Flooding worsens

continues to rise.

by heavy rainfall in greater

Chittagong district yesterday forced

the Kaptai Dam authoritis to release

huge quantity of water from Kaptai

coupled with on rush of hilly waters

swelled resulted in strong current in

the Karnaphuli river and Chittagong

port channel hindering movement

of ships and other water transports.

Tk 9 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Criminals took away about Tk 9 lakh

in two separate incidents of mug-

ging and robbery in the city yester-

Police said armed muggers looted Tk 7.8 lakh from staff of a

business firm, National Accessories

Ltd., on Bayezid Bostami Road in

Nasirabad industrial area at around

two CNG-run three-wheelers

stopped five of the staff who were

returning to the office in a microbus

after drawing the money from the

Southeast Bank's Agrabad branch,

and broke windowpanes of the

microbus to take away the sum after

burgled the house of Obayedul Haq

in Pathanpara of Sagorika Road

during a downpour at around

8:30am and decamped with Tk 1

Obayedul, 75, and his son Jamsed

Khan, 30, and beat up three others.

They escaped sensing neighbours'

ing treatment at Chittagong Medical

College Hospital and at a local clinic.

call upon the people of Bangladesh,

wherever you might be and with whatever you have, to resist the army

of occupation to the last. Your fight

must go on until the last solider of the

Pakistan occupation army is expelled

from the soil of Bangladesh and final

handed out in the chapter, the

authentication committee at a meet-

ing on June 9 last decided to include

Ziaur Rahman's proclamation of

independence and discard Mujib's

been quoted as maintaining that the

EPR message was not based on fact

former Indian prime minister Indira

Gandhi as saying, "The cry for inde-

pendence arose after Sheikh Mujib

In the first edition, both the proc-

lamation of independence by Ziaur

Rahman and the telegraph message

of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman were

documented as historical facts. He

said, "We had collected facts and

documents from different districts

and there was no controversy on it

of documents would lose trustwor-

thiness if any quarter tries to falsify

the facts. "People would not trust it. It

will also encourage other govern-

announced the independence on

behalf of Sheikh Mujib, which is

completely omitted in this latest

Dolilpatro, however, printed Zia's

proclamation as the second

announcement of independence,

Commander-in-Chief of the

Bangladesh Liberation Army, hereby

proclaim, on behalf of Sheikh

Mujibur Rahman, the independence

framed a sovereign, legal

Government under Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman which pledges to function

as per law and the constitution. The

new democratic government is

committed to a policy of non-

alignment in international relations.

It will seek friendship with all nations

and strive for international peace. I

appeal to all governments to mobilise

public opinion in their respective

countries against the brutal genocide

"The government under Sheikh

Mujibur Rahman is sovereign legal

Government of Bangladesh and is

entitled to recognition from all demo-

cratic nations of the world."

"I also declare, we have already

"I, Major Zia, Provisional

The second edition of the

Chowdhury observed Zia had

He apprehended the compilation

during the last 10 years."

ments to twist facts.

which is as follows:

of Bangladesh.

in Bangladesh.

edition.

The explanatory note quoted

and no authenticity of it was found.

According to the information

victory is achieved."

arrest, not before.

Jamsed and Obayedul are receiv-

The robbers also stabbed

In Pahartoli, up to 12 robbers

injuring two officials.

advance to the scene.

About eight armed muggers in

looted

The release of Kaptai Lake water

the open as rains continued.

Waterborne diseases have broken out in many of the areas with little medical aid available.

Relief from the government or from private sector is yet to reach the sufferers, the reports said.

The flood warning centre said rivers in the Brahmanputra basin are in spate with the Dharla and Korotoa flowing above danger level.

In the Ganges basin, water levels in all rivers except in the 'Chhoto Jamuna' are also above danger

The Kushiara, Shaola and Kangsha rivers in the Meghna Basin are flowing above red mark.

The centre said rivers in the south-eastern hills basin continued to swell but were still flowing below

danger level. Our staff correspondent in Sylhet reported flood waters entered the townships of Chhatak, Gwainghat, Jokiganj, Companiganj, Kanaighat, Chalibandar and Supainghat, dis-

rupting life. Our corespondent says flood situation in Nilphamari is getting worse as gushing waters damaged the embankment in Dimla upazila.

The Teesta is still flowing above the danger mark at Teesta barrage point but showed a fall in water level from Friday.

About 20,000 people in 10 unions of Dimla and Jaldhaka upazilas are living in the open.

Our Rangamati correspondent said torential rains submerged lowlying areas in the hilly district leaving about 10,000 people marooned. Road communication between

Rangamati and Chittagong was snapped as heavy chunks of earth from adjacent hills collapsed on the road at Sapchhari and Waggya. Our Bandarban correspondent

added road links between Bandarban and Rowangchhari and Bandarban and Ruma remained snapped as big chunks of soil from hills fell on the roads due to torren-

Our correspondent in Gaibandha said floods have affected 34 unions in the district.

DPmP Serajul Islam, Prof-Abul-Kalami

Monjoor Morshed, Barrister Mainul

Hosein, Prof Jasim Uddin, Prime

Minister's Principal Secretary Dr

Karnal Siddique and State Minister of

Liberation War Affairs Prof M Rezaul

Rezaul Karim says the 'new facts'

emerged from the 'opinions' of the

nine-member authentication com-

mittee comprising historians and

or glorifying anybody but to remain

he said vesterday.

"We had no intention of belittling

He claimed all the necessary

Prof Emaj Uddin Ahmed, former

'corrections and inclusions' have

been made upon the committee's

vice-chancellor of Dhaka University

and a member of the committee, on

the other hand, refuted the minister's

claim and blamed him, as the conve-

nor of the committee, and the project

of independence by Ziaur Rahman

incorporated in the third volume of

the book, popularly known as

Muktijudder Dolilpatro (documents

of Liberation War), "was not a part of

the original edition of the Dolilpatro.

Those were included either by the

validation committee to find the

truth," challenges Emaj Uddin, who

has long held a key position in BNP's

tion, Abbas Ali Mia, declined to

comment on the issue, saying, "I was

to the third volume of the official

history of Bangladesh's Liberation

War is titled 'The First Proclamation

of Independence by Major Zia'. The

section cites Biplobi Betar Kendro

(revolutionary radio centre),

Chittagong on March 27, 1971 as the

source of information. But, in the

footnote, it said, "At 2:15am on

March 26, 1971, the Eighth East

Bengal Regiment led by the then

Major Ziaur Rahman mutinied and

Major Zia arrested Lt Col Zanjua,

commanding officer of the regiment.

He (Zia) then united the battalion

officers, junior commissioned offi-

cers and privates, and announced

the independence. It was communi-

cated to local politicians and officials

independence' by Zia in the book

reads, "Dear fellow freedom fighters,

I, Major Ziaur Rahman, Provisional

President and Commander-in-Chief

of Liberation Army do hereby pro-

claim independence of Bangladesh

and appeal for joining our liberation

struggle. Bangladesh is independent. We have waged war for the liberation

of Bangladesh. Everybody is

requested to participate in the libera-

tion war with whatever we have. We

will have to fight and liberate the

country from the occupation of

Pakistan Army. Inshallah, victory is

Pakistan Rifles) message sent by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, which said,

"This may be my last message, from

today Bangladesh is independent. I

The reprint omitted the EPR (East

The quoted 'proclamation of

of the administration."

not a member of this committee.

Project director of the publica-

The section that had been added

"Please see the resolution of the

minister or the project director."

Zia Parishad.

He said the text on proclamation

director for the changes.

Authentication

Railway link between Gaibandha town and Trimohoni and Balashi ghats are threatened as flood water

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Our Staff Correspondent in Chittagong said flash flood triggered

The Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of the Awami League, has called general strike at all educational institutions for July 21 in protest at the government's distortion of the country's history.

HISTORYWARPING

at edn instts

for July 21

BCL calls strike

The BCL leaders from a press conference at its office yesterday also asked the government to correct the recently published documents of Liberation War in which it was stated that late president Ziaur Rahman first proclaimed the country's independ-

They threatened to launch a tough movement against the BNPled alliance government if it fails to withdraw the false information by July 21.

The BCL has planned a 10-day agitation plan in which it will also lay siege to the Ministry of Liberation Affairs on July 15.

"After the killing of Bangabandhu (Sheikh Mujibur Rahman), president Ziaur Rahman made a committee headed by Hasan Hafizur Rahman. Even in the documents the committee published it was stated that Bangabandhu was the first proclaimer of independence," said BCL President Liyakot Shikdar.

'Kala' Jahangir

FROM PAGE 12 read out the verdict at the jampacked courtroom.

The convicts were also fined Tk 25,000, failure of which will add one year to their jail term.

The much-publicised criminal 'Kala' Jahangir was earlier convicted of murdering Advocate Habibur Rahman Mondol and sentenced to

In the Moklesur murder case filed with Cantonment Police Station, Mohammad Mofizul Islam Bhuiyan alleged that a gang of miscreants led by Jahangir shot dead his son at about 10:00am, shortly before he went out of his Cantonment residence to form a committee of Chhatra League Unit (South) of Kafrul. He was president

A murder case was filed accusing Kala Jahangir and seven others the same day and police pressed charges against Kala Jahangir and seven others on May 10, 1998.

Who's to blame?

Rickshaw-puller Rakib Bepari, father of Mehedi, was shifting to Paterbagh in Shyampur at around 10:00am. Mehedi found a wrapped container under a piece of furniture and out of curiosity he shook the container that blasted with a bang.

had been arrested and not before. He He was rushed to Dhaka Medical himself, so far as I know, has not College Hospital (DMCH) at asked for independence even now" 11:45am but on-duty doctors in favour of discarding Mujib's mesreportedly refused to treat him. sage, as the call was given after his Urged by some medical correspondents, one doctor bandaged Noted journalist Afsan Mehedi's wounds and recom-Chowdhury, a member of the mended taking him to National authentication committee of the Institute of Traumatology & book's first edition, termed the Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Nitor). added text a blatant distortion of

Rakib had to take his son to the Nitor on his own, as DMCH authorities did not provide him with an ambulance.

Locals alleged landlady Mamtai Begum, wife of an expatriate, rented around 25 rooms to local goons and drug peddlers, who used to keep drugs and arms and ammunition in those rooms, The bomb that went off might be one they forgot to take,

3 killed

FROM PAGE 1

College Hospital (CMCH).

Police and witnesses said the accident happened when a 60 by 15foot huge boundary wall of a neighbouring bungalow, Hellaj Villa, at 127/A, Bagghona, collapsed on some thatched houses of a slum below at around 6:45am.

Police recovered the bodies and sent those to hospital for autopsy. Rabeya, Fahima's neighbour, said Sohel was not home during the collapse and returned in the morning only to see his wife and child dead. Alamgir and his only son were also

outside, she added. Locals blamed the tragic accident on fragile construction of the wall, which was sharply erected along the steep hilltop bungalow.

Sakhina, 28, daughter of the owner of the house, alleged they feared the wall might collapse at any time and cautioned in vain its owner Magistrate Syed Ahmad Safa, who works at Military Estate Office inside Chittagong Cantonment, against the

Three people, meanwhile, were injured in another landslide in Pora Colony of the same area. Details were notavailable until 7:30 last night.

22 journalists

commissioner, Suranjit Sengupta, Mayor Badruddin Ahmed Kamran and the shrine lof Hairat Shahjalall, are the enemies of Islam. Get ready -- you will have to die within a month." A smoking gun is drawn below the message.

Prothom Alo Sylhet Bureau Chief Ahmed Noor, Crime Reporter Parvez Khan and District Correspondent Partha Sarathi Das received the threat at around

The rest of the recipients include Jugantar Sylhet Bureau Chief Liakat Shah Faridi, Sangbad Staff Reporter Al Azad, Bangla Bazar Patrika Bureau Chief Ajoy Pal, Ajker Kagoj Bureau Chief Kamkamur Razzak Runu and Janakhantha Staff Reporter Salam

Shyamol Sylhet Editor Chowdhury Mumtaj Ahmed, News Editor Abdul Mukit and Staff Reporter Motiul Bari Khuhrshed, Jugobheri Editor-in-Charge Aziz Ahmed Selim, News Editor Tapash Dash Purokayastho, Ajker Kagoj District Correspondent Apurbo Dhar, Bhorer Kagoj District Correspondent Bappa Ghose

Chowdhury and Manavjamin Staff Reporter MA Rahim also received copies of the same threat.

The 17th recipient, Ikhtiar Uddin works for Bhorer Kagoj at its Dhaka office. BARGUNA

In the southern district of Barguna, Islamist zealots yesterday sent a death letter to Prothom Alo District Correspondent M Jasim Uddin for exposing their military training and the recent arrest of 33 militants during a drill.

The letter carried a small piece of burial cloth.

The terrorists also mentioned the names of Ittefaq Barguna Correspondent Abdul Alim Himu, Jugantar Corespondent Anwar Hossain Monwar, Sangbad Correspondent Chittyaranjan Shil and Ajker Kagoj Correspondent Hasanur Rahman Jhantu and threatened with similar consequences if they continue acting against their interests.

All five of them filed general diary with Barguna police station. Local journalists also took out a protest rally in the town yesterday.

Trade unionists

FROM PAGE 12 leaving a large number of workers jobless and price hike of essentials.

Main opposition Awami League, 11-party alliance of left-leaning political parties, Left Democratic Front, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Workers Party of

Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Jatiya Sramik League, Jatiya Sramik Federation, Samajtantrik Sramik Front and Bangladesh Chhatra Union lent their support to the hartal and strike.

The hartal enforcers have kept Manik Mia Avenue in the city out of the strike's purview to facilitate observance of a programme on the

Police, meanwhile, resisted a

pro-hartal procession of the 11party in city's Muktangan yesterday afternoon and also assaulted CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan, said a party press release.

Prior to the procession, the 11party held a rally at Muktangan from where its leaders urged people to observe today's hartal and industrial strike peacefully.

The government has taken a number of measures including assigning a joint force of around 5,000 police, BDR and Ansars in the capital to maintain law and order during the 12-hour hartal.

Police to probe

FROM PAGE 12 released the trucks before the probe

into the sensational case ended. 'We will definitely investigate how the OC (Ahadur) released the three trucks from Dampara police line. It is confusing that the charge sheet submitted by investigators carried description of only seven trucks loaded with weapons although 10 trucks were seized.

Hossain told The Daily Star. The charge sheet also accused drivers of the three trucks who are now in jail custody, he mentioned. The first IO was later transferred

acting CMP Commissioner Amjad

"Initially we were informed that five other trucks from the CUFL area to carry the weapons lying in fishing

trawlers at the spot," Amiad said. Other sources however said Hafizur Rahman's men hired 10 trucks to carry the arms.

Public Prosecutor (PP) Abdus Sattar said, "I found discrepancy in the charge sheet as it mentioned only seven truck-load of arms and ammunition although everybody knows 10 trucks were seized. I found discrepancy also between the sei-

report (FIR). The seizure list lacked mention of any trucks while the FIR carried description of trucks."

"It is up to the court whether it will accept the charge sheet the CID submitted. Hearing on it will take place on July 15," he added.

CID sources however said another probe concerning the three trucks will be carried out and a supplementary charge sheet will be submitted.

Rajuk

filling up of the lake," said the Rajuk chairman, "But we certainly can foil the Dhaka Master Plan.'

He said finding solutions to the innumerable problems Gulshan is embroiled in would be real hard. But, said Gulshan Society Vice-

President Sayeeful Islam alleged "Most of the problems in Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara have been created by Rajuk itself," adding protection of the lake and other water bodies is a test case to find how successfully Rajuk implements

Cancer hospital

especially for the poor. The existing facilities including the number of cancer specialists are not sufficient and we are improving facilities for general people with particular focus on these aspects."

The 500-bed hospital is being set up by Dhaka Ahsania Mission (Dam) at a cost of Tk 108 crore. Construction of the 10-storey hospital building will be completed in

Khaleda mentioned that to achieve the target of health for all her government has taken up a Tk 9,410-crore three-year programme of health, nutrition and population sector programme (HNPSP) with nutrition as a new component. Efforts are also on to fill up vacant posts of doctors, nurses and medical technologists and raise the number of hospital beds, she said.

Praising the initiative of the Dam. she called upon the affluent to help ensure free healthcare services for

Kazi Rafigul Alam, executive director of the Dam, urged individu-

als, corporate houses and others to donate funds for establishment of the hospital. Many people who make donations also have to pay income tax on the donated money, he said, adding this should be waived to encourage donations.

Alam called for raising to Tk 30 crore from Tk 10 crore the social welfare ministry's allocation for the hospital in the annual development programme for this fiscal year. He invited foreign medical

oncologists to visit the hospital for transferring technology as part of its academic activities. There are around 10 lakh cancer

patients in the country and the number increases by about two lakh

Director of the proposed hospital Prof MA Hai also addressed the Health Minister Khandoker

Mosharraf Hossain, Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Md Mujaheed and Expatriate Welfare and Foreign Employment State Minister Quamrul Islam were present on the occasion.

Bought a month ago

FROM PAGE 1

He, however, said as the two ATPs were missing from the fleet, Biman used two leased Boeing 737 to keep flight schedule uninterrupted. But the fact remains that the Boeing 737s leased from a Singapore company operated flights from February 2003 to April 2004 while the ATPs were in hangar during 1999 to mid-

About the engine failure of one of vesterday. Although the F-28 failed to start

about six times in five weeks, he said this is not unusual. "A plane can experience one fault in 10 flights whereas the two newly procured F-28s faced engine faults eight times in 332 flights since June 3," he added.

Independent MP hurt in clash with BNP MP's supporters

UNB, Moulvibazar

Independent lawmaker MM Shaheen and nine others were injured in a clash with the supporters of BNP MP Naser Rahman who allegedly attacked a wayside rally of Shaheen at Kulaura yesterday.

Police picked up four people and later released them, sources said.

Earlier on Friday night, some BNP activists ransacked Shaheen's office at Kulaura and injured his two

Meanwhile, BNP leaders at a rally yesterday demanded of Shaheen to withdraw his remarks made recently in parliament about Naser Rahman MP, otherwise, they threatened to declare him unwanted in

A tense situation is prevailing in

Jalil, Kader get anticipatory bail in graft cases

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted anticipatory bail for two months to Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil MP and Joint Secretary Obaidul Kader in graft cases.

A division bench comprising Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Farid Ahmed issued a rule asking the government to explain why the petitioners should not be granted regular bail.

The orders came upon separate petitions filed by Abdul Jalil and Obaidul Kader, who appeared in the court and sought anticipatory bail to avert arrest in corruption cases

On July 5, the Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac) filed two cases against Abdul Jalil on charges of embezzling Tk 16 lakh of a loan granted by Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank and legalising illegal income of Tk 1.5 crore invested in the Mercantile Bank and in a Cold storage using false documents.

Former state minister for youth and cultural affairs Obaidul Kader has been charged with corruption in connection with construction of the tomb on the grave of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in

Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud appeared for the petitioners.

Publisher seeks

FROM PAGE 12

ministry launched the 15-volume book in 1982 and also holds its

In 2003, the ministry floated a tender for the reprint of the book and the Hakkani Publishers reprinted 3,000 sets of the publication winning the bid. Each set carried a price tag of Tk 15,000 as fixed by the ministry. Mustafa accused the Liberation

War affairs ministry of reprinting the book without any permission from the information ministry, violating the Copyright Act and distorting the book's content. The Liberation War ministry also released the book at a subsidised price

of Tk 2,500 a set, affecting the Hakkani Publishers, the petitioner said. Hakkani pointed a finger at the secretaries and officials of the Liberation War affairs, information

and education ministries for the publication. Barrister Tanjibul Alam moved the writ petition to the High Court bench of judges Abdul Wahhab and

The hearing of the case is likely to take place tomorrow.

11 die

FROM PAGE 12 Shahidul Islam, 22, son of Alauddin Biswas of Jhenidah.

Police quoted witnesses as saying Shadul, a second year student of Kushtia Government University College, was run over and killed by a speeding bus while trying to board a bus of the Islamic University at about 8:00am.

Islamic University Vice Chancellor Prof M Rafiqul Islam expressed his deep shock at the tragic death of Shahidul.

Bangladeshi

FROM PAGE 12 may have overexerted himself in

trying to escape from the police raid. The five were believed to be among 15 illegal foreign workers who jumped in a river on Wednesday while trying to escape the raid at a construction site where they worked. He said 10 other illegal

immigrants had been arrested. Othman could not be reached on Saturday to confirm the report.

Malaysia employs hundreds of thousands of migrant workers from neighbouring nations, especially Indonesia, and relies heavily on them for menial tasks in construction and other labour-intensive

But increasing ethnic strife and crime involving foreign labourers in recent years has prompted Malaysia to make mass deportations of illegal immigrants and institute more

Philippines says hostage freed in Iraq

Family still unsure

AGENCIES, Manila

Insurgents in Iraq freed a Filipino truck driver whom they kidnapped and threatened to behead, the Philippine labour secretary said

"While this man is still not in our hands, he will be brought to a hotel in Baghdad, where he will be turned over to our people," said Labor Secretary Patricia Santo Tomas, who was staying with the hostage's family in a hotel at the former US Clark Air Base. "Thank God."

She quoted President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo had called the wife of Angelo dela Cruz to relay the news. Jubilation broke out at the family home in northern Papanga province, where friends and relatives had gathered for a vigil.

The announcement came just hours after Arroyo's spokesman said the Philippines' small peacekeeping contingent in Iraq would be withdrawn when its tour ends Aug. 20. Dela Cruz's captors had demanded that Manila pull out its tiny 52strong force within three days, a deadline that was drawing near as

word came of the release. But the Dela Cruz's family said

they are unsure if he is being released, after saying earlier that

militants were setting him free. "You should rejoice there. There is a very good development, he is being released," Dela Cruz's youngest brother Jesse had quoted his Saudi-based brother Wilfred as saying in a telephone call from

But in an interview with ABS-CBN television, Wilfred later clarified that he had grown more hopeful after reading news reports that Manila would withdraw its troops from Iraq by August 20.

Philippine officials had earlier pleaded with the militants not to kill Dela Cruz after television showed him making a "final appeal" for his life, saying its troops were already due to be withdrawn by August 20 under their current mandate.

Militants abducted the 46-year old near the Iraqi town of Falluja early Thursday morning Philippine time as he was driving a truck carrying fuel supplies from Saudi Arabia.

They had threatened to kill him if Manila did not withdraw its small humanitarian force from Iraq within

Changed history

FROM PAGE 1 at Dhaka on March 26, 1971---." Article 150 of the constitution

gives the Fourth Schedule precedence over other constitutional provisions, saying, "The transitional and temporary provisions set out in the Fourth Schedule shall have effect notwithstanding any other provisions of this Constitution.

But the additions, including a footnote of the new edition of the 'Muktijuddher Dolilpatro' (Documents of the Liberation War), published by the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs say Zia first proclaimed independence.

Eminent jurist and one of the framers of the constitution Dr Kamal Hossain dismissed the scope of any debate on the declaration of independence. The Liberation War affairs minis-

try's action is against the national interest, he told The Daily Star, adding it added the footnote on The preamble of the constitution refers to the proclamation of independence on March 26, 1971

and no debate arose over the proclamation in Ziaur Rahman's lifetime. The wartime Mujibnagar government on April 10, 1971 framed the Proclamation of Independence, considered as the interim constitution of Bangladesh.

There is no scope to change or alter the historic Proclamation of Independence," said constitutional expert Dr M Zahir.

The changes to the documents were made without legal authority in violation of the constitution with political intent to undermine the achievements of Bangabandhu," said Rokanuddin Mahmud, president of Supreme Court Bar.

Former chief justice Kamal Uddin Hossain in an interview with a Bangla daily said it was constitutionally established that Bangabandhu was the proclaimer of independence. If anybody denies the fact they

could be punished with 10 years of rigorous imprisonment as well as a fine under Section 123 A (1) of Bangladesh Penal Code," he told the Daily Banglabazar Patrika on March

The late jurist Syed Ishtiaque

Ahmed in an interview with the

same newspaper said rejecting

Bangabandhu as the proclaimer of

independence was a violation of the constitution and a punishable

The Proclamation of Independence is the bedrock of Bangladesh which clearly says Bangabandhuis the proclaimer.

"The treatment of the proclamation of independence as merely a part of the constitution will undermine it, non-recognition of the document is tantamount to nonrecognition of independent Bangladesh," the former adviser to the caretaker government said in an interview on March 25, 2002.

Non-govt primary teachers begin indefinite strike

UNB, Dhaka Bangladesh Non-government Primary Teachers Association (BNPIA) began indefinite strike across the country yesterday demanding nationalisation of their

A BNPTA press release said it would continue the strike until the announcement of the prime minister on accepting the demand.

Earlier, the non-governmental primary teachers observed a six-day class boycott programme from July 3 to realise the demand.

two foreign-made rifles and four-round bullets. The Rab quizzed

Minar fell sick during interroga-tion yesterday and died soon after his admission to the hospital at around 6:30pm.

The superintendent of police has ordered to investigate the reason behind the death. Other two arrestees were sent to jail.

Bush pledges

Dame Pauline Neville-Jones, former head of the Joint Intelligence Committee, said that "systematic failure" within British agencies did not excuse Blair.

think that the political layer in any country can escape the consequences of a systemic failure," she "He is making a distinction between what he genuinely believed

"The buck stops there and I don't

he is at least open to the accusation ofincompetence. Blair is bracing himself for next week's Butler report on the use of

The issue of whether the Bush administration exaggerated the case for war in Iraq is being investigated separately in a report likely to be released after the presidential election on November 2.

The Democrat vice-chairman of the committee, Senator Jay Rockefeller, stressed his party's regret that the whole matter had not

Congress would not have authorised the war if they had known then what they knew now.

"Tragically, the intelligence failure set forth in this report will affect our national security for generations to come," he said. "Our credibility is diminished,

our standing in the world has never been lower. We have fostered a deep hatred of Americans in the Muslim world, and that will grow. The CIA's number-two John McLaughlin on Friday acknowledged "shortcomings" but said it

was wrong to exaggerate flaws or infer sweeping problems in the McLaughlin said "it is wrong to exaggerate the flaws or leap to the judgment that our challenges with pre-war Iraq weapons intelligence are evidence of sweeping problems

across the broad spectrum of issues

with which the intelligence community must deal." During a press conference at CIA headquarters, McLaughlin offered what he said were "preliminary" reactions to the Senate's finding that flaws in pre-war Iraq intelligence were serious.

We recognize those shortcom-

ings and, long before today's report, have taken a number of steps to address them and to ensure that they are not repeated," he said.

Failing to justify purchase of the

F28s from an Indonesian company at a cost of \$2.91 million, the acting managing director then said the planes are of the best technology

the newly procured F-28 in Chittagong on Tuesday, Biman's Director (Engineering) S Zilani Mahbubur Rahman said the plane was repaired and put into operation

available in the series at such a price.

stringent entry requirements.

The leaders of the association said they would announce their next course of action from a grand rally at the Central Shaheed Minar in the

capital on July 24.

Criminal

them for more arms recovery, the

and what turns out to be the case so

intelligence over Iraq and is expected to face heavy criticism.

been addressed in one inquiry.

He said many members of