Meghna tragedy

Hannan, a local resident helping

in the recovery operation.

Sacks full of turmeric, fruits, mostly banana, and current fishing net were seen entangled with the propeller and windows. The body of the master of the vessel was found inside the wheel bridge.

Meanwhile, two teams investigating the incident at the site yesterday started gathering information. One team is to recommend to the government on future measures to avert such incident, and the other to ascertain the cause of the capsize and to help file case with the marine

"We are here to recommend future safety measures. What we are looking into right now is were there any flaws in the design of the vessel, was it carrying enough life buoy and things like that," said B D Mitra, deputy secretary, the Ministry of Shipping, heading one of the

"There could be vital clues that may help us to suggest the

Judicial service

FROM PAGE 12 magistracy for last 200 years opposes the idea and is in favour of two separate judiciary services instead

The cabinet committee headed by Industries Minister MK Anwar would soon hold a meeting with the Administration Cadre before deciding on the issue. The Supreme Court has set a deadline of May 30 for the government to implement its 12-point instructions for virtual separation of judiciary.

LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan

Bhuiyan, Law Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Science and Information Technology Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan and Land Minister M Shamsul Islam were also present at the meeting.

The Judiciary Cadre leaders at yesterday's meeting recommended that the magistrates' absorption process in the unified judiciary service must be completed within a vear and then, in three to four vears the magistrates would have to be

Under this new system, the BCS Judiciary Cadre officials would carry out responsibilities of judicial magis-Presently magistracy is limited to Administration Cadre officials.

Separation of the judiciary should be done as per the constitu tion and the judgement of the Supreme Court, they said.

After the meeting, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed told reporters that the process of separation of judiciary would be completed within the

Bablu Sheikh, son of retired army

officer Habib Sheikh of Jhutishwari

village, is an armed cadre of BNP

leaders in Mollahat and father of the

alleged rapist had threatened

Nasrin not to lodge any case with

police, Zakir claimed. Later, on February 17, Nasrin

and Zakir filed a petition with

Bagerhat court. On an order from

the court, the OC of Mollahat thana

recorded the rape case on February

withdrawn following death threats

by relatives of the alleged rapists

and non-cooperation of the OC of

Mollahat. Relatives of the rapists

Monsur Molla are among several

others who forced me and my sister

to withdraw the case through an

affidavit in the Notary Public", he

abused even after the case was

withdrawn following the threats and

non- cooperation of the OC". Zakir

said explaining the reasons for

When asked, Bagerhat police

"My sister was slapped and

"BNP leaders Wahab Kazi and

Zakir alleged that the case was

24, accusing four persons

belong to BNP, he claimed.

After the incident, some BNP

local people said.

Nasreen: Case filed

policies of plying of passenger vessels and the safety measures," he added. Meanwhile, the Red Crescent provided some 500 metres of cloths for burial. Initially, the government had planned to bury all the bodies in Chandpur and

preparations were underway. But, the decision was changed

administration to avert spread of

disease from the decomposed bodies, however. "We have asked

for bleaching power to spray on the bodies but the district admin-

istration says it does not have funds to buy it," said a source.

Road accident

sparks protest

Students of Begum Badrunnessa

Government Women's College in

the city damaged a maxi and barri-caded the road in front of the college

protest against a road accident in which one of their teachers was

department, was injured when the

maxi hit her rickshaw near the

the vehicle and barricaded the road

Dhaka Medical College Hospital and later shifted to Suhrawadi

Hospital. Her condition was stated

said driver of the vehicle fled the

spot after the accident. A case was

whose brother-in-law, an ansar

commander, was found dead inside

the security room on the top deck of

One of the youngest victims was

one-year-old Nazmul found

clenching his mother's lap on the

lower deck of the vessel. Nazmul's

mother Nazma, aunt Sajeda and

uncle Zakir Hossain were also found

a fishing net inside the compart-

deck of the ferry -- and the lady

superintendent said legal action wil

be taken against those who forced

the raped school girl to withdraw the

case for which she committed

taken against the OC if he is found

Minister Prof Jahanara Begum,

Mayor of Raishahi Mizanur Rahman

Minu, Cabinet Secretary Dr Kama

Siddigui and other senior officials

accompanied the prime minister.

Foreign Secretary Shamsher M

Chowdhury has already left for New

leaders to evaluate how poverty

uneven growth in the world econ-

omy, and new types of violence as

well as crimes, perpetrated against

children, posed a major challenge to

new multi-pronged plan of action to

improve irreversibly the children's

condition through implementation of

take part in a side event to be organ-

ised to mark the special session

back in New York for some days.

Two kids from Bangladesh will

The prime minister is likely to stay

They are expected to finalise a

the international community.

'child specific strategies.'

The session will enable the world

guilty in any way, the SP said.

PM leaves

All of them were found tangled in

"They probably tried to escape

dead in the same compartment.

about eight hours yesterday in

Chandana, a teacher of Bangla

Agitated students then damaged

The injured teacher was sent to

The duty officer at Lalbagh thana

STAFF CORRESPODENT

eriously injured.

college at about 9 am.

till about 5 pm

Bizzare!

the sunken vessel.

FROM PAGE 1

There was no effort by the

women play an important role in Bangladesh and in the development of the nation economically, politically and socially. Women should be in a position to fully contribute within societies in ways which benefit society as a whole, she added.

imams to remember the important role that their wives, sisters and daughters play in building and supporting a strong nation, strong in religious faith as well as strong economically.

She said imams are the leaders respect for each other prevail."

'The message you spread-of peace and of justice -- is an imporambassador said.

disseminate ideas, learned from this training programme, throughout the country and work towards further development in Bang-

The state minister for religious affairs said 300 imams of six divisions were trained on human rights under the programme, sponsored by UNDP and another 50 imams from eight districts of northern region are taking part in the seventh week-long programme.

Terming imams as basic community leaders of society he said a conference of at least 2,000 imams would be held early next month to improve interaction among themselves and exchange views with government officials.

FROM PAGE 12

but got entrapped in the net," a eping Shafiqul said. An old lady was waiting for news of her son. At noon, the news came -Sunday. - he was found dead in the middle

Suman, 10, of village Char Jagabandhu under Ramgati upazila.

The badly affected unions are Mandari, Digoli and Hajirpara of Sadar upazila and Char

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society distributed clothes and other

relief materials among the victims. UNB adds: In Patuakhali, a youth was killed and his father injured as

Locals said Aslam, 22, died on the spot and his father Ful Mia, 55, boat in the Laukathi river here at

nospital.

damaged in the storm that also uprooted electric poles suspending electricity supply.

AL action

Mohammad Selim is spearheading a campaign for floating a new political party.

Earlier, just a month after the poll debacle the AI expelled 24 rebels on charge of running in the October polls defying the AL high command. Those expelled include AL Presidium member Dr Mohammad

In late last November, a joint meeting of the AL Presidium, Central Working Committee, and Advisory Council and the party lawmakers resolved to revamp the party and go tough against the

By the first week of December the AL sent letters to its grassroots leadership seeking lists of party men who worked against party interest. Accordingly, lists were sent to the party and show-cause notices

A close aide to the AL chief told The Daily Star recently that Hasina was dead against further delay in arriving at a decision about the

The issue of dissidents apart. today's ALCWC meeting would also assess the overall political and economic situation. Against the backdrop of alleged government repression on its political opponents and the rise in acts of rape and murder, the AL meeting is seen

However, it is unlikely that the meeting would discuss the issue of joining the parliament, which the 58 AL legislators have been boycotting since day one.

In an interview with a Bengali weekly in New York. Sheikh Hasina has dismissed talks with the government on the issue of her party's joining the parliament. "There is no question of holding talks with a government whose cadres have raped my daughters," Hasina was quoted as saying.

She also called for a stop to repression' and filing of 'false cases' against her party men.



PHOTO: STAR

Jalal and Nurul Islam, two alleged criminals, arrested with firearms yesterday at Mogoltuli in Chittagong.

3 abducted in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A group of tribal gunmen abducted three people from Perachara Giriful area in the town Saturday night.

The kidnap victims were identified as Binoy Shankar Chakma, 35 Polang Chakma, 32, and Bakul Bikash Chakma, 45, according to police sources.

Police and armed forces raided some houses in the area following the abduction.

Condemning the abduction in a press release, the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) accused the Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) of the abduction and demanded immediate arrest of the abductors. Meanwhile, police are yet to

know the cause behind the killing of the Hindu priest at Manikchhari. Six persons arrested so far in this connection are still in jail. A group of criminals who are

involved in extortion, murder and various other criminal activities in the hill tract area are still at large. On the other hand, the

Manikchhari chapter of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) in a statement has protested press reports that have indicated JCD's involvement in the murder of the Hindu priest.

ered France," said Socialist Party

17.92 per cent votes, only slightly

above the first-round score, the

result was a severe disappointment,

signalling a failure to break out of the

core vote he achieved on April 21

but he blamed it on "Soviet-style

methods". The 73-year-old prom-

ised to lead his party to success in

all methods of exerting influence -

were at the service of the same

cause - this great honest man who

everyone was calling 'super liar' a

remarkable victory for a man who

has been the butt of criticism and

Chirac's re-election represents a

short time ago," he said.

"All the television, radio, press

parliamentary elections in June.

leader Francois Hollande.

neadquarters

vindictive.'

Raozan yesterday morning.

France's far-right fear over sent them to jail, sources said.

Ganges water FROM PAGE 12 For the FN leader, who garnered

recorded flow as per the accord. The joint committee was set up nvoking a clause of the Indo-Bangladesh water treaty.

Bangladesh faced an acute shortage in 1997 and some shortage last vear.

Although Dhaka has called for a review of the provisions of the water accord signed on December 12 1996, experts in the field are yet to identify what aspects to review. The treaty provides for a review after every five-year period.

Ctg BIT closed FROM PAGE 12 been deployed on the campus.

Shaymol Kanti Biswas, director of the institute, was not available for

comment. A tense situation is prevailing in areas adjoining the campus as

activists of ICS and JCD took position there after vacating the dormitories, campus sources said.

3 Raozan 'criminals'

chargesheetd in a case.

violence

FROM PAGE 1

students in frustration.

recruitment process.

According to the SP's report, thana BNP convenor Hasan

Chowdhury has three criminal cases against him. Jubo Dal leader

Rezaur Rahim Azam alias Kura

Azam has four cases, Billal has

three cases and Taiyab and Abbas

have one each against them . Abu

Hanif alias Champaiya has been

were related with post-election

and Champaiya, who were also

sanpped among others with the

nome minister, were seen at yester-

day's press conference.

Kura Azam and Billal are still

members of Raozan Upazila Law

and Order Committee, sources

PSC chairman

Recruitment through the PSC

which remained suspended since

October last, was expected to start

after the appointment of the chair-

man. But the long delay in appoint-

ment delayed the civil service

On October 30 last, the govern-

ment suspended the recruitment

through the Bangladesh Civil

and repression in Raozan.

Most of the cases against them

Hasan Chowdhury, Kura Azam

police (SP) Matiur Rahman yesterday sent a report to Additional IGP Anwarul Islam about political identity, present status and criminal record of some notorious elements of Raozan. They were among those

who accompanied the home minis-

ter during the visit. Meanwhile, a faction of Raozan thana BNP, known to be loyal to Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury and Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury, organised a press conference at the Press Club here vesterday to protest some reports and photographs published in different dailies. They termed those 'baseless', 'false' and

Some alleged criminals, several cases against whom are now under investigation and whose names were included in the SP's report, were also seen present at the press conference.

Raozan police called Billal to the thana saying that the Officer-incharge (OC) would talk with him on Sunday night. As Billal arrived there, the OC on some plea took him to the SP, where he was shown arrested.

Omar Faruk was arrested by Raozan police from the upazila

on the same night while Taiyab was nabbed from Jalilnagar area in

The three were produced before court here yesterday and the court

Service (BCS) examinations. The situation worsened with the

expiry of the tenure of Prof. Mostafa Chowdhury. The government failed to appoint any person to the post despite its heady search for a suitable person, sources said.

A number of names came to the limelight and discussed before Prof. Tahmida Begum was made chairman yesterday. The government considered Abdullah Harun Pasha, former secretary to the Election Commission (EC), and Anisul Haq Chowdhury, secretary to the Economic Relations Department (ERD), for the post. However, they ere later dropped from the list.

Sources said suspension of recruitment and long absence of a chairman caused serious backlog in the PSC. Recruitment through the PSC will resume after completion of the BCS examinations of 21st, 22nd and 23rd batches, they added.

Announcement of the 24th BCS examinations scheduled for January would also be announced soon, they said.

But due to the suspension on recruitment, hundreds of job seekers have lost their eligibility for

New cabinet secretary

FROM PAGE 1

November 23 next year.

Sources said there has been strong lobbying both in favour of and against Dr Sadat since former cabinet secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan went on retirement on April 1.

After the retirement, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr Kamal Uddin Siddigui was given the additional charge of cabinet secre-

The sources said some senior secretaries had strongly opposed the appointment of Dr Sadat, but senior ministers in the cabinet favoured it.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Bangladesh Secretariat sources said senior ministers advised the prime minister to immediately appoint a cabinet secretary. as the administration has been stagnant in last one month.

PMO sources said the social welfare secretary was asked to take over, but he declined and suggested some fresh names, including a new

Official sources said the PMO then pressed a newly promoted secretary, who has been performing better than the senior secretaries, to take over the charge, but he The sources alleged that the

senior secretaries took the move to have the new secretary appointed to the home ministry apparently to prove him a flop. The new secretary, who is now posted in a vital ministry, was one of the worst victims of politics during the previous Awami

opposed the move to transfer the new secretary to the home ministry.

minister to immediately ensure promotion to the post of joint secretary. The PM asked the authorities concerned to take urgent steps for promotion on the basis of merit and

reshuffle is expected immediately after the national budget next

The military government

announced her release in Washington overnight, promising

It was her second long stretch under detention, after she endured six years of house arrest beginning in 1989, the year after she returned from Britain and took up the dissident cause.

Over the next decade she

The government said in a statenational unity".

detainees in recent months and shall continue to release those who will cause no harm to the community, nor threaten the existing peace. stability and unity of the nation," it

national community in the fight against terrorism and "total eradica-

over the past 18 months in the talks brokered by UN envoy Razali

Aung San Suu Kyi said the historic dialogue has progressed past an initial confidence-building stage and will now begin to tackle

policy issues. "The authorities have said we look forward moving to a more significant stage of the talks," she said, adding that they would begin to tackle concerns like the failing

World leaders hailed the release as a step towards democracy, and Japan, the country's top aid donor,

vowed to provide further support if Yangon accelerated the reform process. However, Yangon diplomats were cautious, saying the ruling

"It might be the start of a new era

AL: Parliament

Nasrin's suicide

said.

session begins to decide what to do, The main opposition, which has won only 58 seats in the October 1

because of continued government repression on opposition activists, torture on religious and ethnic minorities, harassment of senior AL

leaders in the form of sedition

Publication of white papers on alleged grafts and irregularities by ministers and AL leaders during the tenure of the previous government has only toughened the main opposition's stand on parliament boycott said an influential AL leader.

activities as corruption only to discredit the opposition and divert public attention from its own mis-

Political analysts believe that the

AL lawmakers will make a token participation in parliament at least for a day to protect their membership as, according to constitutional provisions, abstention from parliament for 90 sitting days straight

renders a seat vacant. The 90-day timeframe would expire during the budget session for

has decided to resign en masse from the parliament in protest at, what they term, the government-

Parliament Sheikh Hasina, now on a private visit to the United States of America, has raised a series of issues for the government to solve before her party goes back to the parliament

SQ Chowdhury, meanwhile, did not rule out the possibility of a meeting between Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. scheduled to leave for the US last night, and the opposition leader in New York.

"If necessary, the government will have to go some extra miles" in sustaining parliamentary democracy for which both the leading parties struggled a lot, he said.

representation in parliamentary

standing committees on ministries

Institutional Development of Human Rights in Bangladesh (IDHRB) Project KM Hoque and Director of Imam Training Academy of the foundation Abdus Salam Khan Pathan also addressed the occa-

Mary Ann Peters called upon the

of their communities at the grassroot level. "You are in the best position to show by your words, your

integrity in private and public, of tant one for Bangladesh, for South Asia and for the world," the US

Nor'wester

n the storm that lashed three unions of Sadar and Ramgati upazilas on

The victim was identified as

Jagabandhu of Ramgati upazila.

about 12:30 pm.

Some 500 thatched houses were

FROM PAGE 1

Selim and other district leaders.

'betrayers'. served on them.

show-caused party men.

the FIR. MAH Selim MP and Sheikh Mujibar were granted ad interim bail by the High Court. sion left Mollahat yesterday eve-

colours, and the world has rediscov-Of capacity 'unlimited'

tragedy, the deputy director of the

BIWTA and the officer-in-charge at

Republique, accompanied by his wife Bernadette. "France has

refused to give in to the temptation

Earlier on national television, he

promised to use his victory to bring

rance together after the trauma of

Le Pen's breakthrough. "I have

heard and I understand your call for

the republic to live, for the nation to

in which a nation, shocked out of

inertia by Le Pen's surprise first-

round triumph, staged a series of

public demonstrations not seen

since May 1968 to condemn his

isolationist and xenophobic policies.

was larger than expected and a

record for French presidential

The scale of Chirac's triumph

Immediately hailed as a massive

endorsement by the president's

supporters, it also allowed the

French left, which had urged sup-

porters to vote for Chirac after the

The victory followed two weeks

rally together."

elections.

of intolerance and demagoguery."

the launch capsize was 'nothing but "The tragedy happened perhaps cause of the twister, but it is now established that the vessel was carrying even more passengers than the permissible capacity," said

Association. On condition of anonymity, he said nobody at the terminals cared about how much cargo a vessel is loading directly from large country

boats into its hull. When an accident takes place there is no way to check how many passengers boarded the vessel or how much cargo it is carrying because there is no accountability whatsoever at the departure or

Kıbrıa

budget consultation with his predecessors on May 4 that Awami League managed the economy badly leading to huge budget deficit

Kibria said he was worried seeing that government borrowing sharply increased despite drastic cut in the ADP. "I'm concerned to know that there has been an unusual rise in borrowing from the Bangladesh Bank," he said, apprehending that borrowing from the central bank would generate inflationary pressure.

Replying to the reference of his name in the "White Paper" in connection with rescheduling of loan, Kibria recalled some decisions might have been taken at that time by the banking division to help the jute traders overcome losses. But the idea of "my helping any individual trader is not only a figment of someone's fertile imagination, but a preposterous lie, Kibria said.

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman, while discussing budget issues with ex-finance ministers and bureaucrats on May 4, noted that budget deficit would amount to as high as Tk 40.000 crore and interest payment for domestic borrowing would eat up over 23 per cent of the total revenue expenditures.

the CID. Police have so far arrested only seven of the accused named in end of the fiscal year. Kibria has said budget deficit could be tamed in next two to three

ernment had that vision.

hour electricity rate, port charges and bank and insurance charges and to make the port efficient to make the apparel sector competitive in the international market, it

It also urged the finance and commerce ministers to give 15 per cent cash incentive to the apparel sector till 2005 The BTMA is unhappy as the government slashed the cash

incentive for the textile sector to 15 per cent from the previous 25 per cent. Incentives will be reduced by five per cent every year before the facility turns zero in June 2005. The Bangladesh Finished Leather and Leather Goods Exporters' Association (BFLLEA) welcomed the increase in cash subsidy for the sector from 10 per

ers from availing themselves of the The BFLLEA will sit today to

Salauddin Ahmed, president of the BFFEA, termed the government decision a good one, but said very few exporters would be benefited by the measures.

will not get the benefit," he said.

most of the frozen food exporters would not be benefited by it.

FROM PAGE 12
Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman is scheduled to place the new budget of over Tk 42.000 crore amidst resource constraints, which the finance minister blamed on the previous AL government's economic mismanagement

Saifur, who placed the highest number of budgets in the country, told a seminar in the capital earlier this week that the financial year should be advanced to March or Meanwhile, the AL is yet to confirm its joining the House, but

opposition to attend the forthcoming session, though briefly. Otherwise, the AL lawmakers would lose their seats due to their absence for 90 consecutive working days of the parliament. However, the AL leadership continued saying that they could not ioin the parliament unless the government ensured a congenia

political atmosphere. AL chief and Leader of the Opposition in the parliament Sheikh Hasina asked the government on Sunday to stop persecution' on opposition activists. withdraw 'political cases' against her party men and settle other disputed issues for her party to join the parliament.

League regime. A number of senior ministers also

Earlier on Sunday, the prime minister had a lengthy meeting with all secretaries and took a number of important decisions, including immediate implementation of the promotion of the officials due for long and appointment to vacant

competence.

Another major administrative

Suu Kyi released

FROM PAGE 1 said, referring to the country by its former name.

a "new page" in the history of the nation which has been mired in a 12-year political deadlock between the junta and Aung San Suu Kyi, the daughter of Myanmar's founder father, General Aung San.

became an icon of democracy in a country considered a pariah regime by Western governments who imposed sanctions to protest its human rights abuses and tolerance of the narcotics trade.

ment that it would now take a series of steps to "celebrate this day of "We have released nearly 600

The statement said Myanmar

would work together with the inter-

threatening mankind".

economy and the need for foreign

generals would now have to prove they were serious about dismantling military rule.

but we will have to wait and see,' said one diplomat.

The AL Parliamentary Party will nevertheless meet before the

general elections, has been boycotting the Sangsad since its It claims that the atmosphere is not conducive to join the parliament

The government has so far not taken any effective step to break the deadlock. Instead members of the treasury bench have hurled blistering remarks at top AL leaders in the last two session of the parliament. In doing so, the ruling party lawmakers, including some ministers, have often violated parliament rules and conventions.

and chairmanship of some vital He claimed that the ruling BNP committees. was branding the AL's development

the AL lawmakers. Meanwhile, the main opposition

sponsored repression Leader of the Opposition in

Chowdhury said the government would actively consider the opposition proposal for proportionate

US envoy

The US Ambassador said

deeds, your example the citizens of this country that its future is best assured when tolerance and

She called upon the imams to

houses were completely damaged

nor'wester hit the district yesterday.

Ful Mia was admitted to Sadar

benches, the space required for each passenger is 1.5 feet. At the busiest launch terminal of Sadarghat, there is only one inspector of the Department of Shipping

France.

Jospin's defeat

Without a victory in the legislative

election. Chirac will find his second

term reduced to the same degree of

powerlessness that he suffered

during the last five years of "cohabi

The choice of Raffarin was

interpreted as a signal that the

president acknowledges the mas-

sive turnout by normally hostile left-

wing voters to ensure his re-

A Chirac loyalist and vice-

president of the free-market party

Liberal Democracy (DL), Raffarin is

a consensual figure with a less

ideological profile than his main rival

for the job, former budget minister

Nicolas Sarkozy. Earlier on Sunday, flag-waving

crowds braved cold rain to take to

the streets of Paris to celebrate

Chirac's triumph -- and the humilia-

tion of the National Front (FN)

leader, who said Friday he would

regard a vote of less than 30 per

cent a defeat for himself and for

Republic," Chirac said at a brief

appearance at the Place de la

carrying at least 400 passengers, if

not more, because there were

Chief Engineer and Ship

Surveyor of the Department of

Shipping Mohammad Motiur

Rahman said that there must be a

four square feet space for each

passenger of the daytime vessel.

But the nighttime vessel must have

a space of six square feet for each

passenger. The law says that if the

vessel is fitted with chairs and

passengers even on the rooftop.

"Tonight we are celebrating the

tation" with Jospin's Socialists.

and three inspectors of the BIWTA, said the chief engineer. "No matter how many passengers the vessel carries, it never crosses the load line marking engraved on its body in the front," he

The chief engineer, however,

admitted that on special occasions

like Fid-ul-Azha and Puia, overload-

ing crosses the danger line. With only one inspector for 100 departures from Sadarghat, it is almost impossible for him to check every vessel, he added. But river transport workers at Sadarghat said it is an everyday practice by the launches to carry more passengers than their capacity. Usually, the vessel operators justify the illegal practice on the pretext that they were carrying less cargo aboard. One transport worker said the officials of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) and of the Department of Shipping stationed at

the terminals ignore the unscrupu-

lous practice of overcrowding on a

hefty monthly payment by the

Mollahat blast

vessel owners. A day after the MV Salahuddin-2

Mollahat thana naming 169 persons as accused including MAH Selim MP and BNP leader Sheikh Muiibar Rahman. Both of them contested against Helal from Bagerhat-1 and 2 constituencies in the last October 1 parliamentary elections. Helal defeated Sheikh Mujibar Rahman in Bagerhat-1 but lost to MAH Selim in Bagerhat-2. The case was later transferred to

Members of the judicial commis-

resist the approaches of investigatfirst-round defeat of Socialist Prime ing magistrates, it means he can Minister Lionel Jospin, to claim defer for another five years the victory as its own. "France has rediscovered its moment when he has to testify before the courts.

the Sadarghat terminal said with vehemence that there were less than 200 passengers aboard and

a member of the Launch Owners'

arrival level

FROM PAGE 12

and left a fragile economy.

Budge deficit, he feared, would go up to 8 per cent of the GDP at the

years and the 2001-02 budget framed by the Awami League gov-

ridicule after being named in a series of corruption scandals during his time as mayor of Paris. After successfully claiming presidential immunity in 2001 to

Mixed reactions FROM PAGE 1 have been steps to reduce pick-

cent to 15 per cent. But the association said the conditions related to duty-bond and duty-drawback

facilities will leave out many exportreview the incentives.

"Currently, 90 per cent of exporters do not export frozen foods in consumer packs and as such they 'The incentive would have very little impact on the sector," he said. Golam Mostafa, former president of the BFFEA, said the incen-

tive may encourage corruption and

JS budget

chances are there for the main

posts. The secretaries urged the prime

tion of narcotic drugs which are Myanmar observers expected Aung San Suu Kyi's release to be only part of a much broader reconciliation framework negotiated