Shell, Petrobangla

third party mediator since they could not agree over each other's point of

According to a Shell high official, since Shell-Cairn began supplying Sangu gas in mid-1998, Petrobangla began deducting eight per cent of the oil companies' monthly bill as charge for their using eight kilometre of the local gas pipeline for the gas supply.

Shell-Cairn argued that the eight per cent deduction was exorbitant and unacceptable. It asked Petrobangla to 'rationalise' the pipeline rental charges, which Petrobangla did not agree with. The oil companies then sought international mediation.

The oil companies calculated that through the deduction Petrobangla has 'deprived' them \$38 million in payment.

Shell-Cairn was contractually obligated to set up this pipeline. But to fulfil the prime obligation for meeting the deadline for Sangu gas production, the oil companies launched their gas production using

the local pipeline belonging to the Bakhrabad Gas Transmission

John Burns, the consultant, also ave an opinion on another allegation of Shell Oil that Petrobangla has violated an agreement by not purchasing 160 million cubic feet per day (mmcfd) of gas. It said Petrobangla purchased around 128 mmcfd gas, and in the process slowed down Shell's recovery of

Power failure

FROM PAGE 12

Development Board (PDB) said there was a shortage of power generation as two units at Ghorashal Power Plant were 'down' due to overhauling of one and emergency maintenance of another.

"Despite the possibility of additional generation of power, the situation is unlikely to improve shortly due to lack of infrastructural capacity of DESA," an official said. He said PDB is likely to add 210

MW from one the two units now 'down' from tomorrow.

Agitated CU students

Of them, Murad was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) and four others were given first aid at different city clinics. The injured railway personnel were admitted to the Railway Hospital

Different students organizations in separate statements condemned police action on the students. BCL in its statement also alleged

that during the barricade some Shibir activists attacked the students taking sticks from policemen According to witnesses, the CU-

bound shuttle train having six compartments left Chittagong railway station at 7.20am yesterday Panchlaish thana police, how-

ever, denied any action against the No arrest was made following the

incident, police said. Meanwhile, the general students of Chittagong University (CU) called

for an indefinite siege programme on the campus protesting police action on the agitating students following a shuttle-train accident. The students under the banner of 'Sadharan Chhatra Parishad' called

for the siege programme here yesterday (Tuesday). The students became agitated as police swooped on them while they were demanding renovation of the rail tracks.

Witnesses said, police clubbed several students while they (students) were putting up barricades

Witnesses further said, police reportedly backed by a faction of

JCD, kicked three general students. Chittagong University syndicate was holding an emergency meeting to review the situation. The meeting was going on till filing of this report at

Earlier, the students put up a barricade on Chittagong-Rangamati-Khagrachhari road at

University Gate No. 1. The barricades were withdrawn following an assurance by Pro-VC Mohammad Shamsuddin to provide the students with ten buses to carry them to and from Sholoshahar

sity station within seven days. Meanwhile, Chittagong niversity Teacher's Association (CUTA) expressed grave concern over the derailment of train, leaving some students injured.

Rawshan Jamil

FROM PAGE 12 Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote expressed deep shock at the death of Rawshan Jamil and prayed for

salvation of the departed soul. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has expressed her deep shock at the

death of artiste Rawshan Jamil. In a condolence message from New York yesterday Khaleda said Rawshan Jamil played a vital role in the country's cultural movement.

Paying glowing tributes to Rawshan Jamil, the prime minister said the nation lost a prominent personality at her death

She prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family.

In a separate message, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuivan also condoled the death of Rawshan Jamil.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina expressed deep shock at the death of renowned artiste Rawshan Jamil.

The opposition leader conveyed her sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

60 injured FROM PAGE 1

different hospitals.

constable Niazul, 35, Arefin, 30, Sultan, 38, and Rabi. 42.

Of the injured, Taju Mia, 45. Jakir. 28, Alamgir, 30, Sabed Ali, 40, Moiibor, 40, Riazuddin, 35, Alam 32, Siraj, 30, Shahjahan, 33, Kabir, 22 Riazul. 28. Saieda Begum, 35. Noor Begum, 32, Halemun Begum, 45. Din Islam, 27. Shimul, 30. Mohiuddin 35 Mokhter 28 Mona

Mia. 35. Tamijuddin. 38. Rasu. 7.

and Safia. 5, were admitted to

Railway Station area. The Pro-VC also assured that measures would be taken to renovate the rail tracks upto the univer-

Govt-backed criminals killed Siddartha Sarker: Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina accused governmentbacked armed criminals of killing Tejgaon College Chhatra League leader Siddhartha Sarker.

BNP-Jamaat government brutally murdered him in a preplanned way," she said in a statement yesterday.

arrest and exemplary punishment to the killers of Sarker, general secreon Sunday night.

assuming power through a rigged election on October 1 last year, created a reign of terror in the coun-

"But Awami League's forward march cannot be halted by unleashing such killings, attacks, rapes and tion government.

alliance led by Khaleda Zia was perpetrating repressive acts on the leaders and workers of Awami League and its front organisations across the country.

chief in a condolence message expressed deep shock at the death of valiant freedom fighter and secretariat member of Muktijoddha Command Council Maj (Retd) Golam Mowla "We have lost a real freedom

fighter and the loss is irreparable," she said and prayed for salvation of the departed soul

sympathy to the bereaved family members.

Spice tonic FROM PAGE 1

in the run up to and in between games," said the FA's marketing director Paul Barber on Tuesday. 'Sitting around waiting to play or

train can often increase the players nerves, but we now have ammunition to keep players entertained and relaxed throughout the entire cam-

sports psychologist, the FA and a number of players. It also includes a Japanese

Gladiator and The Great Escape. and music by Robbie Williams. World Cup group F along with Argentina, Sweden and Nigeria.

They play Sweden in their opening game on June 2 in Saitama.

Graft case

FROM PAGE 1

quashed the case after hearing the arguments of the prosecution and

corruption in the appointment of SIs. The age limit of the SIs was relaxed during the appointment since the government had canceled the appointment of 227 SIs during the

Advocate Khandakar Mahbubuddin of the defence also came up with same argument.

is facing one more corruption case regarding the purchase of an Airbus.

War games

FROM PAGE 12

'This offer was a splendid act of solidarity with the American people at a time of urgent need," she told Indian business leaders in a speech that did not touch on India's relations with Pakistan.

"South Asia is a key front in the global war on terrorism," she said. Dismantling the structure of extremism and terror must go hand in hand with addressing and eliminating its root causes.

Indian defense Minister George Fernandes said India did not plan to attack Pakistan, despite provocation, at least until after elections in which are expected in September.

be disrupted at any cost," The New York Times quoted Fernandes as saying, in its yesterday's editions. He is the only senior Indian official to publicly say there will be no early military action. India's Defense Ministry issued

its annual report Monday in which it said there had been no letup in the infiltration of Pakistan-based militants across the cease-fire line that divides Kashmir.

"Pakistan has been found to be an epicentre of Islamic fundamentalism and her actions (have) added a new dimension to statesponsored terrorism," the Defense Ministry report said.

The report said Pakistan is the primary source for arms to Kashmiri militants and that Islamabad was continuing with its policy of sponsoring terrorism in other parts of

Murky way to millions

readers of Titas, but they can do little. They cannot be punished, tried or even reprimanded.

However, not all metre readers hog the limelight. In fact, some 20 of them are big shots. Mahbubur Rahman is 'one proud son' of Titas.

he and his family was to board a Singapore-bound plane with a man. However, police could not detain him for long as a top political leader intervened. The police are yet to take any

action against him. Titas gas made a futile attempt to do something about him by forming an investigation committee. The committee members were however nominated by Mahbub himself! The Daily Star probed Rahman's

career and the source of his immense wealthhe owns one building and the land on which it is built and two flats in Purana Paltan in the city, two industries and a car. He has had a Titas gas jeep assigned to him full time.

the fortune simply by tampering gas metres of the industries located in Narayanganj, Munshiganj and Narsingdi areas. "He gets gas bills reduced to a

ridiculous level by helping the unscrupulous industries clock back the meter. And, he gets 'handsome commissions' from the industry owners." said a source. That's not all -- he also provides

by-pass connections to industries in return for 'heavy commissions'.

Mahbub so powerful that the Titas gas authorities do not want to bother him. He is the Vice-President of the Titas Gas Jativatabadi Sramik Union and tells people that he is very close to a BNP policymaker. When he was arrested on April

27, an assistant of the said BNP policymaker called the police and asked them to release him. Previously on February 6, the Narayanganj thana police arrested him on criminal charges. Again, he was released on the same day due to political intervention.

Mahbub often goes abroad, his

Chargesheeted FROM PAGE 12

involved in illegally allowing the other accused Ashok Kumar Bishwas to participate in the 20th BCS examinations, under the quota for "tribal people" producing fake documents. Ashok allegedly submitted papers showing him as a son of tribal people. The four accused also helped

Ashok to get the post of assistant commissioner, the FIR said.

Kafrul thana, it has been alleged that four of the accused were involved in illegally allowing the other accused, Nabirul Islam, to participate in the 20th BCS examinations under the 'freedom fighters' children, quota, producing false documents. Nabirul Islam allegedly submitted papers showing him as a son of freedom fighter although his The four accused also helped

Nabirul Islam to get the post of district cooperative officer, the FIR The Bureau of Anti-Corruption

(BAC) filed the cases with Kafrul Police on December 11 last year accusing the five persons.

A little-known rebel group called

al-Mansoorain claimed responsibil-

ity for yesterday's attack in a tele-

phone call to the NAFA news

agency in Kashmir's summer capital

But an army official alleged it was

the work of Jaish-e-Mohammad, a

hardline movement blamed in part

by India for the parliament attack.

The group, known for suicide bomb

ings, was later banned by Pakistan.

could not be ascertained, but it is

believed they are from Jaish-e-

Mohammad," Major General Mohan

Pandey, who commands the 26th

from Himachal Pradesh state en

opened indiscriminate fire in the bus

and lobbed a grenade," Pandey

The militants had boarded a bus

"At 6:10 am local time, they

Seven bus passengers, four of

A guard at a nearby army camp

them women, were killed in the bloodbath at Kaluchak, some 15

kilometers south of Jammu, he said.

spotted three guerillas as they ran

out of the bus and opened fire on

them. One rebel was killed, but the

others sneaked into the army

camp's residential quarter, where

they began shooting at soldiers'

from inside, but the militants tried to

open the doors and were shooting at

rockets at a nearby house where the

militants were believed to have

taken refuge. The operation was

over by 10:00 am (0430 GMT) with

women and children, as the bulk of

the soldiers had been deployed to

the disputed border with Pakistan.

The army camp mostly housed

The buildings were devastated

all three rebels dead, Pandey said.

The army retaliated by firing

the family members," Pandey said.

"Some of them bolted their doors

family members, officials said.

infantry, told AFP.

route to Jammu

'The identities of the militants

trators."

Srinagar.

last trip in December took him to New Zealand. The passport seized by the immigration authorities had about a dozen visas

Mahbub recently applied to the Titas authorities for gas connection to his industry named Sarkar Chemicals. He is now moving the files himself.

Previously its name was Century Chemicals, an industrial unit officially owned by his wife and father. But as the industry defaulted on payment of gas bills worth Tk 1.5 crore to Titas, he renamed it. The authorities are even not trying to recover the outstanding. A high official of Titas, on condi-

tion of anonymity, told The Daily Star that there were more than one such 'Mahbub" in Titas who have greatly 'contributed' to an all time high level of systems loss. According to the latest report, systems loss in Titas in January stood at 12.05 per cent -highest since its inception. The official said everyday these

metre readers steal gas worth half a crore taka. And. Titas is sinking now. According to a government estimate, everyday gas worth Tk 48 lakh is being pilfered. A task force has been set up to resist such pilferage. But none is co-operating with the task force fearing the wrath of powerful, corrupt leaders like Mahbub.

When The Daily Star reached Mahbub over his cell phone and asked him vesterday what he has to say about the corruption charges, he denied those. "Most gas theft takes place in the Narayanganj zone. The government has formed a task force in this regard and I am helping it. As many are being affected by the probe of the task force, they are spreading rumours against me," quipped Mahbub.

Asked how he amassed so much wealth, he said, "My forefathers had businesses. I did not have my Titas job for sometime. During that time, I was did a business.'

"I don't own a car," he said when asked about the expensive car. When it was pointed out to him that his wife owns it. Mahbub retorted. "Why ask me then?"

When asked why he frequently travels abroad, he said, "I was thrown off the Titas Bhaban's third floor in 1992 and was injured. I am still suffering from that injury. I have to go abroad for treatment."

Asked why he identifies himself as a businessman in the passport. he said. "Can I not do business?"

When questioned why he works as a metre reader since he is well-off he said, "How long have I been with Titas? I joined Titas in 1987, and I could not work for 11 years due to termination and injury. The present government has given me the job back... I don't want to work here Everyone is conspiring against me.

The Daily Star also found that all the property has been acquired over the last three or four years although Mahbub says he inherited those. He also said he has been doing business for five years.

Real name: Mahbubur Rahman Passport name: Bhuiyan Mahbubul Alam (passport number: K2/184/. profession business Father's name: Abdus Salek

Permanent address: Village-Kararchar Post office- Kararchar High School, Upazilla- Shibpur, District-Narsingdi

Present address: Eastern Eden Flat-1/401, 3/A Purana Paltan

Matir Moina banned

Career: Joined Titas as Junior

Meter Reader (code-771-08233) on

Suspended in April 23, 1996

Current pay scale Tk 3,735

Terminated in March 12, 1998

Reinstated in November 24,

Four katha land with a three-storey

four-unit building in 72, Rasulpur,

A 1400 square feet flat in Eastern

Eden, 1/401, 3/A Purana Paltan

A 2000 square feet flat, centrally

air conditioned, in 3B Purana

Industry: Messrs Cotton Touch

Kararchar Shibpur (On paper his

Industry: Messrs Sarkar

Chemicals, Kararchar, Shibpur

(On paper the father, wife and

Car: Toyota Corolla (Number:

Ga-14-1031. Registration

address: Mrs. Afroza Khanam

(wife of Mahbub), 3/1 Purana

Paltan. Dated February 13,

Jeep: Dhaka Metro Gha-02-

3098, owned by Titas but illegally

used full time by Mahbub. After

office hours, the ieep is often

kent at Mahbub's residence

BNP activist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

BNP activist was stabbed to death

allegedly by his rivals in Natun Bazar

Babuganj upazila on Monday night.

nesses. Nasir, 40, was stabbed by a

gang of ten while he was returning

been killed by his rivals over a dis-

pute on supplying construction

materials for under-construction

Doarika-Shikarpur village on Dhaka-

accused in several cases, police

2 garment factory

A bus carrying the workers of a

garment factory overturned at

Polashbari on Nabinagar-Kaliakoir

road in Savar yesterday killing two

Bilkis, 21, died on the spot and 20

other workers of Dada Bangladesh

injuries as the bus overturned while

it was trying to overtake another bus

ted to Gono Shyastha Kendra. The

bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical

College Hospital morgue for

Fifteen of the injured were admit-

Police said Rokeya, 22, and

workers killed

in bus mishap

Nasir was a listed criminal and

Police said Nasir might have

home. He died on the spot.

Barisal road.

UNB, Gazipur

female workers.

at about 7.45 am.

According to police and wit-

South Rakudia under

murdered

in Barisal

Paltan (used for his business)

father and wife own it)

another person own it)

2000)

Present position: Presently

May 23, 1987

Property

deputed in Narayanganj

Tareque Masud, who grew up in a village and was educated in a madrassah, in the backdrop of the rising mass movement of the late sixties.

"I made the movie as a fellow Muslim and wanted to inform people about the life in a madrassah that has both strict and liberal teachers, director Tareque Masud told The Daily Star late April

But on May 9, the Film Censor Board (FCB) of the Ministry of Information in a letter to Tareque Masud said the film should not be projected in the public as it contains materials religiously sensitive. The letter said the film's prayer

for censor certificate has been cancelled under the Section of FCB Code 16(5). It, however, said an appeal for further consideration could be submitted Director Taregue Masud and Producer Katherine Masud are now

on a visit to France. Tareque was notified about the FCB's refusal to issue certificate. Tareque and Katherine will appeal for reconsideration of the FCB's decision, the sources said. Information Secretary Mirza

Tosaddak Hossain Beg meanwhile told the BBC Bangla service that there would be no problem, if the film is screened at the Cannes festival.

"I did not find anything objectionable that could hurt religious sentiments," a member of the censor board, who watched the film during its first screening on May 27, told The Daily Star.

During the first screening, eight board members watched the film. Six members suggested that the film be released uncut, one refrained from commenting on it and the other gave a note of dissent for verification of recitation of the verses from the holy Qur'an in the

Later, the board decided that the

film must be screened before the full board. However, the board did not take any step to re-screen it. Information Minister Torigul Islam, Secretary Mirza Tosaddak Hossain Beg, Vice-Chairman of the FCB, Director General of the Film Development Board and other officials on Monday watched the

The film was placed before the FCB on April 21 for certificate, sources said

Meanwhile, the film has received remendous response from the French media and film critics at the Cannes. They praised the film for depicting Bangladesh as a land of religious tolerance and tremendous cultural diversity. Contrary to the image of Bangladesh, as recently portrayed by a section of western media, the film depicts Bangladeshi society as a liberal Muslim one, they observed.

The movie has been acclaimed for its technical excellence at the Cannes Film Festival, the sources

Bhomra

Sources said police were deployed to ensure security in the port area. Offices of all departments at the port were kept shut yesterday,

customs officials said. After reviewing the situation, the National Board of Revenue (NBR), the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Establishment directed the authorities to suspend border

trade in the port indefinitely. The widow of the nearby Luxmidari village (name withheld) in a confessional statement to the magistrate accused Habibur Rahman Habi of forcing her to be photographed with the customs superintendent the same night.

Habibur Rahman Habi was backed by the local lawmaker and an armed gang, she alleged.

Next Indian president

Congress Party headed by Sharad Pawar and Javalalitha-led AIADMK (ruling Tamil Nadu state) if a contest becomes unavoidable. Yet, NDA last week authorised

Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee

to work out a consensus on

Presidential choice. Vaipavee has already begun consultations. Among the names that are still doing rounds are Narayanan and Krishan Kant, the present Vice President. The latest name to join the buzz is P C Alexander, a close

aide of late Prime Ministers Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi and now the Governor of Maharashtra state ruled by Congress-NCP coalition. The Congress and Left Parties favour a second term for Narayanan, a former Congressman. Congress spokesman S Jaipal Reddy indicated this vesterday when he said "Narayanan has been

Presidents the country has had. But it is not yet clear if BJP would be agreeable to Narayanan's continuance at Rashtrapati Bhawan (Presidential Palace), especially after his veiled criticism of Vajpayee government in some of his official speeches on different occasions in his first stint as President.

one of the exceptionally good

stood to have made it clear that he is willing to have a second go if he is an unanimous choice as President and would not like to contest. For the record, however,

Congress and other opposition parties have said they would let know their decision once the government gives out its mind on the Presidential nominee A section of BJP is reportedly in favour of Alexander as President as

he being a Christian it will help the

party to revive its stock among minorities as no Christian has so far become the President. Congress has nothing against Alexander as a person but views with suspicion his choice by a section of BJP for the possible political moves behind it. Congress sources tend to link Alexander's elevation to

Gandhi, a Christian by birth, occupying the office of Prime Minister in the event of the party coming to power. Political sources also do not rule the possibility of a "dark horse"

emerging as the Presidential choice.

the post of President in the context

of prospects of its chief Sonia

Bridge on Karnaphuli

make the rail-road bridge of little

Dohazari-Cox's Bazar, he added.

ating more trains and introducing wagons in this route, apart from renovating the Kalurghat bridge we will need to construct another bridge on the Karnaphuli," Engineer Quashem said. "A proposal for such a new bridge with an estimated cost of Tk. 166 crore has been sent to the higher authority and the authority is actively considering it, he added."

Meanwhile, in a bid to raise a glimmer of hope the Roads & Highway (R&H) authorities took an nitiative to construct a cable-bridge

for the 1000-metre bridge to be completed within three years involv-

oridge.
An unofficial proposal for construction of a multi-purpose bridge on the Karnaphuli like the Jamuna Multi-purpose bridge as a jointventure project of Railway and R&H was made

While talking to this correspondent Executive Engineer (development and planning) of Bangladesh Railway Md. Arifuzzaman said, construction of such a multipurpose bridge under joint-venture would save huge expenditure and present a good bridge over the Karnaphuli to end the prolonged road communication crisis of this

According to the knowledgeable circles concerned, a bridge is undoubtedly a vital need to facilitate plying of heavy transports on 17 routes in south Chittagong and setting up of industries on the other bank of the Karnaphuli. But before going for such a costly project, economic viability and time required for such construction should be considered.

As such, an alternative way should be found out to tackle the present crisis and facilitate necessary time-to-time renovation of the existing bridges as well. However, they said renovation of the Kalurghat bridge was also not possible at this moment for lack of any alternative.

They suggested making the Shah Amanat bridge operational again after necessary repair taking nelp and advice of local experts.

Chittagong City Corporation introduced a ferry service on the river Karnaphuli at Firingee Bazar near Shah Amanat Bridge in February last year at a cost of Tk. 3.80 crore.

Compensation fund

planned insurance scheme for the sector. We are having talks with insurance companies. As soon as we can make arrangements for insurance, the compensation fund will be diverted for that purpose," Akbar told The Daily Star yesterday.

The meeting also decided to

form three separate teams to check

are equipped with all necessary safety equipment If any ship is found faulty, its license and route permit will be cancelled. The teams will start working immediately and submit

reports within three months, meeting sources said. The teams will include 'master marine', marine engineers, naval

architects and magistrates At present, about 2,100 passenger launches run on river routes. Of these, only 800 went for renewal of fitness certificates last year. And there are allegations that most of the

cent to ease the pressure on the existing ones. The decision was taken based

on a conclusion that passengers are

crowding launches because of lack of adequate number of vessels. with the existing rules with proper

the marine court to submit copies of its verdicts on a regular basis to the ministry as reports are there that the court does not take any action against offenders. The meeting also took the deci-

sion to strengthen its vigilance on river vessels and to instruct the deputy commissioners to form

mobile teams for checking each vessel at the terminals at least twice

Instructions will also be given to

the navy and the coast guards to

check whether vessels are plying with extra loads. They have to submit reports to the district admin-

boarding. "The decision was taken to identify victims in case of accidents," Shipping Secretary Ghulam Rahman said.

addresses, destinations and the

names of the vessels they are

respiratory system.

FROM PAGE 12

of the muscles of legs, arms and

polioviruses, all members of the

There are three different types of

viral family of enteroviruses (viruses that infect the intestinal tract).

Any child under 15 that develops sudden onset of floppy paralysis should be brought to hospital and reported to the health authorities.

poliovirus, there is no treatment available to kill the virus. The only treatments are medications for pain responsible for breathing fail -- for

The criminals let loose by the Hasina demanded immediate

tary of Tejgaon College Students Union, killed in a shootout in the city The opposition leader alleged that the alliance government, after

torture," she said with a note of caution for the half-year-old coali-She said the 'fascist' ruling

Meanwhile, the Awami League

She conveyed her heartfelt

supplied by the England football team's official entertainment supplier amazon.co.uk. "In the past we've found players have had a lot of time on their hands

The contents of the package were selected with the help of a

phrasebook, a video of England's 1966 World Cup final win, the films England have been drawn in

Deputy Attorney General Saidur Rahman argued that there was no

rule of the caretaker government in

The High Court quashed another corruption case against Khaleda in October last after the BNP came to power. However, the prime minister

India's Jammu-Kashmir state, "We do not want the elections to

Kashmir militants by the attack. The army rushed the unmask the motives of their perperemaining families out of the camp

Hasina's return

FROM PAGE 12 when he phoned Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid on May Hamid told newsmen later that the AL decision on any talks with the

repeal bill on display and preservation of Bangabandhu's portrait in public offices, the AL had decided in principle to resign from the parlia-But, most AL lawmakers while

submitting their resignation letters

on record the 'repression' let loose by the government.

debate on gas export issue to the House, and the country's development partners are in favour of the presence of all parties in the parliament, the decision of main opposition party is very important, observers noted Besides, Hasina would have to decide on party renegades too,

prohibited doing business on credit show-cause notices for allegedly acting against the party interest in the last parliamentary polls. AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman was supposed to place a report on the party men in question to the central working committee in its last meeting, but it has been deferred a couple of times

Dragnet FROM PAGE 1

On Monday night, police with the backup of the BDR arrested listed criminals Faruq Jalal and Rizvi. Traffic police have also joined forces with the mainstream law

enforcers to help improve law and

order. Law enforcers started intercepting and checking vehicles. The home ministry keeps a watchful eye on the situation. All police stations and law enforcers engaged in raids have been asked to take tough action against the

Police yesterday seized six revolvers, one pipe-gun, 16 bullets

Pay VAT

criminals.

FROM PAGE 12 Insurance Company -- Tk 32 lakh, City General Insurance Company --Tk 56 lakh, Meghna Insurance Company -- Tk 2.75 crore, Janata Insurance Company-- Tk 2.38 crore, Eastern Insurance Company --Tk Nine lakh, Central Insurance Company -- Tk 5.12 crore, Prime Insurance Company -- Tk 2.43 crore, Phoenix Insurance Company Tk 71 lakh and East Land Insurance Company -- Tk 23 lakh. Officials of the companies

however termed the evaded VAT

'outstanding' because of some

'informal systems' developing in the

They said the VAT remained

market over the years. "Earlier. there was a system of doing business on credit and huge amounts of premium remained outstanding. So we could not pay VAT," said Abul Kashem Chowdhury, General Manager of Provati Insurance Company. 'Now the government has

and we are following it", he said. None of the companies evaded

development of little use," he added. The Chittagong-Dohazari section remains one of a "poor utility" with a negligible number of passengers and construction of an indispensable road bridge is sure to

importance he said. "However, the proposal for renovation was made and we will be looking forward to address any inconvenience and consider any suggestion from any quarter in this regard," he told The Daily Star. The Railway had already taken a project for extending the Chittagong-Dohazari section up to the

"With the completion of this

The bridge got ECNEC approval early this year and the tender, seeking technical and financial offer

To lessen the troubles,

But the ferry service could be offered only two times a day during the high tides. To ferry 30 vehicles, it takes five trips thus contributing

very little to ease the sufferings

whether the vessels plying the river have been properly designed and

2,100 vessels run with gross structural faults. The ministry in yesterday's meeting also decided to make ways for increasing the number of marine passenger vessels by at least 20 per

The authorities will invite interested investors to apply for licences. All new vessels will have to comply structural designs. Instructions were also given to

Authorities will also keep boxes at launch terminals from June 1 and instruct passengers to leave a slip in them, mentioning their names

Polio drive caused by poliovirus. In its most severe form, polio causes paralysis

In 20 per cent of the cases, the virus will enter the brain and result in a much greater risk of death.

Poliovirus causes no apparent illness or very mild illness in about 90 per cent of the people infected. However, the infected people are still able to spread the virus to other Once a person is infected with

and hot packs to soothe the muscles and intervention if the muscles instance, a ventilator to take over the work of breathing

Mahbub was arrested on April 27 at the Zia International Airport before passport that says he is a business-

The probe reveals that he made

Such ill-gotten wealth has made

In the second case filed with

center, officials said

and put them up a nearby regiment

government would be made after Hasina's return home. Following the passage of the

parliament to the party chief viewed that the party should reconsider the Hasina later told newsmen that her party lawmakers would go to the parliament at least for a day to put

Now that the government is

considering taking the long-drawn

sources said pointing to the fact that it has been four months since over 500 party men including seven central leaders were served with

as 'outstanding' VAT

VAT intentionally, he claimed.
Abdul Haq, senior executive vice president of Federal Insurance Company, said, "We have been paying VAT regularly. amount remained due and we pay it in installments."

The preliminary works and survey of the Dohazari-Cox's Bazar Track Extension Project has already been completed and the PCP has been submitted for further necessary government approval. The feasibility studies and financing of the project might cost Tk. 800 crore. extension project that aims at oper-

ng some TK 500 crore, was floated. But conditions of the tender schedule raised some controversy that slowed down the implementation of the construction plan of the