Rampage at RU

FROM PAGE 1 Students said the clashes erupted when BCL activist Asaduzzaman tried to enter his room at Shibir-dominated Bangabandhu Hall. Khalid, secretary of hall unit Shibir, barred Asad from entering his

room around 8:00pm Monday

and allegedly beat up him and accidentally during clashes, but another BCL activist they murdered Faruk in a Muhammad Kawser. planned way. On information, police raided Bangabandhu and Latif Khatun ordered the police to halls and arrested 13 Shibir

arrest the killers of Faruk within activists. 24 hours, reports UNB. As the law enforcers left the dormitories, BCL activists Aviation High School ground in attacked a Shibir worker at the Kaola in the capital, Sahara said TV room of Shah Mokhdum the police are instructed to Hall. Shibir men equipped with arrest those responsible for the firearms and sharp weapons violence irrespective of their reiterated, triggering a gunfight

on the campus. Police fired about 500 blank shots, rubber bullets and teargas shells to bring the situation under control.

at the Suhrawardi Hall.

sity central mosque.

Rahman, hailed from

Khoddorsagna village in

resident student of Shah

Mokhdum Hall. His body was

sent to his village home after

namaj-e-janaza at the univer-

workers were admitted to

Rajshahi Medical College

Hospital. Of them, condition of

Shafiur Rahman Badsha, Ruhul

Amin, Feroz Mahmud and

Shahidul Islam Johnny is stated

to be critical as their tendons of

Over 30 Shibir cadres equipped

with Chinese axes, hammers,

rods, machetes and dagger

entered the hall led by Ahad, hall

unit Shibir general secretary,

and Anis, former hall president,

around 1:40am, said Shafiullah

Chinese axe. I ran toward the

main gate where several Shibir

cadres started hitting me indis-

criminately. At this stage, I ran

towards the policemen at the

gate who kicked me and went

RU Proctor Chowdhury

Muhammad Zakaria blamed on

duty police for not playing

proper role to maintain law and

Asked about the students'

side the campus, the proctor

where on the campus, how

Abdus Subhan was not avail-

of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police,

told The Daily Star the police

were helpless in the face of

Shibir cadres' "planned and

were hurt in the clashes and the

police fired 400 teargas shells

and gunshots to quell the situa-

Angry BCL workers in Charghat

upazila torched and damaged

the upazila office of Jamaat-e-

Islami around 12noon yester-

The BCL in a protest proces-

Rajshahi Mayor AHM

Khairuzzaman Liton attended

the namaj-e-janaza of Faruk in

Shaheb Bazar. Addressing the

gathering, he said, the murder

Intelligence

confessional statement of

Hafizur Rahman, an accused

in the case," Opposition Chief

Whip Zainul Abdin Farrooque

said in a press briefing on

behalf of the BNP

A number of dailies

reported that Hafizur, prime

accused in the 10-truck arms

haul case, in a confessional

statement said Tarique

Rahman had held a meeting

with India's United Liberation

Front of Asom (Ulfa) leader

Paresh Barua at Hawa Bhaban.

lawmakers, the opposition

chief whip at the briefing at

the Parliament Media Centre

alleged that intelligence

agency forced Hafizur to give

statement implicating Tarique

He asked the intelligence

agency not to assist the gov-

ernment in plotting any con-

spiracy to tarnish image of the

the parliament, the govern-

ment is creating fresh obsta-

also protested involving for-

mer BNP state minister for

home Lutfozzaman Babar in

Shah AMS Kibria murder case.

The opposition chief whip

cles for BNP," he said.

crossfire," he claimed.

"When we decided to join

Rahman in the case.

Zia family.

Flanked by seven BNP

Parliamentary Party.

FROM PAGE 1

sion marched the main city

thoroughfares and called for a

rally in the afternoon today.

He claims 20 policemen

RU Vice-chancellor Prof

Nawsher Ali, commissioner

could we take them outside?"

able for comment.

organised" attacks.

PROTESTS

aside," Shafiullah added.

AUTHORITIES'VERSIONS

"They first knocked Tawfik

hands and legs were severed.

SM HALLATTACK

at RMCH.

Among the injured, 19 BCL

buses in Godagari upazila Armed Shibir cadres sporadbetween 2:00pm and 5:00pm. ically clashed and exchanged Officer-in-Charge of gunshots with the police turning the campus into a battlefield. They also torched two rooms and damaged 30 others

political identities.

ARRESTS

Godagari police Zakirul Islam said the arrestees are mostly students of RU and Rajshahi College. JAMAAT STATEMENT

The police held 16 suspected

Shibir cadres from different

Chapainawabganj-bound

was "politically planned by

Jamaat" and would be

Kabir Joy said the attack was

planned to avenge the killing of

RU Shibir general secretary

Sharifuzzaman Nomani early

last year. "Nomani was killed

Home Minister Sahara

Talking to reporters at Civil

RU unit BCL president Awal

answered politically.

Rajshahi city Jamaat Amir Ataur

Faruk, son of Fazlur Rahman denied involvement of Shibir in the murder. "The Joypurhat sadar and was a incident occurred at night; who saw Shibir men committing the murder? It may be the result of Chhatra League's internal feud. Meanwhile, in Pabna, two

private hostels in Edward College area were torched around 9:30pm. Local Shibir leaders blamed Chhatra League for the arson. BACKLASH AGAINST SHIBIR

ATBUET Our DU correspondent reports: In a backlash against the killing at RU, Chhatra League activists last night vandalised several rooms of Shibir men at four dormitories of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

The ransacking was going on till filing of this report at 1:15am. No one however was down. Anis caught me near the reported hurt as Shibir activists staircase and hit my back with a had already left the halls for fear

> of reprisals. Meanwhile, Juba League Chairman and State Minister for LGRD Jahangir Kabir Nanak and AL Organising Secretary BM Mozammel Haque last night sat with BCL leaders to discuss the recent spate of

violence in different educa-

Opposition

tional institutions.

order. The hall provost Dulal Chandra Roy gave a similar

including deals with India, proposed Tipaimukh Dam, tender manipulation and requests for taking them outcampus violence by ruling said, "Violence erupted everyparty men, party insiders said. They also asked lawmakers

to take preparation for speaking in parliament on various issues, including strengthening security of the BNP chairperson, withdrawal of "politically motivated" cases filed against her during the last caretaker government's rule, price hike of essentials and law and order situation.

The opposition lawmakers have been boycotting the House proceedings since the second session of parliament-the budget session--in last June, demanding more seats in the front row for opposition

Later, they added several other demands and asked the speaker and the ruling party to meet the demands for their return to parliament.

Hopes dashed

achievement of their only son.

Faruk, born in 1984 in Khord-Shaguna village under Joypurhat Sadar upazila, was a final year student of RU's Mathematics Department.

He was hacked to death by the armed activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir early hours yesterday.

Faruk's father Fazlur Rahman is a farmer by profession who owns only half an acre of land. He mortgaged the land to bear his son's educational expenses with a hope that it would help his family get rid of poverty someday.

Faruk's mother Hasina Khatun, a member of Grameen Bank of the village, also took loans from the bank to meet her son's educational expenses, but her dreams were shattered with the gruesome killing of her only son.

Kamal Chandra Hasra, manager of Khord-Shaguna branch of the bank, said Faruk recently has applied for a fresh loan of Tk 5,000 to bear his educational expenses for his

He termed Faruk's premature death an unforgettable shock for the villagers and also for the local Grameen Bankstaffs.

Redwanul Rahman, a schoolteacher of Faruk, said that he always stood first in every high school exams.

Faruk also secured GPA-5 in his SSC examination in 2002, the teacher said.

When the death news reached Khord-Shaguna, Faruk's two sisters and parents

could not believe it at first. the former finance minister As soon as the villagers confirmed his death, a pall of "Babar was forced to congloom descended in the area, fess his involvement in the Hasina fell unconscious and Kibria killing case as they Fazlur began to give a blank threatened him with look holding his son's photograph close to the chest.

'AL' men

FROM PAGE 16 taking and tearing bid documents when found.

A number of the intending bidders were of Dumki upazila Awami League unit.

University VC Prof Sakhawat Hussain and Dumki upazila Chairman Harun-Or-Rashid Howlader went to the spot and prevented a clash between the two groups.

Abdur Rashid Chunnu Mia, a BNP leader and a contractor, claimed he sent his representative Taiyub Ali to submit bid for category-1 and -3 but ruling party cadres looted the bank demand draft worth Tk 21 lakh and bid documents.

Asad Khan, secretary of Krishak League of Bakhergonj upazila unit and a contractor, claimed he went there to submit his bid for category-2 but ruling party cadres from Patuakhali town snatched the documents and bank demand draft worth Tk 9 lakh.

He said he filed a complaint with the registrar of the university in this regard.

Ziaul Haque, officer-incharge of Dumki Police Station, said nobody was assaulted but there was tension between two groups of contractors.

VC Sakhawat Hussain told The Daily Star that nobody filed any complaint with him in this regard.

FROM PAGE 1

expatriates at Bayan Palace in Kuwait in the afternoon.

In Dhaka, State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku yesterday said the killing of a student and the Shibir attack at Rajshahi University were part of their activities.

He made the remark after a meeting with Inspector General of Police Nu Mohammad and Director General of Rapid Action Battalion Hasan Mahmud Khandaker at his Secretariat He directed the IGP to go to

Rajshahi and take measures in consultation with law enforcers there. Tuku said shibir activists

hired people from nearby villages and attacked students at different residential halls. The Shibir men and their

goons went on the rampage Monday night, he added. "Actions are being taken to arrest the culprits," the minis-

ter told the reporters. The government is looking into the matter seriously, he

He mentioned that one student died and another remained missing after the incident, and around 18 students injured in the attack were

undergoing treatment. The minister condemned the killing and the attack on Chhatra League by Shibir

Rejoinder

FROM PAGE 1

securing 524th position on the merit list in business studies mentioned in the report did not appear before the interview board.

Besides, the rejoinder mentioned that the student securing 524th position in humanities group had been given "History" and he did not qualify for any subject in business studies as he got "D in English in HSC.

Our Reply We regret the errors and stand corrected.

Focus

FROM PAGE 16 'Before taking any precaution or preventive measure against climate change, we have to go for scientific assessment of the situation," said Saber, chairman of the all-party parliamentarians group on climate

change. "The actual situation is far worse than what we are thinking about the impact of global

warming," he noted. Citing a report of UK met office, Saber noted that even i emission of carbon stops today, global temperature will increase by 3.8 degrees Celsius over its pre-industrial level And the impact of this will be

frightening for Bangladesh. Atiq Rahman, executive director of the BCAS, said traditional knowledge of people about weather and ecological behaviour, and scientists findings about climate change have to be utilised effectively. 'For this, we have to ensure that scientists and general people can communicate with

Milko Van Gool, consular and head of operations of European Commission, said Bangladesh is on the right track in tackling climate change. He also described how the

each other," he said.

EC has taken steps to reduce carbon emission. Mihir Kanti Majumder,

environment secretary, said the world should help the countries vulnerable to climate change in the interest of global

Later, two plenary sessions were held on "Climate change science: greenhouse effect, climate change scenario and modelling" and "Climate

change and health".

350MW power

NEWS

FROM PAGE 16

and ask second lowest bidders in three other tenders to match the price offer of Energypac.

As this process is yet to be completed, the power ministry forwarded five proposals to the cabinet committee for its approval. Power purchase from these

dual fuel projects would be 15 to 20 percent costlier than that from conventional gas-fired power plants. As a result, the PDB would require monthly subsidy from the government. For instance, the Hathazari

100 MW project is being awarded to Chinese company **Guangdong Power Engineering** Corporation for a cost of Tk 908 crore (combining local and foreign currency costs). Consequently, per kilowatt power generation cost would be 1,364 dollars. But cost of power generation in single fuel Gopalganj project would be 915 dollars per kilowatt hour.

This cost is very high because of the plant's dual fuel capacity as it would run both on furnace oil or gas, depending on the availability of the fuel.

Hathazari project alone would require around Tk 13 crore subsidy per month as per the proposal of the power min-

Energypac, which gathered experience in building small power projects for other entrepreneurs in the country in recent years, was found to be the lowest bidder in the projects such as Katakhali 50 MW, Shantahar 50 MW, Bera 70 MW, Gopalganj 100 MWand Faridpur 50 MW. Energypac has been offered deals for two projects, and it selected Faridpur 50 MW and Gopalganj 100 MW projects. Of them, the ministry has forwarded the bid for Faripur project to the cabinet committee for its approval. Sources said an influential lobby is trying to take the Gopalganj project by sidelining Energypac.

The PDB offered Katakhali, Shantahar and Bera projects to the second and third lowest bidders, who are behind Energypac in terms of price offer. However no bidder in Katakhali and Shantahar projects agreed to match the price of Energypac. Since they could not match the price, the tenders will once again be offered to

"If Energypac refuses to take these projects at this point, it is not clear what PDB will do with these tenders. Will they offer these tenders to the second lowest bidder or will they go for fresh tender, which is a time consuming affair," noted one source.

A top PDB official said it would seek the power ministry's advice in such a case.

Korean company Hyundai however agreed to match the cost offer of Energypac in the Bera power project. It has slashed its project cost by Tk 106

Dohazari 100MW project will be again awarded to Guangdong that offered a cost of around 110 million dollars.

crore.

Deals for both Baghabari 50 MW and Daudkandi 50 MW projects will be awarded to China National Electric Wire & Cable Import and Export Corporation, China, that offered a cost of around 112 million dollars for each plant. Both are single bids and the cost is very high.

The PDB floated the tender for these 10 public sector projects in mid-September and received only 28 bids. The low turnout of bidders was attributed to the hard financial terms and lack of incentives by the PDB.

Warrant to arrest **FROM PAGE 1**

appearance.

Earlier, the same court directed two guarantors Abul Hasnat of Khilgaon Chowdhurypara area and advocate Khondaker Bashir Ahmed to produce three accused before the court on two consecutive dates. All the three accused have

been on bail since the High Court stayed all the proceed ings of the case 13 years ago. Although the stay was

vacated two years ago, the accused did not appear before the trial court. In 1992, the Directorate of

Drug Administration had filed the case against Adflame Pharmaceuticals for producing paracetamol syrup under the name 'Flammodol' that was tested positive for the deadly chemical diethylene glycol.

The proceedings were, however, brought to a stop for 13 years when the HC issued a temporary stay order, which was never challenged Although two years ago, the HC vacated the stay, the Drug Court was unaware of the order until The Daily Star during its recent investigation revealed it. Two other accused in the

Adflame case, Nrigendra Nath Bala and Md Noman, have been absconding.

Rajuk restarts

Energypac.

The act has been put on schedule of the recently passed Mobile Court Act of 2009 meaning that Rajuk can now set up mobile courts to 2008, a day after the governprevent the violation of the building law.

Rajuk officer-4 Khalequzzaman Chowdhury has been assigned to coordinate the drive.

Rajuk stopped the drive about three months back on the plea of manpower shortage, as many government institutions and large private organisations were on the list of building owners who were using designated parking space commercially, according to sources.

Rajuk embarked on the eviction drive on October 11 last year on Elephant Road on the basis of a DMP list and conducted four drives including the last one in Mirpur area on October 26.

"They however had deferred the demolition drive against prominent buildings belonging to bigwigs and powerful quarters in the prime areas of Gulshan and Motijheel," said a highly

placed source. Dhaka Metroploitan Police (DMP) identified some 198 buildings including highprofile corporate offices, shopping plazas and malls and other commercial centres in the city through a survey a couple of months back.

DMP conducted the survey in different parts of the capital with a view to finding an answer to traffic gridlock in the capital. Owners of those buildings

use designated car parking space for commercial purpose forcing the shoppers and clients to park their vehicles right on the road. Rajuk Director (develop-

ment control) Sheikh Abdul Mannan said they had to postpone the demolition drive, as the officials were busy in eviction drives in Hatirjheel development project area. They, however, embarked

on the demolition of four illegally built floors of Jamuna Future Park shopping complex, a commercial set-up at city's Joar Sahara (Bashundhara) on February 4, just a day after High Court rejected a writ petition of the complex owner. for even a month.

In a similar instance dearth of manpower did not deter Rajuk from launching demolition of the 22-storey Rangs building on August 3, ment won a legal battle at the Supreme Court. According to the DMP

survey, buildings using parking space otherwise in Motijheel traffic zone are Adamjee Court, Uttara Bank, Sonali Bank, Bangladesh Bank, Agrani Bank, Janata Bank, Dhaka Bank, Amin Court, Karim Chamber, Toyota Building, Stock Exchange Building, Ejaz Chamber and City Bank at Motijheel, Pubali Bank, Asia Tower, City Bank, Rupali Bank, State Bank of India and Janata Insurance Company at Dilkusha, Shatabdi Tower at Fakirapool, Jiban Bima Bhaban on Rajuk Avenue and ML Village at Shantinagar.

In Ramna traffic zone, the identified buildings are Pir Yemeni Market and Ramna Bhaban at Gulistan, Mouchak Market and Anarkoli Market at Siddheswari.

Listed buildings in Gulshan traffic zone include Gulshan Shopping Centre at Gulshan-1, Haji Super Market, ML Bhaban, Rahman Bhaban, Columbia Super Market, Square Centre and Siddique Tower (East West University) at Mohakhali.

Rajuk during its October

drives in Kalabagan, Dhanmondi and Mirpur areas knocked down illegal commercial occupancy of designated car parking spaces at around 25 commercial cen-But each and every evicted

illegal occupant of car parking space came back to earlier state just within a week of demolition, rendering the scanty government efforts a futile exercise. "Such drives seem to be

just an eye-wash," said noted transport expert Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury. On February 22, 2007, the then caretaker government carried out a massive demoli-

tion drive against many flashy Karim Hossain, of College Para business houses on Gulshan Avenue to free designated parking space and pedestrian after autopsy. passage from commercial

my brother's body," said Firoz The action did not sustain Hossain.

659 more FROM PAGE 16

With yesterday's 659, a total of 2,893 such cases have so far been recommended for withdrawal.

At the meeting, 1,091 cases including 16 in connection with corruption were placed by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) for consideration, and after discussion the inter-ministerial committee decided to send six cases back to subordinate district committees seeking clarification.

"We will send six cases to the district committees to know why they selected the cases as politically motivated," Quamrul told reporters after the meeting. He said the inter-

ministerial committee will not accept any more case from the district committees for consideration. Defendants who will benefit from yesterday's recom-

mendations include Agricultural Minister Matia Chowdhury, Awami League lawmakers Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Kamal Ahmed Majumder, and Lotus Kamal, Haji Selim, Editor of Dainik Janakantha Atiqullah Khan Masud, its Advisory Editor Toab Khan, and former mayor of Khulna City Corporation Aminul Islam. None of the "politically

motivated" cases recommended for withdrawal yesterday was against any BNP or Jamaat leader. The Awami League-led

grand alliance government, after assuming office, formed the inter-ministerial committee and subordinate district committees to identify such cases for withdrawal.

River stone FROM PAGE 16

Association (Bela). Iliasur Rahman, a stone

businessman of Companiganj, filed the petition with the SC on Monday seeking stay on the HC verdict.

After hearing the petition, chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice Md Muzammel Hossain yesterday refrained from passing any order on it. Advocate Iqbal Kabir, a

lawyer for Bela, told The Daily

Star that following the SC

decision, the HC verdict will

remain upheld. He said the chamber judge did not intervene in the HC verdict following their arguments saying that the government has decided to stop using excavators and boma machines in collecting stones from the rivers for protecting

natural environment. Advocate TH Khan appeared for Iliasur Rahman, while advocate Prabir Neogi and advocate Iqbal Kabir argued for Bela.

6 RU-bound

FROM PAGE 1

Battalion (APBn), Bogra, told The Daily Star that the van of APBn carrying 40 personnel was rushing to Rajshahi University on an urgent call following an overnight clash at the institution.

The accident occurred

around 4:30pm in Toukia

Dhalan area of the upazila when the police van collided with the bus coming from the opposite direction, leaving five people dead on the spot. Another succumbed to his injuries after being taken to

Putia Upazila Health

Of the injured, condition of 12 was stated to be critical. They were rushed to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital and the health complex.

The dead were identified as habilder Firoj, Anisur and Shahidul, constable Najmul and Shahin and electrician Hafizur.

Autopsy done

FROM PAGE 16

autopsy could not be performed in the last three days, as no doctor was available. The Daily Star yesterday published a report in this regard. Sources said the same

problem arises if bodies are brought to the hospital morgue for autopsy, as five out of six posts in forensic department have been vacant for last couple of years. Rezaul Haque, the only doctor in the department, is on leave. Rafiqul Akhtar said he had

received a phone call from the office of the Director General of Health following the report and he requested Khabirul to do the autopsy on humanitarian ground. Meanwhile, the body of

under Bhanga upazila, was buried at his village yesterday ever, told reporters, "To our "I was tired after passing knowledge, he [Ahamad] did days at the morgue for getting not have enmity with anyone.

14-party stung

FROM PAGE 1

University.

14-party coordinator, chaired the meeting that discussed among other issues the upcoming election to Dhaka City Corporation.

Briefing newsmen after-

wards, AL General Secretary Sved Ashraful Islam said the Islami Chhatra Shibir men infiltrating Bangladesh Chhatra League were responsible for the recent spate of Samajtantrik Dal President violence in educational institutions including Dhaka

Some "identified pro-Shibir men" had been given "important positions" in four hall unit BCL committees at DU, alleged Ashraf, also LGRD and cooperatives minister.

Queried about the source of the information, he said they found it through their own investigation. "Some people always

become the ruling party men and get involved in illegal activities," he said. Asked if they would compel BCL to expel the Shibir men. the AL leader said Chhatra League is no more a wing of

the ruling party. So they would

request rather than force it to

purge itself of Jamaat-Shibir elements. Talking to The Daily Star, BCL President Mahmud Hasan Ripon said they would investigate the claim. If anyone is found to have been involved with Shibir, he would

be ousted from BCL. Referring to the killing of a Chhatra League worker at Rajshahi University, Syed Ashraf said it was a premeditated murder by Jamaat-Shibir.

The LGRD minister reiterated that the government would not tolerate crimes in the name of student politics.

Massive plan

FROM PAGE 16 reporters after a meeting of

the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. He said the government will

provide land and the private

companies will invest money

for the housing projects. "All measures will be taken to ensure protection of river, canals, and other water bodies and arable lands," he said.

Mannan said his ministry

already has primarily selected four sites to build satellite city in each of the areas for expanding Dhaka city. The ministry is also working to divide the city areas into

different zones, he said. The committee discussed elaborately the way to reduce city tailback immediately, the

state minister said. Speaking at the press briefing ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury, chief of the parliamentary body, said the expressway will be constructed from city's zero point to Mawa It will connect the Jhilmil hous-

ing project of Rajuk, he added. Robber loot

FROM PAGE 16

back with ropes. Besides, she said, as Rezia cried out for help, the robbers

strangled her to death. Officer-in-Charge Nazim Uddin of Khilgaon Police Station said the arrestee, Delwar Hossain, admitted to his involvement in the robbery and disclosed the names of his associates.

Criminals

FROM PAGE 1

took to the streets in protest. Anwar Hossain, deputy commissioner of police (Lalbagh zone), told The Daily Star, "As soon as the councillor came out of the mosque after Esha prayers, two criminals fired three bullets at him and sped away on a motorbike.'

bullets in his throat. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital. Ahamad's daughter Sharmin told The Daily Star over telephone that her father

The councillor received two

was later moved to Square Hospital. He died there around 10:00pm.

DC Anwar said, "The reason behind the attack and the criminals' identities could not be ascertained immediately.' Meanwhile, BNP

Chairperson Khaleda Zia

visited the city's Square

Hospital last night to see the body of slain Juba Dal leader. She was accompanied by her party colleagues.

Talking to reporters at the private hospital, Dhaka City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka said the Jubo Dal leader's political rivals might have been involved in his murder. A relative of Ahamad, how-

behind the killing."

We don't know who might be

Asked if they had any plans to ban student politics for some time, he replied in the negative. "We won't take any measure beyond the constitution," he added.

At yesterday's meeting, the 14-party combine decided to mobilise public opinion in favour of trying the war crimi-On that matter, Jativa

Hasanul Haque Inu called on the government to form a tribunal before the Independence Day. The meeting urged the

government to take urgent steps to contain the price spiral of essentials. It expressed satisfaction

over execution of Bangabandhu's killers, Supreme Court's ruling on the fifth amendment and the recent deals with India. About BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's allegation that

AL came to power through

backdoor negotiations, Ashraf

said they would reply to what-

ever queries she might have, provided she joins parliament. On the opposition's threat to forge an anti-government movement, he said the 14party is ready to face any

movements. About DCC election, the AL general secretary said mayoral candidate might come from any component of their coalition.

Book thieves

FROM PAGE 16 untoward incident.

claimed books and some essentials of the stalls had been stolen and some stalls were partly damaged. Deputy Director of Bangla Academy Murshid Anwar told reporters that the culprits

would be punished if the

allegations were true. He said

Salesmen of the stalls

the fair authorities yesterday again directed all stalls not to carry out activities against the fair rules. Meanwhile, the fair yesterday witnessed an average crowd with a relatively large in

the evening. Sellers said sale is

increasing as the days are

passing on. A total of 108 new books of different genres arrived at the book fair yesterday. The remarkable titles included ---Bangladesher Orthonity Samprotik Chalchitra by Abu Ahmed, Sampadaker Kalam by Abdul Mannan Syed, Khuje Firi Tare by Dhruvo Esh, Dhaka Namer Shahor O Onanya by Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, Dui Jatray Ek Jatri by Serajul Islam Chowdhury, Shiyore Bangladesh by poet

Dushamoyer Dinguli by Muntasir Mamun. As per schedule, a discussion on the history of language movement was held at the Bangla Academy premise in the afternoon that was fol-

Nirmelendu Goon and

lowed by a cultural session. 2 dyeing

nies if they continue to breach the law, and to monitor the activities of three others --Global Dyeing and Washing, Mintu Dying and Washing and Friends Washing.

Sohag Bakery in Keraniganj was also fined Tk 7,000 for producing sub-standard bread and biscuits, and an additional Tk 3,000 for using polythene. After the drive, Sukumar

Biswas, acting director of

Dhaka division, Department of Environment, said, "We have drafted a list of more than 100 companies who do not have an effluent treatment We will send a second

notice to the company owners

He said the department has

filed 178 cases since 2005 and

are at least 300 companies in

the area without effluent

about the high toll on the

environment, Faruk said that

and we will take action against them in court. "Today's drive is part of a massive plan to reduce pollu-

that 110 companies have been fined for polluting the envi-However locals claim there

tion."

treatment plants. Resident Faruk Ahmed, 54, said, "The Buriganga River has turned into a drain.

"The bad smells emerging from the river make it a difficult place to live." As well as being concerned

residents are also worried about the possibility of another gas explosion. He said there are also serious road safety concerns as goods-laden trucks ply along

He maintains that greater powers ought to be given to mobile courts to enforce

the area's narrow roads.

Kawser Ahmed Khan and

environmental laws and that frequent drives should be undertaken. BSTI representative Engr

other officials from the Department of Environment were present during the drive.