# NEWS

## Whitewash double

Crop diversification

lded

society.

#### FROM PAGE 1

FROM PAGE 1

country.

Flintoff was on 52 not out when England coasted to victory. He dominated an unbeaten 83-run fourth wicket stand with Paul Collingwood, whose contribution was 46.

Like an impregnable rock Flintoff, who scored 55 and 70 in the previous matches, stood and delivered for the third time. He smashed four towering sixes and as many boundaries in his 39-ball hurricane

He also ended up as the richest man in the England camp after walking away with a hattrick of man-of-thematch awards as well as the series.

Opener Murcas Trescothick also came good after two failures. The Somerset southpaw scored 50 off 70 balls with five fours while skipper Michael Vaughan made 29.

The lone success for Bangladesh was the emergence of Mushfiqur Rahman as an all-rounder. The Rajshahi right-hander was top scorer for Colombo.

reporters later the meeting felt the

urgency of developing a better crop

marketing mechanism across the

other vital issues -- growing more food

grain from ever depleting croplands.

proper steps against shirker block

supervisors in agriculture extension

sector and smuggling in and marketing

Talking to The Daily Star later, State

of adulterated pesticides and fertilisers.

Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhrul

Islam Alamgir said, "Today we took up

crop diversification to face monga and

increase food output at par with the

growth of population. We also dis-

cussed the urgency of making agricul-

Committee member and opposi-

tion Jativa Party lawmaker GM Kader

told newspersons many of the 26,000

Jubo Dal men

'attack' rally

at Chashara

**OUR CORRESPONDENT,** Naryanganj

Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal activists yester-

day allegedly attacked a rally organ-

ised by left-leaning 11-party alliance

at Chashara Central Shaheed Minar in

Naryanganj protesting the death of a

and Bangladesh Rifles and vandalised

The ruling BNP's youth front also

threatened Mahbubur Rahman

Ismail, a workers' leader, at 1:00am on

Tuesday and told him not to attend

A gang led by David, Faruq Ahmed

garment worker in police fire.

the stage, sources said.

the rally

ture extension service more effective."

The meeting also took up three

with a 37-ball 36. He also shone with the cherry by removing Solanki and Vaughan to finish with 2 for 29.

Captain Khaled Mahmud took the other wicket conceding 32 runs in 10 overs. But he was involved in disappointing run out after looking good with 18.

Opener Hannan Sarkar and one down Habibul Bashar scored 21 runs each before the former was brilliantly run out by Paul Collingwood, who picked up the ball at point and fired a

direct throw at the stumps. Maniarul Islam gave substance to the lower-order with an unbeaten 20. But Alok Kapali completed a miserable series of low scores. He scored only one

before departing after playing a reckless pull shot. James Kirtley, Andrew Flintoff and

Rikki Clarke took two wickets each for the visitors England will leave the capital today

block supervisors even do not go to

work regularly. They have failed to

properly accomplish their task of

technology transfer to farmers, he

between breeders' plots and farmers'

lining agriculture extension service.

of crops and for transgenic crops.

The parliamentary body also

stressed government vigilance against

illegal grabbing of prime croplands by

unscrupulous and powerful people in

mended further cut in the interest rate

on farm credit. To bring crop produc-

tion cost borne by farmers using diesel-

Mannan said the meeting recom-

Abdul Mannan said the yield gap

over BNP's attack on Jubo

#### League office STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulnd

**Bagerhat tense** 

Tension is running high in Bagerhat town following an attack on Jubo League's office allegedly by activists of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) on Tuesday.

Sources said the trouble began in the afternoon when BNP's discussion marking National Revolution and Solidarity Day coincided with a meeting of the main opposition Awami League (AL)'s youth front on the occasion of its founding anniversary.

Jubo League alleged that the ruling party goons attacked its office lthough Jubo League's meeting was authorised by the civil and police administrations.

The attackers went on the rampage causing extensive damage to office property and later drove them out of the building. Jubo League leaders said

at a press conference vesterday. Cadres of the BNP and its front organisations were still occupying the Jubo League office yesterday after-

The press conference was attended among others by President of Bagerhat District AL and former state minister Mozammel Hossain, District AL President Fakir Mansur Ali, Vicepresident Sardar A Jalil and Jubo League District President Khan Habibur Rahman

fields has to be minimised by stream The Jubo League president alleged that District BNP Secretary Shamsul Noting that croplands are shrinking Alam Talukdar masterminded the fast and population is growing, attack, adding that police helped the nnan said the government is attackers. Talukdar refuted the allegaactively considering going for frontier tion. technologies like genetic modification

A protest procession by Jubo League vesterday was intercepted party office. several times by police and residents of the town fear violence might erupt any time. Development and Cooperatives

Matsuura arrives in Dhaka today on a

During his stay here, he will meet

President Iajduuin Ahmed, Education

Minister Osman Farruk and State

Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur

### **Unesco DG** arrives today

five-day official visit.

Lalbagh Fort in Dhaka.

Rahman.

run irrigation pumps and power-run UNB, Dhaka pumps at par, the agriculture ministry has sought Tk 310 crore from the Director General of the United Nations finance ministry in subsidy to diesel Educational, Scientific and Cultural used for irrigation, he mentioned. Organisation (Unesco) Koichiro

Asked about the setting up of agro based industries in the crop-rich northern region to create jobs, Mannar said the next meeting of the committee will take up the issue.

### 2 suffer bullet wounds in city

and Reza attacked the rally on the STAFF CORRESPONDENT occasion of Garment Workers' Solidarity Day in presence of police

Two people sustained bullet wounds in separate incidents at New Eskaton and Chankharpool yesterday.

ences with them. Mizanur Rahman Mizan, 35, manager of New Eskaton Hotel on the second floor of a building on the New Eskaton Road, was sitting at the cash counter when three unidentified Fechnical and Vocational Education

## Monga spectre

harsher realities awaiting them back home, because the city provides them sustenance that the villages can't. "I came along with my two neigh-

bours and I don't know yet if I should go back or stay," said Ali, who lives in a shanty in Bashabo.

Others haven't been lucky enough to find a place to stay and are sleeping under the sky at places like Karwan Bazar and Kamlapur Rail Station.

Scores of others from the eight monga-affected districts --Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Lalmonirhat, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Nilphamari and Rangpur -- have travelled to the capital or other district towns in search of jobs, but many didn't find any and have taken to begging instead.

"With improved transportation, more and more people travel to Dhaka every Ramadan. Some pull rickshaws or work as day labourers while others take to begging. A portion of these annual migrants stay and the rest go back. But this year, Ramadan has coincided with the *monga*, so we can expect a much larger number of people taking recourse to the capital," said

FROM PAGE 12

pointed out.

Paltan

## New-old leadership

problems of the party men, sources Most field level leaders and activist apprehend deepening of the crisis and Some senior ministers however said leadership conflicts within the BNP i sitting at the party office in the name of urgent steps are not taken to put an end to this situation, a top leader of the party noted.

#### Cabinet secy A few leaders like BNP Secretary General and Local Government Rural FROM PAGE 12

she has not approved it till yesterday, sources said.

Professor Nazrul Islam, an urbar

and old people who can't do hard

labour. Some sources have claimed the

figure has reached no less than 1 lakh

already, adding that a big chunk of this

floating population will go back home

when the harvesting begins in a few

hungry people into the city continues

Meanwhile, the exodus of the

Most of this floating population

Montaz Miah, who came here three

"People of these districts are very

very poor. Hence, they form the bulk of

the migrants. Anyway, here we at least

get food, which is hard to get in the

Interestingly, the abundance of

poor rickshawpullers like Montaz Miah

willing to sell their labour for cheap has

pushed rickshaw fares down in the

however is from Rangpur, Kurigram,

Gaibandha and Panchagarh, sources

weeks ago to become a rickshawpuller,

weeks.

unabated.

said

agreed.

capital.

villages," he said.

Most beggars are women, children

senior joint secretaries general Tarique "The PM leaves for Saudi Arabia Rahman. Nazrul Islam Khan, today, and if a decision is not made Gayeshwar Chandra Roy and City BNP before she departs an uncertainty chief and Mayor of Dhaka Sadeque would grip the administration as she is due to return on November 23," a high official at the Prime Minister's

> BNP policymakers and high-ups at the administration hinted that the PM may consider an extension for a year.

> extension, the second most senior secretary Badiur Rahman, member of the Planning Commission, should take up the demanding job.

Badiur, one of the two remaining CSP secretaries regarded for their professional excellence, could not win the confidence of the government for unexplained reasons, according to sources.

If Badiur is not chosen. Land Secretary Azad Ruhul Amin, the other CSP official, might be called in for the most-coveted administrative post.

> gation. The case is likely to be transferred to

ingday.

## SL PM, president

talks with the island's Tamil rebels back on track.

**Outlaws** gun

down shrimp trader, staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Upendra Nath Goldar, 32, of Faltita

union under Fakirhat upazila and

Amalesh Barkandaj, 30, of

Maheshwaripur union of Koira upazila

at 6:30pm. They also recovered spent

being an witness to the murder,

Earlier on November 2, Upendra

filed a general diary with Mollahat

Police Station after extremists threat-

ened him with death. But police alleg-

No case was filed till the filing of this

report at 8:00 last night. Panic gripped

the owners and traders of the shrimp

enclosures in the district following the

**Charges pressed** 

against 13 for

killing Sramik

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Ahmed murder.

leader as prime suspect.Ê

Akhtaruddin Babu.

rest are absconding.

cityon the night of June 14.

**Dal leader Shafi** 

Charges were pressed vesterday against

13 people. including an Awami League

(AL) leader and ward commissioner, for

Railway Sramik Dal leader Shafiuddin

Investigation officer Kamrul Islam,

also officer in-charge (OC) of Chandgaon

Police Station, submitted the charge

sheet to the Court of Chief Metropolitan

Magistrate (CMM), accusing the AL

Commissioner and AL leader

Mohammad Hossain Hiron, Mazharul

Hossain Badal, Mahmudul Haq alias

Madu, Naimul Islam Naim alias Imon,

Md Shipon Howlader, Solaiman and

Of them, five are now in jail, while the

Shafi's wife Masuda Begum filed a

case with Khulshi Police Station, accus-

ing 13 people, including the local ward

commissioner and AL leader, the follow-

The case was transferred to the

Detective Branch (DB) of police on June

17 for investigation. A total of 47 with

edly took no step to secure his life.

cartridges from the spot.

vesterday.

sources said.

murders.

"After an exchange of views on events Extremists of the Purba Banglar leading to the present situation, the Communist Party (PBCP), M-L faction, president and the prime minister allegedly gunned down a shrimp decided to move forward and continue trader and his employee at Uttar the dialogue with all parties concerned." Matirgati village under Mollahat the offices of President Chandrika upazila of Bagerhat in the early hours Kumaratunga and Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said in a joint state-Police recovered the bodies of

"It was planned to have a further meeting between the president and prime minister in the course of next week." it said. adding the talks were cordial and friendly"

Bradman Weerakoon, The PCBP (M-L) cadres killed Wickremesinghe's principal secretary Upendra for his failure to give them Tk who attended the meeting, told the news 2 lakh as toll. They killed Kamalesh for agency: "The meeting went well."

> It was the first time the two had met since Kumaratunga sacked three ministers and suspended parliament on November 4, while Wickremesinghe was on a trip to Washington.

While their talks appeared to have eased tension it was not immediately clear if they had moved towards agreement on key differences.

Wickremesinghe said in a letter to the president before the meeting his "principal concern is to protect and safeguard the peace process" and her actions had put that process in jeopardy. Kumaratunga's office said she

news agency wanted to get Wickremesinghe's views on her call for a Grand Alliance of all national and patriotic forces". The statement made no mention of

those issues. Their meeting came as Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Vidar Helgesen and peace envoy Erik Solheim were in Sri

Lanka, trying to arrange preliminary talks before the government and the Tigers resume negotiations to end a 20-year civil A Norwegian-brokered ceasefire has

been in force since February 2002 but the peace talks stalled last April.

The two leaders are elected separately and share power in a difficult cohabita-The accused are Pahartali Ward tion where Wickremesinghe controls parliament but the president heads the Islam, Helaluddin, Ratan Mallik, Ripon cabinet and has the power to sack minis-Howlader, Noab Ali, Maruf, Haider

Kumaratunga did that to the defence, interior and media ministers last week

#### BTTB men FROM PAGE 1

Shafi, also a freedom fighter, was According to the BTTB report, there are chopped and shot dead by a gang of 15 at over 80.000 bill defaulters with whom his residence at Arambagh in the port Tk 152 crore remains stuck.

> The government, semi-government organisations and media organisations owe TK 432 crore in default bills to the BTTB. The six mobile phone companies also owe it Tk 44 crore

#### Newmooring FROM PAGE 1

nesses were quizzed during the investitainer loading and unloading congestion. The government will also develop rote in Ka that he had an extramarita a jetty at a cost of Tk 331 crore under the project. Once implemented, the new terminal will be run by private operators "Chittagong Port has a capacity to handle 2.5 lakh containers. But currently it handles 6 lakh," said a shipping ministry official. The Newmooring terminal will handle one million containers. Shamsul Haq yesterday

at least 80 Iraqis were killed by a car

Earlier that month, a suicide bomber

Wednesday's deaths were the first

among non-British members of the

southern multinational force in hostile

fire. Last week guerrillas shot dead a

Polish major serving in a separate

Italian Prime Minister Silvio

"No intimidation will budge us from

Berlusconi said Italy would not be

our willingness to help that country rise

up again and rebuild itself with self-

government, security and freedom," he

Attacks in Iraq have killed at least 155

US and 12 British soldiers since major

A bomb attack in Baghdad on

Tuesday killed a US soldier and

wounded two, a US military statement

said on Wednesday. The US military also

said a US soldier was killed north of

Baghdad on Tuesday evening when his

vehicle drove over a bomb planted on a

FIVE CIVILIANS KILLED IN US FIRING

At Fallujah, US troops opened fire on

a truck carrying live chickens near the

tense town, killing five civilians aboard

the vehicle, including a father and his

The shooting took place at a road-

"They went to bring chickens ... and

they came back at 9 or 10 at night and we

two sons, relatives said vesterday.

block Tuesday night, they said.

combat was declared over on May 1.

multinational force in central Iraq.

intimidated by the bombing.

said in a statement.

**1 US SOLDIER KILLED** 

road

killed 22 people in an attack on the UN

bomb outside a mosque in Najaf

headquarters in Baghdad.

November 19 because she felt Wickremesinghe was compromising security by making too many concessions to win peace with the separatist rebels She followed that up with an offer to

and suspended parliament until

form a "national unity government". Wickremesinghe countered that she had to reinstate the ministers or take over

the task of hammering out a peace to end the war that has killed 64,000 people and nummelled the economy.

Both are under pressure from their supporters not to give in, with the prime minister's backers pointing to his parliamentary majority, and Kumaratunga's saying reinstating the ministers would be an admission of weakness.

The two are scions of political dynasies that have shared power in the island nation but have been bitter rivals for years. Despite that rivalry, they are polite and friendly when they meet, said officials who have seen them together.

The Norwegian mediators have already met Wickremesinghe and were due to meet Kumaratunga, who narrowly survived a rebel suicide bomb attack in 1999, later on Wednesday.

"It is too early to draw any conclusions on the way forward. We will do this on Thursday after we have had talks with all parties," Norway's Aftenposten quoted Helgesen as telling Norway's NTB

A Sri Lankan newspaper reported hey would also meet the reclusive leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), Velupillai Prabhakaran, on Thursday.

Originally, they were due to meet only he leader of the LTTE's political wing. The LTTE, which has been fighting since 1983 for a separate state for minority Tamils in the country's north and

east, has not commented this week on the latest developments.

> Taslima FROM PAGE 1

of First Joint District Judge issued the orders upon a defamation suit Shamsul Haq filed against Taslima and six others on Sunday, claiming Tk 10 crore in compensation for what he said were defamatory remarks against him in the novel.

The plaint of Shamsul Hag says Taslima mentioned on page 66 of the novel that he had taken her and her sister to Comilla Shalban Bihar and stayed in the guesthouse of Comilla Bonunnayan Daftar

"Shamsul Haq stayed in a separate room and told Taslima about his early life the next day on the way back to Dhaka,' the plaint continues.

He quoted Taslima as writing on page 69 of the novel that she found him throw ing up in the bathroom, as he was drunk during their stay in a guesthouse in Kaptai.

The novel reads: Taslima, now living in the US, was too scared to share the same room. According to the complaint, Taslima

#### Hossain Khoka still occasionally visit the party central and city offices at Naya Office told The Daily Star last night. Meanwhile, over two dozen senior party leaders including Oli Ahmed MP, KM Obaidur Rahman MP, Mir Shawkat Ali and Abul Hasnat have long remained However, if Saadat does not get an inactive and refrained from attending

party programmes Some of them alleged the party leadership thinks the party does not need them anymore.

Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan,

"Some more senior leaders might be Matsuura will visit National inactive soon as the party does not Memorial at Savar, Paharpur Buddhist require them any more with the emer Monastery, Mahasthan-garh in Bogra, Jamuna Multipur-pose Bridge and gence of young leadership," one leader said.

He will also meet newspaper He mentioned several senior miniseditors, intellectuals and civil society ters and dozens of important party members to share views and experileaders have stopped saying anything to the party chief and prime minister about Matsuura will sign a bilateral the current state of party affairs and agreement between Unesco and happenings within the government, as

Bangladesh National Commission for Unesco on capacity building of

meeting leaders and activists is an waste of time because the latter also go to the Secretariat and official residences of ministers even after meeting them at the

Speakers at the rally condemned the attack and demanded arrest of the culprits. They also demanded a judicial probe into the police fire at the BSCIC premises on November 3 and punishment to the killers.

Bimal Kanti Das of Workers Party, Shahidullah Chowdhury of Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad, Abdullah Sarkar of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal and workers' leader Ismail, among others, spoke at the rally.

### Man to die for killing wife

#### **STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered death penalty to an unemployed man for killing his wife in Savar in August 2002.

Abdul Kader alias Delu of Dagan Bhuiyan upazila in Feni was given capital punishment for murdering his wife Laizu Akhter Bobby, a garment factory worker.

Judge Mohammad Shamsul Huq of the Court of the Seventh Additional District and Sessions Judge pronounced the verdict at 12:30pm, crossexamining 10 prosecution witnesses.

On August 10, 2001, Kader stabbed his wife to death at about 7:30pm following an altercation over Kader's unemployment. He went into hiding since the incident. Savar police arrested Kader one and a half years after the murder.

Yaar Ali, owner of the house, filed a murder case with Savar Police Station accusing Kader.

On August 27, 2002, police pressed charges against Kader and the court framed charges against him on May 22 this year.

#### Godfather list FROM PAGE 1

the accused AL leaders did not appear before the court within the time fixed by the court. He also fixed December 17 for a

hearing of the case, court sources said.

The other accused are frontline party leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Abdur Razzak, Sayeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Motia Chowdhury, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, SAMS Kibria, ASHK Sadique, Obidul Kader, Abdur Rahman and Ishaque Ali Khan Panna.

vouths clad in T-shirts and trousers entered the hotel at around 7:30am.

Minutes after they went unwards we heard three gunshots and the manager's cry," said Shahin, a hotel staff. "When we were rushing upstairs to see what happened, we saw the three youths aged about 25 hurry downstairs. Mizan was hollering with a wound in his right thigh."

Hotel staffs took Mizan to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and shifted him to the Orthopaedic hospital later

At Chankharpool, Al Amin, employee of a rickshaw garage beside the road, received a bullet in his face at his workplace at 4:30pm. Al Amin was rushed to the DMCH and was released after treatment.

bullet came from," the 18-year-old said.

yesterday morning. The DMCH employees, who found

night

No injury marks was found in its body.

### Two to die, 3 get life for murder in **Cox's Bazar**

#### BSS, Cox's Bazar

Two person have been awarded death Choufaldani under Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila 10 years ago.

crowded courtroom vesterday.

imprisonment.

The court also acquitted a woman, Kalaputu, as the charges brought against her were not proved.

convicts chopped the victim, Mohammad Hossain, to death while he was working in a paddy field at the village on August 14, 1993.

and Training Programme" in Bangladesh, said a press release.

## Contempt

FROM PAGE 1 was passed on to his two aides. Advocate Mansurul Haq

Chowdhury appeared on behalf of the petitioners. But the court dismissed him as not being empowered. The bench of Justice Syed Amirul

His conduct was "outrageous and

Supreme Court always carries his

from all concerned," observed the

insists the country must first be assured

of 50 years of reserves. Prime Minister

Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist

Party had also opposed gas exports

US ambassador to Bangladesh

Harry K. Thomas in August expressed

Washington's wish the government

export a "certain amount" of natural

gas to boost the cash-strapped econ-

behest, not at the persuasion of some-

was prepared to take a "realistic'

would not be due to US pressure.

delivering his speech.

while in opposition from 1996 to 2001.

Nazir and Nayeb Nazir.

Gas export

gas, most likely to India.

cal consequences.

FROM PAGE 12

slam issuing a contempt rule on October 29 directed Judge Alam to appear before it yesterday to explain why he failed to show up during the former's visit to the district on October 22

"I did not understand where the Meanwhile, body of a newborn boy

child was recovered from near Emergency Department of the DMCH

the body in a plastic bag left on the stairs east of the Emergency Department, said the child might have been born Tuesday

penalty and three others life imprisonment for killing a farmer at village

Judge Bhabani Prasad Singha of the Court of District and Sessions Judge, handed down the verdict in a

Of the convicts, Ali Miah and Kalu will walk to gallows, while Rashid Miah, Mohammad Falu and Mushtaque Ahmed are to suffer life

According to the prosecution, the

"If they have enough, they have to export. The people deserve a better living in their own country because of their own resources," he said

oolicy

omv.

## New shopping malls

#### FROM PAGE 1

Alamgir, a salesperson at the Prince Plaza shopping mall. "Items sell at lower price here than in

other markets. But they are a bit dearer than before and that's because of the Eid," Alamgir said.

But the customers have a different view: the new shopping malls are charging more.

"Although the quality of items and the environment in this market are good, prices are higher," said Anannya who was shopping at Prince Plaza.

Defending the high prices, Saiful Islam who runs a shop at the same market, said, "Initial investment and contumacious.... A judge of the maintenance costs in the plush shopoffice with him and deserves respect ping complexes are higher than other markets. The quality of our items is court in its rule upon the judge and his definitely better.'

## Babar

FROM PAGE 12 pushed Bangladesh to export natural tioned at all city points till 10:00pm every day during Ramadan. Intense domestic criticism of such

It was also decided that additional proposals has prompted successive police would be assigned to enhance governments in Dhaka to put off any vigilance during the period from Sehri decision because of its potential polititill morning and to raid suspected criminal dens. The main opposition Awami League

The meeting recommended narrowing those road dividers that take up too much road space causing traffic jams, and suggested that the main thoroughfare at Bangla Motor be widened to ease traffic congestion.

It called upon market authorities to come forward to find ways to ease traffic problems in their areas as well as find alternative parking spaces.

The meeting identified several city areas including Shahbagh, Science Khan said in Singapore on Laboratory, Malibagh, Mauchak, Wednesday any decision to export gas Kadamphool Chattar, Doel Chattar as most risky where muggers are very "Bangladesh takes a decision on its active, and directed the police departwn economic compulsion ... not at the ment to increase the number of uniformed and plainclothes police in body," he said at an open forum after these areas.

Home Secretary Mohammad Omar He said the government was aware Farooq, Inspector General of Police of the opposition to such exports but Shahudul Haque, the director general (DG) of Bangladesh Rifles, the DG of Bangladesh Ansar, Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner and senior officials of the home ministry were present.

"Although the prices are a bit higher, we are not charging the customers hefty amounts. We are looking beyond Eid

shopping. We have to keep up our future business, as we have invested a lot of moneyhere," he added. "Most customers are window-

shopping," said Abdul Latif, a salesper son at Sunrise Plaza. "The number of shoppers will

increase, if shopping mall authorities advertise in print and electronic media, Latif said, adding the flow of customers increases after iftar. "I have come here to see for myself

the market and assess the prices before I buy," said Milon at Sunrise Plaza.

#### Indigenous FROM PAGE 12

ration for 65,000 indigenous refugees of 12,222 families and rehabilitate them permanently The PMO however asked the minis-

try to continue ration for 26,000 Bangalee families in cluster villages in the CHT.

Stoppage of ration led to agitation road barricade and strike by the refu

The prime minister then asked the CHT affairs ministry to provide them ration from its emergency stock.

A high official at the ministry how ever said, "It is not possible to fully meet the refugees' food grain requirement from the emergency stock. Hardly can we meet half of their annual require ment."

Ministry sources said in the first phase, 3,778 tonnes of food grain will be distributed among the refugees. Their annual requirement is 15,300 tonnes but the emergency stock has 8,000 tonnes.

Previously, the refugees used to get five kilograms of rice for an adult and two and a half kilograms for a child a

The refugees returned from the camps in the Indian state of Tripura following the CHT peace treaty in 1997 and mainly depend on ration as most of them were not rehabilitated properly. According to official statistics, 3,055 families out of 12,222 are yet to get back their homesteads.

The process of rehabilitation was stalled after the four-party coalition government took office, leaders of the indigenous people alleged.

the Speedy Trial Tribunal soon, sources

## PM leaves

#### FROM PAGE 12

The prime minister will stay in Saudi Arabia as a royal guest of the Saudi king. She will stay in Madina till November 18 for Ziarat at the Rouza Mubarak of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM) and say her prayers at Masjid-e-Nababi.

Khaleda will spend the holy night of Shab-e-Qadr in prayers at Masjid-e-Haram in Makkah.

FROM PAGE 1 She is expected to return home on mission of peace, was the bloodiest November 23. single attack in Iraq since August when

The 19-member entourage of the prime minister includes her youngest son Arafat Rahman and his wife, two grandchildren, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin and his wife, and Prime Minister's Political Secretary M Mosaddek Ali and his wife.

#### 500 deer FROM PAGE 12

Sundarbans to immortalise the union of Lord Krishna and Radha. On the first full moon night of Bangla month of Kartik, the devotees gather on the islands and take holy dips in the Morjat river. But the festival has taken on a secular face there from adjacent villages

Although the forest department did not allow any firearms into the forest gunshots reverberated all night, breaking deep silence.

But most poaching was done with rope traps, which mostly ensnared the does and their babies. The stags escaped the traps by jumping over them.

This correspondent witnessed the trapping and killing of at least 10 deer on Tinkona Island. The trappers, 20-25 in a group, laid out the snares on at least one kilometre and drove the deer into them by making loud noise.

As the scared deer ran for life, they got entangled in the snares. The poach ers then beat them up with thick sticks to immobilise them before slaughtering the animals.

All through the Rash Mela, the poachers ate nothing but venison. They distributed excess meat among the pilgrims.

affair with his sister-in-law and he suffered heartbreak, when she married another person.

The plaintiff, describing such remarks as damaging to his fame, appealed to the court for seizure of all copies of the novel and measures to halt its further sale.

Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan and advocate Monwar Hossain appeared for

Italian police HQ

were waiting for them," said Khalid Khalifa al-Jumaily, whose two nephews were killed on the truck. "The Americans fired on them.

On Wednesday, reporters saw U.S. troops delivering one body from an army ambulance to waiting families. In the morgue, reporters saw several bodies with what appeared to be gunshot wounds

#### Hermaphrodites FROM PAGE 12

"But here they do not get adequate

"Even in our neighboring country,

rights to flourish their skilled and

hermaphrodites have been elected as

people's representatives. But in

Bangladesh none of us can study

because of a hostile environment and a

faulty social structure," said Pinky,

realise that we are not alien to them,'

"The people of this society have to

The hermaphrodite leaders illus-

trated the welfare activities of the

organisation that include uniting the

floating members and encouraging

them for a better life, providing them

with microcredit and income-oriented

training, building networks among

their communities, providing educa-

tion for the children and juveniles and

attended the press conference and

some of them narrated the bitter experi-

enlisted 263 members say the number

of the community is about one lakh in

About 50 members of the group

The organisation that has so far

taking care of the elderly.

ences they face in society.

Bangladesh

and women population.

faculty," one of them said

president of the group.

she said.