Seize more faulty cars, Uninterrupted gas supply rickshaws to ease jam, ministry asks police

UNB, Dhaka

The home ministry yesterday

Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar told the law enforcers at a high-level

activity in controlling traffic in the capital, saying community police will also work side by side with traffic

The meeting formed a committee headed by an additional secretary of the ministry to identify the faulty vehicles, which are the main cause of traffic congestion in the

The meeting decided to deploy joint teams of police, paramilitary BDR and Ansar at all Puja mondops across the country for smooth celebration of the greatest festival of the Hindus.

It also decided to deploy 34 mobile courts in Dhaka, Narayangani and Gazipur to check crimes during the holy month of

Among others, Home Secretary Omar Farook, Directors General of BDR, Rab and Ansar, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate and high officials concerned attended the

Two S'pore celebrities in drug link

Fox -- have been linked to the cocaine trafficking syndicate busted last week.

Both were arrested by the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) on suspicion of consuming illicit drugs, but their initial urine tests were

They are out on bail pending the results of further, more

thorough tests being carried out by the Health Sciences Authority (HSA).

The test results are expected next week.

Three people have already been charged with trafficking, and another six with drug consumption or possession.

The six include Dinesh Singh Bhatia, the eldest son of former Judicial Commissioner Amarjeet Singh and former Nominated Member of Parliament Kanwaljit

A CNB spokesman confirmed that Mr Haikel, 28, was among the 23 arrested, although he has not been charged.

He was at the house of alleged syndicate leader Marx Oh on Thursday night when CNB officers moved in.

The officers found 2.3a o cocaine and 23.6g of cannabis in

the wrong place at the wrong time." Ms Fox. 28, was not among the group of 23 arrested last Thursday night, but was instructed to turn up at the CNB office in Cantonmen

Road on Friday morning. It is understood that she has close ties with Oh, though the exact nature of their relationship is not

They have been spotted together often at a pub in Seletar, near Oh's

A staffer at the pub said: ""They usually come in for dinner, have some drinks at the bar and watch soccer on the television with other

A MediaCorp spokesman said yesterday that Ms Fox is on leave, but would not say for how long. She did not answer calls to her mobile

phone made by The Straits Times. Oh, a 31-year-old director of an events management company, was charged last Friday with trafficking, along with two others ... the marketing manager of Bobby Rubino's restaurant, Tunisian Guiga Lyes Ben Laroussi, and Mariana Abdullah, Laroussi's Singaporean

All three face the death penalty if convicted.

Meanwhile, The Straits Times has learnt that Tatler's editor. Simmonds, had to spend four days in jail despite being granted bail of \$20,000 last Friday, as he and his Japanese wife could not find a Singaporean to be the bailor.

The Briton was only releas Tuesday evening after a family friend came forward to stand as his

Creative declares war on Apple

ANN/ THE STRAITS TIMES

the digital music player market from Apple Computer.

Mr Sim Wong Hoo, Creative's chief executive officer, promised to come out with ""guns blazing" in what he called a war, and said his company would ""take no prison-

the beginning of a multi-milliondollar marketing campaign to correct what he called mistakes in the

lot of painful lessons in the MP3 market after being overtaken by Apple

""We have the technology with better audio quality, but we lost out

it. For example, our battery life is much longer than Apple's gadgets.' According to Mr Sim, Apple had a 17 per cent market share worldwide different types, such as flash-

of the digital audio player market in June, while Creative's share was 10 He said Creative should not have

2001, and when Sars hit the region last year.

Creative will be going big with the launch of its latest product, the Zen Micro, to ensure that it grabs a greater mindshare among consumers: On the cards is a \$100,000 launch party next month which may

feature celebrity guests. Product placements in Hollywood movies and endorse-

Jewel are other possibilities. departure from traditional Creative product launches, which are lowkey affairs held at the company's

hand and considering our future gas exploration, we can meet both their immediate and future demands," State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain told reporters yesterday. International oil companies

Given the gas reserves we have in

(IOCs) have also shown renewed nterest in gas extraction and exploration, the minister said. "We're quite convinced that the

availability of gas from Bangladesh is going to be there... we're quite satisfied," Tata Group Chairman Ratan N Tata told reporters after a meeting with Mosharraf at the Secretariat.

He also met Industries Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami, State Minister for Power Iqbal Hassan Mahmood and Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan in the afternoon.

glomerate would conduct a feasibility study on both gas-fired and coal-based power plants. The Group may set up the power, steel and fertiliser plants at different locations to be decided by the Tata technical team.

feasibility study on the proposed projects in six months, for which a technical team is likely to fly in Dhaka in a week, according to its chairman's meetings with the state ministers for energy and power.

Ratan Tata said he expects the

plants to go into production in three to four vears on successful completion of the feasibility study and settlement of all issues on stake. About the gas pricing, he said hey will come back after the feasi-

including the pricing of gas with the Mosharraf briefed the Tata Group officials about the country's gas reserves including proven,

On relief, Mohonpur Upazila Nirbahi

Officer Golam Kibria told reporters,

"We have received Tk 10,000 and

two tonnes of rice, and we will

The agriculture extension

department distributed 1925 kg

seeds of transplanted aman and

315 kg Kalai seeds among flood-hit

Most areas of Naogaon town

The affected upazilas are

Manda. Niamatpur, Porsha and

Mahadevpur, where a large number

of people with their domestic ani-

Several hundred people in the

district town have been living under

knee-to waist-deep water for more

than a week. Diarrhoea has broken

out in the town, sending 60 patients

A 500-foot breach developed in

Officials said transplanted aman

and winter vegetables on about

40.000 hectares have gone under

said Tk 50,000 and 50 tonnes of rice

have been allocated for around two

the submerged Manda-Niamatpur

road disrupting communication with

Niamatpur upazila since Monday.

mals have taken shelter on roads.

North floods

distribute them soon.'

have gone under water

to hospitals so far.

possible and potential reserves and the gas consumption pattern.

The Tata officials inquired about the price rates at which gas is supplied to independent and state-run power plants and also to fertiliser plants including Kafco (Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company).

The state minister told them that the government has a pricing policy and the Energy Regulatory Commission will fix the prices for gas supply to the proposed Tata plants taking into account all aspects including international fuel

"Still the gas prices in Bangladesh are competitive, but we'll discuss the pricing issue after the feasibility study," Ratan told

The Tata Group will need 200 mmcfd gas per day in the initial stage, which will rise to 350 mmcfd when the plants go into full operation. The conglomerate will invest \$1.50 billion in the first phase and \$ 0.50 billion in the next phase.

The Group also sought export facilities that local export industries

The Tata officials told Mahmood and Mosharraf that they will sell a portion of their production from the plants for local consumption and the rest will be exported to India and other countries.

Mahmood said the government needs to put a power export policy in place. "They (Tata Group) are not here for charity, they are here to do business. Bangladesh has a huge demand for electricity and their study will see if selling power to local market or exporting it is more profit-

MORE INVESTMENT **ON CARDS**

The visiting Tata Group delegation yesterday met Board of Investment

Mahmudur Rahman at his office and discussed their investment propos-

After the meeting, the Bol chairman said in addition to their previous proposal of investing in the power, steel and fertiliser sectors, the Indian industrial giant has also showed interest to invest in service and pharmaceutical sectors in Bangladesh.

The Tata Group, which owns the Taj Group of Hotels in India, wants to build a holiday resort in the prime sea beach town of Cox's Bazar.

It is also interested to set up a pharmaceuticals factory for export of medicine to developed world. TATA GOES GAGA

OVER BANGLADESH

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan quoting the Tata Group chairman, told reporters: "He (Ratan) told us that the misperceptions held outside (Bangladesh) do not match the realities on the ground."

"He said that he found no malice from the people of Bangladesh, that he saw Tata products being used widely and that a lot of people would not understand the potential of Bangladesh without coming here, Morshed told the reporters at his office after his meeting with Ratan Tata at the foreign ministry.

Emerging from the meeting, Ratan Tata told reporters that he was "very, very impressed" with what he has seen in Dhaka and said, "I wish I had come earlier."

Meeting sources said the Indian business tycoon told Morshed that the Tata Group has come to Dhaka neither for charity, nor for exploitation, it is here to share the work towards development. He said although no deals were

on the table, they were very upbeat about their future here and would be conducting a number of feasibility

studies in Bangladesh.

During the meeting, the foreign minister said, both sides discussed greater potential in Bangladesh and natures of investment that would result in a 'win-win' situation. Other sectors the two sides discussed were hotels, human resources development and healthcare. especially world-class hospitals.

Morshed quoted the Indian business tycoon as saying, "There is a tremendous potential for Bangladesh to multiply its export income and employment genera-

The Group has also expressed interest to expand scientific education in the social sectors of Bangladesh, meeting sources said. ALL SUPPORT ASSURED

Industries Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami yesterday assured the Tata Group of all government support to implement its \$2 billion investment plan when the Tata Group chairman made a courtesy call on him at his He. however, cautioned that the

Indian giant will not get any 'undue' facility, which could harm local Talking to newspersons after the

meeting, the minister said, "We welcome Tata's investment in Bangladesh. But the government will put national interests before everything in dealing with Tata." The Tata Group will have to

comply with all rules and regulation of the land for setting up industries in Bangladesh, he said. "Bangladesh needs foreign

direct investment to generate employment and reduce poverty. But we must protect our local industries, too," he noted.a

Drive FROM PAGE 12

October 6 ordered all owners of rickshaws without any valid papers to withdraw their non-motorised vehicles from the city streets within October 12 After the deadline was over, the

traffic division of DMP in collaboration with Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) appointed eight teams, each led by a traffic sergeant, in the city streets to seize illegal rickshaws The traffic division of DMP has

taken the step, as it did last year, to keep the city's traffic jam situation in control and reduce suffering of people especially during the upcoming Ramadan, as they consider the non-motorised vehicles responsible for major traffic congestion. The number of unauthorised

rickshaws using fake numberplates of the DCC is notably increasing in the city causing traffic congestion, according to DMP officials.

lakh rickshaws ply the capital using fake numberplates and DCC documents while at least 50,000 more illegal rickshaws hit the city streets every year, according to sources.

Sangram Parishad convenor Shukur Ahmed said they will observe a dawn-to-dusk strike tomorrow (October 16) protesting the seizing of illegal rickshaws without providing alternative employment which, they said, the government cannot do.

the renewal date of rickshaw licence

including vegetables, he admitted that the market would take time to cool down as recent floods and rain heavily damaged crops.

tolerable level before Ramadan," he

Musharraf

forward a nascent peace process

Reuters before the passage of the bill that Musharraf had vet to decide whether he would remain in uniform but circumstances had changed since he announced his plan to guit

decide'," he said Thursday. "When he said in the past -- it

was a year back -- things have changed a lot since then. The environments have changed, so hence approved companies, he boasted he needs to review his decision this way or that way, whatever it is."

Moudud, his deputy

The Supreme Court has asked the government to separate the judiciary from the executive, but the government has the deadline extended 18 times since 1999. The government petition for a 19th extension will be heard on November 9.

The roundtable on "Good Governance and Judiciary" was organised by the law ministry to celebrate the BNP-led alliance government's three years in office and to project the successes of the ministry since its accession to office.

A number of opposition politicians, who took part in the discussion, bitterly criticised the government for what they said was the killing of people by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on the pretext of 'crossfire' and without trial, denving them the chance to defend them-"How can we say the rule of law

exists in the country when people are being killed in custody and unfortunately, both the prime minister and home minister have welcomed such operations." said Rashed Khan Menon, president of the Workers' Party of Bangladesh.

Menon also slated the government for giving impunity to the joint forces after the custodial death of 48 people during the Operation Clean Heart anticrime drive. "Now we are witnessing politicisation in the appointment of High Court judges," he lamented.

On the criticism of the Rab activities, Moudud said, "We did not form the force through any new law and it has been formed under the law relating to the Armed Police Battalion. Without admitting to allegations

of custodial deaths, the law minister observed that custodial killing is not acceptable to any government. Such killings cannot be licensed, as the government is the custodian of the citizens On killings in crossfire, Shahjahan Omar said human rights

countries criminals are killed after Responding to some discussants' views on people's lack of

are not for criminals. "In many

confidence in the judiciary, he said it might be true that public trust in the iudiciary has decreased, but it does not mean that people have no

confidence in the judicial system. "It is not true that our judicial system has been destroyed. (But) I want to make it clear that our judiciary is absolutely independent,

said the law minister Jatiya Party (Ershad) lawmaker GM Quader criticised the speedy trial procedure, saying people are being deprived of justice as in many cases investigators do not ge enough time to enquire into the cases with the Speedy Trial

Moudud however termed the system a great success of the government, as a number of sensational cases have been disposed of through the tribunals. He claimed no-one has been 'politically harassed in the speedy trial proce-

Quader demanded scrapping of the Article 70 of the constitution, which bars a lawmaker from voting against his party. Accountability of a government cannot be ensured in parliament because of these sorts of oopholes, he added.

Shahjahan Omar sharply reacted to Quader's view and said scrapping of the Article 70 would create rooms for purchase of lawmakers. "If it is done, the lawmakers will take bribe from the opponents and cast vote against their own

Barrister Mainul Husein presented the keynote paper. Attorney General AF Hassan Ariff, Barrister Rafigue ul Hag and Hagun-al-Rashid MP, among others, took part in the discussion held at the Old High Court Bhaban.

Rejoinder FROM PAGE 12

A nine-member committee of the

report soon to be submitted to the prime minister has recommended a deadline for the PUB to improve its performance. The high-powered committee had been formed to evaluate performance of the coun-

The BIWTC authorities

Wednesday night postponed a

University Grants Commission in a

₋ow may bring

and is likely to move in the northnortheasterly direction," a met official said yesterday evening.

Weatherpersons forecast heavy rain with gusty wind in most of the areas of Chittagong and Barisal divisions and medium rain in Dhaka, Khulna and Rajshahi. The met office recorded 12mm rainfall in Dhaka

Our Barisal correspondent reports waterlogging and huge traffic congestion in the city streets due to a downpour yesterday hampered vehicular movement and work at Durga Puja mandops for scheduled voyage of MV Alauddin on Barisal-Chittagong-Barisal route. The authorities said the BIWTC vessel will not ply until the weather improves Barisal and Patuakhali port authorities have also stopped plying

feet in length on the same route Special forces have been deployed to maintain the order. Reports from the Kalapara and Patharghata coastal belts said sea

of passenger vessels less than 65

was rough and 7 to 8-foot-high waves were hitting the coast

Govt to downsize

and Baichhari under Banderban, a police official said.

The home ministry is trying to relocate policemen from the CHT to other areas as a big security force is deployed to ensure peace in the hill

A senior official in the CHT said, " nitially we got a proposal to send back most of the policemen but we agreed to spare only 800 because we need the rest to guard the villages of Bangalee settlers and maintain legal procedures relating to arrest of terrorists and other criminals or recovery of dead bodies after an incident."

He explained, "If army personnel nab terrorists or other troublemakers, law requires them to hand over the elements to police."

Meanwhile, State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar yesterday visited Khagrachhari and also went to some police camps in the

The local authorities apprised him of the necessity of keeping a certain number of policemen in the district The CHT saw an end to two

decades of insurgency with the signing of a peace accord between indigenous rebels known as Shantibahini and the then Awami League government in December

Ramadan

FROM PAGE 1

State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan will preside over the meeting, said an Islamic Foundation press release

Anyone who will see the Ramadan moon anywhere in Bangladesh has been requested to nform the Islamic Foundation through telephone numbers: 9559493, 9556407, 9555951, 9558337, 9559643 and 9555947.

Kerry wins third

Fourteen percent called it a tie in the poll, which had a 4.5 percentage point margin of error.

voters, 39 percent said Kerry won, 25 percent Bush and 36 percent called it a tie. The margin of error was seven percentage points. Not surprisingly, Kerry's team

declared their man the victor. "We're 3-0, its a sweep," Kerry strategist Tad Devine said.

But Bush's team also pressed a ictory claim.

"It was a decisive victory for the president on style, substance and humor," said Bush's campaign

Meanwhile. Democratic challenger John Kerry yesterday plans to start cashing in on what aides claimed as a clear win in his last debate with President George W. Bush, hitting the campaign trail in Las Vegas.

90 minutes with Bush on the economv. healthcare, national security

Bush was also due in the city yesterday, and the rivals are likely to spend the next two-and-a-half weeks before the November election shadowing one another around 7 to 10 key states still seen as up for

Kerry was due to give a speech to senior citizens Thursday morning, before leaving the balmy southwest to head north to lowa, another marginal state analysts believe he must win to claim the White House.

The Massachusetts senator who roared back into the race with a strong performance in the three faceoffs with Bush, was then due to swap his 757 campaign plane for a

He will chug through up for grabs Wisconsin on Friday and launch a similar tour through Ohio on Saturday Face to face Wednesday for the

last time before the November 2 election, Bush charged Kerry was weak on terrorism: favored higher taxes and government-run health care: and guipped the senator sat on "the far-left bank" of US politics.

away because of his focus on Iraq; abandoned the US middle class in favor of cutting taxes on the richest Americans; and short-changed efforts to secure US borders.

Oh's Hyde Park Gate home in

Expect to see and hear Creative Technology everywhere as it embarks on a worldwide marketing campaign to snatch dominance of

A recent spate of TV and newspaper advertisements, he said, was

Said Mr Sim: ""We have learnt a

on marketing. We didn't shout about

per cent then. slowed down its marketing efforts when the dot.com bubble burst in

ments by celebrities like singer These represent a significant

for the PC, based on a Jurong East headquarters.

The Zen Micro will compete directly with Apple's iPod Mini

Touted as the ""iPod Mini killer",

the Zen Micro was developed by engineers and designers whose mission brief was to ""beat Apple on all fronts". To do this, the Zen Micro will come in 10 colours - the iPod Mini

has five - and will include features

missing in Apple's product, such as

built-in FM radio and voicerecording capabilities Price will also be a factor. The Micro, which has a capacity of 5 gigabytes (GB), will sell for \$499, compared with the 4GB iPod Mini's

One reason for Creative's big

price tag of \$458.

push in the digital music player market is Mr Sim's vision of it: He says it is exploding, and predicts that it is potentially bigger than the cellphone market. "Everyone can own three MP3 devices in different colours, or of

memory or hard disk-based. You can also upgrade your player, just like your cellphone.' Mr Sim is equally upbeat about

particularly with the big push by Microsoft to transform computers into entertainment centres for the

his speaker product line.

Blaster products, the company will continue to roll them out, including a PC card version that plugs into notebook computers to provide high quality surround sound. A new Sound Blaster sound card

As for Creative's flagship Sound international routes before imple-

official said, adding, if fares for both newly-developed audio microdomestic and international flights processor, is also likely to be are not increased, Biman will face launched next year. Tk 200 crore loss a year.

Mahmood said the Indian con-

The Tata Group will conduct a

bility study to discuss all the issues

in the final days of its tenure passed the Vested Property Return Act 2001 to hand vested property back to real owners, but the ruling BNPled coalition has apparently moved away from anti-encroachment steps

in line with the law.

commissioners custodians of the property until it is returned to real owners, in a legal change that many said delayed the handover of lands. The land ministry informed its parliamentary standing committee that it directed the district administrations and divisional commissioners to initiate steps to retrieve public lands from grabbers. It also sug-

The coalition government

amending the law made deputy

The laws will be amended to retrieve grabbed lands, waterbodies and canals, sources quoted partici-

the ministry.

Sylhet and Barisal did not report to

The parliamentary body also discussed waterlogging in Dhaka city and formed a sub-committee to recover canals, public lands, vested property and waterbodies from

The water flow is normal in 14 canals of 35, while others have lost their natural flow, the ministry said in its report. "It is urgent to retrieve the canals from encroachers to save the

city from disaster," the report says. "We have to save the city from waterlogging," Mahbubur Rahman, the committee chairman, told

Ex-IG prisons keeps

informal press briefing at his office

alleged. Enraged at his comments, many senior officials of the country's 66 jails told The Daily Star that Zillur started screaming about prison

"Being the top man at the Jail Directorate he must shoulder the responsibility for corruption and mismanagement, if there is any," said a district jailer yesterday, pre-

ferring anonymity

punishment of two deputy IGs for corruption, but they only carried out his orders, he pointed out.

The then IG has recommended

ment over appointment of another no-departmental officer as new IG. The practice of appointing army officers to the post began in 1977 which goes against the jail code. However, Zillur was all praises

for his own stint at the prison helm.

The authorities recommended

punitive action against three DIGs

and awarded punishment to 1.500

pers on Sunday.

food and treatment," claimed Zillur and added that there is no such precedent in other administrations. He then went on to contradict his previous claims, though, saving authorities have been struggling to

contain corruption and irregularities.

Zillur even admitted that inmates

suffered miserably as most of the

funds for foods and medicine were

gobbled up in the last five years and

that the government had to chip in

with crores of taka in compensation

shown to be even twice the original price. A group of jail officers and employees in collusion with suppliers siphoned off hefty amounts of money over the years by purchasing each of 106 food items at four to five

He also touched on the bribery aspects at jails. A prisoner or detainee has to offer kickbacks at several stages once he or she enters jail and Tk 3,000-4,000 can ensure a day's comfort at jail hospi-

times the original price

minister and chief justice expressed satisfaction with the prison management after a visit to Dhaka Central Jail on June 3. Again, it was Zillur who fended off anomalies in ration purchase telling The Daily Star, "I cut down the representation of prison staff in the

Administration on our medicine purchase committee to ensure quality and transparency in medicine supply.' "No authorities, district magis-

any such comments (on irregularities and corruption) in last two years," read an August 18 statement sent to The Daily Star by Additional IG Sirajul Karim on behalf of the The administration now saves 20 percent public money on medicine

purchase from government-

But sources said the directorate

bought medicines from lesser known companies, which offered 60-80 percent commissions to iail biawias.

There are, however, about

He also demanded declaring of

"Prices will come down to a

with rival India Military spokesman Major General-Shaukat Sultan told

powers to sack parliament and dismiss the government.

The traffic department in a notice on

It is estimated that about three

80,000 registered rickshaws in the capital, according to Wheel Tax Department of the DCC. Meanwhile, Rickshaw Van

Altaf asks

could undermine his authority in pressing home the war against terror in Pakistan and in pushing

the armv. "President Musharraf has given his position many times in the media and he says 'let the time and I will

Under a deal last year with the Muttahida Mailis-e-Amal Islamic opposition alliance. Musharraf pledged to stand down as army chief in return for their support for controversial constitutional changes that gave him sweeping

In CBS's poll of uncommitted

communications director Nicolle Devenish.

Kerry checked into the gamblers paradise late Wednesday night after making the short hop from Tempe, Arizona, where he slugged it out for

grabs.

bus on Friday and Saturday.

Kerry countered that the president had let Osama bin Laden slip

directed the law enforcers to seize faulty motor vehicles and unauthorised rickshaws jamming roads in the

"Remove faulty motor vehicles and unauthorised rickshaws and take legal actions against those concerned." State Minister for

meeting held at the ministry. He also stressed integrated

ANN/ THE STRAITS TIMES Mr Haikel released a statement through his lawyer, Mr Samuel TWO local celebrities -- rapper-Seow, yesterday. It said: ""I was at actor Sheikh Haikel and Channel NewsAsia (CNA) presenter Cheryl

negative.

Mr Haikel and Ms Fox are the latest high-profile personalities involved in last week's bust, in which 23 people were arrested.

Soin; Nigel Bruce Simmonds, the editor of high-society magazine Singapore Tatler; and French chef Francois Fabien Mermilliod.

airlfriend.

One person, lazuddin, was electrocuted and another, Shariful Islam, drowned on Wednesday in the flooded Manda area. District administration sources

> FROM PAGE 12 support as it is trying to come to power with foreign assistance. Khaleda did not mention either the country or the party. Rejecting the prime minister's comment, Hasina urged Khaleda to

> > release

lakh flood-hit people.

Hasina

crisis," Hasina said. "The government is staging a farce in the name of probing the 21 August grenade attack on our rally," she alleged. Resignation of the government and announcement of fresh polls

are the only way to overcome the

present crisis, she said

Biman may

and international routes.

menting the fare rise.

FROM PAGE 12

refrain from making such 'irrespon-

sible' comments, said a press

dent comment will create diplomatic

... the prime minister's impru-

Aziz Ahmed Chowdhury and Abdur Rahman, acting president and general secretary of Feni district unit AL. led the delegation.

increasing fares both on domestic

Biman's 14-member fleet con-

sumes about 10,000 tonnes of jet

Biman has not yet implemented

the domestic fare rise of Tk 100

announced last month. Biman may

make the rise effective soon, the

fuel that cost the national carrier Tk 23 crore a month. Foreign airlines also take about 12,000 tonnes jet fuel a month from Padma Oil. A Biman official said the national carrier may withdraw the existing five percent fuel surcharge on

gested they take action in line with the recommendations of the high-

Grabbers gobble

powered secretary committee. All districts in Chittagong and Raishahi divisions moved to work.

on Saturday. There is no-one to check the crime as corrupt officials, employees and guards make regular payment to some top jail officials, he

corruption only after he was transferred on grounds of massive corruption.

"Why did he hide all the jail corruption and irregularities and disclosed those only after his transfer?" the district jailer asked. Many jail staff, meanwhile, welcomed Zillur's removal from the directorate but expressed resent-

iail staff including guards over the last two years to stop the corruption and mismanagement, he was quoted as saying by some newspa-"Transparency has been restored in the iail administration and corruption is now under control The inmates are getting quite good pants of the standing committee meeting as saving. WATER LOGGING

The prices of medicines are

Interestingly, when the same allegations were made against top Jail Directorate officials in a report of The Daily Star on August 14, his office was quick to refute them. It had then claimed that six ministers and eight secretaries led by the law

food purchase committee and coopted a civil surgeon, a social welfare officer and a representative of the district magistrate in order to reduce malpractice." "There is an officer from the Drug

trate, judge and government and non-government inspectors made

A senior jail officer said the then IG himself had given the final approval to the rates put forward by the tender committees of all the jails.