Indian ban on exports

Dhaka can import sugar originating in third country

Despite India's ban on export of Sugar, pulses and wheat, Bangladesh can import sugar from India, which originates in any third country.

Sources in the business circle said the ban will be effective only on the commodities produced domestically in India.

They said the ban, however, will not hamper the export of products, which were earlier imported to India from any third country

Utilising the third country provision, Bangladesh can import sugar from India, which the Indian importers procured from countries like Brazil. Thailand or elsewhere.

Apart from producing sugar domestically, India usually imports raw sugar from different countries and after refining, it exports the finished sugar to other countries.

Soon after imposition of the ban, Commerce Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed said the decision of the Indian government to stop export of wheat, sugar and pulses to other countries will not have any negative impact on the Bangladesh market.

Our Staff correspondent from Khulna reported that no shipment of pulses entered Bangladesh from India through Benapole land port since Thursday as India placed a ban on the export of sugar, pulses and wheat.

Petrapole customs authorities Indian side of the land port, received a letter on Thursday from the Indian government enforcing the ban.

Sources from the Benapole customs confirmed the Indian ban particularly on the export of pulses for the next six months. Sources said at least 30 trucks loaded with over 700 tons of pulses remain stranded at Petrapole as Indian customs authorities refused to give clearance to them to enter Benapole

Indian exporters are reported to have sharply reacted to the sudden ban on the export of pulses, sugar and wheat. They would go to court against the decision of the Indian government, said an Indian daily quoting Babla Chakravorty, secretary of Bongaon C&F Agents Association.

Many trucks carrying pulses went back to Kolkata at noon yesterday after their consignments were not cleared at Patrapole land port Benapole customs officials said.

Meanwhile, price of pulses have soared up to Tk 65 per kg yesterday in Khulna. It was Tk 56 on Thursday.

Teesta bridge

FROM PAGE 16 Zonel requesting anonymity said the bridge is 117 years old and it is not unusual that it has problems now and then.

He said, "The bridge was built for trains only and commissioning it for vehicular movements only made it

Non-govt school

not allocating additional funds for

realising their demand. "In their election manifesto, the ruling BNP had pledged to meet our

demand. But the government did not bother to take any effective measures [to this end] even in its latest budget," said Kazi Faruque Ahmed.

Among others, Front leaders Azizul Islam, Shahjahan, Asadul Haque, MA Sattar, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Mohammad Ali Chowdhury, Mahbub Alam Talukdar. Afzal Mian, Shariful Islam and Abdul Mannan spoke at the rally organised to condemn the budget.

A procession brought out after the rally paraded different streets in

Meanwhile, Bangladesh

Shikkhak-Karmachari Oikya Parishad, another organisation of the non-government high school, college and madrasa teachers. vesterday announced indefinite strike from July 8. The announcement came at a

Auditoriam in the capital.

"We have decided to go for the strike at the schools, colleges and madrasas across the country as the four-party alliance government did not allocate any funds to meet our 17-point demand including 100 percent salary from the government exchequer." said Prof MA Awal Siddique, convener of Oikya Parishad.

He said around 98 per cent education at the secondary and higher secondary levels depends on non-government schools and colleges but teachers and employees of these institutions receive only 15 per cent of the government

Besides, Jatiya Shikkhak Karmachari Oikya Jote led by Selim Bhuivan will observe one-hour work abstention from today. To be held from 10:00am to 11:00am, the programme will continue till July 3 to press home the demand for 100 percent government salary.

EC administration

the field level said conducting the next general election will be hampered if the crisis is not resolved soon. "Only a few officers are dominating the EC Secretariat victimising the rest of the officials." a source

Daily Star wishing anonymity.

ONE PERSON IN THREE POSTS!

The erstwhile secretary to the EC Secretariat, SM Zakaria, had been appointed as an election commissioner on January 16 this year, a few days before the tenure of his contractual appointment to the earlier post expired. Joint Secretary to the EC Secretariat Mohammad Zakoria was also delegated with additional current charge of the additional secretary and the secretary on the same day.

The government in January appointed a secretary from a ministry to the vacant post of secretary to the EC Secretariat, but the official declined to join the post, sources said. Since then Joint Secretary Mohammad Zakoria has been simultaneously discharging duties of two other posts of the additional secretary and the secretary in the

EC Secretariat, sources said. Acting Secretary Mohammad Zakoria, even allowed his personal secretary to use the office room of the additional secretary in the EC Secretariat, as the government has

Zakoria participated in an election-training programme last month in Korea showing his designation as the joint secretary while he was also discharging the duties of the acting secretary. He is looking after the UNDP funded project for 'Strengthening the Election Commission for Improvement in the Electoral process' as its national project director, a post which is usually held by an

additional secretary. Zakoria signed documents as the additional secre-

tary without mentioning that he is in

current charge of the post, sources

On the other hand. Election Commissioner SM Zakaria is continuing to use the office room of the secretary even though he was appointed as an election commissioner and the two rooms for commissioners still remain vacant

DIVISION AMONG THE OFFICIALS

Once there was no division among the officials in the FC Secretariat and at its field level administration, but a conflict between the previous chief election commissioner (CEC), MA Syed, and the previous secretary. SM Zakaria, created room for a division to emerge among other officials about three years ago.

SM Zakaria, who boycotted the EC's meetings for about two years during the tenure of the former CEC allegedly patronised the division among the officials in the EC Secretariat. As a result, a few officials close to Zakaria celebrated his appointment to the post of an election commissioner on January 16 while other officials expressed their fear over the appointment.

The division among the officials in the EC Secretariat and at the field level administration still exists, sources said.

Officials, who are frustrated and angry over the division, are suggesting introduction of a cadre system for election officials. Two former CECs Abu Hena and MA Syed also proposed the government to introduce a cadre service.

"Once the cadre service is introduced, officials of the EC Secretariat can be transferred to other organisations of the government reducing the scope for corruption and the mentality for maintaining divisions," said a senior official

Iraq fight will go on despite Zarqawi death

AFP, dubai

Osama bin Laden warned that jihad (holy war) will go on in Iraq despite the death of local Al-Qaeda chief Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, according to a new message attributed to the fugitive leader of the terror network

In an audiotape aired on an Islamist website, the speaker said to be bin Laden paid a glowing tribute to Zargawi, the most wanted man in Irag who was killed in a US air strike on his hideout three weeks ago.

He described the Jordanian-born Zarqawi as "a lion of Islam and jihad who does honor not just to his family and tribe but to the whole of mankind."

"We will keep up our fight to bleed your money dry, kill your men and so that (your forces) go home defeated, as we defeated you in Somalia," bin Laden told US President George W. Bush.

"Don't rejoice too much. The banner (of iihad) has not fallen. It will be picked up by another lion of Islam. We will continue our fight against you everywhere, in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in Somalia and in Sudan."

Zarqawi, who orchestrated a bloody campaign of attacks and beheadings of hostages, had long remained elusive in Iraq despite a 25-million-dollar US bounty on his nead until his killing on June 7.

Bin Laden defended Zarqawi against critics who attacked him for killing Iragis, chiefly Shiite Muslims who were long oppressed under ousted dictator Saddam Hussein. and not just US-led forces which invaded in March 2003.

"(Zargawi) had clear instructions to concentrate his fight on the occupying invaders, chiefly the Americans, and to spare all those who opted for neutrality," the voice said in the tape, which could not be authenticated.

Graveyard FROM PAGE 1

condition, Azam said they should appeal to the mayor for that.

Last Friday also saw some 3,000 people demonstrating at the graveyard. The protesters at one point chased away a contingent of police and an employee of the construction firm when they attempted to obstruct the demonstrators from demolishing the under-construction structure for the road.

Earlier on June 19, lawmaker Nasiruddin Pintu, whose wife owns Asha Enterprise -- the construction company building the road, denied his association in any way with the construction of the road.

Initially, a 20 feet wide road was supposed to be built but later the The road would leave no trace of at least 4.000 graves instead of previously thought 200 graves, the demonstrators claimed.

Following the news published by a number of national dailies about the construction of a 1.5 kilometre long road over the graveyard, Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka ordered cancellation of the road construction but the construction firm continued the work under cover of night. alleged the demonstrators

Satta

FROM PAGE 16

They said it would not yield the desired results without removing the NTBs and PTBs. "Even zero tariffs will not help

achieve what we want from the Safta agreement," said a leading businessman. The Safta Ministerial Council at

their first meeting, however, formed a subgroup on the NTBs and PTBs to remove the trade barriers as soon as possible. It would review the existing NTBs

and PTBs from time to time, identify

the barriers and take steps to remove the snags through bilateral and regional negotiations. Commerce Ministry officials said the sub-group already met in their first meeting in Kathmandu on May

16-17, finalising the terms of refer-

Outlaw hurt FROM PAGE 16

ence of the group.

later shifted to RMCH where he succumbed to his injuries.

A listed criminal in Atrai and Raninagar upazilas of Naogaon, Marshal was an accused in seven cases including four for murder. Rab

Ak47, grenades

FROM PAGE 1

with 81 magazines, one grenade launcher, seven grenade ammunition, 20 hand grenades, API ammunition of 9 millimetre, 347 mortar shells, and 20 improvised device.

BDR was interrogating the arrestees as of filing of this report at

The arrestees might have link with extremist groups, said a source.

Recognise rights of Santals

FROM PAGE 16 the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday where speakers emphasised constitutional recognition of the right

Indigenous freedom fighter Budu Munda inaugurated the session that

Kamal Lohani were present as special guests. The traditional land rights of the

The reactionary people in the country are not interested to see Bangladesh as a pluralistic country, Pankaj Bhattacharya said.

Prof Anisuzzaman, Rashed Khan Menon of Workers' Party, Ruhin Hossain Prince of Communist Party of Bangladesh, others, addressed the programme.

Central Saheed Minar paraded streets around the Dhaka University. An indigenous dance programme was also held.

Agriculturists Institute auditorium vesterday. Presided over by Swapan Murmu, the discussion was addressed, among others, by freedom fighter and indigenous

Indigenous leaders, including Salvatar Pauria, George Marandi,

Delduar in Tangail after namaj-e-

janaza at Baitul Mukarram National

Mosque and Supreme Court pre-

will be held at his 3/8 Johnson Road

residence at Sutrapur on July 3 after

FROM PAGE 16

Magrib prayers.

Dulal S Tudu, Subodh M Banke, took part in the discussion.

To observe the 151st anniversary of Santal Hool, Bangladesh Adivasi Samity organised daylong programmes including discussion. procession, seminar and cultural function in Dinaipur vesterday. reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

Comrade Abdul Mannan, General Secretary of Bangladesh Krishak Federation, inaugurated the programmes. The reasons for which the

Santals revolted 151 years back still

exist in society, the speakers at a discussion said, adding that the ethnic minorities are still struggling for existence as the ruling classes try to grab their land. The meeting urged the government to review the existing laws in line with the declarations and con-

ventions of the United Nations and other international organisations. conducting a separate census to establish the adivasi population. and to ensure their representation in all policymaking bodies. They called for constitutional recognition of the ethnic minorities and end of discrimination against

which would evict at least 50,000 indigenous people. The speakers demanded indige nous people's right to education in

them. The meeting also urged to

stop coalmine activities in Dinajpur.

their mother tongues. Sreemati Amai Kisku urged to stop 'repression and harassment' on the Santals in the northern dis-

Mr Ananious Hasda Munna. Raishahi divisional president of Bangladesh Adivasi Samity, Vincent Soren of Rangour, Martin Murmu of Chapainawabgani were present at the discussion.

Our staff correspondent adds from Rajshahi: Jatiya Adivasi Parishad and NGOs related to

Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan is

Barrister Shawkat was a former

presidium member of AL and was

elected Member of Parliament from

He was the second son of emi-

nent businessman and social

worker late Arfan Khan and the

eldest son-in-law of philanthropist

Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar

Association. He was also the life

member of Red Crescent Society,

Bangladesh Diabetic Society,

Bangla Academy, Bangladesh

Cancer Society, Bangladesh Asiatic

Society, Parliament Members' club

Barrister Shawkat passed his

matriculation with distinction in

History, Physics and Chemistry

from Yangon (former Rangoon

University. He passed I Sc from St.

Xavier's College, Kolkata and B Sc

Born on February 9, 1926.

He was the former president of

Mirzapur in 1970 and from Nagarpur

in 1973 on AL ticket.

Ranada Prashad Saha.

and Dhaka Bar Council.

survived by his wife and five daugh-

to commemorate the Santal's heroic struggle 150 years back.

Following big rallies brought out from Public Library in Rajshahi and Dayingpara School field in Godagari with different traditional drums, discussions and cultural functions were held.

The aborigine people placed floral wreaths on a temporarily built monument to remember thousands of Santal heroes including Shidhu, Kanhu, Chand and Bhairab who scarificed their lives for the cause of their rights.

Workers Party politburo member Fazle Hossain Badsha, Jatiya Adivashi Parishad President Anil Marandi, Secretary Rabindranath Saren spoke at the Public Library discussion. Prominent literary figure Prof Hasan Azizul Haque attended it as chief quest.

The speakers emphasised realisation of the ethnic minority group's demands for constitutional identity, primary education in their own language, equal opportunity in job sector, and formation of a separate ministry.

rial of the Santal heroes, and protection of their cultural traditions and research on it. The Santals narrated their pres-

construction of a permanent memo-

The speakers also demanded

ent plight including land grabbing and torture on women. A bow and arrow competition was held at Godagari to mark the

The Santals performed a cultural function titled 'Aborigines, rise and

work for the nation'. There were songs, dances and recitation of poems praising the

Udichi

FROM PAGE 1 proceedings of the case and reinvestigated it as an Islami militant claimed his organisation's responsi-

came to light," said Barrister Arosh Ali, also an Udichi leader. governments under which the proceedings of the case were run of

proceeding of the prosecution

using the case to harass opposition leaders.

The Udichi leaders announced to hold a programme to exchange views on July 3. They will also stage a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar on July 7.

Udichi President Golam Mohamed Idu, and leaders Abdus Manzare Hasin Sweet and Prabin Sardar were present at the press conference.

tional bomb attack cases in the southwestern region have gathered dust as the real accused could not be identified because of weak charge sheets, absence of prosecution witnesses and political influence, writes our correspondent in

attack on an Ahmadiyya mosque in Nirala residential area in Khulna city on October 8. 1999. killing seven persons and injuring 300 others. The police submitted the final

could not identify the bombers and none wanted to become prosecution witness.

separate bomb attacks on a cinema and a circus fair in Satkhira on the night of September 28, 2000. The investigation officer of the

case submitted the final report in January 2004, describing the bomb attacks as a sequel to the district BNP's intra-party rivalry. Eight persons were killed and over 100 injured in a bomb attack on

The investigation officer submitted the final report of the case in January last year reportedly failing to identify the bombers and collect any evidence. He. however, said he could not arrest the real accused

city's Pahartali Police Station Identity of another victim could not The injured are undergoing

College and Hospital (CMCH). Our Faridpur correspondent adds: A speeding truck hit a rick-

others injured.

Faridour General Hospital

Kotwali police seized the truck but its driver managed to flee.

"The government could stay the

They said the Islami militants dared to continue the same kind of militant activities again and again as the government did not take proper steps when the first incident took

Two cases were filed with the

report of the cases in 2001 as they

Over 100 people were injured in

due to political influence

Road accident

shaw van at Kanaipur on the Dhaka-

The dead are Naren Mondal, 50, and Farhad Fakir, 18. The injured are undergoing treatment at

Govt conspiring

to flee their homes.

"The alliance government has been violating the Rules of Procedure (of parliament) and the Constitution one after another while t scored a record in punishment transfer, retrenchment, harassment, making OSD and contract basis appointment of officials during its tenure," the AL chief said.

Referring to the new national budget, she said the block allocation in the budget is not for the people's welfare, but for looting by the ministers, MPs and ruling party men. The huge amount of public

money that the ruling party men had

looted will be utilised to bribe the voters in the ensuing parliamentary polls, she said, adding, "But the people are waiting to give appropriate reply to the alliance government in the next polls." Hasina accused the alliance government of playing with the voter list, even by violating the orders of

a new game with the Presidency," "After coming to power through

the High Court and the Supreme

Court. "And now they have initiated

vote stealing and conspiracies Khaleda Zia removed a president of her choice, Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, who had come up with slanderous propaganda against our

party in the 2001 polls." "She [Khaleda Zia] then appointed 100 per cent faithful Prof lajuddin Ahmed as the president,

out now she cannot believe him." The Speaker is not leaving the charge of president, which is a direct violation of the constitution, she

Urging the party leaders and workers to get united for a massive movement to save the nation from the looters and criminals, the AL president told them to rise above self-interest and stand by the peo-

The AL president yesterday met with 26 organisational units of Barisal City, and Barisal, Jhalakati and Bhola districts that cover 12 parliamentary constituencies.

Most of the grassroots leaders demanded that the AL chief constitute full-fledged committees after resolving the intra-party conflicts.

Bush, Koizumi

In a symbolic joint statement, the two leaders said the US-Japan partnership is "one of the most accomplished bilateral relationships n history.

The bilateral political, economic and military alliance has contributed to stability in Asia-Pacific, the statement said.

Koizumi got a welcome worthy of a state visit as he and Bush emphasized their close personal ties. Hundreds of US military in full

prime minister. "Americans cherish our friendship with the Japanese people. We value our alliance with the nation of Japan. And we honor the leadership of Japan's Prime Minister Koizumi.' said the president.

dress uniform laid on an elaborate

ceremony in sweltering heat for the

"He is a man of vision. He's a man of integrity. And I'm proud to call

him my friend," Bush said. "It is no exaggeration to say that over the past five years there has been no world leader, alongside President Bush, among the world

leaders with whom I've felt so much heart-to-heart, felt so deep a friendship and trust," Koizumi replied through an interpreter.

Bush joked that the high point of Koizumi's visit would likely be a visit on Friday to the Memphis mansion of the late Elvis Presley.

"Officially, he's here to see the

president, but I know the highlight of

his visit will be paying his respects to the King," said Bush, who will also go to Memphis in a sign of their During an official toast at a gala dinner later at the White House, Koizumi summed up Japan's policy

the lyrics of an Elvis tune he said was the first English song he had memorized as a youth. "I would like to propose a toast to the further enhancement of Japan-US relations," the prime minister said lifting his glass. "In the words of

Elvis, 'I want you, I need you, I love

toward the United States by citing

Israel pounds Gaza

Three members of the armed Al-Agsa Martyrs Brigades, linked to Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas's Fatah party, were also injured in a shootout with Israeli troops in northern Gaza, Palestinian medical sources said.

However, the army denied there had been a shootout. Israel had called a halt Thursday to

planned incursion into the northern

Gaza Strip amid international appeals

for diplomatic efforts to free 19-yearold Gilad Shalit. seized in an attack on an army post on Sunday. Israeli media said the delav was because of differences between Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and the army chief of staff over how to proceed in the

worst crisis since Hamas took office in March after a shock election win. The best-selling Yediot Aharonot newspaper said Olmert, who had warned he was prepared to take "extreme measures" to bring back Shalit, believed the operation would cause too many civilian casualties as well as heavy Israeli losses in one of the world's most densely populated

An opinion poll by Yediot Aharonot also revealed that 53 percent of Israelis considered "negotiation and international pressure" the best option for bringing Shalit home while only 43

percent favour military activity.

paperAl-Ahram.

that Hamas has agreed to secure Shalit's release, on certain conditions. "The movement has accepted, conditionally, to have the Israeli soldier returned as soon as possible to avoid an escalation." Mubarak said in an interview with the government news-

"Up to now, the Israeli side does not

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak

said in comments published Friday

accept." he added, but gave no details of the Palestinian conditions. "I am personally deploying all possible efforts, late into the night, to avoid a real catastrophe which would scorch he whole region.' On Monday three Palestinian groups, including the armed wing of

Hamas, called for the release of all Palestinian women and children from Israeli iails in exchange for information on the soldier. Also Thursday, the body of a Jewish settler kidnapped by gunmen

was found dumped in the West Bank, adding to the tensions. But the international community, led by UN chief Kofi Annan, has issued urgent appeals for all sides to show restraint, and to prevent the crisis

spreading across the region. "We hope that Israel, in trying to retrieve its soldier, will practise restraint and that both sides will practise restraint in trying to lower the temperature and develop a sense of security in the future," said White House spokesman Tony Snow.

Meeting in Moscow, foreign minis-

ters of the G8 group of industrialized nations called on Israel to exercise the

New York-based watchdog Human Rights Watch said the militants' attempts to use the captured soldier as a bargaining counter amounted to a

population during any military opera tion to rescue the corporal, and that includes not destroying vital power Many parts of Gaza, already facing

office, are without electricity and water because of Israeli air strikes. Defence Minister Amir Peretz has insisted that Israel, which has a force of about 5,000 troops massed on the border, had no intention of retaking

Gaza, where about 1.4 million mostly mpoverished Palestinians live. But Israel has also issued warnings to Syria, accusing it of sheltering wanted Hamas militants, raising fears

24-hr strike

FROM PAGE 16 implement all the agreed agendas within four months of its signing the agreement. But it has not done any-

government and owners of factories to provide 30 per cent dearness allowance to the workers at garment factories, government offices and factories Skop leader Abdul Kader Hawlader said the government's

private factories, particularly those of privatised jute and textile mills, have been passing their days in hardship as they are still working under the mini-

mum wage of Tk 560, which was fixed

They also said workers of the state-

owned industries, who are under pay-

22 years ago.

Sramik League president Abdul Matin Master, Executive President of Trade Union Kendra Shahidullah Chowdhury and Jatiya Sramik Jote President Mejbah Uddin Ahmed also addressed the press conference.

Officials in the EC Secretariat and at said.

"Everybody is now stressing the need for reconstitution of the Election Commission, but nobody is talking about strengthening the election administration." a senior official of the FC Secretariat told The

not appointed anyone to the post

wishing anonymity

Laden tape warns

people, reports BDNEWS.

was presided over by Gono Forum leader Pankaj Bhattacharya. Prof Mesbah Kamal gave the welcome speech while eminent artist Hashem Khan and journalist

indigenous people are yet to get constitutional recognition, as the government is reluctant, speakers at the session said.

Golam Kuddus of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote and indigenous leader Rebeca Soren, among After the inaugural ceremony, a colourful procession from the

Santal Students Union organised a separate discussion meeting and cultural programme at the

leader Mathai Tudu and Dhaka University Professor ASM Atiqur

Shawkat Ali

mises after the Juma prayers. Among other dignitaries, Acting President Jamiruddin Sircar attended the namaz-e-janaza at Baitul Mukarram Mosque. The kulkhwani of the deceased

Acting President Jamiruddin Sircar and Awami League (AL) President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina in separate condolence messages expressed deep shock at the death of the eminent lawyer. The acting president with deep

gratitude recalled late Shawkat Ali

Khan's contribution to the country's

politics and social welfare. The

nation has lost a prominent lawyer.

politician and a social worker, he added. termed the death of the veteran leader and one of the framers of the Bangladesh Constitution as an

irreparable loss for the country and

while Warid of Dhaka, which has no

licence and is shown located in

different places, got the frequency

Above all, the Warid of Dhaka did

not even officially exist when BTRC

allocated the radio frequency on

basic competence of BTRC in

handling the licence and frequency

management issues. "Every multi-

national mobile phone operator

opened a local office and obtained

licence thereafter followed by

said a BTRC officer requesting

advised Warid to follow similar

procedure before processing the

sixth mobile phone operating

licence. "Warid has paid \$ 50 million

licence fees which is the highest in

our telecoms history but BTRC has

utterly failed to process the licence

and allocate frequencies with bare

mobile phone licence that was

hastily transferred to Teletalk and

legality of this reassignment was

immediately challenged in the court.

"This litigation is still pending and if

BTRC repeats the mistake. Warid's

multibillion dollars investment plan

may get jeopardised," the regulatory

BTRC Chairman Muhammad

Omar Farooq has allegedly forced

his subordinates to ignore the law

while processing Warid's GSM

mobile licence. He has also alleg-

edly mounted pressure on the

regulatory executives to issue the

credit from the Prime Minster's

Office (PMO) as well as from

Warid's owners who belong to the

UAE's royal family," said a BTRC

insider requesting not to be quoted.

secretary, reportedly aspires for the

ruling party's nomination in the

forthcoming parliamentary election.

Omar Farooq, retired home

"He did all these to earn personal

frequency to a non-existent entity.

He cited the example of BTTB's

minimum prudence."

official warned.

He said BTRC should have

getting necessary frequencies,

Industry insiders question the

March 1, 2006

from Scottish Church College, Kolkata with distinction and Bar-at-Law from Lincoln Inn. London. BTRC messes up

> In mid April, he and his son visited Warid's head office in Abu Dhabi, raising questions of conflict of BTRC sources allege that Dhabi Group, the parent company of Warid

> Telecom International LLC, hosted this personal trip of Omar Faroog and paid all expenses. On June 5, 2006, The Daily Star sent e-mail to Omar Farooq requesting for his comments on allegations but he did not reply Again on June 18, 2006 The Daily Star sent that e-mail's hard copy with a cover letter to the BTRC chairman, which was stamped and

> received by his office. Omar Faroog

Warid's CEO in Bangladesh

recalled his company's "excellent

Meanwhile, Muneer Farooqui,

has not replied to that letter either.

relationship" with the government. "We have been receiving all-out cooperation from all concerns to timely launch our network," he told The Daily Star in an interview on May 24, 2006. He said legal experts were consulted before and during the licensing process and Warid has been "in compliance with all legal prerequisites." The Warid's CEO

admitted that he was waiting for

BOI's permission to open an office in

"BTRC has ignored the law and

the country.

that might trigger litigation against the entire licensing process," commented a telecoms lawyer requesting anonymity. "Legal challenge might stall network deployment, which will ultimately affect Warid's timely service commencement and the consumers will be the worst victim," he said. Muneer Farooqi, however, believes that his network's deployment and service commencement will remain on course He declined to confirm any official

legally as a new set of accused The speakers accused both the

place on March 7, 1999.

Meanwhile three other sensa-

Khulna Police Station for a bomb

an Awami League election rally on September 23, 2001.

treatment at Chittagong Medical

Khulna highway at 2:pm yesterday, leaving two people dead and five

"utmost restraint".

"war crime." But it added that Israel "must minimize the harm to Gaza's civilian

a dire humanitarian crisis because of a cut in Western aid since Hamas took

the conflict could spread across the

thing even after 19 months, they said. The Skop leaders said discontent among workers is spreading due to continual hike of the price of essentials. In this situation, they urged the

indifference to the problems of the workers led to the uprising in the apparel sector and the same could happen in other sectors. "Workers have been deprived of their legitimate wages and rights for a long time,' Abdul Kader added while reading out a The Skop leaders said workers of

commission, get monthly salary of Tk 2400, but those who are not included n the pay-commission are getting Tk Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal president Abul Kashem Chowdhury, Jatiya