# A kingdom

FROM PAGE 1

Narayan, soon reached the recreational palace by the Buriganga. There the late king's wife Bibhabati Devi lived happily since her husband "passed away" under mysterious circumstances in Darjeeling in

The sadhu's possible connection to the dead king became the talk of the town. For 12 years people searched for the truth amid rumours and speculations that the king was alive in the Himalayas. The people halfheartedly believed the queen and his physician who, on their return from Darjeeling, announced that the king was dead and his body was cremated. In the bazaars, tea stalls and busy harbours, a hush-hush rolled ceaselessly about Bibhabati's relationship with the family physician Dr Ashutosh Das Gupta.

Poets recounted puthis in public, singers sang songs with lyrics involving an imaginary love scene of Bibhabati and Ashutosh and the fate of their king. Books branding the "reincarnated" king "an impostor" and a "true king" were sold in numbers in Dhaka and Kolkata. People were divided. Groups supporting Ramendra refused to pay taxes until their king's name appeared in the receipts. A clash over the issue between two groups in Gazipur left a farmer dead, archives show.

Following the so-called death of Kumar Ramendra Narayan, the huge property of the Bhawal estate was handed over to the Court of Wards in 1912, as there was no legitimate heir to the family. The sadhu had to prove he was once at the helm of the Bhawal kingdom, in the face of vehement objections from Bibhabati.

On May 4, 1921, he formally claimed himself to be Kumar Ramendra Narayan and petitioned to the Board of Revenue to return his land-lordship from the Court of Wards. On June 3, the board branded him as "an imposter" and rejected his petition. As his appeal was turned down, the sadhu filed a petition case with the civil court of justice in 1930.

### Hasina FROM PAGE 1

the whistleblower website

WikiLeaks, document several incidents in which diplomats were involved in haggling over the billiondollar deals seen as key to US economic growth. "If there is no New York

route, what is the point of buying Boeing," she was quoted as saying in a November 2009 cable.

The deal went through, but so far Biman Bangladesh Airlines has not been given the landing rights.

Details of the story that emerged from the court proceedings stunned the nation. As he fell sick in Darjeeling, his family physician administered a medicine that made his condition even worse. He lost consciousness with severe bleeding in his bowels. Ramendra Narayan woke up with a few memories in the company of four saints from the Himalayas. It was the beginning of a long trail with the four mystics through India and Nepal, during the time he could hardly remember who he was. He had to communicate with the saints in Hindi. After he gradually regained his memory, he returned to Dhaka on a train from Guwahati.

The verdict of the court was overwhelmingly in favour of Kumar Ramendra Narayan, but the angry queen refused to accept it. She moved to the High Court in Kolkata, which upheld the lower court verdict, dismissing the case in favour of the Bhawal Raja. A defiant Bibhabati Devi appealed to the Privy Council in London, but the council remained unmoved.

Ramendra Narayan in 1936, the entire Bhawal estate again fell into the hand of the Court of Wards as the king had no legitimate heir.

ernment property, but then began the story of the tegration.

archives and the book Bhawal Raj Family and the Case of the Mystic, by Ataur Rahman)

#### 11B documents **FROM PAGE 1**

country and most justice

Badrul Alam Bhuiyan, deputy registrar at the SC, on Sunday signed the letter that was sent to the TIB executive director yesterday morning.

The letter read the SC committee concerned scrutinised the documents and information the TIB sent to the SC about corruption and harassment of litigants in the judiciary.

would send the questionsurvey to the apex court today in line with the court

Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque on December 30 formed a committee with five senior High Court judges to examine the TIB documents.

The judges are MA Wahhab Mia, Nazmun Ara Sultana, Md Imman Ali, Syed Mahmud Hossain and Sheikh Rezowan Ali.

## Cold, fog

FROM PAGE 1 only one flight (of Jet Airways) was delayed by around two hours due to fog. Other flights took off or

landed on scheduled time,

the official added. Temperature fell in Rajshahi, Pabna, Kushtia, Satkhira, Barisal, Madaripur and Srimangal, while the lowest temperature was recorded as 7.8 degrees Celsius in Chuadanga while it was 12.4 degrees in Dhaka vesterday.

Ferry services on two major routes -- Mawa-Kaurakandi and Paturia-Daulatdia -- remained suspended for several hours as heavy fog descended on the Padma river.

Services on Mawa-Kaurakandi route remained suspended for around six hours and resumed around 11:00am, reports our Munshiganj correspondent.

One ferry got stuck in the narrow Magurkhanda channel blocking the route. The ferry was later salvaged around 10:30am. Bangladesh Inland Water

Transport Corporation (BIWTC) AGM Ashiquzzaman said, "Heavy fog descended in the area at around 5:00am. Five ferries were stranded at different points in the river after setting out for Mawa at 8:00am." Ferry movement on

Paturia-Daulatdia route also remained suspended for one and a half hours yesterday due to dense fog, says our Manikganj correspondent. Around four hundred

loaded trucks and 200 passenger buses were stranded on both sides of the river during the disruption of ferry services. Manager (Commerce) of

Aricha Sector of BIWTC Bidyut Kumer Saha said 'Ferry movement was disrupted from 7:00am and resumed at 8:30am as the fog cleared. Disruption in ferry ser-

vices created huge traffic congestion on both sides of the river causing sufferings to thousands of stranded passengers. Bazlur Rashid, meteorolo-

gist of the Dhaka met office told The Daily Star three to four heavy cold waves might sweep across the country by the end of January.

Thousands of people, especially children and the elderly, are mainly being affected by cold, said Di Farida Yesmin, duty medical officer of health control room, Directorate General of Health Services.

The wind blowing from the Himalayas has intensified the cold in the northern region of the country, said Bazlur Rashid of the met office.

The current cold wave is likely to continue two to three more days and cause immense sufferings to the poor and floating people living under the open sky, say weather experts.

an A-level student, said Rab officials.

from their possession.

Rab officials claimed the four had been carrying out activities of the banned organisation under the banner of an IT firm, Spotic IT, housed in a residential building on Lake Circus Road.

According to Rab, Goni is the convenor and Maruf is a member of JMB's invitation branch (Dawati Shakha) while Shams is the chief coordinator of its recruiting and training unit and Ashrafuzzaman is a member of the outfit.

The detainees were involved in reorganising the militants through face book and e-mail technologies, said Lt Col Ziaul Ahsan, director of Rab IntelligenceWing.

tionship with the leaders and members of banned organisation Hijb ut-Tahrir Bangladesh and another militant outfit Tajnim," mentioned Lt Col Ziaul, adding "Earlier they had met with detained former JMB chief Saidur Rahman and got involved in JMB politics through JMB leader Mostafiz, a former Dhaka University

student." Shams had been providing shelter to fugitive JMB men at his house and he was earlier arrested by Bandarban police last year during a training programme, said the Rab



Ruling Awami League lawmaker Manirul Islam Moni leaves Barisal Water Development Board office under police escort after he allegedly assaulted an engineer.

**PHOTO** STAR

ISPs call

ground is arranged.

The decision came after

the Internet Service

Providers Association of

Bangladesh (ISPAB) held a

meeting with Power Secretary

Abul Kalam Azad at his minis-

try's conference room yester-

day, said ISPAB President

Sunday called a one-hour

token strike from 11:00am

today to protest the removal

of overhead cables on the

tee, headed by Anwar

Hossain, deputy secretary

(development) at the power

ministry, was formed to

supervise drives to remove

include representatives from

ISPs, Nationwide

Telecommunication

Transmission Network (NTTN)

companies, Bangladesh

Telecommunication

Regulatory Commission

(BTRC), Bangladesh

Telecommunications

Company Ltd (BTCL) and

Cable Operators Association

power ministry on whether

the arrangement by NTTN

companies is sufficient to lay

notify the Internet service

providers and cable opera-

tors to lay cables under-

ground, said Shajahan Mia,

general manager (engineer-

The committee will then

It will submit reports to the

of Bangladesh (COAB).

cables underground.

The committee will

overhead cables in the city.

A nine-member commit-

The service providers on

Akhtaruzzaman Manju.

city's thoroughfares.

## AL lawmaker

FROM PAGE 1

Incensed, contractors gathering around chased the lawmaker. Then the MP from Barisal-2 (Banaripara-Uzirpur) constituency left the WDB office premises along with his son Reazul Islam Sumon under police protection.

came to the office around 11:40am to talk about a river protection embankment tender worth Tk 1.71 crore. M Builders, S R

Construction, Al Mamun Enterprise, Guard Felt Limited and B J Geo-Textile participated in the tender bid. M Builders, the firm reportedly enjoying the MP's blessings, was the second lowest bidder and failed to get the work, sources in the office said. Moni asked Executive

Engineer Harunur Rashid to give the work order in favour of his choice. They had an altercation and at one stage allegedly Moni assaulted the official, added witnesses. Hearing the hue and cry,

the contractors present there rushed to the spot and chased the lawmaker and his associates. Police from the adjacent Barisal Metropolitan Police

(BMP) Commissioner's office came to the rescue and arranged for his safe passage around 12:30pm under escort, said Bhanu Lal Das, deputy commissioner of BMP. Harunur Rashid admitted

that the lawmaker went to his office to talk about a tender. As the MP's associates

started an altercation over the tender issue, he requested them to get out of his room. The lawmaker, however,

denied having assaulted the WDB official and made counter allegation that some contractors blessed by party rivals attacked and chased his men. Moni also claimed he

went there by making prior

**FROM PAGE 1** appointment to discuss support to lay cables under-

about the development works of his constituency. He named local AL leader Mezbahuddin Dipu and a few other AL and Jubo League cadres for chasing his men and trying to damage his car.

Contacted, Dipu said Witnesses said Moni everybody present there had witnessed how the lawmaker assaulted the WDB faced.

> after the prosecution submitted a petition along with a home ministry letter.

on December 29 cancelled its previous decision regarding five of the accused. The five are Joynal Abedin Mollah, Iqbal Hossain,

Shahin, Sharif and Humayun Kabir Reaz. Of them, Shahin and Humayun are on the run. The other five are Ali Ashraf alias Dipu, Mohammad Firoz

Hossain. Abdul Hamid, an engineer and a resident of Dakkhin Khan in the capital, was shot dead allegedly by the accused on January 29, 2005, accord-

Police Station. The gang also shot his daughter Farah Hamid, 14 and looted about Tk 25,000, around 15 tolas of gold ornaments and other valuables

The victim's wife Syeda Hamid filed a case accusing five persons, including gang leader Joynal Abedin Mollah, the same day. Five others were included in the charge sheet by the investigation officer of the case.

On August 26 last year, the home ministry decided to withdraw the charges and asked the district magistrate of Dhaka to take steps in this regard.

## 35 BDR men

FROM PAGE 1 in BDR mutiny in 2009.

Of them, 17 were handed down highest seven years rigorous imprisonment, four to five years, five to four years, two to three years, three to two years and four to one year. The court also fined each of the convicts Tk 100. Meanwhile, a BDR special

court in Dhaka fixed February 1 for delivering judgement against 111 BDR jawans of Pilkhana BDR Headquarters who are accused of mutiny charges.

The verdict will be the first judgment among 11 mutiny cases being tried in Pilkhana.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports: The Special Court-16, headed by Rangamati Sector Commander Col Bashirul Islam, gave the judgement on the 8th working day of the court.

The charges against the convicts include disobeying the order of the commander, looting arms from armoury, creating panic by opening fire, threatening to kill the commander.

10:00am and ended at 11:05am at Rifles Training Centre and School, Baitul Izzat under Satkania Police Station in Chittagong.

Our staff correspondent in Dhaka adds: Maj Ruksana Khanam, one of the 44 witnesses of a BDR special court, yesterday said mutineers knocked her and some other army officials down and she saw rebels firing indiscriminately at Lt Col Kaysar from that position.

"Seven mutineers covering their faces with black thewing.

cloths took six army officials including me hostage at gunpoint. They knock us down and tortured the male army officials," she said while giving depositions against a jawan before the special court-11 at Darbar Hall in Pilkhana.

"As I was knocked down, I saw some jawans killing Lt

three army officials yesterday gave depositions against 29 out of 84 accused jawans of **BDR Sector Headquarters** and were cross-examined by

Ruksana, a doctor of BDR Hospital, said the mutineers seized their cell phones and took them to hospital. "I saw mutineers beating two army officials, Lt Col Kazi Robi and Lt Col Lutfar Rahman. They were later murdered", she

Earlier, sepoy Emran

Hossain, who pleaded guilty, filed a petition to the court requesting it to grant him bail for seven days to attend the The court began at funeral of his father. The Sircar and Hamid on charges court, however, ordered to of corruption during the BNP-led four-party coalition free him on parole for 32 hours from January 6. government.

International Airport. 9:30am on March 13. The Special Court-9,

ter Moudud Ahmed and advocate Khandker Mahbub Hossain appeared for the petitioners, while Additional Attorney General Momtajuddin Fakir stood for the government.

## BNP's long time partner

decided to contest in 43 municipalities in 31 districts, according to a list of mayoral candidates to be

Jamaat's Acting Secretary General ATM Azharul Islam confirmed the decision last night.

Four of the candidates backed by Jamaat also got BNP's support while the Islamist party did not take its Moheskhali municipality.

Instead of accepting BNP support in Moheskhali, Jamaat picked its leader Mozammel Haque to contest against BNP backed candidate Nurul Islam Haider at Chokoria in Cox's Bazar.

Daganbhuiyan and Sonagazi municipalities in Feni, which are known as municipalities of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's home district. BNP is already backing Akbar Hossain and two municipalities.

Star, Rehana Akhter Ranu MP, who is officially entitled to look after the development work and party affairs in the Feni-1constituency of BNP chairperson, said they are not aware of Jamaat's activities in the district. Earlier, BNP decided to

candidates in Sundargani at

BNP's decision and decided to back 43 mayoral candidates on its own. Sources said Jamaat

wanted to settle the issue through discussion to finalise united backing of candidates under the banner of four-party alliance, but did not get positive response from BNP. In the meantime, BNP

### War criminals

Anyone criticising the government is being branded as war criminals, which is unacceptable, the former premier said.

cised the government for its failure in development work. "The government failed to

do anything for the people of the country in the last two years, and all the important public institutions have been destroyed," she said, adding, competent people have no scope to work in the administration.

According to her, the head head of the government.

government and they want anti-government movement, Khaleda said.

### BNP to face finalised the list of mayoral

back.

candidates it decided to

pared by Jamaat, the party

According to the list pre-

FROM PAGE 1

backed by Jamaat.

ally's offer of support in

Jamaat is even backing candidates

Jamaluddin Sentu in those While talking to The Daily

support Jamaat backed

Gaibandha, Gangni at Meherpur, Cox's Bazar Sadar, Moheskhali, and Teknaf of Cox's Bazar. But Jamaat did not accept

FROM PAGE 1

victimising its political opponents," she said while addressing a group of former officials of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University at her Gulshan office.

The BNP chief also criti-

of the government is controlling everything from the parliament to universities. Constitutionally, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is the

People are fed up with the

will contest against BNP at Dinajpur, Birganj, Nilphamari, Patgram, Joypurhat, Sherpur, Chapainawabganj, Rahanpur, Shibganj, Naogaon, Katakhali, Taherpur, Godagari, Mundumala, Noldanga, Rayganj, Belkhuchi, Pabna, Kumarkhali, Jhenidah, Kotchandpur, Kolaroa, Karimganj, Boalmari, Kanaighat, Kamalganj,

Borolekha, Akhaura, Laksam,

Kachua, Daganbhuiyan,

Sonagazi, Ramgoti, Satkania,

Bariarhat, Mirsarai,

Bandarban, Chokoria, and

### Ulfa softens on independence REUTERS, Guwahati

A top militant group fighting

Charfashion.

Indian forces in the country's remote northeast for almost three decades has dropped its demand for independence in talks with New Delhi, softening its stand in an insurgency that has killed thousands of people.

The United Liberation Front of Asom (Ulfa) is one of the deadliest separatist groups in the northeast, and progress in resolving the insurgency, which has been a drain on resources, would boost New Delhi in a region rich in oil and tea. Moriarty

#### FROM PAGE 20 Rapid Action Battalion and

other law-enforcement agencies, he said. The extrajudicial killings that are taking place every year should be investigated

in a transparent manner by the government, the US envoy said. Moriarty was speaking at the 17th biennial international symposium on "Good

Governance: Building Knowledge for Social Development Worldwide" at Sonargaon Hotel in the capi-Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB);

Monmouth University of USA; and International Consortium for Social Development organised the five-day event, where experts from about 40 countries are taking part.

Asked to comment on US embassy's cables on banned militant outfit Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (Huji), which were released on WikiLeaks, the envoy said the US embassy sends its observations about situations here to higher officials in

Washington as routine work. But it does not reflect the US policy or stance as a country, he added.

Speaking on Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, Moriarty said nongovernmental organisations such as Grameen Bank and Brac play important roles in Bangladesh's social development.

Moriarty pledged to continue to support Grameen Bank and Yunus in Bangladesh's development.

He said the opposition should return to parliament and express its opinions

main worry for the coalition

the government will be on

crutches. The no-confidence

vote is a threat for it." said

Ahmed Bilal Mehboob, exec-

utive director of the Pakistan

Institute of Legislative

Development and

taken any decision on a vote

in the government, party

leader Faisal Subzwari told

Reuters. The party said its

senators had submitted a

motion seeking a rollback of

prices was the immediate

provocation, the MQM has

also been complaining for

months that the government

was not doing enough to

While anger over fuel

The MQM has not yet

"From this point onward,

government.

Transparency.

fuel price rises.

## Pak govt

FROM PAGE 20 discuss ways of resolving the

He was also due to meet Chaudhry Shujaat, leader of another major opposition party, the PML-Q. "He indicated he would seek our support,,"" said a party official.

at a time when the United States has increased pressure on Pakistan to go after Islamist militant groups to help it turn around the faltering war in Afghanistan. It also adds to the

Pakistani government's problems at home as it struggles to avoid economic collapse and meet demands placed on it by the International Monetary Fund in return for an \$11 billion loan.

MQM's withdrawal means that if opposition parties close ranks, they would be able to force a noconfidence vote on Gilani in

city.

# One minister

Meanwhile, as the second day of the ticket sales yesterday was being wrapped, tens of thousands of cricket fans across the country were left

empty-handed again. Only City bank and Agrani bank are selling the tickets across the country.

Many fans waited in vain

for more than 12 hours until

the bank offices were closed at 6:00pm. Considering the public sufferings in getting tickets for the last three consecutive days, the prime minister directed the authorities concerned to increase the

number of authorised bank

booths to ensure smooth

"If the number of booths s increased then the sufferings of the people will be reduced," the premier was quoted by a minister as saying in the meeting. Some 1,29,000 tickets

have been on sale since January 2 with a limit of two per person for the eight world cup matches that will be held in Bangladesh. Demand for the tickets has been overwhelming compared to supply.

The prime minister also

concerned to set up big screens at different keypoints in the capital and

world cup matches on screen. Meanwhile, the queues of ticket buyers in front of the designated bank branches continued to grow longer yesterday, and frustration of not getting any ticket was more visible in the faces of those who had been waiting

elsewhere in the country, so

people may easily watch the

in line since Sunday. Bank officials were seen struggling to deal with the ticket seekers.

Talking to The Daily Star many angry fans complained about mismanagement in letting people inside the banks for the tickets. They requested the bank authorities to allow two persons inside the banks at a time, instead of just one, so that the sales speed up.

Almost similar scenes occurred in other parts of the country as well, with people complaining about the snail's pace of the ticket sales. They said although each bank branch is supposed to issue 480 tickets each day, the numbers of tickets actually being issued

directed the authorities are farless.

Upon the death of Kumar The estate became gov-

Bhawal legacy's slow disin-(Based on official

seekers fell victim to corrup-

TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said they naire and answers of the

directive. "We consider as very positive the Supreme Court's

attention to our report," he

4 JMB FROM PAGE 20 Goni and Shams are students of Darul Ihsan University, while Ashrafuzzaman, an exstudent of the university, is a software engineer and Maruf is

The law enforcers recovered three laptop and three desktop computers, seven mobile phone sets, some publications on JMB, a motorbike, huge number of CDs and a cash amount of Tk 68,000

"They were making rela-

engineer and the reaction he Murder charges FROM PAGE 1 tribunal, passed the order

The letter said the ministry

Miah, Niranjan Chandra Pal, Nawsher Rahman and Zakir

ing to a case filed with Uttara

from the house.

Power Distribution Company (DPDC) launched a drive on December 12 to remove overhead Internet and satellite TV wires on the thorough-

Col Kaysar," she added. Five witnesses including

as many accused.

The Special Court-11 headed by BDR Mymensingh sector commander Col Iftekharuddin Mahmud adjourned the court till

headed by BDR Dhaka Sector Commander Col Habibul Karim, fixed the date after completion of hearing of arguments all 111 accused of

ing and system control) of Dhaka Electric Supply Company (Desco). Drives to remove overhead cables would remain suspended until the committee submits its report, he said. The power secretary gave an assurance that the ISPAB

the future, Manju said after the two-hour meeting that began at 10:00am. "The power secretary made it a point that our repre-

sentatives must be present in

leaders would be informed

timely about any drive to

remove overhead cables in

any future drive," he added. The Desco and Dhaka fares from Shahbagh to

### BNP leaders

FROM PAGE 20

Uttara.

the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) and government to explain within six weeks why the BNP leaders should not be granted regular bail in the cases. Three other BNP leaders are Amanullah Aman, Nazimuddin Alam and

Habib-un-Nabi Khan Sohel

They also appeared before

The HC bench of Justice

the court for bail in the cases.

Siddiqui in six separate cases.

issued separate rules upon

The HC yesterday also

Shamim Hasnain and Justice Md Rezaur Hasan passed the orders and issued the rules following separate bail petitions filed by the opposition leaders. The ACC on December 28 last year filed five cases with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station against Delwar,

Bimanbandar police filed a case on December 18 against Aman, Nazimuddin and Sohel on charge of illegally entering into Hazrat Shahjalal Advocate TH Khan, barris-

parliament.

The political crisis comes

analysts said that was the years.

improve security in its home base of Karachi, Pakistan's financial capital and biggest Karachi's so-called targeted killings, often blamed on supporters of the MQM and its rival party the Awami

No party has formally National Party, have risen to called for such a vote yet, but their highest levels in 15