The Daily Star

Masud's arrest to solve Another kidnap Rita murder mystery, police hopes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investigators said motives for the killing of housewife Rita Begum' at Lake Circus Kalabaghan in Dhanmondi will be revealed once they nab one Masud who visited Rita's residence regularly.

Masud was a regular visitor to Rita's house and called her 'Rita Apa', police said. He could help find out the killer, police hoped. He along with an unidentified

young man and two young women took the victim's body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) soon after the killing on Saturday. Keeping the body at the DMCH,

all of them went into hiding. Raiding different parts of the city yesterday, police failed to arrest Masud or the six women whose photographs were seized from Rita's residence. Dr Kamrunnahar, the owner of

Rita's rented flat and wife of director general of Press Institute of Bangladesh Rezawan Hossain Siddique, filed a case with Dhanmondi Police Station vester-

In the first information report (FIR). Kamrunnahar said people told her that Rita was shot dead and two young men and two women took away the body.

The BCL girls were attacked when

college Principal KM Aurangzeb

was chairing a meeting of the

Teachers' Council to discuss the

situation arising out of a threat-

ened strike on the campus by the

city unit of BCL that has

demanded an impartial inquiry

conference vesterday noon. City

BCL President Faruque Hasan

Hitlu alleged that JCD activists.

led by City JCD President Masud

Parvez Babu, stormed into the

campus yesterday and attacked

the BCL girls without any provoca-

Khulna City unit of BCL has

called an indefinite strike in Boyra

Govt Girls' College demanding

immediate arrest of the attackers

including the City JCD President

Refuting the allegation of his

party's involvement in the portrait

damage incident, Babu counter-

Masud Parvez Babu.

FROM PAGE 1

During a hurriedly called press

into the portrait incident.

tion

'JCD activists' beat

mon room

the vandals

further notice

of

Crime trend belies

member of an extremist group were wooden door when an armed

Uzzal Kumar Chakraborty received the body from the DMCH morgue yesterday. She was buried at Azimpur graveyard. Rita married a Muslim few vears back and converted to

Meanwhile, police failed to arrest anybody or recover looted valuables in the robbery incident

South Dania till last night. and three others of the family were injured as retreating robbers opened fire after looting cash and

Saturday. Abdul Wadud, the victim's father, filed a case with the Shyampur Police Station

killed in the shooting and his brother Abdul Qaiyum suffered bullet wounds

Meanwhile, Rita's brother

Islam, police said.

that left one dead at Noorpur in

A young man was shot dead jewellery from the house early

Saturday night.

Robbers numbering 10 to 12 looted 50 tolas of gold ornaments and Tk 30,000, Abdul Wadud said in the FIR. They shot indiscriminately as Zahirul Qaiyum Titu, the victim, held one of the robbers feeling with the booty. Titu was

charged saying that some BCL

activists destroyed the portraits of

President Ziaur Rahman and

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on

August 18 at the teachers' com-

the two rival student groups have

been at loggerheads over recruit-

ing new entrants to the university

and that yesterday's brawl was a

that portraits of Bangabandhu and

Hasina were indeed broken but

said he didn't know the identity of

Bazlur Rahman gave assurances

matter of police's inaction during

Council has banned all on-

campus political activities until

The principal acknowledged

Police Commissioner A B M

impartially looking into the

Meanwhile, the Teachers'

sequel to that dispute

vesterday's incident

Principal KM Aurangzeb said

reduced the ransom to Tk 7 lakh from Tk 10 lakh on Saturday afternoon for their release. Seventeen-vear-old Simon and his

friend Sanjoy Kumar Dev went out to attend a wedding ceremony on Wednesday afternoon but did not get back home until vesterdav afternoon. A general diary was filed with Double Mooring Police Station, but

both Simon's family and police declined to call it an abduction. Family sources told The Daily Star yesterday that an unidentified caller demanded by cellphone at around 5:30pm Thursday a Tk 10 lakh ransom

FROM PAGE 12

tions as vet.

they have not heard of the incident,

nor have they received any allega-

Ibrahim Miah Simon and his friend

even four days after they went missing

in Chittagong, while an unknown caller

Meanwhile, police could not trace

for the release of the two. In another call on Saturday afternoon, the caller reduced the ransom to Tk 7 lakh, while the victim's family expressed inability to pay more than Tk 1 lakh. sources said.

Although Simon's family did not file an abduction case, some police officials yesterday described the incident as abduction in an unconventional style

Rather than picking up the victims forcibly or at gunpoint, the abductors took Simon and Sanjoy with an invitation to a band musical programme at the wedding ceremony, the officials

Police believe the two have links to the gang of abductors who happened to be college students.

Sub-Inspector Monir Hossain dealing with the case said that there was a high possibility of the incident being an abduction.

Repeated abductions triggered resentment among the people already reeling under a sense of insecurity.

AL ponders

FROM PAGE 12 'The CPA is a no-partisan body, all the lawmakers are its members. There is no scope to organise the conference unilaterally," Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Unfortunately, the ruling party is trying to do everything itself, denying our rights. If the government does not change its attitude to the opposition. the AL will boycott the upcoming conference.'

Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday called Abdus Shahid in a with the anti-peace treaty United debriefing session on the govern-People's Democratic Front (UPDF) ment move to stage the conference. or the pro-peace treaty Parbattya Shahid informed Hasina that the Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity

ruling party was taking all preparations to host the conference without any discussion with the main opposition party. The speaker, chairman of the

steering committee of the conference, nominated two members from the AL without even informing them.

Besides, two nonparliamentarians -- MA Harris Chowdhury and Md Mosaddak Ali have been included in the committee,

he told Hasina. Both Harris and Mosaddak are political secretaries to the prime

minister The AL is not participating in any activities preparatory to the confer-

"We have kept a keen eye on bus

terminals to observe the situation,

terminals. But they extended time to

Move to list

CODS

FROM PAGE 12

ion will be enlisted

the home minister said.

interest.

NEWS

- one from Europe, one from Asia Asked whether Bangladesh is which will be represented by sending a weak delegation as a Bangladesh and one from the rest of number of experts have been dropped from the list of the com-"Bangladesh will not sign any merce ministry. Khosru said: "We agreement at the meeting if it does have got inputs from all research not protect the interest of the LDCs, institutions and have already taken including Bangladesh," said

"It is not correct that the Bangladesh delegation has weakened. A person who does not belong to the government or is not a civil servant cannot participate in the negotiations."

Future development and improvement in the living standard of people depend on the outcome of the Cancun meeting, he said.

Bangladesh will mainly focus on the agenda that will help it increase the export of non-farm products.

Bangladesh is also pursuing the market access issue with China, India, Korea and US, Khosru said,

provided with market access, but cannot enjoy the opportunity due to stringent rules of origin. We are trying to make them easier."

business, the minister said, adding none except for farmers invested in the sector, but big enterprises are now coming up with funds and starting contractual farming.

16 abducted

FROM PAGE 12

FROM PAGE

the world.

of the LDCs

observed.

said

dav.

kidnap victims

(PCJSS)

Khosru, who is also the coordinator

ment, it is better not to have a deal."

he quipped at a meeting on the

'WTO and the Cancun Ministerial

Meet' with the members of the

Economic Reporters' Forum (ERF)

at the National Press Club in Dhaka.

show that they want an equitable

world order. The position of the

LDCs, including the LDC leader

Bangladesh, is a fair one, he

"Bangladesh has received a

draft, but is expecting a revised text

of the meeting. The LDCs have to be

very careful to maintain unity," he

Declaration of the LDCs in June,

Khosru admitted that there were

differences among the LDCs. "But

after a long debate, we were able to

reach a consensus. We have com-

promised with some countries on

the cotton issue in which we had no

villagers are opposed to the treaty.

area, reported the news agency.

The BSS adds: Three of the 16

villagers abducted were released at

Ram Krishnamachhari village yester-

the abducted villagers are affiliated

Referring to the Dhaka

The developed countries have to

"Instead of signing a bad agree-

their kidnappers. "We haven't yet vant court for trial. got details of the incident from the Naniarchar Police," he said while Mohammad Iman Ali passed the talking to The Daily Star corresponorder. dent at 3:00pm yesterday. The UNB, guoting evewitnesses,

charge, the deputy registrar (1) of the reported Saturday that the kidnap-Supreme Court had informed the pers are proponents of the CHT peace treaty while the abducted Army was dispatched to the

Court on August 7. But on reaching Sylhet Circuit House, Justice Ali found that the VVIP room there (room number 1) instead of room number 2 designated a VIP room had already been occupied by Joint Secretary Latifur Rahman of the PMO.

explanation, the NDC admitted said he had been informed about the visit of the Supreme Court judge before

Her father Latifur Rahman, in an

joint secretary in preference to and superseding that of a judge of the

'Dhalywood' strike

FROM PAGE 12

the area, sources added.

in as part of their anti-obscenity agitation that began on Saturday.

Citing the example of wheat. Khosru said: "Our farmers cannot compete with the price at which the US sells its product now. About expanding Bangladesh's export market, he said those who are now getting appointments as

a position for the Cancun meeting. commercial councilors in the missions abroad are being selected properly. relatives to work as commercial councilors. They have to be quali-

and Shawkat Hossain Masum general secretary, of the ERF also spoke.

FROM PAGE 1 by Rafique, having reached 50. "Where we have already been Bangladesh bowler to give the

Farming is becoming a big

Bangladeshi farmers will be able

PMO staff FROM PAGE 12

chief justice to refer it to the rele-A bench comprising Justice

According to the contempt

deputy commissioner's office in Sylhet through the Sylhet district udge about a visit of Justice Mohammad Iman Ali of the Supreme

guidance of my mentor and coach

FROM PAGE 1 found in her neck

ter in her ground floor bedroom at about 8:00pm on April 23, 1998.

said Hameed. Peshawar on Monday where the second Test is due to start from

Sources said security forces are conducting search and rescue operations to free the remaining 13 When Justice Ali demanded an Police could not confirm whether

that of the joint secretary's.

The contempt charges stated that the allocation of the VVIP room to the FIR lodged with Gulshan police, said he had last talked to his daugh-

Normalcy prevailed in the remote Supreme Court is a blatant act of village with security forces patrolling contempt for the higher judiciary as a

ment after the BFPDA 'boycotted

actress Popy for allegedly not

returning her signing money (Tk 1

lakh) to a producer after she refused

BFF Joint Convenor Chashi

Nazrul Islam told The Daily Star,

"The incident involving Popy is one

to act in an obscene film.

Popy, among others, joined the sit-

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Film Producers and Distributors Association (BFPDA), a rival group, vowed that no shooting and dubbing would be held until the government

Dhaka rejects Cancun draft | Altaf: Govt knows ROM PAGE 1 to compete with others he hoped reached Chittagong police even 24

"Now we are not selecting our

Shamsul Huq Zahid, president,

Rafigue was the only

When Hameed departed

Pakistan were left needing just

another 47 runs and veterans

Inzamamul Hague and Yousuf

Youhana played with ease on the

surprisingly flat wicket to reach the

the first innings, was undefeated on

35 hitting five boundaries, while

was adjudged man-of-the-match.

Youhana was not out on 15.

Inzamam, who made a duck in

It was no surprise when Hameed

The Pakistan Cricket Board

awarded five lakh rupees to the

youngster for his scintillating

achievement while the sponsors

Super Asia rewarded him with

Hamid later said he only came to

"Afterwards, I was quite confi-

dent of emulating Rowe and with the

Javed Miandad, I finally made it,'

The tragic tale

Then he went to the first floor of the

house where a party was arranged

for some of his friends. Shazneen

At about 10:15pm, Latifur

Rahman came downstairs after

hearing the scream of his old ser-

vant Moslem Hawlader and found

Shazneen lying on the floor in front

of the bathroom, attached to her

bedroom. The victim's father exam-

As Latifur Rahman raised an

alarm, the guests and other people

ined her pulse and found her dead.

stayed back in her room.

Both teams will leave Karachi for

know about Rowe's record when he

returned to the dressing room at

fied and perform better."

Cricket

day

target.

10.000 rupees.

August 27

close on the fourth day.

hours after the IGP's assurance. The assurance came at the first

meeting of the parliamentary standng committee on home ministry held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

of having a covert link with the Commissioner of Chittagong abductors. Metropolitan Police Shahidullah Jamal's son Forhan Reza Khan told The Daily Star that he did Chowdhury said, "I don't want to not know of any such assurance and comment on the IGP's assurance as timeframe to rescue Jamal. it is his personal view. We just want

"I talk with the IGP every day, but he did not tell me anything in that line," the commissioner said. He however said that they were 'moving ahead with new strategies' Sources said police were vet to

gear up the rescue operation. Superintendent of Police Matiur

Rahman said criminals' hideouts was abducted from the port city's were raided just on assumption. Chawkbazar area a month ago.

out.

DHAKA MONDAY AUGUST 25, 2003

"But the exact hideout where

Jamal has been held hostage could

not be spotted as vet." he said.

adding, "We are not aware of the

Some quarters accuse the police

Meanwhile. Officer-in-charge of

Chandgaon Police Station

Mesbahuddin has replaced Sub-

inspector Sirajul Islam as investiga-

Jamal, also a local BNP leader

When Bangladesh was

included in the US terror-risk list,

the government said it was the

result of the opposition-sponsored

propaganda to damage the coun-

try's image, the meeting pointed

the recent spate of abduction of

businessmen, especially in

Chittagong, the AL leaders alleged

that government-backed gangs

As part of the NCB reforms, the

cabinet committee on economic

affairs recently approved appoint-

ment of an advisor with the Rupali

Bank and a chief executive officer

and seven advisors with the Agrani

The proposed project also

includes Voluntary Retirement

Meanwhile, a four-member IMF

team, which has been in Dhaka

since August 19 to assist the gov-

ernment with NCB reforms and to

evaluate the monetary policy of the

government, will leave on

iustice meted out to the real culprits

Special public prosecutors (PPs)

ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul,

Mahbub Ahmed, Arfan Uddin Khan

and Saima Khanam and Assistant

PP Anisur Rahman appeared for the

state. Advocates Mosharraf Hossain

Kajol, Mizanur Rahman and MA

Kamrul Hasan Khan Aslam defended

the main treaty objectives," added

Accusing the government of

Scheme (VRS) for NCB employees.

were indulging in such crimes

will be axed in the process.

FROM PAGE 12

Bank.

September 8.

the accused.

Santu

FROM PAGE 12

Larma

WB team due

Expressing deep concern over

tion officer (IO) of the case.

IGP's assurance at all"

our father back.

AL flays Altaf

Pakistanis any trouble on the final FROM PAGE 12

conspiracy of militant and terrorist groups against the country and its people," the meeting observed.

"They (Islamic militants) are not capable of terrorist activities as they do not have huge arms and weapons," the home minister told a parliamentary standing committee meeting on Saturday.

Altaf said, "A few people are

nvolved in these incidents and

they have no connection with the

mainstream Islamic political par-

Dismissing his claims, the AL

said the statement proved that he

was not only providing shelter to

the militants but also trying to cover

down the arrest of militants and

seizure of foreign-made arms and

ammunition in Mymensingh,

Dinajpur, Rajshahi and Joypurhat,

unite against militant activities.

The meeting urged people to

"The government has failed to

curb the Islamic militants. Instead

of taking action against the criminal

groups, the government has been

shifting blames onto the main

opposition for tarnishing the

image of the country abroad," the

the following day accusing Shahidul

alias Shahid, a domestic help at the

superintendent of CID police filed a

rape case with the Gulshan PS on

September 4, 1998 accusing Shahid

Hasan, Badal, Shaniram, Humayun

Mojibur, who was also the investi-

gation officer of the rape case, sub-

mitted a charge sheet against Shahid

and five others on December 12,

1998, showing 74 people as prose-

against Shahid and five others on

The tribunal framed charges

(now deceased), Minu and Parvin

Mojibur Rahman, an assistant

Shazneen case

The government was playing

up the militants' conspiracy.

it said.

AL said.

FROM PAGE 1

house.

ncidents in Pabna district On August 21, armed robbers

killed on Saturday in separate

looted houses and raped three women in Pilianga and Shvambagat villages under Fakirhat thana in Bagerhat district.

And on August 19, a young man splashed acid on a schoolgirl and three others of her family after failing to marry her cousin in Banti village under Araihazar upazila in Narayanganj district.

A mob lynched three alleged criminals and critically wounded five others in Chandanaish upazila in Chittagong district on August 18.

A businessman died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) August 17, after he was shot by extortionists.

Operatives of an outlawed Islamist group looted three shotguns and 60 rounds of ammunition after a fierce firefight that left six policemen injured in Joypurhat August 14.

A student of Chittagong University was killed by stray

Cries go unheard

FROM PAGE 12

and daughter, also appeared at the DRU office Maksuda, Farid, Jharna and Fatema represent only four of the 402 families left devastated by the launch mishap at the Meghna, Dakatia and Jamuna confluence at

Chandpur on July 8. Although the government is to pay Tk 1 lakh in compensation to the victims' families as per existing rules, it has not yet done so for those of MV Nasrin.

None of them have received any financial help from the government.

The victims had come to the city with the Nirapad Noupath (Coalition for Bastabavon Jote Implementation of Safe Riverway --CISR), an alliance of nongovernment organisations working in 19 coastal upazila and campaigning for safe, accident-free riverways since its inception on August 1.

CISR has demanded compensation and rehabilitation for affected families, life insurance for launch passengers and recognising river capsizes as incidents of disaster.

The government is collecting Tk 1 from each passenger to form a Passenger Welfare Fund for assist-

n Chittagong on August 15. An armed gang raided the house of the Raozan thana Awami League general secretary and gunned down his brother-in-law on August 14.

bullets that pierced through a

gang fired from outside at Raozan

Two teenaged girls, lured by the promise of a job in a clinic, were raped allegedly by the clinic manager at Palashpole in Satkhira the same day.

A millionaire businessman was abducted on August 11 from Chittagong city and later killed. His body was found at Militarirpole area in Boalkhali upazila

Two alleged robbers were killed in a gunfight with police in Mirpur and a robber was lynched in Narinda in the city on August 11. On the same day, a nine year-old boy and his seven-year-old sister submit it. were strangled and dumped into a rubbish bin at Shadatpur in

Gulshan. Two men were beaten to death inside a factory warehouse at Shyampur on August 9.

mishaps. Addressing the press conference, CISR member Aminur Rasul Babul demanded the formation of a board to monitor the Fund at the Sadarghat Launch Terminal. CIŠR will soon submit a memorandum to the prime minister and

ing families affected in launch

minister for disaster management and relief, a member said.

US envoy FROM PAGE 1

"We have not shifted from the government's stand on gas export," Saifur told reporters. "If additional gas reserves remain after meeting domestic demand, then what is

wrong with export?" asked the minister The energy ministry is looking into the issue and the cabinet will

take the final decision, he added. "Bangladesh has good relations

with the US. It helps us as an important member of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank We want to make the relations closer," the finance minister said.

The ambassador also proposed an assistance programme to train police, Saifur told the press.

ence. Its representatives did not took action, cancelling the memberattend two steering committee and ship of Chashi Nazrul Islam and Ahmed Sharif from the Censor three coordination committee meetings held so far and did not nominate Board its deputies for several subcommit-

They also resolved not to submit any film to the board if the government did not declare director Sohanur Rahman Sohan and actor Monwar Hossain Dipjal "unwanted" in seven days.

On the other hand, the BFF submitted a list of actors, actresses and directors to the government to take action against them, accusing them of making obscene films.

The BFPDA will hold a meeting Meanwhile, the sub-committee, with its members tomorrow on a headed by Communications Secretary Syed Rezaul Hayat, was plan of action, while the BFF that submitted a memorandum to the supposed to submit a report to the prime minister on Saturday continmeeting vesterday to compensate ues their work abstention until their the workers association and the lessee, as the government has decided to cancel the lease of all demands are met.

Security was tightened in and around the FDC to avert any untoward incident

The BFF launched the move-

Sugar import FROM PAGE 1

import of sugar without any ceiling. Bangladesh Bank data shows that some 6.26 lakh tons of sugar was imported between July 2002 and June 2003, entirely in the private sector

Country's 15 sugar mills added 1.77 lakh tons, while official estimates put the annual domestic consumption at 5 lakh tons.

In previous years, the annual government import of sugar through the Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) and the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) averaged 2 lakh tons.

In spite of the huge import at the private level, sugar prices remained stuck at around Tk 30 per kg, until last week when it shot up to Tk 36 per kg, which market sources put down to an artificial crisis' created by hoarders. The Cabinet committee on eco-

nomic affairs, with Finance Minister Saifur Rahman in the chair, decided on August 9 to lift the embargo on sugar import.

Earlier on July 24, an interministerial meeting agreed that the country would need to import 1.5 lakh tons of sugar to meet local demand until the crushing of sugarcane starts n local mills by the year-end.

The government in July last year had liberalised sugar import, ending the state monopoly on sugar production and trade, and hoping to bring the sugar price down to Tk 25 per kg at consumer level, but the price never

came down to the desired level.

of our issues. Our strong demand is action against obscenity in films and video piracy.'

Asked about the solution to the deadlock, Nazrul said, "The problem would be resolved when producers come back to make decent films

BFPDA General Secretary Ashraf Uddin Ahmed Uzzal said. "We want an immediate solution to the unstable situation. It can be by the intervention of the government as it is our business.' "A vested guarter is unsettling

the situation," he alleged.

The agitating BFF members posted posters on walls to publicise their demands and the BFPDA office was closed yesterday. FDC Managing Director

Washimul Bari Rajib, who was not in office for the last two days, was not available for comments vesterday.

Business barons face off today

FROM PAGE 1

to face post-MFA (multi-fibre arrangement) beyond 2004.

With the official campaign for the polls ending on Saturday, the candidates are busy trying to seal expensive deals with the voters to ensure their smooth entry to the FBCCI executive committee, which will elect a president and two vicepresidents in its August 27 meeting. Although the government brought changes to the election rules, expensive deals and backstage parleys are being orchestrated, drawing powerbrokers and even few politicians onto the scene. Rumours are rife that both Mintoo and Matlub are enjoying the blessings of two different factions of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)

Mintoo is learnt to be enjoying the favour of the Prime Minister's Office while Matlub is rumoured to have the patronage of Hawa Bhaban, an office of the BNP.

This year's election has also seen two candidates embark on a spending spree. Mintoo is already assured of a place in the FBCCI executive committee, but he wants to see his panel sail through to get maximum support for the presidential post.

Matlub, on the other hand, is directly contesting with a full panel and is hoping to win with maximum

candidates from his panel And both of the presidential

runners have booked hotels in Dhaka to house the "valuable voters". Voters coming from far and wide are the most expensive ones with the hopefuls providing them with food and lodging to ensure that they vote for the 'right persons'.

The Mintoo-led panel has booked Sundarban Hotel and Grand Azad Hotel, while Matlub's panel has registered rooms in Hotel Purbani and Hotel Rajmoni Isa Khan Hotel A visit to the hotels Saturday

midnight revealed enthusiastic voters drinking and dancing to live music In Sundarban, the Mintoo-led

panel organised a musical show of renowned singer Momtaz. The candidates were meeting voters, mostly chamber leaders from remote places, to make sure that the "valuable voters" were taken care

of Security personnel are manning the entrances of the hotels to see to it that no- one from the other panel sneaks in and tries to lure the voters away

At around 1:30am yesterday, voters were found sipping expensive foreign liquor on the third floor of Hotel Rajmoni Isa Khan.

When approached, one of the to buy votes.

in the house rushed to the spot. On inquiry, it was found that one of the servants, Shahidul alias Shahid, son of Siddig Mollah of village Danga Durgapur, Gopalgani district. was missing. One of the four kitchen knives was also missing , Latifur Rahman said in the FIR.

On the preliminary evidence, it appeared that Shahid fled the house after raping and killing Shazneen between 8:00pm and 10:15pm. Latifur Rahman also suspected that some others might have been involved in it.

On April 27, 1998, the prime accused in the Shazneen case Shahid ,surrendered to the Kotwali police in Chittagong. Police brought him to Dhaka for interrogation on the same day.

voters claimed to be staying on his

own in the hotel. Scores of others,

One voter alleged that a candi-

Mintoo told The Daily Star it has

date splashed out Tk 500.000 to

have his name approved as a nomi-

nee from his chamber

with food and lodging.

to keep voters in any hotel.

FBCCI election

the election.

Shahid later gave a confessional statement to a metropolitan magistrate

After the charges were framed the defence lawyers filed a criminal appeal with the High Court (HC) seeking stay on charge framing.

cution witnesses

April 13, 1999.

After hearing, the HC stayed the proceedings of the case on August 25, 1999. Later, the HC vacated the stay order on November 1, 1999 and directed the tribunal to frame charges

against the accused The tribunal framed charges against the accused again on May 28.2000.

The HC also stayed the proceedings of the Shazneen murder case, pending with the First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, till disposal of the Shazneen rape case

The death of Shazneen created a sensation across the country and people were eagerly waiting to see

Mars encounter

FROM PAGE 12

metres.

Throughout August and September mars will be easy to see with the naked eye. Each night it will rise earlier, until by late August it will be just above the horizon, south of east, soon after sunset.

Once risen, it will be the brightest object in the sky, appearing orange red. From the latitude of the UK, it will never rise higher than 22 degrees and you will need an unobstructed view to the south to see it.

become a tradition that voters Mars will appear at its very best coming from outside the capital from the Southern Hemisphere. expect candidates to provide them where by the middle of the night it will be high in the sky and its bright-He admitted to having talked to ness and colour will make it very the government high-ups about the obvious.

Matlub, however, denied paying requires a good quality telescope with a lens or mirror diameter of Its against election rules, he said, about 10 cm. on a stable mount. If adding that he has many friends vou don't have one - and few people who happen to be members of do - try to visit a public observatory parliament. He also denied to be or your local astronomical society. enjoying blessing from any quarter.

In the UK, National Astronomy Former FBCCI director A Rouf Week will mark the close encounter. Chowdhury at a press conference and many local astronomical societyesterday alleged that this year's ies will organise public star parties. election campaign has been even Mars, the Roman god of war, has dirtier and staggering spending is on always had a special fascination for us. Indeed, there is even a slight

bbing the indigenous people o their political rights, Larma urged hills people to exercise their rights and continue working towards development.

"Indigenous groups in Sylhet are being abused and attempts are being made to displace them. The government is inactive in resolving heir predicaments," the leader said Citing the success of the locally

organised Greenhill health initiative to obviate "Gravity Flu" in the village, Larma asked for national and international help in utilising resources to provide safe water in lly areas.

Village Development Committee President Mayaram Chakma presided over the gathering, while local Upazila Parishad Chairman Anup Chakma and Greenhill Executive Director Mong Thwai Ching also spoke.

connection as both blood and mars

owe their red colour to iron and

1/10 the mass of earth, it is the

planet most like our own. When

close, through a good telescope, it is

possible to see surface markings

polar ice caps and even thin clouds

and intelligent Martians, as was

suggested after the close approach

of 1877. But we do think there is a

possibility that primitive single

We no longer believe in canals

Although half the diameter and

oxvaen.

and frost

last 60,000 years

At its closest, mars will be 25 seconds of arc in diameter, the size of a tennis ball at a distance of 528

However, on the scale of the tennis ball, this approach is only 18 however, admitted to enjoying the centimetres closer than in 1924. hospitality of the panels contesting although 110 metres closer than in 2001

The general expectations among the business community were that But many voters said this year

celled organisms may have lived, or even still live, below its surface. Since the 1960s, satellites orbiting, and even probes landing on mars, have sent back images showing a desert landscape of sand

dunes strewn with boulders and rocks and crossed by dry streambeds. It still remains to be seen if these were carved by water and if so, whether it flowed recently or a thousand million years ago.

There are many impact craters To see any surface detail on the surface, testifying to the great age and present geological inactivof the planet. This was not always the case as mars is home to the biggest volcano

in the solar system, the now inactive 26-km-high Olympus Mons. However you watch Mars move

through the August sky, imagine a world in many ways familiar and yet very different from our own and know it has not passed quite this close since the Stone Age.

the money spent in the electioneering will be less this year. too, the voters were offered Tk 50.000 to Tk 100.000 for a vote.