## 40 BDR men

FROM PAGE 1

himself spread bullets on officers there and two of them confessed to having shot officers to death after chasing them down.

One of the arrestees used a vehicle to carry firearms to kill officers at Darbar from armouries inside the BDR headquarters, he said.

He added they had also detected the BDR jawan who had killed the wife of slain BDR director General Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed.

Rab Director General (DG) Hasan Mahmood Y Khandker at a press briefing at Rab headquarters, however, said, "After primary investigation it seemed 12 border guards took part in the bloodbath and other offences during the mutiny."

When asked about the involvement of Islamist militant outfits and the United Liberation Front of Assam (Ulfa) in the mutiny Rab DG averted the query and said the Islamist militants are now under complete control of the law-

The arrestees were paraded before the journalists at the press conference but journalists were barred from asking them any ques-

Rifles (BDR) central mosque Mohammad Siddiqur Rahman died at the DMCH yesterday afternoon.

He was admitted to the DMCH Tuesday evening

Tuesday afternoon when investigators interrogated him as a witness to the carnage at BDR headquarters, said his son Mohammad Naim.

He was then rushed to the DMCH and admitted to the coronary care unit (CCU) where he died at about 3:00pm, hospital sources

His body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

Six mutineers on further

Our Court Correspondent reports: A Dhaka court yesterday placed six mutineers including Deputy Assistant Director (DAD) Tauhidul Alam on a three-day fresh remand for interrogation in connection with the BDR mutiny case.

The court passed the bersoften gathered.

order after Criminal Investigation Department (CID), which is investigating the case, produced them before it with a five-day

further remand prayer. The other arrestees are DAD Abdur Rahim, Habilder Azad Ali, Nayek Mohammad Firoj Ahmed, Jawan Zakir Hossain and cook Amirul

Tauhid, Rahim, Azad, Firoz and Zakir were produced before the court after completion of their sevenday remand while Amir of a five-day remand in bulletproof vests and helmets with their hands cuffed behind their backs.

Eight other mutineers were earlier taken on remand on different terms and they were being quizzed about the carnage.

Moreover, 52 BDR mutineers were shown arrested yesterday in the same case.

A total of 161 mutineers arrested so far from different places were also shown arrested in the case.

Meanwhile, Rab members held nine BDR men from BDR Training Centre at Baitul Ijjat under Satkania in Chittagong Monday night in connection with the mutiny, reports our staff correspondent from Chittagong. Rab did not disclose their names.

#### AL leader

FROM PAGE 1

Col Reza-nur-Rahman Chowdhury, additional director general of Rab, told The Daily Star, "Since he is a former BDR member and resides near Pilkhana, he may have knowledge about the mutiny."

"He was arrested under section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code. He would be interrogated to find out whether he was involved in the mutiny."

Rab-2 officials said they handed over Torab to Hazaribagh police at about 8:00pm after primary interro-

Sources said Torab's sonin-law Rezaul Karim Razu works as a contractor at the BDR headquarters while his son Liton, charged with the murder of film actor Sohel Chowdhury, has links with arms smugglers

Torab, who joined the BDR as a Subedar about 20 years ago, owns a sawmill in front of BDR gate-5 where BDR mem-

military law.

defend themselves even in the event of military justice. "They will be provided of the opportunity to appoint lawyers," he said.

any civilian found involved in be brought under the same law.

meeting that a project involving \$ 2 million has been taken to meeting.

#### of LGRD Kamal Naser Chowdhury also addressed the FROM PAGE 1

50 hurt FROM PAGE 16

with weapons and sticks locked in fierce clash for an hour, leaving 50 people on

Eleven of the injured were admitted to local health com-

### Upazila

FROM PAGE 1 arrange training programmes for chairmen and vicechairmen so they can perform

their tasks properly. He said any dithering could demoralise the elected repre-

Chairmen and vicechairmen said they are eagerly waiting to know their line of

"We want to start work for the people, but the authorities did not give us any directions on it," Akhtar Jahan Lucky, vice chairman of Atrai Upazila in Naogaon, said.

She said they have only got an office room without proper

Humayun Islam Kamal, vice chairman of Golapganj upazila in Sylhet, said, "We're just hanging out at our office without any

they would be able to provide They told the court that directions to upazila parishads once the parliament passes the bill during its ongoing session.

### Scotland Yard

FROM PAGE 1

teams. Faruk Khan told reporters that the investigators had so far identified 30-35 people involved in last month's carnage in BDR headquarters. He said some of them had confessed to their involve-

Scotland Yard detectives started their work yesterday afternoon meeting the investigators of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

CID officials briefed the UK team about the situation, investigation officer of the BDR mutiny case Abdul Kahar Akond told The Daily Star after the meeting at CID headquar ters in Dhaka.

Akond said they sought help from Scotland Yard for forensic and ballistic tests, technological assistance and their expertises in performing DNA

The two agents of FBI, accompanied by two senior officials of the US embassy in Dhaka, had a series of meetings with CID officials Monday.

According to sources, the FBI and Scotland Yard personnel visited Darbar Hall, resi dences of the slain BDR officers, mass graves and other spots in Pilkhana.

Meanwhile, British High Commissioner Stephen Evans said the Scotland Yard team will not investigate the BDR carnage but advise local law enforcement agencies on how to investigate into a matter of this magnitude.

"They are here to offer our own experience," said Stephen Evans at a press conference yesterday afternoon at a city

The high commissioner said the members of the Scotland Yard team are very senior and experienced. When asked whether the

UK will provide any specific

technical assistance, Evans said they would consider it after receiving the request. The diplomat did not name the team members saying the

tive area. The Scotland Yard team is expected to leave Saturday

officers are working in a sensi-

#### morning. Law minister

FROM PAGE 1

could be court-martialled. However, the minister said the final decision in this regard has not yet been taken. "The investigation of the carnage is on and the final decision will be taken after getting the probe report."

On the basis of feedback from the legal review, he came to a conclusion that a notification will have to be issued to put the offenders to trial under the

The law minister also assured that the accused can

Shafique further stated that staging the carnage would also

State Minister for Law Advocate Quamrul Islam, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam, Additional Attorney General M Enayetur Rahim, joint secretary of law ministry, additional secretary of home ministry and a representative of the Armed Forces Division, among others, attended the

### Malaysia

Meanwhile, out of the 55,000 jobseekers who were issued visas, 532 have already travelled to Kuala Lumpur on March 8 and 9 and been stranded at the airport since. Malaysian authorities said they would be sent back to Bangladesh.

These jobseekers have already spent large sums of money to process documents for their visas, while Bangladeshi agents have also invested in Malaysia for the employers to pay taxes to their

Malaysian Home Minister Syed Hamid however said the government would refund workers' levies paid by

Meanwhile, President of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies Ghulam Mustafa said they would request the Malaysian government to reconsider the decision.

"If finally that doesn't happen, I would request our recruiting agencies to return the money submitted by jobseekers to the agencies," he

Mustafa however said that the workers stranded at Kuala Lumpur Airport must be accepted on humanitarian grounds.

After a ten-year ban, Malaysia started hiring Bangladeshi workers in August 2006 and has recruited Government officials said around 4 lakh workers since. The workers however have made a lot of allegations about abuse, poor pay and nonpayment by employers.

# WB offers \$62.20m

FROM PAGE 1

Md. Mosharraf Hossain Dhaka. Bhuiyan, additional secretary of Economic Relations Division under finance ministry, and Maria Sarraf, environment economist of WB, led the government and the donor respectively at the negotiation concluded on Monday.

WB Board will tentatively discuss the credit for approval in May.

"The urban air pollution in Bangladesh causes interrelated and numerous adverse impacts on the environment, health, and general wellbeing," said Xian Zhu, country director of WB.

"Dhaka is one of the most densely populated and fastest growing mega cities with high risk of health hazards due to poor air quality. We are happy to support the government's effort to improve air quality and safe mobility in Dhaka," he said.

Air pollution is a leading cause of mortality and morbidity in Bangladesh. The project will primarily cover two key air-pollutant sectors-brick construction and transportation.

The environment component of the project will help the Department of Environment to improve overall air-quality management capacity and to introduce cleaner technologies.

"Using energy-efficient cleaner technology in brick making will significantly improve air quality in Dhaka, said Maria Sarraf, also the task leader of the CASE project.

The transport component will focus on low-cost measures to reduce conflict between motorized and nonmotorized transport, reduce congestion and provide safer and cleaner mobility for those

### Benapole AL

FROM PAGE 16

FROM PAGE 1

one of the armed miscreants and handed him over to police.

Officer-in-charge of Sharsha Police Station confirmed the death and sent the body for autopsy. A murder case accusing 12

persons has been filed with Sharsha Police Station in this connection but none has been arrested so far.

Mokhlesur Rahman, a resident

of Taker Gali, said they are suf-

fering for more than 15 days as

Wasa-supplied water hardly

And Wasa officials admitted

that there is no immediate

Asked about the situation,

Managing Director (MD) of

Wasa Raihanul Abedin, said

"We hope to solve the water

problem in the next four years

as some Wasa projects includ-

ing setting up a water treatment

plant phase-2 and replacing old

the current deficit of water

supply, Abedin however said if

smooth supply of electricity is

ensured, they can meet almost

fully the city dwellers' need for

supplying 194 crore litres of

water per day against the

demand for 205 crore litres, he

Wasa, only 274 have generators,

and the rest remain idle during

proposal to the higher authori-

ties for purchase of 200 genera-

tors, and it will be placed before

the Executive Committee of

National Economic Council this

month for approval, Abedin

tor at Gandaria water pump-2,

said Taker Gali and DIT plot

areas are getting less supply of

water due to load shedding for

tor, we can operate it only for

two hours a day due to lack of

blamed the water crisis on

wastage of water due to leaks in

water is wasted everyday due to

leakage," said the Wasa MD.

Replacing old pipes and setting

up new ones of around 3,800 km

length will start later this year

excessive dependence on

ground water is a major factor

behind water crisis as ground

water table is falling alarmingly.

supplied water is ground water

and only about 15 percent is

surface water supplied through

Sayedabad and Chadnighat in

Dhaka and Godnail and

Sonakanda in Narayangani,

About 85 percent of Wasa-

Wasa officials also said

"Although we have a genera-

Some officials of Wasa

"A substantial quantity of

six to seven hours everyday.

fuel," he said.

old pipelines.

and end by 2012.

they said.

Sirajur Islam, pump opera-

load shedding.

Of the 505 water pumps of

They have already sent a

Blaming load-shedding for

pipelines will take that time.,

meets their requirement.

solution to the water crisis.

who use public transport in

preparation of a public bus rapid transit study in Dhaka," said the WB release.

and Dhaka Transport Coordination Board will implement the transport component. The construction of foot over bridges and the rehabili-

tation of sidewalks should pedestrian and reduce the The participation of Dhaka

CASE, said the release. BNP picks 5

verdict permanently," Papiya yesterday told The Daily Star. She thanked the chairperson

of the 8th parliament. Rehana Akhter also expressed her gratitude to the party chairperson for nomi-

already listed 253 BDR families. The BDR headquarters now has around 7,000 BDR

Sources said another list dearest ones gradually within five days.

Each of the families was allowed to spend between 10 and 15 minutes with the BDR

family members appeared to be happy as they returned after visiting their family members serving in the BDR. Sipahi Zahidur Rahman's

wife Jesmin Begum, who visited her husband inside Pilkhana yesterday, said, "I to be underfed."

again tomorrow morning" Atiq added.

### Orissa CM wins trust vote

PTI, Bhubaneswar

Orissa Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today won a trust motion by voice vote but Opposition leaders rejected the victory as 'manipulation' prompting Governor MC Bhandare to seek video recording of the proceedings of the special session of the assembly.

Bhandare asked the Speaker's office to furnish the video recordings shortly after leaders of opposition Congress and BJP walked out of the house and met him saying they wanted a division in the crucia trial of strength.

The two parties asked Bhandare to dismiss the government and recommend imposition of President's Rule.

Meanwhile, on the number of members who supported the motion, Speaker Kishore Mohanty said 81 MLAs in the 147-member house were present after the opposition walked out.

The governor has asked us to furnish video records of the proceedings and also wanted to know if there is any past record about a trust motion being passed by voice vote," he said.

### Govt mulls

FROM PAGE 1

NBR sources said it was not possible in the past to check every case of undisclosedmoney disclosure whether people were actually legalising undisclosed money or black

After the independence of Bangladesh, almost all the governments gave people this opportunity. While giving the scope to legalise undisclosed money, the finance ministers of the past had always said that such an opportunity would never be given again. But it was given over and over again.

Former finance minister M Saifur Rahman of the fourparty alliance government, a week before presenting a budget in parliament, had said the opportunity to legalise undisclosed money would not be included in the budget. However, the opportunity was given in that budgettoo.

#### Faulty designed FROM PAGE 16

"Such accidents suggest that crews of both the vessels had serious deficiency in vessel man oeuvre training," found the joint committee, led by Barisal district magistrate AKM Abdullahel Baki and comprising members of Barisal Metropolitan Police and BIWTA.

The joint probe found the death toll was higher because of passengers were trapped under the huge amount of goods kept on the launch deck and were unable to escape as

Two other probe bodies, led by Shipping Ministry joint secretary M Mahfuz Zaher and marine court magistrate Tabibur Rahman, submitted their separate reports to their concerned authorities on

March 1. The committee provided 12 recommendations, including new compliance laws, establishment of a marine police force and marine courts, and better vessel inspection and registration procedures.

They also suggested should be implemented by a 'Permanent Accident Investigation

Barisal deputy commissioner (DC) Musfique Ahamad said families of the 41 victims were given Tk 4,000 from the DC's relief fund.

#### 4 mutineers

FROM PAGE 16

Jamloy village for interrogation. Barik was on leave during the mutiny, but he met the fugitive mutineers at Ismail's house.

yesterday, the JMB torture victims and villagers expressed their astonishment at the enrolment of the four as BDR soldiers despite being cadres of JMB.

Kawsar's father Abdur Rahman, a member of Maria his son is innocent.

Rajshahi M Shahabuddin Khan said he was unaware how those militants obtained police clearance for joining BDR. "I was not in Rajshahi then; I will have to investigate the matter," he added.

## US must prevent Taliban's return in Kabul: Gates

Talking to the Taliban 'worth exploring', says Biden

ANI, AFP, Washington/ Brussels

While President Barack Obama's administration is still reviewing US strategy in Afghanistan, US Defence Secretary Robert Gates has said that America, "at a minimum," must make efforts to ensure that the Taliban does not return to power in Afghanistan after being ousted in 2001.

"I would say that at a mini-

mum, the mission is to prevent the Taliban from retaking power against a democratically elected government in Afghanistan, thus turning Afghanistan, potentially again, into a haven for al-Qaeda and other extremists," The News quoted Gates, as saying. When Gates was asked about the possibility of negotiation

with the Taliban in Afghanistan, he said, "The specific mission is clearly one of the subjects under review by the administration right now. And I think we have to wait until that's done to have real clarity on that.

Earlier, Obama had said that possibility of negotiations with elements of the insurgents should be considered, while US Vice President Joe Biden had seconded the opinion by sayingit was an option "worth explor-

Taliban insurgents, allied with al-Qaeda, have rebounded in Afghanistan in the years since the US-led invasion toppled their regime in 2001. Earlier reaching out to

Taliban moderates is a tactic

"worth exploring," US Vice President Joe Biden said Tuesday as he sought to engage Europe in a new strategy for Afghanistan. During a day of back-to-back meetings with Nato and EU officials, Biden pledged to take into account European con-

president George W. Bush's goit-alone approach. "It's worth exploring," Biden

cerns about Afghanistan,

emphasising the break from ex-

Barack Obama at the weekend floated the idea of talks with moderates from the Islamic militia to help stabilise the

"I do think it's worth engaging and determining whether or not there are those who are willing to participate in a secure and stable Afghan state," he said in Brussels following talks at Nato headquarters.

The vice president said he shared US envoy Richard Holbrooke's assessment that 70 percent of Taliban forces were paid fighters and that only a small minority were hard-core Islamists.

#### Russia keen

FROM PAGE 16

As the country's power crisis came up for discussion, Hasina requested the envoy to assist Bangladesh in setting up Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant and small hydropower plants on the country's rivers and

said Bangladesh government can take help as his country has expertise in installing such power plants. The envoy also expressed deep shock at the death of

country's talented army officers in the February 25-26 Pilkhana carnage. Gennady praised the prime minister for her wisdom and

peacefully. He also expressed interest to work for infrastructure development in Bangladesh.

The prime minister and the Russian ambassador hoped that the existing friendly relationship between two countries would strengthen further in the days to come.

In the meeting the PM was invited to visit Russia at a time of her convenience.

Prime Minister's Office Secretary Mollah told reporters after President Wahiduzzaman was present.

FROM PAGE 16 Abeywardene, who was initially listed as injured, said the blood splattered on his clothes came from other victims and

procession and just passing the entrance to the mosque when there was a blast. I thought it was a big firecracker," Abeywardene told 'My clothes were covered

in blood and I started running. Later I realised that I was not hurt, but I had blood from someone who was hit in the blast. Muslim men were playing hand drums and performing a

"We had just cleared the the politicians present, said. "I fell on the ground and was taken away by a security

guard.

told the country's minority Muslim community that the celebrations in Akuressa were of national importance. "The Muslims of Sri Lanka will have greater joy in these celebrations this year...," the President said in his message

northeast of the island. April 2008, which killed a government minister as he took part in celebrations ahead of the traditional New

Year. The pro-rebel Tamilnet website instead reported that at least 129 civilians had been killed and 200 others wounded in army shelling of the remaining LTTEcontrolled territory on Tuesday, a charge denied by

accuses the Tigers of using them as "human shields." Military officials said heavy

fighting continued in the conflict zone after 250 rebels Sri Lankan authorities ban

most journalists and aid workers from the entire north, meaning such claims and counter-claims cannot be verified.

record of suicide attacks --

controlled large swathes of the north and east of this South Asian island, but have suffered

a series of major setbacks.

from a Norwegian-brokered truce at the beginning of last year after accusing the Tigers of using the peace process to Sri Lanka's president has

The government withdrew

since resisted calls for another truce, saying his troops had the upper hand and were about to end a conflict that has dragged on since 1972.

## 16 killed

FROM PAGE 16

barrier towards the motorway. "The gunman just sprayed bullets all around him," N-TV cited an unnamed witness as saying. A local radio journalist told the same channel that the ex-pupil had used a machine

gun during his rampage. The Bild daily said on its website that police commandos had stormed the home of the teenager's parents, where 18 weapons were legally held.

It was not immediately clear

whether the gunman used any these guns in his attack. The picturesque town of Winnenden, which lies around 25 kilometres (15 miles) northeast of the city of Stuttgart in the

southern state of Baden-

Wuerttemberg, has around

27,000 inhabitants.

Europe has been scarred by a number of fatal attacks on schools or nurseries in recent years, at least three of them in In February 2002, a 22-yearold gunman killed the head-

master and seriously injured another person in a vocational training establishment he attended at Freising, near Munich. Two months later, 16 people

who then killed himself. In November 2006, a former student at a vocational school in Lower Saxony in northwestern Germany went a shooting spree in the establishment, injuring 37 people before turning his

gun on himself.

He had warned of his intentions on the Internet. Elsewhere, in September 2008, a student at another vocational school, this time in Finland, burst into a classroom and gunned down nine students and a teacher. He then set the building on fire before

killing himself. tions via an Internet video.

knife killed two infants, aged six and nine months, and a 54year-old nurse in a childcare centre outside Brussels. In the US southern state of Alabama on Tuesday, a gunman

killed at least ten people before killing himself, local authorities and state police said.

enforcement agencies.

tions. DEATH OF BDR CENTRAL MOSQUE PESH IMAM Pesh Imam of Bangladesh

following a cardiac arrest. Rahman, 45, fell sick

said.

remand

ers, spoke at the meeting.

Raihanul Abedin, among oth-

water situation before the

Placing details of the city's

meeting, Abedin said Wasa will not able to resolve the existing water crisis immediately as the demand for water is growing faster than its production capacity. "We produce 194 crore litres

day," the Wasa MD said. He indicated that power-outage is one of the main reasons behind this existing water crisis. But the MPs denounced his claim and said that the demand for water in a day would be

much higher than 210 crore

are being held in Mirpur areas. A

greater movement may flare-up

"Demonstrations and rallies

of water against the current

demand of 210 crore litres in a

in the city if the water crisis is not resolved immediately," fears Kamal Ahmed Majumder, a lawmaker from Mirpur. He said generators of 23 pumps out of 29 remain out of order in his constituency. "The

situation is similar in other parts

Lawmaker of Dhaka-4 con-

of the city," he said.

stituency Sanjida Khatun delineated a acute picture of water shortage and lower quality of water in her area. "Before the ninth parliamentary elections, we pledged to resolve the water crisis. So, people are now coming to us

and complaining for not fulfill-

ing the pledge," she said fearing

the same agitations. The MPs suggested immediate installation of pumps and supply of water in the crisisridden areas, including Mirpur, Sutrapurand Malibagh MP Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin

said water in many areas is not drinkable due to severe odour. The Wasa MD said they have to use extra chemicals to treat the severely contaminated water coming from the

Mahmudul Islam and Dr M Zahir, who were members of the government-formed special committee on the ordinances.

opinions from advocate

HC issues

FROM PAGE 1

they suggested passage of the ordinance in parliament.

Dhaka MPs wake up Buriganga and other rivers. Using excess chemicals in water creates such bad smell, he

added.

The meeting identified three reasons -- increasing demand of water, declining ground water level and power-outages-behind the existing water crisis. Wasa officials informed the

repair the water and sewerage Lawmakers Fazle Nur Tapos, Aslamul Haq, Mizanur Rahman Khan, Nasim Osman, Illius Molla and Additional Secretary

Earlier, Siraj Mahaldar's brother Chan Miah beat up Alauddin, 48, of Chakmahati area over the dispute. Both the groups equipped

both sides injured. government.

employers.

"It would also finance the

Dhaka City Corporation

improve the mobility of number of traffic accidents. Metropolitan Police would be important for the success of

for nominating her. The rest were also elected members to the reserved seats

#### nating her. 20 families

FROM PAGE 16

members inside. would be made after the first phase of visits was completed so that all could meet their

jawans yesterday, they said. Witnesses said many

met him. He is well but seems Atiqur Rahman, son of Subedar Nayek AB Siddique, yesterday afternoon said his name was in the list but he was yet to meet his father. "If we are not allowed to meet him today, we will come here

Water crisis

water layer in the city is drop-

ping by around three metres a

To reduce dependence on

year on an average.

ground water, they have already taken initiative for setting up Sayedabad Water Treatment Plant Phase-2 with a capacity of 22.5 crore litres per day, and Khilkhet Water Treatment Plant having a capacity of 50 crore litres per day, Abedin said.

He attributed bad odour of Wasa-supplied water to the use of excessive chemicals in treating highly polluted Shitalakhya and Buriganga waters in the dry season.

Four army FROM PAGE 1 Azizul Hakim was identified through DNA test yesterday and some army officials and WASA has a capacity of relatives took the body from the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue late in the afternoon. With this latest identification, the death toll in

> stands at 74 including 52 army officers. Meanwhile, the nation yesterday mourned the death of two senior army officers killed in the helicopter crash. The national flag hoisted halfmast at all government, semigovernment, autonomous and non-government organi-

sation premises on this occa-

Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina went to see the bodies

of the officers at the

Combined Military Hospital

the BDR mutiny bloodshed

(CMH), Dhaka. She stood in solemn silence for a few minutes showing reverence to the deceased. Hasina conveyed her deep condolences to the bereaved family members and assured

them of her being beside in

their weal and woe in future.

namaz-e-janaza of the four top army officers was held there with state honour. The relatives of the deceased, a number of ministers, political leaders, chiefs of three services, top retired and in-service army officials and

civilians attended the janaza.

After the janaza, military

secretaries of the president four water treatment plants at and the prime minister placed wreaths on the coffins on behalf of the president and the prime minister. Chiefs of three services also placed wreaths The Wasa MD said ground on the coffins.

the windows were shut.

Cell'

During a visit to Bagmara

JMB men beat up AL pub-The coffins draped in licity secretary of Maria union national and army flags were Yasin Ali Mridha and later brought to the army stadium hung him upside down from a amid 21 gun-salutes. The tree on Kudapara Ahadia Dakhil Madrassah premises before killing him on June 30,

> union parishad, claimed that When contacted Superintendent of Police of

In reply, the ambassador

farsightedness in tackling the Pilkhana crisis quickly and

that he was unhurt. "We were walking in a

dance when the bomber detonated the explosives in Akuressa, 160 kilometres (100 miles) south of Colombo, witnesses said. main entrance for VIPs when the blast went off, Chandrasiri Gajadeera, one of

There were large crowds at the ceremony, held on a national holiday marking the Milad-un-Nabi festival, the birthday of the Prophet Mohammed The blast came as

President Mahinda Rajapakse

delivered just before the attack. The government said the bombing only strengthened its resolve to finish off the Tigers, who are cornered in the Although no group has claimed responsibility, the were killed at a high-school in Tigers carried out an attack Erfurt in eastern Germany, by a similar to today's strike in 19-year-old former student,

the military. The government insists it is trying to protect civilians and

were killed over the weekend.

Two years ago, the Tigers -who have a long and bloody

He too warned of his inten-In January this year, a 20-

## year-old man armed with a