# Janajuddha founder | 23 top cops

FROM PAGE 1 since it establishment in 1999 and

unleashed a reign of terror in some 10 southwestern and five northern districts.

The Rab personnel were tracking him and have recently learned that he was hiding somewhere in Kushtia.

"We had information Tapan and his brother Akash [also known as Kaitta Akash] were hiding in separate houses at Udibari and Baradi near the outskirts of Kushtia town," Lt Col Neftaur Rahman, director of Rab-6 who led the drive, told

newspersons. A joint force from Rab-6 and Rab-12 raided a house in Udibari village around 1:00am and arrested Akash who was living there with his wife and one-year son. The elite force recovered one 9mm pistol, 800 bullets, 5,000 books or booklets and 5,000 leaflets of the underground outfit from under his bed.

Following information squeezed out of Akash, Rab cordoned off another house in Baradi around 1:30am and knocked at the door in the guise of a neighbour.

A woman named Rikta alias Maksuda, aged around 30, came out. Seeing the law enforcers, she leapt back to the house and shut the door.

rang out from the house, promptingus to retaliate" Neftaur said.

After the one-and-a-half-hour shootout, Rab men stormed into the house and found Tapan and Rikta dead.

The dead were sent to Kushtia

General Hospital for autopsy. The law enforcers said Tapan built the two houses between 2004 and 2007 buying two pieces of land. Neighbours said they had seen Akash and Tapan several times but never doubted their identities.

THEWOMAN Mystery shrouds the identity of Rikta alias Maksuda, who is said to be the first woman cadre of the

'women wing' of Janajuddha. formed the 'women wing' for his outfit and made Rikta its commander. She was his close aide and always travelled and lived with him wherever he went in the last three

Police say Rikta, daughter of Shariful Islam, hailed from Beparipara in Jhenidah town.

Rab personnel suspect she received training on underground politics and always carried firearms. She also took part in different operations led by Tapan, they add.

Sources say Janajuddha had to form the 'women wing' as most of its men have been identified and many are dead. They add these raising suspicion.

RISEOFTAPAN Jhenidah sadar, Tapan, son of Ibadat Ali, received madrasa education and passed Dakhil [equivalent to SSC) before joining the NGO Gono Sahajya Sangstha in Digholia, Khulna in 1981.

The NGO fired him as part of a disciplinary action following which he came in contact with criminals in 1982-83. He was arrested by police for criminal offences, but the days behind bars led him the way to becoming a more severe criminal.

Once out of jail, he committed the first murder by killing Imran Gazi of Dumuria, Khulna. Sources say he along with his accomplices went to Imran for talks in Sholgatia and gunned him down on the spot.

He joined PBCP-ML in 1983, used to accompany one of the top brass Abdur Rashid Tapu and became an important member of the outfit through his dynamic

activities. The outfit made him the chief of its military wing and during this period he was involved in a large number of crimes including murders. He was on a killing spree as his participation of all parties. involvement was suspected in most of the murders in the region

during this time. The joint force arrested him in Meherpur in 2001. However, his

eir houses on their own by the

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) ordered the eviction of people living in risky spots in the area. CCC is implementing the order in cooperation with Matijharna Samaj Unnayan Committee, a group formed by house owners and locals of the

area. The authorities evicted the people and had the shanties torn

Evicted families have been placed in temporary accommodation with other residents nearby, local Ward Commissioner

Monwara Begum Moni said. CCC Superintended Engineer diately. (Division 1) Mohammad Abu Saleh told The Daily Star that a similar drive was also carried out at city's Batali Hill area yesterday while

Khulna judge's court premises on January 26, 2002. Tapan could not

beheld since then. Allegations are rife that his escape from the court premises was a "set-up" and that the then ruling party needed him to establish political supremacy in the

He defected from PBCP-ML and launched Janajuddha faction in June 2003. Tapan himself became the general secretary and made Mao Tse-tung, leader of Chinese revolution, the president.

The faction distributed 25,000 leaflets in southwestern region calling for "social revolution" to establish a "classless labourers'

Janajuddha earned heavy notoriety and built numerous strongholds in the region within short time. During 2003-2008, the outfit killed at least 500 people including political leaders and workers, members of law enforcement agencies, public representatives, journalists, businessmen, contractors and general people.

Deviating from its 'ideals', the outfit was involved mainly in toll collection and its operatives did not hesitate to kill anyone who refused toll. After every murder, Janajuddha claimed responsibili-"A few moments later, gunshots ties in phone calls or fax messages.

A Janajuddha-published book says it killed 272 people during 2003-2005, including at least 16 policemen.

According to Rab and police, Tapan was accused in 80 cases including over 50 for murders filed with different police stations. The others cases include abduction,

rape and extortion. Sources say at least 200 leaders and cadres of Janajuddha were also killed in 'crossfire' during shootouts with law enforcers, or by rivals

since June 2004. The authorities have beefed security measures in all 10 districts in Khulna and five districts in Rajshahi in fear of backlash from Sources say Tapan recently the outlaws. All the police stations, outposts and camps in the divi-

sions have been put on alert. The ongoing combing operation by joint forces started on May 28 has been intensified to track town Janajuddha operatives and others outlaws.

## Lift emergency

Observation Exploratory Mission of the European Union (EU). The meeting held at Delwar's | polls.

Nam flat in the capital lasted about one hour and 45 minutes.

The mission arrived here on June 15 on a week-long visit to women operatives wear veils and assess whether to send EU Election easily hide arms under it without Observation Mission (EOM) to Bangladesh.

Emerging from the meeting, Hailing from Bishaykhli village in head of the EU delegation to Bangladesh Stefan Frowein told reporters that they are collecting opinions of political parties as the EU headquarters will consider sending a team to observe the parliamentary polls here on the basis of report of the visiting

> In reply to a question, Delwar said, "The government is showing a discriminatory attitude towards BNP. It has even taken a strategy of keeping BNP outside the election

The meeting was attended by BNP standing committee members RA Gani and Chowdhury Tanveer Ahmed Siddique, vice President Sarwari Rahman, Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan and acting office secretary

Earlier, the EU team went to Jamaat-e-Islami office and had talks with party leaders including Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed. The Jamaat leaders said the national election must be held with the

### Ex-state minister

Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court showing 23 people as prosecution witnesses.

The IO prayed for issuing arrest warrants against the accused and the order to attach their properties as they have been absconding ence in Geneva on Wednesday, since the filing of the case.

The case was filed against them on November 22 last year with Ramna Police Station for amassing wealth worth Tk 128,612,543 beyond their known sources of income and concealing information about wealth worth Tk 5,36,00,051 in the statement sub-

mitted to the ACC. SHAMIM ESKANDER CASE

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Waliul Islam recorded statements of witnesses Akhter Hossain and Belayet Hossain who were produced before the court by | nity. ACC Deputy Assistant Director AFM Zabid Hassan, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case.

However, details of their statements could not be known imme-

The case was filed with Ramna Police Station against Shamim Eskander and his wife Kaniz Fatema on May 5 this year for conothers are scheduled for today at cealing information about their Kushumbag and Lebu Bagan areas wealth worth Tk 2,047,820 in the where the major landslides wealth statement submitted to the commission.

Jamalpur Aminul Islam was made AIG at the police headquarters. SP of Narsingdi Shahabuddin Khan was transferred as SP of Rajshahi, Chowdhury Manzurul Kabir as SP of Natore, DC of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Mohammad Ali Mian as SP of Narsingdi, Rajshahi SP Didar Ahmed as DC of DMP, Natore SP Abu Saleh Mohammad Golam Mahmood as SP of Thakurgaon and Barisal RRF Commandant Sheikh Md Mizanur Rahman was transferred as SP of Sherpur.

Moreover, Additional SP of Chapainawabganj Sazzadur Rahman was made DC of RMP and Additional SP of Chandpur Mir Ashraf Ali was made SP of Laxmipur while Additional SP of CID Mozammel Haque was transferred as AIG at the police head-

Additional SP of Sirajganj Nazrul Hossain was transferred as SP of Sirajganj, Additional SP of Pirojpur Kamrul Ahsan as SP of Narail and Additional DC of DMP Abul Fayez was posted as SP of Lalmonirhat.

### EPR to be relaxed

FROM PAGE 1 Manikganj Sadar, Chuadanga Sadar, Shariatpur Sadar, Naohata in Rajshahi, Dupchanchiya in Bogra, Sripur in Gazipur, Fulbaria in Mymensingh, Golapganj in Sylhet and Sitakunda in

Chittagong. The EC plans to hold the long | delimitation, Tk 3,303 for a mutaover due polls to Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and some other municipalities in September.

It also plans to hold polls to upazila parishads in October. And the parliamentary polls will

December. Major political parties have been opposing the EC plan for holding local government polls before the parliamentary elections. STRINGENT RULES ON POLLS | pay bribe of Tk 4, 134 on an average.

CAMPAIGNS The election rules and code of conduct promulgated by the EC on Tuesday slapped strict restrictions on polls campaigns. Rallies and processions will be allowed only within a specified period despite

after finalisation of their candidature. EC Secretariat sources said referring to the draft schedules for

No intending contestants can bring out procession or stage showdowns during filing of nominations, according to the new rules.

And candidates will have to seek permission from law enforcement agencies at least 24 hours before rallies and processions.

indiscriminate pasting of posters and scrawling of graffiti on walls. Under the new rules, the EC can cancel candidature for violation of the code of conduct and other

irregularities during the polls. The rules also empower personnel of the defence forces and police on election duty to arrest anybody without warrant for violating those.

FROM PAGE 16

issuing residency or other permits to people coming in illegally from outside the bloc or returning them to their countries of origin.

Those denied residency have two options: "return" home or face

involve children -- decline to go voluntarily, the individual would be forced to leave and face being banned from EU territory for five

As far as forced expulsions are concerned, authorities could decide to keep individuals in cus tody for up to six months -- 18 months under exceptional circumstances -- particularly if they are

home countries are slow to provide personal documents and informa-

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights criticised the new regulations during a press confersaying EU countries would do better to look at ratifying the UN convention on rights for migrant workers.

Arbour noted the "difficulty in advancing the fundamental principles of the protection of individuals' rights who are in a very vulnerable situation" and regretted the "resistance in public opinion" to the idea that the illegal migrants have the same rights as others in society.

Amnesty International said the measures do not ensure that illegal immigrants are returned to their home countries safely and in dig-

"On the contrary, an excessive period of detention of up to 1.5 years as well as an EU-wide re-entry ban for those forcibly returned, risks lowering existing standards ... and sets an extremely bad example," a statement said.

Currently nine EU states set no limit at all on the amount of time that people can be detained. Many others have far shorter custody times than the six months the socalled "return directive" will introduce.

# Graft increases

NEWS

FROM PAGE 1 diary respectively, Tk 2,605 had to be paid in bribe for a police clearance, Tk 1,703 for expediting submission of a charge-sheet, and Tk 5,120 for other services, the report said estimating the total amount of bribe in the sector during the survey period to be Tk 879 crore.

"While taking services from local governments, 53.4 percent households had to face different types of corruption," said the

On an average for having a house construction plan approved Tk 5,005 in bribe was required, a bribe of Tk 3,120 was required for setting up a tube-well, Tk 840 for getting a VGF or VGD card, Tk 828 for collecting a certificate for fertiliser, and Tk 505 for a trade licence.

The average rate of bribe required for getting birth, death and nationality certificates was Tk 84 while a bribe of Tk 310 was needed for getting old age allow-

"A total of 52.7 percent house-

holds became victims of corrupadministration," the report read adding that Tk 1,606 crore, or one third of the total amount of bribe circu-

country, went to the land administration sector. Average rate of bribe was Tk Desco. 5,680 for government land distribution, Tk 4,237 for a land registration, Tk 3,857 for a land survey and

lated during the period in the

Tk 1,857 for a land purchase or sale, Tk 1,639 for getting a docu-

ment, and Tk 1,170 to submit taxes. Corruption continues to be pervasive in the country with twothirds of the surveyed households experiencing varying forms of corruption for different public and private sector services, according to the report which added that 42.1 percent of the households had to

percent households became victims of corruption while taking services from the judiciary. On an average Tk 5,124 was

According to the report, 47.7

required for bribe at magistrate courts, Tk 5,516 at judge's courts, Tk 2,167 at the High Court, Tk 5,840

## Gen Moeen

FROM PAGE 16 To mark the occasion, the President's Parade was held at the academy. The army chief reviewed the parade and took salute.

Gen Moeen said many friendly countries send cadets to this academy for training. "It's indeed a matter of pride and joy for us. He paid tribute to the soldiers martyred during the War of Liberation.

Referring to the country's foreign policy motto--'friendship to all, malice to none' -- the army chief said: "Upholding this theme, we have taken initiative to enhance friendly relations with neighbouring countries."

In this regard, he mentioned Army Training and Doctrine Command (ARTDOCT) and production of modern "BD-08" rifle in Bangladesh with the assistance of China.

The army chief later distributed prizes to the cadets who demonstrated excellent performance

during the training. Battalion Senior Under Officer SM Ahsan Ullah was adjudged best all-round cadet in the 58th BMA Long Course and awarded the coveted "Sword of Honour" Besides, Gentlemen cadet M Mahmudul Hasan received

"Chief of Army Staff (CAS) Gold Medal" for his outstanding perfor-

Among others, high civil and military officials, diplomats of foreign missions in Bangladesh and guardians of the cadets witnessed the ceremony.

## Rice prices

FROM PAGE 16 polao rice rose by Tk 5-8 per kg in last four days. He had sold quality polao rice at Tk 70-80 per kg last week but the price was hovering around Tk 80-90 yesterday. In the wholesale market, rice

prices also increased by Tk 10-20 per maund (37.32 kg) yesterday. Medium quality Parija was selling at Tk 1,270-1,290. A day ago the price was Tk 1,250-1,280.

Miniket sold at Tk 1,430-1,440, BR-28 at Tk 1,200-1,210 and Irri at Tk 1,130-1,140 per maund. Meantime, fish prices have been on the rise for last one month. Prices of ruhi, tilapia, puti, mala and shing increased by Tk 10-20

sources said. The price of hilsha, however, registered the biggest spike as its supply went down significantly last

per kg in the last four days, market

kg hilsha shot up by Tk 100. He said he bought one hali of a construction firm. (four) small-size hilsa for Tk 1,300 from Karwan Bazar wholesale market yesterday but the price was Tk900 just a week ago. He said hilsa supply in local

at special courts, and Tk 2,333 for other judicial services.

During the surveyed period, bribe of Tk 107 crore went into the health sector, the report said adding that 44.1 percent households became victims of corruption in the sector.

Most of the corruption in the health sector took place at upazila health centres, where 47.9 percent of the victims had to pay bribes.

percent to nurses, 13.9 percent to employees, 9 percent to ward boys, and 4.7 percent to middlemen. A total of 39.2 percent house-

during the period surveyed. Irregularities in the sector were related to admissions, distribution of stipends, delays in holding exams and dependency on private

tutoring "In the education sector, the rate of bribery increased to 44 percent in January-June, 2007 tion in one or another way while compared to the 12 percent during taking services from the land the period of July-December,

> In the power sector, 33.2 percent households faced corruption that ate up Tk 473.7 crore in bribe. Each household on an average had to pay Tk 2,552 to Desa, Tk 1,512 to PDB, Tk 1,468 to REB, and Tk 906 to

A total of 28.7 percent households became victims of corruption in the banking sector while 13.5 percent became the victims of irregularities while receiving services from the NGO sector.

## Information

FROM PAGE 1 foreign and law advisers, and special assistants to the chief adviser, the cabinet secretary and the chief adviser's press secretary were pres-

The government had formed the eight-member committee headed by Joint Secretary of the information ministry Kamal Uddin Ahmed to

The committee analysed the right to information laws of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in addition to the drafts prepared by the Law Commission and Manusher Jonno

Foundation, alocal NGO. After formulating the draft, the information ministry made it open for public to receive suggestions on

As per the latest advance estimate, rice production in India is expected proposed forming a three-member

lowing demands from different basmati rice could help bring down quarters, it suggested that the commission has five members. The cabinet, however, last night decided that it would be a three-

recommend appointments to the commission, naming three persons against each post. The president will pick one from them. The chief justice will appoint an Appellate Division judge to head the

committee, according to the proposal placed before the cabinet. Individuals aggrieved at not getting information or being supplied with incorrect information can first appeal with the heads of the organisations concerned. If still not

Anyone found guilty of refusing to information can be fined Tk 25,000 and departmental action can be

taken against them. Following public demand, the drafting committee also omitted the clauses on exemption from disclosure for "public interest" and "state

honour "Besides, the instances of exemption have been specified in the pro posed draft to remove vagueness said a source, without detailing

### further. Oil, gas price

He admitted that it's not easy to raise energy prices overnight inflicting a shock to the consumers and leaving an impact on the economy. "So, we've to wait and look into different aspects", he said.

### 2 JMB men FROM PAGE 16

succumbed to his injuries at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH). A murder case and another

in the neighbourhood. "We believe the attack was not conducted by AQI (al-Qaeda in bomb attack. The three were exempted from trial as they were

executed following a court verdict.

FROM PAGE 16

On June 5, the HC granted three months' ad interim bail to Sigma Huda in the bribery case under

markets has been strained as traders are exporting hilsha to India from wholesale markets by the held today.

## Bridge built

FROM PAGE 1

barrister Aminul Haque laid the foundation stone. Aminul is now on the run following conviction in a

militancy abetting case. The construction work remained suspended for a year after the firm pleaded for more money following price hike of construction materials. Construction stopped again on June 11 last due to arrival of the monsoon. The project is to be completed by 2009.

Tanore upazila LGED engineer Mostak Hossain Joarder said, "There is no problem in constructing the approach road after the bridge is done... Many things can-

not be planned at the same time." "It will take time as land acquisition is a time consuming process, he said when asked when the road will be built.

"Constructing the link road will not affect the river [due to filling of a part of the river] ... The river has already narrowed down and chars have appeared at places with the river leaving behind soil residues,"

During the end of the previous BNP-Jamaat coalition rule, around 20 bridges were constructed in the district, including one costing Tk 17 lakh on Chanduria canal in Tanore, one costing Tk 11.68 lakh at Mohisalbari in Godagari upazila and one costing Tk 67 lakh on Boral

river in Charghat upazila. All the bridges are still unusable as they do not have any approach road or any road linking the bridges

to other roads. The number of unusable bridges is 600 in Rajshahi division. Contractors, chosen allegedly at the behest of former ministers and lawmakers, have reportedly withdrawn all the money for the constructions.

## University student

FROM PAGE 16

The driver later told reporters that they were wounded when an object fell on the car windshield and exploded.

"I drove to my employer's residence following the incident and later came to the hospital for treatment," he said. Police were examining the car to

figure out what actually happened. Shyama's father Mirza Ali, a high official at the Pubali Bank Ltd, said they did not have any enmity with any people.

### India may lift ban FROM PAGE 16

to be 95.68 million tonnes in the 2007-8 crop year. The Commerce Secretary's remarks assume significance as India's lifting on a ban on non-

rice prices in international market. The international rice market carries around 28 million tones and India's absence in it is estimated to have taken out around four million tonnes of non-basmati variety.

Pillai said India was "quite comfortable" on the wheat front as the government has procured record quantity of food grains for buffer stock. India has already procured 225 tonnes of wheat whose import has been ruled out,

headded India had imported 7.3 million tonnes of wheat in the last two

The commerce secretary said wheat harvest has been good and if the rice harvest is also good in November, "we will be quite comfortable both in rice and wheat" Food grains prices have played a key role in pushing up the inflatior in India which now stands at 8.75

per cent, a seven-year high, putting

### accused it of failing to contain soaring prices of essential goods. Car bomb

and other regions of Iraq.

FROM PAGE 16 Hundreds of people were killed in the clashes that ended after a ceasefire

was ordered by Sadr on May 10. The US military says that its strategy of deploying extra troops announced in February last year has been one of the key reasons for the respite from violence in Baghdad

After hitting a peak in January 2007, monthly death tolls from political violence have fallen to some of their lowest levels since the 2003 invasion. Meanwhile, The US military said

yesterday that a deadly car bombing

at a Baghdad bus stop was carried

out by Shia militiamen and not by

Sunni militants loyal to al-Qaeda. Its intelligence indicated that the bombing was carried out by a renegade Shiite militia cell led by Haydar Mehdi Khadum Al-Fawadi in a bid to stop the resettlement of Sunni Arabs

Iraq)," military spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Steven Stover said in a statement. "Though vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices are a trademark of AQI, our intelligence, corroborated through multiple sources, is this atrocity was committed by a

Special Groups cell led by Haydar

Mehdi Khadum Al-Fawadi."

The US military uses the term Special Groups to refer to Shiite extremists, particularly renegade members of the Mahdi Army militia of Shiite radical leader Moqtada al-

# Power plant case

FROM PAGE 1 next hearing on July 1." All the documents of the case are now at the HC division as the petition for quashing the case is awaiting judgement of the HC, he added.

In the meantime, a High Court bench yesterday fixed June 30 for delivering its judgement on the petition filed by Hasina for quashing

The HC bench of Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Mashuque Hosain Ahmed fixed the date following the conclusion of hearing on the petition.

At the special court, advocate Sahara Khatun represented the AL chief who had been exempted from attending court proceedings due to health reasons. Former energy and power secretary Dr Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, a co-accused in the

case, was produced before the court. ACC Deputy Director SM Sabbin Hasan filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station against Hasina and six others on September 2 last year under the Emergency Power Rules.

On June 2 this year, Hasina filed the petition with the HC, with a plea

to quash the case against her. Hasina's counsel barrister Shafique Ahmed told the HC bench vesterday that his client was not involved in any corruption and the case was filed with intent to harass

her politically. HASINA'S MEDICAL TREATMENT Hasina's medical check-up started on Tuesday at a clinic in Orange, Connecticut. At the clinic Hasina underwent

supervision of Nasiha Fahmi, an assistant clinical professor at Yale University School of Medicine. Since various tests including EKG

thorough examination under the

suggested that she has irregular heartbeat and anaemia, Dr Fahmi's clinic referred her to Yale University School of Medicine under renowned cardiologist Sandeep Mukherjee, an

After she was taken to Yale, specialist doctors there examined her thoroughly and prescribed a few medicines for the irregularity in her heartbeat. They also advised her to take complete rest and drink plenty

ofliquids told The Daily Star yesterday that Dr Philip Silverstone, an eye surgeon at Yale, conducted examination on his mother's eyes and detected persistent problems in her left eye. The doctor has recommended further

advanced investigation, added Joy. American News Agency (ANA) reports: The AL chief would have to wait a few more days to get all medical reports in hand. "Next steps will be taken after getting all the medical reports," Joy told ANA over the phone

school authorities] found out that the patient is a daughter of the Father of the Nation of Bangladesh, a former prime minister who had been victimised and detained for long and has come to the US for treatment with temporary freedom, they did not charge her any fee," the ANA report added saying that Hasina also

Meanwhile, different AL chapters in the US including New York, Florida, Philadelphia, Connecticut, Michigan and Texas held special

# AL, allies

boycotting the polls. AL sources said AL President Sheikh Hasina, who is now in the US for medical treatment,

decided to announce on Friday the schedules for holding polls in four city corporations and nine municipalities by the end of July. It will be the first election under the state of emer-

Liberation War forces," AL Publicity Secretary Asaduzzaman Noor told The Daily Starlast night. AL Organising Secretary Mahmudur Rahman Manna said

extended meeting on May 26 suggested that nominations for any kind of election should be given on their

mendations, sources said. Meanwhile, party sources said a few party leaders would oppose participating in the polls since Jatiya

ment's "plans" The AL Presidium will sit today at the Gulshan residence of acting AL President Zillur Rahman to make decision over the local government polls. The AL will also hold a secretary

Rajshahi and Sylhet city corporations, but it is yet to find a probable

# Khaleque as the candidate for the

company to Coalition Joint Task Force 101 went missing. The exact location is not determined yet",

Patterson said. "They were being sent from Bagram to Fort Bragg, USA. The collective value of the engines is worth 13.2 million dollars," he

Taliban militants had filmed what it The News, an English-language

The announcement came after a

Pakistani newspaper reported that

pictures. International forces in landlocked Afghanistan must transport much of their military equipment overland via neighbouring Pakistan,

engines, but did not publish any

allies put more pressure on Islamabad to crack down on Taliban militants allegedly based in Pakistan's tribal belt bordering Corps. Afghanistan.

soldiers near the border. Days later Afghan President

prayers yesterday for the early recovconducted on the AL president eryoftheir partychief.

also gave "green signal" for taking part in the local government elec-

The Election Commission has

Awami League will participate in stance on the local government polls, the local government elections along with the components of the 14-party combine and all other pro-

they would nominate candidates solely on recommendations of the grassroots level leaders. The grassroots level leaders in their reports submitted at the party's

recommendations. Prior to her departure for the US on June 12, Hasina directed the party high-ups to work as per these recom-

Party, which will also take part in the election, is involved with the govern-

local government polls will start tomorrow," said a central AL leader preferring anonymity. The AL has potential candidates for mayoral posts in Khulna,

# state minister Talukder Abdul

4 US copter FROM PAGE 16

the coalition in Afghanistan on April

which itself is a key ally in the US-led "war on terror".

Ties plummeted to their lowest ebb last week after Pakistan said that a US air strike had killed 11 Pakistani

an angry response from Islamabad.

associate professor at the medical school.

Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy

yesterday morning. Hasina requested everyone to pray for her early recovery, Joy added. "When they [the Yale medical

thanked the hospital for the honour.

# Khulna City Corporation mayor,

Khairuzzaman Liton for Rajshahi City Corporation. But the party will be cautious in choosing candidates for Barisal City Corporation as previous candidates have been inactive for the last several

years, sources said.

mentary election.

detained Sylhet Mayor Badaruddin

Ahmed Kamran for the same city

corporation, and Fazle Hossain

Badsha of Workers' Party of

Bangladesh and former AL lawmaker

AL acting General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam said they would decide on the matter soon in consultation with party leaders. He, however, said they would

resist any move by the caretaker

government to delay the next parlia--

"We want the national election

Ashraf also demanded that the

government lift the state of emer-

gency completely for creating a

Khan Badal said the government

must hold the national election first.

Commenting on the party's

first. It will not be right for the government to engage in any activities that can delay the parliamentary polls. Awami League will resist such moves," he said after a meeting with Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) leaders at the ISD central office on

congenial atmosphere ahead of the upcoming election. Echoing Ashraf's view, JSD Executive President Mainuddin

Nato, Afghan

Bangabandhu Avenue.

FROM PAGE 16 Force, confirmed that military helicopters had "engaged" the rebels but said no fixed-wing aircraft had dropped bombs.

Nato's civilian spokesman in

Kabul, Mark Laity, said the opera-

tion was "proceeding satisfacto-"We still had only minor contacts. We've inflicted casualties on the insurgents during these exchanges," Laity told AFP, adding that the number of Afghan and

Canadian troops involved was

mander called Mullah Sayed

Ahmad, claiming to be calling from

A self-styled Taliban com-

"substantial"

Arghandab, told AFP that there had been "very heavy fighting going on and the Nato helicopters also fired machine guns into our positions." Taliban spokesman Yousuf Ahmadi vowed fierce resistance. "We will use Arghandab for specific attacks with motors and

cannons on targets in Kandahar

city. We have also planned a suicide

attack which will be carried out in

Kandahar," he told AFP by telephone from an unknown location. The operation has forced around 1,500 families to leave their homes and leave behind crops that were ready for harvest, said Ahmad Wali Karzai, the head of Kandahar provincial council and a brother of President Karzai.

days ago and stayed with my belongings and my animals. But today the fighting started and there are groups of 70 to 80 Taliban taking up positions," said local resident Mir Ahmad. Meanwhile Taliban spokesman Ahmadi claimed responsibility for a bomb blast in neigbouring

Helmand province on Tuesday that

the defence ministry in London

said killed four British troops,

including one from the Intelligence

"I evacuated my family three

A total of 106 British soldiers have now died in Afghanistan. Despite the presence of about

70,000 international troops from some 40 countries mainly operating under Nato, an insurgency aimed at toppling the US-backed government in Kabul has gained pace in the past two years.

### associates 'rescued' him from the CCC evicts

end of the day.

down. Ten shops situated in the risky spots will also be broken down, an official said.

occurred last year.

SP of Jamalpur while SP of

quarters.

be held in the third week of

relaxation of the EPR. Candidates might have three weeks time for polls campaigns

The new rules also prohibit

EU adopts

removal. Should he or she -- the rules also

deemed a flight risk. This could also happen if their

Shukkur Ali, a hilsha trader at Karwan Bazar, said price of an one-

Of the total bribe in the sector, 36.5 percent went to doctors, 32

holds became victims of corruption in the education sector which got a total bribe of Tk 117 crore

2006," the report said.

entat the meeting. draft the law.

Responding to citizens' request, the information ministry extended the time for sending opinion on the preliminary RTI draft from March 23 up to April 3. The drafting committee had

information commission, but fol-

member body. A committee of five members will

satisfied, they can go to the proposed information commission based in the capital, the proposal said. provide information or giving wrong

FROM PAGE 1 fuel oil at old rates incurring heavy

explosives case were filed with Kotwali Police Station. JMB kingpin Shayakh Abdur Rahman, Siddigul Islam alias Bangla Bhai, and Ataur Rahman Sunny were also accused in the case for their involvement in the

emergency power rules (EPR). The ACC has filed a provisional appeal with the Supreme Court against the HC order granting her bail. Hearing of the appeal will be

level meeting soon to discuss the matter, party sources said. "The process of taking part in the

### the Congress-led coalition governcandidate for the Barisal City ment under fire from opposition Corporation, partyleaders said. parties and Left allies which The party has in mind former

coalition spokesman Christian Patterson told AFP. The engines went missing before the 101st Airborne took command of

said were stolen parts from US helicopters including a Chinook and a Black Hawk. daily, said the Taliban had circulated CDs containing images of the

But relations have been strained as Washington and other Western

Hamid Karzai said that Kabul would be justified in launching attacks on militants on Pakistani soil, provoking