Polluted water

situation worsens they would be forced to evacuate the dormitories and disinfect the premises.

Brushing aside the allegation of contaminated water, Buet Registrar some stray cases of fever to spread

Medical Complex said they have detected Typhoid only in 25 stu-

"Students of the halls catch various water-borne diseases, because many of them eat at cheap restaurants outside the campus," he claimed, adding the situation is not alarming as such incidents of

But, some other sources in the medical complex said, in the last four days, around 150 students were found to be CRP positive, an indica-tion of typhoid infection.

After providing some preliminary medical care, the Buet authorities advised the sick to go home, they

"My roommate fell sick two days ago. He has gone to his village home following the suggestion of the doctor at the medical complex," said Dipok Das, a resident of Sher-e-

Both Dipok and Mazharul Islam, a resident of Dr Rashid Hall, blamed polluted water for spreading diseases in the dormitories.

After the students had taken the issue to the varsity authorities, they did some cleaning of the overhead water tanks at the halls last Monday.

The students however are of the opinion that cleaning up the tanks is not enough, as the supply pipelines are contaminated, too.

A student delegation yesterday submitted a memorandum to Buet Vice Chancellor Alee Murtaza demanding immediate solution to the problem.

Bogra village

FROM PAGE 1 Locals blamed the incident on a feud between two pro-BNP groups of contractors over the repair of the embankment that stretched 262 kilometres from the northern district of Kurigram to Pabna

Many in other villages in Goshaibari union in Dhunat, part of Sherpur and Shariakandi in Bogra and Kazipur upazila in Sirajganj left home for safety, while the rest are living through uncertainty.

Witnesses said the rain-fed river ran into the surrounding village in ferocity overflowing its bounds, the moment a gang cut a swathe through the embankment at about

Strong currents rushed roaring into the houses in a few minutes, blasting away over 500 metres of the dam, said Hafizur Rahman, who lost his rice mill and over Tk 17 lakh in

"I heard water raging close to my home and a surge hit our room in a flash," Parvin, who lost her children Sulekha, 4, and Biplob, 6, told The Daily Star.

'As the water was rising, I held them tight so that they cannot be washed away," she said with a pause to blink her tears back. "I could not save them. I saw a strong flow of water washing them away," Parvin

Three other dead were named as Russel, 5, Saidur, 7, and Julekha, 58. Anwara Khatun and Mira Begum lamented the loss of their houses

The incident cost Nazrul Islam Tk 15 lakh in lost property, including his house and sawmill

firmed that at least five people have drowned until this afternoon (yesterday)," said local Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Moinul Hasan Mukul.

government allocated 100 tonnes of rice, 40 sanitary pans and 20 areas may go under water and relief

Villagers linked the sabotage to the feud between contractors of two groups led by UP Chairman of adjacent Bhandarbari Belal Hossain Babu with close ties to the ruling BNP and his rival Jahurul Islam Nannu, also local BNP leader, over the dam repair work -- an allegation other BNP leaders denied.

locals identified the saboteurs as supporters of either group.

In a complaint filed with Dhunat Police Station, Goshaibari UP Chairman Mukul termed the incident an act of sabotage.

The Dhunat UNO (Upazila Nirbahi Officer) and Water Development Board officials sent reports to the government describwith all belongings, sitting frail on ing the incident as an act of sabothe unsurfaced road. "Where will I tage.

Diseases spread

FROM PAGE 1

drinking water, clothes and medi-

Different organisation including some left-leaning parties demanded declaration of the floodhit districts as distressed areas and emergency relief for the victims.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre in Dhaka said the situation was likely to deteriorate in Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Sirajganj and

Fresh areas in Manikganj, Nawabganj, Narsingdi, Madaripur and Shariatpur may go under water soon, it said.

More areas in the districts of Dhaka, Narayanganj, Manikganj, Nawabgani, Narsingdi, Madaripur and Shariatpur may be swamped and the situation in most places in Naogaon and Bogra may remain unchanged.

In Manikganj, the flood situation worsened in the last two days inundating more areas and disrupting road communication.

In Gaibandha, the misery of flood affected people climbed further as some youths began extorting Tk 100 for a square feet on embankments in protection

Rivers across the district were flowing much above the danger level inundating 130 shoals inhab-

ited by over two lakh people. All the educational institutions

in the affected areas were closed indefinitely.

In Sylhet, the situation did not improve although water started receding from some areas. The Surma and Kushiyara rivers are still flowing above danger levels, officials informed.

Gushing waters were entering new villages under Manikpur, Birosri and Barohal unions breaking through the Surma and Kushiyara dykes in Jakiganj upazila. Fresh villages in Kanaighat upazila also went under water in the last two days.

In Sunamgani, the situation marked a little improvement with a downward trend in the water level of the Surma. Ninety-one flood shelters were set up in the district, including 21 in municipal areas.

Low-lying areas in four upazilas of Habiganj district were inundated in the last two days. Baniachang, Lakhai, Ajmiriganj and Nabiganj upazilas are now in the grip of

Dengue

FROM PAGE 12
DCC alone cannot curb mosquito population.

He also mentioned that some areas including Bashundhara, low-lying areas of Badda and Dhaka Cantonment in the city do not come under the DCC's jurisdiction, and said if mosquito control programmes were not launched simultaneously in those areas the city corporation's efforts alone would not be effective

The mayor said he has initiated a programme to aware people on Aedes and keeping their houses and he adjacent areas clean to prevent the dengue carriers from laying eggs.

Under the programme, five-member teams of boy scouts and girls guides will go from door to door in the city from July 15 to motivate and help people clear their houses of empty containers, the most favourite breeding ground of Aedes mos-quitoes. The DCC has already trained 4,500 boys and girls for the 5-day operation.

The mayor also stated that the DCC now has sufficient insecticide for spraying in the city areas.

BNP, AL agree

FROM PAGE 1 The date has been deferred to July 31 due to the delay in getting consent from the BNP, BGMEA sources said.

BGMEA is optimistic about clinching a commitment from the major political parties not to call hartal in at least a year for the sake of the country's largest foreign currency-earning sector.

"It's a tremendous boost for us. It s going to be a historic dialogue as both ruling and opposition parties will sit across the table to discuss a serious national issue," said Annisul Haque, coming out of the meeting.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina earlier assured BGMEA leaders that her party would not call hartal if the ruling BNP makes similar commitment to hartal while in the opposition.

The readymade garment buyers will start coming over in Bangladesh during September and October to place orders for the next season. They would get a wrong signal if hartal culture goes unabated," said the BGMEA boss.

During yesterday's meeting, Bhuiyan also felt the need to find ah alternative to hartal as a political agitation. "We may take lesson from the political agitation in other countries to solve our problem."

Philippines pulls FROM PAGE 1 coordinating the pull-out of the

humanitarian contingent with the Ministry of National Defence. As of today, our headcount is down from She did not specify whether the

move amounted to compliance with the kidnappers' demands that the entire Filipino contingent leave Iraq by July 20, a month earlier than scheduled. Even so, Washington was quick to

label the announcement as a worrisome signal, saying any pullqui

would send a wrong message to the Iraqi kidnappers. And the US promptly sent some signals of its own.

Mr Richard Boucher, US State Department spokesperson, said: We certainly noted the remarks and are disappointed to see remarks like this at a time when Iraq is fighting for stability and peace." Manila is performing a delicate

balancing act. It wants to maintain its image as a

stalwart ally in the US-led coalition But while giving in to the demands of the kidnappers may

cast doubts on Manila's commitment, the government is facing nationwide calls for it to make all efforts to save the life of de la Cruz And while coalition partners are

urging the Philippine government to display fortitude, many Filipinos want it to choose compassion for their fellow citizen and his family. Francisco de la Cruz, brother of hostage, said: "We will be very happy if the soldiers are withdrawn and our

brother released." Chat Dimaano, leader of Migrant Workers' Organisation, said: still need to see a complete withdrawal of our soldiers from Iraq and

we need to see Angelo alive and back here with his family."

Despite the desperate calls, Philippines officials have refused to clearly show their hand.

With no clues as to what they are

doing, all anyone knows for sure is that the government is still negotiating. CARBOMB The suspected car bomb was the

first big guerrilla attack in Baghdad since an interim Iraqi government took over from US-led occupiers on

"This is naked aggression against the Iraqi people," said Prime Minister Iyad Allawi, standing by burnt-out vehicles near a main entrance to the heavily defended Green Zone" compound. "We will bring these criminals to justice," he vowed, adding that seven Iraqi civilians and three

National Guards had been killed and 10 people wounded. Deafened passersby and a man with blood oozing from his chest

staggered from the site of the explo-"My God, my God," screamed one panicked woman among the scores of workers, visitors and journalists lining up for security checks

to get into the US-defended area. The blast occurred hours after news that Islamist militants led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi had killed one of two Bulgarian truck drivers held hostage in Iraq. They vowed to kill the second within 24 hours unless US-led forces freed prisoners.

Bulgaria said it would not pull its 470 troops out of Iraq despite the killing of the driver and the plight of the other. (Reuters, AP, CNA)

India's river-link

Faruk urged India to equally treat Bangladesh and Nepal before

implementation of the project. Sharing his working experience as a World Bank economist in Nepal, he said India had raised possible consequences of being a lower riparian country when Nepal proposed to set up a hydroelectric

"But now India is denying Bangladesh may face the same problems as the country will become a lower riparian country once the project is implemented," headded

Former chief justice Mustafa Kamal, who chaired the session, said the verdict of Indian Supreme Court on the project's implementation by 2016 is forcing the governments of Bangladesh and Nepal to take the issue to international arena.

At another session titled Institutional Capacity Building and Expansion of Saarc, first general secretary of the regional body and former Bangladesh foreign secretary Abul Ahsan termed Saarc Secretariat one of the weakest of its He said member countries nomi-

nate different officials from their

foreign offices as Saarc Secretaria staff, which is not a professional attitude

"In the Asean (Association of South East Asian Nations), office staff are recruited through competition among the nationals of the member states," he said.

Saarc Secretary General QAMA Rahim also spoke at the session. OP Shah, chairman of Centre for Peace and Progress, Kolkata presented the keynote paper, while Foreign Service Academy Principal Jamil Majid delivered the designated speech on the topic.

Zealots

FROM PAGE 12 the headmaster said.

On June 17, he received similar threat in a letter sent to him, which he ignored, he added.

English teacher Mohammad Mosharaf Hossain recently left the school after unknown criminals threatened to kill him for failing to pay them extortion money, Sayeed said adding that two other teachers are also fearing attempts on their lives as they also refused to pay

No case was filed till 6:00 yesterdayevening

Saifur's 'no'

specific legal measures, including arrest, raid and seizure, against tax defaulters. "The government has many

veapons to collect tax. If necessary, it will seize their [the traders'] commodities." Saifur warned. Traders owe the National Bureau of Revenue (NBR) Tk 300 crore as

outstanding value-added tax (Vat) for the last three years. In Dhaka alone, they have defaulted on Vat to the tune of Tk 200 crore. The finance minister in a conciliatory tone added, "We shall ensure that no trader is harassed in the

name of Vat collection. The taxmen

will use the legal measures including

arrest as the last option only, when all else have failed. At a meeting with NBR Vat officials vesterday. Saifur stressed achieving the high Vat collection

target of Tk9,500 crore in this fiscal. Following the meeting at the Secretariat, he told the press, "There are many business houses that have not paid Vat for the last few years. If we don't pay our taxes, how will the development programmes be carried out? Now that we have given notice to them, they are threatening us of strike and other agitation rogrammes.

We have noticed the same trend while dealing with bank loan defaulters. When we notify defaulters to pay back, they allege we are harassing them," the finance minis-

terquipped. 'This can't go on. They will have to pay Vat or we shall take appropriate legal measures." Saifur affirmed. The minister instructed NBR

officials not to resort to legal mea-

sures against traders unless they have no other alternative. "They should follow a sequence of actions in Vat collection. Firstly, Vat officials will phone the traders asking them to pay their taxes. Then they will send them letters, hold meetings with them and resort to all possible forms of interactions before turning to legal measures," he elaborated.

Saifur said, "In case of legal measures, Vat inspectors will not visit the business houses, assistant commissioners will." Officials at the meeting dis-

cussed zone-wise Vat collection. It turned out that the only zone to have exceeded the collection target is headed by a female deputy commissioner, Tasmima Hossain Luna.

Drawing attention to this achievement, the finance minister observed women officials tend to perform better because they are the east corrupt. So, he said, more women officials should be given the charge of Varcollection. Describing the problems they are

facing, Vat officials told Saifur that as

many as 361 Vat inspector posts are

vacant, making it tough for them to cope up with the workload needed for achieving the target. In response, the minister said filling up the posts would be put on a fast track. "If the Public Service Commission can't recruit against these posts fast enough, the NBR

will do the hiring directly." 'And, in filling up these posts, we shall give priority to women candidates," he added.

On writ petitions that often slow down Vat and tax collection, Saifur said he will talk to the law minister about it to arrive at a solution.

AL calls 6-hr

The meeting also asked the government to erase the new insertion containing 'false' information in the reprint of Swadhinota Juddher Dolilpatro, the official history of the country's Liberation War, depicting late president Ziaur Rahman as the first proclaimer of independence.

'The insertion is a clear violation of the constitution which names Bangahandhu as the leader who had declared the country's independence," said AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil after the meeting.

Jalil said the meeting had decided to issue an ultimatum shortly to the government asking it to delete the distorted history and, if the demand were not met in the ultimatum period, to go for tougher AL will hold a seminar in the city

on proclamation of independence, in which programme personnel and staffs of the two Liberation War radio centres -- Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendro and Kalur Ghat Betar thecountry.

Kendro -- will participate.

The AL central working body also demanded immediate implementation of the sentences awarded to Bangabandhu's killers

Besides, it also chalked out a month-long programme beginning from August 1 to mark Bangabandhu's death anniversary The programme includes milad mahfil, feeding the destitute, blood donation, mourning procession and special prayers at mosques, temples and churches AL central and local leaders will

also attend similar programmes to be held at Bangabandhu's grave in

On August 15, one minute after the hartal ends, leaders of the AL and its front organisations will place wreaths at the portrait of the slain leader in Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in the city at 12:01pm.

That day the national flag will be kept at half-mast at the offices of AL and its front organisations across

Kahn's son

FROM PAGE 1

sequence in Dhaka, I can tell you that the world has finally seen the parliament complex and they are thrilled by it. People all over the world will come to see it." Nathaniel Kahn said: "Please.

save the land around the parliament. It will help the people of Dhaka and be a source of pride, heritage and yes, tourism in the future. The Architectural Archive,

University of Pennsylvania, meanwhile is organising an exhibition throughout the United States on the works of Louis Kahn. Architect Kazi Khaleed Ashraf, now in the United States, has been

assigned to curate the exhibition

that will feature Kahn's greatest

creation, the parliament complex of

Bangladesh.

The parliament complex came under the spotlight in October 2002 when the government took up a TK 6 crore project to construct two residential buildings for the speaker and deputy speaker in an area that Louis Kahn had marked as open A High Court bench in June

declared the construction illegal Kingdom who are willing to invest in and directed the government to take necessary steps to declare the parliament complex a national heri-The Appellate Division on July 7

declined to pass a stay order on the June 21 High Court order and also brushed aside the government's plea to put an embargo on media coverage on any construction work at the parliament complex.

Bush

FROM PAGE 12 Dennis Altman, a professor of politics at LaTrobe University, Australia

ABC is "the old Nancy Reagan ëdictumû of 'just say no'," he said. You have to actually be in a pretty good position of power to 'just say no'. Most young women are not in that position of power."

Raoul Fransen, a young Dutch aid worker in Africa who has HIV, said "rather than being taught not to have sex, young people... should be enabled to make the choice, be this abstinence or partner reduction or having access to condoms that is right for them.

"They should be supported in discovering their sexuality, its pleasures and its risks. The key lies in giving us a choice, not an ideology." The champion of ABC is Uganda, whose president, Yoweri Museveni,

was lavishly praised by Tobias for "sheer leadership and will" in fight-ing back HIV in his country. But University of Pretoria researcher Mary Crewe said she

doubted whether ABC was as influential as this in Uganda. "ABC was introduced late in Uganda's prevention campaign, and there is evidence that the epi demic was already on a natural

downward curve," she said. Crewe poured scorn on the starchy, thou-must-not tone that invariably accompanied abstinence

It had little resonance for young people who were burning with

sexual energy and eager to experi-"We have to make abstinence sexy, not holy," said Crewe.

Altman suggested that governments, religious leaders and families get home the message that "there are other forms of sexual pleasure than intercourse," including oral sex and masturbation. "If the alternative is a massive

to face the fact that prudery should be pushed out of the window. Half the importers

infection, then people should have

FROM PAGE 1 seized and bank accounts and properties seized.

The NBR has sought help of the Bangladesh Bank to detect the fraud importers. The central bank will notify all banks about the fake importers so that they can locate the

The NBR also sought help of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI), which is yet to respond

30 hurt

FROM PAGE 12 ISD President Hasanul Huq Inu and General Secretary Syed Jafar Sajjad, among others, fell victim to police assault. Police also used force on women activists of the ISD.

JSD President Inu at a rally in

front of the ISF office later accused the government of upholding inter-Rajakars. The government is not willing to tolerate minimum criticism of the Rajakars, he said. Liberation,

democracy and the constitution is not safe anymore in the hands of this government, he added. Inu called upon the progressive forces to oust the government before anti-liberation forces capture

state power and damage the nation further. "There's no alternative but to trying the killers and collaborators of the Liberation War in 1971 under a special tribunal to establish peace and justice in the country," he said. He said it was a historic mistake

to forgive the killers and collaborators of the 1971 Zafar Sajjad, Mainuddin Khan Badal, among others, were present.

Gas supply

similar programmes to urge the government to ensure gas supply to the northern district town.

Farid Mamud Hasan, general secretary of Rajshahi Traders' Allied Council, an alliance of 32 local trade bodies, said they would observe a half-day strike on August 22, fourhour hunger strike on July 27 and organise a human chain at the coty's Zero point on August 14.

British

to the incident and appreciated the government measures against The envoy said his country is

interested to impart training to Bangladesh police. Chowdhury also appreciated the government's achievements in

health and education sectors, par-

ticularly women education and empowerment, and poverty reduc-On foreign investment in Bangladesh, the envoy said there are a lot of investors in the United

Bangladesh. He responded positively as the prime minister sought more British scholarships for Bangladeshi students and assistance for training of civil servants to ensure good gover-

The British envoy renewed the invitation to the prime minister to visit the United Kingdom and have an audience with the British Queen.

Serious flaws

'strain" in a politically charged climate as they sought to be objective, it added.

Butler said in future there should be clearer lines dividing those assessing intelligence and those advocating

But there was "no deliberate attempt on the part of the govern-ment to mislead," he added.

In the now notorious September 2002 dossier compiled by the JIC, Blair stated that Iraq could deploy some weapons of mass destruction within 45 minutes of an order to do

No such weapons have been found more than a year after Saddam was overthrown.

'We conclude that it was a serious weakness that the JIC's warnings on the limitations of intelligence underlying its judgments were not made sufficiently clear in the dossier," said the report, five months in the mak-

"Our view, having reviewed all of the material, is that judgments in the dossier went to (although not beyond) the outer limits of the intelli gence available.

"The prime minister's description, in his statement to the House of Commons on the day of the publicaion of the dossier, as 'extensive, detailed and authoritative' may have

reinforced this impression."

The report said the 45 minutes claim should not have been included

Biman's rejoinder FROM PAGE 1 remained grounded.

Our Reply
The Daily Star report said Biman now wants to sell off the two newly bought F28 aircraft along with three other similar aircraft. The report also said the national

flag carrier would try to trade in the F28 aircraft for either Airbus or Boeing that Biman intends to buy The report quoted Biman acting MD as saying, "But the whole procure-ment will take at least two to three vears as it involves many compli cated technical and financial

The report incorporated the acting MD's comment on the shortige of planes following the reporter's conversation with him. The Daily Star stands by its

in the dossier without stating precisely what it referred to. The fact that it was, led to suspicions that it was

there for "its eye-catching character". But Butler apportioned no blame for the quality of the intelligence or how it was used in the government's case for war. He said John Scarlett, who headed the JIC and has now been promoted to run the Secret Intelligence Service, should not be

punished "We conclude that if intelligence is to be used more widely by governments in public debate in future, those doing so must be careful to explain its uses and limitations," the

report said. It will be essential too that clearer and more effective dividing lines between assessment and advocacy are established when doing so."

Like his ally Bush, Blair has seen his popularity tumble over Iraq and nowrisks backlash at the polls.

Yet most analysts still see Blair leading the Labour Party into an election expected in 2005 -- and winning it.

Analysts said the Butler report would be a relief to Blair despite its criticism of intelligence "I would think this is the best that the Prime Minister and the govern-

ment could have hoped for. It looks to be as if he has been more or less left out of the circle of blame," John Benyon, politics professor at the University of Leicester, told the news

BNP leader

FROM PAGE 1 BNP leader in Begumganj upazila of Noakhali district on Tuesday night left five people injured.

The victims are Masud, 12, Zayed, 7, Rabeya, 3, Rokeya Begum, 30, and Shahin Akter, 25 of village Hirapur. They were admitted to Noakhali Sadar hospital. Doctor at the hospital said the bomb blew off the left

powerful bomb targeting the family nembers of Ruhul Amin, president of Sonapur Union BNP, at about 9:00pm as they were sitting in front

constitute benches independently

bench issues a rule, it is dissolved

the next day, raising questions

till vesterday evening.

Appoint efficient judges

FROM PAGE 1 happens by then, the executive

The lawyers raised questions

about formation and dissolution of High Court benches and doubted if the chief justice is able to independently execute his power, as they believe he often goes by the dictum from outside the judiciary. Explaining the context of yesterday's unprecedented requisition

meeting, Barrister Rokan told

reporters discontent were brewing

and petitioners alike over the constitution of the criminal benches." Dr Kamal Hossain told the requisition meeting, "It is our duty to protect the judiciary as an effective body so that lawyers and petitioners

Dissolution and re-constitution of the benches more too often than not and on unknown grounds have given rise to questions in people's mind about the process," said Dr Kamal, adding "The chief justice must be told of our grave concern that people are being deprived of the shelter of the law."

citizen's support and trust," added As many as 99 percent cases in the magistrate's court are refused bail, while 90 percent do not get bail in the sessions judge's court, Rokan told the meeting. "That is why, 90 percent of the defendants in criminal cases come to the High Court's motion bench to get bail and still

"Judges do not have weapons, so

they depend on citizens and the

judiciary operates on the basis of the

their concerns are not addressed." Accusing three of the four HC criminal motion benches of being inept, Rokan said, "Some of these benches do not even receive cases.' Rokan said as far as he knows one of the motion benches passed only

one motion in the past two years,

while another has some 700 to 800

pending cases to resolve and if one

goes there they face a lot of trouble.

A third bench is struggling, as about 700 cases are awaiting resolution. "Where are these people supposed to go if even the High Court does not hear their case, if they do not get bail in either the magistrate's court or the sessions judge's court?" Rokan asked.

Rokan said after being elected as president of the Supreme Court Bar Association for a second term, he and other senior lawyers held a series of discussions with the chief justice, who also expressed discontent about two HC criminal Rokan added when they

requested the chief justice to form criminal benches with only senior judges, he said he has problems with A few days ago, the chief justice called 11 senior judges to his office

hand and right leg of Masud. His condition was stated to be critical. Police said the assailants hurled a of their house The motive of the attack could not be known. No-one was arrested

judge does not get undermined," he observed. committee of the Bar will decide on The Bar president added the the next course of action. chief justice is not being able to

> because of instructions from out-Questioning frequent visits by the attorney general (AG) to the CI's room, Rokan said they would also ask for restrictions on such frequent visits. Barrister Amir-ul-Islam said, "If a

up among Supreme Court lawyers among lawyers and people...Petitioners line up in front of the Supreme Court and High Court like (people do in) cinema halls because they do not get justice at the magistrate's court. The magistrates and district judges are being cannot complain of not receiving

> "It should be resolved whether the High Court or the (law) ministry will have control of the district Advocate Ainuddin Ahmed said if the current slow rate of hearing on

be resolved even in 25 years.

the appeals continue, cases will not

instructed not to give bail."

He suggested one of the four criminal motion courts hear bail petitions at least once a week. "Hearing on a rule does not take place even in six months into its issuance due to absence of competent judges," Barrister Mahbubuddin Khokon said and demanded writ and criminal

benches be composed of senior

Barrister Abdullah Al Mamun described the relationship between the judges and lawyers as one of king and subjects as lawyers are ignored and humiliated when they move to the benches. But the reality is that many lawyers refuse to be justice. Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan

demanded elevation of the judges'

standards and an increase in their

numbers. Advocate Abdul Malek observed judges who can quickly dispose of cases should sit on the criminal motion bench. Advocate Humayun Hossain Khan said, "The chief justice has the power to form benches but we

cannot allow him to be dictated from outside in doing so." Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mian said the chief justice cannot do his duty if he is run by a remote control.

Advocate Abdul Baset Majumder

said the remote control needs to be

taken away. Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru, former law minister, said the current state of judiciary is suffocating. The BNP-led ruling coalition

appointed 26 additional judges since coming to office, one was sacked for misconduct and 15 others, appointed during the previous government's rule, were not confirmed. The Bar Association accused the government of appointing judges more on political considerations than on merit and compe-

and told them not to grant wholesale bail and stay, Rokan said. "We want that independence of a particular tence.

Mohammed Shahjahan in a statement on Monday said, in a ploy to delay the upcoming examinations, a clique of students are blowing up Bangla Hall.

panic on the campus. The chief medical officer of Buet

typhoid are not uncommon.

go now?" an elderly Anwara said, her voice trailing away to nothing.

"Victims' families have con-

The local administration said the tubewells for the villagers. But officials said they would not distribute all among them, as they fear new will be needed for them.

Talking to The Daily Star, the

collapse in the raging rivers in the last twenty-four hours. All offices and educational institutions under three unions in Rajibpur upzila went under five feet

the floods suddenly marooned two lakh people in the upazila. Thousands of people took shelter on rooftops of their submerged houses, but no help reached the stranded people.

Most rivers in the Meghna and the Southeastern Hill basins recorded fall. Thirty of 85 monitoring stations recorded rise, 36 marked fall and

FROM PAGE 12 Hafizuddin (Jatiya Party), who wanted to know if bilateral problems

the deal would contribute immensely to increase trade and investment in the region, especially protecting the interests of the least developed countries, including Bangladesh. She said three meetings of experts have already been held to

In Rangpur, embankments on the Brahmaputra at Rajibpur and the Dharla in Kurigram sadar were damaged, causing 450 houses to

water as roiling waters cascaded down from hills in India. Moazzem Hossein, upazila nirbahi officer of Rajibpur, said that

The flood forecasting centre said the Brahmaputra-Jamuna started receding in the upstream while the Ganges-Padma contin-

one remained steady yesterday. Twenty-one points flowed above

ued further rise at all points.

Dhaka Saarc

like water issue would be resolved during the Dhaka summit, the prime minister said bilateral issues are not discussed under the Saarc charter, but the summit creates opportunity to discuss such issues on the sidelines. About the Safta signed at the Islamabad summit, she hoped that

implement the Safta, discussing non-tariff barriers, including rules of origin and list of restricted items. About Bangladesh's member-

ship in Asean, she said: "We are

trying to become its member. We've

good relations with Asean countries

and our Look East policy has been