Gazipur.

Verdict shifted

Bangladesh government in exile, November 3, 1975.

lawyer for an accused-on-bail Taheruddin Thakur, submitted two petitions to Dhaka Metropolitan . Sessions Judge's Court on Saturday in the last-minute hid to save his client

Khondakar Mushtaque Ahmed, the alleged mastermind of the killings.

The other petition appealed to court to ask witness Saifuddin Ahmed, the then deputy superintendent of police and second investigation officer, to appear in court as he is vet to deposit his statement as an important

lawyers waiting at the entry to the court near Dhaka Central Jail since morning and said they would be allowed in before the court begins at 10:30am. But the police drove away the iournalists and closed the

Although it was not an in-camera trial, journalists and lawyers (not involved in the case) were barred not only from the courtroom but the court Battalion (Rab), intelligence agencies and the police in the name of tightening security.

sels of both sides, eight of the 23 accused and their relatives into the court premises. They even permitted relatives to take in food for the

The police clubbed journalists as they protested the restriction on their entry. The newspersons held a token sit-in in front of the court to protest the bar and the attack

Chankharpool crossings and roads in and out of Dhaka Central Jail. The security men allowed the vehicles of only the accused and their relatives, law enforcers and journalists

and let other people go into the court area after metal detector checks. They

dog squad and police guarded the court as part of beefed-up security

ARRIVAL OF ACCUSED

Accused-on-bail Nurul Islam Manzoor 10:00am, followed by Khairuzzaman director general of Fareast wing of the foreign ministry, in an official white

Ailing Shah Moazzem went to court in a white jeep at 10:05am, A trial

Obaidur Rahman in a white jeep at

relatives, the security men rushed to

welcome them and took them to the

rity personnel lined up from the main

entrance of Dhaka Central Jail to the

court entrance as a police prison van

carrying Syed Faruk Rahman, Sultan

Shahriar Rashid Khan and Bazlul

Huda came out of the iail gate at

peeped through the van net.

Case are among the accused.

RUMOUR AND TRUTH

Motiur Rahman.

Islam, at 11:40am.

10:53am. Shahriar looked jovial as he

Of the 23 accused, three are in

custody, five on bail, 12 have been

evading arrest and three died. Eleven

convicts in the Bangabandhu Murder

Judge Mohammad Motiur Rahman

who was to deliver the verdict did not

go to court and empowered Additional

Sessions Judge Mohammad Siraju

Islam to set a fresh date for the verdict.

morning that the verdict would not be

pronounced yesterday, but no-one was sure of it as many mistook

Additional Judge Sirajul Islam for

The decision on adjournment was

first disclosed by advocate Abdu

Majid Munsi, lawyer for Obaidui

Rahman, Shah Moazzem and Nurul

made for journalists until noon when

the journalists blocked the way of the

public prosecutor and counsels of the

illness of Judge Motiur Rahman," the

court, I got a letter typed by him

(Motiur) that he will not be able to

me to court because of illness."

the petitions could not be disposed of

as Judge Motiur was not in charge of

court, adding: "These petitions would

be disposed of by September 21, also

senior counsel for the accused, said:

"Judge Sirajul Islam came only to

inform us on behalf of Motiur

minutes to announce a fresh date, he

said, "He (Sirajul) needed time to

consult with Judge Motiur Rahman

"He (Judge Motiur Rahman) failed to

go out of home due to increased blood

told The Daily Star. "He has been

suffering from the problem since

see whether he can go to court," he

told this correspondent at the judge's

the back is undergoing treatment a

Dhaka Medical College Hospital

(DMCH) while Rozina and Shathi took

labourers were injured as two home-

made bombs hidden in piles rubble

near the volleyball stadium at Gulistan

to his right leg and hands and Karim,

16, to both his legs. They were treated

BOMBTHREATTO CUVC

Police yesterday arrested two

youths for giving bomb threat to the

Vice-chancellor's (VC) office of

Chittagong University (CU), reports

The two -- Mohammad Shahjahan

Staff Correspondent from Chittagong.

and Jagadish Rudra -- were arrested at

around 7:00pm at their phone-fax

shops -- AH Traders and Palli Phone --

at CU No 1 gate near the Chittagong-

fied bearded persons made the phone

They told police that two unidenti-

Hathazari Road, police said.

calls at 11:15am to the VC office.

While 18 day labourers were

In the other incident, two day

Faruq, 25, received splinter injuries

first aid from local clinics.

at the DMCH.

residence in Mohammadpur.

"We waited until 9:45am today to

ressure," Hayatul Haq, a court official

er telephone to fix a fresh date."

JUDGE ILLAT HOME

yesterday.

Asked why it took one hour and 15

Ádvocate Mahbubur Rahman,

a day for the verdict.

public prosecutor told The Daily Star.

accused as they were leaving.

No official announcement was

"The reason of adjournment is

"Five minutes before I started for

On Taheruddin's petitions, he said

Whispers have swirled since

court premises.

As the accused arrived with their

Whistles filled the area and secu-

As the photojournalists refused to buzz off and insisted to snap him, police batoncharged them. No-one, nowever, was seriously injured.

After Obaidur went inside, policemen lined up in front of the entrance and barricaded it

Every reporter assigned to cover the event when approached the police barrier, requesting entry, was persistently shooed away by the guards. As the reporters insisted and

shouted in protest, police just closed the gate on their face.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) Khan Saveed Hasan then appeared at the scene. "No iournalist is allowed to enter." he said. "We've orders from the higher authorities not to let any journalist in to the court premises.

"The closes they can come is up to this point." he told them standing two yards off the gate.

Asked whether it was a trial in camera, he just kept mum.

Police later used a bullhorn to ask the iournalists to vacate the entrance. "Don't crowd here, please, leave the place." one of them said.

As the journalists again requested DC Sayeed to allow them in, he repeated the same formula of 'the

order from the higher authorities'. As the newsmen wanted to know who the higher authorities are, he

mutely departed the scene.

Infuriated, the journalists staged a five-minute sit-in on the road and denounced the prohibition.

"It's a clear violation of the freedom of press," Faruq Kazi, a senior reporter, said, questioning the motive behind the decision

Senior counsel of the accused Mahbubur Rahman also castigated the decision and said, "Since it is a public trial, not one in camera, every one has the right to come and sit and hear the verdict."

"It's a matter of regret that you have been barred from entering the court. It's illegal," he said.

Contrary to their treatment of newsmen, police officials rushed to receive the accused on bail as they stepped out of their vehicles and escorted them and their relatives to the

As a policeman unknowingly stopped three relatives of two accused at the entrance, one of them shouted 'Even the Awami League government dared not stop us... how do you?"

Hearing his shout several police officials rushed to pacify him and escorted the group, carrying the food they brought for the accused, to the courtroom through another gate.

Judicial

The commission also sent separate letters to 19 central Awami League leaders who were present at the rally on 8/21, asking them to be present before the Chairman of the Commission Justice Joynul Abedin for giving their depositions.

"Their names were quoted by several injured AL leaders and activists as the commission has been taking their depositions at different hospitals in the city," said justice Joynul Abedin.

Yesterday, the commission took statements of two injured persons who are undergoing treatment at Bangladesh Medical College

AL lodges

FROM PAGE 12

5:30pm on August 21 while Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina was delivering speech standing on a truck-rostrum.

clearing the rubble at about 9:00am. a In the attack 19 people were spade hit the bombs kept beneath the killed and 200 injured, he also rubble pile making them explode, mentioned adding that during the witnesses said. attack police were just watching the Police could not say who kept the incident.

> He said they went to Motijheel Police Station to file a case, but police refused to register the case.

Antitank shell

FROM PAGE 1

were two bomb-like things in possession of Anwar, who died in the Sunday's explosion apparently caused by careless handling, police launched a vigorous search in and around the house. They found the shell at around 1:50pm in presence of the local union parishad chairman and neighbours, DIG Hague added.

Officials of Directorate General of Field Intelligence (DGFI) National Security Intelligence (NSI) and Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) also examined the antitank shell now being kept at Kotwali Police Station.

Declining to comment on the origin or nature of the device, Haque just said, "We have to wait for the report of army explosives experts to know the exact name and nature of

SP Mostafa Kamal however said the device is one of the pair collected by the boys and sold as scrap metal to day-labourer Anwar. Retired Brigadier Jubayer said

Blinds are used for military raining, adding if any shell or explosive remains unexploded during the

the police station, requesting unanimity, confirmed that it indeed is an antitank shell, adding though a Blind, it is still dangerous.

Two Italian

FROM PAGE 12

Bridge to Baghdad's web site says it is a volunteer association established after the end of the 1991 Gulf War, to promote humanitarian aid to Iraq and fight an economic embargo imposed on the country when Saddam Hussein was president.

In August an Iraqi group calling itself the Islamic Army in Iraq kidnapped and later killed Italian reporter Enzo Baldoni, who worked for the Milan-based weekly "Diario". Insurgents have kidnapped over

100 foreigners and Iragis in Irag since April in a campaign to drive out foreign companies and troops from the country

Most of the kidnappings have taken place outside of Baghdad and this latest abduction is bound to raise security concerns.

11-party

hartal in protest at the grenade attacks. But the alliance refused to support the fourth hartal called by the AL front organisations.

Left leaders at yesterday's meeting also discussed an array of programmes against the coalition government and the religious extremists. They are likely to announce the programmes in a couple of days, sources said.

A procession towards the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban on September 12 and human chain from Tangi to Narayangani on September 17 are on the cards

"The 11-party with its own initiatives and in coordination with its front organisations will go ahead for movement across the country. It will also try to bring all progressive forces together," said the meeting resolu-

The meeting held at the Workers Party (WP) office discussed in detail the prevailing political situation.

The alliance urged people to unite against the government and the fundamentalist outfits. It also called on all the progressive political parties and professional bodies to strengthen issue-based movement to change people's fate.

Communist Party President Manzurul Ahsan Khan presided over

Case lands in new

for hearing on the petitions and the

gunpoint.

judgement of the Jail Killing Case. The first petition says the then DSP tasked with investigation on November 21, 1975, probed the case for a few days and the mystery surrounding the incident will be unravelled if he appears in court.

The second petition says Taheruddin was accused of conspiring at Bangabhaban in line with the chargesheet and statements of prosecution witnesses, but no sketch of Bangabhaban was placed before court, nor any paper has been forwarded as being seized from there. "A local inspection is necessary for arriving at correct decisions while delivering udgement," the petition says.

JUDICIAL TANGLES If the petitions are dismissed, the netitioner will have scope to go to

Court. If the Appellate Division rejects the appeal, the petitioner will have another chance to appeal for review

of the petitions. On the other hand, if the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court grants the petitions, the judge

higher court against the order. If a petition is filed with the High Court, it will fix the date of hearing on it. In the event of rejection, the petitioner will have another scope to go to the Appellate Division of the Supreme

will carry out a local inspection at Bangabhaban where the conspirathe national leaders. The judge may need several days for inspection.

In case the second petition is granted, the court will ask Saifuddin to appear in court to give his statement and a separate date will be fixed. If the then DSP appears in court, the prosecution and the defence will examine his statement taking several days more.

The four national leaders were assassinated inside Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975. The next day, a case was filed with Lalbagh Police Station. The Criminal tasked with investigation on November 21, 1975, but it was halted until 1996. It reopened on

2001 was halted for 10 months after Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, wife of slain prime minister and one of the highprofile victims Taiuddin Ahmed, filed a petition on January 26 last year

August 25 the same year. The arguments were complete on August 7 this year and the court on August 21 fixed September 7 for the delivery of the judgement.

First pvt airline

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin and Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Veena Sikri will attend the inauguration ceremony at Chittagong airport.

"It's a memorable occasion for us to have the privilege to operate the first international flight as a private airline of Bangladesh," Managing Director of GMG Airlines Shahab Sattar said. Starting with three weekly

flights on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, GMG Airlines has plans to make it daily between Chittagong and Kolkata. The fare is fixed at \$89 (one way). Passengers buying two tickets will get one free in first three flights after the inaugu-

Currently Biman Bangladesh Airlines operates two weekly flights on Chittagong-Kolkata route Monthly passengers in the Biman flights average around 300. The number is considered very low. But GMG Airlines hopes that the passenger volume will up once its

quality service is made available Daily Star.

GMG Airlines got air transport

GMG Airlines, however, prefers Delhi routes. "We may procure any

Dhaka-Kolkata and Dhaka-New plane from a choice list of Boeing 737-500, Airbus 320 and Fokker 100 model, if the government gives us the nod to operate flights on these routes," the MD said.

FROM PAGE 12

literacy rate was acceptable, then

Bangladesh's position in the Human Development Index (HDI) would have been much higher. The briefing was organised to on

the eve of the International Literacy On primary education, the

acy is dragging down the quality of take care of their children. About non-formal primary edu-

Bangladesh has made significant

Ctg port

FROM PAGE 12

efficiency at cargo handling has declined in last two months thanks to unskilled staff' engaged by the **BMSA** He said presently it takes 20 days

to unload a ship with 3000 tonnes of cargo. Earlier it used to take only 10

"The delay is costing us additional US\$ 8,000 to 10,000 a day, Chowdhury, whose company imports 2 to 2.5 lakh tonnes of commodity annually, told The Daily Star.

If the new charge is implemented, his company will have to bear an extra cost of Tk 62.50 lakh annually he added.

First Vice President of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) MA Salam said their cost will increase by well over 15 percent as the garment manufacturers will have to count 15 percent additional cost for importing raw materials while another 15 percent for exports. He said Chittagong Port is already

in the region and the 15 percent increase will only add to the misery of the importers and exporters. AMM Shahadat Hossain, chair-

known to be the most expensive por

man of the CPA, said they were not consulted prior to the decision.

Nationalised

FROM PAGE 12

A move to promote seven general managers of the nationalised banks to the rank of DMD is still under consideration, finance ministry sources said, adding the promotions would be made on the basis of

2 JOIN PAY COMMISSION

The government has appointed A B M Mahbubul Amin Khan and M Azizul Haq to the National Pay Commission, increasing the number of its members from 14 to 16.

of police and Khan a former deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank The commission was set up on

Hag is a former inspector general

July 10 headed by former cabinet secretary Mujibul Haq.

High-speed FROM PAGE 12

capsule by its parachute as it falls.

If the first chopper misses, the second will trail 300 meters (1,000 feet) behind and make another attempt. The helicopters will have a total of five chances to intercept the capsule, according to flight operations director Roy Haggard, who heads the US firm Vertigo.

"These guys fly in some of Hollywood's biggest movies. But this time the Genesis capsule will be the star," Genesis project manager Don Sweetnam said

The Genesis spacecraft was launched in August 2001 and sent to a precise point between the Earth and the Sun to catch bits of solar dust that could offer clues to how planets were formed. The probe was positioned at a

spot called Lagrange point 1, where the gravitational pulls of the Sun and Earth balance each other perfectly and where Genesis had an uninterrupted view of the Sun away from Earth's magnetic field, which disrupts the solar winds The 494-kilo (1,000-pound) space-

craft used hexagonal waters of silicon gold, sapphire and diamond to capture 10 to 20 micrograms of the invisible bits of solar wind. The samples will be the first samples returned to Earth from outside the Moon's orbit The wafers will be sent to the

Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, for study.

US envoy

FROM PAGE 12 academic activities of Presidency University, he said the future of Bangladesh depends on quality education and training of its future

Bangladeshis have not only the will but also the capacity to grow and develop, he said. Incorporating values in the highly professional excellence in education policy and its implementation can build a nation powerful and self-dependent,

Responding to another query, Thomas said the main problem facing the education sector of the developing countries is political instability. He believes Bangladesh can achieve an international standard in education through its political will.

Refuting an allegation of decreasing the issuance of visa for Bangladeshi students after the Twin Tower attack, the ambassador said they increased student visa by 62 per cent this year compared to last He however said the US visa

students -- their quality, financial status and the probability of their returning home. He pointed out many students do not return home. Rokia Afzal Rahman, chairman of Presidency University

office considers the totality of the

Foundation, said the curriculum of the university has been designed not only for professional purpose, but also to instil values of life that play a significant role in nation "Our goal is to prepare the stu-

dents in such a way that they can face any challenges in the changed scenario of the world," Rokia emphasised

mentioned.

chancellor of the university, said the university gives 10 per cent tuition fee waiver to all female students and

Leaders' families

He said people are fed up with the present government, especially after the August 21 grenade attacks on Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina at the AL rally.

"The government does not want day for the last 29 years to see the the verdict to be delivered right triumph of justice. But once again now. If the accused are let off the hook now, the government is destined to face public fury. They are probably waiting to see the anti-government sentiment die down before the judgement is delivered," Nasim predicted.

have already taken preparations for celebrating their 'sure acquittal with feasts. Sohel Taz, son of the late prime

He also alleged the accused

minister Tajuddin Ahmed, also

"We heard the news that the udge deferred the judgement date to September 21, and such move is justice has been delayed," Taz lamented. Terming the move mysterious, he said, "Justice appears to me a

not unquestionable as the govern-

ment has been interfering in the

trial process since it came to

power," said the AL lawmaker from

"We have been waiting for this

distant dream now.

AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, son of the other slain leader AHM Quamruzzaman, is, however, hopeful about a fair judgement 'It's not fair to comment at this moment...The case is still under trial as the verdict is not delivered, he said. "Our family is hopeful we

will get justice on September 21

and the criminals will be punished

40 Iraqis, 5 GIs killed

FROM PAGE 12

echoed on Sadr City's main al-Shuhada Street. Four US military vehicles blocked off al-Hay square, nome to Sadr's main office

Tuesday's clashes marked the deadliest combat in the Baghdad neighbourhood since April

Guerrillas attacked US troops in Baghdad's sprawling Shia Sadr City slum district with rocketpropelled grenades yesterday, killing one soldier and wounding two, the US army said.

The attack followed four separate roadside bomb blasts on Monday that killed four US soldiers. The deaths will raise the official Pentagon US death toll to at least

993 since the start of the war in

The US military said one soldier was killed in a blast in Baghdad on Monday afternoon, and another died of his wounds after an explosion on Monday evening.

In a third attack, near Baghdad, a soldier was killed late on Monday when his convoy was targeted. And in Qayarrah, near Mosul, one soldier was killed in a blast on the The US military had also

reported the deaths of three other

troops in separate attacks in the Baghdad area on Monday, bringing the total number of soldiers killed since the March 2003 invasion to The fresh violence came after the US military suffered its worst single human loss in months

through a joint convoy, killing seven marines and three Iraqi national guards near Fallujah. The new eruption of violence brought an abrupt end to a period of relative calm which had followed Sadr's call last week for a ceasefire

Monday, when a car bomb ripped

and pledge to join the political His surprise announcement came after the end of the weekslong standoff between US troops and his Mehdi Army around the Imam Ali shrine in the holy Shiite of

Yet negotiations to secure an agreement guaranteeing an end to violence in Sadr collapsed last Sadr's office said the Iraqi

government had refused their

request that US troops should only

The US military announced they had set up collection points across Sadr City for fighters to turn in their heavy weaponry but the call remained unheeded in the

absence of a formal agreement. The new flare-up left the Iraq government in a deepening crisis, following the embarrassment over the false announcement that Saddam's fugitive deputy Izzat

Hussein himself was netted in December 2003 but officials sheepishly retracted their claim Monday after a day-long confu-Ibrahim is the most wanted

resembled him. As the capital was engulfed in a fresh wave of violence, Baghdad governor Ali al-Haidri narrowly escaped an assassination attempt

A Rab official seeking anonymity said Rahman confesses to his involvement in crimes but denies he has any links to the grenade attack. Rahman, arrested with a pistol and

Meanwhile, Interpol experts examined and analysed information and evidence gathered so far at two long sessions with local investigators at the Criminal Investigation

JUDICIAL CÒMMISSION The one-member Judicial Commission probing the August 21

witnesses yesterday Justice Md Joynul Abedin, head of the commission, vesterday visited Bangladesh Medical College in Dhanmondi and recorded state-

ments of two victims of the blasts now under treatment there. The commission has so far recorded statements of 78 people,

Morshed blasts Delhi

"I don't want any more misconception like that arisen from a neighbouring country conversing with a particular party but not the nation as a whole," the foreign minister pronounced, adding, "the responsibility of eradicating that misconception rests with the neighbours them-

ON TRADE BARRIERS

Expressing disappointment that although Bangladesh has opened up its market to India in the spirit of Saarc [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation], the Bangladesh foreign minister said. 'Unfortunately, it was not recipro-

He reminded Delhi that although 'Bangladesh is India-locked, Delhi also has to remember that the seven north-eastern Indian states are also Bangladesh-locked.' "It costs 40 percent more for the

from Kolkata or other western cities than it would cost them to buy those from Bangladesh." he pointed out. bank of India for acting unilaterally against the interests of the common

by imposing non-tariff barriers, such as not allowing individual states to open letters of credit (LCs) without permission from Delhi "I hope they realise that in today's world imposing non-tariff

ON SECURITY August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally in Dhaka,

"If the blame game is not stopped no further discussion will take

On Indian allegation that 195 camps of Indian insurgents exist in Bangladesh's territory the foreign minister said. "The list of insurgent camps from their side increases at every meeting between us. But they have not been able to provide a single telephone number or address

the Indian government, saying, "we have given phone numbers, fax numbers and office addresses of Bangladeshi insurgent groups like Bangabhumi Andolon, who are in India, and criminals who are hosted by some groups there, but they have not done anything about it."

He dismissed the Indian claims of terrorist presence in Bangladesh. saying, "No country other than a banana republic would shut its eyes if there were terrorists in its territory."

He also accused India of offering discussions on border issues only after creating the issues in the first

ON WATER SHARING

with India's 2,000 cubic metres per person only if India would allow water to flow down to Bangladesh when it is required the most. Agreeing that regional cooperation in water sharing is very important, he however observed that if

Bangladesh would trade its 20,000

cubic metres of water per person

harm both the sides. Indian High Commissioner Sikri.

the acting British high commissioner and eminent Indian columnist Kuldip Nayar also spoke on the

Syed Nazrul Islam, acting president of Taheruddin in a brown jeep three minutes apart and BNP lawmaker KM

Tajuddin Ahmed, prime minister, M Mansur Ali, finance minister, and AHM Qamaruzzaman, minister of home affairs, relief and rehabilitation, were killed inside Dhaka Central Jail on ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul,

that experts think will lead to further judicial tangles. He appealed to court to visit Bangabhaban to identify the room where Taheruddin had allegedly been conspiring with former president

witness. Law enforcers kept journalists and

entrance minutes before schedule. premises that remained policed by Bangladesh Rifles, Rapid Action

The law enforcers allowed counaccused

BEEFED-UP SECURITY About 400 undercover and uniformed policemen guarded the court building, high-rises in the court area and Chawk Bazar, Bakshibazar and

also closed all shops close to the An archway metal detector was set up at the main entrance and Rab, the

Time bomb' at Willes FROM PAGE 1 dared not dismantle the bomb.

At last Assistant Commissioner (M-

T) Mohammad Shahjahan took the

explosive container to safety at around

"An explosive expert from Criminal Investigation Department at around 5:30pm dismantled the container and found a scotch tape wrapped piston inside it," a Ramna Police Station officer said. As the news spread to the guard-

boundary shouting "Stop examination, give our children back to our laps." when examinations were going on Assistant Headmistress of the school Khaleda Akhter said she could not suspect who might have done it.

The school authorities were firm on

Rozina, 5, and Shathi, 7, suffered

splinter injuries while playing with a

In Jurain, 18-month-old Yanoor,

holding examinations.

ians waiting outside the school gate,

they got panicked and lined the school

homemade bomb they did not know, in jorda container that went off at around "Yanoor's two elder sisters Rozina,5, and Shathi,7, found the bomb abandoned on a road near their

house at 200/12 Minshibari at Jurain in Shyampur," said Faruq Shikder, the Yanoor with five splinter injuries in

environment, both in and outside the country. Rise in sea level due to green

house effect is another reason that

worsens the flood situation, the

prime minister said and sought

recommendations to devise a

working strategy to face the prob-Three keynote papers were presented at the workshop by Dhaka Wasa Managing Director ANH Akhtar Hossain, Director of Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Center Muhammad Saidur Rahman and Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud.

session. Addressing the inaugural session, the prime minister said since time immemorial, Bangladesh has been known as a flood-prone landmass. Flood is now a reality for the

PM for cross-country The people, land and nature here draw benefits from normal floods in different ways, she said, but "at

times, these turn devastating

causing colossal loss to life and

problem and the workshop has been organised to find out a working strategy at national level to face the National initiative is necessary to implement the recommendations of

the workshop, she said and called

upon all irrespective of party and

She said flood is a national

opinion to join the initiative. Pointing out some internal reasons for the severity of the floods, She hoped that the experts

would come up with recommenda-

Israel hits

FROM PAGE 12 but the army has vowed to smash armed factions first.

Israeli leaders have pledged harsh reprisals, including the resumption of a campaign to assassinate Hamas leaders, in response to the Beersheba bomb ngs, the first suicide attacks in the

lewish state in nearly six months.

Tanks stationed at the Nahal Oz border crossing between Israel and Gaza opened fire on Shijaia, a suburb of Gaza City, just after midnight (5 p.m. EDT) and warplanes and helicopters launched missiles witnesses said The Israeli military said in a

statement that it had "targeted a training field during training of Hamas terrorists." It said Hamas members had been learning to make suicide belts, plant explosives, launch

rockets, infiltrate Jewish settle

ments and kidnap soldiers and "We will strike against Hamas wherever we can find it," Raanan Gissin, a spokesman for Sharon

"This is a relentless fight against

Judgement exempt the taxmen from the case. In the case filed with Ramna Police Station, it was alleged that Ershad, while in power, paid Tk 7,43,416 as income tax for six years 1983-1989). Later, he withdrew Tk

2,76,324 without submitting any documents in favour of his action. The investigation officer in the case submitted the charge sheet stating Ershad as the lone accused on December 19, 1992. The names of three others were dropped from the charge sheet and they were

shown as prosecution witnesses.

The court framed charges

against Ershad on June 17, 1993

and recorded statements of three

prosecution witnesses during the

Outlaws kill FROM PAGE 1

They took him close to a railway

station and shot him dead. Later.

Janajuddho claimed responsibility

tors laid out the dark design to kill

CASE CHRONOLOGY

August 18, 1996 and charges were pressed against 21 people on October 15, 1998 The trial that began on April 12,

seeking trial in the High Court. The court rejected the petition on

Chennai, Dhaka-Male via Colombo and Chittagong-Chiang Mai routes. Later the government permitted them to operate flights also on Chittagong-Kolkata and Dhaka-Kathmandu routes.

Unesco finds

Unesco representative said illiterprimary education, as parents themselves are illiterate and cannot

also rejected their demand for

compensation.

Ibrahim al-Duri had been arrested. The capture would have been the highest-profile since Saddam

member of the former regime still at large but an interior ministry spokesman said Monday that Iraq forces had detained a man who

List of criminals

13 bullets from Uttara on Saturday, is on a 10-day remand in an arms

Department (CID) headquarters yesterday. Later, local investigators had a meeting at the headquarters of Special Branch (SB).

carnage recorded deposition of two

enter the two-million-strong slum for reconstruction purposes and

place.

north-eastern Indian states to ourchase most construction goods Morshed blasted the central people of the north-eastern states

barriers are against the emancipation of the masses." the minister said, adding, "The time has come to learn realities.

On incidents following the

of these camps.' "On the other hand," he blamed

Morshed also stressed that

India unilaterally opens its sluice gates to allow floodwaters to roll down through Bangladesh it would

Finance and Planning Minister M firing practice, army regulation cation, he said keeping up the the prime minister called for sugges-"When we started in 1998,the Mentioning that Dhaka still Saifur Rahman, Food and Disaster requires it to be collected and standards of such education is very tions to overcome the problems like yearly domestic passenger volume Presidency University has awaits on promises made by Delhi Management Minister Chowdhury exploded or detonated immediately difficult because of difficulty in unplanned construction of roads was about three lakh, which over academic collaboration with some 10 years ago, Morshed reiterated Kamal Ibne Yusuf and Water and embankments, insufficient afterwards to keep the firing range of the best technology and managethe years has grown up to over five Dhaka's concern over India's reluc-Resources Minister Hafizuddin drainage system filling up of rivers Regarding women literacy, tance to allow greater Bangladeshi ment institutes in India and US, she lakh. It shows that more passen-Ahmed also spoke at the inaugural and water bodies for human settle-An official of an intelligence Vollmann said two-thirds of women goods across the border. gers can be attracted by ensuring a ments and other acts that destroy agency, who examined the device at over the age of 15 are literate. Prof M A Baqui Khalily, pro vicecaring service." Sattar told The The Unesco report mentions that

progress in increasing enrollment operating licence on January 13 tions for mid-term and long-term rates in primary education, but it has provision for more waiver to Morshed said without reference. this year. First the permission was strategies to face the devastating stressed the need for improving students on the basis of their needs 'The blame game won't help any confined to Dhaka-Colombo via quality of primary education. country, be it big or small," adding,