

# UNO office

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sources in the joint forces, police and the local administration.

Enraged by the UNOs outright arrogance the farmers entered different office rooms, including those of the UNO, agriculture officer and the engineer, and damaged furniture and documents.

Later the rampaging farmers piled up the damaged furniture and office documents at a corner in front of the UNO's office and set fire to them.

Some farmers who took part in the spontaneous rampage said they were already getting angry because the authorities had not been distributing enough fertiliser to meet their requirements.

Official sources said there is no fertiliser crisis in Nachole upazila. They said 900 metric tons of fertiliser had been allocated for the upazila to meet a demand for 788 metric tons during the current crop season, and there is still a stock of additional 200 metric tons for the upcoming ropa season.

The farmers however alleged that they have been suffering from an acute fertiliser crisis as they could not get the required quantity of it even after waiting for more than three days in queues.

Our staff correspondent from Khulna reported that different districts of the south-western region have been in the grip of an acute urea crisis for the last two weeks.

Meanwhile, at a news briefing last evening Press Secretary to the Chief Adviser Syed Fahim Munaim said they will know whether there is a fertiliser crisis, and if there is one whether it is genuine or an artificial one, only after proper authorities make field level visits and submit their report on the matter.

According to eyewitnesses of yesterday's Nachole incident, about 3000 farmers had been waiting in several long queues for urea since early morning.

Government officials started distributing the fertiliser through issuing coupons among the waiting farmers from four posts in the upazila parishad compound.

The inevitable hullabaloo that accompanies such a large gathering brought the UNO out of his office, and he asked his officials to halt the distribution. Soon he himself took over the responsibility of issuing coupons from only one post, giving the waiting farmers another reason to get angrier.

At one stage, the UNO slapped Deputy Assistant Agriculture Officer Saidur Rahman because he advised the boss to distribute the coupons from more than four posts instead of curtailing the number of them. The UNO was also hurling expletives to the waiting farmers numbering in thousands by then, igniting the wick of the revolt.

The farmers became furious and started beating the UNO bringing him down to the ground.

Then the protestors started to beat up other officials present, prompting them to take cover in their office rooms in vain, as the mob of farmers chased after them into the office rooms.

An hour later, the joint forces rushed to the scene and brought the situation under control. Additional

policemen were deployed in the area to prevent further untoward incidents. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shahadat Hossain, Superintendent of Police Mokhesur Rahman, and Deputy Director of DAE Asim Kumar Malakar also rushed to the scene.

Instantly, they along with the upazila administration and 10 representatives from the farmers held an emergency meeting. The DC said the meeting was held to find out whether there was any flaw in the distribution system of the fertiliser, adding that there is no crisis of it in the district. He also said proper actions will be taken against any government official found to be neglecting duties.

The DC formed a three-member probe committee led by the additional district magistrate, the other two members of which are the deputy director of DAE, and the additional police super. The DC asked the committee to submit its report within the next 24 hours.

The district administration officials told reporters that the ongoing fertiliser distribution will resume again this morning remedying the flaws in the distribution system.

Nachole saw a raging peasant uprising in 1949-50 against the oppressions brought on them by the erstwhile class of jotedars in the area, resulting in a legislation banning certain types of oppressions on the peasants.

**BNP reformists**

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in the proposals for reforms that we have announced earlier solely for the party," Mannan Bhuiyan told reporters yesterday at his Gulshan residence.

"Now, we also want to say something about overall politics as well as the country," he said, adding they will announce soon some proposals regarding this.

The former LGRD and co-operative minister expressed surprise about the filing of a case against him at Cox's Bazar for having 10 acres of land registered in his name illegally.

"Some unknown persons might have taken the land using my name but I don't know anything in this regard," he said.

"I have never heard about it ... Even nobody collected my signature for registration of land in Cox's Bazar. The whole thing is bogus," he said. Proper investigation would prove the case against him is false, he hoped.

Meanwhile, some BNP leaders including former lawmakers Syed Abul Hossain and Mosharraf Hossain Mangu and a group of Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders yesterday met Bhuiyan at his residence to express their support for efforts to make the party more democratic in its functioning.

On June 25, Mannan Bhuiyan announced reform proposals for the party.

Party Chairperson Khaleda Zia is also preparing reform proposals that would be placed at a party council.

# Charges framed

**FROM PAGE 1**  
In Kushtia a fund misappropriation case was filed against former BNP lawmaker from Meherpur-1 Masud Arun.

**DULU CASE**  
Our staff correspondent in Rajshahi reported that Dulu along with 23 other arrested accused were produced before the court during the charge framing.

Judge Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan fixed Sunday to start trial of the case.

The arrested accused include Dulu's brothers-- Nabi Talukhdar and Rafik Talukhdar, cousins-- Atikur Rahman, Nurunnabi Talukhdar, Abidur Rahman and Mojibor Rahman, nephews-- Rentu, Belal, Helal and Bulbul, nephew-in-law Rahim Newaz, Natore municipal ward commissioners Sadrul Huda Dambel and Nasim Khan.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Additional District Magistrate Rawnak Mahmud recorded statements of three witnesses-- Feroza Begum, Abdul Momin and Jaheda Begum-- in other part of the case. The court will hear the other witnesses today.

Natore district Jatiya Chhatra Samaj President Asaduzzaman Shah filed the case with Naldanga Police Station (PS) on February 25 accusing 105 people.

Arman Hossain, officer-in-charge of Naldanga PS, submitted two separate charge sheets-- one for arson and looting and another under explosives act accusing total 94 persons months later on May 3.

According to charges, the accused persons launched a series of attacks at Ramsa Kazipur (Dulu's home village), Shahpara and Amtali Bazar on Dulu's directives to retaliate murder of his nephew Sabbir Ahmed Gama on February 7 in 2004.

Hearing the murder news, Dulu rushed to the scene and began the attacks torching Asaduzzaman's straw-made-house himself.

In a couple of days, some 37 households and shops were torched spraying gunpowder and belongings of these houses were

also looted and damaged.

Dulu's armed cadres unleashed a reign of terror in the areas blasting bombs and firing gunshots, it was said in charge sheets.

**NADIM ACQUITTED**  
Second Additional District And Session Judge's Court, Rajshahi yesterday acquitted Nadim and seven others of the charges saying the prosecution could not prove that the seized CI sheets were from the government relief fund, according to our Rajshahi correspondent.

The other acquitted are-- Selina Khatun, her husband Salek Sarkar, Abdur Rahman Sarker, Munsur Rahman, Rakib, Zahidul Islam and Rokonzaman Alam.

Puthia police seized 22 pieces of CI sheets from houses of Salek Sarker and his neighbours at Zamira village on February 25.

**CASE AGAINST MASUD**  
Our Kushtia correspondent reported that Tonik Biswas, a farmer of Sailmari under Sadar upazila, yesterday filed a case against former lawmaker Masud Arun with a first class magistrate court.

Magistrate Sheikh Sahadat Hossain accepted the case and ordered the officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station to investigate the case.

According to the complainant, Masud encroached a water body at Sailmari used by about 200 farmers for pisciculture after he became a lawmaker in 2001.

Some locals were the owners of 8 acres of the 26-acre water body while the rest was government khas land, said the complainant.

In 2002, Masud ousted the farmers from the water body with the help of the outlawed party cadres and his gang members and occupied it, according to the complainant.

Later, Masud allowed his men to use the water body and collected Tk 20 lakh from them.

Masud, now in Dhaka for the last five months, told to this correspondent over cellphone yesterday that the case is false and filed to tarnish his image.

## CA delegates

**FROM PAGE 16**  
section 16(1) of Acid Control Act 2002 and permit the courts to take into account the cases and crimes under various sections of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) 1898.

The secretary can also allow Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) to investigate cases under section 6(B) of The Armed Police Battalion Ordinance 1979, the official said, adding that he can also approve the Internet connections, maintaining the formalities.

The home secretary can also approve repatriation of stranded foreigners including the Rohingya refugees and import of passport books. The home secretary is now empowered to allow the children to travel to the foreign countries under the custody of their guardians.

From the countries that are blacklisted for visas, one or more can be excluded while others can be included into the blacklist. This task will be done by the top home ministry official who can also blacklist foreigners or withdraw the names from the blacklist. He can approve the application of citizenship of any foreigners as well.

The secretary can set up, if necessary, new immigration check posts and transfer or withdraw the check posts already existing.

The chief adviser empowered the secretary with ordering detention, extension and cancellation of detention, and even amendment of detention and release the persons detained temporarily under the Special Powers Act 1974.

## Low interest

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The BB official also said that only the banks or financial institutions whose volume of classified loan is less than 10 percent of the total outstanding loans would get the central bank money for distribution.

Another source in the BB said that the scheme is specially targeted towards low and middle income people who have very limited scope to get loans from existing schemes of different commercial banks and financial institutions.

"We have estimated that the monthly instalment against the loan will be no more than of a service holder's monthly house rent allowance," he said.

Meanwhile, the BB data shows that all commercial and specialised banks' have disbursed Tk 6,253 crore housing loans till March this year, which is 4.41 percent of the banks' total credit.

Of the loans, different Housing Society and Companies got Tk 1,535 crore and Urban Housing received Tk 4,717 crore.

The BB data illustrates that different nationalised commercial banks handed out Tk 2,591 crore as housing loans while private commercial banks Tk 3,339 crore, foreign commercial banks Tk 94 crore and specialised development banks or institutions Tk 227 crore.

## BDR

**FROM PAGE 16**  
others at different places in the capital. They are also monitoring the prices of essentials at other retail and wholesale markets in the city.

Education Secretary Montazul Islam, Local Government Secretary Safar Raj Hossain, Rural Development and Cooperatives Division Secretary Nazrul Islam were also present in the meeting.

## Nine banks

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Alamgir, SA Enterprise, Hannan Traders, AH Corporation, Majid and Brothers, RN Enterprise and MM Trading, but did not maintain necessary deposits against them.

In April, the BB had also asked the concerned banks to classify all loans taken out by Nurunnabi as bad loans and take necessary legal steps to recover the money from him and the beneficiaries. However, Nurunnabi filed a writ petition against the central bank direction and got a stay order on it from the High Court.

**JP leadership**

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Presidium Member Golam Mosih as 'the new secretary general' replacing the incumbent, Ruhul Amin Hawlader.

ErsHAD at a press conference the same day said Rawshan might get the axe for her 'anti-organisational' activities.

The former president on June 30 announced his retirement as the JP chairman and appointed Presidium Member Anisul Islam Mahmud to deputise for him until the council elects a new chief.

Lauding the change following the declaration of emergency on January 11, Rawshan said, "We should utilise the golden opportunity that we have got after 35 years to build the country."

Rawshan said she does not have any contact with her husband ErsHAD who is now under treatment in a hospital.

She however said she would visit him soon.

JP leader Golam Mosih and Col (rtd) MA Gaffar were present at the briefing.

# Sangakkara

**FROM PAGE 1**  
bundled out for 62 runs in the first innings, opener Javed Omar (28) and Shahriar Nafees (20) started boldly but Nafees paid for his overaggressive attitude as he left the door open for the Sri Lankan pacemen as Bangladesh lost four wickets from 48 for none. Habibul Bashar (3) and Mohammad Ashraful (7) remained not out at the end, but they have to scale Mount Everest against a world-class attack if they just want to avoid the ignominy of an innings defeat.

First innings hero Lasith Malinga was taken off only after two overs as the two Bangladesh openers punished him but Chaminda Vaas and Dilhara Fernando swung the ball brilliantly to claim two wickets each.

But the day belonged to stylish left-hander Sangakkara who showed what could be done with determination after he only scored 6 in the first Test last week.

Fast bowler Shahadat Hossain broke through early by removing young opener Malinda Warnapura, who was caught at midwicket by Nafees after mistiming a pull after scoring a 140-ball 82, after Sri Lanka resumed the day on 154-1 but his overnight partner Sangakkara kept his cool to slam his fifth double hundred.

During his almost eight-hour knock, the 34-year-old batsman scripted boundaries all over the park and reached the hundred-mark in fitting style by hitting a six over long-off against left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique and then completed the double after tea, having played 325 balls that contained 20 sweetly-timed fours and a couple of sixes.

Sri Lanka skipper Mahela Jayawardene declared the innings to test the Bangladesh batting for the last hour soon after his deputy reached his mark.

Bangladesh's new-ball pair Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and Shahadat Hossain however bowled with some bite; especially Shahadat's aggressive bowling impressed many. The lanky pacer was over the moon after dismissing the Lankan captain, who was caught at short-leg for 49 runs. Jayawardene was once again involved in a verbal confrontation with the paceman regarding the grunting.

Shahadat took two wickets for 81 runs while debutant left-arm spinner Mehrab Hossain captured two in the space of three balls but the effort couldn't restrict the

hosts to declare their innings for 451-6 in 124.5 overs.

On the other hand, Mohammad Sharif's bowling as a third seamer was horrible and he completely failed to lend support to Mashrafe and Shahadat.

On a very energy-sapping day, Bangladesh missed a few chances as wicketkeeper Mushfiquir Rahim didn't even dive to latch on to the ball as it came from Jayawardene off Mashrafe when the Sri Lankan skipper was on nought and Rafique then dropped the same batsman on 28 off his own bowling.

## Money laundering

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Criminal Law Amendment, 1958, the latter two will get priority, said Fahim.

The advisory council earlier approved a Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2007, which is currently being vetted by the law ministry. Fahim said the revised provisions would be incorporated into the new act once it replaces the 2002 edition.

Finance ministry sources said the government is further correcting the proposed Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2007 in light of the present anti-corruption drive.

The advisory council also approved Trademark Ordinance, 2007 and a guideline on nurse recruitment to reduce crisis of nurses in the country.

The Trademark Ordinance, 2007 updates the previous regulations on trademarks and intellectual property rights, but yesterday's council also asked the industry ministry to see how trademark policies can be brought more in line with World Trade Organisation and World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

The council has also asked the industry ministry to look for the best policies to benefit Bangladesh from greater alignment with WTO and WIFO.

Fahim said individuals or organisations guilty of infringing the trademarks ordinance would face criminal charges in addition to the existing fines.

Regarding nurses recruitment, the council asked the health ministry to change rules and conditions for nurses' entry.

At present, there is only one nurse for two doctors. However, the internationally accepted standard is three nurses for each doctor.

# NBR sues Tuku

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Amin, deputy tax commissioner of Taxpayers' Service Wing of NBR, filed the case.

In his order, the judge said the arrest warrant was issued against Tuku as the charges brought against him under sections 165/166 of the Income Tax Ordinance 1986 were found to be true. The court fixed today for the next hearing of the case and directed the jail authorities to produce Tuku during the hearing.

In his complaint, Amin mentioned that Tuku had evaded a total of Tk 3,80,14,048.30 in income tax during fiscal years 1999 to 2007.

Tuku repeatedly gave false information to the income tax department about his real income and expenditure and did not show his income tax return. He also used his ministerial position to conceal information about his real income, the complainant said.

Moreover, Tuku did not submit statements about his non-agricultural properties, motor vehicles, bank statements, credit cards, savings instruments, fixed deposits and interest on fixed deposits, Amin added.

On February 5, the joint forces arrested Tuku from his Mohammadpur residence.

**TUKU'S CASE FOR FILING FALSE WEALTH STATEMENT**  
The hearing on another graft case will be held today against Tuku, his wife, son and daughter for submitting false wealth statements to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) within the stipulated time frame.

The same court on Tuesday sent Tuku's wife Romana Mahmud, son Abed Hasan Mahmud and daughter Sarah Hasan Mahmud to jail after police produced them before the court. Police arrested them following arrest warrants against them as they have been absconding since the case was filed on March 21.

On June 28, ACC Assistant Director ASM Akhter Hamid Bhuiyan, the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted charge sheet against Tuku, his wife, son and daughter to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Dhaka showing 61 people as prosecution witnesses.

**VERDICT OF LOBI CASE**  
Judgement of the tax evasion case against former lawmaker Lobi will be delivered today at a special court.

In his forwarding report, ACC Assistant Director Talebur Rahman, also the IO of the case, mentioned that Anwar had earlier appointed 79 people to different posts of forest department without approval of the establishment ministry. As such, he needs to be quizzed to find out clues about irregularities in appointing those people, the IO said.

The ACC filed the case against Anwar and 79 others on June 25 with Gulshan Police Station for committing the irregularities in recruiting the people.

## 5 NGO activists

**FROM PAGE 16**  
2007, differences emerged between the local NGOs and Danida officials working in CHT. On March 12 and 13, Danida officials conducted field level observation and visited the local NGO office when the team found serious irregularities. On May 14, Danida officials expressed their dissatisfaction in writing and added eight objections.

Due to the written objections against the works of the local NGOs from both the programme officer and audit department, possibility of renewing the contract dimmed. Dissatisfied with the situation, local NGOs allegedly staged the 'abduction drama', the NGO official added.

Local NGOs, however, denied the allegation.

Donnai Pru Nelly, executive director of Ananya Kalyan Sangstha said she does not know anything on such objections.

A quarter, trying to stop the activities of NGOs, is imposing such blames, she added.

Irregularities in partner NGO's Eco Development, Hili Homes, Ananya Kalyan Sangstha (AKS), Humanitarian Foundation, Hope Bridge and Community Advancement Foundation were pictured in the objection letter sent on May 14, sources said.

Eight allegations including erasing of motorcycle ID number and irregularities in accounts and voucher were brought against the NGO's.

There had been a probability for cancelling the project. But for reasons unknown the Danida authorities appointed Kirty Nisan replacing Shahid Sumon as programme officer of the project.

"A meeting between the partner NGOs and the newly appointed programme officer was supposed to be held at 7:00pm on June 25 at TOYMU office after the latter's return from Thanchi," said the executive director of AKS. Shahid Sumon was abducted before the scheduled meeting.

ONG Owai Ching, who was arrested on Monday night from Boro Modok in Thanchi, has given important information regarding the abduction, sources said.

Armed criminals abducted Hossain Shahid Sumon and his car driver Mohammad Hanif from Kyu Bu Ri Para in Thanchi on June 25.

The driver was rescued three days after while Sumon is still missing.

The security forces intensified vigil on other CHT-based NGO officials.

## Sigma Huda

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responding to a petition filed by Sigma, asked the law enforcers to refrain from arresting her as she has been directed to surrender before the lower court by eight weeks.

Meanwhile, the charge hearing of the graft case against Huda and Sigma will be held at a special court today.

Deputy Director of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Shaful Islam filed the case against Huda and Sigma with Dhanmondi Police Station on March 21, accusing the couple of taking Tk 2.40 crore in bribe from Mir Zahir Hossain, the owner of Mir Akter Hossain Limited, a construction firm.

On June 4, the ACC submitted the charge sheet to the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court. Later, the case was transferred to the special anti-graft court for its quick disposal.

## BBC journalist

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Johnston spoke of his harrowing 114-day ordeal in solitary confinement, where he was threatened with death, but thanked Hamas -- which seized control of the Gaza Strip in an armed takeover last month -- for securing his release.

"They talked about killing me and torturing me," he told reporters after crossing into Israel, before driving to the British consulate in Jerusalem. "They handcuffed me and put a hood and took me out in the middle of the night."

Wearing blue jeans, a blue shirt and a navy jacket, he appeared relaxed, and smiled and joked for the cameras, although his face was pale and he had visibly lost weight while being held by the extremist group The Army of Islam.

"The last 16 weeks of course just the very worst you can imagine of my life. It was like being buried alive really, removed from the world and occasionally terrifying," he said, expressing his "unimaginable relief" at being released.

He said his captors threatened his life, held him in solitary confinement and for 24 hours chained his hands and ankles, although he had been bolstered by international support and being able to listen to the BBC World Service.

"There was almost no violence until the last sort of half an hour when they did start to hit me a bit but nothing serious," he said.

"You were in the hands of people who were dangerous and unpredictable. And always frightening in that you didn't know when it might end," he said.

Johnston was released to the commander of Hamas's military wing who drove to a hideout in northern Gaza after the Islamist movement cut a deal with the Army of Islam and a local mufti put out a fatwa for Johnston's release.

Under the deal, Hamas agreed not to press charges against his kidnappers and agreed to release one of its leaders Khattab al-Maqdissi overnight in exchange for the Army of Islam's release of nine Hamas officials, security sources said.

# Suranjit for powerful

**FROM PAGE 1**  
on the principle that the prime minister is the first among equals, instead of a prime ministerial dictatorship," Suranjit said in his written reform proposal announced to the media at his Jhigatola residence in the capital.

Announcing the proposal to a crowded news briefing the AL leader suggested that the Secretariat of the Prime Minister should be abolished in line with the presidential system of government, and all important decisions should be taken in the cabinet through lively debates.

In the past, it was seen that presidential clemency was taken from the president even for persons sentenced to death for a double murder and the president was forced to sign the clemency helplessly, he said suggesting that persons competent, respectable and acceptable to all only should be appointed as presidents of the country.

In the past the country's presidents even appointed controversial and incompetent persons to the states' key constitutional posts, said the AL leader suggesting if the president disagrees with any appointment for constitutional posts, he or she should be able to send those proposals to the prime minister. Suranjit also suggested in his reform proposal that proper deference should be ensured for the president's opinions about the affairs of the state, and national and international affairs.

In recent past under the prime ministerial system of government, the president had no power other than to visit graveyards for special prayers, but current President Dr Iajuddin Ahmed do not even have the power to decide whose grave to visit, the former parliamentarian quipped.

In the last five days three reformist leaders of AL including Suranjit announced their party reform proposals, all of which have considerable amounts of discussions on reforming the body politic of the country. On party reforms, Suranjit expressed views similar to the two proposals of his colleagues Abdur Razzak and Tofail Ahmed, which preceded his, emphasising democratisation of the party, decentralisation of power, establishment of accountability and joint leadership in the organisation.

Amir Hossain Amu, who is spear-heading the campaign for reforms in AL, which many say is aimed at bringing Sheikh Hasina down from the post the party president, is likely to place his reform proposal on his return from Singapore, said AL sources.

Suranjit claimed that his reform proposal does not intend to minus or plus any particular individual in the party.

He suggested changing the system of having party units at district and upazila levels, and proposed introducing constituency based party units to make the party more modern and transparent.

Saying that totalitarianism, dictatorship and unilateral leadership have no place in democracy, Suranjit advocated joint leadership, which he said will rather bolster the image of the party chief. "We all are for the leaders and they are for all of us," said the veteran AL leader.

Suranjit also said the current Election Commission's (EC) move to make registration of political parties with the commission mandatory, and some other reforms

brought to the electoral laws will help democratisation of the country.

The EC should monitor and ensure that political parties properly practice intra-party democracy, he said adding that establishment of practice of democracy within political parties and the ensuring government's accountability have been delayed due to a delay in appointing ombudsmen. He demanded immediate launching of the system of appointing ombudsmen for every ministry and government organisation.

He also suggested amendments to the national constitution making way for appointing neutral and impartial speakers of the parliament. All parliamentary standing committees should be formed during the first session of the parliament comprising lawmakers from both ruling and opposition parties, he said.

The state should be ruled by the parliament instead of the government and for that frequent parliamentary sessions should be called instead of occasional ones, he emphasised.

All development projects and proposed laws should be discussed in the parliament before implementation. Standing committee reports must be discussed in the house of the parliament, he added.

No decision involving national interest, policies and development should be taken without consultation and agreement with oppositions in the parliament, said the AL leader.

He also said the 12th amendment to the constitution should be scrapped amending clause 70 of the constitution to ensure free debate in the parliament. He simultaneously demanded a ban on exercising Clause 70 of the constitution except for voting purposes in the parliament. He also suggested formation of a parliamentary reform commission.

Suranjit said his reform proposal aims at making sure that democracy is practised at all levels of AL, and at establishing collective leadership to promote transparency and accountability in the decision making process of the organisation.

He also emphasised on changing the mentality of politicians for having a meaningful democracy in the country besides bringing reforms to political parties.

## 4 traders

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Khaleque, president of Banolata Kancha Bazar Babosayi Samity, and Shafullah, vice president of the same organisation, were handed over to New Market Police Station in the afternoon.

In another raid later in the day, members of the joint forces apprehended retailers Golam Mustafa and Bachchu from Hatirpul kitchen market and handed them over to Shahbagh Police Station.

Process was underway to file cases against the arrested retailers.

Police sources quoting the joint forces said huge discrepancies have been detected between the retail and wholesale prices of essential commodities. To make a quick buck, many dishonest retailers have been charging more than double the wholesale price for the essential items.

Retailers have been warned on various occasions and were asked to refrain from such dishonest activities. Since many retailers continued to jack up prices of commodities, the recent drives are being launched against them, sources said.

# 700 surrender

**FROM PAGE 16**  
believed to include Taliban insurgents from the tribal areas bordering Afghanistan and sectarian jihadis belonging to banned Pakistani sectarian groups.

Students leaving the mosque said there were two dead bodies and several injured people inside. Many said they had no idea about the whereabouts of the two brothers who run the mosque compound.

Others pledged to continue the mosque's struggle for the enforcement of Islamic law, like the one installed by the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, which lasted from 1996 until the US-led invasion in 2001.

"It is not necessary to carry out jihad (holy war) right now. We can fight another day," said Mohammad Ibrahim from the northwestern town of Batagram.

Tensions remained high in the curfew area, which includes the AFP bureau.

Hundreds of troops also built sandbag bunkers and rolled out

barbed wire to block off all roads. Electricity to the area immediately around the complex was cut during the night.

Deputy mosque leader Abdul Rashid Ghazi earlier offered a conditional surrender, but said he still insisted on the imposition of Islamic law. He was not immediately available for comment on the surrenders.

Ghazi added the mosque had enough supplies to carry on "until God wants."

The mosque has led a freelance anti-vice campaign in the capital including the abduction of several people accused of running brothels -- including the seven Chinese -- and raids on local music and DVD shops.

During the night Ghazi held talks over the telephone with a headline opposition leader, Maulana Fazlur Rehman, in a bid to end the stand-off but had not spoken to the government.

A spokesman for Rehman said he was supposed to leave for London for a conference of opposition parties but had cancelled his flight to aid negotiations.

Tuesday's shootings left a soldier, a journalist, at least eight students and some bystanders dead. More than 140 people were wounded, many of them female students suffering from tear gas inhalation.

## 11 killed

**FROM PAGE 16**  
AFP. The targeted military vehicle was also badly damaged.

Five soldiers and four civilian bystanders were killed instantly by the blast while one civilian and one soldier died later in hospital, the official said.

Two civilians with serious shrapnel wounds were still in the hospital.

Chief Pakistani military spokesman Major General Waheed Arshad said he had so far received reports that four soldiers were killed and six injured, two critically, in an attack in Mir Ali.