

Khaleda to get

FROM PAGE 1 Khaleda Zia will be requested to leave the house within a specific period of time, Law Minister Shafiq Ahmed said. He said if Khaleda Zia does not leave the house as per terms of the notice, then the law will take its own course. He made the comments while talking to reporters after holding a three-hour long closed door meeting with the attorney general, additional attorney general, cabinet secretary, defence secretary and former director of Cantonment Board at his secretariat office yesterday afternoon. State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam was present at the meeting. Barrister Mahub Uddin Khokon, a lawmaker and counsel for Khaleda, told The Daily Star yesterday that they will file a writ petition on behalf of Khaleda Zia with the High Court challenging the legality of the government's decision to cancel the allotment of her cantonment house. He also said that they have already prepared the writ petition and it will be moved immediately after the government serves the notice. On April 8, the government cancelled allotment of the house due to 'a number of anomalies regarding the allotment within the military zone'. The law minister said there is no legal base for Khaleda Zia occupying the nine bighas of land in the cantonment area. 'No authority even the government does not have the power to allot the cantonment house to any individual as per rules of the Cantonment Act 1924,' he said. The land belongs to the government and that is why it will be in the possession of the government as per the law, he said.

UNSC to adopt censure statement on N Korea

AFF, United Nations The UN Security Council was expected to adopt a formal statement Monday, rebuking North Korea for its long-range rocket launch and calling for a tightening of existing sanctions against Pyongyang. The non-binding draft was agreed Saturday in closed-door talks among the five permanent members of the council -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States -- plus Japan and was later submitted to the 10 non-permanent council members. Mexico's UN Ambassador Claude Heller, the council chair this month, told reporters that the compromise text submitted by his US counterpart, Susan Rice, at an impromptu meeting of the 15-member body, "is an excellent basis for a consensual and clear message by the Security Council." He said a new council meeting was scheduled for Monday afternoon "to approve the statement" that had been sought by Japan. "What is important is that the Security Council acts in a very unified manner," he added. "I hope this goal will be achieved on Monday with a formal adoption of this draft." Rice told reporters she hoped the Council would adopt the statement "to send a very clear message to North Korea that what they have done under the guise of a satellite launch is in fact a violation of their obligations and indeed that there are consequences for such actions." The proposed statement also called for the council "to adjust the measures imposed" in Resolution 1718 to include a tightening of existing sanctions against designated North Korean entities. The entities once designated "would be subject to an asset freeze and the goods will be prohibited to be transferred to or from the DPRK," Rice said. A Western diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a number of North Korean companies were to have their assets frozen by the end of the month. Resolution 1718 provided for the creation of a Security Council panel to monitor sanctions against Pyongyang, but the commission was never activated so as not to jeopardize the six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear disarmament. The proposed statement, which falls short of a UN resolution that carries more weight, would also condemn last week's North Korean rocket launch, "which is in contravention of Security Council Resolution 1718." That resolution, adopted in 2006 after North Korea's nuclear and missile tests, bars Pyongyang from conducting missile-related activities.



A number of suspected militants of Dawat-e-Islami arrested at Naju Mia Lane of Patharghata in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Tipaimukh Dam

FROM PAGE 1 our concerns about the Tipaimukh Dam. He told me that Bangladesh should send a delegation comprising technical and political people to see the project firsthand," Touhid Hossain told reporters following his meeting with Menon. He said through the proper forum Bangladesh will take a decision regarding the invitation. "On water, for instance, there were some concerns expressed and I said we would be very happy to receive a delegation from Bangladesh, to show them exactly what is happening, what we planned," Menon told reporters after he met Dipu Moni, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hasan Mahmud, and the foreign secretary. "What we planned is a river project which will not affect the down stream flow at all," Menon said adding, "This is a part of the on going dialogue between friends, between neighbours, it is natural, we will keep discussing the issues finding ways forward." He said security was also one of the issues he discussed with Dipu Moni. "We discussed it in all the conversations, about how important it is for both Bangladesh and India. And this is something that is in our common interest, that we eliminate terrorism from our region, and that we do this together. So, we will continue to work together in that direction." The Indian foreign secretary left Dhaka last night. India in 2003 initiated the move to construct a dam over the cross-boundary River Barak which enters Bangladesh through Sylhet region ultimately meeting the Meghna. It started the construction work by the end of last year without consulting Bangladesh. "They are trying to remove

7 held in Ctg for 'link with militancy'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police and Rab in a raid held seven members of Pakistan-based Islamic organisation Dawat-e-Islami from Patharghata area yesterday 'on suspicion of their link with militant activities.' They are Sohul Tahery, Mozammel Attary, Kalimullah Qadery, Mahmudul Hasan alias Mehmodul Attary, Boshar Attary, Nurul Azim Attary and Faruk Attary. Acting on a tip-off, police and Rab men raided Najumia Lane of Patharghata at about 12:00 noon and detained them from a flat. Nine passports, four computers, one scanner and one printer, a number of CDs and VCDs, several booklets and leaflets on teaching of Islam and some documents were also seized during the raid. However, no document related to militancy was found in the seized items till examination of those items at 4pm, police said. DC (North) of CMP Banaj Kumar Mazumdar said they were held 'on suspicion of their involvement in militant activities.' Claiming the organisation truly religious-based organisation, arrestee Nurul Azim said the organisation started its activities in Bangladesh in 1985 and now covers 22 districts of the country and around 70 countries. On July 7, 2006, police arrested ten members of the organisation, including a Pakistani citizen, from Jhalakathi district but they were released later, DC Banaj said referring to a document, seized yesterday. Locals said the members rented the flat 13 months back while they used to speak about Islam in a nearby mosque every Thursday.

Pahela Baishakh

FROM PAGE 1 and despair, thousands of men, women and children in traditional colourful clothes through Ramna Batamul and other programme venues in the capital and elsewhere in the country to celebrate the first day of Bangla year. A three-tier security system has been put in place at the traditional centres of celebration around Ramna Park, Suhrawardy Udyan and Dhaka University (DU) campus. Around 10,000 members of police, Rab and Detective Branch of police will keep vigil round-the-clock at the venues to ward off any untoward incident. About 80 close circuit TVs have been installed at various places while 29 check posts and eight archways have been set up to ensure security. After visiting Ramna Park yesterday, the minister and state minister for home affairs and the chiefs of law enforcement agencies expressed their satisfaction over the security measures taken in and around the park. Rab said a total of 6,500 Rab members have been deployed across the country. Of them, 3,500 are deployed in the capital. Ten people were killed and scores injured in a bomb attack on a Pahela Baishakh function at Ramna Batamul in 2001. Thousands of people gather at Ramna Udyan where the artistes of cultural organisation Chhayanaut sing the traditional Pahela Baishakh song of Rabindranath Tagore -- 'Esho hey Baishakh esho esho' -- to welcome the Bangla New Year. Institute of Fine Arts brings out Mangal Shohajatra, a colourful procession, from the institute gate in the morning. Besides, cultural functions are to be held at Ramna Udyan, Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University (DU) and elsewhere in the capital. People from all walks of life mill around Baishakh Mela (fair) -- a major feature of Bangla New Year celebration. They have Panta Bhat and fried hilsha with lentils and green chillies at home and Baishakh gatherings. The day is a public holiday. Numerous social, political and cultural organisations have taken up elaborate programmes to celebrate the day. Bangladesh Betar and all television channels air special

Another BDR man

FROM PAGE 1 New Market police said sepoy Ashrafal Alam, 26, of battalion-13 committed suicide at Sunday night by hanging himself from the ventilator of a bathroom with a gamchha (traditional towel). Police said he had fled the Pilkhana during the mutiny and later joined the headquarters. Meanwhile, two more BDR jawans yesterday confessed to their involvement in the Pilkhana carnage while four others were placed on a four-day fresh remand for interrogation and five were shown arrested in the case. Metropolitan Magistrate Julfikar Hayat and Moazzem Hossain recorded statements of sepoys Mizanur Rahman and Rafiqul Islam after the investigation officer (IO) of the case produced them before the court. Later they were sent back to jail. The jawans who were remanded are sepoys Obaidul Haque, Riaz Ahmed, Rafiqul Islam and Zakir Hossain. Metropolitan Magistrate Faisal Aftab Kader passed the four-day remand order for four jawans after Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police Abdul Kahar Akand of

'Mastermind'

FROM PAGE 16 Mufi Ibrahim, also nephew to detained Barkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji) commander Mufi Hannan, was arrested at a flat in Ashwini Nagar of Baguihati of North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, sources in the state Crime Investigation Department (CID) said. Sources said Ibrahim crossed over to India five years ago and was running an umbrella shop in Baguihati area, our New Delhi correspondent reports. Although there were reports that he had undergone plastic surgery on his face, the CID said it was yet to be verified. "We have taken him in custody and are interrogating him," sources in the CID said. Asked whether he was involved in any kind of anti-social activities in India, they said so far there is no such report but it can be ascertained with certainty only after his interrogation. Mufi Ibrahim alias Munshi Ibrahim hails from Hiron in Kotalipara upazila of Gopalganj district, a correspondent in Gopalganj reports. He was allegedly an accomplice of Mufi Hannan in his attempt to kill the then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her entourage cabinet ministers and military and civil officials by planting two powerful bombs at Kotalipara on July 23, 2000. He is a fugitive in two cases filed in this connection. Locals and police claimed Ibrahim studied in Deoband Madrasa in India. He went to Afghanistan via Pakistan and participated in the war in Afghanistan, they claimed.

Ramna blast

FROM PAGE 1 The Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge would give the order on charge framing against the accused. Both the prosecution and the defence had earlier completed hearing on the charge framing. The prosecution had argued that the charges brought against the accused were primarily proved and they be charged with carrying out the grenade attack. On the other hand, the defence argued that the charges brought against their clients were false, fabricated and baseless. So they prayed for discharging their clients from the charges. The bloodbath that took place during the Pahela Baishakh celebrations on April 14, 2001 left 10 people dead and scores injured. Following the carnage, two cases were filed with Ramna Police Station -- one for murder and the other for possession and use of explosive substances. On December 30 last year, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) pressed charges against Huji chief Mufi Abdul Hannan and 13 others for committing the heinous offence. CID Inspector Abu Hena Mohammad Yusuf, investigation officer (IO) in both the cases, submitted the charge sheets to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka showing 84 people as prosecution witnesses. The other charge-sheeted accused are Arif Hasan Suman alias Abdur Razzak, Moulana Akbar Hossain alias Helaluddin, Shahadat Ullah alias Jewel, Moulana Abu Taher, Moulana Abdur Rauf, Moulana Mohammad Tajuddin, Moulana Abdul Hannan Sabbir, Moulana Shawkat Osman alias Sheikh Farid, Hafez Jahangir Alam

Govt failed

FROM PAGE 16 days. But, we have achieved success in bringing down the prices of essentials and changing political culture," he told reporters at his office after a meeting with Chinese Ambassador Zhang Xianyi. He said some people are trying to destabilise the campus situation in different ways like extortion and establishing supremacy. "I cannot say there is no involvement of BCL activists in it," he said assuring that the government would identify them and bring them to book. Replying to a question, Faruk said they think the trial of war criminals, reining in militants and improvement in law and order situation are some of the big challenges the government faces. The minister said a parliamentary body and Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) would investigate all irregularities and corruption, as there was no virtual investigation into corruption in the last two years. "There was no anti-graft move in the last two years... whatever done that was done against politicians and democracy," Faruk said the parliamentary body would also look into the irregularities in the ACC in the last two years. "No one, not even influential people, would be spared when it comes to corruption. There is no scope to keep them out of investigation," the minister also said. Listing the achievements of the Awami League-led grand alliance government, Faruk said the activities of the government in its first three months are much better than any previous government.

JS probe

FROM PAGE 1 "Violating the rules of maintaining district quota, he [Sircar] gave his own explanation in appointing employees in parliament like the way he illegally drew medical bill after being refused twice by the then prime minister Khaleda Zia," Rabbi added. The committee revealed that the former speaker increased the number of employees of Parliament Secretariat to 1,001 from 778. The committee also found that during his seven-year tenure, the former speaker directly appointed a total of 341 employees to the Parliament Secretariat. "We have formed three sub-committees for thoroughly verifying different allegations brought against him," Rabbi said, adding that chief of a sub-committee Mujibul Haq Chhunu will deal with the appointment issue, chief Shahjahan Khan will look into the purchase and arboriculture allegations and Brig Gen (ret) SK Abu Baker will examine the medical bill issue. Talking about the note former speaker gave for violating the district quotas, Fazle Rabbi said, "I think merited appointment should be applied in stead of district quota system." When asked about the former speaker's claim that he was the supreme authority to make decision and run activities of the House, Rabbi said as per law Sircar cannot write the notes he had written for his different activities.

Faisal's JMB link

FROM PAGE 1 being grilled by the Task Force Intelligence in the capital. "With a PhD in chemistry, Faisal has vast knowledge about how to make bombs. He can also make bullets. We suspect JMB cadres might have been taught the skills," another investigator told The Daily Star in return for anonymity. About Faisal's relations with Shaekh Rahman, the sleuth said, "We have proof that the ex-JMB chief and Faisal met several times. Abdur Rahman even tried to visit the UK with Faisal's help." Investigators said they believe the British chemist, who had faced terror charges in the UK twice, might even have been providing funds and logistical support for JMB to regroup. Police filed two cases against 11 people in connection with the arms seizure at the Green Crescent madrasa. Of the accused, seven including Mohiuddin are still at large. Initially, Faisal was not made accused in either of the cases. He was shown arrested in the case filed under the arms and explosives act following a court statement of one of those detained. During a recent visit to Borhanuddin and Doulatkhan, where Green Crescent runs a clinic and has its office, locals told this correspondent about some dubious activities in the name of charity. Though the NGO has no school in Doulatkhan upazila, it has assembled a group of 35 poor children from local primary and high schools and put them through a physical training regimen. Its Office Secretary Humayun Ahmed would be present at the exercise sessions and motivate the children not to watch television, said a class IV student of Uttar Char Khalipha Government Primary School. People from different districts would come to work for Green Crescent in Doulatkhan and Borhanuddin. Around 25 foreign-born nationals, mostly Pakistan nationals, visited the area since the NGO began operating there in 1999.