# Floodwaters in Dhaka 6 killed in

Management Asadul Habib Dulu at the meeting took a swipe at newspaper reports on floods and refuted allegations against partisan distribution of relief. They alleged some newspapers are publishing "untrue"

Kamal, also minister for food, said floodwaters have started receding in the northern districts but are inundating central parts of the country including Dhaka. He said ongoing high tide in the Bay of Bengal is preventing floodwaters' flow into the

unplanned urbanisation. "Some unscrupulous people during the terms of all successive governments filled up the flood drainage and low-

He urged the international communities, donors and NGOs to extend help to the flood victims. He assured DCC commissioners of

victims took shelter at different flood centres in his constituency consisting of Motijheel, Sabujbag and

"Flood has hit hard my constituency and we are trying our best to help the affected people," he said, stressing on co-ordination of different government bodies and other partners, who are operating relief work, so that real victims get aid.

Abbas criticised a section of newspapers saying they are providing publishing false reports on floods.

He contradicted a report of the Daily Prothom Alo that said victims of a shelter at Abdul Aziz School did not get relief for a week. "I myself distributed relief there on Tuesday,"

Presiding over the meet, DCC Mayor Sadeq Hossain Khoka emphasised co-ordinated and united relief operation irrespective of political choices to care best for the vic-

"We've allocated highest aid for some districts including Habiganj, Shariatpur, Madaripur and Kurigram where we have no lawmakers," Dulu said, negating allegation of partisan

those areas which are severely affected, he added.

He said floodwaters submerged at least 55 DCC wards where over 3 lakh people have already taken refuge at BNP lawmaker Salauddin Ahmed from Demra to Tongi to protect the eastern part of Dhaka.

Lawmaker Nasir Uddin Ahmed Pintoo told the meeting that flood has acutely affected his constituency -- Lalbagh and adjacent areas -- and

there is crisis of adequate aid. Lawmaker Mahbub Uddin Ahemd and DCC commissioners demanded enough relief including medical aid for their areas. BEAURGES GOVTTO DECLARE

NAT'LDISASTER Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) yesterday urged the government to declare the prevailing flood a national disaster considering the

magnitude of its effects.

The association in a public appeal yesterday called upon conscious people to be aware of any move aimed to turning relief efforts into party politics. They also asked all not to cash in on the situation by exploiting the victims.

The written appeal signed by Dr Quazi Khaliquzzaman Ahmad and Prof Abul Barkat, president and general secretary of the BEA, underscored the need for effective measures to ease the suffering of the flood

The government should take a post flood rehabilitation programme on habitat, health, education and agriculture and publish the strategy to accelerate it, the statement read.

The BEA observed that floods have submerged two-third of the country and affected about 6 crore people. Crops, homesteads, educational institutions, health centres, place of warship, industries, roads all have been affected by the deluge.

Some 10 crore people may be victimised if the floods linger, making it difficult for cultivation in the next harvesting season, said the state-

It said about 2.5 crore people have lost almost everything. Many were compelled to sell their belongings including tins of roof, cattle and poultry at a discounted price.

The BEA underlined the need for emergency relief efforts to save the 2.5 crore people from probable sickness through supply of food, water and medicines.

Purchase ability of about 3 crore flood-hit people has been squeezed further. The price hike of essentials has further worsened the lives of the

ing 15,000 packets a day now.

Due to the ongoing devastating flood, the number of diarrhoeal

patients at the moment has doubled

at ICDDR,B compared to the usual

of the iceberg as the number of

patients is growing everyday," said

written statement at the press con-

Society chairman read out the

The journalists lodged a general

diary (1398, Dated July 28, 2004)

anti-freedom of speech activity and

demanded the culprits' punish-

# Afghan blast

REUTERS, Kabul

militants have vowed to disrupt.

The US military in Afghanistan esterday said at least two people were wounded in the bomb blast in Ghazni province to the southwest of Kabul. A spokesman for the United Nations in Kabul said he knew of only two people killed, both

Fazlur Rahman, Abdus Salam Mamun, and Siddiqur Rahman Miah were appointed additional udges on July 29, 2002 for two years'

Of them, Abdus Salam Mamun got six months extension as an additional judge.

FROM PAGE 12 The gang dropped the driver's body and an unconscious Alamgir at Della in Demra before leaving with

Demra police retrieved Shahjahan's body with marks of cut wounds on it and the helper at around 9:30am. Alamgir was treated at Mitford Hospital where doctors carried out autopsy on the driver.
Uttara police said they are yet to

confirm the identity of the culprits and crime scene. A police official seeking anonymity said they visited Ashulia with Alamgir, but he also failed to locate the place.

Earlier on Tuesday, Shyampur police found the decomposed bodies of a truck driver and truck labourer from Shyampur truck

### 12,000 women

Policy Leadership and Advocacy for Gender Equality (Plage), a project of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs, organised the meeting on Bangladesh overseas employ-ment policy. Mortuza Hossain Munshi, secretary of women and children affairs ministry, chaired the meet.

Lack of proper training and language efficiency are the two key reasons for which women become victims of abuse, he noted.

to finalise a policy paper soon to reduce wage discrimination and sexual harassment of women abroad.

Ferdous Ara Begum, joint secretary of the ministry, read out a draft policy paper formulated by the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and

markets, authority, licensing and regulations, role of private sector in overseas immigration programme and foreign exchange remittance

Rina Sen Gupta, officer-in-charge of International Migration Organisation, said the policy should focus on capacity building of women and coping strategy with their workplace before going abroad. She suggested the government to approve

She said Bangladeshi missions abroad should build a network among expatriate Bangladeshi women workers and human rights organisations of the concerned countries to check abuse at workplace.

# WB okays \$200m loans

FROM PAGE 1 over 90,000 SoE workers, closed down 30 SoEs and privatised a few of

The loan, approved by the WB board on Tuesday, also dictates that Bangladesh carry on with reforms in the NCBs, further liberalise trade. modernise tax system, improve the public expenditure management and the administration.

A new time-bound strategy has been agreed between the govern-ment, the IMF and the WB. AN adviser has been appointed to bring Rupali Bank to the point of sale by the year-end and a management team is being appointed to support the bank. Management advisers have been selected for Sonali Bank and fresh bids for advisers for Janata Bank are being sought.

The WB also noted the government should implement the 12-point directive of the Supreme Court in separating the judiciary from the

WB Lead Economist Anthony Bottrill said on the occasion, "The reforms...are designed to improve the climate for private investment on which the creation of jobs, higher productivity and rising incomes depend. These are crucial for reducing poverty more rapidly."

The board observed the government promised in May 2003 that the gas prices would be increased in September 2003, March 2004 and September 2004, but it missed the first two deadlines. The government however hiked the gas prices by 3.5 percent.

ables from the private autonomous bodies to no more than six months by December 2004 and three

government reduce at least 10 percent losses in the SoEs each year.

duced for revenue reasons and average protection edged up again

The new budget puts trade liberalisation back on track by reducing the top tariff rate from 30 percent to 25 percent along with substantial rationalisation of the multi-tiered structure of the tariff system. The scope of the para-tariff system has been substantially reduced and rationalised. Preliminary estimates suggest the average nominal protection of the new system would come down to 21

Six people, including two UN elec-tion workers, have been killed in an explosion in a mosque where the United Nations was registering people for elections that Islamic

### 10 addl judges

#### Robbers hack

the truck, which was carrying 15 tonnes of rods, they added.

"We've called in the truck owner and shop owner from where the rods were purchased. We may get a view of the incident once they come to the police station," said an officer of Uttara Police Station.

FROM PAGE 12

Press Club yesterday

"The government restricted women to performing household work abroad since 1998. But many women still go abroad to work as house-help as they fall victim to the traps of human traffickers," Mondol

He said the government is going

Overseas Employment.
The policy focused mainly on job

loan for safe migration of women.

### One Biman staff

FROM PAGE 12 press release issued vesterday.

Departmental proceedings were under way against the persons responsible for the incident, it

The authorities of the national carrier also apologised to its passengers for their inconvenience created during BG Dhaka-Saidpur flight. Biman officials made passengers

of the flight, which took off more than three hours behind schedule, twice to board the wrong aircraft.

#### 2 robbers die

FROM PAGE 1 in the afternoon following the statement of two other members of the gang, who were arrested at a hotel in Chittagong on Tuesday night.
Sensing presence of the police,

the robbers opened fire. Police also returned fire, leading to gunfight that continued for an hour. During the gunfight, two rob-bers, identified as Shahbuddin and

Chasmaiya, were shot dead and five policemen injured with bullets. Identity of the injured policemen could not be known. Police recovered three guns and three cartridges

from the scene. Additional Superintendent of Police Abul Kalam Azad told the news agency that gunfight was going on between police and robbers in the hilly forest as police tried to nab rest of the gang and seize their firearms and ammunition.

# Heavy rain forecast

prolong, if the gushing waters from upstream continue to roll and the

The total recession of floodwaters will take at least two to three weeks if the sea remains calm and the water run-off from upstream slows down, the experts told the seminar organised by the Centre for Water, Environment and Energy at

The situation in the north and northeast improved further with the significant recession of water from farmlands, but farmers face a severe seed crisis

**DHAKADELUGE** 

The deluge in Dhaka and environs will deteriorate, private news agency UNB said quoting the latest warning backed up with harsh signs that all nine rivers around the capital swelled further and would rise more in coming days. Yesterday's rains twinned with a relentless rush of water from upstream sent the rivers

surging.
The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre in its bulletin said water levels rose further in the Shitalakkha, Balu, Bangshi, Dhaleswari, Kaliganga, Turag, Buriganga and Tongi Khal, all flowing high above danger marks for overaweeknow.

City-planner Professor Nazrul Islam told UNB that narrowing Gulshan-Baridhara Lake was a major cause of Gulshan and adjoining areas going under water. Floods did not affect the

Dhanmondi area as Dhanmondi Lake is still as it is and also for the western embankment," he said. Holding their belongings over their heads, residents waded through the waist-deep floodwaters,

which mixed with sewage and turned blackish and foul-smelling. Millions of people in Bangladesh are without adequate food or clean report)

water, a senior government official told AFP, as the death toll in floods that have submerged two-thirds of the country rose to 400.

The government was distributing relief and assessing the situation to decide whether to issue an international appeal for assistance, said Tajul Islam, press secretary to Prime inister Khaleda Zia.

'Millions are affected and are in need of food and clean water," he said. "The government is assessing how much assistance will be needed to tackle both the current situation and the situation after the flood when massive rehabilitation will be

showed a little improvement as the floodwaters started receding from swamped areas with a fall in the Khowai river, but most houses, businesses and government offices remained 2 to 3 feet under water and road links between the district headquarters and seven upazilas remained cut off.

Our correspondent from Comilla said: The floods swamped fresh areas in Comilla where nine people died and 12 lakh people have been marooned since the deluge hit the district on July 10. Heavy rains and overspills from the Meghna river hit nine of 14 upzilas in the district.

said the flood situation in Sylhet. Sunamganj, Moulvibazar and Netrokona continued improving, while the situation in Tangail, Dhaka, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Narayanganj and Chandpur is likely to remain unchanged.

including Dhunat, in Bogra remained unchanged. Officials at the District Relief and Rehabilitation Office said the floods affected 6,29,023 people there.

(AFP and BSS contributed to this

# Miseries at Manikganj

FROM PAGE 1
"WE EAT ONCE A DAY"

"The relief centre provides khichuri once a day and that is what we eat here," said primary school student Rupali, who along with 200 women and children have taken shelter at a

"I have been living at Aricha Belayet Hossain High School flood shelter for the last eight days along with 100 other flood-hit people, but I have received no relief till now," said Maleka Begum, secretary of Shibalaya upazila Mohila BNP unit. "SIR, TAKE MY NAME" A number of women including

Saleha, Anwara and Momtaj of Shibalaya and Hazera, Kabila, Mariom, Rizina and Lucky of Manikganj municipalty wanted their names to be put on food distributing list.

"Sir, take my name," uttered Momtaj in a feeble voice, adding, "I have been starving for last two

"WE WILL STARVE RATHER THAN TAKING SUCH RELIEF" There were also people like Nessa Banu, a 65-year-old woman from

Falsatia, who complained of receiving rotten rice in the relief packet yesterday morning.
At Barangail village, she showed this correspondent a packet containing two kgrice, potato and onion

that were rotten. "It is better to starve than taking this sort of relief," she said.

NGORELIEF Community Development Centre (CDC), an Aricha-based NGO, vesterday distributed a pack of 20-kg rice, 2-kg pulses, 1 litre oil, 1 kg salt, 6 candles and 4 match boxes among 1,000 families each in Shibalaya,

LIFE ON HIGHWAY

Thousands of people are living on Dhaka- Aricha highway with their cattle and other belongings.

Their miseries are mounting day by day due to crisis of food and drinking water.

Water-borne diseases have broken out in seven villages of Shibalaya and Doulatpur upazilas, said locals.
DOUBLY DISTRESSED

Around 3,000 flood-hit families of Jafarganj of Shibalaya, and 28,000 families of Bachamara, Charkatari, Baghutia and Zionpur of Daulatpur upzilas are now doubly distressed

They moved to the Padma-Jamuna Embankment to take shel-

No relief reached the remote area since vesterday, they said. "WEHELPOURSELVES"

People finding no place at government flood shelters are taking refuge in nearby houses still safe from

and they will stay as long as my house is not inundated." He went on, "We share our food with them at this time of gajab (

Boat-makers and boatmen seem happy that their earnings are on the rise since the flood started as boats and rafts of bamboo and banana tree are the only modes of transport in flooded areas.

# Khaleda flies

election, will also include, for the first time, Nepal and Bhutan, who were drafted in as full-fledged members of the maritime club in a BIMST-EC ministerial meeting in February.

A foreign ministry announce-ment said yesterday that Dhaka, which signed the free trade agreement (FTA) with six others member countries after delay of three months, would focus on fostering stronger commercial and economic cooperation at the summit

Bangladesh and other lessdeveloped countries-- Burma, Nepal and Bhutan-- will have to reduce tariffs by 2011, according to FTA. The more affluent BIMST-EC members Thailand, India and Sri Lanka will phase out tariffs on fasttrack products by 2009.

The BIMST-EC countries with a combined population of 1.3 billion and an intra-trade value of \$3 billion last year outweigh Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) as an economic union. The Saarc countries have also ratified a FIA, he South Asian Free Trade Area. Tariffs for non-fast track prod-

ucts will be phased out in developing countries by 2012 and in lessdeveloped countries by 2015 while duties on more 'sensitive' products would be discussed between 2005

The issues of anti-terrorism

cooperation, multilateral trade and Asian Highway Network-- an ambi-

agenda are investment, tourism, energy, infrastructure, technology, transportation and communica-Inclusion of the two Himalayan kingdoms necessitates a change in

the name of the organisation that was set up in 1997 in Bangkok. India has already suggested it to be called as "Bay of Bengal Community". Khaleda is scheduled to return on July31. him sustain the upcoming lean

## Diplomatic zones

FROMPAGE 12 residence of Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman.

The premises of Bangladesh Bank, Water Development Board, Bangladesh Biman office, Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation head office and Sonali Bank office at Motijheel have gone under water. Sporting club premises at Motijheel, Fakirapool and Topkhana have also been sub-

Health officials said at least 60 people have died of diarrhoea and other water-borne diseases in the capital so far and nearly 1,000 treatment at the ICDDR, B Hospital.

### EPB teams to assess loss in flood-hit **RMG** units

UNB, Dhaka

The Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) has formed four survey teams to assess the losses caused by the ongoing flood in export-oriented garment industries.

In an attempt to prepare a postflood action plan, three of the teams will visit Dhaka while the other will be sent to Narayanganj to conduct the survey in garment and knitwear

The teams were formed at a discussion meeting held at the EPB office yesterday with its Vice-Chairman Meer Shahabuddin Mohammad in the chair.

Representatives from readymade garment industries, hosiery, leather, leather goods and footwear, handicrafts, jute and jute-made products, agri-products and other exportoriented industries attended the meeting to discuss overall flood

Later, the vice-chairman and representatives from Bangladesh Garment Manufacturer and Exporters' Association visited floodhit garment industries in capitals' Malibagh, Basabo, Rampura and Badda areas.

### Magistrate's

FROM PAGE 12

However, as he stepped aside to let the magistrate complete the neces-sary procedure, the mobile court stopped a private microbus and searched it. The driver also was found guilty of not carrying his drivinglicence.

The photojournalist heard the driver tell the magistrate that the microbus belonged to the assistant private secretary (APS) to Minister for Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Kamrul Islam. The mobile team immediately let go of the driver, to the sheer dismay of the He then took it upon himself to

minister drove away scot-free. "I asked him why the driver of a minister's APS received privilege over me. We hold equal rights as citizens of a democratic country!" "But as soon as I protested the magistrate told me that I was under arrest on charges of contempt of

ask the magistrate why he was found

guilty and fined for his indiscretion

while the driver of the APS to the

court and kept me under arrest for the following hour," added the photojournalist. The magistrate then released

him after one hour without citing

No place

FROM PAGE 12 please give me work," he begged. No relief has reached in Sadar thana's Mahishashur union as yet although floodwaters swamped the area 17 days ago, the locals said Tuesday. Mahishashur Union Parishad Chairman Tofazzal Hossain clashed with the members over distribution of two metric tonnes of rice as relief on Sunday,

the chairman himself admitted. Most of some 300 knitwear, garment and small industrial units in Narsingdi district have also gone under floodwaters, leaving thou-

sands of workers jobless. Hundreds of weavers have become homeless and are living on a little or no food and out their days in the open as 95 percent areas of the district have been flooded. Some 1,200 people are living in flimsy houses on highways and are in fear of losing their last refuge, as the waters are threatening to submerge

### Gaibandha

I went to rent 10 katha of land for sprouting up seedlings. But the landowner demanded 10 maund (400kg) paddy off my harvest," Rahman said.

Samaj Kalyan Sangstha (SKS), a

local NGO, elevated an acre of land in Sardarer Char, making the place home for about 200 families and 50 cattle for the past one month. On certain elevated plots in the shoal, a few farmers grew seedlings along their homes, which were unaffected during the flooding. The

amount, however, is so insignificant that most people of the shoal areas would not be able to utilize the plants if incentive were not offered Mohammad Haran Fakir of Sardarer Char said he was thinking

period. The SKS would provide him free seeds for harvesting the corn variety, he added. Looking at the vast plains across the Brahmaputra, Haran, 55, said, "I know I will not have problem with seeds and maize would be my rice in times of hardship.

farmers in Baghbari, Deluabari, Dighalkandir Char, Moinua, Gabgachhi, Patilbari, Guabarir Char and Teugrakandir Char are in desperate need of young plants and seeds for next season. According to the deputy director

# Tigers take on

ESPN will beam the match live. The game was left with only an academic interest after India's thrilling four-run win against hosts Sri Lanka on Tuesday night which turned out to be a dress-rehearsal

for August 1 final. For Pakistan the 'bonus point system' is sure to haunt them throughout the game against Bangladesh after Inzamamul Haq's men lost that crucial one point during a 59-run win over India.

'It is a dead match from everybody's point of view. But we have not played well in this tournament and we will go out there to prove a point. That's our last wish," said Bangladesh coach Dav Whatmore after yesterday's practice session at the Sinhalese Sports Club ground.

"I will never mind mistakes but I want to see the Tigers fight," said Whatmore, whose boys lost the first meeting against Pakistan by 76 runs.

Bangladesh will rest two senior cricketers Khaled Mahmud and Mohammad Rafique. Besides, injured opener Javed Omar has also not been considered for the game.

The tournament has so far been a total disappointment for Bangladesh. The batting looked awfully out of depth and the otherwise disciplined bowling was off-

target in the last two games against India and Sri Lanka. But Bangladesh captain Habibul

Bashar still put up a brave face. 'I would like to have a good game to finish the tournament and boost our mental strength ahead of a long season," said Bashar who will lead the side to the ICC Champions Trophy in England in September. Bangladesh will play four home series after that.

His Pakistan counterpart Inzamam said that his side would carry on with the momentum it gained after defeating rivals India

comprehensively.
"We have failed to reach the final only because of the bonus point system. Now we will go all out against Bangladesh and end the mission on a winning note," told

BANGLADESH SQUAD

Habibul Bashar, Mohammad Ashraful, Rajin Saleh, Alok Kapali, Faisal Hossain, Khaled Mashud, Manjarul Islam, Mushfiqur Rahman, Abdur Razzak, Tapash Baisya, Tareq Aziz.

# PM finally seeks

"Both assessments are nearing completion and will be used to develop the international appeal for funding to meet the relief, recovery and longer-term rehabilitation needs of the estimated 28 to 30 million people affected by a severe flood," says the UN release.

The flooding began earlier this month and had already caused extensive damage to basic infrastructures like roads, bridges, railways, embankment, farmland, property and livelihoods in an estimated 35 districts of Bangla-"People have been marooned or

displaced seeking shelter in public

buildings, road embankments, roadways, rooftops and available high-ground areas," the UN noted. The government has been proving relief, food and medical supplies to the affected people. However, the situation is "deteriorating". Therefore, to support the govern-ment's relief and recovery efforts, "the UN will launch the interna-

tional appeal to bolster exiting As part of the immediate UN response, the release said, the United Nations Children's Fund

affected people.

covered in blood and human

nearby buildings. A white metal security gate outside a shop was stained red with blood. The white bus on which 21 passengers were killed

remains. Bodies lay in the middle of

stage," U.S. Army Capt. Marshall lackson said. Witnesses said the bomb targeted men waiting outside the al-Najda police station trying to sign up for the

"It's all civilian casualties at this

These were all innocent Iraqis, there were no Americans," an angry man shouted at the scene. The blast killed 68 people and wounded 56 others, according to Saad al-Amili, a Health Ministry

official. The local hospital was overwhelmed with the casualties. Every bed was filled, forcing many of the injured to sit on the floor, amid pools of blood, as they were treated by frantic health workers. One injured man sat against the wall, holding his head in his hands and weeping.

The bombing was the deadliest insurgent attack in Iraq since June 24, when coordinated attacks in north and central Iraq killed 89 people, including three U.S. soldiers. On April 21, five suicide bombings near police stations and police academy in southern city of Basra killed 74 people and wound 160 others. A coordinated attack on Shia Muslim shrines in Karbala and Baghdad on March 2 killed at least 181.

Suwariyah southeast of Baghdad, Polish Lt. Col. Artur Domanski, a multinational force spokesman, said in a telephone interview. Another 10 soldiers from the Iraqi security forces were wounded in the joint operation with U.S. Army special forces and Ukrainian troops, he

said. No coalition troops were injured

in the operation that also led to the

In other violence, 35 insurgents

and seven Iraqi soldiers were killed in

early morning clashes in the city of

capture of 40 insurgents, he said. A U.S. soldier was killed and three others injured late Tuesday when a roadside bomb severely damaged their armoured Humvee while they were on patrol in the town of Balad-Ruz, about 65 kilometres northwest of Baghdad, according to army spokesman Master Sgt. Robert

The death of the soldier, whose identity has not been released, raised the toll of U.S. military personnel killed in Iraq to 905 since the war began, according to an Associated Press tally. A separate roadside bombing in

Balad-Ruz late Tuesday injured nine Iraqi civilians, according to Baqouba General Hospital official Abbas An explosion tore through the

(Unicef), the World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Health Organisation (Who) have provided

support to improve water and sani-The UN's office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has dispatched a team, currently in Dhaka, to support the needs assessment, look at UN contingency planing and coordinate the ongoing UN response.

emergency supplies like food, medi-

cal supplies, non-food items and

In Chandpur, the prime minister urged the people to face this calamity with courage. Khaleda said the government is distributing adequate relief and steps have been taken to help the affected people to cope with the situation. You are not alone, friendless and helpless in this hour of crisis. The

the affected people while addressing them at Babubazar under Sadar upazila of Chandpur. The prime minister then went to the flood affected Brahmanbaria and distributed relief among the

# Suicide car bomb

official said on condition of anonym-Two cars were seen burning and a building was damaged in the area, located on the northern edge of Baghdad's Green Zone, the fortified

firmed that an explosion had been reported to the north of the Green Zone, but he was unaware of its In the turbulent city of Ramadi, west of Baghdad, a mortar apparently fired toward a U.S. base struck an

A U.S. military official, speaking

yesterday, gunmen in a car killed policeman Udai Saddam as he waited for a taxi to get to work, Iraqi police official Col. Sarhat Qadr said. The attackers fled the scene. Qadr also said that two men trying to plant a bomb on an oil pipeline near Kirkuk were killed early

In the northern city of Kirkuk

hesaid. In another bombing in Baqouba, a car rigged with explosives deto-

Amid the violence, Iraq has been trying to take its first steps toward democratic reform.

A crucial national conference for 1,000 delegates to choose an interim assembly, widely considered a vital step toward democracy, will begin

## Cops clash

FROM PAGE 12 against sabotage, stopped the attempt. Tension spread fast as the people from both sides of the

sluice gate has submerged their houses with floodwaters while saved those in South Jatrabari. "We want to open the sluice gate so the water escapes to the other side," said Ramzan Ali, an elderly resident of North Jatrabari.

bustling Sayedabad bus stand.

Police baton-charged and fired several tear gas canisters to disperse them and at one point, opened fire. Police, later, stormed into several

The situation came under control after local lawmaker Salauddin Ahmed visited the spot. Police have

been deployed in the area.

### Minister for Relief and Disaster struct an embankment stretching

He blamed the floods in Dhaka on

adequate relief for the destitute. Mirza Abbas said over 1.2 lakh

relief distribution. His ministry is allocating aid to

Spurious rice saline

FROM PAGE 1 Wahed, chief of the nutritional

biochemistry department of the

"If we fail to stop selling of adul-terated saline packets, public health will be at risk, especially in the cur-rent flood," said David A Sack, executive director of Centre for Health and Population Research in ICDDR, B. The registration number, logo and address of ICDDR, B are very the writing is opaque on the adulter-ated packet," said Ishtiaq A Zaman,

chief of the external relations and

the health ministry to take necessary steps to stop production and sale of the adulterated rice powder saline packets for the sake of public Society chairman Hamidur Rahman said the price of oral saline produced by ICDDR, B is Tk 7per

packet, while the retail price is Tk 10,

but the fake saline is sold at only Tk 6

Since 1982, ICDDR,B's

Employees' Multipurpose

Cooperative Society Ltd has been

producing the saline made of rice

the ICDDR,B and they are produc-

powder with formula invented by

in the markets.

number at this time of the year. "Some 500 diarrhoeal patients are coming to ICDDR,B everyday, which was 900 during the 1998 flood. Maybe this figure is just a tip

David A Sack

institutional development in Outlaws threaten The co-operative society urged FROM PAGE 1 sufficient food and get ready to die,"

the letters read.

with the Barisal Shadar Police Station and sought security for themselves and for their families from the administration. The Barisal Reporters Unity, Barisal Press Club and Barisal Journalists Union condemned the act of death threats saying it is an

percent from July 1 to compensate for its failure to live up to the promise. Further hike of 2.27 percent is due in January 2005. The WB stipulates the government arrears in the power sector do not exceed more than three months' receivables. Besides, the power authorities should reduce receiv-

months by June 2005. The WB also suggested that the

to 25 percent.

It maintains that the government has acted to put trade liberalisation back on track after a reversal in the 2004 fiscal year. Average protection was lowered from 25 percent to 22 percent in the previous fiscal year, but the progress was partly reversed in 2004 due to higher supplementary and regulatory duties reintro-

sea remains rough at the same time, official news agency BSS reports.

the National Press Club.

The flood situation in Habiganj

The Flood Forecasting Centre

The floods in seven upazilas,

Arua and Teota unions.

DISEASES

since the Padma had devoured their houses about two months ago.

"We help ourselves," boasted 50year-old Faiz Uddin of Balitha village. " A flood-hit family is at my house along with their belongings

deluge )and I believe we can overcome the problem this way." BOAT-MAKERS AND BOATMEN

tious road project that proposes to connect South Asia with Southeast Asia, are also expected to come up for discussion, official sources said. The other priorities on the

> immediately, locals said. of sowing seeds of maize this year as corn, instead of paddy, would help

> > Like the farmers of Kanchapara and Sardarer Char, thousands of

of Agriculture Extension Office, seedlings on more than 3.080 hectares have been damaged in the district during the severe flood.

government is with you, the BNP is with you", she boosted the morale of

the road, under cars, up against enclave housing Iraq's interim gov-ernment and the U.S. and British

ion of

apartment building, killing one Iraqi woman and injuring seven other people, according to Dr. Alaa al-Aani

from Ramadi hospital.

Wednesday when it detonated prematurely. No damage was caused to the pipeline in the Kibrit region, about 28 miles northwest of Kirkuk,

nated Tuesday evening, killing the driver, the U.S. military said.

# Saturday organizers announced

embankment, carrying sticks, had heated arguments. North Jatrabari locals said the

Angry North Jatrabari locals vandalised at least 10 vehicles at the As police rushed to the spot, the mob hurled brickbats at them.

North Jatrabari houses and beat up at least 15 residents.

densely populated Baghdad suburb of Rahmaniya, killing one person and injuring five, an Interior Ministry