NEWS

The HC judgement said evidence

circumstantial evidence clearly

Nazirhat College in Chittagong was

killed at his Jamal Khan Road resi-

an unarmed criminal broke into his

house, dragged him to the drawing

room from his bedroom and shot him

chargesheeted 12 people as accused.

Trial Tribunal heard the case and

reference began on July 5 and deliv-

erv of the verdict started on July 17.

gave its verdict on February 6, 2003.

Chittagong Divisional Speedy

The HC hearing of the death

On the confessional statement of

condemned convict Taslim Uddin

Montu, the HC bench observed that if

The gruesome killing of an educa-

Principal Gopal Krishna Muhuri of

Three gunmen accompanied by

proved the guilt of the convicts.

dence on November 16, 2001.

in his head.

drugs.

market.

5

Chemists Association said the

directorate of drug control does not

control the prices of imported drugs

and it leads to growing smuggling of

are low. But buying those could

prove dangerous as often they are

not preserved following proper

maintenance procedures," said

Besides, higher prices of

On numerous occasions, the

mported medicines encourage the

sale of counterfeit drugs on the local

does not cause me to raise an

evebrow. The government does

nothing to contain the prices of

essential food items, let alone

Syria, noting that it already has its

"hands full" with Lebanon and the

Seven Palestinians were killed yesterday as Israeli troops moved

nto a Gaza refugee camp, pushing a

campaign to rescue a teenage

soldier and stop rocket fire into a

fourth week, reports AFP. Around 70 Palestinians were

wounded in Wednesdav's incursion

and three militants shot dead by

Israeli forces operating in the West

Bank town of Nablus, where a soldier

was killed by a roadside bomb on

In conjunction with Israel's major

offensive in Lebanon, where close to

300 people have been killed in eight

days of bombardment, Prime

Vinister Ehud Olmert has vowed to

fight the Palestinians until "terrorism

the central Gaza Strip from Israel

under the cover of darkness late

Tuesday, saying the incursion was

aimed at targeting "terror infrastruc-ture" around the impoverished

terror infrastructure there, as part of

the ongoing effort in which one of its

main targets is getting back Gilad

Shalit and stopping the launching of Qassam rockets," a spokeswoman

Ground troops have been operat-

ing inside the Gaza Strip since June

erritory in a bid to retrieve Shalit, a

28, when troops rolled back into the

corporal whose capture sparked the

worst Israeli-Palestinian crisis in

At least 93 Palestinians and one

Israeli soldier have been killed since

Israel's assault in Gaza intensified on

July 5, with forces currently on the

ground both in the central Gaza Strip

Amid the hostilities, EU foreign

policy chief Javier Solana, paying his

second visit to the region in days, was

scheduled to hold talks with

Palestinian president Mahmud

have fallen on deaf ears and a UN

resolution urging Israel to stop the

offensive was vetoed by the United

States at the Security Council last

Palestinians, including three from the

armed wing of the governing Hamas

that claimed joint responsibility for

Shalit's capture, were killed in the

central Gaza inursion in which

tank shell exploded in a built-up area.

damaging nearby houses as ground

troops entered the northern and

eastern edges of Maghazi, medical

the hall of the nearby Al-Aqsa hospital

as overwhelmed doctors struggled to

process the casualties, the majority of

them civilians, as paramedics ferried

reported shooting on ambulances,

Doctor Ibrahim al-Mussadder

Wounded Palestinians crowded

Four civilians died when an Israeli

around 70 people were wounded.

On Wednesday, seven

International appeals for restraint

It is a focused operation to target

The army said troops moved into

is not planning to attack Iran or

SEVEN KILLED IN GAZA

Gaza Strip

Tuesdav.

stops"

said.

months

and in the south.

Abbas in Gaza City.

week

sources said.

in the injured under fire.

Maghazi camp.

Anwar, from Lazz Pharma Ltd.

Prices of smuggled medicines

Ahmadiyyas relieved

the area where tension was running high since an anti-Ahmadiyya rally there last Thursday. Earlier, the zealots staged a rally

provoking hatred against the beliefs of the Ahmadiyyas under the banner of 'Ittefagul Ulama' After the rally the fanatics attacked the house of an Ahmadivva

sect believer Shamsuddin Master. assistant headmaster of Mesta High School. They forcibly snatched the teacher's cattle, threatened eight other Ahmadiyya families of attacks and abduction and instructed them not to aet out of their houses. Provoked by the local anti-

Ahmadiyya leaders' instigating speeches, locals also enforced incarceration on the Ahmadiyyas and stopped conducting any trade of necessary commodities with the Ahmadiyyas.

Panicked Ahmadiyya children were forced to stop going to their educational institutes while the adults were barred from going to offices or looking after their agricultural farms.

After an appeal from the Ahmadiyya families and leaders of different human rights organisations, the local administration convened the meeting of Ahmadiyyas and the anti-

Ahmadiyya outfit. Six anti-Ahmadiyya leaders including key organisers Nurul Huda Abedi, who is also the principal of Sharishabari Aliya Madrasa and brother-in-law of Jama'atul

Govt-teachers

FROM PAGE 16 their educational institutes for the consecutively fifteen days

Meanwhile, a frustrated community primary teacher committed suicide by hanging herself from a tree early Wednesday at Sheikhhati under Jessore sadar upazila. The dead was identified as Selina Akhter, 25, daughter of late Azibar Biswas of Sheikhhati

under Jessore sadar upazila. Locals and police said Selina was serving as a teacher for Shantala Community Primary School with Tk 750.

At a press conference, Teachers and employees under the banner of National Front of Teacher and Employees (NFTE) yesterday reiterated their demand for immediate announcement and gazette notification of granting 100 per cent of their basic salary from the government exchequer.

At another press conference, Bangladesh Polytechnic Teachers Association (BPTA) yesterday announced 10-point programmes to secure their demand.

They will also go for indefinite work abstention from August 14 if their demands are not met, the leaders warned. in July last year when Ilvas took

Why recruitment FROM PAGE 16

The new recruitment will increase this deficit up to Tk 12 crore a year, he said.

The university founded in 1980 had employed 279 people till 2002. But in 2005, the university employed 162 2006. people in one go and ir employed 89 more. This raises questions about the transparency and nepotism in the recruitment process, the petition savs. The petitioner added that following the May recruitment, there had been agitation and dissatisfaction at the university leading to conflicts and closure of the institution for some days. The respondents of the rule include the university vice chancellor, registrar and treasurer.

Mujahideen Bangladesh chief Abdur Rahman, Imam of local mosques Nurul Islam Dudu and Habibur Rahman Farugi were present at the

meetina Sharishabari Municipality Chairman Faridul Kabir Talukder came down heavily on the anti-Ahmadiyya leaders for their hate campaign against the Ahmadiyyas

and asked them to stop the torment immediately. "No-one will be spared if he attacks on followers of any sect of

Islam and members of other religion here from now on," the municipality chairman said during the meeting. Local ward commissioner and

officer-in-charge of Sharishabari Police Station were also present at the meeting. The anti-Ahmadiyya outfit leaders

promised that their men would refrain from any further attack on the Ahmadiyyas.

5 cops injured FROM PAGE 16

while seven were thrown into water by the smugalers.

The firearms were believed to be manufactured in a clandestine arms factory at Maheshkhali offshore island of the Bay.

Police arrested suspected members of the racket -- Abdul Gafur, Rokeya Begum, Abdul Hakim and Nurul Hakim -- all hailed from Baro Maheshkhali village at Maheshkhali.

Sylhet BNP MP 1 contractor FROM PAGE 1 FROM PAGE 1

"Enam Chowdhurv has been creat-Saifur told the press after the meeting obstacles to my programmes, ing, "We have detected a lot of Mokbul alleged, adding that he has irregularities in this scheme and no authority to interfere in party recommended that the case should activities or in development activibe forwarded to the Anti-Corruption ties since he holds the position of Commission for action. the Privatisation Commission

chairman Mokbul said as an MP he manoeuvred the development project of the Golapganj upazila health complex and that he was supposed to lay its foundation stone. "But Enam Chowdhury managed to do it by force and I only went to make a protest." he said.

Mokbul alleged the ruling BNP's central leadership for allowing both Enam and himself to stav in the field creating chaos at field level.

Privatisation Commission Chairman Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, who enjoys the status of a state minister, has been in Finance Minister Saifur Rahman's camp since the issue of rivalry in

Svlhet BNP went open a few months ago. Syed Mokbul Hossain was ected as an independent candidate in 2001 and joined the ruling party in 2003. He extended support to ruling party lawmaker M Ilyas Ali

position against Saifur. 2 probe bodies

FROM PAGE 16 Cuet students were injured in a twohour clash between the students and to four lanes. locals at Pahartali Choumuhani on Tuesday night following a quarrel

FROM PAGE 1 industry, the role of media and FROM PAGE 1 certain political issues. Zahurul Haq and Tofazzal Ahmed The editors of the newspapers died.

underlined the importance of media given by the complainant, confession as the fourth estate of a country. of Montu, recovery of arms used in They said they have been highlightthe murder, report of arms experts, ing their stand against hartal and past records of the accused and

destruction in the press. While discussing the issue of general elections, the members of BSP and Noab underlined the need for holding free and neutral general

elections in the country. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said the government has always been favouring free and fair general elections in the country to strengthen democracy.

Seeking cooperation from all tionist only 35 days after the BNPquarters for holding free and fair polls, Jamaat coalition came to power Khaleda said the door for dialogue is shocked the nation profoundly. still open. She expressed her optimism that the main opposition will participate wife Uma Muhuri, police

in the dialogue. The editors of newspapers said the elections must be held on time for

continuing the democratic process and further strengthening the democratic system in the country.

They also urged Khaleda to take steps to save the rivers like Buriganga and Turag.

Reiterating her stand on saving the ivers, Khaleda said the government has taken several steps to save the rivers. In this regard, she sought cooperation of all concerned including

the civil society. Information Minister M Shamsul Islam and Deputy Minister for Information Abdus Salam Pintoo were also present during the talks.

The Ecnec approved the project

n April 1998 and its implementation

In October 2004, the communi-

contractors were deployed for all

Again, the approved revised

For constructing 300m culverts

under the project, the authorities

ministry had spent Tk 52 crore.

tasks without any good reason.

under Dhaka Division.

started in 2000.

February 2005

EC, finance

FROM PAGE 1 Saifur told reporters. "It is people's money, the tax payers' money, and

it is my constitutional duty to see if the money is being spent properly," he said. "We will examine the accounts

of the previous expenditure and then decide about further allocation," he added.

Meanwhile, the finance minister's refusal has created new trouble for the EC, hampering the preparatory work prior to the updatng task as the assistant officers expressed doubts over the success of the whole process.

The field level election officials said it would be difficult for them to cation ministry sought Ecnec's begin the task by visiting door to approval of a revision of the budget door from Friday properly as the increasing it to Tk 349 crore. The finance minister's refusal has made Ecnec declined but approved a the situation "very adverse".

revised budget of Tk 281 crore in Talking to reporters about the latest situation, Secretary to the EC By that time, however, most of Secretariat Abdur Rashid Sarkar the 15 components of the project said if anybody creates any obstahad exceeded their allocated cle to discharging the EC's constitubudgets. Records show that there tional duties, he will be responsible had been over expenditure in all of for the consequences. these components and hordes of

"We hope the finance ministry will grant money for the sake of people and the nation," he said.

Asked if the EC Secretariat will A part of the project required communicate with the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for the construction of pavements, the contracts of which were awarded in budget as the finance minister had 97 groups. The authorities suggested, Abdur Rashid said the deploved 39 contractors for consituation does not still require any structing only 10km pavement such move.

The secretary said the finance ministry has not yet informed them expenditure for construction of in written of its decision over the proposed budget.

pavement was Tk 41 crore, but the Abdur Rashid had earlier said The approved project sought for they will prepare the budget after hree two-lane bridges of total completing recruitments of the 554m length, but the ministry assistant officers by July 20. But the increased the bridge specifications secretariat sent the proposal for

BSP, Noab urge Muhuri murder case someone is not involved in a killing, if

is not possible for one to give a detailed account of the incident through confession. Besides Montu's confession is self-motivated and true. The convict could not prove that he made the confession due to torture. The court said Montu had submit-

ted a petition for withdrawing his confessional statement. But did not do this in accordance with law and had made a long delay not permitted by law.

The HC expressed its surprise over the role of the public prosecutor (PP) who conducted the case at the speedy trial tribunal. The PP did not take any initiative to identify the guilty persons though there was scope to identify them with the help of the

complainant, witnesses and others. Following the case filed by Muhuri's Regarding the role of the investigating officers of the case, the court noted that there were four officials in charge of the investigation yet the probe was shabbily done.

On behalf of Uma Muhuri, Advocate AKM Faiz and Advocate Hari Sadhan Dev Brahman moved the case at HC. Advocate Ajay Bhoumik, DL Chowdhury and Abdul Malek assisted them.

budgetary allocation to the finance

The two or three senior officials of the EC Secretariat involved in

preparing the budget maintained

budget while others kept guessing it

District election officers appointed

as registration officers and assis-

tant registration officers are facing new difficulties following the

"We are preparing to begin the

ilence about the amount of the

ministry on July 17.

to be around Tk 40 crore

CONFUSION GRIPS

PREPARATORY WORK

finance minister's refusal.

Syndicate

FROM PAGE 16

'So we are going to take a number of stronger measures to tackle price hikes during the upcoming holy month of Ramadan," the minister said.

He informed about the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh's (TCB) plans to import commodities that usually suffer price hikes during Ramadan.

"I think the government should import some essential commodities to help bring the prices down," the minister added.

Hafizuddin said all necessary steps would be taken soon to help bring down the price of essential commodities to a bearable level

"We are going to formulate a tough law against the hoarders in parliament soon," he said.

"Government should enact the consumer protection act soon, otherwise the controlling power of the syndicates will remain," said Golam Mawla, general secretary of Moulvibazar Baboshayee Samity while talking to The Daily Star after the meeting.

The price of sugar will not increase any further if the government imported sugar with its own mechanism, said a sugar trader. He said when the government let

private firms import sugar, the sugar prices increased from Tk 20 to Tk 35 perKg.

Traders feared the edible oil price would increase soon if the government did not import edible oil through its own mechanism

Feroz Ahmed, secretary to the commerce ministry and Mir Nasir aimed at retrieving another soldier Hossain, president of the Federation killing seven people in raids on Bangladesh Chambers of Wednesday, bringing to 93 the num-Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) ber killed since it launched an operawere present among others in the meetina.

Shibir planned

FROM PAGE 16 highly secured den for their strategy planning inside a building adjacent to the university from where 'Islamic books' are supposedly published. Adhunik Press is the name of this publishing press.

A number of Shibir workers have

League (BCL) and Jatiyatabad

Chhatra Dal (JCD) to serve the

purpose of their master plan,

Some BCL and JCD leaders

Shibir amassed around 300

workers from all around the country

who joined their existing 200 univer-

sity unit workers on Monday before

clashes with BCL and JCD, sources

ered on campus from Rajshahi University, Chittagong University, Islamic University, Dhaka Alia Madrasa and from different areas of

old Dhaka to strengthen their com-

Khan admitted that there might be a

number of teachers who patronise

ers also have been brought to his

Shibir, Accusations on some teach

Vice-chancellor Prof Sirajul Islam

patriots in Jagannath University.

ICS leaders and workers gath-

task for updating the voter list from Access to the top floor of the Friday, but the latest development building is highly restricted for comhas put the task in uncertainty," a mon people. ICS is also known to be exploiting

sources said.

said.

admitted this situation.

district election officer said. the mosques to hold their political The EC Secretariat, however, has assured the field level election meetings in. officials of providing them with fund nfiltrated in Bangladesh Chhatra by next week, sources said.

But the finance minister's refusal gave hints that the allocation will be delayed, a district election officer argued.

"The assistant officers recruited for updating the voter list are expressing doubts over the success of the new move for updating the voter list," said another district election officer.

The EC began updating the voter list sitting at the election offices from July 1 but failed to get people's response. On July 7, it decided to visit door to door to do the task.

ON DEMAND OF NAGORIK COMMITTEE

On Nagorik Committee's demand for the resignation of the CEC and two election commissioners, Aziz did not say anything directly. "Many have said many things on the civil society, I don't want to say anything," he said.

attention, he added. Different democratic student fronts vowed to resist political parties like ICS that use religious fanaticism

Life-saving drugs

FROM PAGE 16 the trade name Eltroxyne, sells at Rs 75 in India, and not more than baht. 170 in Thailand. If converted to taka, the prices will not be more than Tk 150 and Tk 250 respectively.

"I don't understand why the price s so high here when the drug industry is booming in our country." said Azizur Rashid who needs to buy the Oroxyne on a regular basis.

Some drugs like Doxorubicin are not available in the market for some davs. The price of that medicine shot up to Tk 3,000 from usual Tk 1,400 before going out of the market, said a pharmacist at Shahbagh

drug testing laboratory has identivesterday. fied spurious makes of different In some cases, the importing drugs pharmaceutical companies sell the When asked about the increased ife-saving drugs on condition that prices of medicines, Rafig Hossain the pharmacies will have to buy also the items that do not sell much. a relative of a cancer patient, said,"It

"In such cases, we have no alternative but to up the prices of the main products," said a medicine trader.

Sources at the Druggists and control the prices of medicines.

55 killed in Lebanon

FROM PAGE 1

halt rocket attacks.

50 vears.

resolution.

Wednesday, with 21 of the 54 killed in a single village where residents said 10 houses were destroyed. Israel also continued its deadly

offensive in the Gaza Strip which is

held captive by Palestinian militants,

tion to retrieve a captive soldier and

Siniora, who took office about a year

ago after the first elections since

former powerbroker Syria ended its

three-decade military presence,

accused Israel of "committing mas-

this barbaric way proves that Israel

has decided to push Lebanon back

Olmert defended the relentless

bombardment, saying it was aimed at

obtaining the release of the two Israeli

soldiers and the disarmament of

Hezbollah in line with an existing UN

Israel, a civilian was killed Tuesday

when a rocket hit a park in the resort

of Nahariya in the latest of hundreds

of rocket attacks by Hezbollah.

reports of casualties.

Organisation.

Western states.

Across the border in northern

Over the past week 25 Israelis

have been killed, most in a barrage of

Hezbollah rocket fire across the

border, including 12 soldiers. Another

eight rockets exploded in Israel's

northern metropolis of Haifa

Wednesday, although there were no

And with no ceasefire in sight,

foreigners continued to flee the worst

violence in Lebanon since Israel sent

in its forces in 1982 against Yasser

Arafat's Palestine Liberation

were waiting to be evacuated by sea

while three ships arrived on the

Mediterranean island of Cyprus,

which lies just 100 miles (160 kilo-

metres) west and is being used as the

hub of evacuation operations by

In Beirut, hundreds of people

"The intensifying aggression in

But Israeli Prime Minister Ehud

sacres" against his people.

Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad

Advocate Shahdeen Malik moved the case on behalf of the petitioner.

Draft voter list FROM PAGE 1

senior officials of Dhaka City Corporation over updating the voter list. Earlier at a meeting with some

secretaries. divisional commissioners and deputy commissioners, the EC in a working paper disclosed that the law, justice and parliamentary affairs minister and the state minister of the ministry approved the views of its counsel and the attorney general.

"There is nothing in the judgement of the High Court Division, nor even in observation no-III &IV. prohibiting the preparation of the voter list." the attorney general opined. "It (his opinion) was sent to the Election Commission through the law ministry. The opinion was approved by the law minister and the state minister and secretary of the ministry," said the EC working paper.

The EC's counsel Khandakar Mahbubuddin Ahmed, who is a ruling BNP lawmaker, also informed the chief election commissioner in writing about preparation of the voter list.

"There is no bar to proceeding with preparation of the voter list as decided by the commission in the meeting dated August 6, 2005 according to the ordinance, the rules framed thereunder and schedule prepared by the commission, Mahbubuddin said.

Depending on their opinions, the EC continued preparing a fresh voter list from January 1 while the High Court on January 3 asked the EC to revise the existing voter list.

The EC also published a draft voter list on May 3 after spending Tk 43 crore but the Supreme Court declared it illegal.

Finally, the EC has initiated the process of revising the existing voter list but the finance minister refused to allocate funds for the task unless it (EC) justifies the previous expenditure.

ween two bus passengers. Over 50 shops and 10 vehicles were nsacked during the clash. crore

Three critically injured students, identified as Raihan and Antu, 4th year (Civil Engineering), and Azim, final year (Computer Engineering and Science), were undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

A meeting held yesterday between the local representatives and law enforcers with Cuet Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Mir Shahidul Islam in the chair formed a fourmember committee headed by Prof Saiful Islam to investigate the students' involvement in the incident.

Another seven-member committee headed by Prof Md Jahangir Alam was formed to determine the extent of damage of property during the clash.

Bangladesh FROM PAGE 1

construction of a gas-fired power plant near the capital. The plant, to be run by an international power company, would add 300 megawatts of power.

The estimate of the country's power investment needs followed a recent World Bank mission visit to discuss ways to finance the sector.

The country requires "a comprehensive reform plan" to pave the way for private investment and donors' support for the power sector, the bank said.

"Addressing power sector problems requires time," it added.

Just 40 percent of the 140 million population has access to electricity In those rural areas with electricity, power lasts a maximum of six hours day

Fven in Dhaka there are regular power cuts lasting five to six hours a

The shortages have led to protests. Some 17 people were killed in northern Chapainawabganj district earlier this year when police shot at farmers trying to storm electricity offices to demand power for irrigation pumps.

Following the violence, a senior bureaucrat said the country was headed for more such confrontations as there was no way the situation could improve swiftly.

'This is a war-like situation. The supply scenario is so grim that we have to manage the load as it is done during wartime," BD Rahmatullah, whose office advises the government on power sector reforms, told AFP.

were supposed to spend Tk 15 crore but ultimately spent Tk 18

Besides, the communication ministry unnecessarily added a diversion bridge component, which was not approved in the original scheme, and spent Tk 6 crore for it.

RMG workers FROM PAGE 1

Association (BGMEA) in the board.

Present total wage cost for the workers accounts for roughly 48 to 55 percent of the cutting and manufacturing (CM) charge the owners are getting, he explained adding quota phaseout badly affected the industry and CM has plummeted by 50 percent in just one year.

Citing an example, he said the factory owners received CM ranging between \$12 and \$14 for a dozen pants from US buyers last year, but they are now getting \$6 to \$7 for the

same product. If salaries in all grades are ncreased, total salary amount will be around 130 percent of the CM and not a single factory in the country will be able to survive after paying Tk 5,000 salary a month for an unskilled worker, said Hug, also a

former president of BGMEA. He, however, mentioned that the owners are not rigid about proposed Tk 1,230 minimum salary but there cannot be a radical change.

On the other hand, Nazma Akhtar. workers' representative in the minimum wage board, said: "We did not agree with the minimum wage of Tk 1,230 proposed by the BGMEAleader."

The owners have to raise the minimum salary considering rising living costs, she said.

However, Nazma said the workers are not rigid about their demand of Tk 3,000 a month salary but it should be reasonable.

Kamrul Ahsan, general secretary of Bangladesh Garment Sramik Karmachari Federation, alleged salary of Tk 950 was fixed 12 years back but the owners did not respond to the demands of the workers despite repeated requests.

Even they did not adjust the minimum salary with taka devaluation against the US dollar, he said.

A tripartite meeting of the government, garment owners and workers also agreed to implement a series of decisions in phases to address the labour unrest. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the garment owners and workers was also singed on June 12 in this regard.

Tsunami body count

Strait. he said.

220,000.

FROM PAGE 16

committed by them."

tall buildings to sway

that struck off the south coast of Java

on Monday, triggering a tsunami that

left at least 525 people dead and

hundreds more missing. Indonesia was also the nation

Some 168,000 people were killed

worst hit by the 2004 Asian tsunami.

in Aceh province when a 9.3-

magnitude quake unleashed massive

walls of water that reached 11 Indian

Ocean nations, killing a total of

Pakistan peace

the basis that they are praying five

times a day or they have a beard? I

mean there has to be some crime

who are against the peace process.

He added: "It does not help to

FROM PAGE 1

can be sure that won't be a new tsunami," bin Umri said. "People are still traumatised. That's why they ran to higher ground in panic when they heard the rumours.

At least 525 people were killed by Monday's waves, the National Disaster Management Coordinating Agency said, while 273 people were still missing. About 38,000 people have been displaced, it said.

At least six foreigners believed among the dead. Aid meanwhile trickled through as

a haphazard relief operation took shape. The UN's World Food Programme said two trucks carrying 15 tonnes of

noodles and high-energy biscuits had arrived in Pangandaran and begun unloading.

"We're trying to reach around 20,000 people in the next week," spokesman Barry Came told AFP, adding that a team of WFP staff were leaving Wednesday for the area to "figure out exactly what to do."

Relief coordinator Subur Dwivano told the Detikcom online news agency that the local government had received food and cash aid.

"So far we have received 650 million rupiah (71,000 dollars) in cash. The plan is to distribute the cash to relatives of dead victims," he said. He did not say how much each family would receive.

He said 10 public kitchens had also been set up in Pangandaran.

One truck carrying a tonne of food supplies donated by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's wife arrived in the battered resort area.

Eight trucks filled mostly with mineral water also arrived in the district of Cilacap, where more than 100 lives were lost.

A district official Sugiono said three large military tents and two public kitchens had been set up while four rubber boats were deployed to help in the search for the missing.

There's still confusion about what to do. The main priority is to save lives,' he told AFP.

In Kebumen district, authorities dispatched rice and noodles to safe shelters where refugees were too afraid to return to the coast.

"When people began to shout: Tsunami. tsunami!', all I could think of was to run for my life," said Sudarmin, a 48-year-old coconut farmer from Ayeh, a small village in the district, who was at a shelter.

The Asian Development Bank said it was ready to provide support to Indonesia Wednesday while Britain also offered assistance ANOTHER UNDERSEA

Kamrul Hasan Ripon, President of the university unit of BCL, said no QUAKE extremist organisation would be

Indonesians on the coasts of west tolerated here to conduct their activi-Java and south Sumatra should be on ties alert for a tsunami after a 6.2magnitude guake struck undersea vesterday at 5:57 pm (1057 GMT), a

Biotech policy

human being, animal or plant. he added

The policy also emphasised protecting indigenous community knowledge, collective innovations and community rights.

located about 190 kilometres (119 For ensuring those, the Community Knowledge Protection miles)west of Jakarta in the Sunda Act will be enacted to give guidelines, The temblor was felt in the capital where it is necessary, to innovations of any form that have used natural for about one minute, where it caused and biological resources. It followed a 7.7-magnitude quake

Immediate action programmes will also be taken for the development of biotechnology in the country in various sectors like agriculture, health, industry and environment. The programmes will reflect the urgent national needs and requirements in terms of funding manpower and equipment.

An international biotechnology advisory committee will be formed with internationally recognised experts in different areas of biotechnology to advise the government on priority areas of research and development.

Besides, the science and ICT ministry will develop a priority plan in different areas of biotechnology to keep pace with the fast advancing field of biotechnology and genetic engineering for poverty alleviation, sustainable development improvement of quality of life and biodiversity conservation.

simply start finger-pointing ... We should not provide space to people The new policy will encourage the universities to introduce and strengthen biotechnology and If we do they will expand that space genetic engineering at the undergraduate and post graduate levels. At the same time the biotechnological courses will be introduced at the secondary and higher secondary levels through modification of existing course curricula on biology.

Young graduates will be encouraged for undertaking higher academic studies in advanced universities abroad.

The policy draft says in biotechnol-ogy research, problem arises concerning the protection of intellectual property for innovations in this field beyond legal and ethical questions. In view of the special quality of living organisms the scope of patents has to be clearly defined to find balance between innovation and public interest.

Under the policy, legal measures will be taken to achieve a balanced system for protecting the interest of the innovation without compromising public interest.

More Americans are also be evacuated on a chartered cruise liner, with warships ordered to waters off the coast to bring out thousands of citizens and provide security amid fears the ships could become a

Britain, hoping to evacuate about 5,000 of its nationals by the end of the week, pulled out about 170 Britons on a destroyer.

"It's hell on earth, it's escalating dav by day." said Joe Nouieim from England as he arrived in Cyprus, expressing relief at finally getting out with their three young children.

For many ordinary Lebanese there is little chance of such a rescue and many were fleeing their homes in the main target areas such as southern Lebanon to try to find safe havens

'The situation is both alarming and catastrophic. There are about 500,000 people displaced already. The situation is extreme," the representative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Beirut, Roberto Laurenti, told AFP.

saying one ambulance driver lost his The United Nations said it was leg to shrapnel from an Israeli tank evacuating all non-essential staff shell. from the country.

UN peacekeeping force.

to discuss such a possibility.

region, no stranger to war.

tinue to work to isolate Iran.'

when it is "helpful".

Washington.

The centre of Maghazi was As the European Union and the deserted except for ambulances and United States prepared to send Palestinian gunmen hunkered down envoys to the region, UN Secretary with Kalashnikovs and rocket-General Kofi Annan outlined plans for propelled grenades. an international force for Lebanon Five Israeli soldiers were that he said should be "considerably larger" than the current 2,000-strong

wounded when they met resistance from Palestinian gunmen. Forces returned fire and identified

But Israel -- which has always hitting two gunmen, an army spokesrejected the deployment of foreign man said. There were also two air forces in its conflict with the strikes on cells of armed men in the Palestinians -- said it was "too early" central Gaza Strip.

The air force carried out another US Secretary of State air strike on what it said was a tunnel Condoleezza Rice is expected to being dug in the northern Gaza Strip travel to the region although she was with the intention of "smuggling unwilling to be drawn on a specific weapons and terrorists into Israe date, saying she would only come the spokesman said.

Bulldozers were digging up Bush again lashed out at Syria, farmland and Israeli soldiers had amid fears the conflict in Lebanon requisitioned some buildings as and Gaza could spread across the shooting reverberated around the area, an AFP reporter said. 'In order to be able to deal with this

Israel believes that Shalit, whose crisis, the world must deal with capture on June 25 sparked the Hezbollah, with Syria, and to conoffensive, and two other servicemen snatched by Lebanon's Hezbollah Israel, which has sent ground are still alive.

troops back into Lebanon for the first The humanitarian situation of the time since it ended its occupation in 1.4 million people living in Gaza has May 2000, has been emboldened by badly deteriorated since the West strong public support at home and suspended direct aid to the Hamasthe lack of a ceasefire call from its ally led government, plunging the territory

deeper into financial crisis. The international airport has been In the occupied West Bank, Israeli knocked out, ports bombed, bridges destroyed, power stations set ablaze troops conducting an arrest operaand houses turned to rubble in tion shot dead three Palestinians scenes reminiscent of the country's from the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, devastating 1975-1990 civil war. the faction that claimed an attack on Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Tuesdav in which an Israeli soldier Shimon Peres said the Jewish state was killed.

for themselves to the detriment of the people of South Asia.' Pakistan and India have fought three wars since independence in 1947, two of them over the disputed Himalayan territory of Kashmir, and came close to a fourth conflict in 2002.

Top outlaw

FROM PAGE 1 Shrirampur at about 4.30am, the Gono Bahini men opened fire on the policemen, which prompted the law enforcers to retaliate. Siraj got caught in crossfire and died on the spot.

Police retrieved a shutter gun and seven bullets from the scene.

Siraj was accused in severa cases including six for murder filed with Mirpur and Alamdanga police stations in Kushtia and Chuadanga.

meteorology official said. FROM PAGE 16 "A quake of this magnitude can cause a tsunami. People are advised to be on alert." Fauzi, an official from the national seismology centre, told local Elshinta radio. The earthquake's epicentre was