The Baily Star

NEWS

BDR personnel and created 6,000

new posts in police and 1,700 in the

emphasised opening of two battal-

ions of the BDR and Ansars each to

About corruption. Khaleda

said, "Shelving files is one of the

major sources of corruption that

must be stopped. You must take

decisions quickly and settle files

promptly to reduce the suffering of

She regretted that despite eas-

ing the fund-release process and

recruitment, many ministries are still

following old work style, causing

At this point, several secretaries

demanded change in the present

timing (from 9:00am to 4:00pm) to

10:00am-5:00pm. The prime minis-

ter asked them to formally place

Highlighting her government's

their recommendation for consider-

achievements in economy, she said

macroeconomy has been stablised

through massive reforms and the

Khaleda said the government

has taken up a massive Tk 5,000

crore programme for primary edu-

cation infrastructure and quality

education. In the health sector, she

said the government has added

3,000 beds to different hospitals and

supplied worth about Tk 16.65 crore

micro-economy revamped.

the people."

ation.

combat crime and smuggling.

However, the secretaries

BDR in the last two years.

Dhaka seeks more **Unesco sopport to** check arsenic, alleviate poverty

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has sought increased cooperation of Unesco in preventing arsenic contamination of groundwa ter as it has emerged as a major problem in the country, causing serious health hazards.

Addressing the 32nd General Conference of Unesco in Paris on Friday, Education Minister Dr M Osman Farruk also sought its increased assistance in alleviating poverty in Bangladesh and elsewhere in the world, according to a message received in Dhaka yester-

day. The minister, who is leading a Bangladesh delegation to Unesco, also emphasised development of technologies that would effectively support poverty alleviation efforts.

"We also need to develop a global information system on bilat-

eral and multilateral scientific collaboration and measures to prevent unethical use of bio-gene-and cloning technologies," he told the conference.

The minister extended support to the proposed initiatives for protection and preservation of cultural heritages as well as cultural diversities between and within nations.

He appreciated the support and cooperation of Unesco in preserving Bangladesh's two historical sites an eighth century Buddhist Monastery and a 60-domed Mosque of the 16th century. He also proposed greater

Unesco support for inclusion of persons with physical and emotional challenges into the EFA, vocational training and Life Long Education Programmes in Bangladesh and other developing countries.

14 held at ZIA River-link project

taking up plans at the cost of a

"We reminded them of the princi-

If India implements the river-link

scheme to divert waters of some

major common rivers to its drought-

prone states, it will harm

Bangladesh's navigability,

biodiversity, fish resources, agro-

productivity and make hundreds of

thousands of people victims of

On the Ganges water sharing, he

desertification. the minister said.

FROM PAGE 1

last 40 years.

downstream nation."

ples of no-harm and equity."

Iraqi youths flee from an approaching US tank after US troops and Iraqis traded gunfire when a fight broke out with a crowd of ex-soldiers seeking promised back-pay in Baghdad yesterday, killing one Iraqi and injuring over twenty

British women lose embryo battle

REUTERS, London

Two British women lost a desperate court battle vesterday to have babies using frozen embryos their former partners want destroyed.

A High Court judge ruled against Natallie Evans, 31, and Lorraine Hadley, 38, who had asked the court to allow them to complete the in vitro fertilisation (IVF) treatment they started with their ex-partners

The men in both cases withdrew their consent for the frozen embryos to be used after the couples separated. Evans said the embryos were

her only natural chance of having a baby since she had undergone cancer treatment.

"She is desperate to have the baby she has always dreamed of," her solicitor told reporters. "To say that Natallie is disappointed would be an understatement. She is devastated ... For her these embryos are her babies. Naturally Lorraine is also very upset and

disappointed at the decision. " The women had challenged the 1990 Human Fertilisation and

Embryology Act (HFEA), which states embryos must be destroyed unless both parties consent to their continued storage and use.

the British Medical Association The judge, Justice Nicholas ethics committee welcomed the Wall, expressed his sympathy for ruling as the "right decision." "It

all those involved, but said the act must be adhered to.

'The act entitles a man in the position of these men to say he does not want to become the father of a child by a woman from whom he has separated, and with whom he no longer has anything in common apart from the frozen embryos," he said.

"It would be easy to criticise men in the position of the two in this case. But such criticisms would in my judgement be unfair." Evans had eggs removed from

her ovaries before cancer treatment, while Hadley, another IVF patient, has two embryos in storage.

They were all scheduled to leave states that consent from either party may be withdrawn at any time until the embryos are used. Wall said the act placed "great emphasis on considerations relating to the position of the was arrested outside ZIA later. unborn child.'

He said that if the women's wishes were granted and they gave birth using the embryos, the men would be the biological fathers of the children and financially responsible for them, but would not "enjoy any form of natural paternal relationship." Dr Michael Wilks, Chairman of

passports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Immigration officials at Zia International Airport (ZIA) held 14 Banqladeshi citizens for carrying forged passports yesterday.

with fake

Officials found fake endorsement seals and doctored entries for profession in the passports of Ovi Mia, Sirajuddin, Afzal Hossain, Badrul Alam, Mirajuddin, Abdus Salam

Bepari, Masud, Nuruzzaman, Abdul Barek, Joynal Abedin, Sirajuddin Mondal, Mizanur Rahman, Yunus Ali and Bachchu Mollah. The 1990 fertilisation act

for Libya at 10:15am on an Emirates Airlines flight. Brokers Aminul Haq lqbal and Jahiruddin Babor took money from them and changed their profession in passports. The pair

Station

League government for signing a Datko International. a travelling water sharing treaty without keeping agency, was sending the 14 to a guarantee clause. Libya, officials said. A passport forgery case was filed against the 16 with Airport Police in the JRC.

BB lens FROM PAGE 1

The US government offered a technical assistance programme to Bangladesh to implement its suggestions

issue as a discussed point on the billion Indian mega river-link project, agreed minutes of the JRC talks. Hafizuddin said: "We reminded said both countries agreed to hold India of clause nine of the Ganges next round of talks in Dhaka in Water Sharing Treaty that restricts January 2004 any upper riparian country from

On his way back home, the minister flew to Kolkata from Delhi to meet West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharva and went to see the observatory sites at Farakka point. He said the issue of not getting its due share of the Ganges waters was also raised at

the Delhi meeting. He said he apprised West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharya of the situation stemming from the low flow of the Ganges to Bangladesh and he assured him of looking into the

said. "We told India that we're not matter getting enough. We asked them to Hafizuddin, however, said that ensure at least the minimum -- the on the issue of Indian river-link average Ganges water flow in the initiative Bhattacharya did not make any comment.

Asked what was the greatest success of the JRC meeting, he pointed out that the JRC had been revived.

project.'

Land grabbers

FROM PAGE 1 loan defaulters, land grabbers and forcible occupiers of properties, hoodlums and criminals without any

fear," the PM told the secretaries. The cabinet secretary told the reporters that the prime minister has

instructed to try the land grabbers, if necessary, in special tribunals. At the three-hour meeting, 6th of ts kind in the last two years,

Khaleda briefed the secretaries about her government's achievenents since taking office. She told the top bureaucrats that the government has so far passed

or amended 79 laws. These laws deal with curbing of crime, maintaining peace and discipline as well as removing obstructions to development, she said

delays Besides, 213 of the 322 cabinet Khaleda also asked the top decisions have been implemented officials to strictly maintain office and the rest are now under implementation, she added timing

"We have given you an institutional base and a guideline and now t is the responsibility of the officials to implement the laws, decisions and programmes," she said.

Khaleda advised the secretaries to put forward at least two innovative development programmes from each ministry every year.

The prime minister also listened to the problems the secretaries face PHOTO: AF in implementing decisions.

The secretaries mentioned a number of obstacles to project approval and lack of co-ordination among the ministries.

Khaleda then asked them to find proper solutions to the problems and forward them to her.

Regarding the law and order, she said the situation has improved greatly but the government is still not happy.

worth equipment to the specialised Khaleda mentioned that the government recruited police and and district hospitals

CPA meet opens

The conference that began at Sonargaon Hotel with the sitting of the working party meeting, saw mismanagement in distribution of invitation cards to delegates till yesterday, setting up of the media centre and dissemination of information

Sangsad could not say how many delegates arrived in Dhaka last night.

reported despite the conference steering committee's claims of full preparation over the last few days. But CPA Executive Committee Chairman Bob Speller expressed satisfaction with the preparations

meeting of Speller and the grouping's Secretary General Denis

FROM PAGE 1 to the opposition'

The CPA cell at the Jatiya

The mismanagement was

at the end of the working party meetina. Earlier on Friday, an hour-long

Zia in the presence of about 1,600 auests. About 535 participants includ-

Patron and Prime Minister Khaleda

ing lawmakers, their spouses, executive committee members, observers and officials from 156 parliaments of 48 Commonwealth countries are attending the conference

The executive committee will meet today and scrutinise the plans of the working party including its yesterday's decision to hold the conference for nine days now

onwards instead of 12 days. As part of the conference, 27 small countries will hold a discussion on ways to strengthen democracy at Sheraton hotel with the participation of 66 delegates.

President of the 49th conference Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar hosted a dinner in honour of the quests last night.

Marshall and other officials with an AL delegation failed to budge the party on its stand. Frigate case A CPA official yesterday said they were embarrassed by the FROM PAGE 1 opposition boycott, the first-ever Bangladesh Navy, Commodore such blotch on the groupings 92-(retd) AKM Azad, Commodore (retd) year history. Haroon-ur-Rashid, and "We're trying flat-out to bring the Commodore (retd) M Shahabuddinhost nation's opposition to the -were present in the court. conference to salvage the image of The Bureau of Anti-corruption the CPA," he said, requesting (Bac) filed the case with Tejgaon anonymity. Police Station on August 7 last year. AL General Secretary Abdul The charges brought against the Jalil told journalists after Friday's accused are misuse of power and meeting with the CPA officials that misappropriation of public money Hasina's meeting with them would through striking the deal at a price be a courtesy call. "Our leader will higher than the one quoted by the explain our stand once again," he lowest bidder. said. Daewoo, which was the fourth The 15 observers refused to pay US\$ 3,000 each as required by lowest bidder, quoting \$99.97 million, was awarded the contract the conference guidelines and and it cost the national exchequer decided not to participate in the Tk. 511.17 crore, according to the meet. Conference secretariat sources said the African observers prosecution. Earlier, Hasina and the five other might have not known about the guidelines before arrival. accused were granted bail by the The conference will be formally Court of the Metropolitan Sessions inaugurated on October 7 at the Judge, Dhaka. After granting bail, Bangladesh-China Friendship the court transferred the case to the Conference Centre by CPA Vicespecial court for trial

He criticised the past Awami

On the provision of reviewing the treaty in every five years, he said it was a slow process to move things

"Nothing is more inconvenient than being a lower riparian country. he said, adding, "We've succeeded in making India understand our problems and discuss the issue with lower-riparian nations.

Unidentified assailants shot a

Asked whether he was comfortable with the Indian assurance in respect of river-link issue, Hafizuddin said, "Let's see what comes next. For now, India has

assured us of consultation on the

Water Resources Secretary Mohammad Sayef Uddin and JRC Member Dr Tawhidul Anwar Khan

weapons and moved them outside

them at all, and just bluffed to

cited those three theories -- and a

few others -- on Friday as possible

answers to why his survey team has

so far failed to uncover any weap

ons of mass destruction inside Iraq.

inspection agency into Iraq's sus-

pected chemical and biological

weapons, together had a budget of

only around \$60 million for an entire

that to the IAEA, but that's about the

program the IAEA knew inside out

and had dismantled," the expert

said. "Wasn't the whole idea to

prove that Saddam had something

ongoing? This seems to support the

5,882 bottles of

year's work in Iraq.

left to hide.

fact that he didn't."

phensidyl

seized in

But the source close to the IAEA

Or perhaps Saddam never had

Weapons inspector David Kay

the country just before the war.

diagnostic centre official at Pallabi in Mirpur yesterday. Four armed youths fired at Kabir Hossain, an official of Medicon Laboratory Limited, when his microbus driver was repairing a punctured tyre in front of Bara Mosque in Jhut Patti area at about

centre

9:30am. He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with wounds in both legs.

Diagnostic

staff shot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The motive behind the shooting could not be known immediately. Ă case was filed with Pallabi Police Station.

Ministers, mayor

visit puja mandops in city BSS, Dhaka

Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury

and Mayor of Dhaka Sadek Hossain

Khoka yesterday visited different

After visiting Dakeswari Mandir

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Home

JCD man assaults another Biman staff at Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT. Cta

A member of the ruling BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Ali Akbar alias Kana Akbar, assaulted another employee of Bangladesh Biman at its Chittagong office on Friday

In the latest of a series of attacks by him on Biman staff here, Akbar, who is a contractor for Biman, beat up Biman electrician Mansur Ahmad at the Biman office.

"I was working on the ground floor as part of the renovation of the Biman office. At around 10.00am. Akbar. who was supervising renovation work, grabbed me without any reason, shouted abuse, pushed me into a corner and beat me up." Mansur told this correspondent yesterday.

Mansur alleges further that the entire Biman staff in its Chittagong office has long lived in fear of Akbar.

ABiman official said, "No-one in our office dares to speak against Akbar as he claims to be a close associate of an influential BNP leader."

Local Biman manager Rezaul Karim said, "Following the assault on Mansur, we have contacted our higher authorities in Dhaka seeking justice." He, however, declined to comment on Akbar's political identity.

Biman Employees Union (CBA) President and BNP leader Jamaluddin said, "We are in an awkward situation here due to the arrogance of Akbar. The minister concerned has already been informed of this."

In addition, Jamaluddin told this correspondent that an emergency meeting of all unions at the Biman Chittagong office will be held on Sunday, October 5, to discuss the problem

This is not the first time that Akbar has assaulted fellow a Biman employee. Earlier, on October 1, Akbar assaulted security-in-charge Iqbal Hossain, and on June 29 this year, he beat up junior supply officer, Farid Ahmad, damaging Farid's left

Sources say that current manager Rezaul Karim and former manager Sirajuddin Bhuiyan have also fallen victim to Akbar's wrath

be a very dangerous step to change the rules on consent retrospectively," he said in a statement.

to appeal his judgement directly but said they should apply to the Court of Appeal for a decision on whether or not they could chal-

Wall refused the women leave

2 crore

All 7 accused 9/11 scenario. murder case

acquitted STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

The Speedy Trial Tribunal of Rajshahi Division acquitted all the seven accused in the sensational Toma murder case. AFM Aminul Islam, the judge of

in Toma

lenge it.

the tribunal, announced the verdict in a packed courtroom yesterday afternoon and said the accused were acquitted of the charges as the state failed to prove them guilty.

The acquitted areASM Nurose Ali, Sharif Uddin Babu, Uijal Hossain Jewel, Sayabur Rahman Dalim, Mizanur Rahman, Rashedul Islam Masum and Mominul Islam Milon. They are all aged between 20 and 22.

Toma, a three-old girl, was the daughter of Sabiar Rahman, headmaster of Pirijpur High School in Godagari upazila. She was burnt to death in the early hours of August 23,2000.

The prosecution alleged that the seven accused were students of Pirijpur High School and they set the house of the headmaster afire after they failed to appear in the SSC examinations in 1999.

Sabiar Rahman, the headmaster, did not allow them to appear in the SSC examinations after their poor performance in the test exams.

Police fail FROM PAGE 1 in some hill district.

"But we did not get any information about my father's whereabouts," Rana said.

Though trade bodies and different socio-cultural forums in Chittagong voiced their concern at the deteriorating law and order and demanded drastic government action against the criminals, nothing tangible has

een achieved so far

The finance ministry meeting felt that the US proposal needed to be scrutinised by the central bank in order to assess its implications.

As money laundering continues to drain out millions of dollars each year, the government has tightened its international financial system. It encourages immigrant Bangladeshis to send money using legal channels. Last year, it enacted the Anti-Money Laundering Act. These moves have already increased remittance in the post

The US has been engaged in involving different countries in its fight against terrorism. As part of the fight, it is trying to control cash flow to the international terrorist groups by improving banking systems in other countries.

Bank Asia

FROM PAGE 1 pouring in against an offer of only Tk

Earlier, One Bank received Tk 300 crore against an offer of Tk 20 crore, Standard Bank Tk100 crore against its offer of Tk 20 crore and Mutual Trust Bank received applications worth Tk 125 crore against an offer of Tk 10 crore.

The subscription of Bank Asia IPO began on September 23 and continued till September 24.

The bank will now hold a lottery this month to decide the lucky subscribers.

Chittagong Stock Exchange Chief Executive Officer Maruf Matin said the interest shown by the investors will have a positive impact on the capital market.

"Usually, the vibrancy of the secondary market has an impact on the primary market. But in our case, the secondary market is not vibrant and yet investors are showing keen interest in the primary market," the

CEO said. He said nine of the past 10 IPOs were oversubscribed.

(Details on Business Page)

RU students FROM PAGE 12

driver Liton following a case filed with Motihar Police Station. Dr Haque was buried at the RU graveyard yesterday after his namaz-e-janaza at the RU central mosque. A large number of teachers and students of the university attended the janaza.

Hafizuddin, who entered into a 13-hour nerve-breaking diplomatic among others. wrangle with his Indian counterpart

appear strong.

Arjun Charan Sethi on September 30 to successfully keep the river-link

Kay's claim

programmes after UN inspectors left Iraq in December 1998 was the main justification for the US-led war to disarm Iraq.

But after returning to Iraq late in 2002 for four months of inspections in the buildup to the war, the IAEA said it had found no evidence that Saddam had revived his clandestine atomic weapons program, a program the IAEA detected in 1991 and says it had dismantled by 1995.

"The (Kay) report is filled with the use of the words 'belief' and 'may' and 'could have' and these sorts of things," the nuclear expert told Reuters

"This is not how the IAEA operates," said the expert, who supported the agency's pre-war inspections in Iraq. "They would not have given credence to statements by individuals without having corroborating evidence to support their allegations. The IAEA only states what it can verify.

The source also questioned Kay's reliance on testimony from senior Iraqi Atomic Energy Commission and high-level Ba'ath Party official Dr. Khalid Ibrahim Sa'id, who was killed at a Baghdad roadblock by occupation forces on April 8.

In his statement to US lawmak ers, presented behind closed doors Thursday, Kay said: "Sa'id began several small and relatively unsophisticated research initiatives that could be applied to nuclear weap ons development.

Calling that limited allegation "pretty pathetic," the nuclear expert close to the IAEA added that since Sa'id could no longer be questioned, his testimony should be treated with more than a grain of salt.

Thursday, Kay asked for Washington to provide \$600 million for his team's work in Iraq in addition to the \$300 million already allocated

Kay also predicted Saddam may have possessed weapons of mass destruction and hid them, the chief US weapons inspector says. Or the Iraqi dictator may have had the

were present at the press briefing

Ramna Kali Mandir, Siddheswari Kali Mandir, Sri Sri Ram-Sita Mandir and Banagram Puja Mandop, they expressed their satisfaction over celebration of the greatest religious festival of the Hindus in a peaceful

Puia Mandops in the city.

and rejoicing atmosphere. Addressing the devotees at Siddheswari and Ramna Kali Mandirs, Mannan Bhuivan said people belonging to all religions have been living in Bangladesh with communal harmony and amity.

Smuggled goods worth Tk 65 lakh seized

said the agency's nuclear inspec-BSS, Dhaka tions, and those of the UNMOVIC

Bangladesh Navy personnel in cooperation with Coast Guards, Customs and other law enforcing agencies recovered smuggled goods wroth about Tk 67 lakh from the coastal areas in September

The nuclear expert dismissed The goods recovered in a series of raids included 114 sets of colour TV, 70 suggestions by Kay that Iraq's sets of VCD, 6 pieces of Amplifier, 21 pre-war withholding from UN pieces of Speaker, 5 pieces of two-ininspectors of documents about one, 41 pieces of Audio Deck, 327 tonnes its pre-1991 nuclear weapons of foreign salt, fishing net and some program indicated it had much jhatka fish, says an ISPR press release terday "It's bad that they didn't report

The Navy personnel also arrested 12 smugglers and seized five mechanised boats used in smuggling.

Kafrul OC FROM PAGE 12

assailants on September 22 at the city's Kafrul area but Kafrul Police

Station declined to register it as regular case despite repeated attempt by the victim's family.

Finding no other alternative, Siraj, on September 27, then filed a murder case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court accusing 16 people.

After a hearing, the CMM Court took the case into cognizance and directed the OC to register it as a regular case.

But the OC has not yet cared to act upon the court directive, Siraj said. Rather, the OC has threatened him (Siraj) with a dozen of cases and arrest, Siraj claimed.

Meanwhile, the CMM court vesterday directed the OC to update it on the event by October 22.

The court issued the order upon a petition submitted by the complainant seeking a fresh order on the issue.

UN rebuffs US

killed 23 people, the unnamed UN official said. then hold elections. The UN

US official said.

But analysts say the US is looking increasingly isolated, with Annan's comments exacerbating the doubts which many Security Council members already have. concerns are not reflected in the

Diplomats at the UN are already warning that, if Washington is pushed too hard, it may decide to walk away from the UN.

The draft resolution -- due to be discussed by council members next week -- calls for the political transition to be as quick as possible and urges member states to contribute to a multinational force.

The draft does not specify how international conference to raise the UN's role would be strengthmoney to help rebuild Irag later ened, and the implication is that the US-led coalition will continue this month. to have the predominant voice.

France has said that, despite A major sticking point is the its misgivings, it will not veto a chronology of a return to democresolution when it is put to a vote.

Satkhira UNB, Satkhira

truck with 5882 bottles of phensidyl at Agardari in Sadar upazila yester-

beneath the bags of husk. Police arrested the truck driver.

Police in a pre-dawn raid seized a

Truck driver Abdul Wahid told police that one Abdul gafur loaded the truck with 54 bags of husk at

The phensidyl bottles were found

Jhaudanga bazar on Friday night. Later, 60 more bags of phensidyl

FROM PAGE 1 The US wants to establish a new Iraqi constitution first and

Responding to the criticism, US Secretary of State Colin Powell telephoned Annan to assure him the US wanted a stronger role for the UN in Iraq, a

ment, restoring democracy and then elections. France said the draft failed to incorporate changes to an earlier version that both France and Germany had asked for.

Ladsous.

the latest draft.

believes more can be achieved by

establishing a transitional govern-

"Our first impression is that our

revised US draft resolution except

in a very limited way," said foreign

ministry spokesman Herve

Russian President Vladimir

The US has said it wants to get

resolution passed before an

Putin was also critical, saying said

Moscow was "not satisfied" with