The Daily Star

NEWS

Non-govt pry FROM PAGE 16

high school, college and madrasa teachers who are also on an indefinite strike.

The non-government primary teachers under the banner of Bangladesh Non-government Primary Teachers Association held a rally yesterday at the Central Shaheed Minar and submitted a memorandum to the prime minister demanding nationalisation of their jobs.

Abdur Rahman Bachchu led the Bangladesh Non-government Primary Teachers Association in their agitation programme. Another faction of Bangladesh

Non-government Primary Teachers Association, led by Mansur Ali, started indefinite strike at their educational institutions from Tuesday.

They would hold a grand rally at Muktangon in the capital around 11:00am today and lay siege to the Prime Minister's Office afterwards. They would begin hunger strike until death at Muktangon in the afternoon in a bid to force the government accept their demands. Bangladesh Shikkhak-

Karmachari Oikya Parishad, a platform of eight teachers' and employees' organisations, will hold a grand rally at Muktangon at 11:00am today protesting the government's delay in meeting their demands using dialogues as an excuse.

A procession will also be brought out following the rally that will march different streets of the capital, leaders of the Parishad said.

They also said they will hold a grand rally at the Central Shaheed Minar on August 9 in a bid to force the government accept their demands.

National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE), a platform of eleven teachers' and employees' organisations of non-government high schools, colleges and madrasas, will bring out protest processions at all districts today.

At a press conference at the

people to be united to protect their

speaking at an exchange of views meeting with the party's grassroots

level leaders from Khulna district

however, said 14-party coalition will

undoubtedly win the next election if

the people can exercise their consti-

tutional right to franchise freely. "If

people can franchise freely in the

next election then we will see who

can bag how many seats," the AL chief said adding, "If the four-party

alliance did not rig the 2001 election, we would get 54 percent of the

leaders that the next election will be

more critical than the previous one,

the AL chief instructed them to work

Telling the grassroots level

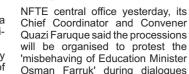
Hasina, a former prime minister,

and its metropolitan area.

The opposition leader was

FROM PAGE 16

votes.



Osman Farruk' during dialogues with the NFTE on Tuesday Meanwhile, Shikkhak Karmachari Oikya Jote, led by Shariful Islam, will hold a grand sit-in programme at the Central Shaheed

FROM PAGE 1

strong plea for "urgent deployment of an international force" under the auspices of the United Nations for stabilising the Israeli-Lebanon border.

Kuala Lumpur International Airport on her arrival

A special flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines that carried the prime minister and her entourage landed at the airport at 10:10pm

Malaysian local time. Minister Khaleda drove in a ceremonial motorcade to Hotel Nikko in during her visit.

of the OIC, said Bangladesh

ministers.

Alliance to use black

FROM PAGE 16 strongly and keep the price of essentials stable. and order situation remains under control during the last three months of our government since there is a trend order situation during the twilight-

Home alerts

"We want to ensure that the law

of deterioration in law and

months of each government. We

want to hand over power to the

caretaker government with the law

and order situation in good shape,'

State Minister Home Affairs

Lutfozzaman Babar told the media

following a meeting with the deputy

commissioners (DC) and

has received reports of subversive

activities, Babar replied, "We have-

n't received any reports. But we

need to remain careful and do the

necessary homework to tackle any

missioners, deputy inspector gener-

The DCs, SPs, divisional com-

such situation.

source.

the caretaker government.

ism, smuggling and drugs.

"I've asked them what problems

solutions to the problems

they were facing and gave neces-

They've also given several effective

suggestions which we have

accepted," he told reporters. Babar instructed the DCs and

enforce laws more vigorously to

ensure sound law and order situa-

ment order to prepare a list of crimi-

nals, Babar said he is yet to get the list.

resurfacing again in the south-

western region, Babar instructed to

Asked about a previous govern-

Pointing out that the outlaws are

tion.

operations.

and the militants.

Hearing

FROM PAGE 16

Asked whether the government

Superintendents of Police (SP).

Minar on August 6 demanding the cent percent basic salary from the government exchequer.

OIC summit

'total cessation of violence in Lebanon", according to an official source.

Bangladesh will also make a

Aguard of honor was given to the prime minister at the VVIP tarmac of

She was later taken to the presentation line of Malaysian dignitaries and Bangladesh officials in

Malaysia.

Airport formalities over, Prime Kuala Lumpur where she will stav

A total of 18 member-countries have been invited to the emergency meeting of the executive committee

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan government to provide security On the sidelines of the conferduring transportation of vegetables They also asked for high-speed ence, the prime minister may have bilateral meetings with the in coastal areas. Malaysian and the Pakistani prime

The prime minister is scheduled to return home at midnight today.

votes in the next election.

als," Hasina added

The AL president said free, fair

and neutral election is a must to see

the unfeigned reflection of the

people's verdict. "To ensure credible

election, we placed reform propos-

party alliance as 'nationalist Jamaat

family', Hasina said they are again

conspiring to rig the next polls to

cling on to power as they have

realised that they will not be able to

escape public wrath for their wide

the upcoming election. Khaleda-

Nizami alliance is out to destroy

democracy by rigging the next

election, Hasina said urging her

Sensing their definite debacle in

scale corruption and misrule.

Terming the BNP-Jamaat four-

als of police, secretaries of the implement the EC's decision for cabinet division, home, law and updating the existing voter list as the establishment ministries and the temporarily recruited staff, who have inspector general of police were to spend money for materials and also present at the special meeting conveyance, are unwillingness to held at the home ministry. work due to 'uncertainty' of their Asking the officials to work with

remuneration. utmost sincerity to ensure sound The EC secretariat officials law and order situation, Babar however, said they will soon allocate instructed them to hold the trials of money for some 1,35,000 staff who the extortionists and toll collectors are working for updating the voter on the highways under the Speedy Trial Tribunal Act. He also reminded Tk 27 crore will be required for them of the coming Durgapuja and month of Ramadan, said a meeting

remuneration of the staff, if everybody is provided with Tk 2000 for the task. Besides, the EC Secretariat will He also gave them instructions to have to spend a good amount of complete executive inquiry into all incidents of 'crossfire' before the money to meet the expenditure for purchasing necessary materials, and government hands over power to printing voter registration forms and The DCs and SPs told the minisvoter list

FROM PAGE 1

said

sary.

told reporters yesterday.

amount for the EC Secretariat on

receiving the approval of the prime

minister, ministry officials said,

adding, "The EC secretariat will be

provided with more money if neces-

the voter list by visiting door to door

began amid monetary crisis, as there

was no fund to meet the expenditure.

to get momentum after 12 days.

On July 21, the task of updating

The task that got a slow start is yet

The EC Secretariat has been

facing tremendous difficulties to

ter they are facing problems in disposing cases and could not To update the voter list with over 6,000 manpower sitting at offices, the properly conduct mobile court EC Secretariat in last June allocated activities due to lack of magistrates. about TK1 crore for transportation and To stop extortion on the high purchasing other materials. But the procedure started from ways, the DCs and SPs asked the

July 1 failed to get response from the people and the EC finally decided to arrange door to door visits.

engine boats instead of speedboats Earlier on May 3, the Secretariat published a draft voter list that the Babar said he discussed about Supreme Court declared illegal, as price control of essentials, highway the High Court's directives were not extortions, security in the coasta followed to prepare it. areas, food adulteration, extrem-

The EC Secretariat had spent Tk

Edible oil turns

FROM PAGE 1

SPs to arrest the wanted, abscondmarket to market. ing accused and convicts and

Denying allegation of manipulation, wholesalers at Moulavibazar in the old Dhaka blamed it on the crisis in the Middle East.

"The international market price for edible oil went up in the last week for the war in Lebanon and unrest in the Middle East," a wholesaler told The Daily Star yesterday.

reinstate the camps which have been withdrawn after anti-JMB Among the spices, prices of cumin, cinnamon and clove are on the rise, retailers said. The cumin The government instructed the was found selling at Tk 180-190 a kg DCs and SPs to resume motivational meetings once in a week to in the wholesale market yesterday, make people aware of the outlaws prices of which was Tk 160-170 10 days ago.

The cinnamon is selling at Tk 108-110/kg although it was available at Tk 75-80 a week back. Cardamom sells at Tk 320-440/kg

Voter list

43 crore for the purpose. accordance with the Supreme Court's verdict," Finance and As the finance minister asked the EC Secretariat to justify the expendi-Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman ture before allocation of fresh fund the EC Secretariat sent accounts of

The allotment paper sent to the its expenditure to the finance minis EC Secretariat did not say whether the finance ministry will allocate more The finance minister had on July money, sources at the EC Secretariat 18 refused to allocate fresh fund for voter listing task without the EC's The finance ministry allocated the clarification about spending the

previously disbursed money. Faulty projects

FROM PAGE 16 projects, the study says donor agencies tend to push the aid agenda of their headquarters or apply global templates in designing projects without adequate feedback about local cultural traditions and institutional characteristics.

Citing an example, the study reports that a recent evaluation or rehabilitation of some of the projects of the Bangladesh Water Development Board shows that the original purpose of the projects were vindicated by more than 80 per cent of the people in the respective localities, but only one out of the 35 projects could be successfully rehabilitated. "Among many problems, neglect of the details of local circumstances was found to be the main cause of failure," the ERG study

observed. The report says an in-depth expost impact study of a project by DANIDA found that although the project have had some beneficial effects on the region's economy most of the goals including sustainability remained unfulfilled Among the weaknesses specially cited by the study were too much reliance on expatriate advisers and a top-down set-up bypassing the government systems. More than 60 ong-term expatriate advisers -- most of them Danish --worked 2-3 years

each on the project. About frequent cancellations of aid to on-going projects and prema-

ture termination of projects, the study suggested that public monitoring of mutual accountability would be greatly served if donors and the government could agree to make the reasons of such actions public.

milk powder also went up significantly, traders said.

The pulse. Tk 48 a kg 10 days back, is now on offer at Tk 70 while a juice item, Tang, has been hiked by

Tk 20. Mohammad Enavetullah, managing director of Messers Hedayet Brothers and also former president of the Moulavi Bazar Merchant Association, said the prices of

spices soared as unrest escalated in Iran, Syria and Lebanon, from where a good quantity of spices are imported However, traders said some local businessmen's syndicate cashed in on the slight rise of prices

Secretary General also LGRD and

Co-operatives Minister Abdul

Mannan Bhuivan said no reform will

be brought without consulting the

the opposition to sit for a dialogue

but did not concede to the opposi-

tion's demand for dropping the

names of Jamaat-e-Islami and

Islami Oikya Jote leaders from the

proposed committee that would

BNP and AL are speaking about an

alternative way for holding a dia-

logue on the reform issue. But none

of them has made any specific

which is scheduled to assume office

after October 27 must initiate steps

for brining reforms as the opposition

coalition declared that it will not

the government had rejected the

proposals outright, but later asked

the opposition to place the propos-

Hasina on February 12 placed the

responded to the demand in parlia-

ment on February 28 and proposed

to form a committee that would deal

March 20 sent a letter to the AL

opposition party to join a committee

to discuss the reform agenda. After

trading several letters, BNP

announced the names of the ruling

alliance representatives in the

committee including Jamaat-e-

Islami and Islami Oikya Jote lead-

general in early May sharply reacted

to the inclusion of two Islamic lead-

ers in the committee and refused to

sit with them for a dialogue. The

process of negotiation has been

proposals in the parliament.

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia

The BNP secretary general on

als in the parliament

with the reform issue.

In wake of the prevailing situa-

In a latest development, both

negotiate the reform issue.

He has been repeatedly urging

ruling alliance.

proposal till date.

the

reforms.

in the international market "We cannot control prices as this

Outlaw killed in 'shootout' with Rab

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

An outlaw of Banglar Communist Party (BCP) was killed during 'shootout' between Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and his cohorts at Nagda of Alamdanga upazila in Chuadanga early yesterday. The dead was identified as Nazrul Islam Nazu, 30, of Pikepara in Alamdanga upazila. He was a close aide to notorious outlaw

Nuruzzaman Laltu. According to a Rab press release, a Rab team arrested Nazu from Chuadanga Police Station area on Tuesday morning.

Following his confessional statement during quizzing, a Rab team along with Nazu went to Pikepara of Barabaria to arrest his accomplices and recover hidden firearms.

When the team reached Nagda around 4:30am, the BCP men started firing at the Rab team prompting the law enforcers to retaliate.

Rab claimed Nazu, when trying to escape custody during the shootout, was caught in the line of fire and died on the spot.

Rab retrieved a gun and 13 bullets from the spot. Nazu's accomplices however managed to escape. Chuadanga police said Nazu was accused in seven criminal cases including four murder cases filed with Alamdanga and Chuadanga police stations.

Next summit

FROM PAGE 16 the press briefing at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel

During the two-day meeting in Dhaka, the Council of Ministers endorsed India's proposal to set up South Asian University, Saarc Museum of Textiles and Handcrafts. and a Telemedicine Network connecting the member states, Saran said.

He said the proposed South Asian University will be a centre of excellence bringing together the bright minds of South Asia and

beyond. The Council of Ministers has also endorsed the modalities of Saarc Development Fund (SDF) to be set with an initial capital of \$300 million. India has already pledged \$100 million to be spent under the SDF for poverty alleviation. Saran said

offensive in Lebanon would last until The other member countries will the end of next week. also contribute to the SDF. Besides, determination and patience and let there is provision to collect fund the army finish the job," Ramon from international financial institusaid "At the minimum, we have until tions.

the end of next week to react and try About the India-Pakistan trade and finish the job." disputes over the Safta (South Asian Free Trade Area) framework. "not negotiate with terrorists" nor Saran said the Council of Ministers would it "release prisoners to terrorist organizations" -- apparently has referred the matter to Safta dismissing any suggestion that it Ministerial Council (SMC) to settle

25 JMB men held

FROM PAGE 1 Sahabuddin of Comilla, Mahmudu "The youths, all aged between 20 and 22, were taking lessons on Hassan Sumon of Barisal Nizamuddin, Afzal Hossain, Ershad combat using bamboo sticks when Hossain, Arshaduzzaman, Abdu we raided the place," said a Rab Quivvum. Tofazzal Hossain of official who participated in the raid. Faridpur, Saiful Islam, Abdul The militants even tried to resist Hannan, Omar Faruq of Shariatpur arrest using the sticks but later Mohammad Ibrahim, Mohibulla of

surrendered, he added. The arrestees, all bearded with caps on, claimed they were students of the madrassa and were exercising as part of their regular

circuits and a container of powder.

container had explosives or gun-

sources identified Abdur Rouf of

Madaripur, who allegedly supplied

bombs to 27 districts for the August

17 blasts. Rouf, 42, a teacher of

Jibontola Jamia Islamia Nurul Ulum

Koami Madarasa, had been

arrested several times before from

Faridpur and Cox's Bazar in 1993

and 1995. On September 19, 2003

he was arrested again along with 18

others including the madrasa princi

pal Shahidul Islam from a BNP

Afghan war against former USSR

modern weapons, and grenades.

said Rouf, who had been abscond-

ing since the blasts, arrived in

Hossain of Chandpur, Safavet

Hossain, Masudur Rahman, Jamal,

have not been met." foreign ministry

spokesman Denis Simonneau said

countries were expected to attend,

had already been postponed from

told Israeli public radio that the

The meeting, which some 40

Justice Minister Haim Ramon

"I counsel everyone to show

Ramon added that Israel would

denied that "the goal of the opera-

tion was to seize a particular

a Hezbollah stronghold, was the

deepest vet to place troops on the

ground in Lebanese territory

The commando raid on Baalbek,

Baalbek lies in the Bekaa Valley

of eastern Lebanon less than 15

kilometres (10 miles) from the

border with Svria, one of the main

supporters of the Shiite Muslim

Syrian, died in the attack, they said. Syria offered to put "all its

resources at Lebanon's disposal to

support its heroic endurance"

according to the official SANA news

Minister Mohammed Naji Otri made

the offer in a telephone call to his

Lebanese counterpart. Fuad

bridges in northern Lebanon, about

five kilometres (three miles) from

ern port city of Sidon said three

Lebanese army soldiers were killed

when Israeli warplanes strafed a

nearby military base, hours after

town council in the port of Tyre said

the funerals of those killed in the

Israeli raid on Qana had been

postponed in the face of the

poned to a later date owing to the

situation in the city," said Abdel

woman said the Hezbollah fighters

captured in Baalbek had been

brought to Israel and that all the

Israeli troops involved in the raid

saying that "the citizens kidnapped

Hezbollah's Al-Manar television

Islamic militant group, about two

in Baalbek are normal civilians.

captured any of its members.

Hezbollah denied the claim,

A statement broadcast by

had returned to their base.

In Tel Aviv, an army spokes-

"The funerals have been post-

renewed Israeli bombardment

Further south, the head of the

The news agency said Prime

Israeli warplanes destroyed two

And police in Lebanon's south-

Syria offered to put

Hezbollah leader.

from the valley floor.

agency in Damascus.

the border with Syria.

resuming air strikes.

Mohsen al-Husseini.

militia.

Siniora.

"Our recent intelligence report

Among the arrestees, Rab

powder.

official.

New York

in Paris.

Monday to Thursday

Rouf. studies, but Rab claimed three of No case was filed till filing of this them admitted that they were report at 10:00pm last night in this receiving military training there. connection Rab recovered some electric On July 26, the government sent

wires, several small bulbs, three urgent messages to law enforcers and mobile SIMs, pieces of iron used in intelligence agencies asking them to fishing nets, several transistor raise the level of their vigilance across the country following information that The elite force personnel how-JMB militants are reorganising under ever could not determine if the different banners.

Bhola Maksudur Rahman

Mohammad Quamruzzaman o

Mymensingh, Yasin of Pirojpur, Mir

Hossain of Noakhali, and Abdur

According to the alert buzz, operatives of JMB might carry out further attacks at any place anytime. Our correspondents, however also reported that the militants are trying to regroup at haor and beel areas of northern and north-eastern regions after a downturn in their activities following arrests of most of

2 indigenous

FROM PAGE 16

their top leaders.

The indigenous community was found shell-shocked at the killings leader's house at Boalmari in Faridapur. After his arrest from motive of which is still unclear. Faridpur he told reporters that he United People's Democratic had received guerrilla training in Front (UPDF) blamed the Parbatva Pakistan in 1989 and participated in

Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) for the killings. for four years. He is also trained in However, Nolen Bikash Tripura operating AK-47 assault rifle, other father of the young victim, did not accuse PCJSS for the killings and said the attackers might have tried to kill him over land disputes, but they killed

his father and his son instead. Mymensingh, so we tightened our Police recovered and sent the vigilance here," said another Rab-9 bodies to Khagrachhari Adhunik Sadar Hospital for autopsy. The arrestees are Kazi Nurul Officer-in-Charge of Guimara Police Station Mezba Uddin said they Alam Siddique, Tofazzal Hossain of Jhalakathi, Ibrahim Khalil, Anwar

have arrested two indigenous suspects -- Kolita Mohan Tripura, 30, and Rupindra Mohan Tripura, 25

Hezbollah showers FROM PAGE 16

kilometres (one mile) southwest of Thursday at UN headquarters in Baalbek.

The spokesman said all patients "France believes that the condihad been evacuated from the hospitions for the force's deployment tal on July 12, when Hezbollah fighters captured two Israeli soldiers in a cross-border raid.

That operation prompted a massive Israeli offensive by air, land and sea in which more than 820 Lebanese and 50 Israelis have been killed, more than 3,000 wounded and tens of thousands forced to flee their homes, according to various sources.

Lebanese officials estimate that Israeli bombardments have caused losses of 2.5 billion dollars, with hal a billion this week alone.

An Israeli government minister said 400 Hezbollah fighters had been killed in the past three weeks a claim the militia denies.

Residents of Baalbek told AFP they saw the Israeli forces land shortly after midnight (2100 GMT Tuesday) following an intense aerial

together forgetting all intra-party feuds to defeat the next election.

four-party in the

Alleging that opposition workers and supporters have been deliberately left out of the voter list, Hasina again blasted the chief election commissioner (CEC) for 'playing' with the voter list. She said all those who are eligible to vote including the minority people will have to be included on the voter list

She reiterated that no election will be held under the present Election Commission (EC) and the probable head of the caretaker government Justice KM Hasan.

The AL president demanded immediate reconstitution of the EC and the system of caretaker government to ensure a free, fair and neutral election. She also demanded transparent ballot boxes for the coming election.

Warning that no conspiracy will be tolerated centring the voter roll. election and counting of votes, Hasina stressed the need for bringat the meeting. ing transparency in the counting of

14-party

FROM PAGE 16 meeting at the Awami League (AL) central office yesterday, announced the fresh agitation programmes.

The AL-led opposition combine will organise road march programmes in Bogra on August 10, Kushtia on August 12, Barisal on August 19, Jessore on August 20, Rajbari on August 24, Rangpur on August 26, Chittagong on August 28, and Sylhet on August 30. Senior leaders of the opposition combine will lead the road march programmes there.

They will also bring out antiterrorism processions and hold rallies in 63 districts on August 17, the day Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) carried out a countrywide bomb attack at 63 districts a vear ago.

The opposition combine will also arrange road march programmes at different parts of the capital that would rendezvous on Bangabandhu Avenue. This programme is a protest against criminal acts on 14-party and the grenade attack on August 21, 2004. An AL rally attended by Leader of the Opposition and AL President Sheikh Hasina was attacked with grenades on that day. The attack left 24 AL leaders and activists dead.

It will also observe a two-minute silence across the country starting at 5:22pm on August 21, the exact time the grenade attack were carried out, in remembrance to the

party leaders and activists to go from door to door of the people to make them aware of the conspiracy of the present government and about the fight against all kinds of anti-democratic activities

About militancy, Hasina asked how can the government keep convicted Bangla Bhai and Abdur Rahman in a sub-jail when they are supposed to be kept in condemned cells? "The government is doing this because it has been the patron of militants," she said adding that the government will again use the militant forces ahead of the next

election. Senior AL leaders including Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Tofail Ahmed, Matia Chowdhury, and Obaidul Quader were present among others

23 witnesses out of 44. The court will start again hearing from the paper book today after. noon

Advocates Khalilur Rahman Bhuiyan and Salehuddin -- state defence lawyers for the convicts -were present at the court during the

hearing yesterday. DAGs Abdus Salam Bhuiyan and Waliur Rahman and Assistant Attornev General Jamil Akhter Elahi were also present at the court for state side

"Considering the deposition of witnesses and circumstantial situation, the trial court delivered fair verdict competently. I hope this verdict can be considered for Helal Uddin Mollah told upheld." reporters after the completion of

yesterday's hearing. A Barisal court on May 29 this vear awarded death sentence to JMB chief Abdur Rahman, his deputy Bangla Bhai and five other militants in sensational Jhalakathi judges' killing case.

The others to walk the gallows are JMB Majlish-e-Shura members Ataur Rahman Sunny, Abdul Awal and Khaled Saifullah, suicide bomber Iftekhar Hasan Al Mamun and Asadur Rahman Arif. Of them, Arif is still at large.

None of the seven militants has appealed in the HC against the death sentence.

dialogues at various places of

Bangladesh over the last few

months. Cross-section of people has been attending these dialogues

taking part in every dialogue noting

been prepared based on the opin-

ions expressed at regional dia-

formally initiated early this year in

Dhaka at a national dialogue enti-

tled "Civil society initiative for accountable development." Its

Nagorik Committee 2006 was

showing keen interest.

Bangabandhu Avenue and hold a 1st expert rally in the afternoon where senior FROM PAGE 16 integrated and to be a regional hub, leaders will deliver speeches to the

society.

logues

independence.

party activists. AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil and Presidium Member Kazi Zafarullah finalised the programmes after discussing with

party leaders and activists who were

On that day at 11:00am, party

leaders and activists will place

wreaths at the attack spot on

killed.

Sheikh Hasina on August 1. "We are going for these programmes to involve people and make them become aware of our reforms proposal. It is also aimed at informing people about the pending

execution of the verdict of Bangabandhu killing case," Jalil said.

He said they would carry out agitation programmes that are more vigorous if the government did not meet their demands.

Senior leaders including Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Motia Chowdhury, Obaidul Quader, Hasanul Haque Inu, Dilip Barua, Pankaj Bhattacharya, MA Gani, Nurul Islam, Fazle Hossain Badsha, Syed Zafor Sazzad, and Mainuddin Khan Badal were present at the briefina

from Tk 300-400 and clove at Tk 500-540 from Tk 420-440.

Among other imported items. prices of some juices, pulses and Bazar said.

Alliance fever

"I don't see any serious initiative at this moment for electoral reforms. It seems the agenda for reforms is gradually becoming a dead issue as both the ruling and opposition alliances started election campaigns," former adviser to a caretaker government M Hafizuddin Khan told The Daily Star vesterday.

If the caretaker government wants to bring reforms in the election laws, it will have to do that through promulgating an ordinance as the parliament will be dissolved at the time. "But it will be difficult for the caretaker government to bring reforms as it will have a very little time to tackle the massive task of holding an election," Hafizuddin observed.

Analysing the latest political development centring expansion of electoral alliances, many political analysts believe, it will dominate discussions in the next two months as HM Ershad announced his intention to join the four-party ruling alliance by September while the tenure of the government is set to expire in October.

Ruling BNP's desperate move to bring Ershad into its alliance has To be environmentally sustain sparked disputes among the alliance partners and among some able and viii) To be a more equitable senior JP leaders. The move also Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), the Prothom Alo, The Daily annoved AL although it still believes Ershad will finally join the opposition Star and Channel-i have been jointly coalition organising regional civil society

Irked by the move, ruling alliance partners Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote reacted sharply fearing loss of their dominance within the alliance, as JP is stronger than them regarding electoral strength.

The representatives of Nagorik Sensing the government's Committee 2006 have been actively reluctance to carry out electoral reforms and its strategy for expanddown the citizens' aspirations ing the ruling alliance to put the The draft outline of extensively. The draft outline of Vision 2021, which will be presented opposition coalition under pressure, many opposition leaders believe for expert group consultation, has they will have to wait for the caretaker government to realise their demand for reforms.

The opposition coalition that remains rigid in its position that they will not join the polls without reforms however decided to continue the ongoing agitation to realise their demand

objectives are to conscientize people for ensuring politically "The demand for reforms will be realised through promulgating an accountable development and ordinance during the caretaker government, if necessary," AL prepare Vision 2021 for Bangladesh, targeting the year General Secretary Abdul Jalil said in which will coincide with 50 years of an interview with a daily

Meanwhile, rúling BNP suspended since then.

the problem before the next summit. syndicate compels us to purchase He hoped the SMC meeting will these items at much higher rate than be convened as early as possible to it should be," a retailer at Karwan resolve the problem

Asked when the Indo-Pak peace talks will resume. Saran said he had discussion with Pakistan Foreign Secretary Riaz Mohammad Khan in Dhaka on August 31 and the Pakistan side agreed that the peace process is important for the people of both the countries.

"This is not a stalemate...it's ongoing dialogue. We will remain in touch," he said without giving any indication of date or time for the next round of the meeting with Pakistan. Replying to a guestion about the Mumbai blast, he said India provided Pakistan with evidence of terror linkage in the past. India wants Pakistan to take necessary actions against the Islamic militant groups to fulfil its commitment to fight terrorist outfits, he added.

Senior officials of the Indian external affairs ministry and the high tion, political analysts believe that commission of India in Dhaka were next caretaker government present at the press conference.

Indo-Pak

FROM PAGE 16 museum of textile and handicrafts and tele-medicine centre. The Programming Committee will fur-

The Saarc foreign ministers

On the Vision Document for Saarc's third decade tabled by Bangladesh at the 13th Summit, the Council of Ministers asked the Saarc Standing Committee to finalise it for consideration of the council so that it could be placed for approval at the 14th summit.

The Council of Ministers decided to observe 2008 as the Saarc Media Year. During the year, there will be increased attention to fully implesecretary general inviting the main ment Saarc Media Action Plan in consultation with Safma.

The council also adopted the modalities for admission of Afghanistan and guidelines for observers. It also approved a \$1.9m budget for the Saarc Secretariat.

About observers, he said the door of Saarc is open for observers, The AL-led opposition coalition but there should be a limit as "We through a letter to the BNP secretary can't take unlimited number of observers.

Morshed said the Council of Ministers has successfully concluded its work because of spirit of cooperation that prevailed throughout the meeting.

niaht se captured in Baalbek for two soldiers taken prisoner by Hezbollah on July 12.

Mashrafee Chief of staff Halutz, for his part

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Shahadat Hossain, who became the first Bangladeshi bowler to complete a hattrick in the abridged version of the game

The 20-year-old Shahadat almost turned the match on its head when he dismissed Tafadzwa Mufambisi, Elton Chigumbura and captain Prosper Utseva in the 39th over, leaving the home side tottering at 151 for seven.

But just when the Bangladesh Police said the Israelis snatched camp thought a victory was a matter five people in the raid, carried out of time, Taylor was still there to give within sight of three ancient Roman a twist in the tale that eventually temples which rise dramatically came down to the wire in the final over. Eleven civilians, one of them a

Needing 17 runs from six balls, the right-hander smote the second ball, a full toss, high over mid-wicket for a six and then smacked the fourth delivery, another full toss, to the same region for a four, leaving the equation at five from two balls. He hit the fifth delivery straight to Rafique at midwicket and though Tawanda Mupariwa, who had done his part in a magnificent 81-run eighth wicket stand, wanted a single, which Taylor turned down resulting in him being run out Taylor's decision to keep the strike for the final delivery paid off in no better way as Mashrafee fatefully bowled another full toss and he gleefully dispatched it over the widish long-on fence sparking wild celebrations among a small crowd.

Taylor finished on an unbeaten 79 as Zimbabwe toppled Bangladesh's 236 all out with the final delivery of the match. The victory gave the host a 2-1 lead in the five-match series.

Earlier, the Bangladesh total was built around a couple of half centuries by Aftab Ahmed (53) and Rajin Saleh (54). Mohammad Ashraful scored 46 but the visitors' innings derailed once the three set batsmen got themselves out.

Aftab picked up the pace even after Bangladesh lost both their openers Shahriar Nafees (0) and Javed Omar (6) for 13 runs on the board The Chittagong batsman struck four fours and two sixes in his

typically aggressive 39-ball knock. said: "The Islamic Resistance Coming in place of injured capannounces that it has foiled an tain Habibul Bashar, Saleh scored a Israeli landing operation in Baalbek workmanlike 54 off 90 balls that and denies that the enemy has contained four boundaries.

A Hezbollah spokesman had But Bangladesh, who were a earlier said that Israeli troops were one stage cruising on 179-5, lost surrounded after attacking Dar Altheir last five wickets for 57 runs. Hikmeh hospital, which is run by the

The fourth one-dayer will take place at the same venue on Friday.

participate in any poll without the The opposition coalition has been agitating on the streets since ther discuss these proposals. July 2005 through placing a set of reform proposals. At the beginning

approved the Regional Poverty Profile 2005 to eradicate poverty in the region.