# Sigh of relief

He was having problem breathing yesterday amid the festivities, and was stumbling as he tried to walk. Blood was oozing out of his mouth as he was trying to speak.

are not guilty?" he asked. Sujon however said it felt good to be free. "But I can't talk much, it's very painful for me to talk now," he and teaches of the university did not said in a faint voice with much commit any crime. They just protested an injustice, for which they effort.

Another freed student Liton Mahmud said Shahbagh police tortured him, after he had been taken to the police station. He had been arrested by Bhoirob police on September 8 and was handed over to Shahbagh police. "Police tortured me and broke the pinky on my left hand. They did not even arrange for my broken finger's treatment. As I managed to get medical attention myself they even took away the

medical documents." Manabendra Dev thanked the entire DU community for the five-

month long struggle to free them. Professor Kabir Chowdhury, painter Hashem Khan, poet Syed Shamsul In the morning, a solidarity rally called by DU Teachers' Association Haq, Prof Muhammad Akhtaruzzaman, Prof Muntasir (Duta) kicked off at Aparajeyo Bangla, turning the campus into a Mamun, Prof MM Akash, Prof carnival, which lingered throughout Muhammad Samad, Prof Shahadat the day and into the evening. Ali, Dr Kamrul Hasan Khan, journalist Iqbal Sobhan Chowhdury, sculp-

Along with four freed teachers, their colleagues, hundreds of students, families of the freed, civil society members, journalists, and leaders of different professional organisations joined the rally.

Speakers at the rally stressed the need for lifting the state of emergency and the need for an announcement setting a definite date for the stalled 9th parliamentary election as soon as possible.

The rally decided to continue wearing black ribbons and to keep a black flag hoisted atop Arts Building till withdrawal of the army vehicle torching case, release of all detainees of other educational institutions across the country, and withdrawal of all cases in connection with last August's violence on campuses countrywide. A seven-day ultimatum was given to the government from the rally for meeting the

demands. Meanwhile, a trial court of Sylhet acquitted a student of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology of the charges brought against him in a case of violating the state of emergency on the campus during the same period.

Most of the freed students were looking shaky.

"I will go back home tomorrow with my youngest son, whom I got back after so many days of anxious wait," said Moniruzzaman Sardar's mother Tahmina Begum from Chandpur district, with an ear to ear

Families of the freed teachers and students were watching their dear ones with love and affection in their eves.

Joyous students were seen treating their peers with sweets at Modhu's canteen, where the control room of the five-month long movement has been, the history of which of being such centres of movements spans over many decades. Students were dousing each other with liquid colours in a sheer show of almost hysterical joy at the freedom of their peers and teachers.

SOLIDARITYRALLY At the beginning of the solidarity rally at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla, a sculpture symbolising the people's unvanquished spirit of liberation war, the freed teachers were received by their colleagues, stu-

dents and admirers in a ceremony. Prof Anwar Hossain, one of the freed teachers also the general secretary of Duta, said during his detention he always believed that students of the university hand in hand with the rest of the people of the country would rise up to free them. He thanked all students and teachers who had joined the protests last August against an injustice, and struggled through the last few

months to get them freed. "Dhaka University has been the conscience of the country and none can suppress that with might. Whenever the university community saw an injustice or a move against democracy anywhere in the country they protested, and the

practice will go on." The people want democracy; they will not tolerate any other regime in the country, he said.

conscious, but don't kowtow to any

political party. We will teach politi-

Prof Harun-or Rashid, another

freed teacher also the dean of social

sciences faculty, asked what offence

did the teachers and students com-

mit. They only stood against an

than three months without any

trial? And why were we convicted

and then freed? We did not beg for

ing us thinking they could tarnish

the glorious image of the university.

But if necessary we will go to jail

again still we will not allow anyone

to tarnish the image of this institu-

He went on, "We, the students

and teachers of the university, are

successors of glorious movements.

No body will be allowed to repress us

They freed us only after convict-

Why were we detained for more

cians how to stay clean."

injustice, he added.

mercy to anyone."

with muscle."

grave concerns about the possibility of the disease spreading to humans, To the students he said they set an extraordinary example of how peaceful yet powerful demonstra-

with hundreds of people reporting flu symptoms although tests conducted so far have proved negative. tions can also realise a just goal. "Naked children are playing with You must stand against any kind of injustice and protest it, but don't

chickens in courtyards in the affected villages," he said. "Chickens are roaming in the be violent, protest peacefully as you have done. Become politically

kitchen while women are cooking. It is a very worrisome situation.' People typically catch bird flu by

coming into direct contact with infected poultry. Experts fear a pandemic if the deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu mutates into a form easily transmissible between humans.

An AFP correspondent in the bird flu zone said proper isolation procedures were not being followed, as villagers without protective gear milled about health work-

ers carrying out the culling. The culling teams have been facing an uphill battle with villagers smuggling birds out of affected

areas and selling them in markets. The outbreak, which has seen some 400,000 birds slaughtered so far, is expected to hit local poultry

"Most of my chickens have been culled," said Jayanta Bhattacharya, a poultry owner in Rampurhat town near Margram, whose farm

here had 30,000 chickens. "I have already suffered a loss of 400,000 rupees (10,000 dollars)."

Prof Anwar Hossain and Prof Sri Lanka on Wednesday Harun-or Rashid thanked Prof banned imports of live birds and AAMS Arefin Siddique, former chickens from India, G. Wijesiri, a president of Duta, and Prof MM senior official with the country's Akash for their bold roles in the animal health department, told movement to free the teachers and AFP.

## Bird flu

Addressing the rally, Prof

Siddique demanded overturning of

the convictions of the teachers and

students. "Why should the students

bear the stigma of conviction if they

should not be punished," he said.

"We repeatedly said the students

Idris Ali Sheikh, Abdul Halim

Dolly Dev, mother of Manbendra

Sheikh, Foizuddin Mollah, Shaheen

Akter and other guardians of the

freed students also spoke at the rally.

Dev, said her son was born to protest

injustice. "He did not commit any

crime, but they arrested him from

Chandra Bhowmik, and two other

over the rally while National

tor Hamiduzzman, Prof Saiful Islam

Khan, Dr Mesbah Kamal, theatre

director also President of Sammilito

Sankskritik Jote Nasiruddin Yusuf

Bachchu, and many others were

The rally put out a call to every-

one to observe August 20 as the Day

of Repression on Teachers and

Students from now on to keep the

pro-BNP and pro-Jamaat White

Panel were also seen hanging

around the rally, although the

panel's teachers had been against

any kind of demonstration to free

way mark five freed students

As the rally rolled on to its half-

Manabendra Dev, Deen Islam, Deen

Islam Angel, Rafiqul Islam Sujon,

and Zahidur Rahman Biplob --

joined it arriving from Dhaka

4:45pm, two more students --

Moniruzzaman Sardar and Liton

Mahmud arrived on the campus

after being freed. And lastly

Asaduzzaman Asad got back to the

campus after five months from

On their way to the campus, all

freed students stopped at Central

Shaheed Minar to pay their homage

to the language movement martyrs,

many of whom were students of DU.

after some army personnel had

beaten three DU students during a

soccer match on the university

playground. The protest later

spread to other educational institu-

tions in the city and elsewhere

across the country, continuing for a

few days resulting in an imposition

of a curfew and shutting down of all

educational institutions in all major

curfew, the military backed admin-

istration launched a crackdown on

teachers and students, detaining

some of them and filing cases

against the spotlighted teachers and

unnamed persons in 59 cases filed

with different police stations in

Dhaka, Rajshahi and other parts of

districts in West Bengal. It has

said Rahaman. "We have to kill

more poultry. The target will be

the village of Margram, 240 kilo-

metres from the state capital

Kolkata. It is the third and worst to

hit India since 2006, which has so

far not had any human cases of

Rahaman however expressed

The latest outbreak began in

been confirmed by telephone,"

West Bengal

more than two million.

Police initially implicated 84,000

students of DU and RU.

the country.

FROM PAGE 16

bird flu.

Following the imposition of the

in connection with that case.

Dhaka Central Jail in the evening.

Later in the afternoon around

Central Jail around 12:15noon.

Some DU teachers belonging to

memory of the struggle alive.

present.

the detainees.

Prof Sadrul Amin and Prof Neem

Prof Shafiquzzaman presided

home and tortured him," she said.

freed teachers, also spoke.

the incidents of bird flu infection at Rajbari, Katapara and Razarampur areas were confirmed

by Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute at Savar in Dhaka. The infected poultry in the area has already been culled after the

At least 600 fowls in three poultry farms of the district died of the flu in the last 15 days, said Debashish Bhattachariya, the district livestock official.

confirmation, the officials added.

AM Saiful Hasan, DC of Dinajpur, said the poultry industry in the district is vulnerable to the deadly virus attack as the fluaffected areas in India share a long stretch of border with Bangladesh.

M Emdadul Haque Chowdhury, a veterinary surgeon at Bangladesh Agriculture University, said, all bordering districts, especially Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Joypurhat, Nilphamari Chapainawabganj are at risk of

flu attack. In Barisal, the district administration yesterday installed check posts at key entry points of the district to monitor poultrytransportation as several incidents of bird deaths have been detected in the district, reports our correspondent.

People in Barisal and Patuakhali are panic-stricken over the deaths of several crows that had eaten carcasses of dead poultry, said locals.

Residents of Amanatganj and Alekanda areas under Barisal city and Puran Bazar, Akhrabari areas of Patuakhali town reported the deaths of the crows.

Manjur-E-Ilahi, DC of Barisal, Jainuddin Molla, district livestock officer, Dr Sunil Chandra Gayen, principal scientific officer of the regional live stock research centre and laboratory in Barisal, and Abu Taher, district livestock officer of Patuakhali, acknowledged the incidents of crow deaths.

Dr Sunil Chandra Gayen, scientific officer of livestock laboratory in Barisal, urged all to report bird deaths to the lab and send in the carcasses for clinical examination.

More than eight thousand fowls were culled last week in Barisal, Barguna and Patuakhali districts after detecting bird flu, sources said.

## Sudden dip

FROM PAGE 1

cold diarrhoea and died, though they were given proper treatment.

Sources of the civil surgeon office Talking to reporters, the freed said, a total of 397 patients suffering students urged the government to from cold-related diseases were withdraw the army vehicle torching hospitalised in seven upazila health case, as five of them are free on bail complexes and two hospitals in last On August 20, a violent student 24 hours. protest broke out on DU campus

Thousands of the low-income families faced untold sufferings due to freezing cold intensified by drizzles yesterday.

reports that the people of Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh and Joypurhat are experiencing biting cold spell for the first time in the season along with rain.

According to the Dinajpur weather official sources, these four districts of the northern region are the worst affected by the waves of chilling cold blowing from the Himalayan ranges.

The met office recorded 20 millimetres of rainfall in those areas yesterday from dawn to dusk.

Our Sirajganj correspondent says: The farmers faced extreme difficulties ploughing their fields during the peak season of Boro cultivation following the severe cold

Attendance of people at different offices and businesses in the district town was also very thin.

While visiting different embankments of Jamuna river, The Daily Star found the people left homeless by river erosion and floods as the worst sufferers of the chilling

In addition, cold related diseases like cold diarrhoea, pneumonia, dysentery, cough and fever are spreading out among the people in the remote areas.

Hospital sources said that on an average, 15 people are being hospitalised every day with cold related diseases. Most of them are children and elderly people, they added.

Sirajganj civil surgeon office sources said that about 200 people, including children and elderly people, in nine upazilas of the district have been admitted to different hospitals and upazila health complexes in the last two days

UNB reports: Pneumonia that | paid. broke out in an alarming proportion in the district has affected around 2,500 children during the last three weeks as the cold wave prevails.

Sources said the children mostly from poor families have been admitted to the district general hospital and other upazila health complexes and many of them are suffering from acute respiratory

problems. The doctors fear that the number of pneumonia patients might increase further if the current cold spell persists for long.

## Akbar Ali

FROM PAGE 1 Those things will one day be forgotten, but this important work will remain," he said

The CEC said that by the end of this month a total of 3 crore voters

# Rickshawpuller

FROM PAGE 1 Jaldhaka upazila in Nilphamari

district in dire poverty. Choking on her tears, his 25 year old wife Asma said, "I heard many teachers were punished (for violating emergency rules) and later released from jail, what about the murder of my poor husband? He was a good man.

Afzal's 60-year old mother Siratunnesa demanded justice for her son's death. She said that they were living on next to nothing since Afzal's death. Asma had to send two of her children to live with her mother, as she is too poor to keep them herself.

Afzal used to ply rickshaw no. 15 of Rabi's Garage at Hadi Crossing in Rajshahi city

On the day of the incident, at around 11am, Afzal was waiting outside RU Medical Centre after carrying an injured student there on his rickshaw.

Eyewitnesses and newspaper reports say he received bullets when riot-gear police entered the campus firing shots and moved towards the gymnasium attacked by angry stu-

Afzal was rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) in an ambulance but succumbed to his injuries on the way. He was refused admission and his returned to RU medical centre.

Later students paraded his body in protest of the police atrocity. Rajshahi Metropolitan Police in a

press release that evening claimed that Afzal died of beating by unruly students. The same night, sub inspector SM

Faruk Hossain of Motihar police station lodged a case against some

2500 unnamed students for the murder and violent activities on RU FROM PAGE 16

Only one anaesthetist comes to

assist the surgeon twice a week.

Besides, absence of burn manage-

ment system and road accident

injury service forces patients seek

ting patients with major injuries as

that would require three surgeons

in three shifts. But I'm the only

surgeon here who get the anaes-

thetist twice a week for conducting

major operations," Dr ASM

Alamgir Chowdhury, consultant

(paediatric surgery) tells The Daily

The only ambulance with emer-

gency patients finds it hard to enter

the hospital through a narrow lane.

don't want to come near the hospi-

tal on this road that is mostly

grabbed by locals. We have to face

tremendous problems to bring

During a visit to the hospital, a

"We take medicines from here

long queue of outdoor patients was

free of cost. Normally they supply

oral saline and paracytamol group

tablets," said Maryam who came

with her daughter from Islambagh.

that they provide the patients with

90 percent medicines free of cost as

per rules. But guardians say they

often have to buy medicines from

evening and it's now 12:30pm. The

hospital supplied only cholera

saline and I had to buy medicines

and injections," said a mother who

brought his son suffering from

However, the number of

patients receiving treatment is

increasing against all odds. Last

year about 50,000 patients received

treatment here, while the number

was 41,000 and 27,000 in 2006 and

with adequate medical equipment

and manpower, the hospital will

play an important role to ensure

health service to the children of the

convicted for protesting injustice.

Although they were relieved o

punishment through clemency

they had been branded as crimi

"We think the conviction

against the university teachers and

students will not solve the crisis,

rather it will intensify if they are not

acquitted from the charges" they

said adding that the conviction will

The teachers said they fear the

convicted students might face

difficulties in getting government

jobs and other facilities in future.

prevention, mitigation and pre-

paredness to cut the risks of natural

pointed out how remote sensing

images taken even by commercial

satellites clearly captured the effects

of cyclone Sidr which flattened the

southern region of Bangladesh last

year, the tsunami along India's east-

ern coast in 2004 and the earthquake

remote-sensing satellites in orbit

deliberate on the use of

geoinformatics in risk mapping, risk

assessment and risk monitoring

under diverse geographical, socio-

Saarc region has security implica-

tions for member countries, it would

be discussed with each member

Pointing out that South Asia is

prone to earthquakes, Shivraj Patil

emphasised the need for sustained

scientific research on quakes, partic-

ularly in the Himalayan region, in

order to locate precisely the fault

ents of 35 prosecution witnesses

According to the prosecution,

miscreants led by Sheuli kid-

napped Turya on October 29, 2006

Turya's father Jagannath Ghosh

Sheuli and others were arrested

from different places in the city.

Four of them gave confessional

They told the magistrate that

to get ransom from his family.

lying area at Rampura.

statements to magistrate.

killed him fearing arrest.

March 3 last year.

zones and the return of temblors.

Five to die

FROM PAGE 1

same year

during the trial.

Since satellite-imaging of the

economic and cultural settings.

country, the sources said.

covering the entire Saarc region.

India has over half a dozen

The aim of the meeting was to

Indian experts at the meeting

India offers

and man-made disasters.

FROM PAGE 16

in Kashmir in 2005.

create scopes for harassment.

city," the director hopes.

RU teachers

"If we can develop our service

'My son was admitted yesterday

The hospital director reiterates

seen waiting in the hospital yard.

trucks stop," says an insider.

Dr Nurul Islam.

outside.

severe diarrhoea.

2005 respectively.

nals, he said.

"Even truckers with medicines

"We cannot even think of admit-

treatment elsewhere.

campus. However, Afzal's autopsy report said his death was caused by shock and haemorrhage following the shot on his head. Following the report, the investigation officer (IO) of the case sub inspector Rajab Ali on October 20 pressed charges against 10 students for violent activities but dropped all reference of Afzal's killing from the case.

In the final report, the IO said no witness or evidence was found to identify Afzal's killers to press charge against. He added that if any witnesses were found regarding Afzal's death, police would take up the

Police and prosecution witnesses during trial of a case over RU unrest told courts that students used brickbats and wooden weapons during violence and none of them were seen using any firearms.

In total four cases filed over RU campus unrest, eight teachers were arrested, taken on remand. The court later acquitted four teachers.

Meanwhile the government on Monday has asked local authorities in Rajshahi to drop the case filed by SI SM Faruk Hossain against students.

#### Production

FROM PAGE 1

factories and four other garment units in the area were shut down.

Informed, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Contacted, the authorities of Metro Garments said that the six workers had resigned from their jobs.

# 28th BCS exam

FROM PAGE 1

2005 sought applications for 1,776 posts, the 26th special BCS examinations dated August 29, 2004 asked for 1,034 posts of lecturer, and the circular for the 25th BCS examinations published on February 28, 2004 sought applications for 1,524 posts.

"I will not be able to apply for the 28th BCS exams as I have crossed the age limit. I would be able to apply for at least two BCS exams if the PSC had issued one circular each year," Anwar Hossain, a former DU student who is now 31, told The Daily Star.

The jobseekers were also disappointed hearing the news that the quota would remain in the 28th BCS to be held under the new BCS recruitment rule.

According to the new rule, pass course graduates are not eligible for the competitive exams, marks will be deducted in the preliminary test for wrong answers, candidates must obtain 50 percent marks on an average in the written tests, and Our Dinajpur correspondent | editors of national dailies may be included in the viva voce commit-

However, while the 28th BCS boasts of these changes, it retains the 55 percent non-merit quota, which has long been considered a bar to recruiting meritorious officers in the civil service.

Under this quota system, only 45 percent public servants are selected on merit. The rest in both the cadre and non-cadre services include 30 percent freedom fighters or their offspring, 10 percent women, 10 percent under districts quotas and five percent indigenous

Academics, former and present PSC members and jobseekers have always pointed out that "unskilled" or "semi-skilled" candidates often pass the BCS exams because of this

Leaders of Fair BCS Movement that the PSC abolish the quota

platform, said he hopes that the PSC will relax the age limit, considering the fact that its delay in issuing the BCS circular by two and a half years has left many candidates ineligible for the exams.

He also said all quotas should be abolished so that meritorious candidates can enter the civil

"The quota system is also degrading the quality of the civil service," said former PSC member Prof Mohammad Mohabbat Khan.

Chairman M Muhammad Ashraf,' Rauf told The Daily Star yesterday. The circular for the 28th BCS examinations sought applications

for 1,720 posts in 14 general and 13 technical-professional cadres. Candidates can collect the application forms from the

them by May 15.

There have been demands for its abolition from different quar-

Abu Tareq, president of the

service.

PSC Member M Abdur Rauf also admitted that the age limit should be relaxed and the quota system should be curtailed at 25 percent.

two issues with PSC Chairman Saadat Hussain and 28th BCS

branches of Sonali Bank from March 3 and will have to submit

# Labaid Hospital

press conference at National Press

Club yesterday. Other family members complained about 'wrong treatment' and misbehaviour of the Labaid authorities and said they are making money

through holding patients as hosthe issue to court.

admitted to Labaid Cardiac Hospital on May 8 last year and had an angiogram there. He, however, developed breathing difficulties as soon as he was taken to coronary care unit (CCU). He died at 3:00pm at the angiogram room. Though the relatives made repeated enquiries about the patient, doctors informed them

authorities did not hand it over to the relatives until hospital bills were

The relatives said they collected the compact disk (CD) of angioplasty and showed it to other experts who said the attending doctors at Labaid injured the patient's blood vessels while trying to insert a ring there, resulting in blood clogging round his heart.

advertisements in newspapers, I got admitted to Labaid Hospital after valve replacement in my heart. After an echocardiogram, they told me I had had a cardiac arrest and that all the valves of my heart had blockades even though I did not have any chest pain or respiratory problems", said Enayet Hossain Dulal at the press conference.

He said he consulted another cardiologist who told him that he did not suffer any cardiac arrest and that none of his valves were blocked. "The doctor just gave me a simple medicine," Dulal said, who is now living a It was alleged at the press conferfor angiogram, only to tell him later

that he need not go through it. "My father's death certificate said he had tuberculosis, but they did not hand in the papers despite our repeated requests. They also misbehaved themselves," said Anwar

Parvez. He complained that his elder brother, who is a teacher at North South University, was slapped in the face by a security guard on order from the hospital's general manager Imran Chowdhury because the academic protested at the presence of a huge crowd at the coronary care

Imran Chowdhury, however, denied the allegation, saying no such incident occurred at the hospi-

The allegations of keeping patients as hostages are also untrue because Labaid is the only privatesector hospital that takes patients without any deposit", Imran said, adding that many patients still owe the hospital treatment bills.

Denying the complaints about wrong treatment, he said accident may occur everywhere, anytime. He said if the patients think they have been subject to wrong treatment, they could seek legal recourse. The speakers at the press confer-

ence said though Labaid has been continuing 'deception' and many newspapers have published reports for it, no action has been taken against the hospital. They called on the caretaker

physicians. Dr Mehnaz Ahmed, head of geriatric department at New York City's Brookline Hospital, Iqbal Hossain, Towfiq Mahmud, Shafiqul Islam and Tanvir Imam, among others, were present at the press

conference. They said they either lost family members or had to incur financial losses at Labaid Hospital.

# Shishu Hospital Gaza border

deferred for being incomplete," he FROM PAGE 16

wants both Israeli security concerns and Palestinian humanitarian needs to be met.

"We are very concerned... that both the security concerns of Israel and the humanitarian concerns of the Gazans be met," she said at a news conference in Zurich en route to the World Economic Forum in them. Davos

Israel, which has long complained that Egypt is not doing enough to control the already porous border, called on Cairo to do more.

"We are worried, as these breaches not only permit Palestinians to leave the Gaza Strip, but also permit Hamas to easily infiltrate arms and terrorists from Egypt," foreign ministry

spokesman Arye Mekel told AFP. "We are hoping the Egyptians will resolve the problem," said a foreign ministry statement.

But rivals Fatah and Hamas

medicines by vans from where the blamed Israel, calling the breakout an inevitable consequence of "We have applied to the city the blockade. corporation to evict the road grab-"Israel is responsible for what bers. But the file has been lying has happened -- this is the consethere for at least six months," says quence of the blockade imposed

> on Gaza," Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas's spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeina told AFP. "The situation went out of control because of the strangulation caused by the blockade that

has been imposed during nearly eight months on 1.5 million Palestinians," Hamas said in a "The population is confronted following a defence petition, had with a humanitarian crisis and

wants to breathe.' Sacked Hamas prime minister Ismail Haniya called for an emergency meeting with Abbas and Egyptian officials on opening the

"We are ready to sit down with

border crossings.

our Egyptian brothers and the brothers from Ramallah during an emergency meeting in Cairo to establish arrangements to open the Rafah border crossing, as well as all other border crossings," he said in a televised address. Hamas and Abbas's Fatah

party have not had official contacts since last June, when Hamas ousted Fatah fighters from Gaza after a week of deadly clashes.

In Cairo yesterday the International Committee of the also made accused in the case.

Condoleezza Rice said Washington

Palestinian refugees (UNRWA) said its aid distribution had been hampered by the blockade. Crowds of Palestinians walked the streets of Rafah as shops opened early to serve

Empty cars and donkey carts streamed into Egypt before returning to Gaza weighed down with goods bought at cheaper

prices, hoping to make a profit. "I brought all the money that I had, around 100 dollars. I am going to buy cigarettes here and then resell them in Gaza,'

Red Cross called the situation

"chaotic" and said it was pre-

pared for mass displacement,

while the UN agency for

Ahmed Halaweh told AFP. Some 2,000 Egyptian security personnel on the frontier did not intervene, but all side roads in Rafah were closed in a bid to control the flow of people.

The breakout came just hours after a tense stand-off at the closed Rafah border crossing, where gunfire erupted after a group of Hamas demonstrators, mostly women, forced their way

They had been protesting against the Israeli blockade that was tightened six days ago to a full-scale lockdown, with fuel shipments and even the entry of humanitarian aid halted.

### Hasina's Case

FROM PAGE 16

stayed further proceedings of the trial until disposal of it's pending rule that asked the government to explain why the placing of the extortion case under the EPR should not be declared "without lawful authority"

The High Court order had come

within two hours after Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court adjourned for three days the commencement of trial through deposition by the complainant in the extortion case. Azam J Chowdhury, managing

director of the East Coast Trading Pvt Ltd, a private power company, filed the case against the former prime minister.

Hasina's sister Sheikh Rehana and cousin detained former minister Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim are

# Abu Dhabi talks

address temporary labour mobility and maximise its benefits for the development of the countries of origin and destination of the labourers, it noted.

Key action-oriented partnerships between such two countries were identified, which include need for participating countries to share information on labour market trends and patterns of remittances and build the ability of states to effectively match the demand and supply of temporary contractual labour

through the entire migratory cycle. "Contractual labour mobility can and should generate value and wealth for all those who hold a stake in its facilitation," said UAE Minister

"The long-term success of labour

mobility, therefore, hinges on making certain that the interests of all key stakeholders are well served," he said, concluding the dialogue. "In the absence of cooperation, patterns of irregular movement take root, and traffickers quickly take

advantage of the situation," said IOM

Director General Brunson McKinley.

of Labour Dr Ali Abdullah Al Kaabi.

This is to the detriment of all the workers themselves, but also of great cost to governments and the society they govern, he added. He said the IOM will assist coun-

tries of origin and destination to develop practical initiatives to support the Abu Dhabi Declaration. Minister Al Kaabi announced that the next ministerial consultation on overseas employment and contrac tual labour for countries of origin and

destination in Asia will be held in Adviser for Foreign Affairs and Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Affairs Dr Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, who was present at the dialogue, called for "greater protection of the interests and well

being of our migrant workers" At Tuesday's session, Iftekhar said Bangladeshi workers abroad remit a huge sum of money home but pay a great cost for it, often through underserved sufferings such as exploitation by agents and employ-

They need legal protection, he said, adding, "Language barriers and a lack of understanding of the host country's legal system often make it difficult for our workers to seek legal remedies against unfair labour

practices." Iftekhar also said labourer-

# Abul Hasnat

filed an abduction case with Uttara FROM PAGE 1 Police Station against Sheuli and investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted charge sheet against Hasnat to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, showing 20 people as prosmutilated body dumped in a low-

> of arrest warrant against the accused and an order for attaching his properties.

Khatun filed the case with Dhanmondi Police Station on September 6 last year accusing Hasnat of acquiring wealth beyond his legal sources of earning and hiding information about his wealth.

sending countries often engage in a race to gain employment opportunities for their own people. "We must stop such unhealthy competition. There should be global collective effort to set minimum wages for contractual labourers for different

levels of skills and experience," he Expatriates' Welfare Secretary Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Ambassador of Bangladesh to the UAE Nazimullah Chowdhury and Foreign Ministry Director General Dr Hamed Rashid were present at the

#### dialogue. World powers

FROM PAGE 16 "It's clearly confirmed by the resolution that direct negotiations on resolving all questions related to the Iranian nuclear programme -- with the participation of all six powers, including the United States -- would be initiated if Iran accepts the proposals of the six,"

In his remarks reported by the Ria-Novosti news agency, the foreign minister added that the proposed text does notforesee fresh sanctions against Iran. Lavrov said the new wording "not

only acknowledges, but salutes progress

made by the International Atomic

Energy Agency (IAEA) in clarifying

aspects of Iran's nuclear programme". Iran -- which rejects Western fears that it is covertly developing nuclear weapons -- has promised to deliver answers on outstanding questions put toit "within the next two or three weeks,"

Lavrovadded. A senior US official said the new resolution "increases the severity of the sanctions already in place and will also introducenewelements.

He said the outcome of the meeting flew in the face of Iranian claims that the sanctions issue had driven a wedge through the so-called P5+1 group. "The US is very pleased because this is

our answer to the Iranians -- you are not

out of the woods yet," the official said. A German foreign ministry official speaking on condition of anonymity, said Berlin was "delighted" with the outcome of the talks. The senior US official said the resolu-

tion foresaw extending the travel ban on Iranian officials along with the asset freeze on companies linked to the Islamicrepublic's nuclear programme. The official said the ministers had ironed out their differences on four

technical points during the two-hour meeting and continued their discussions overdinner. He hailed the close cooperation between US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov on the issue after several months in which relations between their two countries have been

strained over US plans to build a US

missile defence shield in eastern

# People expect

#### four others on November 7 the Later, Rab members on December 11 recovered Turya's

ecution witnesses. In the charge sheet, Hasnat was shown a fugitive for trying to avoid arrest since the case was filed. The IO also prayed for issuance

although Turya's family provided ACC Assistant Director Rahela them with ransom of Tk 10 lakh and 10 tolas of gold ornaments, they After conducting investigation, Detective Branch (DB) of police pressed charges against the five on

FROM PAGE 1 to be shunned in favour of dialogue and civil disagreement. "We have to listen to the other

side and consider it with an open mind whether it is acceptable or not," said Justice Habib, adding, "If it is not acceptable, disagree with civility so it does not give birth to more conflicts."

will have been registered. He added that one crore voters are being registered every month.

Mushfique Ahmed has brought Advocate Idris of Bhola was

of his death at 11:00pm. The body had shown all signs of rigour mortise by that time. Still, the

"Attracted by Labaid's glossy

government to take necessary steps against such hospitals and their

ence that the hospital authorities took advance money from a patient

quota system. a platform of students, demanded

system and relax the age limit by one year for the 28th BCS exams.

"I will personally discuss these