**Deputy Speaker** 

## JU academic activities

Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Tajul

senior teachers urged the VC to arrange talks with the agitating student organisations in order to reach a solution. But the VC's decision in this regard could not be known till filing of this report last

Meanwhile, the BNP-backed

JCD enforced indefinite strike on Saturday. They locked up the Administrative Building and announced that they would paralyse all administrative and academic activities until the VC resigns.

But they withdrew themselves from the programme on Sunday when the home ministry sent riot police to unlock the gates of Administrative Building to resume

explaining their surprise stand, said they would continue processions and rallies on the campus to press for VC's resignation.

"We are withdrawing our strike as we want the academic and administrative works to resume." a top JCD leader told this correspon-

Meanwhile the JU Teachers' Association at its meeting on Sunday asked the authorities to take immediate steps to resume academic and administrative activi-

judicial investigation into alleged irregularities and nepotism at JU during the AL government. But no decision could be reached in this regard as teachers 'loyal to different political parties' locked in heated arguments.

The pro-BNP teachers, officials, employees and students at a rally also demanded a judicial probe into alleged nepotism, irregularities by the VC and 'deplorable' incidents on

Addressing the rally, marking BNP's landslide victory in the parliamentary polls, they called upon the VC to quit immediately as he had

EC to send draft bill

lost his moral ground to remain in his post anymore "since he patronised all irregularities.

Meanwhile, the agitating SURR declared at a rally in front of Administrative Building yesterday that they will not withdraw their indefinite strike 'under any pres-

"We will return to our studies only after realisation of our seven-point demand", SURR leader Munirul Islam said

#### JCD-backed youths FROM PAGE 12

Leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) blamed the Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) for the incident. JCD denied the allegation and reciprocated by blaming the

According to sources, a group of JCD supporters 'kept away' from placing wreaths in the morning in memory of victims of the 1985 hall collapse as BCL workers were conducting the programme in observance of the day.

Later, when DU unit leaders of JCD came to the hall at about 10:30am, the disgruntled group went on rampage, damaging windows and furniture of the provost's

Meanwhile, the university authorities yesterday chalked out elaborate programmes in observance of the day and paid tribute to the students, employees and guests killed in Jagannath Hall roof collapse on this day in 1985.

Black flags were hoisted atop all the dormitories and main buildings of the university while students, teachers and officials wore black badges in mourning for the dead.

Resides different DII-hased organisations placed wreaths at the memorial at Jagannath Hall in memory of the day. A blood donation programme was also conducted to mark the day.

Special prayers were offered in the hall premises and in the central mosque for the peace of the departed souls.

An oil painting exhibition was held on campus in the morning commemorating the day.

### Govt firm to separate judiciary from executive:

BSS, Dhaka

Affairs Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed vesterday said the government is firm to separate the judiciary

ists on the Supreme Court premises after he called on Chief Justice

Mahmudul Amin Choudhury. Moudud said as per the guidelines earlier given by the High Court the last Caretaker government did a

great deal of work in this regard. He said, if needed, Article 116 of the Constitution would be amended

for the purpose. When asked he said he mainly discussed with the Chief Justice issues relating to separation of judiciary from the executive and

strengthening of the judiciary. Later, he visited the Supreme Court Bar Association and exchanged views with the bar leaders there.

President of the Supreme Court Bar Advocate Abdul Baset Mojumdar, former Secretary of the Bar Advocate Jainal Abedin and other leaders were present

#### Loadshedding

power supply from it is likely by Friday. This will improve the situation, the officials said.

Yesterday, PDB's projected demand for power across the country was 2925 MW while it was expecting to generate 2760 MW. The estimated loadshedding during peak hours was 145 MW yesterday and a similar situation is likely today

The new 100 MW Baghabari power plant is likely to contribute to the National Grid from October 23. PDB sources hoped this would raise generation of power to the level of demand for it in the country within

#### Ex-BCL leaders

said the new government of Bangladesh Nationalist Party and Jamaat-e-Islami created "a hellish and panicky situation" across the country

On behalf of the leaders controversial' provisions were Asaduzzaman Noor MP and Abdur dropped off from the amendment of Rahman addressed the meeting, which was presided over by Sheikh Hasina. The meeting discussed different aspects of 'vote rigging and election blueprint'.

Meanwhile, leaders of Bangladesh

Muktijoddah Sangsad Kendriya

Sangram Parishad at a meeting

yesterday termed the Council

Chairman an 'illegal occupant' of the

office and demanded his immediate

Asked about this. Ahad

Chowdhury said there is no scope to

dissolve the Council as it was

formed in a democratic process. He

also said there is provision to

the Council office following the

Police were deployed in front of

When contacted, the officer on

The Parishad at its meeting held

at Mohammedan Sporting Club

general of the Council; Istiag Aziz

Ulfat and Zakaria Pintu, former

captain of Swadhin Bangla Footbal

duty at Ramna thana said no case

was filed in this connection till 8:00

include new members in it.

A meeting of the AL executive committee will be held on October 22 at 3:00pm at the party central office on the Bangabandhu Avenue. Hasina will preside over the meet-

#### Muktijoddah caretaker government," said

removal.

incident.

### Bangladeshi

A Bangladesh citizen of border village Buripota in Meherpur was killed by Indians on Sunday night.

Shahnur Tehatta called out Ziarul 26, son of Ansarul of his house on Sunday afternoon and took him urgent business.

Later, Ziarul's relatives found him slaughtered about 200 yards away from the border on Indian side on Monday afternoon.

The body was not returned till

yesterday evening.

#### under the Representation of People Order (RPO) 1972. Some of the

import of one lakh tonnes would be opened today and that for another one lakh tonnes next month.

Imported fertiliser would arrive in the country much ahead of the peak season, he hoped. Besides. the authorities concerned have supply of fertiliser across the coun-

about the supply situation and found no report of shortage of supply in

the situation and is ready to take immediate steps, if required, he

Chairman of Bangladesh Fertiliser Association (BFA) Kofiluddin Ahmed also does not see fertiliser anywhere in the country.

the press about unusual price hike of fertiliser in the northern districts and termed the reports 'false and An inter-ministerial meeting last

month estimated that deficit of urea fertiliser this year would be around five lakh tonnes as the demand would be 23.50 lakh tonnes.

According to sources, the six urea fertiliser factories under Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) will produce around 18.50 lakh tonnes this year. The BFA (dealers' body) chairman also said dealers in all regions meet the demand in peak season when more than 60 per cent urea fertiliser is used. He however said the government should simplify the supply and distribution system.

due to 'interference' from the government, he added.

The inter-ministerial meeting presided over by Industries Secretary Al Amin Chowdhury also decided to ban import of ground rock phosphate fertiliser by the private sector. Only BCIC would mport this for tea gardens and

Earlier, around one lakh tonnes of rock phosphate fertiliser were imported annually. The decision to ban import of it was taken because of its poor capacity to increase crop production. It followed a BCIC report n this regard.

#### BB Governor

FROM PAGE 1

of promotion to recruitment is now

Home Secretary Sadaat Hossain was given the responsibility to look into the matter and asked to submit a report on this. The report is vet to be submitted, the sources said.

Dr Farashuddin will retire from the Central Bank as its governor on October 22

# Stop killings: Hasina

ble for the murder

"Everyday we've to drag dead bodies of our comrades. Is this the example of the BNP's building a terrorism-free society? We would not tolerate any more killings," said

She recalled that after her party took over after the 1996 general elections, the AL did not unleash any reign of terror. "But this time, the BNP and its allies are doing so to consolidate power they grabbed by rigaing the October 1 polls."

October 1 election results and demanded a fresh voting. Hasina demanded arrest of the

She warned that if the new regime continued with its 'terrorist activities', it would have to meet the

The AL president sought people's cooperation this time, too, in seeing off the 'repressive regime'

"I seek justice from the people of this country. Is it an offence if one votes for boat (the AL election symbol)?" Hasina asked, referring to the countrywide post-poll incidents of attacks on the AL men and members of the minority community as well.

She alleged that members of the minority community were becoming victims of the atrocities being carried out by miscreants loyal to the BNP. "Women are being raped. They are being stripped of just because they had cast their votes for boat.'

At the fag end of the rally, Hasina informed the gathering that she had just come to know that shooting took place at another AL rally in the city's Mirpur area, which party General Secretary Zillur Rahman was attending

She observed that her political opponents were out to eliminate the Awami League from the country. "(But) they'd better learn from his-

that account for about one million

Bangladesh is one of the

endemic zones where the rate of

infection is quite alarming. It is

estimated that about 10 lakh people

out of a total of 50 lakh already

infected are at risk of dying from the

spreading at an alarming rate con-

sidering the fact that there are no

"People in general lack knowl-

edge about transmission of the

Hepatitis B virus. Since there are

ways to avert infection, our goal is to

educate people about those ways

as we are sure education would

greatly help common people," said

Md Syed Fazlul Haque, Managing

include putting up placards on

street-corners, roadside banners

and posters carrying important

The awareness programmes

proper measures to check its trans-

mission in the country.

Director of the company.

Experts believe that the virus is

deaths a year worldwide.

tory that such ploys to eliminate Awami League had been foiled time and again since the killing of the Father of the Nation in 1975.

Later on, several hundred party workers as well as passers-by took part in the namaj-e-janaza of Moktar Hossain on Bangabandhu Avenue. It was second such occasion

following the take-over by the newly

elected government that Hasina

had visited her party office to see

dead bodies of her party men and pacify the young, militant mourners. In the previous instance, she had rushed to the party office on October 11, a day after the Khaleda government assumed power, to see the body of a slain leader of the party's

youth front. Meanwhile, Hasina yesterday went to the Central Shaheed Minar premises to express solidarity with a group of people on a fast-untildeath. They have been protesting the unabated atrocities on the members of minority across the

target group. The programme also includes distribution of supplementary leaflets with awareness survey forms and discount coupons. Small advertisements would also be placed in national dailies carrying information on Hepatitis B.

#### Zillur's car

FROM PAGE 1 leader Kamal Majumder at Mirpur. The incident took place when a BNP procession was passing through the area at about 5pm yesterday.

Bahadur Bepari and Ajoy Kar Khokon, President and General Secretary of BCL respectively in a joint statement yesterday condemned the attack saying that miscreants hurled bombs during the peaceful rally of Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman. They also demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the attack-

Pallabi police said last night that officers investigating the incident hadn't vet returned from the spot.

### chief election co-ordinator for the Awami League, refused to comment

on the matter. "We haven't received any official offer so far and therefore, find no reason to comment on this, he said. Kibria added that the AL would decide on the matter once the offer is formally made.

Party insiders hinted that the AL which is vet to decide on whether or not to join the parliament, may not agree to the offer. It has already rejected the result of the October 1 general election saying that its victory was snatched through 'crude rigging'.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, before flying off to Saudi Arabia on October 11, had assigned some of her senior party leaders to negotiate with the top Awami League leaders to talk them into joining parliament. However, no move has been taken so far

Senior BNP leaders were tightlipped about the prospective candidates for the post of the speaker and

the deputy speaker But speculations are rife in the party that former education minister Barrister Jamir Uddin Sirker and Advocate Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed will run for the offices of speaker and deputy speaker should the AL reject

The election to the two crucial posts will take place on October 28. the first day of the inaugural sitting of the parliament. The presidential election may also follow this election, according to officials at the Parliament Secretariat.

Earlier, during a pre-election visit by former US President Jimmy Carter to Dhaka, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and AL President Sheikh Hasina had promised to him that they would accept the election result and keep the parliament effective, whatever the result may be. They also assured the US leader of sharing the post of the speaker and the deputy speaker between the two benches.

### **US** rains down bombs

joining the Carl Vinson, Enterprise and Kitty Hawk already in the Gulf and Indian Ocean region near Afghanistan.

has thrown its weight behind the US campaign in the face of opposition at home, voiced strong concern about the bombing, saying it did not see, and had never seen, the Taliban as terrorists and wanted the raids to end soon.

Taliban to be terrorists, Foreign Ministry spokesman Riaz Mohammad Khan said: "No, Taliban are not terrorists. We never regarded them as terrorists.

against bin Laden and his Taliban protectors would be short. "Prolongation of military opera-

tions will be a source of concern to us," a Foreign Ministry spokesman "Because with prolongation you

cussed when US Secretary of State

Musharraflater in the day.

sufficient evidence were provided. "It can be negotiated provided the US gives us evidence and the Taliban are assured that the country is neutral and will not be influenced by the United States." Maulyi Abdul

Kabir, number two to Taliban supreme leader Mullah Omar, told a news conference in Jalalabad

Twelve people were killed and 32 wounded when US planes dropped bombs on Qala-i-nau.' Taliban information ministry official Abdul Hanan Himat told Reuters. referring to an overnight attack on the capital of northern Badghis

Afghanistan also spoke of fresh raids on the capital Kabul, the eastern city of Jalalabad, the Taliban strong hold of Kandahar in the south and the airport in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif.

Afghanistan's opposition Northern Alliance said, meanwhile, its forces had advanced toward Mazar-i-Sharif, taking two towns and moving to within striking distance of the airport.

#### Bin Laden alive

said that both bin Laden and Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar were alive and well after the latest

who have been asking for evidence against bin Laden, offered to hand him over under certain conditions but urged their civil war foes to join them in their fight against the United Bush rejected their olive branch

and their Northern Alliance civil war foes dismissed their call as propaganda

#### Anthrax

In America, after reports of new alert but urged them not to panic.

alert. And I think we're going to remain on a high state of alert for some time," Rice told the CBS programme "60 Minutes" in an interview on Sunday.

NBC television nightly news anchor Tom Brokaw said, meanwhile, that he might have handled hate mail containing anthrax, which has already afflicted his assistant and possibly another NBC

'I actually saw it (the letter) and I think I even picked it up at one point and so I may have been exposed. I'm not sure but I'm confident that cipro is going to get me through this," said Brokaw, shaking a bottle of antibiotics

#### Hundreds of people have been tested across America for anthrax,

People in three states have been

exposed to the bacteria at NBC in

near striking range of Afghanistan.

Neighbouring Pakistan, which

Asked if Pakistan considered the

He said he hoped the US-led war

can expect mishaps in which innocent civilian lives can be lost," spokesman Riaz Mohammad Khan Khan said this would be dis-

Colin Powell, who arrived in Islamabad yesterday held talks with Pakistan President Pervez A senior official from ruling

Taliban said yesterday Laden could be handed to a neutral country i

The Talihan say that the weeklong air campaign, which entered its second week overnight, has killed more than 300 people, many of them civilians

province.

Witnesses or reports from

A Taliban spokesman in Pakistan

Over the weekend, the Taliban

cases of anthrax contamination fuelled fears of reprisals. National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice told jittery citizens to remain on the

"We're still on a very high state of

employee.

New York, a supermarket tabloid newspaper company in Florida and a Microsoft Corp office in Nevada. US officials said the number of people to have tested positive for exposure to anthrax after receiving contaminated letters in the post had reached double figures, but only two

one of whom died. Tommy Thompson, the US secretary of health and human services, said it was too early to blame bin Laden's al-Qaeda network for the anthrax-contaminated

A British Defence Ministry official said vesterday that Britain had up to

AFP from Washington adds: US special forces may enter Afghanistan as early as this week to gather intelligence about Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaeda net-

However, killing or capturing Laden is unlikely to be the goal of the operation, the magazine reported, citing senior military

According to the report, some US military and intelligence officials

religion and money, Newsweek quotes a former high ranking Pakistani military official as saving.

source with intimate knowledge of If hin Laden is snotted small can be moved from positions in

istration along with cash.

Newsweek said, citing a diplomatic

nearby countries. But some Pentagon officials they are concerned that the al-Qaeda leader is not hiding in a cave but in the squalid slums of a city like

They (donors) want to help us and

Terming resource mobilisation for development a difficult task in the wake of global recession and the immediate-past government's economic mismanagement" Saifur Rahman also said these were necessary to release the foreign aid

kitchen. I have to go out.' The finance and planning minis ter, earlier, at a meeting with officials

of the Planning Commission and the External Resource Division (ERD) indicated slashing of 'unimportant development projects' for judicious use of resources. "In the present context we have

to go through our development budget and have a look whether all the projects are necessary. We are going through a crisis situation and I think we have to squeeze more projects," he told the bureaucrats.

# Additional fertiliser

been asked to ensure smooth Immediately after taking charge of the ministry, I inquired

any area of the country "he said The government is fully aware of

any crisis or unusual price hike of He refuted reports in a section of

have adequate stock of fertiliser to Dealers often face difficulties

rubber plantations, it was decided.

one to one

The BBOA move is considered politically motivated.

the RPO however. Earlier, the previous Awami League government had allocated more than two acres of land at Agargaon in the city to construct an independent EC Secretariat.

the EC will be able to recruit its own workforce and formulate budget in accordance with its needs. "It will also help ward off political influences during the election, which will not be held under the

## another official

Residents said Nikhil Biswas of across the border on plea of an

congratulated Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for her party's landslide victory in the recent general election and the announcement on formation a ministry for the welfare of

PM returns FROM PAGE 12 services and other high civil and military officials were present. Asked by newsmen which coun-

> India and both the countries are eager for her immediate visit. The prime minister, however, said it would be decided after discussion with the party leaders.

try the prime minister will visit next,

Foreign Minister Prof. B Chowdhury,

who was beside her, said already

there are invitations from China and

prayed to the Almighty Allah for the welfare of the nation and peace and After taking the oath as prime minister on October 10. Khaleda

flew to Jeddah on October 11 on the

way to Makkah for performing

Nasiruddin and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Reaz Rahman also accompanied the prime minister.

information about Hepatitis B infecare believed to be carriers who may Reports politically motivated he said did not match the reports he

received from the local administra-

tion. Showing a picture published on

Monday in a vernacular daily of some women refugees seeking alms in Kotalipara, he quoted one of the women telling him that she was forced to pose for the photograph. Nevertheless, the home minister admitted that there was some truth based newspapers. "We know in the press reports about attacks on nothing about such incidents, all the minorities and said investigation

quoted the Barisal journalists as having said. Referring to his discussion with About several thousands memleaders of the minority community, such terrorist incidents

see any refugee there. What I saw was a gathering at a bazar, which is only natural." Alleging that terrorism let loose by former chief whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah had gone on unabated in Barisal during the Awami League rule, the home minister told the reporters that the terrorists fled the area apprehending legal action. "While fleeing, they also asked

the houses of those who did not

view that political motive was behind Reminding his party's election commitment to establish a terrorism-free Bangladesh, he said, "We have waged a war against terrorism. The prime minister has asked me to

In this regard, the home minister

into those had already been

said police had already arrested the brother of a BNP lawmaker and was investigating into alleged charges of terrorism against the son of a state minister LRGD Minister and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuivan earlier said the press

curb terrorism within a short time."

conference was called to explain the post-election situation and the government actions in this regard.

"Many of our party activists were killed, injured and repressed in many ways in the past five years.

Meanwhile, UNB adds: International oil companies exploring hydrocarbons in the country have long been demanding pipeline

sale of gas to neighbouring India for

demand would rise from its current

would sustain production till 2020 and thereafter the country would have to solely rely on oil imports if no sustainable new reserves or discoveries are added by that time

asked them to nab the BNP activists

has been created (for the minorities) in Bangladesh." Bhuiyan assured that the Hindu community would be able to celebrate their biggest religious festival,

need be.' State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babar, Political Secretary to the Prime Minister Haris Choudhury, Cabinet Secretary Dr. Akbar Ali Khan, Home Secretary Dr. Shadat Hossain, Inspector General of Police Nurul Huda and other top officials were

#### The home minister quoted also present during the press conseveral newspaper reports, which But, we asked our activists not to go Saifur hints at gas export

soil for a long time."

bureaucrats.

The new finance and planning minister also reminded the bureaucrats of the precarious foreign exchange reserve situation and unfavourable international climate, which is threatening the country's external trade. He also spoke of the challenge

mobilise resource for development objectives. "We have come to power at a tough time when the global econ-

getting desired returns on their investment.

for revenge although the urge for a backlash was only natural. Still, some stray incidents have taken place." Bhuivan said. "It is not only that the Awami

League activists were attacked by their BNP rivals but also the other way round "he said Bhuiyan said that his government had directed police to arrest the culprits no matter which party they belonged to. "We have rather

The LGRD minister acknowledged some incidents of attacks on the minorities. "But those were not as the newspapers had made these to be. The press reports give an impression as if a (grave) situation

Durga Puja, in a peaceful atmosphere. "Police will guard them, if

alliance government, the BNP, in its election manifesto said, "All necessary measures will be undertaken to increase revenue from oil, gas and other mineral resources in order to speed up economic development of the country." However, it also said top priority would be given to meeting the country's domestic needs of gas in the future.

Saifur Rahman at yesterday's

meeting told the bureaucrats that a

day might come when the country's

gas resource would become obso-

judicious utilisation of our resources, not guided by political "Sometimes these sort of decisions are taken completely on political considerations not based on economic reality," he told the

omy is on a slowdown as the after effect of the terrorist attacks in the US and the war in Afghanistan." he

A committee formed by the previous government for sectoral plans and vision statement for gas sector said there was a total initial recoverable gas reserve of 15.127

level of 332 BCF to 1.137 TCF by 2020 and 2.015 TCF by 2050. Of the demand, about 40 TCF would be needed for power generation, 4.75 TCF for fertiliser, 13.5 TCF for industries and 5 TCF for domes-

expansion in the north, west and

The demand projection indicates power from the years 2001 through 2050

The Bangladesh Chemical

Industries Corporation (BCIC) has

no forecast of total gas demand for

fertilizer sector to produce and meet

domestic urea fertiliser demand for

the forecast period of 50 years.

Gas demand forecast for power

sector, as prepared by the PDB, is

But it has a plan to build as many as five new fertiliser plants in the next 10 years to meet domestic 50 years for the sector.

southern districts of Bangladesh. Industrial excluding fertiliser 4.933 TCF

people had contracted the disease,

the government was poised to set out a series of measures aimed at toughening asylum laws and com-

to Royal Air Force reconnaissance The official said the British contingent with the overwhelmingly American forces had flown 41 sorties in the first week of air attacks. He confirmed for the first time that Tomahawk cruise missiles

Commandos to capture Laden

work, Newsweek magazine reported.

believe that one of the best ways to find bin Laden may be a well-placed "It was said by the Brits that only two things move the Taliban tribal

them against the Taliban and guide the Americans to bin Laden's lair. the report said. However, the pursuit is complicated by the fact that some Afghan tribal leaders are demanding positions in Afghanistan's future admin-

Afghan affairs. units of highly-trained special forces

we have to implement those reforms for the sake of good governance, he told The Daily Star yesterday at his Planning Commission office.

stuck up in the pipeline. However, he said, "I have been given the charge to cook food for the nation. If I can't face the heat in the

# Meeting sources said some

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists did not turn up on the campus to observe their indefinite

administrative activities Top JCD leaders, without

Some teachers proposed a

the campus during the AL rule.

The EC at a meeting at its secretariat yesterday discussed in detail the legal aspects of the proposed bill Justice Abdul Ouddus, who drafted the recent law on electoral reforms, gave his opinion in the meeting. Presided over by Chief Election

Commissioner M A Syed, the meet-

ing was attended by Election

Commissioners Safiur Rahman, M Munsef Ali and AK Mohammad Ali,

hill has been initiated since the

existing provision of laws compels

The move for passage of such a

and other senior EC officials.

the Election Commission to depend on the government's decision in conducting the elections apart from carrying out its other activities resulting in the delay in the execu-

tion of the EC's decision as and

when required," a top EC official,

who preferred to remain unnamed.

told The Daily Star He added that the independence of the EC Secretariat had long been Due to bureaucratic bottlenecks, the EC could not appoint nearly 1400 officers and employees to run its field-level offices before the justended general election. The Ministry of Finance in 1997 had

asked the authorities concerned to

fill the posts lying vacant in the EC

offices in the districts and upazilas.

But 'non-cooperation' by the

Ministry of Establishment stood in

EC, through promulgation of an

ordinance, obtained the authority to

formulate election-related rules

During the caretaker regime, the

the way, the EC sources said.

According to the officials who attended yesterday's meeting, once the proposed bill comes into effect

killed by Indians UNB, Meherpur

> Freedom Fighters. The meeting was attended by, among others, Mesbahuddin Ahmed Babu, former convenor of the Parishad; Abu Sayeed Khan, former convenor of the Council; Naveem Jahangir, former secretary

She told the newsmen that she progress of the country.

> Umrah before joining her office. State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad

Moudud

Law, Justice and Parliamentary

from the executive. The minister told this to journal-

The AL has already rejected the

killers of Moktar and an end to such fate similar to that of the previous

BNP government.

**Hepatitis B Action Week begins** Citing some examples Prof Rashid. said. "We know where the virus may spread from; like unsafe blood transfusion, abuse of drugs where addicts share needles and of course, unsafe sex. We must educate the people and stop transmis-

sion of the virus from these points or

else transmission would go on for Incidence of Hepatitis B, a disease of the liver that may cause short and long term illnesses, is quite high in Bangladesh. It is estimated about 9 per cent of the population is suffering from the chronic illness that may lead to cirrhosis and

"We are fortunate to be living in

an era of hope. Since effective

means of prevention is available, it

is better to act now and before its too

late, and vaccination is the only

eventually to cancer.

means of getting lifelong protection." said M Azizul Hug, Marketing Director of GlaxoSmithKline. About two billion people worldwide have been infected with the deadly virus and 400 million of them

reports, violence against the minorities had taken place, the home minister said he did not find any basis of such reports. He said local journalists in Barisal had told him that "fictitious" stories of repression on the minorities were being manufactured in Dhaka and published in Dhaka-

these are rumours," the minister

ers of the repressed minority community who had taken refuge at Ramshil in Kotalipara from Agoiljhara in Barisal, the home minister said he did not find any during his visit to the area. "I hovered over different parts of Ramshil on a chopper, but did not

minorities to follow suit to avoid repression. The terrorists attacked

The major party of the four-party

lete. "We have to ensure proper and

ahead for the new government to

TCF so far explored. Of the find, 4.1 TCF has so far been produced as of December 2000. The committee also gave a 50year forecast of gas demand, estimating that the country would require about 63 TCF of gas from 2001 to 2050. The annual gas

tic, commercial and others usage. It said current known reserves absolutely gas-based. The absolute dependency may cripple the power sector and the country as a whole if gas supply fails for any reason. that about 40 TCF gas would be required to generate electrical

needs as well as to export. However, the committee estimated 4.736 TCF gas requirement for next Natural gas demand as forecast for industrial and domestic, commercial and other sectors would

require huge investment for network

gas consumption would be 13.522 TCF during the period under review while the consumption for domestic, commercial and others would be

## In Britain, closely and very publicly linked to the US "war on terror".

bating the threat of terrorism. 800 troops involved in the military campaign from three submarines and refuelling planes.

had been fired from submarines on two different nights of the campaign.

officials.

Therefore, the CIA is reportedly trying to pay off local warlords to turn

Reform agenda FROM PAGE 1

# Kandahar, according to the report.