The Baily Star

COMMITTEE REPORT Pvt university students agitate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of several private universities yesterday staged demonstrations in the wake of the highpowered evaluation committee's report recommending closure of eight of the 52 private universities in the country, and stringent measures against many more.

Agitating students of Ahsanullah University in the capital demanded removal of Vice-chancellor Mosharraf Hossain Khan, branding him 'inefficient'.

The demonstrators said they were disappointed that their university, established in 1995, was not found on the list of 'top performing ones' mentioned in media reports. This will adversely affect their prospect in job market, they added. "Our resentment is mounting as

we have long been suffering from acute shortage of essential facilities. The university authorities have failed to provide a campus worth the name, adequate laboratory facilities and residential accommodation," said a student seeking anonymity.

On the students' demonstration. Registrar of the university Ali Ahmed "The committee Mandal said. report has naturally worried students, teachers and guardians over the fate of the institution.

attempts on their lives and

blamed it on the prime minister

and home minister. They

demanded a proper explanation

member of the National Executive

Committee and Central Co-

Ordinator of Gono Ishtehar Firoz

M Hassan, former whip Abdur

Rouf, Executive Convenor of

Jubo Dhara ATM Kamal, B

Chowdhury's bodyguard Mojibor

Rahman and Gono Forum leaders

Abdul Mannan Niazi and Wajed

programme, the Jativatabadi

Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Jubo Dal

cadres attacked the gathering at

about 2:30pm, witnesses told The

already taken seats at the hall,

began shouting 'catch', 'catch'

and threw rotten eggs, sandals

and shoes at the leaders on the

dais. People began running for

cover, as the intruders swooped

on them with sticks and iron rods,

Some JCD activists, who had

Barely five minutes into the

The seriously injured include

from the government.

Ali Khan Parvez.

Daily Star.

BNP men foil Dr Kamal

attack

nesses added.

came to their rescue

Our Comilla correspondent reported that about 500 students of

Comilla University gathered on the campus in the morning, ransacked the university office room and locked the main gate. The university has been one of the eight the evaluation committee recommended shutting

down. The students alleged the university does not have full-time permanent teachers and its own building and suffers from shortage of classrooms and residential accommoda-

They demanded that the university authorities should explain the fate of the institution. In Dhaka, students of Queens University staged a demonstration

expressing their utter frustration that the evaluation report has recommended its closure. In a joint statement, Chairperson

the university Dr Hamida Banu Shova and Vice-chancellor Dr ATM Zahurul Huque expressed their surprise at the recommendation for closure of the institution, established in 1996. This has caused damage to the image of the university, they said.

Students of America Bangladesh University also demonstrated on the campus to give vent to their frustration that the evaluation report suggested its closure

Witnesses said some 50 JCD

and Jubo Dal activists with fire-

arms, sticks and iron rods went to

the town hall in groups at least

half an hour before the start of the

enforcers and said no policemen

of the alliance government, which

with people from all walks of life

here to draft a guideline for the

will make a big mistake if they

think they would be in office for

government," said Dr Kamal.

"No-one is safe under the rule

why we organised the dialogue

'They (alliance government)

Mobile courts in dilemma on lack of co-ordination STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The mobile courts formed ahead of Durga Puja and Ramadan to provide instant punishment to lawbreakers are facing problems due to lack of co-ordination among the officials of different government agencies engaged in the courts.

The magistrates who head each of the 22 mobile courts at a meeting yesterday alleged they are not getting support from Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) in taking action against faulty vehicles running in Dhaka city.

State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar chaired the meeting held at his ministry. The magistrates and high government officials involved in the mobile courts attended the meeting, which discussed various problems facing the courts.

The magistrates alleged they could not conduct the courts' activities smoothly due to lack of transports. Besides, the sanitary officers of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) are not assisting the courts, meeting sources said

The state minister told the meeting that the law-breakers must be given stringent punishment, preferably imprisonment, to make the courts more effective. Each of the mobile courts com-

prises 16 officials from the BRTA Sanitation Department of DCC and Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI).

The courts yesterday filed a total of 191 cases against people on various charges and fined them Tk 2.33 lakh during their operations in

the capital. A court fined a man of Bhatara Bazar in Badda Tk 16,000 for preparing and selling adulterated bread and biscuits. Another court sentenced a butcher 15 days in jail for selling rotten beef, meeting sources

programme. Rangpur district JCD President Tajul Islam Lemon, 70 wounded General Secretary Naju and JCD leaders Masud Kabir Bakshi and FROM PAGE 1

Mahmud Parvez allegedly led the After foiling the dialogue programme, the attackers converged on a nearby field and cheered at their 'success', wit-At an impromptu press briefing

at local circuit house at 3:00pm, police also attacked and wounded Kamal and B Chowdhury at least three assistant proctors. deplored the inaction of the law

in Rajshahi city. Of them, condition of Jewel, Rashed, Anwar of JCD and Mukter, Fakhrul, Saiful and serious.

Local MP Sohrab Uddin rushed to the campus at 7:00pm and met the leaders of the rival student bodies in a bid to resolve the dis-

Verdict in Jail Killing Case today 6 Iraqis, American

FROM PAGE 1

The killings that were widely held as a desperate bid for power by some usurpers, came 79 days after the assassinations of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family on August 15, 1975.

First scheduled to be passed on September 7, the judgment was shifted to September 21 due to illness of the Judge Motiur Rahman Additional Sessions Judge Mohammad Sirajul Islam set the fresh date. But on September 21, the court put off the verdict to entertain petitions by a defence lawyer.

The court held hearing of two fresh petitions submitted ostensibly in a last-ditch effort to get bail of accused Taheruddin Thakur. In favour of one of the petitions, the court asked key witness and second investigation officer Saifuddin Ahmed to appear before it on September 29 for deposition.

But the 84-year-old Saifuddin could not appear before court on September 29 due to illness. The court issued an arrest warrant for the former police officer's arrest. It also formed a three-member commission to check whether he is fit for giving deposition.

The commission comprised of Public Prosecutor Abdullah Mahmood Hassan, Taheruddin's counsel Sharfuddin Khan Mukul and Officer-in-Charge of Sutrapur Police Station Awlad Hossain, on October 9, submitted a report stating that Saifuddin is unfit for deposition. The same day court accepted the report and dropped Saifuddin's name from the list of witness and fixed today for pronouncement of iudament.

About 400 undercover and

regular policemen will be on high alert. Besides the court building, they will guard the local high-rises and roads to Dhaka Central Jail.

NEWS

The area has been declared off limits to the general public and traffic has been barred on Jail Mazar, Chak Bazar Crossing and the western and eastern sides of the Jai

Road since midnight last night. Members of the special and detective branches, equipped with video cameras, will keep the area under constant surveillance to avert troubles

Of the 23 accused, three are in custody, five out on bail while 12 have been evading arrest and three died.

Eleven convicts in the Bangabandhu Murder Case are among the accused.

In the first information report (FIR) filed with Lalbagh Police Station on November 4, 1975, Kazi Abdul Awal, deputy inspector general (prisons), accused Captain Moslemuddin and four other army officers of the killings.

"One army officer in khaki fatiques identified himself as captain Muslemuddin attached to Bangabhaban. He, accompanied by four army personnel in the same uniform, entered the jail at about 4:00am on November 3, 1975, Armed with stengun and SLR (selfloading rifle), they killed four prisoners." the FIR reads.

The then officer-in-charge (OC) of Lalbagh Police Station ABM Fazlul Karim was tasked with the investigation. But the infamous Indemnity Ordinance blocked the investigation and trial for about 21 years until officers of the Crimina Investigation Department (CID)

AL finally joins JS bodies

He said people did not know how the ministers and the ruling party leaders were making money through corruption. "How they (people) could know about corruption in the ministries if we do not discuss it in the standing committee

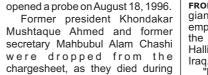
parliamentary standing committee on law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry.

AL lawmakers also attended the meetings of the standing committees on the ministries of establishment and jute and textiles held at the

Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. The standing committee on law ministry yesterday started scrutinising the bill placed in parliament proposing a system of election to the reserved seats for women in the Jativa Sangsad. The AL lawmaker at the meeting rejected the proposed bill terming it a document of sharing seats, which is contrary to

basic constitutional principle. "We will give a note of dissent against the bill when it will be finalised and prepared for submission before the House," Suranjit told reporters after the meeting.

The AL lawmaker demanded the government refrain from passing



the probe. The court framed charges against Obaidur and 20 others on October 12, 2000 and began trial on April 12, 2001. The trial was completed in 282 workdays.

Six judges who sat the case are Golam Rasul, Sheikh Rezwan Ali, AK Roy, Ahmed Jamil Mostafa, Molla Mostafa Kamal and Motiur

Of the accused, Obaidur, Nurul Islam, Shah Moazzem Hossain, Taheruddin and retired army major Khairuzzaman got bail soon after the present government took office The government also reassigned Khairuzzaman to a foreign ministry job last year. Faruk Rahman, Sultan Shahriar Rashid and Bazlul Huda, who were convicted in Bangabandhu Murder Case, are now behind bars.

The accused on the run include retired resalder Moslehuddin. It col (dismissed) Khondaker Abdur Rashid, It col (relieved) Shariful Hag Dalim, It col (Retired) SHMB Noor Chowdhury, maj (retired) AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed, It col (retired) AM Rashed Chowdhury, major (relieved) Ahmed Shariful Hossain, capt (retired) Abdul Majed, captain (relieved) Kismat Hasem, captain (relieved) Nazmul Hossain, dafadar (dismissed) Marfat Ali Shah and dafadar (dismissed) Abdul Hasem. Lt col (relieved) Abdul Aziz

Pasha is believed to be dead.

FROM PAGE 12 giant Halliburton, confirmed its employee was killed, bringing to 54

BSS, Dhaka

private sector.

said

tion.

Industry

ministry

day afternoon.

the number of deaths suffered by Halliburton and its subcontractors in

"KBR regrets to confirm the death of one employee who was killed today as a result of injuries sustained during a mortar attack near Baghdad," it said in a statement.

In Samarra two Iragis were killed in fighting between US troops and insurgents as the Americans carried out sweeps around the northern town of Duluiya, considered a hotbed of Islamic extremism, medical sources said

A US military spokesman said

Communications Minister Nazmul

Huda yesterday said the govern-

ment is planning to hand over the responsibility of issuing technical

fitness certificates of vehicles to the

The minister said this while

speaking at a discussion titled

Safety is the Life" at the Jativa Press

He said lack of awareness and

negligence of the law enforcers to

strictly execute the traffic laws are the

main reasons for road accidents.

Besides, fake fitness certificates

issued by some unscrupulous

employees of Bangladesh Road

reason for road accidents, he added

Ilyas Kanchon, Film Producer

Monjur Hossain and BRTA officials

among others, spoke at the func-

won't stop gas

to urea plants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The industries ministry would not

entertain the energy and mineral

resources ministry's request for

stopping and, in some cases, reduc-

ing gas supply to the urea fertiliser factories across the country.

tion in the fertiliser factories as

requested by the energy ministry",

Motiur Rahman Nizami, the industry

minister, told The Daily Star yester-

interest, it is not possible to honour

scarcity of gas, the energy ministry

the energy ministry's request.

He said that considering national

"It's not new, whenever there is a

"We're not going to stop produc-

Club in the capital, an official handout

pipeline north of a refinery in the town of Baiji early Tuesday, US Pvt firms may military spokesman Robert Powell said, adding: "The oil pipeline was get vehicle shut down until the fire is put out and repairs have been made. Asked about the possible fitness cause of the blast, he said: "I'm sure they are looking in the possicertificate job

DHAKA WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 20, 2004

bility of an IED (improvised explosive device). Earlier the British-born head of CARE International's Iraq operations. Margaret Hassan, was kidnapped in Iraq early Tuesday, the aid organization said in London.

soldiers had been sealing off neigh-

borhoods and conducting searches

for several days and had carried out

"Two Iragi corpses and six

wounded were brought here," said

Doctor Mohamed Jaafar Moahmed

at the general hospital in neighbor-

At least 12 people had been

Meanwhile, an oil pipeline in an

Soldiers discovered a fire on a

arrested by the Americans in the

sweeps, said local council member

area north of the capital was ablaze

on Tuesday, the US military said,

suggesting it may have been

attacked by saboteurs.

ing Balad.

Talal Kahtan

detentions in the town. 75 kilome-

ters (40 miles) north of Baghdad.

Hassan, who is married to an Iraqi and is a naturalized Iraqi citizen, has worked for CARF in Iraq since 1992 and has lived for more than 30 years in the country, a CARE spokeswoman told AFP.

3 killed in Ctg road crash

Transport Authority (BRTA) are also a BSS, Chittagong Film Actor and Convenor of "Nirapad Sarak Chai Movement"

Three people were killed and 22 others injured, 10 of them seriously, n a bus-truck collision on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Sona Pahar area of Mirersarai upazila yester-

Police and witnesses said a Dhaka bound truck of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) and a Chittagong bound passenger bus from Bhairab collided head on at about 2:50pm, killing a bus passenger on the spot and injuring 12 others.

Two of the injured aged between 30 and 40 were declared dead on arrival at Mastan Nagar Health Complex, while others brought to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. The identity of the dead could not be known.

Police seized both the vehicles

'Myanmar PM sacked. arrested for corruption'

reformist of the military regime's

leaders -- has been sacked and

placed under house arrest for

alleged corruption, a Thai govern-

learned through diplomatic chan-

nels from the Thai ambassador in

Yangon that the Myanmar prime

minister Khin Nyunt was dismissed

and detained under house arrest on

corruption allegations," said Thai

government spokesman Jakrapob

night after the premier returned to

the capital Yangon from a visit to the

central town of Mandalay and the

isolated junta closed its border

Khatunganj and adjoining Chaktai and

Asadganj. The strike also hampered

sales of ginger, garlic and some other

resented Rab's intervention into their

rightful and honest' business. They

demanded the government should

ensure their safety and dignity

Otherwise they would go for tougher

raided different shops at the city's

traditional wholesale markets of

essential commodities at Khatungani

Chaktai and Asadganj. They com-

pelled the dealers to sell off stocked

onion at Tk 15 per kg, ginger and green

The drive created mixed reaction

The dealers complained that it was

the importers who should be blamed

for the price hike. Forcing a few whole-

salers to sell essential items at a usual

price would bring no good, they

observed. It rather might have an

adverse impact on the market situa-

tion as the dealers, who suffered loss

due to the forced sell at a lower price.

might charge much higher in absence

General consumers, however,

were upbeat that the market would

mprove if the Rab continues the drive

outting a check on the prices of essen

they continued anti-price-hike drives

at different areas of the port city for the

second day yesterday. But, they

refrained from disclosing the names of

the market situation under control

and Rab would go tough against

those who would try to fan an agita-

The drive would continue to keep

Meanwhile Rab sources said that

of the law enforcers, they said.

tial commodities.

tion, they said.

the places being raided.

pepper each at Tk 40 per kg.

among consumers and sellers.

On Monday, Chittagong Rab

agitation programme, they said.

The agitating onion dealers

items sold by the same dealers.

Khatunganj

The move took place on Monday

"The Thai government has

ment spokesman said yesterday.

-- among the most

AFP, Bangkok makes such requests. But we never

Penkair

checkpoints.

FROM PAGE 1

honoured those," he added. Myanmar's prime minister General Earlier on Sunday, energy and Khin Nvunt

At about 5:00pm, the JCD activists

damaged coaching centres of Shibir outside the campus and attacked their messes, leaving about 50 injured. They also stopped buses on the Khulna-Kushtia highway and assaulted some passengers. Shibir activists surrounded by

The injured were admitted to the

university medical centre and clinics Nasim of Shibir was stated to be

FROM PAGE 1 know everything through the media," Opposition Deputy Leader Abdul Hamid told The Daily Star yesterday.

meetings?"

Emerging from a meeting, AL Presidium Member Suranjit Sengupta told reporters that they would not give walkover to the ruling party anymore. "We will try to ensure transparency in the ministries' activities and their accountability.'

"We will demand reconstitution of dozens of parliamentary probe bodies formed to investigate irregularities in different ministries." said Suraniit who joined a meeting of the

Rahman.

the bill as two writ petitions are

pending in the High Court challenging the constitutional amendment by which 45 reserved seats for women in parliament has been introduced. Committee Chairman Khandakar Mahbub Uddin Ahmed told reporters they have just started scrutinising the bill and it would need a long time to finalise it. The committee will sit again today at

10:00 am to discuss the bill. AL lawmaker KM Jahangii Hossain, who joined a meeting of the standing committee on establishment ministry, accused the government of politicising the administration. He demanded stopping recruitment of 60,000 employees in various ministries.

A total of five standing committees on different ministries will sit todav

Robbers loot FROM PAGE 1

said withesses Dr Kamal, B Chowdhury,

Mannan and some other leaders, however, refused to leave the dais. A stick and a rotten egg were hurled on B Chowdhury. BDB and Oikya Mancha adherents shielded their leaders and moved them to safety.

Panic that followed the attack gripped the Durga Puja shoppers in the town as well. They also ran to safety as the participants were flushed out of the town hall.

1 killed in bomb blast, another beaten dead in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

One person was killed and another injured when two bombs blasted in front of a ruling BNP lawmaker's house in Chuadanga, while in Kushtia an angry mob beat a gang member to death on Monday night.

According to Chuadanga police criminals threw two powerful bombs on a rickshaw as it reached the Girls' College road residence of ruling BNP lawmaker Sahidul Islam at about 10pm.

Rickshaw-puller Sahadat Hossain Mantu. 20. son of Tofazzel Hossain of Gorgari village, died on the spot. The passenger Happy, 25 wounded critically, was taken to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital and later moved to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Dhaka, as his condition deteriorated.

Police could not unearth clues behind the bomb blasts.

In Kushtia, an angry mob caught hold of an abductor and beat him to death in Daulatkhali village of Daulatpur upazila.

Police said villagers cornered Sahidul Islam Sodu, 35, of the village when he was loitering in Daulatkhali bazaar area at about 9pm. Sodu was a known criminal of the area and involved with an abduction incident.

Led by Daulatpur Union Parishad chairman and local leader of ruling BNP the locals beat Sodu dead, sources said

Police rushed to the spot but failed to rescue the criminal from the mob's grip.

Earlier, on October 13, another abductor Rezaul Islam was killed in mob beating in the same area Police sent the body of Sodu to

Kushtia General Hospital

ever. Time will come when people

will punish them," he noted. president, said the JCD and Jubo Dal activists have, in fact, attacked democracy by foiling the mass dialogue programme.

the hands of the alliance government. We must save it taking people on our side. And that is why, we will keep on holding mass dialogue in the 64 districts." he said.

Earlier on Monday, the first in the proposed series of mass dialogues was held in Dinaipur. Prime Minister's Political Secretary M Haris Chowdhury, talking to the BBC Bangla Service last night, denied involvement of the BNP or any of its front organisations with the attack.

"Whenever any untoward had nothing to gain by attacking

B Chowdhury and Dr Kamal flew back to Dhaka by a helicopter

gers and luggage of the passengers were then searched and scanned.

The GMG flight from Dhaka hour behind schedule. Security personnel including

Then the aircraft and passengers

of the Dhaka-bound return flight and their luggage were searched five times before and after they boarded. This created panic among the passengers but no bombs or other

board left Barisal at 1:05 pm and landed in Dhaka safely at 1:35 pm. Law enforcing agencies are

properly

B Chowdhury, also a former

"Democracy is never secure in

incident takes place, all blame it on the government and it is not right," he said, adding the BNP

the meeting. yesterday evening.

Bomb threat FROM PAGE 12

the bomb threat. The aircraft, passen-

arrived here with Barisal City Corporation Mayor Majibur Rahman Sarwar MP among the passengers at about 12:45pm, about half an

police from Babuganj Police Station and officials and personnel of Detective Branch. Special Branch and Rapid Action battalion rushed to the airport and cordoned off the area.

explosives were found. The flight with 20 passengers on

trying to trace the phone caller. Faizul Huq, manager of Barisal

Airport, confirmed the threat and said Barisal Airport has only minimetal detector and no scanning machine to check such kind of threat

Vice-Chancellor Prof Rafiqul Islam separately held meeting with

senior teachers of the university to take necessary measures to face the situation.

Ashraful FROM PAGE 1

Opener Hannan Sarkar was dismissed in the third ball of the innings when he edged Jacob Oram to Stephen Fleming at first slip for a duck while his seasoned colleague Javed Omar, who was 68 shy of 1,000 Test runs, unwittingly tried to dig out a yorker by left-armer James

Franklin but only managed to drag it back on to the stumps. Nafees Iqbal had a forgettable debut. The young right-hander scored only one when he was

deceived by an Oram outswinger and wicketkeeper Brendon McCullum took a simple catch.

The crowd eventually started to find their voice with Ashraful and Rajin's producing a brilliant fightback that took the Tigers to 38-3 by lunch.

Ashraful sent the crowd wild in celebration when he hooked fast bowler lan Butler for six over long-

The Bangladeshi pair rattled 61 runs in the first hour of the second session and Daniel Vettori, whose first six overs were maidens, was cut for a boundary by the young batsman off the first delivery after the break

Ashraful launched a counterattack on every Kiwi bowler playing some glorious cover drives on way to a fifth Test half-century. He reached the landmark in 122 balls with a four and a swept six in offspinner Paul Wiseman's successive deliveries and lofted Wiseman for his third over-boundary before

losing Rajin just before tea. Rajin, who struck five fours and a six off Wiseman in 136 balls, flashed Franklin hard but Oram took a spectacular catch at gully to end the partnership.

Ashraful in his three-hour essay struck eight fours and three sixes before perishing soon after tea when he tried to force Vettori against the spin but was caught at extracover

Bangladesh were reduced to 136-6 losing three wickets in the space of 16 runs as Vettori struck again. The left-arm spinner had Alok Kapali caught behind by McCullum for his second wicket.

FROM PAGE 1

peaceful celebrations of the greatest religious festival of Hindus," said Mosharef Hossain Shajahan, state minister of religious affairs and chair-

man of the Hindu Religious Welfare Trust, at a press briefing yesterday. He also urged all to maintain

communal harmony during the festi-

Goutam Chakraborty, state minister of water resources and also vicepresident of Hindu Religious Welfare Trust, said, "We have already directed Puja committees not to use musical instruments and mike (loudspeakers) during Iftar, Tarabi prayers and Sehri." The government has allocated Tk

30 lakh and 20,000 metric tons of rice as grant for 19,799 Puja Mandaps across the country, he said. He also hailed the Bangladesh

Puia Udiapan Parishad decision to set time schedules for immersion of Durga through processions on October 23 to avoid any untoward incident.

Official sources said as many as 19,799 Puja Mandaps have been put

Court rule raises

Durga Puja begins

FROM PAGE 12 Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain.

The HC issued a ruling on the principal officer of Mercantile Marine Department (POMMD) last month declaring issuance of waiver certificates against foreign feeder vessels despite availability of local vessels at ports 'illegal and without lawful authorty' under Bangladesh Flag Vessel (Protection) Rule 1982, sources mentioned.

The ruling followed a writ petition by HRC group operating around 10 ocean-going ships.

Foreign operators had stopped operation of feeder service from Chittagong in May last year protesting the flag vessel rule in Bangladesh They resumed operation when the shipping ministry committed to amend the rule. The government then decided to suspend the rule for two years and make amendments to it through parliament.

After the HC ruling, Chittagong Feeder Trade Committee (CFTC), the Singapore- based organisation of foreign feeder vessel operators, issued a statement expressing deep concern at the situation.

"Developments in Bangladesh continue to hinder shipping services between Singapore, Malavsia, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh," said CFTC spokesman S C Lim. It now appears

up across the country, 140 of them in the capital. Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad put the number of Puia Mandaps across the country at 17,500 and 139 in Dhaka

At the press briefing, Hindu Religious Welfare Trust Secretary Mangal Chandra Chanda said the number of Puja Mandaps were 17,834 last year, 17,282 in 2002 and 16,181 in 2001

This year Devi Durga came to earth by boat and will return on horse back, according to Hindu calendar.

Different political, social and cultural organisations, meanwhile, vesterday felicitated Hindus on the eve of the festival. They also condemned attacks on the Mandaps and damage to Durga idols across the country.

The organisations include Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Barman and Co Puja Committee, Mahanagar Sarbajaneen Puja Committee and Bangladesh Hindu Youth Welfare

Foundation.

that foreign vessel operators will not

get waiver certificates for shipment if

Bangladesh flag vessels are present

continue our services in and out of

Bangladesh under such constraints

He also resented that the flag

A foreign feeder service operator

He also said the POMMD is still

Some shipping sources pointed

ships. The Department of Shipping

recently seized four local ocean-going

ships without valid reasons, and local

agents of foreign ships had a hand

intervention by government high-ups.

The ships were released following

behind this, the sources alleged.

issuing waiver certificates against their

"It will be extremely difficult for us to

at ports, he added.

particular company.

come into force.

is increasing significantly.

and impediments." he said

vessel rule is yet to be amended.

When the launch reached Maizchar area of Bajitpur at about 9:00pm, the gang swooped on the on-duty ansars and snatched four rifles and 35 bullets from them.

They then looted Tk 5lakh and other valuables from the passengers at gunpoint and fled in a trawler they kept waiting.

Police along with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday raided adjacent villages in a bid to recover the rifles and ammunition, but they could not recover any of the looted guns till evening.

Ahsanullah murder

FROM PAGE 12 from the Gazipur Jail at 10:00am yesterday.

Moving the bail petition, Nurul's lawyer Mohammad Sanaullah Miah claimed as part of a political conspiracy his client was implicated in the murder.

Special Public Prosecutor Latif Talukder and Advocate Mahbub Ahmed opposed the bail move. arguing that 27 prosecution witnesses in their statements to the investigation officer pointed to the involvement of Nurul in the killing of the Awami League leader.

The court also rejected the bail petition of Rakib Uddin Sarker (Pappu), Ayub Ali, Monir, Dulal and Nurul Amin (Amin). Accused Kabir Hossain, who obtained bail from High Court earlier, got bail from the court yesterday.

The court earlier issued a warrant of arrest on Chhatra Samaj leader Nurul Islam Dipu and 17 others, who are absconding since the murder.

claimed the present flag vessel rule should not be enforced in Bangladesh Gunmen opened fire on because it will create monopoly of a Ahsanullah at a rally of Awami Swechchhasebak League, the volunteer front of the AL, at Noagaon near the legislator's vessels because the HC ruling is yet to house in Tongi on May 7. Schoolboy Omar Faruq Ratan was also killed and at least five out foreign feeder vessel operators others were hurt.

have become worried as the share of Ahsanullah's brother Motiur cargo carried by local feeder services Rahman filed a case against 17 with the Tongi Police Station the The CFTC through its local agents next day. is also creating obstacles to the local

The Criminal Investigation Department on July 10 pressed charges against 30 people and accused Jubo Dal leader Nurul of masterminding the assassination. As many as 78 people have

been shown prosecution wit-

mineral resources ministry sent a letter to the industries ministry proposing suspension of gas supply to the Polash Fertiliser Factory and reduction in supply to other fertiliser factories as the demand for gas was set to get higher than the production during the Ramadan.

The industries ministry however called for normal gas supply to the power plants and households during the same period to spare the public from sufferinas.

Sources at the energy ministry said the gas production now in the country is around 100 mmcf (million cubic feet) short. The ministry hopes that in about 20 days, it will sort out the shortage by doing gas extraction in two new fields in Shrikail and Feny.

Planned OMS FROM PAGE 12

Aubergine was selling at Tk 80 to Tk 60 a kg and green chilli at Tk 120 to Tk 100 a kg.

A day after panicky traders released their onion stock at as low as Tk 15 a kg in Chittagong amid interventions by the Rab, the essential item was still selling at Tk 26 a kg at Karwan Bazar in Dhaka. The onion traders who started a

strike in protest against Rab's intervention alleged the Rab members had forced them to sell onion at lower than purchasing price, reports our staff correspondent from Chittagong.

Some Rab members yesterday visited a kitchen market at Doyaganj in Old Dhaka but did not intervene in pricing of vegetables and fishes.

when he held Indian film star

Rajkumar hostage for more than 100 days in 2000, was killed in a

forest in southeastern Tamil Nadu

state, said Special Task Force (STF)

He said police, acting on a tip-off, surrounded Veerappan and three

associates while they were travel-

ling in an ambulance near Dharmapuri in the west of the state

fitted to our jeeps that since he was

surrounded and there was no way

he could escape, he and his associ-

ates should give themselves up,

Kumar said by telephone from

minute and then, there was firing

from the other side. We took cover

and returned the fire, killing

Veerappan and his three associ-

"There was silence for about a

"We announced on the speakers

Veerappan FROM PAGE 12 manhunt in Indian police history. The bandit, who leapt to notoriety

chief K. Vijav Kumar.

late on Monday.

Dharmapuri.

ates.'