#### 70 killed

FROM PAGE 1 Meanwhile, rights activist Sultana Kamal and former inspector general of police (IGP) SM Shahjahan yesterday observed that the incidents of mob killing are recurring as the people responsible for the violence scarcely face any legal charges.

In its half-yearly report released on June 30, Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) mentioned of 72 deaths in mob beatings across the country while another rights organisation Odhikar found the number to be 75 based on reports published in 12 national dailies between January and June this year.

The latest tragedy took place in the wee hours yesterday when a mob beat to death six college students at Aminbazar in Savar.

"We have developed a culture of killing criminals in mob beating or in other extra-judicial manner,' according to Sultana Kamal, also the executive director of

"In most of the cases, the state does not take legal actions against the people responsible for extrajudicial killing, including mob attacks; rather it supports the act which is drastically increasing people's lack of confidence in law and order," she said, adding that anyone can fall a victim if such trend is not checked.

According to the ASK report, 36 people were killed in Dhaka alone while 23 in Chittagong, one in Rajshahi, five in Khulna, three in Barisal, two in Sylhet and two in Rangpur in the last six months.

As per the report of Odhikar, eight people were killed in mob beating in January while 18 in February, 12 in March, 18 in April, 11 in May and eight in June this year.

Former IGP Shahjahan said, "The incidents of mob attacks should be investigated and the culprits behind the mob killing should be brought to book. Otherwise, the trend will grow stronger and deteriorate law and order."

Reluctance in punishing these people will severely affect the rule of law, justice and human rights, he added.

#### Regional FROM PAGE 1

plan for transit," she said.

Replying to a query, Dipu Moni said a process is underway to fix the transit fee and construct the required infrastructure and finish other relevant work. "These are a lengthy process and cannot be fixed by a person or two or in a day or two. There are committees that are working on the issues.'

The fees will be settled on a win-win situation so countries are encouraged to use the facility offered by Bangladesh.

Asked about the recent media reports on Indian government's go ahead to the proposed Tipaimukh dam, Dipu Moni recalled the Indian prime minister and the foreign minister's assurance that India will not do anything that "harms the interest of Bangladesh".

On another question, she said Bangladesh has not stayed away from its proposed Rooppur nuclear power plant project with Russian assistance.

Sheikh Hasina is expected to visit Russia towards the end of the year.

Dipu Moni, however, said security of the people is a major concern, and national and international experts will shortly hold a workshop in Dhaka to discuss nuclear

On China, she reiterated government's stance on one-China policy disregarding the recent meeting of Bangladesh's permanent representative with Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama in New York.

She said the meeting with the Dalai Lama was not

something scheduled. About construction of a deep seaport at Sonadia with Chinese assistance, she said the government of China has reiterated its

readiness to support it. The shipping minister will soon lead a delegation to China to discuss the matter.

## If population 14cr

firmed that the country's cereal output was over 30 million tonnes both in fiscal 2009-10 and 2010-11. The volume of output is sufficient to meet the annual food demand of 150 million people provided they consume the standard per capita 182.5 kg of rice.

Matia said she will raise the issue at the next cabinet meeting so that a constructive debate follows. She, however, hoped final report of the census due to be released in September would give a better picture of the population and food demand.

Officials of both the ministries of food and agriculture mentioned that over 5.3 tonnes of rice and wheat were imported in fiscal 2010-11, the highest ever volume of food grains import.

The agriculture minister said the domestic production and imports last year together could meet the food needs of over 160 million people.

She emphasised the need for accurate statistics since sound decisions relating to the plans and investments of a country depend on proper statistics.

Contacted, experts spoke of a mismatch between some sets of cesnsus statistics.

Dr Mahabub Hossain, who keeps a constant watch on food statistics in the country, said if the population is 142.3 million, then the country should have surplus food in hand.

"There must be a mismatch somewhere in any of the statistics. We've to revisit

three statistics to get things right -- the size of population, grain production volume and per capita rice consumption level," said Mahabub, a former head of social science division at the Manila-based International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), and now executive

director of Brac. Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies will carry out a post-census sample survey. "The census statistics can be readjusted once we get the margin of error," said Mahabub, also a former director general of BIDS.

The preliminary findings of the Population and Housing Census 2011 were released on July 16 at a press conference in the capital Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics officials said on that day the tally could increase by five to seven percent in the final report of the census.

Mahabub said if there is any margin of error in the census process and if that is identified, the total tally could always be readjusted as it happened after the 2001 census also.

On reports that many people were left out of the headcount when enumerators were to go door-to-door for the census, he said he also is among them.

Dr Hamid Miah, IRRI liaison officer in Bangladesh, said, "There is a mismatch between the population and the food production figures." He went on, "Besides the

population census, we need a fresh field-based statistics of food production."

# Students they were

Aminur Rahim had a dream to send Shamam to London to study law. Not in his wildest dreams he wanted his son to be a victim of mob violence.

"There is no law in the country; there is no justice," said Aminur Rahim, adding, "Given the present situation of the country, anything is possible here," he added.

"I have lost everything and

left to cry for justice!" he said. Ibrahim Khalil was the hope of his father Abu Taher of Kalkini upazila in Madaripur district. Abu Taher has a small fruit shop at Kalyanpur bus

stand in the city. "I made my peace with all the hardship only to see my son well educated. Now that he is gone, I am doomed to nothingness," said Abu Taher in a tired voice and then fainted.

Towhidur Rahman Palash, a first-year student of physics department at Bangla College, was son of Mujibur Rahman of Charbhadrashan under Shibchar upazila in Madaripur district. His older

#### Pakistan drone victims seek CIA arrest

AFP, Islamabad

Relatives of victims of a covert US drone war against Al-Qaeda in Pakistan yesterday filed a complaint with police in the capital, seeking the arrest of a now retired CIA official, their lawyer

"We have lodged the complaint for (issuance) of international arrest warrants for John A Rizzo, a CIA official," over the killings of civilians, Mirza Shahzad Akbar told reporters at a press conference.

The drone war, targeting Taliban and Al-Qaeda commanders in Pakistan's tribal badlands, is hugely unpopular among a public opposed to the government's alliance with Washington and sensitive to perceived violations of sovereignty.

The document called on Interpol and the United States to enforce an arrest warrant against Rizzo, whom it says was until recently general counsel to the CIA and claims "the accused can be tried in

Islamabad". It accused Rizzo of conspiracy to wage a war of aggression, to commit murder and various other crimes, including crimes against humanity.

brother Sirajul Islam is a student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet).

Sirajul said his brother was never involved in any criminal gangs or illegal activities. Vicitm Kamruzzaman

was son of truck driver Suru Miah of Lakshmipur. He passed Dakhil examination from Tarabiatul Millat Academy Madrasa. He just got admitted to Bangla College on July 16.

Tipu Sultan was a first-year student of Department of Accounting of Bangla College. Son of Abdur Rashid of Shariatpur district, he was a resident of Shyamoli.

A second-year student of BBA at BUBT, Sitaf Jabi Munif was the son of late doctor Mokhlesur Rahman o Dinajpur. He used to live in Shyamoli.

### AL top brass

overthrow the Quran. And it is natural when an anti-Islamic party like AL is in power, mentioned Amini, also the chief of Islami Oikkya Jote, a component of the BNP-led four-party alliance.

He questioned how Islam and the Muslims could be safe under the party whose spokesperson Syed Ashraful Islam can claim to be neither a Hindu nor a Muslim and minister Raziuddin Ahmed Razu can dare to say our children should practice music and dance to get rid of

Asked about who should be hanged, IABC Press Secretary Ahlullah Wase told The Daily Star that Amini meant the top brass of AL who led adopting the 15th constitutional amend-

ment to delete Allah's name. Parliament on June 30 passed the amendment bill retaining Islam as the state religion.

Besides, the Arabic phrase "Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim" with its translation "In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful/ In the name of the Creator, the Merciful" was also made a part of the char-

The latest amendment also allowed religion-based politics, which was banned in the 1972 constitution.

Some Islamic parties, however, alleged the present government has worked against Islam by deleting the phrase "Absolute trust and faith in Almighty Allah" from the constitution.

#### Somali pirates FROM PAGE 20

confirmed.

The hijackers captured the MV Jubba XX on Sunday morning when it was on a regular route from the United Arab Emirates to the Somali port of Berbera.

"Little information is avail-

able at present but it is

reported that nine suspected Somali pirates are on board," the EU force said in a release. Pirates have been increasingly targeting ships carrying commodities to the conflicttorn Northeast African nation,

Ahmed Shire, a fuel trader in Mogadishu, told Reuters over the phone. He expressed grave concern over the increasing inci-

dents of piracy. A Somali piracy gang on December 5 last year hijacked Bangladeshi ship M.V. Jahan Moni, 3,000 kilometres east of the Somalia coast. The vessel was sailing to Europe with merchandise from Singapore.

After weeks of hectic negotiations, the robbers freed the ship and its crew. Somali pirates are making tens of millions of dollars in

ransoms through seizing ships including tankers and bulk carriers in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden, despite efforts of foreign naval forces to prevent such attacks.

### 19 workers

FROM PAGE 20

Shahidul.

"I am back, but what is with me for my parents and only son?" said a distressed

Mohammad Kajol of Noakhali said he worked as a farm labourer in Sabah, a few hundred kilometres south of Tripoli. The war was mostly concentrated in Benghazi, Tripoli and Sirte. But shooting and bombings started in Sabah too.

War on one side and looting by the locals on the other forced them to return home, Kajol said.

"We were ten together. Some returned earlier; two are still there but would come home soon," he said.

Renu Christina Corraya, a nurse who worked at a public hospital in Tripoli, said she had been confident earlier that the situation would improve and she could continue to work, but that hope was dashed.

"There is little hope that the situation would improve soon," she said, adding that the hospital authorities were unwilling to grant her any leave. So, she decided to quit.

IOM spokesperson Asif Munier said people come to its camp in Tunisia border every week and the organisation has to arrange their repatriation.

With the latest arrivals, a total of 36,594 Bangladeshis returned home since the Libyan crisis began late February this year, he said.

#### Arun

**FROM PAGE20** 

said the release issued by Mahfuz Anam, publisher of Anandadhara and managing director of Mediaworld Ltd, the owning company of the magazine.

The release also said anyone dealing with Arun Chowdhury, from now on, will be doing so at his or her own risk and responsibility, and the management of Anandadhara will not be responsible in any way.

## CNG vehicle

FROM PAGE 1 assistant professor of

CMCH. Driver Shahabuddin told The Daily Star that he suspects excessive pressure of gas inside the cylinder caused the blast.

Dulal, elder brother of Helal, said his brother suffered 30 percent burns.

Mohiuddin Selim, officein-charge of the police station, said no case was filed in connection with the incident. The police, however, are trying to identify the owner of the auto-rickshaw.

Among the injured, Sahabuddin, Alauddin and Raju Islam are siblings while Jahangir is their brother-inlaw. The incident took place

when the passengers, residents of Khulshi Wireless Colony of the port city, were going to the shrine of health complex. Bayazid Bostami on the occasion of Shab-e-Barat, gated by Savar police yestersaid police sources.

## Cameron under fire

**FROM PAGE 20** 

He had told the New York Times the practice was far more extensive than the paper acknowledged when police first investigated hacking claims.

A police spokesman said the death was currently being treated as unexplained, but was not thought to be suspicious. Also, Met Police Assistant

Commissioner John Yates has quit after growing pressure amid the scandal. Yates checked the credentials of Neil Wallis before

the Met employed the for-

mer News of the World exec-

utive, arrested last week over

hacking claims. At a news conference in Pretoria, where he began what will be a curtailed visit to Africa, Cameron defended hiring former tabloid editor Andy Coulson, a figure at the

centre of the scandal, as his

spokesman. He rejected veiled criticism from the police chief, who quit after coming under fire for appointing Coulson's former deputy as a media adviser to his force. The situation in the

Metropolitan Police Service is really quite different to the situation in government," Cameron said in response to remarks by outgoing Metropolitan Police Commissioner Paul Stephenson, who contrasted the prime minister's response to hiring one exjournalist to his own resignation over the other.

Murdoch, the 80-year-old Australian-born magnate whose grip on Britain's media and politicians of all parties have been shaken by two weeks of outrage, faces a parliamentary committee today. He and his son James, 38,

as well as Brooks, can expect a fierce grilling over allegations the News of the World tabloid hacked thousands of people's voicemails and bribed policemen.

In resigning on Sunday, police chief Stephenson said he had done nothing wrong but did not want distractions from the affair to hamper security preparations for next year's London Olympics. And he aimed unusually sharp, if veiled, barbs at Cameron.

police's refusal for several years to act on allegations of widespread phone hacking, Stephenson had faced questions over his senior officers' closeness to News International. He was partic-

Amid public anger at the

News of the World, as a public relations adviser to his force. Stephenson noted that Wallis, who was arrested last week and is one of 10 journalists so far being questioned as suspects in the phone hacking and bribery

the paper. Coulson resigned as hacking the phones of royal aides, although he denied Coulson quit the prime minister's office in January this year as police reopened

about Asked Stephenson's comments on his appointment of Coulson, Cameron said: "I don't believe the two situations are the same in any shape or

investigation is being pursued properly. "In terms of Andy Coulson, no one has argued

He reiterated the steps he has taken to tackle the scandal, notably funding the renewed police investigation and setting up an independent public inquiry in response to revelations that the hacking extended beyond the voicemails of the rich, famous and powerful to include those of abducted teenager Milly Dowler, later found murdered in 2002, and many other private

hiring Coulson, who edited

Following an alarming rise

in robbery and snatching,

locals formed teams to patrol

the area, carrying sticks and

robberies took place in the

village while criminals fre-

quently forced sand traders in

the region to pay extortion,

several people come to the

sand-filled place around

Suspecting them robbers, we

instantly passed the informa-

tion to other teams over

mobile phones," said a mid-

dle-aged man, who is a mem-

On instructions of local

leaders, they allowed the gang

to enter deep into the village

and announced over loud-

speakers of mosques that the

robbers had intruded, he said,

ers, many of who were on

prayers of Shab-e-Barat, to

number of robbers was 16 to

17 and the all but the seven

managed to flee in the trawler

in the direction they had

youths kept saying that they

were students and residents of

Darussalam area, said several

other villagers, who were on

check their identities but the

reached the spot and man-

aged to rescue only Al Amin.

mob could not be restrained.

The group requested all to

On information, police

"Receiving a wireless mes-

patrol that night.

Under mob assault, the

This prompted the villag-

The man also said the

ber of one of the teams.

preferring anonymity.

attack the youths.

1:30pm [yesterday]

'We saw a trawler with

In the last one month, five

sharp weapons.

locals said.

the News of the World from 2003 to 2007, Cameron has come under fire for his friendship with Brooks, Coulson's predecessor as editor.

city

She will face parliament's media committee today though many believe her answers will be curtailed due to her having been arrested and bailed after 12 hours of questioning at a London police station on Sunday. Alongside her will be Murdoch himself and his son James, the chairman of News International.

MPs, who gave senior police officers a fierce grilling last week, are expected to do so again today in a separate committee hearing covering interior ministry affairs.

#### Probe body

**FROM PAGE 20** briefing at the ministry that her office has taken the allegations against Dr Bhowmik into cognisance.

A committee comprised of officials of the Prime Minister's Office, and ministries of foreign affairs and public administration will go to Kathmandu to investigate the allegations she added. Bhowmik, a teacher o

Department of Applied Physics, Electronics and Communication Engineering of Dhaka University, was appointed Bangladesh Ambassadorto Nepalin 2009.

Foreign ministry sources said that the ministry received a number of serious allegations against the ambassador including gross violation o diplomatic norms, practices, nuisances, disgraceful acts, poor handling of diplomatic affairs and women-related scandals.

At the press conference, a journalist presented before the FM an unsigned printed matter without any letterhead which listed irregularities of Dr Bhowmik.

However, Dipu Moni

declined to recognise it

because there was no name of source, letterhead or anything in the matter. She said necessary action will be taken immediately after

the inquiry committee sub-

mitsits report. "We are proceeding in the proper way for a complete investigation," Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes, who was present at the press briefing, said.

# 6 beaten to death

FROM PAGE 1

were students of Bangla College, Shams Rahim Shamam of Maple Leaf International School, Tipu Sultan of Tejgaon College and Sitaf Jabi Munif was of Bangladesh University of Business and Technology.

The bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue by Savar police in the morning and handed over to families in the afternoon following autopsies.

Morgue sources said the six were battered to death and two of the bodies bore marks of injuries from sharp weap-

Aged between 16 and 22, they hailed from Darussalam, Kalyanpur and Shyamoli, a

few kilometres off Aminbazar. Families claimed the seven had no criminal records, but could not say why they went

to the area. Protesting the killings, several hundred locals of Darussalam blocked the road from Kalyanpur to Technical Intersection for one and a half hours from 12:30pm yesterday and vandalised two buses.

Al Amin, 18, a sales representative of a juice company, said he along with his six friends went to Aminbazar firstly by a rickshaw-van and then to Keblarchar on foot. "We were walking along

the riverbank at Keblarchar around 1:30am. All of a sudden, we saw a group of people come towards us with torches in their hands," he told reporters at Savar Thana Health Complex where he took treatment.

a word, started beating them shouting "dacoit, dacoit". While the mob was batter-

The people, without saying

sage, we rushed to the spot and saw around 500 to 600 locals beating the youths. ing the seven, an elderly per-When I dispersed the mob, I son asked all not to beat Al Amin, he said when his father Khabir Bepari met him at the Shikder.

found the six already dead," said Sub-Inspector Hares Police found four Al Amin was being interromachetes beside the bodies,

ularly under fire over the appointment of Neil Wallis, a former deputy editor at the

case, had not been linked to the scandal when he was hired. He contrasted that to Cameron's hiring in 2007 of Coulson, Wallis's editor at

editor when his royalty correspondent was jailed for knowing of any wrongdoing. their investigation of the paper. He was arrested this month.

"There is a contrast with the situation at the Metropolitan Police, where clearly the issues have been around whether or not the

that the work he did in government in any way was inappropriate or bad. He worked well in government, he then left government."

citizens.

As well as the issue of

said Mahbubur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Savar

Two cases--one by a local

sand trader Abdul Malek and the other by police--were filed in connection with the incident. Malek in his case statement said those killed in the

Police Station.

and four of them extorted Tk 5 thousand from him earlier that night. Sub-Inspector Anwai Hossain of the police station filed a murder case accusing five to six hundred unidenti-

mob beating were robbers

fied villagers of the killings. Savar police said nobody was arrested any of the

accused as of today 1:00am. Mizanur Rahman, Dhaka district superintendent of police, said a gang of 14 to 15 came to Keblarchar and took away Tk 5 thousand from

sand trader Abdul Malek. Later, when they made an attempt of robbery locals chased and caught seven of them. "The restmanaged to flee."

## 7 outfits fined

lakh, Syeed Alam, owner of an under-construction hotel, Tk 20.90 lakh, and Rezaul Karim, owner of an

under-construction hotel

FROM PAGE 20

Tk 1 lakh.

Besides, Chowdhury Builders Private Limited was fined Tk 19.16 lakh, Moulavi Abdur Rahman, owner of an under-construction hotel, Tk 17.42 lakh, and Shamsul Huda, managing director of Keari Tours and Services Limited, was fined Tk 26.23 lakh.

The team also confiscated various construction materials from the sites.

The DoE team asked the offenders to remove the structures by July 19. They will face prosecution under **Environment Protection** Act, 1995 otherwise, said DoE sources.

## **Britain vetos** EU military **HQ** plans

AFP, Brussels

Britain rejected plans yesterday for a permanent European Union military headquarters, putting it at odds with its ally France amid stalled efforts to launch a common EU defence policy.

"The United Kingdom will not agree to such a permanent OHQ (operational headquarters)," British Foreign Secretary William Hague said after meeting with EU counterparts in Brussels. "We will not agree to it

now. We will not agree to it in the future. That is a red line for us," he said after London applied its veto power against the proposal under EU rules. Voicing London's tradi-

tional attachment to the transatlantic alliance with the United States, Britain's chief diplomat said an EU military headquarters would be costly and create wasteful duplication with NATO. The creation of a perma-

nent HQ was part of a report

presented to the ministers by

EU foreign and security policy

chief Catherine Ashton in a bid to breath new life into EU defence policy. But Hague said he was 'unable to welcome" the report because of the headquarters plan. The ministers failed to issue any statement

on defence policy at the end of their talks. London's intransigence puts it at odds with France even though the two nations signed a historic military cooperation pact last November and are leading the NATO air war against Moamer Kadhafi's regime in

## Moudud counts

FROM PAGE 20 arranged the meeting at the National Press Club.

"Everyone should unite under the leadership of Khaleda Zia, as this government has snatched people's right to vote by scrapping the caretaker system from the constitution," said Moudud, who also served as prime minister and vice-

president under Ershad. Even parties like Ershad's Jatiya Party who are now in the AL-led alliance will join the opposition camp, he claimed.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, Ershad said he will consider the interests of the country and his party before taking any decision.

"But so far, none has talked to me in this regard," he added. His close aide and JP presidium member Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu, however, said they believe in

democracy and that is why they will continue to be with the grand alliance. "We are against those who want to reinstate an undemocratic system like caretaker government by creating chaos and anarchy

forces," he told The Daily Star. Some BNP leaders have hinted that the main opposi-

tion party may soon

with the help of communal

approach JP for its support. In efforts to form a greater platform to campaign for the caretaker government system, BNP is communicating with different political par-

Its acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has already had a meeting with Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and contacted Liberal Democratic Party President Oli Ahmed.

Both BDB and LDP have

League President Kader

Siddiqui at the latter's house

endorsed BNP's demand for reinstatement of the caretaker government system to oversee the next general election. Mirza Fakhrul will today meet Krishak Sramik Janata

Siddiqui told The Daily Star that he and Fakhrul will meet to discuss the prevailing political situation.

at around 7:30pm.

Meanwhile, AL General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam yesterday said the grand alliance will stay as it is. "Unity among the parties in the alliance will remain intact," he said addressing a press briefing at the party's Dhanmondi office.