ern West Bank yesterday as the

Israeli army prepared for an initial

pullback of forces in Palestinian

territories as a hopeful step towards

winding down tensions in the nearly

was agreed on Sunday night as a

means to restore some of the confi-

dence that has been eroded in the

almost 23-month conflict, but the

outbreak of fighting underscored the

towns of Nablus and Jenin, trigger-

ing clashes that left a Palestinian

man critically injured. Two Israeli

soldiers were slightly injured in

Nablus's Old City, where the army

found and destroyed an explosives

A 13-year-old Palestinian boy

was also shot dead by Israeli fire in

Charge framed

against Pasha

The Third Additional Metropolitan

Sessions Judge's Court. Dhaka.

yesterday framed charges against

'top listed criminal' Kamal Pasha

alias Pasha and his driver

Mahbubur Rahman in the sensa-

tional Mohammadpur double mur-

court under tight security.

dead at nearby Lalmatia.

Bushra

FROM PAGE 12

FROM PAGE 12

periods

Both were produced before the

Judge Mollah Mostafa Kamal

Two brothers- Syed Asfaq

fixed August 27 for hearing of the

Hossain alias Jewel, 27, and Syed

Mohammad Ali alias, 23, - were

called out of their Noor Jahan Road

residence in Mohammadpur area of

the city by Pasha at about 8.00 am

on May 5, 2000. Then he shot them

Hassain, filed a murder case with

Mohammadpur Police Station,

accusing pasha of killing his sons.

The victims' father, Syed Amjad

The investigation officer (IO) of

the case submitted charge sheet

against pasha and his driver to the

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's

(CMM's) Court on June 27 last year.

Mohammadpur Police Station,

accusing pasha of killing his sons.
The investigation officer (IO) of

the case submitted charge sheet

against pasha and his driver to the

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's

(CMM's) Court on June 27 last year.

after the incident while pasha was

remains 'alive' even during lean

It has been found out that the

project has secretly been initiated

by the DCC to fill up this natural

canal and build a 2000-capacity

truck terminal over an area of ten

acres. However, interestingly, some

DCC officials, when approached

wondered how such a TK 2 (two)

crore project could have been

initiated at a time when the corpora-

tion does not even have adequate

They further said that Haikkar

Khal is clearly marked in their maps

and relevant documents and so

could not figure out how the project

could have been approved by the

former mayor, Mohammad Hanif, in

Quamruzzaman Mahmood, when

asked, said that at the very begin-

ning he had no idea about the

project. When it finally came to his

The chief engineer of the DCC,

funds to pay its staff memebers.

arrested on May 21 this year.

The driver was arrested five days

der case.

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Israeli forces charged into the

difficulties facing the project.

The plan for a phased withdrawal

23-month-old conflict.



Moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over the country with moderately heavy falls at places during the next 12 hours till 6pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met office said. Yesterday's highest temperature of 33.4 degree Celsius was

recorded at Khulna and lowest of 24.7 degree Celsius at Sitakunda. The sun sets in the capital at 6:28pm today and rises at

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/ Iown	in Celsius		numidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.6	25.6	91	88
Chittagong	31.4	24.8	88	83
Rajshahi	32.6	26.6	83	89
Khulna	33.4	26.6	86	90
Barisal	30.4	25.2	90	95
Sylhet	31.5	25.4	80	100
Cox's Bazar	32.2	25.6	83	81

"PM's talk about human rights a shameless hoax"

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday criticised the prime minister for her remarks at the conference of Imams, dubbing them as a travesty "Khaleda Zia made a shameless

hoax before the nation speaking about her initiative towards flourishing culture of human rights in the country," she said in a statement.

The Awami League president in a blistering criticism observed that the present government buried human rights in the country unleashing the reign of terror, killing, rape, repression and looting.

She said during the rule of this government, 10 people were being killed and three rapes including rape of minor girls being committed every day while cases have been filed

against 50,000 people so far Innumerable Awami League workers have been thrown behind bars in

The tales of human rights do not stand without completing the execution of the killers of Banga-bandhu," she said, adding that the present government could not present anything to the nation other than killing, rape and repression.

Hasina alleged that due to the misrule of the present government, the country was known abroad as a "terrorist. Taliban and communal

"When the nation and human rights organisations are raising their voice against rampant human rights violation under this government, Begum Zia is continuing her habitual falsehood," said the ex-PM in a vitriolic attack on her political adver-

Medicinal plant

Easily available at affordable prices, medicinal plants have occupied an important position in socio-cultural, spiritual and medicinal arena of rural and tribal lives of

Officials said the Prime Minister is emphasising on cultivation of medicinal plants as they yield benefits in terms of monetary, environmental and sustainable

The country can also earn foreign currency by exporting the species of medicinal plants.

Prime Minister asked all to plant trees on the premises of offices, schools, colleges alongside roads,

highways and rail lines, on the bank of the rivers and canals and at

homesteads.

In the Banasrava, trees were planted in 50 per cent space, shrubs in 30 per cent and herbs in 20 per cent.

Minister for Forest and Environment Shahjahan Siraj and State Minister for Forest and Environment Zafrul Islam Chowdhury were present on the

According to an estimate of World Health Organisation, 80 per cent of the population of developing countries rely on traditional medicines, mostly plant drugs for

Downward revision

development

Minister for Finance Anwarul Kabir Talukdar, State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury, Finance Secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan, Food Secretary Abdul Latif Mandal, Agriculture Secretary Aiyub Quadri, Planning Secretary Badiur Rahman. Health and Family Welfare Secretary Fazlur Rahman, Disaster Management Secretary Mozharul Hag and other senior officials of different ministries and departments took part in the meeting. The meeting also resolved that

the projected food production would be 280.77 lakh MT in the 2002-03 fiscal, which means a 17-lakh MT

Sources in the meeting said Bangladesh requires 225 lakh MT foodgrains for 135 million people, with 16 ounces for a person a day. "So, food-wise we're in a stable

situation. There will be no food shortage in the foreseeable future," said a minister who attended the meeting. The total amount of projected

foodgrains is: aus -- 18.40 lakh MT, aman -- 114.58 lakh MT, boro --130.29 lakh MT and wheat -- 17.50 lakh MT. Maize production was not projected, though

Asked, Food Secretary Abdul Latif Mandal told reporters that maize would be incorporated later

"Increasing maize production is very important. We have a production of one lakh MT...and the domestic requirement is seven lakh

_ow on recovery

02 from Tk 1,000 crore in 1997-98. In crop alone, disbursement shot up by Tk 575.96 crore in one fiscal vear, from Tk 412.02 crore in 1997-98 to Tk 987 crore in 1998-99.

"More disbursement means more income for the officials." said the official

There are allegations that BKB officials charged their clients 10 to 20 per cent of the sanctioned amount as commissions.

On August 11, while speaking as chief guest at the bank's 34th central conference and inauguration of its web site, Finance Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman said, ""Some people told me that the Grameen Bank charge 20 per cent interest on loans. But a Grameen Bank borrower gets the full amount of loan he applies for. But in the case of the BKB, a farmer who

maximum of Tk 8,000 due to corruption. This has to end. In many cases fresh loans were sanctioned to defaulters after rescheduling previous classified

borrows Tk 10,000 actually gets a

loans, it has been alleged. The BKB managing director admitted that fresh loans were

rescheduling of debts but attributed it to the government policy for injection of more funds after the 1998 deluge

sanctioned to defaulters after

"Many of the borrowers did not make repayments on their loans, pushing classified loans to their present level," AKM Sajedur Rahman told The Daily Star last

However, the newly introduced maximum incentive for recovery of a classified loan entirely (MIRA-CLE) has contained the upward climb. "We have recovered a record Tk 250 crore in only four months since introduction of the programme in March this year."

The new package entitles a staff to 10 per cent of the realised interest as cash incentive in case of closure of a loan account by full recovery, irrespective of its classified status, substandard, doubtful or bad.

The MIRACLE has also helped curb corruption among officials, the BKB managing director said. "Lower-level officials have initiated a serious drive to recover classified amount for the cash incentive. Already they have received Tk 5.40

4 more

FROM PAGE 1

other three are Mohammad Russel. 14. Mohammad Shahid, 18 and Mohammad Ratan - all marked for their connection with Alauddin.

Earlier, on Saturday night, the Tejgaon police arrested a local youth named Shadat Hossain and one Fazilatunnesa, a local resident, for their alleged involvement in the killings. Police recovered a bloodstained shirt of Alauddin from the residence of Fazilatunnesa.

Shadat Hossain was placed on a one-day remand while Fazilatunnesa was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail.

On Sunday, police picked up Minu Begum, the criminal's first wife, and his mother Samosta Banu for interrogation. The two were allowed to leave the police station after questioning.

Mohammad Alauddin, one of the most wanted criminals in the country, and his gang members shot dead three people on Saturday afternoon .The deceased are Nizamuddin Bhuivan, an industrialist. Dinesh Chandra Sen. an assitant sub-inspector of police, and Abdul Khandakar Harun , a small

Businessman

FROM PAGE 1
Witnesses said Dipu ran away as the killers shot his friend dead in front of his house. Later, Dipu went to the DMCH to know the condition of his friend, but relatives of Farid caught him and handed him over to Motijheel Police.

Farid was the owner of two shops, one at Rajdhani Super at Tikatuli market, while the other at the City Heart in the city's Paltan area.

He was the second of four brothers. The reason behind the killing of the businessman could not be known immediately. The duty officer of Motijheel Police Station said last night that they are yet to file any

4 Khulna food

FROM PAGE 1 control medicines worth Tk 16,000 were stolen took place in June this

It was learnt that CSD Manager Biswas Zafar Ali concealed the actual quantity of pest control medicines stolen so far. Because, he failed to supply six cartoons of Agriphos tablets to LSD godowns as ordered by the RC of Food. The CSD manager supplied liquid pest control medicines instead of Agriphos tablets, sources at the office of the

RC of Food said yesterday.

Food grains handling operation at Khulna CSD godown has been suspended for the time being. But the RC of Food said only wheat supply has been suspended,

Rejoinder

FROM PAGE 12 bers of district level committees, suppliers and others in Pabna, Bogra and Satkhira, some of those present raised the issue of extension of procurement deadline and upward revision of procurement target, and suggested that late procurement afforded an opportuity for supply from sour than the local growers. On this, the committee commented that the matter is being examined by the committee, and it can comment on the issues only after completion of

its investigation ' Our Reply: The comments of the committee stated in The Daily Star report have already been published in different national dailies during the probe committee's visits to different food godowns in Bogra, Pabna and Satkhira. Besides, the main focus of The Daily Star's report was on procurement of wheat without the knowledge of district and thana-level procurement committee members. On that particular issue, the rejoinder did not mention any thing as it has clarified that committee would comment once the investigation is completed. We stand by our report.

Indian tribesmen

FROM PAGE 1 BSF. Later they shot dead the two. The Indians also took the country

used by the two Bangladeshis. BDR recovered the body of Aminuddin yesterday. The body of Abdul Karim was handed over after a

flag meeting between BDR and BSF. The country boat taken away by the Indians was also returned.

Dengue

FROM PAGE 1

College Hospital last week. They were referred to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) later on.

According to official sources, as of yesterday, 2,503 people have been infected with dengue since January this year; 30 have died so

Different private hospitals and clinics admitted 55 people yesterday including 13 suffering from dengue haemorrhagic fever Meanwhile, crisis for beds still

persists in many of the private clinics, sources said. Admission of dengue patients to different hospitals is difficult in some leading private clinics while in public hospitals due to bed crisis patients are reported to have been offered space on floors. The rush for platelet is still on.

unless the count goes down to less than 20,000. Until yesterday evening the Red Crescent Blood Centre supplied 38 units of platelet, down from an average of more than sixty units a

few days back.

Medical practitioners recommend

fresh platelets should not be injected

Burgin near Jenin, as Israeli armour moved into a village. The raids came as Israel vowed Sharp clashes erupted in the north-

prepares for pullback

Fighting erupts as Israel

to continue its crackdown on militants even as both sides geared for renewed talks on implementing the security plan, whereby Israel would leave Palestinian self-rule areas of Gaza and Bethlehem as local security forces took charge.

Radical Palestinian groups rejected the plan and vowed to press their campaign of suicide bombings and other attacks.

Israeli troops were set to withdraw from parts of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Bethlehem under an accord reached by Israeli Defence Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer and Palestinian interior minister Abdel Razaq al-Yahya.

Palestinian forces were to take over security responsibilities from the Israelis in what was seen as the first real test of cooperation in

months. If the arrangement works, it would be extended to other areas.

Israeli officials gave no precise time for the first pullbacks. Israeli public radio said they would begin yesterday evening, while senior Palestinian official Nabil Abu Rudeina said Sunday they would start within 48 hours.

The so-called "Gaza First" security deal came amid a lull in the violence that has claimed more than 2,400 lives since September 2000. No suicide attacks or major Israeli operations have been reported in the past two weeks.

The pullbacks would be the first since Israel launched a new drive against Palestinian militants, including the re-occupation of most major West Bank towns, following a spate of suicide attacks two months ago.

Leave to appeal against HC verdict on PSA

granted

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday granted petitions for leave to appeal challenging the High Court Division verdict or writ petitions challenging legality of

the Public Safety Act (PSA).

The full court of the appellate division headed by Chief Justice

Mainur Reza Chowdhury passed the order upon hearing the petitions. Mamunur Rashid Mamun and Mohiuddin as well as 16 others filed the leave petitions before the Appellate Division challenging the

The High Court on April 30 declared hearing on petitions challenging the legality of the PSA as "infructuous" as the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) had already abolished the law.

The JS scrapped the law, with a provision to withdraw the cases under this act by government notifi-cation after scrutinising the cases. Senior advocate Khondoker Mahbub Hossain appeared before the court on behalf of the petitioners

Titas unionists

while additional attorney general Abdur Rezak Khan stood for the

FROM PAGE 12 are now out to establish the ruling party's control over the officers

body, they said. Meanwhile, a section of Titas officials were learnt to have started lobbying with the trade union leaders in their bid to get place in the new committee of

only to find out that the project was

approved by the former mayor

Mohammad Hanif and that the

work has been suspended as well,

that the contractor was still filling up

the canal, he said that under such

circumstances the DCC would

proceed on to forfeit the 2.5 percent

earnest money deposited by the

contractor against the project. "We

might also blacklist him if he defies

the official order to stop the land

told The Daily Star that he has

already served a notice on the

contractor ordering him to stop the

earth filling work immediately. He

assured that he would further inves-

Executive Engineer Abul Hasnat

filling," Mahmood added.

said DCC's chief engineer.

the payment.

leaves 12 hurt

At least 12 people, including three between BCL and JCD activists on

Police said the clash erupted at about 10:30am when a procession of ruling party's student front, JCD (Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal), encountered a rally of Awami Leaguebacked BCL (Bangladesh Chhatra League) at Pubali Bank premises at

Earlier, a tense situation was created by supporters of the two student bodies as they tried to enter the campus simultaneously in procession to receive the freshers of

college unit president of BCL.

rival groups pelted brickbats. exploded crackers and opened gunfire.

Police resorted to baton charge.

injuries from brickbats. Of them,

BCL-JCD clash in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

policemen, were injured in a lash the Government Victoria College

HSC class.

allegedly assaulted Enamul Huq,

To disperse the clashing groups.

were injured.

campus vesterday morning.

At this time, JCD supporters

Witnesses said during the clash.

ers Sumir Barua and Abdul Hannan, and JCD leader Wasim sustained

In the afternoon, BCL at a press conference at the local AL office blamed JCD for the incident and claimed that 15 of their supporters

League government.

Probe again

toring and inspection in wheat procurement in different districts

this year. It suspected involvement of some food officials in the irregulari-

ties in procurement. Sources close to the ministry's probe committee said there would not have been any irregularity had there been proper inspection and monitoring of the quality of wheat

procured at grassroots level silos. Declining to make the investiga tion report public at this stage, Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman also told newsmen at his office yesterday that there were negligence of duty by district and thana-level food officials in timely inspection and monitoring.

"There are committees from thana to district levels and above but roblems that we are facing today is

because of lack of proper monitor ng at these levels", Noman said. Despite insistence from newsmen, the food minister expressed his inability to divulge findings of the

probe committee "We should not do it now as another committee formed at the prime minister's directive is still probing the allegations.

Noman, however, asserted that stringent action will be taken against the officials responsible for all the irregularities.

Asked about BNP men's involvement in the scam, Noman said, "For that I can not take action from my ministry, action has to be taken

politically Noman said he has not vet received the probe committee report, submitted to the secretary of

the ministry Sunday night. Equally tight-lipped Food Secretary Abdul Latif Mandal said he would not reveal the contents of

the report at this stage.
"Last night I just had a glance over the report. We will review the report first and than go for necessary actions. You have to wait for few days," Mandal told newsmen at

his office yesterday.
On insistence, the food secretary said, "I can assure you that we wil examine it (investigation report) at

the earliest and take action.' Probe team members food ministry Joint Secretary Yakub Ali, Deputy Head of Food Monitoring Cell Pranab Chakravarthy, Director of Food Directorate Abdur Rouf, and Chief Chemist Mahmuduzzaman

all kept mum. The committee members said they are pledge-bound not to reveal

any thing from the report.

Four killed in road accident in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

Four people, including two women and a child, were killed in a fatal road accident at Bakhrabad in Chandina upazila on Dhaka-Chittagong high-

wav vesterdav. Police said the accident took place when a private car crashed into a Dhaka-bound bus from Feni at about 12:30pm, killing the car driver and its

passengers.
The identities of the victims could not be known. Police seized the bus but its driver

fled the scene. A case was filed.

Biggest ever 'tax evasion'

FROM PAGE 12

Afterwards, the BAC formed a sixmember committee headed by Abul Kashem Fakir, BAC deputy director (taskforce) on further investigation

submitted, the sources said. The number of the accused in the first two FIRs was only 14, and it

The former NBR chairman and other customs officials have been accused for allegedly suppressing

1998, but no case was filed with the customs department for hearing The VAT officials kept the file

The tax evasion was revealed in

Customs rules state that the NBR chairman should have filed a case against the companies immediately after detection of tax evasion. Also, the case was shelved during the period of the Awami

coming to no

ent BNP-led coalition government revived the file and instructed the BAC to investigate the case. Akij Group Chairman Akij Uddin

denied the allegation and said the investigation is baseless. Akij Uddin vowed to fight the case in the court. "I paid Tk 32 crore in duties last month, which is almost

double the payment by other lead-

ing ten factories," he claimed. Meanwhile. State Minister for Finance Shah Abul Hossain and the NBR high officials negotiated several times with the Akij Group on the evaded tax.

hassle. The state minister assured that the government would withdraw the case if the group paid the tax. But the Akij Group chairman told

Group pay the tax to avoid legal

They suggested that the Akij

The Daily Star, "We won't negotiate since we don't have any fault." He said he did not have money

enough to pay the government. Recently, the customs excise and VAT authorities issued a showcause and a demand notice against the Akij Group for payment

of the evaded tax, the sources said. The notice was not issued earlier because of interference by the previous government, said an NBR

aw minister defends

Last October, the chief justice requested the government that Justice Nurul Islam be appointed to the Appellate Division on an ad hoc basis. However, the government did

mended any name ever since. Meanwhile, Justice Islam went into retirement on June 1 this year.

At yesterday's press briefing, Moudud said that the government was in favour of quick disposal of any case, which is why "we have enhanced the strength of the Appellate Division from five to

"The government cannot be blamed for the fact that some judges were embarrassed to hear the

the control of the attorney general." The law minister also expressed

doubt whether the prosecution

really wanted the proceedings to go

cion, saying, "If the government

were sincere it would have

appointed a judge to the Appellate

on at this point in time, although the government "has retained the public prosecutors from the previous Advocate Anisul Huq, special public prosecutor for the case, dismissed the law minister's suspi-

Division on an ad hoc basis a long time back." Hug also hoped that the chief iustice would soon recommend a

BNP UP chairman

Press Club in the city yesterday. The factory produces mango pulp, potato cracker palate and

grinded spices. Deputy managing director of the group Ahsan Khan Chowdhury and executive director Eleas Mridha and general manager (marketing) Kamruzzaman Kamal were also present at the press conference.

"We like to open the factory as early as possible, but it is not possible till law and order in the area improved," Ahsan Khan Chowdhury said. The company executives said

the UP chairman wanted to have some 'purchase deals' with the company and to have his men appointed in some posts, but the management did not agree to that.

The company lodged general diaries with Natore thana on October 23 last year and also filed cases accusing the UP chairman and his associates including Habibur Rahman, Md Ruhul Amin and Md Aktar Hossain. Some those were also arrested, but after getting bail they retaliated and created more problems for the company management, its officials and

"As the lives of those involved in the company are not secure, we are unable to run the factory," Amjad Khan said. "We informed all the

uty commissioner of Natore about the whole situation, but we are yet

500 women and launched contract farming in the area. Apart from mango growers, 2,000 more were directly or indirectly involved in its activities. The management of the com-

informed the officer-inpanv charge of Natore thana on August 8 and filed another case against Md Ruhul Amin. But after getting bail, the accused assaulted a worker of the factory. On August 12, the gang snatched mobile phone set from an official and forces him out of the factory, the press conference was

Pran Agro is a Tk 10 crore project with Tk4.5 crore from the Equity and Entrepreneurship Fund. The company purchased 7,000 metric tons of mango in the last season. According to media reports,

of a deputy minister from the area. A monthly meeting on law and order in the district held on Friday was attended by him and a state minister . Deputy Commissioner of Natore Sadar Uddin Ahmed claimed at the meeting that law and order in the district was satisfactory.

No PSC extension

the first place.

Cairn Energy, Europe's largest

Morgan Stanley to act on the takeover, according to a report published in an Indian newspaper, The

unsuccessful attempts. It was given a one-year extension the following month although there was no such contractual provision. But again, the contract was terminated in February

fulfil its minimum work commitment. During this process, Petrobangla liquidated UMC-Ocean Energy's bank guarantee of US\$ 3 million as

given up their hopes, sources said, and they are lobbying hard at the political level to get a third chance. The energy ministry has sought Petrobangla's observation in this regard, which has informed the

venture in Bangladesh has been suffering due to cash crunch all along. It had attempted to drill an exploratory well in Kasalong but failed repeatedly due to lack of Just a month before the termina-

The UMC began its seismic survey in block 22 having an area of 1,100 kilometres in late 1997. As per the survey analysis, the UMC detected some oil prospects in Kasalong and sought approval from Petrobangla to start drilling of an exploration well there. Previously, the government

their work commitments. Following more than a year of unsolicited negotiations during the previous BNP regime, the UMC signed its PSC with Petrobangla

SAPTA benefit FROM PAGE 1 ing export potentials to the SAARC

countries. Meantime, Bangladesh has also received from the six SAARC coun-

sought duty benefit for 369 items, Pakistan for 3064 items, Nepal for 1631 items. Sri Lanka for 248 items, Bhutan for 156 items and Maldives for 243 items.

fit to its SAARC partners only if they agree to give similar benefits to us," a tariff commission official said.

DCC suspends canal filling

the chief engineer today (Tuesday).

the existence of Haikkar Khal there,

"Our documents explicitly show

issued which in turn means that the project papers again and take contractor was guaranteed about further action. As conscious citizens the responsibility of protecting the "We so far have not made any environment is ours," said Hasnat. payment to the contractor and the According to the local people if the flow of the canal is cut off, the

would seriously be threatened as

the pressure of huge volumes of

water coming from the river Turag

road and the island. Meanwhile, Abu Naser Khan, general secretary of the Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon expressed his grave concern over such an action. The general secretary, in the meantime, has sent a letter of concern to the former mayor, Mohammad Hanif, urging him to protect the natural canal and

attention, he looked into the matter

Unocal. In both cases, the PSCs of Cairn and Occidental were in effect. Meantime, the Indian stateowned Oil and Natural Gas Company (ONGC) is in a bid to buy

Sunday Telegraph. At present, Cairn is operating in blocks 15 and 16 in Bangladesh with Shell. If the ONGC succeeds to buy Cairn, an Indian company would for the first time have its presence in the

once again the company failed to per the PSC.

The UMC-Ocean Energy's

Kandirpar area.

Three police officers, BCL lead-

condition of Sumir was stated to be critical.

'work order' for it had already been but we shall definitely look at the Basila Road and the island of Basila When the Chief Engineer learnt

towards the Buriganga would hit the

save the environment.

tigate the matter and report back to

independent oil and gas group. The ONGC has been attracted by Cairn's significant assets in the Indian subcontinent and has appointed US investment bank

country's hydrocarbon sector. The PSC of UMC and Ocean Energy for oil and gas exploration in the CHT was first terminated in January 2000 after three years of

Successful lobbying gave the oil companies a second chance in March 2001 for yet another year. But Yet, the companies have not

ministry that there was no scope or reason for another extension.

tion of the PSC last year, the UMC applied for extension for another vear and said it would complete drilling of an exploratory well in Patia. The original PSC was signed with the UMC, and Ocean Energy became its partner in 1999.

extended the "terminated" PSCs of

Occidental and Oakland-Tullow.

Both these companies failed to fulfil

during the Awami League regime in the second week of January, 1997.

> tries rough lists of items for which they also want duty benefits. According to sources, India has

"Bangladesh will give duty bene-

into the case. The committee interrogated some of the accused and recommended that the chargesheet be

climbed to 70 after investigation by the committee.

facts and diverting the case.

before the customs excise and VAT commissioner. pending for years together on a directive of the finance ministry and the then NBR high officials, the

not respond. The chief justice has not recom-

> name for appointment to the Appellate Division

to see any result." Pran Agro Ltd engaged 1,000 employees and workers including

The managing director said

Golam Sarwar enjoys the blessings