Danida

# Bangladeshi wounded

College Hospital

The provocative incident took place after the sector commander level flag meeting between the BDR and BSF on August 13, where both sides agreed to maintain status quo on the farmlands near the border outposts, follow the agreement signed in 1974 and not to create trouble for the other side.

The incident occurred at about 8:00am when the BSF fired several gunshots at the Bangladeshi farmers working on the croplands near the BDR camp at Biabail border, sources said.

Earlier on Monday evening, the Indians hoisted red flags near the border line and through loudspeakers asked the Bangladeshis not to cultivate the croplands. After BDR's protest yesterday, however, they removed the flags

An official of BDR said, the lands had been under Bangladesh's possession since the partition of

Our correspondent from Satkhira reports: The BSF and the BDR exchanged gunfire on Laxmidari border area in Sadar upazila last

The BSF of Ghojadanga Camp in Basirhat police station under North 24 Parganas district fired several bullets at the BDR of Bhomra Camp at about 2:00am, prompting the BDR to retaliate with seven to eight shots. However, there was no casualty.

Following the incident, both sides reinforced their positions in the border outposts and were on

Panic gripped the residents of bordering areas as they fear that a skirmish may begin at any moment between the two border forces, ocals said.

On contact, Major Humayun, second in command 41 Rifles Battalion, confirmed the incident.

#### Jalil accuses FROM PAGE 16

projects in a day," Jalil said adding that massive allegations of irregularities have already been raised against 15 of those 17 projects.

The committee is on the move to revive the previously cancelled machine-readable passport project by direct instructions from the Prime Ministers' Office (PMO), Jalil said.

He alleged that the family members of the prime minister, influential ministers and their family members are involved in all these projects.

These projects would obviously go against the interest of the people and the state, as pocketing 'commission' was only considered without following proper rules and regulations while approving the projects, Jalil claimed.

People of the country would not be liable for this plunder and the government would have to be held responsible for these 'unethical' deals, added Jalil

The AL general secretary said a pro-people government in future would probe all illegal deals and take stern action against the per-

## Govt won't be allowed

be incorporated in the proposed committee," Aminee said.

IOJ leader Abdul Quader said at the meeting with Khaleda, they congratulated her for the government's decision. "Had the government taken the decision much earlier, it would have been easier for them to implement it," he observed.

Asked whether the decision has any political significance, he said the ruling BNP will benefit immensely from it in the next parliamentary election.

The education commission of Moniruzzaman Mia in its report in 2004 made a number of recommendations for Alia madrasa education system. But no suggestion has been made with regard to over 15 thou-

The reforms committee formed in 2002 for madrasa education too did not come up with any recom-

Presently, there exist four boards for Qawami madrasa education. It has yet to be clear whether those

Qawami madrasas came to the fore after August 17 serial blasts across the country last year. A number of militants were rounded

But in the face of growing pressure from various Islamist groups including ruling coalition partner IOJ factions, the law enforcement agencies had to stop raiding the

activities openly, the government

said it might arrest the leaders if they

attempted to hold programmes

openly as its image would be dam-

aged by such activities. Azizul said.

ment later not to arrest or harass

any of the HuJi leaders, it assured

me and said no one would be

Azizul, however, declined to

The BKA leader convened a

news conference yesterday 'to clear

their position' but cancelled it due to

'unavoidable circumstances'. But

sources said the home ministry

pressured him to cancel the

president if people cast their votes in

the four-party alliance is not final

vet. "Negotiations are on and I'm

there are three options left before

him -- contesting the elections alone

Ershad reiterated that his joining

The deposed president said

JP to contest

FROM PAGE 16

favour of his party.

doing that alone." he said.

"When I requested the govern-

# HuJi leaders appeared

launch a new platform.

test whether the government is sincere about its assurance of not arresting HuJi men', said the HuJi source.

by Abdus Salam officially launched the National Press Club on April 30, 1992 in Dhaka

went into hiding as the erstwhile cracked down on them following an attack on recently departed noted poet Shamsur Rahman and an assassination attempt on Awami

As the media ran several reports on the activities of HuJi, JMB bombs across the country, following which some of HuJi's foreign fund

cial crisis, we failed to reorganise to

and either joining the BNP-led fourlaunched a crackdown on JMB. the HuJi leaders succeeded in convincing the government that none of their leaders and activists was involved in any kind of violence or militant activities.

that a faction of HuJi men led by Mufti Hannan, who had been responsible for some violence, were expelled from the organisation in 1998.

Kazi Azizul Haque, who is also international affairs secretary of a faction of BKA, said he invited Afghan war veterans, who once had been involved with HuJi, to the rally. "But none of them has any criminal record and I also have been trying to make the government understand

this for a long time." He said he informed the prime minister's office, inspector general of police, commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, NSI, DGFI, other intelligence agencies and the

media about last Friday's rally. "The government banned Harkatul Jihad of Mufti Hannan and Abdur Rouf, who had been expelled from the organisation long ago. The original HuJi was dissolved in

1998," he claimed. When he told the government that there was no problem in allowing the HuJi leaders to hold political

mendation for these madrasas.

will be merged into one single entity.

up from these madrasas.

militant Islamists. It later decided to

Impatient by the delay in getting a green signal from the government, the HuJi leaders decided to hold a programme openiy without receiving prior government approval 'to

arrested if they didn't have any criminal record "he added Some Afghan War veterans led disclose with whom of the government or the intelligence agencies he HuJi through a press conference at discussed the matter.

The HuJi leaders and activists Awami League government

League chief Sheikh Hasina.

banged to limelight by blasting providers cut-off their assistance. "As we also came under a finan-

openly hold our programmes," said the source. After the government had

party alliance or the AL-led 14-party The JP chairman alleged that he could not join the 14-party alliance because of the left parties. "Had Awami League been alone it would They also told the government have been easier for us to forge an

alliance with them," he pointed out. About the allegation that he is an "unpredictable" character, he said everybody in politics is unpredictable and Sheikh Hasina had proved

herself unpredictable in 1986. Ershad said if he joins the fourparty alliance. AL will get less than 40 seats and that is why the main opposition is saying not to contest

the next general elections. He also came down heavily on Jamaat-e-Islami for their reluctance to take Jativa Party to the alliance. "I was not interested to talk about them. But they've compelled me to do that by making various comments about me in the media." he

In 1991 election, Ershad said, his party bagged 35 seats but Jamaat got 18 seats through negotiations with the BNP. "Don't take too much pride...you only got three seats in 1996 contesting the elections

alone," he reminded Jamaat. He also threw a challenge to Jamaat to contest the next elections alone and test their strength.

Indo-Bangla talks

FROM PAGE 1
Discussions on disputed enclaves and adverse possessions of land and border fencing are also likely to figure prominently in the talks.

The two sides are also expected to discuss modalities for a joint visit by officials to the enclaves and in adverse possessions, to which they have already agreed. India feels the dialogue is the

best way to resolve disputes and has been pushing for the home secretary-level talks for some time. Taking a serious note of 'unpro-

voked firing and shelling' at a few parts of Assam by BDR, India last week summoned Bangladesh's High Commissioner to India Liaquat Ali Choudhury and lodged a protest. He was handed over a 'note

verbale' [protest letter]. Indian High Commission officials handed a similar letter to Bangladesh foreign ministry in Dhaka. India and Bangladesh hold 111

and 55 enclaves respectively along their 4,095km long border. New Delhi feels that those enclaves where questions over their administration remain, are responsible for cross-border illegal activities to a large extent. The entire border is demarcated except for the 6.5km spread over various places.

The two countries also have differences on border fencing undertaken by India to check infiltration and other cross-border crimes.

India is keen to settle the issue and has proposed a package to Bangladesh, which includes certain concessions, officials said.

#### Academics decry

Reacting to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's Monday announcement on the government decision, they questioned the quality on Qawami madrasa education saying its funds, control and curriculum are still in dark.

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) President Prof Sharifullah Bhuiyan and General Secretary Prof Akhtaruzzaman in a statement yesterday said the practice of knowledge will be hampered due to the government recognition to Qawami madrasa education system without scrutinising the syllabi and curriculum.

"We have become puzzled as the government has recognised the Qawami madrasas on political motive, not for improving its quality," the Duta leaders said adding that quality of Qawami madrasa will not improve rather will encourage militancy if curriculum are not changed.

They urged the government to arrange open discussion and consider the recommendations of academicians before implementing the deci-

Leaders of 11-party said the recognition will go against the education policy and standard of education. They alleged that militant trainings are being conducted in Qawmi madrasas especially in broader areas.

They emphasised the open discussion for scrutinising the education system and effective measures for modernisation of the Qawmi Madrasa education system before implantation of acknowledgment.

Chhatra Maitre will bring out a University Campus at 11:00am today protesting the government decision to recognise Qawami madrasa educa-

#### BNP to talk out

FROM PAGE 1 Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, Health Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Minister without portfolio Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddique, RA Gani, KM Obaidur Rahman and Khandaker Mahbub Uddin Ahmed were present at the meeting.

Standing committee members Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain is in Singapore for treatment while Col (retd) Oli is in Saudi Arabia.

Meanwhile, on the JP's inclusion in the alliance, Jamaat leaders had a heated debate at a meeting at their party office on August 21. But they

failed to reach any resolution. Jamaat is waiting for a formal invitation from the BNP to discuss the issue and is supposed to hold a meeting today to determine its election strategy, sources said.

## Gulshan Lake

FROM PAGE 1

residents alleged that Abul Kalam Azad, a Rajuk surveyor, has been actively involved in 'helping the grabbers'. For instance, when Rajuk officials led by Executive Engineer Ujjal Mallick visited the spot yesterday, they spotted the illegal extension of the plot-9 into the lake. Meanwhile, the surveyor Abul Kalam Azad arrived on the spot with Kamal, the caretaker of Khan's plot. in a taxi. While Raiuk officials asked Kamal to remove the encroachment, Abul Kalam Azad defended Kamal and said plot-9 did not extend its boundary into the lake.

The Rajuk executive engineer said they did not know anything about the filling up of the lake. He said a walkway must be made immediately to demarcate the lake.

"We shall remove the earth from the lake immediately," said Mallick.

Raiuk official sources said the western side of the lake, at the Karail Basti end, is also being grabbed fast.

"Unless the authorities concerned take urgent steps to demarcate the lake, it is a matter of time when the entire lake will be gone.' said an official source.

# **UP** polls monitor

shortage of time," she added claiming that Danida has accepted her response, and has again sanctioned funds for another Democracywatch project.

Massline Media Centre (MMC), which worked as the secretariat of the Danida project for monitoring the UP election 2003, returned Tk 10/12 lakh following repeated pressure from the donor agency.

Brotee, a leading organisation for election observation, has returned about Tk 8 lakh to Danida in instalments.

"Some of our local partners at the grassroots level have been involved in the irregularities as they did not pay the observers the money required to do the job right, Sharmeen Murshid, chief executive officer (CEO) of Brotee, told The Daily Star on Sunday.

"Danida has accepted our report in this regard and appreciated Brotee's efforts." she said adding that they are now returning in instalments the money that had been misused.

Meanwhile, Elina Khan, executive director (ED) of Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) said. "The donor agency and the project secretariat MMC did not allow us enough time to train our staff on our own. Neither could they conduct a proper training in election observation. And as a result, the grassroots level organisations and observers had failed to carry out their duties."

She said. "As soon as we found out the problems, we stopped the task of monitoring the UP election and returned the unused funds."

BSFHR had received Tk 30 lakh and returned about Tk 10 lakh to Danida, she added.

On the allegation of funds abuse, MMC Executive Director Kamrul Hasan Manju told The Daily Star,"It was not our mistake. Rather some volunteers on the field were involved in it.'

Mosharraf Hossain, country

director of ADD, told The Daily Star that after investigation they have returned about Tk 50 thousand to

"On receiving Danida's complaint in 2003, we took necessary actions against the persons who were involved in the misuse of funds at the field level," he said

On the allegation, Bamasop Chairman AHM Nouman said."I was not in charge at that time, so I don't know the details about the Danida's complaint. We will take decision in this regard after consulting our member organisations."

The Asia Foundation on last Thursday called the Bamasop chairman and asked him to settle the issue with Danida soon. Otherwise, Bamasop will not be allowed to be in the Election Working Group (EWG). The EWG is a platform launched

recently by an alliance of 35 NGOs to observe the upcoming polls. The Asia Foundation will provide funds for the task. "We have already discussed the matter with the Asia Foundation

authorities. They told us to resolve

the issue soon," Nouman told The Daily Star on Thursday night. Khairuzzaman Kamal, member secretary of a Bamasop faction, told The Daily Star yesterday that they have sent a letter to the TAF asking them to stop sanctioning funds in favour of Bamasop as a case against the organisation is still

pending at a court. "If the Asia Foundation does not stop disbursing funds for Manobadhikar Somonnoy Parishad, we will take legal action against them," Kamal observed.

According to the letter of intent Democracywatch and Bamasop will get Tk 1.98 crore and MMC and ADD each will get about Tk 1 crore for monitoring the next election as members of the EWG

# Hasina vows

ruling BNP has killed around 26,000 opposition leaders and workers on political grounds during its present tenure by using the law enforcers and in grenade and bomb attacks.

She accused the PM and her son Tarique Rahman of patronising criminals, saying Tarique gave shelter to the perpetrators of the August 21 grenade attack and helped them flee the capital. "Tarique arranged housing and food for them first in Naogaon and then in Bogra," Hasina said. She accused the government of

helping the family of Joz Mia. one of the prime suspects in the arenade attack case, instead of taking measurers to arrest the perpetra-"After the attack, instead of lping the injured, the governmen

directed the law enforcers to lob teargas shells and charge baton on the AL party men who went to help the wounded," Hasina said, adding that it helped the criminals flee the spot easily.

The opposition leader also criticised the government for damaging the evidences following the attack. The government did not even help the foreign teams that came to investigate the incident, she added.

# HC judges

Justice Mohammad Emdadul Haque, Justice Mohammad Rais Uddin Justice Mohammad Imdadul Haque Azad, Justice Mohammad Ataur Rahman Khan, Justice Sved Mohammad Ziaul Karim, Justice Mohammd Rezaul Haque, Justice Sheikh Abdul Awal, Justice SM Emdadul Haque, Justice Faisal Mahmud Faizee, Justice Mamnun Rahman and Justice Farah

Mahbub. "The appointment of the judges takes effect from the date of their oath taking," an official announcement said yesterday.

She said the government has approved a total of 17 projects at the last time of its tenure only for looting public money.

AL Presidium Member Zillur Rahman, husband of AL women affairs secretary Ivy Rahman who was killed in the August 21 grenade attack, said the government will neither bring the culprits to book nor publish the judicial probe report as it was itself involved in the attack.

AL leaders Abdur Rahman and Shahara Khatun also spoke at the discussion while Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Matia Chowdhury Obaidul Quader, Prof Abu Sayeed AFM Bahauddin Nasim, among others, were present.

#### BSF abducts

FROM PAGE 16

working on a cropland near pillar no 1968 at Balla frontier at about

Confirming the abduction, BDR said it has sent a letter to its Indian counterpart demanding return of the

A tense situation is prevailing in the bordering area.

# Opposition

FROM PAGE 1 them for their present and previous

activities" Addressing a public meeting at Koshba T Ali Degree College ground, the prime minister said they will hand over power to the caretaker government after two months and the next polls will be held in

January 2007 Khaleda, also the chairperson of the ruling BNP, urged people to vote for "sheaf of paddy" to advance the roadmap of development to build a successful, effective and self-reliant Bangladesh.

"If the BNP-led alliance returns to power, the country will attain selfreliance in all sectors," she told her

# HC order stayed

the petitioner. The SC ruling means the Privatisation Commission can now resume its process regarding the sale of Rupali Bank.

he is confident that the commission will be able to wrap up the selling procedure within the stipulated time. Earlier on Monday, the last day for tender submission, four bidders--Saudi Prince Bandar Bin Mohammad Bin Abdul Rahman Al Saudi, Maa

International Investment Ltd of Malaysia, JJ Finance Ltd of the UK, and Domestic Investors Consortium-filed tender for the state-owned bank. The same day the HC in a ruling put a stop to the sell-off procedure for three months. It also issued a rule on the government, Privatisation Commission and Rupali Bank to

Justice M Joynul Abedin and Justice Mushtaque Hossain Ahmed issued the rule following a writ filed by Abu Taher, an employee-cum-shareholder of the bank

chairman said some vested interests are out to hinder the privatisation of "Earlier stay orders were issued on Siddeshwari, strangulated him and privatisation of the bank for as many as three times, but the process could not

be stopped," he said adding that the commission will continue working towards the sell-off. The government that owns 94 per cent of the bank's shares has decided to sell 67 per cent of its shares in order to appease the World Bank and the

The assets of the Rupali Bank totalled \$1.07 billion as showed in December 2005, and it has over 493 branches across the country.

Indigenous people

prosecute the ones responsible for the firing.

Tougher agitation would follow if the authorities concerned try to shield the perpetrators, said some

Sanjeeb Drong alleged that the forest department filed a false case with Muktagachha police station accusing one Nibaran Shangma of stealing trees from the forest only to divert public attention away from the

The leaders in the rally announced a rally at the central Shaheed Minar on Friday. Earlier the leaders along with

thana nirbahi officers (TNO) and officers-in-charge of Muktagachha and Madhupur visited the place of the incident.

Shishilia Slan, 25, a mother of two, was injured when forest quards in Tangail opened fire on village women collecting firewood Monday morning. She is now undergoing treatment at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital

Shishilia's husband Niranjan Shimsung filed a case with Muktagachha police station yesterday accusing Madhupur range Beat Officer Mosharraf Hossain, forest guards Nuru, Abdul Malek and

## Disappointing day

FROM PAGE 1 Stadium Pool. Still, the event holds the only realistic chance to solve the gold drought for the country as Shahjahan Ali Rony takes the pool

today in the 50m breaststroke. Jewel Ahmed, who won two silver medals in the Games earlier, was disqualified in the 200m butterfly finals. Dolly Akhter won a bronze in the women's 200m breaststroke while Mahfuza Khatun finished last

among seven competitors. There were bronze medals for Rubel Rana (200m Individual Medley), who finished fifth in the 100m backstroke to lose his gold won in Pakistan, and Rezaul Karim (100m freestyle). But Nazrul Islam (100m freestyle) was disqualified in the heats while Kamal Hossain finished fifth in the 200m IM.

Sabura Khatun finished seventh in women's 400m freestyle and the Bangladesh women's team finished last in the four-team 4x200m freestyle relay. Feroz Mahmud lifted a

weightlifting silver in the above

105kg while Pradeep Chandra Das took bronze in the 105 kg category. Having bagged two silver and five bronze yesterday, Bangladesh remained fifth in the medal table with a haul of eight silvers and 13 bronzes, far behind India (46-22-9) Sri Lanka (10-20-29), Pakistan (7-

#### 15-19) and Nepal (3-0-6). Bol chief's case

FROM PAGE 16 The five along with their lawvers. including Dr Kamal Hossain, appeared at the chamber of ADM ... Lokman Ahmad at 2:30pm and

Dr Kamal told the ADM that they appeared as the HC had earlier ordered to furnish bail bonds to him. After scrutinising all the documents placed before him, the ADM

ordered them to furnish the bail bonds upon a bond of Tk 50,000 each with guarantors. The High Court (HC) on August 10 granted ad interim anticipatory bail to the five prominent citizens

following issuance of arrest war-

rants against them in the defama-

tion case. Upon a bail petition filed by them. a division bench of the HC also issued a rule on the government asking it to explain why regular bail should not be granted in the case. Mahmudur Rahman is also a

Metropolitan Magistrate Syed Mohammad Mujibul Haq issued the arrest warrants after Mahmudur Rahman, also adviser to the energy ministry, filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court,

court premises yesterday that they are being harassed in a false and baseless case They have appeared before the HC for getting bails earlier and again

#### their honour and status. Three to die

FROM PAGE 16 satisfaction over the verdict and urged the government for taking steps to arrest the fugitives and execute the verdict.

Kanak developed an illicit affair with Nabil's friend Mostakin without his knowledge and plotted to kill her On March 2, 2004 as per Kanak's

and the court recorded statements

According to the prosecution

of 13 prosecution witnesses.

dumped the body at the Bamanpur Playground in Keraniganj Later, the police recovered the body and a murder case was filed against the three with Keranigani Police Station the next day and they

trates on different dates describing Even though specific allegations were primarily proved against them,

# Russian plane crash

Wreckage of the plane was quickly located about 45 kilometers (28 miles) north of the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk and rescuers said that 30 bodies had already been recovered.

Emergency personnel cordoned off a large area around the crash site, but an AFP journalist on the scene said the fuselage of the plane was entirely destroyed.

Firefighters were still working to extinguish remaining pockets of flame at the crash site, where a thick pall of white smoke hung in the air.

The head of Russia's air traffic control service told Interfax that the crash appeared to have been caused by severe turbulence. He provided no further details. Another Russian official also

quoted by Interfax said it appeared

that the plane went down as the

result of flying through a severe Of the 160 passengers on the plane, 154 were adults and six were children, Interfax reported. There were also reported to be 10 crew

#### Jute workers

FROM PAGE 16

the Khulna-Jessore region refrained from work yesterday. They would lay siege to highways and railway lines on August 29.

Their eight-point demand include payment of arrear wages, implementation of wage commission's recommendations, payment of dearness allowance, medical allowance, gratuity as approved by the pay commission, allocation of necessary funds in jute sector and reopening of all closed jute mills.

members aboard. The spokesman also said that a Russian emergency situations team was ready to fly to Ukraine, but that

Russian President Vladimir Putin was informed about the crash immediately after it occurred, the

Anapa is a popular resort town on Russia's Black Sea coast and is usually packed with holidaymakers

Armenian airliner crashed into the Black Sea near the coastal town of Sochi during bad weather. Air traffic controllers later attributed the crash

In July, 127 people died when a Russian airliner flying from Moscow to the Siberian city of Irkutsk veered off the runway after landing and crashed into neighboring buildings. There had been 203 people on

requirement of 9000 litre. Friends Traders Filling Station in Kurigram had only 1000 litres of diesel in stock on Tuesday after-

# **UN force in Lebanon**

looked threatening, an Israeli spokesman said, claiming that the incident did not violate the UN ceasefire because soldiers "acted in legitimate self-defence"

There has sporadic violence since

the "cessation of hostilities" took

envoy Terje Roed-Larsen said Monday he was optimistic it would The UN resolution that paved the way for the truce calls for a strengthened international force in the war-battered south along with

of Israeli forces, as well as the disarmament of Hezbollah "The international community must now designate the leadership of this new international force, give it robust rules of engagement and

the deployment of the Lebanese

army in tandem with the withdrawal

secure the peace," Bush told a press conference Monday. "The need is urgent," said Bush

is created along the volatile border. Annan that Italy would be available to

command the UN mission, in the face

of widespread reluctance to contrib-

ute to an expanded 15,000-strong force. France, which currently leads the

commitments. So far, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal and Spain said they were willing, but fell short of hoped-for UN Bangladesh, Indonesia, Malaysia and Nepal are the few countries with

diplomatic relations with the Jewish Potential contributors are believed to fear being drawn into renewed fighting between Hezbollah and Israeli forces currently withdraw-

Middle East as part of efforts to ensure the ceasefire resolution is fully implemented, his spokesman Stephane Dujarric said, although no date has been fixed. The month-long war killed close to 1.300 people in Lebanon, most of

160 people in Israel, mostly sol-But each side continues to accuse the other of breaching the accord and on Monday Lebanese Prime Minister Fuad Siniora protested what he

them Lebanese civilians, and killed

Israel has said it would not hesitate to act against alleged crossborder arms smuggling to Hezbollah from Svria after a commando raid Saturday in eastern Lebanon, which Annan slammed as a ceasefire

Sunday it would punish any group violating the truce, an implicit warning to Hezbollah, even as Israel said it

ers are now facing an official investigation into the conduct of the war amid growing public anger over how the offensive was handled. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, in power for barely three months, has come under attack for failing in the

biggest onslaught against Lebanon in a quarter of a century. In its offensive, Israel destroyed much of Lebanon's infrastructure, homes, roads, bridges and power

stations, causing 3.5 billion dollars in Lebanon also remains nearly cut off from the outside world because

Lebanese hopes of quick aid from the Arab League were dashed however when the 22-member bloc said Sunday they were committed to helping reconstruction but delayed

discussion of concrete plans until Bush announced that US recon-

Mumbai cops

ulterior motives.

FROM PAGE 16 suspected to be linked to the attacks. Asked if the two were suspects in the Mumbai bombings, Roy said: "They could be involved. But we

around 4:30 a.m. Police identified the arrested man as Mohammed Riaz Nabiuddin and the dead as Mohammed Ali. "The arrested terrorist told us he and his accomplice were from Pakistan," Roy said, Under Indian

ble in court. An AK-47 rifle, a pistol, bullets, detonators and some explosives were recovered from the duo. besides a map of Mumbai and a diary with international telephone numbers, mostly of Bangladesh,

journalist, a computer software professional and a doctor, in connection with the July 11 strikes on the trains and stations that also wounded about 700 people. "For the last 8-10 days we had

Raghuvanshi, anti-terrorism squad chief, said earlier. "Our suspicion is there could be

They say the Pakistan-based Islamist militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba is a prime suspect. The Pakistani government and Lashkar have denied any role in the attacks and Islamabad has offered

serial bombings in Mumbai in 1993.

# FROM PAGE 16

"We have already opened the technical offers by four bidders," said Enam Ahmed Choudhury adding that

explain why their activities to sell the bank should not be declared illegal.

An HC division bench comprising

The Privatisation Commission

Rupali Bank.

set the reforms in banking sector as a condition for loans.

International Monetary Fund, who had

furnished their bail bonds.

respondent of the rule.

Dhaka. Debapriya told newsmen on the

#### yesterday before the ADM court for furnishing bail bonds, he said adding that history and time will decide

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments

instruction, Mostakin and Pappu called Nabil out of his house at

were arrested. Of them, Pappu and Kanak gave confessional statements to magis-

all the three accused were granted bail by another court on different dates and they have been abscond-

effect on August 14 but UN special

deploy it as quickly as possible to

whose own administration is not however offering any troops. Bush, a staunch supporter of Israel, also said Hezbollah would be disarmed only once a "security zone" In Rome, Prodi said he had told

2,000-strong multinational operation, had said that it was willing to lead the expanded force, but thus far has only committed to doubling its current contingent of 200 soldiers. EU countries are due to meet in Brussels on Wednesday to clarify EU

numbers. firm commitments but Israel has said it would oppose the deployment of any troops from nations without

police said. ing from southern Lebanon. So far, 13 people have been Meanwhile, Annan could visit the arrested, including an engineer, a

called Israeli violations of his countrv's air space.

In Tehran, Hezbollah's representative Abdullah Safieddin warned that the group would not disarm.

Ukrainian authorities had said they would handle the accident them selves.

Kremlin press service said.

in August. In May, 113 people died when an

to pilot error.

### **BPC**

FROM PAGE 16

Saiful, an employee of Hague and Sons Filling Station in Satmatha also reported a similar situation where his filling station has been receiving only 9000 litre diesel every alternating day against the daily

noon while a number of filling stations including Hossain Petroleum and Ekramul Hague & Sons in Chapainawabganj have already run out of diesel.

was preparing for the "next round" against the Shia guerrillas. Israeli political and military lead-

goals of crushing Hezbollah and retrieving two soldiers whose capture by the militia on July 12 triggered the

of a punishing air and sea blockade imposed in the first days of the war.

# struction aid would be boosted to 230

have to investigate more. Obviously, they came with some

The shootout took place at

law, confessions made in police custody are not ordinarily admissi-

intelligence inputs that terrorists could be hiding in Mumbai," KP

more terrorists hiding in Mumbai." Indian security officials say the blasts were carried out by local Muslims who had links to Pakistan.

In response, New Delhi has challenged Islamabad to arrest Lashkar's leaders as well as an underworld crime boss blamed for

However, Lebanon warned

to help India investigate the bomb-