Pro-government lawyers out to divide the legal profession

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition in parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday alleged that the BNP-Jamaat alliance government has let loose progovernment lawyers in a planned way to create a rift among lawyers.

"They (BNP-Jamaat) came to power through a rigged general election and resorted to naked interference in the judiciary ... unfortunately, now they are trying to create a rift among the lawyers," she

Sheikh Hasina made the remark when leaders of Dhaka District Bar Association met her at the Dhanmondi office of Awami League yesterday.

Hasina lambasted the alliance government for imposing tax on lawyers and termed it "nothing but

She accused the BNP-Jamaat alliance of unleashing a reign of terror across the country.

Referring to a US report on Bangladesh, the Awami League chief said bribery and corruption have crossed all limits. "BNP is patronising bribery, criminality and corruption," she said.

If BNP-Jamaat alliance remains in power, she said, socio-economic improvement of the country would remain a far cry.

Hasina accused the ruling alliance of following a "double-standard" by releasing criminals

30 hurt as train derails in Mymensingh

 $\pmb{UNB,} \textit{Mymensingh}$

A local train derailed near Shyamganj Station here yesterday evening, injuring at least 30 people.

Railway sources and witnesses said a compartment of the 273 down train bound for Mymensingh went off the track at about 7pm near the outer signal of Shyamganj Station.

A preliminary inquiry report said the accident occurred because the center-pin was missing at a point along the railroad near the scene. Rescue operation did not start till

Of the injured, ten were admitted to different hospitals while others

Ten critically injured people were treated at different hospitals.

CityCell FROM PAGE 12

at a cheap rate," he added.

Terming the cell phone industry highly capital intensive, he said the government should support the

industry for its further growth. He said although the government claims the telecommunications sector as an important part of

infrastructure, it is yet to provide the support that the sector needs. "Taxes on telecommunications equipment are high in Bangladesh compared to other neighbouring

countries," he said. He called upon other cell phone

operators to share infrastructure acilities to ease pressure on the country's limited foreign currency

"We welcome new operators as they will create more competition in the market," he added. from jail and withdrawing the cases against them, and at the same time, leploying joint force to curb crimina

"Her double standard will not bring peace in the country. Huge amounts of ammunition have been recovered from Bogra recently. Even today, arms and ammunition are being recovered," she said.

Hasina accused the family of the prime minister of "wasting" public money by taking various facilities after the death of president Ziaur

Dhaka District Bar Association President advocate M Israfil also spoke at the meeting.

Kader, Abdur Rahman, Ashim Kumar Ukil and BM Mojammel Huq, and District Bar General Secretary advocate Mukhlesur Rahman Badál

6 drown in Chalan Beel boat capsize

missing when a country boat carrying 50 people capsized in Chalan Beel after being caught in a storm at about 9:00pm Friday. Others swam ashore or were

Bodies of Moazzem, 50, Jahangir, 20, Joynal, 20, Enamul, 22, Shishir, 18, and Emran, 20, were recovered yesterday. Khokan,21, was still missing.

men of Kachikata village in Gurudaspur upazila went on a cruise in Chalan Reel on Friday morning in a big country boat.

caughtina storm and capsized in the beel between Milshaand Rohaivillages.

Hearing cries of the victims, the villagers came to their rescue

CPA asked to finish container terminal project by 2005

Authority (CPA) to take necessary steps to complete the work of New Mooring Container Terminal Project by December 31, 2005.

He also asked the authorities to take up a dredging project to remove shoals from the confluence of the river Dakatia

meeting that reviewed the status of implementation of the 2002-2003 ADP projects.

The meeting was informed that 18 projects under the ministry, three of them donor-funded, were included in the amended ADP in

The shipping secretary, chairmen of BIWTA, BIWTC, Chittagong and Mongla port authorities, and senior officials concerned were present at the meeting, said an

had been retouched, making them

more closely resemble Uday and

the identities based on dental and

medical records and visual testi-

Washington says it has proof of

A burning issue is what will

happen to the bodies. Muslim

tradition demands they be buried

quickly. It is possible they could be

discreetly handed to clan elders in

Death sentence

of the Bangladesh Penal Code after

hearing 18 witnesses and examining

Abul Bashar, an employee of Mina

Cycle Store at Ranibazar in the city, was

kidnapped and murdered on August

Jahurul, his brother Mohirul, and

They later dumped his dead body

The murder was a sequel to a

Bahar Ali, victim's father, filed a case

with the Boalia Police Station on

their friends Asadul and Chahar Uddin

under Biranbair bridge at Shahjadpur

dispute between Jahurul and Bashar

over a girl both were courting.

kidnappedBasharfromthestore.

in Sirajganj.

August27,2001.

evidences in 39 work days.

Qusay in life.

mony from aides.

Students block road at Tejgaon protesting injury to mate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of Tejgaon Polytechnic Institute blocked Tongi Diversion Road for about an hour yesterday protesting a road accident in which one of their fellow students was injured on Thursday.

nstitute barricaded the road from 10:00am to 11:00am bringing a complete halt to vehicular movement on the

The agitating students demanded speed-breaker in front of the institute as accidents take place frequently due to reckless driving.

On information, police went to the spot and removed the barricade as the authorities assured the students of constructing a speed-breaker in front of

One shot dead

FROM PAGE 12 leaving Yunus Ali dead on the spot and injuring six others.

Braving gunfire, the villagers caught six of the gang while others

The villagers later handed over the six to the police. They are Nizamuddin, 25, Babul Hossain, 22, Karim, 20, Selim, 22, Sohel Rana, 20, and Harun, 30.

The injured villagers, identified as Shamsu, 25, Din Islam, 26, Enamuddin, 35, Altaf, 52, Sohrab 30, and Jahangir, 35, were admitted to Enam clinic at Savar.

Vegetable exports

Biman charges for each kilogram of vegetables to the Middle East. the private operator offered to carry the same at Tk 55.

Syed Salahuddin Mahmud, general secretary of the Bangladesh Fruit, Vegetable and Allied Products Exporters Association, told The Daily Star that Biman's London flight, which used to carry 20 tonnes of vegetables, has reduced the volume to 11 tonnes

"Vegetable cargo space is shrinkng while we are receiving more orders," Mahmud mentioned.

He demanded the government request the foreign airlines to carry more vegetables.

When the UVEV was set up in mid-1980s, the world vegetable market was \$6 billion and has now swollen to \$23 billion. But Bangladesh is failing to tap it and limiting itself only to the 'ethnic market' or people of Bangladesh origin due to transportation prob-

Twenty-seven per cent of its vegetable exports go to Europe, 22 per cent to Saudi Arabia, 12 per cent to other Middle Eastern countries, 11 per cent to Kuwait, 10 per cent to Bahrain and eight per cent to Qatar.

Bangladesh's vegetable export basket includes bitter gourd, snake gourd, bush bean, okra, ridged gourd, wax gourd, eggplant and green chili.

The Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation's vege-tables and fish cold storage near Zia International Airport, however, provides low-cost warehousing facilities for vegetables which cannot get cargo space.

Private universities

FROM PAGE 1

educationists in this field. The

He said private universities were making a positive contribution to the country's education sector, but would be helped if the government lowered the guarantee payment and allowed private universities with small campuses to function.

Petrobangla FROM PAGE 12

by using a 'price deficit fund'.

As it pays all its earnings to the government, the Petrobangla faces the problem of having not enough cash to pay for gas from Sangu and Jalalabad. Petrobangla owes the Shell Oil and Unocal over US\$120 million in arrears for gas purchases from the Sanguand Jalalabad fields.

The Petrobangla is contractually obligated to pay the companies in foreign currency.

Sangu's monthly bill comes at around \$15 million for purchase of around 160 mmcfd gas. Jalalabad's monthly bill stands at around \$5.7 million for purchase of around 120

The Petrobangla sold gas worth over Tk 3,000 in the last fiscal. If gas was not there, Bangladesh would have imported oil worth about Tk 7,000 crore to meet its energy demands.

"The sector is the prime earner of the government and key mover of the economy. Its performance will Petrobangla official, preferring anonymity.

"Unfortunately, we get between Tk 600 crore and Tk 700 crore a year in the Annual Development Programme, although our true requirements are double the alloca-

Among other government agencies that contribute large chunks to the national exchequer are the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) and Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB).

The BPC contributed over Tk The charge sheet of the case was 3,000 crore in import duty alone and



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia talks to Bangladesh Nationalist Party leaders from Khulna at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday. Whip M Ashraf Hossain, left, Mayor of Khulna Sheikh Tayebur Rahman, fourth from left, are present.

7 die in Liberia

"Seven people died and this is very sorrowful. The fire is coming from across the bridge," said one loyalist commander on the scene as bullets whistled past from rebel lines a few hundred meters away.

The battle raged despite a unilateral cease-fire that was declared by the rebels on Friday shortly after Bush announced US troops were on their way to take up positions off the coast of Liberia. Liberians, who have been begging foreign troops to intervene, welcomed news of the deployment, but it was not immediately clear whether any US soldiers would go ashore. US television network CNN quoted Pentagon officials as saying US troops would only give logistical and communication support to West African peacekeepers who are expected to start deploying by the end of next week.

With US forces already stretched in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Pentagon is thought to be reluctant to put combat troops on the ground, but a White House spokesman left the option open.

US officials said on Friday the warships were seven to 10 days sailing time away.

"We are deeply concerned the condition of the Liberian people is getting worse and worse and worse," Bush told reporters in Washington as Friday's deaths added to a government-issued toll of several hundreds in the past few

Talk of a coup plot by junior

officers angry about pay and the

pace of internal reforms began

earlier in the week but caused no

visible sense of public anxiety and

put only a slight dent in the stock

Arroyo, who is due to set out her

successes and policies in a national

address on Monday, said on

Saturday she had listened to "legiti-

mate grievances" from some junior

officers but that the renegade sol-

"The republic will exact the

maximum penalty for the purveyors

of mutiny or rebellion. This warning

extends to unscrupulous politicians

who exploit the messianic complex

of these rogue officers for their

"I assure all that we are in full

Analysts saw little potential

support for a coup among senior

military officers or the public, which

has boosted Arrovo's standing in

opinion polls as the economy

bumps along and with peace talks

with the biggest Muslim rebel group

The 113,000-strong military has

no official role in the democratic

process but has helped oust or

ordain several leaders, from

Ferdinand Marcos to Arroyo in

2001, when she moved up from vice

president after a popular revolt

naked ambition," she said.

control of the situation.

set to restart.

diers would be court martialled.

and currency markets.

elaborating.

Philippine army

Bush reiterated a demand that Taylor, indicted for war crimes by a Ú.N.-backed court, must leave Liberia.

Taylor has said he will step down and head into exile once foreign troops arrive, but it remains uncertain whether any peacekeepers will go in while battles rage in

Australia FROM PAGE 1

Matthew Hayden (50) and Ricky Ponting (59) put on 91 for the secondwicket.

Off-spinner Sanwar Hossain (2-87) claimed the two wickets to fall in the afternoon session before Lehmann and Waugh who both scored centuries in the first Test restored order to the Australian

Waugh's 74 not out kept him on course for his 32nd Test century.

Sent in to bat by Australia, Bangladesh's 295 was their highest first innings total since their 400 on Гest debut against India in Dhaka three years ago.

Leg-spinner Stuart MacGill took 5-77 for Australia after the pace attack had struggled to break through the top order.

Top-ranked Australia lead the two-match series 1-0 after Bangladesh, who have not won a Test in 20 attempts, lost the first match inside three days by an innings and 132 runs in Darwin last

drove out Joseph Estrada.

government

Arroyo has faced coup rumours

Cardinal Jaime Sin, the Roman

Catholic archbishop of Manila and

the most influential church leader

in the country of 82 million, warned

earlier on Saturday of "ongoing plots, organised and already in

operation, set on destabilising our

reform is needed," he said in a

statement. "What must be done for

national renewal can and must be

to comment on the cardinal's state-

ment as television commentators

A military spokesman declined

done through peaceful means.'

"We cannot deny that much

legitimacy as leader and graft in her

Bomb plot

to rise up against the ruling State

"The whole purpose was to create political unrest inside the

Kyaw Win said that if the campaign had been successful, it would

"I know that all our people would never accept such a situa-tion recurring," he said. "We will take severe action against those who were colluding with these elements to try to disrupt peace

political violence on May 30, was involved in the dissident campaign which he said had begun in late

San Suu Kyi and the leaders themselves will know whether they are implicated or not."

were arrested on July 17 in posses-Kyaw Win.

was timed to coincide with Martyrs Day on July 19, which marks the Aung San Suu Kyi's father, independence hero General Aung San.

district President Ahmed Khalil Khan went to Chittagong of Chowdhury.

nessman, is also the former vicepresident of BNP Chittagong south) district unit.

Jasim Chowdhury.

talked of retired generals occupying prime army housing and low-ranking soldiers risking their lives FROM PAGE 12 for as little as 4,000 pesos (\$74) a

FROM PAGE 1 all secretaries and additional secre-

taries open to such appointments. According to the service rule, the government can appoint, on contact, civil servants from people with

outstanding career records who are

Retirement

deemed essential at a given time. But partisan consideration and cronvism now dictate such appointments, sources said.

(SPDC), he said.

country so people will go onto the streets," he told a press conference.

have created a repeat of unrest in 1988, when the junta brutally put down a pro-democracy uprising.

and stability in this country. Kyaw Win stopped short of

"We are continuing our investi-

Other military intelligence officials said the 12 "saboteurs"

Ctg businessman

Bangladesh Garments

Chowdhury was abducted while

Rickshawpuller

for autopsy.

A case was filed with the Lalbagh

died after he was knocked down by a passenger bus at Nawabpur at about 8:00am.

declared him dead.

A case was filed with the Kotwali

FROM PAGE 12

Peace and Development Council

saying that Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been held in detention since

gations to try to find out if the NLD is implicated in this campaign of civil unrest," he said. "Only Aung

sion of a quantity of explosives which were to be used to bomb the homes of junta leaders including

Colonel San Pwint said the plot anniversary of the assassination of

Metropolitan Police (CMP) headquarters at Laldighi yesterday and demanded the immediate rescue Jasim Chowdhury, a garments and construction materials busi-

Manufac-turers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) expressed its concern over the abduction of

returning home from his business firm at Chawk Bazar on Thursday

PoliceStation. In another accident, Idris Ali, 50,

A passer-by took Idris, a resident of Araihazar upazila of Narayanganj, to the DMCH where the doctors on duty

Police could neither seize the bus norarrest the driver.



FROM PAGE 12

for autopsy

Police and army personnel rushed to the area. None however could be held in this connection.

organisations, an official said.

FROM PAGE 1

A fourth-grade student of Dania Sunshine Kindergarten School, Mishel was abducted from near their Dania residence in Shyampur on July 5. The kidnappers demanded Tk 3 lakh in ransom

Shyampur police recovered Mishel's decomposed body 17 days after the abduction.

Despite hunts in different city and other areas police could not arrest Shoyeb and Hanif till 9:00

Wounds heal better on quitting smoking

REUTERS, New York

Quitting smoking for as little as 4 weeks can dramatically reduce the odds of wound infection after

surgery, according to a new report. Surgery patients are routinely advised to quit smoking before their operation, and previous research has shown that abstinence from smoking can reduce post-op complications, including wound infection. However, exactly how long abstinence must be maintained to produce a benefit has been unclear

To investigate, Dr. Lars Tue Sorensen and colleagues, from Bispebjerg University Hospital in Copenhagen, studied the healing of small incisions in 78 volunteers. Some were habitual smokers and some had never smoked.

Half the smokers were allowed to continue smoking while the others abstained from smoking using a nicotine or placebo patch. After 1 week and again at 4, 8, and 12 weeks later, small suture-closed incisions were made on the smokers. For comparison, among most of the never-smokers an incision was made at only one of those time

Wounds became infected in 12 per cent of smokers, significantly more than the 2 per cent of neversmokers, the investigators report in the Annals of Surgery. In addition, wounds broke open in 12 per cent of smokers, while no ruptures were seen among never-smokers.

After 4 weeks and again at 8 and

12 weeks, abstinent smokers were

significantly less likely to develop a

wound infection than continuous

smokers. Moreover, this benefit did not depend on whether they quit using a nicotine or placebo No difference in wound rupture

rates was seen between abstainers

and continuous smokers. Just 4 weeks of abstinence from smoking "reduces wound infections to a level similar to neversmokers," Sorensen's team con-

Two Stanford University physicians point out in a commentary that these results "suggest that surgeons need to be even more active in recommending smoking cessation programs to their patients because the impact of smoking on even minor incisions can be significant."

Netrokona by-polls

FROM PAGE 12

candidate against the ruling fourparty alliance candidate has so far been positive," he added. This is the first time since its defeat in October 2001 general

elections that the AL is participating in any parliamentary by-election. Terming the participation in the by-election as part of the ongoing movement against the government, a meeting of the AL central working committee early this month urged all the pro-liberation and noncommunal forces to start uniting

against the government from the Netrokona-3 by-election. The ruling coalition has nominated Khadiza Amin, the death of whose husband Nurul Amin Talukder left the constituency

The AL candidate, M Jubed Ali, won from this constituency in 1991 but was defeated in 1996 and 2001 Sources in the AL said the suc-

cesses in some recent municipal

and city corporation polls have

encouraged the party to contest the Netrokona-3 by-election. "Moreover, the party wants to revive relations with its old friends and the Netrokona-3 by-election is an occasion to bring together the anti-government forces," said an AL

"If it succeeds, the party will strive for a greater coalition with the like-minded parties against the government." he added. Sources said senior AL leaders held talks with Gano Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain,

General Secretary of the

Communist Party of Bangladesh

(CPB) Mujahidul Íslam Selim, Jatiya

Samaitantrik Dal (ISD) President

Hasanul Hag Inu and Krishak

Sramik Janata League (KSJL) President Kader Siddiqui MP on the Party sources said it will also

Power sector

FROM PAGE 1

Authority. But the committee opted to work on the power sector first considering the power crisis.

"The committee also asked the comptroller and auditor general to report to it irregularities found in different organisations in the power sector. The committee will then recommend to the ministry concerned actions against those responsible," said Rustam Ali Farazi, another BNP member of the

committee. Committee Chairman and BNP lawmaker Abdul Alim chaired yesterday's meeting. It was attended by Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, Majibar Rahman Sarwar, Shamsul Islam Khan, Rustam Ali Farazi, Alamgir Mohammad Mahfuzullah Farid, Abul Kalam Azad and Salahuddin Ahmed -- all

Gunfight

to the morgue at the district town

A special drive will be launched

to nab armed activists of the two

Mishel murder

court sent him to Dhaka Central

from Mishel's father.

extend the offer to Jatiya Party (Ershad) Chairman Hussain Mohammad Ershad and JP (Manju) chief Anwar Hossain Manju whose candidates will contest the byelection. In the last general elections, BNP candidate Nurul Amin Talukdar

bagged 103,706 votes, while the AL

candidate M Jubed Ali got 93,742 votes. In the 1996 elections, Nurul Amin Talukdar beat the same AI candidate by 8,133 votes. Seven nomination papers have been filed for the by-election. Apart from the four-party alliance and the AL candidates, others who are contesting the election include Ali Osman of the JP (Ershad), Abdul Ali of the JP (Monju), Abu Jaber Sarker

Andolon and Abdul Wahab, an independent candidate. Meanwhile, a press release of the Election Commission (EC) yester-day said the election symbols for the by-election will be distributed on July 31. July 30 is the last date for withdrawal of candidature

of the KSJL, Krishak Mohammad

Sadeq of the Krishak Sramik Mukti

ntv FROM PAGE 1

The rule was made returnable in six Appearing for the petitioners, advocate Mahbube Alam submitted that the government action was malafide. He said about 30 applications for permission to private TV channels were lying pending but the government ignored them by allowing ntv

under undue influence.

ministry, which he said had no power to grant such approval. He submitted that the approval was biased, politically influenced and described it as a 'colourable exercise of power' The shareholders of ITCL are close relatives of Prime Minister's

Political Secretary Mosaddeg Ali

Falu and State Minister for Home

The counsel questioned the post

facto approval of the information

Lutfuzzaman Babar, the counsel pointed out. Referring to the guidelines on private channel television installation and operation framed in 1998, the counsel submitted that the ownership of TV channels could not be transferred to any person or institution without prior permis-

sion from the government. As per regulations of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Act 2001, a licence or any right acquired wholly or partially shall not be transferable and such trans-

PM

FROM PAGE 1 light of existing situation.

fer, if any, shall be void.

She gave a patient hearing to the mayor and the lawmakers on various issues relating to the overall development of Khulna and assured them of all possible measures by her government. The ongoing anticrime joint

operation in the southwestern

districts, condition of different

industrial units in Khulna, improvement of water supply sewerage and drainage system in the city, possibility of natural gas supply, enhancing healthcare system and Mongla Port situation were among the issues that came up for discussion. The delegation suggested inten-

sifying the ongoing BDR-led joint operation in the southwestern region. Industrialisation, possibility of setting up some essential drugs factories, re-opening of closed

cussed at the meeting The MPs requested the prime minister to take necessary steps for starting work on the proposed Khan Jahan Ali Airport in Khulna, construction of Padma bridge and establishment of a planned

mills and factories and problems of

the running mills were also dis-

PM's Principal Secretary Dr Kamal Uddin Siddiqui was present.

210MW power plant in Khulna.



given on October 17, 2002 and it was the BTTB Tk 1,600 crore in the last sent to the STTC on June 6, 2003.

Over a hundred students of the

Party leaders Zillur Rahman, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Obaidul

UNB, Natore Six people drowned and one remained

The bodies were kept at Gurudaspur Survivorssaidstudentsandbusiness-

On their return journey, the boat was

UNB, Dhaka Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain has directed the Chittagong Port

The directive came when the minister was presiding over a

fiscal 2002-2003.

3 US troops killed

revenge after the deaths of Ousav and Uday," labourer Mohammed Ali said. Soldiers on patrol and manning checkpoints said guerrilla attacks

on them -- already bolder and more frequent -- had increased

markedly in the few days since the

Staff Sergeant Kenneth Maxwell,

from Hartford, Connecticut, as he

"Things are worse now," said

sons' killings.

manned a heavy machinegun atop an armoured vehicle, watching over a checkpoint where soldiers searched Iraqi cars for weapons. "They used to just attack us, mostly at night. But now they are attacking us during the day with AK-47s and RPGs (rocket- propelled grenades), at any American soldiers they can find," Maxwell

said, eyes alert under the baking

sun, in temperatures above 40

Celsius (105 Fahrenheit).

Iraq's biggest selling newspaper, Azzaman, splashed colour photographs of Uday and Qusay's corpses on its front page, under a headline proclaiming the brothers were dead But Iraqis, raised in a culture of

conspiracy theories, were divided

on the identity of the waxy-looking

US forces took the unprecedented step of inviting a small group of journalists, including two from Reuters, to view the bodies on Friday. The faces of the two men