Zia, Khaleda

killer, Major Noor. On the day of gre-nade attack on August 21 in 2004, Khaleda Zia gave passports to two killers of Bangabandhu -- Colonel Faruk and Major Rashid," Hasina said, speaking at a discussion titled 'Killing of Bangabandhu and Present Bangladesh' at the Institution of Engineers Bangladesh

Bangabandhu Parishad organised the discussion marking the National Mourning Day on August 15. On that fateful night in 1975 some disgruntled army officers assassinated the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with his family mem-

Severely criticising the prime minister for her several birth dates including August 15, Hasina questioned her motive of celebrating birthday on the day when Bangabandhu

The revenge for killing Bangabandhu will be taken when the people would be imbued with the sprit of the Liberation War, she said.

Khaleda Zia, who once condemned the ousted autocrat President HM Ershad, is trying to get his support only

The AL chief urged the people to oust the BNP-Jamaat coalition government and elect a pro-people govern-

Coming to power in 2001 through massive rigging and changing the election results, the BNP-Jamaat government has been busy with money making through a syndicate and looting public wealth, she said.

The former prime minister said the country has been a champion in all negative sides including violation of human rights, corruption, torturing journalists, women and children, and extra-judicial killings by the Rapid Action Battalion during the present

The opposition leader urged the international community to take appropriate measures to put an immediate end to the ongoing Israeli invasion in Lebanon and Palestine where hundreds of children and women have been killed. The AL chief also urged the nternational bodies including the United Nations to stop arms race and to donate the money used in arms race for the poor and hungry children.

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof M Shamsuzzaman Khan, Bangladesh Observer Editor Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Prof Mamotaz Uddin and ProfAKAzad Chowdhury also spoke at the discussion chaired by Bangabandhu Parishad President Justice KM Sobhan.

target. Aftab Ahmed played with

some responsibility and scored 38 off

Rasel demolished the Kenyan bat-

ting with four wickets for 22 at the top

of the innings as the Kenyans col-

later adjudged man-of-the-match,

took three for 53, while a miser Abdur

Razzak continued his good form

place at the same ground on August 15, concluding the Tigers tour to the

Cabinet body

approves jail

code reform

The cabinet committee on jail reforms

yesterday approved the draft amend-

ment to the Jail Code to modernise

the existing one which had been

prepared by the British colonial

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed

approved revisions of 146 and repeal

of 192 of the 1388 codes of the exist-

ing Jail Code in accordance with the

recommendations of the iail code

amendment committee, which had

been working since March 21, 2003

enacted in September after the

cabinet approves it, Moudud, head of

the six-member cabinet committee

on jail reforms, told reporters while

briefing them on the salient features

reform by the present government,"

he said, identifying it as a milestone

whipping has been abolished and a

check and balance' has been

ensured in shackling of prisoners, he

was a provision of shackling notori-

ous convicts or violent detainees for

three months at a stretch, according

to the amended code a prison office

of DIG (deputy inspector general)

rank will have to approve shackling of

a prisoner exceeding seven days

releasing on parole for rehabilitation.

prisoners who are not convicted of

heinous crimes, after they have

served half of their terms, the amend-

ment also increased jail term remis-

sions to one third of a prisoner's term

labour like stone crushing, removal of earth and operating old-fashioned oil

mills manually besides removing

discriminatory policies in allocation of

in jail hospitals, he said posts of

pathologists, radiologists, part-time

dentists and laboratory technicians

will be created for better treatment of

inmate patients, adding that welfare

officers, psychiatrists and sociolo-

will be a sanitary latrine and a wash-

ing basin in each ward and each

system of division facility, Moudud

said, "Although either the court or the

ministry have the power to approve

divisions now, jail superintendents

ties will also get toothpastes, soaps,

shaving cream, slippers, praying

mattresses, prayer caps, and towels

To raise hygiene inside jails, there

soner will get a toilet soap and two

Talking about simplification of the

gists will also be introduced.

Talking about increased facilities

The amendment abolished hard

from the previous one fourth.

food for inmates

aundry soaps

Besides introducing a provision of

"This is going to be a historic

To remove inhumane provisions,

Although in the old jail code there

The amended Jail Code will be

to update the antiquated one.

of the amendment.

success.

The cabinet committee headed by

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

taking two for 21.

African continent.

lapsed to six for 45 in the 14th over.

Earlier, Left-arm seamer Syed

Mashrafee the batting hero and

The final match of the series takes

68 balls but fell to a pull-shot.

Tigers struggle

The Tigers overcame a spirited Kenyan effort, mainly coming from all-rounder Thomas Odoyo who smashed 84 and took four wickets, to crawl to the target of 186 runs losing eight wickets, with four overs to spare. The victory gave Bangladesh a 2-0 lead in the three-match series after their six-wicket success in the first match on Saturday.

Mashrafee, coming in at number nine and with 65 runs remaining, mixed caution with aggression to guide the visitors to a nervy win after the fall of skipper Khaled Mashud.

Bangladesh faced the looming prospect of a defeat when they were reduced to 134-8. But Mashrafee in company with Abdur Razzak produced a scintillating 51 runs for the unbroken ninth wicket. Both played remarkably and the match ended. fittingly, with a Mashrafee boundary through the covers. He faced 53 balls and struck six fours. Razzak was his perfect foil, scoring 14 off 23 deliveries with one boundary and a massive

The two lower-order batsmen were left to do the dirty job after the more established Tigers batsmen fell again to some poor shots, even though they were chasing a modest

Dying rivers

FROM PAGE 16
Jessore and Khulna districts and bordering Sonai river in Satkhira district have silted up while Kobadak, Marichchap, Chuna, Kakshiali, Betrabati, Habra, Upper Bhadra, Hari-Mukteswari, Shoilmari rivers are flowing like canals.

There remains only knee-deep water in many parts of the rivers during ebb tides in the dry season. locals said, adding that scarcity of

The drying up of rivers in the southwestern part is causing waterlogging and environmental hazards. Over five lakh people on 80,000 hectares of land spreading over Jessore, Khulna and Satkhira districts are now victims of persistent waterlogging.

The rivers once flowing with ferocity started to decline noticeably in the 80s.

Construction of 37 polders and 282 sluice gates in the three districts in mid-60s caused increased sedimentation in the river channels leading to gradual rise in the riverbeds.

Besides, construction of the Farakka Barrage across the Ganges in India caused decrease in flow of the rivers in the northwestern

Meanwhile, shrimp traders dump remains of shrimp into the rivers, adding to the environment pollution

in different areas of the district. Stressing the need for continued dredging of the Kobadak River, Dr Kazi Rabiul Haque, a leader of 'Kobadak Bachao Andolon', said the government should take steps to

stop earth filling and building structures on the riverbanks. He demanded immediate removal of all illegal structures from

the river to save it from extinction.

FROM PAGE 1

Harinagar village in India.

He said their counterparts in India have expressed sorrow at the casualties and loss of properties in Bangladesh in the 14-hour gunfight that started Wednesday night.

Besides, both the sides decided to obey the Border Land Agreement,

BDR officials said the meeting

was held between 11:30am and 6:15pm. The BSF had a 13-member team to take part in the meeting.

Meanwhile, some of the families who had fled from the gun battle returned to their villages yesterday. The panic-stricken people of 15

bordering villages left their homes as the BDR and BSF were trading gunshots. Around 10,000 bullets and 400 mortar shells were fired in the fight that ended Thursday noon.

Meeting sources said the donors' representatives suggested the planning ministry to discuss the draft HIES repórt at a seminar before finalising it.

the draft report said urban poverty has declined 23 percent during the last five years while the decline is 20 percent in rural areas. Dhaka, Sylhet and Rajshahi

divisions have witnessed poverty reduction, while there has been no change in poverty rate in Khulna, the source added.

Dr Zaid Bakht told The Daily Star that the country has witnessed a sound growth in service and construction sectors resulting in reduc-

Two gunned down

BDR officials quoting family sources said Wahab Ali, 30, son of Abdul Hanif went to visit his relatives

dragged his body into Indian terri-

strongly protested the killing and

asked BSF to return the body.

The killing generated widespread tension around the border-

of putting up barbwire fences near the 294 main pillar at Achintapur

In Thakurgaon, BSF shot dead a Bangladeshi citizen yesterday morning in Baliadangi upazila, reported UNB.

Local sources said BSF of pillar 378. Helal died on the spot.

BSF took away Helal's body inside the Indian territory and sent a message to Paria BDR camp at

gunned down another Bangladeshi, Golam Mostafa, 28, at Harinami border under the same upazila.

Dhaka protests

made totally unfounded allegations against BDR," he said.

Commission

through public statement "clearly uns contrary to established diplomatic norms and basic courtesy."

of innumerous Bangladeshi civil-

became victims of BSF firing. to further vitiate the atmosphere," he

Poll observers

styled Election Working Group (EWG) on last Thursday, he said they have yet to be informed of such developments.

Neutrality of some election observers of the alliance has come into question when they have yet to begin the task of monitoring the next

general election. "The Election Commission will decide on who will be appointed election observers and for that the

Abdur Rashid said, "The issue of election observers will be discussed on completion of the ongoing voter list update. I will suggest that the commission strictly follow the policy and guidelines in granting permis-

sion to observe elections." "The policy and guidelines for election observation should be amended, if need be," the secretary

About the ongoing voter list revision, he said as of last Saturday, over 1.46 crore people have applied for being registered as voters while 19.52 lakh applications received seek deletion of names from the

The task of updating the voter list by visiting from door to door will continue till August 20.

The EC Secretariat sits with the senior officials of the Dhaka City Corporation today to expedite the task in the capital.

The secretary yesterday clarified that the updated voter list will be kept open for public inspection for three days from August 25.

16 Bangladeshi recruiters

Malaysia's Immigration Department's discovery that they had hired the 103 Bangladeshi workers with false documents.

Under an amnesty programme two years ago, illegal workers including those from Bangladesh were given permission to return to Malaysia if they had proper work

Some 11,000 illegal Bangladeshis are said to have taken up the amnesty offer.

Datuk Ishak, director general of immigration in Malaysia, told the Malaysian daily that he witnessed workers carrying false documents at the Kuala Lumpur International

Each worker had paid between

Malaysian Ringgit 12,000 and

18,000 (Tk 2.5 lakh to 3.6 lakh) to go to Malaysia, Datuk said. Manpower businesses fear that many more agencies would be caught if the Malaysian authorities conduct a probe into how the 11,000

opportunity was offered under the Nearly 90 per cent of the 11,000

committee officials and members

have died since then while a few

others have become inactive or left

Meanwhile, the number of those

who have become active after the

BNP came to power is also not less

and they are now holding important

posts. A few of them have even

Advocate Zainul Abedin was

nominated the law affairs secretary

of NEC in 2003, but the party official

list still bears the name of previous

secretary Mujibur Rahman. Zainul

said, "As per our constitution, the

party has one post for law secre-

He could not specify the total

number of NEC members, even the

number of vice-presidents. "I do not

exactly know the total number of the

members...it may be more than

190 and the number of vice-

Official papers, however, show

that the BNP has 17 vice-

overall economic growth, it added.

Ministry officials at the meeting

said the Roads and Highways

Department (RHD) under the com-

order for the Tk 3.38-billion project

in favour of China Major Bridge

roads and highways, briefed the

meeting that only three pillars will be

set up and they will not do any harm

over Tk 200 crore as it will have to be

900 meter longer than the pillar-

based bridge," he was quoted as

the lawmaker and his associates at

Abu Zafar, sub-inspector of

Kalkini Police Station, said

Chhoton, a chargesheeted accused

in the Bhurghata Bandar looting and

Mohsin Sikder murder cases, has

been absconding since November

following the crimes and returned to

country recently. But he has not

surrendered yet, the police official

of Gournodi Police Station,

acknowledged the facts and said

there were many allegations of

extortion and drug peddling against

Lawmaker Swapan admitted

visiting Chhoton's house and having

lunch as an invited guest. "Chhoton

may be an accused but he is not

convicted in any case. He is a good

and active leader of Jubo Dal,"

a lawmaker's close relationship with

Dhaka-Rajshahi route Tk 2,400, on

Dhaka-Barisal route Tk 2,200, on

Rajshahi-Syedpur route Tk 1,600,

on Chittagong-Cox's Bazar route Tk

1,650, and on Barisal-Jessore route

doubled while for child and infant

passengers the fares will be calculated

respectively at 50 percent and 10

Executive class fare on Dhaka-

Chittagong route will be Tk 4,460

while on Dhaka-Sylhet route it will

of Tk 225 as travel and embarkation

Travellers will have to pay a total

percent of the ticket prices for adults.

said a news release yesterday.

fees while purchasing tickets.

For a round trip, the fare will be

Locals expressed resentment at

Abdul Mannan, officer-in-charge

Chhoton went to Saudi Arabia

his house at Gournodi, they said.

"A suspension bridge would take

Anwar Hossain, chief engineer of

150," he told The Daily Star.

presidents is five.

(CMB) on July 13.

BNP MP

to the river.

2003.

Chhoton.

Swapan said.

Biman

FROM PAGE 16

Tk 1,550.

be Tk 3,940.

criminals like Chhoton.

the country.

become ministers.

workers went to Malaysia after

workers went to Malaysia using the names of the genuine workers who did not go to Malaysia after they had been sent to Bandladesh under general amnesty as their date of working in Malaysia expired, said a recruiting agent in Dhaka.

The immigration officials both in Bangladesh and Malaysia were involved in this illegal process, he said, adding that the workers had to go through fingerprint tests with biometrics machines and it could not be forged unless the officials concerned had a hand.

Recruiting agencies are afraid that the newly opened manpower export to Malaysia would be seriously hampered if the government and Baira (Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies) fail to take strong action against the blacklisted agencies. Under the present guidelines of

importing manpower, Malaysia restricted engagement of any representatives of Malaysian employers or Bangladeshi recruiting agencies in Malaysia as engagement of representatives creates anomalies in the business and add to the workers' cost of

presidents, including Khurshid

Moshiur Rahman was surprised

when he heard the NEC meeting will

take place on August 26. "I spent the

last two weeks in hospital due to

illness and have been suggested

complete rest, so I do not know

for small and cottage industry

affairs, is also in the dark about the

meeting. "We have no value when

also an unknown person to many

party leaders. Badruzzaman told

The Daily Star, "Shah Alam is a

senior leader of the party. Once we

used to run party activities from his

Shyamoli residence but nowadays

he has become inactive due to age

BNP Treasurer Shah Alam is

Badruzzaman Khasru, secretary

anything about it," he said.

the party is in power." he said.

BNP Organising Secretary

ahan Haque who died recently.

BNP insiders confused

Under the new system, Malaysian government will directly send the workers' job demand letters to Baira, which will distribute those to all its members.

But Baira members are yet to agree on how the distribution will be

A powerful quarter allegedly engaged in forgery and unholy competition through lobbying the Malaysian employers and practising bribery have been claiming that agencies would collect job demand letters from the employers as per their capacity. The manpower business experts

have expressed the fear that the unholy competition of lobbying the employers and collecting demand letters will continue if the agencies are entitled to collect the letters directly from the employers. Unless the agencies engaged in

such practices are punished and an equal distribution system is introduced, newly opened business with Malaysia will be seriously ham pered, said a business expert.

pletely inactive. One of these secre-

living abroad.

taries, Shamsul Alam, is currently

death of one of the three industry

secretaries, KM Abu Zahid, after a

Swechchhasebok Secretary

A total of 462 BNP leaders

including 84 NEC officials and 73

members, 71 district level leaders

12 members of the party standing

committee, 198 lawmakers and 24

advisory council members, will be

to hold the NEC meeting at the PM's

evening office Jamuna on Hare

Road although the BNP central

office at Naya Paltan has been

named on the invitation card as the

official venue. Sources said the

venue could still be changed at the

BNP Office Secretary Mofikul

Hasan Tripti said they will send

invitation letters to all NEC mem-

bers and others concerned. "We are

The BNP high command decided

invited to attend the meeting.

Kazi Asaduzzaman is also unknown

long time of his demise.

to most NEC members.

The NEC came to learn about the

14-party holds

Bheramara upazila around 4:45pm and ended at memorial pillar of the Liberation War at Chourash in Kushtia town at 6:30pm.

A rally was held on the Link Road near Lalon Shah Bridge in Bheramara before the road march. Several other street rallies were also held at different points of Kushtia Sadar, Mirpur, Bheramara upazilas.

Thousands of opposition activists took part in the march waving colourful banners, festoons and placards and carrying symbolic boats [the electoral symbol of the AL] on cattle drawn carts and rick-

Police, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and intelligence agencies, were deployed along the march-route to ensure security. The law enforcers beefed up security on the 25kilometre road from Bheramara to Kushtia. They blocked the Kushtia-Bheramara road and stopped all vehicles from plying on it for about

The road march was led by AL General Secretary and Coordinator of 14-party Abdul Jalil, while AL presidium members Abdur Razzak, . Motia Chowdhury, AL leader Mohammad Nasim, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haq Inu, its Secretary General Syed Zafar Sazzad, Gono Forum leader Pankaj Bhattacharya, local 14-party leaders Barrister Amir-ul-Islam, Mahbubul Alam Hanif, Ajgar Ali also attended the road march and street rallies.

The leaders in the rally vowed to resist any election in the country without electoral reforms. They said major political parties of the country would not allow the next general elections to be held under a caretaker government which would virtually become 'a shadow government of the ruling BNP'.

They slammed the four-party alliance government for the price hike of essentials, rise of militancy patronised by ruling Jamaat-e-Islami and countrywide disruptions of power.

Jalil said, "They [ruling four-party coalition] have made arrangements to appoint the chief of the caretaker government and have already appointed the chief election commissioner (CEC) in their attempts to rig the polls." "But the nation will not let their dreams come true," he added.

Jalil urged the people to unite behind the 14-party alliance and oust the four-party alliance government. Terming the 14-party alliance as 'people's force', he said 14-party must form the government after the next polls and ensure the rights of the people.

Lanka fighting FROM PAGE 16 rebels for initiating the latest fight-

ing.
The upsurge in violence has

claimed more than 1,400 lives by official count since Decembe despite a February 2002 ceasefire. An estimated 60,000 people have been killed since the Tamil

insurgency began around three

UN truce

FROM PAGE 1

than 1,100 people in Lebanon, most of them civilians, and at least 151 Israelis, most of them soldiers, and laid waste to much of Lebanon's infrastructure.

Israel's cabinet was meeting Sunday to give its verdict on the resolution, which calls for a full cessations of hostilities and the deployment of a 15,000-strong international force in southern Lebanon. But with Hezbollah vowing to

fight until the last Israeli soldier leaves Lebanon and Israel stressing that it will respond to any attack on its troops or rocket fire, hopes of complete ceasefire in the immediate future looked dim.

Israel's massive assault involving 30,000 troops was continuing after the killing of 24 soldiers in its highest single-day death toll of the conflict, and troops were clashing with guerrillas near the southern

port city of Tyre. Dubai-based Al-Arabiva televi sion reported that another seven Israeli soldiers were killed Sunday but this was not confirmed by the

Israeli armv. In what the media have said is the largest ground operation since the 1973 Middle East war. Israel is sweeping through south Lebanon where Hezbollah is rooted -- some troops reaching the strategic Litani

Fighter jets also pounded targets in the south, east and north of Lebanon, and at least 11 civilians were killed, including a mother and

Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Shimon Peres sought to put a postive spin on the war's outcome despite the failure to stem the hail of Hezbollah rockets on the north of the country, which killed a 70-year-

old man on Sunday. "I think that we have finished more or less the victors both mili-Hezbollah would end with "its tail between its legs."

force, saying: "If a single stone is thrown at Israel from whatever village that happens, it should be

In Tyre, warplanes bombed five petrol stations, sparking a huge fire that threatened to engulf a nearby

"The flames are lashing the building, our ill and wounded patients are threatened with smoke inhalation," hospital director Jawad Najm told AFP. "Nobody has come to help. Not the firefighters, not

the bombed-out militant stronghold of Khiam.

The International Committee of the Red Cross slammed the continuing heavy civilian casualties as unacceptable.

more than 30 days of ongoing military operations, all necessary precautions to spare civilian life and those engaged in medical work have still not been taken," the agency said.

In addition to the heavy death toll in Lebanon, more than 900,000 people have been displaced by Israeli bombardments that have left much of the country's infrastructure

the northern command said he

hoped troops involved in the expanded offensive will have secured control of most of south Lebanon by Monday.

"I think we will be in a much better

situation (on Monday) than we are

today," General Udi Adam said. "Assuming that the ceasefire will take effect, we will stop the moment we are told. If it doesn't, we could The Litani has served as a tactical boundary 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. The UN resolution, drafted by the United States and France, calls for

all Israeli troops to withdraw from southern Lebanon after an end to the fighting. It also calls for the release of the

two captive Israeli soldiers whose seizure on July 12 triggered the conflict, and for a solution to the issue of Lebanese prisoners held by

The resolution authorizes an increase in the current UN Interim Force in Lebanon's strength to a maximum of 15,000 troops from about 1.990 now. They will be matched by the 15,000 troops Lebanon plans to send to the south.

While approving the resolution, the Lebanese cabinet expressed reservations that it did not go far enough in condemning the largescale Israeli destruction and that it failed to address the issue of the Israeli-occupied Shebaa farms.

HC asks govt FROM PAGE 16 A division bench of the High Court

formed with Justice Syed Mohammad Dastagir Hossain and Justice Mamnoon Rahman issued the order following a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA) and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) seeking judicial intervention to address the sufferings of the affected

in the writ petition, director general (DG) of Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB), deputy commissioner of Jessore, deputy director of the Department of Environment, Khulna and the Upazila Nirbahi officers of the three affected upazilas have been made respondents.

The bench also directed the government agencies to show cause within a month as to why their failure to protect the lives, properties and livelihoods; provide safety, comfort and healthcare to the villagers affected by such water logging in the three upazilas should not be declared unlawful and in violation of their duties.

The respondents have further been directed to show cause within four weeks as to why they should not be directed to draw up necessary action plans in consultation with the local people and why a direction should not be issued upon them to form a committee composed of the persons nominated by the Supreme Court to permanently resolve the problem and arrange adequate compensation for the local people against the losses resulting from such water logging.

Senior advocate AFM Hasan Ariff appeared on behalf of the petitioners while S Rizwana Hasan and Iqbal Kabir assisted him.

BLAST has been filed at a time when more than one lakh people of 144 villages are forced to live in an inhumane condition due to the flawed Khulna Jessore Drainage Rehabilation Project (KJDRB) of ADB and BWDB as their homestead, agricultural lands, academic institutions and roads have been under water since October 2005, said a BELApress release.

agree

"The two sides also decided that the borderlands will be the same as they were before the fight at Zakiganj," Sylhet BDR Sector Commander Col Abul Hossain, who led a 15-member Bangladesh side at the meet, told The Daily Star.

will from now on be able to approve In some cases, the home ministry will take the decision of providing divisions to prominent citizens of the Prisoners enjoying division facili-

> from now on Other members of the cabinet committee on iail reforms. Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar and State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Alamair Kabir were present at the meeting.

New survey
FROM PAGE 1
World Bank and Asian Development

A meeting source quoting from

tion of poverty in urban areas.

upazila, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) officials told our correspondent.

on Wednesday and was returning home on Saturday night. Wahab died on the spot and BSF

BDR of 14 Rifles Battalion

ing areas of Biral. Meanwhile, tension is also escalating between BDR and BSF personnel at Achintapur village under Birampur upazila as BDR challenged and foiled BSF's attempt

village on Friday afternoon.

Baragharia camp opened fire on Helaluddin, 30, son of Majed Mistri of Paria village under Baliadangi upazila when he went near the main

7:30am to identify the body. Earlier, on July 3, the BSF

FROM PAGE 1

He said the issuance of allegations by the Indian High

"The High Commission of India's admonition to BDR to avoid indulalso ironic," the spokesman said. "Because Indian BSF caused death

He said BSF firing killed 373 civilians on Bangladesh side between October 2001 and August 10, 2006. In six months till May 2006, 52 Bangladeshi civilians

The spokesman said as far as border incident is concerned, senior official-level meeting between BDR and BSF is the right forum to address the issues. "Going to the press with unfounded and onesided allegations on the eve of the meeting (BDR-BSF) can only serve

FROM PAGE 1

time is not ripe yet," the secretary said.

existing voter list.

Meanwhile, no BNP leaders Abul Hossain, one of the four agreed to comment on the inclusion secretaries for information and of the party chairperson's younger research affairs, said the total brother Sayeed Iskandar as "secrenumber of NEC members may be tary on special duty", a post that

and illness."

sion bridge'

does not have any validity in the party constitution. The six international affairs secretaries of BNP are also com-

Karnaphuli bridge The AL lawmakers at that point cited from the evaluation reports of CPA Buet Water Resources Division, BTRC and River Research

Institute that 'prescribe for a suspen-

structed will cause massive silt deposition on the riverbed, ultimately affecting usability of the port," AL lawmaker Fazle Karim Chowdhury told the meeting. Echoing the view, AL lawmaker Talukdar Abdul Khaleq said, "The

"The extra-dose bridge, if con-

government will have to bear the responsibilities if it [pillar bridge] causes any damage to the Chittagong port." GM Siraj, chairman of the committee, however, said, "We are

satisfied with the government move to construct a pillar-based bridge." He also urged the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin to refrain from politicking

Mild tremor

jolts Ctg

over the issue.

STAR REPORT A mild tremor measuring 4.8 on the Richter scale jolted the Chittagong city and its adjoining areas early yesterday while another earthquake

There were no reports of casualities in either of the earth-The tremor shook the port city at 2:46::12am and lasted for 32 seconds, our CU correspondent

shook Sylhet five minutes later.

The epicentre was 304 kilometres away from the Chittagong seismic observatory at Ambagan sources in the observatory said. They said the observatory

recorded 10 earthquakes this year

and this was the first of this month.

A mild earthquake shook Sylhet city and its surrounding areas at 2:51am yesterday, our staff correspondent in Sylhet reports. The tremor shook the city twice lasting for about 10 seconds each

An official in the seismic obser-

vatory confirmed the earthquake but

could not say where the epicentre

was or how strong it was as there are no equipments to determine that in the seismic observatory in Sylhet. Construction of the seismic observatory centre in Sylhet was completed years ago but the seismograph machine is yet to be set up

25 injured in at Ruet

RU CORRESPONDENT

cadres of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) beat them up on the Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) campus on Saturday midnight. Protesting the attack, general students started indefinite strike on

fearing further attack by Shibir while a tense situation is prevailing between Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and ICS, student wings of BNP ánd Jamaat e-Islami. On Thursday, the students of

ers on the campus, announcing an annual get-together on the Ruet auditorium, sources said. As the ICS men pasted their post-

Following another altercation on Saturday night, some 60/70 ICS cadres led by RU unit President Mahbub Alam Salehi, also a key suspect in the murder case of RU the students of Shahid Shahidul

and iron rods, injuring 25. Condition of seven were critical, said the Batch 2004 students.

5th Expert Group

computer literacy for all, vastly expended e-learning opportunities. gender balance at all levels of education, mainstreaming of arts in educational institutions and many other relevant issues will be deliberated and consulted upon at today's session. The outline of the Vision 2021 for

Bangladesh has been drafted on the

basis of recommendations and

aspirations propagated by partici-

pants of the regional civil society dialogues held at various places of Bangladesh. The dialogues are being organised jointly by Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), the Prothom Alo,

Shibir attack

finalising the list," he said.

last moment.

At least 25 students were injured as

the Ruet campus yesterday. Some 20 injured students, who were admitted to Raishahi Medical College Hospital after the attack, left the hospital yesterday morning

'Batch 2004' (those enrolled in 2004 academic year) pasted huge post-

ers covering the Batch 2004 students' ones, the two groups locked in an altercation on Friday night.

teacher Taher Ahmed, swooped on Haque Hall at around 11:30pm. Shibir men beat up the Batch 2004 students with hockey sticks

At least 10 of the injured are JCD men, Ruet unit JCD President Sajib Barua said.

FROM PAGE 16 up to secondary level, an integrated/unified education system,

The Daily Star and Channel-i. Nagorik Committee 2006 is now going through a process of consultation with expert groups about the draft outline.

River which runs as far as 30km from the border.

her three children, Lebanese police

tarily and politically," Peres told army radio, predicting that Trade Minister Eli Yishai also issued a stark warning to Lebanon even if the ceasefire comes into

turned into a pile of stones."

neighbours." Fierce clashes between Hezbollah militants and Israeli troops continued through the night southeast of Tyre, on the outskirts of

"It is unacceptable that after

The Israeli general in charge of

The joint petition of BELA and

BDR, BSF