informed the district magistrate of

Dhaka that it had decided to with-

draw the charges against Sobahan

and Selim as the charges were

magistrate to hand over the matter

with permission from an appropri-

Clashes mark

thin and coaches did not ply.

beating during the hartal.

of the tense district town.

At a meeting in front of the

district AL office, the speakers

demanded punishment of the policemen responsible for assault-

ing lawmakers Mohammad Nasim

and Asaduzzaman Noor, and over a

hundred opposition activists in the

capital during the opposition's

Our Sirajganj correspondent adds: All modes of transport were off the roads while offices, educa-

tional institutions, banks and

business establishments remained

closed during yesterday's half-day hartal enforced by the district

been deployed in the town to avert

Additional police forces have

PMO siege program on Tuesday.

correspondent.

The ministry asked the district

politically motivated'

FROM PAGE 16

Babar backs cop action

FROM PAGE 1 brickbats despite the police announcement reminding them about the Dhaka Metropolitan Police ban on gatherings, he said.

He however admitted that neither former home minister Mohammad Nasim nor Noor had any stick or brickbat in their hands that could provoke the law-

enforcement agencies.
"But breaking the barricade, the opposition activists started to hurl brickbats at the police. They went into action after making announcement several times," he said. "What the police did was to control the law and order situation. They had no other choice then."

On Tuesday, The Daily Star along with most of the print and electronic media however reported in detail how the police suddenly launched attacks on benign opposition gatherings without provocation. Undergoing treatment at Bangladesh Medical College Hospital, a badly battered Nasim is still in a state of unconsciousness. The condition of Noor has improved well at Holy Family

Babar meanwhile argued that the same incident would have happened in a reverse situation with the AL in power and BNP out there to lay siege to the PMO office in a militant mood.

He however regretted the attack on the two opposition lawmakers, terming the incident 'unexpected'.

Asked why frontline opposition leaders like Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Nasim are being attacked, Babar dodged a direct reply. "Those who attacked were constable-level policemen."

You know, two policemen were killed recently. Their hearts are broken, and they (police) might have lost their senses," he quipped. On the possibility of the police's carrying out a government order for such attack, he said, "They did not wait for order."

Asked repeatedly whether the government would take any step against the policemen responsible for attacks on Nasim and Noor, Babar said they were examining the

whole situation. But talking to the BBC Bangla Service, he played down the possibility of legal action against the police and went on to say that the protesters themselves broke the

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina recently instructed her workers to take on police, and it might have encouraged opposition activists to break the law, he pre-

On the AL's demand for a parlia-

Indo-Bangla

FROM PAGE 1 common rivers and a large number of tributaries while the state of Tripura alone shares 10 rivers.

Water resources ministry officials said the ministers will visit places through which the common rivers flow including the areas adjacent to Ichhamoti and Kalindi rivers.

They will also visit river embank-ments, irrigation sites and a water treatment project along the Indo-Bangla border, the officials added.

After the visit, both sides will meet in Kolkata on September 15 and 16," the senior official said adding that the Indian delegation will then come to visit the border points of

On September 18, they will visit the border points in Khagrachhari and Feni through which the shared rivers flow into Bangladesh.

They will later meet in Dhaka on September 19 and 20. The Indian delegation will leave Dhaka on

September 21.

The decision to visit the erosion prone spots in both countries was taken during the 36th Joint River Commission meeting in September

The visit had been earlier scheduled for May, but was postponed following unrest in the readymade garments sector in Bangladesh

mentary committee to probe attack on Nasim and Noor, he said,

We're thinking what to do. Babar also observed that the gap between the opposition and the police widened further.

Most hazardous

Executive Director Shaheen Anam said the information collected from the surveys of different researchers should be coordinated to assess the actual condition of ship breaking

The workers, owners and the government have to look into the matter jointly, she said. The NGOs and civil society can only facilitate

the process.
"We are not against ship breaking, but human being is the first priority. So, the workers who are subjected to rights violation, should be given their due dignity," Shaheen Anam said.

Captain Enam Chowdhury member of Ship Breaking Owners' Association tried to defend the owners saying the industry has a big role in the national economy and that they are trying to improve the workingcondition.
The industry now has no child

labour while fish production in the area is decreasing because of ram-pant fishing and use of 'current net,

Deputy Editor of the Prothom Alo Sajjad Sharif moderated the dia-

Other speaskers included Shamsul Alam and Farid Ahmed of the Directorate of Factory Inspection, Mirza Shawkat Ali of Department of Environment, Imam Hossain of industries ministry, Tobarak Mollah, advisor to Chittagong BGMEA, Sultan Mahmud of BILS, journalist Omar Kaiser and Mamun Abdullah, Rina Roy of Manusher Jonno, workers leaders ATM Nasiruddin and

PM threatens

FROM PAGE 1 Khaleda, also chairperson of the ruling BNP, said there are nearly two months to hand over power by the government to a caretaker government, so there is no need to create chaos during this short period of time.

But the opposition wants to create chaos and anarchy so that her government cannot transfer power peacefully and timely to the caretaker government by completing the rest of the ongoing developmentworks.

"But we will hand over power to caretaker government timely and peacefully according to the constitution," she told the gathering, sending her message for her political rivals who undertook a programme for laying siege to the Prime Minister's Office.

The PM said the caretaker gov ernment would hold the upcoming general election within three months of takeover from her gov-ernment at the end of October.

She observed that if the trend of democracy continues, peace and development would be maintained to attain country's prosperity. conspiracy is going on in a well-planned way to thwart the demo-

Referring to the opposition's they damaged public property through resorting to "vandalism

and anarchy.' Police were silent, but when the opposition activists swooped on them with stick, the police personnel were compelled to disperse the activists, she said.

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, Post and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Huq, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima Rahman, PM's Political Secretary

Harris Chowdhury, State Minister for Youth Fazlur Rahman, Rajshahi Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu and local MP Harun-or-Rashid addressed the meeting.

Bangladesh, EU mission chief Andrew Bruce told reporters after

views on election.

Prof Chowdhury told reporters that the EU team cited instances of solving disputes on different issues between political parties in different countries through discussion and said that this can also be possi-

"We told the EU delegation that the people of this country do not

that they might send two election observation teams--one two months ahead of the election and another one day before the election.

present is totally against taking part in the election," Prof Chowdhurytoldthe EU delegation, adding that politicised govern-ment and police officials will have to be either closed or made OSD (officer on special duty).

Jenny Cristensen, and EU Ambassador in Bangladesh Dr Stefan Frowein, BDB Secretary General Major (retd) Abdul Mannan, Joint Secretary Firoz M Hasan and Prof Nurul Amin Bepari were present at the meeting.

Later, the EU mission met with donor agencies and countries at the EU office at Gulshan-2. MEETING WITH JUSTICE KM

The EU mission last night had a meeting with former Chief Justice KM Hasan who is supposed to be the chief of the next caretaker government.

take part in election, sources said. EU mission chief Andrew Bruce,

Ana Beatriz Martins and Hannah Roberts, among others, were present in that meeting.

FROM PAGE 16 Aziz Super Market and found 35 bags ofblood. Golam H Milon, one of the owners

of the business told the court that they had applied for permission at the Directorate General of Health in 1995 and have been conducting illegal business ever since without

they also did not conduct any cross-match. They didn't even preserve it properly", said Sarder Md Keramat Ali, the magistrate who led the mobile court and raided three other illegal private blood banks earlier.

"Even the reagent they were using to identify the blood group had been expired," he added. The second blood bank the court

raided was Raj Blood Bank and Pathology also at Aziz Super Market where the owners and workers had already locked up and escaped the facility before the court arrived.

found 19 bags blood from there. illegal blood banks.

Both blood banks were running without any licence or permission from the Directorate General of Health and the Drug Administration They did not have any trade licence

was 195mm this July. A total of 526mm rainfall was recorded in the district in August 2005 while it was only 250mm this year.

Sribas Ghosh, a farmer of Mallika due to the prolonged drought.

Mansur Rahman, upazila agriculture extension officer of Natore sadar upazila, said at least 25 per cent production of broadcast Aman has already been hampered due to persistent drought in the area.

ments including 1,230 deep tube wells have been running continuously in Rangpur region in order to keep the transplanted and broad-cast Aman plants living.

Rangpur DAE additional director's office sources said rainfall in eight districts under the DAE Rangpur region in July 2005 was recorded at 4,941.32mm whereas it was 2,402.79 mm in July this year.

recorded 4,553.37mm in the same area, which stood at only 1,316.60mm this August.

tion machines including 5,623 deep tube wells are operating round the clock in different areas, including Barendra region, of eight districts.

Sources said 1,721.10mm rainfall was recorded here in July this year whereas 3,533.80mm rainfall was recorded in July 2005. Again, 1,723.80mm rainfall was recorded in the region in August this year while 2,973mm rainfall was recorded in August last year.

DAE officials said there is no previous record of drought of this magnitude in the northern part of the country during the rainy season. Cultivation of broadcast and transplanted Aman paddy depends on natural rainfall and hardly requires irrigation, they added.

Govt retreats

cases were 'politically motivated'. Following news reports on two national dailies vesterday regarding the cases, the government changed its decision and the PP submitted two petitions stating that the letter issued by the home ministry was 'forged'. Therefore, the government would not withdraw the cases

Judge Mohammad Aman Ullah of the Fifth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka fixed October 10 and November 5 for hearing on the

The two brothers Mohammad Sobahan and Mohammad Selim lived in South Begunbari slum in the city's Tejgaon area.

According to the prosecution, a team of Tejgaon police led by its then officer-in-charge (OC) raided Nannu's shanty at South Begunbari and arrested Sobahan with 280 bottles of Phensidyl on November 11, 1999. Sensing police presence, his brother Selim and two others fled the scene

Sub-inspector Sirajul Islam filed a case in this connection under the Special Powers Act, 1974 against Sobahan, Selim and the two others with Tejgaon Police Station on the same day.

The investigation officer (IO) of the case pressed charges against the two brothers and dropped names of other two as their involvement with the offence was not proved. Later, another case was filed

against the brothers with the same police station as a team of police on fune 30, 2000 raided their shanty and seized 240 bottles of Phensidyl. The IO pressed charges against

the two brothers on July 23 the same year and the court framed charges against them on March 25, 2003. The court recorded statements of three prosecution wit-On August 14 this year, the home ministry in two letters been deployed in the town to aver anyuntoward incident, polices aid

While placing the bill in parlia-

ment on February 26, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister

Moudud Ahmed termed the move

to separate the judiciary "historic".

"This is a significant step in the

process of separating the judiciary

from the executive in line with the

Supreme Court directives," the law

minister said in parliament. "Arti-

cle 22 of the constitution ensures separation of the judiciary from the

executive and terms it the basic

principle of democratic gover-

will be met," the law minister said. He, however, has made no move for

Before the October 2001 parlia-

mentary election, the ruling BNP in

its electoral pledge said if voted to

power, it would ensure separation

Meeting sources said when the

issue for discussing the bill arose,

the law minister said the discus-

Khandakar Mahbubuddin Ahmed,

however, informed the parliamen-

tary body that it was its last meet-

Committee Chairman

Falking to The Daily Star yester-

the two-member High Court

day committee member Justice

Mozammel Hug, who was a judge

Division Bench that delivered the

YESTÉRDAY'S MEETING

sion will be held later.

the last six months to pass the bill

"The government's electoral

several occasions.

Rupali staff

FROM PAGE 16
packages for those who wish to leave," a high official of the ministry

Sources said presently there are about 5,000 staffs in the Rupali Bank and one third of them either is aged over 50 years or have completed at

least20years of service.
Privatisation Commission to the metropolitan PP, who would arrange withdrawal of the cases Chairman Inam Ahmed Chowdhury, who was present at the meeting, said he is hopeful to complete the sales and purchase agreement with Saudi Prince Bandar Bin Mohammad Bin Abdul Rahman Al-Saud by month centres and educational institu-

The prince will pay \$330 million in a single chunk before signing the

tions remained closed, presence in the government offices was very agreement. About \$200 million of the amount Hartal was also observed in all will be spent for liabilities of the bank the six upazilas of the district. Kishoreganj upazila unit Chhatra that include defaulted loans and pension, "But the amount will not be League President Pilot Shah and spent at a time; it is a continuous Jubo League leader Faruk Ahmed

process," a ministry source said. were seriously injured in police The government in a scheme will have to pay the pensions of the bank A large number of police has staff retiring before the bank's final been deployed at important spots

The public sector defaulted loans Educational institutions and will be turned into a single loan and markets remained closed and the government will pay the accuhighway transports suspended during yesterday's half-day hartal in the district, reports our Pabna mulated amount in seven half-yearly instalments. The government will issue a bond for the defaulted loans in the private sector. Picketers damaged at least 15 vehicles in the district town.

The cabinet committee also approved injecting fresh capital for the bank as it holds 26 per cent share. 'Initially, the government will have to inject a capital of Tk 119 crore of the total Tk 400 crore," one source said.

Meanwhile, the visiting mission of the International Monetary Fund yesterday met the Privatisation Commission chairman and prescribed to privatise three other nationalised commercial banks.

FNB worried

FROM PAGE 1

Tuesday, presided over by its Chair Dr Muhammad Ibrahim, said the NGO community of the country is upset at the sudden mass arrest of Proshika staff. The federation also expressed its grave concern, anxiety and resentment over the incident and asked the authorities to disclose precisely why such arrests have been made, the press release said.

Meantime, 14 Proshika officials including its deputy director Sirajul Islam, were released on bail yesterday, Proshika sources said.

Our correspondent from Barisal reports that two more Proshika officials were arrested on Tuesday, amid the ongoing police raids on local and regional offices of the NGO in the division. The arrestees are Sarwar Hossain

Bhuiyan, 30, an office superinten-dent, and Sarwar Howlader, 26, a peon. They were sent to jail under section 54 for their alleged links with activities creating unrest in the Different social and develop-

ment organisations in Barisal yes-

terday condemned the harassments on Proshika and demanded immediate release of the arrestees. UNB from Chittagong says -- The police locked the Chittagong Divisional office of Proshika yesterposting, promotion, leaves and other provisions of the members of

day morning. At least 19 Proshika employees were arrested in different parts of the district in the last three days,

sources said. They were arrested under section 54 on charge of antistate activities, the police sai Protesting the arrest and harassment of Proshika staff. Sammilita Nagorik Andolon held a rally on the premises of Chittagong Press Club

yesterday afternoon. The crackdown on Proshika was launched 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 on September 12 and an opposition grand rally scheduled for

Violence rages

September 18.

FROM PAGE 16 taking part in a security crackdown. An average of 51 people a day died violently last month in the capital, according to the Iraqi Health

Some lawmakers squabbled over a resolution demanding a timetable for a US troop withdrawal, and others failed to resolve a deadlock over a Shiite-sponsored bill that Sunni Arabs fear will carve up the country. A group of lawmakers tried to

capitalize Tuesday on the unpopularity of US troops among many Shiite and Sunni legislators, seeking approval of a resolution setting a timetable for the withdrawal of all foreign troops, which the Shiitedominated government has so far refused to do

Sponsored by supporters of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and some Sunni Arabs, the resolution managed to gather 104 signatures in the 275-member parliament before it was effectively shelved by being sent to a committee for review.

No headway was made on parliament's most contentious issue since it reconvened last week from summer recess legislation that will set in place the mechanism for establishng autonomous regions as part of a federal Iraq Sunni Arabs have said the bill

could split the country into three distinct sectarian and ethnic cantons and have vehemently opposed it.

Although federalism is part of

Iraq's new constitution, and there is already an autonomous Kurdish region in the north, special legislation and a referendum would be needed to turn Iraq into a full federa-

Parliament's biggest political bloc, the Shiite United Iraqi Alliance submitted the bill last week. It would be the first step toward creating a separate autonomous state in the predominantly Shiite south, much like the zone run by Kurds in the

Objections from Sunni Arabs and an apparent split among Shiites led leaders to delay the debate until

Foundation laid

construction work of distribution network mainly out of political considerations," he told The Daily

He said the ruling alliance made a pledge before 2001 general elec-tion that it would arrange gas sup-ply for Rajshahi and Khulna if voted

The power, energy and mineral resources ministry in a report submitted to the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry on April 10 this year disclosed that gas supply to Rajshahi city through pipelines has been planned for 2009.

The ministry, which is under the prime minister's direct supervi-sion, said in the report that the government has taken a project to set up pipelines to supply gas to Rajshahi and Khulna regions.

The foundation stone laying ceremony took place at Kharkhari, 10 kilometres off the divisional city where land acquisition for the project is yet to be completed.

Officials concerned, however told The Daily Star preferring ano-nymity that the entire project worth US \$430 million is still at the study phase and supplying gas to Rajshahi from Sirajganj will need minimum three years.

Following a movement of local people in 2004, local politicians belonging to the ruling alliance forced senior officials of Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL) to pledge in public that gas would reach Rajshahi within 2006, said the sources.

"But no government measure followed the pledge of supplying gas to Rajshahi since 2004," said a GTCL source. But the government later

arranged gas supply only to Bogra, from where Khaleda Zia and her

son Tarique Zia are likely to face the

upcoming parliamentary election. Under the Rajshahi project, an 87km transmission line will be Myanmarfrom the northeast," said installed from Hatikamrul in the official who asked not to be Sirajganj district to Bheramara named.

upazila in Kushtia via Bonpara in

Natore and Ishwardi. A 53km branch pipeline will go to Rajshahi's Kharkhari area where

transmission centre will be set up. The project authorities, however are still conducting a survey to map out suitable routes for the pipe lines, sources in GTCL said.

They said the tender process for a major portion of distribution lines and the installation works are yet to be completed. And so, it is unlikely that even a tender will be floated for installing the pipelines

BSF kills

FROM PAGE 16

Our correspondent from Jhenidah reports: The BSF entered Bangladesh territory and shot Uzzal, a farmer, at a field of Kulia village at Moheshpur border.

Locals said Uzzal went to the field at around 5:00am, when BSF of Moshompur camp shot him to death mistaking him for a smuggler. The Indian border guards later took the body away. Contacted, Eakub Ali, Habildar

of Kulia camp could not comment regarding the incident.

India, Myanmar

FROM PAGE 16 to curb smuggling of arms and ammunition, and the trafficking of drugs," said the home ministry

India and Myanmar share a 1,640-kilometer border, parts of which are unfenced. "On the Myanmar side, there's

no security presence for about 30 to

40 kilometres of the border. So, in effect, it's an open border and easy for Indian militants to cross into

Heated debate in JS

Hasina entered the House and sought floor to Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar, who shifted to other businesses of the day. However, following repeated demands, the Speaker gave Hasina the floor. The opposition leader pre-

BNP government had signed the agreement with Asia Energy on August 20, 1994. She said, "The BNP government signed the agreement with BHP for the feasibility study and the BHP later assigned the Asia Energy as per agreement.

sented before the House a file

containing documents that the

On the BNP lawmaker's accusation against her son, Hasina said she educated her son not to make

illegal money. Khandaker Mosharraf also showed some documents, saying, We signed an agreement with the BHP for the pre-feasibility studies and the AL government signed an agreement with Asia Energy on February11, 1998 for exploration only, but nobody signed any agreementformining

tion, Hasina said, "There was a scope in the agreement signed during the BNP government to assign another company. The BHP took the chance. Law Minister Moudud Ahmed also seconded Mosharraf's argu-

ment, saying neither the AL nor the

Asia Energy for "mining"

BNP signed any agreement with

Protesting Mosharraf's explana-

Phulbari. Earlier, AL lawmaker Suranjit Sengupta on personal explana-

Shahjahan Khan on point of order criticised the government for, police brutality on the opposition leaders and workers.

Leader of the House and Prime

Minister Khaleda Zia did not attend the House yesterday, forcing the Parliament Secretariat to postpone her scheduled half-an-hour question-answersession.

Khaleda, who attended only one of the four workdays of the ongoing session, yesterday visited Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj to inaugurate a number of development projects and join public rallies. The foreign minister and the

state minister for home affairs also remained absent from the House yesterday although they were scheduled to reply to lawmakers' queries in the question-answer In absence of the two ministers

Health and Family Welfare Minister Khandakar Mosharraf replied to the lawmakers' queries. The circular issued by the Parliament Secretariat had fixed

the schedule for the questionanswer session of the foreign and home ministries before beginning of the current session. Besides, the PM is scheduled to reply to the lawmakers' queries on

'It is not the first time--we have been compelled to postpone the' prime minister's question-answer session on several occasions in the last five years," a senior official at the Parliament Secretariat said. The

every Wednesday when the House,

World power split

FROM PAGE 16
"It's Thursday. (The meeting) will be somewhere in Europe, not in Brussels," said Solana spokeswoman Cristina Gallach, adding the aim of the meeting was prepare the conditions in order if possible to start negotiations.

The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted an "informed source" as aying the talks could be held in Paris, Solana and Larijani last round of talks was in Vienna on Saturday and Sunday. Western leaders condemned

Iran's disregard of an August 31

U.N. Security Council deadline to suspend its uranium enrichment programme, which Iran insists is meant only to make electricity. The Islamic Republic, while indicating openness to negotiate on a timing and duration of sus-pension, refuses to take that step before negotiations on a big power

offer of trade incentives not to develop nuclear fuel. Washington says Iran's defiance should trigger steps to sanctions. The U.S., British, French, German, Russian and Chinese foreign minsters will meet on the fringes of the U.N. General Assembly in New York next week to discuss proceeding to sanctions if there has been no

diplomatic breakthrough by then. "We are already working with other members of the Security council on a resolution that would lay out very specific sanctions," Gregory Schulte, U.S. ambassador to the watchdog International Atomic Energy Agency, said in an

"We want to hear one very clear message coming back through the line of communications (between Solana and Larijani), and that is that Iran is suspending... If we don't hear that, we are moving forward with the sanctions resolu-

tion," he told Reuters. But Washington's fellow veto-holders on the Council, China and Russia, as well as Germany and

wary of cornering the world's No. 4 oil exporter and, to varying degrees, want more time to find a

diplomatic compromise. Robbers loot

autorickshaws and eight of them, with pistols and machetes barged

into the bank on the first floor of a Sensing a danger, branch man-ager Laxman Chandra Das instantly pressed the security bell and managed to jump over his

table to a safer place, they said. "Failing to get hold of the man-ager, the robbers confined the visitors to a corner at gunpoint and attacked the on-duty cashiers, Paritosh Barua and Raghupathi Banerjee, who were collecting or receiving utility bills and cash, said Ismail Hossain Siraji, an account holder of the bank who

was among those held hostage. The miscreants stabbed Paritosh in the head and Raghupathi in the hand and took Tk 7.45 lakh from the cash section. Afterwards, they tried in vain to break the vault and fled the spot hurriedly by the two utorickshaws waiting outside, blasting two cocktails.

Being informed, a team of Pahartali Police reached the spot and sent the two wounded to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH). They also recovered an unex-ploded cocktail thrown by the

robbers from a drain near the bank Paritosh is in a critical condition, the hospital sources said.

"We've been repeatedly asking for arranging regular police guard in the branch but those appeals have not been considered as of yet" an angry Laxman Chandra Das told the reporters. Preparations were on for filing of a

Tougher movement

Many owners will be forced to close their factories if the proposed pay scale for the garment workers is implemented," BGMEA President SM Fazlul Huq told reporters yesterday.

A few days ago, when announc-

ing new structure for the RMG

workers seemed imminent.

BGMEA asked its members to

remain alert and take steps so that

the factory owners can handle their workers in the face of any type of provocation from outside Rejecting the proposed pay structure, the garment workers' leader Mosharefa Mishu at a procession at Muktangon said mini-

mum wage below Tk 3,000 will not be acceptable. She urged the wage board to review the proposed one and immediately announce Tk 3,000 minimum wage for the garment sector workers. Nobody will be able to stop the movement by lodging cases against the leaders of workers' organisations, Mishu said.

place only in Savar and Gazipur, she said, adding that if the owners do not accept the workers' demand, labour unrest will spread across the country. Advocate Mahbubur Rahman Ismail, Shahidul Islam Sobuj and other leaders of Garment Sramik O

Shilpa Rakkha Jatiya Mancha, an

alliance of 16 organisations,

The unrest in May and June took

addressed the rally. Another alliance of 16 organisations of garment workers in a joint statement said it is not possible for the garment workers to survive with the proposed minimum wage considering price hike of essentials

The alliance urged the board to review the proposed pay structure and announce a revised one. It will also bring out a procession at

Swadhin Bangla Garment

Sramik Karmachari Federation in a

statement rejected the minimum wage of Tk 1,604 for the garment workers and demanded Tk 3,000 as the minimum monthly wage The federation formed a human chain at Muktangon in the capital

Muktangon at 4:30 pm today.

yesterday in protest against the proposed pay structure. Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) in a statement yesterday termed the proposed minimum gross wage of Tk 1,604 a 'mockery' with the garment workers, and said the workers will be

forced to go for a tougher movement if such mockery continues. Our Narayanganj correspondent adds: Rejecting the proposed pay structure, garment workers yesterday brought out a procession

on Bangabandhu Road in the city. Chase and counter-chase between police and a group of outsiders occurred when they tried to shut down some factories. Garment workers brought out a

procession at Chashara and tired to shut down several factories, that created tension in the adjacent areas and led to closure of several factories. Aggrieved garment workers also

threw brickbats at some garment factories. Roads from Chashara to Mondol Para in Narayanganj remained blocked for more than an hour, much to the sufferings of the commuters.

EU mission

FROM PAGE 1 EU election observation team in

the meeting The EU team is in Bangladesh to observe the pre-election situation of the country--whether the situation is in favour of holding the election, Bruce said, adding, We've started talking to the political parties. We're listening to their

have any confidence in the present chief election commissioner (CEC) and that we will not go for election under this CEC, "he added. "The EU team has informed us

"The situation prevailing at

EU delegation members Ana Beatriz Martins, Pascaline Krone,

HASAN

During the 90-minute meeting at Justice Hasan's Dhanmondi residence, the EU team discussed various issues relating to upcom-ing general election with the ex-chief justice under whom the main opposition parties have refused to

2 unauthorised

any permission.
"Like all other illegal blood banks,

"They are supposed to preserve the blood in ice liner refrigerators between two to eight degrees Celsius, which they did not comply", he said.

The court broke into the place and Later, the court sealed off both

Pumps overwork FROM PAGE 16

Hat village in Natore district, said he earlier produced 4.4 metric ton broadcast Aman on about five hectares of land, He feared he may not get more than half a metric ton of rice from the same land this year

At least 82,000 irrigation imple-

In August last year, rainfall was

DAE Rajshahi region office sources said at least 1,02,669 irriga-

Judiciary separation not discuss the bill a single day.

The House sent the bill to the "I do not know whether or not any meeting of the committee will standing committee, asking it to scrutinise the bill and report within two months, but the parliamentary held to discuss the bill," he said. Yesterday's meeting finalised body has failed to comply with the reports of two other bills--the obligations. The committee also Transfer of Property (amendment) sought time-extension from the bill and Chemical Weapons (prohi-House for preparing its report on

> the way for promulgating the Bangladesh Judicial Service by the President under Article 115 of the constitution fixing the structure of judicial service, its formation recruitment and other provisions, the bill mentions in its aim. Under article 113 of the constitution, the president will also be able to promulgate rules to fix

The passage of the bill will pave

Separation of the judiciary was also one of the pledges made on November 19, 1990 in the joint declaration of the BNP- and Awami League-led mass movement ainst the autocratic regime of HM Ershad. However, apprehending the

then government's unwillingness

to implement the 12-point SC

the judicial service, the bill added.

directives delivered in 1999, the caretaker government in 2001 moved for promulgating rules to ensure the separation of the judi-BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, who would be the next prime min-ister, made a phone call to the then

caretaker chief, requesting him to leave the task for an elected government. The caretaker government retreated from its move.

But the BNP-led four-party

alliance government has taken

time extension on over a dozen

occasions from the SC in the name

judgment on separation of the occasions from the SC in the na judiciary, said the committee did of implementing its directives. Proposal for opposition

The report however incorporated a provision for completion of formation of parliamentary standing committees within the third session of each new parliament, replacing the existing provision

that does not fix any time frame.

In the absence of specific time

frame for completing formation of

the House standing committees,

the ruling coalition took about two years to complete constitution of The committee report also incorporated a new provision in the rules of procedure concerning the prime minister's questionanswer in parliament once a week. At present there are no rules for the PM's question- answer, rather it has become a convention as the previous Awami League government introduced it in the seventh

parliament

report during the current session of parliament and the rules of procedure will be amended automatically when the House adopts the report, the speaker told reporters on Tuesday. It discussed the report at its last meeting on Tuesday. Meanwhile, the UNDP (United

Nations Development Fund) had

earlier recommended introduction

of opposition days to provide

adequate time for the opposition

lawmakers to speak on different

current issues. It also suggested

allowing the opposition lawmakers

The committee will table its

to head some parliamentary standing committees to ensure more accountability of government. But the parliamentary body has not agreed to the suggestions.

It however accepted a Jamaat-e-

Islami lawmaker's proposal to

repeal the existing provision from

the rules of procedure, which says a

lawmaker shall bow to the chair

while entering or leaving the House

and also when taking or leaving his

SEC accuses FROM PAGE 16 The directive followed an enquiry into the unusual rise in share prices of Jamuna Bank throughout the month of April, this year. Based on some unusual trading of the bank's shares in April, the commission queried whether there

was any undisclosed price sensi-

tive information. In reply, the bank

said there was no such informa-

But on April 27, the bank

declared 1.5 percent cash divi-dends and 25 percent stock dividends to its shareholders. Then the commission formed a twomember enquiry committee suspecting that some of the sharenolders of the bank might have been aware of the information prior to the disclosure or might have been involved in insider

The enquiry found that the sponsor shareholders of the bank had been involved in insider trading and price manipulation of