Opposition Day

recommendations, which also

included the idea of an "Opposition

Day" to the then speaker of the

Accordingly, the then speaker

had asked a sub-committee to look

into the matter. But the seventh

parliament expired before the

submit the recommendations afresh

to the authorities concerned and ask

for their implementation to

strengthen the parliamentary

In Britain, the opposition law-

makers usually get a chance to

speak 20 days out of at least 130

sitting days a year on those desig-

nated days. The UNDP recom-

mends a Westminster style of

democracy as a role model for

When asked about the develop-

whip, said the AL was moving in that

line. He viewed that the opposition

would have more time to express its

views under the proposed arrange-

Sources pointed out that non-

minister lawmakers have their day

in the parliament every Thursday,

designated as 'Private Members'

Day' when any MP can pilot any

proposed law or resolution.

Similarly, lawmakers belonging to

the opposition parties could also

enjoy some exclusive time on the

When the AL was in office during

The UNDP also is planning to

committee prepared its report.

democracy in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh.





Today is the first death anniversary of Mahbub Anam, former editor of the now-defunct Bangladesh Times.

says a press release. He passed away on this day last year at the age of 70. He had been suffering from cancer of the pan-

Born on March 28, 1931, Mahbub Anam became the editor of the Bangladesh Times in 1991 and served with distinction till 1996.

Board

Mahbub Anam actively took part in the language movement in 1952. He was jailed for his role in the movement as general secretary of the Rastrabhasa Sangram Parishad. He was also the acting publication secretary of the Jukta Front on behalf of the Awami League in 1954 and served as the general secretary of Salimullah Muslim Hall

A former Director of the Petroleum Corporation of Bangladesh, Mahbub Anam also served as a senior executive of the Jamuna Oil. He also worked as a senior executive of the then Pakistan Observer.

Mahbub Anam authored numerous books, including 'Adherence versus Distortion' and 'Amra Bangladeshi Amra Bangali'.

A recipient of the Sher-e-Bangla Gold Medal and Swadhinata Padak. Mahbub Anam was also awarded the Bhasa Andoloner Bir Shainik Padak by President Ziaur Rahman in recognition of his contribution to

son of late Abul Mansur Ahmed, an eminent litterateur, veteran politician and editor. He was the elder brother of Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star and publisher of the Prothom Alo

On the occasion of death anniversary of Mahbub Anam, a milad mahfil will be held at Masjid-e-Takwa in Dhanmondi after Asr prayers. Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the

DMCH

on various occasions to evict the illegal shopkeepers, microbuses and non-staff workers from the hospital, but his efforts went in vain for reasons unknown.

condition of anonymity, said the director is not sincere in his efforts. "Issuance of notices is merely an eyewash. He never goes for followup actions."

PM: Army

and sincerity can ensure professionalism," she said, adding that professional commitment is necessary to maintain and improve standard of the force

She lauded the role of the army in safeguarding country's independence, sovereignty and national unity, maintaining law and order and providing service to humanity in

United Nations Peacekeeping Forces and asked them to continue their efforts further to brighten their

Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Hasan Mashhud Chow-

Shipman

FROM PAGE 12

elderly patients. Home Secretary David Blunkett ruled on last Thursday that he must spend the rest of his life behind bars.

Most of his victims were elderly women killed by an overdose of morphine in their own homes without having experienced any lifethreatening symptoms. He pleaded not guilty and his motives remain a

mystery Blunkett's decision means Shipman, known as "Doctors Death", is likely to die behind bars as cases of whole life inmates are reviewed only after 25 years, and then every five years after that.

Dubai consortium

policy issues of the host country. The consortium will engage working committees to fine-tune such a market-driven business plan.

These provisions are highly advantageous to all parties to the SEA-ME-WE 4, especially the ones enjoying monopoly over international gateways

For example, the BTTB will be allowed to enter the Mumbai cable landing station of the VSNL and sell the bandwidth to the deregulated Indian telecom market.

But the VSNL will have to exclusively deal with the BTTB if it plans to do similar business in Bangladesh because the private operators here are mandated to use the BTTB transmission backbone and international gateways.

The BTTB will have similar advantage to other liberalised markets. The private sector in Bangladesh will be equally benefited when the country's international gateway is deregulated.

However, the BTTB officials stunned the SEA-ME-WE 4 meeting by strongly opposing such privileged immediate and future business plans. Their disagreement on the open landing concept has been put down to their lack of understanding on international bandwidth

The BTTB's ignorance disap-

pointed other consortium members and they contemplated to exclude it from the consortium.

"These provisions are intended to attract non-member investors to the consortium," said an official of a Middle-East telecom monopoly.

cantly reduce the estimated cost of installing the SEA-ME-WE 4 cable and ensure fast recovery of investment - the advantage the BTTB officials did not realise.

nately the consortium will have to go ahead without the BTTB." the Arab telecom official told this correspondent on the second day of the meet-

However, the BTTB finally agreed on the proposed open landing concept on the concluding

finalised the MoU, to be signed by all parties at 10:30am on September 4 in Indonesia. The venue will be either at Jakarta or Bali. Meanwhile, the BTTB chairman

engineers at their submarine cable operations. The Arab members of the con-

of all-out cooperation.

No respite

The situation in Noakhali has been described as 'unusual' is a technical problem in flushing the excess water from the water-logged areas in the district and near the Meghna estuary because of lack of proper

UNB adds from Bogra: Flood situation in Dhunat, Sariakandi, Sherpur and Sonatola upazilas of the district has deteriorated further with the rise of water level in the Bangalee and Chhoto Jamuna

About 100 metres of the spar at Kamalpur in Sariakandi upazila, constructed to protect the western bank of the Jamuna, collapsed Sunday due to heavy downpour and

The Water Development Board

(WDB) sources said the spar was constructed at a cost of Tk 10 crore during the tenure of the previous government, but due to faulty construction, it collapsed five times in the last one year. Floodwater gushing through

damaged portion of the spar inundated a number of villages in Dhunat and Sariakandi upazilas.

People in 20 villages in four upazilas of the district have been marooned as the Bangalee river has crossed the danger level overflowing its banks.

Executive Engineer of the WDB Obaidur Rahman said high officials visited the affected areas.

Seedbeds of aman paddy and standing jute and maize were badly

Gulf War claim

Bureau of Manpower Export and Training (BMET) official, which disburses compensation money among the war victims.

The UNCC has started disbursement of compensation money in 1995. Around Tk 1,500 crore has so far been distributed among 63,000 Bangladeshi victims of the Gulf War.

It was earlier reported that a section of BMET officials had realised 'unofficial toll' from the war victims while disbursing the com-

It was alleged that these officials had charged five to ten per cent in cash from each victim upon issuing the cheque. If anyone failed to pay them the money, the newspaper reported, the officials would refuse to issue the check on grounds of

But BMET high officials dismissed the allegation and claimed that Bangladesh was one of the countries where the Gulf War compensation money was distributed properly and transparently.

The UNCC closely monitored disbursement of the compensation and was happy with the BMET operations, they claimed.

When contacted, the BMET Director General, Shahudul Haque told The Daily Star, "I do not know what happened earlier but during my tenure nobody complained to me about any such corruption."

"No government official was involved in toll collection from war victims but if anybody took it outside the office, it is not our headache.' said another official.

4 killed

FROM PAGE 12

while three others were taken to Durgapur Health Complex.

Police quoting witnesses said the accident took place when a Durgapurbound bus coming from Raishahi lost control over the vehicle and fell into a roadside ditch at about 9.30 am.

Local people rescued the passengers. Police seized the bus but its driver and helper escaped. A case was recorded with

Durgapur police station in this con-

Not out of love

Strangely enough, they gathered not out of love or gratitude for the high official but out of their concern about the money the official took from them promising lucrative transfers and postings.
"I gave him Tk 1 lakh for a good

posting in Dhaka," a frustrated BAC official told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity.

"I did it because he had the power to transfer." he admitted.

Over the months, the high official has taken Tk 1 to 3 lakh from each of nearly 50 junior and mid-ranking officials. Some were transferred, while the others were waiting in

"But now he has been transferred another organisation and there is no way for him to help us," remarked another frustrated official. "He

Sayeed Khokon

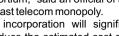
FROM PAGE 12

incident of fire at the telephone exchange at Chawkbazar on April

In the case, police sought a seven-day remand of Khokon for interrogation. The court fixed July 13

Meanwhile, the High Court (HC) on Saturday issued a rule asking the government to show cause within two weeks why the detention of Sayeed Khokon should not be declared illegal.

The HC passed the order upon a writ petition challenging legality of



Such incorporation will signifi-

"If that remains the case, unfortu-

day of the meeting. The Dubai meeting unanimously

requested his Middle-Eastern counterparts to employ more BTTB

sortium have assured Bangladesh

High hopes hail Thai PM in two phases. The first phase will

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra reviews the guard of honour accorded upon his arrival at the Zia

A child presented a bouquet to Shinawatra, who is leading a 59member strong delegation, including the commerce minister, the foreign minister and some other senior officials.

The Thai prime minister was given a guard of honour by a smartly turned-out contingent drawn from the three services. Dean of the diplomatic corps Shata Zarab, Ambassador of Thailand Phithak Phrombubpha and members of the Thai community were at the airport.

The reception over, the Thai prime minister was taken to the . National Memorial for the independence war martyrs at Savar in a motorcade to pay respect.

The major city thoroughfares from the airport were decorated with national flags of the two countries and festoons. The portraits of the prime ministers of Thailand and Bangladesh were hung at different Schoolchildren greeted the Thai prime minister on his way to Savar. Bangladesh is now turning to

South East Asia for accelerated

collaboration in trade, commerce and economic development. The creation of BIMSTEC -- "Bangla-desh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand for Economic Cooperation" -- speaks of the emerging reality in recent times. Pointing to growing trade with Thailand, the sources in the FBCCI said it has significantly increased

over the past several years. Thai exports to Bangladesh is currently much larger than its imports, they said, pointing to a huge trade deficit of US\$170 million against Bangladesh in the last fiscal The FBCCI is likely to request for

free access to the Thai market for all

The Bangladesh government

include free access to items of high trade potential and the second phase will include a wide variety of exportables

Both sides may agree in setting up a joint business council to discuss business issues and sort out problems, the sources said. They may also sign an "account trade' agreement, facilitating trade settlement through periodic payment like a quarterly or half-yearly clearance of the balance of payment.

The Bangladesh side may ask for simplifying visa formalities for businessmen and tourists to Thailand. The existing procedure is all too tough and results in harassment of visa applicants, said a FBCCI source.

Pointing to the potential scope of economic and technical cooperation, he said, Thailand is much more advanced than Bangladesh. Its success in fisheries, poultry and agro-processing industries rivals Bangladesh may benefit from

transfer of technical know-how and economic collaboration, the sources added. The political quarters in

Bangladesh have put emphasis on the development of a strong and viable land route from Bangladesh to Thailand through Myanmar. It may ultimately establish a land link with the Kunming province of China. they said. They also pointed to the need for creating a business corridor from the Chittagong port to up to China's southern province

Referring to the Arakan trunk road, they said Bangladesh can asily reach Yangon, the capital of

The good road network from Yangon to Bangkok can be upgraded to create an excellent regional road communication, as

Development Bank is ready to

65 transferred **FROM PAGE 12** From now on, the transferred offi-

been transferred as part of the implementation of the programme since July 1. Earlier, 66 officials were transferred in two phases. Sources in the CGA office said yesterday's was the last phase

GAIL, ONGC

GAIL is also planning to market gas in the eastern part of India. Dr Chhobi said, India is hopeful its neighbour would provide gas. GAIL is also discussing

that ONGC would soon purchase British oil company Cairn's

By discovering gas in Sangu in 1996, Cairn began the era of PSC (Production Sharing Contract) pased oil and gas investment in Bangladesh. However, Cairn sold out half of its Bangladeshi concerns

cials will be accountable to the finance ministry instead of the CGA As many as 131 officials have

Durgapur and Haldia in West

to Shell Oil three years ago.

A Cairn source said the company's performance in India was very good as it discovered an oil in Gujrat recently. But in Bangladesh, it was not happy with Petrobangla's irregular payment for purchase of Sangu gas. "It might be a possibility that Cairn would sell out concerns to ONGC." he said

FROM PAGE 12 Depending on Bangladeshi gas,

Bangladeshi gas distribution to various fertiliser factories at Meanwhile there is also a hint

Bangladeshi concerns.

1996-2001, it brought amendments to the rules of procedure, making provisions for non-ministers to head

Opposition Day'.

The committee saw profit from

nillion square cubic meter per day (mmscfd) of gas is exported at a wellhead price of US\$2.8 per unit, there would be a cash flow of \$4.09 billion in 20 years at wellhead. And, f 500 mmscfd is exported, the cash flow would stand at \$10.2 billion. However, the report asserted

tracts (PSCs) with foreign oil com-

many technical as well as financial uncertainties. Leaving aside the uncertainty about the price of power across the border, there is also a technical uncertainty about long distant power transmission and additional

In the context of a shortage of gas supply in the future, the report

FROM PAGE 12

The five per cent additional share, which is applicable only if gas is found in the same geological structure of Moulvibazar, was given to Petrobangla as an incentive to let the company work in those blocks.

was mainly pushed by the then energy secretary Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury. Occidental's high officials 'verbally' promised to political high-ups that all compensations for the blowout would be paid.

drilling since it had signed a PSC on January 11, 1995.

Likewise, the opposition now hopes that all the parties would agree to the proposed 'Opposition Day' to further strengthen the parliamentary system and minimise

the parliamentary standing commit-

tees. The change resulted in greater

accountability of and transparency

in the functioning of the important

bickering over allocation of time for the opposition. Meanwhile, nine months down the line since the eighth parliament

went into its first session, the AL is now looking forward to play a vital role in the parliamentary committees, which are yet to be formed. The AL has finalised its fit list for placing its 58 lawmakers in different standing committees. It has also

almost selected its lawmakers who

would head some of these would-be As envisaged in line with the British parliamentary system, the Opposition Chief Whip Abdus opposition would set the tone on Shahid said the list is ready and once-a-week 'Opposition Day' in the would be handed over whenever his parliament. It would reign over the Treasury Bench counterpart asks reasury Bench during that particu-

for it. lar day's business, enjoying a maxi-Sources said the AL and the mum time to speak on various public other smaller opposition parties together have 80 MPs in the 300seat parliament. ment, Farooq Khan, an opposition

The combined opposition would ask for chairmanship of some 12 to 15 standing committees out of the total 49, sources hinted. The formation of the committees is pending due to differences over

proportional representation of the opposition Against the possibility of a reshuffle in the jumbo cabinet of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, the ruling BNP-Jamaat alliance is not as

stripped of their portfolios. After the reshuffle, some of the axed ministers might be accommodated in different parliamentary standing committees as chairmen,

yet sure about who are to be

Not enough gas emphasises examining the pros-

FROM PAGE 1 dividend in the future."

gas export through pipeline. But regarding export of Bibiyana gas, some members of the committee raised several questions about how much gas should be set aside for export and what would be the real The report projected that if 200

that under any export formula, the present production sharing con-

panies must be renegotiated and new deals involving the possible buyer should be signed. The power export option has been viewed as a profitable but complex proposition since it entails

investment for as pipeline up to export-oriented power plants.

Petrobangla

olocks 13 and 14 in late 1998 The supplementary agreement was signed eight months after the original contract was terminated for its failure to fulfil minimum work commitment

This supplementary agreement

Occidental began drilling in the spot on June 2, 1997. It was its first

pects of other options like biogas, solar home system or wind power for rural Bangladesh. A greater emphasis should be

put on the use of the CNG in the transport sector, which is a viable option. Vehicles in Dhaka and possibly Chittagong can be brought under the CNG conversion scheme. The report forecasts by 2010, the country could convert at least 50,000 vehicles and a maximum of

need between 50 and 100 million cubic feet per day (mmcfd) of gas. Besides, the committee is also looking into the prospect of gas utilisation in fertiliser and other

one lakh vehicles. To meet their

requirement, the country would

Live-together

FROM PAGE 12

chemical by-products.

woman and her Indian lover were the police, who arrested them after determining they were not married.

Sharia courts throughout the United Arab Emirates federation of seven city states hand down severe punishment for couples caught having affairs outside wedlock.

Bhairab bridge

FROM PAGE 12
Development (DFID) provided Tk 142 crore as grants for the construc-The bridge would be exactly 929 metres with seven spans and eight piers, and have six toll plazas on it. A

1,070 metre embankment has also een constructed.

The bridge will have two lanes for the movement of vehicles and two under passes for pedestrians. Tk 63 crores was disbursed for land acqui-

sition and rehabilitation projects. AJM workers

FROM PAGE 12 benefits to the workers and employ-ees of the mill through accounts payee cheques drawn on Rupali Bank Ltd (local office, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka), Sonali Bank (local office, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka), and Sonali

Narayanganj). Bank branches will judge the genuineness of the payees on the basis of their identity cards and other documents, the press release

Bank (Adamjeenagar Branch,

AIDS vaccine likely by 2005

Twenty-one years after the fight against AIDS began, only eight vaccines are currently being tested on humans to any significant

Most of these are still in the early

stages, but VaxGen says work on its

product is nearing completion. It is the only firm testing its products on humans in an end-stage But to be granted a licence it will

in at least one third of patients.

have to show the vaccine is effective

The umbrella body promoting research, the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, is warning that preparations need to begin now for the distribution of a successful vaccine to the countries most in president said. He said vaccination would ini-

commercial sex workers. But he said it was hoped one day that a vaccine would be available for

tially be targeted at high-risk groups

such as intravenous drug users and

of immunisation for every child so we can put an end to this terrible disease Jose Esparza, co-ordinator of the UNAIDS HIV vaccine initiative in

although he praised their commitment to developing a vaccine. He added: "No one can predict when a vaccine will be ready, no one

"If the vaccine is effective then we will have a cause for celebration, but even then it will not be the end of the epidemic. But he said even if the vaccine

would be "significant". The conference also heard about a drug which tests have shown cuts the levels of HIV in patients by stopping it entering blood cells.

was 40 to 50 per cent effective it

by Roche Holding AG of Switzerland and US biotech firm Trimeris Inc is due to go on to the market early next It is said to offer hope to patients

Existing treatments attack HIV only after it has entered cells.

But a US study presented to the conference showed that three in four young gay and bisexual men infected with AIDS in major American cities were unaware they were carrying the virus.

Meanwhile PTI reports from New Delhi: Indian scientists have isolated a compound from a bacterium, which they claim is the first in the category of biologically-derived ones, that targets HIV multiplication by inhibiting a crucial viral enzyme. One of the major advantages of

the new compound isolated by scientists at National Chemical Laboratory, Pune, is that it may not be affected by HIV mutations which render many currently available inhibitors ineffective, a report in the 'CSIR News' said.

HIV requires HIV-1 protease to

target for developing drugs against the virus. Research has shown that drugs that inhibit this enzyme in combination with another group of drugs called reverse trascriptase inhibitors, reduce the levels of HIV in blood dramatically, the report said. While a large number of synthetic compounds which inhibit the

viral enzyme, HIV-protease, have

been reported, not much is currently

known about biomolecule inhibitors

from microorganisms, the report

multiply. This enzyme is an excellent

The compound, aspartic protease inhibitor (ATBI), isolated from

the bacterium. Alkalothermophilic bacillus which thrives in adverse environments, is the first in the biologically-derived category, it

first anniversary of death today

Mahbub Anam's

He was a senior vice-president and executive committee member of the Bangladesh Editors' Council. He was actively involved with the Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad, the Bangladesh Press Council, and the Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha Porichalona

of Dhaka University in 1954-55.

the language movement. Mahbub Anam was the second

The DMCH director issued notices

A staff of the DMCH, speaking on

FROM PAGE 1 sionalism of the Bangladesh Army, she said professionalism could not be attained without proper evaluation during selection "Talent, skill, patriotism, honesty

time of need. The PM also mentioned the laurels bagged by Bangladeshi soldiers in various missions of the

dhury also spoke on the occasion.

January 2000 for murdering 15

for hearing on the remand prayer.

the detention order.

Khulna newsman

Police have so far arrested eleven persons for questioning. The officer-in-charge of Dumuria thana, who has been leading a combing operation since Saturday,

Khulna Police went to the village home of Shukur on Sunday afternoon and talked to his wife and the local people to get a clear picture of

Superintendent of Khulna Police

admitted that the entire Dumuria

upazila is in the grip of armed crimi-

the whole incident.

Jamuna group FROM PAGE 1 According to Nazrul Islam, owner of

the Robbin Dredging, the criminals asked his men to stop work. As the workers asked the hoodlums to talk to the company owner, the gunmen attacked them.

the Pongu Hospital. Witnesses said the same gang came to the project site a few days ago, looking for the owner of the Jamuna Group.

FROM PAGE 1 Shukur Hossain was also the joint secretary of Shechchhashebak Dal.

said he was certain that Shukur was no longer alive. "We are now trying to recover his dead body so that a murder case could be recorded," he

nals whom police can not arrest without active co-operation of the local people. Meanwhile, armed cadres of the Biplobi Communist Party on Sunday night killed a young man identified as Ripon Sardar, 18, son of Arif Sardar, a fish farm owner of Mandra village under Dumuria upazila. Police recovered the dead body

about two kilometres from the fish

Employees of the fish farm said

farm from where he was abducted.

the victim was a police informer.

Later, the injured were taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Noor Ali. who received bullet in his both legs, was shifted to Most importantly, it must be made affordable.

> "One of the critical things is that. Geneva said the company's because we don't have a perfect announcement was "premature",

only way to figure this out is by testing it on large numbers of humans," Dr Seth Berkley told BBC Radio 4's Today programme. "The problem is that, if this vaccine is efficacious, we really have not prepared for it yet," the IAVI

animal model or know exactly

what's needed for protection, the

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia chairs a meeting of the Bangladesh Army Selection Board at the Dhaka Cantonment

"We would hope to use it as part

has a crystal ball, but we do have the equivalent of a crystal ball of sorts in the clinical trials.

The injectable T-20 drug, made

with serious drug resistance prob-