RU moves to recruit

many of them are criminals and political cadres who usually indulge in acts of violence for Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra

Those employees often neglect official work.

"Their presence is hampering educational and administrative activities", said a RU teacher.

"They [the 546] intimidate and embarrass us. Our security will be threatened if their job is confirmed, **POLITICAL BEHEST**

Political considerations and dealings with bribes are behind the new move to confirm the jobs of the controversial employees, sources said, adding that makeshift political offices set up in and around the campus are dealing with the appli-

In three such offices, influential pro-government employees who have close ties with top BNP-Jamaat leaders of the city are seen maintaining liaison with the RU authorities and spending time with those job seekers.

Motihar thana BNP President Ansar Ali, Secretary Mukhtar Hossain and Organising Secretary Khazdar Ali are attached to Binodpur office while local BNP activist Ashraful Hasan Bachchu and BNP ward no 26 President Ruhul Amin are running the offices at Kaila and RU station.

The BNP leaders, however, refuted the allegations and said they were gearing up electioneering ahead of the next general polls. LEGAL EVENTS

Over the public interest litigation (PIL) of Rajshahi Bar Association member Abu Aslam, the First Senior

Assistant Judge's Court on June 23, 2004 termed the recruitment of 546 employees illegal and ordered temporary injunction on confirmation of jobs, salaries and assigning

any duties to the employees. On July 14, the Second Additional District Judge's Court of Raishahi allowed a RU appeal and set aside the trial court's decision The plaintiff Abu Aslam contested the judgement to higher court.

On June 25, 2005, a High Court bench of Justice Abdul Aziz reaffirmed the trial court decision.

"Humanitarian consideration and emotional thoughts can not substitute legal consideration," the HC bench rule said.

Following an appeal by the RU. the Supreme Court stayed the HC bench ruling while the case is still

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S VERSION Talking to The Daily Star, RU vice chancellor (VC) Prof M Altaf Hossain said there was no legal barrier against recruiting afresh the 'disputed' employees.

"We are doing no unethical act this time and the disputed employees can respond to advertisements," he said, adding that the recruitment is not unnecessary as RU needs to appoint many more employees.

Asked what if the fresh recruitment is challenged, Prof Altaf said, "We [RU authorities] negotiated with the plaintiff and he will not go against the fresh one.'

5 Bhaluka militants

Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) Tofazzal Hossain and Mahmudul Hassan.

Two more remanded militants --Abu Huraira and Shafig -- are undergoing interrogation at Bhaluka police station.

Police have yet to get any 'important information' from them. Officerin-Charge (OC) Mizanur Rahman of Bhaluka police station told The Daily Star yesterday.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested 25 militants from a Bhaluka madrasa in Mymensingh and two more from Seed Store Bazar in the upazila on August 2.

Police produced them all before a court under section 54 and took the seven to remand, while a Mymensingh court sent 20 others to jail as no specific charge was brought against them.

JIC in Dhaka started the interrogation, Rab Legal and Media Wing Director Commander Masuq Hassan Ahmed told The Daily Star last night. "We have only started the interrogation but nothing important has been found yet," he said.

A trial court convicted Rouf and Tofazzal a few months ago for their involvement in last year's August 17 blasts in Rajbari, sentenced them to 10 years in prison and fined each of them Tk 10,000, Masuq added.

Police have very little to do with the case as Rab is handling all the cases and interrogations in connection with militants, said a Bhaluka police official.

Meanwhile, the arrest of Abdur Rouf created quite a wave at Naldanga in Natore, Atrai, Raninagar in Naogaon, and Bagmara in Rajshahi, the areas where another banned organisation Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) had tortured people, reports our staff correspondent in Rajshahi. The arrested Afghan war veteran

Mufti Abdur Rouf was well known as a fierce militant under an alias. Robin Hood, in Rajshahi region where JMJB operated in 2004.

After his arrest from Bhaluka, local residents at Naldanga in Natore, Atrai, Raninagar in Naogaon and Bagmara in Rajshahi were talking about Rouf's activities.

Rouf first appeared at Bagmara two weeks after JMJB's Siddikul Islam alias Bangla Bhai started his 'anti-outlaw' activities on April 1.

Rouf was widely known as Robin Hood and used to stay close to Bangla Bhai and other JMB shura members, a number of Bagmara residents said adding that Bangla Bhai himself selected Rouf's alias.

A victim of JMJB's torture, Fazlur Rahman of Hasanpur, identified Robin Hood seeing his picture in newspapers. He earlier saw him in company with JMB chief Abdur Rahman, Bangla Bhai, Ataur

Rahman Sunny and Abdul Awal. "Rouf was usually not to be seen directly involved with JMJB murders and violence, but he addressed many religious meetings and gatherings during the turbulent period", Fazlu said.

He used to convince people of JMJB activities in the areas through misinterpretation of Islamic rules. said villagers.

He stayed a long period at Razakar Ramjan Kaya's house, which JMJB used as its torture camp. He interrogated many abducted people in the camp and offered tawba (repentance) for their alleged

Rouf and Bangla Bhai started staying with JMB chief Abdur Rahman from May 17, 2004 when the JMJB camp at Aloknagar High School in Bagmara was shifted to Bhiti Siddikia Madrasa at Raninagar

Agitating govt college

FROM PAGE 1
August 10 and form human chain in front of the Shikkhak Bhaban from 10:00am to noon on August 10 demanding halt of the initiative to

amend the Absorption Rules 2000. At a press conference, members of the BCS General Education Association yesterday alleged that the teachers, who were recruited through the Public Service Commission (PSC), would face troubles if the absorption rules were amended.

The government formulated the Absorption Rules 2000 to bring the non-cadre teachers of government colleges under a common government rule. Education ministry has already sent the draft amendment to the absorption rules to the establishment ministry.

"Government has converted a number of non-government colleges into government colleges where all the teachers in those nongovernment institutions were adopted as government teachers. Most of the adopted teachers will be senior to the teachers who were recruited through PSC if the amendment goes through," said Masum Rabbani Khan, secretary general of the association while addressing the press conference at the Dhaka

Reporters Unity (DRU). Promotion of around 10,000 BCS teachers will be jeopardised if the government passes the rule, he also said. The government should recruit the adopted teachers

through PSC, he added. However, a views-exchange meeting of the teachers, from primary to university level, will be held at the National Press Club in the capital at 11:30am today. The ongoing teachers' strike, common

indifference of the government to provide solutions will be discussed. The National Front of Teachers

and Employees (NFTE), a platform of eleven non-government teachers' and employees' organisations, will hold the views exchange meeting at the VIP Lounge of the Press Club.

NFTE, who are on indefinite strike at the non-government high schools, colleges and madrasas, will also hold a rally and bring out processions at all districts tomorrow protesting against the 'misbehaviour of Education Minister Osman Farruk' during dialogues with the NFTE on August 1.

Besides, registered nongovernment primary schoolteachers continued their indefinite strike yesterday demanding nationalisation of their jobs.

Primary teachers under the banner of Bangladesh Nongovernment Primary Teachers Association led by Mansur Ali also continued their hunger strike at Muktangon for the second day.

Another faction of the association led by Abdur Rahman Bachchu has started non-stop sitin at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital from Wednesday in a bid to realise their demands.

5 killed

FROM PAGE 1 rickshaw passengers succumbed to their injuries at Comilla Medical College Hospital soon after admis-

The deceased could not be identified immediately. Six of the injured bus passengers were admitted to the hospital, while the rest given first aid

Country

MW yesterday.

FROM PAGE 1 power cuts over a vast area of the

The 64-MW second unit of Ashuganj Power Centre stopped functioning on Thursday night.

Besides, 150-MW No. 5 unit has

been closed since December 25 for overhauling. As a result, production at the 724-MW power centre came down to 130

Earlier, the plant stopped operation on May 18 due to CT blasts. Seven of the eight units have not been overhauled for a long time. These units have already run for 1.5 lakh hours at a stretch, whereas they should have

been overhauled after 40,000 hours. Meanwhile, two circuits of Bogra-Palashbari 132-KV distribution lines were closed down yesterday at 9:50am, worsening the power situa-

tion in the northern region. Earlier on March 27 and May 18, the regional grid in Bogra shut down due to technical glitches, leading to the closure of Boropukuria and Baghabari

Besides, the 132-KV line from Maniknagar to Bangabhaban in the capital was closed on March 27 for technical faults.

The authorities said the distribution lines were activated by yesterday noon. But the units No. 3 and 4 of Ashuganj power station could not go into full operation as of 10:00pm last night, pushing the deficit to 1500MW

According to the government statistics, the demand for power yesterday stood at 3,800MW. But sources said the real figure was no less than 4,000MW against a production of below 3,000MW electricity.

In Dhaka region, the demand for power stood at 1,600MW while the supply was 1,100MW.

Meanwhile, Karimganj Bazar Banik Samity, an association of traders, vesterday called a dawn to dusk hartal for tomorrow in Karimganj upazila of Kishoreganj, protesting

5 cops

FROM PAGE 1 said a witness.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Asraf, ASIs Jabed and Aziz, Constables Ibrahim and Anwar and alleged smuggler Nurul Kabir suffered minor bullet

wounds during the fight. Police arrested two including Nurul and recovered five firearms from the spot. The other three managed to flee the scene with the rest of the consignment.

Both Nurul and the other arrestee Mohammed Shafi, hail from Sadar

The weapons are believed to have been manufactured at a clandestine arms factory in the dense jungle of Ramu.

Militants

network across the country, Hasina demanded of the government to locate the training camps of the mili-

tants and catch them. She was highly critical of Jamaat-e-Islami and alleged that every militant has a Jamaat background and its student front Islami Chhatra Shibir.

Criticising the alliance government for "not honouring its pre-election commitment" to the teachers' community, the AL chief said although the government had pledged to nationalise the services of the teachers, it is now dilly-dallying in implementing their

The AL president urged the party's grassroots level leaders to strengthen the party in their respective areas

Presidents and general secretaries of nine AL organisational units of Satkhira district that covers five parliamentary constituencies exchanged views with the party chief on the prevailing situation in the country, party's position, probable party candidates for the next polls and the ongoing antigovernment movement.

Sveda Zohra Tajuddin, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Motia Chowdhury, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP, Obaidul Kader, Abdul Mannan and Noor-e-Alam Chowdhury Liton MP were present at

Outlaw

FROM PAGE 16

four bullets from the scene

Chuadanga police said Azad was accused in around seven murder cases including a fivemurder case, which took place in 2003 in Chuadanga and the Shankarchandrapur Union Parishad Chairman Noor Ali murder case in June 24, 2005.

Manmohan

FROM PAGE 1

shortly after they had checked into a hotel on Monday. Soon after the Indian prime

police ordered a probe into "the circumstances and nuances" of the incident. A senior police official said the search was a routine security exer-

in view of the state of high alert in the national capital. He said the hotel owner had

Qaeda network

FROM PAGE 16 McCormack said: "We're concerned about terrorism in Bangladesh as is the Bangladeshi government. And we certainly stand ready to work with them.'

On cooperation in combating terrorism, he said: "We certainly stand ready to work with them. So, we do have cooperation on the counter-terrorism front with Bangladesh.'

Inmates not served

Section 1098 of the jail code obligates the jail authorities to provide the inmates a ration of fish or meat on every other day at lunch or dinner while section 1101 says alteration of the diet is violation of the rules, and depriving the inmates of their deserved meals is a heinous crime.

After submission of the bids to supply food for July-December at different prisons, the tender evaluation committee of the DCJ, in May, scrutinised bidders' proposal and asked the inspector general (IG) of prisons to accept a bid that offered one kilogram (kg) of beef at Tk 150, mutton at Tk 190 and Tk 175 based on quality, sugar at Tk 52 and soyabean oil at Tk 56 per litre.

The evaluation committee of each prison considered the market price of each item, value added tax (Vat), income tax and profit of the contractor before sending recommendations to the IG for final approval.

The committee comprises deputy inspector generals (DIG), district civil surgeon, a magistrate as representative of the district administration, superintendent of the prison concerned and a social welfare Talking to this correspondent, a

few senior jail officials said the problem arose after the IG prisons unilaterally disregarded the evaluation committee's recommendation.

The authorities called for a retender in June and the evaluation committee submitted their recommendation after scrutinising the bids. But the prison's authorities are vet to make their decision on that. said sources. As the contractors stopped

supplying fish and meat, the DCJ authorities could provide the inmates fish only twice in the last week of July. They provided the inmates egg instead of fish or meat, which too is in violation of rules. Talking to The Daily Star, a senior prisons official said bidders' rates for

mutton, beef, sovbean oil, sugar were not irrational, adding, "There is no alternative but to accept the market rates and ensure quality." The authorities slash seven

percent as Vat and income tax from the supply price, he said. As per the Public Procurement

Act, if bidders' new rates are not

Since the price of all the items have significantly risen, no supplier is agreeing to supply at the previous rates, said the sources. "No supplier is now agreeing to supply mutton at Tk 150 per kg, beef at Tk 105, sugar at Tk 42-43, sovabean oil at Tk 45-46 per litre," said a source.

accepted, the suppliers will get the

bill as per the previously accepted

Meanwhile, authorities' failure to supply fish and meat has caused resentment among the prisoners and detainees.

Talking to The Daily Star, IG of Prisons Brigadier General Zakir Hasan said, "The problem arose as the contractors, establishing a syndicate, proposed higher rates for meat and fish and declined to reconsider their bids.'

He said the prison authorities are now providing the inmates fish and meat as per the rules after the contractors reduced their rates 'a

Surcharge

are operating either on behalf of foreign companies or on the basis of ship charter, sources said.

The container ship congestion at the Chittagong port began in October last year as the number of feeder vessels increased to 48 from 29 earlier following an upward trend in the country's export and import.

This year's export is showing a tremendous growth of 21 per cent over the last year. The growth in import volume is also above 15 per

As the Chittagong port failed to cope with the tremendous growth in export and import business, the container carrying ships had to wait more than a week at the outer anchorage before getting berthing permission.

Per day waiting loss of a container ship stood at \$5,000 to \$10,000 and the operators imposed additional surcharge to reduce the congestion loss.

The Chittagong Port Authority hopes that the situation will improve following commissioning of two new berthing terminals at the underconstruction New Mooring container terminal in October this year.

Govt to import

ministry said the government is resuming import and marketing of subsidised fertiliser through the BADC on a trial basis to detect any loopholes in the subsidy process.

"The government wants to reach the benefit of subsidy to the door steps of the farmers. But there are allegations from different quarters that the subsidy benefited traders, and not farmers. So we resume operation of the BADC in this field he said preferring anonymity.

Earlier, the parliamentary standing committee on agriculture ministry criticised the government subsidy policy, indicating that around half of the total subsidy are pocketed by the middlemen

Bangladesh Fertiliser Association President Kafil Uddin Ahmed has welcomed the government move to resume BADC's operation in fertliser import and marketing, saying it will now be able to involve directly with the international market.

He however denied the allegations of misuse of fertiliser subsidy and claimed that farmers got ferti-

liser at reduced price. Sources said the agriculture ministry will prepare a full-fledged pricing policy to ensure that all the subsidised fertilisers are marketed at similar prices. The government has decided to

allocate Tk 210 crore as subsidy for TSP, Tk 250 crore for DAP and Tk 134 crore MoP this year. Meanwhile, the Steering

Committee on Agriculture Subsidy at a meeting on Monday decided to release Tk 211.18 crore subsidy against import bills immediately to ensure smooth import and distribution of fertiliser in the Aman season. Earler, fertiliser importers had

threatened to withdraw the letters of credit (LCs) if the government failed to release their due subsidy. Till June, the government released Tk 160 crore subsidy out of

the Tk 371.28 crore for 9.25 lakh tonnes of fertiliser for fiscal 2005-06 The finance ministry sought preaudit report from the agriculture ministry before releasing the subsidy money, and the agriculture ministry then asked the importers to

submit necessary documents for

Bogra forest trees

The 12-year-old trees were put on sale, dividing the area in 18 blocks and showing 400 trees in each section.

The investigation found the forest department quilty of manipulating the number of trees on each block. At least 800 trees were found on each block, said a probe committee member, estimating the total price of the trees at nine times the sale price.

formed a probe committee but the report of which never saw the light of the day. Affirming some anomalies in the number of trees on each block. DFO

The forest department also

When contacted, MP Kazi Rafigue Monday denied his involvement in plundering of the forest wealth, claiming that he rather ordered the local administration to stop the controversial tender of the Divisional Forest Office (DFO) in

tree cutting resumed after the

lawmaker verbally instructed the

forest officials to go ahead with the

But sources at the DFO and district administration confirmed that the tender process was indeed stopped but for the time being. The

controversial deal

conducting the audit.

The contractor also distributed

When our correspondent visited the once-green Dharaborosa Char Tuesday, he saw felling of large trees went unabated across the area despite the claim of tender being suspended.

Hamidul, son of Shonaher, and Kamal, son of Moslem from the Dharaborosa Char have been hired for cutting the trees along with 60 others. "We cut at least 20,000 trees in

dared to protest as these trees were move for a suspension bridge an sold to BNP activists from time to About 12 years ago, former

Responding to his call, 30 gov-Belal Muktadir visited the site yesernment offices including 11 upazila terday and had discussions with authorities planted over 30,000 CMB engineers and others about samplings there. construction work.

Baby dies

FROM PAGE 1

Chowdhury Mohammad Haidar Ali The doctor was not available even when the patient's condition was deteriorating today [Friday] morning," said Rowshi's cousin Momen Chowdhury.

He demanded stern punishment of the doctor for negligence of duty. Prof Haidar Ali, however, said that he could not save Rowshi as her physical condition was 'not good'.

"The girl's mother Nasima Begum came to my private chamber in Nurjahan Road a few days ago but she made two days' delay to bring the child to hospital." Haider told The Daily Star yesterday night over telephone.

"I found the child very weak last night and prescribed appropriate treatment." he said, adding that he could not know the condition of the child yesterday morning.

monia and medical test reports for typhoid and others were yet to be received. An unnatural death case was

filed with Mohammadpur Police

She was diagnosed with pneu-

India parliament

FROM PAGE 16 The oil-for-food programme, which began in 1996 and ended in 2003, aimed to ease the impact on Iraqis of UN sanctions, imposed when Baghdad's troops invaded Kuwait in

Under the scheme, Iraq was allowed to sell oil in order to buy food, medicine and many other

But an inquiry led by former US Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker found the programme was rife with corruption, with companies and government officials around the world involved in kickbacks and bribery in Saddam's efforts to get sanctions lifted.

Singh and Congress both deny

any wrongdoing. However, India

launched its own investigation in November and Singh quit as minister shortly afterwards after sustained opposition pressure. Newspapers and TV channels reported on Friday that the inquiry, headed by a retired supreme court judge, had found that Singh and his

used their positions to get the Iraq contracts. However, the investigation said no money had been traced to either

son Jagat, a state MLA, had mis-

Singh or Jagat Singh said the investigation had vindicated him as it had not found

any money trail to him or his son. "At the time I was neither a minister nor a member of parliament." Singh said referring to the duration of the oil-for-food programme.

ligers

FROM PAGE 1 innings was also abruptly ended after being in a terrible mix-up with

For Zimbabwe, skipper Prosper Utseya tied the visitors down and took two for 25, while Masakadza chipped in with two for 36. In reply, one-down Gregory Strydom scored his maiden half-

century to guide the hosts. He

scored a run-a-ball 58 before being

stand-in skipper Khaled Mashud.

dismissed by left-arm spinner Abdur Razzak Rai. Taylor shared an unbeaten 53run stand with Stuart Matsikenveri

after Masakadza had retired hurt on 19 after with a nosebleed. Veteran spinner Mohammad Rafigue took one for 30 off 10 overs, while Raj and seamer Reza took

one each. The last match in the series will be held at the same ground tomor-

Karnaphuli

programmes from today's rally to

press home the demand. Besides, opposition leaders at a discussion in the capital on Thursday said the government should leave the third Karnaphuli Bridge issue for the next elected

government to act on it. They called for a national-level movement against the government's initiative for constructing a pillar bridge

On the other hand, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman at a press conference on Monday announced a road march programme to drum up support for the present bridge project. The march titled 'Chalo Chalo Karnaphuli Bridge Abhimukhe Chalo' would end through today's rally on the south of the bridge site.

undesirable act to make implementation of the bridge uncertain. Meanwhile, China Major Bridge (CMB), the company assigned to construct the bridge, started preliminary work on Tuesday.

The minister termed the mayor's

As part of the project work, more than 100 structures are being demolished to make space for two ends of the bridge. Project Director of the bridge

> The Lebanese Red Cross said five civilians were killed and 15 were

Israeli planes pound

Security sources said that the wounded had been evacuated to

The workers included both Lebanese and Syrians who were taking the produce into the walk-in cooler at the time the raids struck. They were employees of the Lebanese agricultural firm Nasser Jbaily.

The refrigerated room was situated beyond the building of the Lebanese customs' office in the zone leading to the border with

Israeli jets wrecked four bridges on the coastal highway leading north from Beirut, effectively cutting the last practicable road between the Lebanese capital and the Syrian

border. South of the capital, they strafed the coastal suburb of Uzai, near Beirut international airport, for the first time in Israel's massive campaign by air, land and sea.

Further down the Mediterranean coast, authorities in Israel's commercial capital Tel Aviv began preparing bomb shelters after Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah warned Thursday that it would be rocketed if Beirut itself were bombed.

"Since the beginning of the conflict, we have updated instructions for residents and have intensified the coordination between emergency services," Colonel Yuval Kimchi, a top official in the city's civil defence agency.

Tel Aviv, a city of 1.5 million people, lies 100km from the Lebanese border, out of range of the Katyusha and Fajr-3 rockets, which Hezbollah has fired daily into north-

Seven more rockets slammed

into Israel from south Lebanon early Friday, police said, but there were no immediate reports of casualties. But Hezbollah claims to possess more powerful missiles, and Israeli public television quoted a senior

military official as saying the army

would destroy all Lebanese infra-

structure if Hezbollah carried out its threat. Israeli warplanes have already wrecked much of that infrastructure the government of Lebanese Premier Fouad Siniora estimates damage so far at more than 2.5

so on Friday. Fighter-bombers struck the Ibrahim Abdel Aal power station at Sohmor, in central Lebanon, cutting electricity supplies to the Bekaa Valley and much of southern

In Dubai, the television channel

billion dollars -- and continued to do

Al-Arabiya reported that three Israeli soldiers had been killed and several wounded in combat in southern Lebanon.

Lebanon, police said.

in northern Israel

A military spokesman refused to comment on the report. But on Thursday, the army confirmed it had lost four in firefights with Shia querrillas. The losses coincided with the deaths of eight

"Overall in terms of casualties, this is the hardest day," an army spokeswoman told AFP At United Nations headquarters in New York, diplomats said the 15-

member Security Council would

meet Friday for a briefing on the

civilians killed by Hezbollah rockets

crisis. British Prime Minister Tony Blair delayed his summer holiday in the Caribbean to consult with other governments on a draft resolution to bring about a ceasefire, his office said.

"He believes the next couple of

days are crucial and will be continu-

ing his intense diplomacy with world

leaders from Downing Street," a spokeswoman said. Negotiations were going on behind the scenes in New York hetween the United States and France, which has drafted a resolution on a ceasefire and deploying an

international peacekeeping force

President George W. Bush has not said whether it is ready to agree a resolution or propose alternative action by the Security Council. But State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice "has instructed our people,

both here in Washington and up in

The administration of US

New York, that we're going to work all throughout the weekend if necessary to get something done." Critics have claimed that Washington's insistence on a "sustainable" ceasefire once a political framework has been laid out is designed to give staunch ally Israel

time to blast away at Hezbollah. But Rice denied that Washington had blocked a halt to fighting. 'We've never opposed a ceasefire," Rice said in the interview, arguing that Washington

simply opposed one that "falls apart

practically the minute it's in place". Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has said Israel would pursue its drive against Hezbollah in south Lebanon until an international force of some 15,000 combat-ready troops was deployed there.

Amir Peretz's spokesman said the army had been ordered to prepare to take control of southern Lebanon. In Tel Aviv, an army spokeswoman said Israeli ground troops were operating around 20 border

On Thursday, Defence Minister

villages in a bid to push Hezbollah fighters further north. But the main thrust of Israeli operations on Friday morning was

wounded in the raids on the highway bridges north of Beirut, but other bodies might be trapped beneath rubble, which cascaded down the

mountainside. The main bridge was near the "Casino du Liban." in the Mediterranean port of Junieh -- the heartland of Christian Lebanon. 20km north of Beirut but politically and culturally a million miles from the Shia surburbs that are the fief of Hezbollah.

Large plumes of smoke billowed into the sky as two of the bridges collapsed and Lebanese troops blocked traffic.

The air strikes punched gaping holes into the other two bridges, destroyed several cars and buses and set off large fires on the mountain flanks.

At Madfun bridge, a crane hauled a blue car clear of the rubble, its dead driver still clinging to the steering wheel.

South of the city, fighter-bombers hit the coastal suburb of Uzai. near Beirut international airport, for the first time since Israel unleashed a massive campaign by air, land and sea to oust Hezbollah fighters from southern Lebanon. The airport has been closed

since the first day of the offensive, The Lebanese army said one of its soldiers died and three were

19 raids in less than an hour on Uzai and surrounding areas. Warplanes broke the sound barrier over Beirut causing panic among residents. A huge pall of smoke mixed with

flames rose over Uzai as the sound

of jets screeching across the

capital was interspersed by the

impacts of exploding bombs.

wounded as the Israelis launched

Hours earlier Israel had threatened to spread its bombardment to new areas of Beirut's southern suburbs, bastions of the Shia Muslim Hezbollah movement, and dropped leaflets calling on resi-Missiles were fired at the

Rweiss and Haret-Hreik districts in

south Beirut, police said. Rweiss,

which had initially been spared.

was first targeted the previous night after a week's respite in strikes on the capital's suburbs. Haret-Hreik and Bir al-Abed where Hezbollah's headquarters is

located, were pounded for two

weeks and are in ruins. Dozens of overnight raids shook several villages in the southern regions of Tyre and Nabatiyeh, relatively far from the border where there were violent clashes between Israeli troops and Hezbollah fighters, Lebanese

10th regional

FROM PAGE 16 expected to speak at the dialogue beginning at 9:30am.

FROM PAGE 16

feedback The first one was held in Mymensingh on April 29. DOHS buildings

Members of the Nagorik

Committee 2006 who are preparing

a "Vision Paper" for the country will

also be present to receive public

was approved and gazetted by the government in June. But mysteriously the government deferred implementation of the new rules until December 31, prompting a rush among plot owners to get their building plans approved under the old rules at Raidhani Unnavan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) office. Mahbub-uz-Zaman, professor at the Department of Architecture.

Brac University, said during building

constructions, every developer is

only concerned with how best they

can fill up every inch of the land with

floor space. The space between two

buildings, as required by the old

rules, does not serve any purpose to

protect the environment. It is a waste of space as all buildings are being built like boxes. The new rules, which require the landowner to leave open space as per floor ratio and build higher buildings, might ensure a sounder environ-"Concrete places like DOHS creates an urban heat island, which

all inmates inside start feeling after

sunset when heat radiates through

walls and penetrates inside, Mahbub-uz-Zaman said. Architect Ishtiaque Zahir of Institute of Architects, Bangladesh (IAB) said due to such crammed living conditions in parts of Old DOHS in Mohakhali and Baridhara DOHS rents are much lower for large flats. "Cheaper rents and congested living attract undesirable section of tenants as we have witnessed in Mohakhali DOHS in the last few years," Zahir added.

According to planning manuals used throughout the world, two thirds of the project land must be kept aside for roads, playgrounds, greens, worship place, schools and other amenities. "The unplanned areas of the city now look much better than these

planned housing projects because the old construction rules, which most of the developers follow, leave room for irregularities," Zahir said. Engineer Saiful Islam of the

Cantonment Board said the board took up a number of beautification programmes in Baridhara DOHS but the homeowners' council rejected it.

minister's apology, the New Delhi cise in hotels and restaurants ahead of Independence Day on August 15

informed the police that a number of foreigners were staying there.

korai, babla trees worth about Tk 90 lakh were sold out for a meagre Tk 9.78 lakh to M/S Redwan Enterprise, a company owned by a BNP leader.

staff Mohammed Karim, however, said the difference was not as high as the investigators claimed.

Tk 1,75,000 for excess tress on the blocks among some aggrieved BNP men, who first leaked the news of controversial tender after failing to get reasonable share in the crime.

the course of three years." Hamidul

told The Daily Star. They said no one

deputy commissioner Nuruzzaman Bhuiyan took the initiative to recover the Dharaborosa Char from the land grabbers by planting samplings across the 1.200 hectare land. which is being devoured by the river