Star editor

FROM PAGE 16 education secretary of Gazipur district unit of ruling Awami League, filed the defamation suit on February 17. The court had issued a summons asking Anam to appear before it.

It is one of the 79 cases that have been filed against the Star editor in 53 districts since February 9. Of the cases, 17 are pleas for bringing sedition charges against him. The complaints cite Tk 1,32,811 crore as losses incurred due to defamation.

The case spree began after Anam at a TV talk show on February 3 made an introspective comment about a lapse in his editorial judgment in publishing some reports, based on information given by the Taskforce Interrogation Cell during the 2007-08 caretaker government rule, without being able to verify those independently.

The cases against the Star editor have drawn condemnation from local and foreign journalists and their unions as well as human rights bodies.

Yesterday, Advocate Sultan Uddin, former president of Gazipur Bar Association, and Emran Hossain, incumbent general secretary of the bar association, led the defence team.

Cops deliberately

FROM PAGE 5

Asked for comments, Shikdar Md Shaheen Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kafrul Police Station, said the allegations were wrong. "We are waiting for the postmortem report. We will take action after we receive the report. The law cannot function according to emotions."

He added that the cause of her death was under investigation.

Zabed Ali irks

FROM PAGE 3 Bangladesh, Bangladesh Ansar, Bangladesh Coast Guard and Rapid Action Battalion headquarters today

and tomorrow.

The schedule was postponed yesterday and a new one will be designed later, said a staff at Zabed's office. Zabed was not available at his office and did not receive calls over the phone for comment.

Elections to 732 union parishads will be held on March 22 in the first phase and another 650 on March 31 in the second. Over 2,800 more will go to polls in four other phases till June.

Moreover, the EC may change the district election officer of Cox's Bazar over allegations of being involved with poll-related irregularities. The EC officials said the decision would be finalised within a day or two.

Nation pays tribute

FROM PAGE 3

Freedom fighter Humayun Kabir, who came to know the poet during the war, recited a poem and voiced the slogan of the independence movement "Joy Bangla".

"He was a deputy director and also editor of the monthly Uttaradhikar, a literary publication of the Academy," Dr Shamsuzzaman Khan told The

Daily Star. He said the spirit of the war, freedom, humanity, and democracy in Azad's works made him the creator of

extraordinary poetry. For writer Rashid Haider, who was the poet's colleague in Bangla Academy for more than 12 years, waiting for his coffin to arrive at their former workplace was heart-breaking. "I came to know him after our admis-

then," he recalled. Poet-novelist Syed Shamsul Haq said, "The poet may die but his

1960s and have been friends since

sion to Dhaka University in the

poetry lives on." Writer Anwara Syed Hag noted that Azad lived a complete life, the

way he always wanted. Imdadul Haque Milon, novelist

and editor of the Bangla daily Kaler Kantho, remembered the poet's contribution in grooming him up as a writer and a journalist.

"In 1976, he published my first novel 'Jabot-Jibon' in the monthly Uttaradhikar in 18 parts," said Milon, adding how Azad, later in 1978, helped Milon get the job of a junior reporter at the weekly magazine "Robbar", where the poet worked as

executive editor. Poet Asad Chowdhury urged readers to read Azad's poetry. "If you read them, they will inspire you to write

poetry." Cultural personality Mamunur Rashid talked about the anger expressed in Azad's poems, which later turned into a style easily under-

stood by the general people. The poet's son Ovinna said, "He was not just a father to us, he was an idol. He taught us how to love our country."

He recalled that his father did not want to stay long in Canada when he went there to visit his son last year.

"He used to say he misses Bangladesh's nature, bird song, and

air. So he came back on December 14 and a month later suffered the stroke."

Ovinna said his father's last wish was to be buried in the country he so loved, and it was fulfilled.

Following his namaz-e-janaza at Dhaka University Central Mosque after Zohr prayers, the poet was laid to rest at Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in

Mirpur yesterday afternoon.

90pc domestic workers have no labour protection: UN

AFP, Geneva

Around 90 percent of the world's 67 million domestic workers have no access to social security protection, with migrants left particularly vulnerable, the International Labour Organization said yesterday.

Domestic work is largely "undervalued and unprotected," the UN labour agency said in a new report. "When domestic workers become

old or injured, they are fired, without a

pension or adequate income support,"

said Isabel Ortiz, head of the ILO social protection department. The report noted that women were by a wide margin the most affected --

accounting for 80 percent of all ments. domestic workers globally. In Italy, roughly 60 percent of

domestic workers are excluded from social security systems, the report said. The same was true for 30 percent of domestic workers in France and Spain. Not surprisingly, the largest gaps in

protection for domestic workers were

most severe in developing countries.

For migrants seeking domestic work, including those flocking to Europe amid the current massive movement of people towards the continent, labour protection is especially rare.

Certain countries which have legally mandated social security systems for domestic workers specifically exclude migrants from those programmes, the ILO said. Ensuring social protection for

domestic workers is challenging, the

report said, in part because of the extremely high turnover and because many in the sector work for multiple employers under informal arrange-"There is no single protection model that works best for domestic

Duran-Valverde, the ILO's senior economist. "But mandatory coverage (instead

workers everywhere," said Fabio

of voluntary coverage) is a crucial element for achieving adequate and

Obama promises human rights talk with Castro

AFP, Havana

US President Barack Obama, who visits Cuba in a week, promised dissidents he would directly discuss human rights issues with their president, Raul Castro, in a letter published Sunday. Obama told the Ladies in White, a

group of wives and children of political prisoners, that he understood their struggle, in the letter dated March 10 but published online by the dissident organization three days later. "I fully understand the obstacles

that ordinary Cubans face in exercising their rights," Obama wrote in English. "The United States believes that no one in Cuba or anywhere else should face harassment, arrest, or physical assault just because they are exercising a universal right to have their voices heard."

"As I have in the past, I will raise these issues directly with President Castro," Obama stressed.

The White House confirmed to AFP that the letter was authentic. When Obama sets foot in Havana

on March 20, the White House imagines a "Berlin Wall moment" -- a singular legacy-gilding event like Ronald Reagan's 1987 address before the Brandenburg Gate.

While Reagan sought to end the Cold War division of Europe, Obama hopes to symbolically "tear down" decades of Cold War antagonism across the narrow Florida Straits.

Obama will visit the island March 20 to 22 -- the first visit by a US president since Calvin Coolidge in 1928, and a symbolically charged capstone to the rapprochement that he and Castro announced in December 2014.

Obama's Republican foes accuse him of betraying the cause of human rights in Cuba by engaging with the Castro regime, the Americas' only oneparty Communist state. In a bid to fend off such criticism,

the White House has announced Obama will meet with anti-regime dissidents in Havana, although it has not given any details beyond insisting that the Cuban government will not be allowed to hand-pick them. INTERCASTE MARRIAGE

Indian student hacked to death

AFP, New Delhi

An Indian student from the lowest Dalit caste was hacked to death and his wife critically injured in southern India in a suspected "honour killing" by relatives angered by their marriage, police said yesterday.

Three men armed with sickles and sharp weapons attacked the 22-yearold student and his wife, who is from a higher caste, on a crowded street in Tamil Nadu state on Sunday.

Local police commissioner N Manjunatha said the 19-year-old woman's relatives were angered by the couple's marriage.

"They married some eight months ago and the woman's family was unhappy. She is an upper Thevar Hindu caste and the man was a Dalit," Manjunatha told AFP. The woman is recovering at a local

hospital and police are searching for her uncle in connection with the attack, he said.

CCTV footage of the incident broadcast on Indian television showed the couple walking along the street when three men on a motorbike stop and attack them.

Turkey pounds PKK camps FROM PAGE 16

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said in a statement that terror groups were targeting civilians because they were

losing the battle against Turkish security forces. Calling for national unity, he said Turkey would use its right to selfdefence to prevent future attacks,

reports BBC. "Our people should not worry, the struggle against terrorism will for certain end in success and terrorism

will be brought to its knees," he said. Turkish police detained four people near the Syrian frontier yesterday, staterun Anatolia news agency reported, acting on a tip-off that the car used in the bombing had been bought in Sanliurfa, a Kurdish-dominated town

some 50 kilometres from the border. Dogan news agency for its part said six people had been arrested.

The fact that extremists were able to strike again in the heart of the capital, so close to many sensitive buildings and so soon after February's attack will raise questions about Turkey's ability to deal with the twin threat of Kurdish rebels and the Islamic State (IS) group.

Hours after the attack, Turkish fighter bombers hit PKK arms depots and shelters in mountainous northern Iraq, the army said, quoted by Anatolia.

Health Minister Mehmet Muezzinoglu yesterday gave a new toll of 37 from Sunday's blast targeting a bus stop, but said this included at least one attacker and possibly two. The first funerals for the victims were held yesterday.

The military said the PKK targets were hit "with precision", with a rebel spokesman confirming the strikes. **KURDISH LINK**

Sunday's attack bore similarities to

another suicide car bombing on a

convoy of military buses which killed 29 people in Ankara on February 17.

That attack was claimed by the Kurdistan Freedom Falcons (TAK), linked to the PKK, as revenge for Turkish military operations in the southeast. The TAK warned of more attacks to come, including on tourist

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said Turkey had "concrete information" on the group behind Sunday's attack, saying results from the inquiry would be made public soon.

"One attacker is believed to be a woman with links to the PKK," a Turkish official told AFP. Local media reported her name as Seher Cagla Demir, saying she was identified by fingerprints.

Just two days before Sunday's bombing the US embassy warned of a possible plot to attack central Ankara, advising American citizens to avoid the area.

GROWINGANGER

Erdogan's party won parliamentary elections four months ago campaigning as the only sure bulwark against rising insecurity, but the ongoing bloodshed is causing anger. "People have been talking about

another bomb attack coming for more than a week but the government took no precautions and didn't warn anyone," Nihat Gorgulu, the uncle of one of the victims, told AFP.

Kemal Kilicdaroglu, the head of the main opposition Republican People's Party, slammed the government for not appointing a new police chief for Ankara after the old one was sacked following the October attack.

Ankara has vowed to smash the PKK, and security forces have been waging a major campaign against the rebels since December, following the collapse of a ceasefire in the middle of

Road crash kills 2, injures 3

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Two people were killed and three others injured when a truck hit a battery-run auto-rickshaw carrying them on Dhaka-Khulna highway at Hatgopalpur Bazar in Jhenidah Sadar upazila yesterday. The deceased were Laltu Mindol,

50, and Sahera Khatun, 58, of Dhananjoypur village, said police. The injured were rushed to

Shailakupa Health Complex.

Illegal ice cream factory sealed off in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court of the Chittagong district administration yesterday sealed off an ice cream factory for running its business illegally and using harmful ingredients. The owner of the factory --

Dolphin Ice Bar in the city's Chandgaon -- fled the scene sensing their presence, said Executive Magistrate Ruhul Amin who conducted the drive. The court also destroyed around a

thousand ice creams. Mentionable, the court sealed off

two more ice cream factories in the area for the same offence on Sunday.

3 killed

FROM PAGE 16

a fierce fight took place between the two sides. Talking to The Daily Star, Haniful

Islam, officer-in-charge of Sonaimuri Police Station, said several thousand people were engaged in the clash. Police opened fire to disperse the troublemakers.

Hezbut Tawheed was blacklisted by the law enforcement agencies in 2009. Its activities are closely monitored, said officials of law enforce-

ment and intelligence agencies. Villagers vandalised the office of Hezbut Tawheed at Chashirhat Bazar and set fire to a house of a Hezbut supporter during the clash.

Police detained 110 people, mostly supporters of the Hezbut, in this connection.

The injured were admitted to different hospitals and clinics.

The villagers tried to lay siege to Sonaimuri Police Station around 8:00pm as police did not hand over the detained Hezbut men to them. Police foiled their attempt by firing blank shots.

They also ransacked and torched several motorcycles and buses during the clash.

Villagers also blocked Noakhali-Dhaka highway in front of the police station. Police removed the barricade around 12:30am.

Additional police and members of Rab and BGB were deployed in the area to avoid any further trouble.

Moshiour Rahman, ameer of Hezbut Tawheed, alleged that local Jamaat and Hefajat men carried out the attack as they spoke against doing politics in the name of Islam.

Putin orders

The two leaders, however, also agreed that Moscow would maintain an airforce facility in Syria to help monitor the progress of a ceasefire in the war-torn country. "Assad noted the professionalism,

courage and heroism of the officers of the Russian armed forces that took part in the military operations and expressed deep appreciation to Russia," the Kremlin statement said.

Russia began its bombing campaign in support of Assad's forces in September, a move that helped shore up the Syrian regime's crumbling forces and go on the offensive.

A fresh round of talks to end Syria's civil war opened in Geneva yesterday, but hopes for a breakthrough remained remote with the sides locked in a bitter dispute over the future of President Bashar al-Assad.

A temporary ceasefire in the country introduced on February 27 has largely held, despite accusations of violations from both sides, allowing aid to reach some 150,000 people living under siege.

Second round of Iran polls Apr 29

AFP, Tehran Iran will hold a second round of

voting on April 29 to fill 69 parliamentary seats for which no clear winner emerged during last month's elections, state media said yesterday. The run-off is necessary because under Iran's election rules a member

of parliament must win 25 percent of votes cast, but this only happened for 221 of the country's 290 seats. The first round on February 26 saw allies of Iran's moderate President Hassan Rouhani make major gains

against conservatives. But neither group won a majority, meaning the outcome of the second round could affect the balance of power in the legislature.

Ordeal of an AIDS patient The three-day 12th International FROM PAGE 16

She suspects that her first husband from Jessore transmitted the virus to her. She had a son who died in 2008 probably of AIDS without any diagnosis and treatment, she said.

After the breakup of the marriage in 2011, she married a man from Demra. To help the family, she went to Jordan with a job of domestic worker the next However, she was diagnosed with

AIDS just a week later and was subsequently deported home. Sultana then saw a doctor in the

capital's Gulistan. The physician terrified her, saying AIDS is a dangerous disease, and advised her not to tell anyone about it. "I was told police would arrest me if

they learnt about it." The doctor had her go through a

number of tests and then suggested

homoeopath medicines that cost her more than Tk 25,000 only to leave her poorer. Watching a TV commercial, she went to a diagnostic centre and got herself tested for AIDS. The centre referred her to an NGO that has since

been providing her with antiretroviral therapy given to control the virus so an AIDS patient can live a longer, healthier life with reduced risk of transmitting the virus to others. Sultana now works for the NGO for

a living.

She had dreamt of changing her fate Corona says is 20 times the size of by working abroad, but the policies do not allow people with AIDS to work overseas, she said letting out a deep breath.

Her ordeal is similar to several be taken for a drunk or a drug addict if thousand other patients facing social stigma and discrimination in the country.

HIV is transmitted through blood, semen, vaginal fluid or breast milk. According to the 2015 progress

report, Bangladesh has 3,674 cases registered since the detection of the first case in 1989. However, the estimated number of people living with HIV is around 9,500. Migrant workers, drug users (those

who use injections), sex workers, transgenders and male homosexuals are most vulnerable to HIV infections in Bangladesh, said Tahazzad Hossain, director (programme), of Mukto Akash Bangladesh, an NGO working to ensure better comprehensive care and treatment of people with AIDS. While it is crucial to change the

equally important, he said. "Stigma and discrimination lead to HIV cases go undetected," Tahazzad said.

living style of vulnerable groups,

removing stigma and discrimination is

According to a UN report, up to 20 percent patients avoid seeing a doctor in fear of being ostracised in Bangladesh.

Pacific that ended yesterday discussed the issues widely, calling for stronger care of and support to the patients.

"Do not neglect HIV patients. Stand by their sides. They are human beings and deserve equal dignity," Health Minister Mohammed Nasim said at

Congress on AIDS in Asia and the

Vardhan Shringla at the ministry The Indian envoy also drew the

minister's attention to launching flights on Dhaka-Guwahati route.

operation on the route begins, the London-bound Shillong passengers can easily use Osmani International Airport in Sylhet. "Meanwhile, they [passengers] would

In the meeting, the civil aviation minister brought up the issue of signing Teesta water-sharing deal between the two countries.

"India is very much aware of the issue."

tion of Orion.

he ever built the pyramid, but his conviction was so strong that he went ahead and did it anyway. He really believes that the alien paid him a visit in 1984, when he was 33 years old. His wife was pregnant at the

The man supposedly warned Corona that building the temple would not be easy, telling him: "Many people will laugh at you, defame and say it was an act of insanity or something he did during a bender, it was an

The alien also said that humans were destroying their own planet and

Building a temple in the form of a pyramid was not an easy task, especially not for Corona, who had only studied until the sixth grade.

He had to make several mathematical calculations that were way beyond his understanding, and to this day, he has no idea how he managed to do it.

was embedded in his genetic system, waiting for him to access it.

3 high officials

FROM PAGE 16 visitors and considers their visits the US federal government, created in UK's ban on direct air cargo from Bangladesh and threats to similar

security grounds. Asked, US Embassy Spokesperson Nancy VanHorn yesterday told The Daily Star, "As the partnership between the United States and Bangladesh grows, we welcome a range of high level visitors who meet with their Bangladeshi counterparts to discuss issues such as security, demo-

cratic rights, labour and trade. "We expect several US officials will visit Dhaka in the coming weeks to work with our Bangladeshi partners

tion in these areas," she added. Diplomatic sources say Sarah Sewall, under secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights, is expected to pay a four-day visit on March 29-April 1 to Bangladesh to discuss a wide range of issues including democracy, rights, labour with top government officials

Under Secretary Sarah oversees eight bureaus and offices including the Bureaus of Conflict and Stabilization Operations; Democracy, Human Rights and Labor; International Narcotics and Law Enforcement; Population, Refugees and Migration; and Counterterrorism; and the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons; the Office of Global Criminal Justice; and the Office of Global Youth Issues -- that contribute to the security of the American people and nations around the world by assisting countries to build more democratic, secure, stable and just societies. Alan Bersin, US assistant secretary for International Affairs and chief

diplomatic officer for the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of Policy, is expected to extremism.

surrounded him, shielding him with their bodies. DiMassimo, a senior at Wright State appeared to a video with what appeared to be a doctored picture of DiMassimo

State University in which Massimo is seen dragging an American flag on the ground. "USSS (United States Secret Service) did an excellent job stopping the maniac running to the stage. He has

ties to ISIS. Should be in jail!" Trump tweeted. But DiMassimo said his motives had absolutely nothing to do with

"I was thinking that I could get up on stage and take his podium away from him ... and send a message to all people out in the country who wouldn't consider themselves racist, who wouldn't consider themselves approving of what type of violence Donald

His aim was to "send them a message that we can be strong -- that we can find our strength and we can stand up against Donald Trump and against this new wave he's ushering in of truly just violent white supremacist ideas,'

Dhaka-Delhi FROM PAGE 16

yesterday.

Giving emphasis on forming a regional cooperation to ensure development, Harsh Vardhan said if the flight

even be able to visit several tourist spots, including Cox's Bazar," he added.

In response, the Indian envoy said,

Farmer builds

Earth and is located in the constella-The Mexican farmer added that Herulayka warned him that he would

time and about to give birth to their baby girl when he first saw the strange man in his dreams.

act of a madman or a drug addict."

needed to look after it like a child.

He just believes that the knowledge

measures on passengers' flights on

on ways to strengthen our collabora-

and others concerned.

visit Bangladesh on March 30-31 to discuss aviation and airport security, countering terrorism and violent Bersin oversees DHS's international engagements, serves as the principal advisor to the secretary in all matters pertaining to international affairs, and is responsible for leading the depart-

formulation functions.

The DHS is a cabinet department of important against the backdrop of the response to the 9/11 attacks with the primary responsibilities of protecting the territory of the US and its protectorates from and responding to terrorist attacks, man-made accidents, etc. Last but not the least, Thomas

Dukes, deputy coordinator for cyber

issues, is scheduled to arrive on March 22 on a two-day visit to explore cooperation with Bangladesh. His department's function spans the full spectrum of cyber-related issues that include security, economic

issues, freedom of expression and free flow of information on the Internet. Tom Dukes oversees issues like cybercrimes, cybersecurity, national

security and capacity building. Racism

FROM PAGE 16

University, has been charged with disorderly conduct and inducing panic. Trump posted a link to what

with a gun and an ISIS flag. In the video,

Arabic music is laid over images taken from an anti-racism march at Wright

radical Islam.

Trump is allowing in his rallies," DiMassimo said.

ment's strategic planning and policy DiMassimo told CNN.