Fresh bloodshed

FROM PAGE 1 His cousin SM Rezaul Hasan received the body and carried it to the AL central office on Bangabandhu Avenue before taking it to Khulna for burial.

Addressing an impromptu rally after he was brought to the DMCH, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil blamed the attempt on the life of Manzur, general secretary of Sonadanga AL since January 1, on the 'ruling party

Manzur's killing took place after a series of high-profile killings in Khulna including that of city unit AL president Manzurul Imam on August 25 last year, journalist Manik Chandra Saha on January 15 and Batiaghata BNP leader Amir Azam Khan on January 29. REVENGEKILLING

Police retrieved Kubbad's body from Despare WAPDA road yesterday morning and the superintendent of police. Khulna said the murder was committed at the house of alleged underground operative Shahidul

Alleged outlaws abducted the BNP leader from his Anandanagar village home hours before the killing, said his younger sister Chantara Begum, who lodged the first information report with the police.

The motive for the killing could not be known immediately, but locals alleged outlawed operatives killed him to avenge his cooperation with law-enforcers in an anti-outlaw drive in the upazila.

Some alleged the Janajuddha (Marxist and Leninist) murdered him as he severed ties with the outfit after being elected to the union parishad. Two suspects were picked up for

questioning after the killing, but the local officer-in-charge refused to give their names. Leaders and activists of Terokhada

BNP brought out a procession in protest against the murder and demanded exemplary punishment to

VICTIMOFTURFWAR Iqbal received bullets in his head and chest in front of Kashipur Primary School at about 9.30pm on Friday on his way home from a sister's house.

Son of Hashem Biswas of Royermahal in Khalishpur, Iqbal had been living in the Kashipur house of his sister for the last three months after receiving death threats from drugrunners associated with outlaws, family sources said.

Locals said he was a victim of turf war between two gangs of drug traders close to outlaws, but his brother-inlaw Akram Molla said he was killed for opposing drug pushing in the locality. STUDENT LEADER DEAD

Organising Secretary of Faridpur district Chhatra League Biswajeet Dasgupta, 26, who was stabbed by assailants in Faridpur on January 15, died from his wounds at the DMCH yesterday afternoon.

Agang of 14 assailants stabbed him repeatedly with sharp weapons when he was drinking tea at a stall near his

He was rushed to Faridpur hospital and later shifted to the DMCH a day

RESPONSIBILITY In a message faxed to the press club yesterday, the Janajuddha faction of the PBCP claimed responsibility for

farms in Gazipur district on the verge of collapse, said Asaduzzman Biplob,

general secretary of the association.

Gazipur is the major hub of poul-

In the last couple of years, around

The association leaders men-

500 poultry farms in the district closed down due to various factors.

tioned that wholesale price of broil-

ers and layers has plummeted by

about 50 percent to Tk 25 to 30 a kg

now from Tk 50 to 60 only a few weeks ago. The price fall in retail

chickens as it would cause them

further loss due to increase in over-

Poultry price has declined by around 40 percent from the usual

price, said the staff at a city sales

Meanwhile, high officials of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock

said yesterday there was no report of

bird fluin Bangladesh. They however

"The entire field level, upazila and district officials have been asked

to keep watch on the situation and

report immediately any case of bird

centre of a major poultry farm.

stressed the need for alert.

The farms are also unable to stock

markets is also similar.

head cost, they added.

Khan, local BNP leader and chairman of Amirpur union in Batiaghata

In a similar message, Janajuddha (Marxist and Leninist) faction tookresponsibility for killing Kubbad and

The claims could not be probed independently.
ANTI-CRIMEDRIVE

A fresh anti-crime drive was likely to be launched in the troubled Khulna region from midnight last night to hunt down terrorists, highly placed sources told The Daily Star yesterday.

All preparations were taken and a high-level meeting of superintendents of police in the violence-torn southwestern region was held at the office of the deputy inspector general of police, Khulna range yesterday to discuss the drive, they added.

The government has ordered the drive to stem the tide of killings in the region, they said, adding the army might be called out to assist the law-

VALLEYOFDEATH

Long described as a city of tranquility for peaceful life in the confluence of Rupsha and Bhairab rivers, Khulna city has now emerged as the 'valley of death' for its violent present.

At least 45 people have been killed in Khulna division from January 1 to January 30, mostly in Khulna city which is at the heart of the bloodbath, lamed largely on a raft of leftist out-

"People fear to go out of house after sunset and relatives call one another after nightfall to know their wellbeing in the violence-scarred city," said a Khulna journalist, requesting ano-

"It's like a plague outbreak." The list of the dead is growing every day with the death of political leaders, journalists, law enforcers and even innocent bystanders caught up in the

raging chaos. About 580 people, including 12 police constables, were killed in 2003, up from 285 in 2002, 333 in 2001 and 380 in 2000 in the southwest, showing a clear sign of rising death count.

The outlaws, used to employing sniper attacks in their war against 'class enemy', are now largely using crude bombs to take life, plunging existence in the city into utter uncer-

tainty.

"After we leave home for work, we cannot say who will return home at the end of the day," said a civil servant.

"It's a homeland of horror," he said, adding, "Only major incidents get play in the press, scores of others go unreported as journalists fear to

The Janajuddha issued a death threat to nine journalists in Satkhira on January 23 for covering their activi-

Several clandestine arms factories work full-time in the 'wild southwest' to manufacture weapons for the outlaws, said a Khulna-based journal-

The government ordered several anti-crime drives in the region to cut violence, but the operations failed to

The much-talked-about joint drive SpiderWeb could not stem the free fall

College student | Cattle traders

Solaiman to pay Tk 5 lakh toll since last week. As he refused to pay the money, they abducted his 20 years old son, family sources said.

in the evening and demanded the

elaborate.

Car bomb

Annan pulled international staff out of Iraq last year after two suicide attacks on the UN headquarters in Baghdad. The most devastating attack, on Aug. 19, killed 22 people including the head of the UN mission, Sergio Vieira de Mello.

The United Nations is returning to Iraq at the request of Washington, after US plans for the handover of sovereignty were rejected by Iraq's leading Shia cleric.

No bird flu

they suggested.

by government departments con-cerned on the latest situation in poultry sector, Morshed Alam said the survey report will be available within a week. Reports received so far say the situation is good, he added.

(ADB) will provide financial and technical support to face any situation in poultry sector, Alam men-

Savar poultry farms recently, he said it was an isolated incident caused by wrong vaccination. Association leaders who spoke at

Govt on alert

Moni Swapan Dewan.

Zia held separate talks with the three DCs of the CHT on current political atmosphere and directed them to avert any untoward situation and discuss matters with the opposition parties and civil society to that end. The prime minister has also asked Head of CHT Implementation

Bangalee settlers from the area.

Rover sees

hematite at Opportunity's landing site. Scientists believe the mineral covers as much as 20 percent of the surface at Meridiani Planum, an area hundreds of miles across.

Bird flu is a 100-year-old disease in the world, and people should not get panicked as out of many types of the rover.

of movement to and from the area should be restricted, transports and equipment have to disinfected, he

sought global efforts to combat it.

The ban will continue for two months from January 15 and it will not create any crisis in poultry sup-

Nuruzzaman

to Srimangal Police Station and then to the upazila hospital and again to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

He was admitted to the hospital after he fell sick November 20 in police custody.

that the complainant of one of the cases, Shahed, Srimangal Thana BNP secretary, and policemen assaulted him in police custody on the night of November 20 while he was placed on a two-day remand.

FROM PAGE 1 demanded toll from some of them. on the other hand, the truckers denied the allegation of looting the collectors) assaulted a truck worker the previous night.

tion till yesterday evening.

The gang called the victim's father

same amount as ransom they added. Tejgaon police said they heard about the incident but could not

FROM PAGE 1 elections ahead of the June 30 dead-line for the handover of sovereignty from the US-led coalition to an Iraqi

FROM PAGE 12 second largest chicken exporter,

About a survey being carried out

The Asian Development Bank

On the death of chickens at same

the press conference included MA Salek, vice-president, ATM Alamgir, treasurer, and Rafiqul Huq and Kamal Ahmed, members.

FROM PAGE 12 meeting called by Deputy Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs

Jafar said Prime Minister Khaleda

Affairs Committee Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan to discuss immediately political issues on the CHT with PCJSS chief Shantu Larma.

Meanwhile, Moni asked the Parbatya Bangali Gono Parishad (PBGP) to withdraw its counter programmes against the PCJSS agitation and hold talks with the government.

The PCJSS has called the agitation programmes demanding full implementation of the CHT peace reement, removal of Chairman of CHT Development Board lawmaker Wadud Bhuiyan, appointment of an indigenous person as full minister for CHT affairs and withdrawal of

FROM PAGE 12 Global Surveyor previously spotted

As for the ailing Spirit rover, Nasa deleted 1,700 files from its flash memory Friday and then rebooted

"I am pleased to report it appears to be working just fine," said Glenn Reeves, chief engineer for the rover's flight software. He said Nasa should be able to declare Spirit "fully recovered" by Sunday.

Businessman

notorious Shibir cadre Gittu Nasir.

Police said they are trying follow

up all possible leads to the identity

and whereabouts of the abductors.

"We are trying to catch the culprits

and rescue Jahangir," Meah Luthfar

Rahman Chowdhury, the deputy

commissioner (north) of Chittagong

Metropolitan Police told this corre-

The victim's younger brother

Badruddoza, also the founding

Jan-e-Alam filed a case with Khulshi

spondent.

police yesterday.

Traders said sale picked up yester-day and is expected to double today as thousands of sacrificial animals swarmed the designated cattle markets and nearby roads.

Thousands more poured into the city throughout yesterday, by trucks, mechanised boats and on foot to join the already packed markets.

Sale will peak today and throughout the night as most buyers prefer to wait till the last moment looking to strike a better deal. Meanwhile, some cattle traders

gangs of criminals in the city. There have also been reports of buyers being robbed after being drugged unconscious. Sources at Dhaka Medical College Hospital said 25 such victims, mostly from the city's largest

Gabtoli cattle market, were hospita-

have been mugged by organised

lised in last two days with druginduced complications. Apart from Gabtoli, many prospective buyers are also checking out other markets like the one at

"I came to this market on Wednesday when sales were insignificant. But now with two days before the Eid, the place is teeming

Panthapath.

with buyers and sellers," said Ataur Rahman, a trader at Panthapath cattle market. He said traders expected the rush to further intensify tomorrow, the day before Eid.

Mohammed Mostafa, a resident of the city's Mohammedpur area, was surveying market prices before making a final decision. "Yesterday, I went to Gabtoli but prices there were too high compared to last year," he said as he checked out prices at the Panthapath market.

Mahmudur Rahman from Dhanmondi bought a bull at Panthapath. " I have bought for Tk 17,000, which seems a bit higher than last year." Dhaka's Mayor Sadek Hossain

Khoka and State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babar yesterday visited some cattle markets in the city and directed authorities to ensure complete discipline during transaction.

The mayor asked mobile courts to watch out for all types of extortion and harassment and ensure cleanli-

He said market authorities were permitted to charge five percent of the sale price, adding that anyone found overcharging would be prose-

Intensive care units

shorter than the minimum required number of 500.

According to experts, Bangladesh needs at least 500 beds with 'limited' ICU facilities at all district hospitals and specialised ICU beds at all tertiary hospitals like in Dhaka city.

Usually, one per cent of total beds in general hospitals are earmarked for the ICU, but in reality this standard frequently remains unmet in

The situation is exacerbated by the rising number of patients seeking admission to ICU units. Patients at private clinics, most of which lack such facilities, are frequently referred to hospitals for intensive care, but most are turned away.

Recently, a young man with criti-cal head injuries suffered in a road accident was first taken to a private hospital in Dhanmondi where his condition was stabilised. But ICU beds in the hospital were already full and authorities were forced to refer the patient to another Dhanmondi

But the man was out of luck there too -- all ICU beds there were also full. Frustrated, relatives took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where they waited for an ICU bed while he was admitted to the general ward, But several days passed and no beds were available. The man died in the general ward without proper treatment.

The Department of Anaesthesia, Analgesia and Intensive Care Medicine of the BSMMU (Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University) revealed in a study that during the 1994-2002 period, 1,154 critically ill patients had to be turned away due to shortage of ICU beds.

The same study revealed that ICU patient mortality rate in the city's four leading hospitals is also very high -- 52 percent at the DMCH, 45 percent at the BSMMUH, 39 percent at Birdem (Bangladesh Institute of Research and Rehabilitation in Diabetics, Endoctrine and Metabolic Disorders) and 28 percent at Bangladesh Medical College

A Daily Star investigation found that only a few hospitals in the city have general and multidisciplinary ICUs. They are: the DMCH, the BSMMUH, Ibrahim Memorial Hospital popularly known as Birdem,

Bangladesh Medical College Hospital, Central Hospital, Millennium Hospital, Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital, Sikder Women's Medical College and Hospital, the National Heart Foundation, National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases and Institute of Chest Diseases and Hospital. Some state-owned general hospi-

tals in the city like Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital, Mitford Hospital and National Hospital have no ICU and most of their patients are referred to the DMCH, the only general hospital with free ICU facili-Professor Waheduddin Mahmud,

nead of ICU at the DMCH, said, "Every day we are forced to refuse admission to two to three critically ill patients simply because we do not have enough beds. Ideally, the eight-bed multidisciplinary ICU at the DMCH is perfect. But the problem is it is the only free ICU in the country, so you can imagine the pressure on

The other problem is many patients are inappropriately referred to the ICU who undergo procedures for which admission to an ICU may not be crucial. Besides, some others are unnecessarily admitted to ICU after operation. Professor KM Iqbal, chairman of the Department of Anaesthesia,

Medicine at the BSMMUH said, "Often, patients who do not qualify for intensive care are sent to the ICU and occupy the beds for months and we have to turn deserving patients Terminally ill patients who have practically no chance of survival, including those with cerebral vascu-

Analgesia and Intensive Care

lar disease commonly known as brain stroke, are often inappropriately referred to the ICU, Iqbal said. He said patients with Guillenbarre Syndrome (GBS), trauma head injury and respiratory failure have very

ICU beds could be freed up in time. "This is a common practice and a major problem," said a senior

good chance of recovery, but only if

anaesthesiologist of Birdem. Some anaesthesiologists cited costs of ICU facilities that averages Tk 4,000 a day and with full use of ventilator support and relevant drugs hits Tk 12,000 a day as prohibitive.

Eid-ul-Azha tomorrow

FROM PAGE 1 with near and dear ones.

The day begins with Eid congregations, generally held at open grounds and mosques. Well-off Muslims will then sacrifice animals in the name of Allah and share the sacrificial meat with the poor.

The main Eid congregation will be held at the National Eidgah Maidan at 8:00am. "In case of inclement weather, the main congregation would be held at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque at the same time," said a Dhaka City

ments for women as well as foreign ambassadors and diplomats and their wives in the main congregation, said the release. There will be five congregations at the Baitul Mukarram National

Mosque, the first one at 7:00am and the last at 11:15am. and Bangladesh Betar as well as private electronic media will air

Improved diets will be served at hospitals, jails, government-run children's homes and vagrant and destitute welfare centres across the President Iajuddin Ahmed, Prime

the Opposition Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages congratulating the countrymen on the occasion. President Iajuddin Ahmed said

Azha consolidate the unity, solidarity and fraternity of the "Muslim nation" "This festival, suffused with the

glory of sacrifice, inspires Muslims with self-sacrifice and humility in attaining satisfaction of Almighty Allah," the president said.

ter urged all to establish brotherhood and friendship and build bonds of fraternity, "sinking all differences". She also called upon the countrymen to establish peace through

In her message, the prime minis-

The opposition leader in her message said, "We will have to stand beside the humiliated humanity" following the ideals of Prophets Ibrahim (A) and Ismail (A) as well as Prophet Muhammad (SM).

She made a mention of the myriad odds prevailing in the country -price hike of essentials, gas, electricity and water, and mugging, killing, terrorism, "political persecution", and "anarchic situation" in educational institutions and administra-

Muslim countries have sent messages greeting President Iajuddin Ahmed and the people of In their messages they prayed to Almighty Allah for the continued

DAE question leak 3 remanded, 15 jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A court in Mymensingh yesterday placed three persons on remand for their alleged involvement with the question paper leakage for the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) written test of Block Supervisors.

The Court of Magistrate Mosharraf Hossain placed each of three men on a two-day remand and sent 15 others, arrested in connection with the crime, to fail.

On Friday, police held 18 persons including 16 employees of the DAE on charge of question paper leakage, sources said. The written examination was

was yet to be announced, a DAE official said. When contacted SM Ashfaq Hossain, additional deputy commissioner (education), said the test will

postponed on Friday but fresh date

he held within two or three weeks. Agricultural ministry formed a three-member body headed by Abdul Mannan Mian, director of the DAE, to probe the question leakage.

Tk 2.8 lakh robbed from Butterfly showroom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers looted cash and valuables said to be worth over Tk 2.8 lakh from Butterfly showroom at Darussalam Road in Mirpur-1 on Friday night. Posing as customers, 7/8 youths

entered the showroom at block B at

around 9:00pm to inquire about prices of different items. At one stage, some of them whipped out arms and took hostage all six staff at gunpoint and asked showroom Manager Badrul Alam to

hand over entire cash. The robbers took Tk 2.64 lakh from the cash counter, Tk 5,683 from Badrul, a mobile phone and a ring. While leaving, the gang warned them of further attack if they shouted.

Badrul filed a case with Mirpur Police Station. Police could not recover the sum or arrest any of the robbers till 8:00 last night.

AL leaders

FROM PAGE 12

without-opposition' as during 1991-96 and 1996-2001. Despite the transition to a democratic order after Ershad's autocratic rule, both the fifth and seventh parliaments passed almost half of their tenures

with the opposition staying away.

About MPs' views on crucial issues like parliament boycott and anti-government movement, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil told The Daily Star, "MPs are not above the party. Everyone including the lawmakers should abide by whatever the party decides."

A defiant Jalil said if the government paid no heed to AL's 15-point demand and 30-day ultimatum, the party would certainly go for a quitpower movement. Deputy Leader of the Opposition

Abdul Hamid, however, told this

correspondent if needed, the party

would convene a meeting of the ALPP during the current session of parliament. On the party workers' fear of being implicated in false cases if an oust-government movement is launched, Hamid said, "We will deal

with the situation accordingly."

Odhikar

FROM PAGE 1
18 abducted in the incidents. Besides, 10 children are missing, seven acid-burnt and three arrested

while five committed suicide. It said one journalist was killed, one arrested, one abducted and three others were injured during the period. Moreover, three newspersons were assaulted and one attacked, while 15 received death threats and cases were filed against five.

Eighteen people were acid-burnt, mostly as a sequel to previous enmity and overland dispute Odhikar also said 18 women were

killed, eight tortured and one committed suicide in dowry-related violence. Nine people were killed, 23 injured and 14 abducted in incidents of human-rights violation in the

Chittagong Hill Tracts during the

period.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Shishu Odhikar Forum said 553 children's rights were violated in January. However, Bangladesh Nari Progoti Sangha said 189 incidents of women torture took place in last month,

killing 66. Fifty-three women were raped, 18 tortured, 14 acid-burnt, 13 abducted and 10 harried to suicide, the organisation added. Meanwhile, Manobadhikar, another rights organisation, said 177 people were killed in violences in

January with an average of six every Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) said in a report yesterday 339 people were killed last month including 27 in political violence. Nineteen people were killed in mobbeating 10 after rape and eight in bomb blasts, the BSEHR added.

areas and three due to negligence of Seven policemen were killed during the period while a man died in police custody, itsaid.

Nuclear chief

scientists sold nuclear weapons technology to countries including Iran and Libya. The probe was launched in November after Iran

It wasn't immediately clear if further legal action would be taken against Khan or others accused in the

chaired a meeting yesterday of Pakistan's National Command try's nuclear assets. The top officials were informed that the investigation was nearly concluded and appropri-

interest to share this technology in whatever form with any other coun-

restricted to the capital, Islamabad. Analysts had said a decision to punish top scientists, particularly Khan, would be a tough one for Musharraf and would likely trigger an angry reaction from nationalists. Khan remains an icon of impoverished Pakistan's successful campaign to create a formidable nuclear defense

failed to account for money in personal bank accounts. Farooq is among the six scientists in custody. Khan and Farooq have told investi-

gators they didn't supply any technol-ogy to Iran and Libya, and Khan has maintained he did nothing to damage the interests of Pakistan, officials said Earlier yesterday, officials said loose controls at Khan's laboratory allowed a small number of its employ-ees to profit from the nuclear black

yesterday's meeting. act against anyone guilty of doing so. The government has publicly acknowledged "one or two people"

Born in present-day India in 1935, Khan emigrated to Pakistan in 1952,

actedfor personal gain.

FROM PAGE 1 working overtime to prevent any attacks in the kingdom during the pilgrimage.

Six Saudi security men were shot

dead Thursday as they searched for

arms and explosives in a wanted

militant was arrested in the operation, The interior ministry said security forces in the capital subsequently arrested seven suspected members of

seized large amounts of arms and explosives. Security forces arrested "seven individuals suspected of belonging to the group... preparing a terror attack," said an interior ministry statement quoted Friday by the official SPA news

statement said. The security operation followed the fatal shooting, also Thursday, of six security men and the father of a

detained suspect during a search of

five years after its partition from India, He earned a doctorate in metallurgy in Belgium, and has been awarded Pakistan's highest civilian award twice the only person so honored.

Khan worked in the Netherlands at subsidiary of the British-German-Dutch nuclear conglomerate URENCO in 1972-76 before returning home to start Pakistan's nuclear program, which tested its first nuclear device in 1998.

In 1983, a Dutch court convicted Khan in absentia of stealing confidential material from URENCO and sentenced him to four years in prison. He denied the charge and the conviction was later overturned on a techni-

Blast at Shahjalal shrine Probe body gets extra days to submit report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Local administration yesterday gave a committee on probing the bomb blast at the shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) 10 more days to submit its report after it failed to present its findings for the second time.

Earlier, the probe body, headed by the superintendent of police in Sylhet, was given another 10 days to point finger at persons involved in the explosion after it failed to submit its report within seven day. With two weeks passing since the bomb blasted on January 12, police

in the attack, which claimed five lives and injured more than 50 devotees, sources said. Police could not reap any valuable information from the six arrested persons. A magistrate court sent them to jail after their remand

Gilligan seeks

period expired, they added.

resigned from the public broad-In a statement to Britain's domestic Press Association news agency, Gilligan acknowledged that part of his May 29 report -- which alleged that Downing Street "sexed up" intelligence on Iraq -- was

suicide of Iraq weapons expert David Kelly, said on Saturday he has

'I again apologise for it," he said. "My departure (from the BBC) is at my own initiative. But the BBC collectively has been the victim of a grave injustice. 'I love the BBC and I am resign-

ing because I want to protect it," he said in his 500-word statement. "I accept my part in the crisis which has befallen the organisation. But a greater part has been played by the unbalanced judgments" contained in Lord Brian Hutton's report

Gilligan aired the May 29 report

on BBC radio alleging that Prime Minister Tony Blair's inner circle

had "sexed up" a crucial September 2002 dossier on Iraq and weapons of mass destruction.

into Kelly's death.

Aussie Open Henin-Hardenne then served out confidently for the title, sealing victory by hammering an unstoppable serve down the middle that

Clijsters could only flail her racquet

Henin-Hardenne collapsed on the court with joy as Clijsters was left disconsolate after her fourth defeat in a Grand Slamfinal. The win saw Henin-Hardenne go level with Clijsters in head-to-head

meetings at 9-9 but she has now

beaten her in seven consecutive

WTA and Grand Slam finals.

Kuwaiti army

Army in Kuwait, which will supervise, maintain and look after the appointment, extension, deputation and all other aspects of the

tive and in line with the Kuwaiti and international paystructure.

The Kuwaiti authorities will provide the armed forces members with residence and education allowances for their children. Each member will enjoy a total of

30 to 40 days' leave during the first

rebuild war-ravaged nations around the globe. Ministers present at the meeting said that the agreement is a great

and Technological Agreement". This

Under the agreement, both countries will share expertise and experiences in the field of IT and expand scientific cooperation.

Besides, the cabinet has

approved 'further amendment to

Bangladesh Legal Practitioners and Bar Council Order 1971 (President's Order No. 46 of 1972)'. The amendment provides that a member of the Bar Council must have to inform it at least 60 days ahead of the polls about the venue from where he/she will cast vote. Previously, a lawyer could be a

member of any bar and cast vote anywhere in the country. Meanwhile, the cabinet yesterday sent back the proposal of the BIMST-EC (Bangladesh India Myanmar Sri Lanka Thailand-

for further scrutiny. The proposal seeks form a free trade region to enhance economic cooperation among the member

Sources said the proposal was

prepared by the officials at the

Economic Cooperation) agreement

deputy secretary-level and the cabinet asked for further improvement in the draft agreement to be prepared by secretary-level officials. Cabinet members and the state ministers in charge of different

relevant ministries attended the meeting. Cabinet Secretary Sa'adat Husain and secretaries concerned were also present.

flu anywhere. Proper steps will be taken whenever needed," said State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock

BA, Air France FROM PAGE 1 from the Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi He said: "Many Muslims will be

travelling throughout aviation sys-

tems over the next few days, and some

names may match or be similar those

held on security records in the US." Asked why passengers could not simply arrive early at airports to allow time to be cleared by security instead of having their flights cancelled, he said such a move "would create congestion in many airports all around theworld". Air France flights AF026 were

cancelled Sunday and Monday "for

reasons of security," spokeswoman

BA's Flight 223 had been the sub-

Veronique Brachet said

ject of concern early in January, when it was cancelled twice because of security fears and then delayed for hours several more times. US officials said on Friday new intelligence indicated BA Flight 223 and Air

France flights from Paris to an unspeci-

fiedUScitycouldbeterroristtargets.

Livestock Research Institute Ouazi M Emdadul Huque said they have the technology to detect if a bird is negative or positive with virus'.

Cambodia, Taiwan, Malaysia and South Korea in the wake of bird flu outbreak. Bangladesh Rifles have also been alerted to prevent smuggling in of poultry from across the

secretary general of the ruling BNP, said he had to relinquish presidency as the party that voted him to the office asked for it by a majority decision. "I know that was a wrong majority decision."

Truckers 'loot'

money, but admitted that they beat up the toll collectors as they (toll No case was filed in this connec-

Poultry industry

"We are also examining the parent stock of poultry, imported in the last two months," he added. Director General of Bangladesh

viruses, only H5N1 transmits from one species to another," he said. In case of any infection, all kinds

earlier said, "This (bird flu) is a serious global threat to human health," and Bangladesh government banned import of poultry, broiler or layer stock from India, Pakistan, Vietnam,

FROM PAGE 1 city on November 18. He was taken

The businessman earlier alleged

ply, the state minister said.

The World Health Organisation

B Chy FROM PAGE 12 platform.

> decision, still I did oblige, as it was a About his re-entry into active politics after one and a half years, Badruddoza said he was aspiring to introduce an alternative trend in politics through which he could get

Asked if he expects the electronic

close to the people.

media to air the new CD, the former president said if it is not possible to Minister Khaleda Zia and Leader of show the CD in local media he would arrange for its publicity in foreign TV channels. The CD would be released first in the Ekushey Book Fair at Bangla Academy.

Corporation press release.

There will be special arrange-

State-run Bangladesh Television special programmes while national dailies will publish special supplements on Eid-ul-Azha.

On the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, the heads of government and state of

the commemorative rituals of Eid-ul-

eradicating all sorts of injustice and conflict from society".

peace and prosperity of Bangladesh and welfare of its people. The statesmen of Islamic nations also wished greater unity of the Muslim ummah.

provided information to the UN nuclearwatchdog.

President Pervez Musharraf Authority, which controls the coun-

ate action will be taken against those found guilty," the military said in a The statement also reiterated that the nuclear program was only intended to deter Pakistan's enemies and "it would never be in the national

Six scientists and security officials from the nuclear facility -- the Khan Research Laboratories, named after Khan -- are being held in the probe over allegations of nuclear transfers to Iran and Libya. Khan was not arrested, but acquaintances said he has been

against a much larger foe, India. Officials have said that Khan and a failed to identify the people involved op aide, Mohammed Farooq, have

market. Those findings were to have been reviewed by Musharraf at the Pakistan's government says it never sanctioned transfers of nuclear technology to other countries and will

1.7m perform Hajj attempt to undermine security, are

militant's home in Riyadh, 700 kilometres (435 miles) from Makkah. The and his father killed. a group planning a "terror attack" and

Raids on two Riyadh hideouts of presumed Islamist militants Thursday night netted a booby-trapped car and 21 explosives belts among large amounts of arms and explosives, the

defence agreement. Salary, allowance and other admissible facilities of the trainers have also been spelt out in the agreement although these could not be known immediately. Sources said the salaries and benefits are attrac-

three years. Cabinet sources said the armed forces have been widely acclaimed by the UN and US-led allied forces during the peacekeeping operation after the 1991 Gulf War and also for their role to keep peace in and

achievement for Bangladesh and lence during their stay in Kuwait. year "Bangladesh-Egypt Science

hoped the armed forces members would be able to show their excel-The cabinet also approved a five-Twelve were killed also in the border

agreement is expected to be signed during Khaleda's upcoming visit to Egypt, official sources said.