Hail the Super Patriot

distortion of what Bhattacharya said while referring to Rahman's selective use of statistics as "bad comas foreign investors have access to effective because there are many positive elements to attract FDI.

even if Bhattacharya did say what Rahman claims, does that forfeit the former's right to citizenship? How dare he question anybody's right to citizenship? It is the birthright of to question it (except the Israelis

Rahman can question anybody's views, which he could have done far more sophisticatedly. Though on false grounds he went to court, we can still live with that but not with his questioning Bhattacharya's right to citizenship. And as such, we condemn it in the strongest of terms.

mind is why a difference of opinion on economic analysis should go to this extent. Why should five most eminent citizens of the country have arrest warrants against them? Is there a method in, what apparently seems like total madness.

Executive Director Dr Debapriya

Bhattacharya and CPD trustee board

government Syed Manzur Elahi,

former finance minister M

Syeduzzaman and former president of

Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce

and Industry (MCCI) Laila Rahman

town for the last two days, lawyers.

litigants and many others were curious

to observe moving the bail petition for

and barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud

moved the bail petition while many

other lawyers were present to assist

their submission that in a defamation

suit, court usually issues summons but

a different situation has been created

through issuance of arrest warrants in

petitioners (five eminent citizens) did

They also submitted that the

them and its outcome.

them, if needed.

As the matter was the talk of the

Dr M Zahir, barrister Mainul Hosein

The petitioners' counsels argued in

Rahman's defamation suit is. as claimed by him, based on the alleged comment of Syed Manzur Elahi that he was a "collaborator". Fine, then what is the "crime" of the

Professor Rehman Sobhan and Laila Rahman Kabir hardly said anything that day. M Syeduzzaman had nothing to do with those alleged comments, which caused Rahman's umbrage. So, why arrest warrants against them? Syeduzzaman said Rahman did not know the background of CPD trustees, otherwise he could not have called them "shameless liars and traitors". How can that constitute a case for defamation? Now let us come to Syed Manzur

Elahi's comments. As repeated replay of Tuesday's CPD press conference by the electronic media yesterday showed the nation that Elahi said nothing close to what has been claimed by the Bol chairman. So, why the case? The answer is simple -- to intimidate any dissenting voice and those looking at things in an alternative way. There is one official line and that must be echoed, otherwise your patriotism will be questioned and even your citizenship will come under scrutiny.

It is our hope that all this is the act of Rahman alone and that the government has no role in it. This hope is belied by the action of the lower court which, as we know, is under direct control of the executive. It is difficult to believe that warrants against some of the most eminent citizens of the country were out within minutes of Rahman lodging the case without a 'green signal' from the highups. That directly points to collusion with, if not the government, then certain powerful sections within it. We still believe that saner sections within the government were not in the know of it all. So, we think there is still time to rein in the super patriot and saviour, and save Bangladesh from further losing its most precious international credential -- that of its democ-

A fundamental feature of fascism is to intimidate its citizens and civic bodies. This it does by twisting, distorting or even falsifying what they say or stand for and then using the legal framework to harass them or even put them in prison. And in doing this, they use super patriotism as the overall cover.

In Bangladesh today, we are seeing clear signs of such tendencies. The ruling BNP and its leadership must choose which direction they will take

names as voters in many areas, the EC warned the field level staff of punitive actions in case any underage people is listed or if anyone is listed twice. Though no specific time was allocated for displaying the updated voter list, the EC secretary yesterday said the updated list would be

kept open for public inspection as soon as the field work and compilation of data are completed in any "The updated voter list will be

kept open for people's inspection till August 30." he said.

FROM PAGE 1 (journalists) better prove that these The list will be made available at organisations are Jamaat backed." the offices of the registration officers, assistant registration officers

and Union Parishad and the ward offices of municipalities and city corporations, the EC Secretariat said in a press release yesterday.

"The objections, if filed any, will be resolved by August 30 and then we will start the voter list printing process from September 1," he said.

The existing electoral laws provide for allocating 15 days for people's inspection and raising objections regarding the draft voter list before its publication.

But some district election officers working as registration officers for updating the voter list said the time allocated for public inspection of the list is inadequate. They feared that they would not be able to display the updated voter list within the short

"To keep the updated voter list at the designated places including our offices, we will have to make several copies of the list. But the EC secretariat is yet to allocate any fund for it." another district election officer

ORDER ON OFFICE DISCIPLINE

The EC Secretariat yesterday issued an office order asking its officers and employees to attend office in time and not to be at others office rooms without any work.

Punitive action will be taken if any official fails to turn up by 9:00am and does not discharge duties at their own office rooms, said the

"Some officers and employees do not attend the office in time. This is against the office discipline," a source said quoting the order.

BIDS shocked

silence in a situation that could threaten independent research and dissemination, as well as throttle freedom of speech and free thought," Dr Quazi Shahabuddin, director general of BIDS, said in a press release yesterday.

The release also said there is a long tradition of independent research and dissemination in Bangladesh, including welldeveloped norms for expressing differences in opinion about data or methods "It is unfortunate that in recent times such norms appear to have been eroded." it added.

The release requested all concerned to demonstrate greater maturity and responsibility.

Meanwhile, different political parties and rights groups also protested the defamation case filed against members of the CPD board of trustees.

Supra, a civil society campaign for good governance, formed a human chain near the Shahbagh intersection vesterday protesting against Mahmudur Rahman's filing the defamation case against the five eminent citizens.

Members of different organisations including Faith and Hope Welfare Association, Swadhin Bangla Garment Sramik Federation, Safal Trust, Fido, Pradip and a number of Dhaka University students joined the human chain, a Supra press release

held a rally where the speakers termed the defamation case a threat to free speech and thoughts

Chief of the Supra Secretariat Aminul Rasul Babul, its coordinators Mohammad Zakaria and Mostafa Kamal Akanda addressed the rally among others.

Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) and

11 JCD men

FROM PAGE 20 The names dropped from the charge sheet were Aminur Rahman Jalali Mukul, Mohammad Ripon Anwar Hossain, Aminur Rahman Jamali and Shaikot. The four arrestees who made confessional statements had told the magistrate that Shaikot, a JCD leader led the

A team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) picked up the 13 on July 30 at CMMU of the health ministry on charge of creating obstacles to those who intended to buy or drop schedules.

Sources said August 1 was the last date for buying the schedules for three projects involving around Tk 400 crore under the development budget. August 2 was the last date for dropping the tender schedules. which were being sold at 36 places across the country, the sources

Paban

FROM PAGE 20

lawvers, the prosecution told the court that Paban was directly involved in the incident.

Detective Branch (DB) of police on June 7 this year arrested Paban on Bailey Road in the capital with a stolen Toyota car, which was hijacked by three criminals from its owner at Motijheel on October 13 last vear.

DB produced Paban before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court on June 8. The court then ordered to send him to jail rejecting the bail prayer.

Polls observers

we are not backed by Jamaat, You

An organisation named Election Monitoring Group (EMG) was formed with 29 organisations to monitor the last election. Now 14 of those organisations have been left out and 20 new organisations included to float the EWG, said sources.

and renowned election monitor BROTEE are among the ones

at its office on Panthapath in the city.

Sources said DemocracyWatch, Khan Foundation, Fema. MMC. Jativa Nirbachon Pariobekkhan Parishad (Janipop) and Lighthouse are the key organisations that combined to form EWG.

Minister Abdul Moyeen Khan, leads the Khan Foundation.

Lighthouse, an NGO based in Bogra, are said to be very close to the Hawa Bhaban, BNP lawmaker Ziaul Hague Mollah is one of crucial

"Every individual may have political leanings, but things are different when it comes down to professionalism. The people of EWG will work professionally to carry out their responsibilities," Taleya Rehman told the reporters in the meet-the-press.

Development (ADD), which usually works for the disabled people, has also been included in the EWG.

At least six NGO chiefs are directly involved with the ruling BNP and will work at the 130 seats where the incumbent lawmakers were elected on the BNP ticket, the sources said.

League (AL) to discuss the opposition's reservations about the NGOs. added the sources.

launching of EWG, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, political secretary to the leader of the opposition, last night told The Daily Star, "It is unfortunate and unexpected, and we are simply disappointed at the recent developments. We have already communicated our allegations to The Asia Foundation.'

Firoje M Hasan, leader of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh and former official of Fema, said, "The people don't trust the CEC and two other election observation.

the members of FWG have committed themselves to abiding by the EWG code of ethics that include. among others, maintaining a strict political neutrality in carrying out its activities.

trated by the EWG Ethics Committee, also includes a code of conduct for the EWG secretariat and for all field staff and volunteers to ensure neutrality, he said.

He also said if an allegation of flouting the code of ethics is raised against any EWG member or individual proper disciplinary actions including expulsion will be taken against them.

Referring to the funding, Jahrul said so far about \$4.2 million of a required \$6 million has been mobi-

Taleya Rehman, executive director of DemocracyWatch, said, "We will also work towards developing an awareness among the people

of their voting rights."

political parties and the election commission (EC) secretariat to be independent of the prime minister's

Kim McOuay, country representative of The Asia Foundation. AHM Nouman, president of Bangladesh Manohadhikar Samonnov Parishad (BMSP). Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah. chairman of Janipop, Angela Gomez, Numan Ahmed Khan, executive director of Institute for Environment and Development (IED) also spoke at the press conference

Judges killing

Bangla Bhai and five other militants. and acquitted one in the sensational case for the killing of two judges.

The five others to walk the gallows are the banned JMB's Majlishe-Shura members Ataur Rahman Sunny. Abdul Awal and Khaled Saifullah, suicide bomber Iftekhar Hasan Al Mamun and Asadur Rahman Arif. Of them, Arif is absconding.

convicted confessed their involvement in the killings and also revealed how they conspired for

Plot to blow up planes

months after four British Islamist

suicide bombers killed 52 people and

injured about 700 on London's trans-

said Britain was in the most sustained

period of severe threat since the end of

World War Two and warned there was

A police source said more than 15

"We don't think that it was planned

"The plan was to take a ready-

Independent terrorism expert Paul

"A laptop computer can carry

to happen today" the source told

Reuters. "We had intelligence and we

had to move against what was a

made explosive device rather than

something which would be made up

Beaver said hand luggage was a weak

enough explosives to blow up an

aircraft," he said. "Hold baggage and

cargo can be sniffed for explosives.

You can't do that for hand luggage at

the moment. The technology is there,

but it's time consuming and expen-

Beaver said the nature of the

"In the last two months al-Qaeda

alleged plot suggested a connection to

and Afghanistan by attacking British

and American aviation assets -- I see a

Islamist militants for its military cam-

criticism at home and abroad for

following the US lead and refusing to

call for an immediate ceasefire in the

conflict between Israel and Lebanese

baggage would be allowed on any of

its planes leaving British airports. It

said no electrical or battery powered

items would be allowed in the cabin.

including laptops and mobile phones.

British Airways said no hand

Britain has come under fire from

Blair has also come under strong

promised that it would avenge

direct link with that." he said.

paigns in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Hezbollah guerrillas.

no room for complacency.

people had been arrested.

on board," the source said.

spot in airport security.

al-Qaeda.

In a speech on Wednesday, Reid

port network

planned attack

FROM PAGE 1

"The police acting with the security service MI5 are investigating ar alleged plot to bring down a number of aircraft through mid-flight explosions, causing a considerable loss of life, Interior Minister John Reid said.

The plot to blow up airliners targeted at least three major US carriers on flights from Britain, with destina tions that included at least five major US cities, a US intelligence official said Thursday

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said United, American Airlines and Continental Airlines were among the carriers targeted although the targets might also have included non-US carriers.

The destination of the targeted flights included cities that were "primary tourist attractions," including New York, Washington DC, and Los Angeles, the official said. "You'd have to add Boston, you'd have to add Chicago. Kind of like the big hubs if you will." he added. The US Department of Homeland

Security raised the threat level for all commercial aircraft to high and US authorities banned liquids, including drinks, from all US commercial flights. Britain's security services raised the threat level in the country to "criti-

cal" from "severe," the highest of its five ratings, which means "an attack is expected imminently." The British Airports Authority said it

had asked all European carriers to suspend flights to London's main Heathrow airport where new security measures caused severe delays.

The news came amid high international tension over the war in Lebanon and the week British Prime Minister Tony Blair headed on holiday to the Caribbean

London police said they believed the intention was to target flights from Britain to the United States.

Shares in European airlines fell on the news, with British Airways shares opening nearly 5 percent lower. The pound also fell against the dollar and the euro. Blair's office said the prime minister

had briefed President Bush on the operation during the night and had been in constant contact with Britain over the situation.

Reid said it was a "very significant

"We are doing everything possible to disrupt any further terrorist activity. he said in a statement. "This will mean major disruption at all UK airports." Air passengers found they could

take little on board. "We cannot take on anything except wallets, passports and medi-

cine," Dana Cojocaru-Ivoska, 28 trying to get on a flight to return to her nome in St. Louis Missouri The security alert comes 13 passengers on flights to the United States would be subject to a secondary search at the boarding gate and all

British Airports Authority said all

liquids would also be removed. The Home Office Web Site showed the threat rating had been raised to "critical" from "severe" earlier on Thursday. Britain has a five level rating for security threats, ranging from low to

critical, which is the highest level

Israel puts

within around 8 km (5 miles) of the border but Wednesday's decision could bring the army to the Litani River, some 20 km (12.5 miles) into

Israel's Channel Two television ported on Wednesday evening that the expanded offensive was under way, citing movement of troops and tanks from the northern town of Kirvat Shmona toward al-Khiam. But the army said the incursion was a local operation against Hezbollah rocke crews in al-Khiam.

Earlier Israeli troops seized the Christian towns of Marjayoun and Qlaiah in south Lebanon on Thursday, witnesses said, even though Israel says it has put off plans for a broader offensive against Hezbollah guerrillas.

A Reuters journalist said Israeli troops had moved on foot through Marjayoun, about 8 km (5 miles) inside Lebanon, as well as Qlaiah and the nearby village of Burj al-Molouk.

They were followed by tanks, which deployed on roads nearby. drawing intense Hezbollah rocket and mortar fire.

"I can see two tanks burning some 500 meters from Marjayoun," one resident told Reuters by telephone. A third tank arrived later and

removed several casualties, he said. adding that Hezbollah fighters were raining rocket and mortar fire on the Israeli force between Marjayoun and

Hezbollah said in a statement it had destroyed 11 Israeli tanks, killing or wounding their crews, in fighting in the area. It said it had knocked out two more two tanks near the village of Ainata to the west. Israel's army had no immediate comment.

Marjayoun, a town of 3,000, served as the headquarters of the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army militia during Israel's 22-year occupation of the region that ended in 2000. Qlaiah has a population of about 7,000, according

to UN figures. An Israeli cabinet minister said plans for an expanded ground offensive, approved on Wednesday, had been put on hold to allow more time for US-led diplomatic efforts to bear fruit.

"There is a certain diplomatic process under way," Tourism Minister Yitzhak Herzog said. "We can allow a

military option would go ahead if talks

failed. "If there won't be a diplomatic

solution, there will be a need to remove this threat." he told Israel's Army Radio, referring to more than 3,300 Hezbollah rockets fired into northern

An Israeli military source said the

incursion in the eastern sector aimed to stop Hezbollah firing rockets at the northern Israeli town of Kirvat Shmona

The new thrust into Lebanon occurred hours after Hezbollah's chief vowed to turn the south into a grave-

But Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah also said Hezbollah supported a Lebanese government decision to send 15,000 troops to the border if that would

"If everyone sees that deploying the army will help find a way out politically that would result in the halting of aggression ... this for us is a national and honourable way out," he said in a televised address.

Hezbollah, which has controlled the south since Israeli occupation troops left in 2000, has long resisted international pressure on Lebanon to

The UN Security Council has been divided over a resolution aimed at halting the fighting and stabilizing the area with the deployment of an international force to back the Lebanese

Lebanon wants an immediate ceasefire and a swift Israeli withdrawal. Israel says it will fight on until

France, which may lead the foreign force, does not want it to deploy before

a ceasefire and a political agreement. No Security Council vote seems

Court rejects FROM PAGE 20

response to the previous show cause on July 23 - which was issued on July 17 for not including Kala Mahabub as a state witness.

(no confidence) and ordered for further investigation in the case before submitting the charge sheet, court sources said. The court yesterday also ordered

the additional inspector general of CID to appoint an honest and unbiased officer as the IO for the case, added the court sources.

July 10 against 16 accused, including prime suspects Kashem Chairman. Shahid Chairman and Kala Mahbub. The first hearing of the case was

Jamal Uddin was abducted on his way home at Chandgaon on July 24,

The Rapid Action Battalion dug out

a DNA test of the remains later confirmed it was of Jamal Uddin's.

modity" implying that ultimately it does not do any good to the country all relevant facts. In fact, a more forthcoming approach is far more

Just for the sake of argument, everybody everywhere in the world and nobody but nobody has the right who question the right of Palestinians to citizenship in their

own land).

The question that boggles our

5 eminent citizens The five are renowned economist and petitioners are eminent personalities. Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) As a magistrate's court hurriedly Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan, its

> came to the HC for bail. Opposing the bail petition Deputy Attorney General Mokhlesur Rahman said since it is a bailable offence, the

He also submitted that yesterday was not fixed for hearing of the bail petition. So, it should not have come up on the list for hearing.

to the energy ministry, said on Wednesday that Debapriya has no right to stay in this country. Debapriva told newsmen on the court premises yesterday that it is not

situation in the country, he asked.

The counsels argued that the five

issued warrants of arrest, the petitioners apprehend they would not get justice in that court. And for this, they

petitioners could seek bail in the

Soon after getting bail, Debapriya expressed his satisfaction. Mahmudur Rahman, also adviser

the duty of Bol to decide who should stay in the country and who should not. If it does so, what will be the investment

Metropolitan Magistrate Syed Mohammad Mujibul Haq issued the arrest warrants after Mahmudur Rahman filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

not call Mahmudur Rahman a 'Razakar' and that a case has been filed against them on the basis of a

Bomber kills 35 government to restore order and

promote a reconciliation plan. Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's government has vowed to root out sectarian death squads and is attempting to persuade armed groups to join talks to reconcile the divided communities

health ministry said that in the last month alone the Baghdad mortuary had handled 1,850 corpses, most of them murder victims. The figure for June was 1,350 and this increased to 1,850 last month," ministry spokesman Qasim Yahia told

But attacks and counterattacks

have continued, and on Thursday the

AFP adding that provincial mortuaries had also handled many dead, but he did not have the figures The sectarian bloodletting began in earnest in February after suspected

Sunni militants blew up a revered Shia shrine in Samarra, triggering a wave of brutal revenge killing. The Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) -- a powerful

Maliki's ruling coalition -- was swift to blame Sunni militants for the latest

internal strife," party spokesman Aziz

Zein al-Ali said "We believe that such an act was carried out by Saddamists (supporters of ousted leader Saddam Hussein's Sunni-dominated regime) and takfiris (Sunni religious extremists) who do

An aide to Shia radical leader Mogtada Sadr seized on the deaths to demand that Shias be allowed to form self-defence committees, a move that would undermine the prime minister.

to take stringent measures," said Saheb al-Ameri, the head of Sadr's

Malik, who was an adviser to the caretaker government, said the rich people need to pay for medical ser-

Former cabinet secretary Muiibul Hug stressed the need for decentralisation of healthcare system to make it

Earlier, making a presentation on 'Vision 2021 for Bangladesh: Goal 4: To have a health-endowed nation, Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive director of Centre for Policy Dialogue, said budget allocation in the health sector is on the rise but it is still far below the global standard.

"We need to bring population growth at zero level by 2010 and large investments on mothers' education and children's health will be needed over the coming years," he said. Primary healthcare service at the rural areas needs to be improved.

Debapriya said, adding that an

improved public health system will

have a great positive impact on health

indicators and lessen the pressure on the healthcare system. Dr Rashied Mahbub, former president of Bangladesh Medical Association, said health sector has become a good place for those who are involved in looting the people's

It is very much required to make essential drugs available for the People are paying for healthcare

"We call upon everyone to stop these attacks that target civilians, the aim of which is to create sedition and

not want stability in this country." he

who has vowed to disarm militias. "We condemn and reject such acts near the shrine of the Imam. We call upon the security authorities in the city

Shia religious party that is a pillar of Graft, policy

FROM PAGE 20

vices but the poor should get it free Associates for Development, said. through card system. It has become a common trend that health programmes introduced by the

> bad.said Dr Sarwar Ali. There is a serious lack of account-

Fifty per cent of the total population them under medical service, said Dr

service but there is little possibility of developing accountability in this sector if they do not have any role to play, Sved Jahangir Haider, managing director of Research Evaluation

previous government is changed when a new government comes into power but it is seldom considered whether the programmes are good or

ability in the health sector and the

healthcare in the manifestos of the two major political parties but they would hardly implement those, Ubaidur Rob, country director of Population Council,

Reaching healthcare service to the poor needs special attention and there is a need for bringing accountability to ensure a minimum quality service, Dr Yasmin H Ahmed, managing director of Mary Stopes Clinic Society, said.

BDR, BSF

FROM PAGE 1 numbers of Indians and docu-

A tense situation prevailed in the villages between Uttarkul and Amolshid border outposts since June 23 when BDR men foiled BSF's attempt to 'adversely pos-

boundary agreement signed between Bangladesh and India in 1974. The agreement allows both the countries use the lands under their control, he added. On June 23, BSF crossed the

land. Inhabitants of the surrounding area had to leave their homesteads after BSF and BDR exchanged over 1,800 bullets that

A battalion commander level flag meeting between BDR and BSF at India's Harinagar camp on July 4 decided that neither parties would show aggression concern-

tion prevailing there. His family members buried him at Anandapur four kilometres off Amolshid around 2:00pm yesterday. No class was held in any of the

Uddin, 70, could not be buried in

his village due to the tensed situa-

heard vesterday.

Documents doctored FROM PAGE 20

six years in case of reconditioned NBR Chairman Abdul Karim admitted the foul play in vehicle import and said he recently asked both the Chittagong customs commissioner and Benapole customs commissioner to step up vigilance against such menace. "We will not

allow such violation of import policy and counterfeiting to evade taxes." About 80 per cent of the country's annual demand for reconditioned cars and pick-ups -- around 8,000-- are imported from Japan by the BARVIDA members, and 3,000 new vehicles are imported from

India by Benapole- based import-New car importers meet the

demand for about 1.500 cars annu-

Verdict in graft case FROM PAGE 1

for judgment when the defence lawyers in September 2003 stated that their client would not get justice from the court. Then it was deferred again in July 2004 due to illness of In the case filed with Ramna

years (1983-1989). Later, he withdrew Tk 2,76,324 from the income tax money without submitting any documents in favour of The now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption filed a corruption case accusing Ershad and three tax

officials on July 27, 1992.

7,43,416 as income tax for six

ever submitted charge sheet against Ershad as the lone accused on December 19, 1992. The court framed charges against him on January 26, 1994 and the trial began on June 26, 2003.

The investigation officer how-

Voter list

The field workers will now continue visiting door to door until August 20. The time for preparing the supplementary list has also been extended

by 10 days until August 30. The list is being updated based on applications received for inclusion and deletion of names from the

existing voter list prepared in year The EC first decided to complete the door-to-door visits by July 30, but later extended the deadline to August 10. The time for compiling

the data was also extended to August 20. The EC took the decision vesterday after reviewing the door-to-door visits, progress of which is very poor in the capital. Even the visit is yet to begin in many rural areas

The EC Secretariat however

claimed 1.22 crore people have so

far applied for including their names and 14.46 lakh applications have been received for deletion of Officials at the EC Secretariat said the field level officials would be able to reach over 30 lakh people

eligible for being voters within the

extended time.

As allegations have been raised that underage people are being allowed to apply for registering their

Karmaiibi Nari in a ioint statement

condemned the filing of the case

against five renowned citizens. The

statement signed by Roekva Rafig

cratic and constitutional rights of free speech. Leaders of the Jativa Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Jatiya Sramik Jote, Movement for Effective Parliament and Barisal Division Awami Forum also sent separate statements protesting against the

filing of the defamation case.

difficulties in obtaining visas to Radzi said the visa, offered at a cost of 100 ringgit (27 dollars), would

be available throughout Visit Malaysi

Year 2007 and afterwards if no prob-

lems were experienced. "As long as it doesn't threaten Malaysia's security... it will depend on the situation and we will monitor to see if it is good for Malaysia," he said.

Tourism is Malaysia's second largest foreign exchange earner, but it is facing stiff competition from neighbours including Singapore and Thailand. Arrivals from China in particular have been dropping, from 550,000 in 2004 to 350,000 in 2005, in a decline

2007, up from 15.7 million in 2004.

Shamsur Rahman FROM PAGE 20 Rural development and Co-operatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan visited the ailing poet separately

yesterday, says a press release.

They inquired about the poet's physical condition and wished for his rly recovery. Both ministers assured the poet's Poet's daughter seeks PM's help

Sumi called on the prime minister at her office and made the appeal. The prime minister gave assurance that the government would

Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury was present. Meanwhile, the condition of poet Shamsur Rahman remained unchanged, attending physician MA

prime minister for her personal care for

the treatment of her father.

(BSMMU) Hospital The poet is in the ICU of the hospital under artificial life support. A ninemember medical board was formed on Wednesday

> The government-appointed defence counsel for the convicts started his submission yesterday.

chemical" device

Nari Progoti Sangha, PIT Trust

excluded. "Many of the organisations that we called on to join us did not show interest," Jahrul Alam, director of EWG, said at the press briefing held

Taleya Rahman, wife of a pro-BNP newspaper editor, is the leader of DemocracyWatch while Rokshana Khandaker, wife of ICT

Besides, the authorities of figures behind the organisation.

Action on Disability and

The Asia Foundation authorities will meet a delegation of Awami

Expressing surprise at the

election commissioners to conduct a free and fair election, so why the international community should contribute a huge money for the Referring to the neutrality of the EWG, Jahrul at the press meet said

The code of ethics, adminis-

Munira Khan, president of Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (Fema), said, "We too want the electoral reforms, registration of the

office.

The DAG submitted that the

little more time to see if there's a possibility for a diplomatic process." Herzog, a member of Israel's security cabinet, made clear the

Israel since hostilities erupted on July

from the Khiam border area.

promote a peaceful solution.

deploy the army to the south.

foreign troops and the Lebanese army move in -- a stance backed by Washington, which fears a security vacuum that could let Hezbollah

Magistrate Mohammed Akram Hossain accepted the 'naraji petition'

The police pressed charges on

held on July 23, sources said. 2003. He was later murdered.

his skeleton from a remote village in Fatikchhari on August 24 last year and

experts are given very insignificant the judge. role to play in decision making, he said. There are good words about Police Station, it was alleged that Ershad, while in power, paid Tk

in the country cannot afford healthcare facility and it is a big challenge to bring Dibalok Singha, executive director of Dustha Shasthva Kendra.

ments were recovered from their possession

> sess some farmland near the border, a top BDR official said. He said the land falls in the criteria of article-3 of the land

> > river in boats and tried to occupy the farmland, BSF and BDR mer also traded around 100 bullets that day. The 256-acre land had been under Bangladesh's control since The BSF again made an attempt on June 28 to occupy the

ing the disputed territory and they would work to bring back normalcy in the area. They had also agreed to withdraw additional troops and ammunition supplies. During the gun battle, a septua genarian died of heart attack on Wednesday midnight. Khali

educational institutions in the area and no call for prayers [Ajan] were

Following the human chain, they relax the time limit from four years to

operation along with others.

Baby and Dr Fostino Perera said such cases hamper citizens' demo-

Malaysia offers FROM PAGE 20 He said the move would particularly benefit tourists from China who had

The government has said it hopes to attract some 20.1 million tourists in

blamed partly on negative publicity over the treatment of Chinese nation

family of assistance for his treatment. Poet Shamsur Rahman's daughter Sumaiya Rahman Sumi yesterday

appealed to Prime Minister Khaleda

Zia to send her ailing father abroad for

better treatment.

extend all possible cooperation for the poet's treatment on advice of the doctors. Sumi expressed gratitude to the

Karim said vesterday. The 77-year-old renowned poet, who has been suffering from heart. liver, kidney and lung problems, is now under treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Dhaka City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka visited ailing poet Shamsur Rahman