The Baily Star

### Rowling readies pen Govt using militants for final Potter book to create anarchy: AL

#### AFP. London

JK Rowling, the British author of the record-selling Harry Potter series, said she plans to start writing the final book about the boy wizard next month and finish it some time in

2006. "For 2006 will be the year when I write the final book in the Harry Potter series," the British author wrote on her official website.

"I contemplate the task with mingled feelings of excitement and dread, because I can't wait to get started.'

Joanne Kathleen Rowling, 40, has spent much of the past decade writing about the adventures of Potter and his friends at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

On her website, she said she felt compelled to wrap up the gripping tale that has captured the imagination of millions of children and adults worldwide

At the same time, Rowling doubted her ability to answer all the questions generated by the seven-

**Outlaws kill 3 ansars** 

reports.

FROM PAGE 1 Staff Correspondent at Rajshahi

reports. None of the Natore police administration could be reached last night for confirmation of the report but local sources and witnesses identified the killed ansar members as Abdul Aziz, Abdul Gafur and Abdul Momin

Camp in-charge Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Fazlur Rahman and six ansars were bullet-wounded in the attack, the sources said. The looted arms and ammunition

include one sub machine-gun, one shot-gun, eight three-not-three rifles and 139 rifle bullets.

Witnesses said about 40 outlaws surrounded the outpost, some 15 kilometres off Singra Police Station and 30 kilometres off Natore town, at about 5:45pm with a procession chanting slogans 'long live Maoism'. and 'long live Sirai Sikdar.'

Niamatpur in Naogaon and Six of the 16 ansars were taken Bagmara in Rajshahi. from the outpost for PM's security SIRAJGANJ while two of them went out to say The police arrested Sarwar their evening prayers during the Hossain. Rubel and Shawkat in the attack. Jamtail railway station area and

The outlaws gunned down two ansars stood guard at the entrance to the outpost, said witnesses. As the criminals stormed the camp, the ansars tried to resist them leading to a gunfight. Another ansar and an attacker were killed during the battle

The outlaws carrying sophisticated firearms then held the rest of the law-enforcers hostage at the camp and fled the scene looting the arms and ammunition. They also took away the body of the killed outlaw, our Bogra correspondent

# 20 inmates killed

part series.

her life after Potter. "It will all be over at last and I can't quite imagine life without

Harry," she said. Turning to the task at hand, Rowling said she had been finetuning her ideas for the seventh installment of Potter's life and was ready to start work in January.

Reading through the plan is like contemplating the map of an unknown country in which I will soon find myself," she said. At times while writing the previ-

ous six books Rowling said she ran into trouble, such as chapter nine of the fourth one: "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" In October, Rowling's literary

agent said the boy wizard series had sold more than 300 million copies worldwide. The six books published in the

series so far have been translated into 63 languages. The first four have also been made into blockbuster movies

Before leaving the camp, the

outlaws destroyed all the wireless

sets to disconnect radio communi-

cation with Natore and nearby

to the scene. The police and Rapid

Action Battalion members started a

massive hunt for the outlaws in the

The outlaws earlier looted arms

and ammunition from several police

stations and outposts at

Gurudaspur in Natore, Atrai and

seized some smuggled Indian saris

and Phensidyl syrup from their

Soon after the arrest, the accom-

nolice stations said sources

district and adjacent areas

stronghold in the area.

possession.

The writer also wondered about STAFF CORRESPONDENT

> Leaders of the main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday said the BNP-Jamaat alliance government, sensing defeat in the upcomng national election, has been using militants to create anarchy in the country as part of its election engineering plan.

At a press conference at the party's Dhanmondi office that was called following death threats to AL Presidium Member Suranjit Sengupta, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil said, "The responsibility will obviously go to the prime minister and her coalition partner Jamaate-Islami in this regard."

Using the JMB's suicide squad, the alliance government has tar-geted the democratic and proliberation forces, he said, adding, "No attacks were launched on the BNP and Jamaat men and this ndicates who are conducting the

bomb attacks. In separate letters sent to the UNOs of Dirail and Shalla upazilas, Suranjit's parliamentary constituency, and Karimpur union parishad chairman, the JMB recently threat-ened to kill the Al leader in bomb attack Terming the death threat a part of

"planned political killings", Suranjit said JMB's threat ahead of the upcoming national elections is aimed at postponing it. The JMB's objective is to spread

communalism, keep him away from the election race and create panic among the general people and the AL workers, he said. Suraniit demanded proper inves-

tigation into JMB's death threat as Senior officials of the police well as three previous attacks on and including DIG (deputy inspector threats to him. general) of Rajshahi range rushed

requested the Speaker to nvestigate the earlier attacks and hreats through a parliamentary committee, but nothing has been done," he added.

AL leaders Motia Chowdhury Obaidul Quader, advocate Abdu A source in PBCP's Red Flag Mannan Khan, Asim Kumar Ukil, faction blamed its Sarbahara faction Tanjim Ahmed Shohel Taj MP for the incident, but a source in among others, were present at the Singra said Red Flag faction has a press conference.

## Biman tries

FROM PAGE 16 flag carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines for not arranging adequate flights for the intending pilgrims. It said Biman would not be able to carry more than 35,000 pilgrims, while foreign carriers might fly 6,000 to

7.000 more. Biman may carry up to 39,000 pilgrims to Saudi Arabia using the 86 air landing slots in Jeddah airport, official sources told The Daily Star yesterday. About 6,000 to 7,000 more could avail foreign airlines, but

ate extra flights.

plices of Sarwar attacked the police Biman requires more flights for the team and snatched him away after beating up five policemen. Rubel Biman is now frantically trying to managed to escape during the get 10 more slot permission from the Saudi authorities so that it can oper-

attack. The police however brough Shawkat to Kamarkhanda Police Station, our Sirajganj correspondent reports

expressed inability to operate after December 31. Mirpur as the businessman refused Sources said even if Biman gets the 10 slots, it would have to operate hardly 2,700 more pilgrims could be ferried The government high-ups are also trying to negotiate with Saudi Arabian Airlines to arrange some last moment special hajj flights, Biman sources said. There is no slot barrier for Saudi airlines in Jeddah. Moreover, it is also authorised to operate haii flights even after the Saudi government seals off the special hajj airport on Januarv 4. 2006.

However, the only wide-bodied

craft, a Boeing 747, which Biman had

chartered from France, has already

# AL out to split

NEWS

Quddus and Mian Golam Parwar.

Mohammad Quamaruzzaman, Abdul

Quader Mollah, A T M Azharul Islam,

Tasneem Alam and some district unit

spilled over to nearby thoroughfares

lanes and by lanes and open spaces

Although the main rally started at

2:00pm, Jamaat activists and sup-

porters started gathering at the rally

By noon, the entire area was

In his speech, Ali Ahsan said,

Islamic scholars never provoked

Saidee said the AL forged coalition

with left parties as it does have any

sance of Islam could not be resisted

through writings in a few newspapers.

number of senior AL leaders including

Amir Hossain Amu and Mohammad

Nasim held meetings with Jammat

leaders on several occasions in the

already understood that they would

face a debacle also in the next general

election if the four- party coalition

democracy succeeds in the country,

Pry teachers

Islamic parties would succeed if

remains intact, he said

he thought.

FROM PAGE 1

Association.

Akkas said.

Tuesday

The opposition parties have

Quamaruzzaman claimed that a

militancy or bomb attacks, he added.

heavily crowded, and Islami songs

were rendered from the dais to enter-

venue since the morning.

tain the audience.

past.

The huge gathering at the rally

leaders

### FROM PAGE 1

conspiracy' against Bangladesh as well as Islam. Conspirators might want to create a pretext for foreign aggression through terrorism and anarchy in the country, they cautioned.

The Jamaat leaders also pointed fingers at a neighbouring country for its involvement in recent bomb blasts and other terrorist activities in the country.

The recent series of suicide bombings in the name of Islam is part of a conspiracy of the AL to break the ruling coalition and tarnish the image of the Islamic parties including Jamaat, they alleged

Denying any links with the banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), the Jamaat leaders said JMB is a creation of the AL as General Secretary of Awami Jubo League Mirza Azam is a close relation of the JMB chief

'Militancy originated across the border Jamaat believes in democracy and to make the our country a subservient always tried to uphold it. The party state. Its main objective is to break the never provoked or supported subverruling coalition and tarnish the image sive and terrorist activities, its leaders of Islam". claimed.

They also criticised a spiritual leader who recently termed Jamaat a non-Islamic party.

"The recent surge of Islamist base among the people. Moqbul Ahmed said the renaismilitancy in the country is part of a strategy to create division between Islamic and nationalist forces," Matiur Rahman Nizami, ameer of Jamaat and minister for industries, told the

The AL started conspiring as it could not go to power in the 2001general election due to coalition between nationalists and Islamic forces, he said.

It wanted to destroy democratic politics in the country and make the country a failed state, he alleged.

He pointed out that the government has acted timely and nabbed many militant leaders with huge arms and ammunition.

The Jamaat chief claimed AI central leader Amir Hossain Amu had offered him ministership and a number of women's seats in parliament to forge coalition before the general election in 1991. But the AL could not go to power because Jamaat turned down the offer.

The AL went to power in 1996 only because of a misunderstanding between Islamic and nationalists forces, he noted.

Nizami urged the people to help continue politics of production, development, investment and stability that started since the four-party alliance came to power.

Islam never supported bombing or terrorism. It takes time to establish Islamic rule in a country, he added.

The rally was also addressed by Jamaat Secretary General and

# Mirpur erupts

### FROM PAGE

general

he National Zoo. Traffic movement resumed around two hours after the demonstration at 8:30pm.

Six businessmen, including Aftab. have been killed by toll collec-Two motorcyclists shot Aftab, secretary of the Mukta tors in Mirpur area in the last 11 Bangla Shopping Complex, on months and around 15 others were Sunday near his house at Block-E in shot and wounded for refusing to

to pay tolls. With bullet wounds in the head

**Sedition case** against JMB Vinister for Social Welfare Ali Ahsar accepted Mohammad Mujahid, Naeb -e-Amee Moqbul Ahmed, party lawmakers

#### Delwar Hossain Saidee, Abdus BDNEWS, Dhaka Sobhan, Shah Mohammad Ruhu

The charge sheet in the first sedition case against members of militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) was accepted by a Dhaka court vesterday.

However, none of the top brasses of the JMB was implicated in the sedition case filed following press reports

Of the eight accused in the sedition case, seven are absconding while one is under custody.

Police had arrested five more accused, but they got released on bail as at first they were shown arrested under section 54 along with one now under custody.

Accepting the charge sheet, Dhaka's first class magistrate Tahabul Alam fixed the next date of hearing for January 22. On the day, gazette notification will be published for confiscating the properties of the absconding accused if they don't surrender, sources concerned said.

Police on Tuesday submitted the charge sheet in the sedition case relating to recovery of written formula of bomb making, Jihadi books, black mask, false hair and other materials used in extremist activities at Joypura beside Dhaka-Aricha Highway in Dhamrai on February 20,

The accused are Abdul Wahab of Kavetoara in Dhamrai municipal Rafigul Islam Sentu

of village Kakran, Faruk Hossain alias "Kosai Faruk" of Kakran Nayapara, Anwar Hossain of Kakran Roopnagar, Nurul Islam of Tentulia Yakub Ali of Ikuria and Abdus

Salam and Wahiduzzaman Pintu alias Pintu alias Nantu of Dhamrai Sadar.

Among them, Rafiqul was arrested on December 3 under section 54. The rest are absconding.

### Bangladesh Non-government Primary School Teachers Outlaw killed

He went on, "We have been FROM PAGE 16 informed from the PMO that the PM of the city on Tuesday morning. will sit with us today (Thursday) on According to a Rab press receipt of estimates of the financial release, they took Shamim to requirements for nationalising our Kartikdanga village under Dumuria jobs." The Primary and Mass upazila to recover illegal arms following his confessional state-Education Ministry was to submit the estimates yesterday evening, ment. When they reached the spot at around 1:30 am, Shamim's

The fast unto death and sit-in at accomplices opened fire on Rab, against which they retaliated. the Shaheed Minar wll continue until their demand is met, he said. Shamim died on the spot when

Wearing shrouds, 20 teachers he got caught in the shootout, while started the fast at 5:00 pm on his accomplices fled. One pistol, one pipegun and four

rifle bullets were recovered from the scene.

According to the press release Shamim was wanted in several criminal cases including murder and was involved with the Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) as a bomber. He also confessed his direct involvement in the bomb attack on a traffic sergeant at Daulatpur on November 19, the press release added

### 31st night FROM PAGE 1

raids on different slums, hotels and An uneasy calm was prevailing in other places to prevent storage of

# Bimstec to form body

liberalisation programme. Tariff of items included in its final list would

have to be slashed directly to zero to 5

percent as agreed upon during the

could be reduced gradually to zero to 5 percent level within 10 years from July

2006, when Bimstec FTA on trade in

At the TNC meeting, the members

requested each other to exclude items

of their export interest from the nega-

tive list. The meeting agreed to

exchange exclusion requests and

notify decisions through electronic

transmission to speed up the negotia-

tion. The members have agreed to

limit items in the sensitive list to 20

draft of investment promotion and

protection agreement, and exchange

ists of service sectors they would

open to expedite negotiation on

Bimstec FTA on service trade and

Police submit

mander of Chittagong Mohammad

Investigating Officer (IO) Leching

Later, the investigating officer requested the court to exclude

Ahmed Hossain (since deceased)

from the charge sheet. Among the accused, Ataur

Rahman Šunny and Javed Iqbal are

now in jail custody while the others

Police constable Razib Barua and

leader of local Swechchhasebak

League Shahabuddin were killed on

the spot and 16 people injured in the

twin bomb blasts at the Chittagong

The meeting considered disburse-

ment of the subsidy should be made

on the basis of volume rather than the

price. The volume can also be deter-

mined by the agriculture ministry to

The meeting also discussed

Opposing views also came as

ensure that required amount of fertilis-

tasking the government with importing non-urea fertilisers in addition to

some questioned the government's

ability to handle the extra burden of

importing and distributing all kinds of

nuge amount of fertilisers has been

imported during July-November,

resulting in the dollar crisis at the

reporters some importers have quoted

\$260, while some have guoted \$216.

raising questions on which prices the

Following the meeting, Saifur told

The BB governor told the meeting a

Magistrate's Court (CMM).

are absconding.

Court Building.

\$260 per tonne

ers is imported.

rtilisers

importing urea fertilisers.

change market.

The TNC also decided to prepare a

percent of the total tariff lines.

investment. sources said.

ROM PAGE 16

goods will come into effect.

Tariffs of other items, however

negotiations.

DHAKA THURSDAY DECEMBER 29, 2005

FROM PAGE 16 third party involvement is required in discussing the import surge, countervailing duty and other issues that directly affect foreign trade.

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Sri Lanka are the members of Bimstec (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) that was established in

The Bimstec set July 1, 2006 to implement FTA agreement on trade in goods in the region.

"The TNC has narrowed down differences significantly," a foreign ministry high official yesterday said adding that the issues of investment promotion and protection would be discussed in the 11th meeting of the TNC to be held in Bangkok in February 2006.

Before that, a sub-group will meet in New Delhi to thrash out differences on value addition, the official said.

The TNC has concluded negotia ion on Dispute Settlement Mechanism (DSM) at the just concluded Kathmandu meeting, sources said.

Member states differed on the percentage of value addition and Rahman's younger brother Ataur Rahman Sunny, JMB regional comproduct specific rules falling under the Rules of Origin" that seek to ensure that the goods to be exported have alias Javed Igbal and JMB suicide their origin in the exporting country and squad member Ahmed Hossain, who are not imported.

lied at the Chittagong Medical While LDCs pressed for 30 percent College Hospital of injuries sustained in the bomb blast. value addition criteria, developing countries insisted on 40 percent. Prue submitted the charge sheet before the Chief Metropolitan

The TNC meeting, however, agreed to limit commodities under PSR to 400 items.

The members, meanwhile, agreed to open 10 percent of total tariff lines under the fast track of trade

### Fakruddin FROM PAGE 16

sentenced 13 people to different term imprisonment.

FROM PAGE 1

subsidy coverage.

said

The courts lodged cases against them under Hygienic Food Act, BSTI Act, Environment Act, Motor Vehicle Ordinance and other acts, a home ministry press release said.

Kofiluddin Ahmed clarified the

mporters would not release four

lakh tonnes of fertilisers more

imported but not yet brought under

expected to be made in connection

with providing subsidy in the coming

fiscal year and this will be decided at

streamline the policy [regarding

disbursement of subsidy for the import

of non-urea fertilisers] from next year.

We'll clear the subsidy now when the

concerned committee sends us the

bills after scrutinising those," Saifur

comprising representatives from the

finance, industries and agriculture

ministries, National Board Revenue,

and other concerned bodies fix the

High officials from the Cabinet

import rate of non-urea fertilisers.

The inter-ministerial committee

"We are going to very much

the highest level of the government.

Ameeting source said changes are

# Finance agrees

#### FROM PAGE 16

shooting dead one prison officer and wounding another, an interior ministry official told AFP.

Warders then opened fire on the detainees, killing 20.

"The guards opened fire to protect themselves, and to regain control of the situation," the official told AFP, asking not be identified.

A US military official in Baghdad said the incident was under investiga-

Many of those detained at the prison are held on terrorism charges.

Five prisoners successfully escaped from the detention centre last month, according to the justice ministry.

Some 500 Iraqis and 166 foreigners are currently held on terrorism charges in Iraq-run facilities, according to the director of prisons, General Juma Hussein Zamel

A further 14.000 detainees are held in US-run prisons, with another 500 or so detained at US bases, the US military said.

The abortive breakout came as Shia and Kurdish politicians met to thrash out a new government line-up after leaders of the long oppressed Shia majority rejected calls from Sunni Arab and secular parties for a re-run of December 15 elections

Abdel Aziz Hakim, leader of a formerly Iran-based religious party that is one of the main planks of the Shia United Iraqi Alliance which is poised to win the landmark poll, was due to meet President Jalal Talabani after holding talks with his fellow Kurdish politician Massud Barzani on Tuesday.

Angry members of Iraq's ousted Sunni Arab elite continued to demonstrate against what they said was fraud in the conduct of the election for Iraq's first full-term legislature since the overthrow of Saddam Hussein.

Hundreds of demonstrators took to the streets of the Sunni city of Samarra, north of Baghdad, brandishing banners calling for the dismissal of the electoral commission and the formation of a government of national

unity. "Jaafari. Hands off," said the placards in reference to outgoing Prime Minister Ibrahim Jaafari, who heads the Dawa, another Shia religious party.

"This country doesn't want you." Similar protests had been held Tuesday in both Baghdad and

Saddam's hometown of Tikrit. But Hakim, who heads the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, ruled out any Warll.

possibility of election re-runs.

"The election results cannot be invalidated," he said. "Elections cannot be held anew." Final results are not expected

before next week but Iragi leaders have come under strong pressure to press ahead with the formation of a new government as quickly as possible to avoid the sort of prolonged

uncertainty which followed January's elections and was widely seen as having played into hands of Sunni Arab insurgents.

With the United States already mulling plans to start drawing down its own troop strength in Irag, the White House said it respected decisions by its Polish, Ukrainian and Bulgarian allies to pull out some or all of their

troops But White House deputy spokesman Trent Duffy declined to elaborate

on how the redeployments would affect the US military presence. "A country's decision on whether,

or (at) what level, to support the mission in Iraq, either with troops or with money or with other resources, is the country's decision to make on its own,' he said. "And we respect those decisions.'

The Polish government said Tuesday that it would maintain some troops in Iraq through next year, but would cut their number from about 1,450 to 900. The same day, Ukraine and

Bulgaria completed the withdrawal of all their troops.

In Japan, an opinion poll suggested that nearly three-quarters of Japanese wanted to see their own troops withdrawn by mid-2006.

Some 46 percent of respondents said Japanese troops should withdraw along with British troops in the first half of next year, while a further 28 percent said they should exit immediately, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun poll said.

Only 11 percent said that the troops should remain in Iraq until the United States withdraws, the business daily reported. The findings came less than three

weeks after Japan extended its military mission in Irag for another year. Japan has sent some 600 troops to

Iraq for non-combat humanitarian assistance, the nation's first deployment to a conflict zone since World

### AL demands

FROM PAGE 1

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil also demanded immediate removal of the 'politically appointed" district and upazila election commissioners.

He accused the families of the prime minister and the finance minister of involvement in the "fertiliser scam" Asked about the possibility to join

the parliament to save the membership. Jalil said after the meeting, "Time will say what to do."

The ALCWC meeting with AL President Sheikh Hasina in the chair also decided to stage demonstrations across the country tomorrow in protest against the attack on its Organising Secretary Akhtaruzzaman and the death threat to Presidium Member Suranjit Sengupta.

The AL will stage demonstration across the country on January 5 protesting the grenade and bomb attacks in the country.

They will observe Banga-bandhur Swadesh Prattabartan Dibosh (Bangabandhu's home coming day) on January 10 and former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria killing day on January 27

Senior AL leaders attended the meeting.

## Rab rushes

FROM PAGE 16 Rab-3, Rab-10 and also Rab headquarters rushed there to join in the operation. Police from the Rupgan Police Station also joined them. Rab and the police searched all the mosques, madrasas and schools in the villages but failed to arrest anyone. The drive at the Tarabo village continued till 3:30pm.

Colonel Mahbub, additional director peneral of Rab. told BDNEWS. "It was nothing but a rumour that Bangla Bhai is

Talking to BDNEWS, Commander Masuk, director of legal and media wing of Rab, said, "Rab often conducts such types of operations.

It may be mentioned another operation at Nikunja in Mohakhali area in the city failed earlier due to leakage of information.

and left arm, Aftab was undergoing treatment at Samarita Hospital. He breathed his last at about 5:30nm

The agitating businessmen held a rally on the road at Mirpur-1 and demanded arrest of the killers within 24 hours starting from last evening. They also demanded removal of the officer-in-charge of the Mirpur Police Station alleging him of harbouring criminals.

Manik Miah, president of Mirpur Cooperative Market, announced at the rally to keep around 100 markets in Mirour, Kafrul, Pallabi and Shah Ali police station areas closed for an indefinite period to protest the killing ofAftab

Local business leaders will meet

# JMB men back

#### FROM PAGE 16

in the remote Satkhira areas following countrywide crackdown after series of suicide bomb attacks by the JMB.

The JMB resumed its activities in full swing in the Assassuni, Tala, Kalaroa, Shyamnagar and Sadar upazilas, using mosques and madrasas as their base stations. intelligence agencies said.

The JMB is now busy recruiting new members from madrasas, and students from ultra-poor families are its main target, said some villagers, preferring not to be named.

Unknown persons are seen in the mosques and madrasas in Pratapnagar, Khajra, Sreeula (Assassuni upazila), Baikari, Banshdah, Kushkhali (Sadar upazila), Nagarghata, Kumira Tentulia, Khalilnagar (Tala upazila), Munshigonj, Gabura, Kaikhali and Burigoalini unions. "They introduce themselves either as student or teacher when approached," a local said.

Returning home, some fishermen, meanwhile, told this correspondent the militants who, with the help of pirates, fled to the Sundarbans and set up their dens in the deep forest.

"We saw from afar, they now make bombs there," a fisherman said

When asked, police officials said they heard about it but were yet to get any specific information. We will take action after gathering information, they said.

Locals are quite sceptic about police action as the Satkhira law enforcement members have failed to arrest most of the charge sheeted accused in Aug 17 blasts and other top JMB leaders even over four

he area last night as all ma shops remained closed and people

and vehicles on the roads were few. Additional force, including the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and the Detective Branch of police, were deployed in the area.

The police and Rab have so far arrested five people in connection with the shooting of Aftab.

the leaders of the Dhaka city unit of

the Dokan Malik Samity today and

announce their next programmes.

pay tolls to the local criminals.

The family members of Aftab meanwhile alleged that local criminal Shahadat and his gang members, who are suspected to have shot Aftab, are threatening to kill

them if their demand for Tk 10 lakh as extortion is not met.

months after serial bombings in the district. Only seven out of 17 charge

sheeted accused could be arrested so far Meanwhile, a sense of panic

keeps on fraying the nerves of teachers, guardians, students and government officials in the face of non-stop JMB letters with threat to blow up educational institutions and kev installations.

Police Super Abdur Rahim, however, said security has been beefed up in and around the key installations in the district.

## 3 die in cop

FROM PAGE 16 men. The magistrate ordered to open fire when the law enforcers failed to bring the situation under control

The police fired over 80 bullets and lobbed 15 teargas shells leaving two dead on the spot. Mizanur Rahman died after he was taken to

the Kushtia General Hospital. Fifteen critically wounded were admitted to the Kushtia General Hospital. Hospital sources said the death toll might rise as some of the injured are in grave condition.

Nine law enforcement members and a magistrate were also injured in the clash. They were admitted to Bheramara Upazila Health Complex and later shifted to Kushtia General Hospital.

The mob vandalised the magistrate's four-wheel-drive vehicle and a truck of Kushtia Sugar Mill. Three platoons of riot police were deployed at the village to prevent any untoward incidents.

alcoholic beverages and drugs.

Deployed alongside the police the doctors will carry out test on the Anwar, and LGRD and Cooperatives people out on streets and legal Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan action will be taken if anyone found drunk. Babar told newsmen emeraing out of the meeting.

The government earlier asked the bars in the capital and elsewhere to keep the shutters down during the year-end celebration.

The vigilance will be stricter in trouble-prone areas like Gulshan, Baridhara, Banani, Uttara and Dhaka University campus.

Meanwhile. Babar said the deputy inspector general (highway police) has been asked to take necessary steps to stop extortion of cattle traders coming to Dhaka ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

## Free degree

edn

FROM PAGE 1 for the 2007 national elections from the district.

She was addressing a large gathering at the Naldanga Mohila College at Sonapatil in Natore.

Obliquely referring to the main opposition, the PM said a particular party is involved in terrorism and bomb attacks in the name of "movement against the coalition government". She urged the people to remain alert against any conspiracy

Describing various development activities during her two terms, the PM said the BNP has performed best for the farmers and agriculture. "The Awami League government

gave a paltry Tk 100 crore subsidy to agriculture while we have subsidised 1,315 crore," she said.

She urged the people of North Bengal to cultivate onion, ginger and chilli on both sides of road so that Bangladesh no more has to import them. She also urged them to get involved in social forestation as well as to cultivate corn and soybean

Organised by the local BNP, the meeting was presided over by Atiqur Rahman Talukdar, president of Naldanga unit of the BNP. Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, State Minister for Labour Aman Ullah Aman, Political Secretary to the PM Haris Chowdhury and Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanui Rahman Minu also spoke at the meeting.

the reform programmes. In this Earlier, the PM inaugurated the transitional period it would not be Naldanga bridge and Ziaur Rahman Auditorium at the Nawab possible to get a lot of foreign aid. Sirajuddoula Government College. She also laid the foundation of the expenditure may rise substantially Natore Vocational Training Institute for the elections. The DSC, which at Basudevpur. would reduce the borrowing to some

Division, Bangladesh Bank, the subsidy snould be given. "We should examine if someone is agriculture, industries and finance misappropriating money through over ministries. Aariculture Minister MK

invoicing," he said. Asked if fertiliser import at private level will be stopped, Saifur said no

Corporation and Bangladesh

Agriculture Development Corporation

will also sell non-urea fertiliser in

extent, will not be able to arrest the

rising government expenditure due

Though the government bor-

rowed a little throughout the year, in

the last two or three days of the last

fiscal year, it borrowed about Tk

borrowing was reduced by five

percent, but it rose by 14 percent

and 17 percent in the next fiscal

The interest burden on the

budget is also increasing due to a

rise in the government's domestic

Finance ministry sources said

the government spent Tk 6,100

crore under revenue budget in the

first three months of the current

fiscal year, 30 percent of which was

This year Tk 1.816 crore was

spent to pay off interests in the first

three months. This is 26 percent

higher than the corresponding

Until September 2005, the total

government outstanding borrowing

from both bank and non-bank

channels stood at Tk 63.191 crore.

Of the sum. Tk 26.252 crore was

borrowed from the banks and Tk

36,939 crore from non-bank

domestic credit was Tk 38,565

In the FY 2001, the outstanding

spent on paying off interests.

period of the previous year.

In FY 2003, the government

subsidised prices.

to the elections

4.000 crore.

years.

borrowing.

sources

crore

attended the meet. decision to this effect has been made. The meeting discussed various He said the government itself does sorts of irregularities regarding the not want to do anything exclusively, but subsidy and means to solve this along with the private sector malpractice. Bandladesh Chemical Industries

Terming the fertiliser crisis situation a delicate issue, especially in the election year, Bhuiyan emphasised resolving the problem as early as possible," a meeting source said.

This new arrangements will be There are flaws in the policy, based done in phases, the minister added. on which subsidy is disbursed among the importers. The subsidy is being given on the basis of the import prices, but the last several months' invoices show different rates.

Hefty borrowing

One importer has quoted \$210 per tonne of fertiliser and another quoted

bid to raise their sale. The move will

also help reduce the government

However, it will put more interest

The government's expenditure

burden on the budget, the source

has soared over the years, but its

income has not risen in parallel with

it. resulting in the government's

current FY, the government's reve-

nue expenditure has increased

17.26 percent compared to that of

National Board of Revenue (NBR)

grew by 14.15 percent in the last

four months against an annual

may not continue with the strong

efforts against tax evasion ahead of

the next general elections, which

would further slow down revenue

Since the donor agencies will

now provide aid in line with the

Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper

(PRSP) and have set some condi-

tions, mainly reforms, for releasing

the aid. But with the elections about

a year away, it may not be possible

for the government to materialise

Besides, the government's

Sources said the government

The revenue income of the

In the first three months of the

dependency upon borrowing.

the previous year.

target of 17 percent.

collection.

borrowing from the banks.

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added.