Acquire knowledge

### **DND Dam overflowed**

Water Development Board of the dam leakage from the beginning, but the authorities were aloof.

Reports from the flood-hit areas said sufferings of the affected people are mounting in the absence of adequate relief operation. The district administrations distributed relief materials, which were insuffi-

The Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief yesterday allocated Tk 12.50 lakh in cash and 650 tonnes of rice worth Tk 9.5 lakh for four flood-hit districts --Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha and Sirajganj. The money and rice will be distributed among families affected by flash floods, officials

Officials at the Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC) said although the situation in Narsinghdi, Narayanganj and Kishoreganj districts is likely to remain almost unchanged, the situation would improve in Panchagarh, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Ranhpur and Kurigram in the next two days.

Flood situation in Gaibandha, Bogra, Jamalpur, Sirajganj, Pabna, Tangail, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Rajbari and Madaripur districts are likely to deteriorate.

According to a bulletin of the FFWC, flood situation in the Meghna basin is likely to remain unchanged. Light to moderately heavy rainfall at most places and heavy fall at some places in the Brahmaputra basin and light to moderately heavy rainfall at most places in the Ganges basin were recorded during the 24 hours till 09:00 am yesterday.

Our Correspondent in Gaibandha reported that flood situation deteriorated as the Teesta and the Brahmaputra swelled

Thirty-five unions in the district are affected. A portion of the Brahmaputra flood control embankment at Kalirkesh under Fulchhari upazila was washed away by surging waters.

A three-year-old child, Selim, of village Dhanaruha under Shaghata upazila drowned in floodwater.

The marine yard of Balashi Railway Ferry Ghat and several hundred feet of rail track has gone under water. Transhipment of goods wagons remained suspended

### CIA takes blame

African country of Niger, A month later, the administration retracted the allegation after learning that the British intelligence it was based upon had been forged.

Tenet acknowledged Friday that the CIA had tried unsuccessfully for months to substantiate the British allegation and that State Department intelligence analysts believed the claim was "highly dubious," yet neither stopped Bush from making the claim in a single sentence of his annual address to the nation.

"These 16 words should never have been included in the text written for the president," Tenet conceded in a statement.

"Let me be clear about several things right up front," he said. "First, CIA approved the president's State of the Union address before it was delivered. Second, I am responsible for the approval process in my agency. And third, the president had every reason to believe that the text presented to him was sound.

The director took his cue from Bush and Rice, who hours earlier blamed the error on the CIA.

"I gave a speech to the nation that was cleared by the intelligence services," Bush told reporters in Uganda. If the CIA director had concerns about the information, "these doubts were not communicated to the president," Rice

Key members of Congress called for someone to be held accountable.

"The director of central intelligence is the principal adviser to the president on intelligence matters. He should have told the president. He failed. He failed to do so," said Senate Intelligence Committee chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan.

### for the last three days. Several hundred wagons have been stranded as

Reports from Manikganj said the Padma and the Jamuna are still in spate. Water Development Board officials said the Jamuna at Aricha point is flowing 64 cm above danger level. More areas of Harirumpur, Shivalaya and Daulatpur upazilas have been inundated, disrupting road communication.

Harirumpur upazila complex is under water. Local officials estimated that about 25,000 people have been marooned in charlands in Harirumpur and Daulatpur upazila. Many of them have moved to neaby schools

Our Sherpur Correspondent said the worsened yesterday due to onrush water from across the border, rise of the Brahmaputra and incessant rains.

District Relief Officer Siddique Hossain said Jhenaigathi and Nalitabari upazilas are the worst affected.

District administration sources said Dhaka-Jamalpur road commu-

A report from Pabna said flood situation worsened yesterday with fresh areas in Bera and Sujanagai uapzila inundated. Nearly 10,000 families in eight unions of Bera and five unions of Sujanagar have been

Officials said floodwater damged over 7,000 thatched houses. Tĥe affected unions are Haturia-Nakalia, Ruppur, Masumdia, Notun Barenga, Puran Bharenga, Jatsakin, Dhalarchar and Koitola of Bera and Nazirganj, Manikhat, Satbaria and Sagarkandi of Sujanagar upazila.

Thousands of marooned people have taken shelter on flood protection embankment and roads and in educational institutions. About 13 tonnes of rice and Tk 30,000 were sanctioned for the affected people

### Shahbazpur

### FROM PAGE 12

development work at Shahbazpur gas field in June 2001 with the objective of feeding a 20 MW power plant as well as supplying gas to the energy starved south-western region gradually.

The field is expected to supply 20 million cubic feet per day

development project would not be immediately reaped, as the government has not yet decided on the 20 MW power plant.

At the fag end of the Awami League rule, the bidding for the project was floated but the threemonth caretaker administration halted the over-priced scheme. The project remains shelved since

ment assigned BAPEX to prepare a development plan for Shahbazpur gas field which happened to be the centre of focus of the controversial Western Region Integrated Project (WRIP) of the US oil company

Drilling the same well back in 1994, the BAPEX ran into similar problem due to unexpected high pressure inside the well. The national explorers however succeeded eventually to push ahead the scheme and struck gas there in

But BAPEX stumbled again as soon as gas was discovered. As Shahbazpur is located in the offshore Bhola island, the government was hesitant about developing the field through BAPEX to cater for the gas need of the southwestern region and opted for

foreign investment instead.

### Jean-Luc Godard retrospective

In association with Alliance Francaise, Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen six films made by Jean-Luc Godard, the greatest French film maker. His two films titled 'A bout de Souffle' (1959) and 'Le Petit soldat' (1960) will be screened. Venue: Alliance Française, Mirpur Road.

Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'Hard Boiled'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

### Freshers' reception

Dhaka University unit of Bangladesh Chhatra Union organises a freshers' reception. Venue: Arts faculty premises Time: 11.00am.

### Seminar

A seminar on 'Women and Agriculture', organised by BRAC University, will be

nication was snapped yesterday.

in the two upazila, officials said.

(mmcfd) of gas initially. Though the country consumes above 1250mmcfd gas, the south-western region could not be brought under gas supply scheme.

But the fruit of the present gas

In the mid-2000, the govern-Unocal.

the following year.

But rather going for an open invitation for foreign investment, the government sealed an exclusive deal with Unocal that proposed the WRIP. But it demanded high price passing all the risk factors on the government. During a scrutiny by American experts, Unocal withdrew from the project.

### held with Dr Janet D Momsen of California University as keynote speaker.

Mohakhali, Time: 4.00pm.

### Discussion

Islamic Foundation Bangladesh organises a discussion in observance of the death anniversary of eminent scholar Dr Muhammad Shahidullah. Venue: Foundation auditorium. Time:

Venue: BRAC University premises,

### Lecture

Bangla Academy organises a lecture on 'Dr Muhammad Shahidullah: Philosopher of Language' with Prof Anwar S Dil of Standford University of USA. Venue: Academy seminar room. Time: 11.00am.

### Rally

Left Democratic Front will hold a rally to protest the move to send troops to Irag. Venue: Muktangan, Ramna, Time:

### **Charge-framing** against 9 in BTV officials murder case Aug 14

**COURT CORRESPONDENT** 

The First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, will frame charges against nine accused in four BTV officials murder case on August 14. Judge Mohammad Sirajul Islam yesterday rejected the discharge

petitions of the accused and fixed Four BTV officials programme director, M Monirul Alam, administrative officer, A F M Siddiq, accounts officer, Akmal Khan and cameraman,

Chowdhury Firoz Quayyum --

were shot dead on November 7.

1975 by some military personnel allegedly in collaboration with some BTV officials and employees. The killers led by Lt (retd) Altaf Hossain dragged them behind the BTV Bhaban and shot them on the night of November 7. Later, their

Following the incident, family members of the victims filed separate murder cases with Gulshan Police Station on November 19. 1975 without naming any accused.

bodies were dumped in a jheel

Bodies of the victims were recovered from the jheel in February, 1976.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police took up the cases for investigation and submitted final report in January, 1978. As per directive from the higher authorities, the case filed by the wife of victim Akmal Khan was

reviewed on March 25, 1997 and investigated by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID). The investigation officer (IO) of the case submitted a chargesheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM's) Court, Dhaka on August 18, 1998 against nine people, including three for-mer army personnel for their

involvement in the killing, showing

106 people as prosecution wit-

The chargesheeted accused are Lt (Retd) Altaf Hossain, assistant director (suspended) of BTV Abul Kashem Bagoja, assistant director (suspended) of BTV Abdul Awal Sarker, producer (suspended) Lutfur Rahman Talukder, programme controller (retd) Syed Ainul Kabir, duty officer (terminated) Aynuzzaman, first field engineer of Bangladesh Army Mohammad Shahjahan Siraj, armymen K A M Zakaria Haider

and Abul Kashem. Of the accused Syed Ainul Kabir, Aynuzzaman, KAM Zakaria Haider and Abul Kashem have been absconding since March 25, 1997 while five others are on bail.

### **Barrister Ishtiag**

and intermediate from Dhaka

Ishtiaq secured first class in BA Honors in economics from Dhaka University and did his masters from the same university.

He had his bar at law from Lincoln's Inn, London in 1958 and also obtained Msc in economics from London School of Economics.

He started practising law at the East Pakistan High Court. He emerged as one of the leading lawyers on constitutional and civil issues and earned a high degree of reputation.

He was appointed additional attorney general in 1972 and attorney general in 1976.

He was the country's permanent representative to the United Nations in 1978.

He held the office of the adviser for law, justice and parliamentary affairs in the first caretaker government in 1991 and the latest in 2001.

### **Child prodigy** FROM PAGE 12

Son of a footpath hawker Khairul Alam, Sohag quit school two years ago as a class four student, and started the life of a child labourer at Akhi International, a phone-faxcomputer shop at Panchagarh, at a monthly salary of Tk 200 and additional daily allowance of Tk 10.

Soon he learnt Microsoft Word, Power Point and Excel, and became a trainer there.

"I was very happy to be able to meet the prime minister. I couldn't believe I would be meeting her ... it was a dream come true when she took the responsibility of my education," said Shohag, who was visibly over the moon with joy.

Shohag also had his photograph taken with the prime minister.

To help support Shohag's famthe prime minister also asked officials concerned to find a suitable job for Shohag's eldest brother Abdus Salam, who escorted the boy to the Prime Minister's Office.

### 3 of a family FROM PAGE 12

Nasir was spot dead, while Rashid died on way to the DMCH and Rubel shortly after admission to the hospi

Shyamol and Asma were admit-Bodies of Rashid and Rubel were

kept at the DMCH morgue. Rashid owned a grocery and Nasir had a cosmetics shop at Pubail Bazar. Rubel was a student of class ten at Pubail High School.

## Delhi makes no request

importing Bangladeshi gas to India, India's deputy high commissioner in Dhaka, Dilip Sinha, said, "We never made a formal request to Bangladesh government for gas".

He added, "It's the Bangladesh government to decide on gas export to India. Only when Bangladesh is willing to sell, and gas is available for sale, we will make an offer to buy.'

Sources said the two neighbours will embrace a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) following the July 14-15 meet of the Joint Economic Commission (JEC) to be held in the conference room of the Economic Relations Division (ERD).

Indian External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha arrives in Dhaka on July 14 as the head of his country's delegation while the Bangladesh side will be represented by Foreign Minister Morshed Khan "We expect the meeting to be a

milestone event in our bilateral relations," Dilip Sinha said at a press briefing vesterday. A source in the foreign ministry confirmed that the talks on free trade would be one of the major issues on the JEC agenda. The July 14-15 JEC meeting will be the first one after 1997, despite a tertiary protocol requiring the two

nations to meet annually. Since its

inception in 1982, the JEC had five

such meetings in 11 years. The Dhaka meeting will be the sixth in a The commission's area of cooperation includes trade and economics, science and technology, and transport and communication. Some cultural issues too have crept

The Dhaka meeting takes place amid widespread concern in Bangladesh over the yawning trade deficit between the two countries. Dhaka's average yearly import from India overshoots the mark of \$1.2 billion while its export to India

onto the JEC agenda of late, said

staggers around \$450-500 million. Between April 2002 and March 2003, Bangladesh imported \$940 million worth of goods and services

"Now we have launched a vigorous

search for the vessel after Shaibal

arrived on the scene," a navy official

He said the Shaibal had very

The local administration was

"We don't want to give up hope,

sophisticated sonar capabilities and

sceptical about the salvage of the

but the hard reality is that we may

never salvage the vessel even after

detection of its location because of

unfavourable natural conditions,

Deputy Commissioner of Chandpur

He also expressed doubt about the

lity of salvage tugs Rustam and

Strong and unpredictable currents

were preventing the rescue ships from anchoring at the accident site. On

Friday night, the currents drove

Hamza to Harisabha area where it

Fishermen saw some more bod-

ies, decomposed beyond recognition,

floating downstream the Meghna

(Saturday). Heavily decomposed

bodies are getting tangled in our nets.

The putrid stench of the bodies are

unbearable," said a fisherman at

they saw some bodies and petrol,

supposedly of the sunken launch,

floating downstream the confluence

"The river was flowing fiercely.

Strong currents and swirling whirl-pools prevented us from going closer

Another judge

The Supreme Court Bar Association

expressed its resentment over the

appointment. The Bar meets today

to discuss the issue and draw up its

refrain from organising its facilita-

tion programme to welcome the

Talking to The Daily Star about

this issue last night, Bar president Rokanuddin Mahmud referred to

the recent remark of Law Minister

Barrister Moudud Ahmed on the

appointment of the new chief

ustice saying that the government

has now backtracked from its own

Moudud had said that the previ-

ous government did injustice to KM

Hasan by elevating the positions of

two judges who superseded him.

Moudud added that by appointing

Hasan as chief justice the government undid that injustice.

Rokanuddin said if the appoint-

ment of the judge to the Appellate Division were based on efficiency

and competence, Syed Amirul Islam would have been the best candi-

In January 2001, the Awami

League government appointed two

judges to the Appellate Division by

superseding two senior judges. The

incident triggered BNP led four-

launch a movement.

party alliance-leaning lawyers to

After assuming power, the four-

party alliance government

appointed those two judges to the

Appellate Division by increasing the

number of judges in the division

Sources said the Bar would

future course of action.

Another group of fishermen said

"We saw some bodies today

slammed into an onshore garden.

towards the Bay of Bengal.

on Friday night.

Hamza in pulling out the three-deck

Nasrin-1 from the bottom of the

would be able to locate the launch.

sunken launch yesterday.

Abdur Rab Howlader said.

confluence.

told journalists.

from its giant neighbour. Despite such imbalances in bilateral trade, there are signs of enhanced Indian investment in various sectors of the Bangladesh economy. "Of the \$55 million worth of investment made by Indian entrepreneurs since the 1980s, \$20 million was invested over the last two years alone," said R R Das, Indian minister for economic affairs at the Dhaka

High Commission. The 10-member Indian delegation includes representatives from the ministries of railway, industry, customs, commerce and foreign affairs. The standing committee meeting will be held on July 14 -- to be headed by the two foreign secretaries -- while the JEC main body will meet on July 15.

The Indian foreign secretary will

arrive in Dhaka today. In response to the question of the stalled cement export to Tripura, Das maintained that the necessity to obtain certification has already been there. He, however, assured, "The two countries will meet soon to resolve the issue.

The free trade issue gained momentum following Dhaka's proposal to try the system for six months to see how it works. Dhaka and Delhi were also encouraged by the success of the Indo-Sri Lankan free trade. "The FTA will reduce trade deficit between Bangladesh and India," expects Sinha.

Following the China-India rapprochement, the free trade wind seems to be sweeping the region. Besides its existing FTA with Sri Lanka, India is busy putting in place FTA with Myanmar too.

This triangular move comes to focus as the Indian commerce minister, Arun Jaitley, moves to Yangon to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up a joint trade committee on the same day Yashwant Sinha arrives in Dhaka. Both Myanmar and India are members of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). Dhaka expects to join the club soon.

to the bodies," one of them said

nated after eating carrion.

the bodies.

The Indo-Sri Lankan free trade

"Carrion-eaters were pecking at

He said most fishermen along the

As the bodies are badly decom-

The bodies retrieved so far were

Meghna gave up fishing as people stopped eating fish caught in the river

fearing that they might be contami-

posed and beyond recognition, they

would be buried on the Meghna bank,

fished out from Chandpur,

Mehendiganj, Bhola, Borhanuddin,

Tazumuddin, Lalmohon, Char

Fashion, Ilisha, Doulatkhan and

Lalmohon in offshore Bhola island

from Dhaka. There was no official

word on how many passengers were

swam ashore or were rescued by

for distribution among armed

The press release maintained the government had discarded the system of income tax deductions

with respect to certain missions abroad. As such, funds deposited

to the treasury last year were reverted to individuals in many

around the body, find the bone,

brain or other tissue they will invade

and then literally break in Each

process will require different genes

tissue samples taken from a patient

Massague said they were making

similar findings in samples from

other breast cancer patients as well

as those with prostate cancer and

First, they inoculated them into

specially bred mice -- a standard

first step in cancer research. The

mice develop tumors made up of human cells, which can be studied.

They noted which genes were

overactive in those tumors and then

did a reverse test -- genetically engineering normal cells with those

genes and seeing if they

fied 48 genes and their protein

products that seem to help tumor

products" -- proteins sent out by the

cells, which can be measured in the

One is MMP-1 or matrix

It is used by cells to break open

"We are finding in serum sam-

Another is interleukin-11, which

metalloproteinase 1, an enzyme

frequently targeted by cancer

the collagen bonds that hold other

ples of patients with metastatic breast cancer that they have high

levels of MMP-1," Massague said. `

is active in osteoclasts -- the cells that break down bone. "The tumor

cell growing as it metastasizes in

bone needs to eliminate the bone

matrix in order to have room to

grow," Massague said.

cells spread, Massague said.

Using that method, they identi-

Some of them are "secretory

netastasized in mice.

blood.

cells together.

who died of breast cancer, but

The research team started with

Clarification

ity, plus a huge cargo.

fishing boats.

FROM PAGE 1

instances.

Cancer

FROM PAGE 12

and proteins.

forces members.

The sunken launch was going to

an official of Chandpur district said.

has reduced Sri Lankan trade deficit with India by almost 60 per cent in two years. In 2001 alone, Sri Lankan

according to a study. The Daily Star has learnt that major Bangladeshi chambers of commerce have endorsed the free trade proposition.

"After the signing of the FTA, Sri Lanka overtook Bangladesh as the largest seller to India within SAARC," maintains Sinha.

Dhaka expects that while the free trading modalities are laid out in detail, India will accept Bangladesh's proposal to allow duty-free access of 24 Bangladeshi items to Indian market.

### 5yr jail term

FROM PAGE 12 driver is five years imprisonment

There is no provision for punishment of launch owners and so the main change in the clause would be to make so, said Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA)

A victim of the accident or his family members may collect a maximum of Tk 1 lakh from a launch owner in compensation, as per the existing rules.

In many cases filed previously with the marine courts it was observed that the owners were also responsible besides the driver or the captain, said a BIWTA source. But they were never punished, the source added.

### Woman raped

suggest that she had been raped and killed, said Kader Baig, officer-

in-charge of Satkhira Sadar thana. Police arrested Palash at Parulgachha of Kaliganj upazila in Satkhira after the victim's father filed a case with Satkhira Sadar thana accusing him of murdering his daughter.

Palash however denied the charge, said Baig.

### **Bloated bodies** Slain Humayun's relatives asks

for neutral trial **STAFF CORRESPONDENT** 

Relatives of murdered engineer Humayun Kabir have asked for a neutral trial yesterday.

They fear that the accused,

Foysol Ansari, being a US citizen, is trying to influence the government with the help of the embassy concerned as the trial is reaching its Foysol was arrested on the night

of the incident and is now in jail but his relatives are allegedly threatening to kill the relatives of late Humayun. During phone calls, they claim that Foysol will soon be free and will punish them. Humavun's vounger brother Enamul Kabir filed a general diary last Friday with the Demra Police

Station after threats from the on board, but survivors said the vessel was carrying no less than 750 people, accused and his relatives. many more than the licensed capac-Engineer Humayun Kabir was killed on November 21, 1999 at Central Road in the city when he Of the passengers, about 200

### Man killed, sunk in a pond

came to visit his family from US.

with bricks STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Keraniganj police recovered a body from Liakat Ali's pond in Atigram village at 4:30pm Friday.

The man, 25, was slaughtered and stabbed in the abdomen. The killers tied bricks to the body and

dumped it in the pond. Police sent the body to Mitford

hospital for autopsy. None came to take the body from hospital till writing of this report at 9:00pm last night.

Abdul Kaiyum, sub-inspector of the Keraniganj Police Station filed a murder case.

### Six revolvers, pistol held from a bus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) recovered six revolvers, one pistol, two maga-zines and 20 rounds of bullet from a bus near Shibganj upazila on Rajshahi-Chapainababganj high-wayon Saturday way on Saturday.

Raiding a bus No Tangail-Ba-196, the BDR recovered the arms and ammunition from under the

None was arrested.

### Saddam cousins FROM PAGE 12

Kerrick did not name any of the arrested men or say where or under what circumstances they were detained.

In a separate statement Saturday,

the US military said it had appre-hended two "local opposition leaders," Anwar Al-Asaw and Bashir Ahmed Thanun Al-Dulaymi, in the northern city of Mosul. On July 9 the US announced it had placed in custody two more former senior Iraqi officials from the 55 "most

have already been captured.

wanted," of which more than half

### to face future export to India rose 139.6 per cent, challenges

### Commerce minister tells **IUB** graduates

Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmood Chowdhury has called upon the graduates to equip with knowledge and skills to face future

The commerce minister made the call while he was addressing the felicitation ceremony for the first graduates of IUB Chittagong campus as chief guest at Chittagong Club auditorium on July 4, says a

"We are Bangladeshi and we should be proud of it. This pride will lead us to march forward in our iourney for development", he said. Prof Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury,

press release

vice-chancellor of IUB, was the guest of honour. Habib Ullah Khan, member of the governing council of IUB, Amir Humayun Mahmood Chowdhury, president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Prof

Borhanuddin, director of business school, and Prof M Anwar, acting

director of communication school were present as special guests. Prof Syed Sufderul Hug, coordinator and chief executive of Chittagong campus, conducted the function attended by elites, chief executives of different bodies, celebrities, foreign diplomats,

graduates and their guardians, and faculty and staff members of the university. Prof Syed Sufderul Huq asked the graduates to work hard with honesty and dedication for socioeconomic uplift of the country to

bring smiles on the faces of the

Habib Ullah Khan advised the graduates to take right decision and move forward to build their

Amir Humayun Mahmood Chowdhury asked the graduates to remove all vices from the society.

Prof Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury thanked the students, guardians, sponsors, faculties and staff for their valuable contribution to the achievement of the university.

Later, Amir Khasru distributed crests among the graduates and sponsor members of IUB Chittagong campus.

The ceremony was followed by a

### 2 killed,30 hurt in Jessore road mishap

UNB, Jessore A road accident on the Jessore-Jhenidah Highway in Kotwali Police Station yesterday left two persons killed and 30 others injured.

Witnesses said the accident occurred near Barinagore Bazaar when a Khulna-bound bus plunged into a roadside ditch.

One of the dead was identified as Mukta, 12. The injured were admitted to

Jessore Combined Military Hospital and Jessore General Hospital.

ent rulers came to power after

signing a bond to sell natural resources. She however did not

The former prime minister recounted various initiatives her

government had taken to improve

amendments to the party consti-

tution, proposed by Mahila AL leader Khaleda Khanom. The

amendments provide for a 91-

member central committee of

Mahila AL instead of a 66member

one, and divided the city unit into

deadliest launch disaster in the

The minister however did not go

Akbar Hossain said budget

into details of how he planned to

should be allocated ministry wise

instead of project wise so that every

The council approved some

social status of women

north and south units.

Akbar

country on July 8.

develop the sector.

# Mahila AL council

give details.

teeming millions.

Hasina, also leader of the opposition in parliament, said the proposed commission will not be able to curb massive corruption that has pervaded all spheres of national life under the BNP-led

She mentioned that the BNP government in its previous term had initiated legal actions the incumbent law minister.

alliance government.

"So, how can such a person root out corruption?" the opposition leader asked. Hasina reiterated her party's demand that Bogra ammunition and explosives hauls be probed by an international body. "International inquiry is a must to find out

origin of the ammunition and explosives and their destination. she said Censuring the government for making parliament 'ineffective', the AL chief said, " It has turned

into a place to deliver abusive speeches against me and my party. Turning to perks rise, Hasina said, " The prime minister, ministers and lawmakers raised theirs perks, leaving the people in general in a crisis due to price hike of essen-

poor people, imposing additional taxes of about TK 5,100 crore, she said. Accusing the ruling party men

of repression on women, Hasina called upon the people to dislodge the ' failed government' through a mass movement.

The AL chief also said the pres-

# In the present budget, the government has widened the tax net on

### ministry can spend money according to necessity. The minister also criticised the role of the Planning Commission in approving development projects.

"It takes one and a half years to get a project approved by the commission," he alleged. According to sources, although

ment allocation for it has been reduced to 29 crore this year from last year's 80 crore. The ministry had to abandon

various projects because of fund

shortage, the sources added.

the sector generates a revenue of

about 150 crore annually, govern-

# 140 Sadarghat staff

FROM PAGE 1 submit its report within two days. Administrative and legal actions will be taken against those found guilty, the meeting sources said.

The shipping minister also

issued directives to file criminal cases against those who certified

launches built on faulty designs and the panel members who recommended their approval. The government last year conducted a survey and found that at least 40 big passenger launches were totally unfit for carrying pas-

sengers. "This is the first time in the country that instructions have been given to file criminal cases against government officials for neglect of duties," said the minister after the meeting.

The meeting decided to deploy a supervisor of the BIWTA at Kathpatty in Munshiganj to make sure that no launch take extra load of passengers or cargo from there after leaving Dhaka or Narayanganj. The meeting also decided that

the river route near Chandpur

would be developed through dredg-

ing to enable the launches to take an alternative route avoiding the hazardous confluence. A state-owned steamer service will also be introduced during day time between Dhaka and Pirojpur to ease the pressure of the passen-

The steamer will start at 11:00 am from Dhaka and reach Hularhat via Chandpur and Barisal from July

The shipping minister directed all deputy commissioners to immediately seize the vessels operating

The meeting decided to empower the police officers of the rank of sub-inspector and above to seize any overloaded passenger The officials will be given the

owers under Section 81 of the İnland Shipping Ordinance, 1976. The minister also directed the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) to build three

steamers on its own design within a year for safe journey of passengers

### along the river routes. Meghna tragedy

### FROM PAGE 1 "Deeply saddened by the tragic loss of life resulting from the ferry boat accident near the town of

Chandpur, His Holiness Pope John Paul II assures all affected of his closeness in prayer," said Cardinal Angelo Sodano, secretary of state of the Apostolic Nunciature, Embassy of the Holy See (Vatican), while forwarding a telegram message of the Pope. "The Holy Father commends

victims to the loving mercy of the Almighty, and upon their grieving families and all those injured he invokes divine strength and comfort," the message added

# **DHAKA**

### Time: 5.30pm and 7.15pm. Film show