# NEWS

### Grassroots

FROM PAGE 16 movement will start soon following a call from Khaleda Zia. Tarique Rahman will lead you [grassroots workers] all in the movement," Shawkat Mahmud, president of Jatiya Press Club, yesterday told a grassroots level discussion meeting at Mymensingh

Stadium.

But the district's Ishwarganj upazila BNP President Awrangajeb Belal told The Daily Star that they would participate in the movement if it is initiated, but more time should be taken before such movements.

Siddiquzzaman Thakur, general secretary of Itna upazila BNP under Kishoreganj district, said organisations at the grassroots level have to be made stronger first before going for an anti-government movement.

About 1,500 grassroots level BNP leaders from Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Tangail, Netrakona and Kishoreganj attended the discussion meeting, BNP's union representatives' conference.

Over 100 central leaders of BNP and its front bodies attended the discussion presided over by Prof Mosharraf Hossain Mian, former vicechancellor of Bangladesh Agriculture University.

BNP Joint Secretary General Amanullah Aman, standing

committee member Rafiqul Islam Mian, former BAUVC Prof Amirul Islam, among others, addressed the meeting.

However, no field-level leader of the party was allowed to speak.

more focused on adulation for Tarique, Khaleda and Zia. "Tarique is the closest per-

son to the people," said Rafiqul Islam Mian.

"very much kind" to journalists and newspapers.

said she has held the top position in popularity in the last 28 years and defeated army rule twice "whereas her counterpart Sheikh Hasina took money to take part in the 1986 election".

Shawkat said Hasina would not be able to continue in power if Khaleda is ousted from her cantonment residence and it the government tries to do anything regarding Zia's grave.

# BNP covertly split

FROM PAGE 16 Meantime, schedules of

Khaleda Zia's visit to divisional headquarters has been finalised and senior leader Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain has been made coordinator of the chairperson's tour much to the frustration of pro-Delwar leaders.

"The secretary general always coordinates such programmes. It is true he has been absent but the party could have made him coordinator as his post deserves it," a senior leader told The Daily Star wishing anonymity.

BNP chairperson will begin her tour on March 29 by attending a grand rally in Chittagong.

Party insiders said leaders known as anti-Delwar have thrown their weights behind Mirza Alamgir to weaken the position of Delwar. Alamgir, however, has no intention to go against Delwar.

When asked about the internal problems centring the secretary general, party standing committee member Goyeshwar Chandra Roy told The Daily Star he didn't not know anything about it.

general's presence is not very accountable to the presiimportant if we all work together for the party," he

After 13 day's treatment in city hospital Delwar left for Singapore on February 7 and returned home on March 9 after a month of medical treatment at Queen Elizabeth

Hospital there. But surprisingly he did not meet the chairperson after his return, which has created a lot of confusion over the relationship between the two top leaders of the party.

Earlier when Delwar was under treatment in Dhaka Khaleda too did not visit him before he left for Singapore,

said the insiders. Against this backdrop,

#### Some AL leaders

FROM PAGE 16

Chhatra League to get involved in misdeeds," he Some other leaders who

have been enjoying state power and now want to establish absolute supremacy in their respective constituencies and districts are also patronising BCL men's misconducts, he alleged.

The AL leader suggested that if the BCL men be given job and work through legal means, their misdeeds would

Addressing the discussion, Quader said when he got involved in BCL politics, there was no politics of confrontakilling and extortion in the

tion, tender manipulation, organisation.

But now there are certain allegations against the Chhatra League men in newspapers every day," he said.

On the AL's electoral pledges titled the "Charter for Change", he said it does not mean stuffing pockets of the ministers, lawmakers and VIPs. Changing the fate of 40 percent people who live below the poverty line means the

charter for change, he added. State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Quamrul Islam and acting president of Dhaka city AL MA Aziz, among others, also spoke.

Interestingly, the speeches of the pro-BNP intellectuals were

Shawkat Mahmud described Tarique as a "moderate democratic person" and

Khaleda's adviser Shawkat

Talking to The Daily Star after the programme, a number of grassroots level leaders expressed resentment at the nature of the programme. They said it would have been better for the party policymakers if they had been allowed to speak about the field level problems.

#### Delwar on Sunday night met the chairperson for the first time since his return from

Singapore. Delwar went to Khaleda's Gulshan office along with his daughter and attended a meeting of BNP standing committee.

> The cocktail blast in front of BNP chairperson's Gulshan office on February 23 in which police found involvement of Delwar's son Paban embarrassed the party leadership, said both anti- and pro-Delwar leaders.

#### ACC explains **FROM PAGE 1**

just as the other commissions

The minister said the amendments would also ensure that the ACC cannot be used as a tool to harass politicians as was done during the tenure of the past caretaker government.

State Minister for Home Qamrul Islam was also present at the meeting. Meanwhile, the govern-

ment-formed committee recommended specifying in "But its true that secretary the Act that the ACC must be

The commission had earlier observed that such amendment would make the anti-graft body controlled by the executive branch of the government.

In accordance with the Constitution, the president cannot take any decision without having advice from the prime minister, except for appointment of the chief justice and the prime minister, it explained.

### Barapukuria

native miners each February but the two companies did not increase it last February.

The miners held several meetings with the BCMCL authorities in the last two days but the demand was not met, sources said.

Meanwhile, at least eight people were injured in sporadic incidents at BCMCL till yesterday afternoon.

On Monday night, the miners attacked Yusuf Ali, Ketabul Rahman and Waliur Rahman, staff of third party contracted company Shapnopuri Traders, leaving

them injured. Three miners were also injured as a pickup van of BCMCL "accidentally" hit them in front of the second gate of the company around 11:30 am yesterday.

Later, the agitating miners ransacked a number of vehicles of the company, including the pickup van, and the house of the driver. They also assaulted an assistant manager (admin) of the company and the driver.

The injured persons were admitted to Phulbari Upazila Health Complex. BCMCL Officers' Welfare

Association and other staff at a press conference yesterday afternoon demanded arrest of the attackers within 24 hours. Md Habibuddin Ahmed,

DGM (underground operation) and president of the association, threatened to go for an indefinite strike from 12:00 pm tomorrow (Thursday) if the attackers were not arrested by the time.

CASE IN CHANDPUR

### Nizami, 4 other Jamaat leaders summoned

STAR REPORT

A Chandpur court yesterday summoned five Jamaat-e-Islami leaders including Ameer Matiur Rahman Nizami and Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed to appear before it on May 6 in a case for hurting religious sentiment of Muslims. Chandpur Chief Judicial

Magistrate Mohammad Mozammel Haque passed the order after Nazir Ahmed Patwari, senior vice-chairman of Chandpur unit Islami Front, filed the case. The three other accused are Jamaat-e-Islami Nayebe

Ameer Delwar Hossain Sayedee, Dhaka city Jamaat Ameer Rafiqul Islam Khan and Jamaat leader Shafiqul Islam. The case statement says that Ameer Rafigul at a discussion in Dhaka on March 17

which hurt the Muslims religious sentiment. Meantime, a Dhaka cour yesterday fixed March 30 for an order on another case filed against them on the same

compared Nizami to Prophet

Hazrat Muhammad (SM)

On March 21, Syed Rejaul Haque Chandpuri, secretary general of Bangladesh Tarikat Federation, filed the case with the Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

The same day, a Lalmonirhat court issued a summons against four of them to appear before it on March 25 in a case on the same charge.

### 2 outlaws killed in mob beating

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Two outlaws were killed in a mob beating at Alokdiar village in Santhia upazila of Pabna yesterday.

The deceased were opera-

tives of Purba Banglar Communist Party's Janajudhha faction but their names could be known immediately, said Pabna Superintendent of Police Jamil Ahmed. A gang including the two

attacked a house at Alokdiar at about 9:00pm. They hurled bombs to create panic and tried to commit robbery.

But the villagers gathered around the house of Abdul Hai, caught two of the gang members and beat them to death.

### Four die in Kolkata building inferno

AFP, Kolkata

At least four people died and 18 others were injured yesterday when a fire engulfed a landmark building in the heart of the eastern Indian city of Kolkata.

"Four people jumped off the building when it caught fire and they were pronounced dead in hospital," local fire services minister Pratim Chatterjee said as firemen fought the blaze, four hours after it started.

Police joint commissioner Javed Shamim said 18 others were injured in the fire, which erupted on the second and third floors of the six-storey colonialera structure in the city centre Park Street commercial district.

Some of the injured had either jumped off or fell while trying to escape the flames.

Groups of people including children clung on window ledges or perched on air conditioning units as cooking gas bottles exploded inside the complex, fuelling the flames which smothered Park Street with acrid smoke.

Residents using bamboo ladders and ropes evacuated around two dozen people from the building, which houses offices, upscale apartments, a popular restaurant and a clinic. In February, nine people

died in the southern city of Bangalore, some as they jumped from windows, when flames engulfed a tall building in the software capital. Indian firefighters are badly

equipped to fight major fires and often lack modern equipment, particularly long ladders capable of reaching trapped victims on high floors. The design of the woollen

uniforms worn by Mumbai firefighters was changed this month for the first time in nearly 100 years.

**PHOTO ON PAGE 7** 

# New info highway

FROM PAGE 1

install a fibre optic cable network in their own territory.

Digital connectivity among these countries is currently run via submarine cables operated by third party companies.

Once the project is complete, Bangladesh will not have to rely on anyone for data transfer.

The Ecnec meeting, which was chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, approved six other projects relating to forestry, health, power, education and port facilities.

The seven projects demand a total spending of Tk 2,886

The other projects include a Tk 109 crore social forestry project for poverty alleviation under the environment ministry, a Tk 684 crore project to prevent poor students from dropping out of primary school and a Tk 215 crore project to build "Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib Memorial Specialised Hospital and Nursing College.

Ecnec also approved a Tk 770 crore project to set up a new grid substation to improve power transmission, a Tk 100 crore project to dredge the Pashur River near Mongla port and a Tk 979 crore central zone power distribution project.

The central zone power distribution project involves

### 3 of a family

FROM PAGE 1 hurled acid using injection syringe as Tania refused their love proposals.

Family sources said the criminals threw acid on them when they were asleep around 11:30pm. The victims were admitted

to Manikganj Sadar Hospital at 2:00 am. Different parts of Tanvir's body were burnt while Tania suffered burn injuries to her

legs, hospital sources said. Police are also trying to arrest Alamgir, 25, son of Nannu, SI Imdadul said.

hands and a part of her face

and Komola to her hands and

developers. Enamul Haque of Ena Properties, another contender in the Rehab election and also an Awami League lawmaker, is

the installation of 2,500km

power distribution lines, plus

sub-stations and transformers

in Mymensingh, Tangail,

Jamalpur, Sherpur,

the power distribution sys-

four countries in the areas of

education, trade and poverty

alleviation is also likely to

"Nobodhara Panel" led by

Bipu in the Rehab election,

has made an election pledge

to prevent the passage of the

proposed law with a criminal

offence provision against the

Developers

The project aims to reduce

Cooperation between the

Moulavibazar and Sylhet.

tem's loss.

increase.

FROM PAGE 16

mentary body. Bapa President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, Bela Chief Executive Syeda Rizwana Hasan, IAB President Mubasshar Hussein and BIP President Prof Sarwar Jahan

also a member of the parlia-

signed the memorandum. The new law aims at bringing an unregulated real estate sector under a legal framework and it will not harm the real estate business, said Rizwana Hasan.

It will also protect consumer interests, she added.

The criminal offence provision must remain in the new law to stop illegal activities by a group of dishonest developers, Rizwana said.

Many innocent consumers have been deceived, wetlands have been earth-filled and grabbed and unauthorised housing projects have been advertised in the absence of such a law, said Bapa member secretary architect Iqbal Habib.

Developers being on the parliamentary committee can't serve interests of consumers, they said.

Mubasshar Hussein and Prof Sarwar Jahan were also present.

# Govt to open

procedures are yet to be completed," he said yesterday.

The passport and visa wings of the country's 66 important foreign missions across the world will also be strengthened with additional manpower, so they may handle the increasing demand for

MRPs from next month. The decision was taken at an inter-ministerial meeting held at the home ministry last month with Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder in the chair. After the meeting, the home ministry sent a letter to the establishment ministry to take immediate measures

regarding the matter. "Nineteen more passport offices will be set up at different places across the country as the existing 15 are not sufficient enough to meet the passport demand of the citizens," said a senior home

ministry official yesterday. He said six more visa cells will also be set up in six districts to increase visa issuance capacity. The present handwritten passports are currently being issued from 51 deputy commissioner (DC) offices as well.

Strengthening the capacity of the Department of Immigration and Passport (DIP) has been crucial as thousands of applications for MRPs will start being submitted from April 1, sources in DIP said.

Hand-written passports

with validity of more than one

year, and based on regular applications cannot be issued from April 1, according to the ICAO decision, while in a relevant provision it also says that hand-written emergency passports with one year's validity can be issued even after that date. "We have requested the

establishment ministry to create a total of 1,038 posts for the new passport and visa offices, and the matter is now in the process of being implemented," the home ministry official said.

He said 849 of the posts will be created to run the regional passport offices while 185 posts will be for Bangladesh foreign missions. Recruitment to the passport and visa wings of the foreign missions will be in four categories, added the official.

# BTCL plagued

FROM PAGE 16 to the linemen.

As per the report, 74 percent customers complained of the billing system itself while 49 percent claimed that they had been receiving abnormal

Meanwhile, 38 percent customers said they were happy with the BTCL service in the last one year while 49 percent expressed dissatisfac-

Board M Hafizuddin Khan and its member Iftekharuzzaman, Chairman of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Post and Telecommunications Hasanul Huq Inu and Managing Director of BTCL SM Khabiruzzaman were present at yesterday's roundtable.

TIB conducted the survey between September 2007 and January 2010. It used two data sources for the study. Primarily, TIB collected information through customer survey, focused groupwould not function as discussions with linemen, expected. He said, "If BTCL Internet service providers and

journalists. Their related research

include annual reports, economic survey, investigation reports of Criminal Investigation Department National Taskforce and Anti-Corruption Commission audit reports, media reports and website news. The study also found irreg-

transfers, auditing and training management, transportation expenditure, implementation of projects and billing Chairman of TIB Trustee system. However, the report said after the BTTB had been made a public limited company, its | bers.

changes to its organogram."

ularities in recruitment and

transportation cost reduced significantly from Tk 5.41 crore in 2006-07 to Tk 70 lakh Committee yesterday. at present. BTCL's project implementation rate remained the same

as BTTB's. It took 11 projects, which are still limited in planning and tendering process. through voice votes. At the roundtable, Hasanul Haq Inu said if a secretary of a tary bodies -- Estimate ministry leads the board of a public limited company it

Committee, Privilege Committee, and Private Members' Bills and Resolution Committee were wants to compete with other also reconstituted, keeping operators, it has to bring the chiefs of the committees unchanged.

#### 11 hurt as BNP factions clash in Cox's Bazar

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

At least 11 BNP workers were injured in a clash between two factions of Cox's Bazar district unit of the party centring a banquet organised in honour of the daily Amar Desh Editor Mahmudur Rahman. A section of district BNP

leaders including its president Shahjahan Chowdhury and local BNP lawmaker Lutfor Rahman arranged a luncheon at Motel Shoibal here in honour of the editor yesterday. During the luncheon, leaders of the rival faction

began shouting for serving meals after occupying the vacant seats. At one stage, the clash erupted between the two factions as the organisers tried to oust them from the restau-

entered the restaurant and

injured. Later, Lutfor and Shahjahan took the editor to airport and he left for Dhaka by air.

rant, leaving 11 activists

Mahmudur Rahman came here to appear before the district court in connection with a defamation case.

#### **FROM PAGE 1** In his complaint, Malek said Farroque alleged at a press

Farroque sued

conference on March 12 that Joy has been doing illegal Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) business from abroad causing a loss of Tk 1500 crore to the state exchequer. The news was published in newspapers, and differ-

cast the press briefing the following day that tarnished Joy's image at home and abroad, Malek said. After the hearing of the case, the court took the charges into cognisance and

ent electronic media broad-

passed the arrest warrant. The court also fixed April 25 for the next hearing. Earlier on Monday, the

High Court directed the BNP leader to surrender within eight weeks before the trial courts with which six defamation cases were filed against him on the issue.

Local Awami League leaders had filed the defamation cases with Shariatpur, Lalmonirhat, Pabna, Comilla, Faridpur and Chittagong district courts.

### Earthquake

University of Engineering and Technology.

The government has moved to renovate the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and one building of Bangladesh Secretariat. The finance ministry was asked to allocate fund for the task," the minister said. Razzak said greater Sylhet

and Chittagong areas are most vulnerable to earthquake. Greater Rangpur and Dinajpur areas along with some other areas are also vulnerable, he He said the government has

planned to hold various work-

shops and rehearsals for formu-

lation of a contingency plan.

The project will be imple-

mented from 2010 to 2014, minister Razzak said. "Moreover, all fire service and civil defence offices countrywide will be strengthened providing necessary equipment for recovery works. Through this process, community volunteer team will be formed at every

ward of the union," he said. The food minister also spoke about the government's plans to ensure food security for all.

### 5 House bodies

year, Pac could not start functioning in full swing due mainly to alleged negligence and physical sickness of the former committee chief, while the number of audit reports was increasing.

**FROM PAGE 16** 

Rashiduzzaman, who had been elected an MP for the first time through the last general election, did not even convene a meeting of the committee, drawing flak from the committee mem-He however was made a

member of the Privilege Treasury Bench Chief

Whip Abdus Shahid placed the proposals for reconstitu-MPs are not given enough tion of the committees, and the House accepted those Three other parliamen-

In response, Hamid said, "Your claim is not true. You did not give opposition lawmakers much time.

# Schoolboy stabbed

FROM PAGE 16

Six to seven boys of the Collegiate School were injured in the attack that left Shoumen with stabs in the back and hips.

Police sources said the incident was a result of rivalry between students of the two schools trying to establish supremacy at the coaching centre.

Shoumen was cremated at the city's Baluardighi

around 11:30am yesterday. There, his mother Chhaya Biswas told The Daily Star, "I found my son lying in a pool of blood on the street when I went to the coaching centre to pick him

He was rushed to the nearby Chittagong General Hospital and given several stitches. But as his condition worsened, he was shifted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital. "Doctors at the CMCH

casualty said Shoumen needed major operation since he had internal injuries and backside critically damaged. They told us to arrange for a seat at the intensive care unit," said the mother, a teacher of Saraipara City Corporation High School.

moved to the ICU, we were taking him to a private clinic. But he died on the way at around 3:00am," she added. Meanwhile, the victim's

family has been too scared

"As we couldn't get him

to file a case. "Those who can kill a boy like mine can do anything. I don't want to lose anyone else of my family, Shoumen's mother said in a voice choked with emotion.

### All 7 units

the power station said a transformer of the power station exploded with a big bang at about 8:00pm and caught fire. Following the incident, all

the units were shut down

plunging Brahmanbaria and

adjacent districts into dark-

Officials at the power station hoped to repair the transformer and resume operation within a few hours.

#### Nat'l Telecom

FROM PAGE 1

lakh customers.

termination is nothing but an indicator of illegal VoIP business, he said. National Telecom has 1.38

The BTRC with the help of Rapid Action Battalion had shut down operations of four private landline operators-two others of which are WorldTel and People's Telecom--on charges of involvement in illegal international call termination

through VoIP. These operators have more than 5.5 lakh customers-RanksTel has 3 lakh People'sTel 1.6 lakh, Dhaka Phone 77,000 and WorldTel

14,000. The BTRC did not make any decision regarding resuming operations of People's Tel and

WorldTel. The BTRC chairman said legal battle against the operators would continue. "If the operators fail to explain their deeds, actions will be taken as

Expressing distrust of the cops, she alleged that several policemen were present at the scene, but they did nothing to disperse the feuding students.

Mohiuddin Mahmud officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, however, claim they could not take any action, as no one had informed them of the incident.

Aziz Uddin, headmaster

of Collegiate School, said, "The agony is heart wrenching when a student gets killed and that too by students of another school." Mahbuba Begum, headmistress of Chittagong

Government High School, said she does not know if any student of her school was involved in the incident.

### BSF kills 1

A CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A Bangladeshi was shot dead by Indian Border Security Force on Jawrani border in Hatibandha upazila of Lalmonirhat yesterday.

Munshiganj. Bangladesh Rifles quoting a message send by BSF, said a patrol team of BSF opened fire

The body was lying on no man's land till 11:00am as both the border guards -- BDR and BSF -- could not be sure about the nationality of the

Later BSF confirmed the identity of the deceased from his pocket dairy and is expected to hand over the body to BDR after autopsy in

victim instantly.

sources said. Lalmonirhat 31 Rifles Battalion Lieutenant Colonel Aslam confirmed the inci-

"We had been gossiping until 3:00pm. Ilias and Sufian were asleep on the sofa by the time

they strangled Sufian with a cloth as he saw the murder, he added. The killers made off with

two cell phones and TK 8,000 said.

evidence they arrested the two, he added.

#### as they couldn't break open per law," he said. the steel cash box.

FROM PAGE 16

Hamid, who was presiding the sitting, said he could not do any development activities in his constituency during the past BNP rule for interference from district

letters issued on instructions from Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina. He said deciding how the

chief. HAMIDVS SIRCAR Earlier, the speaker and his predecessor Jamir Uddin

time to speak in the House. He claimed as speaker of the eighth parliament, he allowed the opposition deputies much more time

makers' quota.' Sircar however said Hamid did attend the CPA meeting.

At that, the speaker challenged him, and asked BNP

lawmaker MK Anwar to check the documents and inform the House about it.

The deceased was identified as Manoranjon Mandol, 30, son of Mohadev Mandol of Kholapara village in Louhajang upazila of

at a group of cattle traders when they were crossing the border around 2:30am, leaving Manoranjon dead on the

India within next 24 hours, the Commanding Officer of

Double murder

others were gone," he contin-Al-amin swooped on Ilias with a knife and slit his throat, he said adding that

from the victims, Rab sources Assistant Director of Rab Mollah Abu Sayed said Sohel was using Sufain's cell phone.

Tracking call lists and other

Both Robin and Sohel kept their nerves after the murders, Director of Rab-3 Lt Col Mamun Mahmud Feeroze Chowdhury told reporters at the Rab-3 headquarters in the city's Tikatuli that the killers also tried to loot the cash box

at the counter but they failed,

Awami League lawmaker

Suranjit Sengupta, who was

injured in the August 21

grenade attack, was not

given the floor on a point of

order even in the aftermath

given the opposition law-

makers ample opportunity

to visit abroad as parliamen-

run the House," he suggested

could not attend a confer-

ence of the Commonwealth

Parliamentary Association

(CPA) during Sircar's tenure.

tive committee member of

the association. They even

sent air tickets for me. But I

decided not to go as you

[Sircar] included my name in

the parliamentary delega-

tion on the opposition law-

Sircar also said he had

"Follow the way I used to

Hamid recalled how he

"I was invited as an execu-

of the blasts.'

tary delegates.

the speaker.

### AL women MPs'

minister. The treasury bench chief whip however defended the

party's women lawmakers will work rests with the party

of time for lawmakers to speak on points of order. Sircar, now a BNP lawmaker, said the opposition

Sircar argued over allocation

than what they are getting