## Bus service

auditorium of Roads and Highways Department at 9:00am.

The Central Transport Minister of India and Chief Minister of Tripura Manik Sarkar and Chief Secretary of the state government Tulsi Das will arrive in Dhaka today to attend the inaugural ceremony, said Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) Chairman advocate Taimur Alam Khondoker during a press briefing yesterday.

Two buses will leave for Agartala at 10:00am tomorrow from the BRTC's International Bus Terminal at Motijheel, Taimur said.

The inaugural trip will take the communications minister, the Indian ministers and a select group of people including cultural activists, journalists and professionals to Agartala where they will join the second inaugural function at 3:00pm on the same day.

The inaugural ceremony at Agartala, the capital of the Indian State of Tripura, will be held at Tripura Road Transport Corporation (TRTC) bus terminal.

The journey from Agartala to Dhaka will bring three ministers of Tripura, eight MPs, poets, litterateurs, journalists, cultural activists and noted personalities of Tripura to the International bus terminal at Kamalapur at around 7:00pm.

The commercial operation of the two-way bus service will begin on September 20.

The two-way fare is \$10 (about Tk 590), which was fixed at an operator-level review meeting between BRTC and TRTC in Dhaka last month, the BRTC chairman

BRTC will operate two airconditioned buses at 7:00am and at 2:00pm every day while TRTC will run one bus six days a week except Sunday from the TRTC bus terminal

#### 2 brothers

FROM PAGE 12

shot him, leaving him dead on the Khokan Chandra filed a case on

February 21, 1996, accusing seven persons. Police submitted the charge sheet against them on 28 April the same year.

#### Sayedee FROM PAGE 12

stay petition. The Jamaat lawmaker attended

the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday for the first time since the HC stripped him of his membership on Sunday.

When Savedee rose to make a supplementary question to the prime minister, the speaker clarified the Jamaat leader's position, saving the deputy would be able to attend the session as the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday stayed the HC order.

#### The four-hour journey will follow the Dhaka-Bhairah Bazar-Brahmanharia-Akhaura-Agartala route and back, the BRTC chairman

The bus will break the journey at Ashuganj. Two armed guards will be deployed for passenger security. A steering committee will be formed with officials of the two countries to monitor the services.

Each passenger is allowed to carry up to 20 kg of luggage, which will be checked by customsimmigration officials of both countries at the border entry point. All commercial goods and defense equipment are barred from being transported through the bus service, the BRTC chairman said.

Replying to a query, he said a 16km stretch of the 151-km Dhaka-Agartala road, which falls on the Bangladesh side and was not in good shape, has been brought back to working condition after the communications ministry was informed about the matter.

The road is under the process of being upgraded to a highway, the BRTC chairman said.

The bus service is being introduced under an agreement signed by Bangladesh and India in 2001.

The India-Bangladesh Joint Economic Council (JEC) meeting held in Dhaka a few months back finalised details of the service.

Earlier, the first international bus service from Dhaka to Kolkata

#### Pak FM

Pakistan in January and India has indicated that Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee will attend.

The SAARC summit was originally planned for January this year, but was postponed after India declined to attend because of tensions with Pakistan. Kasuri has already visited Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka to deliver SAARC

"The letter of invitation to Prime Minister Vajpayee would be delivered through other diplomatic channels," the Pakistani Foreign Ministry said.

### Train derails

FROM PAGE 1

might have caused the derailment

The injured, including five children, were admitted to Sadar Hospital and other clinics. Of them. the condition of five -Shamsuddin. Amiad, Habibur, Bablu and Ramianwas stated to be critical. STAFF

Our CORRESPONDENT from Khulna reports: Two relief trains from Khulna and Ishwardi reached the scene of accident vesterday evening and started rescue operation.

## \_andmark return home

"This is an important event to build confidence," said the minister.

Hasan's brother Hossain died on June 29 after they were separated at the Islami Bank Central Hospital. said Dr Ruhul Amin, paediatric surgeon and associate professor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, who led the specialist surgical team.

"It's disappointing that people generally label our physicians with bad image. There are many success stories like this." said Dr Amin.

The surgical team also includes

Dr Tasnim Ara. Dr Shahadat Hossain, Dr Didarul Islam, Dr Mostak Ahmed, General Surgeon Abu Zafar, Dr Ohab Khan, Dr Lutful Kabir, Dr Mortuza Chowdhury, Dr Atiar Rahman, Dr Abdur Rahman and Dr Harun-ur-Rashid

Jesmin Begum, wife of rickshawvan puller Abdul Halim of Hasanpur village in Dumuria, Khulna, gave birth to the twins in a caesarean operation by Dr Din Mohammad at a local clinic on April 28.

The twins were admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital the same day but were shifted to Khulna Islami Bank Hospital the Later, the superintendent of

Khulna Islami Bank Hospital, Dr Nurul Islam Sardar, and the vicechairman of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, Mir Kashem Ali, took initiatives to bear the operation expenses from the bank's funds, as the parents could not afford the expensive operation.

Kashem said the Islami Bank Hospital has so far spent around Tk 10 lakh on the operation, carried out on June 24.

It is the second successful operation of the conjoined twins in Bangladesh. The first operation on Siamese twins was carried out by a six-member team led by Paediatric Surgeon Professor AFM Masood on January 29 last year at Dhaka

C'wealth ministers

plays a crucial role in their econo-

Of the 54 members, only four --Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom -- are considered developed even though the grouping's 1.7 billion people account for a third of the world's

"We are all familiar with the scandal of agricultural subsidies," McKinnon said.

"The US, Europe and Japan dish out farm subsidies at the rate of one billion (dollars) a day, thus depriving developing nations of being able to

"The developed world must therefore show the commitment and political courage to reform agriculture and help millions of people in developing countries lift themselves out of poverty."

It is not just the developing countries that will benefit from lower agricultural subsidies paid to farmers in the developed economies,

said McKinnon. "It's also important to realise that cutting agricultural subsidies would also benefit people in the industrialised world, by making available

1,000 dollars a year to every household in the US, Europe and Japan," he said.

Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah said in his keynote opening address to Commonwealth delegates that "globalization is inevitable and irresistible".

But he noted people were increasingly losing faith that a globalized economy would bring

about the promised improvements. "It deeply fustrates people in developing nations... globalization

appears to value volatility not stabilitv." the sultan said. With the extra burdens brought

taken by the leading industrialised nations, Bolkiah said.

"We all depend a great deal on the major economies to get their policy responses right," he said. "Terrorist violence and recent

SARS crisis have severely damaged confidence. It is crucial that the industrial nations do all they can to speed global recovery.'

### Dhaka condemns Israeli decision to expel Arafat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh strongly condemns and denounces the decision of Israel to expel Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and demands that the decision be withdrawn, says a Press Information Department (PID) handout datelined New York, September 16.

These views of the Bangladesh government were conveyed to the Security Council by Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, ambassador and permanent representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations at the opening meeting of the council on Monday.

The Bangladesh ambassador further stated that the decision would create serious obstacles to implementing the US-backed Road Map that envisages the creation of an independent, sovereign and democratic Palestine. He also urged Israel to withdraw all occurving troops from Palestinian and Arab territories.

The ambassador called upon the Security Council to take immediate corrective measures.

The Security Council immediately went into consultations over a possible draft resolution at the end of the debate, said the press

#### Lawyers

FROM PAGE 12 sional groups.

The committee announced the programmes at a press conference yesterday at the Supreme Court Bar Association hall . Advocates Syed Ahmad, Abdul Baset Mujumdar, Ozaer Farooq, Subroto Chowdhury and Mahbub Ali spoke at the confer-

The Civil Procedure Code (Second Amendment) Act, 2003 will come into effect from October 1.

Parliament amended the law in July aiming at quick disposal of Under the amended law, a plaintiff filing a false case will have to pay

a fine of Tk 1 lakh. The fine is Tk 5,000 at present. Anyone involved in an under-trial lawsuit will be subject to paving fines of Tk 1.000 to Tk 5.000 for any

delay in submitting applications. prayers or counter affidavits. The lawyers said some provisions of the amendment would be a

burden to the poor people. "The fines are too high," they said. They also rejected the Bar Council Order Amendment Bill, passed by parliament last night,

claming that it was 'unwarranted'.

They said the government did not

even discuss the matter with the

### lawyers before amending the law. Dhaka-Yangon

ment projects in the hill tracts.

He said Israeli Prime Minister Aerial Sharon's visit to India would not affect the relations among the member states of the South Asian association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) but reaffirmed Bangladesh's stand against any military build up either by India or Pakistan.

"Although we cannot poke into bilateral conflict between the two nuclear rivals, but as a neighbour we have our legitimate concern against any military build up in South Asia," he said

Khan said instead of concentratng on military build up, South Asian leaders should fight poverty in a region where a vast majority of

people live below the poverty line. The foreign minister also censured the Israeli deputy prime minister for threatening to kill Palestine President Yasser Arafat, saying, "None but terrorists could

issue such threat." "We've already condemned it with the strongest voice... It's not only condemnable, but also an atrocious idea. How one can make threat to kill a leader of another

country?" Khan said. He said it's the people of Palestine who are the authority to choose their leader.

Reiterating the main focus of his government's foreign policy, Khan said, "Our look to the East policy does not exclude our look to the

## Angry PM stops

FROM PAGE 12 accidents reduced drastically, she added.

Later, the principal secretary to the PM hurriedly called officials and engineers of the Roads and Highways Division of the communications ministry and discussed the

PMO sources said the authorities Meanwhile, the state-run BTV

and two private satellite channels had recorded the PM's visit to the Airport Road and dismantling of dividers but did not telecast it on nstruction of from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO)

The Daily Star carried a photo of dismantling of the road-dividers in its September 14 issue.

# Toxic gas fallout

the affected area died from the gas

Locals said thick smog lifted from the ship-breaking yard and covered the area at around 10:00am.

"It virtually suffocated us and children began to dawdle," said Jamal Uddin, 32. "People were forced to evacuate their houses on the harm's way and could not return until the haze cleared by 4:00pm." he said.

Some 20 families including those of Hossain member, Chhati Companir Bari. Dr Rafig and Shafi Molla were the worst affected in the gas emission

The affected families said their children were still experiencing respiratory problems and dizziness. A young shopkeeper said the haze clouded the whole area like mist and skin broke up in blisters.

The tanker, MT Santa Ynez, looked like a refining vessel with a boiler-like structure that was a chemical storage of the ship. It was filled

Shamsul Alam, the contractor engaged to remove the contains of the chemical storage, said there were some 30 tonnes of sulphur that caught fire and emitted smoke when it was being cut.

RK Shipping was breaking the vessel that was imported by Silvia Ship Breaking Yard. The tanker, lying at Batham port of Indonesia for months, was in a miserable state when it was brought in. The RK shipping took certificate

for men entry from the Department

of Environment, but did not take

certificate for work, sources in the Explosives Department said. The Department of Environment (DoE), Chittagong, was preparing to

Director of DoE, Chittagong, Mosahrraf Hossain said, vessel did not take precautionary measures and we have already sought approval from our higher authorities for filing a case.

## Paksey ghat

FROM PAGE 1

The district administration said two unidentified children drowned in the Padma at Godagari and a 13-year old boy, Dalim, died in Chapai-

Official sources put the number of affected people in 25 unions in Rajshahi and Chapainawabgani districts at 95,000, while unofficial figures said about 1.50 lakh people were affected.

Besides, huge damage to houses, standing crops and domestic animals were reported in the flooded villages.

Our Chapainawabganj correspondent adds: Fresh lowlands in district went under water as the Padma and the Mahananda continued to swell unceasingly. In the last 24 hours ending yester-

day afternoon, two more unions were

swamped, taking the number of food-

hit people in the district to 82,388 in 14 unions in the Sadar and Shibganj upazilas. 14,297 houses, 103 Besides. kilometres of unpaved roads, a flood

control embankment and crops on 3,855 acres were destroyed by the raging waters. The people in the flooded villages were in desperate need of food,

drinking water, medicine and treat-Incidences of diarrhoea and dys-

### JS refuses

reasons. The chair yesterday disposed of a total of 90 notices.

Most of the notices were on law and order and the lawmakers proposed discussion on it.

But the speaker said most of the notices should not be discussed in parliament as these were incomplete and not related with contemporary affairs.

AL lawmakers Mohammad Nasim, Shajahan Khan and Shamsur Rahman Sharif and Jatiya Party legislators Golam Mohammad Quader and Moshiur Rahman Ranga gave the notices.

## Ashulia

FROM PAGE 1 The Supreme Court weighed in on September 9 to stay the HC order for a week before extending it fur-

ther yesterday. Environmentalists have long been warning against the earthfilling in Ashulia lowlands, saying such activities would endanger the Dhaka Protection Embankment and cause huge onrush of floodwaters

towards capital. The Appellate Division also extended the stay order till October 19 on the High Court verdict that directed the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to dispose of the application of the proposed Jamuna Television for allocation of frequency within 30 days.

Justice Hamidul Hague set October 19 for hearing the petition of the government seeking leave to appeal against the High Court verdict.

whitewash in order end their one-

Bangladesh are winless after 42

one-day internationals since their

famous victory against Pakistan in

the 1999 World Cup staged in

2:15pm (BST) with Bangladesh

Television and Ten Sports providing

five-match series. They lost first

match in Multan by 137 runs and

when the lights kept going on and off

at the famous World Cup venue

resulting in six overs being

deducted from their share of 50

Bangladesh will make one

change from the side that played in

Lahore with Tushar Imran coming in

for out of form Mohammad Ashraful.

The axe fell on Ashraful after

The tourists are trailing 3-0 in the

The day-night clash will start at

day blues.

England.

live coverage.

entery in the flooded areas are running high, locals said. Meanwhile, truckers at Paksey

ferry ghat went on a rampage yesterday and damaged a ferry moored to a dock from a demonstration in support of their demand for immediate reopen-

ing of ferry service. They also threatened to put other ferries on fire if their demands went

They alleged that the authorities used low-quality fuel to run the vessels that damaged their engines and the authorities were using the flooding as a ruse to shield their malpractice. Our Pabna correspondent reports

sides of the ferry ghat in the wake of damage to the ferry. Tension was running high until esterday night, locals said.

police in force were deployed on both

Meanwhile, hundreds of passengers were crossing the fierce-flowing river by small motor boats risking their According to Flood Forecasting

and Warning Centre (FFWC), the

Brahmaputra-Jamuna basin observed fresh rise yesterday. The Ganges-Padma registered further rise at most of the points and the Ganges-Padma, Brahmaputra-Jamuna and the Mahananda are likely to rise further. The Padma at Hardinge Bridge is likely to cross danger level

bulletin said. The flood situation in the district of Chapainawabganj will deteriorate and the low-lying areas in the districts of Raishahi, Pabna, Raibari, Manikgani Munshiganj, Madaripur and Magura

within next 24 hours, the FFWC

are likely to inundate further. The FFWC said the rivers in the Meghna and the Southeastern Hill basin registered both rise and fall. Out of 85 monitoring stations, 34 recorded rise, 28 recorded fall and 6 remained

## **Arafat**

**FROM PAGE 1** After the veto, several council members including US Ambassador John Negroponte cautioned Israel that the veto did not mean it should

harm Arafat or send him into exile. "The United States does not support either the elimination of Mr. Arafat or his forced exile. While Mr Arafat is part of the problem we believe that this problem is best solved through diplomatic isolation. and we have made this view clear.

Negroponte said. He said the text was vetoed because it failed to take a clear stand against Palestinian militant groups, such as Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the al-Agsa Martyrs Brigade, which have been blamed

for suicide bombings in Israel. Arafat yesterday shrugged off

"We are not shaken by a resolution from one place or another," Arafat told a delegation of Palestinian intellectuals and artists at his battered West Bank compound. "We are more important than

failing in the first three one-day

games where the talented right-

included two ducks.

confidence at the top.

hander scored three runs that

wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud or

captain Khaled Mahmud will open

captain would win a rare toss.

Mahmud has called incorrectly in

better in the second match than the

final training yesterday.

He also hoped that his luckless

the innings with Hannan Sarker.

any resolution. Related story on page 9

## JS passes bill on bar council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad last night passed 'The Bangladesh Legal Practitioners and Bar Council (Amendment) Bill, 2003' bringing in some amendments

The reforms include certain changes in election procedures of Bar Council and ensuring transparency in maintaining the council fund.

With the passage of the bill, no advocate would be allowed to hold office for more than two consecutive terms. Supporting the provision, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed said this would allow the council to have fresh and dynamic leadership.

It also brought changes in the council election process. The new provision says seven regional representatives would be elected through voters' franchise of their respective region instead of earlier process of executive committee elected by voters across the country.

Another amendment of the bill said an advocate could become member of different bar associations but would be voterfor only one bar association.

To ensure transparency and accountability in the council fund, the new bill made provision for submitting audited accounts of the council fund to public accounts committee of the parliament

Earlier, some opposition and independent lawmakers brought some amendment proposals on the bill and proposed public opinion prior to passing of the bill. The House turned down the proposals in voice vote and passed the bill.

### Chevron-Texaco

Industry insiders were hearing about a possible off-loading of Chevron-Texaco shares to Canadian company Niko. "But we were not prepared for a total sell-out," said a Petrobangla

Rejecting Chevron and Texaco's offer, the government initially picked Tullow alone for blocks 9 and 11 back in 1997 because of the company's outstanding work programme. In the face of growing criticism

about the Tullow's political clouts and insufficient solvency to implement its proposals, the government invited Chevron and Texaco to strike a partnership with the Irish company, which was eventually signed in 2001. Considered a highly prospective zone. Block 9 is situated in the heart of

gas pipeline network, a location that

offers explorers a built-in advantage to

mobilise equipment as well as easy

link with the national grid after gas discovery. Tullow and its partners are committed to drilling three exploratory wells and conduct two-dimensional seismic survey covering 1,000 km in the first three years. Sources said Tullow and Chevron-Texaco have acquired 19 acres in each of the two drilling spots. The prospective well in Gumti is situated in a densely populated area. To avoid disturbance, the oil companies chose a location two kilometres

away from the community, from where it would drill a directional well. Turned down in the second round block bidding. Niko came back to work in Bangladesh by striking a joint ven-

Hasına

FROM PAGE 12 three conditions were met.

These are: To ensure due honour to the opposition leader as per national and international convention to increase the number of members of the main opposition party in the steering committee and different subcommittees for the conference and exclusion of two non-MPs from the

steering committee Hamid also requested the speaker to take steps so that the opposition party can take part in the

He alleged the government does not want the Awami League to attend the conference. Though the CPA headquarters agreed to give due honour to the opposition leader, the ruling BNP ignored this, he added. In his letter on September 12,

Marshal said, " It has always been

the practice of the CPA that both the

leader of the government and the leader of the opposition attend and speak at the opening ceremony of the CPA conference"

Earlier, the AL decided to boycott

## Tigers' chance to avoid whitewash

Meanwhile, coach Day That put some extra pressure on my Whatmore has decided to reshuffle team. It's very difficult for a team like the batting order to bring more Bangladesh to make that up," he The Australian hinted that either

"You see, only 14 runs were

reduced at the expense of six overs.

Pakistan may welcome back fast bowler Mohammad Sami who has recovered from injury. **TEAMS** 

BANGLADESH (from): Khaled Mahmud (captain), Hannan Sarkar, Habibul Bashar, Rajin Saleh Hossain, Hasibul Hossain and Alamgir Kabir. PAKISTAN (from): Inzamamul Haq,

first one and again they looked an improved team at Lahore than in Mohammad Hafeez, Yasir Hameed, Faisalabad. So, I hope they will do Yousuf Youhana, Younis Khan, Abdul Razzak, Shoaib Malik much better this time if everything goes fine," he said during the team's Kamran Akmal, Junaid Zia, Umar Gul, Shabbir Ahmed, Danish The Bangladesh coach also Kaneria, Imran Nazir, Mohammad referred to the light problem at Sami and Salman Butt.

## Khosru: Trade talks

the 'Singapore issues' made the world trade talks to end up without a deal, observed Khosru, also coordinator of the least developed countries (LDCs)

The Singapore issues are investment, competition, transparency in government procurement and trade facilitation. "We were not ready to negotiate these issues in Cancun. Besides, agricultural subsidy and tariff reduction issues were being discussed in a way that the LDCs did not accept," said Khosru, who was one of the three vice-chairmen of the Cancun conference.

"We did not make any deal because we did not find their proposals during the negotiation favourable.'

Before leaving for Mexico, the commerce minister had said several occasions Bangladesh will not sign any agreement in Cancun if the deal does not protect the interest of the LDCs, including Bangladesh.

The one positive development of the conference was the unflinching unity of the LDCs and the develop-

ing nations (Group of 21) on certair issues, he said. "We have succeeded in making rich nations understand that we would not agree

on issues according to their wish." The commerce minister said it is true interests of the LDCs and the developing nations are diverse. Still the LDCs and the developing countries have some common concerns on certain issues like special and differential treatment and tariff reduction. "But it does not mean that the LDCs agreed to other interests

of developing countries." However, negotiations in the Cancun meet were participatory and transparent and the LDCs were able to present their views strongly, unlike in earlier ministerial conferences, said Khosru, terming it another positive development of the fifth WTO ministerial.

The way the ministerial meeting was going ahead with agriculture and non-agriculture issues, Bangladesh would have gained a lot had the conference ended positively

## Monica: Booker Prize

John Carey, head of the judges who picked a shortlist of six for what invariably turns into an entertaining

"We have three first novels and only one big name left," he said of the list after working through 117 books from Britain, Ireland and the Commonwealth Bookmaker William Hill made

literary horse race every year.

Atwood the 2-1 favorite for her science fiction saga "Oryx and Crake", which Carey compared to George Orwell's "1984" and Aldous Huxlev's "Brave New World" The other main bookmaker Ladbrokes, picked as their 2-1 favorite "Brick Lane" by Monica Ali,

takes her birthplace as the setting for her debut novel. British columnist Zoe Heller, who lives in New York, made the coveted last six with "Notes on a Scandal"

who moved to Britain from

Bangladesh as a young child and

about a schoolteacher who has an affair with an underage pupil. The fourth woman on the list --

there have never been that many in

the 35-year history of the Booker --

is Clare Morrall for "Astonishing Splashes of Color" about a woman's agony over childlessness.

DBC Pierre wrote about a Texan serial killer in "Vernon God Little' and the list was completed by Damon Galgut's "The Good Doctor." which tells about the blinding lack of understanding between blacks and whites in South Africa

Booker judges when Thomas Keneally won with "Schindler's List", said: "The standard was pretty high but we thought the big names this year did not produce the big books." South Africa's hotly fancied dual Booker winner JM Coetzee with

Carey, who last chaired the

controversial novelist Martin Amis with "Yellow Dog" were left out. The judges' selection regularly sparks a storm of protest with critics claiming obscure books win out over

"Elizabeth Costell" and Britain's

popular novels. But last year Canadian author

# River-linking plan

ahead with its plan, not only Bangladesh but other Saarc countries like Nepal and Bhutan would also be affected.

Referring to the country's policy

of maintaining good neighbourly

relations with India, the prime minis-

ter said, "Bangladesh has never done anything that could cause damage to India and expects the same behaviour from it.' Referring to Indian press reports the prime minister said if the water diversion plan is implemented, water from the Brahmaputra and its tributaries would be diverted to the

Ganges and then redirected to

southern and western India through

river links in West Bengal and Orissa. Pointing out that the Ganges and Brahmaputra are the main sources of Bangladesh's dry season water availability, Khaleda Zia said if water is withdrawn from these two rivers, it

would cause colossal damage to

The prime minister, however, did not reply to the question whether the government had taken any decision on raising the issue at international forums. Replying to another question. she said Bangladesh shared 54

common rivers with India and three

others with Myanmar, but because

of its disadvantageous geographic location, it is not in a position to control the flow of these rivers The prime minister said the

government was making efforts to dredge the rivers and canals as drought has become a regular feature of life in the northern region.

rience drought and salinity. The Indian river-linking plan apart, Khaleda Zia answered several other questions ranging

She informed parliament that the

power export to Malaysia. The prime minister also said the recruitment process of 2,000 nurses would be complete in September. She said 1,133 doctors are being

recruited through the 24th BCS.

Khaleda Zia also highlighted her

government's initiative in integrating

computer education in secondary

deepen its economic ties Improving the rule of law, tackling

the US Department of Treasury drafted the final text in Washington in Julv.

talk formally about the trade and

He added Tifa was nearing the final stages of discussion and it could be completed soon. Holiday mood

State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon is in Malaysia, heading the country's delegation to the Youth OIC

Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur

and is expected to return home next

mmad Shahidul Alam is attending a Unesco meeting at Paris. He is expected to return by next week. Prof Muhammad Junaid, chair-

Education Secretary Moha-

The education ministry is one of the vital ministries of the govern-

of the men at the helm has slowed things down at the ministry.

Yann Martel's "Life of Pi" proved a huge success, selling over one

She added that due to water withdrawal by India during the dry season, the regions in Bangladesh dependent on Ganges water expe-

from the issues of Gram Sarkar formation to manpower export. Khaleda Zia told the House that September 15, as many as 39.768 Gram Sarkar units were

governments of Bangladesh and

Malaysia would soon sign a memo-

randum of understanding on man-

and higher secondary level curricu-Following the question-answer session, ruling party lawmaker Harunur Rashid stood on a point of order to make a strong plea to the government for adopting effective measures against the Indian plan of

diverting river water from the upper

Tifa would establish a bilateral

council that would meet periodically

# Dhaka risks losing

Bangladesh.

desired growth level, he said The ambassador optimistic about signing of a bilateral tax treaty within next few months. Negotia-

tions to seal the deal are complete.

The National Board of Revenue and

cabinet gives its assent, we will arrange a formal signing ceremony,"

between the two governments to

vacationing in London. ment in terms of budget and the sphere of activities, but the absence

#### to promote trade, resolve disputes corruption and establishing an indethat may arise, remove hurdles to pendent judiciary to protect property expand investment and explore and sanctity of contracts are essenavenues of cooperation at the World Lahore as a costly blow for his tial if Bangladesh is to reach the Trade Organisation. young side.

"As soon as the state department's legal office and the Bangladesh law ministry review the treaty and once the Bangladesh

Tifa is simply an agreement

investment issues. It would not duty-free access to the US market.

## Conference. He may return by

FROM PAGE 1

man of Dhaka education board, is

#### then suffered a 74-run defeat in the last three games. vesterday removed construction trade their way out of poverty. Faisalabad in the second ODI. Mushfiqur Rahman, Tushar Imran, Whatmore believed that boys about by the recent Severe Acute he added. materials, vehicles and workers from Saturday, an aide of the state minis-However, the Tigers fought hard Alok Kapali, Khaled Mashud, would play some positive cricket this Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) He was also optimistic that the site. Besides, felling of threes on ter told The Daily Star. in an eventful third match at Mohammad Rafigue, Tapas time and earn respect from their Bangladesh and the US would outbreak and persistent threats the road and lake-filling at neaby Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium before Baishva. Mashrafee-bin-Mortuza. opposition. conclude shortly a Trade and posed by terrorists, the fate of the Nikunja housing were stopped till going down by 42 runs. Bangladesh Mohammad Ashraful, Sanwar "The team is gradually improving Investment Framework Agreement global economy rests on the policies further orders. were denied a fair shot at the target if you look at the graph. They played

compel Bangladesh to match the labour and environmental standards of the US, nor would the agreement provide Bangladesh