British inquiry to hear from boss of Kelly

A probe into the suspected suicide of a British arms expert who sparked off allegations that Prime Minister Tony Blair's office exaggerated the intelligence case for war on Iraq will hear on Thursday from his defence

Brian Wells, the dead scientist's boss, is expected to face a grilling over the defence ministry's role in outing David Kelly as the source for BBC claims that an intelligence dossier on Irag's weapons capabilities was "sexed up" by the govern-Kelly, a former UN arms inspec-

tor in Iraq and biological weapons expert, was found dead with a slit wrist on July 18, a day after he went missing after leaving his home in southern England for a countryside

On Wednesday the inquiry heard a taped conversation involving Kelly, in which the arms expert accused Blair's press office of latching on to uncorroborated intelligence to bolster its dossier on Iraq, published in September 2002.

The BBC's original allegation came in May. BBC defence correspondent Andrew Gilligan said on the Today radio programme a senior British official had told him the government's dossier on Iraq, published last September, was 'sexed up" against the wishes of the intelligence services.

Gilligan also used a newspaper article in June to report that Blair's key aide and media chief, Alastair Campbell, was responsible for inserting in the Iraq dossier the headline claim that Saddam Hussein could launch weapons of mass destruction within 45 minutes.

The newspaper report was strongly denied by the government and sparked a furious row between the BBC, the world's largest broadcaster, and Blair's press office.

But the inquiry heard a tape recording on Wednesday of Kelly

with the Kamalapur Railway Station.

coach owners, the authorities could

not launch the three proposed trains

on the route. Now we have to see

whether the timely movement of the

train is ensured." said Jamat Khan.

convenor of Rajshahi Protection

Ekramur Rasul criticised the train

schedule and he believes the train

first passengers of Silk City

Express, said it was his 'pleasure

trip'. But he said he would avoid the

train in case of emergency, as he

thinks train journey is time-

Rajshahi University, welcomed the

government move but questioned

alut of buses on the route. The train

service will deepen the problem,"

Arafat, surrounded by visitors

sipping small cups of bitter black

coffee, shook hands with the mourn-

ers as a loudspeaker played verses

from the Quran, the Muslim holy

battering Arafat's West Bank head-

quarters 1 1/2 years ago. Israel's

position is that Arafat could leave to

travel to Gaza or overseas, but may

the leader for all of us, is unable to

said one of the mourners, Abed Jazi.

"Is it fair? ... But anyway (Arafat) is

aide, told The Associated Press in

Ramallah that Arafat was saddened

about the death of his sister," Abdel

Rahman added. "He was very

upset, and felt great sorrow that he

couldn't participate in the funeral

and couldn't see her while she was

a handful of scouts from the youth

wing of Arafat's Fatahmovement

gathered beside the grave. One of

the teenage boys saluted and

placed his other hand over his heart.

After the crowds of mourners left,

Ahmed Abdel Rahman, an Arafat

"I was with him when he learned

participate in his sister's funeral,

"It's sad that her brother, who is

not be permitted to return.

here in our hearts.

he couldn't go.

Israel began surrounding and

Mohammad Naser, teacher of

Rajshahi Bar President Sayed

Jamiul Ahsan Shipon, one of the

Movement Council

would never run on time

"Pressured by Rajshahi-Dhaka

Jamuna rail link

telling another BBC journalist that the government had over-played the 45-minute claim.

"It was a statement that was made and it just got out of all proportion. They (the government) were desperate for information which could be used," Kelly told Susan Watts, the science editor of BBC televison's Newsnight programme.

'They were pushing hard for information which could be released. That was one that popped up and it was seized on and it was unfortunate that it was." Kelly said on the tape, adding that he had been involved in the "whole process" of producing the dossier.

"(That) is why there is the argument between the intelligence services and (Blair's office) because things were picked up on and once they've picked up on it, you can't pull it back, that's the problem," Kelly said in the May 30 recording, played to the inquiry.

Watts also testified that senior BBC personnel had pressured her to back up Gilligan's report.

"I was most concerned that there was an attempt to mould (my reports) so that they were corroborative, which I felt was misguided and false," said Watts

The inquiry heard that during one of several phone conversations with Watts, Kelly told her "he did not think the British had a definitive position on Iraq's exact capabilities".

Describing some of the claims made by British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and US President George W. Bush about Iraq's weapons capabilities, Kelly told her: "It

Blair, who is currently on holiday Barbados, and Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon, the minister in charge of Kelly's department, are expected to be summoned to give evidence before the inquiry closes.

said Shahidur Rashid, convenor of

decided to launch three trains but

scrapped the plan reportedly upon

an instruction from the higher

authorities and under pressure from

Refuting the allegation, AKM

Rezaul Karim, director general of

Bangladesh Railway, said the two

other proposed trains would be

launched after installation of a

modern traffic signalling by

Tk 140 for Shobhon. Tk 165

Shobhon chair, Tk 290 Shobhon AC

chair, Tk 280 first class, Tk 425 first

class berth and Tk 630 air-

The 58th birth anniversary of BNF

Khaleda Zia will be observed todav.

The train fare has been fixed at

December.

conditioned berth

Khaleda's

birthday

today

BSS, Dhaka

The rail authorities earlier

Rajshahi Road Transport Group.

industries to save workers, urges JSD

Protect nat'l

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) vesterday called for a 'platform to protect national industries' to save workers' livelihood in a memorandum protesting the economic policies of the government, during a

The protest rally was part of a daylong programme including a human chain and the presentation of memorandum resisting lay-off, lockout, deregulation of national industries and the anti-worker policies implemented by the government.

"Shutting down industries has become a regular event for the government," said the JSD president, Hasanul Haq Inu, adding that you may cut jobs, and shut down factories with the stroke of a pen but it cannot create industries."

Jatiya Shilpa Rakkha Mancha should be formed in collaboration with the government, owners and labours, he added. Meanwhile Shirin Akhtar presi-

dent of Bangladesh Jativa Sramik Jote, asked the workers to assemble in creating "one factory, one union, one country, one federation' to protect the national and workers nterests

Inu was the chief guest at the meeting. Labour leaders Fatima Hossein, M A Barek and Kazi Siddiqur Rahman, among others, spoke on the occasion, while Al Azam Khan read out the memorandum

JU teachers

FROM PAGE 12 and other academic activities, as the hall authorities refuse to sign clearance certificates. The students who applied for their honours and master's certificates are facing the same trouble, the university sources

The SSB hall employees cannot get their bills of daily needs, as the provost's signature is required.

Meanwhile, the JCD played a vital role in distributing the seats among the fresher at the dormitories, as the hall authorities went on a work abstention programme.

Stiglitz

did not increase investment and rather promoted economic instability in different countries.

On the IMF's wholesale campaign for privatisation, he asked why the developed nations do not go for privatisation of the atom bomb industry.

He maintained that mass-scale privatisation at the advice of the IMF only breeds corruption. The visiting economist, however, said privatisation could be a good tool for an economy if done in the right way.

The Southeast Asian countries could come out of their economic downturn because they did not follow the 'Washington Consensus. he pointed out

Shazneen case

trate concerned gave his deposition on Shahid's confession before the tribunal, they added.

The counsels argued that different decisions and judgements of higher courts justify punishment of the co-accused in this case on the basis of Shahid's confessional

Earlier, the tribunal recorded statements of 22 prosecution witnesses including the victim's father Latifur Rahman.

Chairperson and Prime Minister Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15, the youngest daughter of Latifur Though there will be no official Rahman, Chairman of Transcom programme, family members of the Ltd, was raped and murdered at prime minister will observe the day their Gulshan residence in the city on April 23, 1998.

and MA Kamrul Hasan Khan Aslam

as Md. Hossain and claimed to be

an employee of the emergency unit.

patient by the doctor with spectacles

An emergency unit worker,

Officials say the hospital is beset

In addition, staff shortages make

t hard for workers to cope with the

daily onrush of patients, which at

more than 1,600 is double the

shifts in a 24-hour period at the

emergency unit. The workload for

That is why outsiders take

advantage of the situation, admit

hospital officials. "We just keep our

eyes closed to what is happening all

The hospital has been operating

like this for years despite repeated

Twelve wardboys work three

hospital's capacity of 800 places.

four boys a shift is too much.

public complaints.

Sunnat, identified Hossain as "staff"

by crises caused by mismanage-

ment, inefficiency and lack of gov-

"I was asked to accompany the

defended the accused.

on ward No.30," he said.

from ward No.31.

ernment commitment.

DMCH

FROM PAGE 12

However, BNP and its front Special public prosecutors (PPs) organisations will arrange various ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul programmes on the occasion, party Mahbub Ahmed, Arfan Uddin Khan sources said yesterday. and Saima Khanam and Assistant PP Anisur Rahman appeared for the state. Advocates Mosharraf Hossain Kajal, Mizanur Rahman

Tungipara

in a homely atmosphere.

AL leaders alleged that BNP cadre Wahidul Islam Prince led the activists, who prevented the AL men from proceeding to Tungipara.

Wahidul however denied the allegation. BNP activists said the vehicles carrying the AL leaders and activists were not allowed to cross the bridge as they did not pay tolls.

Press wings

A high-level meeting between the ministries of foreign affairs and information January this year emphasised strengthening the information and cultural wings of the missions and also took some decisions. But no progress has been made as yet in this regard.

A top official at the foreign ministry said their efforts to convince the government policymakers of the importance of press and cultural wings have yielded no result.

Sources recalled that during the Awami Leaque rule, the foreign ministry had proposed opening press wings in the missions in eight countries in Europe. Middle East and South Asia. But the then government also failed to implement the

PM takes maiden trip

ng welcoming slogans. The inaugural train, Silk City Express, with 12 bogies, departed from Rajshahi station at 1:35pm and

arrived at Sardah at about 2:15pm. Ministers, MPs, civil and military high officials, diplomats, local elite and personalities of various professions were on board the train for the

The Silk City Express will go into commercial operation from today, a Railway official said.

The express is scheduled to depart from Raishahi station at 6:00am and reach Joydevpur at 11:00am while the return train will depart Jodevpur at 6:00pm and arrive at Raishahi at 11:00pm.

Passengers will be ferried from Joydevpur to Dhaka and Dhaka to Jovdevpur on a shuttle train.

Addressing the inaugural function, the prime minister said the government has taken up programmes for comfortable and speedy rail communications hetween Dhaka and other important cities aiming to turn the capital city into a "nerve-centre" of the rail network

Explaining the plans, she said two fully air-conditioned deluxe trains would run on the Dhaka-Sylhet and Dhaka-Chittagong routes under a scheme. Steps have been taken to install

rails from Chittagong to Cox's Bazar and Ramu to Gondum to link Bangladesh with Trans-Asian Railway network, she told the audi-After Rajshahi-Dhaka direct rail

communications, the prime minister said cross-Jamuna trains would soon run direct between Jodevepur and Khulna, Lalmonirhat, Bogra and

The new rail communications have been installed under the Jamuna Bridge Link Project. The project command area covers eight districts -- Gazipur, Tangail, Sirajganj, Pabna, Natore, Naogaon,

Joydevpur and Dinajpur. A consortium of international donors like ADB, OPEC Fund, France and Spain, and the government funded the Tk 1,744.3 crore JMB Railway-link project.

Eight new stations have been set up at Joydevpur, Mouchak, Mirzapur, Mohera, Tangail, Ibrahimbad, Saidabad Sadanandapur and Ishwardy bypass along the dual-gauge

Contractor and consultant firms from France, India, Spain, Canada and Bangladesh were engaged in the project.

Khaleda in her speech thanked

the friendly countries and development partners who extended financial and technical assistance for the She also thanked all the workers,

staffs, engineers, contractors and consulting firms, from home and abroad, who contributed their merit. labour and skill to the project. She informed the function that a

Tk 600 crore project had been undertaken to construct 35km new rails on the eastern side of Jamuna Bridge for the people of Jamalpur-Mymensingh-Netrokona belt to get benefit from the multipurpose bridge, which bridged the gap between the two parts of the coun-And 66km tracks will be set up in

the western zone to bring people of

Bogra, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat and Rangpur under the JMB rail network.

"A revolutionary change will take place in the rail communications on completion of these works." she

Khaleda underscored making train service attractive to ordinary passengers, traders and tourists from home and abroad.

She reminded that train services around the world are facing competition with other modes of transport But the reality is that rail is still highly acceptable, everywhere, for dependable, safe and comfortable

"I believe this glory can be restored to our railway in transporting passengers and goods with the efforts of all concerned." Khaleda

She asked the rail authorities to strictly curb corruption and raise the income of this sector.

She also asked them to check waste, grab and ruin of railway property, as she said a lot of railway assets were lying scattered in various places.

Earlier, the prime minister laid the foundation of Rajshahi new railway station building. She also laid the foundation of

Rajshahi Women's Polytechnic

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, Post and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Huq, State Minister for Communications Salahuddin Ahmed and Raishahi Mayor Mizanur Rahman also spoke at the inauguration.

The main thoroughfares of the

capital will be fitted with automatic

signal lights by March next to ease

An agreement to this effect was

signed between DUTP and ATS

Technology (Hong Kong) Ltd at

Oaivum and Zahir Siddique of ATS

Technology signed the agreement

installed on 59 roads at a cost of

Under the DUTP, a central moni-

toring system for controlling the

signals will be installed at Nagar

Bhaban. Push buttons for road

crossings and loop dictators for

counting the number of vehicles and

Four of a 13member family of village

Keshrail under Boalmari Upazila

died from food poisoning at the

Faridpur Medical College Hospital

The nine others also fell sick and

Survivors at the hospital said

they all fell sick after taking beef with

rice cake on Tuesday night and

were admitted to local health com-

As their condition deteriorated,

they were shifted to the Faridpur

Medical College Hospital on

Wednesday night where Shahida

Begum.60, her son Badsha Mia.38

grand daughter Nupur,20, and

in the early hours of yesterday.

were admitted to the hospital.

measuring their speed will also be

over Tk 13 crore with financia

assistance of the World Bank.

Director of DUTP of the DCC MA

The modern signal lights will be

traffic jams at road crossings.

Nagar Bhaban yesterday.

for their respective sides.

installed on the road.

4 of family

poisoning

die from food

UNB, Dhaka

Passengers suffer Auto traffic signal lights in city by March next yr lock through discussion and ensure

checking overloading and registration papers." Giasuddin-al-Mamun. senior vice-president of the owners association told reporters.

Quoting a meeting between the shipping minister and owners, he said the minister said attested papers would be enough to prove the eligibility of their vessels, but the magistrate fined launches despite showing those making them aggrieved

Mamun said the shipping minister slapped some rules unilaterally on them what appeared unbearable

The demands of launch owners include official recognition of attested registration and survey papers, drawing by any naval architect instead of three persons selected by the government, withdrawal of the orders for installation of expensive modern equipment including hydraulic steering, echo sounder and rudder system in launches.

The shipping minister yesterday called the strike mindless, saying the owners were reluctant to hold talks with the authorities concerned.

M Kolimullah, chairman of the owners' association. however said: "It is false, the minister did not invite us to talks and we are not violating

Meanwhile, a number of organisations yesterday demanded an end to the strike and implementation of safety rules on waterways.

Bangladesh Nagorik Samaj (BNS) yesterday demanded arrest of the launch owners association chief for holding passengers hostage in the name of the strike.

In a statement, the BNS also demanded resignation of the shipping minister and urged the government not to bow to the pressure from the association.

Bangladesh Noujan Sramik Federation held a meeting with the shipping minister and demanded implementation of marine rules.

Samajtantrik Sramik Front urged the government to resolve the dead-

French heat wave

neverseen.'

said.

safety of launch passengers. Our Barisal correspondent adds:

The government put some vessels into operation in the southern region to ease the river transport situation.

The BIWTC ro-ro ferry Birshrestho Mahiuddin Jahangir and rocket steamer PS Mahsud plied some routes and some more vessels will be put on the Barisal-Bhola route

Iraq ire

against the people of Sadr City," the letter said. "I am personally investigating this incident and will punish those responsible. We offer to treat the four wounded citizens at Coalition medical

But residents vowed more prowithdrew.

"The apology is not enough," Qais Hadi Khazali told Reuters. "We cannot control the situation. It is very tense. If the soldiers care first of all about thei own welfare, and secondly about the welfare of Iraq, they must leave Sadr

SHIAANGER

Tensions in Shi'ite areas have added to the problems of the US-led administration in Iraq, which is already facing a guerrilla campaign in Baghdad and the surrounding Sunni Muslim areas, from where Saddam Hussein drew much of

The US military said Thursday 60 of its soldiers had been killed in attacks since May 1, raising the total to take into account wounded soldiers who laterdied.

oppressed by Saddam Hussein, a Sunni, and welcomed his overthrow. But some powerful Shi'ite clerics

3am, hospital sources said.

Many people died while locked inside apartments, raising concerns about hygiene and odor. One police officers union in Paris called on the government to deploy the army to help retrieve bodies.

With many families gone on vacation. "there are a lot of elderly people alone in big cities in August," said health ministry spokeswoman Laurence Danand. Danand said an exact figure would

be released next week on the number of heat-related deaths, based on a survey of all private and public medical institutions, including retirement Under the crisis measures enacted

Wednesday, hospitals in Paris mobilized a large number of beds to treat victims and called back health care workers from their vacations. Critics said it amounted to too little, too late. One hospital official faulted

the government for failing to act on

warning signals from doctors in late July and early August. "We said, 'Watch out, something's happening. There are a lot of people arriving' but no one listened," said Patrick Pelloux, head of France's emergency physicians' association,

on Europe-1 radio. When it's all counted, "we're going to have between 3,000 and 5,000" dead, Pelloux said. "It's a nationwide

tests, and a local sheikh said American troops would face violence unless they

Most Shi'ites in Iraq say they were

have spoken out against the occupation, and anger is also brewing in mainly Shia southern Iraq due to chronic fuel and electricity shortages.

catastrophe the likes of which we've

acknowledged "difficulties" but said

the government "carried out the

responses that were needed" as soon

as the first cases of heat-related death

"We didn't just remain inactive," he

Paris City Hall said Wednesday it

would ensure that city-run funeral

homes would remain open to bury

bodies on Friday, a holiday in France,

and recall more than 30 municipal

retirement homes bought extra fans

and atomizers to keep their residents

cool in a country where air conditioning

been set in numerous cities across

France, and the capital has baked

under heat at or exceeding 98

Galois, a forecaster for weather

we've had weather stations," Galois

"It's historic, unprecedented since

service Meteo France.

In its duration and in temperatures

Record-high temperatures have

To protect the elderly, the city's 13

workers from vacation.

Mattei, the health minister,

ligers named FROM PAGE 12

12th man in the inaugural Test against India. Alamgir, on the other hand, played one Test against Sri Lanka last vear.

They are the two surprise inclusions of the new selection committee led by ex-national captain Faruque Ahmed. Raiin takes the place of Al-

earned his place at the expense of Tareq Aziz, who did not play a single match on the tour. All-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman won a place in the stand-by list along with veteran paceman Hasibul Hossain and Tushar Imran. Both Tushar and Hasibul flew down

under to feature in the one-day

Shahriar, who failed to live up to his

potential in Australia. Alamgi

Bangladesh will fly to Karachi tomorrow night. The first Test starts in the Pakistani port city on August

Khaled Mahmud (captain), Habibul Bashar (vice-captain), Javed Omar, Hannan Sarker, Sanwar Hossain Raiin Saleh Alam. Mohammad Ashraful, Alok Kapali, Khaled Mashud, Mohammad Rafique, Monjurul Islam, Tapas Baishya Alamgir Kabir, Anwar Hossain Muni and Mashrafee-bin-Mortuza. Stand-by: Tushar Imran,

reached, the heat wave was France's Hasibul Hossain and Mushfiqur worst ever, surpassing the previous Rahman hottest summer -- 1947, said Patrick Officials: Day Whatmore

(Coach), Lt. Col. (retd) MA Latif Manager), John Gloster (Physio) Woodford (Fitness advisor) and Nasir Ahmed (Computer ana-

Be friendlier to get more productive

Study observes

REUTERS, Washington

It may seem more professional to stay impersonal at work, but in fact friendlier employees are more productive, according to researchers at the University of Michigan.

A comparison of the American work ethic to approaches in other countries shows that keeping an emotional distance may not be the most effective way to get the job done, said Jeffrey Sanchez-Burks, a psychologist who led the study.

Friendly workers pay attention to indirect meanings, work well with other cultures and are perceived as trustworthy, Sanchez-Burks said.

An impersonal style blinds workers from noticing differences in style. They often fail to notice nonverbal communication, Sanchez-Burks said. Writing in the August issue of the

Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, Sanchez-Burks said he traded notes with colleagues at the University of Michigan, Seoul National University in Korea and the International Business University in Naniing, China,

Sanchez-Burks ran several experiments, having students and employees in Fortune 500 firms act out work scenarios.

"An impersonal style tends to restrict the bandwidth of information a person attends to in the workplace," he said. "What is literally said will be

followed closely but information

about the context in which the

information is conveyed -- informa-

tion often critical for task success

and productivity -- is lost," he added.

highly friendly. The challenge is transferring that behavior into the workplace.

"This type of miscommu-

nication, like ships passing in the

night, is further exacerbated in

diverse organizations (domestically

and internationally) because rarely

are people with other cultural back-

grounds as impersonal as main-

This impersonal attitude at work

is rooted in Protestant beliefs of

putting emotion aside at the office.

Sanchez-Burks said in a telephone

things impersonal at the workplace

is virtually confined to the United

and India and especially Latin

American countries place high

importance on personal relation-

Sanchez-Burks said Latin

Americans become friends with

people they are doing business with

first and then move onto the work

Sanchez-Burks does not argue

that Americans are completely

impersonal. In social settings, the

researchers found Americans to be

while Americans work first and then

Workers in South Korea, Japan

The American style of keeping

stream Americans.

interview this week.

States, he said.

become friends.

ships at work, he said.

"For a very long time, (this impersonal work ethic) has been seen as essential to the success of Western business organizations. So it's difficult to accept that staying on task may actually be a barrier to productivity in today's global environment," Sanchez-Burks said.

Foreign workers

economic areas, such as the health sector, the impact of staff shortages f foreigners were restricted could be

Ng cited the role played by foreign nurses during the deadly Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) viral outbreak that battered Singapore from March to May this year.

"During the SARS crisis, no one would have blamed the foreign nurses if they had chosen to return to their home country. Instead, many foreign nurses stayed and risked their lives taking care of patients with SARS," he said.

Singapore, a tiny, tradedependent city-state of 3.2 million citizens and permanent residents, relies on a large pool of foreign workers to staff its banks, hotels,

factories and other firms. Foreigners manage many top companies here, while labourers from China and Bangladesh are the mainstays of the construction industry

Professionals, engineers and architects from Malaysia, the Philippines and other countries are

also prominent. But with the unemployment rate at near 20-year highs, there have been growing calls to review the

open-door policy. The debate was kick-started after two university economists released a study showing that four out of three jobs went to foreigners between 1997 and 2002.

The economists later said their figure was wrong but the admission failed to dampen frustration among Ng nevertheless reiterated

to 2002, nine out of the 10 new jobs created went to locals. He added that Singapore's

government figures that from 1998

economy was dependent on the economies of its global trading partners

"Jobs will return when that economy picks up. They will not come from keeping foreign workers out,"

Singaporeans they could not afford to be choosy about the jobs they Foreigners take about 200,000

In the meantime, Ng told

iobs in the relatively low-paid manufacturing and services industries with another 140,000 foreign maids and 150.000 construction workers.

"I encourage Singaporeans to take up these jobs. I appreciate that some of these jobs are not attractive because of lower pay or working

conditions," he said. "But we have to be realistic and Singaporeans need to adjust to market conditions too."

BCS test

before the exam." the students They also threatened to launch a greater movement if their demands were not met immediately and

announced demonstration

that the students have to bear

programme on the DU campus Sunday Earlier, the students brought out

a procession and held a rally at bat tala on the DU campus yesterday. The 24th BCS preliminary test was taken Friday for the second

time amid allegations of question paper leakage. Eliza Zaman Supti. a student of political science at DU, read out the written statement and a number of

BCS examinees were present at the

press conference.

Bangabandhu

Besides, special prayers will be arranged at mosques, temples. churches and at Bangabandhu's graveside at Tungipara.

Moreover, the AL will hold a

public meeting at Paltan Maidan on August 31. At the meeting AL President Sheikh Hasina is expected to announce fresh agitation programmes against the government. "Unity of all democratic and

in a statement yesterday. Bangabandhu, born on March 17, 1920, in Tungipara of Gopalgani district, played the pioneering role in the country's struggle for independ-

progressive forces is the call of the

hour," said the leader of opposition

The day of brutal assassination of Bangabandhu was observed officially as the national mourning day during the AL regime from 1996 to 2001. But the BNP-Jamaat-led coali-

tion government scrapped the day and its official programmes in October, 2001. Fifteen former army officers were awarded death penalty by the trial

court in the Bangabandhu murder case on November 8, 1998. Later, the High Court upheld the death sentence of 12, four of whom

remaining three, Aziz Pasha has died and the others are absconding. As there is scarcity of judges to form a three-member Appellate

are now in Dhaka Central Jail. Of the

Division bench to hear leave to

appeal petition, the case is still pending with the Supreme Court. There was not a single day of the case hearing since the present government took office. A solution could be reached if the government appoints a judge to the Appellate Division on an ad hoc basis. But. Law and Parliamentary

Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed has

already ruled out any such possibil-

Hasina has left for Canada on August 7 and is expected to return home on August 29.

Magnetic train FROM PAGE 1

though the government will not have

to invest in this project, it will have to offer a package of incentives to the project implementers in terms of lands, infrastructure and guaran-

tees. This will create a huge financial liability for the country." The PERC pointed out that there has been no feasibility study for the magnetic train scheme and found

inadequate justification for it.

FROM PAGE 12 the policemen before they could run away with the money

Two cops

policemen and the driver.

Emran later filed a case with the

Kotwali Police Station against the

the authorities' sincerity in running the train on schedule. The Rajshahi-Dhaka coach owners are a bit apprehensive that their business would be badly affected by the direct train service. "We are already in trouble from a

Arafat

FROM PAGE 1

condolences

consuming.