Fires, stampede at Ctg | Troops to stay

by a false fire alarm inside another garment factory building at Mistripara in the city yesterday morning.

Yesterday's fire broke out at the one-storey storehouse of the Base Textile Ltd at Kalurghat at around 1:00pm, fire service sources said. The fire spread fast and reduced to ashes chemicals, fabrics, raw materials and finished goods.

The fire might have originated from an electric short-circuit, the fire service sources added

Thirteen fire-fighting units from different fire stations of the city rushed to the spot and managed to extinguish the blaze after a five-hour frantic effort.

The fire triggered panic among some 5,000 workers, who were working in the adjoining factory of Base Textile Ltd at the time. However no casualty was reported.

Meanwhile, BGMEA leaders visiting the spot yesterday expressed suspicion over the repeated incidents of fire at different garments and textile units in the last few days.
While talking to The Daily Star

BGMEA First Vice-President SM Abu Tayyab demanded an inquiry to find out if anybody or group is involved in the fires as part of any conspiracy against the garments sector, the highest revenue earner of the country. Both the factories of Base Textile

and Creaslan Sweater strictly followed the safety standards and compliance issues, he added. The fire at the factory of Creaslan

Sweater Ltd at Dewanhat on Tuesday night damaged properties worth around Tk 1 crore and left some 15

40 HURT IN STAMPEDE At least 40 workers, mostly women, were injured in a stampede caused by building at city's Mistripara yesterday

morning.
The railing of the first floor stairs collapsed due to over pressure when the panicked workers from three floors rushed to get out of the building.

"One of the workers switched on an exhaust fan that created a big bang and triggered panic among the workers," Saiful Islam, production manager of the Tishun Fashion Ltd told The

Around 1,000 workers of Tishun Fashion Ltd and Eden Fashion Ltd

were working in the three floors of the

building when the incident occurred at about 9:45am, officials said. We trained them (workers) how to

escape safely in case of any accident, but the problem was that workers from all floors tried to escape all at a time today," said Chinmoy Pal, commercial executive of Eden Fashion Ltd.

The injured were rushed to Bangladesh Garment Manufactures and Exporters Association Health Centre and Chittagong Medical

Saifur rejects

question from an Indian journalist about India's concern over terrorism manating" from Bangladesh.

Terming the impression about Bangladesh harbouring terrorists or Indian insurgents "erroneous", Saifur told the Indian journalists. "As long as you have this erroneous impression relations between the two countries cannot improve."

'Bangladesh does not believe in terrorism. Terrorists are nobody's friends. In the name of religion, there should be no terrorism," Saifur said.

He claimed that the economic situation in Bangladesh is "much better" in certain respects than in India and that it is "much better managed".

Bangladesh has controlled terror ism "much more effectively", said the finance minister, pointing to the recent arrest of top two Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) leaders Abdur Rahman and Siddiqul Islam alias

Saifur said the visit of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to India is rewarding from the point of view of pushing forward economic relations.

He said the economic content of the ties is going to play a catalytic role

Akbar moves to convince

PID conference room yesterday. The main objective of our decision to privatise operation is to reduce the turn around time of the ships anchored at Chittagong port, he said, adding, "We want to reduce the turn around time to three days from existing five days.

The business community will be immensely benefited through reduction of the turn around time, as a ship has to spend \$15,000 per day for staying at the port, he said.

'The whole aspects of the government's plan have been explained in the letter and I am ready to talk to him over telephone" the minister told journalists when asked what would be done if the mayor is not convinced by

The minister told the press that he had earlier called a meeting with the city corporation on the issue but the mayor left the meeting without discus-

Addressing a press conference in Monday vowed to resist any attempt to privatise the Chittagong port. The Chittagong port is a key installation and the country's security and safety would be hampered if it goes to private operation, he observed.

Chowdhury termed the privatisation of services of the port as a violation of Chittagong Port Authority

The shipping minister, on the other hand, ruled out the "propaganda by a section of people" that the new terminal would be privatised.

"We want to appoint a competent firm through official tender to load and unload containers for a certain period, he said, adding that handing over the operating system would not change

the ownership of the terminal. The estimated cost for the New Mooring container terminal was Tk 737 crore and it has been reduced to Tk 400 crore as the private company

appointed on the basis of government's Supply Operate and Transfer (SOT) rule. The minister also expressed desire to appoint competent operators for accelerating the operation of gantry crane installed at both new and old terminals.

proper training from the private operators." he said.

newly installed gantry crane was not giving the maximum service due to lack of efficient operators. "The crane is handling only 11 containers Instead of 30 per hour.

accelerate the speed of the costly crane through technology transfer, the minister observed.

the operation period of the private company will be on the basis of their investment and machinery installa-

He also ruled out the apprehension

of arrangement is already operating in the port. The Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) at an executive committee meeting yesterday expressed concern over the conflict

Chittagong port. keep the operation of the Chittagong port smooth and remove all the bottle-

export and import items. The BGMEA also urged the gov-

ernment to formulate a policy guideline

Dhaka, Delhi

Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Related Matters.

"While the revised trade agreement is expected to provide a framework for expansion of bilateral trade the other agreement signals the joint determination of the two Governments to combat drug traffick-

Discussions between the sides led by the two prime ministers were held in a cordial atmosphere and there was a constructive and forward-looking exchange of views, said the statement. The discussions resulted in greater understanding and appreciation of each other's point

It was agreed that meetings of the bilateral institutional mechanisms such as the Joint Economic Commission, the Joint Boundary Working Groups, the Joint Rivers Commission and the home secretary-level talks would be held more frequently to ensure movement in a positive direction and their outcome

monitored by the political leadership on a continuous basis. "Whether it is security, trade or sharing of water, the two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to work closely together to find mutually satisfactory solutions," the statement said. Both sides agreed that the visit of Khaleda Zia to India has contributed to "further consolidation and progress in the already close and friendly relations between the two

The two prime ministers also expressed their satisfaction over the successful conclusion of the 13th Saarc Summit in Dhaka in November 2005. They agreed that the positive outcome of the summit would enable the Saarc member countries to achieve specific economic and social

implementation of the Safta must be pursued with vigour to advance the Saarc economic agenda.

Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, Vice-President Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and United Progressive Alliance Chairperson Sonia Gandhi. Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry Kamal Nath, Minister of State for External Affairs E Ahamed, Leader of the Opposition LK Advani, and Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga also called on

the Bangladesh PM. The Bangladesh PM conveyed her thanks to the Indian PM as well as India for the warm hospitality extended to her and the members of her delegation during her visit to

Khaleda extended an invitation to Indian PM Manmohan Singh to visit Bangladesh, which the latter accepted with pleasure. Precise dates would be worked out through diplomatic channels, the statement

FROM PAGE 16

The White House believes that people appreciate Bush's plainspoken approach even if they disagree with his decisions

"I understand war creates concerns," the president said. "Nobody likes war. It creates a sense of uncertainty in the country."

Bush has adamantly refused to set a deadline for the withdrawal of US forces from Irag. Asked if there would come a day when there would be no more US forces in Iraq, Bush said, That, of course, is an objective. And that will be decided by future presidents and future governments of Irag."

Pressed on whether that meant a complete withdrawal would not happen during his presidency, Bush said," can only tell you that I will make decisions on force levels based upon what the commanders on the ground say." White House officials worried Bush's remarks would be read as saying there would not be significant

troop reductions during his presidency. They pointed to comments Sunday by Gen. George W. Casey, commander of US forces in Iraq, who said he expected a substantial troop reduction certainly over the course of 2006 and into 2007. The Pentagon announced last

December that US force levels would be reduced from the baseline figure of about 138,000 to about 131,000 by the end of March. The total currently is 133,000. In late February the Pentagon told Congress that "it will be possible to consider" additional reductions as the political process moves forward and as Iraqi security forces gain experience. No timetable has been set for deciding on additional

Khaleda recalls

FROM PAGE 1 Khaleda pointed out that Rabindranath Tagore penned the national anthems of India and Bangladesh. "I believe there is no other instance where the national anthems of two countries have been composed by the same poet, as has been our case. Such is the strength of commonalities"

The Bangladesh prime minister said the two countries are bound by a common history, shared values of democracy, tolerance and an ethos rooted in pluralistic and moderate

Home heightens

FROM PAGE 16 five-member committee and ordered it to conduct an in-depth probe into the changing strategies of the car lifters who are using modern sophisticated equipment to change the engine and chassis numbers.

He said some dishonest car dealers are buying the stolen cars. The meeting ordered the law enforcers to arrest owners of car

showrooms if found involved. Asked about the police personnel's alleged involvement in stolen car business, he said, "I have not got any

Additional Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Faruq Ahmed will submit its report in 15 days FIGHTING TRAFFIC JÁM

Yesterday's meeting formed a fourmember committee headed by DMP Commissioner SM Mizanur Rahman and comprising former deputy comways for better traffic management.

Fine for crossing roads dangerously without using the foot over bridges is only Tk 5 that does not work as a deterrent at all, Babar said, adding that he asked the communications ministry to amend the law but to

The ministry will conduct some motivational works with owners and drivers of buses, trucks, taxicabs and three-wheelers about traffic rules. he

'We will try to make the security better during the Independence Day, Babar said, adding that they will take measures that the opposition's Secretariat siege programme on March 30 is held peacefully.

Two killed

FROM PAGE 16 When they reached near Lahinipara old graveyard. Momin's accomplices opened fire, forcing the law enforc-

Police said Momin was caught in the "crossfire" while trying to escape and died on the spot.

A light gun and four bullets were recovered from the scene. Son of Khabir Uddin of Kalishangkarpur area of Kushtia town. Momin was an accused in 15

cases including seven for murder, In Comilla, a top criminal of the district was killed during a "shootout" between his cohorts and police at Salmanpur under Comilla Sadar (South) upazila, according to our

correspondent. Police arrested Alamgir Hossain alias 'Dakat' Alamgir, 35, at Barapara village under the upazila Tuesdav

On his confessional statement, a police team along with Alamgir reached Salmanpur hill at about yesterday to arrest his cohorts and recover firearms.

Sensing the presence of the policemen, Alamgir's men opened fire, prompting the law enforcers to Alamgir was shot during the

shootout. He was taken to Comilla Sadar Hospital where the doctors declared him dead. Six policemen, including three sub-inspectors, were also injured. They are SI Shahjahan Kabir, SI Abul Kashem and SI Mostafizur Rahman, and constables Abdur

Rashid, Shahbuddin and Sher Ali.

The injured cops are undergoing

treatment at the hospital. Police seized one single barrel gun, four bullets and one dagger rom the scene.

Alamgir was wanted in six criminal cases filed with different police stations of the district, police said.

AL sends letter to BNP

FROM PAGE 1

your proposal. Although the prime minister clearly said the committee could be formed comprising both the members of the parliament and people from outside the parliament, it was not mentioned in your letter,"AL's letter to BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan réad.

Terming Bhuiyan's letter a positive step towards carrying out electoral reforms, the letter stated that it is very important that the details are specific and clear for the sake of a meaningful discussion. "We can finalise the list of our representatives as soon as these details are specified." the letter said. AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil after getting instruction from Leader of

the Opposition in Parliament also AL

President Sheikh Hasina, sent the

reply at about 7:00pm yesterday to Mannan Bhuiyan, also the minister for local government and co-operative Hasina is currently in the US for treat-Jalil also talked to Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain and other senior leaders of the AL-led 14-party

Earlier Jalil made a phone call to Bhuivan at about 6:20pm and told him that AL had sent a letter to his residence. AL's Deputy Publicity Secretary Asim Kumar Ukil, Assistant Office Secretary BM Mozammel Hossain and SM Kamal carried the letter and handed it over to Bhuiyan. After receiving the letter, Bhuiyan

opposition coalition before sending the

letter and will respond today. "If I see that I myself can respond to the letter then I will do so otherwise if necessary, I will talk to our party chairperson, who is returning home tonight. In response to Jalil's query regarding the number of members in the proposed committee, sources in BNP

told journalists that he received the

Opposition sources said after talking to Hasina, the AL general secretary also the 14-party coordinator, and senior opposition leaders met at a hotel in the capital to finalise a

approve and implement the 'Na-

tional Preparedness and Response

Plan for Avian Influenza and Human

Pandemic Influenza', developed with

technical assistance from the World

Health Organisation (WHO) and the

Food and Agricultural Organisation

(FAO), to effectively and efficiently

respond to the impending crisis, it said.

Resident Coordinator ad interim to

Bangladesh, Louis-Georges Arsenault, as saying, "Now that we have an outbreak of the Highly

Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) in

the western state of Maharashtra in

India and also in Myanmar, there is

heightened concern among develop-

ment partners and government offi-

cials within Bangladesh regarding a

potential and imminent threat of Bird

Flu, which could have the most devas-

The UN agencies in Bangladesh

tating consequences.

A Unicef press release quoted UN

Bird flu poses threat

said the maximum number could be

nine. They however favoured a smal

Thanking Bhuiyan for the proposal regarding formation of a committee to discuss the oppositions' proposed reforms in the system of caretaker government and the Election Commission, Jalil in his letter said the proposal will help realising the people's demand for a free, fair and neutral ction though it came too late.

"Although the prime minister termed the oppositions' demands baseless and illogical for long the proposal to discuss the issue proved our demands to be justified. We will hope discussion and decision that will help strengthen the country's democracv. at the earliest." Jalil mentioned in

Free and fair election is an achievement of the peoples' movement and we are committed to protect that achievement and give them back the right to universal franchise, Jalil pointed out. "Unfortunately those democratic rights of the people have

cruelly been repressed," he wrote. He also reminded the BNP genera secretary of the necessity to maintain a congenial environment for peoples freedom of expression of opinions for

the sake of a fruitful discussion.
On Monday, Abdul Mannan
Bhuiyan sent a letter to Abdul Jalil seeking names of AL representatives for the committee to discuss the opposition's proposal for electoral reforms. Hasina placed the proposal in

the House on February 12.

Briefing journalists after a 14-party meeting chaired by Dilip Barua, Jalil said when the government is too intransigent to concede the victory of the opposition backed panel in the election of WASA's employees' welfare association, then it is clearly understandable that it will be very tough to realise the opposition's reform

Pro-BNP employees of Wasa attacked the supporters of an ALbacked panel after hearing that the pro-AL panel was going to sweep the election Wednesday night at Karwan Bazar in the capital. The ensuing clash between the two rival groups left ten

roundings for rapid containment of

"Avian influenza or Bird Flu is a

contagious disease of animals caused

by viruses that normally infect only

birds, and less commonly, pigs. Avian

Influenza has not yet been detected or

reported in either birds or humans in

Bangladesh but the country is consid-

ered at risk because of its close prox-

imity to several H5N1 infected coun-

As of March 20, a total of 177

confirmed human cases of AI (H5N1)

and 98 deaths were reported to WHO,

having 55.4 percent Case Fatality

Rate globally, the press release

Experts at WHO said the recent Al

outbreaks in many countries in Europe

have highlighted the fact that no

country can be safe from it, and there-

fore none can afford to be complacent.

Every country will have to strengthen

its surveillance and public health

measures. While a pandemic cannot

be predicted or prevented, countries

can prepare to respond more effec-

tively and to minimise the impact ono

At an emergency meeting recently,

the UN agencies, World Bank, Asian

Development Bank and International

Bandladesh Government in imple-

human health.

poultry outbreaks.

tries", said Arsenault,

The meeting condemned the ruling party backed employees' attack on the pro-opposition employees of Wasa and said the government proved their

cruelty by attacking the opposition. "We are not demonstrating to oust anyone or to favour anyone or to go to power. We are demonstrating only to establish a peoples' government in the country," Jalil said adding, "Through our response, the people's fight for their rights will go forward a step.

Senior leaders of the 14-party coalition including Rashed Khan Menon, Suranjit Sengupta, Motia Chowdhury, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Sved Zafor Sazzad, Obaidul Quader Bimal Biswas, Nurul Islam, Mainuddin Khan Badal, Prof Shamsul Huda Harun. Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya and MA Gani attended the

Couple rescued 2 hrs after kidnap in **Syhet**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A gang of armed people led by a ward commissioner of Sylhet City Corporation kidnapped a man and his wife from the house of a former adviser to the caretaker government in the city's Housing Estate area on Tuesday night.

couple from a house at Ambarkhana Bazar in the city within two hours of the abduction and arrested five people.

Police said a gang of ten led by Maiid and his wife Fatema.

of the house, Saiful Islam. He is now undergoing treatment at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College and Abdul Majid, a contractor who had been entrusted with renovation of the house, was staying there with

They also beat up the caretaker

known till the filing of this report last A case has been lodged with the police station concerned against the

ward commissioner and eight

Eden College

backed student organisations, enforced a students' strike at educational institutions in the country to press the demand for punishment of lativatahadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) cadres involved in the attack on students and an end to the murky business over hostel seats.

rocession and held a rally or Dhaka University (DU) campus

College and different students organisations vesterday continued to demonstrate for realising the demands. They formed a human

Eden College students, will hold a rally on the DU campus today.

Asked about the probe report the acting principal said, "The probe committee worked independently and impartially, and you can trust its

early as possible, she added.

Probe body seeks

cracks on the surface of the bridge and stressed the need for a thorough examination to ascertain the depth and cause of the cracks.

The operation of both broadgauge and metre-gauge trains was primarily blamed for the cracks. The Bangladesh Railway officials, how-

"I hope the railway will be cleared of the blame after the probe committee report is submitted," said a high official of the Bangladesh Railway.

BSF, BDR trade

FROM PAGE 1

BDR men returned fire that led to a four-hour long gun battle between the border guards of the two neighbouring countries at intervals, the sources said. Commander of Mirgarh Company

strong protest with his BSF counterpart of Goalgoach Company yesterday morning and sought explanation of such provocative action of the BSF While talking to the state-run news agency, senior BDR officials termed the BSF firing very 'unfortu-

headquarters of BDR lodged a

nate' and 'unacceptable.' "We have lodged strong protest with the BSF and asked them to stop such provocative action along the peaceful frontiers," they added. Sources said BDR Sector Commander of Rangpur Colonel

Lutfur Rahamn telephoned Deputy peace along the borders.

Court does not accept

anticrime force at Khagan under Savar Police Station sometime between 12:15pm of March 8 and 6:30am of March 9.

Nazrul Islam, elder brother of the slain Iman Ali, filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court seeking justice.

The accused in the case are State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar, his maternal orothers Mirza Hafizur Rahman and Mirza Nurul Islam and Home Secretary Safarraj Hossain, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Abdul Quayyum, Additional IG (Headquarters) Anwarul Iqbal, Additional IG (Special Branch) Fakrul Ahmed, and Additional IG (Criminal Investigation Department) Khoda Baksh.

The other accused are Director General (DG) of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) Abdul Aziz Sarker, its commanding officer, second-incommand, 16 unknown members of Rab-4, DIG of Dhaka Range Dr Sadikur Rahman, Superintendent of Police of Dhaka Baktiar Alam, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Savar Police Station Mohammad Haider Ali, Sub-Inspector (SI) Mortuza and unknown six constables and 16 other people. In his complainant, Nazrul said

Babar's maternal brother Mirza Hafizur Rahman forcefully took possession of 11 acres land at Miton village of Savar on February 16. But thousands of local people led by Dhaka district unit Jubo League leader Iman Ali recovered the land from the grabbers.

The complainant also said Rab personnel took Iman Ali away from a Dhaka court on March 8 when he appeared before it in a criminal case against him and was killed on that night. The next day, the complainant

came to know that his brother was killed in "crossfire" and his body was

ing at Khagan in Savar.
The victim was killed as he protested the land grabbing by Babar's brother and it was executed under the direction of high-ups including the state minister, the

Sunny, Awal

FROM PAGE 1

accomplices if they are interrogated intensively, said Detective Branch (DB) Inspector Shah Mohammad loshiur Rahman, the IO, in his forwarding report.

The case was filed with Ramna Police Station in connection with the August 17 explosion near the Dhaka University TSC

On expiry of their eight days' remand in connection with the bomb blast near Dhaka Sheraton Hotel on the same day, Sunny and Awal were produced before the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Mamun A Rashid yesterday.

The IO sought another seven days' remand for them for further interrogation in the case of Dhaka University campus blast. The court granted the remand. The magistrate asked them whether they would appoint any lawyers to defend them but they remained silent.

Earlier, Operations Commander banned Harkatul Jihad (HuJi) Bangladesh chapter Mufti Abdul Hannan and JMB Gazipur Regional Commander Enayet Ullah were shown arrested in the case and placed on remand for interrogation.

Bangla Bhai confesses

Bhai started on Tuesday, 15 days into his arrest in Mymensingh, after a cognisance court of Mymensingh placed him on a 10-day remand.

Battalion and police escort. Bangla Bhai and his cadres introduced a subversive rule in the northern districts, killing 22 and maiming and

and subversive incidents across the country before August 17 last year.

Asked if Bangla Bhai named any of the ruling lawmakers and ministers believed to have patronised his activities, the source claimed that the authorities are yet to interrogate him in that

that some ruling lawmakers and ministers had patronised the gang in conducting its so-called anti-outlaw

related matters, the source said. They also asked him about his Muktagachha hideout and the explo-

Bangla Bhai admitted that he shot two rounds at the law enforcers and that his aide Masud hurled the bomb to make way for him, the source said. The explosion injured the two JMB mili-

The investigators also asked Bangla Bhai about his operations in

arrested in Bagerhat and was later

released. The interrogators quizzed

investigation and operations the nvestigators intend to conduct. ABDUR RAHMAN'S WIFE AND DAUGHTER SENT TO JAIL Wife and a daughter of JMB chief

The TFI source refused to disclose

further information for the sake of

Abdur Rahman along with two other JMB men were produced before the Sylhet sadar magistrate court yesterday afternoon on completion of their

second term 10-day remand, reports

our correspondent in Sylhet. The court sent JMB leaders Moizul Islam Chowdhury alias Hridoy Chowdhury and Abdul Aziz Hanif on another three-day fresh remand each in connection with the August 17 serial

bomb blasts in Svlhet The court also ordered to send Rahman's wife Nurjahan Begum alias Rupa and daughter Afifa Rahman to jail

custody. All the four were brought to the court from the capital at 12:55pm yesterday.

serial blasts, police sources said. Hridoy's wife Chameli along with two children was also produced before the magistrate's court Tuesday after-

Meanwhile, during interrogation in

the capital last week, Hridoy and Hanif

had admitted to their involvement in the

LALMONIRHAT

The police arrested two JMB men in the border areas of Lalmonirhat in the early hours vesterday, reports our

Madrasa teacher Hazrat Ali, 28, of Hariswar village under Kaliganj upazila was arrested at Burimara outpost of Patgram upazila while homeopath doctor Abdul Gani, 35, was arrested at his chamber in Kakina Bazar of the

Invites investment

FROM PAGE 1 various incentive packages that are in place."
She said a healthy growth of Bangladeshi exports to India would

greatly help her country sustain its substantial imports from India and her government would, in return, examine the possibility of greater trade, creating scope for Indian investment in Bangladesh.

nearly 144 million dollars in the last financial year. "Bangladesh has a very open mind about strategic business partnership between the traders and investors of the two countries. My government is keen to support such partnership in key areas so that investment in specific manufacturing sectors may meet domestic consumption as well as

cially India ...," the prime minister said.
"We can also enter into collaborative ventures in such key areas as ICT," she added.

Khaleda said the trade gap between the two countries is a matter of considerable concern to her government. "It is a matter of concern not because India stands to be the gainer. Certainly we cannot and do not see it that way. Nevertheless, we are concerned because such a situation is nardly sustainable," she said.

she said.

Saifur Rahman, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, Foreign Affairs Adviser Reaz Rahman. Principal Secretary to the PM Dr Kamal Uddin Siddiqui, Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin Bangladesh High Commissioner in New Delhi Liaquat Ali Chowdhury,

Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Veena Sikri, Additional Foreign Secretary Touhid Hossain, Minister (Press) of Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi M Anwarul Haq, Director General (EP) Zahirul Hague and Joint Secretary to the Commerce Ministry Elias Ahmed were Around 40 leading business lead-

ers from Bangladesh attended the

meeting including FBCCI President Mir Nasir Hossain, MCCI President Latifur Rahman, ICC President Mahbubur Rahman, President of Women Entrepreneurs Association, Bangladesh Rokia Afzal Rahman, Managing Director of Rahimafrooz Batteries Ltd Feroz Rahim, FBCCI Directors Aftab-ul-Islam, AKM Rafigul Islam, Murshed Murad Ibrahim and Kamran Tanvirur Rahman, BTMA Chairman Abdul Awal, DCCI President Abdul Momen, former president of DCCI Sayeefullslam, JBCCI President Matiur Rahman, BKMEA President Fazlul Hague, BGMEA Director Sved Mohammad Fazlul Haque, BTMA leader Abdul Hai Sarker, Arab Bangladesh Bank Chairman Faisal

would install the operating machinery, Akbar said the firm would be

for Preventing Illicit Trafficking in

neighbouring countries".

The private operation would help to

Ruling out any misappropriation of money and property through the privatisation process, the milster said

of increasing handling charge by several times following the privatisation of services and said the CPAAct will not be violated as this type

between the government and city mayor over the operation of They urged the government to

necks at the port for easy handling of

for operating the newly built terminal.

objectives. They also emphasised that

During the visit, Khaleda called on

the government and the people of

"The port operators would get The conference was told that the

> specific allegation. But if we get proof, ve will not spare anyone." The committee headed by

are taking the imminent threat of Avian Influenza (AI) very seriously as the AI virus (H5N1) has been confirmed in two neighbouring countries -- India and Myanmar it mentioned The resident coordinator of the UN noted that Bangladesh lies on major routes of migratory birds, which are vulnerable to the spread of this dis-"Furthermore, the poor bio-

security situation in the dominant small-scale and back vard poultry farms along with the country's dense population and close living quarters increase potential for virus transmis-The UN agencies think there is a pressing need to educate the people

They also need to be alert about signs

of dead or sick animals in their sur-

FROM PAGE 16 In the first proposal, the company proposed to build a single circuit

According to sources, the com-

pany also got assurance from donor

agencies for a big chunk of money as

soft loan and arranged a consortium of local banks for financing the rest of

the amount as commercial loan for

the project. "If necessary we would

also be able to collect money from the

stock exchange through floating

shares". Masud Reza told the Daily

Star while explaining his plan for

underground railway system in the city could be established in three

years time. According to the revised

proposal the subway would have six

routes covering almost every busy

Gabtoli and end at Saidabad via IDB

Bhaban and Mohakhali with a length

The first route would start from

The second route would be from

Uttara to Mohakhali via airport and

Banani. The third route would be from

Pallabi to IDB Bhaban, the fourth

would be from Ring Road to

Shahabadh Via Satmasiid Road and

Jigatola. The fifth route would go from

Saidabad to Tejgaon via Kamlapur

and the sixth would be from Gulistan

Masud Reza said the proposed

underground railway system could

be established through cut and cover

method without disturbing surface

traffic on any major route. The fare

on the subway would also be less

lines. He does not see any reason for

conducting another feasibility study

"If the system is established on the basis of BOT the company con-

cerned will do the feasibility study.

on the subject by the government.

The company proposed that the

underground rail track.

financing the project.

area in the city.

of 17 kilometres.

to Sadarghat.

system, he assured.

of Bangladesh to ensure that they take personal protective measures when dealing with poultry and other birds.

levels. The Japanese government will support the UN effort on risk communication through the Unicef. Firm increases length

> feasible. Other wise, they will not go for the project. Then why the govern ment should spend money in feasibility study?" he wondered. He claimed that cut and cover method is the most modern and appropriate for the soil in Dhaka city.

They will take the project only if it is

According to experts, under ground subway is the only solution to he nagging traffic congestion in the sely populated city. The huge traffic in the city cannot be handled only through surface

22 awarded

transport system, they said.

FROM PAGE 16 Death penalties have been handed down to 21 for bomb attacks in

given in any such case so far. A Sylhet court sentenced to death suicide bomber Akhteruzzaman for the Sylhet blasts. Meantime, eight including Rahman, Bangla Bhai, Sunny, Rahman's son-in-law and Majlish-e-Shura member Abdul Awal Sarker

and suicide bomber Mamun were

awarded life term imprisonment in a

case filed under Explosive

Substances Act after the suicide

bomb attack in Jhalakathi that killed

judges Jagannath Pandey and

Jhenidah, the highest punishment

than the fare for surface transport Charge sheet in the other case filed for murder of the two judges He said the subway would be 20 was submitted Tuesday. feet beneath the surface and it would A court in Piropur awarded life also not disturb any utility service

Sohel Ahmed.

term imprisonment to absconding militant Faruk Hossain and five year more in failure to pay Tk 50.000 fine. A Kishoregani court awarded 15-

year imprisonment to one for bomb

Police, however, rescued the

Ward Commissioner Abdul Quadir Shomsu reached the house belonging to Imamuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, former secretary and adviser to the caretaker government, by two autorickshaws at about 11:30pm and picked up Abdul

his wife. The reason behind the abduction of the couple could not be

FROM PAGE 16

The parishad brought out a vesterday morning. General students of Eden

Monetary Fund pledged to assist chain in front of the college.
Pritilata Sangsad, a platform of menting its national preparedness and response plan. The UN team plans to provide all support to the government in raising public awareness at all

The authorities would try to implement the recommendations as

FROM PAGE 16 Jamuna bridge to see the reported

ever, denied the allegation.

Inspector General (DIG) of Kishangani Sector of BSF Ravi Kumar Punoth and BSF Inspector General of North Bengal Frontier (NBF) SR Tewari, asking them to take necessary steps to maintain A sector commander level flag

meeting will be held at 4:30pm today.

FROM PAGE 1

Earlier that morning, after his release from Bangladesh Rifles Hospital, the militant leader was taken to Mymensingh under Rapid Action

vigilante operations during April-July The source said the interrogators are guizzing the JMB leader about his links with different bomb blasts, killings

torturing more than 300 others in their

line.

There has been a strong allegation

There has been a strong allegation

There has been a strong allegation and the strong allegation and the strong allegation are strong allegation.

The interrogators are now guizzing Bangla Bhai about his dens, militant training, supply of explosives and other

sion that took place there during his arrest on March 6.

noon. The court sent them to jail cus-

correspondent in the district. Bagerhat in 2002. The militant was

him if he had been arrested and released on any other occasions.

In this context, she pointed out that India's exports to Bangladesh was at over two billion dollars while Bangladesh's exports to India stood at

exports to SAARC countries, espe-

"Our relations draw their strength from our common history, rich cultural nteractions and our close and often nter-dependent economic ties. Indeed, the economic relations between our two countries are substantive, dynamic and ever-growing, Finance and Planning Minister M

Morshed Khan, Managing Director of Pran Group Maj Gen (retd) Amjad Khan Chowdhury , President of Bangladesh-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce Abdul Matlub Ahmad, Chittagong Chamber President Ershad Ullah, First Vice-president of FBCCI Mohammad Ali, and President of Women Entrepreneurs Association of Bangladesh Nasreen Awal. A host of Indian leading business eaders and individuals including

Managing Director of Tata Steel Limited B Muthuraman, Senior Vicepresident of FICCI Habil F Khorakiwala, Senior Vice-president of ASSOCHAM Venugopal N Dhoot and Anil Agarwala also attended the meet-