

## US role in 1971

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Bangladesh after the end of the war. I think you all will recall that we were one of the first countries to recognise Bangladesh," he told reporters after the meeting.

Ambassadors never say that their country makes a mistake, they just imply it," he went on to say.

"We want to look at each country individually. We don't look at you as a former part of Pakistan or Bangladesh and Pakistan as former parts of India," he added.

Recalling Kennedy's visit to refugee camps in West Bengal, Moriarty said Kennedy drew the attention of the world to the humanitarian disaster for the first time.

"Senator Kennedy's visit and continued support for Bangladesh's independence has a great impact on public opinion. I have no doubt that his efforts led to the early recognition of Bangladesh by the US," Moriarty added.

He said Ted Kennedy's visit to Dhaka in February 1972 was one of the first visits to an independent Bangladesh by an international leader.

"The events, as we have seen this week, bonded Ted Kennedy with the people of this country in a deep way and Senator Kennedy will live on in the hearts of the people of Bangladesh," Moriarty added.

Attending the programme the power and energy adviser to the prime minister, Toufique-Elahi Chowdhury said, "I got a unique privilege to escort Ted Kennedy during his visit to refugee camps in India in August 1971 and his greatness, farsightedness and his vision of the world impressed me very much."

Recalling the contributions of Ted during the country's

Liberation War in 1971, eminent economist Prof Rehman Sobhan said Kennedy not only raised his voice against the genocide in Bangladesh in 1971, he also raised his voice against the recent Iraq war.

"We should mourn for him as he was a friend of Bangladesh as well as a real spokesman of deprived people across the world," Sobhan said.

Marya Hossain, student of Peace and Conflict department at Dhaka University read out the speech of noble laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus who was scheduled to attend the programme but finally didn't take part for unavoidable reasons.

Akku Chowdhury, trustee of the Liberation War Museum also spoke at the meeting, among others.

## Asian highway

**FROM PAGE 16**  
routes," Muzibur Rahman, also an Awami League lawmaker said.

He also said Dhaka-Chittagong Highway could be extended to Myanmar if it agrees.

No other routes than Benapole-Dhaka-Tamabil and Banglabandha-Dhaka-Tamabil is better to link the proposed Asian Highway considering our interests, said the committee chief.

Tamabil will turn into a tourist place; besides, we want to connect maximum number of land ports of the country with the Asian Highway to derive trade and tourism benefits and therefore the committee have recommended Benapole-Dhaka-Tamabil and Banglabandha-Dhaka-Tamabil routes, Muzibur said, adding, most of our land ports are around the two routes.

There is no reason to select other routes to link the Asian Highway, which will connect Myanmar as we have not much trade or commerce with the country, he added.

Besides, other Asian Highway routes, which may link our country with Myanmar will be rocky and hazardous, observed Muzibur Rahman.

With an oblique reference to BNP, he said they are opposing Benapole-Dhaka-Tamabil and Banglabandha-Dhaka-Tamabil routes only because of their political interest, nothing else.

The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-Escap) conceived the Asian Highway in 1959 to promote regional cooperation among the mainland countries of Asia.

Once Bangladesh becomes a part of this proposed network, it will open up huge opportunities from the economic point of view by providing inter-country shorter routes.

The present Awami League government at a cabinet meeting recently has taken decision for joining the Asian Highway but there is a debate on choosing the routes linking the network.

Opposition parties are vocal against giving corridor to India in the name of selecting the routes, which will exit on Indian border.

But some other quarters say the two routes for connecting Bangladesh with the Asian Highway should be chosen considering the country's trade and commerce.

## Dhaka canal

**FROM PAGE 1**  
after its meeting in Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

"The encroachers are also trying to confuse the department in its work of identifying the illegal structures," Mozammel, also a ruling Awami League lawmaker, told The Daily Star.

"The committee asked the land ministry to provide all kinds of assistance including arranging modern equipment for the department within the next seven days, so they may carry out the aerial survey for identifying the illegal structures and their owners," he said.

"We also asked the department to identify the extent of the encroachment in each case," said the committee chief.

He said it is not being possible for the land ministry alone to demolish the illegal structures as 'several other issues are related to that', adding, "Structures like schools, mosques, markets, even Dhaka City Corporation markets, and some government offices are also sitting on those canals."

"We therefore want to identify the canals, and the persons and organisations who encroached upon those, and then we will submit the list to the prime minister, seeking her cooperation for remedying the situation," he told the reporters.

"The land record department informed the standing committee about different obstacles they are facing in identifying the illegal structures," he added.

The committee suggested that the government amends the existing Vested Property Act, keeping the option of settling relevant legal disputes within six months of the passage of a relevant new bill in the parliament.

It also asked the land ministry to submit a detailed working paper on the process of digital land mapping, and on installing a computerised land management system through which any individual will be able to get information on lands on a website.

## Local mobile

**FROM PAGE 1**  
TSS, situated at Gazipur, Dhaka, is currently incurring loss while CSS in Khulna is making a marginal profit."

"CSS in its new plant will manufacture fibre-optic cables instead of copper cables," Inu said, adding that the CSS will be able to meet the country's 75 per cent fibre-optic cable demand.

The fibre-optic cable manufacturing project is worth Tk 10 crore and evaluation of a tender in this regard is now going on, he added.

Inu said fibre-optic cables have been installed in an unplanned way across the country and the parliamentary watchdog asked authorities concerned to take appropriate measures so that the cables are installed in a planned manner from now on.

Inu also said CSS will go for manufacturing household electrical accessories and telephone accessories, which would save foreign exchange.

TSS in Gazipur will manufacture the digital telephone sets, said the committee chief.

Even poor people will be able to afford these telephone sets as their prices would be between Tk 500 and Tk 600, Inu said.

TSS will also manufacture the cellphones in cooperation with Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

"People will also be able to purchase these cellphones as prices will be between Tk 1,500 and Tk 10,000," Inu added.

Replying a question, the committee chief said network expansion of Teletalk will start very soon. "Teletalk will become the number one mobile operator in the country," he said.

## Toxic liquor

**FROM PAGE 16**  
mid-night and fell sick due to severe stomachache.

They were rushed to the Gaibandha Sadar Hospital at around 4:00am while three of them died on way to the hospital.

Later, nine of them were transferred to the Rangpur Medical College Hospital as their condition deteriorated, sources said.

Of the sick, Shamsul Alam, 42, was suffering from temporary blindness, the doctor said.

Rustom, who also died in the incident, had long been involved in illegal trading of liquor and hashish (cannabis) in the area ignoring the law-enforcers, locals said.

Police meanwhile, in a raid recovered 40 litres of local liquor from different places of Dariyapur and arrested Akhter Hossain, an alleged hashish trader, in this connection.

## Primary education

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Nurul Islam Nahid said the government would start implementation of the new national education policy from December.

Seven education commissions and committees have been formed since independence but not a single recommendation of them has been implemented because of lack of political will.

The Awami League-led alliance government formed a 16-member committee on April 6 to review the report of Shamsul Haque Education Committee of 1997 to formulate a modern national education policy in line with the report of Quad-e-Khuda Education Commission of 1974.

The committee submitted the policy within four months from its first meeting.

The policy recommends introducing one-year pre-primary education for over five-year-old children.

It also recommends arrangement for textbooks and teachers for indigenous children so that they can learn in their own language.

Primary education (up to Class VIII) will be made free, universal and compulsory. Students of all mediums in primary level will have to study several compulsory subjects, the committee suggests.

The compulsory subjects are Bangla, English, Mathematics, Bangladesh Studies, Paribesh Parichiti (social environment and climatic change), Information Technology and Science. Besides, all students must study their own religions and receive moral education.

Pre-vocational education will be made mandatory for all students from class VI to class VIII, the policy recommends, adding that scholarships would be given from class V to VIII on the basis of final examination results.

The new policy also recommends that secondary education level would be from class IX to XII. Uniform curriculum and syllabus in several subjects will be followed in all mediums including madrasa.

It says an examination will be held at the end of class X at upazila or pourashava or thana level on similar question papers and scholarship will be given on the basis of results.

After higher education, the committee advised the government to turn all three-year degree courses into four-year honours courses in phases.

Four-year honours courses will be considered as a terminal degree and a student having the course can be entitled to all professions except teaching.

It recommended formation of a Non-government Teacher Commission for the non-government educational institutions for teachers training and selection.

The committee proposed decentralisation of the National University with centres in all divisions. The centres will later

turn into affiliating universities for the respective areas in phases.

It stresses vocational and technical education and recommended establishing a technical institution in every upazila and increasing the number of polytechnic, textile and leather institutes to expand technical education.

According to the new education scheme madrasa education will be modernised by including information technology and science.

"We would review the policy in the ministry and then send it to the prime minister. After that it would be placed in the cabinet," the education minister said.

He hoped they would implement the policy within the tenure of this government.

Committee Chairman Kabir Chowdhury said they had formulated the policy after taking opinions from all sections of people.

Dr Quazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad said, "We have been able to reach a consensus because of our identical attitudes and objectives. We will put forward our proposals if any quarter proposes amendments to it."

While talking to The Daily Star he said, "We want to ensure education for all and even we would like to bring disadvantaged sections of people under the scheme of education."

The committee members were present yesterday during the submission of the report.

## Azad

**FROM PAGE 16**  
maps of Rajuk.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Ehsanul Haque passed the order upon a bond of Tk 50,000 with two guarantors after defence lawyers submitted a petition seeking Azad's bail and made submissions on it.

He was earlier granted bail in the first case filed against him for assaulting a CID official at his Paltan office on August 27.

Azad, also the owner of the Grand Azad Hotel located at Purana Paltan, was arrested at around 11:30pm on August 27 after CID Inspector Golam Sarwar filed a case accusing Azad of attempting on his life.

Later he was taken on a one-day remand for interrogation after being produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

After completion of his remand, he was produced before the court and the court granted him bail in the case. But he was shown arrested in the cheating case filed by police on August 30.

Meantime, the government on Tuesday formed a two-member probe committee to investigate the incident that led to the arrest of Azad from his hotel.

## Pak minister

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Doctors said that Kazmi was hurt in his shin and that his injuries were not critical.

"A bullet has caused a compound fracture in the lower leg of the federal minister," government hospital chief Shaikat Hameed Kiani said.

"His condition is stable but he is in a state of shock," Kiani said.

Another doctor in the hospital, Shazia Nazir, told AFP that Kazmi's driver was brought in dead with a bullet wound in his forehead and that the minister's guard was seriously injured.

Islamabad police chief Tahir Alam said that according to preliminary information, two men riding a motorcycle opened fire on the minister's car before fleeing.

Police were investigating and collecting evidence from the site, Alam told AFP.

Kashif Bajwa, 26, a pedestrian, said he heard firing near Melody Market during the busy afternoon.

"I saw the minister's car had ploughed into a tree about 150 metres from his office. His guard was on the front seat, he was wounded. The minister's driver had a bullet in his head... I understood he is dead. The minister was also wounded," Bajwa said.

"Later I saw about a dozen policemen came in a pick-up truck, they all appeared scared," he said.

Another police vehicle arrived later and the minister was taken to a nearby hospital, he said.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

Alam said he suspected the Taliban, which is waging a deadly insurgency in Pakistan, carried out the attack.

"The minister was one of the key personalities condemning the Taliban and their terror acts. It is possible that he could be their target," he said.

## 'Anthrax'

**FROM PAGE 16**  
specimen of blood and skin tissues from a few among another 26 infected villagers for laboratory tests in Dhaka.

Meanwhile the district health and livestock departments formed respective teams to keep an eye on the Anthrax threat. The livestock department vaccinated at least 450 cows in the affected village to check the spread of the disease, official sources said.

Upazila health department sources said condition of a woman is critical but overall situation is improving.

Dr AHM Md Khairul Alam Chowdhury, the civil surgeon of Pabna, told the Daily Star yesterday, "The situation is improving and we are waiting for the test results."

## ILLEGAL PLANTATION 3 Destiny men arrested in Bandarban

**OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Bandarban**

Police arrested three staff of Destiny Group from Alkadam on Tuesday for illegal tree plantation violating the recent government order asking the company to stop tree plantation in the hill district.

Hedayet Ullah, 35, Mohammed Faisal, 30, and Jams Tripura, 24, were nabbed following a case filed by Alkadam Upazila Parishad staff Tapan Kumar Das.

Meanwhile, Jalanto Moni Karbari and Robidoy Tanchangya of Alkadam upazila submitted a letter on behalf of the local people to the Bandarban Hill District Council chairman alleging Destiny was engaged in plantation through grabbing the lands of indigenous people.

Mujibur Rahman, a local official of Destiny Group, however, termed such arrests a conspiracy by the administration.

## Chopper missing

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Reddy spoke to reporters Wednesday afternoon, about six hours after contact was lost, and said continuing rains were slowing the search.

"Our helicopters are still searching. The missing helicopter may have landed in an unfamiliar forest area from where it is difficult to get out," said Ramakant Reddy, another top state government official.

The helicopter took off from Hyderabad, the state capital, and lost contact with air traffic controllers about 45 minutes into the flight, Roshaiha said. At that time, the helicopter was believed to be about 275km south of the capital.

Reddy, who was on an inspection tour of various rural social welfare programs and traveling in a private helicopter, was accompanied by a bodyguard, two officials and a photographer.

The rebels, who say they are inspired by Chinese revolutionary leader Mao Zedong, have been fighting for more than three decades in several Indian states, including Andhra Pradesh, demanding land and jobs for agricultural laborers and the poor.

While the militants have a great deal of power in parts of rural India, they have little day-to-day control outside of isolated forests and villages.

More than 6,500 people have been killed in the violence.

## BDR trial mode

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Another amicus curiae barrister Rakanuddin Mahmud suggested that the apex court send back the presidential reference on the mode of trial of the accused BDR personnel to the government considering it "premature".

He said the first information report (FIR) of the mutiny was filed under the existing law. Investigation into the case is going on as per that law and the charge sheet is also expected to be submitted to the trial court under the same law. "How is it possible to hold the trial of the BDR mutiny under the military law?" he said.

The three amici curiae (friends of court) were delivering submissions before the 11-member full bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin, during the hearing on the presidential reference.

Earlier, amicus curiae advocate TH Khan, barrister M Amir-UI Islam and Dr Kamal Hossain placed their opinions, saying the trial of BDR mutiny is not possible under the army act.

Barrister Rafique-UI Huq and advocate Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed had, however, told the Appellate Division that the accused BDR personnel can be brought to trial under the military law by issuing separate notifications.

Continuing his submission from Tuesday, Kamal Hossain yesterday told the Supreme Court that BDR personnel involved in the Palkhanna carnage directly and indirectly have to be identified through investigation for fair trial and proper punishment.

Advocate Probir Neogi and barrister Siddique Rahman Khan placed the written opinions of advocate Mahmudul Islam and barrister Ajmalul Hossain before the apex court.

Another amicus curiae advocate AF Hassan Ariff started his submission yesterday.

The court adjourned the hearing on the reference until 10:00am today.

## Toil in tailbacks

**FROM PAGE 16**  
the assurance that we will help them in this regard. But they have not contacted us yet," the DMP commissioner said, adding, "It is not in our jurisdiction but we can assist Rajuk in actions."

Seeking anonymity, a Rajuk official said they are yet to take any initiative in this regard.

The Daily Star's repeated attempts to reach Rajuk Chairman Nurul Huda for his comment were fruitless.

The August 20 meeting asked the DMP, BRTA, DCC and Rajuk to go tough on vehicles that remain parked for unlimited period of time narrowing down streets. They were asked to even tow those vehicles. The prime minister also directed the same Monday.

None of the agencies are implementing this decision but they are collecting fines for violations of traffic rules. The BRTA, DMP and Dhaka District Administration authorities have been operating some mobile courts in this regard.

Even though the DMP earlier seized around 2,600 vehicles that are old and unfit to ply the city streets, it is not interested to go against illegally-parked vehicles.

"If they cannot park on the streets, where would they go?" said the DMP commissioner, adding, "We, however, do not allow such parking during peak hours."

"We do not have space to keep seized vehicles either," he said.

The BRTA and Dhaka District Administration authorities have been conducting drives to curb traffic jams with 15 mobile courts but they could not seize any vehicles, as they do not have tow trucks.

Executive Magistrate SM Rezaul Karim told The Daily Star, "We have been collecting fines from vehicles for violating traffic rules and causing traffic jams."

The DCC was asked to free the streets and pavements of illegal occupiers, remove misplaced skips and repair traffic signals. DCC Superintendent Engineer Sebah Ullah after the August 20 meeting had pledged strongest effort to implement the decisions.

Two weeks afterwards, DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka told The Daily Star, "I am not aware of any such decisions and none talked to me in this regard. Until or unless I am informed of any government decision formally I cannot take any initiatives."

Bangladesh Railway director general promised to arrange special trains on Gazipur-Dhaka-Narayanganj route to help the government deal with congestion.

While talking to The Daily Star, DG Belayet Hossain said, "It was a mistake to commit special trains. It is not possible to operate special trains except during Eid."

Other decisions the meeting made include initiatives to make better use of slow lanes of

streets, removal of illegal rickshaws, ban on non-motorised vehicles plying restricted streets and freeing pavements from hawkers and other illegal occupiers.

An additional Communications Secretary Shafique Alam, chief of the committee formed to coordinate the activities of the 12 agencies, told The Daily Star, "Many decisions were taken during that meeting and it is not possible to recall them all without looking into the file."

## Jackson

**FROM PAGE 16**  
friends of Jackson will be in attendance for the event, in stark contrast to the star-studded public memorial held at Los Angeles's Staples Centre in July attended by 20,000 mourners.

Several streets surrounding the entrance to the cemetery in Glendale will be closed in an effort to keep fans at bay, police said.

Jackson is to be interred at a 7:00 pm (0200 GMT Friday) ceremony inside the cemetery's massive Great Mausoleum, an elaborate neo-classical building inspired by Genoa's famous Campo Santo.

Jackson's gold-plated casket is to be placed in a private section of the mausoleum that is also home to the final resting places of famous names from Hollywood's golden age such as Clark Gable, Jean Harlow and Carole Lombard.

Forest Lawn, which opened in 1906, is also home to exact replicas of some of Michelangelo's greatest works, including "David," "La Pieta" and "Moses."

The cemetery also boasts a stunning recreation of Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper" in stained glass.

Other entertainment icons buried at Forest Lawn include Humphrey Bogart, Lon Chaney, Nat King Cole, Walt Disney, Errol Flynn and Jimmy Stewart.

Although open to the public, the Forest Lawn Memorial Park is renowned for its strict privacy rules, and unlike many other Hollywood cemeteries does not provide maps of famous grave sites.

Scott Michaels, who runs the successful "Dearly Departed" tours of notorious Hollywood death locations, said officials at Forest Lawn guard celebrity graves "like the Dead Sea Scrolls."

"The Great Mausoleum where he is going is like the Holy Grail of grave hunters," Michaels told The Los Angeles Times.

"There are cameras all throughout it, and if you are just wandering around, they will find you and kick you out."

One of Jackson's brothers, Marlon, meanwhile revealed in an interview with a British newspaper that the singer's children -- Prince Michael, 12, Paris, 11 and Prince Michael II, 7 -- would leave notes in their father's coffin.

## Quake kills 32

**FROM PAGE 16**  
trapped under rocks and dirt from the landslide in one village.

Thousands of people fled homes, shopping centres and office towers across West Java province and in the capital Jakarta, where high-rise buildings swayed violently for at least a minute around 3:00 pm (0800 GMT).

"Thirty-two people have been killed. Most of them were trapped under their houses," disaster management agency spokesman Priyadi Kardono told AFP.

Kardono said 10 people were killed in the district of Cianjur, while eight were killed in nearby Tasikmalaya, three in Garut, one in Sukabumi and one in West Bandung.

"This is from the areas where the communication links are still good but there are other areas which are more remote that we haven't been able to reach at all. We don't have any information on what's happening there," he said.

He added that the houses of some of those who died in Cianjur were buried under a landslide.

"It was very scary. The floor was swaying and I heard loud sounds from the upper floor, like something was going to collapse," student Rini, 18, said after she fled the Grand Indonesia shopping centre in the heart of Jakarta.

"People were screaming and I quickly took off my high heels and ran as fast as I could to get out of the mall."

Dozens of buildings collapsed in the towns of Tasikmalaya and Sukabumi and at least 30 people were injured throughout the country, officials said.

A 13-year-old girl crushed by a collapsing wall was among those killed in Tasikmalaya district, local police said.

have partly collapsed, some have roofs hanging down and/or walls that are broken. Nearly everything is damaged," said a local police officer, who did not give his name.

"Because of all the aftershocks people were standing by the roadside but they've returned home now to break the Ramadan fast," he said.

A tsunami warning was issued and withdrawn after officials assessed there was no danger.

"We issued a tsunami warning but we've removed it after some observation," Meteorology and Geophysics Agency technical chief Suhajono said.

"There was a tsunami in the sea off Tasikmalaya but it was only 20 centimetres (eight inches) high, it was insignificant," he added.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said no significant tsunami was generated.

Dorus Susanto, 26, a receptionist at a hotel in the town of Batu Karas on Java's southern coast, said people ran outside as part of the hotel's roof collapsed.

"The mosque has been damaged and a few houses have been damaged too," Susanto said.

Panicked worshippers in Tasikmalaya were sent fleeing from a mosque, which