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#### Task force listing graft suspects in Biman

UNB, Dhaka

The army-led task force is now preparing a list of suspected corrupt Biman officials, both in and out of service, to expropriate their ill-gotten wealth.

Sources in the national airline, now a limited company, said the task force on February 12 asked the Biman officials to submit their

wealth statements. The task force, which is under supervision of the National Coordination Committee on Serious Crimes and Corruption, is now scrutinising the submitted files and asking the suspected

officials about their wealth. "Some of the officials are being questioned over telephone while a few have been asked to provide documents against their wealth," one Biman official told the news

According to the Biman sources, some 1800 Biman staffs, who took SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

# Israeli forces pound Gaza: 42 killed

AFP, Gaza City

An Israeli assault on northern Gaza killed 42 Palestinians yesterday, medics said, making it the deadliest day of Israeli-Palestinian fighting in the Hamas-ruled territory in more than a year.

Hassanein, head of Gaza's emer- over mosque loudspeakers.

militants, including 10 fighters from the Islamist Hamas movement and two from the Islamic Jihad.

killed on Saturday in Gaza, the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera news channel reported, but there was no immediate confirmation from the

Tanks supported by helicopters moved into the area in and around the crowded town and refugee

camp of Jabaliya and nearby Tufah in northern Gaza just after midnight, witnesses said.

By midday troops had pushed nearly three kilometres (two miles) inside the Gaza Strip, according to witnesses.

The urban battlefields were Those killed included at least littered with debris as frightened eight civilians, four of them residents hid Inside their homes women, said Dr Muawiya and imams read Koranic verses

"We are in the middle of a total At least 15 of those killed were war. We hear the rockets and the explosions everywhere... we cannot leave our homes," Jabaliya resident Abu Alaa, 40, told AFP by Two Israeli soldiers were also telephone as he and his children took cover.

> "They're shooting at everything that moves.

> News photographers were hemmed in by the Jabaliya fighting and came under Israeli fire, a trapped AFP photographer said. A Palestinian working for the local

Media Group was lightly hurt by an Israeli shell blast, his agency said.

Saturday's death toll made it the deadliest raid on Gaza in well over a year and comes after a sharp fourday escalation of violence that has killed more than 60 people, including several children.

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas, whose forces were driven from Gaza when Hamas seized power here in June, called for "international protection for the Palestinian people," from his headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

"It is unthinkable that Israel's reaction to Palestinian rocket attacks -- which we condemn can be so terrible and frightening," Abbas said, adding that the attacks were targeting "innocent women, children and old people",

Christopher Gunness, a spokesman for the UN agency for SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

#### Linkup between ports and global database likely

Says visiting Interpol boss STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Interpol Secretary General Ronald K Noble yesterday said all Bangladeshi ports may be linked up to its global database to better track foreign nationals going in and out of the country.

Now in the capital on an official visit, first by any Interpol head, he made the observations at a press conference in the evening.

Earlier, he inaugurated the Criminal Investigation Department's (CID) intelligence analysis unit.

"During my talks with the IGP [inspector general of police, Nur Mohammad), we've discussed linking up Bangladesh's border check-posts to our global database," said Noble.

He said they also discussed hooking up the land, air and sea ports to Interpol's global tracking

This would enable the country SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



Students of Dhaka University yesterday blockade Mirpur Road near New Market in the capital following a row with a shopkeeper of New Market in which a student was injured.

### DU hall provost, 9 others hurt in JCD-BCL clash

UNB, Dhaka

Ten people, including the provost of Zahurul Haque Hall of Dhaka University, were injured in a clash between the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal in the dormitory yesterday. The injured are Provost Prof.

Zahidul Islam, JCD activists Rakibuzzaman, Shahjada, Faysal, Rokon and Atahar, and BCL activists Mazhar, Ashraf, Nayan, Ruhul and Rahat.

Three of the injured students were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while the rest given first aid.

Campus sources said several hundred JCD activists from various dormitories gathered at the Zahurul Haq Hall after a football match between JCD activists of the hall and senior leaders of JCD's DU

BCL leaders of the hall unit complained to the hall authorities that JCD has gathered a good number of its workers to destabilise the campus situation.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

### Butenis in Dhaka on private visit

UNB, Dhaka

Former US ambassador to Bangladesh Patricia Butenis arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a "private visit", an official of the US embassy said.

Ambassador Butenis left Dhaka in April last year to take up her new assignment in Iraq as deputy chief of mission in Baghdad.

Her sudden visit to Dhaka at this transitional period caused speculations in political and press circles. However, US officials here

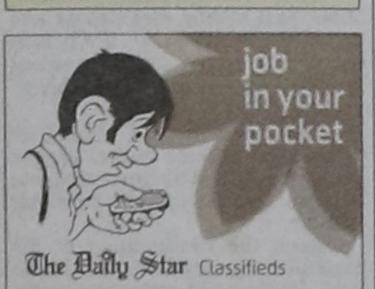
that Butenis may be here on a special assignment. "She is strictly on a private visit, not on any special assignment," Amy Hart Vrampas, director,

outright dismissed speculations

American Center, told the news In reply to a question, Amy said it is quite normal that US ambassadors

who served here sometimes make private visit as they like the country.

March 2		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-10	5-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-07	6-11
Esha	7-30	8-00



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AFP, Colombo

A police officer wounded in a suicide bombing died in hospital yesterday, a hospital spokesman said as Sri Lanka's defence ministry claimed security forces had killed

The policeman died of his injuries a day after being caught in a huge blast detonated by a suspected Tamil Tiger rebel during a

"One of the three police officers wounded in Friday's bombing died today," a hospital spokesman said, adding that six others wounded in the explosion were still undergoing

Colombo's commercial district of of 650,000 people.

believed to be a member of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

renewed fighting in the island's embattled north where 11 government soldiers were also wounded. There was no immediate reac-

According to the defence ministry, 1,733 rebels have been killed so far this year, which has seen the end of a truce and escalating violence. The military estimates the Tigers'

at a detention camp in Kuala Lumpur. The photo was taken from Zia International Airport. SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

# Manpower export Electoral alliance with doubles in 1 year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manpower export figures from the year 2006 have doubled in 2007, according to statistics released by the foreign ministry yesterday. The ministry also says that the

Saudi government continues to import manpower from Bangladesh, contrary to recent media reports claiming otherwise. The number of workers cleared to work overseas in 2007 was 8.32

lakh, up from 3.81 lakh in 2006, says

a press release of the ministry. Meanwhile, a total of 1.59 lakh workers have already left for work abroad in the first two months of the current year, compared to 78,000 in the same period last year.

The foreign ministry press release also says 20,200 workers Arabia alone and the flow contin-

ues, adding that a Saudi company - a concern of Dallah Group -- is currently recruiting semi-skilled and skilled professionals from Bangladesh.

The press release added that the government intends to make a number of high-level visits to Saudi Arabia to iron out the differences on manpower export issues. The ministry said they are stepping up efforts to reduce difficulties faced by Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia.

The ministry has meanwhile urged Bangladeshis in Saudi Arabia to work in a way "that the host government is not unduly embarrassed."

Recently Nobel laureate Mohammed Yunus in a recent visit to Saudi Arabia said that have already gone for work to Saudi Bangladeshis do not break the law alliance. SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

THE DAWN, AP, Islamabad

largest party in the newly elected

National Assembly, is still unde-

cided about its candidate for the

office of the prime minister and

sources attributed the delay to co-

chairman Asif Zardari's reluctance

to nominate Makhdoom Amin

The sources said some PPP

leaders, considered to be close

confidants of Zardari, were deliber-

ately spreading confusion over the

issue of premiership by presenting

different names as probable candi-

party leaders in Sindh and a num-

ber of MNAs-elect from Punjab

They said that almost all the

Fahim for the post.

PPP still undecided

### Jamaat to be resisted Vow sector commanders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sector Commanders' Forum (SCF), a platform of sector commanders of the liberation war, yesterday vowed to resist any electoral alliance with anti-liberation war elements including Jamaat-e-Islami

"If any political party makes an electoral alliance with Jamaat, we shall urge people not to vote for them," said SCF leader Air Vice Marshal (retd) AK Khandker while speaking at a view-exchange meeting with the electronic media at the SCF office in the city's Banani.

They don't want any political party to forge an alliance with Jamaat or any other anti-liberation war element, he said adding that people would go against such an

He said Jamaat would not be

able to secure a single seat if it fails to forge any electoral alliance.

Expressing dissatisfaction at the government's role in trying the war criminals, he said it is not clear why the government is not taking any step to try the war criminals. He urged the government to

form a special tribunal and try the war criminals under International Crimes (tribunal) Act. Khandker said a list of 37,000

war criminals was prepared during 1972-75 and it might have been kept with the jail authorities. The SCF leaders said they would

organise a conference at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre on March 15 to mobilise public support against war criminals. They said they would hold

dialogue with pro-liberation war SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

### 34 cheated workers back from Malaysia, allege torture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-four Bangladeshi workers, who spent five months in a detention camp after protesting against abuses by their Malaysian employers, returned home yesterday.

On arrival at Zia International Airport at 4:30pm, they alleged that Malaysian immigration police employed various forms of tortures on them, including electric shocks, as they refused to return to work for fear of further abuses.

Fifty-six workers of the same group returned home in December and January after going through the same ordeal in Malaysia.

The returnees are part of the 800 workers who worked in four textile factories in Batu Pahat district in Johor state, but thronged Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur on October 9 last SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

were backing Fahim while some were lobbying for Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Syed Yusuf Raza Gillani and Chaudhry Ahmed

The issue was complicated

Mukhtar -- all from Punjab.

over PM nomination further as Mr Zardari allowed the guessing game to go on without even taking his close aides into The Pakistan People's Party, the

confidence on merits or demerits

of each of the probables.

According to a reliable source, except for Chaudhry Ahmed Mukhtar, the other three probables for the prime minister's office were at the Zardari House till late Friday

Some PPP leaders believe that Zardari is reluctant to nominate Fahim because he (Zardari) himself was a contender for the office.

"It is natural. It will be difficult for Zardari to ask a person like Fahim to relinquish the office of the prime minister for him after three months or so," said a senior party leader when asked about reasons for the delay in naming the party's candidate. He confirmed that some

"Zardari friends" had launched a "whispering campaign" within the SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

irreparable loss.

#### Gas crisis might persist for next one decade

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh's gas crisis may persist for next one decade as there is no immediate option for addressing the problem-neither through augmenting domestic production nor through import of the fuel.

According to experts in the hydrocarbon industry, the demand-supply gap will continuously be widening as the government failed to make a move in ' proper time considering the future situation.

At present, the country produces about 1,700 million cubic feet (mmcf) of gas per day against a demand for 1,800 mmcf.

The demand is growing at 8-10 percent per year while the output is not rising proportionately for constraints on the exploration side.

The government has moved for holding third round gas-block bidding. But it takes at least nine

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

## Lankan forces kill 45 more Tigers

Colombo blast toll climbs

45 rebels in fresh fighting.

search operation in the city.

The blast, which went off when strength at 5,000 combatants. police approached a house in

Kotahena, was heard across the city Police said the bomber was

A red cloth tied to a bamboo pole jutting out of a lidless service manhole on Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge at

Postogola as a warning to approaching vehicles. Stealing of manhole lids is a very common occurrence lately in the capital.

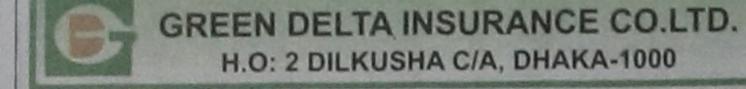
Meanwhile, the defence ministry said 45 guerrillas were killed in

tion from the Tigers.





of Green Delta Insurance Company Limited are deeply shocked a the sad demise of Mr. Shuabur Rahman, Executive Dicrector on 1<sup>St</sup> March, 2008 (Inna Lillahe......Razeun). He was only 45. May Allah the Almighty bless his departed soul with eternal peace. We express our heart-felt condolence and pray to the Almighty Allah to give strength to his bereaved family members to bear this



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