# Lankan troops kill 38 more rebels

Critical lack of food, water and medicines, says Unicef

in north-eastern Sri Lanka.

tory they held by the army.

district.

The Tigers have been

They are now cornered in a

It is estimated that between

The Tamil Tigers have

More than 70,000 people

"Children and their fami-

lies caught in the conflict zone

are at risk of dying from dis-

ease and malnutrition," news

agency AFP quoted Unicet

executive director Ann

Alleges Delwar

Delwar made this allegation at

a press briefing at BNP chairper-

son's Gulshan office in the morn-

Criticising the role of

Commerce Minister Faruq Khan

as coordinator of all probe com-

mittees formed to investigate the

BDR carnage, Delwar said "The

coordinator has been appointed

only to make influence on the

ated a lot of questions in people's

mind as he [Farukh Khan] is a

minister and belongs to a certain

tral enquiry into the BDR massa-

cre at Pilkhana and said without

carrying out fair enquiry, the

country will have to face more

dangerous incident in future

that the Anti Corruption

Commission (ACC) is filing cases

against the opposition leaders to

"ACC is playing role as flunky

Asked whether BNP will send

achieve government's confi-

of the government," he said and

officials became 'controversial

cope with the impact of eco-

nomic recession, BNP secretary

general said steps should be

taken so that people can adapt

maintaining double standard on

the convicted leaders, he said

Sheikh Helal was elected law-

maker in the by-election despite

being convicted in corruption

and extortion cases but some

About BNP standing com-

mittee's decision on expelling

Tanbir Ahmed Siddiky from the

party, he said the standing com-

with the party constitution

Aman Ullah Aman, Khairul

Kabir Kokon and Nazimuddin

Alam, among others, were pres-

27-member

Bank governor, one represen

tative from Awami League,

Jatiya Party and BNP each,

economists Prof Rehman

Sobhan, Prof Abul Barkat, Prof

Wahiduddin Mahmud, Bank

Asia Chairman M

Saiduzzaman, Dr Qazi

Kholiquzzaman Ahmad,

director general of Bangladesh

Institute of Development

Studies, executive director of

the Centre for Policy Dialogue,

presidents of the Federation of

Bangladesh Chambers of

Commerce and Industry

Chamber of Commerce and

Industry (MCCI), Bangladesh

Garment Manufacturers and

(BGMEA), Bangladesh

Knitwear Manufacturers and

Exporters Association

(BKMEA), Asian Tiger

Capital's managing partner

Ifty Islam, Samunnay

Chairman Dr Atiur Rahman,

finance secretary, economic

relations division secretary,

chairman of the National

The government may

The taskforce will also

A strategic plan will also be

The taskforce will meet

invite experts to the taskforce

make recommendations on

ment expenditure and will

developed by the taskforce to

once every two months. It will

also hold urgent meetings if

boost the agriculture sector.

check devaluation of Taka.

Board of Revenue and com-

merce secretary.

if necessary.

needed.

FROM PAGE 1

Party leaders Rizvi Ahmed,

considering all points of view.

Blaming the government for

the matter successfully.

from the lower court.

because of their own activities.

The BNP leader also alleged

He demanded fair and neu-

political party," he said.

than the mutiny.

"The appointment has cre-

investigation".

Veneman as saying.

small patch of jungle and

coastal area in the Mullaitivu

70,000 and 200,000 civilians

are caught up in the conflict

fought for an independent

homeland for Sri Lanka's

Tamil minority since 1983.

have been killed in the war.

driven from most of the terri-

AFP, BBC ONLINE, Colombo

Sri Lankan troops have killed another 38 Tamil Tiger rebels and taken more territory in fierce fighting in the island's northeast, a military official here said yesterday.

Security forces killed the 38 guerrillas in several clashes in the coastal district of Mullaittivu Tuesday, the official said, adding that the military had suffered only minor casualties.

The official said the military had further shrunk the area under rebel control.

There was no comment from the Tigers, but the prorebel Tamilnet website claimed that 604 troops had been killed by the guerrillas in three days of fighting.

Independent verification of the casualty figures is impossible as most journalists, aid workers and international observers are prevented from entering the conflict zone.

Meanwhile, the United Nations' children's agency Unicef said yesterday that thousands of children are at

#### Shamsul barred from going abroad

UNB, Dhaka

The immigration authorities vesterday barred former information minister and BNP leader M Shamsul Islam from leaving the country.

The former minister was scheduled to fly for Bangkok at about 8:40pm by an aircraft of the Thai Airways for medical

treatment. Contacted over cellphone, Shamsul told the news agency that the officer-in-charge (Immigration) debarred him from boarding the flight saying that "there have been restrictions imposed on your foreign travel by higher authorities."

#### Probe body

FROM PAGE 1

He'said if firemen at the complex had used their own fire equipments immediately to douse the fire, it would not added that ACC and its high have spread fast.

Bashundhara City Complex authorities, however, refused the statement, the name of its representative for saying if their fire fighters had all party task force formed to not tried to put out the fire, it would have engulfed the entire complex.

The probe committee will submit its report by Saturday.

#### Donors keen

FROM PAGE 16 said a nuclear power plant

holds out hope for solving the power crisis. "At the moment, some BNP leaders even did not get bail

donor countries and agencies turned in proposals for investment in nuclear power plants," the MCCI chief said referring to their talks with the premier.

The government has taken mittee took the decision in line an initiative to implement the long-pending Rooppur nuclear power plant, the PM earlier informed parliament on March 4.

Meanwhile, the government has prepared a proposal, which mentioned that the nuclear power plant to be set up at Rooppur in the western region of the country will be of

600 MW capacity. At yesterday's meeting, the MCCI leaders raised the issue of electricity crisis.

Hasina said the present crisis would not have affected the country if the last Awami League government could have implemented all its pro-

He said the BDR jawans (FBCCI), Metropolitan have been patrolling the Bang, desh-Myanmar borders cautiously.

mally, adds UNB.

equipped with highly sophisticated technologies, including radar covering 15 nautical

miles, is deployed in the Bay of Bengal near Myanmar waters", he said. cutting unnecessary govern-Sources said Myanmar soldiers were seen erecting barbed-wire fences on the

yesterday morning. deployed additional troops along the border, sources dded.

## Mamun gets HC bail in

day granted ad-interim bail risk because of "a critical lack for two months to Giasuddin of food, water and medicines. Al Mamun, a close aide to BNP The conflict in Sri Lanka Chairperson Khaleda Zia's has killed hundreds of chilelder son Tarique Rahman, in dren and left many more connection with the Niko injured as intense fighting corruption case. continues between Sri Lankan troops and Tamil Tiger rebels

Syed AB Mahmudul Huq and Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury also issued a rule upon the government to show cause why Mamun should not be granted regular bail.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station against Khaleda Zia and four others on December 9, 2007, under the emergency powers rules (EPR) 2007. Mamun's name was later incorporated in the case.

Mamun's lawyer SM Sabbir Hamza Chowdhury recently filed a petition with the HC

his client (Mamun) couldn't be released from the jail at this moment since he is accused in seven other criminal cases. A total of 17 cases were filed against him. Of them, he was granted bail in ten cases so far,

Mamun was arrested on March 25, 2007 during the interregnum period of the past caretaker government.

#### 450 more

FROM PAGE 16

Malaysia were in jails for not renewing their work permits. "I went to Malaysia in late

2007. I had no money to send home or to pay to the employer for renewing work permits, as I had no good job. So, immigration police arrested me and kept me in jail for 7 months," said Awlad Hossain, a returnee from Malaysia.

Those who returned form Saudi Arabia were also in jail.

Meanwhile, International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)Bangladesh Council yesterday requested International Labour Organization and ITUC head office to take immediate steps to protect the rights of the Bangladeshi migrant workers who are losing jobs.

Expressing concern over the present job cuts of foreign workers, ITUC- Bangladesh Council in a statement said Malaysia's decision of cancellation of 55,000 work visas for Bangladeshis will bring serious consequences for the workers.

It urged the Malaysian government and trade unions to come to an amicable solution in this regard, says a press release.

#### Tanbir urges

FROM PAGE 16 He, however, did not allow

reporters to ask him any ques-

Terming the party's disciplinary action against him 'unconstitutional', he said, "According to the party con stitution, I am still a member of the party as well as its standing committee.

"I shall not get into any argument although I do not know what my fault was,

Tanbir said. **BNP Standing Committee** on Tuesday expelled Siddiky from the party for his son Irad Siddiky's "derogatory remarks" about party Chief Khaleda Zia and a few BNP leaders in his presence.

Irad at a press conference on March 9 alleged that the BNP chairperson sought Tk 5 crore from him in return for party backing for his candidacy in the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) mayoral election.

Claiming himself as 'one of the founding fathers' of BNP, Tanbir said, "I have always been with BNP and shall remain with it ..... The decision against me has shocked the nation."

"The people who have made many objectionable and derogatory remarks against Zia family in the last two years are now in good position in the party but they [standing committee] have punished me for others' mistakes," he said.

"There is nothing to challenge the decision but the countrymen must know why I was handed down the punish ment," Tanbir said.

Claiming himself as a clean man' and 'great organiser', he said, "Even from the political or moral point of view, they (standing committeel cannot take such a decision (expulsion) against me."

# Form special team

NEWS

FROM PAGE 1 "The police forces need to be modernised to combat militancy," committee chief Maj Gen (retd) Abdus Salam told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

He also said 30,000 members will be recruited in police in next three years.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Sahara Khatun during the question-answer session in parliament informed the House about the government measures to combat militancy.

"The law-enforcement and intelligence agencies are working in a coordinated way to thwart militants' efforts to regroup," Sahara said. She added the government

has planned to bring the godfathers of outlawed militant outfit JMB to justice to root out militancy. Besides, process is underway to formulate a strategy paper to combat terrorism and militancy, she said. In reply to a query of Awami

League lawmaker Israfil Alam, the home minister said 680 people were killed in custody of the law-enforcement agencies from 2002 to February 2009. No move was made to form a judicial or parliamentary body to probe the deaths except executive investigation, which is also underway, she added.

Responding to a query of Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker AHM Hamidur Rahman, the minister said 3,129 arms licen ces were issued against 2,966 people and 163 institutions during the immediate past caretaker government.

In response to another query of AL lawmaker Amjad Hossain, Sahara said 156 people were killed and 77 people were held in connection with the killings since the present government assumed office on January 6.

On a query of AL lawmaker M Abdul Latif, Sahara informed

the House about the government's plans to modernise the Coast Guard by 2020 with sufficient equipment and increase its personnel.

Replying another query of AL lawmaker Mahmudus Samad Chowdhury, the minister said Lt Col (retd) MA Rashed Chowdhury, convicted killer of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, has recently applied to the US government for permanent citizenship.

On receiving information from NCB, Washington, the Bangladesh government has issued a red notice and informed the NCB about it. Meanwhile, Foreign

Minister Dipu Moni in reply to AL lawmaker Shahiduzzaman Sarkar in a scripted answer said 6,116 Bangladeshis are now behind bars in different countries. Of them, 1,514 are in Saudi

in Pakistan, 174 in the UK, 158 in Qatar, 222 in Singapore, 330 in Kuwait and 162 are in the UAE. The foreign minister said the government has taken

different steps to bring them

Arabia, 2,292 in Malaysia, 260

28 JS BODIES RECONSTITUTED

The House yesterday reconstituted 28 parliamentary standing committees on different ministries incorporating names of BNP-led opposition lawmakers.

The House unanimously passed the proposal of Chie Whip Abdus Shahid incorporating names of the BNP-led main opposition lawmakers in the respective committees.

Earlier in this month, opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farrouque submitted names of its lawmakers for including in different parliamentary standing commit

# No plan to clip

FROM PAGE 16 Democracy (CoD) because it was essential for a better future for Pakistan.

The government will implement the Charter of Democracy as signed by slain PPP chairwoman Benazir Bhutto and PML-N chief Nawaz Sharif in letter and spirit," he

Gilani appreciated Nawaz's positive response to his policy of reconciliation, adding: "The government will file a review petition against the disqualification of the Sharif brothers after the Supreme Court issues its detailed verdict."

He did not rule out the prospects of a coalition with the PML-N in the federal government, saying "politics is a dayto-day affair".

The government on Tuesday okayed the reinstatement of all sacked judges of the Supreme and High courts including sacked chief justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry on their pre-November 3, 2007 posi-

"The president of Pakistan is pleased to restore Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, the deposed CJP (chief justice of Pakistan), to the position he was

### By-polls

FROM PAGE 16

orbit, said Secretary of Shujan Dr Badiul Alam Majumder.

He apprehended that the parliament would ultimately be turned into a 'club of millionaires and businessmen' Educational qualifications

of most of the candidates, however, are good. Only 10 percent of them are under SSC level, the report of Shujan disclosed. The report also found a total

of 36 percent of those nominated from Awami League (AL) are below HSC level while Jatiya Party and BNP candidates are highly educated. People would come to know

more details about the candidates' educational qualifications, source of income and if there are cases filed against them, said Syed Abul Moksud. "It is very unfortunate that a

large number of AL aspirants Tahura Ali (Jamalpur), women are less educated," he said adding that if the parties selected suitable candidates they could play their roles like a upper house in the parliament. The report also revealed

large number of women nominated for the reserved seats. Cases are running against some 14 percent of the AL and 40 percent of the BNP nominated candidates. Even the only one candidate nominated from Jatiya Party has 17 cases

that there are cases against a

filed against her. As per the Representation of People Order (RPO) nominations were supposed to be finalised in line with recommendations from grassroots levels but unfortunately it happened otherwise and still the dynasty is deciding nomi-

nations, the speakers said. The by-election will be held on April 2 in Kurigram-2, Rangpur-3, Rangpur-6, Bogra-6, Bogra-7 and Kishoreganj-6 constituencies.

November 3, 2007," one government notification said. "He will assume office of CJI on March 22, after the retirement of CJP Abdul Hameed

holding immediately before

Dogar on March 21." The second notification said other sacked judges would assume office with immediate

effect. The reinstated judges of the Supreme Court are: Justice Javed Iqbal, Justice Khalilur Rehman Ramday, Justice Raja Favvaz Ahmed and Justice Chaudhry Ijaz Ahmad. The reinstated judges of the Lahore High Court are: Justice Khawaja Muhammad Sharif, Justice Ijaz Ahmed Chaudhry and Justice

Iqbal Hameedur Rehman. The reinstated judges also include Justice Mushir Alam and Justice Maqbool Baqar of the Sindh High Court and Justice Ejaz Afzal Khan of the

Peshawar High Court. The law secretary told reporters the sacked judges would not be administered a freshoath.

#### EC to declare

FROM PAGE 16

candidatures, and publish the gazette of the women reserved seats in parliament on March

The AL-nominated candidates are Ashrafunnesa Mosharraf (Dhaka), Jahanara Begum (Dhaka), Shahida Tareque Dipti (Dhaka), Shafia Khatun (Dhaka), Asma Zerin Jhumu (Dhaka), Momtaj Begum (Manikganj), Tarana Halim (Tangail), Dr Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury (Noakhali), Faridun Nahar Laili (Noakhali), Rubi Rahman (Noakhali), Zobeda Khatun Parul (Comilla), Amena Ahmed (Comilla), Cheman Ara Taiyab (Chittagong), Ethinab Rakhain (Cox's Bazar), Farida Rahman (Narail), Noor Afroj Ali (Khulna), Noor Jahan Begum (Jhenidah), Dr Hamida Banu Shova (Nilphamari), Sultana Bulbul (Dinajpur), Saleha Mosharraf (Faridpur) Raoshan Jahan Sathi (Jessore), Zebunnesa Haque (Sylhet), for the reserved seats for Shaheen Monwara Haque (Naogaon), Nazma Akther (Bagerhat), Apu Ukil (Netrakona), Mahfuza Rahman Rina (Joypurhat), Sadhana Halder (Pirojpur), Prof Zinnatunnesa Talukder

(Rajshahi), Principal Khadiza Khatun Shefali (Bogra), Shefali Momtaz (Natore), Shawkat Ara Begum (Nawabganj), Farida Akhter Hira (Panchagarh), Ahmed Anmeen Sultana (Kurigram), Momtaz Begum (Munshiganj) and Parvin Talukder Maya (Barisal).

BNP candidates are Rehana Akter Ranu, Rasheda Begum Hira, Shammi Akter, advocate Asifa Ashrafi Papiya and Nilufar Chowdhury Moni. The MP hopefuls from JP are

advocate Salma Islam, Noor-e-Hasna Lily Chowdhury, Nasrin Jahan Ratna and Mahazabin Morshed. EC Deputy Secretary Jesmine Tuli, also the return-

ing officer, will announce the

elections for the reserved seats

in parliament.

### RU violence

FROM PAGE 16

The case stated that local Shibir cadres Shahin, Raju, Alamgir, Robi, Shawon, Salam and Dildar with 30 others surrounded him at a Binodpur Bazar restaurant with sharp weapons, firearms, hand bombs and iron rods. They gravely stabbed him for being an Awami League supporter.

Rafiqul Islam, officer-incharge (OC) of the police station, yesterday confirmed filing of the case and said police had already started investigations on the pervious cases. However, no one yet has been arrested in this connection.

Earlier on March 15, BCL RU unit Cultural Affairs Secretary Awal Kabir Joy, activist Shakhawat Hossain and local AL activist Muhammad Aslam filed separate cases against 222 Shibir leaders, cadres and Jamaat leaders with the same police station.

RU unit Shibir Organising Secretary Farhad Alam also filed a case against over 33 BCL men with Motihar Police Station in connection with the murder of RU unit Shibir General Secretary Sharifuzzaman Nomani on March 13.

Meanwhile, chaired by the vice-chancellor, the RU authorities held a meeting at the VC's office on resuming the university academic and administrative activities. RU registrar, treasurer and examination controller were present at the meeting.

However, following the clashes all higher educational institutions in the city, including Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet), have been closed for an indefinite period.

#### Hamid says

FROM PAGE 1

mentioned my period, I can assure you that the investigation will also focus on my period," Hamid added.

The speaker also said he already asked the comptroller and auditor general to submit all the audit reports since independence. Asked about the 700

public accounts committee, he said he was not aware of the matter. "This is for the first time all the committees have been constituted in the parliament's first session. All the

reports lying pending with the

working," he said. Hamid also said strengthening the committees will play a major role in curbing corruption from the country.

committees have started

#### Govt to get

FROM PAGE 1 As per the new provision, executive magistrates might be empowered to take cognisance of offences upon receiving a complaint of facts in writing made by any police officer and upon information received from any person other than a police officer, or upon his own knowledge or suspicion, that such offence has been commit-

Legal experts said judicial magistrates also maintain the same procedure in taking

cognisance of offences. Asked about the significance of the recommendation, eminent jurist Shahdeen Malik told The Daily Star last night, "Such authority is liable to be easily abused and hence I apprehend about the possible future misuse of this power."

Besides, it is clearly against the spirit of the Supreme Court's verdict on separation of the judiciary, he added.

The committee made the recommendation following the demands of the Administrative Service Association. In support of the demands, the association earlier said it could not run the administration effectively if executive magistrates cannot take cognisance of offences.

as magistrates before separation of the judiciary exercised the authority and held trial. They lost the authority following separation of the judiciary from the executive and they were officially termed as executive magistrates. The Judicial Service Association strongly opposed

The admin cadres appointed

saying the proposals are tantamount to contempt of the Supreme Court's verdict on separation of the judiciary. The ordinances promulgated by the caretaker government separating the judiciary were not ratified in parliament

bying hard to reclaim the

power to take cognisance of

the admin cadres' proposals,

and the government later placed a new bill in parliament for continuation of the separa-The House sent the bill to the parliamentary body for scrutiny. Since then leaders of admin service have been lob-

# FBI urged to check

FROM PAGE 1 Tuesday night, visited the border guards' Pilkhana headquarters yesterday. The visitors along with local investigators went there at about 10:30 am and saw the places of occurrence for around four hours.

Brig Gen Md Mainul Islam, director general of the BDR, told The Daily Star, "The FBI team visited all the crime scenes at Pilkhana. Members of the probe body formed by the home ministry and investigators from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) accompanied them... I also talked to them."

Sources said the FBI team had separate meetings with the probe body formed by the home ministry, and the CID investigators.

Contacted, Abdul Kahar Akond, CID senior assistant superintendent of police (ASP), who is leading the CID probe team, declined to say anything. Other CID sources however

said both the probe bodies briefed the FBI team about the massacre and informed them about the progress in their investigations. Talking to reporters after a meeting with the Sri Lankan high commissioner in Dhaka

at his ministry, Faruk Khan

said probes into the mutiny

are going on properly, and the

reports would be made public "We are not hiding anything. We have been transparent from the beginning. We

will disclose everything by making the investigation reports public," he said.

Asked why foreign connection is being suspected, the minister said, "So many army officers cannot be killed only fort a few kilograms of rice."

Faruk Khan noted that Bangladesh has considerable economic might in many fields including garment sector, and reputation in UN peacekeeping missions.

"The BDR mutiny was staged to damage the country's economy, the armed forces and the nation's morale," the minister said. He will have a meeting with

the FBI team today to discuss the latest state of investigation. Asked if 'anti-liberation forces' were involved in the carnage, he said, "Please be patient, the probe reports will reveal everything." The minister again called

upon the fugitive BDR men to surrender. He also urged people to help the law enforcers to track down suspected mutineers. Meanwhile, a Scotland Yard team from the UK also came to

Bangladesh to help probe the

BDR Mutiny and massacre. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had earlier sought cooperation from both the FBI and Scotland Yard to probe the carnage that left 76 people, including 56 army officers and their family members, brutally killed.

# No respite

FROM PAGE 16

PDB vesterday proposed for suspension of gas based fertilizer production in Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Factory (CUFL), which will relieve significant amount of gas for generation and supply of power in Chittagong

But the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation vehemently opposed the proposal.

The official announcement of giving more gas for generation of power by suspension of two gas-based ertilizer factories is described as a mere 'bluff'. Ghorashal and Palash fertilizer factories were said to be suspending production. But these two factories are already closed for long for overhauling and rehabilita-

tion, officials said. PDB yesterday generated about 3,600 MW electricity against the official demand of 4,625 MW and unofficial demand of more than 5,000

Load shedding continued as usual across the country with huge power shortage. According to official sources, the government on Tuesday suspended gas sup-

ply to the two fertilizer facto-

Demand is rising every day

with the advent of summer.

ries in Norsingdi district. "These two factories--

Ghorasal and Palash--

remained closed for long.

So, gas supply suspension does not arise," said a senior official of the industries ministry. Ghorasal factory, which

consumes bulk supply of gas

has production capacity of 3.7 million metric tons urea fertiliser per annum. It remained closed since August 2007 for overhauling and rehabilita-Recent attempt to resume production in Ghorasal fac-

due to technical reason. Plalash fertilizer factory remained closed for the last few months. These two factories consume only 15 million cubic

tory on test-run basis failed

feet gas per day (MMCFD). As they were closed, they did not consume any gas. "If PDB wants to operate all its closed power plants, then it has to be supplied with

additional 170-200 MMCFD gas," said a top PDB official. He said that PDB offered the government to close the CUFL which consumes 52

MMCFD per day. "If the CUFL is closed, then we can get another 52 MMCFD which would lead to a major improvement in the generation side. Because, then we can generate additional 300 MW power in Rawjan and other plants in Chittagong region," the PDB

# NGOs under scanner

added.

FROM PAGE 1 The caretaker government initiated some moves to stop terror funding. This will be strengthened further," Muhith

During the rule of the fourparty alliance government the NGO Bureau listed 473 local and 25 foreign NGOs. Since 1990 it has approved 2,367 local and foreign NGOs that run on foreign funding.

Following the 2005 country-

wide bomb attacks by

Jama'atul Mujahideen

Bangladesh (JMB), the then

BNP-Jamaat alliance government took up drives against Islamist militants. Intelligence agencies had already reported that certain Middle East-based NGOs were funding terrorism, but the

government did not take any

action against those. Intelligence reports categorically recommended banning the Kuwait-based Revival of Islamic Heritage Society (RIHS) and taking action against a number of other Middle Eastern organisations found to have links with Islamist extremists.

of State blacklisted some RIHS offices, citing their support to Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda.

In 2002, the US Department

But the alliance government used to entertain RIHS top leaders. The RIHS chief was on a visit

to Dhaka during the August bomb attack of JMB and he met three cabinet members.

Intelligence had also reported that militant group Ahle Hadith Andolon Bangladesh (Ahab) also receive such funding. Ahab chief

Asadullah Al Galib himself

talked about receiving funds

official claimed.

from NGO Ar-Rib. The banned Harkatul Jihad, responsible for a number of gruesome killings and grenade attacks, also receive foreign funding. Intelligence reports said the JMB spent roughly Tk 60 lakh a year for maintaining its fulltime leaders and cadres, and Tk 1-5 crore for buying explosives and firearms and

executing attacks. Other suspected NGOs include Rabita Al-Alam Al-Islami, Al-Muntada Al-Islami, Society of Social Reforms, Qatar Charitable Society, Islamic Relief Agency, Al-Forkan Foundation, International Relief Organisation, Kuwait Joint Relief Committee, Muslim Aid Bangladesh, Dar Al-Khair, Hayatul Igachha and Tawheede-Noor.

These NGOs have been operating in the country since the 1990s.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Bank Governor Salehuddin Ahmed yesterday said the central bank has intensified monitoring at commercial banks to find if there is any link between suspicious transactions and militants, reports UNB.

workshop styled "Microinsurance and Poverty" at Palli Karma Shahayak Foundation Bhaban at Agargaon. The central bank is also exchanging information with

"We are examining the

transactions afresh," he told

reporters after attending a

institutions like the Anti-Corruption Commission to identify the suspicious transactions, the governor added.

# Myanmar

prepared to deal with any kind of situation.

Meanwhile, State Minister Exporters Association for Foreign Affairs Hasan Mahmud said the situation along the Bangladesh-Myanmar borders remained between the two neighbouring countries continued nor-

calm and border trade In the wake of latest developments on the border, one ship of Bangladesh Navy

south-eastern side of the Ghumdhum border since The neighbouring country

# Niko case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yester-

The HC bench of Justice

seeking bail in this case. He told The Daily Star that