Ministry dreads

area," Khagrachhari Deputy Commissioner Gazi Mohammad Julhas was quoted as saying in the

The CHT affairs standing committee at yesterday's meeting also formed a five-member subcommittee to come up with recommendations on ways to maintain stability in the hill districts.

Besides, it asked the ministry to beef up the presence of BDR and other law enforcement agency members in the bordering areas and continue the anti-crime drives.

About the longstanding conflict between PCJSS and UPDF, the report prepared by three deputy commissioners of the concerned districts said both the groups are desperately trying to establish

It said that this year the PCJSS has filed seven cases against the UPDF for abducting its members. The UPDF does not file cases, as they do not operate overtly, the report continued.

It also observed that the PCJSS is running a campaign abroad saving that the peace accord is not being implemented while their opponent sticks to continuing the

report has acknowledged that some clauses of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord, 1997 have yet to be implemented, and that it has caused widespread resentment among the

hills people Singling out land dispute between Bangalee settlers and indigenous people as one of the main reasons for communal tensions in CHT, the report has recommended strengthening the CHT Land Dispute Resolve Commission.

Committee Chairman Mosharraf

US envoy

next meeting will table specific

recommendations on ensuring

Swapon Dewan, Shahiahan

Chowdhury, Syed Moazzem

Hossain Alal, and Wadud Bhuiyan

of the case, prayed for a 10-day

fresh remand on grounds that

Arman is an underworld don who

aids and abets his associates in

killing, extortion and other criminal

profession and habit," the IO told the

information about the killing of an

unidentified 22-year-old youth

whose body Motijheel police

retrieved from the first lane of 119/1,

court at about 2:15pm under a tight

security, looked pale and concerned

Dhanmondi on June 3 with two

others and the following day he was

taken on a seven-day remand in an

headquarters, Arman provided

information about the August 21

the Criminal Investigation

arrested AL leader Mokhlesur

Rahman on Friday and remanded

remained tight-lipped about the

However, CID officials

him for five days on Saturday.

Department (CID)

Arman, produced before the

Rab arrested Arman from a flat at

During quizzing at the Rab

Following Arman's information,

Malibagh on April 17 this year.

court in his forwarding report.

"Killing people in cold blood is his

Arman would be quizzed for

were also present at the meeting.

Committee members Moni

peace in the hill districts.

Arman

FROM PAGE 16

not Bangladesh," Saifur told reporters at his office after the meeting. Hossain after the meeting told Thomas also said democracy newsmen that the committee in its would be jeopardised if press free

dom was not ensured. The US envoy said the prevailing US-Bangladesh relations are very well and will be brighter in the com-

Thomas lauded the Bangladesh finance minister and said Saifur is a visionary finance minister and Bangladesh has developed much on its economic front under his

On the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA), a new debt

Asked about it. Saifur said the government is now discussing the issue with the US authorities and it has progressed much. "The release of this fund depends on some indicators," he said without mentioning any of them.

dor. Saifur said Thomas was a popular ambassador and had become a friend of Bangladesh during his stay in the last two years. The minister said he does not

know where Thomas is going to be placed. "I have learnt he will be working with Condoleezza Rice in the State Department." Saifur hoped Thomas could help

Bangladesh more from his new

Thai delegation

expressway will start from Gulistan to link with the newly-built Mohakhali flyover. It will have exit points at Golapshah Mazar, Nilkhet, New Market and Sonargaon cross-

the issue with officials of the Roads and Highways Department. The members today also call on Communications Minister Nazmul Huda in the afternoon, said the

The government and the delegation are likely to sign an agreement n this regard during the visit.

The decision of constructing the elevated expressway to ease the city's traffic congestion was taken during Thai premier Thaksin Shinawatra's visit to Dhaka in August 2002. The issue was also discussed during Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's return visit to Thailand last year.

The sources said the Thai government sees the project as a symbol of friendship between the

cost of the project as technical support, while Bangladesh will provide the remaining 20 percent.

Essentials prices

FROM PAGE 1

The price of ginger has also increased by Tk 10 and is selling at Tk 70 per kg. Indian onion is selling at Tk 15 per kg after increasing Tk three within the last three days, the

The price of garlic has also 32 just 15 days ago.

price of sugar has increased by Tk 4, salt by Tk one, and baby milk powder from Tk 12 to 15 for a one-kilogram packet.

The price of rice has increased by Tk two-three for per kg. But the gross rice seems to have disappeared from the market as nobody wants to buy it at such a high price, said a salesman in the market.

Now good quality miniket rice has been selling at Tk 26 per kilogram, and Nagirshail, another fine quality rice, at Tk 24. The minimum price of rice in Karwan Bazar was seen at Tk 18.

"See, within the last 10 years the price of rice has almost doubled. How can we survive?" said one buyer in the Hatirpool market. The government should always monitor he price of the kitchen market, but

sharp rise. The price of local catfish rose to Tk 500 yesterday, when it was not more than Tk 350. Local ruhi was selling at Tk 160-170 per kilogram, up from Tk 140-150 two weeks earlier and Tk 100-120 just before. The price of all other fish has increased by Tk 20 to 30 for one

for one hundred eggs within the last two days due to the budget effect.

The price of broiler chickens has been selling at Tk 75 for one kilogram when it was Tk 64 just last week, the traders said.

Listed criminal

As police reached near Maiumderkhil School, Salim's accomplices opened fire on the law

enforcers, triggering a gunfight. Trying to flee, Karate Salim fell in the line of fire and received bullets.

He was rushed to the local upazila health complex where the on-duty doctor declared him dead, police said, adding that Constable Wahiduzzaman was also bullet-hit

during the incident. Police seized a local made gun, one LG and seven bullets from the

Another shady case

the roadside tea-stalls, some 150 yards from the spot, or walking in front of the mill-gates where they

"Nazmul was talking to two motorbikers--Dulal and Sohel--at around 3:00pm when a few Rab men came there in plainclothes," an employee of one of the mills at the BSCIC, who was walking to a teastall, said on condition of anonymity.

"Nazmul did not recognise them as Rab men and engaged into an altercation with them," said a shopkeeper in the locality, adding that Nazmul traded heated words with them and at one point pushed one of the Rab members.

The Rab men then put on their Rab jackets and identified themselves to the youths, the witnesses said. Realising the mistake, Nazmul got down on his knees and begged the Rab men for his life, said another witness who was standing some 100 vards from the spot.

"The Rab members then held the three youths and dragged Nazmul to a nearby crop field," said the millemployee. "The Rab men first fired into the air and then shot Nazmul pinning him to the ground with a foot on his chest." he added. Another witness expressed his

surprise to this correspondent. "Is this thing called saying, 'crossfire'? They [Rab] shot him as if killing a bird or an animal!"

Rab threat

motorbike.

The Rab members then cordoned off the whole area and did not let anyone go near Nazmul's body, which lav in the field, the witnesses said. "For the next couple of days. the Rab randomly patrolled the area, threatened us not to tell what we had seen, and ordered us to tell that Nazmul died in 'crossfire'." said a shopkeeper.

The FIR The following day, Subedar Sarwar Jahan of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) filed a case with the Shibpur PS and handed over Dulal and Sohel along with a pistol and their

In the FIR (first information report) Sarwar said that, acting on a tip-off, he along with Sub-Inspector (SI) Jahangir Uddin, Corporals Khairul, Anwar Hossain. Ershaduzzaman and Mosharraf. Lance Nayek Harun, Sepoys Nur Mohammad and Jabed Ali went to the spot at around 2:30pm.

The Rab members were informed that some armed youths had gathered at the BSCIC area to commit some criminal activities, he said in the FIR.

As the Rab men reached the spot, the youths, sensing their presence, opened fire indiscriminately from the water tank, prompting the Rab members to counter with bullets, the FIR said.

During the shootout, the Rab men held three youths, one Nazmulbullet-wounded with a pistol in his

Nazmul was taken to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital where the doctors

The FIR also said the Rab members picked three shopkeepers who saw the seizure of the pistol from Nazmul. The two arrested youths also confessed in front of the Rab witnesses that they gathered there with arms intending to commit

"We were inside our shop and heard a couple of gunshots," said one of the FIR witnesses. "After the firing, some Rab men came to me and asked me to go with them," he said, adding, "Going to the field, I saw a youth lying dead and the Rab men showed us a pistol saying they had recovered it from him."

Another FIR witness also said the same while the third one went to his village home during the investi-

Police investigation

The Shibpur police have already given the charge-sheet in one of the three cases--arms case, murder case and one for barring government officials from duty--filed with

SI Rafiqul Islam, the Investigation officer (IO) of the case, told The Daily Star that he had submitted the charge-sheet in the arms case stating that a pistol was found in the possession of the youths.

He also said that he brought the two arrestees, who are now in Narsingdi iail, on remand and made an investigation in the locality. He, however, refused to reveal his findings but hinted that those are similar to that in the FIR.

When asked about the findings of The Daily Star investigation Major Anis, in-charge of Rab-3 at the Adamjee camp which conducts operations in the Narsingdi area, said he does not have anything to say beyond what has been said in the FIR

Nazmul's past records

Both Palash and Shibpur police stations admitted that they did not have any criminal records against Nazmul, who was also the vicepresident of the Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal Charsindur union unit.

Nazmul went to Saudi Arabia and came back in 2001. Since then, he was working in a factory near the Ghorasal fertiliser factory and has also been a contractor in the locality.

At his village, this correspondent found Nazmul was regarded as an amicable and friendly person.

Mother's urge

"I want justice," said Nazmul's wailing mother, adding, "You wouldn't find such a charming, gentle and lively youth in the village.'

"We have been traumatised for almost a week since we heard the news and received his body the following day." she said. The family did not even file any

case, fearing the Rab may harm

No Ulfa in Bangladesh

cache of firearms and explosives, which the police seized from Kahalu upazila in Bogra, labal declined to comments on the ground that the case

On the killing of six alleged Ulfa activists at Komolganj upazila in Moulvibazar last month during an encounter with the members of lawenforcing agencies, he said, "It is not proved that they are Ulfa insurgents."

About a BSF officials claim the additional IG said the police did not find any hotels controlled by Ulfa and any bank account operated by the insurgents in Bangladesh as claimed by a top official of Indian Border Security Force (BSF).

He also said the people managing the hotels and operating the bank accounts were also not found.

Indian state-run news agency Press Trust India quoted SC Srivastava, BSF inspector general of Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur and Nagaland, on June 3, as saying at a press conference in Shillong that Ulfa has been running international standards hotels in Dhaka. Chittagong and Sylhet. The hotels he named are Surma International on Taj Maha Road at Mohammadpur, Hotel Mohammadia at Mirpur and Padma International at Banani in Dhaka.

According to him, these hotels are managed by Subal Barua alias Ahmed, Satish Sharma alias Kamal and Ashish Deka alias Hossain.

The BSF official claimed that the rebel outfit has two hotels in Sylhet, namely Keya International at Zindabazar managed by Dulal Roy alias Saidul and Hotel Jamuna on University Road by Anil Dey alias

(JICA) submitted its report after

The JICA is now formulating the

FROM PAGE 16

On hearing both the sides, the He also named two residential hotels in Chittagong; Hotel Basundhara managed by Subhash court passed the bail order and fixed Deka alias Humayun at Halishahar and Hotel Raj King run by Kanailal Barman alias Rubel at Pahartali.

Srivastava claimed that three bank accounts of Ulfa members had been traced in Arab Bangladesh Bank's Meanwhile, investigation officer Farm Gate Branch in Dhaka and

(IO) of the case on Friday submitted a petition to the CMM's court for allowing him to interrogate Bidisha at the Land acquisition International Co-operation Agency

orison cell of BSMMUH. The court fixed tomorrow for hearing on the Ershad, a former president and chairman of Jatiya Party (JP), filed the case on June 4 accusing her of

conducting a technical and economic survey on the bridge, which theft, rampage, and making threats will also have rail, power, gas and against him. Gulshan police arrested Bidisha at Ershad's Baridhara residence the same day. But later she was shown arrested in a passport forgery case.

One gets 30yr

absence of the convict, Reaz Uddin.
The punishment of the fugitive will be effective from the day of his arrest or surrender, the court order

The court acquitted Reaz's wife Parveen, another accused in the case as charges against her were not proved. Reaz took out victim Mintu alias

Raiib from his house at Shaildhar Char of Gafargaon upazila in Mymensingh on June 2, 2000 promising his mother Halima Begum to give her son a job at a shop in Dhaka with Tk 2,000 as monthly salary.

But Reaz sent Mintu to Dubai for being used as a camel jockey. He, however, used to send Tk 2,000 to Mintu's mother every month.

Mintu's mother came to know of the incident after about two years when Reaz told her that her son wound return home from Dubai.

After Mintu's return from Dubai, Halima filed an abduction case against Reaz and his wife Parveen with the Airport Police Station on June 4, 2002.

PM to meet

FROM PAGE 16 issues of interest at the proposed meeting. He was talking to reporters at Zia International Airport before leaving for Doha as an entourage member and leader of Ministerial Meeting of Group of 77.

He said the prime minister is also scheduled to hold bilateral talks with Emir of Qatar Hamad Bin Khalifa al-Thani during the summit in Doha on On Khaleda's meeting with

Hamad Bin Khalifa, he said the Emir has shown a good gesture through his recent visit to Dhaka.

The minister said Bangladesh will seize the opportunity for further strengthening the existing ties with Qatar during the bilateral meet.

Responding to questions on the possibility of meetings with other heads of government or state, he said the Bangladesh mission in Qatar is working to that end.

Probe team FROM PAGE 16

whole episode and managed to pull at least three customs officials from preventive services into their act.

The inquiry committee in its report submitted a few days ago suggested departmental actions against Mohammad Idris, superintendent of preventive services (SPS), and his two fellow preventive officers, Akbar Hossain and Shahiahan Sikder, for gross violation of service rules. The committee also suggested proper actions 'as per licensing rules' against the shipping agent, sources said.

When contacted yesterday afternoon. Customs Commissioner AM Masroor Ahmad said the three customs officials have already been asked to show cause

Sources said the importer. allegedly in collusion with the shipping agent and the three customs officials, secretly unloaded 10,150-MT of wheat worth around Tk 12crore. The wheat was later sold at local markets, and no customs duty

Accusing the three customs officials, the report said, SPS Idris failed to monitor the duties of his two preventive officers Akbar and Shahjahan. They also failed to check whether the customs duties were paid or not before giving the shipping agent the second permission to unload the goods. "This is a serious nealigence of duty.'

age smuggling.
Praising the budget proposal particularly for its focus on measures relating to development of the capital market, the DSE delegation

stronger and revenue increases. said the finance minister. He however assured the delegation of a provision, under which the

finance ministry will not allow foreign direct investment unless investors offload a chunk of shares in the local capital market.

ter to make an arrangement so that foreign investors offer a number of shares in the local market.

On the off-loading of the government-held shares of companies, Saifur said he had taken initiatives but the ministries gave cold shoulder so far.

DSE Vice-president Ahmed Rashid Lali, Chief Executive Officer Salahuddin Ahmed Khan and Finance Secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan were present.

HC rejects FROM PAGE 16 petition the same day.

An expatriate in Japan, Ferdous

submitted his nomination paper to the returning officer (RO) on May 28. But the RO's office identified him as a loan defaulter and cancelled the nomination paper the following

against the cancellation. But that too was rejected. Then he had appealed to the Election Commission and the matter is now pending. The petitioner filed the writ

petition challenged the validity of cancellation of Hossain's nomina-

Bidisha plotted

treasury bench colleagues and won-

dered why Bidisha was charged with theft, not sedition, if that was the case. Siddiqui said the pace at which the case against Bidisha is moving has created confusion in the public mind

and many are now raising questions

about whether the government is

pulling strings behind the scenes. He pointed out that the law stipulates that a husband cannot file a theft case against his wife.

The opposition lawmaker noted that the police's mistreating Bidisha in custody would bring no good for the government as the past Awami League government had also badly treated Ulamas (pious people) and bore the brunt later

Sister sues

cops FROM PAGE 16

Forkan and Tayeb Ali of the Khulna PS and their informant Akramuz-

In the petition she said her brothers Munna (25) and Amir (22) were picked up by the accused on August 31 last year. The police demanded Tk 1 lakh from her brothers as bribe for letting them off from the Khulna PS custody.

Fatema Begum further mentioned that the accused tortured her brothers mercilessly for refusing to pay the amount and threatened to kill them in crossfire

Her brothers fell sick and later succumbed to their injuries in the prison cell of the Khulna Medical College Hospital at 11:45pm on August 31 last year, she said.

SI Ranjit Kumar Das filed a case with the Khulna PS on September 1 naming some unidentified men for the "murders" of the two. In the FIR (first information report), he stated that Munna and Amir were "lynched" by angry mob. SI Shah Alam of Khulna was made the investigation officer of the case.

Fatema's petition further said she was not allowed to lodge any FIR with the Khulna PS in connection with the murder of her brothers. The accused rather threatened to kill her for making further attempts to go to the court or higher authorities of the Khulna Metropolitan Police,

SIs Anisur Rahman and Shah Alam are still serving at the Khulna PS while SI Ranjit Kumar Das is working at the CMM court.

Kala-azar

FROM PAGE 1

But locals said they are facing an acute crisis of the rare vaccines for the disease, which is attacking mostly children. The Dinajpur Medical Collage

duty physician told The Daily Star

sand flies help spread the disease.

which destroys the immune system. He said kala-azar is curable in 15 to 20 days if proper treatment is taken. Panic is prevailing among the His remarks prompted a number of back-benchers of the ruling BNP to raise hands for floor to discuss the matter despite a futile attempt by the front-line lawmakers to bury the issue. Ministers Khandaker Mosharraf

Hossain and Moudud Ahmed urged the party deputies not to discuss the But, State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman, taking the floor, claimed Bidisha plotted to topple the BNP-Jammat-led coalition government. "She (Bidisha) gathered

different foreign banks." Another BNP lawmaker, Ebadur Rahman, differed with Siddiqui to say that Bidisha and Ulamas are not the

about Tk 150 crore to topple the gov-

ernment, which has been found in

same thing.
__Jatiya _Party lawmaker Moshiur Rahman Ranga said his party chairman did not charge Bidisha only with theft. "The case was filed also because

Bidisha put the life of Ershad under threat," he said. The House resumed after a twoday recess and the Speaker started the day's proceedings with discussions on the supplementary budget for

the 2004-5 fiscal year.
But most lawmakers hardly dwelled on the budget and were more interested in making political state-ments, accusing main opposition Awami League of pursuing the politics of destruction. They said instead of ioining parliament, it is plotting to

and international conspiracies. BNP lawmakers Kazi Rafigul Islam and Dildar Hossain Selim spent 40 and 15 minutes on their speech, while Jamaat deputy Abdus Sattar Akand

topple the government through local

Myanmar rebel

campaign in Bandarban that began on May 21. Security forces had seized huge caches of arms and ammunition from Naikkhongchhari border in several operations last

year and early this year. There were press reports over the last few years that some Myanmar rebels have taken shelter and set up temporary camps in Naikkhongchhari. They are engaged in the smuggling of firearms, using the region as transit route. The government, however, termed the informa-

After Tai Jo's arrest, sources in the security forces said they are

verifying the information. Sources said a section of NUPA leaders split and formed Democratic Party of Arakan (DPA) to wage armed struggle against the Myanmar government. The DPA, which is operating in the remote jungles of Myanmar, India and Bangladesh, also runs firearms

FROM PAGE 16 106, the sources added. The BDR recovered the body yesterday morning and handed it over to Mujibnagar police. The BDR

US air strikes kill 40

bombings, named the attacker as Abu Mohammed al-Dulaimi, appar-

ently a Sunni Iragi. The force, set up by Qureishi last year under formal Interior Ministry control, comprises hundreds of commandos drawn mainly from poor Shia districts of the capital. With their distinctive wolf's head insignia, they have become folk heroes to some Shias but an object

The US Council on Foreign Relations suggested last week it was "the most feared and effective

n the Sunni area." "Your brothers in al-Qaeda Organisation launched important operations and attacks today and under the direct supervision of our sheikh Abu Musab al-Zarqawi the group said in a statement posted on an Islamist Web site.

men have attacked innocent mem-

Saddam Hussein. He denies killing Sunni clerics. Some Sunnis compare the Wolf

for militias such as the Kurdish peshmerga in the north of Irag and the Badr Brigade, the armed wing of the Shia party to which Interior Minister Jabor belongs.

tias make them useful elements in the fledgling government's armoury. Sunni leaders are negotiating for a bigger role on a committee charged with drawing up a constitution. Violence in Sunni areas and boycott calls meant few of the 20 percent minority voted in January's

represented in parliament. On Friday, the main Sunni political grouping rejected an offer of 15 seats on a committee of 69

The Shia chairman of the committee, Humam Hammoudi, told Reuters on Saturday the Sunnis were being "unreasonable" in their demands. Since the aim was to reach consensus, precise numbers of delegates were not so important,

he said. "Increasing the numbers on the committee ... would open the door wide to endless talk," Hammoudi said, repeating the offer of 15 seats for the Sunnis which the govern-

by the present committee of 55 Hammoudi said he was confident of meeting an Aug. 15 deadline for proposing a draft text. Shias and leaders of the 20 percent Kurdish ethnic minority

have made clear they want Sunni involvement to help defuse the nsurgency ravaging Baghdad and Sunni areas to the west and north. Jabor said on Saturday the government was open to talks with any movement which forswore violence After a relative calm in recent

bomb exploded in a street in a Shia area of Baghdad overnight, killing 11 people and wounding 29. Eleven people died and two were

bomb outside the Slovakian embassy, wounding four Iraqis. That attack was also claimed by Abu Musab al-Zargawi's al-Qaeda in

Villagers clash

Transport and Corporation (BRTC) training bus at around 9:00am, where one side of the road was

closed due to repair work.

Paribahanhad already coming through created a huge traffic jam at Bagher Bazar bus stand, said witnesses.

space," he said Both the drivers asked the other to move back but none agreed, and the two locked in an altercation. At one point, the BRTC driver beat the driver of the passenger-carrying bus and the Rab men joined them, said

became agitated and attacked the BRTC bus with sticks, iron-rods and

members, who were in plainclothes,

are not what they seem, a recent field visit found.

posset, the essential ingredients in eetmeat, arrive to the city mostly by launch. A recent visit to Sadarghat found that traders bring milk in unclean drums, placing meat shops admitted that a portion unclean hyacinth on top of the milk of sweetmeat traders make their to ensure that it does not spill when sweets with the adulterated ingredithe launch vibrates.

> by sulfuric acid to turn the milk in to sset within minutes Adulterated posset mostly comes from Barisal, Chandpur, Munshiganj, Shariatpur, arriving

> the deck of the launches. etmeat shops In Dhaka, but only ensure the quality of food for more than twelve million people. In the

this iob. Food analysts from the department of health are tasked with examining samples of sweetmeats from different shops. Concerned officials from the department of the Dhaka City Corporation can then file

a case if they detect adulteration.

If proven, punishments range

from Tk 100 to Tk 1,000 in fines, in

addition to one month to six months

not file them. As a result, city dwellers are

identified themselves, which angered the locals more. They vandalised the bus and beat the Rab members, who also fought against the locals.

Hospital at Rajendrapur. the left eye, Murad had a fracture in the right hand while Manju received

ted to the Combined Military

of Joydevpur police and Rab officials from its headquarters at Uttara rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

by the Rab, police sources said. Operation Instructor Nazrul Islam of BRTC filed a case with Joydebpur Police Station, said Second Officer Badrul Alam

incident, saying that RAB was preparing to lodge a case against the unruly people of the area

Showcased sweetmeats In most cases, these sweetmeat

A huge share of the milk and

A source from the Consumers

Association of Bangladesh (CAB)

said that posset makers in different

parts of the country put sulfuric acid

in hot milk to produce the posset

quickly. According to the sources, the posset makers first put the paste of around rice into the milk followed

wrapped in unclean dirty cloths on There are more than 1000 20 food and sanitary inspectors to

other districts, there is nobody to do

iail time. But sources say it takes so much time and money to prove a case that DCC officials generally do

Bogra, Rosagolla from Jessore, eating adulterated sweetmeats monda from Muktagachha, and without knowing what dangers lurk inside these much loved delicacies.

> At least 15 people were injured during the battle, including four Rab members sepoys Kamal, Murad, Monju and Nazrul, who were admit-

Sepoy Kamal was injured under injuries in the neck. Hearing the news, a contingent

Panic gripped the area until evening as the Rab members were patrolling the locality after the incident. Youths of the area left their houses to avoid arrest and torture

Joydevpur police admitted the

leadership.

programme of the US. Thomas could not say anything for sure. But he said discussions are going on.

Appreciating the US ambassa-

FROM PAGE 1 The first phase of the elevated

The Thai delegation will discuss

Thailand will bear 20 percent

marked a sharp rise as it has been selling at Tk 56 per kg, which was Tk The price of sovbean oil has risen by Tk four and is selling at Tk

they never do it, he said. The price of fish also marked a

The price of eggs also rose Tk 10

FROM PAGE 16

telephone lines. Karate Salim was accused in detailed design of the bridge to be over 13 criminal cases. submitted in 2007.

Chittagong. Asked about the discontent in the police over the salary discrimination, lqbal said, "We hope the issue would be resolved as the prime minister has taken up the matter and directed the state minister for home to take neces-

Zindabazar Branch in Svlhet, and Al-

Baraka Bank's Pahartali Branch in

Top police officials including the chief of Special Branch were present at the briefing at the Police Headquarters.

sary measures."

Bidisha before the court on completion of a three-day remand. The defence argued that their client had been falsely implicated in the case out of a conspiracy to harass her. The allegations brought against her are 'baseless' and 'concocted'. The lawvers submitted that Bidisha was nothing but a victim of

well as Ershad went against her. Moreover, the lawyers contended, she is now under treatment at the prison cell of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital (BSMMUH), and so she should be granted bail leastways on

The prosecution opposed the appeal saying that Bidisha is in the

BSMMUH for treatment as per a

direction of the High Court. So there

is no scope for releasing her on bail.

circumstances, and that she was

being used as a political pawn. A

power struggle between various

nterest groups involving people at

the high levels of the government as

July 1 as the date for full hearing on Advocates Zahirul Islam and Kamruzzaman Mahbub appeared for the accused and Public Prosecutor Abdullah Mahmud Hassan for the

Saitur FROM PAGE 1 might go to some unproductive sectors to remain idle and encour-

proposed some modifications, but got poor response from the minister. "I'll consider (a tax waiver for the stock brokers) it after two to three years when economy becomes

The delegation asked the minis-

He lodged an appeal with the RO

petition seeking a stay on holding the by-election until the EC disposes of his appeal. Another High Court bench had rejected another writ petition filed by Belal Hossain, an aspirant to the same parliamentary seat. The

tion paper

sources said they are looking into

FROM PAGE 16

of fear and mistrust for Sunnis.

commando unit in Irag." In a separate statement, al-Qaeda's wing in Iraq said its leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi supervised a series of raids in the country on Saturday in response to operations by Iraqi security forces and US troops and in revenge for "aggres-

After reports Zargawi had been wounded in a US missile attack, the al-Qaeda Organisation for Holy War in Iraq confirmed last month he had been hurt but was in good health and leading operations. Qureishi denies accusations his

Brigade to sectarian militias.

The US-led occupying forces are uneasy about that but officials say the fighting readiness of such mili**BSF** beats

villagers, who are on the verge of leaving their houses, sources said. the matter.

Body parts littered the compound near the Interior Ministry which houses the Wolf Brigade. One officer was hurt, al-Qaeda in Iraq. responsible for dozens of suicide

sions ... against our Sunni brothers

bers of the Sunni Muslim minority that dominated the Shias under

The Shia-led government has recently called for a continuing role

election, leaving them underdemanding 25 places.

ment has endorsed. With drafting already under way

days, possibly due in part to a crackdown by US and Iraqi forces, the

capital saw several attacks. A car

wounded when gunmen opened fire from two cars on a minibus carrying labourers toward the city. The attack happened near Latifiya, in the troubled area to the south that has become known as the "triangle of A suicide attacker blew up a truck

over establishing supremacy in the

dominance over the other.

anti-peace accord activities. The CHT affairs ministry in the

expressed a combination of surprise and alarm. "The government should check the quality of those sweetmeats immediately. There should be a mechanism to monitor the process," said Bibhash Das, a resident of the Old Dhaka. Some owners of high-end sweet-

our business and we can not take that risk," said one sweetmeat trader, who has many shops in the city and claimed his products are made of fresh ingredients. According to the pure food ordinance 1959, at least 10 percent

milk fat is mandatory in sweetmeat.

But in most cases, the percentage of

milk fat is not more than five percent,

most sweetmeats in the country,

including Dhaka City, are made with

Concerned sources added that

"Some small traders may make

their product with impure ingredi-

ents. But we have invested a lot in

adulterated posset the main ingredient in sweetmeats - saccharin, flour and toxic colouring. Traders also use soybean oil and vegetable oil instead of milk fat.

In most cases, sweetmeat producers use toxic colouring instead of food colouring, which may cause

diseases like cancer and kidney

rural areas are unaware of the

existence of food colouring and use

only toxic colouring in their prod-

In Dhaka City, famous sweet-

meats brought from various parts of

the country have been selling fast

thanks to well-financed advertise-

Some sweetmeat makers from

damages if regularly ingested.

ucts, said one food officer.

ment campaigns. Among these are Porabarir Chamcham, curds from

Bazar area from Naljani of the district on a Bangladesh Road

The driver of the bus carrying

Rab men entered into the single-

lane where another bus of Soukhin

"As one side of the highway was closed due to repair work of the road, the vehicles were passing through another side." local police sources said. "When the Rab vehicle tried to cross the area, ignoring the passenger bus, the road got blocked as both the vehicles came face to face, occupying the entire

The passengers and the locals

Seeing the situation, the Rab