# Take care with mobile phones: Health report

No hard evidence exists to show mobile phones damage health but users -- especially children -- should take care, UK scientists said in a survey Tuesday.

Britain's National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB), an independent advisory group, said there have been reports of adverse health effects but some have not yet been independently confirmed and are of variable quality.

"We are still recommending a precautionary approach because there is still no hard evidence that the health of the public in general has been adversely affected by the use of mobile phone technologies," NRPB chairman Sir William Stewart told a news conference.

But Stewart added that he did not think he could put his hand on his heart and say mobile phones are totally safe because the technology is relatively new and is evolving so rapidly it is outstripping the analysis of any potential impact on health.

Some research suggests radio

CPB won't

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

are 'notlike-minded'.

the BNP and AL.

the meeting.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh

(CPB) yesterday decided not to go for

one political platform or one political alliance with the main opposition Awami League (AL) as the two parties

In a day-long meeting at the party's central office with its chief

Manjurul Ahsan Khan in the chair,

CPB central committee also decided

to continue their efforts to establish

an alternative left democratic force

against the rightist politics of both

National council of the CPB will

begin today a two-day meeting where present political situation and role of

will never form any political alliance

on a common platform with the AL. There are basic differences in the policies of two parties," Manjurul Ahsan Khan told The Daily Star after

He, however, said his party will

continue to remain in the ongoing simultaneous movement with other

parties as part of the left leaning 11-

party alliance.
"We will do whatever possible to

advance the movement to resist the

the misrule of the BNP-Jamaat-led

The CPB, unhappy with some recent

happenings including Prime

Minister's Parliamentary Affairs

Secretary Salauddin Qader

Chowdhury's visit to Sudha Sadan

and hartals called by AL's front

organisations, did not join last two

meetings of the opposition parties on January 4 and 5.

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira** 

A fisherman was killed by a Royal

Bengal Tiger in Dargang canal in the

Police quoting the fishermen said

In a notice, the board said, "All

English medium schools have to

register with the board under the

Registration of Private School

(Amended) Act, 1989 and Non-

government School (English

Medium) Registration Regulations,

All concerned have been advised

The ministry took the move in the

to contact the school inspector to

complete the registration process

face of numerous complaints from

guardians against mismanagement

of a number of such schools. There

was absolutely no regulation for these schools, the students of which

sit the 'O' and 'A' level examinations

None of the government bodies

knows the actual number of such

schools offering courses from pre-schooling to 'A' level. They lack a

unified curriculum, teacher recruit-

ment policy and tuition fees, and most

under the University of Cambridge

and the University of London.

through the prescribed form.

a tiger swooped on Santosh and

Tiger kills

fisherman

Sundarbans yesterday.

FROM PAGE 12

eight other fellow fishermen.

dragged him into the deep forest.

English school

registration time, said officials.

alliance government," he said.

It's our previous decision that we

the party will be discussed.

with AL

form alliance

frequency fields could interfere with biological systems but it has not been possible to carry out long-term

The Mobile Operators Association in Britain, which represents operators on health and planning, welcomed the report.

The key point of the NRPB advice is that there is no hard information linking the use of mobile telephony with adverse health effects," said its executive director Mike Dolan in a statement.

CHILDREN MAY BE MORE VULNERABLE

Children might be more vulnerable because their nervous system is still developing, they have a greater absorption of energy in the tissues of the head and they would have a longer lifetime exposure than adults, according to the report.

Stewart recommended children use mobiles phones for as short a time as possible, They should text instead and use a phone with a low SARS value. Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) is the measure of the rate

of Sunamganj in consultation with

local lawmaker Kolimuddin Milon

will arrange distribution of prelimi-

pensation from Niko will be avail-

able by tomorrow and distribution

the Department of Environment will

submit its report on January 16, an

Canadian insurance company

accompanied the Niko expert to the

gas field yesterday. They will prepare

a preliminary report on the extent of

losses caused by the drilling well

explosion and the consequent fire.

10 hurt

first aid at the hospital.

FROM PAGE 12

incident.

22 BDR

training programme.

FROM PAGE 12

Police and BDR have been deployed around the site.

Five other injured, Saidul, 16, Nasir,

10, Hossain, 25, Bishnu, 40, Shukur

Ali and Shanti Begum, 8, were given

Police arrested two persons-

Sagar, 30, of Chakpara and Azizul,

19, of Ganaibarua villages--after the

Khalahati under Parbatipur upazila

of Dinajpur to attend the winter

Dinajpur Medical College Hospital. The commanding officer of Panchagarh Battalion and senior

The injured were admitted to

Two officials from Niko's

The probe committee formed by

will begin the next day.

Gas field

"We have got to be cautious. We can't say there will be no effects," he

Mobile phones have become a \$100 billion a year industry. About 650 million are expected to be sold to consumers this year and over 1.5 billion people around the world use

Third generation, 3G phones, which emit higher rates of radiation than earlier models are now marketed in Britain and elsewhere.

The report also called for the monitoring of base stations, including new 3G stations and Terrestrial Trunked Radio (TETRA), used by

Stewart said studies suggesting mobile phones can cause non malignant brain tumors, cognitive impairment or DNA damage should be not be dismissed but more research is needed.

"The general public, the man in the street, must be able to get information easily and he must be able to

# observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

nary compensation among the listed families in two days. Another list is also being made, said an offi-DC Jafar Siddique told The Daily Star that Niko and Petrobangla officials had discussed the matter and the funds for preliminary com-

> The other demands of the combine led by Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) are ensuring security of teachers and freeing educational

No class was held at the public universities including Dhaka University (DU), Rajshahi University (RU) and Chittagong University (CU), the leaders of the

The alliance brought out processions and held rallies at these uni-

The leaders at a rally chaired by BCL President Liaqut Sikder at the DU blasted the government for not making any move to arrest Prof

BCL General Secretary Nazrul Islam Babu said intellectuals including teachers, journalists and freethinkers have been killed one by one

at the RU where the university unit BCL held a procession, reports our

support of the strike.

Meantime, the CU Teachers' Association in a statement yesterday condemned the death threat to Dr

#### Stocks bounce

points yesterday, from 3227.24 points

BDR officials visited the spot.

Santosh Kumar, 29, son of on the previous day. The CSE-30 Index also increased 98.13 points to Haripada of Jalalpur village in Tala upazila, went to fish in the canal with close at 3188.35 points. In the wake of Tuesday's decline in

> Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) chairman said the suspension of Margin Rules, 1999 has hurt the interest of the small investors. He said the credit extending facility by the brokers to the clients under the Margin Rules creates more liquidity in the market and encourages the small investors. But the withdrawal of the margin facilities has affected the retail inves-

share prices, CSE President

Habibullah Khan in a letter to

tors in general, whose confidence is important for smooth development of the capital market, the CSE chief

He said the change in the regulation did not hurt the institutional investors much as these institutions have sufficient funds. "The institutional investors reap the benefits of the changed regulation as they can

buy stocks at lower prices and sell at higher prices. The CSE president also sought netting settlement facilities which he

believes will increase liquidity in the

4 more Rab FROM PAGE 12 battalions," said a top Rab official. "After the proposal is placed, the

home ministry will decide the next course of action and the process will be completed in a short time, as there is great public

demand for it, " he added. Besides, a proposal for establishing a training school for the Rab members is also under consider-

"As we are getting a lot of requests from every parts of the country for deployment of Rab, we are thinking about forming more Rab battalions, State Minister for Home Luthfozzaman Babar told The Daily

## get it readily," he added. Student strike

Six opposition-backed student organisations yesterday observed a countrywide strike at educational institutions to press home their three-point demand including arrest and punishment of the killers of Rajshahi University (RU) teacher ProfYunus.

institutions from crime.

combine claimed.

versities.

during the BNP-Jamaat rule.

The strike passed off peacefully

The admission test for the 2004-05 academic session was out of the

strike and held peacefully.

Our CU correspondent adds: The CU unit BCL held a rally at Sholoshahar Railway Station in

Kamal Hossain by religious bigots.

#### Raj Punnah FROM PAGE 12

and elsewhere in the country have already arrived at Bandarban to attend the festival. Raj Punnah is an annual function

of the Bomang tribe through which the headmen of the indigenous people, and businessmen deposit taxes they collect from people throughout the year. On the first day of festival, the headmen and businessmen put two

bottles of local wine and a cock in front of the king and seek his blessings. The Bomang people put on display various traditional elements of their

culture and food items, and organise colourful cultural programmes at the folk fair that also attract tourists from home and abroad. Celebration of the festival started

in 1875 during the period of ninth Bomang King Sa Neuin Nu (1875-1901). The festival has been extinct in two other hilly districts -- Rrangamati

Bangladesh Betar's Bandarban centre will broadcast the

# Two criminals

FROM PAGE 12

As Babar's cohorts opened fire to free him from the Rab, Rab members returned fire. Babar fell in the line of fire and died on the spot, Rab sources

The team seized three guns, one LG, 10 bullets of AK-47 rifle and four

cartridges from the area.

Babar was accused in 20 cases including six murders.

In Cox's Bazar, Belal Uddin, 36, son of Neser Hossain of Maizeghona village in Shaharbil, was killed in 'crossfire' between police and his accomplices at Omkhali Char in Chakaria upazila Tuesday night.

Belal was earlier arrested from Chakaria upazila headquarters that day. He was accused in five cases for murders and committing robberies.
Police said they took Belal to Omkhali char to seize his firearms when his accomplices opened fire on them at around 10:00pm. Police returned fire and a bullet hit Belal during the gunfight, leaving him dead on the spot, they claimed.



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday ordered for continuation of the stay order of the Court of District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka until disposal of the appeal against an assistant judge court's orders on the government to appoint an administrator to the BGMEA.

The SC stayed Sunday's High Court (HC) stay orders that had stayed the commerce ministry's appointment of Dr Ayub Miah as the administrator on January 6.

The four-member full bench of

the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain passed the orders yesterday following a petition filed by MA Masud, a member of the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers' and Exporters' Association, challenging the HC stay orders on the appointment. Earlier, Syed Azad Sobhani of the

Court of Second Assistant Judge, Dhaka on January 3 directed the ministry to appoint the administrator following a case filed by Masud on November 30 last year.

According to yesterday's SC orders, the lower court's orders on the appointment of the administrator will be stayed until disposal of the appeal of the BGMEA pending with Court of Dhaka District and Sessions Judge. However, yesterday the court extended the stay orders until January 24.

After an order of the Court of Second Assistant Judge directing the government to appoint an administrator on January 3, the government appointed an administrator on January 6. Challenging the govern-

ment appointment, the BGMEA filed a writ petition with the HC on Sunday and the court stayed the government orders and issued a rule

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia presides over the 22nd meeting of the Board of Governors of Bangladesh Export

Processing Zones Authority at the International Conference Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

BGMEA ADMINISTRATOR

SC orders for

continuation

A petition along with a leave to appeal petition against the HC orders was filed on Tuesday by Masud who secured a lower court verdict for appointment of the administrator in 2003 election dispute case.

A d v o c a t e K h o n d k e r Mahbubuddin Ahmed appeared for petitioner MA Masud, while BGMEA counsels Barrister Rafique-ul Huq and Dr M Zahir opposed the petition.

Moving the petition seeking vacation of the HC orders, Mahbubuddin submitted that the government had appointed the administrator in line with the assistant judge court's orders.

He argued that the executive committee' of the largest trade organisation of the country could not egally function neither could it hold the election because of the dispute over polls. His client filed the title suit pending with the district judge's court. Before the process is complete, the BGMEA is not entitled to seek redress from the HC, he maintained.

Barrister Rafique-ul and Dr Zahir contended that they had challenged the legality of the government's appointment of the administrator. The manner in which the appoint-ment was made was illegal. The government did not form reasonable grounds to act against the executive committee. Moreover, the petitioner who is not even a BGMEA voter has

no locus standi to file the case. The BGMEA issue is highly political and the move was intended to foil

#### the BGMEA election scheduled for February 17, they further contended.

32 army men axed FROM PAGE 1 The Armed Forces Division (AFD) of the PMO sent the inquiry reports to

the environment ministry and Bangladesh Ansar asking them to bring their staffs involved in the smuggling to book. The ministry, immediately after getting the AFD letter, has suspended the 15 forest staff found

guilty of the crime and initiated a departmental process to sack them. The ministry also has launched its own investigation into the incident, said a high official, adding

corruption and criminal cases would be filed against the offenders. Sources at Bangladesh Ansar said they also have completed the process to dismiss the 35 Ansars that

collaborated with the army and forest men in the timber smuggling. According to the AFD report, the forest men coaxed the army personnel into helping them in the smuggling with allurements of fat financial gains. The foresters also induced the Ansars to join the gang.

The combined clique then smuggled out and sold a huge quantity of timber of the forest range and split the ill gained money among them-

already opened letters of credit

(LCs) for importing more than 10 lakh tonnes of rice in the first half of

fiscal year were around eight lakh

varied only Tk 0.20 a kg in the last

month. Quoting the government's market report, he further said the

prices are a bit higher in the capital

The latest Aman harvest that

ended in December was 15 percent

short of its target because of the

massive floods in August-

September last year, sources men-

Pest attacks and downpours on

transplanted Aman also caused

lower yields of rice in eight northern

districts. Many farmers did not even

The prices of 80kg-bags of coarse

get one-third of their normal yield.

than in the northern districts.

Rice imports in the previous

The retail prices of coarse rice

the current fiscal year.

tonnes, he mentioned.

tioned.

Environment Minister Tariqul Islam told The Daily Star yesterday his ministry has been conducting an all-out drive to end smuggling of timber and other forest resources. It has also formed a taskforce comprising officials of the armed forces, district administrations concerned, forest officials and law enforcing

taking the help of the AFD, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and intelligence agencies to trace the smug-He claimed, though smuggling

agencies to co-ordinate the drive.

Islam said his ministry is also

has not been routed completely, its extent has come down significantly due to the ministry's efforts. Sources said the AFD, as per the

request of the environment ministry, has instructed its forces to guard the forests adjacent to the cantonments and bases to check timber smuggling. Besides, BDR and intelligence agencies have also been tasked to resist smuggling of forest According to sources, the envi-

ronment ministry so far has suspended about 60 forest officials and employees for their involvement in timber and wood smuggling. Govt to sell rice after

rice have gone up from Tk 1,200 to

between Tk 1,275 and Tk 1,300 in the

northern districts, according to our

silos have a stock of over 6.49 lakh

tonnes of food grains, enough to

tonnes of rice and 1.42 lakh tonnes

of wheat, the source said, adding,

the government has a plan to import

2.5 lakh tonnes of food grains this

before the Eid-ul-Fitr especially for

the flood-affected poor people.

Around 30,000 tonnes of rice were

sold through the month-long OMS

during September-October last

The government had appointed over 13,000 private dealers, who

bought rice from government

godownsatTk12akgandsoldatTk13.

The government started the OMS

A source said the government

The silos have about 5.06 lakh

Rangpur correspondent.

start the OMS.

### flight leaves 29hrs behind schedule STAFF CORRESPONDENT The Saudi Arabian Airlines (SAA)

Saudia Hajj

flight stranded at Zia International Airport left Dhaka for Jeddah yesterday, about 29 hours behind schedule. SSA flight No. SV5767, which was

scheduled to depart at 11:00am Tuesday, left Dhaka at 4:30pm yester-day after technicians from Jeddah fixed the aircraft's operational diffi-

Some 440 passengers, mostly Hajj pilgrims, were stranded at the ZIA due to a 'technical fault'.

Several passengers had complained that they were hardly served any food and beverages during the long delay. However, Mahar Sukri, SAA coun-try representative, told The Daily Star

over the phone that airline officials took all necessary measures to care for the passengers.

"A few people might have faced some problems as the infrastructure

of the airport does not have the capacity to serve such a huge number of passengers at one time," Sukri said.

He said the passengers were provided accommodations at 12 different hotels and served breakfast

### Govt action

Jahirul Islam, Shamyabadi Dal leader Dilip Barua and Gono Azadi League President Abdus Samad also

spoke at the discussion meeting. Meanwhile, different political and social organisations yesterday held rallies across the country protesting the activities of Khatme Nabuwat that declared Dr Kamal

#### Saarc Summit

cannot fix their schedule until that is decided," said Foreign Minister M

Morshed Khan to reporters at his

office yesterday.

Morshed said the request was made to Pakistan on Monday. India is the only Saarc country yet to respond to Dhaka's proposal to hold the summit between February 7 and 9, after it was postponed on December 30 in the wake of the Asian tsunami. Morshed hoped that Delhi would

be able to respond to Dhaka's proposal as soon as Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh returns to the Indian capital after a trip around the country.

Asked whether he is still confident that the 13th Saarc summit

would go ahead in Dhaka this year, Morshed said, "Yes, I am always optimistic " Indian High Commissioner

Veena Sikri, meanwhile, could not shed any light on India's probable response to the Dhaka's proposal for the summit dates. "We are waiting for information from New Delhi on that matter," was all she could say.

Speaking to reporters after a meeting with Morshed, Sikri said she met with the minister to convey Manmohan Singh's letter of response to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's phone call and the letter after the Tsunami disaster to express her sympathies and concern on the death and devastation in India.

Answering questions on the ongoing tripartite energy talks between Bangladesh, India and Myanmar, Morshed said the three countries would not focus on a single project but look to enhance regional energy cooperation through various forums, especially

## Take urgent

FROM PAGE 12 cranes. He felt that investment in the port should be a priority since Mongla Port is now virtually dead.

"Even then our container handling has been growing at 18 percent a year," Shakhawat said and added that railway's capacity to carry containers, now only 10 percent of the total, should be increased urgently. MCCI Member Samson H Chowdhury said the port must be

computerised to cut corruption. MCCI Secretary General CK Hyder said the businessmen are ready to pay extra for express service from a single counter. He said an advisory committee should be formed where the stakeholders can put down their views for port improvement.

# Nasa to launch cometbusting spacecraft

AP, Cape Canaveral, Fla.

For the first time ever, NASA is setting off on a collision course with a comet. in hopes of blasting a huge hole in the celestial snowball and gazing upon the original ingredients of the solar system preserved inside.

### Reshuffle in police

UNB, Dhaka

In a major reshuffle of the police hierarchy yesterday, Deputy Inspector General (DIG) SM Mizanur Rahman was made Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) commissioner(current charge).

Besides, five superintendents (SPs) of police were promoted to additional deputy inspector general (ADIG) while seven SPs were given transfers and postings in the

Superintendent of Police (SP) Farooque Ahmed was elevated to additional DIG and posted as additional DMP commissioner.

Police Superintendent of Comilla MD Moniruzzaman was also pro-moted to additional DIG and transferred as additional CMP commis-

Assistant Inspector General (AIG) AKM Shahidul Hoque was promoted to additional DIG and posted as commandant, Rangpur Police Training Center.

Superintendent of Police (SP), Narsingdi, Mokhlesur Rahman was promoted to additional DIG and made Rab director while Special SP of the Special Branch (SB) Fatema Begum was elevated to additional DIG and posted as commandant of Special branch Training School,

Manikganj Police Superintendent (SP) Aurangajeb Mahbub was posted as SP of Comilla and SP Abu Bakar Sidique Majumder was given posting

as SP of Manikganj. Special Police Superintendent (SB) Delwar Hossain Mia was transferred to Dinajpur as SP and Commandant of the Range Reserve Force (RRF), Rajshahi, Meer Rezaul Alam was given the charge of SP, Narsingdi. Additional SP of Comilla Mohammad Allah Box was given the charge of AIG at police headquarters while Additional Deputy Police Commissioner of DMP Shoeib Ahmad was made SP, Telecom,

Police superintendent Md Mokhlesur Rahman, earlier made OSD, was posted as Commandant, RRF, Barisal,

It all begins with a planned Wednesday launch of Deep Impact, a copper-fortified, comet-busting

spacecraft. Nasa has a single second at precisely eight seconds past 1:47 p.m. to send Deep Impact on a 268 millionmile, six-month voyage to Comet Tempel I. Good weather is forecast, cheering scientists who are up

against a firm two-week deadline for launching the probe. Scientists have no idea what Comet Tempel 1 looks like. They don't know whether the spacecraft will have to punch through a crust as hard as a concrete sidewalk or as

flimsy as corn flakes. All they know with certainty is that the nucleus, or core, of the comet is three times as long as it is wide, and that they must crash into the sunlit side to capture pictures of the result-ing crater and all the ice, dust and other primordial matter shooting out

Uncertainty over the comet's shape "has caused us some concern about, can we hit the comet," said Jay Melosh, a planetary geologist at the University of Arizona. Officially, Nasa puts the odds of a bull's-eye at better

than 99 percent.
"We hope we'll make a crater . perhaps 300 feet in diameter, 100 feet deep, that we'll get through that crust and reveal the interior of the comet,' Melosh said Tuesday. "But we don't know what comets are made of. We don't know how strong they are.

## GP donates

contribution will be used to restore education and other immediate needs of the children in the two tsunami-hit countries.

Referring to the role of Unicef Bangladesh in tsunami relief operation, Giersing said several experienced officials from Unicef Bangladesh have been deputed to work in Sri Lanka and the Maldives to help relief and rehabilitation

Expressing gratitude to its subscribers who had generated the generous contribution, GrameenPhone Managing Director Erik Aas said his company took this initiative to express solidarity with the tsunami-hit people, especially

GrameenPhone Ltd. generated the contribution from the SMS (Short Message Service) trafficked on December 31, 2004 and January

# US happy, stops GSP

formal letter stopping the process of withdrawing the GSP facilities was received by the Bangladesh ambassador to the US on January 3. Elections have already been held in 34 out of 208 units in the EPZs

since the government's decision

was taken to allow trade union as per the condition set by the US for the import of Bangladeshi goods. As the Bepza governing body meeting discussed the present situation in different exportprocession zones of the country, Zakir Hossain said the entire site of the Chittagong Steel Mills is now under the Bepza and the process of

'immediately". The premises of former Chittagong Steel Mills and the area of Chittagong CSD have been trans-

allotting industrial plots will begin

formed into Karnaphuli EPZ. The official also informed that the area of now-defunct Adamjee Jute Mills will be formally handed over to the Benza in a week and investment is expected to come within the next three to six months.

Industrial units to be set up in the two new EPZs are likely to create employment opportunity for about one lakh workers. Besides positive response from foreign investors, a number of local entrepreneurs have shown interest

in setting up industries in the Adamiee Mills area now turned into EPZ, the Bepza chief apprised the meeting. The Bepza is looking for relocation of industries from outside the country in the potential EPZ to create employment opportunity for

available in Bangladesh. The prime minister, during the meeting, directed all concerned to "speed up" the implementation of Karnaphuli and Adamjee exportprocessing zones for employment generation.

skilled and semi-skilled workers

The governing body meeting yesterday agreed in principle to set up a modern integrated watertreatment plant to supply water to the industrial units of Chittagong and Karnaphuli EPZs.

As planned, the plant will initially have the capacity of producing 81 million gallons of water per day, which will be increased to 400 million gallons in the future. The meeting also discussed, among other issues, the present

ment, backward-linkage industries and national exports. The United States is the singlelargest importer of Bangladeshi products, accounting for nearly 36 percent of the country's total annual

status of foreign and local invest-

exports worth nearly \$7.6 billion. The export target for 2004-05 fiscal year has been fixed at \$1400 million against last fiscal year's exports worth \$1363 from the Bepza

Bepza has sanctioned 26 indus-

trial units during the first 6 months of the current fiscal year with a

proposed investment of \$ 68.650

million and approximate employ-

ment opportunity for about 16,189

Bangladeshi and 138 foreign nation-The countries that have invested in the EPZs of Bangladesh are South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, China, the USA, the UK, Germany, Pakistan, Malaysia, Taiwan, India, Panama, Denmark, Thailand, Sweden, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland, the Netherlands, France, Singapore, Nepal, Australia, Canada, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, New Zealand and host

Bangladesh. Minister for Industries Maulana Matiur Rahman Nizami, Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury, State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud, State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar, Bol Executive Chairman Mahmudur Rahman, secretaries concerned and senior officials were present at the meeting.

### Metamorphosis

range in price from Tk 2,000 to Tk45 lakh - cannot detect the new forgeries. This is because they only check whether the paper itself is genuine. "They cannot identify the new fake notes as the fake notes use genuine paper" said a senior official of National Credit and Commerce

between Tk 40 lakh and Tk 45 lakh each can detect the new fake notes but most of the banks do not have these machines. "It is not easy to purchase such

the official said. Every year, the circulation of counterfeit notes increases shead of

transactions of Tk 500 notes for Eidrelated expenses, said another "It is not a new problem but the issue has not been addressed prop-

the two Eids as there is a rise in

the issue of forged notes in the same way as they deal with other crimes.

Making or circulating fake notes is a criminal offence for which a

Bank Ltd. Only the machines priced at

costly machines for every branch,"

erly," he said. Law enforcing agencies deal with

They have arrested a number of alleged racketeers but there has been little headway in the trials and no-one has yet been sentenced.

person may be sentenced to death under the Bangladesh Bank Penal Code and the Special Powers Act,

The operational record of the aged Dutch plane is very poor. It failed to take off in its maiden flight and could not be started six times in the last five weeks.

FROM PAGE 1 million. It recently has floated ten-

Biman F28

der to sell them off.

of them are located in residential areas, without proper infrastructure including lighting and ventilation.