Draft law proposes

independent social and demographic survey as was required. It has been framed so that the purchase committee gets the idea about the legal premise on which the MRP-NID programme is based on," said a competent source.

The MRP-NID programme demands a legal framework making national ID cards mandatory for every citizen

The home ministry believes that the MRP and ID cards will increase acceptability of Bangladeshi passport internationally, which will eventually increase overseas employment, help implementation of the government's national security policy, boost direct revenue earning, and resolve international pressure on Bandladesh on introduction of such passports.

The home ministry has selected German company Giesecke and Devrient (G&D) GmbH for the job through a tender. Once the contract is awarded, the G&D would implement it in five years.

However, the finance ministry has not cleared this scheme while the current budget has no allocation for it. The home ministry will also have to establish a National Registration Department (NRD) to implement the programme and issue the ID cards to the citizens. The government initiated the

project for the machine-readable passport a few years back. The home ministry later tagged the national ID card issue with it, although the two schemes are very different from each other.

On April 24, 2004 the home ministry formed a 13-member committee along with representatives from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) and headed by the ministry's additional secretary. This committee was assigned to deter-

introduce MRP, visa and NID.

The committee in its report recommended setting up of the NRD and restructuring of the immigration and passport department and suggested how these should deal with the new passport, visa and ID card.

The home ministry accordingly submitted a proposal to the cabinet committee on public administration reforms and good governance on September 25, 2004 The cabinet committee recommended its approval in principle and the prime minister approved it on October 16, 2004.

As per the prime minister's approval, 15 lakh new applicants and 35 lakh old passport owners will be given machine-readable passports in the first phase of the project, which may be implemented with the revenue budget. The prime minister did not decide on setting up the NRD, neither did the ministry take any initiative to set it up.

The home ministry's proposal to the cabinet purchase committee notes that the first year of the five-year programme will be considered as testing period. During this phase, the contractor will provide necessary hardware software, local and foreign manpower and consumables to the immigration and passport depart-

The offices to be covered by it include the head office in Dhaka. the national issuance centre, and offices at six divisional headquarters and 12 district headquarters.

Bangladeshi FROM PAGE 1

A few thousand Bangladeshi nationals are employed in hotels, restaurants and construction sites in

Lebanon, which bears the brunt of the latest aggressive attacks

4 criminals killed

FROM PAGE 16

gun and 11 bullets from the spots. Their accomplices however man-

The dead were accused in over a dozen cases including five murder cases with Talbaria Police Station and four murder cases with Laujani Police Station in Jessore.

A criminal was killed in 'encounter' between Rab and his accomplices at Hazari Road in Feni early yesterday, our Chittagong University correspondent reports.

The dead was identified as Abu Zaher. also known as Chhota Arju, 30, of East Ukilpara in Feni town.

According to sources, a squad of Rab-7, after a tip off, arrested Abu Zaher at his residence at Ukilpara

around 4:00am on Saturday. During interrogation at Rab eadquarters at Patenga in Chittagong, Zaher confessed to Rab of his involvement in the killings

of Zakir Hossain, Contractor Jalil Kamal, Swapan and Navan in Feni. The elite force launched an

operation taking Zaher with them for hidden firearms and his cohorts around 2:30am yesterday. As the Rab team reached Hazari

Road Zaher's accomplices opened fire on them forcing it to retaliate During the gunfight, Zaher received bullets when he tried to escape custody.

College Hospital where on-duty doctors declared him dead, said a

Two light guns (LG) and four live shells were recovered from the spot. Zaher was an accused in nine criminal cases including six murder

A regional leader of PBCP Janajuddha faction Maijbul also known as Nojibul, of Maheshpur of Alamdanga upazila in Chuadanga was killed in 'crossfire' between police and his cohorts early yester-

Alamdanga police sources said Majibul was arrested the previous day at Bhangbaria of the same upazila.

Police, as per his confession, took him to his village to recover

Sensing the presence of police police team which resulted in a brief

Majibul received bullets as he was trying to escape police custody

firearms and ammunition from the spot. Majibul was an accused in four murder and four explosives cases, the sources added.

cent of the project funds of donors

from which TIB received support

went for consultancies by foreign

absolutely baseless. The approved

budget for the project includes a

provision for technical assistance

for capacity building, which

accounts for only 2 per cent of the

total budget, available only at the

request of TIB. Services of foreign

experts can be solicited only if the

relevant expertise is not available

within Bangladesh," the press

been developing a Trust fund con-

sisting contributions from its trust-

ees, regular monthly contribution of

employees, membership fees, sale

proceeds of publications, and

Ethics, which provides, inter alia,

that TIB shall not accept funds that

might impair its independence to

pursue its goals. TIB accepts funds

only from such donors who share

TIB's anti-corruption values and

funds from organisations such as

Fnron and Worldcom - a specula-

tion raised by the honourable Law

Minister in parliament on July 9.

Regrettably, this speculation has

been raised in spite of the fact that in

response to the same question

raised by him last year through the

media, he was given details about TI

and TIB's funding in writing on May

3, 2005, which he acknowledged

also in writing.'

"TIB has never received any

"TIB has an institutional Code of

savings from project overhead.

"It should be added that TIB has

"We firmly declare that this is

experts.

release said.

Gas tariff

not, he added

The Indian industrial giant recently suspended its \$3 billion investment proposal as the government told it that Bangladesh will not go for any deal before the upcoming

About the much-talked-about gas price offered to Tata, the energy adviser said. "The gas price for Tata plants will never be lesser than the government's average purchase rate of gas from the IOCs." The rate also includes wheeling charges and marketing cost of the Titas.

On Tata's price offer, he said. Tata did not come up with any gas price for the steel and fertiliser plans, rather it gave a price formula.'

Referring to Tata's latest proposal, he said the industrial giant proposed gas-pricing formula for two phases--first five years and second five vears.

Mahmudur said according to the Tata model, the price of per thousand cubic feet (MCF) gas stands at \$3.10 for its fertiliser project and \$2.60 for the steel plant. "But, the committee did not accept the proposal," he said.

The negotiation committee, nowever, agreed with Tata's second option in which the price for per MCF gas was offered at \$3.70 for its fertiliser project and \$3.30 for the steel plant, the adviser told report-

"Currently we are selling gas at the highest price to the Kafco, which is \$ 2.70 per MCF gas, and the Tata proposal is \$1 higher." he said. adding that the price is also higher than that paid by the local industries, which is \$2.05.

The negotiation committee also preferred unlimited flexibility instead of the upper capping proposed by Tata. It means the gas price will go up and down with the price fluctuation of the Tata products without any

'There will be no upper capping for the gas price. The Tata will have to pay if it reaches at \$10 per unit with the fluctuation of the prices of fertliser and steel in international market," Mahmudur said.

In the revised proposal, Tata proposed a variable price ranging from \$2-4 per unit of gas for both its steel and fertiliser plants, linked with their product prices in international

for 10 years, the adviser said, "Usually, the government provides the facility for five to six years. But, there are instances of giving the facility to some companies for 10-22 years. The negotiation committee did not recommend anything about the matter, the ministerial committee will take the decision."

tee recommended to offer Tata a 10year guarantee for gas supply for its plants against the conglomerate's

the government-owned Barapukuria Coal Mine project, Mahmudur Rahman guoted the negotiation committee as saying the Tata will have to invest \$270 million for the project, an amount the government has already invested. At the same time, Tata will have to offer 10 per cent extra shares to

in the Barapukuria Coal Mine proiect and Tata will have to win the

UNB adds: Tata Country Director Manzer Hussain declined to make any comment on the negotiation committee's new stance. "Tata would make official comments only when it officially gets the government's new policy," he said.

FROM PAGE 16

Ijara Para on Thursday instigated communalism among the common villagers, who have started boycotting the minority members socially.

The Ahmadiyyas have become confined to their houses and refrained from going to work after

Sarishabari Police Station on July 7 and 9 in this connection but the local police failed to ensure their security.

Ahmadiyyas began on Thursday at a 'Khatme Nabuwat' rally in Fulbaria Ijarapara Primary School ground where the Ittefagul leaders asked locals to boycott Ahmadiyyas, stop selling anything to them or have any kind of contacts with them.

The fatwa (an Islamic decree), was issued from different local mosques including Baitun Nur Masjid during the Juma prayers Friday, instigating the locals not to communicate with the Ahmadiyyas.

The Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat, Bangladesh yesterday in a press release expressed their concern and sought government's intervention to ensure the safety of the minority sect across the country, a constitutional right of all.

Technical glitches

delay, according to sources. The two units would be put on full production after replacing the faulty fans in the boilers, they added.

On June 11, the ownership of the plant's last unit was handed over to PDB. The plant tripped over 15 times throughout its operational run since February last mostly due to poor machinery supplied by the contracted company CMC, according power plant sources.

PDB official sources said CMC will be entrusted with the power plant's maintenance for two years under the guarantee agreements.

They claim the plant has staff for smooth maintenance of both units but lacked skilled manpower and spare parts. To develop skilled manpower, an

agreement would be signed soon between the PDB and CMC to train PDB personnel. "Its operation and maintenance has become impossible due to

contract and its non-cooperation with PDB." a source said. He said both units of the plant tripped due to technical glitches including valve problems and cylinder leakages. But the Chinese company preferred to repair rather

CMC's non-compliance with the

than change the faulty machinery. Sources said CMC maintains 'good relationship' with some

unscrupulous PDB officials and is trying to kill time to end the guarantee period through various means.

The plant now burns 2,500 tonnes of coal a day and the annual production from the coalmine has been estimated to be at one million tonnes. Official sources said the plant will consume 65 per cent of the coal from the coalmine and the remaining 35 per cent would be used for brick-kilns and other domestic purposes.

They said there are allegations of gross irregularities in procuring the plant's turbine by changing the design without approval of the authorities. The consultant of the project

informing PDB and later argued that the changed design of the turbine is 'better'. The PDB however is not

committed the deviation without

The power plant sources claimed CMC installed sub-standard equipments, which will not last long.

The plant is being set up under a supplier's credit of more than \$250 million. But the much bigger Meghnaghat 450MW Gas-powered AES Power Plant was set up at a cost of \$170 million.

Rejoinder and our reply

bridge, such concern has no basis as the river morphological study by the River Research Institute (RRI) has concluded that there will not be any environmental and morphological change of the river due to the

The rejoinder adds that there has not been any deviation from the existing rules and regulations in approving the project and the RHD is not forced to sign the construction

OUR REPLY

The rejoinder itself points out that the bidder has now submitted the "preliminary design" only. In other words, the authorities are signing the final contract on the basis of a preliminary design for a bridge where a design change can drastically change cost and safety issues. This is unprecedented. Why sign the contract before the design is finalised? The Buet and Chittagong Port

Authorities (CPA) in July 2002 conducted a study to find out why a large shoal had sprung up near the Shah Amanat Bridge on river Karnaphuli. The study pointed finger at the pier-based Shah Amanat Bridge saying that it caused the river to draw excessive sedimentation. This report sent to the RHD on September 29, 2002 recommended dismantling of Shah Amanat Bridge that has seven piers. The Buet experts and the CPA on

January 4, 2003 recommended building a "tunnel/cable stayed" bridge instead of a pier-supported bridge.

Another example of the hazards of pier-supported bridge over the Karnaphuli is the Kalurghat bridge. To keep the river navigable in this part, the authorities regularly spend huge money for dredging.

The rejoinder mentions a report of the River Research Institute but does not mention the review of the RRI report jointly conducted by the water resource department of Buet and the Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) and filed to the RHD on March 27. The review clearly mentioned: "Considering the tidal morphology of the Karnaphuli river, two or three span bridge with equal spacing of pier(s) are preferable for preliminary sec-

Finally, Communication Minister Nazmul Huda in January claimed that the government is determined to award the project to a contractor by March so that primary constructions can begin by April. But that schedule has never been followed because of deadlocks caused by the design flaws. We do not know how the deadlocks have been removed but the crucial issues of safe design and environmental soundness of the bridge have not been addressed.

Charges framed

Raiding the house of Ruhul Amin Bhuiyan at Courtbari in Uttara in the capital on January 5, a Rab team seized 19 items of arms, explosives, books on jihad and bomb making materials and arrested Wahidul Islam, Shafiqul Islam and Hafez Ibrahim.

Following information squeezed out of them, Rab arrested Abdullah Al Farug and Hanif Verdict of two cases against

Sunny today

Another Dhaka court will deliver today judgement of two cases against JMB military commander Ataur Rahman Sunny and six oth-

Judge Monzurul Bachhid of the Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court will pronounce the verdict at 11:30am, court sources said. The cases, one under the Arms

Act and another under the Explosive Substances Act, were filed with Sabujbagh Police Station on September 8 last year. Earlier, the prosecution and the

defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 28 in three workdays that began on June 6.

The six other accused are AHM Shamim, 23, Zakaria alias Jewel, 21 Nur Azam Siddique alias Yeasir.

17 JU students FROM PAGE 1

injured BCL men include university unit general secretary Abu Sayeed, Moshiur Rahman, Sohel and Saikat Sources said the clash erupted

as a sequel to Saturday's incident, in

which some BCL and JCD activists beat up an activist of Shibir. The BCL and JCD men yesterday chased the Shibir activists at around 12:30pm leading to a halfan-hour clash.

Meanwhile, some outsiders injured a teacher of Dhaka Commerce College, Mirpur in front of the college yesterday during a scuffle between the students and outsiders over teasing female

Protesting the attack on the teachers, students put barricade on road in front of the college for about

one and a half hours.

27, Belal Hossain alias Tamim, 21, Aleya Ferdous, 27, and Akramu Islam, 23.

Rab on September 8 last year arrested five of them at a house in East Bashabo, which Sunny rented to coordinate the August 17 countrywide serial blasts. Law enforcers believe the militant leader narrowly escaped arrest at that time.

At that house, Rab men seized a sawn off rifle, a revolver with a bullet, 700 capacitors, an electric blower, 60 CDs, 92 books and four audiocassettes on 'iihad'. 17 masks made of black cloth. a computer set and other things.

Workers, cops FROM PAGE 1

entering, the workers tried to lock the factory's main gate. At one stage, police and the agitators to pelt one another with stones. Two policemen and 13 workers were injured during the stone-throwing.

Shahida, Rabeya, Rehana, Anwara, Masuda, Sabana and Ripon are among the workers hurt badly while identities of the injured policemen could not be confirmed immediately.

Workers also beat up a line chief named Joynal during the agitation. The situation got back to normal

at 4:30pm after the authorities had assured them of meeting the demands within a week and removed manager and personal manager of the factory as demanded by the demonstrators. Since June, the factory authori-

workers taking part in demonstrations will be subjected to police harassment and get the axe, alleged the workers. But the threats and intimidation backfired, prompting the workers to

ties have been threatening that the

intensify the agitation, they added. The eight-point demand submit-

ted to the general manager of the factory on July 15 includes cancellation of termination of 38 workers, regularisation of jobs, conveyance, attendance bonus, medical facilities, and removal of two officers. A huge contingent of police,

through the Third Amendment of the Bangladesh Rifles and Rapid Action Battalion personnel were deployed Constitution on November 28, 1974, around the factory to avert untoward the Indian government is yet to do

Opposition plots FROM PAGE 16

Khaleda said since BNP and its allies are united and have better prospect of winning the elections, the opposition is trying to split the alliance and disrupt the polls.

"People are united. The alliance will not break." the BNP chairperson

She was also critical of the opposition's hartal and blockade programmes, alleging that the opposition wants to obstruct people's welfare and development process. The prime minister accused the

opposition of damaging the garment industry, mills and factories. pharmaceutical industry through their destructive agitation "When Bangladesh is making

progress, and even foreigners are appreciating economic performance, they are working against the development and progress." On her election commitment to

wipe out terrorism, she said her government raised Rab to curb terrorism and establish peace in

Presided over by Zahirul Alam Tarafdar, president of Panchbibi BNP, the meeting was also addressed by Abdul Alim MP. Whip Rezaul Bari Dina, Begum Sarwari Rahman MP, Abu Yusuf Mohammad Khalilur Rahman MP, Mazhar Ali Pradhan, Fazlur Rahman, Faisal Alim and Tozammel Huq.

Voter listing

FROM PAGE 1

These officers expressed frustration over doing the task again as the EC Secretariat has not cleared their earlier remunerations At an EC meeting on Thursday, a

number of deputy commissioners suggested the EC to increase and specify the amount of remuneration before beginning the voter list updating task. The district election officers who

were recruited as registration offi-

cers for preparing the fresh voter rolls have been directed to complete the recruitment of the assistant officers by July 20. But schoolteachers who were not paid their due remuneration for the task of preparing the fresh

voter list have expressed their

dissatisfaction and unwillingness for carrying out the task again. Considering the ongoing strike enforced by the non-government schoolteachers, the EC Secretariat directed the registration officers to recruit the field level officials of Family Planning Directorate, agriculture ministry and the Bangladesh

Krishi Bank for the task Abdur Rashid Sarkar said the recruitment is going on and he has not received any information on problems in the recruitment.

Meanwhile, the EC procedure of updating the voter list at the election offices still continues officially although people are not participat ing in it.

The EC Secretariat secretary said the importance of the procedure has been reduced as the EC decided to visit door to door for updating the voter list. "Nevertheless, we are not considering to stop the procedure," he said.

Talks start

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladeshi border guards were killed when the BDR repulsed an attack by intruding BSF forces

The major agenda of the meeting is demarcation of 6.5kilometre long border in Daikhata, Lathitila-Dumabari, and along Muhuri river.

Exchanging enclaves is another major issue. Bangladesh awaits exchange of 51 enclaves, which are presently in its possession, with 111 enclaves in India's possession, in line with the 1974 Bangladesh-India Land Boundary Agreement.

The JBWG officials are also likely to discuss exchanging the adversely held bordering lands.

The JBWG first met in May 2001 in Delhi and again in Dhaka a month After their last meeting held in

March 2002 in Delhi, officials concerned submitted their proposals to their respective government for settling the longstanding issues. But the move came to a stop later. Asked whether the JBWG discussion would be based on the reports prepared earlier by officials

of the two countries, the Bangladesh delegation chief vesterday said. "Of course the reports will figure during the meeting. But we also have conducted detailed work on this later. All these will be discussed during the meet-Bangladesh officials said nonimplementation of the land bound-

ary agreement, signed on May 16. 1974 by then prime ministers Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Indira Gandhi, is responsible for occasional outbreak of skirmishes along the border. Although the Bangladesh government ratified the agreement

Within a week, the price of beef has shot up to Tk 150 a kg from Tk 140. One kg of mutton, which sold at Tk 180 last week, cost Tk 220 to Tk 240 yesterday, the traders said

Hezbollah rockets

seven villages to evacuate the villages

towns and villages.

for their own safety since we will be operating in those areas" Israel has pledged to wipe out Hezbollah since the capture last

Wednesday of two of its soldiers by fighters from the Shiite Muslim militia and its firing of rockets into Israeli

Parts of southern Beirut, the Hezbollah stronghold, have been pounded into rubble by Israeli air strikes since Saturday.

Lebanese infrastructure including Beirut's international airport, sea ports, roads, bridges, a lighthouse and a fuel depot have also been hit. Most of the civilians killed in the

their homes when the bombs or missiles from Israeli jets struck, Lebanese police said. Israel's campaign in Lebanon launched after Hezbollah captured two Israeli soldiers and killed two on

south of the country on Sunday were in

Wednesday, has drawn only a mild plea for restraint from the United States, which blames Hezbollah and its allies, Syria and Iran. President Bush, speaking at a G8 summit in Russia, characterised

Israel's actions as self-defence and did not back Lebanon's pleas for an mmediate ceasefire. "Our message to Israel is defend yourself but be mindful of the consequences, so we are urging restraint,"

said Bush, who has blamed Hezbollah for the conflict in Lebanon. Bombs crashed into Beirut's Shia Muslim southern suburbs in overnight raids, which set fire to Hezbollah's al-Manar television complex and nearby buildings, witnesses said. The station's signal twice disappeared briefly

before returning.

The United States earlier blocked any move by the UN Security Council to demand a ceasefire, saying the focus for diplomacy should be on the summit in St Petersburg. French President Jacques Chirac

called for a ceasefire and "a show of moderation." British Prime Minister Tony Blair said the way to calm the violence was to tackle the reasons behind it, blaming Hezbollah and its allies Syria and Iran. Israel's onslaught, which has killed

more than 100 people, all but four of them civilians, is meant to force Lebanon to dislodge Hezbollah from ts southern border strongholds. The casualties in Haifa brought to 12 the number of people killed in

northern Israel by hundreds of Hezhollah rockets that have rained down in the past five days.

31,000 criminal

FROM PAGE 1 with such volume of cases.' Although a subcommittee neaded by the inspector general Farugue Ahmed said they will also lay of police is monitoring the investigations of cases, the ministry feels the need to devise a way to

DISSATISFACTORY PROBES

remove the backlog

Dissatisfied with the investigation into Hazi Torab Ali murder in Teigaon on May 26, Babar ordered for a show-cause notice to be issued against investigation cer (IO) S ib-Inspector

Bari of Teigaon Police Station. The IO has arrested five people, who do not seem to be nvolved in the crime, said a meetng source.

The minister also directed the officials to transfer the case to Detective Branch for investiga-

Babar expressed dissatisfaction over investigation of the cases filed for the killings of Chittagong businessman S Azad and Mofizur The meeting noted that the nvestigation into the murder of

Networks, Bashundhara Group, too is not satisfactory. The IO of the case filed for four murders at three places in Badda on February 8 told the meeting that charge sheet will be submit-

Humayun Kabir Sabbir, director of

Telecommunication and

ted in a week and trial will be held in Speedy Trial Tribunal. The meeting discussed seven cases, though it was scheduled to discuss 14 sensational cases

threatened to attack Haifa's petrochemical plants if Israel continued to commit follies.

Israel's bombing campaign, which has laid waste to Lebanon's vital installations, is its most destructive assault since a 1982 invasion to expe Palestinian guerrillas

Israel has said Lebanon must mplement a UN resolution demanding the disarming of Hezbollah, a Shia group formed in 1982 to fight an Israeli

occupation that lasted 22 years. But the Beirut government, led by an anti-Syrian coalition, lacks the unity and firepower to tackle Hezbollah, the only Lebanese faction to keep its guns

after the 1975-90 civil war. Hezbollah has said it wants to swap the two captured Israeli soldiers with Lebanese and Arab prisoners in

The campaign in Lebanon coincided with an offensive Israel launched in the Gaza Strip on June 28 to try to retrieve another captured soldier and halt Palestinian rocket fire.

Israel widened the assault on Sunday, killing a Palestinian civilian in southern Gaza and three militants in Tanks, armoured vehicles and bulldozers rolled into Beit Hanun

before dawn, in the deepest Israeli ncursion into the area since Israel began its punishing offensive on June 28 following the abduction of Corporal Gilad Shalit. Three Palestinians from the armed wing of the governing Hamas, which

attack in which Shalit was snatched, were killed when an Israeli aircraft slammed a missile into a group of A fourth Palestinian was killed by tank shelling in the south. The operation has piled pressure

claimed joint responsibility for the

Hamas, which demands a prisoner wap for the Israeli corporal Israeli armour, backed by helicopters firing machineguns, moved in darkness into farmland near Beit Hanoun, as militants blew up hidden

on the Palestinian government led by

Israeli air strike. At least 10 Palestinians were wounded in that and other air attacks. Israeli troops had pulled out of the northern Gaza Strip a week

earlier after a major raid into the

bombs and fired anti-tank grenades.

Three gunmen were killed in an

territory, which Israel abandoned in 2005 after a 38-year occupation.

Cops swoop

red-flag procession in all upazilas across the country protesting the police attack on teachers for two consecutive days.

They said they will announce a tougher programme today. Convenor of the organisation Kazi

siege to the offices of upazila nirbahi officers tomorrow and those of deputy commissioners on July 20. Meanwhile Shikkhak Karmachar Oikva Jote, a platform of ruling BNPbacked organisations of nongovernment teachers and employees, vesterday held a rally at Muktangon and submitted memo-

tives minister, information minister and state and deputy ministers for labour demanding 100 per cent basic salary from the government coffers. The Jote will hold a grand rally at Muktangon on July 23, chief coordinator of the Jote Selim Bhuiyan said,

randums to the LGRD and coopera-

adding that they will also hold rally in Bogra on July 17, in Jessore on July 18 and in Chuadanga on July 19. Bangladesh Teachers

Association will also hold a rally at Muktangon on July 19. Bangladesh Shikkhak Karmachari Oikya Parishad, Bangladesh Teachers Association, Bangladesh Principals Association Bangladesh Assistant Teachers Association and Bangladesh College Teachers Association, yesterday condemned the police action against

the agitating teachers. Teachers and employees of nongovernment schools, colleges and madrasas across the country are in strike for eleven days demanding increased salary and allowances while the government is yet to take any initiative to meet the demand.

Foods turn costlier

'It is going to come down in a week or two," said Md Abu Sayem, who brought green chilli from Narsinghdi

The price of onion, which was selling at Tk 22 yesterday, has increased by Tk 2 per kg.

the price of potatoes by Tk 1 a kg

The wholesalers have increased

The price of eggs has risen by Tk 24 a dozen for the local hen eggs and Tk 12 for poultry eggs last week. "Currently, smuggling of eggs and other essentials from India is much contained. And it naturally has

had effect on the price situation

here," said an egg trader at Karwan

Bazar. He also said people have been buying eggs more than before as the prices of fish and meat have increased.

"Import and smuggling of Indian cattle have reduced due to growing tension along the border, making the people prefer eggs and small fishes," he said.

at Tk 90 to Tk 95 per kg. The price of big fish has increased by Tk 20 per cent to 30 per cent per kg while that of small fish has doubled in last seven days.

The broiler chicken was Tk 80 a

"I can't even think of buying smal

fish," said a buyer at Karwan Bazar

kg last week but it yesterday it sold

UN slaps

FROM PAGE 16 their national legal authorities" to

material or funds relating to the reclusive Communist nation's missile programmes or weapons of mass It demands North Korea "suspend all activities related to its ballistic missile programme," and re-establish

prevent imports and exports of any

a moratorium on the launching of The 15-member Security Council had wrangled for 10 days over the

response to North Korea's multiple missile launches on July 5. One of those included a long-range Taepodong-2 missile, which could theoretically hit the continental United States but fell into the Sea of Japan.

He was rushed to Feni Medical

corruption index on July 5. The TIB has noted with concern that confusing comments and questions are being raised about the source of funding of TIB's work, a TIB press release yesterday said, adding that TIB wants to put on

record the following in order to help

Affairs Bureau of the Government of

Bangladesh. All foreign donations

"TIB is registered under the NGO

remove any information gap.

under which TIB is currently condonors, namely DFID of UK, Danida of Denmark, Swedish Sida and

Norwegian government. "As per relevant rules of the Government of Bangladesh, no Affairs Bureau.

foreign donations also went through the same process. Needless to mention, all the above-mentioned donors are not only leading sources of funding for numerous projects in the nongovernment sector, but are also among the leading development partners of the Government of

"A misleading comment has been made that as high as 80 per

hidden firearms. his accomplices opened fire on the

and died on the spot, sources said. The police recovered a few

TIB clarifies

received and spent by TIB take place only with the approval of the "The "Making Waves" project ducting its various activities, is supported by a consortium of four

money under such grants can be received or spent unless the project profile and detailed itemised budget have been approved by the NGO TIB received the first approval for the project on November 27, 2002,

which has since been renewed

annually, the press release said,

adding that all earlier activities with

Bangladesh, it said.

On Tata's demand for tax holiday

He said the negotiation commit-

demand of a supply for 10-14 years. About Tata's proposal to invest in

Bangladesh government for its "Moreover, there will be an nternational bidding for investment

bid." he said.

Ahmadiyyas Ahmadiyyas by the extremists at

the fanatics, agitating under the banner of 'Ittefagul Ulama', threatened of attacks on them. The local Ahmadiyyas lodged two general diaries (GD) with

The fresh campaign against the