US closes mission

five militants suspected of links to Saudi-born Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda movement were killed since Monday.

The British Embassy in Bahrain also warned its citizens on Saturday there was a high threat of terrorist attacks against Western targets.

The statement published on the embassy Web site said: "We judge that there is a high threat from terrorism against Western, including British, targets. We are particularly concerned about potential threats to places where Westerners might gather."

"You should review your security arrangements carefully. You should remain vigilant, particularly in public places," the statement added.

Bin Laden, in an audio tape las month, vowed more suicide attacks inside and outside the United States and both Washington and London dramatically raised their threat warnings to nationals in the Gulf Arab state in late

Diplomats said the embassy -- set in a high security diplomatic compound

Two shot dead

Friday), officials said.

The duo were strapped with explosives and armed with guns and grenades, security officials said after removing the bullet-riddled bodies from a pool of blood at the 10-storey The attack came amid fears of a

possible military coup as President Gloria Arroyo faced a raging constitutional crisis following moves by opposition-led legislators to impeach Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide.

But Arroyo, who survived a military rebellion in July, appeared on national television to allay the fears, saying the incident was not an attempt to grab power and that security was under control.

"The nature and course and magnitude of the incident show that is not an attempt over the government," said Arroyo, looking calm but tired after staying up to monitor the incident from the heavily-guarded presidential pal-

calm, cooperate with authorities and bear with temporary inconveniences brought about by this incident." Alternate control facilities were activated at the Manila airport so that

military would remain on "maximum

alert" and asked the public to "remain

inbound and outbound flights would not be hampered. Foreign Secretary Blas Ople said in a

statement that "all travellers are safe and flight operations have returned to normal.

Asked about the motive for the attack, airport security chief Angel Atutubo told AFP: "It was a personal problem.

Atutubo said he tried to negotiate with Villaruel but the former official

refused to take his phone calls or radio

Trader shot dead

The victim, Shashanka Damai, 55, was abducted at gunpoint from his residence. Police said an armed wing of a regional political organisation is

FROM PAGE 1

Parbattya Chattagram Janosanghati Samity (PCISS) blamed their rival regional United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) for abduction of businessman Shashanka.

involved in criminal activities like

murder, abduction and extortion.

on the outskirts of Riyadh and protected by armored vehicles -- was unlikely to reopen on Sunday and that its position ould be reviewed on a daily basis.

One Western diplomat said the latest US step "reflects further receipt of information which reinforces the information behind the earlier notices."

Drug queen Jyotsna held in Svlhet

UNB, Sylhet

Drug queen of Sylhet Jyotsna was arrested from her Vatpara house on the outskirts of the city and recovered 450 grams of heroin Friday night.

Tipped-off, a police team cordoned off the house when some addicts were taking drugs.

Sensing presence of the police, the addicts managed to flee. Police arrested Jyotsna and seized the heroin worth about Tk 40 lakh.

Daughter of Majid, a notorious robber, Jyotsna, 45, was earlier arrested several times but she managed to came out of the custody.

10 JCD men FROM PAGE 12

Police picked up Imran, vice president of the JCD hall unit, following the clash.

A tense situation was prevailing at the hall and additional police force was deployed at the hall gate.

Sources said the hall unit JCD president and general secretary asked two JCD workers not to stay in the same room as they had strained relations. One of them then locked the room at about 10:00pm Friday to occupy it

This led to the clash between the rival groups -- one led by JCD hall unit President AKM Mezba Uddin and General Secretary SM Younus Ali and the other led by unit leaders Kamruzzaman Biplob, Anisul Islam

Seven hall unit JCD leaders including its president and general secretary ve been asked to give a written undertaking to the DU unit JCD president and general secretary that they would no more be involved in intra-

Those expelled from the JCD hall unit are responsible for the clash and the JCD would not bear any responsibilities for them," DU unit General

workers of the JCD and two police constables were injured in a clash between two factions of the student body at Shahidullah Hall of the DU.

GP plans

with basic handsets.

mobility and international roaming The GP may offer pre-paid recharge card in foreign currencies to allow international roaming.

The subscribers will enjoy "my easy prepaid number" facility to talk to a certain GP number at a flat rate of Tk 3 a minute, 24 hours a day.

(sales and marketing) Mehboob Chowdhury confirmed the launch of the package

'The package is the GP's endeavour to provide cellphone connectivity with

Italian film session

Zahir Raihan Film Society in cooperation with Alliance Française will screen six recent Italian films. Of them, two films titled 'Pinocchio' (2002) by Roberto Benigni and 'Stealing Beauty' (1996) by Bernardo Bertolucci will be screened today. Venue: Alliance Française auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.30pm and 6.00pm.

Movie show

Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'Trading Places'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 7.00pm.

Seminar on Iqbal

To mark the 126th birth anniversary of Allama Muhammad Iqbal, a seminar on 'labal's poetry and human rights' will be held with Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3.00pm.

Human rights seminar

Bangladesh Human Rights Commission organises a seminar titled 'Human rights fact-finding' with Communication Minister Nazmul Huda as chief guest. Venue: CARITAS auditorium, Outer Circular Road. Time: 3.30pm.

Discussion

Zia Shishu Kishore Sangathan organises a discussion to mark the historic November 7. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy. Time: 4.00pm.

and Mohammad Apel Mahmud. However, she said the police and

 $Secretary\,Hasan\,Mamun\,said.$

Earlier, at least 10 leaders and

the package will be around Tk 20,000

The service will have network

When contacted, GP's Director

all standard facilities," Mehboob said.

DHAKA TODAY

Inauguration

The inaugural ceremony of Super CNG filling station and conversion workshop will be held with State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: 110, Tejgaon. Time: 3.00pm.

<u>DhakA</u>

Italian film session Zahir Raihan Film Society in cooperation with Alliance Française will screen two recent Italian films titled '11 Postino' (The Postman) (1994) by Michael Radford and 'Malena' (2000) by Giuseppe Tornatore. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.30pm

Movie show

Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'Bulletproof Monk'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 7.00pm.

Discussion

A discussion on 'Ramadan and our life', organised by Asian University of Bangladesh and Social Science Institute, will be held. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3.00pm

Prize giving ceremony

The prize giving ceremony of 'Computer Jagat Mega Quiz Competition' will be held. Venue: Sonargaon hotel. Time:

Tk 6 lakh looted from garment factory in Ctg

STAFFÊCORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Armed robbers allegedly looted Tk 6 lakh from a garment factory injuring two officials in Nisarabad industrial area of the port city yesterday.

A seven-member gang halted a car of Marks Apparel Limited inside the factory boundary and asked audit manager MA Taher and accountant Debabrata Bhattacharya to hand over Tk 6 lakh brought from Arab Bangladesh Bank's Agrabad branch. Being refused, they stabbed the officials and snatched three bags containing

the money, police said. The money was brought for payment to employees, factory sources

Both officials were admitted to a private clinic with head injury. However, owner of the factory Mohsin Ahmed, who accompanied the pair, escaped the attack, police added.

"The gang equipped with gun and lethal weapons hit Taher and Debabrata with choppers and snatched three bags ofÊmoney brought to pay the employees",

Later, police went to the garment factory but failed to arrest anyone till filing of this report at 6:00 last evening.

Mob beats

FROM PAGE 12 He is receiving treatment under police custody.

In another incident at Mirnur, a vouth vesterday suffered bullet iniuries when criminals shot him in the nead, neck, chest and abdomen.

Quayum Talukder, 24, is undergoing treatment at the DMCH in a critical condition.

Police said Quayum was shot by two of his five fellows at one stage of an altercation when they were watching a film inside an under-construction building Friday night.

Police arrested Iqbal alias Tera Iqbal and Salahuddin alias Sohel.

Ouavum claimed himself as a construction material supplier and said local criminals shot him as he refused to pay tolls.

No case was filed with Mirpur Police Station till last evening.

Court orders

FROM PAGE 1

also asked the accused to appear before it on December 6. Meanwhile the case was transferred to Magistrate Shafiq Anwar for trial, though the time fixed for appearance of the accused --December 6 -- did not expire.

Moreover, the magistrate issued several orders including declaration of the accused as an absconder, attachment of his property and ban on his leaving the country. Such orders are irregular, illegal and arbitrary since the date of his appearance was on December 4, the metropolitan sessions judge said.

Meanwhile, accused Jinnah appeared before court and prayed for bail on November 1. The court, however, rejected his bail petition and sent him to Dhaka Central Jail though the charges brought against him merit

The lawvers for the accused filed a criminal revision with the Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge on November 3 against impugned order of the magistrate.

After a hearing, the metropolitan sessions judge granted the revision and directed the magistrate to release the accused on bail.

The judge observed that the magistrate was abusing the laws and the motives and intentions of the court were illegal. He also found the sending of the accused to custody illegal. The judge also observed that Magistrate Shafiq Anwar's knowledge of law is very poor and so his magisterial power needs to be seized at once.

SL PM

FROM PAGE 12

A Norwegian-brokered cease-fire has mostly held since February 2002, but Kumaratunga said Wickremesinghe's handling of the peace process was

"During the last two years, the sovereignty of the state of Sri Lanka, its territorial integrity and the security of the nation have been placed in grave danger," said Kumaratunga, who was seriously wounded by a rebel suicide bomber in 1999.

But Kumaratunga denied she was trying to scuttle the peace process, saying the cease-fire would stand and that Wickremesinghe would continue pursuing peace.

The LTTE had no immediate comment, spokesman Dava Master said Saturday. But Friday, LTTE military leader Colonel V. Karuna called for calm. "We have to observe the political turmoil in Colombo quite soberly...We can remain patient as long as we are strong," he was quoted as saying by the pro-rebel Tamilnet Web site.

Political observers said the political standoff could end in a general election, the third in four years.

Red Cross shuts

a Black Hawk helicopter there, killing six

The two 82nd Airborne Division soldiers died when a homemade bomb exploded beside their vehicle about 8:30am in Fallujah, a center of Sunni Muslim resistance 40 miles west of Baghdad, the military said.

Their deaths brought to 34 the number of American soldiers who have died in Iraq this month as resistance escalated during At Geneva, ICRC spokesman Florian

and Basra offices were closing given "the extremely dangerous and volatile situation" in the country. "We did decide that we will temporarily close offices in Baghdad and Basra but remain present in the north of Iraq,"

Westphal yesterday said their Baghdad

(ICRC) spokesman Florian Westphal said. "We do want to make it clear that part of the reason we are doing this because we are deciding against military protection, the two things are connected," he said.

He said the ICRC had received no

direct threat but had taken its decision on the basis of an overall assessment of the "We are still discussing what to do with

our foreign staff. The situation is extremely

dangerous and volatile." he said The blast on October 27, which killed among others two ICRC guards, wrecked the Baghdad office. It prompted the organisation to reduce its foreign staff and forced the remaining employees into temporary accommodation

The ICRC has faced a difficult choice about its role in Iraq where it has been operating for 23 years, through the Iran-Iraq war, the Gulf war in 1991 and the USled invasion earlier this year.

"We must painfully acknowledge that the ICRC as a large humanitarian organisation has become a target of attacks for a group of people," ICRC President Jakob Kellenberger said in an interview with a Swiss daily newspaper, the Tages-Anzeiger of Zurich. The ICRC has been forced to recon-

work while protecting its employees, Kellenberger said. "In the coming weeks we will have to

sider how to carry out its humanitarian

redefine our modus operandi, the way we

are deployed," he said. attack was swift. Warplanes swooped over Tikrit, dropping several 500-pound bombs near the helicopter crash site. Then raids were launched around the town -- a hotbed of resistance to the US-led occupa-

by Abrams tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles destroyed several houses which the US military believed had been used by Lieutenant-Colonel Steve Russell of

Friday had been brought down by guerrillas. "We do believe it was brought down by ground fire," he said. International Committee of the Red Cross

> "We are targeting those areas where we have had attacks on coalition forces,' Russell said. "We want to eliminate those

> Chinook west of Baghdad as it carried troops on a rest and recreation break killing 16 American soldiers in the deadliest single strike on U.S.-led forces since they invaded to oust Saddam.

engulfed in flames.

Fresh raids

be forced to release Jamal if the govern ment hammers on them," she said.

other government agencies are aware of Jamal's whereabouts.

men Abul Kasem and Shahid if police arrest them, she said. An armed gang kidnapped Jamal

Monga-hit

The starving population has often clashed with local administrators protesting the irregularities. Ministers have also been booed during their visit

Asadul Habib Dulu, deputy minister for disaster management and relief told newsmen in Nilphamari that 13.5 tonnes of rice has so far been distributed among

"Tk 9.55 crore has been allocated for food for work programmes to be launched soon to provide jobs to the people of the north," he said. "A sufficient relief was allocated to

corruption by ruling BNP men are eating up a major portion of the allocated materials," said Jamshed Mian, a schoolteacher at Haragachha in Villagers at Talukposhua of Kalyani union in Rangpur said union BNP

minister for housing and public works affairs, caught four people including sub-assistant engineer of upazila Pubic Health Department Illias Ali for misappropriation of relief materials at Boro

Rangpur. A case was filed against six people including UP members for giving less

cardholders in the union. UP chairman and BNP leader Abdul Aziz Chowdhury were exempted from the charge and authorities were forced

parishad chairman Badsha Mia of distributing VGF cards among his own

alleged that Badsha Mia sold 55 VGF cards on black market. Badsha has denied the allegation.

RU CORRESPONDENT

roamed at large for an hour yesterday due to the negligence of a doctor and staff of the zoo.

attendants left the cage open after

with locals of Bhatapara captured her at None of the zoo authorities was

At Tikrit, the US response to helicopter

15 days in jail and sent police to the newspaper office over articles critical of the government. of Tamil Nadu late Friday ordered the the 4th Infantry Division based in Tikrit iail terms against top journalists of The confirmed the Black Hawk which crashed Hindu after the paper ran articles and

F-16 fighter planes and troops backed

Soldiers said the Black Hawk was probably hit by a rocket-propelled grenade. It was the third US helicopter to be shot down in Iraq in the last two weeks.

Last Sunday, guerillas shot down a US

On October 25, guerrillas brought down a Black Hawk in Tikrit, hitting one of its engines with an RPG. The helicopter made an emergency landing and all five crew members escaped before it was

She also alleged that police and

Valuable information could be gathered from Union Parishad chair-

the front-pages of most Indian newsfrom city's Chawkbazar on July 24 and papers, which called the raid a violaabductors later demanded Tk 1 tion of India's constitutionallyprotected right of free speech.

to monga-stricken areas.

the VGF (Vulnerable Group Feeding) cardholders in eight affected districts.

control the monga, but local people have alleged that irregularities and

president Aftab Hossain got a VGF rice card under his mother's name; Hossain said his mother is poor and needs the On Friday, Alamgir Kabir, state

Beel union council of Gangachhara in

than the allocated amount of rice to VGF

to call riot police when people protested their exclusion from the case. In Peerganj upazila, a group of hungry people confined Parul UP chairman in protest against irregularities and accused Ramnathpur union

Aleya Begum, a female UP member,

Lioness' day out

A lioness the Rajshahi Central Zoo Sources said the doctor and his

treating injured leg of the lioness. She came out of her cage at 3:00pm, they The doctor had to fire a tranquilliser at the animal before the zoo staff along

The JUTA is on strike to press its three-point demand including available for comment. removal of the vice-chancellor.

In Kaunia upazila, two Gram Sarkar members belonging to BNP -- Abdus Subhan and Azizul Haq -- were caught while taking relief with six VGF cards.

On Thursday, four persons including a

food department clerk were arrested and a

case was filed accusing 15 people after 24 bags of VGF rice were sold on the black market in Bhurungamari of Kurigram. In Roumari upazila, poor people

clashed with UP members leaving 15

In Gaddimari union of Hatibandha

people injured over relief distribution.

upazila in Lalmonirhat, fisheries officer Shamsul Alam and UP Chairman Bahar Uddin was sued for cheating while $measuring \, out \, relief.$ On Wednesday, Gaibandha Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) ABM Nasirul Alam and Saghata UNO Nazrul Islam were removed for relief-related

Khorshed Alam and Ghuridaha UP Chairman Ataur Rahman after VGF rice was seized from their secret godowns. During a visit to Borokona village in Parbatipur yesterday, this correspondent found some 150 indigenous fami-

anomalies. Two separate cases were

filed against Chandipur UP Chairman

lies living on a single meal a day for nearly a month. Maidee Hembrom said her day labourer husband Ruben bought some rice, getting a job after three days, for Tk

"We can't afford a single full meal a

day," said 65-year-old Malati Murmu of

JU syndicate besieged by

students

nations.

JU CORRESPONDENT Hundreds of general students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday formed a human chain on the campus and then laid a siege to the syndicate meeting demanding immediate resumption of all academic

activities including classes and exami-

Minutes later, at 3:50am, the oper-They made the demand as an ating theatre closes until a new shift indefinite strike by JU Teachers' Association (JUTA) entered its 25th day yesterday, creating an impasse. The students laid the siege at about

teachers for creating the impasse and

pus yesterday, making similar

restored immediately

12:30pm when the syndicate was meeting at the administrative building and withdrew it at 1:30pm. The meetwill hand our admission cases to those ing however ended at 3:15pm without taking over from us on the next shift,' any discussion on the stalemate. savs Dr Uddin. The agitating students blamed the

groan and cry out, the main emergency warned of a tougher programme if a room and the passage is temporarily congenial academic atmosphere is not bucketfuls of water on the floor. The ruling BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) also brought out a procession on the cam-

sion among both patients and staff.

Indian editor,

four journos

over articles

Indian media expressed outrage

Saturday after a state assembly sen-

tenced five journalists of a top daily to

The assembly in the southern state

an editorial that said the provincial

government showed "rising intoler-

The Hindu yesterday said it would

approach court "as quickly" as possi-

ble, challenging the Tamil Nadu

Assembly's decision awarding 15 days'

simple imprisonment to five of its

Journalists from various newspa-

pers and magazines vesterday decided

to observe a day's fast here today to

condemn the Tamil Nadu Assembly's

decision, awarding 15 days simple

imprisonment to six journalists on

After the vote, more than 20 police

entered the newspaper's headquarters

in the state capital Madras, but an

editor told them he would not let them

Police returned with a warrant and

The state assembly ordered jail for

The Hindu's publisher, editor, execu-

tive editor and two other journalists for

an editorial about Chief Minister

government made "crude use of state

power" by arresting a leading political

opponent and allegedly harassing

The action against The Hindu made

The Hindu in a front-page editorial

denounced the legislature's use of

privilege law "as a crude instrument to

threaten the independent media and

trample on the fundamental right of

free expression, which includes fair

Jayalalitha Jayaram's government.

"breach of privilege" over articles and

The newspaper had written that the

looked into the offices of top editors,

but did not carry out the arrests.

enter without a warrant, newspaper

charges of breach of privilege.

staff members said.

independent media

journalists including two top editors.

face jail

AFP/PTI, Madras

showroom at Barutkhana to the city's Bandarbazar area on a rickshaw at about

ICD cadre Habib Ibne Islam alias Chamak and Lovelu along with some others were in a private car in the Baruthkhana Lane behind the rickshaw. As there was a traffic jam on the road, the cardriver was honking horn.

honk horn. It angered Chamak, who along with others got down from the car and locked in a heated argument with the officer. The officer gave his identity but Chamak wielded his pistol and misbehaved with him, knocking him in the cheek, the sources added.

Later, at about 11:00pm, a team of army men riding motorcycles, jeep and a lorry cordoned Barutkhana and Puran Lane area and started a thorough search.

The army men also raided the residence of Chamak in Mirabazar, but failing to find him they picked up his father Ohidul Islam Tofa, an Awami League

army vehicle in which Tofa was being carried away. The army men released Tofa on his request.

tional superintendent of police (SP) and some other police officials went to

Saarc talks

iournalists in Dhaka from November 1-2. The meeting prepared a set of recommendations to be submitted in New Delhi.

and relaxation of visa regime. The meeting also recommended enhancement of training, scholarship and fellowship programmes among member countries, and raising of \$1,00,000 to launch the proposed

Saarc media development fund

Army swings

The army men then left the area while some officials sat at a meeting with the SP and other police officials in the district police headquarters. The army men went ack to the cantonment at about 2:30am. Sources said the car, which was

Chamak and Lovelu used, was taken forcibly from a private car stand in the city. A case was lodged with the Kotwali

Barutkhana area and assured the army

officers of arresting the criminals.

Police Station against Chamak and seven others. Police made several attempts to arrest Chamak, but failed. He is wanted in a number of criminal cases

CUET closed after clash of

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Authorities vesterday closed Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (CUET) till December 14 following a clash between two rival factions of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal

The CUET authorities at an emergency meeting with Vice-chancellor Mozammel Haq in the chair cancelled classes and examinations for the neriod and asked students to vacate halls by Sunday morning.

protested declaration of Rupesh Mutsuddi and Shovraj as the new president and general secretary of the JCD at around 1:30am, sources said. The rival groups used arms,

CUET main gate leaving five students injured, sources added. Critically injured Mohammd Iqbal, a student of electrical engineering, and Mohammad Shahjahan, a

deployed on the campus since yester-

Assistant Superintendent of Customs Idris Ali. He said the sealed locker was

were manufactured in the Philippines and licensed in the US, not in Bangladesh. Highly placed sources in the intelligence agencies, who have already launched an investigation into the

HRC Shipping Lines authorities told The Daily Starthat the vessel was bought three years ago. The arms, which have already become rusty, were found sealed in the bonded locker when the vessel was purchased, said Abul

arrived at Mongla Port. HRC clarified that the declared arms and ammunition always remain in the ship under the last port's customs seal during passage between port of calls. But Assistant Customs Commi-

ssioner Mirza Shahiduzzaman has

recovery has put question marks over HRC's legal authority to do so without oading jute and jute goods. HRC Shipping Lines authorities

insist that customs officials have done excess without lawful authority Customs officials, on the other hand, argue that HRC has no legal right to keep unlicensed M-16 rifle in possession.

government asks us to intervene," said a senior official of Bagerhat district police.

Dr Kamal become customary to accept all forms of injustice," he further said.

get rid of what they called was the Gano Forum General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Jativa Samajtantrik Dal leader Mayeen

police beforehand about the raid on the

three major conditions of the sale conditional on the sole discretion of the project lenders and thus not an obligatory condition of sale, as was provided in the initial draft," one source noted.

word makes the whole exercise meaningless. The energy ministry reemphasises 'best effort'. Although the CDC earlier agreed to

plant sites, in its October 7 letter the company suggests it might not carry out those responsibilities. The energy ministry rejects this proposition as Previously, the CDC and AES nies managed to persuade the government to pass the cost on to the PDB. According to an insider, if these

proposed amendments are accepted

and sale of the power plants is finalised,

the CDC-AES can put Bangladesh in a

disadvantaged situation by saying the

lenders do not agree to any of the conditions. This will push Bangladesh to giving up the advantage it is seeking out of the sale and the whole negotiation will be meaningless. The AES has been seeking government approval since December last year. The contract between the AES

But American pressure mounted on the government. Even a US trade report Country Commercial Guide of the

AES, UK firm

t will make a 'reasonable effort' for the lenders to agree to the amendments to the original contract. The CDC and AES previously agreed to make 'best effort'. $Sources\,pointed\,out\,this\,change\,of\,a$

cate the Meghnaghat discharge chan-

ICD factions

(ICD) Friday

The clash started when a faction of JCD activists led by former JCD president of the CUET unit Nurul Azam

hockey sticks and lethal weapons during the encounter opposite the

JCD activist, were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Additional police forces have been

M-16 haul

Frigate case FROM PAGE 1

unable to hear the petition.

The case record was then sent to the Chief Justice (CI) and the CI will send it to another bench to resolve. According to the prosecution, the Bureau of Anti Corruption (Bac) filed a case with Tejgaon Police Station on August 7 last year against Sheikh Hasina and four others for their alleged

corruption in purchasing a frigate from

The bureau alleged that Hasina and

the others accused misappropriated \$ 99.97 million amounting to about Tk 511.17 crore in purchasing the frigate for the state. After investigation, charges were

pressed on August 3, 2003 against six

The case is now pending with the

Special Court of Dhaka Division, The

hearing on charge-framing is likely on November 20. Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud

more information.

including Hasina.

appeared on behalf of the petitioner Sheikh Hasina in the court.

DMCH FROM PAGE 1 Tejgaon, has now lost a lot of blood and is almost unconscious. The only technician at the blood bank tells the writers of this report that he has no supplies for emergencies. "The blood

in the freezer is for routine operations

tomorrow," he says, refusing to give

The man, who clearly needs emer-

gency surgery, is left on a bed. "We have to wait until the surgical team in the operating theatre finishes," says Dr Ziauddin, one of the interns. "They are operating on a stab injury patient." His colleague, Dr Rakib Uddin Ahmed, explains, "We started duty at

10:00am on Thursday and almost 24

hours later we are still on duty and have

had no rest. How can patients expect us

to have a sense of urgency?"

takes over at 8 o'clock. The waiting patients, in varying degrees of desperation, can only pray to God for relief. "I have no idea when would Hossain will go to the theatre. But we

While the patients continue to

shut for cleaning. A group of men slosh Emergency patients are asked to use a different passage, creating confu-

Hossain continues to scream in agony while attendants from other wards peep in to see what the fuss is

The army officer asked the driver not to

Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran was passing by the area when he saw the

However, they picked up another suspect Hakim, Meanwhile, the addi-

during a meeting of Saarc editors and

ential access to member countries

The recommendations include a

proposal for ensuring free movement

of media professionals, their prefer-

meant exclusively for keeping whisky Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Abdul Baten said the M-16 rifles

incident, said even law-enforcers do not have such sophisticated arms.

Hossain, deputy manager, Khulna Division, of HRC Shipping Lines. Besides, a declaration regarding the arms was made after the vessel had

accused HRC authorities of suppressing the truth by failing to make it clear how these unlicensed arms found their way into the vessel. According to sources at Mongla Sea Customs, 19 Bangladeshi crew were on

board the vessel including its Captain

AKM Alamgir during the raid.

The port users have questioned why the customs officials did not inform

The CDC proposes in the new draft

carry out some responsibilities at the

The departure of the vessel from Mongla Port immediately after the arms

vessel. A police sub-inspector was called

aboard the vessel only when the cus-

toms officials failed to draw financial

benefit in the name of rummage opera-

the case. "We will not take a look at the case unless and until the arms are put under police custody and unless the

He called upon all irrespective of party affiliation, views, profession and communal identity to take position against the wrongdoers.

Uddin Khan, President of the Socialist Workers Front Abdullah Sarker also

succeeded in lobbying with the government to avoid some of the responsibilities proposed by the PDB. The PDB suggested the AES-CDC should relo-

Other Oikya Prachesta leaders said the people need to be empowered to present day sick political culture.

commercial operation.

"The new draft makes execution of the

nel at their own cost. But the compa-

and the government prohibits the company from selling more than 49 per cent of its share in the Meghnaghat and Haripur projects within 8 years of

US Embassy published in July -blamed the government for not 'allowing' the AES to sell its power plant, without mentioning the contractual