

Prosecution rebuked

FROM PAGE 16
 prosecutor Ghulam Arief Tipoo as the complainant.
 By not mentioning Tipoo as a complainant, the prosecution dealing with the highly important war crimes cases has apparently exposed the longstanding rift within itself.
 The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan ordered prosecutor Muklesur Rahman Badal, who filed the petition, to correct it and he complied with the order by putting Tipoo's name.
 It all started when Badal filed the petition seeking an order to show Forkan Mallik, a war crimes suspect from Patuakhali, arrested in a case for his alleged crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War in 1971.
 Acting chief prosecutor Syed Haider Ali instead of Tipoo was mentioned on the cover page of the petition along with other prosecutors. When Badal moved the petition, the matter drew the tribunal's attention.
 "Why didn't you mention the name of the chief prosecutor? What is the legal provision in this regard?" Justice Hassan asked.
 According to the legal provision, "The proceedings before a tribunal shall commence upon the submission by the chief prosecutor or a prosecutor authorised by the chief prosecutor on his behalf..." and the prosecution usually put the chief prosecutor's name on the cover of any petition.
 When Badal did not give a reply, Justice Hassan said, "Is he dead or out of office? He is very much present in the office. So, why didn't you mention

his name?"
 The tribunal mentioned some other errors on the petition as well.
 Justice Hassan asked Badal to correct the petition and ordered the inspector general of police (prison) to produce Forkan Mallik before the court on July 3.
 Forkan was arrested in a case pending with a Patuakhali Sessions Judge's Court on June 25. The prosecution sought to show him arrested in a war crimes case as an investigation agency was probing his alleged involvement in wartime crimes.
 The infighting over who would lead the prosecution has been continuing since April this year.
 Haider Ali was appointed as the acting chief prosecutor on April 13 after Tipoo had gone on leave on medical ground. But a power struggle within the prosecution intensified after he had joined office on April 30.
 There has been a chief prosecutor and an acting chief prosecutor in the team since Tipoo's joining. The infighting has already halted the prosecution's preparation for filing a case against Jamaat-e-Islami for its role in 1971.
 On the "error", Badal told The Daily Star that he had put Haider Ali's name following a "unanimous decision of the prosecution" and they had filed several petitions with the tribunal-1 using the same name.
 But Zead Al Malum, another senior member of the prosecution, has disagreed with Badal. "No such decision was taken in this regard," Malum told The Daily Star yesterday.



Vehicles stuck in a long tailback on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the capital around 5:00am yesterday. On the first day of Ramadan, commuters, mostly returning from offices and rushing home in the afternoon to have iftar with family members, suffered badly due to traffic congestion. Many waited for hours for a bus while many relied upon alternative modes like pickup vans and trucks. Right, one might think it is a roadside moment of magic. Guess what these people are trying to do. Ignoring risks to their lives, they ride a single pickup van in Farmgate. The pickup is, of course, submerged under their collective weight.
 PHOTO: STAR

Sonali sues

FROM PAGE 16
 concern of the group, were also made defendants in the case for taking Tk 13,62,08,823 from the branch of the bank.
 Judge Md Rabiuzzaman of the court has issued a summons upon them to explain by August 13 the claim of the bank.
 Earlier in March, April and May, the bank filed 13 other cases against Jasmine, Tanvir and 11 of their companies with the same court for taking Tk 387.43 crore in loans on forged documents.
 Sonali Bank started filing the cases after it failed to get buyers for the mortgaged assets of Hall-Mark. The bank

auctioned some assets including land last month, but got no buyer.
 The Anti-Corruption Commission had filed 11 cases against 27 officials of Hall-Mark and its lender Sonali Bank in October 2012 and pressed charges against 25 of them in October last year on money laundering allegations.
 Seven accused, including Tanvir, are now in jail while Jasmine is on bail and 17 others are absconding.
 Hall-Mark alone took away Tk 2,686 crore from the branch on forged documents between 2010 and 2012. The scam shook the country when it was brought to light in May 2012.

Is JP a model opposition?

FROM PAGE 1
 If Hasina, who is leader of the House, now criticises the performance of the Jatiya Party, it may generate further controversy over the voter less election. It may also earn more criticism for her government. So, the premier in fact has little other alternative, but to appreciate the Jatiya Party's performance in parliament as the handmaiden opposition.
 In her budget comments, the premier also lauded Raushan Ershad for what she called her "pragmatic decision" to take part in the January 5 parliamentary election. What Raushan had done really deserved appreciation from the AL high command.
 It was Raushan who foiled JP Chairman Ershad's bid to boycott the January 5 polls. She led the JP in the polls even after Ershad had announced that his party would not take part in the one-sided electoral race.
 Raushan has her reward too. She was recognised as leader of the opposition in parliament-- the high office in the parliamentary democracy was held either by Hasina or Khaleda Zia since 1991. She is now enjoying status of a

minister.
 Even Ershad, who had declared his intention to quit the parliamentary polls, was elected MP unopposed and is now enjoying the premier's blessings. Hasina made Ershad her special envoy with the status of a minister. Without any work, Ershad is enjoying all the benefits of a minister.
 There are some more reasons for which government policymakers may appreciate the role of the main opposition MPs in parliament.
 In the current political culture of intolerance, the treasury bench tolerates little the opposition's criticism in the House regardless of the nature of the criticism. This had made the AL and BNP MPs engage in fierce verbal attacks in previous parliaments. Both sides used vulgar and abusive words to attack each other.
 But the situation in the present parliament is different. Most of the JP MPs hardly launch any blistering attack on the government over any of its failures. Most of them try to maintain good relations with the government, instead of holding the government accountable to the House by

exposing its weaknesses in governance.
 They were not critical of any of the proposals made in the budget for the current fiscal year. On the contrary, they welcomed the budgetary proposals by thumping their desks when the finance minister was placing them in parliament in early June in parliament. So, the way the main opposition MPs have been performing their role has not annoyed the treasury bench.
 This might have satisfied the premier and prompted her to make the remarks that "people now understand how a parliament should work. And she further commented that "the people, the youths and future generation are now observing how democracy is being practised."
 Through her remarks, the prime minister seems to have tried to portray that the Jatiya Party has been a model in its role as the main opposition in parliament. If the Jatiya Party has really been so, the premier deserves the credit as she created it.
 But people think it in different way.

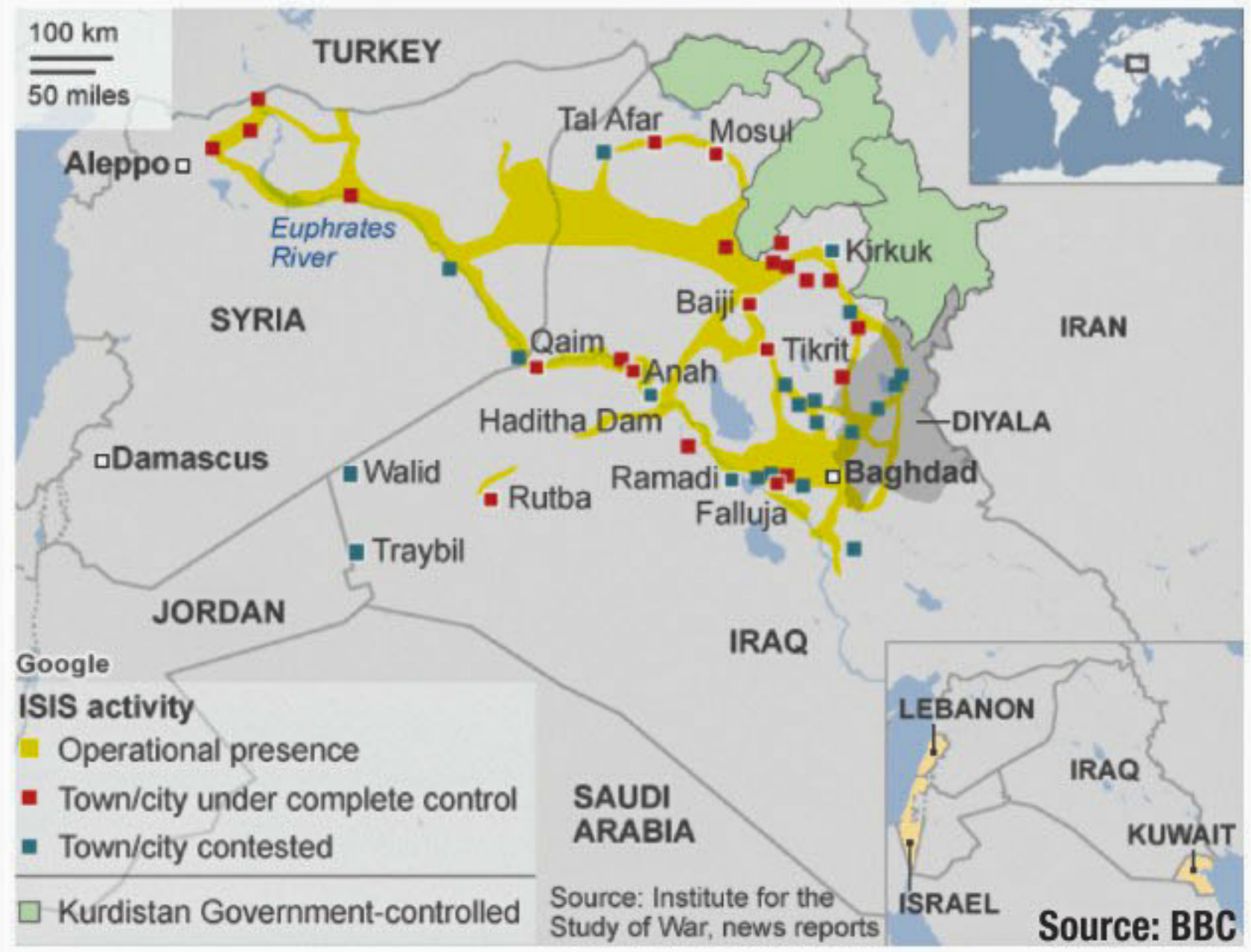
Withdraw

FROM PAGE 1
 intimidation can create obstacles for newsmen pursuing journalism in a courageous and neutral manner.
 "It is beyond imagination that a common citizen can make such indecent remarks, let alone a lawmaker," read the statement signed by Golam Sarwar, president of the council.
 The council, it added, believes that Shamim, having been patronised by different quarters, had become desperate in his behaviour. "With his behaviour and words, he has not only tarnished his own image, but also that parliament's."
 Mentioning the prime minister's recent lauding of the Osman family, the statement said the indecent remarks had created an embarrassing situation for the PM as well.
 Talking to some newsmen in Narayanganj on Thursday, the controversial AL lawmaker said, "Journalists are dogs. In our childhood, affluent people used to keep pet dogs ... Later, people, who gained wealth, started to keep the media. These [media] are Alsatian dogs..."
 Journalist leaders said the legislator's comments about the media and journalists are an expression of his meanness, which ultimately dents the dignity of parliament. They urged him to offer an apology and withdraw the comments immedi-

Time ticks

FROM PAGE 16
 Three digital printing machines and a binding machine have already been brought from Japan at a cost of Tk 32 lakh for preparing the paper-books as Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain has given priority to quick disposal of the case.
 A Dhaka court on November 5 last year awarded death penalty to 150 soldiers of the erstwhile BDR and two civilians, and sentenced 161 others to life imprisonment for their roles and involvement in the carnage.
 It also handed down rigorous imprisonment, ranging from three to 10 years, to another 256 people, mostly BDR jawans. The court acquitted the rest of the 277 accused.
 Seventy-four people, including 57 army officials, were slain in the BDR mutiny on February 25-26 in 2009 at the Pilkhana headquarters of the paramilitary force. It has since been renamed Border Guard Bangladesh.
 Victims' family members have been demanding quick disposal of the case and execution of the death sentences.

Jihadists declare 'Islamic state'



FROM PAGE 1
 Charlie Cooper, a researcher for the Quilliam counter-extremism think-tank, said the fact Baghdadi has been named Caliph was particularly controversial.
 He told The Independent: "There hasn't been a Caliph since the Ottoman Empire outside of the Ahmadiyya sect of Islam, and the Caliph is appointed as the only legitimate successor to Prophet Mohammed."
 "The fact that Isis has done this has

huge ideological and theological implications and it is a big challenge to al-Qaeda, their spokespeople may well try to reclaim their legitimacy."
 In the latest example of Isis' sophisticated use of social media, Cooper said a new propaganda video released 15 minutes before the announcement included a "hint" towards what was about to come, with a Chilean foreign fighter describing Baghdadi as his "Caliph".
 "Everything that Isis has done has been very tactical with meticulous in planning," he said.
 "There will be a lot of criticism from people saying announcing the restoration of the caliphate is premature, but Isis have rapidly evolved over the past few years and there's now a cult of personality about Baghdadi in Arabic social media.
 "He is a very popular figure, and this will make people from al-Qaeda and other groups question whether they should really be fighting for him."
 The news came as the Iraqi army was reportedly pushed back by rebel fighters protecting insurgent positions in the northern city of Tikrit yesterday.

The military began its attempt to win back control of the city on Saturday, with a multi-pronged assault spearheaded by ground troops backed by tanks and helicopters.
 Iraq's Prime Minister Nouri Maliki has blamed much of the rebels success on the Iraqi military's lack of air support. The country signed contracts to buy F-16 jets from the USA, but has been slow in receiving them.
 He said Iraq is also hoping to acquire second-hand fighter jets from Belarus. The deals are together thought to be worth about \$500 million (£293m).
 The UN says that more than 1,000 people, largely civilians, have been killed in fighting between Iraqi forces and the rebels.
 The US has now deployed drones to the region around Tikrit, Saddam Hussein's home town, though the White House said it has not yet authorised air strikes against militants and the drones will only be used for 'force protection'.
 Other countries including Iran are thought to have stationed military equipment and forces in the region.

Emperor

FROM PAGE 16
 the species. However, it could prompt other actions that will help reduce the speed and magnitude of the population loss, the report argues.
 These include identifying potential refuges -- particularly in the Ross Sea, which is situated just below the South Pole and will be the last place impacted by climate change -- and improving fishing practices to reduce the number accidentally caught in nets.
 Emperor penguins routinely trek between 30 and 80 miles over the ice to catch and deliver krill -- small crustaceans -- and fish that are critical for their diet.
 The report stems from a 50-year study of the Emperor penguin colony in Terre Adelie, in eastern Antarctica, which has seen researchers returning every year to collect biological measurements of the penguins.

Senegal

rule party fails to win over voters
 AFP, Dakar
 Senegal President Macky Sall's party has been beaten in the capital Dakar and in a number of key cities across the country, preliminary results from municipal and provincial elections showed yesterday.
 The polls on Sunday were seen as a key test for the president whose Alliance for the Republic (APR) party is riven by divisions two years after winning a bitterly disputed election.
 Early results published by local media showed that in Dakar the APR had been beaten by a coalition led by the outgoing mayor of the city, Khalifa Sall, from the Socialist Party (PS).
 The PS, which led Senegal from 1960 to 2000, is part of the ruling coalition, but leaders failed to agree on shared party lists for the local elections.
 "The early signs are that they have won," Prime Minister Aminata Toure, who ran the APR's Dakar campaign, said of the result in the capital. "I would like to congratulate them on a good result."

Corruption all the way

FROM PAGE 1
 different universities. For example, the minimum tuition fee for BBA programme is Tk 2.5 lakh and the highest 5.5 lakh.
 The private universities saw a sharp rise in number of students and had many achievements since they started their journey about 22 years ago. But the government doesn't have an adequate and long-term plan for these universities, it said.
 The authorities could not prepare rules for the Private University Act-2010 even four years into its formulation, it said.
 More than 3.14 lakh students now study at 79 private universities.
 "This sector should have been treated as a non-profit one. But some entrepreneurs consider it as a way of making profit, which is a matter of concern," said Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director at the TIB.
 And what is more worrying is that the regulatory authorities now seem to be accommodating this attitude of the entrepreneurs, he said.
 "Higher education is now at risk of becoming a commercial commodity," Iftekharuzzaman added.
 "The act has some weaknesses. Moreover, it is not being implemented

properly. The reason behind this, we think, is a liaison between some officials of the education ministry, the UGC, and the universities," he said.
 According to the study, the private universities were supposed to obtain permanent certificates 12 years after their inception, but only one of the 22 surveyed universities got permanent certificates. The rest now operate by renewing their temporary certificates.
 Only six of the 22 universities have their own campuses. The board of trustees interferes directly in the functions of most of these universities.
 Family members of the university owners or people not linked with the education sector get priority for membership of the trustee board, it added.
 Of the 79 private universities, 27 are without any VCs, 61 without Pro-VCs, and 49 without any treasurer.
 Presenting the findings, Nina Shamsun Nahar, deputy programme manager at the TIB, said most of the universities don't allocate money for research, and 13 of the 22 universities have no such projects.
 Though the government made it illegal for a university to have an outer campus, some have kept open outer campuses in the name of "admission and counselling centre," she said.

Many teachers take gifts and cash from students for giving them pass marks. The students also put pressure and even threaten teachers to increase marks or get passed, it said.
 The study said the education ministry and the UGC lack manpower and cannot monitor the activities of all universities. Financial constraints of these regulatory bodies have worsened the situation, it said.
 The ministry's task is often limited to issuing ultimatum when a university violates the law. Some ministry officials even make documents disappear and show reluctance to settle any issue without bribes, the TIB said.
 The UGC officials sometimes take gifts during inspection to universities, it added.
 The TIB made 16 recommendations that include amending the Private University Act to curtail trustee board's absolute authority, increasing capacity of the education ministry and the UGC, closure of all outer campuses, and special initiatives to stop "certificate trade."
 It also proposed simplifying the procedures for appointing VCs and pro-VCs, ensuring transparency and accountability in financial activities, and preparing rules for the Act.

Admin wary

FROM PAGE 16
 items or selling those out in the open," said Rasel Ul Kader, executive magistrate of Dhaka DC office, while his colleague Momtaz Begum was briefing the stall keepers on what they should do to maintain hygiene.
 Kader said the DC office would carry out drives in the capital throughout the holy month.
 Ziaul Haque, field officer of Bangladesh Standard and Testing Institute, told The Daily Star that he had not found any harmful chemical in the Iftar items being sold there.
 Though the sudden drive lessened the enthusiasm of some sellers, who were trying to draw people's attention to their food items with witty rhymes, many consumers welcomed the drive.
 "I have come here on the first day of Ramadan since the food items will be fresh today. From tomorrow, they will start mixing leftovers," Kamrun Nahar Shikha, a medical student, said.
 She came for the first time to Chawkbazar to take away Iftar items for her family at Bashabo.
 "It is the first roza, so there is a lot of excitement and festivity," Sikha said.
 A student of Sk Borhanuddin

College, Tawhid Sarker, also came to buy Iftar from Chawkbazar for the first time.
 "I have always heard about Chawkbazar Iftar but never came here before. This year, since my college is nearby, I have decided to take iftar from here to my house in Demra," he said.
 Sarker bought a kg of the traditional Iftar item, "Boro Baper Pola", for Tk 300 after much haggling.
 "This dish is made with 22 different types of spices," claimed Falan baburchi (chef), who was promoting the item by reciting a rhyme.
 Falan said the cuisine had originated from India's state of Bihar and was a mixture of different Iftar items, including kebabs, puffed rice, black lentil seeds and roasted beef, mutton and chicken.
 However, Md Alauddin, whose ancestors were from Old Dhaka, would not buy the item though he had come all the way from Elephant Road.
 "I have bought kachuris, nimkis and fruits, but not 'Boro Baper Pola'." Over the years, adulteration has been introduced to the making of the dish and so people fall sick after eating it, he said.