Jatiya Party led by

Anwar Hossian Monju and Bikalpa

Dhara Bangladesh, have only one

Sramik Janata League lawmaker

Abdul Quader Siddiqui, though

aimed at playing a balancing role as

an opposition lawmaker, has been

unpredictable. Manju, too, tried to

Mahi B Chowdhury, does not attend

radical Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an

and leaders will not stop our jihad

anywhere," they said in a joint state

Sharon has vowed to press an

offensive to the end against militants

Hadera -- the first such deadly strike

about the cessation of terrorism,

"If the PA (Palestinian Authority)

does not take serious and tangible

action against terrorism, there will be

The third, Bikalpa Dhara MP

Of them the role of Krishak

lawmaker in the House each.

play a constructive role.

the JS proceedings regularly.

impacts were reported.

since the Gaza pullout.

Sharon said.

on militants.

resolve the problems

THE LONE RANGERS

#### Save Gulshan FROM PAGE 1

South Park, should be freed from the land grabbers to restore the healthy environment of the city.

Presiding over the rally, Bapa Vice-Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam said Bapa is worried about the rapid degradation in environment in the country. The authorities concerned should take stringent measures to preserve the environment, he said.

"The number of parks in the city is very small compared to its population, so the government should pay more attention to preserving the environment than constructing more buildings," he noted.

Bana General Secretary Mohidul **REUTERS,** United Nations Haque Khan alleged that the DCC is developing the Gulshan South Park, bypassing the Park-Uddyan Management Committee, which is entrusted with supervising and recommending on the issues concerning parks and open spaces in the

An opportunist quarter in the government always grabs the public land, the speakers alleged, adding that some ministers and bureaucrats are trying to build their residences, filling up the Banani Lake and some other low land areas.

The parks in Dhaka are also losing beauty due to lack of proper planning and maintenance, they said.

Gulshan Society Vice-Chairman Saiful Islam, General Secretary Anwarul Alam, Bapa Joint Secretary Mihir Biswas, executive member architect Igbal Habib, Advocate Igbal Kabir, Bangladesh Architect Institute President Khadem Ali, former minister ABM Golam Mostafa also spoke at the programme.

Environment and rights organisa tions Nagorik Udyog, Green Voice, Jubo Nagorik Odhikar Jote and Peace also attended the human chain.

### Pet bird

FROM PAGE 1 "As soon as we see the name of UK on the list, we will ban import of chicks from there," he added.

Earlier, the government banned import of chicks from five European countries--Romania, Kazakhstan Russia, Turkey and Greece. Initially, the government banned importing chicks from 13 Asian countries where the avian influenza broke out.

Committee, said archives would be turned However, the government is yet to issue any official note regarding the with law enforcement authorities.

Bangladesh is still safe from the outbreak of the deadly avian influenza caused by H5N1 virus. But there are possibilities that the H5N1 strain could trigger a flu pandemic if it

mutates with a human flu virus. There are 120 confirmed cases of bird flu being transmitted to humans in Asia, of which 60 have proved fatal. Meanwhile, amid the potential danger of the avian flu, pet shops at

guilty Thursday in New York to charges that he conspired to pay several million the city's Kantabon, which import dollars in kickbacks.

# **Oil-for-food** report ready for prosecutors

## 2,200 companies gave Iraq illicit funds

had acknowledged involvement. But all other "political beneficiaries"

The independent panel investigating the denied wrongdoing, including British UN oil-for-food programme for Iraq has parliamentarian George Galloway; issued a report that prosecutors in 66 Roberto Formigoni, president of the countries can use against 2,200 compa-Lombardi region in Italy; and the Rev. nies accused of diverting \$1.8 billion to Jean-Marie Benjamin, a priest who was Saddam Hussein's government. once an assistant to the Vatican's secre-The 623-page survey on Thursday

exposed how more than half the compa-

nies doing business with Iraq wittingly or

unwittingly fed Saddam's need for cash

through straight bribes or surcharges on

Council and UN contractors failed most

grievously in their responsibilities," said

Paul Volcker, the former US Federal

Reserve chairman, who headed the

probe, which issued the last of five

The list included firms from Vietnam

to the United States as well as European

giants Daimler-Chrysler, three subsidiar-

ies of Siemens and Volvo. All companies

and traders contacted by the panel

host of irregularities, from its fees to its

failure to expose wrongdoing. The bank

The humanitarian program, which

began in 1996 and ended in 2003, was

designed to ease the impact on ordinary

Iraqis of UN sanctions, imposed when

Baghdad's troops invaded Kuwait in

1990. Iraq was allowed to sell oil in order

to buy food, medicine and many other

South African Judge Richard

Goldstone, another commissioner of the

UN-established Independent Inquiry

over to the United Nations but also shared

"Anything that we are able legally and

morally to share with a prosecutor or

authority of any country, we will be more

than willing to do that," Goldstone told

States, Britain, France and Switzerland

have initiated prosecutions. Texas oil

ycoon Oscar Wyatt, former chairman of

founder of Coastal Corp., pleaded not

Some nations, including the United

denied anywrongdoing.

goods.

Reuters

"The (UN) secretariat, the Security

oil sales.

reports

tarv of state. Also on the list were Vladimir Zhirinovsky, leader of Russia's ultranationalist Liberal Democratic Party; Alexander Voloshin, a former chief of staff in the Kremlin, and Charles Pasqua, a former French interior minis-

BNP-Paribas was accused of a conflict of interest in representing many traders doing business with Iraq and disguising clients and shell companies to the United Nations.

One such case was a company founded by Marc Rich, the fugitive billionaire oil trader. The firm, Marc Rich & Co., was also accused of paying illegal surcharges, which it denied.

denied the allegations except for one oil "Although there is no evidence that firm and 26 suppliers of goods, the report BNP new or approved the use of its own facilities to pay illegal surcharges, BNP And the document castigated French was uniquely position to probe such bank BNP-Paribas, which managed payments -- and failed to do so," the funds for the \$64 billion program, for a report said. BNP disputed the findings.

> Saddam lawyer FROM PAGE 16

refused to recognize the legitimacy of the Iraqi High Tribunal and again hit out at the obstacles placed in the way of the defence.

Prosecutors "did not hand over to the defence team a copy of the accusation list, neither granted us a proper access to our clients nor to have sufficient time as we had requested (for) three months," he charged.

Nawimi also complained of serious security concerns following the assassination of Saadun Janabi, an attorney representing one of Saddam's co-defendants, earlier this month which he blamed on elements within the Iragi interior ministry.

"Though they have denied the present governments involvement, the material witnesses, we have proved the involvement of the present government in the assassination. which kept all the defence team feeling that they will be the second to eassassinated." he wrote

"We are in a very dangerous situa-

tion where the present Iraqi govern-

ment has no control over our security

to attend and participate in such a

Janabi was murdered the day after

Saddam and seven co-defendants

went on trial on charges related to the

1982 massacre of Shiite civilians from

the village of Dujail. The case was

adjourned until November 28 after all

The lawyer's assassination already

prompted Saddam's Amman-based

defence team and lead Iraqi counsel

Khalil al-Dulaimi to announce

Wednesday that they were suspend-

ing all contacts with the court on

conditions in Iraq and their impact on

Iraqi members of the defence team,

along with the never-ending threats

against them and their families... a

decision has been taken to fully

suspend all contacts with the Iraqi

Special (now High) Tribunal," their

"In view of the dangerous security

eight men pleaded not guilty.

security grounds.

statement said.

trial."

# Deadly bird flu said bird flu in the country although three

has been reported in the country outoutbreaks among poultry have surfaced side the Danube delta region. in different places in the past week. Flutur sought to reassure Romanian "At present the three outbreaks were

citizens, saving that more than 400 other stamped out and no new cases found," tests carried out on suspected cases Jia Youling, chief veterinary officer of the from the east of country, including the ministry of agriculture, told journalists. Vaslui region, had been negative. "According to the ministry of health, But he said protection measures, there are no reports of human infec-

including a ban on outdoor rearing of tion. farmyard poultry, would be maintained in the regions affected. The H5N1 virus has infected 118

Experts fear a pandemic that could kill millions across the globe if H5N1 acquires genetic material from a human influenza virus and becomes easily transmittable from human to human.

people in Asia since late 2003 and killed

Europe is on maximum alert for the further spread of the H5N1 strain, which has already also been detected in Croatia, Russia and Turkey, a westward sweep health experts believe is caused by birds migrating ahead of the winter.

Romanian health authorities on Thursday ordered tests on several chickens found on a train arriving from Russia

Countries around the world have rushed through measures in recent weeks to try to abate the spread of the virus in birds.

On Tuesday, the European Union agreed to impose a ban on pet bird imports from the rest of the world, following the detection of the H5N1 strain in a dead parrot held in quarantine in Britain.

Tests on 32 other birds which died in British quarantine up to mid-October have found that some had bird flu, although the exact strain remains unknown.

Earlier China insisted that there have been no documented human cases of

#### Bomb recovered FROM PAGE 16

Police said Jamal and Sumon were recently recruited in the outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddho). The bombs were made to carry out destructive activities, they added.

A case was filed with Daulatpur Police Station yesterday evening. A vigorous investigation is going on, police said.

#### Dog squads FROM PAGE 16

the elite force will be formed, raising the total to three.

"The entire country will be put under an extensive security network, the meeting sources said.

They said the authorities will further modernise the Management Information System (MIS) of Rab.

Inspector General of Police, Rab director general and senior officials of the home ministry attended the meeting.

"The top priority is to prevent the occurrence of avian flu among domesticated birds," Jia said. "If we fail to do that, then sooner or later the disease will be transmitted from birds to humans."

China has reported three outbreaks of bird flu in the past week, in the northern region of Inner Mongolia and the provinces of Hunan and Anhui. The virus has killed more than 60 people in Asia since late 2003.

China initially covered up the deadly outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) more than two years ago, and officials on Friday were eager to signal this would not happen again.

"Any person who delays, covers up or holds up reports of epidemics will be prosecuted according to the Law of

Animal Epidemic Prevention," Jia said. Jia warned the nation could expect new outbreaks to occur but said immediate measures would be implemented

#### Sarrc Summit FROM PAGE 16

to control them.

However, some leaders want to handle the opposition with strong hand so that they cannot make success the programme, sources said.

Meantime, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil told The Daily Star last night they are planning to gather 25 lakh people in the city for the rally. "If the government attempts to

bar our programmes or the participants' entrance to the capital, we will face them [government] along with the people," Jalil said. Jalil said they will make the rally a

success at any cost, "facing the government's oppression." "If they begin mass arrest to foil

the grand rally, we will oust the government through mass upsurge," he added. He said they have already started

taking preparation for the rally to make the programme a success. Sources said the government may

carry out massive search and mass arrest across the country before the opposition rally

Top leaders of the 14-party at several seminars and meetings, however, said they will not tolerate any obstruction to their constitutional rights of holding the rally.

#### Corporation buys and refines the ATTACKS ON AL condensate. The dry gas is supplied

In the last four years, the main through the gas pipeline of Bakhrabad

# Israel rules out

they would never take part in any completely destroy the ceasefire," Erakat told AFP, referring to a tenuous On bus fare hike, Jalil alleged the truce that has been loosely adhered to ministers instigated the bus owners to by militant groups, but ignored by increase the fare instead of taking Islamic Jihad.

> Nabil Abu Rudeina, spokesman for Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas, appealed for calm, warning that the consequences of the bombing would affect both peoples.

"The Israeli escalation in Gaza and the West Bank will affect everyone. We ask Israel to stop this aggression immediately," he told AFP.

During the night, the air force carried out four strikes on open fields and access routes used by militants to launch rockets against Israel. and continuous until we have brought

Fighter planes over Gaza City On the Jatiya Sangsad, Jalil said the caused deafening sonic booms six government has turned it into their times during the early hours, an AFP correspondent said. sition MPs are not allowed to talk. He

Israeli troops arrested at least 16 Palestinians, 12 of them suspected ment dysfunctional and they "would Jihad members, in an overnight West Bank sweep in the aftermath of AL presidium member Tofail Wednesday's suicide bombing, Ahmed and Organising Secretary Abdul military sources said.

The armed wing of Jihad and the no diplomatic progress," he said

birds from different countries of South America, Australia, Africa and south and southeast Asia, are still continuing with the business.

"These pet birds are also very risky and could be the carriers of the avian flu virus," said Karim.

#### Janajuddha FROM PAGE 1

Janajuddho has claimed responsibility for the killings. Blasting the ruling alliance for crossfire killings it said it would carry on the revenge campaign with even more vengeance. The statement was faxed to some local newspersons in Chuadanga and Kushtia on Wednesday night soon after the killings.

It said the law enforcers have long been killing its men cold-bloodedly and falsely ascribing the deaths to 'crossfire', 'encounter', 'line of fire' or 'shootout'.

Police in Khulna range were put on alert and security in the region was beefed up following the five murders.

"Police are verifying the source from which the statement was issued," a high police official of Khulna told The Daily Star yesterday. Replying to another query, he

armed offshoot of Abbas's ruling said, "We are always on alert and our Fatah party, said it had fired rockets drive against lawlessness is on."

on Israeli communities, but no According to the law enforcers, at least 10 outlawed parties with 10,000 "We are saying to the criminal cadres have been active in the region enemy, incursions, arrests and assasfor the last 30 years. sinations against our Mujahedeen

They are PBCP (Marxist-Leninist), PBCP-Janajuddho, Biplobi (holy war) against its army and settlers Communist Party (BCP), New Biplobi Communist Party (NBCP), Banglar Communist Party (BCP-Laltu), Gono Mukti Fouj (GMF), Jashod Gono Bahini (JGB), Socialist Party (SP), after the suicide attack in the town of Biplobi Anuragi, Chhinnamul Communist Party (CCP).

Some 183 outlaws including "Our activity will be wide-ranging several top leaders of the outfits were killed in 'encounters' with the law enforcers since June last year while in the year before, some 65 were killed in The prime minister has ruled out a 'Operation Clean Heart' and 'Operaresumption of talks with Abbas unless tion Spider Web' in the region. the Palestinian Authority cracks down

A top leader of Janajuddho vesterday told The Daily Star that now with their back to the wall they have no alternative but to keep on 'cleansing the region of the class enemy'.

But Peter Eigen of the Berlin-based Fransparency International, which traces corruption around the world, was sceptical whether many prosecutions would follow.

He said it was "sheer hypocrisy" for rich countries to demand stringent accountability from poor nations "without holding their companies to those same standards."

While \$1.8 billion was skimmed from the UN programme, the report said Saddam made nearly \$11 billion in smuggled oil sales outside of the program, often with the knowledge of the UN Security Council, which had a supervisory role.

Russia, which opposed sanctions, was the preferred customer and got \$19 billion in oil deals. The government took an active role in helping to pay the fees through the Iraqi Embassy in Moscow and in nine other countries, the report

said. Among the individuals said to have received commissions from Iraq from oil allocations were Jean-Bernard Merimee. France's former UN ambassador, now under investigation. The report said he

# Eid passengers

Patuakhali and Amtoli from Dhaka, and to Chandpur, Ichuli, Taltola, Ramchandrapur, Machuakhali, Sureshwar, Torki, and Matlab from Narayanganj.

But reliable sources said ministers, lawmakers and leaders of the ruling party have already booked through phone most of the tickets for doubleand single-berth cabins on the extra services. KAMALAPUR

People sat in a long queue from 5:00am yesterday to collect in advance tickets of November 2.

Around 11 thousand tickets were sold although the collective number of seats in 19 inter-district trains stands at 6.5 thousand, said an officer of the railway station.

Extra compartments will be added to the regular ones, he added. A mobile police booth has been working to receive complaints from the passen

#### BUSTERMINALS

Distance between two given places gers is very low.

varies on two charts, one by the govern ment and the other by Bus Truck Owners Association

For instance, the government chart shows the distance between Dhaka and Meherpur to be 249 km while the association chart shows it to be 295 km. Following the hike in fuel prices, the government recently has fixed the transport fares per km. According to the government decision, per km fare for buses is Tk.80 and minibuses Tk.83.

The association chart put the distance at higher figure as the more the distance, the higher the fare, alleged a passenger standing in front of the charts posted on ticket counter walls at Gabtoli.

Some passengers expressed disgust at the law enforcers' role who, they said, despite complaint from the passengers remain indifferent to the differences in the charts.

Law enforcers on guard at Gabtali Bus Station told The Daily Star that the number of allegations from the passen-