#### Mahmudur Rahman breaks fast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mahmudur Rahman detained acting editor of Amar Desh, yesterday called off his hunger strike at the request of his mother Mahmuda Begum and Hefajat-e Islam Ameer Shah Ahmad Shafi.

Mahmuda, also acting chairperson of Amar Desh Publications Ltd, went to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, where his son has been admitted since April 18, private channel nTV reports.

She was accompanied by Ruhul Amin Gazi, president of a faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists; Syed Abdal Ahmed, general secretary of Jatiya Press Club; AJ Mohammad Ali, president of Supreme Court Bar Association, among others.

Mahmudur Rahman had been on hunger strike for eight consecutive days demanding withdrawal of cases against his mother and Dainik Sangram Editor Abul Asad, unlocking the press of Amar Desh and release of his press staff.

Arrested on April 11 for publishing Skype conversation between an ex-chief of war crimes tribunal and an expatriate Bangladeshi legal expert, he was taken on a 13day remand.

BDR CARNAGE CASE

## IO starts testifying

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The investigation officer in the BDR carnage case yesterday started testifying before a Dhaka court, narrating the atrocities committed by BDR troops during the 33-hour mutiny at the force's Pilkhana headquarters in the capital in 2009.

Abdul Kahar Akand, CID's senior special superintendent and the IO, will continue his deposition on the next working day at the special court set up to hold trial of the carnage case.

Depositions by the prosecution witnesses will end with the completion of his testi-

Akand yesterday described incidents of killing, looting, arson and other crimes that took place on 58 spots inside the headquarters during the February 25-26 mutiny that left dead 74 people, including 57 top- and mid-ranking army officials.

The authorities concerned renamed the force Border Guard Bangladesh following the bloody mutiny.

After the proceedings yesterday, the IO told reporters on the court premises in the capital's Bakshibazar that he had submitted a draft map of the crime scenes in Pilkhana and a list of evidence collected from there.

Prosecutor Mosharraf Hossain Kajol said the case has come to the final stage with the IO's deposition, adding that the number of the accused in the case is 847.

Seventeen of them, including former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and Awami League leader Torab Ali, are civilians while the rest

are BDR soldiers, the prosecutor added. However, defence counsels demanded a start of the

case filed under the Explosive Substances Act following the incident.

#### Bhutan to elect upper house member today

AFP, Thimphu

The tiny Himalayan country of Bhutan begins electing a new parliament on Tuesday for only the second time in its history, five years after the Buddhist monarchy gave up its absolute power.

Voters will first choose members of the upper house National Council on Tuesday, a non-party body, then in the following weeks will decide which of five parties will form the next government in the

National Assembly. Since the beginning of April, the 67 candidates for the 20 elected National Council seats -- five more members will be appointed by King Jigme Khesar Wangchuk -- have been holding debates and public meetings in their respective

districts after a local selec-

tion process.

MOJAHEED'S TRIAL

## Cross examinations of prosecution witnesses conclude

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday completed cross-examination of the last prosecution witness in the war crimes case against Jamaat-e-Islami leader Ali Ahsan Mohammed Mojaheed.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan with members Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Judge M Shahinur Islam fixed May 5 for recording testimony of the defence witnesses in the case.

The court also asked the prosecution to get prepared for placing their closing arguments if the defence decided not to adduce any witness.

Mojaheed's counsel Syed Mizanur Rahman yesterday completed the crossexamination of Abdur Razzaque Khan, also the investigation in case, in five working days.

Earlier on June 21, 2012, the tribunal indicted Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mojaheed on seven charges including genocide, murders and conspiracy to kill the intellectuals during the Liberation War in 1971.

As many as 17 prosecution witnesses have testified in the case, while the tribunal allowed three witnesses to defend Mojaheed from the charges.

During the four-hourand-15-minute crossexamination, Syed Mizanur Rahman mostly questioned on the prosecution's documentary evidence and dissimilarities between their

witnesses' statements to the investigation officer and their testimonies before the tribunal.

Replying to a question, Razzaque said Mojaheed had gone into hiding after the Liberation War and returned to politics after the political changeover in 1975.

"During investigation found that Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed did not leave the country after December 16, 1971 but went into hiding at his maternal uncle's house," he said, adding, "After the political changeover in 1975, he become active in politics."

In reply to another question, Razzaque said he did not find any list of Razakar, Al-Badr, Al-Shams and Peace Committee that had included Mojaheed's name.

Earlier, Razzaque testified that Mojaheed was the East Pakistan Islami Chhatra Sangha president from October till the Victory Day and as "the Al-Badr commander" he had "directly taken part" in genocide and other crimes against humanity during the war.

Citing from a prosecution document, Razzaque during Sunday's cross-examination said East Pakistan Islami Chhatra Sangha had addressed Al-Badr men at their headquarters even two hours before the surrender of the Pakistani army on December 16, 1971.

Meanwhile, the tribunal vesterday allowed two of Mojaheed's counsels to meet him at prison on April 28 for preparation of the

# Unlike Biman

FROM PAGE 1

the DC-10 rushes to lift passengers.

A lot of delays occur because of passenger handling at the immigration and check-in.

So, Biman has worked back a schedule from the time departure and is sticking to it. It is arranging quicker passing of passengers on priority basis.

Biman has given measurable targets to all staff, which includes punctuality.

"This has improved services but it is not good enough. I want British Airways results," says Kevin, who once served as General Manager of British Airways.

Kevin's biggest challenge and Biman's, however, is bringing the airlines from the red to the black. Last

year, it suffered a loss of \$75 million. Kevin has identified about 20 steps, some of them quite simple, to save

For example, one step is to cut the number of passen-

gers on waiting list. Biman used to allow up to 50 passengers on waiting

list. But to book each ticket, the airlines has to pay \$7 to a company for using its "global distribution system" (GDS).

What Kevin did is cutting the waiting list from 50 to 15 passengers. Thus Biman can save \$245 on GDS charge every flight. For the whole year, it means saving \$1.5 million a year.

Another simple step is to save on fuel.

In winter, weather over Dhaka and Chittagong often remains foggy. This is why each flight has to carry extra fuel so that it could divert to Yangon in case of poor visibility.

For this every flight had to carry excess fuel weighing 1,000kg. This extra fuel costs money. Moreover, to carry this 1,000kg extra load, each flight has to burn about 200kg equivalent of fuel.

So Kevin has equipped the Sylhet airport with fuel trucks so that aircraft can land in Sylhet instead of Yangon in case of foggy weather.

This would save another \$2 million a year.

Kevin has also planned a revenue management system. This would help give priority to passengers on priority routes.

For example, fare from Kuala Lumpur to Jeddah is \$900 while from Dhaka to

Jeddah it is \$850. So flying passengers from Kuala Lumpur to Jeddah is not

profitable.

When the new revenue management system will be in place, Dhaka-Jeddah passengers will get priority. Biman can save \$20 million from this.

Fuel efficient aircraft is a key to cutting cost. Biman will float tenders for two Boeing 777s in August to take a lease on them for five

Kevin said Biman has Boeing 777s, 737-800s and Airbus A310s but the Airbus is fuel inefficient and he would phase them out in two years.

"We have eight aircraft now. I am looking at 16 in two years," Kevin adds.

Biman will also introduce e-customers' feedback and rating of services. Staff who can surpass their targets will get extra bonuses.

"I am looking at Biman not from domestic perspective but from international viewpoint," Kevin says. "In one year, Biman will do 95 percent of what British Airways or Etihad has been doing.

The end point -- "Biman is looking at \$70 million in savings and a comeback to

#### HC issues rule

black.

FROM PAGE 1 to allowing them cross the

The HC issued a suo moto

rule asking the authorities concerned to provide to it the computer generated data of toll collection of the bridge from January this year till date in seven days.

In the rule, it asked the government to explain in two weeks why its inaction to stop malpractice in toll collection at the bridge should not be declared illegal and why the government should not be directed to form a committee to investigate and stop the malpractice.

The HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain came up with the order and rule following a report published in The Daily Star on April 20 headlined "Toll money gobbled up."

Some lawyers including BM Elias, Jyotirmoy Barua and Deputy Attorney General Bishwojit Roy placed the newspaper report before the bench for necessary orders.

## Human chain in front of jail for release of bloggers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and students from different educational institutions and online activists yesterday formed a human chain in front of Dhaka Central Jail, demanding release of four bloggers.

They gathered there around 3:15pm, wearing black badges and masks and holding placards, some of which read, "Either release the arrested bloggers from jail or put us into it." After about half an hour,

they moved to TSC of Dhaka University where they held a rally in front of the Raju Bhaskarja. Speakers at the rally termed the arrests of the

bloggers an infringement on

the freedom of speech and

an insult to democracy. Bloggers Subrata Adhikari Shuvo, Russel Parvez and Mashiur Rahman Biplob were arrested in the capital on April 2 for their online posts deemed insulting to Islam. The fourth blogger, Asif Mohiuddin, was arrested the

next day on the same

charges. The arrests drew huge criticism from people across the board as those followed a campaign by Islamist groups that said "atheist bloggers" were involved in the Shahbagh movement to demand the death penalty to war criminals.

#### Govt to recast

FROM PAGE 20

At the hearing, Bangladesh promised to bring changes to the labour law and improve safety standards at factories.

The verdict of the hearing is due in early June.

"The existing law also allows trade unionism but there are some procedural barriers," said Mikail Shipar, secretary to the labour and employment ministry.

The process of forming trade unions is cumbersome now," said Gagan Raj Bhandari, a director of the International Labour Organisation's Bangladesh chapter.

He said the ILO was now working to introduce its "Better Work Programme" in Bangladeshi factories, but the country's labour law and the programmes are not complementary.

Atiqul Islam, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said they would give feedback to the amendment after scru-

#### No confirmed

**FROM PAGE 20** 

The post of the Speaker will fall vacant on April 24 after incumbent Speaker Abdul Hamid takes oath as the 20th president of the republic.

Within the next couple of days, the parliament will elect a new speaker and for that the ruling Awami League's parliamentary body has to formally nominate one.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury said they were still looking for the suitable persons for both the Speaker

and deputy speaker positions. The deputy speaker post has come under discussion since Deputy Speaker Col (retd) Shawkat Ali has informed the government high command that he will not continue his job in the position.

Shawkat Ali wanted to be the Speaker, sources said. Since the prime minister sought to have a woman in that position, he had informed the high command that he would not remain as deputy speaker.

The prime minister has already asked some of her close aides to propose names for the position. Sources said Shawkat Ali

might be made an adviser to the prime minister if he stepped down as deputy speaker. "We are searching for a

deputy speaker who is from law background and has knowledge about parliamentary procedures and practices," said Matia, a senior policymaker of the ruling Awami League.

# Shake-up in police dept

FROM PAGE 20 said, "Although it is part of a

routine work, transfers and postings are done considering everything.'

In recent incidents of violence, eight policemen were killed and 300 more injured in attacks by the activists of Jamaat-e-Islami, its student wing Islami Chhatra Shibir and BNP men across the country. Meanwhile, the govern-

ment yesterday appointed four new deputy commissioners in as many districts. According to an order of

the public administration

ministry, Md Shahidul Islam, deputy secretary of shipping ministry, has been appointed as the DC of Sylhet district; Md Mahmud Hasan, local settlement officer of Tangail district, as the DC of Meherpur; Mohammad Salah Uddin, deputy secretary of industries ministry, as the DC of Panchagarh; and DC of Panchagarh district as the DC of Comilla. TRANSFERRED COPS

Among the ADIGs, Additional Commissioner of Sylhet Metropolitan Police (SMP) Abdullah Al Azad Chowdhury has been transferred to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in Dhaka, Joint Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Khandakar Golam Faruq to Dhaka Range, Commandant of Noakhali Police Training College (PTC) Md Matiur Rahman Sheikh to Police Staff College in Dhaka, Sarder Tamij Uddin Ahmed of CID to Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) as addl commissioner, Abul Kalam Azad of Khulna Range to Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI), DMP Joint Commissioner Abdullah Al Mahmud to CID, Special Police Super of CID Md Moynul Islam to DMP as joint police commissioner, Sirajganj Police Super Humayun Kabir to Rangpur Range, Special Police Super of CID Md Mahbub Alam to PBI, Comilla Police Super

Chittagong range, AFM Masum Rabbani of Special Branch to Telecom in Dhaka, Hasib Aziz of 7th Armed Police Battalion (APBn) to Telecom in Dhaka, Sylhet Police Super Md Shakhwat Hossain to Sylhet Range, Kishoreganj Police Super Meer Rezaul Alam to DMP as joint commissioner, Bagerhat SP Khondoker Rafigul Islam to Khulna Range, DC DMP Mosleh Uddin Ahmed to DMP as joint commissioner, Manikganj SP Mohammad Ali Miah to SB, Rajshahi SP SM Rokan Uddin to SMP as additional commissioner, and Cox's Bazar SP Selim Mohammad Jahangir to Sarda in Rajshahi as police super. Among the rest 49 officials, Narsingdi SP Md Akkas

Mahabubor Rahman to

Uddin Bhuiyan has been transferred to the Specialised Security and Protection Battalion, DC of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Md Ashrafur Rahman to the 7th APBn, Assistant Inspector General (AIG) Abdul Alim Mahmud of Telecom, Rajarbagh to the police headquarters, Noakhali SP Harun-ur-Rashid Hajari to CMP as DC, DMP DC Bashir Ahammad to Chapainawabganj as SP, Shariatpur SP Tutul Chakraborty to Comilla as SP, Kushtia SP Mafij Uddin Ahmed to Industrial Police as SP, Lalmonirhat SP Md Habibur Rahman to Kushtia as SP, Abul Khayer of 9th APBn to Industrial Police as SP, Moulvibazar SP Harunor-Rashid to Police Staff College, DMP DC Gazi Mojammel Huq to Police Headquarters as AIG, Madaripur SP Mohammad Nazrul Hossain to Sunamganj, AZM Nafiul Islam of SB to CMP as DC, Magura SP Proloy Chisim to RMP as DC, Md Masud Karim of SB to Range Reserve Forces (RRF) in Chittagong, Aminul Islam of SMP to Betbunia Police Staff Training School in Rangamati, Munibur Rahman of Industrial Police

Govt warns against

and seek help to arrest them.

Shamsul Haque Tuku said this

yesterday, emerging from a

core committee meeting with

the chiefs of the law enforce-

ment agencies at his secretar-

of the 36-hour hartal from

today called by the opposi-

tion to demand the release

collect photographs and

footage from the print and

electronic media, intelli-

gence and local administra-

tion and make posters with

pictures of the criminals to

The government would

The decision came ahead

iat office in the capital.

of its arrested leaders.

State Minister for Home

of CID to SB, Sunamganj SP Nur-e-Alam Mina to Sylhet, Md Mehedul Karim of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) to Sherpur as SP, DC Kanij Fatema of DMP to Police Staff College, Sherpur SP Anisur Rahman to Noakhali, Md Moazzem Hossain of Police Staff College to Police Training College in Tangail, Additional Police Super Md Illias Sharif of Pirojpur to DMP as DC, Anwar Hossain Khan of Police Staff College to Kishoreganj as SP, Mahbubor Rashid of Noakhali to 9th APBn, Sayeed Tariqul Hasan of police headquarters to police headquarters as AIG, Faridul Islam of APBn headquarters to Madaripur as SP, Mahbubur Rahman of SB to SB as special police super, Walid Hossain of DMP to

to DMP as DC, Farhat Ahmed

city

DMP, Miah Masud Karim of 8th APBn to Noakhali PTC, Syed Mosfiqur Rahman of Rangpur PTC to Lalmonirhat as SP, Sultana Nazma Hossain of SB to SB as special police supter, Farida Yasmin of DMP to SB, Jalal Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury of police headquarters to police headquarters as police super Humayun Kabir of PBI to PBI as police super, Md Rashidul Hasan of Rangpur to Rangpur PTC, Tofail Ahammad of 1st APBn to Moulvibazar as SP, Nihar Ranjan Haoladar of DMP to CMP, Abdullah Aref of 7th APBn to 8th APBn, Nizamul Huq Mollah of DMP to Bagerhat as SP, SM Emran Hossain of Rajshahi to Sirajganj as SP, Mohamamd Harun-or-Rashid of CID to 3rd APBn, Saifullah Al Mamun of police headquarters to Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority, Khan Mohammad Rezowan of Rapid Action Battalion to DMP, Sheikh Rafiqul Islam of DMP to Shariatpur as SP, Bidhan Tripura of DMP to Manikganj as SP, Maruf Hossain Sarder of DMP to DMP and Biplab Kumar Sarkar of DMP to DMP.

FOREIGN JOBS 40,000 women get registered STAFF CORRESPONDENT Around 40,000 women all over the country have reg-

and Training Nurul Islam said yesterday was the last day to tally registrations for Dhaka and Barisal divisions, while registrations for rest of the divisions ended earlier on different dates.

were initially registered as domestic workers, caregivers and garment workcountries.

expected the numbers to rise further before closing the registration procedures by midnight.

6,398 from Khulna, 6,012 from Rangpur, 4,678 from Rajshahi, 4,491 from Sylhet and 2,675 from Chittagong divisions. Selected applicants will be trained according to their job preferences and

duction to the culture of the country they will be sent to. The government took the decision last month to send trained workers to the foreign countries following

they will be given an intro-

#### January. 2 Buddhist

FROM PAGE 1 Knight village in Patiya

around 3:00pm. Suman Sri Vhikhu, chief monk of the temple, told The Daily Star that it was an arson attack, but he did not know who were behind it.

Suman said he was at Patiya Sadar to buy some religious books for the temple when the arson took place.

"When I returned, I found all valuables, including my laptop, TV and furniture in my room at the temple, gutted by the flames," he said, adding that the Sramons (junior monks) and villagers doused the fire

already been instructed to later on. take steps to prevent further None in the neighbouranarchy centring on hartals, hood could also say who set

fire to the temple. Around the same time the following day, the temple's orphanage was burned down. Again, no one knew who committed

the arson. No one was hurt as children were attending school at that time, the chief monk said, adding that firefighters from Patiya rushed to the spot and

doused the fire. Mafiz Uddin, officer-incharge of Patiya Police Station, said police had visited the spot and were

looking into the matter. Upazila Chairman Idris Mian, and Upazila Nirbahi Officer Rokeva Parveen also visited the spot and assured the local Buddhist community of safety.

In neighbouring Boalkhali, unidentified people broke into Shakyamuni Buddhist temple at Jaisthapura village in the early hours yesterday.

The temple's monk,

Ginanonda Mohathero,

said, "The miscreants vandalised the place of worship, set fire to 'chibor', robe of idol Buddha; pilfered five small idols, and a donation box at the temple.' The monks were asleep at that time, he said.

Contacted, Jahirul Haque Sabuj, officer-incharge of Boalkhali Police Station, said police had

visited the spot.

It might be a case of robbery, he added. In September last year,

religious bigots went on the rampage at Ramu in Cox's Bazar following a posting demeaning the Holy Quran from a fake Facebook profile.

of Lord Buddha were looted from different monasteries during the mayhem.

Several hundred statues

#### be displayed across the after carrying out arson attacks on public properties, country, Tuku said. Son testifies

FROM PAGE 20

added

engaged so that people can

inform the authorities con-

cerned of such attempts, he

hours, the Jamaat-e-Islami

and Hefajat-e Islam activists

as well as local people insti-

gated by announcements

over the loudspeaker of a

local mosque attacked an

anti-hartal procession at

Fatikchhari upazila in

Chittagong, leaving three

Awami League men killed

and scores of others injured.

ment has also decided to

circulate photographs of

those who go into hiding

Meanwhile, the govern-

During the April 11 hartal

BNP standing committee member Salauddin is the son of Fazlul Quader Chowdhury, chief of convention Muslim League, which actively opposed the

LiberationWar. The three-member tribunal led by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir recorded Paritosh's testimony and part of his cross-examination before adjourning the proceeding until today, when the witness is set to face further cross-examination.

During his testimony, Paritosh, who was a teacher of RABM High School of Rangunia, Chittagong in 1971, said after March 25, 1971, political violence erupted in the country.

"Leaders and activists of Muslim League started looting, arson and torture on women of the Hindu community in our area," said Paritosh, adding that his father used to write general dairy for others. On April 10 on 11, Paritosh

and their family members, except his father, took shelter in one of their relatives' house, which was three to four miles away from their home. "After the killing of Nutan Chandra Sinha, owner of

Kundeshwari, on April 13, 1 went to my house on April 14 to see my father," said Paritosh, adding, "I requested my father to leave, but he refused and told us to remain calm. "After that I saw that Salauddin Quader

Chowdhury along with the

Pakistani army was

home. Then I hid myself in a bush in fear," said the witness. Salauddin was standing

under a tree and the Pakistani army got engaged in an altercation with his father at their vard, said Paritosh. "At one stage of the altercation, Salauddin Quader

soldiers [Pakistani army] 'this man is dangerous, kill him'," said Paritosh, adding, the army shot his father when he turned to go to the His father fell on the ground and the army set fire to his body with some chemicals, said Paritosh, adding

that as the Pakistani army

had left, he went to his rela-

tive's house and informed

them about the incident. The next day Paritosh's brother collected his father's remains and left the country as they felt insecure, said Paritosh. After the Liberation War, Paritosh returned to Chittagong.

After his testimony, Salauddin's counsel Ahsanul Huq Hena crossexamined Paritosh before the court adjourned the proceeding. Replying to a question, Paritosh said he had not

collected any certificate from Union Parishad in connection with his father's death. "Your father was not killed on April 14, 1971. Your father died at Barasat of 24 Pargana

BCL's involvement in the [West Bengal] after the libersupply of beds. He also ation," suggested Hena. claimed that the BCL men Paritosh rejected the defence's claims by just did not enter into the dormiapproaching towards our saying, "It is not true." tory.

#### he said. They have also been ordered not to spare opposition leaders, if they were

found involved in anarchy,

irrespective of their party

People would be

rewarded for helping law

enforcers with information

leading to their arrest, he

Criminals carry out sur-

prise attacks on the eve of

hartals, during hartals and

after hartals, the deputy

minister said, adding video

footage would make com-

The law enforcers have

mon people aware of them.

told The Daily Star.

BCL men

positions.

FROM PAGE 20 beds to the dormitory on the college campus around 2:00pm, but the students protested claiming that the

beds were substandard. Within a few minutes around 10 BCL men led by its college unit general secretary Shawon Das and Chowdhury shouted in anger and told the Panjabi organising secretary Asad Adnan Upal entered the dormitory; assaulted the female students and left the

> Students complained that the BCL men were awarded the contract to supply the beds.

Following the incident female students informed Vice-principal Prof AZM Shakhawat Hossain about the assault and demanded the authorities ensure security of the students and punishment to the BCI Admitting the assault on

female students, dormitory

resident Mollika Eti Runi also the deputy health secretary of BCL central committee, said the BCL should not have been involved in the supply of beds. Seeking anonymity, a first-year student said, "We

have got admitted to the college to study. But the BCL cadres have assaulted us over a trivial matter." Contacted, Shawon Das denied the allegation of

istered online for foreign jobs until yesterday eve-Director of the Bureau of Manpower, Employment

The female applicants

ers to Singapore, Hong Kong and Middle-Eastern A total of 11,924 women from Dhaka and another 3,336 from Barisal registered their names till 7:00pm yesterday. Nurul

Meanwhile the number of applicants amounted to

positive feedback received after sending trained male workers to Malaysia in