

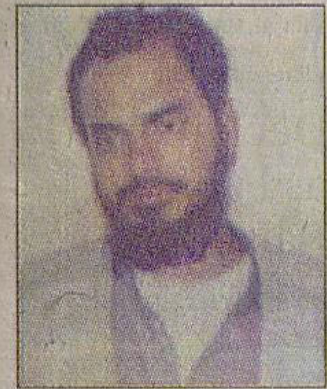


## BDR captures JMB top terror Saifullah

Rab rushes to C'Nawabganj to take control

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) captured the sixth Majlish-e-Shura member of the outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen



Khaled Saifullah

Bangladesh (JMB) Khaled Saifullah at a bordering village of Shibganj upazila in Chapainawabganj last night.

Lt Col Lutfar Rahman, commanding officer (CO) of BDR 6 Rifles Battalion, acknowledged the arrest, reports our staff correspondent in Rajshahi.

With the latest arrest, six out of seven members of the JMB top decision-making tier have been put behind bars. Salahuddin is still at large with a Tk 10 lakh bounty on his head.

A BDR patrol team of Telkupi border outpost (BOP) led by Havildar Yakub arrested Saifullah at a tea stall, 500 yards off the BOP around 12:30am when he was having tea. The outpost is about one and a half kilometres away from the Indian border.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## MILITANT TRANSACTIONS

# Fine slapped on Islami Bank for third time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank (BB) yesterday fined Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd Tk one lakh for hiding suspicious transactions by militants violating the anti-money laundering act.

This is the third time the bank has been penalised for covering up militants' transactions.

The BB in a letter directed Islami Bank to pay off the fine by today, and observe the anti-money laundering act strictly from now on.

The letter also asked the Islami Bank management to report to the BB what actions it has taken against 20 officials found assisting the militants in running their accounts.

The central bank had earlier sent probe teams to three branches of Islami Bank following the arrest of JMB chief Abdur Rahman and seizure of some banking documents from the militant kingpin's

busted Sylhet hideout.

The teams found lapses in banking norms and suspicious transactions in Sylhet, Gazipur and Savar branches of the bank. On the basis of the probe report, the BB issued a show cause notice on the bank on March 14, and did not find its answer satisfactory. Yesterday's action followed this.

The BB probe team that visited Islami Bank's Laldighipar branch in Sylhet found that Tk 4 lakh and 17 thousand were deposited through telegraphic transfers (TTs) in an account held by Saidur Rahman. Though the account was opened in 1999, no transactions were made until January this year. But in a few weeks since January 15, the entire amount was withdrawn. The probe team considered this suspicious.

The TTs were made from Savar

and Gazipur branches of the bank. But the sender of those apparently concealed his/her identity, which the branch authorities could not or did not notice. This was a clear violation of the anti-money laundering act.

After the capture of Abdur Rahman from Surya Dighal Bari in Sylhet, the law enforcers got hold of a cheque book in the name of Saidur Rahman. Saidur is former Ameer of Habiganj district Jamaat-e-Islami and father of JMB's information and technology section chief Shamim.

Sources said Islami Bank was fined twice earlier for hiding information on transactions by militants.

In 2004, the BB fined it Tk 50,000 for hiding information and transacting funds of Al Haramain Islamic Foundation, which is internationally banned for involvement

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



PHOTO: STAR

The magistrate of a mobile court examines coconut waste allegedly used in making spurious butter oil (ghee) at a factory in Goran in the city yesterday.

## 4 JMB leaders implicated in Prof Yunus murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police yesterday implicated four top leaders of outlawed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in the Prof Yunus murder case.

The police showed the four JMB leaders arrested in the case and took three on seven-day remand. They are Rajshahi division commander Shafiqullah alias Tarik, Eastern Rajshahi zone commander Abu Isa alias Enamul, training commander Golimur Rahman alias Golam Mostafa, and bomb expert Abdul Matin alias Boma Matin.

Tarik was responsible for commanding Rajshahi zone covering Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Natore and Naogaon districts. Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Ershad won't contest by-polls in Gaibandha

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad yesterday decided not to contest the by-election in Gaibandha-4 parliamentary constituency in the face of severe opposition from party presidium members.

JP leaders, who had divided over Ershad's willingness to contest the by-election in Gaibandha-4 scheduled for May 9, at a meeting yesterday convinced the party chief to change his decision.

"The party chief will not contest the by-polls. The party will nominate its candidate," JP Presidium member Kazi Firoz Rashid told The Daily Star yesterday.

The meeting also decided to start a month long election campaigning across the country. The tour schedule will be declared in a couple of days.

Ershad was convicted in the Janata Tower case and has been barred from contesting elections.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

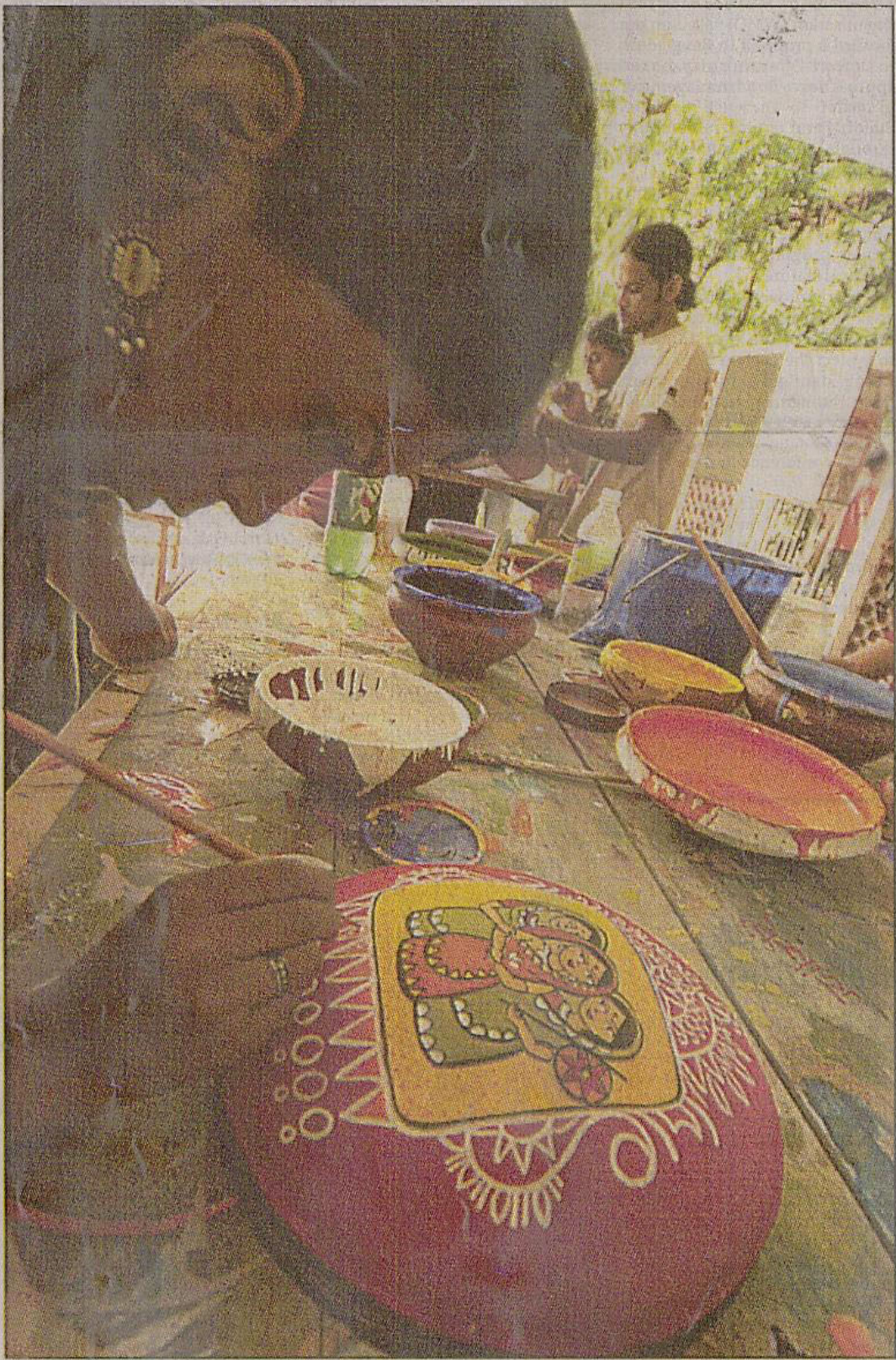


PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

A student of the Institute of Fine Arts in Dhaka draws folk motif on pottery yesterday ahead of Pahela Baishakh, which marks the beginning of a Bangla new year. The designed pots were sold at Tk 200 to Tk 500 each.

## No immediate hike in fuel prices, says energy adviser

UNB, Dhaka

Energy Adviser Mahmudur Rahman yesterday ruled out any possibility of fuel price hike soon. Indicating the coming general elections, he told reporters: "In the present reality, I don't think the government will be interested to raise petroleum prices."

Rahman's remarks came following the World Bank's suggestion for enhancing the fuel price to minimise the loss of state-owned Petroleum Corporation of Bangladesh (BPC).

A mission of the multilateral donor agency, led by its senior economist Sandeep Mahajan, made the suggestion at a meeting with Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman at his SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## JMB Sedition case hearing May 7

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed May 7 for hearing on charge framing of the first sedition case against eight Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) leaders and activists.

Judge Mohammad Golam Hossain of the Additional District Judge and Bankruptcy Court set the hearing date after scrutinising the case docket.

The accused are Mohammad Rafiqul Islam alias Sentu, 22, Mohammad Wahab, 26, Yaqub Ali, 21, Anwar Hossain, 23, Faruq Hossain alias Kosal Faruq, 25, Mohammad Wahiduzzaman alias Pintu, 20, Abdus Salam, 22, and Nurul Islam, 23. Of them, Sentu is now in custody while the others are still at large.

Sub-Inspector Iqbal Hossain, also the Investigation Officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet on December 27 last year against the accused to a first class magistrate's court in the city, showing 25 people as prosecution witnesses.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

# Anti-graft body sinks in deep legal abyss

Busy spending money to counter 78 writ petitions against its actions; no organogram yet in 17 months

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), which was supposed to bring the corrupt to justice, itself is now facing 78 writ petitions against its actions, including submitting charge sheets for misappropriating Tk 850 crore.

The situation has evolved as the 17-month-old institution resorted to framing charge sheets and filing First Information Report (FIR) without fixing any organisational structure to itself as required by the law.

The ACC has also failed to conduct any investigation on its own and is still using records of the now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac), creating further scopes for writ petitions challenging its actions.

Now it is frantically spending money to defend itself at the court.

In 2005-06 fiscal, the ACC outlined a budget of Tk 10 lakh to deal with its cases. In the revised budget the ACC doubled the sum. In the proposed budget for 2006-07, it is now seeking Tk 50 lakh for this purpose.

Sources said at the High Court (HC) the ACC has appointed a panel of five lawyers, one of whom charges Tk 1 lakh for appearing in the court in a case for the first time and then Tk 25,000 per hearing.

THE PETITIONS Forty-eight of the writ petitions have challenged the legality of the charge sheets in some cases filed by the ACC on the basis of investigations conducted by the Bac. Another seven petitions challenge the ACC's filing of FIRs on the basis of Bac inquiry.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## HEROIN SMUGGLING TO UK Tax intelligence checking returns of BD Foods

JASIM UDDIN KHAN

Income tax intelligence launched an investigation of BD Foods Limited and King and Co by scrutinising their income tax returns, to detect if there is any disparity between their actual incomes and their declared incomes.

The drive was launched recently following a report prepared by the National Board of Revenue (NBR), which found some of the directors

of the companies guilty of smuggling heroin in the guise of exporting legitimate products to the United Kingdom.

A primary investigation report found that a leading private company, BD Foods Limited, and its sister concern King & Co manipulated the entire export process to smuggle the illicit drug to the UK.

"If the companies are involved with such international drug

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## Rallies in Khulna, Pabna for power

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khulna regional unit of Bangladesh Shop Owners Association (BSOA) laid siege to Bidyut Bhawan (office of the PDB) yesterday noon and submitted a memorandum to the managing director of West Zone Power Distribution Company demanding uninterrupted power supply to all the shopping centres from 6:00pm to 10:00pm everyday.

At a rally in front of Bidyut Bhawan speakers said severe load shedding of electricity has crippled economic backbone of the south-western region of the country and caused serious water crisis in Khulna city.

They demanded immediate installation of a 210MW power plant in Khulna that was a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## CONTROLLING INSTITUTIONS JCD, Shibir clash in power battle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Clashes between two main pro-government student organisations -- Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir -- are raging across the country again as both are desperate to dominate different educational institutions and capture tenders.

Since the BNP-Jamaat coalition's assuming office in October 2001, at least one activist of BNP's student wing JCD and one of Jamaat-e-Islami's student front Shibir have been killed and about 200 of both organisations injured in such clashes.

After a spate of violence in the

initial two years of the four-party government, top leaders of JCD and Shibir held a meeting on October 26, 2003 and agreed 'not to fight any more'. But they again started fighting in the last year of the government.

Policymakers of the JCD are worried as more than 70 activists of JCD and Shibir were injured in last couple of days in three clashes in Dhaka, Jessore and Chittagong over establishing supremacy in educational institutions.

Even many grassroots level leaders of JCD at their ongoing divisional conferences labelled Shibir as their "main enemy" and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## 25 injured in clash at Mohakhali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Clashes between Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) at Institute of Health and Technology at Mohakhali in the capital left at least 25 activists injured yesterday morning.

The activists of JCD and ICS, student wings of ruling BNP and its alliance partner Jamaat-e-Islami, got engaged in the clashes over leadership of the institute and previous enmity between the two organisations, police and witnesses said.

JCD activists beat up Shibir activist Farooq on Monday on the institute premises, ICS said.

The following day, Shibir leaders threatened JCD activists of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Thaksin hands over power to deputy



An emotional Thaksin before media

AP, Bangkok

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra handed over power to a longtime friend and fellow police officer yesterday, less than 24 hours after saying he would step down over allegations of corruption and abuse of power.

Thaksin made the announcement that Deputy Prime Minister Chitchai Wannasathit would replace him in a speech to supporters outside his Thai Rak Thai party headquarters. The move follows two months of protests calling for his resignation.

"I have decided that if I have to rest to let the country move forward, I want to rest now. I have appointed Chitchai to do my work

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

**In remembrance of our founder Chairman Late Abdul Khaleque Khan**

April 06, 2006 is the 8<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of Late Abdul Khaleque Khan, the founder Chairman of Opsonin Pharma Limited, a leading pharmaceutical company of the country. The company has just stepped into its 50<sup>th</sup> year of successful operations on March 03, 2006.

Indeed Late Abdul Khaleque Khan was one of the pioneer entrepreneurs of our highly successful and vibrant domestic pharmaceutical industry. It was his farsightedness, wisdom, devotion, hard work and above all determination that has catapulted Opsonin Pharma Limited to this leadership position.

On this solemn ceremony of Late Abdul Khaleque Khan, we the management, staff and all employees of the company pray for eternal peace of the departed soul and also pray to the Almighty Allah to grant Late Abdul Khaleque Khan Jannatul Ferdous.

**Management, staff and all employees of Opsonin Group of Companies.**

**Opsonin**  
Ideas for healthcare