## The Daily Star

# NEWS

Standing trial alongside Saddam

and Maiid are: Saber al-Duri.

Saddam's director of military intelli-

gence; Taher al-Ani, former gover-

nor of Mosul; Sultan Hashem al-Tai,

commander of "Task Force Anfal";

Hussein Rashid al-Tikriti, deputy

chief of military operations; and

Farhan al-Juburi, a senior intelli-

The foreign minister said he had

similar opinion to see the detailed

offered up to two mechanised

battalions of Bangladesh and

sought consultations with the UN

reservation about the peacekeep-

ers from the countries that do not

recognise Israel, Morshed said

Bangladesh sends its peacekeep-

ers with consent of all conflicting

accept our force," he said, adding

Bangladesh will not send troops to

UN peacekeeping is we only go

under the Blue Helmets under

Chapter Six of the UN Charter to

maintain and establish peace...We

don't send troops to fight against

any group," he said in categorical

Gonoforum as one of the six parties

which have so far 'agreed to form

the alliance' is also incorrect and

without any basis," Dr Kamal said in

Gonoforum) and Bikolpo Dhara

Bangladesh along with Tariqat

Federation have for some time been

working together to promote the

unity of democratic forces to forge

national consensus on electoral and

democratic reforms in order to bring

about meaningful change through a

Workers Party President Rashed

Khan Menon said, "The politics of

killing began with the assassination

of Bangabandhu and the August 21

grenade attack was only a continuity

of the August 15 tragedy."

free and fair election," he added

"The Jatiyo Oikkyo Moncho (and

Rejoinder

FROM PAGE 1

the rejoinder.

fight either for Hezbollah or Israel.

"All parties in the conflict must

"One of the preconditions of our

In reply to a question on Israel's

authorities on the matter.

parties.

No decision

gence officer.

# **Playing politics**

**FROM PAGE 1** Dr Muhammad Jafar Iqbal, chairman of the department of Computer Science and Engineering of Shahjalal University of Science & Technology, termed it an unfortunate political decision. "I also think the quality of Qawami madrasa and education system of Fazil and Kamil will not be upgraded through this move. How can the government issue equivalent certificate before having equivalent curriculum and svllabi in place?"

University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Prof Asaduzzaman said that upgrading or recognising madrasa degree will hardly help Qawami education unless the syllab and curriculum are modernised. Former vice-chancellor of the

Dhaka University Prof Emajuddin Ahmed was also unaware of the Qawami education system.

"What type of curriculum and syllabi they have ... I don't know. For this reason. I won't comment." he told The Daily Star.

Many fear that the government decision is going to help realise the long-cherished ambition of the Jamaat-Shibir to sneak into the public administration and consolidate its strength. The dream of the religion-based parties will also come true shortly as over 30,000 madrasas across the country is going to ensure steady flow of graduates for the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations every year, they said.

The Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami. controls 98 percent Alia Madrasas, from which over 25 thousand students obtain degree every year, sources

Former president of the Dhaka University Teachers Association (Duta) ÁAMS Arefin Siddique pointed out that it would be very easy for madrasa graduates to get good grades because of the flexible questionable education system. "It is a very alarming news for the nation. The base of the Jamaat-

processes are not environmentally

The civil society can set up some

Making a presentation on 'Vision

sort of monitoring mechanism on

environment so that it can help to

address the environment-related

2021 for Bangladesh: Goal 7: To be

Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive

director of CPD, emphasised ensur-

ing clean water bodies by enforcing

the Clean Rivers Act that will hold

citizens, urban centres and industries

public sewerage systems and man-

datory industrial waste water treat-

ment plants, he said, adding that an

elevated rail system should be built in

functioning public transport system in

urban centres to lessen the number

of motorised vehicles on the streets,

Debapriya mentioned in his presen-

There is a need for building a well-

It is necessary to build effective

accountable for water pollution.

environmentally sustainable,

sustainable and socially responsive.

FROM PAGE 16

issues, he noted.

Dhaka.

tation.

**Environmental threat** 

# Shibir politics will become far more

stronger as their followers will now make their way into the public admin istration quite easily.

The madrasa education also received more state favour than general education during the tenure of this four-party alliance government, contributing to the significant growth of madrasas across the country.

The number of general educational institutions, which receive government funds, has increased 9.74 percent against a 22.22 percent growth of madrasas from 2001 to 2005, according to statistics of the Bangladesh Economic Review

Muzahidul Islam Selim, general secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), bracketed the decision as dangerous, which may encourage militancy too. "Most of the militants came from

this educational system," Selim said. "This will give a wrong signal to the nation.

He also criticised the government for turning its back on the present movement for a unified, modern and standard education system. Bangladesh Workers Party

President Rashed Khan Menon meanwhile forecast the uncontrolled madrasa will create more problems for the country in future. "The move is anti-constitutional, as the constitution speaks for a unified education system. They just played politics with the overall education system.

Hasanul Haq Inu, president of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), on the other hand said the decision was not taken from religious consideration Rather, religion was used to gain political consideration, he said. "It would hamper the quest for a unified education system.

Experts said madrasas have nealiaible contributions in creating skilled human resources in the country, still they received on average 11.5 percent of the total education budget in the last few years.

Mohammad Reazuddin, director

of the Department of Environment.

environment-related issues.

#### BNP may decide FROM PAGE 16 vacant for several years. According to

the BNP constitution, the standing committee must have 15 members, added the sources. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will

preside over the meeting that is scheduled to begin at noon in the Prime Minister's Office. The meeting will also work out agenda for the meeting of the national executive committee scheduled for

Saturday. BNP may take disciplinary actions against Oli Ahmad for criticising the government, some BNP high-ups ncluding a few ministers and lawmakers for corruption, involvement with militancy and absence of democratic practices inside the party.

Sources said the standing committee might also discuss taking disciplinary action against some other leaders for violating the party discipline.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuivan told reporters Sunday night that the committee examine Oli Ahmad's would speeches published in the newspapers during the meeting. Meanwhile, Oli Ahmad has been

out of the country since August 9 and is expected to return on August 28.

The last meeting of standing committee was held on June 22, 2002 and Prime Minister's son Tarique Rahman was appointed as party's senior joint secretary general by the committee that day.

The standing committee had no role in party activities after the 2002 meeting.

## Gold hopes fade

FROM PAGE 1 gold medalist at Islamabad, Rubel even failed to grab a medal as he finished a depressing fifth at the Sugathadasa Indoor Stadium Swimming Pool.

It was a pity to see him only better his own timing, reaching the block in 1:01.57s (previous timing 1:02.78s) but fall behind Indian and Sri Lankan swimmers. The gold went to the host country, Andrew Abeysinghe bagging his second swimming gold, while India's Arjun Muralidharan took the

The day, however, was rather productive as Bangladesh added four silver medals and one bronze to their tallv

stressed the need for environmental After Sharmin won individual silver education that can help address and the team silver with Suraiva

Akhter, Jewel Ahmed claimed the "We need to set up at least four 100m butterfly silver, his second at the sewerage treatment plants to save Games. rivers around Dhaka city," he said, A 50m butterfly silver medalist two adding that environment will not be davs earlier. Jewel finished the 100m 58.89s with India's Arjun sustainable if there is not a good Muralidhara winning gold in 56.67s. Bangladesh's Rafiqul Islam finished sewerage system for the population

blows from Indian and Nepalese

elimination. They are Mahmud Ali

(54kg), Abdur Rahim (60kg) and Umar

semifinal berth in football with a 4-0

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka confirmed a

of more than 12 million. Dr AQM Mahbub of Dhaka The men's 4x100m relay team --Reazul Karim, Kamal Hossain, Rafiqul Islam and Nazrul Islam --University said there should be a land use policy. Road development consurprised the Lankans to win silver in 3:44.64s. The Lankans timed sumes a substantial area of land but it is possible to work in the urban areas 3:44.92s for bronze and the Indians, while living in the rural areas if there is lifted aold in 3:37.41s. a good transportation system, he Afsana Talukder finished seventh

Ali (64).

silver.

said He criticised ignoring the railway

system for a long time. Mohidul Hoque Khan, general secretary of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa), said it is necessary to promote result-oriented initiatives rather than paper-based policies to make people aware.

AAtig Rahman. executive director of Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Environment-related governance Studies, emphasised proper use of issues should be addressed sepa-

#### FROM PAGE 16

Officials at the EC Secretariat said the newly allocated fund will be disbursed in a couple of days. Tk 1,500 was allocated for each of the clerks temporarily appointed

at the offices of local election officials while Tk 1,000 as remuneration for each of the assistant officials who worked for a month to update the voter list by visiting door to door. nwomen's 100m freestyle. Bidyut Kumar Roy won a

weightlifting bronze in 95kg while three boxers, who received heavy opponents in the semifinals, have confirmed bronze medals despite

allocated Tk 5,000 for conveyance of each registration officer, Tk 1,500 for each assistant registration officers, and Tk 3,000 for each upazila election officer.

## Grenade attack

FROM PAGE 16

A large contingent of uniformed and plainclothes policemen were deployed in and around the Bangabandhu Avenue while members of different intelligence agencies, police as well as the party workers stood guard on high-rise buildings of the area.

A large number of police personnel were deployed at the City Bhaban, widely thought to be the place from where the grenades were hurled on August 21, 2004. Police as well as private security personnel scanned almost every person who attended the gathering with metal detector.

People in hundreds thronged the Bangabandhu Avenue vesterdav to pay homage to those killed on the day two years ago.

After the placing the wreaths, Hasina along with the people gathered there observed one-minute silence to pay respect to the deceased party activists.

Addressing a rally beside the memorial plaque, Hasina said, There is no doubt that the prime minister, her son and the state minister for home affairs were involved in the attack." She said if they were not involved then how could all the perpetrators flee from the spot.

The AL chief said it is unbelievable that the government could not capture any perpetrator of the deadly grenade attack. The government knew about the attack, they did not allow the rally to be held at Muktangon, Hasina said. The grenade attack was carried out when AL was holding an antiterrorism rally to protest the attack on British High Commissioner Anwar Chowdhury and bomb

attacks at other places, she added. Saying 24 people were killed in the attack and more than 500 were injured, Hasina said the government might have made a number of bodies disappear from the spot immediately after the attack.

The opposition leader said, "We are living in a country where killers are not brought to justice rather they are patronised by the state."

"It was the duty of the law enforc-

#### ers to take the injured to hospitals following the attack, but they lobbed teargas shells and charged truncheons on our party men and helped the perpetrators flee from the spot," the former prime minister said adding that the police also obstructed people from taking the

injured to the hospitals. "I understand your pain, because I have lost all that is mine in another month of August. The August is a month of mourning for us," Hasina told the family members of the victims who were present in an emotion-choked voice. She expressed her aratitude to the almighty Allah for saving her life.

She said the killers and their patrons would be brought to justice. Hasina said the country has been built on people's blood and the blood of the martyrs and that would never do in vain. The leaders and workers of AL

and its front organisations, along with those of Workers Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Inu), left-leaning 11-party alliance, different political socio-cultural and student organisations also laid wreaths at the memorial plaque vesterday.

#### HC stays FROM PAGE 16

without determining the fate of employees' shares.

Yesterday was the last date for dropping tenders by intending buyers of the bank. Dr Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury

appeared for the petitioner

#### Indigenous

FROM PAGE 16 She was rushed to MMCH and is undergoing treatment. An X-ray of the victim was done at 3:00pm but she was not operated by evening. Androse Sumgang, a neighbour

of the victim who was present at MMCH, alleged that the forest guards opened fire without giving y warning. He along with other indigenous people demanded proper investigation into the matter. Forest officials and police visited

the spot in the afternoon.

Tk 19cr spent

provided journalists with the accounts of allocation of the money to meet the expenditure for the field level task

Tk 20.000 was allocated for each of 83 district election officers offices. Tk 5.000 for each assistant registration officers' office, and Tk 10.500 for each upazila election office

Tk 1,000 was allocated for each of 6273 assistant registration officers for publicity campaign urging people to register names as voters.

Besides, the EC Secretariat has upazila nirbahi officers, cantonment

Bismillah Khan

FROM PAGE 16 died in his hometown of Varanasi. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

led the country in mourning Khan. "A true symbol of our composite culture, Khan Sahib, through his mellifluous rendering of the shehnai, showed us that while God may manifest himself in many forms, piety finds its true expression through music "Singh said in a statement "Ustad Bismillah Khan Sahib was

a great son of India.' Khan, who was awarded India's highest civilian award, the Bharat Ratna, in 2001, was born into a family of musicians who played for royalty.

He transfixed generations of audiences across the world with his soulful rendition of classical music on the 'shehnai', which is played during marriages as well as religious events. Khan, suffering from age-related problems, was admitted to a hospital

in Varanasi more than a week ago. "He had shown improvement over the past two days, but continued to feel very weak," Khan's personal

secretary Syed Javed Ahmed told Reuters. The musician is survived by five sons, three daughters and a large number of grandchildren and great

grandchildren. "So sweet was his shehnai, no one could play like him and no one will be able to play like him ever," Lata Mangeshkar, India's most famous

singer, told a TV news channel. The maestro had said the shehnai

mattered to him more than anything. "By the grace of God, when this occupier not in the name of Iraq. My (shehnai) is in my hands, all the name is known to Iragis and to the world," Saddam declared, before wealth of the world could be brought introducing himself as "Saddam to me, and I'd say: Get about your Hussein, the President of the business, take it away," Khan said in Republic of Iraq". a TV interview last year.

## Train crash

FROM PAGE 16 disembarked from a minibus nearby moments before the crash. "We kept saying: 'Driver, driver, a train is coming.' So the (train) driver moved up 15 meters, and while he was moving, the two trains impacted," he

assassination attempt against the told Reuters. then-president. Khalil said the engine of the rear train burst into flames on impact. A could be interrupted by the verdict in Reuters photographer at the scene the Dujail case, as judges are due to said one of the trains had derailed and announce their verdict on October was lving on its side. It had split into four parts and appeared to have 16. If Saddam is found guilty, he burned. could be given the death penalty.

The crash ripped seats from the train carriages, which were littered with right of appeal, but if he loses he clothes and shoes. The carriages had could face the hangman before the been crushed together like an accor-Anfal trial is complete.

dion. "Aloud crash awoke me. One of the trains had derailed and people were scattered on the floor. I called the authorities and they told me I was to make the events of 1988 a matter crazy," said Osama Abdul Haleem who lives near the crash site.

"I told them there are dead and dying there on the ground." Rescue workers scrambled to evacuate the casualties, loading them onto some two dozen ambulances Blood was spattered across the wreck-

age of both trains. By midday, rescuers were still recovering bodies, using a bulldozer to pull apart a metal side panel to reach a body lodged in one of the carriages. attempt to kill AL President Sheikh Rescuers found body parts in the rubble under one of th

FROM PAGE 16 of legal record and heal some of torture, insults and non-potable Iraq's wounds.

Saddam refuses

water," Faroon said. 'Those who died were buried outside the camps by the detainees and later animals were set free to dig up those graves, mostly in the Samawa desert. "Women were put through psy-

chological torture. Their infant babies were separated from them. The babies and the mothers were allowed to cry. Young men were raped by guards and officials," he told the court.

FROM PAGE 16 The defence is expected to argue that Anfal was a legitimate telephone conversation with his counter-insurgency operation against Kurdish separatist guerrillas counterparts in some troops contributing countries, including Indonesia who sympathised with the Iranian and Malavsia, who have expressed side in the Iran-Iraq war from 1980-1988. Saddam's defence counsel

UN mandate before taking any Khalil al-Dulaimi, declared the court decision. illegal, arguing that an administra-"The situation is still unclear," tion set up under US tutelage had no Morshed said right to try Iraqis, an argument used On August 17, Bangladesh in Saddam's first trial without suc-Permanent Representative to the cess. UN Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury

Presiding over the trial was chief

judge Abdallah al-Ameri, a Shia

Arab with 25 years on the bench,

supported by four colleagues in a

process which prosecutors hope will

judge when asked to identify him-

self, accusing him of working on

behalf of the US forces operating in

You are here in the name of the

Al-Ameri also shouted at

Chemical Ali to sit down after he

stood up in deference to Saddam as

his former boss was led back into

tried on a charge that he ordered the

execution of 148 Shia civilians from

the town of Dujail after a failed

Proceedings in the Anfal trial

If so, he would have an automatic

The case against Saddam's co-

Gruesome Aug 21

defendants. former senior security

officials in his regime, would con-

tinue however, as prosecutors seek

Ivy Rahman were killed and 400

hurled on the rally apparently in an

At least a dozen grenades were

Saddam had previously been

court after a break.

Saddam had clashed with the

last for only four months.

Irag.

rces lik*i* rivers and canals.

"Livelihood should be linked to nature. Bangladeshi exporters will not be able to compete in the global market without addressing environmental sustainability in the production process," he observed.

rately, ecologist Hossain Shahrian thrashi said.

There are laws but those are not properly implemented, he said, referring to the use of polythene despite its banning through a bill in parliament.

## 17 projects okayed

FROM PAGE 1 report, the committee detected gross irregularities in the tender which had been set to go to DCL quoting a suspiciously low price of Tk 64 crore, which is Tk 30 crore lower than the second and third lowest offers

However, instead of acting on the review panel's recommendation to award the contract to the second lowest bidder, the purchase committee vesterday asked for re-tender of the work due to a huge gap between the offers of the first two bidders.

Another project dealing with installation of digital telephone exchanges in upazila growth centres was rejected as the committee smelt a rat in the three and a half years old tender and decided to go for a fresh bidding.

Sources said the committee yesterday 'hurriedly' approved 17 other projects despite widespread allegations of corruption and irregularities in a number of those tenders

A project for installations of high capacity optical fibre lines and synchronous digital hierarchy (SDH) transmission links connecting Dhaka-Bogra-Rajshahi-Nawabganj and Moghbazar-Srinagar was approved yesterday. Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) in its June 2005 bid selected Chinese company, Huawei Technologies.

Huawei arranged foreign trips for members of the technical evaluation committee of the project during the tendering process violating Public Procurement Regulations.

Following formal objections from ZTE, an aggrieved bidder in the tender, that BTTB had blatantly favoured Huawei, a government review panel found that both the bidders had actually been unresponsive to the tender. The review panel in its decision in last July said, "retender should be called after making specifications more correctly and clearly. Penalty points should be shown against each item where applicable

Another telecoms deal was approved vesterday for supplying four units of Voice over Interne Protocol (VoIP) platforms to BTTB. But, the deal was found technically unresponsive by a review panel of the government earlier. Moreover, BTTB earlier agreed with the review

panel recommendation for re-tender of the work. But, the ministry concerned did not inform the purchase committee about BTTB's reservation about the project, a meeting source said.

> The committee vesterday okaved a dozen land deals worth Tk 222 crore including a land development project at a hefty cost of Tk 104 crore for Jhilmil Residential Project.

Sources said three years ago, when the housing ministry floated tender for the project, it attached a condition that the bidder must own a dredger to qualify. The idea was to use the dredger to collect soil from the river near the project site for land filling

Sources said the condition was imposed to facilitate awarding of the contract to a particular party as it is not any concern of the authorities how a contractor supplies soil to fill up low lying lands.

Two years back, a bidder was selected to do the job at the rate of Tk 107 for per cubic metre of land development. However, the bidder could not use the dredger.

Now the authorities lifted the condition of using a dredger and increased the cost of per cubic metre land filling to Tk 137 from Tk 107, increasing the project cost by Tk 24 crore.

The committee also approved import of 1,00,000 tons of fertiliser, procurement of 4,00,000 tons of ertiliser from Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company Ltd (Kafco), and an appointment of a supervising consultant for the Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover project.

The committee did not discuss the proposals for settlement of Tk 30 crore extra financial claims by the contractor of Pakshi Bridge, setting up the National Institute of Neuroscience at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka, and specialist services for operation and maintenance of Barapukuria coal fired power plant. The proposal for procuring

machine-readable passports (MRP) visas and national identity cards (NID), and Dapdapia Bridge construction project were not tabled in yesterday's meeting.

of Bhutan in their last group As many as 1,35,639 assistant match. They ended level on six points with Maldives, who crushed Pakistan officials, who are mostly teachers, 3-1 in the day's other match. The were recruited for updating the voter hosts, however, enjoy a superior goal list by visiting door to door. The temporarily appointed staff have

difference The fate of the other semifinalists resented arranging 'very poor' from Group A would be decided after tomorrow's Pakistan-Bhutan game. remuneration for their task. A total of 6,273 assistant regis-Pakistan also have three points and must beat Bhutan by a margin of two tration officers and 83 district elecgoals to topple Maldives. tion officers, who have been

India led the medal table with 37 recruited as registration officers, are gold, 14 silver, six bronze till filing of monitoring the task of updating the this report, followed by Sri Lanka (6-15-23), Pakistan (4-13-14), Nepal (1-0-4) and Bangladesh (0-6-8)

Afghanistan, Maldives and Bhutan are yet to strike a medal.

### Qawamı

FROM PAGE 1 slamic thinkers, among others, attended the function. The prime minister said Madrasa

education that exists alongside general education is a remarkable and inseparable part of overall education system of Bangladesh.

Lakhs of madrasa-educated students enter the job market every year, but most of them do not get appropriate job for lack of proper guidelines and standard

education, she noted. Describing the two streams of madrasa education, she said Alia madrasa education system has already been established on a comparatively strong institutional founda-

Khaleda said the government has given importance to the Qawami madrasa education system and examined thoroughly what steps could be taken for overall development of this system.

"The education ministry, under the supervision of my office, has arranged opinion-exchange meetings with the country's distinguished alem, ulema, Islamic thinkers and other eminent persons engaged in madrasa education," the prime minister informed the function.

Recently, they have identified a number of elements for development of Qawami madrasas and expressed a strong opinion on the necessity to give urgent recognition to Dawra certificate of Qawami madrasa, she pointed out.

After overall review, the government has taken the decision to make Dawra degree equivalent to MA degree. Education Minister Osman Farruk

also spoke on the occasion. Islamic Oikya Jote chairman Mufti

Fazlul Hug Aminee MP, who was present at the function, gave his instant reaction to journalists, saying that they all are "very happy with the historic announcement of the prime minister"

He expressed the hope that BNP and the four-party alliance would again come to power with a big margin of vote".

officers of city corporations. The officials were assigned to monitor the task of updating the voter list.

The EC secretariat also allocated an amount between Tk 7,000 and 15.000 for each of the district

Besides, the EC Secretariat has

allocated Tk 5,000 for each of the

offices of divisional commissioners

and deputy commissioners, Tk

10,000 for each of nine divisional

election offices. Tk 5.000 for each

executive officers and regional

election officers for transportation cost of forms and other materials from Dhaka to the districts level and Tk 2,000 for each of upazila election officers for transportation cost of

The secretary of the EC Secretariat, Abdur Rashid Sarkar, level to upazila.

## JS session on Sept 10

#### FROM PAGE 1

voter list.

current parliament is likely to witness the presence of the main opposition in its concluding session Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina on February 12 this year

placed a set of proposals in parliament for reforms in the caretaker government system, Election Commission and the electoral laws. Responding to the reform pro-posals, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia

on February 28 proposed to form a committee comprising the leaders of the ruling and opposition parties. But the proposed committee to

deal with the reforms issue has not been formed yet despite exchange of letters between the ruling BNP and main opposition Awami League (AL) while many political analysts see no sign of resolving the reforms issue at this moment. LGRD and Cooperatives

Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan however said the issue of reforms first have to be settled outside parliament though discussion.

"After discussing the issue at the proposed committee it may be placed in parliament, if necessary, Bhuiyan, also the ruling BNP secretary general, told reporters yesterday. "For this, Awami League will have to sit in dialogue with the ruling alliance."

If the reform agenda is not resolved during the tenure of the current parliament, the caretaker government will have to promulgate ordinance if it wants to bring any reform

Meanwhile, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid yesterday told The Daily Star that their joining the upcoming session of parliament depends on the government's attitude.

"We placed in parliament our proposals for reforms and continued participation in the parliamentary

and a queue formed in response. Crowds also berated a government official at the scene, chanting "negligence" and scuffling with police who tried to disperse them forms and materials from the district Egyptian pounds (\$871) to families of the dead and 1.000 pounds for the wounded. It would also cover funeral

of Cairo.

crowded passenger train.

FROM PAGE 16

was not there.

the area.

mation.

JMB files case

people's pockets on the Satkhira

court premises. On August 17 last year,

Rawshan went to the court and saw his

bag was lying on the ground but Nasir

the town on that day. Rawshan informed

the police of the matter who immediately

During interrogation, Nasir con-

fessed to police of his being an active

JMB member. Police were able to arrest

other JMB activists following his infor-

Locals say due to police inaction

JMB activists have regrouped and are

false cases against him.

arrested Nasir at his Islampur home.

scene said government lenience over a string of previous transport accidents meant there was no motivation to maintain safety standards. proceedings. But the government More than 1,000 people died in has been showing negative attitude Februarv when a ferry sank in the Red towards our proposals." Hamid said. Sea. Investigations primarily blamed adding, "Possibility of joining the the captain, who died, for not following

next session is little unless the safety procedures, but the public directed its rage at the ferry owner, a aovernment responds positively. Hamid, who is also a former nember of parliament. speaker of parliament, however,

said the party high command and the parliamentary party will decide on whether the AL will join the next session The government policymakers have been repeatedly urging the

to settle the issue of reform agenda. The next session of the current parliament will be a short one due to the Ramadan. However, the Business Advisory Committee will sit prior to beginning of the session to decide the duration and allocate

Aug 21 attack FROM PAGE 1

Committee member and AL lawmaker Col (retired) Shawkat Ali said,"The intelligence officials should be summoned to appear

to the proposal and Chairman Mahbubur Rahman maintained that the government has already taken

It endorsed a proposal of the

already sent to the finance ministry Bir Shrestho should have as hono rariums a one-off payment of Tk 2 lakh and monthly Tk 2000. Bir Uttam Tk 1 lakh and monthly Tk 1,500, Bir Bikram Tk 50,000 and monthly Tk 1,250 and Bir Protik Tk 40,000 and monthly Tk 1,000.

JMB men. He said police are launching drives now and then to capture the

absconding JMB activists. However, seven out of 19 chargesheeted accused in the August 17 blasts cases of Satkhira are still absconding.

The yesterday's programme Hundred of bystanders and pasbegan with placing wreaths at a sengers' relatives anxious for news converged on the wreckage in a semiplaque in front of the AL central rural area about 20 km (12 miles) north office at 11:24am. Hasina was the first one to lay wreaths on the memo-Security troops linked arms to keep

Hasina.

FROM PAGE 1

more injured.

rial to the victims of the bloodshed. the crowds at bay. Officials called on She was followed by among people over loudhailers to give blood. others Zillur Rahman. Saieda Chowdhury, Abdur Razzak, Abdul Jalil, Suranjit Sengupta, Tofail Ahmed, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Kazi Zafarullah. Obaidul Quader Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Rashed Health Minister Hatem el-Gabali Khan Menon, Hasanul Huq Inu, said the government would pay 5,000 Pankaj Bhattacharya, Nurul Íslam,

Dilip Barua, CPB leaders Monjurul Ahsan Khan and Mujahidul Islam Selim Later the AL chief addressed a An opposition politician at the mourning rally there and expressed

her sympathy for the bereaved and the injured Tight security measures were

taken on and around Bangabandhu Avenue. The road remained off limits to vehicles as the opposition activists streamed into the area in the afternoon.

People from different places across the city soon flooded the Monday's crash was the deadliest area. Many of the marchers carried banners reading 'Khaleda-Nizami railway accident in Egypt since about 360 were killed in 2002 when fire are behind all the blasts' and 'We ripped through seven carriages of a want independent international

probe into the August 21 blasts'. That accident was the worst in 150 Many of those injured in the August 21 blasts took part in the mourning procession and rally. As the Bangabandhu Avenue was filled to capacity, the opposition leaders and workers raised their hands and swore an oath to 'oust the ruling coalition, bring in a pro-people government, and try the persons responsible for blast incidents including the August 21 grenade

attacks' Addressing the mourning rally, neighbour Nasir standing there with a the opposition leaders accused the bag in his hand. Later he noticed that the BNP-Jamaat government of having a hand in the ghastly attack. They criticised the government for not The bag went off creating panic in conducting a fair investigation into the incident and bringing the culprits The militants blasted five bombs in

to trial. Besides, the opposition leaders resolved to bring the perpetrators to justice after forming a pro-people government through a free and fair election

AL Presidium Member Amir Hossain Amu reiterated the call for an international probe. He said the attack was "designed to eliminate the AL leadership. AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil

taking revenge on Rawshan by filing MP alleged that the BNP-Jamaat Assistant Police Super (ASP) alliance had orchestrated the gre-Delowar Hossain Sayeedi denied nade blasts in a bid to kill Sheikh allegations of police inaction in arresting Hasina and turn the country into a communal and pro-Pakistani state. He further alleged that the investigation was not conducted properly as the government itself had been involved in the carnage.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Huq Inu said the culprits will never be able to get away with the mass killings and they will face trial once a non-communal Bangladesh is established.

Senior opposition leaders including Abdur Razzak Tofail Ahmed Suranjit Sengupta, Motia Chowdhury, Mohammad Nasim, Dilip Barua, Nurul Islam, Obaidul Quader, among others, spoke at the rally

After the rally, Jubo League, youth front of the AL, organised a doa mahfil and lit candles in memory of the departed.

Elsewhere in the country, the opposition workers and supporters brought out processions to mourn those who died in the grenade attacks, and special prayers were offered.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh also observed the day.

#### Israeli

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of an Israeli commando raid two days ago which Israel said was to disrupt weapons shipments for Hezbollah from Svria.

Lebanon considers overflights a violation of the UN resolution that ended 34 days of fighting last week.

Defense Minister Flias Murr said he was confident that Hezbollah would hold its fire but warned Syrianbacked Palestinian militants against rocket attacks which might draw Israeli retaliation and re-ignite fullscale fighting.

"We consider that when the resistance (Hezbollah) is committed not to fire rockets, then any rocket that is fired from the Lebanese territory would be considered collaboration with Israel to provide a pretext (for Israel) to strike," he said Sunday.

Israel has long accused Svria along with Iran, of arming and supporting Hezbollah. During the war, however, Israel avoided trying to draw Svria into the conflict, apparently fearing another front or closing peace options.

On Monday, Public Security Minister Avi Dichter said Israel should resume the negotiations that broke down in 2000.

"What we did with Egypt and Jordan is also legitimate in this case,' Dichter told Israeli Army Radio. Asked if that meant Israel should withdraw to its international border with Svria, giving up the Golan Heights region Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast War. he said: "Yes."

But Olmert ruled out talks with the Svrians unless they stop sponsoring "terror organizations.'

the business of the session.

Sangsad Bhaban.

before the committee and explain what they had done on August 21." But the committee did not agree

appropriate actions in this regard.

defence ministry and asked the aovernment to implement it immedi-

Áccording to the proposal

years of Egyptian rail history and prompted the resignation of the transmain opposition to sit in a dialogue port minister and the head of the state railway system.