## The Baily Star

# Better marketing, new |JCD leaders deal tech access key to farm growth

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Diversification of crops, improved agriculture fair at the same venue in marketing system for farm products and dissemination of information on connection with the IRRI Board of Trustees' meeting in Bangladesh for new research and technologies to farmers can contribute greatly to the first time. agricultural growth.

Moreover, closer links between scientists and breeders and farmers must be established by strengthening agriculture extension service, agriculture information service and by disseminating information through print and electronic media to accelerate the pace of growth.

These were the unanimous keynote paper. Dr Golam Rahman views of participants in a seminar on of Dhaka University, BRRI Director 'Challenges for Communication of Dr AR Gomosta, Agriculture Information Service (AIS) Director Agriculture Research Results' held

at Winter Garden of Hotel Sheraton yesterday.

farming technologies.

The seminar coincided with an

The International Rice Research

Institute (Irri) and Bangladesh Rice

Research Institute (BRRI) jointly

organised the fair that highlighted

Vice Chancellor of South-East

University Prof M Shamsher Ali

chaired the seminar and Channel-I

Director Shykh Seraj presented the

the results of rice research and new

NEWS

Fazlul Haque Rikabdar, Director of

the Department of Agriculture

Extension Tariq Hasan and journal-

ist Reaz Ahmad took part in the

Farmers -- both male and female

- from different districts also spoke

highlighting the need for raising food

production. They stressed soil test

facilities and new technologies for

planners, newsmen and farmers.

50 clinics sans

this is ignored in most cases.

actions against only two.

surgeon, sources said.

Hague.

added.

attended by Deputy Director of the

HDO Dr Reaz Uddin and Civil

two clinics led us to take the deci-

sion," Deputy Director of Rajshahi

health department Dr Reaz Uddin

survey on clinics' status in the district

and submit its report to Dhaka office

once a year for necessary actions, he

The CSO is entitled to conduct a

However, the CSO sources told

this correspondent that survey

reports are sent to the HDO every

year but no action is taken against

ally' as many top health officials were

'practising in other unregistered

clinics,' Nazma and Ayesha Clinic

The finance minister had already

announced the urgency of having

such an act to bring discipline in the

managing director of Rupali Bank

questioned the legality of Hafiz's re-

country's fiscal management.

**BB** questions

The move was taken 'intention-

told The Daily Star yesterday.

rice drying and winnowing.

discussion.

money, students alleged. The JCD leaders also forced the new students to join procession, sources said, adding that the JCD leaders frequently manhandle general students if they fail to dance to their

They also said most of the JCD leaders return to the dormitories at around 10:00pm although the college and hall gates are officially closed after 8:00pm. They often force the guards to open the hall gate after 8:00 in the night, two guards admitted.

Leaders of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of the opposition Awami League (AL), also took money against illegal seat allotment when the AL was in power.

The keynote paper empahasised Meanwhile, dormitory students said around 3,000 students are farmers' need-based research and coordination among different stakestaving in the four halls, causing serious bathroom and food probholders including agricultural scienlems, among others. Principal Prof. tists, extension workers, policy Dilara Hafiz however said 1,600 students reside in the four halls of Prof. Shamsher Ali drew attenthe college. A number of students tion to the huge contribution of have been staying in the TV rooms women to crop production and said and in the pravers rooms illegally.

she said, adding that she would take necessary action against them.

Prof. Hafiz said she received scores of complaints against some JCD leaders of the college unit and added that actions would be taken against them. There are at least nine allegations against Nasima Akhter Keya, a JCD joint convenor of the college unit, the principal said.

"College authorities have decided to expel Keya as allegations against her have been proved," she said. "We will drive illegal students out

of the hall within a week," she said, adding that they have informed the departments concerned to notify the students, who have been staving illegally in the dormitories, about the move. She also said second year students got seats through authorised allotments according to their merit and need. No first-year students are authorised to stay in the halls, Prof Hafiz said.

The principal said she has formed a 10-member committee comprising non-political resident students to look into the irregularities in the halls as it is difficult for the hall superintendent alone to man-

Target is to get back on track

age so many students.

Meanwhile, the 31-member convening committee of the JCD's college unit has been suspended due to internal feud.

### US stands FROM PAGE 12

and for our children, but also to honour the victims of terror and reaffirm the inherent value of their lives." Bush said.

Rocca said, "The US will stand by India in its battle against terrorism just as India has stood with the US in its battle against terrorism".

Well aware of India's continuing concerns over terrorism sponsored from Pakistan, she said "I can also reassure you that cross-border infiltration remains a very important issue on our agenda with Pakistan".

rants. Rocca said the US and President Bush in particular have condemned paving stones, sticks, metal bars and all forms of terrorism in the strongest bottles at police, who fought back with possible terms. "The recent bombbatons and tear gas. More than a ings in Srinagar and the deadly dozen people were inured as police blasts in Mumbai are horrific examples of this crime" 3 BCL leaders

**Cancun meet** 

DHAKA FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2003

held off the protesters "His death is not a personal accident Violent protests have become a but reflects the desperate fighting of staple of international trade and 3.5 million Korean farmers," said finance meetings since rioting at a Song Nan Sou, president of the WTO meeting in Seattle in 1999. Farmers Management Association, Italian police shot dead a protester at a summit of industrialised nations in one of several South Korean groups taking part in demonstrations at this Genoa in 2001.

The 146-nation WTO opened its five-day meeting in Cancun with serious divisions on a host of disputes, topped by agricultural subsidies in the United States and Europe. British development charity Oxfam

esterday called on political leaders at the WTO talks to commit themselves to changing Europe's agricultural subsidy regime, which it said was biased toward helping the bloc's richest producers most.

Oxfam said Europe's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) was also preventing poorer nations, which receive much of the cheap, heavily subsidised food, from pulling them selves out of poverty.

### Indian river-link FROM PAGE 1

Board Chief Engineer Akhtar Hossain

The project will make traditional agriculture impossible, cause river erosion and saline intrusion in water and soil, destroy environment and bio-diversity and hamper our navigation, Hossain added.

Referring to India's recent vow to execute the project 'on war footing' Hossain suggested that people of Bangladesh should be mobilised on the basis of political consensus to avert the effect of India's wate diversion move

"To protect its national interest Bangladesh has to be more vocal against the Indian plan. The government should raise the issue before the international community to save the Sundarbans, a world heritage

site," said Barrister Moinul Hossain. "Like India, we cannot work out any national issue with political accord, as we don't have a knowledge-based government yet," said

Professor M Ashraf of Chittagong University. "India contrives river water as a weapon of mass destruction against

Bangladesh," said journalist Anwar Zahid. "We need political will and consensus, which we haven't so far

# the muder charae.

the issue at a parliamentary party Development and Communications meeting on September 14. Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan Bhuivan called Deputy Leader of introduced the president's remunerthe Opposition Abdul Hamid in the ation and privileges bill and Law, afternoon, urging the AL legislators Justice and Parliamentary Affairs to join the session. Hamid in reply Minister Moudud Ahmed introduced said the ongoing developments the rest. gave the party no mood to sit in the Earlier yesterday, the Business House.

"The possibility of joining this session is very less. The AL Parliamentary Party will take the final decision on September 14

# World trade order

The LDCs are ready to resist any attempt including the Singapore issues of 1996 that include investment, competition and transparency in government procurement and trade facilitation. The European Union (EU) wants to bring the Singapore issues despite the opposition.

## Arms, bullets, knives seized at fish factory

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

In a major haul, a huge quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from a fish processing factory at Ramnagar under Rupsha thana on Wednesday night

The arms and ammunition seized from United Fish Processing Factory include three sawn-off rifles, three shutter guns, two home-made guns, one revolver, one knife, one machete 11 cartridges, 20 rifle bullets, an empty magazine, 10 masks, five hand bombs and 10 vests similar to those of army

personnel Security guard of the factory Tara Sarker and two others -- Siddique Mollah and Abdur Rahim Gazi -- have been taken into custody for interrogation.

The fish processing factory, from where arms were recovered, was not operating for the last few years and criminals made it into their den. The arms were kept there by a gang of criminals after a gunfight with their rivals at Shingherchar under Rupsha thana on September 4, local people

### registration, 2 At the Doha Ministeria face action Conference in November 2001 member nations renewed their commitment to help leastdeveloped countries. Concretely, they promised to give duty- and quota-free market access improvements for products from these

countries. High on the list of LDC agenda in this year's ministerial meet is special

and differential treatment for LDCs office (CSO) in Rajshahi revealed 50 exports, both agricultural and nonclinics in the city were unregistered agricultural, followed by demand for and the clinic inspection committee free movement of labour from the meeting of the HDO recommended developing to developed countries. to the heath directorate in Dhaka for Prior to the meeting, the WTO closure of Nazma Clinic and Avesha decided that the LDCs could pro-

duce and export medicines patented with foreign companies. Such a decision is expected to boost medicine export from the LDCs.

But the LDCs would want to see cut in farm subsidy and fair trade to improve their access to wealthier markets The LDCs are also worried about

proposal of the rich nations to introduce a formula for tariff liberalisation. The five-day conference was

inaugurated by Mexico President Vicente Fox with a call on the rich nations to remove all unfair practices, particularly agricultural subsidies that hit other developing and poor countries hard.

Sources in Cancun said after the opening session on Wednesday, both formal and informal negotiation began with ministers meeting one another on the sidelines.

### Farm subsidy FROM PAGE 12

authorities alleged. Unregistered clinics sprouted in low tubewells and over 15,000 deep

alleged.

FTA

FROM PAGE 12

duce the act."

FROM PAGE 12

own the rest.

FROM PAGE 12

election, sources said

slated for September 15.

comments because he is abroad.

Another bond

at the secondary market.

est rate of treasury bonds.

FROM PAGE 12

sources said.

Two dredgers

certificates and fined Tk 10,000

each. Owners of those vehicles

would have to serve six months in

during the drive, sources added.

from the meeting

any unregistered clinics.

FROM PAGE 1 the way in the three-match Test series. STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

But Bangladesh's dream of winning their first one-day match since their famous 62-run victory The Health Director's Office (HDO) in against the same opponents at the Rajshahi yesterday identified more 1999 World Cup remains as distant than 50 city clinics operating without as ever. They have lost 38 out of 40 registration but recommended taking matches since then with two being rained off. A recent survey of civil surgeon's

Besides, the defeat in the first match without a fight showed that Khaled Mahmud's men still lack the maturity in the instant version of the dame compared to their rapid mprovement in the longer version.

"This time it won't happen. I can Clinic for non-sterile environment assure all that we are going to be and running without any specialised more competitive tomorrow (Friday)," said Bangladesh captain Chaired by Health Director of Khaled Mahmud after the team's Rajshahi Ďr Abdur Rashid final practice yesterday. Chowdhury, the meeting was also

Terming Pakistan as a strong batting side Mahmud said that he expected his opening bowlers to Surgeon of Rajshahi Dr AK Fazlul grab some wickets in the first 10 overs to at least slow the scoring "Specific complaints against the "We have worked a lot on the

police administration. Police's

numan resource is less than what

they need, so manpower and facili-

ties of the police administration

Asked about police's perfor-

mance in improving law and order.

Mannan said. "Overall situation is

improving. Though some incidents

are happening, these are isolated.

He said that there would be one change from the team that played in Multan with experienced right-arm

it was in Multan. "Let's hope our batsmen put the runs on the board this time," said Mahmud, adding that there would be no change at the top provided

is fit enough to play. "He (Mushfiq) has pulled a thigh muscle during the last match. And if

open with Ashraful with Bashar batting at his usual number three position," Mahmud said.

Inzamamul Haq once again reiterated his vow of completing a 5-0 whitewash. "We are aiming to be consistent in this series. We want to

Hossain Chowdhury told the press.

Altaf had said on August 24 that

police knew about the whereabouts

But committee chairman Abdul

Mannan said yesterday, "We hoped

[about the rescue of Jamal] at our

previous meeting. We are still

hopeful. But in this case there is no

failure of police, they are trying their

of Jamal

best."

put up in Multan. "Pakistan's main problem has

been its consistency in this form of the game. I think, this series gives us a good opportunity to do be consistent in all departments of the name

Bangladesh (From): Khaled Mahmud (captain), Mohammad Ashraful, Habibul Bashar, Rajin Saleh, Tushar Imran, Alok Kapali Khaled Mashud, Mushfiqur Rahman, Mashrafee-bin-Mortuza Hasibul Hossain, Mohammad Rafique, Hannan Sarkar, Alamgir Kabir, Tapas Baishya and Sanwar

Pakistan (From): Inzamamul Haq, Yousuf Youhana, Younis Khan, Abdur Razzak, Shoaib Malik Kamran Akmal, Junaid Zia, Umar Gul, Shabbir Ahmed, Danish Kaneria, Imran Nazir, and Salman

and Russell Tiffin (Zimbabwe).

23.1996.

Mohammad Hafeez, Yasir Hameed,

Umpires: Aleem Dar (Pakistan)

more months in jail.

Police pressed charges against the BCL men, acquitting 21 others of been able to build to address such an issue." he added.

carry on with the performance we Pakistani batsmen. Hopefully, our homework will do the trick this time," said Mahmud without elaborating.

paceman Hasibul Hossain coming in for Sanwar Hossain. Commenting on the wicket, the TEAMS

Bangladesh captain said that the pitch would be as batting-friendly as

that all-rounder Mushfiqur Rahman

he is not fit then Hannan Sarker will

His Pakistan counterpart

Hossain

Butt.

home minister refused to make any

comment and left it for the chairman.

Asked about Jamal, the home

minister said, "No discussion was

Lutfozzaman Babar, state minis-

ter for home affairs, also refused to

take any question, saying, "The

chairman will tell you everything in

awmaker and committee member

Mizanur Rahman Minu, a BNP

held on this matter.

this regard."

leader UNB, Comilla

> A court here yesterday sentenced three leaders of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) to life imprisonment for killing a leader of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD)

upmarket Mexican seaside resort.

"We all regret this sad incident,"

"This self-inflicted wound has

About 5,000 activists joined the

World Trade Organisation Director-

General Supachai Panitchapkdi said.

resulted in his death, so we do regret

protest and about two dozen broke

through eight-foot-high metal barriers

to attack police on the edge of

"We are going in. We are going in,"

South African trade unionist

screamed through a loudspeaker

urging protesters to storm a long strip

of beach hotels and fast food restau-

Demonstrators threw chunks of

Cancun's upscale hotel zone.

get life for

killing JCD

it," he said

seven years ago. M Átaur Rahman, judge of the Additional District and Sessions Judge;s Court-2, delivered the judgement against BCL leaders Shihab Uddin. Belal and Mahmudul Hag and also fined them Tk 5.000 each, in default, they are to suffer six

According to the prosecution, some 24 people, including the convicts, hacked Sumon to death with sharp weapons while he was returning home after attending a janaza of a neighbour on June

# JS body pats cops on the back 3 bills tabled

According to police, three sawn-off rifles recovered from there are among the 20 firearms looted from the store room of Daulatpur Jute Mills on the night of April 14 this year.

Meanwhile, outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) leader Debaprashad alias Debu alias Manik now on an eight-day police remand, was taken to Dumuria Police Station vesterday for interrogation in a double murder case filed on May 11 this year.

## Four killed in Bogra road mishap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra.

At least four people, including an army officer, were killed in a road accident on the Bogra-Natore Highway on Thursday.

The dead are Major Syed Hasan Jamal of Bogra Majhira Cantonment. his wife, daughter and sister-in-law. They were going to Natore by a car.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred at Omarpur Bus Stand at about 4:00pm when a Rangpur bound bus collided head on with the car, killing the four on the spot.

A case was filed with Nanadigram Police Station.

### Lawyers threaten FROM PAGE 12

The lawyers in the meeting alleged that the amendment to the CPC was intended to raise the government revenue from the court, which negates justice.

About the proposed amendment to the Bar Council Act, the lawyers said the government wants to use it as a rubber stamp to serve its own purpose. It will curb the autonomous status of the regulatory body of lawyers, they added.

Presided over by Abdul Baset Majumder, the meeting decided to announce the next course of action at a meeting of the Bar associations scheduled for September 26 in Dhaka.

After the meeting, the lawyers marched toward the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in a procession to submit a memorandum to the Speaker. But police intercepted the procession in front of Engineers Institution. Later, an 18-member delegation led by Baset Maiumder was allowed to proceed towards parliament.

tubewells, and Tk 200 crore to provide seeds at a subsidised rate and soil testing facilities in upazilas. Presently, subsidies are given to users of electric pumps.

The minister earlier told The Daily Star, "Currently, farmers using diesel pumps have to incur a 30 per cent more cost than the users of electric pumps. "According to a preliminary

estimate, a cash support of Tk 500 crore will be required to bridge the gap," said the minister, adding 25 to 50 per cent of the subsidies would be disbursed in the current fiscal year and the rest in the next fiscal year. "We're hopeful of getting more

than the allocated Tk 300 crore this fiscal year and will go for a new cash support programme for farmers," Anwar said.

State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told The Daily Star earlier that the subsidies Bangladesh now provides for farmers are way below the subsidy level in the developed countries.

Official statistics say Bangladesh provides farm subsidies at only 3.3 per cent of the aggregate value of its nual farm produces, although the World Trade Organisation rules allow any country to extend the subsidy level up to 10 per cent.

The government has recently made banks lower their interest rate from 13-14 per cent to 10 per cent in farm credit to boost the agriculture sector.

### Pay toll FROM PAGE 1

student, received the first call, but the caller did not talk, said Qulsum who received a second call from the man wanting to know the whereabouts of Shahid.

The opposition chief whip was not home and the caller demanded the money and threatened abduction and killing of their children in repeated calls until 9:00pm, Qulsum

Shahid, who was in Sylhet on Wednesday, said he informed the security-in-charge of the MP Hostel and sent letters to Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar and the home ministry about it. He will also file a general diary.

Following a robbery at his Srimangal home in Moulvibazar on April 11, Shahid wrote to the Speaker on June 24, requesting him to ensure his security with two ned bodyguards.

The Jatiya Sangsad forwarded the letter to the home ministry on August 3

In many developed countries, some ne city due to indifference of the stray incidents do happen. So the authorities, Dr Abdul Mannan, presicommittee was satisfied with their dent of Rajshahi Clinic and performance." Diagnostic Owners' Association,

Police are yet to rescue abducted Chittagong businessman Jamal Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury though the inspector general of police had assured the standing committee in its August 23 meeting that Jamal He pointed out that Pakistan had would be rescued within 48 hours. However, the committee at

already enacted Financial Responsibility Act and got positive yesterday's meeting did not discuss mpacts of the law. "We'll also introthe issue, Home Minister Altaf

ROM PAGE 1

should be raised.

million submarine cable project will be carried out simultaneously in the countries brought together by a consortium.

The international bidding of the The BB letter asked the Rupali project was opened in the Italian Bank to take up the matter at its next capital of Rome on Monday

board meeting and inform the The SEA-ME-WE4 (Southeast central bank of the outcome in a Asia-Middle East-Western Europe week. The next board meeting is 4) consortium is expected to complete the project by July 2005.

Hafiz could not be contacted for State-owned telecoms providers of Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Rupali Bank continues to be a Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, state-owned enterprise despite being floated in the stock exchange Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Italy and France along with troubled as a public limited company in 1986. American firm WorldCom and The state owns 93.65 per cent of its shares, while private shareholders Indian firm Bharti are members of the consortium.

> Indonesia withdrew its membership when SingTel of Singapore acquired major shares of Indosat. the state-owned telecoms agency of Indonesia.

picked to participate in the secondary Meanwhile, the dominant carrimarket. General investors will also ers of Thailand, Algeria and Tunisia be able to directly buy and sell bonds have expressed their desire to join the consortium. Cable and Wireless The government is also going to of the UK and Reliance Group of fix interest rates for savings bonds on India are also interested in being a market basis. The new system is connected with the submarine cable ikely to be introduced in December. network

The consortium will accept these The interest rate will be fixed in every six months after reviewing the internew aspirants if it faces shortage of fund.

Sources said despite global downturn in the telecoms investment, the consortium members have already committed 84 per cent of the estimated US\$ 750 million project cost. Bangladesh has earmarked US\$ 65 million as BTTB's contribution.

iail if they fail to pay the sum, The contract to build this cable network will be awarded to the The team also fined Seagull, a successful bidder in March 2004. small motor launch. of Tk 5.000 The contractor will have to commission the system within 16 months

At vesterday's meeting, a s committee was also formed to identify the problems facing police. The committee will review works of

the sub-committee at its next meeting on October 18 and recommend ways to improve police performance. Most members of the committee

were reluctant to talk to press vesterday. They just said that the chairman of the committee would tell everything about the meeting.

Asked about the meeting, the

## Marine cable

### FROM PAGE 1

terrestrially connected with the highspeed global telecoms network not later than July 2005. Meanwhile, the BTTB has shifted the location of its submarine

Chittagong to Cox's Bazar.

ing on the Chittagong coast prompted the shift. The BTTB is now going to invite

that means Bangladesh will be

kilometres of optical fibre cable from Cox's Bazar to Chittagong. The government has earmarked

Tk 40 crore for the project. Initially it will be equipped with 622 megabyte per second (Mbps) capacity to carry 8,064 voice circuits. It will be eventually upgraded to

3,333 international phone calls at a time through its satellite circuits.

### US warns FROM PAGE 12

stay on the offensive overseas." Bush, who led mourners in New York for the first anniversary, was not at Ground Zero this year and his chosen representative Vice President Dick Cheney also skipped the main ceremony at the request of city officials.

The names of all those who perished were read aloud once again at Ground Zero, but this time by children related to the victims. The ceremony's participants

paused in silence four times -- twice to mark the times that each hijacked plane hit the towers and twice to mark the times that each tower fell. (Related stories on page-8)

said, "Of course, we are satisfied with the performance of the police administration."

Home Secretary Omar Faruque Swedish FM told reporters that the overall activities of police were discussed at the meeting dies

Abdul Mannan presided over the meeting attended also by Majibur Rahman Sarwar, Ataur Rahman Khan, Sultan Mahmud Babu, Mushfiqur Rahman and officials concerned

Fakir

### FROM PAGE 12

this year. But they could not nab Moazzem, who raped her several times since the abduction. Jahanara Begum, mother of the

victim, filed a case against Moazzem with Nalchity Police Station and Subinspector Kazem Ali Munshi pressed charges against him on February 16 this year. The case was transferred to the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Barisal on May 11 this year.

The verdict came after examining 13 witnesses within 14 working days.

## Abbas

### FROM PAGE 12

unsolved assassination of Prime am not satisfied with the perfor-Minister Olof Palme in a Stockholm mance of Raiuk. I had also suffered street in 1986. a lot when I wanted to build my house." He however said Rajuk has 'Criminal' been restructured and the situation is better now. FROM PAGE 1

In his open letter, Babul alleged the housing minister is personally angry with him and this led him to take action against Jamuna Group. Some other developers are also filling up low-lying areas but the minister is only after his group, Babul claimed.

Brushing aside the allegation, the minister said Rajuk has filed as many as 10 cases against developers including Bashundhara Modhumati, Jamuna, Banorupa Amin Mohammad Foundation and Rahat Real Estate. "All the cases are in process," he mentioned.

The minister said Jamuna Group is using the daily Jugantar to support its illegal activities and urged people not to be misled by such propaganda in that newspaper.

Secretary of the housing ministry Aminur Rahaman and Chairman of Raiuk Igbal Uddin Chowdhurv were also present at the press conference 6:00pm

The AL ignored the ruling party's appeal to join the session also on the day and said it would decide on

Advisory Committee of parliament

decided to run the current session

from all over Europe as surgeons at

Stockholm's Karolinska hospital

But Thursday the hospital issued

a statement saying that Lindh had

died of "massive bleeding caused by

knife wounds to the liver and many of

the big blood vessels in the abdo-

The stabbing took place in the

Politicians were to meet at noon to

decide whether the referendum

should go ahead. Lindh had cam-

paigned for the pro-euro side, which

has trailed opponents in opinion

referendum will now go ahead," said

HSBC analyst Peter Lindquist. "They

might postpone it for a few weeks or

the hospital and the store where she

was killed, shocked at the first politi-

cal killing in their country since the

In another incident, members of a

criminal gang stabbed an associate

of the group at Banshpatti in Lalbagh

gang stabbed Sabuj, another mem-

ber of the group, in abdomen at

about 1:00pm over sharing of booty,

The gang later hurled some hand

Sabuj and Majid were taken to

Dhaka Medical College Hospital

(DMCH) for treatment, sources said.

vear ago for his involvement in

crimes, sources added.

Lalbagh police arrested Sabuj a

However, no case was filed with

Lalbagh Police Station and none

was arrested till filing of this report at

made bombs wounding Majid

Bepari, a rickshawpuller, police

in a bomb attack by the gang.

police said.

added.

Ordinary Swedes left red roses at

"It's a 50:50 chance whether the

final days of campaigning for the

referendum, but it was not clear

whether they were linked.

struggled all night to save her life.

until September 18.

FROM PAGE 12

men.

polls

months."

Hamid told newspersons at a briefing at his office. He dubbed the government

overtures as 'just an eyewash'. Meanwhile, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions yesterday submitted its third report, recommending the passage of a bill and rejecting four others.

Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar in his speech at the beginning of the session urged the main opposition to return to the House.

The house yesterday adopted an obituary reference condoling the death of former lawmaker Mojammel Hossain Sikder, former legislative assembly member Mojammel Hossain and former minister Nurzahan Murshid

### Home ministry FROM PAGE 1

Previously, senior journalists Atiqul Alam and Mahfuzullah and retired deputy secretary Wahiduzzaman ran the cell. Later, another journalist from Ajker Kagoj, Alimuzzaman Harun, was included in the cell.

But the government this time did not renew the contracts of the two senior journalists and cancelled those of Wahiduzzaman and Alimuzzaman.

Sources said both the home minister and state minister for home were unhappy with the previous members as they failed to ensure adequate news coverage of the ministry's activities to improve law and order as well as project the government's moves to curb crime.

Prior to the fresh appointments, yesterday and another was injured pro-BNP journalists lobbied for the media cell jobs considering higher Four members of Jamai Babu salary and facilities, sources said.

Even several senior cabinet ministers and a political secretary and a private secretary to the prime minister involved in the recruitment process tried to put their own men in the cell, the sources added.

Sources at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said the file on the recast of the media cell was sent for the prime minister's approval. but two influential PMO officials sent it back to the home ministry as their men were not included in the cell.

Finally, the home ministry sent fresh names chosen by the PMO officials, which were approved by the prime minister on Wednesday.

cable's landing station from Sources said high risk of cable cut because of fishing and anchor-

an international tender to lay 160

1,000 Mbps to handle 129,024 simultaneous international phone

calls Currently the BTTB handles only