Regional dialogue

ernment and a member of Nagorik

Committee 2006 S M Shahjahan said

caretaker concept emerged as politi-

cians lacked confidence in each other.

racy, but the citizens are very worried

about its future in the country, he said,

adding, "Now democracy is being

minister and also a member of Nagorik

committee, said the main objective of

the dialogue is to create awareness

among the people about their civil

tremendous growth in export earning,

remittance collection and GDP in the

last one and a half decade but the

benefit of the economic development

did not properly reach the grass-roots

per cent people are still below the

rights of every citizen, but the demo-

cratic process has been disturbed in

Bandladesh on several occasions, he

said, adding that the politicians will

have to come forward to solve the

nated politics, Shah Mohammad Abu

Zafar MP, a prominent politician of the

lobbying for nomination while the

politicians are running for money to

contest the next general elections, he

campaign for the honest candidates.

who will get nomination from the major

political parties, he said people should

vote for the candidates, not for the

prohibiting publication of posters and

leaflets as part of election campaign to

Advisory Committee SM Nurunnabi

said the black money holders have

taken away politics. He urged the civil

society members to go to the villages

general secretary of district BNP, said

the civil society initiative would not

continue for long if it is initiated to serve

Advocate Modarres Ali Isha,

reduce election expenditure.

and mix with common people.

Zafar also proposed enacting a law

Member of Awami League Central

Black money holders have domi-

The black money holders are

Uraina the civil society members to

poverty level.

party symbol.

"We have much more to do as 40

The constitution ensures political

He said the country achieved

M Syeduzzaman, former finance

used only for capturing power.

There is no alternative to democ-

eminent citizens and criticised the

government for harassing them. Independent research organisation Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) organised the day-long dialogue jointly with The Daily Star, the Prothom Alo

and the Channel i at a hotel in the

district town. This was the 11th such dialogue as part of a civil society campaign for honest and competent candidates in the election 2007 and accountable

development CPD Executive Director Debapriya Bhattacharya conducted the dialogue with prominent educationist ProfANM Abdus Sobhan in the chair. A large number of people including politicians, lawyers, teachers, NGO leaders, students, social workers and cultural activists attended the dialogue and participated in discussion.

Educationist Azizul Hague Khan and Advocate Fazlul Haque were special guests at the dialogue while Editor of the Prothom Alo Motiur Rahman spoke on behalf of the organ-

Former adviser to caretaker government S M Shajahan and former finance minister M Syeduzzaman took part in the discussion on behalf of the Nagorik Committee 2006, formed for preparing a vision paper for Bangladesh in 2021.

Prof Abdus Sobhan underscored the need for bringing qualitative changes in politics. Qualitative changes are required in politics, particularly in the major political parties. The country would not develop until the civil society cooperates in the initiative to bring such changes, he

He thought intellectuals in the country are divided into major two groups, siding with the Awami League or the BNP.

According to him, the civil society should speak impartially. Honest and progressive sections in political parties should also come forward to bring constructive changes within their

Azizul Haque Khan said if the civil society continues its initiative for accountable development, a prosperous Bangladesh could be a reality by

2021. The concept of non-political organisations should be changed as everything is related to politics, he felt.

Fazlul Hague said a caretaker government can take account of wealth and property of candidates in polls, if it wishes. It can also separate the judiciary from the executive. "There is no legal barrier to it."

Haque said though the country is not a failed state, the government has

Politicians go to power in the name of democracy but they kill democracy

after going to power, he said. He warned against political rehabil-

itation of a deposed military ruler. Motiur Rahman expressed con-

cern about the next general election. He also protested the issuance of arrest warrants against five eminent

citizens following a case filed by an adviser to a ministry The Prothom Alo editor said the

people want Bangladesh to be developed as a true democratic nation. On the objectives of the dialogue,

Motiur Rahman said the civil society wants to improve the country's image in the international arena. Khadiza Begum of Bangladesh

Mohila Parishad demanded more reserved seats for women in parliament and direct election to the seats. She also urged the major political parties to increase nomination of women candidates.

Prof Altaf Hossain demanded a healthy education system by 2021.

Former adviser to caretaker gov-

any quarters. He also criticised terming a people's representative 'razakar'. Demanding massive reforms in the Election Commission for a free and fair election, President of Faridpur district Awami League Quazi Joinul Abedin said the election cannot be free and fair with the existing chief election

commissioner. Abedin demanded an education system free from discrimination. saying that students from outside the capital cannot score good results

under the existing education system. Former principal of Government Rajendra College Kamal Ataur Rahman proposed formation of a national government where all political parties will have share on the basis of seats in parliament.

If this system is int would be no hartal or political siege programme in the country and the country will run peacefully at least for five years, he added.

Demanding government's initiatives for protecting Faridpur from river erosion, freedom fighter MA Salam Lalmian said the money wasted in the Local Government Engineering Department through corruption was enough to prevent the river erosion.

The politicians spend huge amount of money during elections and so nothing is left for the poor people, Waliur Rahman Khan of Fema said. He urged the major political parties to nominate honest and dedicated

Oil reservoir in Bay

when the government wished to

obtain its data on the delta gath-

region? Even this time, the foreign

ministry did not think enough

about our interest before signing

conducted the same survey in

mid-eighties on the basis of an

agreement with Petrobangla,

which focused more on geological

information and extensive data

sharing. As a result, Bangladesh

ORDEAL OF LOCAL

Due to the weak agreement with

the BGR, six government officials

aboard the scientific vessel RV

Sonne ended up in a series of

embarrassing situations. Two

officials joined the survey mission.

on June 5 and the others on July 5

upon government orders and with

an understanding that the BGR

would provide them with daily

discovered that the agreement

said nothing about per diem or

other expenses. So, they had to

work for nearly two months liter-

ally at the mercy of the BGR team.

the BGR team declined to drop

the officials at the Chittagong port

and offered them to disembark

from the ship in Penang,

Malaysia, from where they would

a day more in Bangladesh waters

had it arranged the disembarka-

tion in Chittagong and the rent of

the ship a day was \$30,000, cost

of which was much higher than

the airfare of us from Malaysia, an

official in the team told The Daily

proposition, the BGR on July 12

emailed the foreign ministry for

issuance of the government

orders (GO) to land in Malaysia.

The ministry mailed back on July

22, asking the team to wait for the

GO. The GO was issued on July

25, after the ship had left the

Bangladesh waters, making the

officials sick to death over the

possibility of an imminent 'illegal'

After receiving the GO, the

officials however obtained

Malaysian visa with the help of the

management of the RV Sonne. On

July 30, they were dropped in

Penang, from where they flew to

Dhaka via Singapore the next day.

national committee headed by the

home secretary will take the deci-

sion in special cases, he added.

Those sentenced to death or life

terms will not enjoy the facility of

provision of providing iftar to the

inmates who fast during Ramadan

the amendment officially introduces

installing of televisions and ceiling

fans in prisons although the practice

The amended Jail Code will

provide food for the children of

inmates aged up to six years while

the existing code allows food for

soda in toilets, the amendment

allows a toilet soap and two laundry

allows jail guards to use walkie-

talkies and binoculars to strengthen

Instead of supplying only caustic

The amended Jail Code also

children aged up to two years.

soaps for each inmate

has already begun

Besides officially including a

status on arrival in Malaysia.

As the officials agreed to this

The BGR would have to waste

be able to fly back home.

On completion of the survey,

Aboard the ship, the officials

was immensely benefited.

Sources said that the BGR

ered in the nineties.

the agreement.'

EXPERTS

wages.

FROM PAGE 1

1,000km areas. The BGR shared this data with the government in a raw form, which calls for advance scientific analysis and interpreta-

the welfare of the society. The politicians change their attitude after being elected, Faridpur Press Club President Munshi Harunur Rashid said, adding that the present political situation makes people lose respect for the politicians.

He expressed the hope that the politicians will start practising democracy within their parties.

dialogue up to the upazila level.

candidates

Opposing any provision of reserved seats for women in parliament. Shipra Goswami said they should contest from all 300 constituen-

Syed Shahid Reza Biplob demanded an acceptable election with participation of all political parties. The politicians increase their wealth through politics, advocate Shahana Shoily said.

She wondered at the political parties' reluctance to register as political organisations.

ATM Amir Ali, editor of a local weekly, urged the civil society members to identify the black money holders before the elections.

Among others who participated in the discussion were: Advocate Shahidunnabi, Abul Fayez Shanewaj, Forkan Ahmed khan, Asma Akhter Mukta, poet Kochi Reza, Mehedi Hasan Shoeb, Rafiguzzaman Layek, advocate Shamsunnahar, Monoi Saha, Khondoker Saidur Rahim Bitul. Mosharraf Hossain, Bashir Ahmed Chowdhury, Abdul Ali Shikder, Murad Hossain, Monoranjan Bosh, Ivy Masud, Altaf Mahmud, Suresh Chandra Halder, Ashraf Ali, Nasreen Sultana, Iva Moiumder, Suprva Datta, Quazi Mosharraf Hossain, Khan Mahbubur Rahman, Golam Faruq Howlader, Noor Mohammad, Fakir Abdur Rashid, Mohammad Ali Rumi, Sheikh Mohammad Feroz. Mohammad Haider, Mohammad Delwar Hossain, and Khondoker

Shariakandi UNO

almost Tk 1.24 crore from three land development projects.

District administration sources said the government allocated more than a thousand metric ton of rice for land filling works in Uttar Nandina Project, Sonpocha Abashon Project-2 and Sonpocha-Nandina Abashon project in 2003 to rehabilitate three hundred landless

During an inquiry the authorities found most of the allocations had been withdrawn without doing any

Major (Retd) Mesba-Uddin, project director of Abashon, told local journalists that few months ago some project chairmen had misappropriated a huge amount of rice worth Tk 1 crore. After completion of the inquiry UNO SM Ferdous Alam filed the cases according to a governmental decision to recover the

Alleged three project chairmen Anisur Rahman Khoka, Abdul Jalil and Abu Bakker Siddique denied the allegations and said they had not been involved with the misappropriation. They said all withdrawals of allocated rice were made by Kazi Mahbubur Rahman Ranju chairman of Karnibari union parishad under the upazila, who is also a BNP leader. Ranju, younger brother of a local BNP lawmaker Al-Haj Kai Rafiqul Islam, also denied the allegation.

252 more back

FROM PAGE 16

alone Bangladeshis," said Shamsu Rahman Dipu, a returnee from Comilla, who went to Lebanon five vears ago Bangladeshis in Lebanon are in a

very risky position as many of them do not have legal documents and the country has no embassy there to help

them in an emergency.

Rahima Khatun of Brahmanbaria thanked the IOM and Bangladesh government for bringing them home and said she had a troubled time as her employer left Beirut for Londor after the Israeli air strikes began last

"I had to live alone in the employer's house for some days. I gave up all hopes of survival. Then, with the help of some Bangladeshis, I got registered with the IOM and finally came home.' said 26-year old Rahima, who worked as a housemaid for the last three years

Her employer was supposed to pay her wages in lump but did not do so before leaving the country, she said. "What shall I do now? How can I

Most of the returnees have similar

When contacted, deputy secretary of the expatriates' welfare ministry Amir Hossain had earlier said the returnees would be helped for their rehabilitation at home or sent back to Lebanon when the situation improves

South Asia Shahidul Hague told reporters at ZIA that the Bandladeshis in Lebanon either with or without proper documents will be brought back if they register with IOM wishing to return home

The extensive shelling forced the district administration to suspend traffic on Indian National Highwayministry, foreign ministry, the IOM and 44 and the BSF was forced to retali-Qatar Charity received the returnees ate the BDR firing, the release says. at ZIA yesterday.

He also suggested bringing the

Rabeva Ahmed, a mother of two myrtars, urged the people to work for

known before.

ground reservoirs in carbonate rocks, experts say.

eader Dr HR Kudrass said that the oolite layer used to be the beach of southwestern region 20,000 years ago during the ice

This region is the largest delta in the world, and its rivers are accumulating sediment at the quickest rate towards a deep sea fan, which is the largest in the world. "Sedimentation thickness at places is 20km," said sources, quoting Kudrass

This unusual sedimentation should have increased Bangladesh's land by 15 meters a year towards the sea. But as there s a submarine canyon in the southwestern Bay down by the Sundarbans, the sedimentation spreads up to Sri Lanka. The submarine canyon is so deep that it was named Swatch of No Ground (Song) during the British

WEAK DEAL

team was better equipped.

"Scientific or not, this data is valuable to oil companies. That is why the BGR did not get any permission to study the Indian waters," a source observed. "We don't know where this data will eventually land to. Whatever data we have got out of this study is in raw form, and we won't be able to interpret it as efficiently as the international oil companies do."

The BGR even asked money

FROM PAGE 1

Sonali

FROM PAGE 1 finance ministry last month to waive the penalty against its failure to maintain Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR), but the Bangladesh Bank (BB) opposed it.

The Sonali Bank has to cough up a penalty of Tk 70 crore since October last year," a Sonali Bank official said. The government recently waived

the penalty against failure to maintain the SLR of the Oriental Bank following BB recommendations,

After receiving the Sonali Bank's letter in this regard, the finance ministry sought the central bank suggestions referring to the Oriental Bank case. The Bangladesh Bank opposed

finance ministry that such waiver will encourage other nationalised commercial banks to take the opportunity. The penalty of the Oriental Bank

the Sonali Bank plea and told the

was waived under a special situation," a senior BB official said

Tigers FROM PAGE 1

returned to form with a quickfire 67 not out after Tigers paceman Mashrafee Bin Mortuza set up the stage for batsmen by restricting the hosts to 168 with figures of 3-25.

Ashraful struck a dozen fours and a six in his 43-ball knock, after walking in with the team in a precarious position of 58 for three. He immediately shot to action with a flurry of boundaries to dash any Kenvan hopes of a win

All-rounder Forhad Reza accom panied Ashraful with an undefeated run-a-ball 34 to bat till the end.

Earlier, the hosts, after being sent into bat, looked lacklustre as only skipper Steve Tikolo offered some resistance with a breezy 47 when they batted. Apart from Mashrafee, who bowled a brilliant spell throughout, spinner Abdur Razzak took three for 31 while fellow left-armer Sakib Al Hasan took two wickets.

Stand-in skipper Khaled Mashud picked up a personal milestone after claiming five dismissals -- three catches and two brilliant stumpings. His previous best had been two four dismissals, both against Zimbabwe at Harare -- first in 1997 and then last month.

The second match of the three-ODI series will be held at the same ground today. BTV and Channel i will telecast the match live from 1pm Bangladesh time.

Shamsur Rahman FROM PAGE 16 abroad," said the poet's daughter

Meanwhile, the medical team said there has not been any further deterioration in the poet's physical

The doctors said the level of hepatitis in his body is better now while the functioning of his impaired kidneys has also slightly improved.

Poet Shamsur Rahman was admitted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University hospital (BSMMU) with acute liver and

Salehi

FROM PAGE 16 transporting the outsiders, Jamaat and Shibir leaders, from the city to the campus.

Proctor Enamul Haque admitted the use of RU vehicles by Shibir men but said they are not going to take any action against them. Asked why they allowed political rally on the campus, he said, "There is no

Witnesses said a number of RU teachers welcomed Salehi when he reached the venue near the RU administrative building. Besides, assistant proctors and some pro-Jamaat teachers and officials met Salehi and assured him of ensuring

Prof Taher, a senior teacher of Geology and Mining Department, was murdered on February 3 this year. Three arrestees confessed to the murder and said they killed Taher at the diktat of the department teacher Mia Muhammad Mohiuddin

Salehi went into hiding just after the murder. Earlier he visited the campus on July 4.

Shibir men used the university

127 killed

Trincomalee as a diversion because of the intensity of the battle in the Jaffna peninsula," Jayawardena

The government accused the Tigers of repeatedly violating a February 2002 truce and stepping up attacks against government

"The LTTE has intensified its confrontation." said government

saving it was determined to resume a full-scale war and had stepped up attacks against them as well as civilians, a charge denied by the

UN resolution

FROM PAGE 16

overlooking the river where they met fierce resistance from Shiite Muslim Hezbollah fighters.

Pan-Arab television Al-Jazeera reported four Israeli soldiers were killed and 23 wounded, but there was no confirmation from the Israeli army.

Hezbollah also fired a salvo of 20 rockets from southern Lebanon at Israel, police said, but no casualties were reported.

The Litani has served as a strategic limit for Israel's operations in Lebanon since it first invaded its northern neighbour in 1978. leading to a long and bloody occupation that ended only six years ago.

In Jerusalem, the UN's Middle East envoy Alvaro de Soto said he expected fighting to wind down over the next two days.

"This resolution is favourable to Israel. Nearly all of our demands have been legitimised, said Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres. "The resolution justifies the stance Israeli has adopted since the start."

The Israeli cabinet is expected to accept the resolution formally at a meeting on Sunday, while Lebanese ministers were due to give their verdict vesterday.

"There is an inclination to accept this resolution, but it should be implemented and not a pretext to the pursuit of the Israeli offensive. Lebanese Communications Minister Marwan Hamadeh said.

Resolution 1701, drafted by the United States and France, also calls for all Israeli troops to withdraw from southern Lebanon after an end to the fighting -- the timing for which has vet to be agreed by Lebanon and Israel.

The agreement calls for "a full cessation of hostilities based upon, in particular, the immediate cessation by Hezbollah of all attacks and the immediate cessation by Israel of all offensive military operations"

It also calls for the release of two Israeli soldiers whose abduction by Hezbollah triggered the war on July 12. Annan scolded world powers

for the time it took to reach a resolution on ending a conflict that has claimed more than 1,200 lives, mostly Lebanese civilians. "All members of this council

must be aware that this inability to act sooner has badly shaken the world's faith in its authority and integrity," he said. Shortly before the resolution

was passed, at least seven people were killed when Israeli drones attacked a convoy of Lebanese security forces and civilians who had been under UN And Lebanon's special envoy

to the United Nations, Tarek Mitri expressed profound doubts about the likelihood of the resolution ending what he called Israel's etrategy of terror

"For a month now, as the world continues to watch and the international community continues to watch, Israel has besieged and ravaged Lebanon, creating a

humanitarian and environmental disaster," he said.

More than 1,100 people have been killed in Lebanon and more than 900,000 displaced while Israel's bombardments have laid waste to the only international airport, roads, bridges and power stations and effectively severed the country from the outside world.

Israel's UN ambassador Dan Gillerman warned that the crisis would return to the United Nations if Lebanon failed to implement its side of the proposed ceasefire.

In a warning to Hezbollah's main backers, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice warned Iran and Syria to respect the resolution.

"We call upon every state, especially Iran and Syria, to respect the sovereignty of the Lebanese government and the will of the international community," she told the Security Council.

"Hezbollah now faces a clear choice between war and peace," she said, adding that the resolution "helped to open a path to lasting peace between Lebanon

The text authorizes an increase in the current United Interim Force in Lebanon's strength to a maximum of 15,000 troops from about 1,190 now. They will be matched by the 15,000 troops Lebanon plans to

send to the south. The resolution gives the UN force the power to "take all necessary action in areas of deployment of its forces, and as it deems within its capabilities, to ensure that its area of operations is not utilized for hostile activities of any

Hizbut Tawhid men

FROM PAGE 16 that it could be a militant one," one Suncrest Cola employee told The Daily Star.

Arrested Abdul Hamid Mian, south division ameer of the Hizbut Tawhid city unit, joined the militant organisation in 2003. He along with five other CUFL officials and around 20 fourth-class employees of the factory are actively involved with Hizbut Tawhid, sources at CUFL

During a visit to his residence at the CUFL officers' colony yesterday none of his family was found. The neighbours said Hamid's wife left home with their two sons on Friday

night following Hamid's arrest. One neighbour said Hamid would often visit him with Islami books and motivate him to follow

Islam according to their way. Habibur Rahman, muazzin of the CUFL Colony Jame Mosque, told The Daily Star, "Hamid used to argue that we are following Islam in a wrong way as we take monthly allowances from the CUFL author-

One source said a few other involved with Hizbut Tawhid and they visit other workers and officers in the colony every month to invite them to join their organisation.

Bomb plot

"When they had finished interrogating him for three or four days then they coordinated this information with the British authorities and they carried out the arrests in Britain," the official added on condi-

Britain's Daily Telegraph quoted Pakistani official as saying that Rauf's brother, Tayib Rauf, 22, was arrested in Birmingham and is one of 19 people on a British list of suspects whose assets should be

The newspaper reported that Rashid Rauf is believed to be wanted for questioning by police investigating the stabbing to death of his uncle, Mohammed Saeed, 54, in April 2002

Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam told AFP Saturday that Islamabad was central to the discovery of the bomb scheme. "Pakistan played a key role with the United States and the

United Kingdom to foil this plot." The ministry named Rauf in a statement late Friday, saying he was a "key person" and adding that there were "indications of Afghanistan-based al-Qaeda

connection" to his case.

tional dimensions", it said. Rauf was arrested on information earlier received from Britain, the statement added, without specifying what kind, which "triggered arrests

on the nights between 9th and 10th

August 2006 in Britain" The ministry did not give the number of arrests made in Pakistan but earlier government and security officials said seven suspects including two Britons and five Pakistani "facilitators" were held last week.

Investigators told AFP they were now closely examining Rauf's links to Afghanistan

They said that about two weeks ago British officials gave Pakistani intelligence a list of names, asking that they keep track of them and

"They managed to locate Rauf

from a hideout in Bahawalpur on the night of August 4. He was staying at a former Afghan jihadi's (holy warrior) house, it was a very swift raid and not even the police were involved," the security official said.

Bahawalpur is known as a hot-

bed of militancy with links to Jaish-e-Mohammed, a group fighting Indian rule in divided Kashmir that is believed to have increasing links with al-Oaeda Under interrogation Rauf gave full details of the airliner plot, the

official said. "When they informed their British counterparts that this is the plan precisely, they carried out the arrests in Britain.' Rauf was believed to have appeared before a magistrate

vesterday. "He has been put in the judicial process to meet the legal requirement for detention," Interior Minister Aftab Sherpao told AFP without elaborating. Sources here rejected reports in

Britain that a top Pakistani al-Qaeda militant named Matiur Rehman was allegedly involved in the conspiracy and had been arrested "Rehman is not a mastermind of

the UK bombing plot, his name has not yet figured in the investigations," another security official said, adding that Rehman was wanted for an assassination attempt on President Pervez Musharraf. Musharraf received a telephone

Blair on Friday thanking him for helping to thwart the plot, while British Home Secretary John Reid also voiced appreciation. Musharraf came under pressure

call from British Prime Minister Tony

after the July 7, 2005 suicide attacks on the London transport system when it emerged that some of the British-born bombers had attended Islamic religious schools, or madrassas, here

Flag meeting today

Indian side

The Daily Star vesterday that a 13member team led by him would represent the Bangladesh delegation while DIG of BSF will lead the

The BDR reinforcements, sent to

the troubled border after the August

9-10 incident, remained there since

the BSF's additional deployment of forces continued. BDR sources BDR Director General Major General Shakil Ahmed visited the troubled borders of Sylhet vesterday. Sector commander of Sylhet also accompanied him during his visits to border outposts (BOP) of

BDR at Amolshid and Uttarkul. They talked to the troops stationed there. Meanwhile, the panic-stricken inhabitants of 15 villages, who had left their homes in the midst of fierce fighting between BDR and BSF, are vet to return to their homes. BDR and BSF traded around 10.000 bullets and 400 mortar shells during the firefight that ended Thursday

INDIAN HC SLAMS MEDIA REPORTS

The Indian High Commission in Dhaka expressed concern over the "one-sided and factually incorrect" reports run in the Bangladesh media holding the Border Security Force (BSF) responsible for resorting to gunfire and mortar shelling at Zakiganj border on August 10.

The commission in a press release said the Indian authorities carried out a detailed investigation into the incident. The facts the investigation found indicate that the Bangladeshi media ran reports

based on incorrect information. "The background to the firing is the continuing attempt at infiltration and encroachment by Bangladesh into approximately 220 acres of land at the western bank of the Surma river, across the BSF outposts at Harinagar and Kinokhal. There are well-demarcated boundary pillars in

The high commission said the BDR commander had assured the Indian side, at the commander level flag meeting held on July 4, that BDR would stop Bangladeshi civilians from illegally cultivating on

It accused BDR of building up massive force in the area "by preparing new trenches, re-enforcing its border outposts (BOPs), deploying heavy machine guns and mor-

that BDR on the night of August 9 opened "unprovoked and heavy fire" on BSF troops at Harinagar and Kinokhal. It also accused BDR of unilaterally resorting to large-scale mortar firing on Indian territory, killing two Indian women.

this area, clearly indicating that the land belongs to India," the release

in Beirut. survive now with my two children?" she questioned. the Indian land lying across the

or to other countries, if they want. IOM's Regional Representative for The high commission claimed

> Project Director of IOM Dhaka Nahreen Farzana said the 191 Bangladeshis now at different transits points in Syria would be brought back as soon as flights are available. Officials of the expatriates' welfare

"We don't know exactly who gave them previous permissions tion, for which the country is not and why. If we are not benefited equipped. from a study, why should we allow Sandstone, which highlights foreign countries to scan our

potentials of gas resources, was found predominantly in Bangladesh but existence of these highly permeable and porous carbonate rocks was not

Each spherical grain of ooid sand, no larger than 2mm, forms around a nucleus of fecal matter or shell debris in a process similar to that of a pearl's formation. Over time, this oolitic sand accumuates in thick layers that cover hundreds of square kilometers. Upon burial, these layers eventually form a porous carbonate rock that can store large quantities of oil and gas. Between one-third and a half of the world's oil and gas reserves come from under-

Sources quoting survey team

Sources said that had the foreign ministry consulted with local geological experts before signing its one-page agreement with the BGR, it could have been a much better deal for the country. The BGR conducted the same study twice-- during the nineties and the eighties. This time, the survey

New jail code can be released on parole, while a The guantity of molasses for break-

of spices used to cook meals for prisoners also have been increased in the amended Jail Code While earlier, only the courts used to define who among the under trial prisoners would get division facilities in jails, the amendment will

fast will be doubled from 15 grams to

30 grams. The number and quantity

also empower heads of prisons to decide who will enjoy the facilities. Citizens covered by 18 categories of warrant of precedence comprising professor emeritus, those who received gallantry awards and Ekushey Padak, commercially important persons (CIPs), and presidents and general secretaries

the parliament will get divisions. Explaining the provision of releasing a prisoner on parole, the IG Prisons said, "Released few months or years before completing his or her term, a prisoner will stay at a designated place under observation of a social welfare officer."

District committees comprising

prison officials will decide, after

studying a prisoner's record, who

and exploring 1,650 square kilo-

in 1987, which caused the loss.

metres of area in Haripur oil field

Mohammad Belal Hossain, an

official of the defunct Bureau of

Anti-corruption, filed the case

against the two on January 16,

the case pressed charges against

them on May 2, 2003, showing 25

to the court for its quick disposal

but it could not frame charges

against the two due to the submis-

sion of time petitions by the prose-

Ershad and former education

minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam

and three others are accused of

purchasing two ships from

Pakistan during 1988-1991 caus-

Shahidul, two high officials of

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation

It is alleged that Ershad and

ing a huge loss of public money.

CASE AGAINST ERSHAD,

cution and the defence

SHAHIDUL

people as prosecution witnesses.

The investigation officer (IO) of

The case was later transferred

of all political parties represented in

Charge framing

ships by forging documents. This caused a loss of Tk 2,95,698,000. Three others are former managing director of BSC Tareq Anis Ahmed, the then general manager (Technology) of BSC, London Abul Kashem and Chairman of Vintage International Limited

Major General MI Karim.

(BSC) and a businessman ir

collusion with others bought the

Motijheel Police Station against Ershad and four others on February 19, 1991. The IO pressed charges against Ershad and four others on August 27, 2003, showing 13

people as prosecution witnesses.

Mohammad Abdul Haq, an

official of the defunct Bureau of

Anti-Corruption filed the case with

Later, the case was transferred to the court for its quick disposal but it could not frame charges against them due to different legal

provision for such rally, but they [Shibir] insisted on holding it."

tight security

and Salehi.

RU teachers and students alleged that the Shibir rally affected their classes and examinations as they set up more than 30 loudspeakers at all academic buildings. Many students could not attend classes as

terrorist activities to such an extent it appears that they want a fullscale spokesman Keheliva Rambukwella. However the Tigers blamed the government for the latest fighting

tion of anonymity.

The case had "wider interna-

report their activities