The Daily Star

MP Naser Rahman

division.

Nuruzzaman got the work orders from the Roads and Highways

Department (RHD). Nasser countered the allegations saying, "It appears from the news items that a senior MP of our own party from Noakhali, who is also a lawyer, has instigated Nuruzzaman to hold the press conference. This is nothing but a manifestation of political ill will and jealousy."

"That the entire matter is politically motivated is substantiated by the fact that Nuruzzaman was taken to the press conference by a younger brother of the chief whip of the opposition which became evident from the news item." he added.

Rahman said he did not know Nuruzzaman until the end of last month when he met him after making some frantic efforts. "It transpired that he was executing some RHD contracts in parts of my constituency, Moulvibazar-3."

"The RHD decided to cancel the contracts after serving several show cause notices upon Nuruzzaman because of his repeated failures to commence and complete the work under the contracts. "He sought assistance from me,

a local MP, to avoid cancellation of the contracts. The road development for which he was engaged was of utmost importance to the people of my area." he added

Rahman continued. "His failure to commence and complete the work on time caused great sufferings to local people, who had earlier brought the matter to my notice and

Joynal Hazari accomplice arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

A listed top criminal and accomplice of Joynal Hazari was caught and handed over to police by a rival group at Masterpara at about 10:00pm Thursday night. Sukdarnath Tapan, also former

secretary of the Feni Pourashava unit Awami League, was wanted in two murder cases including the of murder of Abdul Jalil

Another group of Hazari beat up and handed Tapan over to the police.

Police yesterday produced him before a magistrate's court that sent him to jail. Police will seek his remand today.

Outlaws kill one for not paying toll

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Armed cadres of the outlawed Purba Bandlar (PBCP) gunned down one person at Kheshra village in Tala upazila Friday night as he could not meet their demand for toll, police said. The victim is Fazlur Rahman, 55. Quoting local people, police said the PBCP elements demanded Tk 50,000 from Fazlur about 15 days ago and gave him three days to pay the money. The cadres raided his house at about 11:00pm Friday and asked him to come out. When he did not, they held two children of his family at gunpoint. He then had to come out and the gang shot him in the chest. He died on the spot day.

asked for my intervention for timely competition of the work." "I regretted my inability to assist

rock concert

cancelled for the second time.

Bangabandhu Uddavan venue

featuring Nagar Baul and

Prometheus. Performers of the

show fled the city after the stage

collapsed on Friday afternoon

injuring eight persons, fans alleged.

Fans started to crowd at the

venue from morning. Agitating fans

damaged shops, trucks, cars and

microbuses along Katpatti Road,

Band Road, Port Road, Amtala

crossing, Sadar Road finding the

stage empty. Later, truck labourers

posted road barricades to protest

damages on trucks and clashed

Police clubbed to control the

agitating mob and held four persons

during the clash. The Daily Star

photojournalist Masum Mizan and

Daily Khaborpatra reporter Shamim

Ahmed were also injured during the

Antar Showbiz had promised to

refund money for the tickets,

the Habiganj-Rashidpur pipeline is

which is owned by a senior official of

Petrobangla, have been participating

in pipeline construction bids for over a

tend to submit identical offers at dou-

that outlined a cost of Tk 110 crores.

On the other hand, the lowest offer

from local bidders for that tender was

identical project cost. Petrobangla

again cancelled the bid and floated an

international bid. The lowest local bid

was Tk 12 crore while the lowest

international bid was Tk 7.56 crore.

The contract went to the foreign

the job of setting up as 18km 20inch

pipeline in Raozan at a cost of Tk 10

crore. But sources said it should not

Purbachal project

have exceeded Tk 6 crore.

In 1991, local bidders were given

In 1998, local bidders succeeded in

About 16 local companies, one of

Track records show local bidders

Petrobangla

with fans and police.

clash

built.

sources said.

FROM PAGE 12

decade, sources said.

bidders, they said.

k 220 crores.

should be given a chance.

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal Nuruzzaman in this matter. I took him to task and expressed my annovance at his gross failures. which caused so much trouble to the people in my constituency. He repeatedly asked for help, but I was unmoved," Rahman added.

Having failed to convince me, he played his last trick, accusing me of not helping him because he was related to the chief whip of the opposition in parliament. After that, I threw him out of my office," Rahman said

He said, "At no point of the conversation did I ask Nuruzzaman to give any sum of money, nor did he offer any money to me. The allegations brought by Nuruzzaman are absolutely preposterous and mali-

Meanwhile, the communications ministry yesterday refuted the allegation of Nuruzzaman about cancellation of work order for road construction.

The ministry in a release said the work orders were cancelled after the firm 'Messers Mohammad Yunus and Brothers' failed to complete construction of a 12-kilometre pavement on Svlhet-Fenchugani-Rainagar-Moulvibazar-Srimongal

Shaesthaganj-Jagodishpur Road in time. The ministry said the firm not only failed to complete the work but could not even take the construction materials to the site.

The RHD had awarded the job on condition that it would be done in 120 days

JU impasse rolls on to 10th day

JU CORRESPONDENT

The impasse in the academic and administrative activities at Jahangirnagar University (JU) continued for the 10th consecutive day vesterday due to the indefinite strike called by the JU Teachers Association (JUTA).

Classes were not held and most the examinations did not take place yesterday. A large number of students have

already left the campus. JUTA began the strike to press its

two-point demand -- removal of Vice Chancellor Prof. Jasim Uddin Ahmad and punishment of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists who confined the provost and eight house tutors of Shaheed Salam Barkat Hall on August 11. The VC said, " JUTA seeks the intervention of the prime minister

and chancellor of the university for my removal. Meeting the demand depends on the chancellor. requested the teachers to return to their classes and I don't have any

thing more to do.

Over 100 hurt River-link plan in clash over years of the coalition in office.

NEWS

State Minister for Foreign Affairs

Taking another question, the

Reaz Rahman and Foreign

Secretary Shamsher Mobin

denied the presence of any hideout

of insurgents in the Bangladesh

cern over nuclearization of south

Asia, saying it emerged as one of

cemented in line with the policy, he

would deepen further in the future."

To another question, the foreign

always stand by the people of Iraq in

their quest for peace, stability and

He underscored the need for

revitalisation of international organi-

sations for a constructive role in

promoting peace, stability, harmony

democracy.

and development

Morshed said the 'look east

Morshed also expressed con-

Chowdhury were present.

territory.

earth today.

FROM PAGE 1 surable human miseries and sufferings

The foreign minister's remarks came in the wake of an Indian A mob clashed with police yesterday Supreme Court judgement that directed the government to implein Barisal city, leaving scores ment the project in 10 years. wounded, 13 shops and 50 vehicles

He also referred to another damaged when a rock concert was Indian plan for the construction of a Antar Showbiz, organiser of the dam at Tipaimukh on the Barak river show rescheduled the concert at near the Bangladesh border.

"The implementation of this project together with a barrage, they are contemplating building at Phulerhat, will also harm Bangladesh.

On a question what would be Bangladesh's position if India continued with the mammoth project, the foreign minister said, "We would try to resolve the problem through bilateral negotiations.

India can take any development project but they should follow the nternationally approved set of rules and regulations while constructing dams or barrages on international rivers. he said. said.

Morshed said Dhaka took the issue with New Delhi expressing approach' was not at the cost of deep concern and requesting it not relations with Western nations. to proceed with the schemes.

"We are ready for consultation to ensure that a major catastrophe does not result from these projects We are continually in touch with New Delhi and are trying to convince them that the river linking project would be harmful for both the countries."

Ambassador Mufleh R Osmany also spoke at the seminar held at the auditorium of Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) marking the two

Ex-BNP MP

ble the price of the lowest international FROM PAGE 1

deposition to the court on Thursday. Three years ago when Badsha Miah, son of Afsar Ali of Petrobangla floated an open tender for Gochidanga under Bhurungamari in the 54km 30inch pipeline construction Kurigram district, appeared before between Habiganj and Ashuganj, it the Speedy Trial Tribunal at 10:00 received an offer of a Chineseam. Bangladeshi joint venture company

Humayun Kabir was also present in the court and after making an unsuccessful attempt to convince Badsha Miah not to implicate him threatened him by saying, "You will be killed if you do not give your deposition as per my instructions.

convincing the authorities to cancel the first international bidding for con-Badsha Miah did not identify struction of an 18km 20inch pipeline Humavun Kabir in his deposition in court, although he had identified him on the grounds that local bidders n the presence of the Special Public Prosecutor (PP) Harun-or-Rashid The second bid was limited to local bidders only, four in all offering an Khan one hour before.

Later, Badsha was declared a hostile witness" and crossexamined by the PP.

The PP submitted a petition seeking the cancellation of Humayun Kabir's bail, stating that Humayun Kabir had threatened Badsha Miah, a vital witness in the case. No witness will appear before the court if Humayun Kabir is on bail. and thus his bail should be cancelled, the PP said.

Judge Jahangir Alam Mollah has fixed today for the hearing on the petition. Humayun Kabir and his accom-

working at the hotel at the time.

AL to observe

Jail Killing

on Nov 3

Jail on the day in 1975.

Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

national leaders.

mourn the killings.

party's Dhanmondi office.

tials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

on November 3 with due solemnity

in remembrance of four national

leaders killed inside Dhaka Central

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman in the morning and offer

fateha at the graves of the slain

Akhter

2001

Day

the Hotel Almas in Kurigram on

No one will be Moghul-era relics spared for hindering dev central quadrangle was planned on

Warns PM UNB. .Ihenidah

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterforeign minister categorically day urged people to join the move-ment for development the government has launched to make Bangladesh a self-reliant country through the best use of its resources.

"I'll continue to work for development, you support our efforts and we will present you a self-reliant country," she said while addressing a rally at Jhenidah Government Boys High School ground in the evening.

The prime minister sounded a note of warning against those trying to hinder development efforts. "No one trying to hinder development will be spared, whoever he may be." she said, accusing the main opposition of being indulged in such disruptive activities.

addressed, among others, by Information Minister M Tariqui Islam, Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, Dhaka City Mayor Sadek Hossain

"They are our biggest trade partners and relations with them Osman Farruk, State Minister for Education Ehsanul Hug Milon, Shahiduzzaman Beltu MP and minister said Bangladesh would Shahidul Islam Master MP.

She accused the past Awami League goverment of introducing mass cheating at public examina-tions which, she said, blighted education of the nation.

The Prime Minister thanked the people for their cooperation in the government efforts to check cheating in public examinations.

She also accused the past Awami League goverment of damaging relationship with different countries, particularly with Malavsia.

She reminded that Malaysia had stopped taking manpower from Bangladesh during the Awam League rule.

The Prime Minister said that employment opportunity in Malaysia had once again been created. She also mentioned the

when the branch gave way. present opportunity of exporting Bangladeshi manpower to Saud Arabia and Korea. General Hospital in critical condi-

North Korea FROM PAGE 12

President Roh Moo-hyun's foreign policy adviser, told Yonhap news agency the North's statement was very encouraging".

The North said Pyongyang's request was "simple and clear'

"What we want is for both sides to ciency cripple the power sector," drop guns and establish normal state Abdul Alim, chairman of the commitrelationship to co-exist peacefully," the spokesman said. "The unilateral tee told newsman after meeting. demand that one of the two belligerent power development board and desa parties forces the other party to drop guns and come out first with its hands to submit separate reports specifyup can never be met." ng the way to reduce system lose.

The remarks were stripped of the Now the system lose is 22 to 24, and trademark harsh rhetoric toward the committee asked to reduce it Washington and were in contrast to an at10 to 12. initial KCNA commentary earlier this week that described Bush's offer as laughable and not worth considering. It also did not reiterate its stock phrase demanding Washington drop its "hostile policy" Significantly, Saturday's first official response came ahead of a visit next week by a Chinese delegation headed by Beijing's Communist Party number two, Wu Bangguo. China is North Korea's main ally but was instrumental in cajoling Pyongyang to attend a three-way round of talks in April with the United States and then August's six-way

Two stone inscriptions in Farsi and Arabic say that Mir Abdul Quesem, chief architect of the

upkeep.

Quesem

VolP

FROM PAGE 12

determined to do so.

DHAKA SUNDAY OCTOBER 26, 2003

a grand scale and embellished in the imperial Mughal style.

Chhota Katra was built by Shaista Khan in 1663, about 200 yards east of Bara Katra. Its layout is similar, but smaller. One of its two monumental gateways overlooking the riverside is three-storied with a two-storey frontal arch.

Archaeology department officials say they are unable to preserve the site because of shortages of staff and money.

"The sites have been out of our grip for years," said Dewan Delwar Hossain, director of the department. "Actually, the grabbing process started before independence. Now we can't evict them even if we wanted to, because we don't have enough power.

A restaurant owner at the south gate of the Bara Katra confirmed that the invasion of the site began long ago. "I've been here for more than two decades and people have lived and had businesses here all that time. Nobody comes and asks about the monuments.'

Neglect began even earlier. An English school was opened in the Chhota Katra building in 1816 and another school in 1857

1 killed, 2 hurt

as branch of

roadside tree

breaks down

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

One was killed and two others

injured when a rotten branch of a

roadside tree broke down on them

under sadar upazila. Rabiul Islam.

31, and Wadud, 34, were standing

to hear the speech of Prime Minister

Khaleda Zia at Jhenidah

Government Boys High School

Amirul died on the spot. The

njured were rushed to Jhenidah

incurring heavy losses due to gross

"Corruption, irregularities, ineffi-

The committee also asked the

Power sector

irregularities and corruption.

Amirul Islam, 32, of Delkkdin

at about 3:00pm Saturday.

tions.

FROM PAGE 12

has allegedly halted the process of legalising the VoIP, sources in the industry alleged.

Mughal emperor Shahjahan, built

the Bara Katra to earn the grace of

God. It was intended for tired travel-

lers and 22 shops that accompanied

it were to pay for the building's

Some historians offer a different

Sha Suja, wished to create a

interpretation: that Shahjahan's

resort in Dhaka and asked Mir Abdul

Quesem to undertake the building.

But Sha Suja did not like the Bara

Katra and later donated it to Abdul

Experts argue that both the

remaining monuments could be

saved if the government were

of our eyes. We have lost so many

things over the years but now we

should be conscious and step

forward to preserve the heritage,

said a prominent architect,

Professor Shamsul Wares

"The buildings are history in front

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at a meeting of the Information Communication Technology Taskforce in June directed the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission to prepare a proposal on legalising Internet telephony.

However, Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) does not want the VoIP to be allowed for fear of revenue loss.

But illegal operators continue using the Internet telephony, bypassing the BTTB switchboard resulting in 90 percent drop in overseas incoming calls through BTTB's network, a senior BTTB official said.

The BTTB has so far disconnected 3.000 fixed line telephones on allegation of overseas call termination and generation through

Internet telephony. Leaders of the Internet Service Providers Association earlier said legalisation of the VoIP could earn the country billions of dollars through establishment of telecomsrelated businesses

6 get life FROM PAGE 12

alias Dinu and Sekander.

Of them Dina and Sekander have been absconding since the murder while the rest are now in the custody.

Judge Mohammad Shamsul Hag of the Seventh Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court, delivered the verdict in a crowded courtroom.

Both the prosecution and the According to the decision, a defence completed their arguments committee, performance audit on October 10. Farlier, the court had committee, will be formed comprisrecorded statements of 12 out of 19 ing all the officials of the different prosecution witnesses organizations of power sector. According to the prosecution officials from Comptroller and Auditor General's office and parlia-Mintu was shot dead by a gang led by Haider near Barishur Bahar ment members. The committee will Dying Factory in Keraniganj at monitor the performance of different about 11:45am on February 18, last body in power sector. year while he was going to upazila The other body will be formed to dentify the reason behind slow headquarters. Victim's father Abdur Rahim filed implementation of the projects in murder case with Keranigan power sector. Both the committees Police Station the same day, accuswill submit their report to the parliaing Haider and seven others. mentary committee. Reviewing the findings the committee will recom-The Investigation officer of the mend to the ministry to take steps, case pressed charges against the said the chairman. Abdul Alim presided over the meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan. Committee members and officials concerned were present at the meetina.

The victim's mother filed an abduction case with Motijheel police station the same day accusing BNP leader Dr Raushan Alam, Khorshed Alam, Humayun Kabir, Kajol Ahmed Jalali and Gias Uddin Jalali The Criminal Investigation Department pressed charges

against Dr Raushan Alam and 11 others on July 7, 2003. The court framed charges

against the accused on September 15 and its trial began on September 21 Of the accused, Dr Raushan

Alam, Kajol Jalali, Khorshed Alam, VP Mannan, Kamal Ahmed and Humayun Kabir are now free on bail while Faruk is in custody Giasuddin Jalali and four others are absconding.

England rise FROM PAGE 1

disappointing match when he was adjudged leg before to Rafique.

Fast bowler Mashrafee trapped former England captain Nasser

Hussein lbw for 17 but it was already too late for the hosts. The classy Graham Thorpe (28 not out) partnered Vaughan and the two took the

the most dangerous place on the "Nuclearization of the two major countries in our neighbourhood can spell disaster for the rest of us." Explaining the foreign policy, Morshed said the 'look east

approach' was the main focus in the second year of the government. A number of heads of government and high officials visited Bangladesh and relations with china, Thailand and Myanmar were

Presided over by Moshiur Rahman MP, the rally was

Khoka, Education Minister M

Police sent the body to Satkhira hospital for autopsy. A case was filed with Tala Police Station without accusing anyone.

Meanwhile, a joint drive to curb crimes and nab criminals is going on in the district.

BTRC asked to dispose of JTV appeal on frequency

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday ordered Bangladesh Telecommunications Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to dispose of an application of Jamuna Television (JTV) for frequency allotment.

However, the bench comprising Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin, Justice Sved JR Muddassir and Justice MM Ruhul Amin did not mention anything about the issuance of a licence to JTV or permission for satellite broadcasting.

Attorney General AF Hasan Ariff appeared for the government while Barrister Rafigue-ul Hag appeared for JTV.

The government filed a leave to appeal petition before the SC against an order of the High Court (HC) division bench on the issuance of a licence to JTV, frequency allocation and permission for satellite broadcasting

Earlier, the HC division bench comprising Justice Shah Abu Naveem Mominur Rahman and Justice Abdul Awal directed the government to dispose of the application within 30 days.

2 killed

could be arrested.

Police recovered the body of the housewife, Nipa, 22, yesterday morning and sent it to the DMCH for autopsy. "We found her lying in her bed, but there were no mark of injury in her body," the duty officer at

Mohammadpur Police Station said last night. Morgue sources said Nipa might have committed suicide between 11:00pm Friday and 6:00am yester-

But Nipa's brother Omar Faruk filed a case with Mohammadpur Police Staion, accusing her hus-

band of killing her. Police said her rickshawpuller husband Abul Hashem is absconding since the incident.

US chopper FROM PAGE 1

shot down was in June. "A helicopter did go down," Capt. Jefferson Wolfe, a spokesman for the 4th Infantry Division, said. "We can confirm it. It was a Black Hawk. We are investigating.'

In Baghdad, the US military command said the five people on board were injured but were "safely evacuated." The command did not say why the helicopter went down but added that after it crashed it received ground fire.

An injured person was seen being removed from the site on a stretcher. Black Hawks ordinarily have a crew of three and can carry an additional 11 passengers.

The downing came at a time when US officials have been warning that thousands of shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles remain unaccounted for after the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime and pose a threat to US military aircraft.

RPGs. also fired with a shoulder device. are a weapon frequently used by insurgents for ambushes on

American forces. Tikrit, the hometown of ousted leader Saddam Hussein, lies in the heart of the "Sunni Triangle," the region of central Iraq north of Baghdad that has seen mutliple attacks every day against US forces. The region is where

Saddam drew his strongest support, and his loyalists are now believed to be leading resistance to the U.S.-led occupation.

FROM PAGE 12 A case was filed vesterday, but none

allegations of political bias in alloca-

"90 per cent of the selections were made through a computerised system under the government's new allotment rule, and the remaining 10 per cent of the plots were allotted to genuine and deserving candidates under Dhaka Improvement Trust Rules from 1969," he claimed.

FROM PAGE 12

company

The minister said the plots will be handed over to the successful applicants as quickly as possible but did not give any specific time-frame. People of the area affected due to land acquisition for the PNTP will

be given plots at a nominal price, the minister said. Rajuk (Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha) Chairman lobal Uddin

Ahmed and the Secretary for the Ministry of Housing and Public Works were also present at the press conference.

NCB staff FROM PAGE 1

funds available

The WB previously submitted two similar proposals but later modified them to include the rehabilitation component in the scheme. DFID conducted a survey on

over 500 former SOE staff who were etrenched last fiscal. The study found that 50 percent of them lacked skill development training. Last fiscal, 57,000 from 28 SOEs

were retrenched. The WB suggests that 45,000

staff from 28 SOEs may be retrenched this fiscal at a cost of \$181 million.

In fiscal 2004-2005, another 25,000 staff of 36 SOEs would be retrenched at a cost of \$103 million. and in 2005-2006. another 25,000

staffs of 36 more SOEs would go. These SOEs include units producing jute, textiles, sugar and wood products.

After retrenchment, the govern-ment would need another \$793.7 million to pay off the liabilities of these 100 SOEs to make them ready for privatisation.

The aide-memoire suggests that the programme should be as 'decentralised and localised' as possible so that workers' needs in various regions are met. The most effective approach

would be to rely on existing training programmes and institutions rather han creating new ones, it adds.

The WB suggests that the majority of workers should be given 'marketable skill development training, with a link to alternative earning opportunities'.

Lions home with ease plice Salahuddin rented a room at

Marbled Cats August 31, 2001 and staved there till September 3. Badsha Miah was FROM PAGE 12

ers, which would be domestic cats, Earlier, the court recorded state-Rangsat said, adding that the ments of 18 prosecution witnesses domestic cats would be given including the victim's mother Hena hormones so that 15 to 20 eggs Sujan, 35, a former BNP MP from could be implanted into each one.

Brahmanbaria-6 constituency and Rangsan said his university former vice president of Haji Mohammad Mohsin Hall Students would buy a laparoscope worth Bt700,000 from Germany, which Union of Dhaka University, was would allow the team to remove and abducted by his rivals and found implant eggs from the domestic cats dead near the Doyel Chattar on the without having to perform surgery. Dhaka University campus on July 3, Marbled Cats are about the size

of domestic cats but their spotted fur resembles that of a leopard. The species is endangered due to the loss of its habitat, tropical forest, in SoutheastAsia.

Job quota FROM PAGE 1

General Secretary of Jhenidah Blind Welfare Association Advocate Golam Mostafa presented a crest to the prime minister. The main opposition Awami League (AL) will observe the 'Jail Killing Day

Information Minister M Tariqul Islam, Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan M Mujahid, Education Minister M Osman Farruk, Mayor of Dhaka Sadek Hossain Khoka and M It was decided at a meeting of the Moshiur Rahman MP were also party's secretariat yesterday that a present on the occasion.

discussion will be held in front o The prime minister planted a Bangabandhu Bhaban at Dhanmondi neem sapling in the compound of on November 3, with party chief the complex to mark the occasion. The leaders of the AL and its

allied organisations will place 3 die as truck wreaths on the portrait of falls into ditch in Trishal National and party flags will be

Three people were killed and 10 others injured in a road accident on the Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway in

Police and witnesses said a sand members in Bangabandhu Sheikh laden Dhaka-bound truck skidded Mujibur Rahman's government off the road and fell into a ditch at were killed by some disgruntled Narayanpur at about 3:30pm, killing members of the army at Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975. the three on the spot.

Yesterday's meeting also urged The identity of the dead could not people to join AL processions and be known. Eight of the injured were rallies to protest the government's admitted to Trishal Hospital and failure to control the prices of essenlater shifted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital as their condition AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil deteriorated. chaired the meeting held at the

Police seized the truck

Godfathers FROM PAGE 12

Zia International Airport prior to leaving the country on a six-day trip to Frankfurt, Germany

Speaking about the filing of defamation cases by ruling party men against AL leaders, Hasina said. "We will face them before the court." She said the ruling party had "proved its political bankruptcy" by filing cases against her party leaders in different districts.

"Such cases were filed against Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by the autocratic rulers of Pakistan when he placed the historic six-point demand," Hasina said.

The AL published a list of alleged godfathers in an October 16 press briefing that prompted a number of leaders of the ruling alliance to file defamation cases against AL leaders.

The AL chief said the list of godfathers was published because the nation wanted the culprits to be identified.

Replying to a query on a supreme court judge facing graft charges, Hasina said, "It is nothing but an ill effect of politicisation of the judiciary by the ruling alliance." Hasina blamed the government for tarnishing the image of the country and claimed that foreigners are not interested in investing in Bangladesh.

"The present government wants to turn the country into a market for foreign products and it is not interested in utilising domestic resources," she said.

Hasina said during her visit she would urge German entrepreneurs to invest in joint ventures in Bangladesh. "I will also request them to recruit Bangladeshi IT professionals as the sector has huge potential," she said.

Hasina will exchange views on bilateral and international affairs with German politicians, businessmen and civil society members.

Mohammad Mohsin Miah appeared for the state while advocates Mohammad Hanif and Khalilur Rahman defended the accused.

JS body on CHT

FROM PAGE 1 meet Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, who is in charge of the ministry

soon. Deputy Minister for CHT Affairs Moni Swapan Dewan pointed out the lack of coordination at the previous meeting of the committee. saving he was not informed of many things about the activities of his ministry

He said he was not timely informed of the abduction of Rupan Mahajon, the trigger for Mahalchhari violence, and alleged that the Khagrachhari district administration sat on its hands instead of acting promptly to rescue

Dewan threatened to resign from the post, alleging foot-dragging in uplift efforts, corruption in project mplementation, and that he was being ignored in the CHT affairs. The committee at its meeting at

the Sangsad Bhaban also decided to visit the hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban that constitute the CHT after the holy month of Ramadan.

"We want to find out the reasons behind the restive situation in the CHT," Mosaraf Hossain, chairman of the committee, told The Daily Star vesterday

The parliamentary committee observed that two of the four committees provided by the peace accord on the CHT -- the advisory committee and the agreement and development implementation

eight on June 14 the same year and charges were framed against them on March 25, this year. District Public Prosecutor

committee -- were not functioning and asked the ministry concerned to reconstitute the bodies to make them effective.

The other committees -- a askforce and a land reform commission -- started work recently.

The standing committee asked the heads of the taskforce and the commission to come up with reports of their activities and findings at the next meeting, saying land dispute was at the heart of the crisis in the nilly terrain

The Jatiya Sangsad body also asked the CHT affairs ministry to submit a report on rations in the CHT, specifying the amount and peneficiaries of the programme.

Dewan did not raise the contentious issues over which he threatened to resign at the last meeting.

Sources said the premier summoned him in a debriefing session on the issues and asked him to work closely with others in the interest of CHT uplift.

The standing committee expressed dissatisfaction at the failure of the administration to rescue Rupan who was abducted on August 24.

Some committee members said they visited the scene in September and found the district administration making little effort to rescue him.

Committee Chairman Mosaraf chaired the meeting.

hoisted at half-mast along with black UNB, Mymensingh flags at the party offices in Dhaka

and other places. Leaders and workers will wear black badges to Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, M Qamaruzzaman and M Trishal upazila yesterday. Mansur Ali, four senior cabinet