NEWS

'Donor dictated poverty

reduction strategy

won't benefit poor'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

for the country.

tank, here vesterday.

The 'poverty reduction strategy'

(PRS) now being prepared by the

government under the dictate of

donors will bring a "new calamity"

This was stated by MM Akash, Chairman of People's

Empowerment Trust (PET), a think

The way the 'poverty reduction strategy paper' (PRSP) is being

prepared will not benefit those for

whom it is meant. Rather, the people

policies' earlier, he said at a press

He said the paper is being pre-

"We apprehend that the total

scenario would compel the govern-

ment to agree to the terms and

conditions of donors in preparation

of the PRSP. This will be reflected in

Officials of Action Aid,

Akash said without participation

"We are not against preparation

of the grassroots level people, PRS

will not help poverty alleviation and

of the poverty reduction strategy.

We feel that without participation of

the civil society and representatives

of the grassroots level people, it will

deficit approaching six per cent of

GDP, Bangladesh risks moving

towards an unsustainable fisca

position. This large deficit will tend

to raise interest rates and create

fears of volatility, which in turn retard

private investment, slow down

economic growth and make any

given deficit less sustainable," he

very poorly in international gover-

nance rankings with most business

firms making off-the-record pay-

ments to get things done as a World

listed steady economic growth,

increase in primary education enrollment and girls' education,

striking reduction in fertility and

infant mortality rates, increase in

food production, improvements in

Despite these problems, Stern

Bank survey has revealed.

London School of Economic

for developing countries.

He pointed out that GDP growth

rate per capita accelerated steadily

from less than one per cent in the

1970s to 1.8 per cent in the 1980s

He also said Bangladesh fared

empowerment of the poor.

be counterproductive"

FROM PAGE 1

observed.

nomic policies adopted earlier.

he said

Body to probe alleged corruption in BRTA

eral Ashraf Khan.

He claimed that old vehicles are

not responsible for black smoke.

Adulterated fuel and mobile can

Directive to

lake area

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The minister for Housing and Public

Works Mirja Abbas has asked the

relevant experts to officially demar-

cate the entire Gulshan lake and

the ministry experts and top Rajuk

officials, including the acting chair-

man of Rajuk, the minister also said

that after the demarcation is over

the lake development project should

be designed and immediately

lake has long been subjected to

massive encroachment A section of

influential developers in connivance

with top Rajuk officials has grabbed,

land-filled and constructed apart-

Mirja Abbas' determination to

save the Gulshan-Baridhara-

Banani lake comes at a time when

the lake is facing near extinction. It

may be mentioned that The Daily

Star has long been campaigning to

ment blocks on the lake

save the city lakes

The Gulshan-Baridhara-Banani

implemented

In a meeting, held yesterday at

lakeside areas within seven days.

UNB, Dhaka

The Communications Ministry has constituted a four-member inquiry committee to investigate the reported irregularities and corruption in Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA).

cause pollution even if they are used The committee, headed by Ali in new vehicles, he said Imam Majumder, Deputy Secretary (Admin) of the Roads and Railways Division, has been asked to submit its report to the government within demarcate 10 days, said an official handout yesterdav. Gulshan

Other members of the committee are Public Transport Specialist Fazlur Rahman and BRTA Director (Technical) Dr SM Saleh Uddin. BRTA Secretary Khandaker Asaduzzaman will act as membersecretary of the committee.

The committee was formed following press reports on a section of BRTA officials and employees providing fake fitness certificates and registration numbers to vehicles that are more than 20 years old

The reports also mentioned that the dishonest people were taking Tk 30,000 to Tk 40,000 from bus and truck owners for issuing fitness certificates and Tk 20,000 for chancing vehicle documents.

As the government banned plying of vehicles above 20 years old on the streets of Dhaka, the committee will probe the alleged attempt of owners to operate again the dilapidated vehicles in the capital with fake papers, the handout said

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samity in a statement yesterday suggested review of the government decision arguing that the old vehicles had been banned without any valid and logical reason. "It is illogical and ridiculous to ban the vehicles on the basis of the

India, Pakistan trade fire along border years of registration. In fact, engines above 20 or 25 years old do not exist," said Samity secretary gen-

raid on the Indian parliament which New Delhi blamed on Pakistan-Hostile neighbours Pakistan and based militants.

India traded intermittent fire across New Delhi has said all options, their tense border yesterday as including war, are open if Islamabad Islamabad considered fresh action does not move decisively against to curb Islamic militants at the heart anti-Indian querillas that India savs of its military standoff with India. are operating from Pakistani terri-Witnesses said Pakistani and tory.

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's Punjab province.

Indian soldier were killed.

National Defence College.

not yet been announced.

Himalavan region, the latest in a

string of assaults on security posts.

came amid a tense military standoff

between India and Pakistan after a

Brigadier General Ekramul Hag

defence attache in Bangladesh

mission in New Delhi, has been

appointed officiating GOC of

Jessore. He will replace Major

General Ashfaq whose disposal has

defence attache in Kuwait, has been

appointed Brigade Commander.

Comilla; Brigadier General Golam

Rabbani has been made DDG,

Bangladesh Rifles. He was from

transferred from DGFI to BDR as

Sector Commander while Colonel

Shawkat Reza, after his return from

UN peacekeeping mission, will join

Hossain has been moved from

DGFI to BDR as Sector

Commander: Colonel Salahuddin

Ahmed has been made CO, Army

Security Unit (ASU) from Colonel,

Adnministration, Comilla and

Colonel Ibrahim Khalid from BDR to

Rahim (retd.), freedom fighter and

commander of the Independent

Engineering Brigade, has been

appointed the new Director General

of the National Security Intelligence

illion tons a year for 60 years and

Earlier, Brigadier General Abdur

Colonel Sheikh Mahmud

Colonel Aulad Hossain has been

Brigade Commander, Comilla.

Brigadier General SMS lobal.

area said

Army

FROM PAGE

DGFI

DGFL

(NSI)

shaft.

haps.

Indian troops traded fire across their "Alert soldiers shot dead two border in the Sialkot area of militants near the gate of an army camp at Trehgam when they tried to The nuclear-armed rivals also storm the camp. One soldier was exchanged sporadic small-arms fire killed," a paramilitary spokesman on their frontier in the disputed told Reuters.

Himalayan region of Kashmir, No group has claimed responsi-Pakistani police and officials in the bility for the incident near the Pakistan border. But an Indian Meanwhile Indian defence defence statement said the attackauthorities blamed Pakistan-based ers belonged to the Pakistan-based guerillas for an attack on an army Lashkar-e-Taiba group, one of the camp today in India's revolt-racked outfits blamed for last month's Kashmir in which two rebels and an attack on parliament in which 14 people died. The attack in the disputed

India said yesterday it saw no shift in Pakistan's stand on crossborder terrorism, despite President Pervez Musharraf's statement condemning terrorism in all its

BNP collecting lists

FROM PAGE 1

the AL rule"

Mannan Bhuyian also asked for addresses, organisational identities (if any) of the victims and brief description of the alleged acts of persecution Bhuyian heads the committee for

the convention, which was earlied planned to be organised by the

government. The letters said BNP is going to organise the 'national convention' to "inform the nation about the incidents of violation of human rights, repression and oppression during UNB, Dhaka

Description on incidents of alleged repression on minorities and government officials and employees by AL leaders and activists has also been sought.

It said the party will display lists of those killed, disabled and repressed. Souvenirs and newspaper supplements will also be published on the occasion. The party units and leaders have

also been asked to send names and addresses of victims' families so that their representatives can attend the convention. The letter also sought names of AL leaders and activists who forcibly

occupied lands, properties, houses and business establishments during

3 Taliban ministers

FROM PAGE 12

Osama bin Laden's al Qaida and with the Taliban movement, have been recovering since early December, the official said.

"I don't know whether he killed himself with the bomb inside or outside his room," he told Reuters by telephone.

forms "I don't seen any shift in their position on terrorism as directed against India. I think the time has come for Pakistan to shed the ambivalence it continues to maintain on such issues," Foreign ministry spokeswoman Nirupama Rad told a news conference.

Rao said New Delhi was still awaiting concrete steps by Pakistan against querilla groups who India says are operating from its soil against the country. "What we expect from Pakistan

is concrete, serious, substantial steps to deal with cross-border terrorism and groups that operate from Pakistani soil. We have yet to see satisfactory action taken," she said.

"In matters relating to India and Pakistan, the position of the government has been made clear. It is for our two countries to deal with such issues. We really see no room for other countries to be involved," she added

their rule. Reports on cases filed against leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations by the AL government have also been asked for.

Award to help police providing secret

video. still pictures of terrorists

> The government decided to award those who will assist the police providing secret video or still pictures of terrorists and criminals.

"The government will give award to those who will assist police investigation with hidden video tapes or still photographs of heinous crimes like damaging

> individual or public property and subversive or terrorist acts." said the government announcement. It said the government would keep secret the identity of the

people who will assist the government in this regard.

The official said US soldiers visit

The men still holed up in the

the hospital several times a day but

he did not know of any special

pressure put on the patients

guns and to have hand grenades

foreigners began last week, he said.

Laden's al Qaida network barri-

late last month after shooting broke

US forces in Afghanistan are

holding more than 300 prisoners

from the vanquished Taliban and

from al Qaida at a detention camp

set up at Kandahar airport and on

board a US warship

out in the hospital when their Afghan

opponents tried to flush them out.

recently

come out.

ward, were believed to have hand strapped to their bodies. The official said the dead man

AL programme on Bangabandhu's homecoming day UNB, Dhaka

Awami League has chalked out programmes to mark the Homecoming Day of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on Thursday (January 10).

The programmes will begin through hoisting national and party flags atop the party's central office. Bangabandhu Bhaban and party offices across the country at 6 am. Wreaths will be placed at the

portrait of Bangabandhu at Bangabandhu Bhaban at 8:30 am.

A discussion meeting will also be held at Bangabandhu Bhaban as part of the programmes which will be presided over by acting AL president Abdus Samad Azad.

Renowned intellectuals and party's central leaders will attend the eting.

conference held at the office of the On January 10, 1972, Dhaka Reporters Unity. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman returned home, ending his pared through a "defective procaptivity for nine months in Pakistan cess" during the War of Liberation.

Madrassah teacher held with fake money BSS, Panchagarh

the country's next national budget," The BDR personnel yesterday arrested one madrassah teacher with forged currency notes of Taka Bangladesh also attended the press 500 denomination and handed them conference over to the police

The arrested person. Golam Mostafa is an inhabitant of Bamerpara village of Beghara union under Boda upazila and a teacher of a local madrassah.

Acting on a tip-off, BDR personnel of 22 battalion arrested Golam Mostafa and seized five forged notes of Taka 500 denomination.

Golam Mostafa told police that he had been associated with a local forgery ring for long and as per his confession, police lodged cases against him and his four accompli-

Golam Mostafa was produced before the court yesterday. The court sent him to the jail, rejecting his bail prayer.

Envoy to Canada Bangladesh mission in Jeddah and

Alternate Permanent Representative to the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC). While he was Ambassador to Uzbekistan, he was concurrently accredited to Kazakhstan,

Kyrgyztan and Tajakistan. He represented Bangladesh at innumerable international conferences and was member, Board of Governors of Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies

He knows English, Bengali, Arabic, Japanese, French, Russian and Italian

Married with Sheezan Khan, they have a daughter, Umama Zainab Khan

development strategies on countries like Bangladesh, which do not

benefit the people. The PET and the Action Aid will jointly organise exchange- ofopinion programmes at divisional headquarters to create awareness and help preparation of an PRSP which would really benefit the people, he said.

Political leaders, parliament members and representatives of grassroots level people will take part

in the programmes. The programmes will be held at and the government will have to Sylhet on January 10, Barisal on bear all the its bad effects as was in January 17, Khulna on January 24, the case of 'structural adjustment Chittagong on January 31, Rajshahi on February 7 and at Dhaka on March 5.

Pak-WI series FROM PAGE 1

Rana told this news agency. "The PCB is working out a The country is now passing through a "severe economic crisis' revised programme to be released due to recession in the United shortly. There will be no side game and the West Indies are due in States and adverse affects of eco-

Sharjah on January 25 Pakistan and West Indies were due to play three Tests and as many one-dayers in Pakistan later this month. But Caribbean officials refused to play in the country citing security reasons following the war in Afghanistan and growing tension

between Pakistan and India. Instead, the West Indians expressed their willingness to play the series at a neutral venue.

Rana said, "PCB and Sharjah organisers will share the revenue "Pakistan also had Bangladesh as one option, but there we may not

have earned as much revenue as we would get in Shariah." he said. Sharjah Cricketers' Benefit Fund Series chairman Abdurrehman

Bukhatir visited Pakistan last month and offered Pakistan facilities in Sharjah to host the series.

Donors have long been imposing

WB fears deceleration

nance, even at the level of India pressure on the government's Stern said Bangladesh could have "Now, with the overall budget doubled its per capita income

growth. In this context he said the country needs to improve its governance. investment climate and infrastructure to face future challenges. If the country cannot improve its governance, it faces risks of not getting a better share of concessional loan and attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), Stern commented.

Turning to globalisation and particularly the recently held WTO ministerial conference in Doha, the World Bank economist said the outcome of the post-Doha trade negotiations would largely depend on what the rich countries would do in terms of opening their markets. particularly in agriculture and textile and garment manufacturing sectors, to developing countries' exports.

Immediate past president of BEA Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud introduced Nicholas H Stern to the audience and shed light on his

Quality seeds diversity

duces as seeds Dr Hossain told the participants that seed quality deteriorated in the country due to overuse of the same seeds vear after vear. He noted that rates of seed replacement and variety replacement are low in

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh. Stressing the need for creating a level-playing field for public, private and NGO sectors, Dr Hossain also pointed out that lack of incentives for seed breeders was a reason for the backwardness of the seed market.

He suggested that research institutions be allowed to operate separate commercial wings for income generation. Breeders should also get royalty for developing new varieties

Dr Hossain, who played a pioneering role in preparing the country's latest Agriculture Commission Report, laid special emphasis on updating regulatory regimes so that frontier technologies like genetic engineering could be adopted.

He also put stress on formulating a plant variety protection law to

Dr Hossain dwelt on the activities of the Seed Certification Agency (SCA) and noted that nowhere in Asia such agencies certify breeder seeds. The breeder seeds need to be totally exempted from a formal and compulsory certification by the

quality seeds of modern varieties at ffordable prices at the right time.

quality seeds at affordable prices.

Ex-agriculture secretary Dr Shawkat Ali noted that the rate of variety replacement in the country is 10 per cent, which he said, should be enhanced to 20 per cent. He called for creation of an inventory of plant genetic resources and setting up of an institute for plant genetic

SCA, he said.

In his speech, Prof Rehman Sobhan said the country's farmers represent the most neglected private sector. He emphasised that every farming household in the country should have access to

Rejoinder FROM PAGE 12 producing one million tons of coal a year", the rejoinder said. It said zero temperature is maintained during sinking shaft and not during mining. The coal seam is steady and the reserve is adequate to allow the target production of one

He said the country's seed system has to serve 13 million farmers with adequate supply of

preserve the country's rich bio-

Felling of trees

FROM PAGE 12

When asked whether he has been able to interrogate any of the accused named in the FIR, SI Masud replied in the negative. Nor could he tell when he would be able to submit the charge-sheet of the case.

A High Court bench comprising Justice Syed JR Mudassir Hossain and Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain issued a suo moto rule on Monwara Begum and her husband on July 16, asking them to explain why they should not be charged with contempt of court, as the felling of trees was in violation of the July 8 order by the same bench for a status quo for the next two weeks.

The bench also asked the inspector general of police to recover the piece of land and maintain status quo. Ramna police took possession of the 2.81 acres of land

Zhu may urge Dhaka

FROM PAGE 1 regional and global issues.

Zhu's visit comes at a time when China is seen to be seeking to forge firmer relations with some of its neighbours. The visiting Chinese prime minister is likely to seek the country's support and active cooperation in maintaining peace and security in the region, particularly against the backdrop of the changed scenario after September 11 incidents and the recent stand-off between India and Pakistan.

Zhu will lead more than a 120member entourage including senior officials, business entrepreneurs and nearly 20 media personnel.

His visit comes in less than two side is likely to urge the Chinese vears after former Chinese premier Li Peng came here as the chairman Bangladesh, specially in mediumof the National People's Congress of China in April 1999.

Although the details of Zhu's visit are still being worked out, it was learnt that the three-day itinerary will include visiting one or two Chinese assisted development projects, handing over of the NAM Conference Centre and a civic reception in his honour. He will also attend a banquet will be hosted by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

Sources indicated that Khaleda may reciprocate the visit of the Chinese premier by making a bilat-Bangladesh-China Joint Economic eral trip to China before she takes Commission is likely to be fixed

on July 26 and it is still under the

police authority. Meanwhile, Monwara Begum executed an affidavit on August 9, denying her involvement in the felling of the trees at the Osmany Udyan in reply to the show cause issued by the HC bench.

Following submission of the affidavit by Monwara Begum, the additional attorney general referred to the case filed by the Raiuk and said the bench would come to know about the fact soon after submission of the charge-sheet of the case. The bench initially adjourned the

case for the next three months for hearing of the contempt of court case

But after the police's failure to submit the charge-sheet, the prosecution submitted a time prayer in November and is waiting for the findings of police investigation.

Bangladesh has received

Chinese cooperation and assis-

tance in several sectors, including

setting up and expansion of power

plants at Rauzan, the Barapukria

coal mine projects, and a number of

cant level of defence cooperation

with China, a major supplier of its

minister, is likely to announce a

fresh package of soft- term loans for

bridge and power projects.

Bangladesh has also a signifi-

China, during the trip of its prime

At the official level talks between

Khaleda and Zhu, the Bangladesh

leader to investment more in

Khaleda will urge the Chinese

trade delegation to import more

products from Bangladeshi. Dhaka

will also stress the need for reducing

the yawning trade imbalance now

any other bilateral tour

bridaes.

military hardware.

scale projects.

against Bangladesh

said.

was one of the fighters who have there is no requirement of a third been holed up in the hospital since last month. Our reply: Signed in 1994, the

It was unclear exactly how many coal mine project was supposed to of the fighters were left barricaded in be completed in 1998. However the the ward. The intelligence official project has been delayed much due said the dead man was one of eight to "unknown geological fault" and gunmen. A guard told Reuters on the project completion deadline has Sunday that only seven men were in been shifted several times. Though the ward the water inundation problem began

in 1998, the water could not be "Nobody can get near them," the official said. "Every body is afraid pumped out till date. Since this that they will explode something." problem recurred several times

during remedial operation, geolo-The men, who have threatened gists refrain from guaranteeing an to blow themselves up if anyone except one doctor enters their ward. absolute deadline for project comare part of a 19-member group pletion. There is difference of opinion among geologists about the coal brought to Kandahar's Chinese Hospital or treatment shortly before The Daily Star news pointed out. the city fell to opposition forces on among other issues, some of the December 7.

ideas about how to complete the Several have since escaped and project against the odds and it did two were arrested by US forces after not blame the builders for the misthey were tricked into leaving the ward

quard said Sunday that First lest Afghan soldiers were trying to persuade the fighters to surrender, FROM PAGE 1 The tourists warmed up for the twousing videotapes showing two of the foreign fighters' companions

Test series with a three-day match against the Bangladesh A team that already taken prisoner by US forces ended in a draw at the BKSP on in Kandahar to encourage them to

But the tame finish of the threedaver will have little bearing for wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud's commander, accompanied by an men as they will be fighting to Arabic-speaking interpreter, and the survive Wasim Akram's deadly inswingers, Danish Kaneria's leg-The wounded fighters loyal to bin break bugs and may be Shoaib Akhtar's thunderbolts caded themselves into their ward

Off-spinner Fahim Muntasir will be the lone debutant for the home team. Bangladesh made two changes from the side that toured New Zealand last month.

SQUADS BANGLADESH: Mehrab Hossain, Al-Shahriar, Mohammad Ashraful, Sanwar Hossain, Habibul Bashar, Aminul Islam, Khaled Mashud, Fahim Muntasir, Enamul Hoque, Monjurul Islam Mohammad Sharif, Khaled Mahmud, Javed Omar and Hasibul Hossain

PAKISTAN: Taufeeq Omar, Shadab Kabir, Younis Khan, Inzamamul Hag, Yousuf Youhana, Wasim Akram, Rashid Latif Saqlain Mushtaq, Waqar Younis Danish Kaneria, Abdur Razzak Shoaib Akhtar, Faisal Iqbal, Naved Latif and Mohammad Sami.

(More stories on Sports pages) Food poisoning

FROM PAGE 1 He said they had rice, dal and curry cooked with chicken's gizzard and liver at dinner at about 8.00pm. "The problem began at about 10.00pm when the policemen felt severe pain in the abdomen," said Constable

Md. Iman Ali at the hospital The affected policemen were taken to the hospital at about 4.00am in two police vans.

As there was no available bed at the Razarbagh Hospital, the affected police personnel lay on the floor at different wards. A few were cured and left the hospital and the rest were improving, hospital sources said.

Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police Modabbir Hossain, DMP Commissioner Abdul Quayyum, DIG of Armed Police Battalion Mainuddin Chisti and other high officials of the Police Department visited the affected policemen.

The on-duty doctors told the inspector general that all were given proper treatment and now out of danger.

disaster preparedness and flood road in success in RMG exports and emergence of an impressive NGO system as the successes the country has earned in the last two deacde."These are achievements that many observers would have thought impossible three decades ago, when some were sufficiently foolish to refer to Bangladesh as a

different scholarly works. President of BEA Dr Moinul Islam moderated the session while the association's General Secretary Abul Barkat delivered the welcome speech.

Hill cutting

FROM PAGE 12 'basket case'," commented Stern, cases were filed with the police who is also a professor at the stations.

said

November

fuel price hike.

Shahriar

FROM PAGE 12

safetv

The illegal hill cutting is going unabated in Chittagong, much to the detriment of natural beauty and the environment of the port city.

activists across the country. Before

the hartal, left-leaning parties had

called a half-day hartal in early

alliance and Bangladesh Krishok

Federation and six of its front

organisations have called another

countrywide half-day hartal on

February 2 protesting the price

spiral of essentials as a result of the

They said the Special Powers

Act only empowers the government

to detain a person to prevent him

from doing prejudicial act and there

is no provision for giving a detention

order merely in the interest of public

materials by the detenue for making

the film Cry and Amity does not

constitute a prejudicial act within the

meaning of Section 2(1) of the SPA",

fundamental right to freedom of

thought, conscience and speech.

guaranteed under Article 39 of the

Constitution. "The reason behind

the detention of Kabir is completely

political vengeance," he said,

according to a press release issued

He said it is gross violation of the

Amir-ul-Islam argued.

"Collection of 'rush-shot' as raw

Meanwhile, left-leaning 11-party

and above three per cent in the The hill cutting is carried out by 1990s. He also said that by 1990s some influential people in connivthe country's growth rate was a full ance with a few officials, sources in percentage point above the average the Chittagong Metropolitan Police

Had there been improved gover-

Hartal today

FROM PAGE 1

deploy its supporters and activists at strategic points in the capital city to enforce today's hartal as it witnessed police clampdown during its first hartal on November 15 against the BNP-led coalition government. The government, on the other

hand, has planned to deploy nearly 5.000 law-enforcers to maintain peace and discipline in the capital during the hartal hours. Paramilitary BDR would patrol the city roads.

Meanwhile, Dhaka Metropolitan Police on Monday night imposed a ban on processions wielding sticks and torches, firearms, explosives and other lethal weapons in the city until further directives.

In a joint statement, Acting President of the AL Abdus Samad Azad and Secretary General Zillur Rahman called upon the countrymen to make today's hartal a success. "This government has imposed additional burden on the people of the country by increasing fuel price by 20 per cent at a time when the global fuel price was at the lowest level," the statement said.

The public life became miserable as the government imposed additional tariff on electricity, gas, water and petroleum products, observed the joint statement.

The AL's front organisations have extended support to today's hartal.

by the defence side. The main opposition party had The prosecution side submitted called a half-day hartal on to the court that Sharier Kabir was November 15 in protest at atrocities detained in the interest of maintainon the Hindus as well as the AL ing communal harmony in the country.

Cases against ex-AL loss of Tk 20 crore (FIRs) to the PMO for scrutiny as per

seam and the mine's longevity.

a government decision. A lawyer scrutinised the files and made some minor changes in phrasing.

Allegations against Amu BAC inspector MA Majed filed a corruption case with the Ramna Police Station against former food minister Amir Hossain Amu. Amu has been accused of embezzling Tk 20 crore by procuring an additional two lakh tons of rice when there was an adequate stock.

On July 2 last year, a meeting of the food planning and monitoring committee observed that the country had a stock of four lakh tons of rice. When the minister proposed the additional procurement of two lakh tons. the former food secretary, high officials and former agriculture minister Motia Chowdhury termed it unnecessary.

But ignoring all opinions, the former food minister decided to push ahead with the procurement and signed the relevant documents on July 12.

On July 15, the last day of the AL "We will ask the Chinese delegagovernment, Amu instructed tion to import more of our nonthrough unofficial notes to issue 52 traditional items to level out the delivery orders for procurement of trade deficit," an informed official one lakh ton rice under his own quota as minister. He then ordered During the Chinese premier's the purchase of the government's visit, the date for the next quota of one lakh ton at a rate which is Tk 2 higher than market one. As a

BAC official Md Abdul Hai in a case filed with the Ramna Police Station accused that in order to

Nasim

'illegally award' a contract to the WorldTel to install three lakh telephones, Mohammad Nasim had appointed a private firm, Consosietes Ltd, the consultancy without any competitive bidding. Accordingly, the consultancy made 'fictitious' recommendations for the WorldTel, the lone bidder of the project, to 'make its financial proposal look lucrative'.

In reality, the project was awarded to the WorldTel without any competition. Although there was no fund for appointment of a consultant, Nasim appointed Consosietes to the post and made the WorldTel pay for the fee. So, while Consosietes was on the payroll of WorldTel, it was also given the task to evaluate the latter's financial proposal. This has damaged the country's interest, the FIR said.

Allegations against Rafiqul Islam Three cases were filed against Rafigul Islam

In a case filed with the Motijheel Police Station by BAC Inspector Mijanul Islam, former state minister for power Rafiqul Islam and seven others have been accused of graft in result, the government incurred a implementing two units of 70MW

Shahjibazar power plant. It has Allegations against Mohammad been alleged that due to their 'corruption', the country lost Tk 68.6 crore

ministers

In the 210MW Siddhirganj power plant 'scam', BAC Inspector ABM Abdus Sabur accused Rafig of misusing power in signing an unsolicited contract with a Russian company in connivance with former power secretary, PDB chairman and other officials. As a result, the state

A contract was signed with Russian Technopromp Export (TPE) at a price much higher than those of contemporary power plants and the accused persons gained personally from the deal, it has been alleged.

Zahid Hossain, Rafiq has been country

The government paid a Chinese

tion case filed by BAC Inspector Md accused of embezzling funds and causing US\$4.5 million in loss to the

contractor, CWHEC, Tk 141.65 crore for developing the project site of Meghnaghat phase 1 power plant. Although the task was completed as per specifications, the minister ignored the PDB's opinion and arranged an additional payment of \$4.5 million for remedial works on the project site.

incurred a loss of Tk 24.96 crore.

In the Meghnaghat site prepara-

Monday. Negotiations between an Afghan