## The Baily Star

# Not probing enough

headed by its joint secretary Yakub Ali inspected the Satkhira Sadar LSD (local supply depot) yesterday. The committee is to submit a report to Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman tomorrow. Earlier, it visited Mymensingh, Bogra and Pabna districts

Though the committee collected samples from eight separate lots of wheat stocks from four warehouses under the Satkhira Sadar LSD, it did not collect wheat samples from six sacks full of putrefied wheat earlier identified by a local probe committee formed by the Satkhira deputy commissioner Many of the local wheat traders

who talked to The Daily Star in Bogra also guestioned the sincerity of the probe body that left Bogra on Sunday without inspecting the six granaries that allegedly procured and stored low quality wheat. In another development, our Satkhira correspondent Abu Ahmed quoted Satkhira Deputy Commissioner A M Chowdhury as acknowledging that an unspecified volume of poor quality wheat was distributed among VGD cardholders in Kolaroa, Panchpota and some other areas of the district. The press earlier reported that

350 MT of wheat distributed among VGD cardholders in the district was of low quality

Despite finding insect-infested wheat in some silos in Bogra just two days back, the probe committee was yesterday tight-lipped about the findings while visiting public granaries in Satkhira vesterday on the last leg of its four-district fact-finding mission

The local administration has confirmed that the wheat bought during the last three days of a 135day procurement drive was not locally grown

"We're collecting samples here and we can't say anything until we prepare our probe report after returning to Dhaka," said Yakub Ali, head of the four-man probe body.

Against a procurement target of 2200 MT of wheat, some 808 MT of feed-grade Indian wheat was allegedly sold out to Satkhira Sadar LSD from July 29 to 31, the last three days of the 135-day internal wheat procurement drive carried out by the government

Following the irregularities at the Sadar LSD, food officials responsible for seven other granaries in Satkhira refused to procure 1800 MT wheat, a target set for them. They surrendered their procurement quota citing that no homegrown wheat was available in Satkhira.

Interestingly, against a production target of 2700 MT of wheat this year, Satkhira produced 1700 MT. But, for unknown reasons Satkhira was asked to procure 4,000 MT of wheat.

Meanwhile, no-one turned up to testify before the probe committee in Satkhira yesterday allegedly in fear of reprisals from politically powerful people responsible for supplying feed-grade wheat to the

During the visit of the probe body at 9:30 am, acting deputy controller (DC) of food, Satkhira, FI Howladar was seen inviting local grain traders and others concerned over mobile phone to appear before the probe committee. However, no-one showed up till late afternoon. In Bogra, the local unit of the Bangladesh Chhatra League formed a human chain in the town's Satmatha area at 11.30am demanding proper investigation into wheat scam and punishment to the culprits. It also held a rally in front of its office at Temple Road with its joint convenor Jubayer Hasan Liton in the chair.

employee tion," one of the local elite who was present during the committee's investigation at the Sadar LSD commented after seeing the blackspotted, broken 'dana' and insectdeath infested wheat samples. One of the front-ranking BNP leaders also questioned the visit of the STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Barisal First Joint Secretary of the ruling

BNP Tarique Rahman in Bogra, just 15 hours before the arrival of the food ministry's probe team. Tarique, however, came to Bogra to distribute relief goods among the flood victims and did not make any comment on the alleged wheat scam, sources said. Moreover, during his tour he did not meet the

local BNP leaders with whom he usually roam in the town although he stayed at Champa Mahal, the residence of Helaluzzaman Talukdar Lalu, MP, the sources added.

When asked about their party MP's recommendation to the district administration for an immediate release of Indian wheat sacks belonging to Parimal Kumar Singh, Bogra district BNP General Secretary Rezaul Karim Badsha said the recommendation was made 'considering that the wheat was not procured by the governn

Asked about the Sadar thana BNP Organising Secretary Mahidul Islam, who also supplied wheat, he replied that no BNP men were involved in the alleged scam. Sources in a government intelligence branch here said their own

investigation found only two out of the 15 people involved in the scam belong to the Awami League (AL), while the rest are either directly involved with or loyal to the ruling BNP.

However, President of the district unit of AL Mamtaz Uddin denied involvement of any of his party leaders or workers in the alleged scam. He also said Parimal was not even a worker of AL and blamed local BNP for the incident. "Other than the ruling party men

who else would dare to commit such a crime?" he asked A senior food official while talking to The Daily Star on phone com-

mented, "How long will you write on the issue? The axe will finally fall on some employees and low level officials of the food department. And the main culprits get away somehow.

"Such big crimes as managing fresh allocation for procurement when there was no local wheat in markets and dumping of a big volume of wheat into the granaries within a short time could not be committed by the OC (officer in charge) of a LSD alone some higher officials and the local influential people have to be involved in it".

he said. The source also informed that the TI (technical inspector) of the LSD did not get enough opportunity to check the quality of wheat since wheat was pouring in heavily.

### Hasina

opment activities and initiatives of FROM PAGE 12 the government. Besides, the the killers of Bappi and Ratna, she booklet will contain a summary of the government's achievements alleged this government is encourduring the one-year period. aging the killers by not taking any Director General of External action against them. Publicity Wing will assist with the "Almost every day a child is preparation of the English booklet while the foreign secretary will supervise the work. The script will be finalised with the foreign minister's approval. Political Secretary to the Prime Hasina, who returned home after Minister Haris Choudhury will lay 25-day visit to UK and USA, vesdown the overall guidelines on the terday visited the house of Bappi at two booklets. Armanitola in Old Dhaka and the The letter said the foreign and house of Ratna at South Manda in information secretaries would the wake of public outrage caused ensure approval of the scripts of both Bangla and English booklets Braving rains, thousands of by September 7 and send those to people, including children and the DG of DFP for printing. Meanwhile, sources said the women, were waiting at both the BNP has yet not finalised the programmes for celebration of its Hasina first reached Bappi's one-year rule, but plans to that house at Becharam Deuri Lane in effect are now underway. Armanitola area where thousands The party also has plans to of people thronged the roads, shops celebrate the day in all district as and rooftops chanting slogans well as thana headquarters aiming demanding death sentence to the to apprise the people about the government's various development The protestors wore black and welfare programmes.

### Restriction plan for teen use Five gets death of cell phone irks operators sentence for Municipality of cell phone irks operators chopped to

NEWS

### MUSTAK HOSSAIN

ants at his residence in the town in

broke into the residence of accoun-

yet to be ascertained, police said.

Bakerganj thana in this connection.

Trisha murder case

her, the three chased her. Being

afraid, Trisha started running

through Khanpara and found a pond

in front of her. Then in a bid to save

herself from the goons, she jumped

into the pond. As she did not know

how to swim, she drowned. The

accused persons just stood beside

the pond and watched her tragic

One Yousuf Ali then informed

police and fire brigade about the

incident. Later, fire brigade men along

with some others recovered Trisha's

body. Local people caught Modern,

Shaheen and Asha and handed them

The other prosecution witness

Afzal brushed aside defence

lawyer Serajul Islam's contention

that his (Afzal's) statement during

the cross-examination was false

Public Prosecutor Jahangir Alam

Jinna and Serajul Islam appeared in

Alliance plans

since October 10 last year.

Films and Publications (DFP).

over to police, he mentioned.

from there, they chased her.

and fabricated.

today

FROM PAGE 12

tion minister.

favour of the accused.

Police said, a gang of miscreants

the early hours of vesterday.

spot at about 2.30 am.

None has been arrested.

FROM PAGE 12

death

The government proposal to restrict use of mobile phones by teenaders on health ground has irked mobile An employee of Bakerganj phone providers, industry sources Pourasava office was chopped to death by some unidentified miscresaid

Science and Information Communication Technology (ICT) Minister Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan on Friday said the government is thinking of restricting use of mobile tant Manjurul Haq, 35, at Baraipara phones by teenagers on health and chopped him to death on the ground. He said the government will review the matter and restrict their The reason behind the murder is use by people below 18 to save A case has been filed with them from radiation.

"If required, the government would frame a policy and enact laws to check non-radioactive radiation," Khan had said.

But the companies selling mobiles in the country are unhappy about the proposal.

"There is no conclusive evidence about the impact of use of mobile phone on health." said Jefri Ahmad Tambi, Managing Director of Sheba telecom

Tambi said, "I don't see it should raise any alarm for the country."

He said if such a decision is taken, it will hinder growth of the telecommunication, considered as a thrust sector in the country.

"There is no scientific proof that radiation from mobile phone damages your brain," a top official of a

mobile handset provider told said. "This can't happen... as there is Afzal Hossain, said that the accused no hard evidence of radiation generpersons often used to tease Trisha and on the day of the incident, they ating from mobile handset." said were present in front of his shop and

Anwar Hossain. Country Manager of Sony-Ericsson mobile phone

# Five get life term

#### FROM PAGE 1

son of Late Amir Hossain of village Meanwhile, the accused persons Jagadal under Hossenpur thana in have submitted petition seeking withdrawal of their earlier state-Kishoregonj district and Mohammad Siddique alias Siddiq, son of late ments given before a magistrate Abdul Mannan of village Char Ruhita The cross-examination resumes of Laxmipur. The court spared the lives of convicts considering their age and gave them "transportation

for life" The court acquitted the alleged plotter of the sensational murder taken up during the one-year period Yeasin Rahman Titu and his partners M Alamgir and Omar Ali alias Kashai According Dr Siddiqui's letter, Jahangir. Of them, the first two were the preparation of the draft of the absconding and the last one was set

Bangla booklet will be supervised by free by the court the information secretary and also The acquittal, the court maininvolve the Principal Information tained, was due to negligence of Officer of PID, Director Generals of many of the public witnesses who BTV, Radio and Department of failed to present substantial evidence to bring home their case The final script of the Bangla Many of the people who gathered at booklet will be prepared following the courtroom to hear the verdict recommendations by the informaexpressed their dissatisfaction over the ruling that allowed the prime The English booklet meant suspect Titu go scot-free. Many of primarily to provide information to them were heard saying, "Money foreigners, will highlight the develtainted the merit of the case. Zibran Tayaabi, country manager

of Centrans Meritime (BD) Ltd. and the only son of the Deputy Inspector

against eight people on November 25, 1999 under 120/b, 320/109 and 302/34

A total of 57 witnesses made depositions in the court. Many of whom stated that Tayaabi fell prey to a triangular love affair. It was alleged that Tayaabi had an extra-marital affair with a girl who was loved by Yeasin Rahman Titu, son of a wel known garment industrialist Khalilur Rahman. They blamed Titu for

masterminding the murder and hiring goons to kill Jibran It was alleged that Titu sponsored a five-member killing squad led by Osman. Tayyabi was behind the wheels of his car when the attackers waylaid him and their leader Osman shot Tayaabi from a close range near Agrabad petrol pump.. Fatally injured. Tavaabi was rushed to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead

Referring to the acquittal of Titu, the court mentioned negligence of different Prosecution Witnesses (PW).

Barrister Nazmul Huda said, "If the "None of the three investigating committee recommends some officers seized any 'evidence' of more time for their rehabilitation, we broken glass of the car in-question

banned anywhere in the world", another official of a mobile phone

company said. Primary customers of mobile phones in Bangladesh are adults, not youths

One recent study in UK found one in 10 users under 16 spend up to 45 minutes a day making calls on cell phones.

. Devices to reduce radiation from mobile handsets are available in the market.

There are over 9 lakh mobile phone users in the country and four providers

McKinon FROM PAGE 12 views on the Commonwealth activi-

Bangladesh always played an active role in the 55-member Commonwealth by upholding the values of the group of former British

This will be McKinon's first visit to Bangladesh after taking over the office of Commonwealth secretary general in April 2000 by defeating the Bangladesh candidate, former

Islamabad to see for himself the preelection activities and the situation in Pakistan.

Pakistan's membership in the Commonwealth was suspended after takeover of power by army General Pervez Musharraf in 1999. The next meeting of the 8member CMAG, scheduled in October in London, is likely to discuss the issue of restoration of

Pakistan's membership.

Chowdhury and SPP Sadhonmoy

Bhattachariya appeared the case on

behalf of the plaintiff while the defend

lawyers included Advocate

Sharfuddin Mukul, AHM Ehsanul

Hag Hena and Nuruhchhafa

Two-stroke ban

the decision as well as look into the

issue of rehabilitation of those

making a living off the two-stroke

different associations of two-stroke

three wheeler owners and their

employees have shown interest in

According to sources, leaders of

Tayaabi's father and wife did not

Talukder among others.

attend the ruling.

FROM PAGE 1

three-wheelers

deadline

# murdering two

night following May 26 in 1999

entered the house of Abdur Rakib,

peshkar (clerk) at the Sub-Judge's

Court in Sylhet, at village Silam

Sarker Chak. They chopped and

shot Abdur Rakib. When his elder

brother's wife Neharunnesa came to

save him, they also attacked her.

Both died on the spot. Rakib's

brother filed a case with the Kotwali

Sub Inspector Nazrul Islam

The killers were angry with Rakib

investigated the case and filed

as he was the peshkar at the court

where some dacoity cases against

them were pending. The four broth-

ers and their men were involved in

dacoity, murder and other criminal

activities in Sylhet region for the last

court hajat in 1986 by stabbing a

police constable and in 1998, he

threw chilly powder in the eyes of a

police constable and fled court

University Central Students' Union

(EUCSU) as well as all the hall

unions have also been suspended

as per a decision of the university's

imposed on the BUET campus with

a large number of police deployed at

all residential hall gates, administra-

tive building and in front of the

BUET Vice Chancellor Prof.

Nooruddin Ahmed declined to talk to

reporters at his office yesterday

afternoon. Instead he suggested to

them to contact the Director of

Students Welfare (DSW). The DSW,

A meeting of BUET academic

council, chaired by the VC, was

going on till filing of this report at

about 8:00 last night. Sources said

the meeting discussed the campus

situation and considered punitive

actions against students who dem-

onstrated on the campus over the

however, was not at his office.

university Shaheed Minar Chattar.

A tight security has been

cademic council.

Babul managed to escape from

one and a half decades.

hajat

charge sheet against nine people.

Police Station.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT. Sylhet

Five persons including four brothers were sentenced to death and three others to life imprisonment in a double murder case yesterday. Another accused in the case was cquitted

The District and Sessions Judge of Sylhet, Mohammad Ismail Miah, delivered the judgement in a crowded courtroom at 12:35pm.

Those given death penalty are four brothers - Babul, Talebul, Nazrul and Mujibur Rahman alias Mujibul (absconding)- and Manir. All of them are from village Silam Sarker Chak in Sadar upazila of the district.

The three who got life term are Shafiqur Rahman, Abdul Hannan and Milon (absconding). They were also given another 10 years' Rigorous Imprisonment under Section 458.

The acquitted accused is Alauddin alias Alai.

The prosecution case in brief is that the accused persons on the

# **Students defy**

FROM PAGE 12 announced a programme to bring out a procession and hold a rally on the campus today to press home their demands.

Earlier on Sunday night, BUET authorities distributed leaflets in the residential halls cautioning students against disobeying the new rules and regulations. The leaflets said a few students were conspiring to destroy peaceful atmosphere of the campus and that they would be punished.

The authorities also pulled down the plaque at the Female Residential Hall that the students put up on Sunday to rename the hall after Sabequn Nahar Sony, a female student of BUET who was killed in a shootout between two factions of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra

Dal (JCD) on June 8. After Sony's death, BUET authorities on July 21 imposed an indefinite ban on political activities including processions and rallies on campus.

revealed that three PCBs the

National Credit and Commerce

Bank Ltd (NCCBL), One Bank Ltd

Director Anwar Ahmed claimed that

they have filed four money suits

against Agarwal with the Artha Rin

Adalat (money law court) in June to

realise Tk 13 crore. After filing the

suit, Agarwal repaid about Tk 3

crore to the bank, he claimed. He

also said Agarwal talked to him over

Agarwal does not return from New

York and pay back the loans, the

bank will take help of the Interpol to

According to sources, the central

bank will probe deep into the case to

Meanwhile, BDR personnel

Naik Subedar Abdus Salam of 18

riffles battalion, lodged a case with

Alamdanga police station in

Chuadanga, accusing Giridhari Lal

Modi and Mahesh Kumar Modi, two

other Marwari businessmen, on

The NCCBL MD also said if

telephone.

ments

trace him down.

The activities of Engineering last two davs.

# **Agarwal tale**

the government-proposed ways of FROM PAGE 1 their rehabilitation, but they con-The BB probe team yesterday went tinue to oppose the September 1

cies and heroin to another private commercial bank, Mahesh Kumar Modi, who was the Prime Bank Ltd, to see if caught on Saturday night from the Agarwal had any dealing there. Chuadanga residence of Giridhari, Earlier, the investigation

was sent to the district jail The law enforcers produced him before the court yesterday and asked for his remand to interrogate

charge of keeping foreign curren-

DHAKA TUESDAY AUGUST 13, 2002

reports proves any direct health risk from use of mobile phones, said Syed Yamin Bakht, Head of Information Department of GrameenPhone Limited, the country's leading mobile phone service provider. Bakht said some studies recommended that a heavy user should use handsfree earplugs to be on the

Many studies have been done in

many developed countries on

possible health effect on health from

use of mobile phone. But none of the

safe side. Moreover, mobile phone handset manufacturers also abide by the limits on radiation level set by many countries. Mobile user Tanvir Ahmed won-

dered how could the government restrict teenagers aged 18 and above from using mobile phone since they are considered adults

the government is seriously thinking of restricting use of mobile phone by teenagers until they are 16 to save them from possible radiation, which might cause brain dam-

Some research shows radiation from mobile phone can affect brain tissue and thought processes

people are at more risk because their skulls are thinner.

rate of mobile phone use, many of the companies target youths in marketing mobile phones.

mobile phone by youths is not

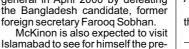
constitutionally. Sources in the ICT ministry said colonies.

age

Experts say children and young

In developed countries with high

" As far as we know, use of



The speakers at the rally blamed mismanagement of the food ministry, corruption of a section of food officials and dishonest profit-hungry suppliers for the wheat scam.

A trader of Bogra town's Fateh Ali market talking to The Daily Star wondered why the warehouses were sealed eight days after the allegations surfaced.

He also said news of the alleged scam broke out on August 2 and the local probe committees went into action on August 4. But the warehouses were sealed on August 9, just a day before the food ministry's probe committee arrived here

"And all the sealed warehouses were opened after the probe team left Bogra...then what's the point sealing six other warehouses which were not inspected at all", said another businessman of Borogola. Before leaving the town on

Sunday, the probe team sources informed The Daily Star that there was no putrefied wheat in the grana ries, but one of them pointed out that the wheat might have been imported from India as poultry feed. The sources also hinted that they

gathered evidences which reinforce the allegation that the wheat was procured after the scheduled date.

"Anyone who is health conscious will buy the wheat for own consump-

### Ad arrears FROM PAGE 12

BTV news bulletins. They said BTV

could improve its bulletins by skipping such items that do not have much merit and news value. Tariqul Islam informed them that

serious efforts are underway to improve BTV news bulletins in line with the challenges of the day.

Information Secretary Mirza Tasaddeq Hossain Beg, Principal Information Officer Fazal M Kamal and senior officials of the ministry attended the meeting.

being killed brutally, but the government, instead of taking action against the killers, is running the country by keeping them in its fold," said the Awami League chief.

by the two infanticides.

places

killers of the schoolboy.

badges and hoisted black flags as well as carried banners and posters inscribed with the demand that the killers be sent to the gallows.

was kidnapped to ransom on August 5 and later murdered and thrown into river Shitalakkhva.

has mostly refused to eat anything, was lying down on the bed holding house at about 11:15am.

"Even I could not see the body of my beloved son. I do not know how many mothers will lose their sons," cried out the mother bereft of her dearest one, the only son.

mother a glass of milk.

be killed and no mother to lose her son," Hasina said, "but fathers and mothers are living in grave fear

alive or not." From Armanitola Hasina went to

house of the poor parents of Ratna, rel with her playmate.

her...now how we will live.'

Bappi, son of a businessman,

Bappi's mother Roksana, who

the clothes of her slain son close to her when Hasina arrived at the

Hasina consoled her saying that she had also lost her near and dear ones. She offered the distraught

"We don't want a single child to

whether their children will return

machines and men have been working round the clock over the last Manda and visited the thatched one week. Every day, the demand is rising," said Zakaria Khaled, director

lets.

the girl child of a rickshawpuller, allegedly slaughtered by her neighbors on August 10 following a quar-

The same tradic scene was created in the small house of Ratna. The wailing mother, demanding punishment to the killers, said, "We had the only daughter, but we lost General of Police of West Bengal in India TA Khan, was shot dead on June 9, 1999 by armed killers when he was returning home from his

office at Agrabad. James Roy, the manager of Centrans, filed a case in connection with the murder the next day. Police submitted charge sheets

Jubo League leader arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A Jubo League leader was arrested from Ulania under Galachipa upazila in Patuakhali yesterday in connection with a dacoity.

Police arrested Nazrul Islam Sikder, president of Ulania unit of Jubo league, on suspicion of his involvement in a dacoity at the house of one Gita Rani Das at Hogolbunia village on Thursday niaht.

He was arrested following filing of a case, police said.

### Clamour for blood, beds FROM PAGE 1

to 1,576 and the death toll to 23.

is meant for the patients admitted.

has already added one more official

to its strength, and by today three

more staff, two nurses and one

of blood programme of the BRCS.

sure on the BRCS.

deal with the emergency.

"My nephew is sick and doctors at There are about six blood separathe Nibedita private clinic said he has tors in various government hospitals, dengue haemorrhagic fever. I am now looking for platelets," said but four of them are now out of order. The machine at the Dhaka Medical Mahbub, uncle of a seven-year-old College Hospital only works till boy now fighting for life at the clinic. 2:30pm and the one at the BIRDEM

Another young man was found pleading for emergency supply of This has put tremendous presplatelets, urging the lady at the reception to hurry up. To cope with the rush, the BRCS

His mother is seriously ill at the Bangladesh Medical College Hospital in Dhanmandi and is struggling for life with DHF.

technologist, will be sent to the blood "I must get one bag of platelets. centre from the headquarters. More My mother was earlier diagnosed for officials have been kept stand-by to heart ailment, but later doctors referred my mother to Bangladesh "We have made all arrangements Medical College Hospital saying she to cope with the demand. Our has dengue haemorragic fever and her platelet count was less than 30,000," said the upset man.

Kamal Hossain, whose brother is down with dengue, lined up at the cetnre with four donors, asking the Officials, laboratory technicians officials to collect blood from them as and other staff at the Mohammadpur quickly as possible.

centre yesterday were seen busy "My brother Sujon will not survive registering names of blood donors. if we cannot take two bags of plate-The first floor of the centre was lets in four hours. But the officials say packed with people seeking plateit would take six hours to prepare the platelet," said the man

Sujon is fighting for life at the The reception counter was also crowded with people clamouring for Bangladesh Medical College

and any blood stained 'evidence' from inside the said car," the learned court observed

"PW 48 did not visit Potenga Seabeach area, the alleged first place of conspiracy and also did not visit Mistiripara and also did not verify the statements of PW 3, 4, and others regarding their attempt of collecting blood, sending news to Jibran Tayyabi's office and handing over of sunglasses, money (that belonged to the victim) and keys of Jibran's wife's car," the court

added. PW 48 connected and submitted

some papers before the court with taking proper of permission, the court further said.

The verdict said, "such activities of a senior police officer is unwarranted and he knows well for whose interest he did so." "If the investigation proceeded

more cautiously then it would be easier for the court to make an end o this case more efficiently," the verdict added. Special Public Prosecutor (SPP)

Hospital with continuos internal

bleeding, a common symptom of

DHF. He needs immediate treatment

to recover from the shock he is

suffering, doctors said

freezer

gist

patients.

stocks.

Md. Faruq, SPP Md. Fakhruddin

#### might give them one or two extra weeks beyond the deadline. I don't think this should create any problem.

Talking to The Daily Star yester-

day, Communication Minister

In its first meeting yesterday, the 12-member committee, which also include leaders of the ownersemployees' associations. formed a nine-member committee headed by BRTA (Bangladesh Road Transport Authority) chairman to specifically work on the issue of rehabilitation.

Both the committees would meet at the communication ministry this afternoon.

Meanwhile, the Communication Ministry has said Bangladesh Railway (BR) would start a shuttle train service on the Tongi-Dhaka route from September 1 as an alternative means of transport for city-dwellers.

A BR official said last night that the BR was yet to receive any official instruction in that regard. He however said the BR was capable of launching a shuttle service on the route whenever authorities want it.

the health ministry supplied a num-

ber of blood separators or platelet-

making machines to different gov-

ernment hospitals across the country

about three years ago. But most of

to refuse patients due to lack of beds.

are compelled to send patients to

hospitals," said an official of a private

Mirpur reported it also has no space

for new patients. At the Nibedita and

Central hospitals, there was no bed

dengue patients. "We are getting

patients almost every hour. We are in

a tight situation," said one on-duty

Another Paediatric hospital in

clinic in Dhanmandi.

yesterday evening

doctor yesterday.

and Dhaka bank Ltd provided him, a request the court turned financial facilities to Agarwal down Meantime, NCCBL Managing

Different security agencies and law enforcers are after Agarwal and his introducer to different banks. Giridhari Lal Modi, but they are yet to come up with any result.

### Housewite FROM PAGE 12

their involved in the death of the girl. Son of the master, Sumon, and his cousin Bipul have been absconding following the incident.

Meantime, Mirpur police yesterday recovered the body of a garment employee, Asma Begum, 24, from a slum at Gudaraghat

find out whether there were any Police suspect that the victim illegal transactions and how the might have been strangled by her banks disbursed cash subsidy to Agarwal against 'fake' export docuhusband Abu Sayeed.

Sources said the housewife had quarrel with her husband as he took away her three-year-old girl. Afsana Begum.

Following the quarrel, the husband allegedly killed his wife, police said. The husband has been absconding since the incident.

# Lobbying for presidency

FROM PAGE 12 to presidency, a possibility the prime

minister herself has hinted at. But recently she heard some allegations against Sircar which have prompted her to rethink the option.

Sources said names of three more senior BNP leaders have surfaced as probable candidates for presidency. They are Dr RA Gani Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed, MP and Abdul Matin Chowdhury.

Besides, the BNP hardliners At least five city clinics yesterday who engineered B Chowdhury's exit

from office. are rallying round Land Minister M Shamsul Islam "We have patients on the floor. They said the move by a section But we cannot cope with the rush and

of the BNP leaders to nominate a retired judge of the Supreme Court or an eminent person for the highest constitutional office has been ruled out as BNP leadership does not want to take any risk, especially during the period of caretaker administration.

available till writing of this report BNP insiders said the BNP chairperson prefers to pick a person The Dhaka Shishu Hospital also who is tested and trusted witnessed a rush for admission of

Meanwhile, most BNP leaders feel no neutral or dignified person would agree to be become presi-

Talking to The Daily Star, a frontranking BNP leader said, on condition of anonymity, that who will be

of B Chowdhury.

dent given the unceremonious exit

chosen to run for the presidency entirely depends on the prime minister despite the fact that she discussed the matter with other leaders.

He added it would take some more time to arrive at a decision about nomination of a person for the race or office, for that matter.

He apprehended that there might be conflict of interests between two factions of the BNP who are at odds with each other over getting their own men nominated to run the race.

### Missions abroad

FROM PAGE 12

posts, the officials are yet to join office

Recently, the government has appointed three journalists as minister (press) -- Syed Kamal Uddin to Washington, Fazal M Kamal to the United Kingdom and M Anwarul Hag to New Delhi

"We have two machines to sepathem are now out of order, alleged rate concentrated red blood cells patients and doctors. from the platelet. With the rush we At the Dhaka Medical College now have extra manpower to deal Hospital, the separator at the blood with the demand," said one medical bank has not still been put into use. technologist at the BRCS. Meantime, most of the private "We can make 12 bags of platele clinics, mostly children's hospitals, are refusing patients due to lack of

every six hours. The process gets slow to screen blood for sexually beds. transmitted diseases like HIV," said another technologist. told this correspondent that they had

He also said most people destroy

"We have received complaints

platelet by putting the bags in the

from many clients that damaged

platelet was supplied to the patients.

But it is not true," said the technolo-

In last seven days, the blood

centre has supplied 520 units of

platelets. In normal time, the centre

normally makes about 10 bags of

platelet a day mostly for cancer

said the government hospitals

cannot supply platelet from their

Meantime, attendants of patients

Under an UNDP funded project,