FROM PAGE 16

agree, we would start our-

start to make the 20 percent with

the centrifuges," the hardliner

told the atomic chief, who was

ploughed ahead with higher

uranium enrichment, it would

be in breach of five United

Nations Security Council resolu-

to enrich some of their fuel to 20

percent level of enrichment are

clearly a matter of serious con-

cern," a spokeswoman for the

foreign ministry said in a state-

after meeting his Italian counter-

part Ignazio La Russa in Rome.

been very disappointing.'

pressure on the Iranian govern-

brokered the nuclear fuel pro-

wants to enrich uranium to very

insists its nuclear enrichment

drive is purely for peaceful pur-

latest remarks.

mentissued in London.

united against Iran.

"Reports that Iran is planning

Britain said that if Iran

"Now Dr (Ali Akbar) Salehi

selves," Ahmadinejad said.

sitting in the audience.

# Air pollution

FROM PAGE 1 life forms including plants. Cost of maintaining building structures in the urban areas also rises significantly due to such air pollution.

Doctors at the National Institute of Diseases of Chest and Hospital (NIDCH) in Mohakhali said number of patients soars at the very onset of the dry season and continues till the monsoon rain arrives.

NIDCH Director and Professor Dr Mirza Mohammad Hiron told The Daily Star that the number of patients with different chest and respiratory diseases is on the rise.

"We have thousands of patients treated during dry season for diseases triggered by allergic reactions, which strongly suggests it is related to exposure to pollution," Hiron

Airborne particulates are considered more harmful when they are 10 micrometers or smaller in diameter and in Dhaka the density of PM which is 2.5 micrometers or smaller has been found to be 9 times higher than the NAAQS recommendation.

Ambient air in the city becomes extremely polluted between October and March every year when rain is scarce and when thousands of brick kilns become operational, burning used automobile and rickshaw tyres, low grade coal and in many cases fuel-wood.

"Our study shows that during 120 days of the dry season the ambient air pollution remains very consistent in the city air," said a researcher of the Air Quality Management Project that ended in 2008.

### France praises Sudan's role in kidnap release

AFP, Khartoum

A French envoy thanked Sudan's President Omar al-Beshir for helping to secure the release of a Red Cross worker held by kidnappers for nearly three months.

"I came on behalf of the French authorities to thank President Beshir and the Sudanese authorities for leading efforts that led to the release of the French ICRC worker," said Andre Parant, an adviser to French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

The kidnappers freed Laurent Maurice, an agronomist for the International Committee of the Red Cross, on Saturday after 89 days in captivity, first in Chad and then in Sudan's volatile Darfur region.

of the precedence in the offices

of the republic may be damaged

creating indiscipline in the

Appellate Division of the

Supreme Court will now give the

Secretary Abdul Aziz said, "I

think it would not be wise to say

anything since the matter is

pending with the court. Let it be

settled...and then the govern-

next course of action."

the agenda.

nymity.

ment would be able to decide its

A few bureaucrats, mean-

while, said a meeting of secre-

taries scheduled today might

discuss the issue of revising the

Warrant of Precedence as per

secretary on condition of ano-

The Warrant of Precedence

was formulated in 1975 and

underwent some minor

of Precedence has created an

equilibrium in the overall struc-

ture of the state, so if it is neces-

sary to change it overnight, it

would likely to create a disequi-

librium," said a top bureaucrat.

some pressure on the adminis-

tration and can also contribute

misunderstanding between the

udiciary and the administra-

tion if finally the Supreme Court

directs to change the longstand-

government, thinks otherwise.

constitutional implication of

the court's decision," he told

The Daily Star, explaining that it

is absolutely a personal wish of

monial occasions to set the

overnight," he said.

programmes.

"Over the years this Warrant

amendments up to 1986.

final decision on the matter.

Mahbubey Alam said the

When contacted, Cabinet

offices, he said.

Court ruling sparks

seating arrangement of guests. Akbar said the Warrant of

Precedence has no constitu-

tional or legal basis. "It was

prepared following a govern-

ment order. We can rethink

whether the Warrant of Precedence, which is discriminatory, is needed in a democratic society," he said. About the court verdict, he said, "This is interference into

the function of the executive by the judiciary. I think the executive is not subordinate to the judiciary, rather both are equal.' However, people in the

judicial arena think as the court has directed to revise the Warrant of Precedence and the government will have to carry court order although it is not on this, so the people in the administration may now prefer to "The meeting had been scrap it.

called before the court gave its Justice Mohammad Gholam verdict and this meeting is not Rabbani, a former judge of the linked to the verdict. If any Appellate Division, said, "The court's direction was necessary secretary raises this point, it might be discussed," said a to settle the rule of law.

> Whatever the effectiveness of the Warrant of Precedence in state ceremonial occasions, the court directives, if implemented, will educate a government officer where he stands and what are his obligations," said Rabbani.

Meanwhile, advocate Asaduzzaman, a counsel for the petitioner, said the writ petition was filed to ensure "constitutional supremacy" in preparing the Warrant of Precedence.

"Definitely it would create He said there are three organs of the state in the constitution--legislature, judiciary and executive. The post of a district judge is defined by the constitution and he is part of ing Warrant of Precedence one of the three organs of the

state, he explained. But Akbar Ali Khan, a retired But the constitution does top bureaucrat and also a fornot define the posts of the chiefs mer adviser to the caretaker of army, navy and air force, who "I am worried about the organs.

are not even part of those three "This three posts just have been mentioned by the consti-

tution," he argued, saying as all their grounds of argument were valid, the court directives came

the president and the prime minister to invite people to state as per their prayer. He also argued that secretar-"But directing them in this ies hold supreme posts in the executive and district judges regard should not be the function of the judiciary," he said. hold supreme posts in the The Warrant of Precedence is judicial service, so why district applicable to the state's cerejudges' position would be below

the secretaries.

## PM reaches

FROM PAGE 1

He said in addition to brick

kilns, old buses, fleets of trucks

and thousands of other poorly

serviced vehicles contribute

highly to the pollution.

Moreover, dust from roads and

construction sites and toxic

fumes from industrial sites turn

the air quality scenario even

is to ban these old buses and

trucks from entering the city.

The old buses engaged in city

replaced by larger environment

friendly buses," said the former

AQMP official requesting ano-

(WHO) air quality guidelines of

2005 however recommend a

maximum acceptable PM level

of 20mcm compared to

Bangladesh standard of 50.

Cities with 70mcm are consid-

ered highly polluted. Airborne

lead is the worst of the harmful

initiative to borrow \$62.2 mil-

lion from the World Bank for

Clean Air and Sustainable

Environment Project (CASE)

brings some relief among envi-

launched in October 2009 and

lasts until December 2014,

mainly aims at addressing

various aspects of city's trans-

portation sector and also to

modernise the brick kilns to

Corporation will jointly imple-

office in Agargaon said under

the project the 100 years old

technology of brick burning

would be replaced by modern

Strike at DU

Israt Jahan Rochi, a radio

jockey of Radio Amar said, "My

listeners sent me SMS asking

me not to go to the book fair

out yesterday totalling 791 new

books in the first week of the fair.

With this, the number of new

titles this year is 185 more on the

corresponding period last year.

Aktukhani Biggyan of

Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, Saat

Diner America of Hasnat Abdul

Hai, Satya Je Kathin of Jatin

Sarkar, and Amar Chhelebela o

etor of Mizan Publishers, said

the last day of Dhaka

International Trade Fair had

drawn a large crowd there and

that's why the participation of

"We expect a large crowd

people here is less.

from tomorrow," he said.

Mizanur Rahman, propri-

Chhatra Rajniti of Abdur Rauf.

The new books include Aro

Meanwhile, 95 titles came

Chhatra League factions.

because of the DU clash."

DoE and Dhaka City

A CASE official at the DoE

The project, which was

ronment activists.

reduce pollution.

ment the project.

methods.

FROM PAGE 16

Meanwhile, government's

World Health Organisation

services must immediately be

"The first thing we have to do

worse.

PMs.

The prime minister was given a guard of honour by a smartly turned-out contingent Bangladesh Ambassador to Kuwait Shahed Reza was present.

Later, the PM drove to Bayan Palace in a ceremonial motorcade. Hasina also visited the

Bangladesh Bhaban in the capital of the Gulf state yesterday evening and had her dinner.

The premier will hold official talks with her Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al Sabah today on a wide range of matters of bilateral cooperation, encompassing development assistance, investment and labour issues.

Earlier, the special plane sent by Emir of Kuwait Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, carrying the prime minister and the members of her entourage, took off from Zia International Airport at 2:07 pm (Bangladesh Time).

Awami League leaders, including Deputy Leader in Parliament Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Finance Minister AMA Muhith and Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, chiefs of the three services, dean of the diplomatic corps, and high civil and military officials, among others, saw off the PM at the airport.

"At the talks, Bangladesh will seek assistance for development of communications infrastructures, including the mega-project of Padma Bridge, and support for the country's energy sector," one official told UNB.

Presently, Kuwaii Development Fund is providing aid worth \$ 660 million for 21 projects in Bangladesh. A proposal for recruiting

more workforces from Bangladesh will come up prominently during the talks with the Kuwaiti leaders, officials in Dhaka said. Some 2.5 lakh

Bangladeshis are now employed in the oil-rich Middle-eastern country. Before the official talks

today, Hasina will pay a courtesy call on Emir Sabah IV Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah at Dewani Emir.

The Prime Minister will return home early Wednesday.

### Hosts' gold

FROM PAGE 1 the end of the day India improved their tally to 67-40-22. Pakistan still held the second position with a tally of 17-23-27.

Sri Lanka, who excelled in athletics, followed Bangladesh closely with 13-26-36.

However, all eyes will be fixed on the Bangladesh-Afghanistan men's football final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today, the penultimate day of the 12-day spectacle.

### Cricket glory

FROM PAGE 1

opener Anamul Haque's 38ball 43 that featured four boundaries and captain Mohammad Mithun's brilliant 37 that came off only 21 deliveries. He smashed five fours and a six to entertain a vociferous crowd.

Sri Lanka took the silver in the event while Pakistan bagged the bronze after a nail-biting two-wicket victory against Nepal in the third-place deciding match at the same venue earlier on the

### Bill on MPs

FROM PAGE 16 the bill saying that it would be helpful for lawmakers to be more cautious for ensuring their transparency and accountability if the bill is enacted into a law.

Jatiya Party lawmaker Mujib-Ul-Haque Chunnu however opined that enacting such law is not more important if lawmakers do not apply their conscience.

M Hafizuddin Khan, chair man of TIB Trustee Board, said passage of the bill is a must to set a guideline for the lawmak-

TIB Trustee Prof Mozaffer Ahmad hailed the bill and hoped that lawmakers would support passage of the bill.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of TIB, said, "The bill, if passed into a law, would make lawmakers accountable to their conscience and impose an obligation on them to avoid conflict of interest.

M Abdul Latif Mondal, a former secretary, said available records show that out of over 300 bills submitted by the private members, only six (all from treasury bench lawmakers) have been passed since the independence. "We hope this private members' bill will be enacted into law soon."

## Finger pointed

NEWS

FROM PAGE 1 section-164 in arms haul case

filed under the section-19 (ka) of Arms Act in March 2 last year that made a remarkable development in the investiga-

Contacted, Investigation Officer (IO) of the case Md Muniruzzaman Chowdhury, a senior ASP of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in Chittagong zone, refused to disclose any information regarding the confessional statement.

However, sources said Hafiz made almost the same confession as he did in the arms haul case and hinted at involvement of the same persons in the case filed in connection with the ten truckloads of firearms and ammunition hauled at Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Company Limited (CUFL) jetty in the early hours of April 2, 2004. In the previous confes-

cated involvement of high officials of National Security Intelligence (NSI), Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) and the CUFL. Investigation following the

sional statement Hafiz impli-

statement helped CID arrest two former NSI director generals (DGs) Major General

(retd) Rezzagul Haidei Chowdhury and Brigadier Gen (retd) M Abdur Rahim, former director (security) Wing Commander (retd) Sahab Uddin, former deputy director (technical) Maj (retd) Liakat Hossain, NSI Field Officer Akbar Hossain, former CUFI managing director Mohsin Talukder and General Manager (Admin) Enamul

Besides, the then home secretary Omar Faruk, former chairman of Bangladesh Chemicals and Industries Corporation (BCIC) Brig Gen (retd) Imamuzzaman and a number of government high officials were quizzed in connection with the case.

sources added.

remand prayer against former NSI DG Maj Gen (retd Rezzaqul Haider Chowdhury in the arms haul case. The remand prayer was placed before the court of

Hearing of the remand

Magistrate, Chittagong.

# River cleaning

"This cleaning drive is a total waste because every day we are dumping similar amount of rubbish into the river. We have no other alternatives," he said.

On the other side near Balurghat and Talakpara, Jharna and her husband Sohrab manage 15 rickshaw-bins in Shahidnagar, earning a meagre living with 13 other collectors.

At exactly 9:00am on Sunday

"We feel very bad to dump the rubbish here every day. But the site for dumping.

Every day dumping of rubbish in the river is so rampant that at places small islands have been created. Mountains of household rubbish have been piled up every 100 metres mile

At Sadarghat Launch Terminal, at around 10:00am scores of large passenger vessels kept arriving from different southern regions. Once the passengers got off the vessels, workers swept the dirty floors of the huge vessels preparing for their return journeys. Soon layers of rubbish including

the river water.

Since the BIWTA launched

ation at the sources.

The water in the Buriganga is now so toxic and foul that it cannot be touched. The only

## Govt seeks

FROM PAGE 1

Attorney General Mahbubey

Nazrul Islam Talukder said the petition was filed for staying the HC verdict so that the government can file a regular leave to appeal petition with the apex court against the HC verdict after getting its copy.

The HC delivered the verdict following a writ petition filed in 2006 challenging the Warrant of Precedence in 1986 that is used for all government purposes including ceremoHaq.

No new name came in

Saturday night's confession, Meanwhile, CID investigators on Thursday made a 7-day

Chief Metropolitan

prayer would be held today in the afternoon, said the

#### movement in its water is observed when the high tide

the couple defied the chill and pulled two of the vans towards the river. As they unloaded their half-rotten polythene-clad cargo into the slope of the embankment they said they are authorised by DCC to collect rubbish from Shahidnagar charging each household Tk 20.

we do not have an alternative. The city corporation bin men never come here," said Jharna as they kept unloading half a dozen rickshaw-bins arrived at

after mile along the banks.

polythene bags were strewn in

DCC Chief Waste Management Officer Capt (BN) Bipan Kumar Saha expressed dismay at the matter and blamed unscrupulous drivers

for the crime. "Nothing can justify such acts of dumping rubbish in an undesignated spot. I promise you we will hand out exemplary punishment for the offenders,'

he said. Successive chiefs of waste management said the same on record to this correspondent but so far these perpetrators and their assistants could not be deterred.

the drive on January 6, onslaught on all the rivers around Dhaka has nonetheless continued with thousands of tonnes of liquid and solid waste pouring into the waters.

The Buriganga is now a lifeless pit with no water flow from upstream. Ever since the lean period sets in, the river's flow from the Jamuna in Manikganj and Tangail has been cut off due to heavy silt-

Alam yesterday told The Daily Star that hearing of the stay petition would be held today. Deputy Attorney General

nial functions.

from the Meghna pushes the water upward and the low tide downward. At the Shouarighat fish

market traders said every day the market and adjacent trading centres generate nearly a tonne of rubbish, all of which is dumped into the Buriganga. When this correspondent informed the traders about the

government's imminent move to clean the riverbed, they unanimously said unless the authorities seriously look into the waste management along the embankments, thousands of tonnes of solid waste will flow into the river. "Waste management in this

part of the city is virtually non-

existent. All markets, traders,

shops, households and river

vessels find the river the nearest and the easiest place to dispose their rubbish off," said Abdur Rashid, a leader of the fish traders in Waizghat. BIWTA Chairman Md Abdul Malegue Mia said the whole cleanup drive would be futile

ated. "We have written to all launch owners operating from Sadarghat to install bins within their vessels and dispose off the rubbish inside a container placed at the terminal," said

unless mass awareness is cre-

Malegue. Urgent measures are required to stop dumping rubbish into the river and find a place for proper disposal. For Abdul Malegue Mia of BIWTA and Bipan Kumar Saha of DCC the challenge to clean the river is far greater than it appears.

### CD strike

departments in arts building and business studies faculty while scheduled examinations were held peacefully.

Meanwhile, "Students against repression", formed mainly by the left-leaning student organisations, placed a five-point demand including the demand for resignation of university proctor for police action at Sir AF Rahman Hall on February 2. Abubakar, a third year stu-

dent of the university, was critically injured during a factional clash of Bangladesh Chhatra League at Sir AF Rahman Hall on February 2 and died the following day.

In support of the strike declared on Friday, over a hundred JCD men tried to enter the campus with processions through the Shahbagh and Nilkhet entrances in the morning but failed as police obstructed them. Amiruzzaman Khan Shimul

a JCD joint-secretary, blamed the police for not allowing them to enter the campus. He claimed that BCL is trying to put the responsibility of the victim's death on police. The anti-repression students at a press conference at

yesterday evening.

Madhur Canteen also placed several demands including proper investigation into the death of Abubakar and punishment to the people responsible. Leaders and activists of BCL associate student body of ruling Awami League, brought out a

the campus protesting at the strike. Pro-vice Chancellor Prof Harun-or-Rashid, also convener of probe committee on directive by misquoting its the incident, said the commitorder, he said. tee members sat at a meeting The HC will hear the petition

today.

## Criminals shoot at expat youth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals allegedly hired by a manpower broker shot an expatriate in Singapore yesterday in the city's Gendaria. The victim, Moniruzzaman,

32, of Gazipur, was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Monir said Reaz, a man-

power broker, of Louhajong in

Munshiganj, took over Tk 16 lakh one and a half years ago promising him to send his three relatives to Singapore. But Reaz did not send his relatives nor did he pay back the money. Besides, Monir said he came

to Dhaka with his relatives as Reaz promised him to refund the amount. Reaz took them to an under-

construction building for negotiation, he added. At one stage, Reaz along with 15 others held them hostage and forced Monir to sign a paper that stated that Monir had received the money. Later the gang of Reaz fired on Monir indiscriminately around 4:30pm.

Monir alleged that there were two Rapid Action Battalion personnel in the gang but he could not identify the Rab men hired by Reaz. Officer-in-Charge of

Shyampur Police Station Mozammel Huq said they were looking into the matter but none was arrested yet.

FROM PAGE 1

The BRTA chairman recently held meetings with four manufacturers of motor speed controlling devices to understand how long it would take to install those in all 12 lakh motor vehicles in the country. Sohel Aman, project man-

ager of Monico Ltd that produces

one such device, told The Daily

Star, "If all of the four manufacturers start selling and installing their devices, the job can be completed in six months." Speed governor seal is a device used for controlling speed limits of motor vehicles in line

with officially approved speeds for different types of vehicles. Whenever a driver tries to cross an approved speed limit, the device limits the vehicles acceleration by adjusting the

engine's fuel injection system. According to the eighth schedule of the Motor Vehicle Ordinance 1983, the maximum speed for light vehicles like cars is 113 kilometres per hour (kmph), for buses and minibuses it is 56 kmph, for heavy vehicles like lorries it is 40 kmph, and for fire brigade vehicles 48 kmph.

In yesterday's suo moto rule upon the government the HC also asked the former to explain within three weeks why it should not be directed to properly implement the traffic laws and rules through controlling speeds of vehicles, and by examining

drivers' licenses. An HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Borhan Uddin issued the rule following media reports on the accidental death of Hamim Sheikh.

The home secretary, the inspector general of police, jointcommissioner (traffic) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), the BRTA chairman, and deputy commissioners (traffic) of north, south, east, and west zones of DMP must respond to the rule.

Earlier in the day, Advocate Manzill Murshid, a lawyer of the Supreme Court, placed the issues of The Daily Star of February 5 and the daily Prothom Alo of February 4 before the HC bench. The two newspapers contained the news of Hamim's death and an elaborate report on rampant reckless driving by bus drivers on the streets of the capital.

On March 10, 2008, the HC directed the government authorities to take steps to install speed governor seals in all types of motor vehicles by March 2009.

The 2008 ruling also said if automobile owners failed to install the device by the deadline set by the court, BRTA and the police department would be empowered to impose a fine of Tk 200 for each day of violation, which would be doubled if the vehicle was caught the second time without a speed governor

#### MD of Jamuna FROM PAGE 16

Shamim Islam, managing

director of Jamuna Builders Ltd which constructed the Jamuna Future Park Shopping Complex, on the same night submitted two appeals to the Rajuk chairman against the Rajuk notice, stating that he submitted the appeals as per the HC direction. Rajuk Chairman Nurul Huda procession and held a rally on

yesterday filed the contempt of court petition stating that the HC had not issued any direction for submitting appeal to Rajuk chairman against the notice. Shamim flouted the HC

Appellate and HC divisions and SC lawyers were present at the function held at the chief justice's courtroom.

Ahmadinejad

months and if they don't Ahmadinejad insisted that world powers "unconditionally"

enriched uranium (LEU) for high purity 20 percent enriched uranium to be used as nuclear fuel for the Tehran reactor, which makes medical isotopes. Ahmadinejad's statement comes just days after he indi-

was ready to send its LEU abroad for conversion into 20 percent nuclearfuel. ILNA news agency reported that foreign ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast said that enriching uranium to 20 percent

US Defence Secretary Gates meanwhile, called on the inter-Tehran is a signatory. national community to stand "No one has tried more sincerely to reach out and engage with Iran than President (Barack) Obama," Gates said

fuelfortheTehranreactor. "The international commu-Iranian officials have nity has offered the Iranian opposed this proposal, saying government multiple opportuthey would prefer a simultanities to provide reassurance of neous exchange on Iranian soil, a its intentions. The results have plan rejected by world powers.

nity will stand together and bring forward and say 'we will exchange (uranium) uncondiment, I believe there is still time tionally and cooperate on your for sanctions and pressure to reactors and medicine'... fine work. But we must all work then we will cooperate too.

exchange we have to be ready for comment on Ahmadinejad's 20 percent enrichment," Fars World powers fear Tehran quoted him as saying. He said Iran had "received messages" for the exchange high levels for use in an atomic and there was "optimism in weapons programme. Iran

## US under-secy

PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed the

tion policy and Hasina's role in tackling terrorism. McHale hoped that the present democratic government of Bangladesh through its innovative initiatives and

people.

discussion.

The premier and the under-secretary of state stressed the need for increasing people-to-people contact as one of the ways to further strengthen the existing bilateral relations between the

Hasina requested the US government to take best care living in the United States.

of the speech are reflected on global issues.

The PM also called for more US investment in Bangladesh, as her govern-

## SC judges

set up an independent secre

He said a proposal has been

submitted to the government for raising salaries and facilities of the judges.

Earlier in the day, the attorney general's office and the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) accorded a farewell to outgoing chief justice Md Tafazzul Islam.

end. In their speeches, Attorney

chief. tioned that Justice Tafazzul

accept exchanging Iran's low-

cated in an interview on state television last Tuesday that Iran

was Iran's "right and not in contradiction to the NPT (Non Proliferation Treaty)" to which

Iran and world powers are locked in a stalemate over the UN-drafted deal, which envisages the Islamic republic's 3.5 percent LEU being sent to Russia and France for enrichment to 20 percent and then returned as

Ahmadinejad said Sunday "If the international commuthat if the world powers "come

Salehi too emphasised that The International Atomic world powers have little time left Energy Agency (IAEA), which to enter into a fuel deal with Iran. "If they do not enter this fuel posal, offered no immediate

> talks... but not much time was left" for the world powers.

> ment had been successful to

create a congenial atmo-

sphere for investment, trade

the US under-secretary also

discussed the global climate

change issue and its impacts

President's speech at the

Copenhagen Climate Change

Summit, the PM sought US

cooperation in tackling the

challenges of global warming.

James F Moriarty, Principal

US Ambassador in Dhaka

on earth and its people.

The prime minister and

Mentioning, the US

and commerce.

residence Jamuna yesterday morning.

media after the meeting. The US Under-Secretary also appreciated the government-sponsored new educa-

development programmes will be able to bring about socioeconomic prosperity for its

Among other issues, bilateral relations between Bangladesh and the USA and Madrasah education in Bangladesh also came up for

two countries.

of Bangladeshi expatriates She focused on US President Barack Obama's Cairo speech and said the world people and humanity will be benefited if all aspects

FROM PAGE 1 tariat for the judiciary.

Enhanced salaries and perks would help the judges to work with renewed vigour, he added.

Justice Tafazzul, who went into retirement yesterday, said the judges and lawyers alone cannot establish justice and the rule of law. The judiciary, executive and legislative will have to work in unison to that

General Mahbubey Alam and Bar President AFM Mesbahuddin commended the work of the outgoing SC The attorney general men-

presided in two historic cases- Bangabandhu murder case and the one regarding constitution's fifth amendment. Judges of both the

water towards Dhaka.

Indiscriminate encroachment and massive pollution

have already prompted the government to declare these four rivers ecologically endangered.

#### Secretary to the Prime Minister MA Karim and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister Abdus Sobhan

Golap were also present.

Extortionists FROM PAGE 16 secretary Md Akram Hossain vesterday in his compliant alleged that Tk 10 to 15 lakh was demanded as toll from BKMEA first vice president Alhaj Abdur Rashed Rasu,

directors GM Faruque, Hasan

Mahmud, Tapash Kumar Saha and Motaleb Joarder. The person introduced himself as top terrorist Mizan over the two cell phone numbers 01741443429 and

01675690646. BKMEA director GM Faruque said phone calls were made to him twice and the caller threatened that if he (Faruque) did not pay Tk 13 lakh as toll he would be killed within 48 hours. Tapash Kumar Saha said the extortionist demanded Tk 10 lakh from

Narayanganj Sadar Model thana Officer-in-Charge Akter Hossain confirmed the incident and said police were investigating the matter.

### 3 rivers

**FROM PAGE 16** city is cut off by rising silt levels at the mouth of the Jamuna's

main water conduit.

When the water source is cut off, millions of litres of industrial and household waste accumulates in the river. Between early September

and May the water turns deep

purple and black and foul

from the Jamuna River in

Manikganj flows in during the

The only movement occurs

when high tides push the water slightly upstream and the low tide downstream. The situation is not likely to improve until the floodwater

odours are common.

rainy season. The government is planning a Tk 1,000 crore megaproject to restore the flow of the rivers by dredging the source at Jamuna in Manikganj as well as diverting