CIC to trace VAT, duty evasion

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government has empowered the NBR central intelligence cell (CIC) officials to find out how taxes on import duty and value added taxes

Central intelligence cell officials will now have the legal authority to summon documents, examine their computers, and even raid offices, which they might suspect of evading import duty and VAT.

A law in this regard has been introduced on June 9 and a directive in this connection has already been sent to the concerned VAT and import department.

From the next year the government is therefore involving CIC in VAT and import duty evasion cases.

An NBR circular said that to serve the purpose of section 24 of the VAT act of 1991, Director General, Joint Director General and Deputy director General of CIC will now act as the

An NBR official explained that the new law has now authorised CIC officials to raid any offices suspected of evading VAT and check any information and seize any documents for

An NBR source said, the coverage of VAT has not been expanded, but by stopping or curtailing VAT evasion cases the government is planning to raise its VAT earning.

In the directives in this regard sent by the NBR to the VAT officials explained that since its introduction in 1991 the VAT system has undergone numerous amendment and corrections over the last 14 years. What is required now is not increasing the VAT base and its coverage, but discipline and transparency in the system. The need of the day is to simplify the tax pay system and emphasise on the implementation of

VAT laws and regulations.
An amendment in the Customs Act 1969 has included officials of Central Intelligence Cell of the National Board of Revenue, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, Chittagong Port Authority, Mongla Port Authority, Land Port Authority, Registrar of Joint Stock Companies epartments of narcotics control to assist the duty officials. The NBR

veyed this amendment. These government agencies will act combine to stop import duty evasion incidents and CIC will play the major role here.

directives sent to Commissioners and

DGs of import tax department con-

In the current fiscal year though the import growth has been recorded at 26 percent until March the import collection during the same period has increased by only 11

An NBR source said that apart from other reasons large scale duty evasion has also been responsible for this.

The government empowered the CIC to find out income tax evasion cases last year and the CIC officials have unearthed tax evasion incidence worth Tk 700 crore. The CIC has been rewarded with TK 35 lakh for their good performance. In the coming fiscal year the incentive may be raised. Besides, CIC's manpower is also going to be doubled from next year.

First ODI

FROM PAGE 16

45pm BST. Coach Dav Whatmore, whose team are bottom of the world one-day rankings, said his side were hoping for more success than they had in the

"In the shorter version, the game can swing around a little bit and one of our objectives is to have it swing

BANGLADESH SQUAD Habibul Bashar (captain), Javed Omar, Nafees Iqbal, Tushar Imran, Mohammad Ashraful, Aftab Ahmed, Khaled Mashud, Khaled Mahmud Mohammad Rafique, Nazmul

Hossain and Mashrafee Mortuza

Mobile courts hit road

Close circuit televisions (CCTV) will be set up to watch the movement of the market-goers, the meeting Deputy commissioners (DCs) of

Dhaka Metropolitan Police have been instructed to supervise setting up the CCTV by market committees.

Burglars took away gold ornaments weighing about 450 tolas and worth around Tk 50 lakh from a jewellery shop at Rapa Plaza. The meeting was told that the gang was identified and one of its members arrested in Bhairab.

Noting that in most cases stoler vehicles are taken to different garages in and around the capital, especially in Old Dhaka, Savar, Tongi and Gazipur, the meeting decided to ask garage owners in the areas to prepare a list of vehicles at each garage with names of the owners. Police will check the list whenever they think necessary.

Meanwhile, the newly formed highway police has been tasked with checking robbery on the highways.
Yesterday's meeting was told that

Rab personnel caught 50 highway

Participants in the meeting pointed out that most accidents take place due to reckless driving and

high speed of vehicles. Speed limits of 80 kph will be shown at intersections on the highways soon and vehicles will be asked

not to cross the limit, the meeting decided It also ordered strengthening security in the river routes to stop

robbery in boats and small ships carrying sand and other goods, and killing of the boatmen and employees in many cases. It asked the customs authorities to work out and implement steps to stop robbery in river routes, especially in Bhola and Laxmipur.

Community policing will be launched in Dhanmondi in a month, and in other areas of the capital later. The meeting decided to reward Rab-4 for its success in arresting top

criminal Arman Khan. Home Secretary Safar Rai Abdul Quayum, director generals of Bangladesh Rifles, Ansar, Rab and Coast Guard, deputy inspector general of highway police and DMP Commissioner SM Mizanur Rahman were present at the meeting

StanChart

FROM PAGE 16

this agreement with Standard Chartered Bank. The agreement fits our strategic objective of exiting local corporate banking and focusing on serving the correspondent banking needs of financial institutions in Bangladesh and around the world," Qamar Hussain. Chief Executive Officer of American Express Bank Bangladesh said in his reaction.

'At the same time, we believe that our local commercial bank clients will be well served by a bank with the history and reputation of Standard Chartered Bank," he added.

Standard Chartered, a venture of Standard Chartered Group, employs 35,000 people in over 500 in more than 50 countries in the Asia Pacific region, South Asia, the Middle East, the United Kingdom and the Americas. It is one of the world's most international banks with a management team comprising 70

Standard Chartered PLC is listed on both the London Stock Exchange and the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong and is in the top 25 FTSE-100 companies, by market capitalisation.

t serves both consumer and Wholesale Banking customers. Consumer Banking provides credit cards, personal loans, mortgages, deposit taking and wealth management services to individuals and small to medium-sized enterprises. Wholesale Banking provides corpo-

rate and institutional clients with services in trade finance, cash management, lending, custody foreign exchange, debt capital markets and corporate finance, the

Political rivalry, graft

This was her first presentation before the Subcommittee for Asia and the Pacific since the start of the second Bush administration.

The aim of the meeting was to review what has been accomplished in the past four years and discuss USA's goals for the future, according to the US State Department

In her statement, Rocca appreciated the government for establishment of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

She said this organisation needs to take action. "Only action against corrupt individuals will demonstrate that corruption has no place in the

future of Bangladesh. Rocca said the US engages the Bangladesh government on a range of important issues, including democracy and human rights,

fighting corruption and countering "Democratic Bandladesh, with the fourth largest Muslim population in the world, stands as a leading contributor of troops to UN peace

keeping missions worldwide and as a valued partner in the war on terror," she said. However, she said Bangladesh's

widespread poverty, educational shortcomings, endemic corruption, porous borders and lack of public faith in elected government risk increasing the attractiveness of radicalism.

"Extremist groups operate in the country more openly. The government acted against two of them in February last but more must be done. We have cautioned the government about the dangers posed to Bangladesh by extremism," said the

With human rights also a regular topic for Washington's dialogue with Dhaka, she said: "We commend the Bangladesh government for measures taken to protect the rights of Ahmadiyyas, although much more can and must be done following renewed attacks on their places of

She reiterated the US concern "about extra-judicial killings, socalled 'crossfire' killings done by the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab).

On economic matters, the US assistant secretary of state said Bangladesh's GDP growth of above five percent is satisfactory, but could be significantly better.

She also listed the US assistance for exploiting full potential of Bangladesh.

'We have a variety of ongoing activities designed to assist Bangladesh reach that potential. We have development programmes aimed at increasing accountability and the transparency of Bangladesh's democratic institutions. We support civil society advocacy groups such as Transparency International Bangladesh.

Ground water depletion led

Jessore crack **OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore**

A geological survey team has identified the cause of the crack developed on the earth surface of two villages under Jessore Sadar upazila as ground water and the adverse effect of the Farakka Barrage.

The three-member team led by Assistant Director of the Geological Department Kamrul Hassan conducted its survey for two days and dentified the cause.

Meanwhile, a similar crack stretching about 100 feet has developed in the house of one Shamser Sana of Mirzanagar village under the

The farmers of the 10 districts in the southwestern region use 2 lakh 92 thousand 253 pumps including 2,770 deep tube-wells, 2 lakh 60 thousand 160 shallow tube-wells and thousand 2000 thousand 160 shallow tube-wells and 160 shallow tube-wells a about 20,000 other pump machines to irrigate their 6 lakh 36 thousand 866 hectares of land throughout the

CTG AMMO HAUL CASE

Statement recording date shifted

A court here yesterday shifted the date for recording statements of witnesses in the Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd (CUFL) jetty arms haul case to July 6. Metropolitan Sessions Judge Md Anwar Hossain shifted the date as the main accused in the case, Dildar Hossain, fell sick in jail.

Police and coastguards seized 10 ruckloads of arms from the CUFL jetty on April 1, 2004. Later, the officer-incharge (OC) of local police station filed the case against 43 people.

Of them, 14 are now in jail, 16 were eleased on bail and the remaining 13 are absconding.

Uproar at court

under the bailable section, but he refused to take up the petition for

Advocate Zahirul Islam submitted a bail petition and told the Court of Second Class Magistrate. Dhaka that his client's health has deteriorated so much so that she may die anytime. He also said the charge brought against her is bailable.

But Second Class Magistrate Khan Mohammad Rezaun Nabi refused to take up the petition for hearing. He asked the lawyers to place the petition on June 18, as his superior Court of First Class Magistrate, Dhaka on Tuesday fixed the day for further hearing. Angered at the court order,

Bidisha's lawyers pressed the magistrate to pass an order, either granting or rejecting the bail petition 'No judge has the right to play with

the life of a justice seeker who is behind bars in a dying condition, Zahirul said. The lawyers told the magistrate

when he started writing the order that the relation between the Bar and the bench will deteriorate if he stuck to his They also told him that his attitude

towards the case gives the impression that he is the complainant of the case. The magistrate will be held responsi ble if anything terrible happened to Bidisha in jail, they added. The lawvers also threatened to file

case against the magistrate under the section 211 of the Bangladesh Penal Code if he does anything extra-

As the magistrate started hearing another case without delivering an order, the lawyers remained standing before him compelling him to leave the courtroom under police guard.

Earlier on Tuesday, Bidisha's counsels moved a petition for her bail n the cheating case, saying the case aims to harass her

'She did not hide any information or cheat on Ershad," Advocate Zahirul, one of the counsels, told the Court of First Class Magistrate, Dhaka.

Slash call

FROM PAGE 16

The government this fiscal year collected import duty from only 6.26 lakh mobile handsets against some 23 lakh SIM cards sold between July 2004 and May 2005. It caused the government a revenue loss of Tk 128 crore, NBR officials said.

They said the rest 17 lakh mobile phone sets were smuggled into the

Khairuzzaman said the licence fee of mobile phone operators in Pakistan is \$250 million while in Bangladesh there is no licence fee. They pay such a huge amount for licence but offer much lower call rates. How can they do that?"

The NBR chairman also criticised the cellphone companies for not providing their subscribers with quality service. "They government is losing huge

amount of revenue in this sector," an NBR official said justifying the proposed tax on SIM card. The NBR projected a revenue

ncome of Tk 1,000 crore from the sector in the fiscal year 2005-06, of which Tk 300 crore will come from SIM cards and the rest from VAT on call charges and other value-added services. The target has been fixed with a projection that some 20 lakh new mobile connections will be sold n 2005-06.

The government earned about Tk 100 crore from import duty on mobile handsets and Tk 480 crore from other features of the sector until May of the current fiscal year.

The NBR has set a tariff value of Tk 2.172 for SIM. RUIM or similar microchip technology. The Tk 1,200 tax has been fixed on this tariff value that includes a 35 percent supplementary duty and 15 percent VAT.

Anti-govt lawyers

FROM PAGE 16 with anyone's diktat", "stop corruption in the judiciary", and "Our move-

ment will continue."

Explaining the rationale for the human-chain programme, Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Secretary Advocate Enayetur Rahim told The Daily Star, "The court in its order prohibited those activities that hamper administration of justice. Our issues are different, these are out of the purview of the court's order. The court in its order categorically mentioned three issues for not holding agitation."

On May 23, a High Court bench ssued a suo moto order banning all types of agitation by the lawyers on the court premises

The HC order had prohibited the lawyers from engaging in any activities which may interfere with the administration of justice or operation of any court of law in Bangladesh or restrict or limit access of all persons to the courts, their administrative officers and their precincts. It also barred them from bringing

out or holding any procession, rally oï

forming human chain or staging sit-in

mises or any court premises in the

name of any forum or organisation or

strike on the Supreme Court pre-

This injunction shall particularly be binding upon all advocates practising in any courts of law in Bangladesh and further that in the order, proper steps to enforce this order shall be taken including proceedings for contempt of court and in the case of advocates," the orde

further said. Meanwhile, pro-government lawyers' leader and ruling BNP's Law Secretary Advocate Joynul Abedin in his reaction to the human-chain formation said, "All the Supreme Court lawyers including us are aware of the court's suo moto order. The court gave the order after observing different statements regarding the court and processions and gathering

The human chain was formed at around 1:00pm and the participating lawyers vowed to continue with their agitation for the fulfilment of their

So, we should not do anything that

tarnishes the image of the court and if

anybody does so, the court will take

They alleged a guarter is trying to sour the relationship between the court and the Bar.

The agitating lawyers said their movement is not against any individual, instead it has been waged in the interests of the judiciary.

Barrister Amir-Ul-Islam, forme SCBA presidents Advocate Abdul Baset Majumder and Barrister Ozaer Faruk, and the incumbent SCABA secretary addressed the participants of the human chain

Fake medicines reign

copies of a drug named Cavinton,

used for brain haemorrhages. The fake Cavinton was found to lack one of the main chemical ingredients of the real drug. Cavinton costs around Tk 300 for 50 tablets compared with Tk 130-150 for the fakes.

Many fake drugs are usually of no therapeutic value. The side effects, however, can be extremely harmful. "The direct impact could be life threatening to the patient," said Dr. Nezam Uddin Ahmad, of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University. There are also harmful indirect impacts, he added, saying doctors may not be able to accurately prescribe medicines since the dosages are altered, which can lead to prolonged illness or even a failure to cure a disease.

The government's drug testing laboratory at Mahakhali identified 62 fraudulent and sub standard copies of life saving drugs, including Amoxycillen, Tetracycline, Paracetamol, Cephexine.

"We identify a number of substandard and fake copies of drugs every year and send the report to the Drug Administration. They are the authorities to take actions against the culprits," said Dr. Zahurul Islam, the head of the public health and drug testing laboratory.

Most fakes are made by dishonest pharmacists, according to industry sources. But some small pharmaceutical companies also appear to be involved.

In 2001 the government cancelled the licences of 44 small companies for producing counterfeit drugs. It is not known, however, how many were prosecuted. Twelve others were restricted to producing particular items. But the clampdown nas not stopped the practice

"Those fake or substandard medicine producers are not paving taxes to the government. They are posing a health risk to the people The government should take necessary steps against them," said one member of the Drug Industries

Associations. The Drug Administration occasionally raids Babubazaar, the country's largest drug market, and seizes illegal products. Sources in Babubaazar said at least 15 kinds of counterfeit drug brands are available, including counterfeit versions of Perictin, Cavinton, Pathaydin, Kenakta Vayal and Eldakton. Unscrupulous traders also put patients at risk by selling drugs that have crossed their expiry dates. In most cases, they merely change or cover up the original expiry date on

In big cities, many if not all most of the pharmacies sell authentic medicines, but the situation is far worse in village pharmacies,

experts warn. "Sometimes we get samples from the suburban areas or from remote villages. Most of them are substandard medicines. Those pharmacies are cashing in almost without any monitoring," said an officer from the drug testing labora-

Counterfeiting flourishes because of poor government supervision of the pharmaceutical industry. The government has only two testing laboratories and 34 drug supervisors for the entire country, 15 for the head office. Drug Administration officials

maintain that they are doing their best. "We are active within our limited manpower to free the market from counterfeit medicines. Whenever we get information we immediately take action," said Dr Abdul Hakim, Assistant Director of the Drug Administration. The leaders of the Druggists and

Chemists Association disagree. They say the government is not doing enough to control the illegal manufacture and trade of drugs, and that many officials have been bribed to allow fake drugs onto the market. One source cited officials from the Drug Administration as the main culprit in the counterfeit trade. "Some of our traders sell fake

drugs, it is true. But the Drug

Administration should be blamed as

they let the fake medicine producers

Sadequr Rahman, President of the

Druggists and Chemists

Association. "They should inform us

produce those medicines,"

about those substandard products which are prohibited, or about those companies whose licenses are cancelled. But they do not do that,"

He continued "We want to ston selling those fake medicines and initiated several meetings with Drug Administration officials. But they are reluctant to do anything," he added. "Rather one staff from the Drug Administration collects money from the fake drug traders everyday," he

Professor Habibur Rahman, the director of the Drug Administration, refused to make any comment about the issue when this correspondent went to his office.

Int'l HR

FROM PAGE 16

'We all know what situation Bangladesh would face in the future intolerance," said Hassan.

Three leading human-rights organisations in Bangladesh -- Ain o Salish Kendra, Bangladesh Society for Enforcement and Human Rights, and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust -- organised the discussion. Hassan also suggested that the

government immediately lift the ban

on Ahmadiyya publications since

such ban is contrary to the country's constitution and freedom of expression. He said it would be a great tragedy for Bangladesh if it followed the path that Pakistan approached. Referring to the Ahmadiyya community's vulnerability in Pakistan, he said the Ahmadiyyas was declared minority in Pakistan

and if an Ahmadiyya mosque comes

under attack there, one has to refer

it as a "place of worship" instead of "mosque" He slammed the government indifference to the removal of signboards from Ahmadiyya mosques by religious fanatics. "The matter (signboard removal) will not end there, rather its implications would be far reaching and that is why the ban on Ahmadiyya publications is so

worrying," he noted. 'The more you institutionalise the discrimination, the more the situation would go beyond the control of the government, resulting in a grim future for the country," he

Asked about the Ahmadiyyas' missionary activities. Hassan said one is free to preach and free to convert

Brad Adams, executive director of the Asia Division at HRW, told the discussion that growing religious intolerance in Bangladesh concerns the public.

On the Ahmadiyya issue, he said, "We try to raise the issue before it becomes critical. Let us control it (discrimination against Ahmadiyyas) now before it reaches to the extent of uncontrollable.

Adams, however, said religious ntolerance is growing not only in Bangladesh, but also in many parts of the world. The Human Rights Watch would release a report on discrimination against Ahmadivva community in Bangladesh in order to make the people understand the rising religious intolerance in the country.

It was learnt that the report titled

"Breach of Faith: Persecution of the Ahmadiyya Community in Bangladesh", blamed the current BNP-led four-party coalition government for the situation. "While the police have generally provided protection to [Ahmadiyyas] against mob violence, the current

Bangladeshi government has

aligned itself politically with groups and individuals inciting violence against [the Ahmadiyyas]," the report observes The HRW report also says the International Khatme Nabuwat Andalan, an organisation of Islamist groups, enjoys blessings of the ruling BNP as well as its coalition

partners Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami

Oikva Jote. The report details acts of intimidation, harassment and violence against the Ahmadiyyas since October 2003 and says Bangladesh government has failed to effectively investigate such abuses and prosecute those responsible

BUDGET DISCUSSION

JS witnesses unlimited speeches

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday allowed freestyle speeches of the back-bench members of the treasury bench in parliament, apparently to cover the time allocated for discussion on the proposed budget for FY2005-06.

BNP and one from Jamaat-e-Islami, took part in the discussion on the budget during the 125-minute sitting. The speaker did not give them any time limit, rather allowed lengthy speeches. The speaker allocated 34 hours

Only three lawmakers, two from

for discussion on the budget which is likely to be passed on June 30. As the main opposition is boycotting the session, the speaker granted the treasury bench members unusually long time to discuss.

In the budget discussion the speaker gives a lawmaker a certain time limit to finish his speech and the back-bench members usually get shorter time. But yesterday, speaker asked them to set their own time and continue their speeches.

BNP lawmaker Dr Rustam Ali Farazi took 65 minutes, his party colleague Mozammel Hag 25 minutes and Abdul Khaleq Mandal of Jamaat 35 minutes. But their discussions could hardly draw the attention of other lawmakers present at the House. Most of the members were seen talking among themselves.

The finance minister was not present at the House. A senior minister signalled to Farazi to stop when the lawmaker was continuing to deliver his speech after more than an

Earlier, the session began without quorum and at least 10 minute behind schedule. Only 42 lawmakers were present when the speaker entered the House at 5:40pm. The number did not cross 92 until the adjournment at 8:30pm

JP to join FROM PAGE 1

liamentary election.

The party presidium decision brought an end to the month-long speculation inside the party as well as the political arena that the JP might join the ruling alliance and that its three senior leaders are likely to be incorporated in the cabinet of the coalition government. "We will join an electoral alliance in

said, quoting JP Chairman HM Ershad as saying to his presidium members at Ershad, however, did not name any political alliance at the meeting.

The presidium gave all authorities

due time, but not at this moment. I will

discuss and seek all of your opinions

while taking such a decision," sources

decision for running the party.

Ershad at the meeting also explained the latest political situation that has developed centring around his estranged wife Bidisha.

The JP chairman admitted that he

was under pressure from the govern-

to the party chairman to take any

ment due to his pending cases. But he is not facing any additional pressure regarding Bidisha, he added. Ershad said he decided to divorce Bidisha due to the prevailing situation. "I had no intention to divorce her, but when I came to know that she had applied for the citizenship of England and she has Tk 40-50 crore in different banks. then I asked her to guit my family. But she refused and then

decided to divorce her," Ershad said Almost all lawmakers and presidmembers except Rawshan Frshad and Kazi Firoz Rashid attended the meeting held at the party's Banani office.

Thomas' remarks

FROM PAGE 1

into our affairs," Jalil told the news agency when asked to comment on Ambassador Harry K Thomas's forewarning that people would look for alternative if major parties did not work

The AL leader said the US envoy keeps mum when the ruling party resorts to repression on the opposition, files "false" cases against his party leaders and workers and when the government fails to hold an appropriate investigation into the grenade attacks and the opposition is not allowed to speak in parliament. "How could there be consensus if

together on issues of national interest.

restrained behaviour with the opposition." Jalil said. "Under the circumstances there cannot be any under standing with the government from our principled stand." he added. He said understanding and con sensus come through discussion, but

the government does not show

Awami League would not go for any understanding with the party in power by surrendering anything. On 'alternative' force, Jalil said he should not be concerned about that, as Awami League believes in the strength of the people who are the source of all power. It is the people who will take the

right decision considering national

Mobile operators FROM PAGE 1

pany said the finance minister has misinterpreted the issue of incoming call charges of the private operators. "We have incoming charge for calls coming from BTTB land phones as BTTB has not made any tariff agree-

ment with us," he explained.

When a cellphone subscriber makes a call to a BTTB phone, he has to pay to both the mobile company and the BTTB (Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board).
"If BTTB enters into an agreement

with the private mobile phone opera-

tors, the incoming call charges could be withdrawn," a top executive of a mobile operator said. He mentioned that the private fixed phone operators have made a deal with the mobile companies. So the fixed phone subscribers do not have to

pay incoming call charge Moreover, BTTB does not have adequate inter connectivity facility, he

Grant LDCs duty-free

FROM PAGE 1 bilities at home and South-South

She said the fundamental challenge for the South remains one of coping with the thrust of

"We had high hopes that globalisation would benefit developing countries by raising incomes and standards of living. Sadly, this has not happened. The stark fact is that with each passing day, the poor are becoming poorer," she noted about the disparate world order. She said reverse transfers of

resources continue and foreign direct investment reaches only a select few. "Our share in world trade is minimal, as borders close around. us. The mounting debt burden cripples development efforts," she regretted.

Khaleda observed that an international environment conducive to

development, market access, capacity building, transparent nternational financial order and ong-term predictable flow of financial resources to the South were yet to firm up. Terming trade as the most important pillar of globalisation and principal engine of economic growth, she

cratic trade regime is still a distant LDCs accounted for only 2-3 percent of world exports in the 1960s, and their share had since

said an open, rule-based and demo-

fallen steadily, she mentioned. Khaleda made a strong plea for complete duty and quota-free market access of all products of the least developed countries. She commended those who have already provided such access and encourage others to follow suit mmediately.

behind the border barriers, assistance to overcome supply-side capacity constraints of LDCs, "Aid for Trade" through vertical and horizontal diversification of products and strengthening of infrastructure that will provide critical support for the LDCs. Khaleda reminded the conference that the UN Millennium Declaration 2000 reinvigorated the

She suggested removal of

cause of development, which had been earlier ignored. It constitutes a new bill of rights for the world's poor with its clarion call to halve the proportion of hard-core poor by 2015 and represents a moral obligation of the international community and a serious pursuit of

global cooperation. Khaleda also noted that in the declaration minimum targets have been set for reducing hunger, achieving universal primary education, eliminating gender disparity, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating killer diseases and ensuring environmen-

tal safety. "Above all, it carries the promise of a global partnership for development. Unfortunately, progress in achieving the MDGs has been uneven. Their full realisation needs greater will and determination of all,

she told the summit leaders. Khaleda stressed the requirement of much higher funding for materialising the plans.

She regretted that the actual performance in conformation to the ODA target remains dismal, as "the gap between additional assistance required and actual disbursement is huge". In any case, the provision of adequate resources for the world's

poor cannot be covered by ODA

alone--a new financial arrangement for the poor is needed. "The feasibility of innovative financing such as the proposed international finance facility and global taxation for aid should be explored as steps for regional funding. The Paris High Level on Aid Effectiveness in March 2005 made some important recommendations. These need to

Dwelling on the domestic front, the prime minister informed the

summit that Bangladesh achieved

be followed up," she said.

Asaduzzaman Litu was killed in a police "crossfire" while Mushfiqur Rahman Hirok has long been absconding in the face of the Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) action in

even 10 months into the carnage which shook the whole nation as Assistant Superintendent of Police (CID) Abdur Rashid has been

motive and people behind the attack

Investigators failed to find the

Interpol, the largest international police organisation investigating cross-border crimes, sent two of its agents -- Jeffry Eyles, an expert on public safety and terrorism affairs and Jacqueline Pullums, a US analyst of civilian terrorism -- eight

on public safety, and Xin Hu, a security and terrorism expert, flew to Interpol sent a report in March

the attack

nomic growth of over 5 percent

annually over the last 20 years visible impact of improved per capita income in reducing poverty maintaining and increasing food security; enhancement of disaster management capacity and resilience; gradual improvement in human development index; and successes in key social sector and

health outcomes. "In more specific terms, the Bangladesh economy, despite the devastating floods of 2004, and the end of the quota regime since January 2005, is poised to attain a GDP growth rate of 5.3 percent in the current 2004-05 fiscal year," she said in her presentation.

Khaleda said the progress in social sectors of Bangladesh has been even more dramatic and mentioned the successes in education, health and women empower She pointed out two serious constrains that confront

Bangladesh immediately ---the

long-term impact of quota with-

drawal on the RMG sector and the rising oil prices. "These are likely to severely affect our agriculture and export growth," she said. Detailing on the South-South cooperation, Khaleda said the group represents unity in diversity which is a strength if the comple-

mentary of the economics can be tapped.
"Some forward moves have been made but much more need to be done," she said, adding that the scope for doing so has been spelt out in a variety of sources, including the action plans that have emerged from Marrakesh, Doha, Dubai and Havana summits.

Secondly, she cited ideas that have emanated from a variety of recent meetings and reports rangng from the Asian-African Summit Jakarta in April 2005, the Shanghai Conference on Scalingup Poverty Reduction in May 2004 and the Report of the South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation January 2004. "They have set priority-wise agendas, identified key institutional

ships and establishment of lines of credit for South-South trade," she

She also paid rich tributes to Prime Minister Patterson for his leadership in advancing the cause of the South. The Doha Summit will adopt a political declaration and a plan of action, which were intensely negoti-

G77 foreign ministers.
The summit concludes today with the adoption of the two documents--Doha Declaration and Doha

Charge framed

FROM PAGE 16
Rahman Hirok, and chargesheeted

Later, the Criminal Investigation

Khulna. The 15 chargesheeted were

hearing of the charge framing yesterday Ten accused, including the five iournalists, filed exemption petitions, but the judge rejected their

ning to invite them at this moment. But they are always welcome, if they want to investigate.

Headquarters at Lyon in France

the reported 'disclosures' made by Arman and Mokhlesur. Twenty people including AL's women affairs secretary Ivy Rahman were killed and hundred others were injured when unknown assailants hurled several grenades

days after the grenade attack.

the capital on September 1. this year to the home ministry

Constables Motiar Rahman With the death of Younus,

accused of five murders, 27 people were killed in 'crossfire' or 'encounters' with the law-enforcers in Jhenidah since November last year.

FROM PAGE 1 committee headed by Justice tion, Babar said: "We're not plan-Joynul Abedin submitted a report to

attack, was the main target of the attack. The lawyers' body also alleged that its probe was hampered

Outlaw FROM PAGE 16 'crossfire' between police and outlaws in Harinakundu upazila in

Another probe body of the

Supreme Court Bar Association,

headed by Dr Kamal Hossain,

reported that Sheikh Hasina, who

narrowly escaped death in the

Police arrested Younus, 42, son of Amzad Hossain of Rotidanga village in Harinakundu, from his village on Tuesday afternoon.

Following his statement at

Jhenidah in the early hours yester-

Harinakundu Police Station, the law-enforcers took him to Charpara to seize his firearms, the police said. They said Younus died in 'crossfire' when outlaws opened fire

on them and they (police) returned

Mamun Khondoker and Abdul Matin were wounded during the 'shootout'. the police claimed. They seized one shutter gun and two bullets from the

Interpol invited

the government after a 40-day probe, blaming 'external enemies for the attack. A letter was sent to the Internal

by non-cooperation of the governat the AL rally on the Bangabandhi

supervising it.

Wilson also flew to Dhaka on

fire at around 12:30am.

Khaleda, in her deliberation, thanked Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani for his generous hospitality and for the wonderful arrangements made.

and financing mechanisms and

recommended areas for sectoral

cooperation, public-private partner-

ated at the senior officials and expert levels and approved by the

Department's Assistant Superintendent of Police Moula Boksh reinvestigated the case and chargesheeted another journalist.

Of the chargesheeted 17

present in the court during the

commendable progress in six broad

Monday, requesting agents to assist Bangladeshi investigators following

well as the world. tasked with the probe and Special Superintendent (CID) Ruhul Amin is

Avenue.

After they returned to Lyon, Marash Vucilaj, Interpol specialist

hinting at an international link with FBI forensic expert Gibson

September 1 last year.

A one-member judicial probe