Taxiway

FROM PAGE 20 of 311 million Danish krone (Tk 445 crore), to be provided by Danish International Development Agency

(DANIDA) as a grant. The government will bear aroundTk85 crore in duty and tax on imports of equipment.

A project to coat the airport's only runway with asphalt concrete has already been started. As a result, the runway is kept closed for nine hours from 11:00pm to 8:00am every day.

In 2008, the government approved an airport upgrade project at a cost of 311 million Danish krone (Tk 414 crore at that time). The project, however, could not be implemented because of a procedural delay and the project cost rose to Tk 636 crore.

With the DANIDA refusing to provide the additional fund sought by the government in mid-2011, the fate of the project became uncertain.

This was resolved in 2012. after the government decided to complete whatever works were covered by the Danish The government then

asked Munck Asfalt, a Danish firm, to reconstruct the taxiway and its lighting. An agreement was signed

on April 26 last year between the Caab and Munck Asfalt. However, the agreement left out some vital parts of the original project of 2008 due to a shortage of funds.

The parts of the project, which will be on hold for now, include primary and secondary radars, a new control tower and expansion of the operational building and drainage system.

An aircraft control system, voice communication and control system, aeronautical fixed telecom network, master clock, equipment for control room and approach control will also be shelved for

BNP rejects

Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farooque at a sit-in programme in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

Farroque alleged that it was not the president's speech, rather a written statement from the govern-

stronger movement on the streets until the ruling party brings back caretaker government in the constitution. The opposition chief whip

He vowed to launch a

also demanded withdrawal of all "fake cases" against BNP leaders and unconditional release of the party's acting secretary general, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

Liberal Democratic Party

(LDP), Kalyan Party, Bangladesh National Awami Party (NAP) and National Democratic Party (NDP) jointly organised the programme to press home various demands including re-establishment of nonpartisan caretaker govern-

Secretary General of Bangladesh NAP Golam Mostafa, Kalyan party leader Abdul Malek Chowdhury also spoke during the programme with LDP city unit president M M Khaled

Saifullah in the chair. Suu Kyi visits

South Korea

AFP, Seoul Myanmar's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi arrived in South Korea yesterday for a four-day visit including meetings with politicians and a soap-opera star and the collection of a

human rights award. The democracy leader and Nobel peace laureate will also be guest of honour at the opening on Tuesday of the Special Winter Olympics in the northeastern mountain resort of Pyeongchang

site of the full 2018 Winter Games. Before leaving for Pyeongchang, she will hold

talks with outgoing President Lee Myung-Bak and his successor Park Geun-Hye, who takes office next month as the country's

first female president. On Wednesday she will give the keynote speech at a Global Development Summit taking place on the sidelines of the Pyeongchang event.

Jamaat, Shibir

FROM PAGE 1

sharp weapons, iron rods, hockey sticks and brick chips.

The activists from one such procession in the capital's Motijheel area started exploding bombs and beating up cops, sending a wave of panic among passengers, pedestrians and employees of roadside offices and business houses.

They gradually spread to Dainik Banglar Mor, stadium market, Paltan, Bangladesh Secretariat, Jagannath University, Dhaka University and Dhanmondi areas and rampaged for over an hour.

Traffic in Motijheel, Paltan and Gulistan and Jatiya Press Club areas remained suspended for over an hour.

Four vehicles were torched and many others vandalised.

Some cops were seen running for safety while some tried to fight back. Those who took shelter in nearby offices were hunted down by armed cadres and beaten up. Surprisingly, law enforc-

ers did not use newly introduced pepper sprays on the attackers.

Anwar Hossain, deputy commissioner (Motijheel) of police, said they fired more than 250 rubber bullets and 100 teargas canisters. Police also arrested 48 activists with bottles of petrol. Police also fired over a

hundred rounds from Chinese rifles and shotguns.

Following the attacks, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said the violence had proved intelligence failure.

He added, "I thought the militancy has been wiped out, but today's incident shows that I was wrong." He made the comments

after visiting Rajarbagh Police Lines Hospital where Constable Delwar Hossain, a member of the unit that escorts the minister, was admitted. The policeman was severely injured in an attack near Bangladesh Secretariat.

Talking to journalists at the secretariat, Home Minister MK Alamgir did not with Muhith. "I do not find any failure of police or intelligence.

Surprisingly, Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmood Khandker claimed they already had information on the Jamaat-Shibir plan for yesterday. "As police played due roles, Jamaat and Shibir could not carry out criminals activities completely as per their

The attack in front of the secretariat took place around 10:15am, not more than five minutes after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had entered the secretariat to hold a cabinet meeting.

On condition of anonymity, two sub-inspectors of the VIP Protocol Unit, said during the attack, the policemen, who were on duty for the security of the secretariat and ministers, took shelter inside the compound closing the main gate.

They said those who failed to enter the secretariat became easy prey for the rioters. Some cops, however, fired gunshots from inside.

The attackers ran away when additional forces came.

Asked how come such violence sparked in front of the secretariat where the PM was present, DC Nurul Islam said, "The Jamaat-Shibir men carried out the attacks and vandalisms while fleeing after they were chased by the police from Stadium Market area.'

Four cases were filed last night in connection with the violence in the capital.

Two cases -- one under Speedy Trial Tribunal Act and the other under Explosive Act -- were filed with Paltan Police Station against 17 identified and five to six hundred unidentified per-

In the two cases filed with Motijheel police station, police named 30 persons while accused 400-500 unidentified persons.

Also yesterday, at least 12 people, including 10 policemen, were wounded in a clash between Jamaat and police in Banshkhali upazila

of Chittagong. Of them, auto-rickshaw driver Nurul Huda and Abdul Momen of Paschim Chambal of Banshkhali were hit with

bullets.

Nurul Huda was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) with wound in the head and

> abdomen. Of the seriously injured policemen, Sub-Inspector Md Ataul, and constables Md Quader, Ahabul and Kashem were also rushed to the CMCH, said Sub-Inspector Md Zahir of Banshkhali Police Station.

Momen with injury in the

The trouble in Banshkhali began at noon as police asked the Jamaat-Shibir activists not to put up a banner. The banner read the demand for release of Delwar Hossain Sayedee, now facing trial for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War, 1971.

According to police sources, Jamaat's Banshkhali unit Ameer Jahirul Islam was arrested in connection with the violence, reports Prothom Alo.

Chittagong district (south) unit Jamaat called a dawn-to-dusk hartal for today protesting the arrest of | Association of Bangladesh, Jahirul Islam, a party statement said. In Satkhira, Jamaat men

attacked law enforcers and vandalised a police van after they brought out a procession in Sundarbans Textiles Mill area at about 5:00pm demanding release of their leaders who are accused of war crimes.

Seven policemen were injured in the attack.

Law enforcers arrested two Shibir activists in con nection with the incident.

In another incident, five persons were injured when around 40 to 50 Shibir mer attacked law enforcers and hurled at least 10 cocktails at the policemen from a procession at Binodpur in Rajshahi around 10:00am.

The law enforcers lobbed teargas canisters and fired rubber bullets to disperse the attackers, said Shah Golam Mahmud, deputy commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (east

Police picked up seven people after the clash, he added.

In Dinajpur, Jamaat men indiscriminately beat up Md Mamun, a sub-inspector of Dinajpur Kotwali Police Station, in the morning leaving him injured. They also vandalised two police

Jamaat activists launched the attack on law enforcers after they brought out a procession from Nimtola intersection in the town at around 10:10am demanding release of their detained leaders, said Md Abdul Kader Zilani, officer-in-charge of the police station.

Police arrested two Shibir activists from Amtoli intersection in the town while Shibir men were staging a demonstration and setting fire to tires in the morning.

Witnesses and police said Shibir men brought out a procession at Laxmipur intersection at around 5:00pm. As police intercepted the procession, they went away. Minutes later, several hundred Jamaat-Shibir activists took out a sudden procession from RMCH main gate, damaged vehicles and blasted cock-

CONDEMNATION

Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and cultural personalities vesterday condemned the Jamaan attacks on police and vandalism across the country.

The FBCCI expressed concern over the attacks and condemned Jamaat for attacking police, damaging and setting alight vehicles and blasting cocktails in the capital and other parts of the country.

Such vandalism in Motijheel, the commercial hub of the capital, during office hours created panic among people and caused huge losses to businesses, FBCCI said in a statement.

In a statement, 251 cultural activists of Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote criticised the Jamaat vandalism, and said Jamaat-Shibir men are carrying out such attacks to protect war criminals.

Arun Sarkar Rana, general secretary of the organisation, actors Aly Zaker, Ferdousi Majumdar, Alamgir and Pijush Bandopadhyay are among the signatories.







Spelling Bee teams from London Grace School, City School International and Chittagong Cantonment Public School pose with golden tickets in Dhaka and Chittagong yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Audience growing bigger by the day

FROM PAGE 20

Ramisha Humayra Hossain (Class 9), Samin Ishmam Ahmed (Class 9) and Ahmed Ghtifaz Humayun Chy (Class 8) from Chittagong Cantonment Public School; Mansib Hamidul Islam (Class 9)

and Shafi Shahriar (Class 9) from Chittagong Collegiate School qualified for the divisional rounds.

In Rangpur was visited one school -- Border Guard Public School and College. The qualifiers were Tahsin (Class 10), Md Mahfujur Rahan Murad (Class 8), Tamanna Akter

(Class 9) and Kanij Fatema (Class 7). They will be competing with the other qualifiers in the divisional rounds, which are to begin after the ongoing school activation rounds.

Last year, Champs21 visited around a hundred schools. This year, more

will be visited. Anyone who could not

than three hundred schools

qualify through the school can still participate in the online version of the game on www.champ21.com.

The Spelling Bee finals are to be held in June. Detailed information

about the competition is available www.champs21.com, the first e-learning portal of Bangladesh. Students who want to participate in the event through the online rounds can visit the website and play the Spelling Bee Game.

Busy in politics Some physicians are involved

with the pro-BNP Doctors while some others are with the pro-Awami League Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad, he added.

Expressing resentment over the government doctors' lack of commitment to patient services, the lawmaker said even some physicians are running separate chambers inside their offices, where they prescribe patients in exchange of fees.

The committee also formed a three-member subcommittee headed by Prof Ali Ashraf to visit different Community Health Clinics to gain a first-hand experience of their service quality.

India tests

FROM PAGE 20 Research and Development

Organisation told the media. "This is a major milestone in the country's strategic

defence capability," he

added. With the completion of developmental trials, the missile with a strike range of 1,500km is now ready for integration with the Indian

Navy's indigenously-built nuclear-powered submarine. The ground and air missile capabilities, which can deliver nuclear warheads, are already with the Indian army and Air Force.

India is the fifth country to have underwater missile capability, the others being the United States, France, Russia and China.

Govt moves

FROM PAGE 1 "The ministry will take the final decision after scrutinising the proposal. There may be a few changes in the fare chart if the minister wishes," BIWTA Chairman Shamsuddoha Khandaker

told The Daily Star. The government was likely to announce the fare hikes by next week, he

added. Meanwhile, passengers expressed dissatisfaction over the new move that came within a few days of bus fare hike.

Launch owners, however, said there was no alternative to increasing the fares.

"Launch operators allow excessive passengers to make additional profit. Their services are very poor. They are more concerned about making profit than delivering quality services," said Sajal Das, a regular traveller on the Dhaka-Barisal route.

A round trip of a launch from Dhaka to Barisal now costs Tk 37,000, up from Tk 30,000, said Badiuzzaman Badal, a leader of Bangladesh Inland Waterways (passenger carriers') Association. The cost of travel on other routes also increased in similar ratio.

"So how can we continue giving the service without increasing the fares?" Last time, the govern-

ment increased the launch fares in January, 2012, said BIWTA officials. On January 3 this year, the

prices of diesel and kerosene were raised by Tk 7 to Tk 68 a litre and octane and petrol by Tk 5 a litre to Tk 99 and Tk 96 in efforts to reduce subsidies on them. These price hikes were followed by an increase in long-distance bus fares by 10 paisa per kilometre, which came into effect on January 20.

Political 'offenders' safe should not be disclosed in the security concerns of

FROM PAGE 1

The Ulfa leader has been in public at this moment." jail since his arrest in 1997 on Shinde said India would with the Indian insurgent charge of entering into Bangladesh without valid documents. He has already served seven years in jail here and now is in safe custody as he sought political asylum.

The two countries also signed a landmark liberal visa agreement, Revised Travel Arrangements (RTA), yesterday. This will ease the visa regime and remove restrictions on visits of each other's tourists, businesspersons, journalists, professionals, officials and students, and those in medical and several other categories. The Bangladesh-India 4th

home minister-level talks issued a joint press statement that covered a large range of bilateral issues, mainly security and border related ones. But there was no mention

of the much-talked-about

killing of Bangladeshis on the border. In reply to a question regarding the border killing despite assurance from the highest political level of India, Shinde said, "This killing should not take place...such incident should not be

repeated, that I agree. It has

got to our notice." The Indian home minister said his government had already instructed those who have come with the delegation that such incidents should not happen or be repeated in future.

About introduction of non-lethal weapons on the border, he said it was in the action and killing incidents had come down in some places where non-lethal weapons were being used.

Asked who would be extradited first under the extradition treaty, the Indian home minister said, "It would be between the governments of the two countries and names

over with her discharge from

"I have stacks of [visiting]

cards of people who came to

us to express sympathy. But

no one has offered any help so

compensations to the fami-

lies of the dead, said Mushrefa

Mishu, labour leader and

president of Garment Workers

Unity Forum. The compensa-

tion should be equal to the

amount the workers would

have earned for the rest of

provided with all medical

expenses, Mushrefa said. All

the workers who have worked

there for more than six

months are entitled to termi-

nation benefits equal to their

For now, workers of Smart

Export Garments want this

month's wages as whatever

money they have left is

in Dhaka where everybody is

in a race for survival and many

of the fire victims think they

will not be able to manage

with their scant savings until

month and I don't know

where money will come from

the next month or how I will

look after my three-member

family that is dependent on

me," said 19-year-old Shathi

Some of the workers in

"It's almost the end of this

Jobs are hard to come by

quickly diminishing.

they get the next job.

Akhtar.

basic wages for 120 days.

Also the injured should be

The owners must pay

FROM PAGE 1

the hospital.

far."

their lives.

Left in the lurch

extend all-out cooperation to find the killers of Bangabandhu, if they were hiding in India, and hand them over to Bangladesh. Besides, he said, India would send back the Bangladeshi criminals hiding there.

"We have just signed the extradition treaty and the revised travel arrangement. I am proud to declare that India and Bangladesh shall embark on a new path of cooperation following the signing of extradition treaty and the RTA. "These pacts will reinforce the sprit of friendship and

partnership between our

countries in the area of secu-

rities and cooperation, and

increase people-to-people contact," he said. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir said Bangladesh would be benefited more through the treaty, as the number of Bangladeshi criminals hiding in India is greater than that of Indian criminals absconding

in Bangladesh. "According to the treaty, India will be able to bring back less number of criminals compared to the number of criminals we will be able to bring back.

On extradition of Anup Chatia, the Bangladesh home minister said, "The person you have mentioned has sought or filed an application with the Supreme Court of Bangladesh seeking political asylum. As soon as it is set- Commissioner to India Tariq decide whether to treat this person or other persons under this extradition treaty or in some other way," said

Alamgir. In the meeting, according to the joint statement, the Indian side appreciated Bangladesh for extending cooperation for addressing

the area said three people

came to them during a dem-

onstration vesterday, claim-

ing to be the factory owners

representatives and assured

them of wages and compen-

a mechanic and a store

keeper told us not to protest.

They said we would be paid

our wages and bonuses by

February 10 and the victims'

families would receive Tk 1

lakh," said Mosharraf

the "owners' representa-

tives" could not be independ-

However, the identity of

Bangladesh Garment

Manufactures and Exporters

Association shrugged off its

responsibilities, stating that

Smart Export Garments was

leftist leaders yesterday held

demonstrations and protests

in parts of the country, point-

ing out that the subcontract

firm had worked for six export

companies that are mem-

bers of BGMEA and so the

exporters' association

to these factories? They have

to be BGMEA members," said

Shireen Akhtar, president of

the deplorable condition of

workplaces and child labour

but yet turned a blind eye,

Karmojibi Nari.

Mushrefa said.

"Who subcontracts jobs

BGMEA was well aware of

The labour leaders also

should be held responsible.

However, labour and

Hossain, a worker.

ently verified.

not its member.

"A caretaker of the factory,

sations.

India, particularly in dealing groups. Both the sides reiterated their commitment to act against the elements inimical to the two countries. The two sides agreed to allow development work

within 150 yards of the zero line. They expressed satisfaction at the smooth operation of Coordinated Border Management Plan and agreed to increase the number of coordinated patrolling with a view to curbing criminal activities along the bor-During the meeting Dhaka and Delhi also agreed

to intensify further the activities of various nodal-points in different areas of cooperation, such as human trafficking, drugs and Interpol, etc. They discussed the ratification of the Land Boundary Agreement, 1974 by the Indian government as well as

the protocol signed in 2011 and noted that early ratification of the same would pave the way for implementation of the provisions of the agreement and lay the longpending boundary related issues resolved.

In yesterday's home minister-level meeting, Alamgir led an 18-member delegation comprised of State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku, Prime Minister's Adviser on International Affairs Gowher Rizvi Bangladesh High tled by the court, we will A Karim, Home secretary CQK Mustaq and other high officials of different minis-

The Indian Home Minister led a 15-member delegation including High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Pankaj Saran and high officials from different ministries.

challenged the governmen

as to how these illegal firms

tors doing if these factories

are allowed to exist?" asked

second largest garmen

manufacturer in the world

How can we take pride in this

industry if its achievement

comes at the expense of our

The ultimatum came

from a meeting of the alli-

ance at BNP Chairperson

Khaleda Zia's Gulshan

People's Party Chairman

Shakayot Hossain.

two days.

Bring back

"What are factory inspec-

"We are proud to be the

could operate.

Shireen.

workers?"

office.

FROM PAGE 20

met by this time.

Bangla Bhai were among the six militants executed in March 2007 for killing two Jhalakathi judges.

that rattled the nation through its 2005 coordinated blasts and suicide bombings. The then BNP-Jamaat alliance government had dismissed the existence of

of the media. But later on February 23, 2005, the government was forced to ban JMB and its offshoot Jagrata Muslim Janata, Bangladesh (JMJB)

Samuel Yin, head of the Ruentex business empire which has invested heavily

that is beneficial to the world and humankind, promote Chinese culture and make the world a better place," he

The prize is named after China's Tang Dynasty (618-907), which is much admired by Yin, said the statement released by the prize foun-

The alliance did not declare any schedule for the agitation, as the Secondary School Certificate examination is starting from next month. During the time, they would observe some als, regardless of nationality. soft programmes, said The winner in each cate-

However, BNP coordinator Tariqul Islam told reporters that they would declare the programme schedule in

Liberal Democratic Party

raise Taiwan's profile in the added.

Shariatpur blasts are Kamruzzaman alias Swapan,

2 sentenced

The two to die for the

FROM PAGE 20

27, and Malek Bepari alias Malek Zehadi, 28. The duo was present when the judge of the District and Sessions Judge's Court Mohammad Sajedul

Karim pronounced the

verdict around 1:00pm, said

Public Prosecutor Mirza

Hazrat Ali. Following the blasts, Shariatpur Sadar Police Station Sub-inspector Badruzzaman filed a case against some unidentified people.

Later, investigation officer of the case Kamal Hossain submitted the charge sheet accusing the two along with the then JMB chief Shaikh Abdur Rahman and its operations commander Siddikul Islam Bangla Bhai. The court accepted the

charge sheet on January 2, 2006, and framed charges against them on January 18 the same year. Abdur Rahman and

Their executions marked the end of country's first overt militancy campaign

Islamic militancy, and had even gone on to describe JMB operations commander Bangla Bhai as mere creation

that sought to establish shariah law.

'Nobel prize'

lucrative than the famed Swedish award.

in China, said that by donating Tw\$3 billion (\$101 million) for the Tang Prize he had fulfilled one of his biggest dreams. "I hope that the prize will encourage more research

said in a statement.

dation. Beginning in 2014 prizes will be awarded every two years in four different categories -- sustainable development, biopharmaceutical science, sinology and the "rule of law" -- to individu-

gory will receive Tw\$50 million (\$1.7 million), compared to the eight million Swedish kronor (\$1.2 million) that comes with a Nobel Prize. Nobel Prizes are awarded

in the fields of physics, chem-President Oli Ahmed istry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace. Bangladesh Jatiya Party The Tang Prize will help President Andaleeve Rahman

Partho, working council international scientific member of Jamaat, Mowlana community, the statement Abdul Halim were present in the meeting, among others.