### 2 'militants'

FROM PAGE 16 Police.

Sources at Detective Branch of police said they took the arrestees on five-day remand through a Dhaka court yesterday.

Speaking at a press conference at the DMP media centre, Monirul said Asad is the commander of Bangladesh Jihadi Group. He got acquainted with Rauf when he was working as a lawyer's assistant.

He dealt with a case of Maulana Rauf, a charge-sheeted accused in the August 21 grenade attack case. The Huji leader is now behind bars.

Asad came from a poor family and cherished the ideal of communism, said Monirul, also a DMP joint commissioner.

After taking inspiration from Maulana Rauf, he thought that jihad could be the way to achieve his dream of establishing equity in society, the DMP official quoted Asad as saying during primary interrogation.

The other arrestee, Firoz Mohammad Tomal, is a private university graduate and son of a government service holder. Asad recruited Tomal for Bangladesh Jihadi Group.

Tomal told detectives that his

father owned 17 houses and apartments in the capital. He was a top financer and a supplier of firearms for the militant group. The three seized pistols were supplied by him.

As it was not possible for an individual to continue financing the group, its members planned to rob commercial banks, claimed Monirul. Detectives learnt about

Bangladesh Jihadi Group in October last year following the arrest of four Huji men in the capital and Fatullah of Narayanganj. Banned militant outfits Jama'atul

Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), Hizbullah, Allahar Dal, Ansarullah Bangla Team and Hizb-ut-Tahrir are members of the umbrella organisation Bangladesh Jihadi Group. They were trying to get stronger with plans to launch attacks in major cities and on eminent personalities, claimed DB officials.

During interrogation, Asad and Tomal said they sought help from some retired and sacked defence officials to train up some group members. They would send the trained members to Syria and Afghanistan to join in jihad.

Detectives on June 7 arrested nine suspected members of Huji and Ansarullah Bangla Team from the capital's Banashree and Sutrapur. Six of them were preparing to rob a

On June 18, they arrested a Dhaka University laboratory assistant and three chemical traders for allegedly supplying bomb-making chemicals to militants.

Asad and Tomal were detained based on information gleaned from suspected militants arrested earlier.

treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, police said. It is not clear how the bomb went

off as the family members and the police gave different accounts of the incident.

Yakub Ali, father of the victims, told reporters at the hospital that unknown miscreants hurled a bomb at his tinshed house around 4:30pm, leaving his kids critically wounded.

Miraj was declared dead after the siblings were taken to the hospital, he

In the preliminary investigation, police did not find any evidence the bomb had been thrown from outside, said Mofiz Uddin Ahmed, deputy commissioner (Lalbagh division) of

"The explosion might have occurred when the kids were playing with the bomb," he alleged.

Their father might have links with

storing bombs in the house, the DMP official added. Police were interrogating the vic-

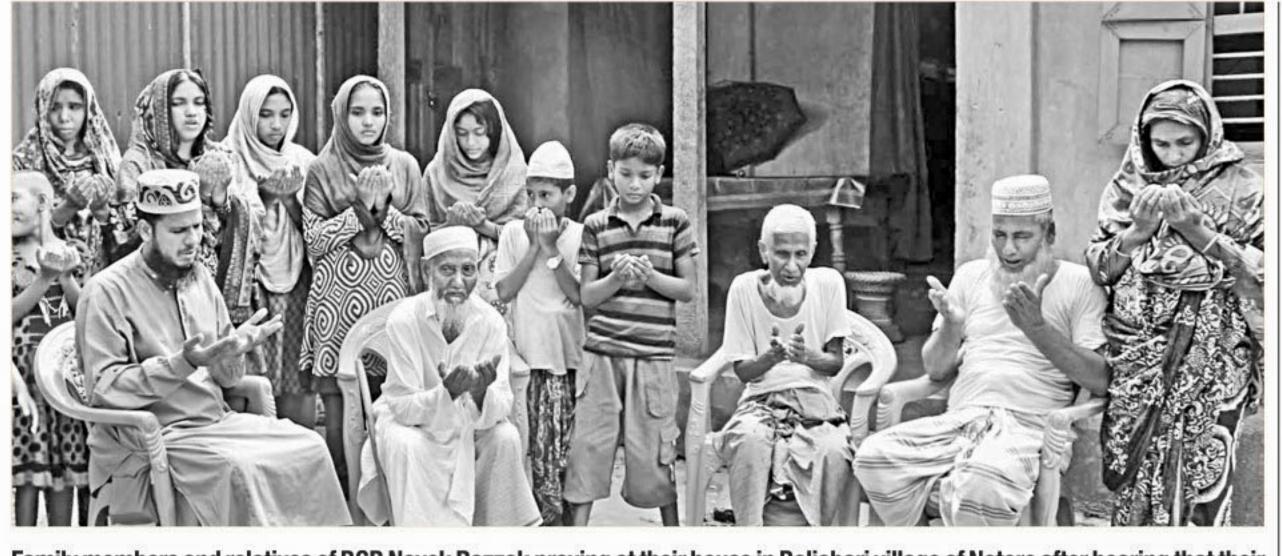
tims' parents to find the reason behind the blast.

### Hundreds more child soldiers recruited in South Sudan

Warring forces in South Sudan have abducted as many as a thousand more child solders in the latest abuses in the 18-month long civil war, monitors said Thursday, amid fresh efforts to bring rivals back to talks.

Rebel troops carried out house-tohouse searches snatching children as young as 13 in the battleground northern state of Upper Nile in two days in early June, monitors from East Africa's eight-country IGAD bloc said in their

latest report. It blamed notorious militia commander Johnson Olony, a rogue exgovernment general with a track record for press ganging children to fight, who joined rebel forces in May.



Family members and relatives of BGB Nayek Razzak praying at their house in Baliabari village of Natore after hearing that their dear one has been brought back to Bangladesh yesterday. Myanmar border troops abducted him over a week ago. PHOTO: STAR

# New scheme to protect 4 cities from earthquake

WB to fund 96pc of Tk 1,381cr project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has taken up a Tk 1,381 crore project to protect four cities, including Dhaka, from earthquakes. About 96 percent of the money would be from the World Bank.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) yesterday approved the Urban Resilience Project. The project has been taken after

conducting a large-scale study by an international consultant with the technical assistance from the WB. The first phase of the project would be implemented in Dhaka and Sylhet cities and the second phase in Narayanganj and Gazipur. Under the project, Rajuk in Dhaka

would establish an electronic construction permitting system and set up a professional accreditation body for engineers, architects and planners. After the Ecnec meeting, Planning

Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal told reporters that Rajuk would prepare a risk-sensitive land use plan. A land zoning would be done to determine how many floors a building could have in a particular area. Kamal also said Rajuk would test

and certify whether the materials to be used in constructing buildings were earthquake resistant.

Under the project, an emergency response and communication centre, National Disaster Management Research and Training Institute, and Emergency Management Centre and Warehouse would be set up.

Various types of heavy equipment would also be procured for providing

training to the disaster management workers at national and local levels on an emergency basis. According to the WB project docu-

seismic risk, largely due to the structural deficiencies of the city infrastruc-"The building stock in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh, is susceptible to collapse -- by ground shaking or sim-

ply due to gravity -- due to poor enforcement of building code regulations and the absence of robust construction standards," the WB report It said the nearest major fault line is believed to run less than 60km from

Dhaka and, although there is some uncertainty, research suggests that an earthquake of up to magnitude 7.5 is possible. This would have a devastating

impact on the city, it said.

Moreover, the city and its inhabitants are poorly prepared to respond to a crisis of this scale within the metropolitan area. A joint research project conducted by the University of Kansas and Dhaka University found that 83 percent of Dhaka's residents do not consider themselves prepared for an earthquake, the WB said.

A WB financed research found that an estimated loss of \$5 billion to \$7 billion would be incurred due to colossal damage caused to buildings by a strong earthquake in Dhaka.

The Ecnec in its meeting yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair also approved seven projects including this one to be implemented at a total cost of Tk 2,003 crore.

# Work awarded

operator of the port. A&J Traders is owned by ruling Awami League law-

maker Ekramul Karim Chowdhury. Saif Powertec submitted its bid on June 9. The port authorities were quick to prepare evaluation report and get approval from the CPA Board by June 22. It then sent the report to the shipping ministry for its nod before wrapping up the deal yesterday.

Tarafder Md Ruhul Amin, managing director of Saif Powertec Limited, confirmed the deal signing.

The CPA floated the tender on May 4. According to the tender evaluation report, the rate given by Saif Powertec was Tk 49.64 crore, 19.43 percent

Tk 41.56 crore. In the past, the CPA cancelled a tender and went for retender for another job after the contractor's rate was found 9 percent higher than the

more than the CPA's approved rate of

CPA's estimate, sources said. In 2009, the Cabinet Committee on Purchase rejected a tender bid for handling the Inland Container Depot in Kamalapur

in the capital for similar reasons. Container and Terminal Services Limited, which too had submitted tender for the terminal handling job, filed a writ petition with the High Court on May 31, alleging that some conditions for the tender were in violation of the Public Procurement Act (PPA), 2006 and Public Procurement

Rule (PPR), 2008. Two of the tender conditions were (a) the firm must have experience of terminal operation and (b) it must be a Bangladeshi firm.

Under the PPR, no condition may be set so that it impedes a fair competition. After hearing the petition, the HC on

the same day stayed the tender process for three months. But the chamber judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court stayed the HC order and fixed June 14 for hearing the petition at a regular SC bench. A full bench of the SC then directed the HC bench to dispose of the petition.

Evaluation of another tender invited by the CPA for appointing

operator for two other jetties of the same terminal is moving at a snail's pace. Five firms, including Saif Powertec Limited, submitted bids for the job on June 10.

Sources said this delay was "intentional" and was meant to avoid taking

approval from the purchase committee. Under the rules, approval from the

purchase committee is required if two sets of tenders are processed at the same time, and for a job at the same terminal.

According to the sources, the entire job was also split into two for the benefit of a certain quarter.

Under the PPR, the procuring entity shall not generally split a project or programme components into successive packages of lower value when preparing its procurement plan with the intention of avoiding either a particular procurement method or the obligations of seeking the approval of a higher authority.

And in the cases where a single object of procurement is split into more than one package, tenders for each of the packages must be placed for approval before the competent authority.

But these rules were violated in this case, added the sources.

Contacted, CPA Chairman Rear Admiral Nizam Uddin Ahmed said the whole tender process was done in line with the PPR.

He said these two tenders were invited for appointing operators for an interim period.

"As the number of containers is increasing in the port we had to go for a short-term tender on instructions of the ministry," he added.

## Khaleda

hosted by the organisation in a city

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia attended the programme as the chief guest.

After the iftar, Khaleda, also chief of the BNP-led 20-party alliance, was introduced to the Jamaat leaders who are now playing an important role in the party in the absence of its top brass who are behind bars on war crimes charges. Jamaat is a key component of the combine. Earlier, in a written speech, Mujibur

called upon people to "wage resistance against injustice and falsehood". Most of the Jamaat top leaders,

including its acting chief and acting secretary general, did not participate in the programme, fearing police arrest, party insiders said.

Only nine central leaders of the Jamaat were seen at the programme, which was attended, among others, by pro-BNP intellectuals, journalists and other professionals.

imperialists' on war anniversary ment report, Dhaka is vulnerable to AFP, Seoul North Korea issued a call to arms

North Korea

denounces 'US

against "gangster US imperialists" in a statement released Thursday to mark the 65th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War. The Stalinist state's powerful

(NDC) made the appeal on the anniversary of the devastating conflict which the North maintains was started by the United States. "We appeal to the world to turn out in the worldwide anti-US struggle to dismember the gangster US impe-

National Defence Commission

Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency. In a tirade typical of the North's state media, it continued: "Asia should turn out to cut off the US right hand, Africa should rise up to cut off the US left land, the Mid-east

has to cut off the US ankles and

rialists", said the statement carried by

Europe has to cut off the US neck." "The only way for the US to take is to make apology before the army and people of the DPRK and hoist a white flag," it said.

In South Korea the anniversary was low-key, but Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-Ahn presided over a state ceremony where he called for vigi-

"We should strengthen our security preparedness and military power... as the situation on the Korean peninsula remains unstable six decades after the war ended," he said.

"The government will deal sternly with any provocations from North Korea."

The Korean War of 1950-53 started with a massive North Korean attack across the 38th parallel, along which the Korean peninsula was divided into the communist North and the capitalist South.

### Japan may consider South China Sea patrols: military

AFP, Tokyo

Japan's military may join US forces on patrol in the South China Sea, the nation's top uniformed officer said in an interview published Thursday, as Tokyo seeks a greater security role.

China's recent moves to build artificial islands have created "very serious potential concerns" for Japan, Katsutoshi Kawano, chief of the Joint Staff of the Japan Self-Defence Forces (SDF), said in an interview with the Wall Street Journal. "We don't have any plans to con-

duct surveillance in the South China Sea currently but depending on the situation, I think there is a chance we could consider doing so," the admiral was quoted as saying. Kawano did not specify what

actions by China might trigger the Japanese to consider starting patrols, the journal reported, and any activity by Japan's military beyond its borders would likely raise concerns at home. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has

pushed for what he calls a normalisation of the officially pacifist nation's military posture.

#### Jamdani Elegance FROM PAGE 16 single sari, he said.

Despite their hard work, the weav-

ers' profit is tiny as they do not sell directly to consumers. They have to hand over the saris to the middlemen who do very well selling them at posh shops in Dhaka.

These Jamdani saris are also available at the BSCIC-run stores.

'Modern-day Slave Trade'

# Some manpower recruiters involved

Alleges rights boss

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A section of private manpower recruiting agencies is involved in "modern-day slave trade" which cheats jobseekers in the name of sending them abroad for employment, said Prof Mizanur Rahman, chairman of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). "In the name of manpower export,

those agencies are involved in a slave trade. They can't be forgiven," he told a public hearing of human trafficking victims at the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday. Shikkha Shastha Unnayan Karzakram (Shisuk), an NGO, and

Rights Jessore jointly organised the programme marking "The United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture." According to the organisations, the

government was reluctant to take action against the evil recruiting agencies. The NHRC chief said they had received allegations against some of

the agencies in connection with trafficking workers to several Middle Eastern countries, including Iraq. When they informed the ministries concerned about the matter, those

allegations were termed "baseless,

alleged Mizanur.

At yesterday's programme, many of the victims briefed the NHRC chief about the torture they endured while being trafficked.

Later, Mizanur said the ministries of home and expatriate's welfare should conduct investigations against the agencies and ensure their punishment, if found guilty.

Prof CR Abrar, executive director of

programme, said the allegations against the recruiting agencies were alarming. He said it seemed that the human traffickers were having an immense

Refugee and Migratory Movement

ment agencies and "some organs of the judiciary". Deputy Attorney General Motaher Hossain Sazu, Shisuk Executive Director Sakiul Millat Morshed and Rights Jessore Executive Director Binoy

In 1997, the UN General Assembly proclaimed June 26 the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture with a view to the total eradication of torture, says the

# Back from traffickers' den

FROM PAGE 16

"I couldn't continue my education because of poverty. So I had to leave school and search for work. I tried to start a small business in my locality but failed," Sajib said. When the local trafficker offered

go for it. Sajib expressed his wish to go to Malaysia to his parents and they did not disapprove. Besides, his parents were very happy with the idea that their son would end their sufferings by sending money

him a lucrative job in Malaysia in

exchange for Tk 2.2 lakh, he decided to

from Malaysia. "As per contract with Latif, we paid him TK 50,000 in advance. He told us that we need to pay the rest on reaching Malaysia," Sajib said.

On October 13 last year, he and the seven others left Satkhira and reached Dhaka along with Latif. They were taken to a hotel for one night. The next morning, the victims were

told that they could not be sent through Dhaka airport for security reasons and that they needed to go to Chittagong airport. Four of them declined and returned to Satkhira. "Now I understand how lucky they

[those who returned home] are," Sajib Instead of taking them to the

Chittagong airport, they were taken to Cox's Bazar. After three days, they were compelled to take the perilous sea voyage with some others from Teknaf.

"There were several hundred people

on the boat. They kept us in the ship for 21 days. We were given rice once a day and a small amount of water," Sajib recalled. At least two jobseekers died of torture by the traffickers in the sea, he added.

In early November, they were taken to a Thai jungle. The traffickers kept them there for four days, and after that the Thai police rescued them. Although he could not contact his

father in the meantime, his father,

Abdul Khalek, got a phone call from an unknown person who demanded Tk 5 lakh for Sajib's release. Khalek said, "He [the unknown caller] informed me that my son was staying with them at Teknaf, and we

back home. Although he sought help from different government and private agencies for his son's release, no one

have to pay TK 5 lakh to bring him

could help him. His hope to see his son again was gradually fading until the time when the police informed him of Sajib's rescue in Thailand in March.

Khalek filed a case against the local human trafficker with a Satkhira court in April. He also demanded that the government ensure exemplary punishment of the perpetrators and arrange

They also found the baby's birth

them that Ms Murillo was trying to

leave a trace of her path through the

jungle on foot while others flew over

the area in a helicopter using a loud-

speaker to shout Ms Murillo's name

Finally, on Wednesday, they located

Ms Murillo about 500m from the site

of the crash in a ravine on the banks of

and it was a catastrophic accident," Col

spirit must have given him strength to

"It's a miracle. It is a very wild area

Of the baby, he said: "His mother's

The couple were airlifted to a hospi-

Ms Murillo told medical staff that

She then reportedly went back for

Afraid the plane might explode, she

Details of how she survived are still

she had managed to open the cabin

door and run into the jungle as fire was

her baby, at which time she sustained

walked into the jungle along the bank

sketchy, but local media said she came

across a couple of indigenous people

burns to her face, an arm and a leg.

But for two days their search yielded

and urge her to return to the crash site.

Part of the search party scoured the

jungle.

no results.

'MIRACLE'

Carrascal said.

tal in Quibdo.

of a small river.

spreading in the cabin.

survive."

# Miracle survival

FROM PAGE 16 their small Cessna plane crashed in Choco province.

Murillo had some injuries and burns while her baby appeared to be in

good health.

CONTACT LOST The twin-engine Cessna plane, which was carrying fish and coconuts, had been flying from the town of Nuqui on the Pacific coast to Quibdo, the capital

It disappeared from the radar of the civil aviation authorities 20 minutes into the flight.

When the pilot did not respond to any calls, officials knew something was wrong and despatched a plane to

until they finally spotted a white dot in the dense jungle, which turned out to be the remains of the Cessna.

known, in the Alto Baudo region. When the search team reached the Cessna, they found its pilot, Carlos

There was no trace of Ms Murillo or her

Carrascal of the Colombian Air Force, rescuers took hope when they noticed that the cabin door was ajar.

but it could have been opened from the inside," he said.

in the jungle trying to survive or they could have died already." But then the rescuers found clues

which led them to believe Ms Murillo

compensations for his son and others. The stories of Shahidul, 28,

Jahangir, 20 and Rasel Rana, 16, -three others who left home with Sajib -- are almost the same.

were found by rescuers near to where certificate near a tree, which convinced

of Choco.

search the area. It took the search team two days

It had crashed, for reasons not yet

Mario Ceballos, dead in the cockpit. GLIMMER OF HOPE

baby, Yudier Moreno, which the passenger list said had been on board. But according to Col Hector

"It could have opened on impact,

"But that's when we started to worry. We didn't have a clue what had happened to them: they could be lost

who helped her. She was also able to drink coconut water from the coconuts the plane had been carrying, local media said.

She reportedly heard the calls over loudspeaker from the rescue helicopter which prompted her to make her way back to the crash site.

and her baby could still be alive. She is being treated for her injuries Coconut shells near the plane and a in hospital. Her baby son is said to be discarded flip flop in the jungle lifted unharmed.

Research Unit, who chaired the influence on the country's law enforce-

Krishna Mallik also spoke at the programme.

UN website.