HC judge

High Court additional judge was brought to light by a person none other than the president of the Bar association, the president may look into the issue himself and ask the chief justice to find out the truth," he

added.

Supreme Court Bar Association President Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud, who brought the allegation against the judge, said: "I have gone public with the truth. If I were in his position, I would have resigned immediately.'

He indicated that he was not planning to move any petition against the judge now.

Another senior lawyer expressed utter disgust at what he termed 'free fall of judges' morality'.

"A judge with a past of corruption before appointment will naturally indulge in unbridled graft afterwards," he said, referring to allegations of misappropriation of the Bar association fund when he was one of its office-bearers.

When the government was finalising his appointment, the Bar association protested the move, but their words fell to the deaf ears as he was loyal to the main ruling party, he

Explaining the circumstances of the judge's appointment, he said when the lawyers launched agitation against the superceding of

senior judges by fresh appointees and non-confirmation of additional judges despite the chief justice's recommendations in March. the man in question called a convention to oppose them as a progovernment lawyer.

In the next month, he was appointed additional judge.

'This sort of appointment is destroying the dignity of the High Court," he said.

A tirade of corruption allegations against lower court judges rang loud in recent years, but Rokan's charge against a High Court judge shocked

"It's a blotch on the image of the High Court and the judiciary would take a long time to come clean," said

It is the second allegation of corruption against a sitting judge in the three decades of the High Court's history.

A judge was accused of taking bribe from deposed president HM Ershad in the sensational cassette scam. The judge then resigned after the allegations were raised officially.

The civil society believes the allegation has lent weight to the lawyers' demands for keeping the judiciary free from political influence and maintaining total transparency

Marshall wants

Alam hoped a dialogue would be held with the AL chief today and its outcome be positive to pave the way for the opposition to join the meet. Alam had also a meeting with Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui, coordinator of the conference, yesterday.

Hasina is learnt to have not given her message until last night for publication in the CPA supplement to be brought out in a few days.

CPA Executive Committee Chairman Bob Speller also arrived in Dhaka with Marshall, two days ahead of the October 4-12 conference to be attended by 526 delegates from around the world.

Although the conference starts tomorrow with a CPA working party meeting, vice-patron of the conference, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, will inaugurate the Commonwealth lawmakers' meet at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre on October 7.

Given the AL does not change its stand before the start of the meet, the boycott by the opposition in any host country will be the first such instance in CPA's 92-vear history.

Advised by Hasina, senior AL leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Suranjit Sengupta, Jalil, SAMS Kibria and Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim met at the Sangsad Bhaban over an hour, discussing the updates on the CPA

"We are no way going to join the conference," Jalil told reporters. Asked if Marshall meets Al. leaders . Jalil said "We will explain why we decided to boycott. It's clear that a meeting with the CPA secretary-general will not make any difference.

Earlier in the day, Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar, president of the 49th CPA conference, and the deputy speaker, met Speller and Marshall and discussed the arrangements for the event of the largest forum of lawmak-

The AL took the hard line as it was left out of the preparatory work for the conference and only two of its lawmakers were included in the 25-member steering committee on the event. The opposition also protested the inclusion of two non-MPs, who happen to be political secretaries to the prime minister, on the committee.

After a long wrangle and interventions from the CPA headquarters, the government and the speaker conceded to many of AL demands over the last couple of weeks but again included five AL lawmakers in Bangladesh's official delegation to the conference without consulting the

Ás many as 526 delegates, including 53 speakers from national and regional parliaments of 48 member countries, are expected to attend the conference, themed "Partnerships for Global Peace and Prosperity". The delegates will start flying to Dhaka

The conference will have seven workshops on various topics: Parliament and Executive: Building a More Effective Partnership, Do We Have Adequate Peacekeeping Mechanism for Preserving World Order, Are the Millennium Goals Achievable, Reconciling Human Rights with Cultural Diversity, How can the Doha Round Contribute to Increasing Trade and Investment Opportunities for Developing Nations, Antiterrorism Legislation: Have We Achieved any Tangible Result.

The final plenary will focus on balancing multilateral support and national sovereignty: managing the interface between the international mmunity and local interest.

President lajuddin Ahmed will accord a reception to the delegates from home and abroad on October 10. and Dhaka Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka will host a civic reception to the onference participants on October

Padma Bridge

sites. The site selection may be finalised in its next report likely to be submitted in February next year said an official of the study team.

The study team will evaluate topographic and bathymetric condition, sub-soil structure, river behavimpact before finalising the bridge construction site.

Jica appointed Nippon Koei Company Limited to complete the feasibility study within 22 months from May this year. The study team will submit to the government five reports including the final one during the period, communications ministry sources said.

Asked about reasons behind dropping the Dohar and Chandpur sites, a study team official said, "Those were not found feasible considering low traffic demand, river stability highway planning and preliminary bridge design conditions.

After September 2004, the team will draw up preliminary designs of the bridge, river training works, foundation and other works. It will submit the final report by February 2005, sources

A top official however said the final report does not necessarily mean beginning of the construction of the bridge as funds must be readied for it.

Nazmul Huda thanked the Jica team for preparing the first progress report in time and said the government committed to constructing the bridge. He also recalled Japanese assistance in other fields.

addition, because patients have to repeat doses over a period of weeks or months, many lose patience and return home without completing their

common, since anti-cancer drugs

fetch high rates. Prices of anti-cancer drugs at drugstores close to the hospital range from Tk 500 to Tk 10.000. The shops stock the most commonly prescribed drugs, often offering patients enough drugs for an entire course of treatment and charging for

them all in advance Most of the storekeepers denied purchasing stolen drugs from the

hospital and said they rely on smugglers for supplies Nargis Amin from city's Uttara is

treatment. I have to buy every dose and doctors, nurses and wardboys often advise us to buy the drugs from

Professor A M M Shariful Alam, Director of NICRH, said, "Yes, it is true that the supply of drugs at NICRH is insufficient. Different patients receive different

He said he should have authority to order drugs in order to ensure that supplies were adequate. Supplies from the central medical stores and depot (CMSD) were not consistent with need.

General Abul Kalam Azad, instructed Abdul Matin, who is in charge of drug distribution, to provide information about the supply of anti-cancer drugs to NICRH, but when contacted by The Daily Star, Matin refused to do so. He also refused to comment on allegations of regular theft of drugs

BNP leader. newsman reject diplomatic iobs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader and a senior journalist have refused a government offer to join press counsellor post at diplomatic missions abroad saying the post is disgraceful for their position.

Instructed by prime minister recently, information minister asked Ehsanul Kabir, information and research secretary of the BNP, to join counsellor (press) post lying vacant with deputy high commission in Kolkata while journalist Gias Kamal Chowdhury was offered the same at high commission in Pakistan, official sources said.

However, both outright rejected the offer terming the post as 'too low and dishonourable. Information Minister Tarigul Islam admitted the making of the offer and its refusal, sources added. "I am grateful to the government

for the offer but I want to say that I am not fit for the post," an apparently annoyed Kabir told The Daily Star vesterdav. Meanwhile, many journalists commented that requesting Chowdhury a press counsellor post

with the rank and status of a deputy secretary is shocking because he served as economic minister at high commission in London with the rank and status of a joint secretary during BNP's last tenure.

Both posts remained vacant since the BNP-led alliance government ascended to power and recently a move has been taken to make political appointment to the

'Criminal' dies in police custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT. Khulna

Body of an accused criminal was found dead in Koyra Police Station custody in Khulna yesterday.

Abdul Hamid Sana, an accused n fake money possession case, allegedly committed suicide by hanging from ceiling while in police custody Wednesday night, police

There was no mark of injury in Sana's body while he was sent to Khulna for autopsy, Habibur Rahman, police super of Khulna, said yesterday.

He was arrested on September 28 with 20 fake currency notes of Tk 500. He was placed on a four-day remand on September 29 and was scheduled to make a judicial confession to the court yesterday. He was also arrested last year for keeping fake notes and was on bail, police

A three-member committee headed by Additional Deputy Magistrate Abdul Malek has been formed to probe Sana's death in police custody.

died due to police torture.

Arıta

Arifa was abducted on August 31 by an Indian smuggler from her frontier Naodanga village home in Fulbari upazila of Kurigram apparently over a business dispute with her father

After a protracted uncertainty over the procedure of her repatriation, a court of West Bengal's frontier Kutchbihar two days ago ordered the Indian authorities to hand her over to Bangladesh's deputy high commission in Kolkata for her return home.

The Border Security Force (BSF) of India in a prompt action rescued the baby girl and arrested her abductor immediately with the help of Kutchbihar police on a request by Bangladesh Rifles (BDR).

River meet

Explaining why the JRC New Delhi round lurched for hours, Sethi said the river-interlink issue was critical for both countries and needed clarification from both sides. 'That is why we needed such a long time to work out a consensus."

"The taskforce has not made any recommendation. After it does so, we might discuss the issue with Indian states concerned and other countries if necessary," Sethi said.

On reports on some Indian states complaining that they were not consulted on the project, the minister said, "That's not true. The project has not taken any shape yet. We will discuss with them once it is ready."

He pointed out that there were long discussions on the share of waters of Teesta and other rivers.

India raised the issue of repairs of the banks of the Muhuri River and Bangladesh said it would take up the issue with the appropriate authorities for an early decision. The issue had also land bound-

ary problems that need to be solved. The JRC Delhi round ended with a consensus that Bangladesh's concern over the Indian \$200 billion water diversion project was included in the agreed minutes of the meeting and India might discuss with Bangladesh when the project

Health DG makes more surprise visits, 5 staff transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Director General (DG) of health directorate Prof. Mizanur Rahman paid surprise visits to some hospitals and upazila health complexes in Bogra and Sirajganj yesterday and took action against five for being absent from duty.

The five are a professor of dermatology, an associate professor of ear, nose and throat (ENT), an assistant professor of biochemistry and two lecturers at Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College in Bogra. They have been transferred to other hospitals.

While visiting Mohammad Ali Hospital in Bogra, the DG found all medical officers and consultants present. He expressed satisfaction and thanked the civil surgeon of the district. He also found all doctors on duty

at Raigani upazila health complex in

Sirajganj and Sherpur upazila health

Meanwhile, the health directorate yesterday issued a clarification on a report headlined '24 of 28 docs shunted out for absence', published in the front page of The Daily Star

The clarification said the director general made a surprise visit to Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital and not National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD). The DG found 28 senior consultants, medical officers and junior consultants absent from duty at the outpatient department. So, it is not correct that 24 doctors out of 28 doctors were punished for not being present on duty during his visit to the hospital from 8:35 to 8:56 in the morning.

Rajshahi divisions

taken to fill up the vacant posts in the hospital. All posts of medical officers were immediately filled up but the posts of junior and senior consultants are yet to be filled up, health director-

Nukes in the making

complex in Bogra.

Korea has already developed one or two nuclear weapons and that reprocessing the fuel rods will yield enough plutonium for around six nore within months

late August aimed at defusing the year-long stand-off, bringing together the two Koreas, China Japan, Russia, and the United States, ended inconclusively.

Washington has insisted that North Korea scrap its nuclear weapsecurity benefits.

week from Japanese and US officials about the possibility of a new round of talks, North Korea said it had little faith in the process.

"As far as the resumption of the

Security beefed up for CPA meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Elaborate security measures have Parliamentary Association (CPA) conference beginning from Saturday.

Nearly 12.000 personnel drawn from the Rapid Action Team (Rat), Detective Branch Special Branch (SB), Armed Police Battalion (APBn), National Security Intelligence (NSI), Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Bangladesh Ansar will be deployed at important city points during the conference.

the places where the CPA delegates are scheduled to visit. Special steps have also been taken to avoid traffic congestion on major city roads.

The APBn personnel have been on guard at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel and Hotel Sheraton since Wednesday where the delegates and officials will stay during the CPA conference.

BBC News last night.

Iraq draft

selves must come quickly," the

preamble of the draft says. others said they might abstain.

Negroponte presented the draft on Wednesday to the other four permanent council members with veto power -- France, Russia, China and Britain. Germany also received a copy.

France has advocated some immediate gesture of sovereignty Iragi leaders to free elections.

power to a provisional Iraqi government within three to five months, UN "What we want is a sovereign provisional government as soon as

role, the United Nations this week pulled out more international staff from Iraq and is not willing to send them back until their security

The health directorate also said the DG sought immediate action against the absentees from the health minister and ordered transfer of four senior consultants, 15 medical officers and nine iunior consultants. They were transferred to different hospitals in Dhaka, Chittagong and

Meanwhile, steps have been

Three days of talks in Beijing in

ons drive before it will consider offering the Stalinist state concessions including economic and Despite optimistic signals this

been taken in the capital ahead of the nine-day Commonwealth

Law enforces will be deployed at

Besides, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday started block raids in the city to nab criminals. Raids will be mainly conducted on hotels, slums and unauthorised bars in the city, the DMP Commissioner Ashraful Huda told

FROM PAGE 12 'The day when Iraqis govern them-

US Ambassador John Negroponte, this month's Security Council president, hopes the resolution can be adopted before an Oct. 23-24 donors conference in Madrid. No council member has threatened to veto the measure but France and

while Russia wanted the United Nations set a timetable and guide UN Secretary General Kofi Annan prefers a plan to turn over

possible so we can work in Iraq like we do in other countries instead of being asked to be part of military occupation." one UN official said. speaking on condition of anonymity. Despite calls for a bigger UN DPRK did not make any promise with anyone at the Beijing talks and the same holds true even after the talks." it said. The nuclear crisis erupted last

October when Washington said the

six-way talks is concerned the

North Koreans had admitted to running a nuclear program based on enriched uranium in violation of a 1994 nuclear freeze accord. The pact collapsed after North Korea expelled UN nuclear inspectors and began to revive its moth-

halt to fuel oil supply for the energystarved state North Korea claimed it had begun reprocessing more the spent fuel rods to make weapons-grade plutonium in April just prior to a first round of six-way talks. In June, it said the process was almost com-

balled nuclear plants to protest a US

said they had no way of verifying the claim although South Korea's intelligence chief said in July that evidence pointed to reprocessing of "a small portion" of North Korea's stockpile of spent fuel rods. In mid-July the White House said North Korea had informed the

United States that it had completed

US and South Korean officials

reprocessing. Again, Washington and Seoul said they were unable to confirm the claim. Meanwhile, a senior South Korean official on Thursday played down North Korea's threat to pull out of six-way talks on its nuclear programme, describing

Pyongyang's tough rhetoric as a negotiating tactic. Vice Unification Minister Cho Kun-Shik voiced optimism that North Korea was still interested in a fresh round of six-nation talks on ending the 11-month staff over its

nuclear weapons drive. "Through direct and indirect contacts with North Koran officials, I believe the North is willing to continue dialogue. I see their threat as a negotiating tactic," he said.

3 US soldiers

FROM PAGE 12

Command said in a statement The fatal attacks commenced a five pm with a bomb blast that left one soldier dead and two wounded in Tikrit, 175 km north of Baghdad.

Major Josslyn Aberle, of the 4th Infantry Division, said the soldier was killed by an "improvised explosive device", which more and more is the weapon of choice for querrillas in their war of attrition against the US-led coalition occupying

It was the greatest number of US deaths in combat in a day since three soldiers were killed on September 20.

Khaleda

FROM PAGE 12 The delegates thanked the premier for her government's support and co-operation in observing various religious festivals, including Durga puja, peacefully.

They expressed satisfaction

over the government steps to ensure law and order during their religious festivals. They also thanked the ministers, leaders and workers and the people for their role in celebrating festivals peacefully. The delegates also informed Khaleda that this year highest ever

17,500 puja 'mandaps' were set up

across the country. They expressed

their gratitude to the government for

providing grants and co-operation for making the festival a success. Awards will be up for grabs to the best-decorated puja 'mandaps' this year, they told the PM.

Mosaddek Ali, were present.

The delegation included Dhirendranath Saha, MP, Ranabir Roy Chowdhury, Ganesh Halder, Kartik Chandra Thakur, Paritosh Chakraborty, Pulak Kishore Chaki. Apurba Kumar Das, Amalendu Das, Advocate Swapan Sarkar and Mangal Chandra Chanda. the Saarc Fountain Prime Minister's political secre-

taries, Haris Chowdhury and the policewomen." she said.

on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Liakot

placed

Listed top criminal Liakot Hossain Hawlader was taken on a four-day remand yesterday.

Rapid Action Team (Rat) of police arrested Liakot under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and produced him along with his two operatives -- Sohagh and Badal -- before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka at 4:30pm yesterday.

His bodyguard Sohagh and driver Badal were put on a threeday remands each. Requesting remand, police said

11 criminal cases are pending against Liakot. He is also a chargesheeted accused in the Malibagh killings on February 13, 2001.

Rat arrested Liakot and his two

henchmen at Dhanmondi on Wednesday as they were going to collect toll from a businessman. Later, police also arrested his close associates Ali Hossain alias Jibon, Kamal Hossain and Gazi

hideouts.

Shamim Ahmed in raids on different

Liakot took up to student politics in 1975. He was then a member of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL). He used Sergeant Zahurul Haq Hall of Dhaka University as his den for nearly a decade, police said. Liakot got involved in crime at the fag end of the '80s and got involved

in smuggling, snatching tender and extortion. He also became the ringleader of a gang in which his younger brother Hannan, one of the most wanted 23 criminals of Dhaka. was the second man. Liakot was also the ringleader of the infamous 'Five Star' group.
He was arrested thrice during the Awami League rule. He was

arrested by the Ramna police in 2000 when he went to snatch tender schedules from the Matshya Bhaban. Liakot was also declared unwanted in all state programmes by the then prime minister Sheikh Hasina. Liakot was also arrested during

released during the mass movement against Ershad in 1990. The home ministry announced a reward of Tk 1 lakh for his arrest. Immediately after the announce

the Ershad regime and was in jail from 1985 to 1990. He was however

ment. Liakot fled to India. Kolkata police arrested Liakot. his second-in-command Arman Khan and four other criminals at Kolkata New Market area on November 19, 2002 with two Italianmade 9mm pistols

JCD man assaults **Biman security** Man in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT. Cta

Staffers at Biman's Chittagong office pass days in constant fear, as a contractor, reportedly an activist of the ruling BNP's student front, assaulted several of them over the last few months. Sources alleged Akbar, popularly

known as Kana Akbar, of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) assaulted lobal Hossain, in charge of security of Biman office at Sholoshahar in Chittagong, on Wednesday in the latest of a series of Iqbal lodged an official complaint

with the authorities, including the

managing director and general manager of Bangladesh Biman yesterday, sources said. The Biman officials also complained to Civil Aviation Secretary Shafiqul Islam, who was on a visit to Chittagong yesterday. The secretary assured them of action against

sitting on the sill of a window of our guardroom. He shouted abuse at me and beat me, as I asked him to sit in our guestroom," Iqbal told The Daily Star by phone. Akbar has long been intimidating

Biman staffers and threatened them

Akbar, also a contractor of Biman, the

"Akbar was talking to two others

sources said.

with death or dire consequences, the Biman officials alleged The cadre attacked the junior supply officer of Biman, Farid Ahmed. on June 29 this year leaving him without eyesight. Earlier, he assaulted Biman Canteen Manager Humayun and misbehaved with present and former Biman manag-

ers, they alleged. "We are worried," said one of the officials. Biman Manager (security) Mokleshur Rahman said the civil aviation and tourism ministry was informed about Wednesday's inci-

The general secretary of JCD Chittagong city unit, Ahmedul Haq Chowdhury Rasel, said, "Akbar is no longer an activist of the party."

Cop threat FROM PAGE 12 nessed the incident, they said.

Some policewomen tore down the clothes of Nasima near the Saarc Fountain on the hartal day while she was demonstrating along with other fellow leaders and activ-

Nasima while addressing the press conference brushed aside the government's claim that her clothes were torn down by her fellow party activists. She described the incident and said at least 15 policewomen surrounded her and started beating her with clubs when they reached

"Nazma Hossain Baby, a leader of the Mohila League, helped me when my clothes were torn down by

Nobel literature

give interviews himself. "It's exciting news, he really deserves it," Mulligan told Swedish

news agency TT. Coetzee is the sixth South African to win a Nobel Prize, and the second to win the Literature Prize 12 years after fellow South African Nadine Gordimer took home the

prestigious award. A fundamental theme in his novels is his country's former apartheid system, which in his view "could arise anywhere", the jury

Although Coetzee's name had circulating in the feverish run-up to Thursday's announcement, Syrianborn poet Adonis had also been seen as a strong contender for the award, which kicks off the season of

Nobel prizes. Next week will see the awards made for outstanding contributions in the world of science and economics, ending in Oslo on October 10 when the winner of the Nobel Peace

Body formed to probe killing

of rly guard STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Bangladesh Railway (BR) yesterday formed a two-member committee to probe the killing of railway

guard Bhashan Chandra Aich. The committee comprising Abdur Razzak Bhuiyan, deputy chief traffic manager of the BR (East), and Iqbal Hossain, commandant of Railway Security Force (Sadar), was asked to submit its report within a week, railway sources said.

Meanwhile, M Mokhleser Rahman, general manager of the BR (East) and other officials visited slain guard's residence at Goshaildanga and assured the family members that the BR would provide all out support to them at its Assailants strangled Aich on the

Dhaka-Chittagong inter-city train, Turna Nishita Wednesday night.

Al-Qaeda FROM PAGE 12

There was "a great possibility" that the al-Qaeda suspects were the people involved in attacks that killed a US soldier in Shkin on Monday, Sultan told reporters in Angoor Adda. "There are all possibilities some of

these people might have been

involved in these actions. I would say

there is a great possibility.

trapped by our people.

Taliban fighters.

foreign elements who were most

likely involved in attacks against

coalition forces in Afghanistan.

He said the suspects had crossed from Shkin area. "When these people escaped (Shkin area) they came and took refuge in this area. They were

have taken refuge in South Waziristan district since late 2001 according to local human rights Afghan officials have repeatedly pointed to South Waziristan as the

source of attacks by resurgent

Hundreds of al-Qaeda fugitives

The army would not give details of how many troops were deployed or how many al-Qaeda suspects they were mobilising against. Some 25,000 troops are deployed

to hunt al-Qaeda fugitives in the

seven tribal districts hugging the

1,250 km northwest border with

a US-led campaign launched after the September 11 attacks blamed on

The Taliban regime was toppled in

Coeztee's breakthrough came in 1980 with the novel "Waiting for the Barbarians". His international heavyweight status was confirmed three years later when he was awarded Britain's Booker Prize for "Life and Times of Michael K".

He became the first author to be awarded the Booker Prize a second time, for "Disgrace", in 1999.

His novels are characterised by well-crafted composition, pregnant dialogue and analytical brilliance

the jury said. But it also called 63-vear-old Coetzee "ruthless in his criticism of the cruel rationalism and cosmetic

morality of western civilisation." In addition to novels, Coetzee has also published translations and worked as a literary critic.

John Maxwell Coetzee was born 1940 in Cape Town. His background is both German and English. in 2002, he moved to Australia where he is attached to the

University of Adelaide. Despite his string of international awards. Coetzee is known to live in solitude and even declined to travel to London after making history by being twice awarded the Booker

One killed in road mishap

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A taxicab ran over an orderly of the Parliament Secretariat in front of Tejgaon Police Station yesterday.

Abdul Malek, 40, got fatally

njured at around 4:00pm. The victim was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he died soon after the admission. The body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

2 trampled to death by wild elephants in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

district administration said.

Two people were trampled to death by wild elephants at Jouthokhamar Bangalhalia union in Rangamati district on Wednesday night, the

and Sui Mu Ching Marma, 50, died on the way to the upazila health complex when the marauding herd rampaged through the village in the

Montu Dev. 38, died on the scene

Talking to this Corespondent, local

Deputy Commissioner Dr Jafar Ahmed Khan said he directed the upazila nirbahi officer to visit the area. He said frequent such attacks by

the beasts in recent months pan-

icked the locals.

Mirza Abbas FROM PAGE 1 headline "Unprecedented salute indeed" that read: "Lawyers, court officials and litigants at a metropolitan magistrate's court were surprised when Magistrate Khandker Fatema Begum stood up and saluted Minister for Housing and Public Works Mirza Abbas, yesterday (September 28) as he appeared

there as plaintiff of a defamation Following the news item, the magistrate issued a notice stating

that the news was false and sought

the name and address of the

Pricing policy

But, there are speculations that the government might defer the implementation of the new tariff regimes for some time apprehending public reactions as over 5 percent rise of prices, mainly for gas, will take

The WB, however, thinks that

the new tariff regimes do not imply

an increase in price levels, prices

could go up or down, stay consis-

place under the policies.

tent upon developments on the nternational market. "Furthermore, these regimes would be made transparent so that the public is aware of the reasons underlying price changes," said the

It has also mobilised a grant equivalent to \$100,000 to support the energy ministry in the introduction of the new tariffs. The grant assistance, provided by the Italian Trust Fund, would finance technical requirements, equipment and training to support the introduction.

The donor agency has also

stressed holding open workshops in which the stakeholders, the public and media would be informed of the new pricing regimes and their implementation. In petroleum sector, within the framework of the Development Support Credit, the new regime

was to provide that the price of

each product would be based on

international spot, plus freight, insurance, port fees, handling, storage, transportation and taxes. The first adjustment was expected on July 1, with provision for prices being revised periodically, or whenever they fluctuate

more than 5 percent.

government and the WB had agreed that the tariffs would be equivalent to the price of gas as a commodity, the costs of transmission and distribution, and taxes, as decided by the government. The first adjustment was to take place on September 1, and that tariff would be adjusted periodi-

cally, or whenever they fluctuate

more than 10 percent. Later the

readjustment date was re-fixed to

Regarding natural gas, the

I wo to die

October 1.

FROM PAGE 12 also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, for negligence in investigating the matter. Both the prosecution and

defence completed their arguments

on September 23. Earlier, the court recorded statements of nine out of the 12 prosecution witnesses. According to the case filed with Demra Police Station, Abdur Razzak, 28, of South Dania in Demra was chopped to death by a gang of local assailants led by Kana

Ripon and Jahangir on September

The IO submitted pressed

The victim's wife, Shahida Begum filed a murder case accusing Kana Ripon and six others the same day.

charges against Kana Ripon and seven others on September 28 last The court framed charges

against them on June 16 this year and the trial began on July 15.

Cancer hospital

treatment.' An NICRH employee said that "many of the drugs are also sold outside by hospital staff in nearby drugstores. Ironically, patients who are supposed to get them free buy the same drugs. Such theft is very

another patient who has to purchase anti-cancer drugs from outside the hospital: "I have not

received a single injection for my

drugstores which they recommend."

protocols for treatment of cancer but we do not always have enough supplies of all drugs, which is why patients do not get complete treat-

The CMSD Director, Brigadier

takes shape