Australian High Commissioner Douglas Foskett, UNDP Resident

Representative Renata Lok

Dessalien, election commissioners

and the EC secretary, among oth-

barrel and the government will pay \$ 5.45 instead of earlier \$ 4.85 per barrel as premium for the import of

The CCPP gave the approval at its meeting presided over by Finance and Planning Minister M

According to sources in the energy ministry, the government will have to pay an additional amount of Tk 18 crore for the

increased premium for import of

diesel during July-December this

import of octane and petrol has also been increased by 20 cents per

The energy ministry officials said though the government increased the premium on the import of petroleum products, it

will have no impact on the sale of petroleum products in the domes-

another proposal of the communi-

cations ministry to appoint a con-

tractor for the construction of

Dapdabia Bridge on the Barisal-

industries ministry to import

about 25,000 metric tons of urea

fartiliser also got the nod of the

Another proposal from the

Patuakhali highway.

The committee approved

Similarly, the premium on

ers, spoke on the occasion.

Tk 18cr

Saifur Rahman.

**CEC** slates NDI

the delegation, said that in the

absence of a strong, corrective and

urgent response, confidence in the

CEC will continue to erode to the

point that he should not continue

When asked about the com-

ment, Justice Aziz smilingly said, "I

should tell you a story but I have no

time now. It is not possible to com-

ment on everything. But what they

said was completely lacking in

Meanwhile, addressing a train-

ing workshop the same day, the CEC said, "It is their [opposition

parties] right not to take part in an

election. But calling for resistance

to the conduct of an election is

people's right and none can

He was speaking as the chief

guest at the inaugural session of the

workshop held at the Election

Training Institute auditorium.

Some 24 people were expected to

participate in the teach-in

designed for the election trainers.

But only half of them attended the

course organised under the

The CEC said the EC will strive

BRIDGE Programme of Australia.

to conduct the January 2007

national election in a free and fair

manner. As a referee in the election,

the commission will work to ensure

that voters cast their vote freely and

"Democracy is a continuous

process that requires careful nur-

ture," Aziz said adding that the EC

is bound by pledge to hold a free

and fair election to keep the demo-

without fear, he added.

"To vote in an election is the

absolutely undemocratic."

infringe on it," he added.

## Tk 2,000 minimum

itwas not accepted.

Annisul Huq, representative of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) on the wage anything like a gross salary package of around Tk 2,000 (excluding the overtimel as it will make a huge difference with what we pro-

dance allowance will virtually stand at around Tk 2,800 which the garment owners will not be able to bear, he said, adding, "Factory is like our

ing today a crucial one, Zafrul Hasan, who represents the workers as a permanent member on the board, said, "In view of the rising living cost, it will not be possible for the workers to accept any deal fixing the wage below Tk 2,000, as there was no pay raise in last 12 years.'

The three-month deadline for fixing minimum wage for the gar-ment workers ended on August 31 without any settlement on the issue and different workers' organisations started street agitation the following day in protest

export-earning garment sector, the government formed the wage board and asked it to recommend a pay structure for the workers within three months.

The government, garment owners and workers' leaders at a meeting on June 12 inked a 10point memorandum of understanding (MoU) after a series of discussions on May 24, June 1 and

the garment sector and decided to implement those in phases to address the labour unrest, ensure labour rights and peaceful atmo-

sphere in the factories. Meanwhile, National Garment Workers Federation (NGWF) laid siege to National Wage Board office at Topkhana Road yesterday and handed over a memorandum demanding immediate announcement of minimum wage for the

More than one hundred gar-ment workers participated in the siege programme ignoring heavy rain yesterday, NGWF said in a statement.

The workers have become frustrated and aggrieved because wage was not announced as per the agreement signed at the June 12 tripartite meeting, it said, adding that the workers have already started agitation and it may create an unstable situation again.

### EU election

team, said Andrew Bruce, the election expert of EU External Affairs Department who is leading

The mission will hold meetings with ruling and opposition political parties, Election Commission (EC), civil society members and journalists during its 10-day visit.

Bruce told journalists that the delegates would study voter registrations, delimitation of constituencies and the electoral complaint mechanism. The team comprises security, legal and logistic experts.

As part of its programme, the mission yesterday met acting Foreign Secretary Touhid Hossain

at the foreign ministry.
The mission's visit began when the National Democratic Institute (NDI) delegation gave a report following a four-day discussion with different political parties, Election Commission (EC) and civil society members.

## BSF kills 1,

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) of Baushpara camp shot dead a Bangladeshi citizen at Mohammadpur point early yesterday while another BSF team of Jalangi camp abducted 10 Bangladeshis from Challishpara border point in Daulatpur upazila on Sunday night.

The dead was identified as Nilchand, son of Zeker Ali of Dangerpara in Daulatpur upazila.

Nilchand with his brother Fulchand was coming home from Mahisbathan area when the BSF fired on them at Mohammadpur border point at about 2:00am, sources at the Ninth Battalion of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) quoted the

Fulchand managed to escape, BDR. said, adding that the BSF also took awaythebody.

In the flag meeting held at Baushmari border point yesterday afternoon, the BSF said they shot at the two villagers who were swimthe two villagers who were swim-ming across the Padma river with 'contraband items'. The one who died is lost in the river while the other swam ashore, they said.

The BSF abducted 10 Bangladeshis when they were returning to their village homes in Ramkrishnapur union of the upazila from Munshiganj bazar at about 9:30pm, Ninth Battalion of BDR said.

The Bangladeshis were using a road that crossed the Indian territory at Challishpara border point, BDR said, adding that when they entered into Indian side of the road, the BSF confined them.

The other Bangladeshis who passed through the Indian territory later informed the local BDR camp of

## NDI concerned over

Phulbari carnage

FROM PAGE 1
The delegation has identified a perception of incompetence and bias as a serious problem that requires being addressed."

The perception of inefficiency or bias may seriously erode confi-dence in not only the electoral process, but also the electoral outcome, he added.

While the EC is designated as an independent body under the con-stitution, its budget and appoint-ments are controlled by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), a situation that inevitably leads to perceptions

The Washington-based delega-tion observed that the present government has not been sensitive enough to the predictable political reaction to the extension of retirement age for the High Court judges which created controversy regarding the next caretaker government.

Referring to the release of a pamphlet by Islamist militants on August 17 last year, during the simultaneous countrywide bomb blasts, that described elections as un-Islamic, NDI said it is gravely concerned that terrorist acts by extremists groups may disrupt the upcoming election.

In wake of the controversies and in light of the possibilities of vio-lence in the upcoming election, the delegation said there is an immediate and urgent need for greater political parties at all levels for holding a free and fair election by giving priority to the country

instead of the parties. It suggested compilation of a voters' list electronically and publication of it for more extensive revision of the names. This will provide an opportunity for the political parties and civil society to work cooperatively with the EC to correct the list, the delegation said.

Responding to a question Tom Daschle said the objections regard-ing the possible chief of the next caretaker government have been raised because he served the ruling BNP in his early career.

While the concerns raised are legitimate objections, past service to a political party should not be an automatic disqualification to public service. The credentials of a candidate for an important position must be examined in their entirety," he

The chief adviser does not act on his or her own, he said. There will be 10 other advisers who will be appointed in consultation with the opposition, he added saying that the chief adviser operates under intense domestic and international

Any partisan decision will be apparent to the public and cause for concern as to fairness of the elec-

tion, he pointed out. Asked if there is any possibility of a dialogue between the ruling party and the main opposition, Daschle said it is possible only if the parties put the country ahead of themelves. "I believe the political parties here put their country first and so will find ways to overcome the

Asked if there is any possibility of the military coming to power in case of a failure to hold a free election as the opposing political fronts are stil rigid on their stands, he said, "People of Bangladesh support civilian government and we the international community also support the

comment," he said when asked about his take on whether the election will be held or whether it will be acceptable without the participa-tion of Awami League-led 14-party. Asked if the ruling and opposi-

tion parties have attitude of compromise, he said compromise should be inevitable if the country is it before the parties. "It is not too late for them to sit and solve the

The delegation stresses the need for removing the barriers to ipation in the electoral and political processes, the written report said and suggested formation of a high level committee to review police behaviour before, during and after the election.

It recommended that the EC should devise a streamlined process of accreditation for election monitors that will respect the rights of domestic and international moni-

It also recommended that the EC should ensure sufficient polling booths for women, publish detailed election results down to the polling station level, investigate alleged violations during election campaigns, and regulate campaign spending limits strongly.

The delegation concluded that a mechanism should be considered after the election to provide a vehi cle for reconciliation and peaceful resolution of deeply entrenched political differences between the major participants that has polar-

minister of women and veteran's affairs of Cambodia, Mu Sochua also answered questions.

## City wakes

days and a little change in the weather over the next two days.

Weather experts fear that the downpour if continues might cause a flooding in the capital as the city's sewer system struggles to

The incessant rain coupled with lightning strikes soon sent many

low-lying areas and streets reeling underwater. Reports from different parts of

as of late afternoon. With the roads remaining submerged, traffics in many areas ground to a halt.

The office-bound people and students of schools, colleges and universities had great difficulty reaching their destinations. Many had to wade knee-deep into the

rainwater. A large number of vehicles particularly CNG-run threewheelers got stuck in the water, worsening the traffic situation.

Dhaka for this season.

Daily Star last evening.

"The rainfall is the result of a low over the West Bengal," Deputy Forecasting Officer Shahjahan Alam told The Daily Star.

low is now moving towards Bangladesh,"he added.

43mm rainfall in Sylhet, 23mm in Feni, 18mm in Maijdi (Noakhali), 13mm in Srimongol and 11 in Patenga and 3mm in Sandwip till 3:00pm vesterday.

Meantime, Rafiqul Islam, 20, caretaker of a house, died when he was struck by lightning in the city's Gulshan-2 area yesterday morning.

## Palestinians

FROM PAGE 16 After Hamas formed a government following its election victory in January, the West cut all direct aid to the Palestinian government demanding that the movement renounce violence, recognise Israel and agree to abide by past Israeli-Palestinian agreements. Earlier in the day, visiting British

Prime Minister Tony Blair said that if the Palestinians succeeded in forming a national unity govern-ment, the West should deal with such an administration.

Palestinian moderate president Mahmud Abbas has been trying to cobble together a national unity government with Hamas for sev eral months and was expected to travel to Gaza for the latest round of talks on the issue later Sunday.

### Power minister

FROM PAGE 16 and Jatiya Party (Ershad) lawmakers, the ruling BNP and Jamaat MPs grilled the state minister and demanded measures to ensure smooth electricity

supply in the upcoming month of Ramadan. "We couldn't increase power gener-ation according to the demand due to resource constraints," the state minis-

"We will try to ensure uninter-rupted power supply during the iffar and Sehri time during the month of Ramadan,"he assured the lawmakers.

BNP lawmaker Syed Maqbul Hossain from Sylhet said people in his constituency face load-shedding 14 to

16hours daily.
Another BNP lawmaker
Shams uddin Ahmed from
Mymensingh made similar allegation of frequent power outages in his con-

AL lawmaker Shahjahan Khan accused the government of plundering about Tk 12,500 crore through corruption in the name of developing power

The treasury bench lawmakers protested Shahjahan Khan's remarks. Later the minister claimed that there is no specific allegation of corruption against his ministry.

But Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim of AL said the parliamentary standing com-mittee on power ministry recently discussed misappropriation of about Tk2,000 crore by DESA.

Jamaat MP Riasat Ali Biswas said power crisis has now become a

Jatiya Party lawmaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmed said the supply is only five to six MW against the daily demand of 26 to 30 MW in Panchagarh and Thakugaon

BNP lawmaker Rustam Ali Farazi AL lawmaker Motaher Hossain and JP lawmaker Moshiur Rahman Ranga also made similar allegations.

## Cabinet

FROM PAGE 16 draft laws for Metropolitan Police Act for Sylhet and Barisal and amended National Sports Council Act, 1974 to rename The Board of Control for Cricket In Bangladesh to Bangladesh The Convicted Women in Jail (Spe-

cial Privilege) Act, 2006, if enacted, will not be applicable for women convicts who have been awarded death sentence, life term imprisonment and for those charged with sedition, according

As per the proposed law, a female convict will be eligible for parole after she served half the time of her sentence in prison if the sentence was 10 years or to below 10 years, 40 percent time have to be served, 25 percent have to be served for three to five years and 20 percent for below three years, Inspector General (IG) Prisons Brigadier Gen Zakir Hasan told The Daily Star yester-

"A 10-member national committee headed by a social welfare ministry official will review applications from female convicts who were sentenced for 10 years or more, "he added

The district magistrate will head an 11-member committee to review parole applications from female con-victs who were sentenced for less than

If an application receives clearance from the committee, the convict will remain under the supervision of a probation officer from the social welfare ministry in her district for two "If the probation officer, after two

years, is convinced that the convict is repentant and have changed herself, she will finally be released," the IG Prisons said. The cabinet approved, on August

13, a major reform to the British-made Jail Code to pave the way for releasing

### AL walks out

FROM PAGE 16
Corporation during the regime of previous BNP government.
Dr Mosharraf, on the other hand, claimed that the treaty was signed during the AL regime.

The Speaker expunged from the records the statement of the AL lawmaker involving the name of Dr Mosharraf. The opposition lawmakers, who demanded that the speaker expunges Mosharraf's statement too, termed the move as 'discriminatory attitude of the Speaker' and walked out of the House at 9:47pm.

During the point of order, AL law-maker Suranjit Sengupta raised the issue of police atrocities on AL leaders Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Mohammad Nasim, and Hazi Mohammad Selim during the opposi-tion's Election Commission (EC) Secretariat siege programme on September 6 and during the hartal on

Another AL lawmaker Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim demanded a parliamentary investigation committee to probe the matter and to bring the responsible police personnel to justice. He also criticised blanket arrests by the police.

The speaker said he will direct the Ministry of Home Affairs to look into

Mannan Bhuiyan later told the House that the ruling party is 'sorry' that Nasim, Saber and Hazi Selim came under police atrocities. "We all are sorry for the incidents," Bhuiyan told the House adding that they will take actions against the persons responsible after

He also urged the opposition not to attack the pelice during their

## 200 Proshika offices

are even staying out of their residences to avoid arrests, said Proshika

was launched on Saturday allegedly in suspicion of the organisation's preparation to send a large number of people to Dhaka to take part in the 14-party programme of laying siege to the Prime Minister's Office today and an opposition grand rally on

According to sources in the NGO, some staff of the organisation are continuing their development activities at grassroots level, but they are not attending offices, as they are afraid that they might also be

Proshika in a statement yesterday strongly condemned and protested the 'illegal arrests', and oppressive harassment by the government. The organisation demanded immediate and unconditional release of its arrested staff including its Deputy Director Sirajul Islam. It also demanded a stop to the 'baseless

attack' It said the ruling four-party alliance government, especially the fundamentalist components within it, have been actively trying to

destroythe NGO. Some other political parties and social organisations also con-demned the crackdown terming it a

violation of human rights'. CHITTAGONG Our Chittagong office reported that police yesterday arrested six officials and employees of Proshika from the

NGO's Double Mooring office in the city immediately after they had come toworkinthemorning.

The arrested officials are
Quamruzzaman, Md Hasan, Md
Tayab, Mohiuddin, Noor

Mohammad and Niladri Barua. Sammilita Nagorik Andolon will organise demonstrations including a rally in front of Chittagong Press Club and a march tomorrow afternoon

protesting the mass arrest.

Andolon leaders in a press statement last evening said the arrests and harassment of Proshika staff revealed the fascist nature of the present government. TANGAIL

Our Tangail correspondent reported that the offices of the organisation in

the district were locked yesterday.
All officials and employees of Proshika in the district went into hiding to evade arrests, local Proshika sources said. A senior police official in Tangail

seeking anonymity told The Daily Star that the government had issued a directive to arrest Proshika staff. Admitting to the arrests,

Superintendent of Tangail Police Morshed Alam said all the arrestees were produced before a court. RANGPUR Our Rangpur correspondent reported that all officials and employees of Proshika fled the dis-

trict keeping two offices of the NGO closed yesterday. Sources close to the organisation said the officials and employees left Rangpur on Sunday immediately

after they had heard the news of arrests of their colleagues in different aces of the country. BARISAL Our Barisal correspondent reported

that offices and employees of Proshika are under surveillance by different security agencies but no arrest was made till filing of this Md Sarwar Hossain, superinten-

dent of Proshika regional office in Barisal, said, "We are feeling that we are under strong surveillance by different security agencies and have seen the presence of their personnel around our offices." CHANDPUR

Our Chandpur correspondent

### 9 secretaries

affairs ministry one and half months ago, has been made secretary to the information ministry.

AFM Solaiman Chowdhury, also made secretary to the President's Office one and half months ago, has been transferred to jute and textile ministry while Forest and Environment Secretary Syed Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury has been transferred to the President's Office.

Information Secretary Barrister Haider Ali has been transferred to forest and environment ministry while Chairman of Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Project Ibrahim Hossain was transferred to the science and ICT ministry.

Jute and Textile Secretary Abul Kashem Mahbubul Haq has been transferred to the Liberation War affairs ministry, Rural Development and Cooperatives Secretary Rafigul Islam to IMED, additional secretary of agricultural ministry Shaikh Enayet to cultural affairs ministry and Communications Secretary Abdul Wahab was made acting secretary to rural development and cooperatives ministry.

### Saber

FROM PAGE 16 Awami League, Saber was severely kicked around and assaulted with sticks and rifle butts by the police during the Election Commission siege programme on September 6.

The doctors conducted several diagnostic tests on him yesterday. Saber's urinary bladder was damaged when the police hit him in the stomach and has been suf-

fering from urinary infection ever A health bulletin on the lawmaker said, he had vomited yesterday. This could be a symptom of

critical head injuries, said his More diagnostic tests are to be

conducted on him today, medical sources said. The injured lawmaker was

rushed to Bangladesh Medical College and Hospital after the attack and later transferred to Apollo Hospital in Dhaka. He was later flown to Gleneagles in Singapore on Saturday night.

Proshika in Faridganj upazila are now on the verge of shut down. Due to the panic sparked by the arrests no work was done in the offices yesterday. Officer-in-charge of Faridganj Police Station Saikul Islam said, "We are keeping our eyes on Proshika but we are not making any more arrest now until we get further order from the top level.

PROTESTS Expressing concern over the crack-down the Proshika statement said police arrested over a hundred of its staff without any arrest warrant and

despite having no case against them. The statement also said police and other law enforcement agencies of the government kept many of the NGO's offices surrounded across the country and ransacked some of them destroying valuable documents and

The alliance government have been trying to destroy Proshika since it assumed power, the statement

Especially the fundamentalist components within the government have been very active regarding the

tested the arrests of Proshika staff and said the arrests are in clear violation of fundamental and human rights. Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD)

FROM PAGE 16 observed at ground zero at 8:46 a.m., commemorating the moment American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the trade centre's north tower.

them do not bother yourselves with defending your forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. These forces are

You have to bolster your defences in two areas ... the first is the Gulf, from which you will be evicted, God willing, after your defeat in Iraq and then your economic doom will be achieved," he said in the video broadcast in part on the Arabic al-Jazeera television

"And the next (target) is Israel. The current of holy war is closing on it and your end there will put an end

of the Zionist-crusader supremacy. Zawahri's warning of attacks in the Gulf, the world's top oil export-ing region, follows previous calls by al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden

al-Qaeda has also in the past branded US-allied governments in the Middle East as infidels and traitors, and has used this collusion

Saifur

FROM PAGE 16

will disturb peace in the country." On the possibility of getting sixth instalment of the loan, the minister said the IMF has put a number of conditions and now it is offering half of the \$80 million instalment. "But we

Saifur however said the govern-ment would revise the national bud-

economy but government decision is needed for withdrawing the tax

FROM PAGE 1 ninth Grand Slam singles crown. Federer ended the two-hour 27 minute final with an emphatic overhead smash to become the first man ever to win three straight US

played below his best but still pion for the 11th time in 12 career With the sets level at 1-1 and

Roddick serving at 5-6, Federer broke the American to close out the third set amid a chorus of groans by the 24,000 spectators at Arthur Ashe Stadium.

early in the fourth set and broke Roddick in the second game to grab Wimbledon champion recovered his form, and his confidence, before breaking Roddick again for a When he closed out the match

on an overhead, the normally staid

Federer collapsed in ecstasy and lay on the court on his back. He won eight of the last nine games to claim the title. Despite playing his best only in stretches, Federer finished the two-

winners and only 19 unforced errors. The Swiss also out-aced the hard-serving Roddick 17-7. Roddick had 33 winners and 23 unforced errors but was let down

Federer, who continues his march

toward the record of 14 by American Pete Sampras.

## The Baily Star

FROM PAGE 1 owners insisted on a take home package of about Tk 2,000 for a worker with two-hour overtime but

posed."

The take home package including a two-hour overtime and atten-

child and we will not take the responsibility of killing our child." Terming the board's 24th meet-

Minimum wage for the workers is now Tk 950 that was fixed around 12 years ago.

against ignoring the tripartite deal. Following the severe labour unrest in the country's premier

Huge cordon FROM PAGE 1 The opposition combine has mean-while expressed firm determination to go on with its 11:00am to 1:00pm siege programme disregarding the government ban on all kinds of gatherings and rallies in areas around the PMO. If the government attempts to foil the

'peaceful' programme, it will have to take all responsibilities of any untoward incidents taking place, the opposition leaders warned. Tougher programmes including hartals will follow if the law enforc-ers try to resist today's programme,

theysaid.
"We will go on with our peaceful programme today defying the government's ban." AL Presidium Member Tofail Ahmed told newsmen after a meeting of the 14-party Leaders and activists of the combine will gather at four points --Bangla Motor, Russell Square, Mohakhali and Mirpur-10 round-

about--before marching towards the PMO at 11:00 am to press home the demand for electoral reforms. On the other hand, the govern-ment taking a hard line on the opposition programme has directed the home ministry to take all steps to prevent opposition loyalists from gathering around the

PMO. This has raised fears of vio-

lence between the law enforcers and opposition activists.

Directed by government highups, the DMP on Sunday banned all kinds of gatherings or demonstrations in areas surrounding the PMO for 24 hours from midnight today to midnight tomorrow.

Leader of the Opposition and AL President Sheikh Hasina had ear-

lier announced the programmes of

laying siege to the EC Secretariat on

September 6 and the PMO today to force the BNP-Jamaat coalition government to implement reforms in caretaker government and the SECURITY PREPARATIONS Police sources said plans have been chalked out to halt the opposition activists far from the PMO by putt-

deploying over 10 thousand police, BDR, Armed Police Battalion and Rab personnel. We will take position and set up heavy barbed wire fences from tonight (last night) at all the points in the restricted areas to prevent

ing up barbed-wire barricades and

the opposition's march towards PMO, a senior police official said. The law enforcers will seal off different roads around the PMO from early this morning. These include the roads via Shahbagh Roundabout, Farmgate, Mohakhali Flyover, Moghbazar, Bangla Motors, Shyamoli, Asad Gate, Panthapath, and Russell Square,

and Dhanmondi Road-27, Rokeya Sarani and Bijoy Sarani. Meanwhile, police conducted a blanket-arrest drive for the last couple of days. The lockups at city police stations have been packed with opposition activists and also others arrested centring the PMO siege programme and the opposition grand rally in the capital on

OPPOSITION'S PREPERATION large number of people from across the capital for today's make the programme a success.

The opposition combine has taken massive preparations to mobilise a programme. In the last couple of days, senior leaders of the combine and their front organisations held a series of preparatory meetings to A meeting held at the AL central

office on Bangabandhu Avenue

yesterday with AL central leader Tofail Ahmed in the chair decided

to defy any restrictions imposed by

Tofail said if the prime minister

announce the final round of their agitation from the September 18 grand rally. And indefinite hartals would be enforced if this government hands over power to caretaker government headed by Justice KM Hasan, he added.

The DMP press release said the areas, roads, lanes and by lanes that have been put under the ban include Mohakhali crossing to Parjatan crossing via Shaheed Jahangir Gate and Public Service Commission (PSC) office, Bijoy Sarani to Urojahaj crossing, Agargaon erussing on Rokeya Sarani to Shishu Mela, Shisu Mela to Dhanmondi Road-27 (old) on Mirpur Road, Mohammadia Super

AREAS UNDER BAN

Market and Tallabagh to Square Hospital on Panthapath via And from Square Hospital to Chalet Crossing, Free School Street and Bangla Motor crossing via Sundarban Hotel, Bangla Motor crossing to Moghbazar crossing and Moghbazar crossing to Tongi Diversion Road and Mohakhali

**GATHERING SPOTS** Opposition leaders, activists, loyalists and supporters will assemble at four points before marching towards the PMO at 11:00am. These are Bangla Motor, Russell Square, Mohakhali and

### Mirpur-10 roundabout. They will start coming to these points in processions from 10:00am.

and beat them up.

3 Ctg robbers FROM PAGE 16 and gathered around one hundred villagers. The mob managed to catch three of the fleeing robbers

died on their way to hospital, while the other identified as Karim, is undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College Meanwhile, in another incident on Sunday, angry villagers beat up an absconding robber when he

returned home at Burumchhara

Critically wounded Abul Kalam

village under Anowara upazila.

Two of the wounded robbers

Abu, also the leader of a robbers' gang and an accused in five robbery cases, was rushed to the upazila health complex where the on-duty doctor declared him dead. Later, the villagers also caught 10 accomplices of the slain robber,

### who attacked the village to take revenge, and handed them over to

11 JCD men FROM PAGE 16 ustice before the court after

August 10 pressed charges against 11 JCD leaders and activists and the court accepted the charge sheet on

They told a metropolitan magistrate on August 6 that Shaikot and Asad, two JCD leaders of Fazlul Haq Muslim Hall of Dhaka University engaged them to obstruct buying and dropping of tender schedules for jobs worth around Tk 400 crore.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mir Ali Reza of Speedy Trial Court-6 read out the charges to them. Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on

The investigation officer (IO) dropped names of four others as their names and addresses, given by four accused in their confessional statements, were not correct.

The last date for buying the schedules for the three projects under the development budget was August 1, while the next day was the deadline for dropping the tender schedules, which were does not accept the demand for electoral reforms, they would country, sources said. being sold at 36 places across the

## abducts 10

victim's family as saying. Nilchand died on the spot, while

investigation starts OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The two committees to probe the

August 26 incidents in Phulbari

coalmine area launched their

The committees, formed on

investigation yesterday.

September 7 as per the August 30 agreement between the government and the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas and Mineral Resources, will submit their report within 15 days, Phulbari Upazila official sources said. One of the committees, led by Additional District Commissioner (Education and Development) Md Rezaul Ahsan, will investigate the

killings and allegations of conceal-

ing bodies of the victims. Other members of the committee are Additional Police Super Md Atique Rahman and national committee members Md Abdul Mazid and Md The second committee, headed by Phulbari UNO Md Hasan Sarwar, will cross check and confirm the number of wounded in the incidents and assess the damage.

Rahman and MA Qaiyum and Liaqut Ali of the national committee in Dinajpur. "We are ready to compensate the victims of August 26 incidents after the completion of the investigation," Hasan Sarwar told report-

ers after the first day's inquiry.
At least five people were killed in

he owned in his home village of

Hisarak to be buried at a nearby

The delivery of the verdict was

adjourned on its earlier scheduled

date of August 27, as the court could

not complete preparing the judge-

ment. The court had fixed yesterday

Following the adjournment of the

verdict, Ershad looked fatigued and

he told the reporters that the judge

would deside when he would deliver

the verdict. Moreover, his party

leaders and activists, who appeared

at the court ignoring heavy rain, were

disappointed as they were expecting

deployed on the court premises to

avoid any untoward incident since

will hear prosecution and defence

arguments on the gold smuggling

began in 1998. The court completed

its hearing on August 13 this year and

fixed August 27 and yesterday for

Ershad and acquitted the then

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha

(Rajuk) chairman Rahamat Ullah on

March 9, 1992 as no conclusive

Ershad was acquitted in three

graft cases last month amid specula-

tions about his joining the ruling

BNP-led alliance ahead of the next

evidence was found against him.

The court framed charges against

Additional police forces were

The same court on September 20

The trial of the plot allotment case

a verdict in favour of Ershad.

case filed against Ershad.

delivering the judgment.

parliamentary elections.

morning.

as the next date for the judgement.

FROM PAGE 1

the verdict.

Others on the committee include Additional Police Super Md Atiqur

BDR firing on August 26 during an anti-Asia Energy demonstration. Suicide blast FROM PAGE 16 prayers for Taniwal, just before his body was taken from a house that

The blast happened close to two helicopters that brought high-ranking officials to the ceremony. Verdict on graft

Office said there might be a further increase in rainfall in the next five

drain away the water. The city dwellers yesterday got up amid heavy showers and claps of thunder at the daybreak.

the city said the water did not clear

Residents of Arambagh, Mouchak, Shantinagar, Gulshan and Mirpur were the worst affected. "It took me two and a half toring groups and observers.

Former prime minister of New Zealand, Mike Moore, and former

hours to get to my work at Gulshan-1 from Mirpur," said Rashed, an NGO official. "It's amazing how a few hours' rain could cripple the entire city life. People have been suffering from waterlogging due to inade quate and ill-planned sewerage for the last few years, but the authori-

in Sylhet and Chittagong region. The Met Office recorded 178mm rain in nine hours starting from 6:00am, the highest rainfall in

ties barely acknowledge the sever-ity of the problem," a bank

employee at Karwan Bazar told The

Heavy rainfall was reported also

"The rain will continue as the The weather office recorded

they are found guilty.

## The crackdown on Proshika staff

creating panic among the organisa-tion's staff.

matter," the statement added. Members of the executive council of the Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (Adab) pro-

President Hasanul Huq Inu and its Secretary Syed Zafar Sazzad also issued a statement protesting the arrests and harassment of Proshika staff.

## Gulf, Israel

doomed to failure'

Family members began arriving before 7 am at the trade centre site, some clutching bouquets of roses and framed photos of their loved ones. Others wore pins bearing pictures of the victims while Deputy al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahri said in remarks apparently addressed to Western leaders: "I tell

to target oil facilities to cripple the

with the West to justify their attacks.

much needed but it is quite a difficult business to do that in this cycle of election. "We will not take any decision that

are hopeful of getting the total money

getifitdoes not get the loan finally. Asked about the mission's condition that a huge tax exemption for industrial sector has to be withdrawn, he minister said, " I also agreed with the mission that such a huge tax exemption put pressure on the overall

## exemption.

Federer's US

Opens and three successive Wimbledon titles in the same span. Playing in his record sixth straight Grand Slam final, Federer managed to beat the 2003 cham-

Federer began to smell blood 2-0 lead. The Australian Open and

hour, 27-minute match with 69

by his inconsistency at the net. The victory was the ninth Grand Slam title for the 25-year-old

# NEWS

in his job.

courtesy.'