# Dhaka, Delhi

FROM PAGE 1 resolution and international arbitration for disputes.

The bilateral investment promotion pact, which really took off after India lifted the ban on the flow of investment from Bangladeshi citizens and corporate houses in November last year, is expected to give a push to investments from both sides, official sources said.

The ban on investment from Bangladesh had been imposed for security reasons and although it was lifted nine months ago, investment proposals from Bangladesh would still need prior clearance of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board even if they are meant for sectors which India has put on the automatic route.

The curb on investment flow from Bangladesh was removed also because India could not have signed the bilateral investment promotion agreement with a country from where it did not permit any investment to come in, officials pointed out.

India would have had to withdraw the restrictions even under the South Asian Free Trade agreement, they contended.

Several big Indian companies, including the Tatas, whose three billion dollar investment proposal for Bangladesh is hanging fire for more than four years, and the Essar, have evinced keen interest in putting their money in India's eastern neighbour.

Menon and Hossain said all aspects of bilateral relations were discussed at the foreign secretarylevel meeting.

"The discussions were forwardlooking and constructive," they

Bilateral trade and connectivity also came up for discussion, the two top diplomats added without elaborating.

Asked about India finding the links of Bangladesh-based terror outfit Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji) to a number of terror attacks in India in the recent past, Hossain said terrorism was a global issue

and it has to be tackled. Hossain led a six-member delegation of Bangladesh which also included that country's High Commissioner to India Liagat Ali Choudhury.

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pinak Ranjan Chakrabarty was a member of the together. host side at the talks.

reduce the huge trade deficit of highest priorities, Menon said. nearly \$2 billion by allowing greater access of Bangladeshi products to the Indian market, news agency

creating conditions for increasing two-way trade.

He requested expediting the completion of export of the remaining 5 lakh tonnes of rice to Bangladesh. He also requested his counterpart to consider completely withdrawing restrictions on the export of rice from India.

Dhaka also called for expediting work to reach agreement on the sharing of the waters of the common rivers, particularly the Teesta, at the Foreign Office Consultations between the two countries, which began in New Delhi yesterday morning.

The discussions on connectivity also focused on better utilisation of the Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade, improvement of border infrastructure to facilitate trade, and the need for approaching specific issues through relevant forums.

Last year had been productive in bilateral relations, Menon said referring to the launch of Indo-Bangla Moitree Express.

COOPERATION IN TERROR CONTROL

India yesterday sought Bangladesh's cooperation in tackling terrorism "resolutely"

"The discussions were very useful and led to much greater understanding of each other's position," Foreign Secretary of India Shivshankar Menon said.

The Indian side raised the issue of terrorism allegedly emanating from Bangladeshi soil and sought Dhaka's cooperation in curbing such activities.

Describing terrorism as a global problem, Touhid Hossain said the two countries have the mechanism of home secretary-level meetings to address it.

Agreeing with Menon, Touhid said the talks were "candid" and "forward-looking" and Bangladesh did not shy away from discussing any issue that is important for the present and the future.

"Terrorism has to be tackled resolutely," Menon said, adding, "We look forward to working together against terrorism."

Menon said security of the two countries is inter-linked and they should join hands on the issue.

He said home secretaries of the two countries will meet soon to discuss ways to tackle terrorism

For India, strengthening rela-Bangladesh urged India to tions with Bangladesh is one of the He said Indian Army Chief Gen Deepak Kapoor will soon visit

Bangladesh. Touhid Hossain said he invited Touhid emphasised the need for Menon to Bangladesh.

# Poverty mission

FROM PAGE 16

prestigious achievement of winning Nobel Peace Prize by Prof. Muhammad Yunus and his brainchild Grameen Bank

Prof Yunus, Nobel Committee Chairman Prof Ole Danbolt Mjos, Director, Nobel Peace Center, Bente Erichsen and Norwegian Ambassador in Dhaka Ingebjorg Stofring also spoke at the inaugural function.

The Norwegian Nobel Peace Centre, the Norwegian embassy and the host Grameen Bank jointly organised the exhibition aimed at encouraging the nation to go ahead.

Replicas of Nobel Peace Prize, video, audio and pictures of various efforts and success stories and historical events of Prof Yunus and Grameen Bank are on the display.

On October 13, 2006, the announcement of winning the Nobel Prize by Prof Yunus and Grameen Bank was made, while the prestigious prize was conferred on December 10, 2006 in Oslo.

Grameen Bank founder and Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus made welcome address at the function, attended by economists, diplomats, members of the Grameen Bank and distinguished personali-

The chief adviser in his speech said the challenges facing Bangladesh are many and the present government has been trying its best over the past one and a half years to tackle some of these problems, in

particular, systemic disarray. The government is also striving to bring much- needed reforms in the executive, judiciary and electoral process so these institutions facilitate country's socioeconomic progress through a smooth run of the

"We have focused our efforts on establishing good governance in the country and put in place an enabling environment for realisation of our national aspirations," he told the

function. The CA mentioned various statistics of socioeconomic progress in different fields in Bangladesh, including reducing poverty, decline in population growth rate and

increase in gender parity. Appreciating the performance of Grameen Bank and its founder, the CA thanked Prof Mjos and the Nobel Committee for choosing an outstanding Bangladeshi personality and the institution for the Nobel Peace Prize.

This prize rightly recognised the contributions of Prof Yunus and Grameen Bank, which has disbursed, to date, more than \$7 billion in micro-credits to 7.5 million poor

Bangladeshis, he mentioned. The CA said presently around 80 percent of Bangladesh's poor households have access to micro-credit and expressed the hope that all of the poor in the country would have access to microfinance soon.

"Bangladeshis are making valuable contribution to resurgence of their motherland not only at home but also abroad," the CA said.

He noted that expatriate Bangladeshis all over the world are excelling in varied fields such as science, medicine, information technology, architecture, academia and the corporate world.

"Bangladeshi migrant workers have also fanned out across the globe and they have established themselves in unfamiliar settings by adapting to local community and

The CA said many of them are doing very well and making enormous contributions to the national economy with remittances, and these remittances are having a direct impact on alleviation of poverty in the country.

He also mentioned extraordinary performance of members of Bangladesh Armed Forces in UN peacekeeping missions, which attained acclaim of the international

## Roads officer

FROM PAGE 16 The former administrative officer

was handed down 10 years' rigorous imprisonment for accumulating wealth illegally and three year's simple imprisonment for concealing wealth information in the wealth statement submitted to the ACC. The sentences will run consecutively.

Judge Tanzina Ismail of Special Court-6, set up on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises, also fined Samsuddin Tk 10 lakh in default of which he will have to serve one more year behind bars.

The court also ordered the authorities concerned to confiscate his ill-gotten wealth worth Tk 4.96 crore.

Since he is absconding, the sentences will come into effect the day he surrenders or is arrested.

ACC Assistant Director Sheikh Abdus Salam filed the case with Paltan Police Station on November 13 last year against Samsuddin in connection with amassing Tk 4.96 crore illegally and concealing wealth information to the commis-

Mosharraf Hossain Kajal was the prosecution lawyer in the case.

EC won't call

striking force during polls to these four city corporations in 2002. But this time, the police administration has been assigned the responsibility to maintain law and order for holding the elections peacefully.

Policemen will be deployed at polling stations and as mobile and striking forces, meeting sources said, adding that Ansar forces would also beworking with the police.

Senior officials at the EC Secretariat, however, said the army, which has been working at the field level to maintain law and order since the declaration of the state of emergency on January 11 last year, would help the police in electoral areas, if necessary.

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad assured the EC of deploying his force to maintain law and order. "The police forces are stronger now than before," a meeting source said quoting the IGP.

Senior officials of administration of the electoral areas told the EC that they are not facing any major prob lems yet.

According to the meeting's decision, 24 security personnel including 10 armed policemen will be deployed at each vulnerable polling station while 22 security personnel each will be deployed at other poling

Adequate number of mobile courts will also work on the polling day to try electoral offences summarily, the sources said.

The EC directed the police administration to file criminal cases against contesting candidates if they are found to spend money beyond the election expenditure ceiling for campaigns.

Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda told reporters after the meeting that the army would not be deployed for election

At the meeting, Huda termed the August 4 polls a "test case" for the EC and said if the polls could be held fairly, it would impact the upcoming upazila and parliamentary elections.

Huda said many have voiced concerns over criminals' returning to their stamping grounds following the announcement of the election schedule. Only a few days have passed after the state of emergency was relaxed, he said, adding, "So, we will have to be more alert in the coming days."

## 8 killed

FROM PAGE 16

Islam, 66, Haris Mian, 60, Kabir, 30, Jahidul, 10, Shah Alam, 35, Taj Uddin, Babul and Shahid.

Reckless driving by the bus driver defying the passengers' repeated warning caused the accident, said some locals quoting the passengers.

Police, however, could not confirm if the drivers of the vehi-

cles were killed or escaped unhurt. Following the accident, hundreds of vehicles remained stranded on both sides of the busy

highway for about two hours.

# HC declares BNP-led

FROM PAGE 1

Burnt FROM PAGE 1

time to fulfil his demand or face the consequence", he added. When Roni's father Abdur Rouf. principal officer of Sonali Bank, Rangpur, contacted DGFI office in the town, he was told that Shuvo was transferred to Dhaka.

About 12:45am on June 7. HSC examinee Roni wrapped up her preparations for Business Policy 1st part scheduled to be held that day and went to bed shutting the windows as the family received a renewed threat two days ago.

"Suddenly I smelt something like oil and felt my skin getting sticky, Roni recalled.

Sitting up, she found the bed and floor wet. "I heard some voices including that of Shuvo and Swapan. Panicked, I tried to open the door but

it was locked from outside." As she shouted for help, Shuvo said something. "And a lighted matchstick was thrown into my room through a hole made in the

window." Hearing her cry, her father rushed out to see flames engulfing the room inside.

Breaking into the room, Rouf saw fire has already burned her face, throat, abdomen, breasts and hands. She was rushed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital where

diately. The father filed a case against seven including Swapan, Shuvo, Zia, Nazim, Abed Ali, Bahadur and Bakul. Police arrested Abed, Bakul and local

doctors referred her to DMCH imme-

CD shop owner Sumon the same day. The law enforcers recovered Shuvo's cap, an empty and a halfempty bottle of petrol and a pipe used to pour petrol into the room.

Sumon said Shuvo and others stayed at his shop for about five hours till 12:30am with two bottles of petrol, Rangpur police said, adding Abed admitted to threatening the family to withdraw the case.

Sub-inspector Humayun Kabir who is investigating the case told The Daily Star they have heard that Shuvo is now working in Dhaka. "We've yet to contact Dhaka DGFI office," he

When Rouf contacted DGFI office in Dhaka four days ago, the officials said he is missing, the victim's family said. Meantime, Shuvo called Roni's

aunt Alo Begum last week. "My life has been spoilt. Now I'll destroy all of your lives if you don't withdraw the case," he was quoted as threatening.

Koko freed

FROM PAGE 1 that the order can be cancelled anytime without any explanation."

"He was released mainly for treatment in Thailand," he said, adding that the conditions attached to his release are like the ones followed in Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina's case.

A relative of Koko meantime told The Daily Star, "We are preparing to take him to Bangkok for treatment as early as possible. Most probably he would leave the country Saturday tomorrow].

A handout of the Press Information Department (PID) said that Koko has been released for two months on a number of conditions. If he goes abroad for treatment,

he or his relatives will have to report

to the Bangladesh mission concerned on his health situation every He will not be allowed to engage in any political or business activities, and he must not communicate with

other than treatment, the handout Besides, if his treatment ends before eight weeks, he will contact the government and surrender before a court on return home.

any agency or person for any reasons

According to the handout, the government might cut short the release for breach of the conditions. It can also cancel the order at any moment without giving any reason.

As the news of Koko's release spread, several hundred leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations gathered on the BSMMU premises. BNP chairperson's adviser Brig Gen (retd) ASM Hannan Shah, Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan and Office Secretary Rizvi Ahmed, were among those present.

In his reaction, Hannan Shah told reporters, "Though late, we are happy that the government has

released Koko for treatment abroad." Calling for immediate release of Tarique for overseas treatment, he said, "Democracy would be restored if Khaleda Zia and Tarique are

A large contingent of police was deployed in BSMMU area to avert anything untoward. During the time, a huge snarl-up

on the road between Shahbagh and

Sonargaon crossing caused suffer-

ings to hundreds of homewardbound commuters. CHARGESHEET AGAINST KOKO At around 6:00pm, ACC Deputy Director Abu Sayeed submitted charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka in the case filed against Koko for ill-gotten wealth and conceal-

ment of assets information. He showed 31 people as prosecution witnesses, reports our court

anti-graft body has pressed charges warrants against him. against Koko. Earlier, it charged him in Gatco graft case.

Charge sheet FROM PAGE 16 suspects getting bails, he said every-

Sayeed, also the investigation thing is happening in accordance officer, said Koko should be on trial with law and there was no flaw in the since the charges against him of legal procedures the commission making wealth beyond his known carried out against the suspects.

primarily. On April 23 this year, the ACC filed the state was moving against the bail the case against him with Ramna prayers filed by corruption suspects. Police Station for amassing wealth worth Tk 2.23 crore through illegal means and keeping back information on assets worth around Tk 11.20

sources of income have been proved

According to the case statement, Koko in his wealth statement to the ACC showed that he, his wife and two daughters own movable and immovable property worth around Tk 8.08

However, an ACC investigation found that the assets belonging to the family are worth more than the declared amount.

It also gathered that Koko concealed information about a flat at Banani, loans from banks and remuneration and other benefits that he might have received from different businesses.

He also held back information about 500 shares (Tk 100 each) he has in a business firm named Hasanco Aviation Ltd and two bank savings certificates (Tk 1 lakh each) under his wife sname.

His wife's investment of Tk 1.50 crore in a business and his expenses for 84 overseas trips between September 2003 and December 2006 did not match the couple's stated sources of income.

## Nizami

FROM PAGE 16 hearings of the two petitions would beheld next week.

Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Zahirul Islam Mukul yesterday filed the petition on behalf of the government with the concerned section of the Appellate Division against the HC order.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court will hear on the petition some time next week.

Following a bail petition filed by Nizami, the HC on July 14 granted him bail and issued a rule upon the government to show cause as to why the petitioner should not be granted regular bail in the case. Nizami was released on July 15.

The ACC filed the Gatco case against former prime minister Khaleda Zia, Nizami and 21 others on September 2 last year on charges of corruption in awarding Global Agro Trade (Pvt) Co Ltd (Gatco) the contract for container management at inland container depots in Dhaka and Chittagong causing a loss of over Tk1,000 crore to the state exchequer.

On May 18, two HC benches rejected a bail prayer of Nizami in the case, since the case was filed under emergency power rules (EPR) and This is the second time that the the trial court had issued arrest

Nizami was arrested the same night.

priority to the recommendations of the chief justice in appointing judges or confirming their services.

If the executive authorities do not agree with the opinions of the chief justice in this regard, they can send back the recommendations with reasoning to the chief justice for reconsidering those. Noncompliance with the chief justice's recommendations in this regard will be violation of the constitution, the court said.

The HC bench delivered the judgment after hearing for a long time two separate writ petitions

filed by the 10 deprived judges. The petitioners' counsel, eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain, termed the judgment a memorable

one in the history of the judiciary. "The judiciary is the main pillar for protecting the constitution. The judges of the Supreme Court play the role of vigilant guard for preserving the constitution. The High Court has protected the constitution by delivering this memorable verdict today," he said.

While talking to newsmen, Dr Kamal said the then government ignored the chief justice's recommendations by not confirming the services of the 10 judges and thus exercised powers arbitrarily. "This action was a violation of the constitution. The judgment has proved that the judiciary is the guardian of the constitution and will play an important role in protecting the constitution," he said.

Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam, another counsel for the petitioners, said the judgment would play an important role in appointing competent, honest, skilled and brilliant judges in the High Court.

"The desire and expectation of compared to other LDCs. the people for an independent judiciary have earned a victory through this judgment," he said.

Sources said after assuming power on June 23, 1996, the Awami League government in six phases appointed 40 judicial officials and lawyers as additional judges of the HC for two years. Three judges were appointed on February 24, 1997, six on April 27,

1998, eight on October 28, 1999, five on May 28, 2000, and nine each on February 22, 2001 and July 27, 2001. One judge died after nine months of appointment while another resigned from the office. The services of 23 additional HC judges were confirmed during the rules of the Awami League and the

BNP-led four-party alliance govern-

The four-party alliance government did not confirm the services of the rest 15 additional judges. Ten of the 15 unconfirmed judges filed the two writ petitions with the HC on February 4, 2003,

challenging the legality of the government's not confirming their jobs in spite of the chief justice's recommendations. Supreme Court lawyers advocate

filed one writ petition on behalf of Md Shamsul Huda, Faruque Ahmed and Hasan Foiz Siddique. The seven other judges later filed the other writ petition.

Idrisur Rahman and Farid Ahmed

Following filing of the writ petitions, the HC issued a rule upon the government to show cause as to why its action of not confirming the jobs of the 10 HC judges should not be declared illegal and why it should

not be directed to confirm their The chief justice recently constituted a larger bench of the HC with justices Mohammad Abdur Rashid SK Sinha and Nazmun Ara Sultana

for hearing the rule. Dr Kamal Hossain, barrister M Amir-Ul Islam and barrister Azmalul Hossain appeared for the petitioners while Assistant Attorney General Zafar Imam argued for the government.

Zafar Imam told The Daily Star that as of yesterday he did not receive any instructions from the government to file any appeal with the Supreme Court against the HC verdict.

# Middle income

FROM PAGE 16

LDCs in 2006, the report said. The overseas development assistance (ODA) in the year constituted only 1.7 percent of the real GDP in 2006 as Bangladesh is

About MDG implementation. the report said Bangladesh performed brilliantly in primary education, child mortality, gender equity and access to safe water.

UNCTAD suggested that

national governments should take

the lead in designing and imple-

relatively less dependant on aid

menting their development strate-It said 277 million people live in extreme poverty in the LDCs, which means 36 percent of their population lived on an income of less than \$1 a day in 2005.

Another challenge of the LDCs is food security. They are being hit very hard by the sharp increases in domestic food prices as 36 out of the 50 LDCs were net food importers in 2004-06, the report said. Others who spoke at the press

briefing included Brig Gen (Retd)

M Mofizur Rahman, Uttam Kumar

Khondaker Golam Moazzem.

Deb, Fahmida Khatun and

regarding bail prayers. The ACC always files cases or gives approval for filing cases when law permits or allows. The courts also directed us to provide information on a number of

matters regarding some cases and we

parliamentary election candidates i

the ACC feels the necessity or if the

"The court has given its verdict

Hanif said the ACC could not deal

with the matter of bail prayers since

will give it to the courts soon," said HanifIqbal. Hanif also said they might initiate investigations into matters involving

Election Commission (EC) asks the commission to do so. APPROVED CHARGESHEETS

The ACC yesterday approved the submission of the charge sheet before a court against Salman l Rahman.

ACC Assistant Commissioner Mahbubul Alam filed the case against Salman F Rahman on September 5 with Motifheel Police Station in connection with obtaining a loan of over Tk 158.67 crore from IFIC Bank in Beximco Group's name through forgery.

The other accused in the case are Salman's brother and Chairman of Beximco Group Sohel F Rahman, former managing director of IFIC Bank Ataul Haque, ex-manager of IFIC Bank's Motijheel Branch Asabud-Doula and directors of Beximco Holdings Ltd Iqbal Ahmed and MA Qashem.

The charge sheet says that the accused returned only Tk 62.40 lakh of the loan and misappropriated the rest together.

Another charge sheet will be submitted before a court against former lawmaker Nurul Islam Moni and Jamal Hossain in connection with misappropriating corrugated iron (CI) sheets, meant for relief only, worthTk1.25 lakh. Two other charge sheets will be

submitted before courts against

suspended Detective Branch of Police sub-inspector Derik Stephen. CASES The ACC will file a case against Abul Hossain and four others in connec-

tion with depriving the government exchequer of Tk 2,55,20,000. According to the case to be filed, the accused registered 92 decimals of land near Sylhet Airport Road with Tk 40 lakh. But the true value of the land is Tk 18 crore which would have required him to pay Tk 2,55,20,000 as

registration fees.

The ACC will file a case against former sub-registrar of Meherpur Dewan Mojahar Hossain in connection with concealing information about his wealth worth Tk 32.63 lakh and amassing wealth worth Tk 51.11 lakh beyond his known sources of

The ACC will also file a case against deputy-assistant engineers of Bandarban Shafigul Islam and Nazrul Islam after they were caught red handed by the ACC while taking Tk70,000 bribe.

The ACC yesterday also approved issuing a notice against temporarily suspended Mongla Customs House appraiser Mahfizur Rahman Babul asking him to submit statement of

# wealth to the commission.

More lawmen

FROM PAGE 16 within two years is a blow to our honour and dignity, as we've come to serve the state for five years leaving our independent practice and seniors' chambers," an attor-

ney said. The law officer added Fida M Kamal resigned from the constitutional post for some specific reasons, including making a joint secretary the director general of the Government Attorney

Department. He said the attorneys are all practising lawyers. "A joint secretary has been appointed as the boss of the law officers. A bureaucrat

The government has yet to

appoint anyone as the attorney

general. Additional Attorney

cannot be our boss."

general.

General Munsur Habib told The Daily Star last night that the government even didn't assign the charges of AG to anyone. Usually the senior most additional attorney general gets the

charges in absence of the attorney

Sources say if the government doesn't appoint anyone as the attorney general right now, it will appoint an additional AG as the acting AG. The AG office has two additional AGs -- Salahuddin Ahmad and

Munsur Habib. Of them,

Salahuddin is senior as he had

joined in this post before Habib. Meanwhile, Law Adviser AF Hassan Ariff yesterday termed Fida's resignation a "great loss". "It's a great loss to me, " Ariff told

journalists. Ariff also served as the

the law adviser at his ministry.

AG during the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government when Fida was an additional AG. Fida tendered his resignation from the AG post when he had an over five-hour-long meeting with

Though Fida has showed "personal" reason for his resignation | ACC. he, in fact, had a long discord with the government over several issues.

# Horror still haunts

FROM PAGE 16

infamous outlawed party Janojuddhdo, the situation seems to have improved a bit and an increased number of people whose relatives were murdered by the outlaws have been turning up to file cases with the police.

The three Janojuddhdo leaders who were killed last month are its chief Abdur Rashid Malitha alias Tapon alias Dada Tapon, his brother and second-incommand of the outfit Golam Hossain Akash alias Kaitta Akash and regional leader Abdur Rashid

To make the best use of the improved scenario, the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) started a massive campaign, urging locals to come forward and join hands with the crime busters to nail the outlaws still at large.

Two meetings titled 'Opinion Exchange Meeting to Create Mass Awareness for Rooting Out Terrorism' were held yesterday at the premises of NM Pilot High School at Kumarkhali, Kushtia and at Shailakupa Government Degree College, Jhenidah.

Rab Director General (DG) Hasan Mahmood Khandkar, commanding officers of Rab battalions concerned, deputy commissioners, superintendents of police (SP), local dignitaries and a number of family members of the victims addressed the

meetings. The locals and families of the victims attending the meetings requested the Rab officials to crack down on the political godfathers of the outlaws as well saying that the political godfathers of the outlaws have been harbouring the criminals for a

A few other speakers urged all not to cast their vote for those who are abettors of the outlaws and criminals.

Tahmina, daughter of slain Ganna union parishad chairman Sharafat Hossain, told The Daily

Tapon's armed goons killed her father on February 19 at Kaluhati Bagdipara near Shailmari Bazaar under Jhenidah Sadar upazila. The Rab DG urged all to extend

cooperation to law enforcement agencies, particularly the Rab, to uproot criminals from the soci-Delwar

the caretaker government not to sign any transit accord, as "people would not accept it". He also said the "government's repression on the people by keep-

ing the state of emergency in place

The BNP secretary general asked

FROM PAGE 16

will be resisted".

pressure.

Calling for unity among the people to resist any conspiracy against the nation, Delwar said the country's sovereignty must be protected with the spirit of the Liberation War. The BNP leader accused the

government of violating the consti-

tution, saying that it wants to stay in power by misleading the people. On resignation of the attorney general, he said barrister Fida M Kamal quit the office as he could not carryout his duty for long under

Other government law officers

are also working under pressure, May, otherwise they will lose their jobs, he said. The BNP secretary general announced "human chain" programme across the country on July 22 to press for release of political detainees including BNP

He also demanded immediate release of Tarique Rahman for his medical treatment abroad. On July 28, the alliance will stage countrywide "indoor rallies" to

Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

protest the Election Commission's various decisions and actions. Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid sought the UN secretary general's intervention to refrain India from

He alleged that New Delhi was trying to indulge in internal political affairs of Bangladesh and putting pressure on Bangladesh to sign a deal, which is against the country's independence and sovereignty.

BNP leaders RA Gani, Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddique and Selima Rahman, City Jamaat Ameer Rafiqul Islam Khan, IOJ Secretary General Abdul Latif Nezami, BJP Secretary General Shamim Al Mamun, Khelafat Majlis President Ahmed Abdul Qader also spoke.

#### Lotus Kamal FROM PAGE 16

two daughters with Gulshan Police

Station for concealing information regarding Tk 2,99,55,658 in his wealth statement submitted to the Barrister Rafique-ul Huq

appeared for the petitioner.

Since the inception of Rab, at total of 416 'suspected criminals'

including outlaws have been

killed in 10 southwestern districts

in the country. Of them, 177 were

#### killed in Kushtia alone. 21 Indian cops

FROM PAGE 16 inflicted on the overstretched and poorly-trained security forces operating in the east coincided with a fresh government effort to come up with ways to tackle the

rebellion. Indian Home Secretary Madhukar Gupta told reporters Wednesday's meeting would lead to the creation of new, specialised commando units to be deployed in the worst-hit Indian states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Andhra

Pradesh and Orissa. "Moreover the home ministry will also set up six jungle warfare and counter-insurgency schools this year," he said, adding the work will be started "without any delay."

New Delhi has refused to hold peace talks with the shadowy rebels unless they renounce violence, and has also struggled to come up with a strategy to battle the guerrillas. Some officials have called for a

massive security operation of the

kind used to battle insurgents in

Indian Kashmir, but the heavy-

handed approach adopted so far has exposed federal and state officials to fierce criticism from rights groups. On Tuesday, US-based watchdog Human Rights Watch accused the government of backing an anti-Maoist vigilante group that has forced at least 100,000 people from

their homes in Chhattisgarh state. Other officials have said the focus needs to be placed on improving living conditions in India's impoverished hinterland.

According to official figures,

tribal villagers in the insurgency-

hit east have no more than 35 cents

a day to spend -- the lowest in the country -- providing a fertile rebel recruiting ground. Analyst P.V. Ramana, with the Institute of Defence and Studies and Analyses, said New Delhi lacked a "clear vision and an accurate assessment of the Maoist strength" -- unlike the Maoists,

who are known to be wellorganised. He said there was also an "unwillingness to accept that this is a

#### political problem." Lanka gets tough

FROM PAGE 16

key donors worsen over the past The UN's human rights body has asked it be allowed to set up a monitoring office on the island amid reports of widespread disappearances, abductions and mur-

ders linked to the conflict.

relationship with the UN and other

Colombo has rejected the demand and accused Louise Arbour, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, of "obvious bias" after she hinted Sri Lankan officials were exposing themselves to the risk of war crimes charges. The hawkish government has

also publicly accused its foreign

critics -- mainly Western nations --

of being "pro-terrorist", and argues

that a number of international organisations and NGOs in Sri Lanka have been infiltrated by Relations further soured when UN member countries rejected Sri Lanka's re-election bid to the world

body's Human Rights Council in

Government troops were also

implicated by French aid group Action Against Hunger for massacring 17 of its workers in 2005. Sri Lanka has denied the charge, but the perpetrators have not been brought to justice. Last November, the government was forced to recall 111 soldiers on

a UN peace keeping mission to

Haiti over allegations that some of

the troops sexually abused local International media rights groups have repeatedly pulled Colombo up for not doing enough to protect journalists from being verbally abused by senior government officials, abducted, harassed pressing for transit from and killed. Rights groups say at least 12 media workers have been killed in Sri Lanka since 2005.

The government has also

brushed off threats of foreign aid

cuts due to the worsening conflict

and human rights situation, and turned to countries like Iran and China for aid this year. Sri Lanka's powerful defence secretary, Gotabhaya Rajapakse, has often accused expatriates of being "too soft" on Tiger rebels and taking up posts on the tropical island to "simply have a paid holi-

The Tamil Tigers are fighting for a separate state in the north and east of the ethnic Sinhalesemajority island. A UN official, who asked not to be named, said the new visa rules

made it difficult for expatriates to

seek extensions. However, the foreign ministry quoted UN resident co-ordinator for Sri Lanka Neil Buhne as saying

that the UN agreed to cooperate with the new rules.

#### former municipality chairman Abdul Latif Biswas and temporarily Star, "We could not even file a case against the killers of my father. My two brothers had to flee our home, fearing that they might also get killed -- just like my father was." Janojuddhdo top brass