## Shazneen case

evidences from the place of occurrence," the IO said.

"I took Shahid, who was brought to Dhaka by Chittagong kotwali police, to custody on April 27, 1998 and interrogated him. I also took him to the place of occurrence where he gave a detailed description of the incident. Moreover, he narrated how he fled the scene climbing the wall of the Australian Club and his foot-print was left there. The foot-print was examined by the experts and they found it to be Shahid's."

"On May 2, 1998, I found Hasan near the CID office and came to learn that he wanted to know about the arrestees in the Shazneen murder case. Later, I took him to my office and asked him to appear at the CID office the next day. I was sure of Hasan's involvement in the murder and tried to arrest him from his house at Jigatola, Dhanmondi, in the city but failed."

"Later, I arrested him from his house on May 4, 1998. I recorded the statements of the witnesses and remanded the accused upon a court order and interrogated them. The accused Shahid and some others gave confessional statements

"Then I secrutinised the statements of the accused, witnesses, other documents of the case and deemed it necessary to file a rape case against the accused and filed it with the Gulshan Police Station on September 4, 1998 against Shahid

He categorically told the launch

owners that "no risky and unfit" vessels would be allowed to oper-

ate until they removed the faults of

owners that no vessel would be

allowed to leave terminal without a

100 per cent attendance of crew

and each vessel must have a speci-

(sareng) and engine-room opera-

operators will be trained on three

natural phenomena -- storm, rain

and fog -- so that they can steer a

vessel out of trouble when caught

programme will begin on July 21

and some 21 launch operators will

owners not to carry a single passen-

ger or any cargo beyond capacity.

The minister warned the launch

The owners said the govern-

ment is only lashing out at the

private vessels, but it never takes

action against the state-owned

Bangladesh Inland Water

Transport Corporation (BIWTC)

steamers which always carry extra

They also complained that the

private launches have to pay a huge

fine in case of collision with BIWTC

vessels, but the government

steamers never give any compen-

sation when they damage private

take part in the programme.

The first phase of the training

tors has been made mandatory.

He said training of masters

The masters and enigine-room

fied number of operators.

in a difficult situation.

The minister informed the

**Engineer suspended** 

and six others under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 1995," the IO said.

"Then I took over the charge of investigation into the rape case as per a directive of the higher authorities and prayed for showing the accused arrested in the rape case. I took Shahid to custody for interrogation.

statement on September 28, 1998 and I recorded the statements of 52 witnesses and prayed for attaching the documents of the Shazneen murder case to the rape case. Later, the charges brought against the accused Shahid, Hasan, Shaniram, Badal, Minu and Parvin were primarily proved and I submitted a charge sheet against them on December 12, 1998," Mojibur Rahman said.

Replying to a question, Mojibur Rahman said he took over the charge of the investigation as per a directive of the additional inspector general (AIG) of police, CID.

the youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, chairman of Transcom Ltd, was raped and murdered at their Gulshan residence on April,

Special public prosecutors A B M Sharfuddin Khan Mukul and Arfan Uddin Khan appeared for the state. Advocate M A Kamrul Hasan Khan Aslam defended the accused.

## Chargesheet against 4 for Sultana murder

The Detective Branch (DB) of police pressed charges against four persons involved in Sultana Khan Panni murder

submitted the charge sheet before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court, Dhaka, yesterday afternoon. In the charge sheet, the four accused are the cook of the house, Alauddin Munshi, caretaker Mehedi Mamun Rana, their friends Nasir Uddin and Emdadul Hag.

In the charge sheet, 26 people were shown as prosecution witnesses.

The accused earlier made confes sional statements before the metropolitan magistrate on different dates.

Sultana Khan Panni, 70, wife of former deputy speaker Humayun Khan Panni, was strangled at her Dhanmondi

helps from the house for their alleged involvement in the killing the next day.

guilt before the magistrate. The detectives arrested Nasir and Emdad on June 3 and recovered jewellery, a mobile phone set and cash money looted from

## **Business leaders**

cal, the MCCI president said the FTA between the two countries is the prime need now, which would be jeopar-

their good will gesture if agreed to eliminate non-tariff barriers and ways for reducing trade deficit in the JEC meeting,"Tapan added.

FBCCI President Yussuf Abdullah Harun said the Indian government has to eliminate non-tariff barrier on Bangladeshi items prior to sign the FTA. He said India failed to implement its earlier commitment to awarding Bangladeshiproducts a duty-free entry toitsmarket

roposed granting all Bangladeshi items duty-free entry at the initial stage to the Indian market and the same facility to be awarded to India in 8 to 10 years after the signing of FTA.

"It is India, which has to respond positively towards Bangladesh's legitimate concern on its ailing trade deficit," FBCCI president told The

Executive Director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Dr Debapriya Bhattacharva believes the JEC will be successful if India takes up confidence building measures for Bangladesh and premiers of the two countries meet to resolve the differences.

"Immediate economic and trade achievements of the JEC meeting are very marginal," Dr. Bhattachariya said commenting on the three-day meet, "Bangladesh expects an early harvest based on earlier commitment by

the JEC meeting itself was positive because the relations between Bangladesh and India dwelled in policyindecision and political apathy.

"AJEC meeting has been scheduled are held regularly afterwards, it is a

He observed from the previous JEC meeting that India had more offensive agendas than Bangladesh.

demand is for zero tariff market access to India.

transport, transit, transshipment, rail and road communication and unspoken issue of gas export.

In such a context, JEC talks can be

 $made more \, effective \, if two \, major \, is sues \,$ are addressed, he added. "There should be confidence

building measures on part of India to Vietnam reduce the credibility gap which the permanent membership and membership in WTO. State Minister for Foreign Bangladeshi exports, "he observes.

"Without such confidence building measures on part of India, the proposed bilateral free trade agreement negotiation will be difficult to pursue.

for a more comprehensive political understanding at the highest level. Thus there is a need for a meeting of the

two Prime ministers." Dr Bhattacharya notes that if differences are not sorted out at the Prime Minister level, such talks will not

### acquire momentum.

FROM PAGE 12

both newspapers defaming respectable politician Salauddin Quader Chowdhury.

by the then Occidental Company. Preliminary structural works Chowdhury is running for the will start by September while general secretary of the Organisation of Islamic Conference. drilling is expected to begin by late

The complainant lodged the case under the Bangladesh Penal Code 500, 501 and 502. The hearing of the case is scheduled for August 5.

### Himachal

FROM PAGE 1 The Kulu valley is popular with tourists at this time of the year and police were not ruling out foreigners among the dead.

## Fresh areas flooded

Mahimaganj unions.

The vital Dhaka-Dinajpur highway via Gobindaganj was inundated in knee-deep water

Diahorrea which is spreading fast in the district claimed the lives of Beauty Begum, 30, at village Dhanerpara, Belal Hossain, 40, at Pardiyera and Shafi Mollah,44, at Kalurpara village.

However, waters in the Teesta and Brahmapurtra began to recede, bringing the hope of respite to floodworn people.

In Bogra, a large swathe of 150 villages in 31 unions of Sariakandi, Dhunat, Sonatala and Sherpur upazilas went under water. Gushing waters of the Jamuna

marooned over one lakh people, made 30,000 of them homeless and swamped crops on 3,500 hectares. A company of the army was

dam on the west bank of the river. The misery of people in submerged shoals in Bogra and Sirajganj

A spectre of starvation stalked

deployed to protect the Bhandarbari

people in Aagbohail, Dharaborsha, Manika in Sariakandi in Bogra and Shanbandhar Char, Char Giris, Char Nischintapur, Char Chongcha and Mircha in Kazipur in Sirajganj. Swirling waters from the Atrai

river submerged over a 10 km swathe in Singra upazila in Natore district following the collapse of the Water Development Board (WDB) embankment in many places.

The WDB sources said 35 villages went under water as the Madanbhanga embankment at Shuktihata broke.

In Pabna, rising rivers and rains swamped lowlands in seven upazilas, marooning thousands of

Forty-seven villages in Sujanagar upazila and six villages in Iswardi upazila were the hardest hit.

Two young men -- Masud, 23, and Alhaj, 21, -- were killed when the motor boat they were riding on hit an electric pole in strong currents in the Majhgram field in Nimaichara village, causing the pole to collapse on the boat. The incident also injured 15 people.

Warning Centre (FFWC) yesterday said the Brahmaputra and Jamuna fell at all points and was likely to fall further, but the Ganges was still on the rise, although the pace of rise slowed down. The flood situation in Pabna. Naogaon Tangail, Manikganj,

The Flood Forecasting and

Munshiganj, Narsingdi, Narayanganj, Kishoreganj, Rajbari and Madaripur are likely to further The flood situation in the districts Gaibandha, Bogra, Sirajganj, Jamalpur Kurigram, Panchagarh, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat and Rangpur are likely to improve. The inundation of the low-lying areas in the districts of Dhaka, Faridpur and

The Brahmaputra-Jamuna observed fall at all points. The Ganges-Padma recorded further rise at all points except at Goalundo. Other rivers in the basins registered

Sariatpur are likely to continue.

### **Charges framed** against Anni, 31 others in explosive substance case

The First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, yesterday framed charges against former JCD leader Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anni (presently a ruling party MP) and 31 others in an explosive substance case.

October 22 for trial of the case.

Two of the accused, advocate framing.

Police Station on April 23, 1998, it was alleged that the accused led by Anni and Sohel gathered at a place adjacent to the Surya Sen Hall of Dhaka University at around 11:30 am on the day and fired gunshots at the leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League. They also hurled bombs on the BCL men that left Partha Pratim Acharya, a BCL activist, dead on the

A case under the Explosive Substance Act was filed against Anni, Sohel and 30 others, the same

The investigation officer of the case submitted charge sheet against them on October 15, 1999.

**COURT CORRESPONDENT** 

Judge Sirajul Islam fixed

Mohammad Golam Mostafa and Mahbubul, were present in the court. But Anni and 29 others remained absent during charge-

In the case filed with Ramna

# **Ready for worse**

with the lowlands on the outskirts of the capital going under water because of the swelling Buriganga and Sitalakhya.

According to a weather watch, this year's monsoon rain is 50 per cent higher than before and the flood extremity will increase if rain continues one week more.

Official sources said the government is bracing for deterioration of the flood situation, as worse threatens in August and September.

An official estimate says the floods triggered by heavy rain and onrush of swirling inflow of waters from upstream have affected as many as 795 unions in 131 upazilas of 23 districts, leaving 35,54,746 people of 7,43,893 families marooned

The floods that began more than a month ago have damaged about 9,677 kilometres of road completely and 1,023 kilometres of road par

As many as 126 educational and religious institutions have been washed away and 1,517 other institutions have been left in partial damage. The number of damaged embankments is 979 and 996 bridges and culverts collapsed.

The water development board has been asked to take steps to protect the embankments under threat

The disaster management and relief ministry said about 9,000 metric tonnes of rice and Tk 1 crore were distributed among the flood-hit people.

Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf told The Daily Star yesterday that there was an adequate stock of grains

Khaleda's JS speech

and cash in all districts.

He also said all other ministers and lawmakers have been engaged in monitoring the flood situation in their districts and constituencies on an instruction from the prime minis-

Relief is being distributed through the district administration under the supervision of elected representatives, he added.

Several hundred medical teams have already been engaged in working in flood-hit areas and more to come, said sources. The government has also asked voluntary organisations to come forward to help the flood victims and the NGO Affairs Bureau has been instructed to request NGOs to work in the affected

## Mayor, son

FROM PAGE 12

through the city of about 150,000 about 150 miles northwest of Baghdad.

Al-Jazeera also said residents of the city had accused the mayor of collaborating with coalition forces. The Qatar-based broadcaster said al-Jurayfi's car caught fire after the

Hadithah is part of the so-called "Sunni Triangle," an area west and north of Baghdad where Sunni Muslims predominate and pro-Saddam Hussein insurgents have been carrying out attacks against the American occupation force at a rate of 12 each day.

# Transit, duty-free access

Indian goods to its seven north-

As opinions remained sharply divided on these thorny issues from the beginning of the talks that began Monday, policymakers failed to wrap it up on schedule on Tuesday night. Finally, a joint agreed minutes could be signed by Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan and Indian External Affairs Minister Yashwant Sinha at 10:20am yesterday.

"We have discussed all bilateral issues and we have achieved huge, huge gains," Morshed Khan told a joint press conference at Hotel Sheraton following the signing of the minutes. "The JEC will enhance bilateral trade both in depth and dimension. We achieved unanimity of approach by viewing the issues from the same lens."

"We have made very, very positive gains at the JEC. We made very substantial progress and will continue to remain engaged to resolve other issues between us, Yashwant Sinha told the press conference.

About transit, Sinha said, "We discussed it and will discuss it further." Morshed Khan said. "The noint was raised and we ar cussing it. We have not shied

Only last night, Khan flatly denied having the issue talked.

As it transpired after the meeting, there has not been any agreement on India's proposal for commissioning passenger train service between Sealdah of Kolkata and Jamuna Bridge. On Bangladesh's concern over

non-tariff and para-tariff barriers by India, the two sides agreed to sit in mid-August with an extensive list of such products and resolve the problem Γariff barriers must be dismantled," Morshed Khan said, to which

Responding to a question, Sinha id, "The issue of security was raised with the prime minister and during Morshed Khan's last visit to

Foreign minister-level JEC will

now meet annually and the foreign secretary-level JEC standing committee every six months. The meeting also decided that the foreign secretary-level FTA standing committee will meet early

As a prelude to the signing of the FTA, a bilateral investment protection agreement will be signed soon.

The two sides agreed to develop

land customs centres on both sides of the border for smooth customs cooperation.

They also agreed to strengthen banking links and sign accords on cooperation in education and cultural sectors. It was agreed that the Joint Working Group on Agriculture would be reactivated. Sinha said the state-to-state

credit of 200 crore rupees earlier sanctioned for various development projects in Bangladesh would be renewed and it would continue to be extended until the credit is exhausted. Much of the credit would be spent for development of Bangladesh Railway.

According to Sinha, bilateral trade agreement will be extended on ad hoc basis while agreement on customs regulations and improvement of border infrastructure will be an integral part of the

The two nations agreed to sign separate agreements for educational and cultural interactions.

The two will make also efforts to modernise telecommunication and information technology. A meeting in Delhi will soon finalise modalities to improve telecommunications and IT between the two neighbours.

formed according to her will," Hamid said

FROM PAGE 12

Had Khaleda been sincere enough in her calls for the AL's comeback to parliament, she would have resolved the stand-off on June 26 (the day the AL started boycott) instead of July 15 when the session was prorogued, said Hamid.

He complained that treasury benchers used invective against Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina in the presence of Khaleda.

Hamid doubted the sincerity of Khaleda's call for consensus on the issues of national interest and alleged that there was no government initiative to discuss with the opposition the matters like sending troops to Iraq, inclusion of Bangladesh into stringent US immigration rules and push-ins

The deputy leader of the oppo-

sition vented disappointment over

Khaleda's comment that the AL had walked out of the House 37 times on flimsy excuses. "We staged walkouts mainly because we were not allowed to speak on the floor of the House," he said.

About the largest ever mu tions haul in Bangladesh, Hamid said that as the probes into ammunition seizures in Bogra "could not establish AL link", the prime minister budged from her position on Hamid said Khaleda, when in

opposition, did not respond to the

then prime minister Sheikh

Hasina's call for an end to 'hartal culture'. Hamid claimed that the BNP in opposition enforced five times as many hartals in first 18 months of

the AL rule as the AL did since October 2001. About the formation of parliamentary standing committees, Hamid said the AL would decide on the nomination of its lawmakers as

any opposition lawmaker on a parliamentary standing committee as chairman. Even Fazlul Haq Amini of the Islami Oikya Jote, a minor coalition partner, rejected chairmanship of a parliamentary

Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid and some other opposition lawmakers and a host of newsmen from dailies, electronic media and news agencies, who covered the parliament session, attended the

# Hit-and-run case

The investigation officer of the case, Assistant Sub-Inspector Noore-Alam, is on a seven-day training at the Rajarbagh Police Lines, Malek

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority was yet to provide them with his address. about the incident within the last

three days, having trailed the death path, talked to shopkeepers, residents and security personnel at different buildings who witnessed the incident. Md Haider Ali, a cigarette vendor

water hit the victim near the Green Road intersection. The collision dislodged the victim from the additional bumper of the

case at the High Court level. He

(Justice Hamidul Haq) will retire

this December to give place to

Justice Abu Sayeed Ahmmed of

Of the remaining six in the

Appellate Division, four had

expressed embarrassment and

two had handed down the verdict

on the case in the High Court. The

latest appointee, Justice Amin,

had expressed embarrassment at

If Justice Amirul Islam had

been appointed in line with

seniority, Justice Amin would

have been elevated to the

Appellate Division from the High

Court in August, followed by

Iustice Tafazzul Islam in

December and Justice MA Aziz in

The seniority-based appoint-

the High Court level.

January.

Justice MA Aziz.

vehicle, a Proton Saga, carrying the number plate Dhaka Metro Ka 02 Sujon kept driving towards the Sonargaon Hotel and took a right

turn into Free School Street and Kathal Bagan Box Culvert Street with the bumper of the vehicle fully stretched in the rear (left). A van driver of the Nilpadma Furniture on the narrow street, Siddique said several rickshaw vans parked on the side of the street got

entangled with the bumper and were Ten-year old Rana, son of one Shabuj Ali, living at 58/10 Free School Street, Kathal Bagan Box Culvert Street, was on one of those

"Rana was tossed on the street and he sustained deep bruises all over his body. He was lucky that the entangled vans did not fall over him," said the owner of Nilpadma

The shopkeepers and van drivers chased the car through the narrow

"When we found the vehicle entering the underground parking lot of the Anchor Tower, we called the on-duty sergeant, who being unable to find the driver or the owner, took the car away," said Siddique, who said it had cost him about Tk 2,000 to

damage caused by the reckless driver, but they have done nothing," Siddique said. Although the car was found inside the Anchor Tower, police mysteriously claimed to have recovered it

from in front Samarita Hospital. Neither Dhanmondi nor Mohammadpur police made any effort to find out the culprits at the tower. The vehicle lying at the Mohammadpur Police Station bore a large sticker of Multilmde on its rear windshield.

Police mysteriously did not follow the leads and gave misleading information that the car belonged to Bangladesh Bulk Carriers Limited at 48, Purana Paltan.

### were also formed. A series of consultations among ruling coalition constituents placated Amini's grievances during the discord. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia

listened to their demands.

to top a committee. If the government includes him in

The murder case was filed on October 2, 1996, 21 years after the assassination of Bangabandhu

"I have rejected the post and informed the chief whip of my deci-

## for Italy this morning

UNB, Dhaka

likely to return home on July 20.

representatives to the hodies at the next AL Parliamentary Party meet-He criticised non-inclusion of

body, he pointed out.

ministerial hopes alive. IOJ leader Fazlul Haq Amini, MP, who offered to resign from parliament in a row over ministerial claim,

of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Jute.

He was made chairman of the committee on Tuesday when 33 other ministerial standing bodies

talked the IOJ leaders out of the resignation stance on July 2 and

the cabinet, the committee concerned will have to be reconstituted. "The ruling BNP made me chair-

hand. It's an imposed decision of the BNP on its coalition partners," Amini

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka for Italy this morning to attend an

of Italy will organise the seminar titled "The Role of International was Tin Matha More and their programme was duly held. Community in the Promotion of Democracy and The Rule of Law". However, the Lalmohan Police

Kuwait Airways flight at 7:30am, is

# **Amini rejects**

has now rejected the chairmanship

"I did not take any ministerial position. Now I do not want to lower myself to the position of a chawkidar (watchman), Amini told The Daily

Star vesterday.

Amini has long been aspiring for a berth in Khaleda's jumbo cabinet. Sources say Amini's takeover of the chairmanship will seal his fate of becoming a minister as the Rules of Procedure does not allow a minister

man without consulting me before-

Hasina leaves

Hasina, who leaves Dhaka by a

Amini said he would not resign from the post, as he did not accept it.
"I'll not sign the committee papers, if and when they come to me," he said.

League (AL) is yet to submit its repre-

sentatives' names to the 39 ministe-

rial standing committees.

Awami League legislators.

The main opposition Awami

The committees will not be able to hold plenary meetings at least till the opening of the next session of the Jatiya Sangsad. Two slots in each committee have

been kept vacant to incorporate

"The AL will decide on its repre

sentation to different standing committees in the next meeting of the AL Parliamentary Party (ALPP), Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid Advocate told newsmen yesterday. Once the ALPP finalises the

names and the Jatiya Sangsad adopts them, the formation of the standing

committees will be complete. Of 50 standing committees -- 39 on different ministries and 11 on parliament affairs -- no single chairmanship has been offered to the opposition. Coalition partners Jamaat-e-

Islami took two chairman positions

and Naziur Rahman-led Jatiya

Party and Amini-led IOJ got one

chairmanship each. The rest went to

## **Boost trade**

FROM PAGE 12

ble products, machinery and electrical equipment, silk, cotton and Morshed Khan said, "We are

trying to push our relation to a new

height of economic cooperation following our Look East policy. Khan said he and his counterpart identified some areas of cooperation including agriculture and aquaculture where both countries could share each other's experience.

The foreign ministers also discussed the possible visit of Vietnam president to Dhaka sometime next During his visit here, Nguyen Dy Nien will call on the prime minister and meet business leaders. He will

Embassy here today. Nguyen Dy Nien will leave Dhaka for Sri Lanka Friday morning.

### International Community in the Promotion of Democracy and the Rule of Law'. The Italian ministry of external affairs is organising this seminar with the slogan, 'no peace

"Shahid gave a confessional

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15.

have to pay money to the lessees of terminals and are harassed in many ways by organised groups of criminals controlling the termi-They demanded cancellation of such leasing and agreed to pay the lease money" to the government

for using the terminals. They also

demanded that a police box be set

up at the terminals and movement

of small boats be banned. In reply, the minister informed the launch owners that the boat terminal at Sadarghat would be shifted elsewhere within a month. The minister assured the private owners that the government would do everything possible to ensure the security and safety of passen-

gers as well as to fulfil just and

logical demands of the private launch owners. But he added that

all vessels must abide by naviga-Sadarghat

FROM PAGE 12 ture schedule," said Rahman. The July 8 disaster has also prompted the authorities to ban carrying of goods on the floor of the vessel. The passenger launches are only allowed to carry light cargo in the hatch. Each vessel berthing at the terminal is also required to show fitness certificate and other docu-

ments for the officials to check on the

spot. In addition, officials are making

ure that an adequate number of

The operators of the Bhandaria-

bound triple-decker Tarika-2 yester-

lifebuoys are kept in the vessels.

day said the number of passengers has dropped drastically. The master of the vessel said, showing documents, the launch had a capacity of 722 passengers but since the accident it could not even fill half its

A Bhandaria-bound passenger, Humayun Kabir, said he still did not feel that river journey is safe. "These safety measures are temporary and as soon as people

forget about the Meghna tragedy,

The authorities have also evicted

Affairs Reaz Rahman, Foreign

Secretary Shamsher M Chowdhury

Agreement (GPSA) is also expected

to be signed shortly, said a source

into production by 2005 to increase

supply to Petrobangla's system,

The work plan includes going

The proposed wells will be

located within a short distance of

the existing two wells in the

Moulvibazar Gas Field, developed

and the Director General of (SEA)

things would be back to square one,

### more than 200 hawkers from the pontoon of the terminal.

Govt violated

FROM PAGE 12

Talukder for the accused.

 $date\, standing\, committee\, members$ proportionately, the resolution "By taking this decision, the present government has once

ing silent about the recovery of bodies after the Chandpur launch disaster and demanded immediate resignation of the minister con-

The presidium meeting criti-

cised the government for remain-

The meeting said the AL will contest the election as part of its movement against the government and urged other democratic parties, social forces and professionals At the end of the project, the to unite against the "autocratic" government at the by-polls.

> A German company, Deutag, had done the drilling in the Magurchhara, Bibiyana and

# STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector Abdul Quddus Khan

residence in May 19, this year. The police arrested four domestic

On May 31, Mamun confessed his

dised by discussing the transitissue. "Indian side could have shown

On FTA, the FBCCI president

successive Indian leaderships.' But he believes that the holding of

to be held in October. If such meetings positive development," Bhattachariya

Bangladesh's lone countable Fifteen days after the tragedy, India on the other hand wants

bilateral relationship currently suffers from. And these may come in the form of market promotion measures in India for the agreed list of potential

Secondly, there is definitely need

## **Another case**

Hundreds of adventure tourists from India and abroad use the Kulu-Garsa route for trekking, which often entails a night halt.

### next year to review the progress of the first round of talks on FTA in

Sinha agreed.

police classified it as a murder case.

police are yet to 'trace the owner of the vehicle', because they said the The Daily Star found out the address of the driver and details

on the footpath, said as the victim was being dragged along the

street, urging it to stop.

member bench comprising Syed Amirul Islam, Tafazzal Islam and MA Aziz. The present queue of High Court judges suggests that the government would appoint Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury on January 27 to fill the vacancy to

ment then would have created a

scope for setting up a three-

the case on April 10, 2000. Justice MA Aziz of the Appellate Division will retire on September 3, 2004 and will be replaced by

But the appointment of Justice

Chowdhury will not make a three-

member bench, as he had

expressed embarrassment to hear

The new appointment can make a three-member bench with Justices Badrul Haq, Tafazzal

repairhis vans. "We filed a case with the Dhanmondi Police Station about the

# **Bangabandhu Murder Case**

the Appellate Division will retire on August 23 this year, and Justice Tafazzul Islam will fill the vacuum. Still, it will leave the bench short of a judge, and hearing the petitions be left by the retirement of Chief needs a bench of at least three. Justice KM Hasan.

> Justice Hassan Ameen. Justice Syed Modassir Hossain, who had expressed embarrassment before, would retire on March 1, 2005, making way for the government to appoint Justice Badrul Haq.

Islam and Hassan Ameen.

The trial court gave the verdict on it on November 8, 1998, handing down capital punishment to 15 retired and sacked army men. The High Court upheld the capital punishment of 12, and only four of them are now in jail.

The four filed leaves to appeal

petition with the Appellate Division against the High Court

and most of his family members.

FROM PAGE 12 said the AL was requested to shift the venue as HM Ershad was the chief guest for their programme. Local sources said the JP venue

Tofail

Station said no serious clash ensued at Lalmohan and that the AL program was duly held.

international seminar. The Ministry of External Affairs

also visit an industrial park at Tongi and formally inaugurate Vietnamese

## Senior party leader Abdus Samad Azad will stand in for Hasina during her visit.

without justice'.

capacity.

FROM PAGE 12

were present.

Unocal

the source informed.

Launch owners also said they BNP MP's brother FROM PAGE 12 secretary of the Zinjira Market Association and sports secretary of the Ziniira Union Jubo Dal. suc-

cumbed to his injuries and one

Sentu, 30, a lessee of a cattle market

at Zinjira Bazar, was shot dead on

February 16, last year allegedly by

custody while 10 others are on bail.

Monir and eight others are in jail

the accused and his companions.

### Talim, Azad, Jabed and Meshbah have been absconding since the incident. Special Public Prosecutor Harun-ur-Rashid Khan appeared

for the state while Masud Ahmed

again proved that they are unwilling to make the House effective and has forced the opposition out

of the House," the meeting said.

The meeting decided to participate in the Netrokona-3 constituency's by-polls to be held on August 21.

four new wells together with the existing two will be able to supply about 150 MMCF gas every day to Meanwhile, Hasina left for Italy Petrobangla, the source added. today to attend an international seminar on 'The Rule of Unocal may entrust the drilling to a foreign company, sources further informed.

> Jalalabad gas fields. The gas fields were developed by Occidental that left Bangladesh handing over the business to Unocal in 1999.