PMO help sought

This prompted the Chinese CMEC to write to the Principal Secretary at the PMO against PDB's questionable handling of the project. unusual that a Chinese company is lodging a protest against another Chinese company in Bangladesh, quips a PDB source, "because both

The CMEC notes in its letter that the July 9 letter from the PDB's project director violates Regulation 29 of the PPR (Public Procurement Regulation after the deadline for the submission shall be returned to the Tenderer

The CMEC adds, "if this disqualified bidder continues to be favoured by the BPDB in violation of rules and regulations...we will be left with no ontion other than to take necessary

Sources said following the June 28 bid closing, PDB's Chandpur project director and a deputy director of the process of sending Harbin the July 9 etter in the pretext of seeking "Clarifications on Proposal". The letter was not authorised by the Chairman of the Technical Evaluation Committee or the PDB's Member (Generation) as

According to the bidders of this project other than lacking the legal basis, the Harbin offer is so tricky that the PDB will eventually lose more money to purchase extra spare parts for the power plant if Harbin builds it. Harbin is the only power company

to bag two power projects under the present government so far, although ts experience does not meet the government's criterion. These two are PDB's Tongi 90 megawatt peaking power project and the Fenchuganj 90

negawatt power project. The Tongi plant started operation one year behind the schedule a few months ago and it is frequently tripping due to technical flaws. The Fenchuganj project has just been

awarded to it last month. Industry insiders said that a section of bureaucrats, some PDB officials and some influential policymakers took a huge amount of money from the business lobby behind Harbin.

UNDP official

Lissner said at an international workshop on "Parliamentary Committees in Westminster

Systems: Lessons for Bangladesh, The LINDP official was critical of the existing provision for cancellation of a lawmaker's membership in Bangladesh that says a lawmaker loses his membership for 90 consecutive days' absence in the House.

"Ninety days is too long." he said. Main opposition Awami League demanded that the opposition members should be given chairmanship of the parliamentary committees proportionately to the number of their

seats in parliament. They said many countries are now practising this in order to ensure effective scrutiny of the government functioning by the parliamentary

Chairmen of different parliamentary standing committees as well as lawmakers from both the treasury and opposition benches participated in the workshop, organised under the UNDP-sponsored "Strengthening

Parliamentary Democracy" project. Speaker Jamiruddin Sircai addressed the inaugural session, which was chaired by Chief Whip

Khandaker Delwar Hossain. On the parliamentary committee system of Bangladesh that allows one committee to look into the matsaid it is better for the committees to work for different sectors. "Committees should work comprehensively on issues as a macro-management

system," he said. Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shaheed, responding to Lissner's statement after the inaugural session said, "Lissner has tabled irrelevant issues in this programme, which are

jurisdiction " "Participation of the opposition is not an agenda [in the workshop] and we are here to discuss how to strengthen the parliamentary committee system," Shaheed said. He said the opposition boycotts parliament as they are not allowed to speak

Speaker Sircar, while presiding over a plenary session, urged the opposition to join the House and

make it functional.

ment to the Rules of Procedures and said. "We have taken the decision to form parliamentary standing committees by the third sitting of any new parliament." In the past, it took about two years to form the committees. Sircar said the ministries should consider the recommendations of

He referred to a recent amend-

standing committees thoroughly as these watchdog bodies ensure transparency and accountability of the government, its cabinet and also of the bureaucrats. Saifur blasts

FROM PAGE 16 Development] countries," he men-

tioned while speaking as the chief guest at the concluding session of a two-day international conference on corporate governance in the city. Governance and Finance Studies of

the Dhaka University, Dhaka Stock Exchange, the OECD and the Asia Foundation jointly organised the event at a city hotel. Dhaka University Vice Chancellor SMA Faiz chaired the session Saifur said, "The textile business-

men are pocketing huge sums, taking advantage of the government protection. I've told them, if they continue selling yarn at such high prices, I'll take action against them, He termed the textile company

owners dishonest, who do not give proper dividends to their shareholders which is why the share prices of textile companies are so heavily depressed.

The finance minister also guestioned the veracity of their financial reports, saying, "I don't trust the auditors. They are the worst element in this

case, making fictitious financial reports of the companies. He dubbed the textile company boards rubbish. The company owners

include their brothers and sisters, and brothers and sisters in law in the boards, he alleged. To correct the situation and protect

Besides, exporters said, labelling the interests of the minority shareholders. Saifur said a regulatory body is urgently needed. A regulator can also play a strong role in ensuring truthfulness of the company reports.

Japan team

FROM PAGE 1 Yako Akahane, manager and assistant manager of Jitco.

The delegation will hold talks with the officials of the ministries of expatriates' welfare and overseas employment and the foreign affairs during the visit for preparing the modus operandi of the recruitment process.

Bangladesh Manpower Export and Training (BMET) and the apex chamber body Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) will jointly select the intending workers on a preliminary basis.

The Japanese authority will

finally approve the list. According to the conditions for the recruitment, the workers must work in the designated company and join the organisation that he worked for in Bangladesh after returning from Japan.

Japan will hire a few hundred people from Bangladesh as a test case in the first phase, A K M Shamsuddin, secretary in-charge of the expatriates' ministry, told The

Daily Star last night. Sources, however, have hinted that if the Bangladeshi workers perform well and do not violate the conditions, hiring large number of workers from here is likely.

The intending workers, who must be employees of any public sector or private sector enterprise in Bangladesh, will get one year's training and be allowed to work in a Japanese company for two years as an intern for a handsome salary.

Japan has signed such an agreement with 14 underdeveloped and developing countries, including China, from where over 2,000 workers have already been hired under the programme, sources

said. Entering the vast Japanese market, which is currently facing an acute worker crisis, is looked upon as a great opportunity for Bangladesh.

Bangladesh envoy

credential to Bangladesh envoy is causing serious problems in carrying out official activities at New Delhi

Liaquat could not attend the Foreign Office Consultations held in New Delhi on June 21-22 between India and Bangladesh with his full official capacity.

He will also be unable to join the official visit of Indian External Affairs Minister K Natwar Singh to Dhaka scheduled for August 6-7 as high commissioner if he was not given the credential by then.

A reliable source at the Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi said Deputy High Commissioner Masud Bin Momen, who has been discharging responsibilities as acting high commissioner, is attending all official programmes hosted by the Indian government.

The source said Indian government is a bit unhappy with the frequent changes of high commissioners as three envoys have been

ministry told The Daily Star India usually honour credentials after a good number of new ambassadors and high commissioners arrive. dential in the second week of

be named.

two factions.

and city unit Secretary Nazrul Islam Manju -- left for Dhaka yesterday at the instruction of the party high command, sources said. They are likely to meet BNP

further violence, said a senior officer of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP). After Saturday's clash at Zia Hall, both the factions filed separate general diaries with Sonadanga

the same night. Khulna city unit Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha

(Jasas), filed a GD against 11 people of the whip-Manju faction. Jasas leader Mehedi Hasan Dipu, on the other hand, filed a GD against 15 rivals.

Two factional district committees of the Jasas, the cultural wing of ruling BNP, were formed on Saturday night.

Minister blames

FROM PAGE 1 whenever we took any decision from political obligation, the decision was later cancelled due to the 'negative notes' of the bureausector failed to reach the goals."

The Power Division, Strategic Plan and Management Unit and UN-Escap jointly organised the seminar on 'Integration of Power, Energy and Rural Development Policies and Programmes' at the LGED auditorium. "But for all these failures, as a

politician and a minister, I have to shoulder the responsibilities and to face people for the reckoning...The bureaucrats do this since they are neither accountable to the people nor have to face them in election," he said.

30 lakh eligible voters

start preparing the voter list. Though it has yet to be decided whether the roll will be a fresh or a revised one, the qualifying age for franchise will be 18 years on January 1, 2005, according to The Electoral Rolls Ordinance 1982.

The ordinance, defining the qualifying date says, "In relation to the preparation, amendment or revision of every electoral roll under this Ordinance means the first day of January of the year in which it is so prepared or

In line with the qualifying date, the registration officers will register names of only those who will be not less than 18 years of age on January 1, 2005. Those who would become adults

(18 years) after the qualifying date (January 1) will not be able to have their names on the list. Besides, the people who will come of age in 2006 and 2007 too will be excluded from the The previous EC records show that

17 to 18 lakh people become eligible to

be voters every year. So, the total number of people to be considered ineligible to vote might exceed the 30-The senior officials of the EC secretariat, however, said those whose names will not be put on the list during the regular registration period will still have scope to be registered

after publication of the voter list next

An adult has to fill up only one form to register his/her name during the registration period while he/she has to go through three stages to be registered after the period. This discourages people from being registered on

their own initiative An EC official suggested resetting the qualifying date by extending it for a few more months, leading up to the publication date of the list.

"The electoral roll law will have to he amended to readiust the qualifying date. If the commission fixes the date to be in January next year, a large number of people will get the chance to be registered," he added

The task of preparing the voter list will take at least eight months to complete and the final list will be published in March/April next year, according to the current plan of the EC.

The official said the Indian election commission fixes the qualifying date, extending it for a few months to deal with such problems. He said if they set the date to be in January next year, they would start putting voters' names on the list from October or November in the previous year.

"We can do the same. In that case. our enumerators will gather information also on those people who will come of age in January next year, and accordingly, register those as voters,'

11 to die for killing

Begum, 35, Dulal, 28, Farida, 30, Babul alias Babu, 28 and Al-Amin.

Of them, Al-Amin and Dulal were tried in absentia and the seven others were present in the court

during the delivery of the judge-Jamai Motin, Babu Jamai and Alam's chief maids Farida and Jahanara were given the death sentence for instigating and assisting the killers, while the seven

others were convicted for killing Alam and his three maids. Rabbat Ali and his wife Sheuli Akhter were awarded five years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) for

harbouring the other accused. Abdur Rahman, his wife Asma Rahman and Rehena Parvin were sentenced to three years' RI for sharing the booties while Alauddin has to suffer seven years' RI for

The court acquitted another accused. Abdul Latif Khan, of charges

The punishment of the fugitives will be effective from the day of their

arrest or surrender, the court said. The convicts sentenced to death can appeal to the High Court against the verdict within seven days from the day of receipt of the judgement

After the verdict, Jamai Motin

Earlier, the prosecution and the

broke down in tears and told journalists that the charges brought against him were false and baseless. Alam's other son-in-law, Babu Jamai remained calm while the rest broke down in tears.

copy, the judge said.

defence completed their arguments in 51 dates and the court recorded statements of 57 prosecution witnesses. Alam's three sonsJahir Alam Khokan, Nure Alam Babul and

Babrul Alam Labu were present in the court during the verdict and expressed their satisfaction over the

judgement Among the convicts, Kabir, Sohel, Sohag and Babul confessed to their complicity in the incident in a statement under Section 164 of the

CrPC After the killings on January 2, 2002, Alam's son-in-law Jamai Motin filed a murder case with the Shyampur Police Station the follow-

ing day.
Police arrested Alam's two sons, Jahir Alam Khokan and Nure Alam Babul, in connection with the kill

But the probe into the killing took new twist and the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) submitted a final report on July 18, 2003, taking into serious consideration the fact that three maids were murdered to steal valuables from

Alam's residence. The CID also filed a burglary and murder case accusing Matin. Babu

Jamai and 24 others the same day. The arrestees on charge of the murder were also shown arrested in

the burglary and murder case filed on July 20 the same year. The CID pressed charges

against the accused on August 9,

Then the case was transferred to the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 for its quick disposal but it was taken back to the previous court as 135 workdays ended. Advocates Abdur Razzak and

Sanaullah appeared for the state while advocates TM Akbar, Nazrul Islam and Mahbub Ahmed defended the accused. Alam, who maintained two wives, had family conflicts and his

enormous money tempted the

Baby health in danger

The HRC Products Ltd has renewed its registration for Bebelac-1 and 2 and Infant Formula. An investigation by The Daily

Star found that brands like Enfamil, Eldogrow, Biomil and Babycare-1 and 2, O-Lac, Sweet Baby, Enfapro, Enfalac, Justagen, Pediasure, Similac Advance, Nestle Nido, Nestle Cerelac, S-26 and Sma Progress are selling in the market without any registration.

Of these products, Nido and Cerelac of Nestle contain Arabic while S-26 contains Thai language on their labels violating the legal prohibition of use of any other language except Bangla and English to inscribe all the instructions and information

Again, although My Boy Eldorin-1 and 2 and Biomil-1 and 2 bear registration numbers, the IPHN records do not corroborate them.

Marketing Manager of My Boy of the Lalmai Ltd Uttam Kumar Chowdhury claimed that Eldorin-1 and 2 and Eldogrow-3 are registered products whereas Eldolac-F does not require registration as it is meant for children aged above one year. Marketing Manager of Enfalac

Belal Ahmed said the nine BMS brands imported and marketed by his company do not have IPHN registration but are BSTI certified Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute. He said his company took over

the BMS business about one and a half years ago but he came to learn about the BMS ordinance only three months ago. Ahmed initially said he was not

aware of which authority he should obtain the registration from. Later, however, he said, "Why should we run after the registration authority? The IPHN never asked us to follow such obligations. The inactive IPHN

to sources concerned IPHN Director Dr UH Farida

Khatun expressed her ignorance

over the unregistered BMS prod-"The civil surgeons are respon-

The institute has an advisory committee headed by the additional secretary to the health ministry to advise the government on harmful consequences of not feeding the baby breast-milk and

"I don't know why the advisory committee is not functioning properly," said Dr Farida, who is the member secretary of the committee.

"I am not aware of how many BMS brands in the market are unregistered," said Dr Faruq Ahmed Khan of the committee, "because we don't have enough manpower to monitor the market.

it and Advocate Syed Mahbubur Rahman expired two years ago. As decided at the 54th World Health Summit of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2001, a baby should only be

FROM PAGE 16

breast-fed up to the age of six

old Liberation War hero and gave Tk 5,000 for his treatment. The foundation members have

told Arafat that they would take care of him till his death. Arafat expressed his gratitude

But they are still selling colourful

A court chaired by Magistrate ABN Abdul Fattah raided 11 restaurants and shops in Gulshan and fined them

about Tk 1.86 lakh.

Meantime, three mobile courts

vesterday raided a number of restau-

rants and shops in Gulshan, Motijheel

and Old Dhaka and fined lawbreakers

Food traders

Tk 1.27 lakh for unsafe preservation and unhygienic kitchen environment. He also forfeited Tk 10,000 from Banoful Sweetmeat for selling rotten burgers. Four other small restaurants Biriani shops were fined Tk

12.000. The court of Magistrate Md Rokan Uddoulah raided butter shops and factories at Patuatuli in Old Dhaka and filed 17 cases against their owners. The court filed cases against Uttam Devnath and Zakir Hossain, iailed them for one month and fined Tk 6.000

each for producing spurious butter. The court also fined the butter shops of Narendra Nath, Afzal Hossain, Moselm Ali and Mofakkharul Islam Tk 5,000 each and filed cases

against them. Another mobile court headed by Magistrate Nurul Alam charged Tk 24,600 to three restaurants and fast

food shops in Motiiheel. A court in Narayanganj fined 14 restaurants and fast food shops Tk 7,600 for selling rotten items and preserving food in unhygienic conditions, reports our Naravangani corre-

sponded Our Chittagong staff correspondent adds: A mobile court formed by Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) vesterday fined 21 bakery, sweetmeat and food shops and hotels in the city

Tk 3.54 lakh for unhygienic environment and selling adulterated items. The court led by Magistrate Syeda Sarwar Jahan in a follow-up inspection on Saturday arrested six employees of Tamanna Bakery in Halishahar for

defying its order. The magistrate fined Sweetmax at GEC Intersection Tk 10,000 for unhygienic kitchen and adulterated fast

Polls volatility FROM PAGE 16 54 percent over the previous fiscal year. The extra cost of around \$550 million depleted the foreign

exchange available for other essential imports and put pressures on reserves and the exchange rate. The higher import price of oil, together with the administered retail prices, has threatened the viability of the state-owned Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC). Over the last one year, domestic prices of oil products have increased by 9-30

percent, but in terms of dollar, the

increase was only 2-21 percent,

resulting in a loss of around \$445

million to the BPC in FY2005. The higher prices of imported goods, rapid depreciation of taka and a food price hike have fuelled the inflation, shooting it from 5.7 percent in July 2004 to 6.9 percent in May 2005 on a point-to-point basis, the outlook explained.

4 RU teachers

Romana, a JCD leader of the hall responsible for beating up her roommate Shamim Ara Roni, a masters student of Bangla on May 17 for not following her order. As meeting between the hall JCD

and authorities following JCD workers' angry demonstration over the probe report ended in serious altercations, they confined the house tutor, game teacher and hall supers and started vandalising properties at 11:00pm on Saturday.

JCD leaders placed a four-point demand that include removal of the hall provost, two house tutors and the game teacher, and immediate expulsion of Shamim Ara Roni, who they claimed was beaten up for stealing things from different rooms.

Raids, fines

sugar syrup was not rotten he claimed, and said, "Just yesterday we made it."

Other unhygienic conditions prevailed. Bags of flour sat just beside the washing corner of the narrow kitchen. Dirty water from the washing corner was dropping into the flour bags, which are used to produce parata, singara. sweetmeat and other flour-made items.

Other restaurants, including Mitali Restaurant, Saimon Hotel and Restaurant, and Sohagh restaurant, have also not improved even after being charged Tk one thousand each on the same day. "The environment of our restau-

rant was as good as you see now. Always we ensure the quality," said Mainuddin, manager of the Mitali restaurant, which was fined Tk one thousand for having an unhygienic environment. He claimed that the kitchen is a

little bit dirty due to the heat and smoke of the burner. Unlike these others, which have continued to operate, the Hatirpul

factory of Muslim Sweetmeat has remained closed following the raid. "All our workers from the factory are in jail. So we are not producing sweets there." said a worker.

sweets like before. "We bring the sweetmeats from our Bijoynagar and Mirpur branches and sell it here," he said. Muslim Sweetmeat was also

Face to face

FROM PAGE 1 teachings of Islam. They have forgot-

ten Jihad. They just lick the foot of the The three belong to the group of Al

set up by Syrian born radical Islamist Sheikh Omar bin Bakri Muhammad deport for spreading religious hate.

On July 22, barely two weeks after the London attacks, Bakri said militant Islamists will continue to attack Britain until the government pulls its troops

out of Iraq and Afghanistan. And these three two Bangladeshis and one Pakistani are his followers in Lutton, a small town outside London. It is here that the 7/7 bombers had met briefly at the station before finally going ahead with their deadly mission. It is

car stocked with explosives.

knows these youths from their early

and go to mosques on Fridays. They had good jobs at the council one of them even had a BMW," said

change." They started doing this group, left

their jobs, and grew beards. They started talking of Jihad and the West's policy on the Middle East.

"I was in the path of the Satan," said the thickly bearded youth. "Then I got to know Allah's way and that is what I "No, I don't belong to this society.

it is Allah's and whatever He wishes my

body will be used for that purpose.' "As a true Muslim, it is my duty to ensure that Islam is established all over the world," said the Pakistan born. All the three have their British

passport though And they don't want to do it through elections, as they campaigned in the last polls that any voting is Haram and anyone to vote will become a Kafir. They even tried to beat up a Labour

MP at Lutton in the last elections before the police rescued her. In London, Deputy Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Great Britain Dr Muhammad Abdul Bari named two groups Al Muhajeeroon or Al Gharib and Hizbut Tahiri as the two extremist organizations operating in Britain. He also said a number of reasons might have led the terrorists to bomb the London Underground and

these include their anger against British foreign policy and hate preaching by extremist groups. The injustices done in Iraq and other places are frustrating the people here," Bari told The Daily Star. "We don't condone bombing for that reason, but these work as oxygen for terrorist ideas. Bombing is killing the innocent. One has to go to the root

causes of creating the terrorists. We want to get as much information as possible about why these things are happening."

Zillur Rahman, a Hizbut Tahiri member in Lutton, however denied having any link to extremists. "Islam does not target the innocent," he said. "Jihad is against the

armed persons. We need to look at the whole issue of bombing, including what is happening around, not at one thing in isolation." And as Britain grapples with the riddle of why many young Muslims are embracing the radical ideals, it has

been pointed out that these people

come mainly from the rundown areas,

living in ghettos in isolation from mainstream society. "It is the poverty, inability to mix with the mainstream that makes them frustrated." said Ansar Uddin Ahmed. a Bangladesh born British in London. "I have seen these so called Jihadis in my areas. They usually come from the poorest families and get sucked up easily by the hate preachers. If Britain has to stop this, the economic situation

of the Muslims has to be improved.'

Govt to carry stay

about those of the president and the

nrime minister

rumours that Moudud might be asked to step down as the law minister.

tion even worse for the government'. Then after he met Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on Saturday the rumours started coming thick and fast that he

resigns over the clemency issue it may give rise to clamour for resignations of the president and the prime minister. "Since the president and the prime minister were also involved in the process of granting pardon to Jhintu. their roles too will be called into gues-

a government high official said on condition of anonymity.

Maintaining that the process "By making varying interpretations of the law minister's statements, newspapers have made the issue embarrassing for the government."

The government high-ups believe the controversy will subside if the newspapers stop writing on it.

sion at any level of the government was held on the possibility of Moudud resigning, he said he was not aware of such a discussion, adding that the rumours might have originated from the law minister's meeting with the prime minister. When requested to make com-

ment on Moudud's role, some high officials declined. One said, "I've nothing to say on his role. He [Moudud] has said his own words."

seeking anonymity yesterday told The Daily Star that the law minister had in fact put the president and prime minister into an embarrassing situation by trying to evade his responsibil-He said the clemency was granted

lawfully but the way Moudud dealt with the issue was really unfortunate.

pardon was played by the concerned ministries, and what the president and the prime minister did was mere MOUDUD'S CONTRADICTORY

elected Narayanganj District Bar Association committee. The function is

scheduled to be held on August 2 at Narayanganj Club Auditorium. The Parishad yesterday

minister as the chief guest at the

FROM PAGE 16 which statestender clarifications which may lead to a change in the substance of the tender or in any of the key elements of the tender, shall neither be sought from the Tenderers nor the

Tenderers are permitted to do so. are owned by the Chinese govern-

2003) which states, "Tenders received

legal actions in a Court of Law.

The speaker, however, identified

some weaknesses in making recommendations by the parliamentary "Sometimes we lack expertise in the subject matter and sometimes the recommendations are not taken unanimously," he said. Deputy Leader of the Opposition,

the afternoon session said chairmanship of some parliamentary committees should be offered to the opposition bench so that they can scrutinise

Abdul Hamid, while presiding over

government activities more effec-Hamid suggested allowing the media at the parliamentary commit-Chief Whip Delwar Hossain stressed the role of the main opposi-

tion in making the House functional

and strengthening the committee "How will we make the system functional without making the louse effective?' At the workshop, experts from

Australia. New Zealand, Canada and

India presented papers on the parlia-

mentary committee systems in their

respective countries.

number of committees.

BNP lawmaker Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan tabled a paper on the parliamentary committees in David Butcher, a former deputy minister and lawmaker of New Zealand, who presented a paper on Committees of Parliament: New

Zealand examples,' said the opposi-

tion lawmakers in his country chair a

Dr VK Bhatnagar, speaking on a

arliamentary committee system in

India, said parliamentary standing committees in India play a significant role in ensuring government's

"A senior opposition lawmaker

heads the Public Accounts Committee in India," he mentioned. Prof John Power placed a paper titled 'Parliamentary committees and the Westminster model: has Australia gone too far?' and Linda Buchanan on "Parliamentary committees: the democratic process and institutional support in the Canadian House of

During the three plenary ses-

sions, Bangladeshi lawmakers

asked the foreign experts about the

committees' functioning in their

countries. The experts replied that

the committees are just a recom-

Dhaka also will table a list of 61

Dhaka is likely to press New Delhi

mending body in their countries, but that the government considers their recommendations with the utmost

Indo-Bangla

FROM PAGE 16

Indian market.

Commons."

products seeking duty-free access for them to India. Two Indian ministers in recent talks with the commerce minister and the foreign secretary of Bangladesh have promised to offer duty-free entry of some Bangladeshi products to

to upgrade facilities and open bank branches at its land ports to smoothen trade, the official said. Sources said the meeting may form a joint team to facilitate bilateral The Centre for Corporate trade and commerce. Currently the bilateral trade is heavily tilted in favour of India. It enjoyed a \$1 billion trade surplus in fiscal year 2003-04. NON-TARIFF BARRIERS

> to export cement, condensed milk, electrical appliances, dry cell batteries and mineral water. They also have to register with the bureau, the process of which is unnecessarily complicated and time-consuming, exporters complained.

Bangladeshi exporters currently

need to obtain certificate of quality

from the Indian bureau of standards

Quarantine requirements for exporting jute products are another major non-tariff barrier, they said. According to the commerce ministry, despite huge demands for Bangladeshi poultry and dairy products, exporters failed to get hold of the Indian market due to a mandatory

requirement of sanitary import per-

They alleged the system

intended to discourage import of

those items from Bangladesh.

requirement for jute bags and mandatory registration for pharmaceutical products and chemical tests for leather and leather products have also been major deterrents to export

appointed in the last three years. A senior official of the for

Liaquat is expected to get cre-August, the official said asking not to

Khulna BNP FROM PAGE 1 Meantime, leaders of the factions -- Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman, lawmaker Ali Asgar Lobi

Chairperson Khaleda Zia today, the sources added. Security measures have been beefed up in the city to ward off

Police Station against each other Tariqul Islam Taru, president of

That's why the power

Although the IPHN is responsible for issuance of registration and implementing the BMS codes, it

has virtually remained inactive for the last couple of years, according

ucts flooding the market. sible to report to the IPHN on violation of the BMS codes," she said, "only then can we act."

monitor violation of the BMS codes.

Sources concerned also said the IPHN has been without a lawyer since the contract between

Arora Foundation They enquired about the 76-year-

towards the foundation members --Convenor Abu Zahid Sentu, members Dr Durga Das Bhattacharya, Musa Sadique, Dr Badruddoza, Ahmed Parvez Shamsuddin and Swapan Sarkar -- for their help. Meanwhile, Freedom Fighter's Council, a platform of freedom

fighters, also announced to help

Arafat carry on his treatment.

fined due to the unhealthy environment in the factory and for mixing rotten sweetmeats with new ones.

inexperienced mobile court officials" Otherwise, it will call a two-day strike at all restaurants and food shops across the country on August 3-4, the BKBP

Muhajeeroon now renamed Al Gharib, the extremist Islamic group in Britain

whom the British government wants to

here that the police recovered a rented In this crime prone town of Lutton,

where ghettos abound, Al Muhajeeroon has been active among the youth, residents say, indoctrinating them with the idea of Jihad. Over the vears, this group has mushroomed in Britain and even in London they are seen preaching their ideas in Whitechapel and Brick Lane. But since 7/7, they simply vanished from London; even on Fridays, a day they

usually prefer to hand out their flyers at the mosque corners, they could not be seen. But here in Lutton, there they One of the Lutton residents who

age said they grew up as any other lad they used to have fun, play cricket dress up smartly in the latest designs

the resident. "He must have been earning at least 22,000 pounds a year. Then suddenly they started to

have been working for. You tell me if anyone can integrate with this immoral society of sex and drugs,' says the other one with a wavy beard and long hair. He looks more like an Afghani, "I am not a Bangladeshi, I am not a British. I am not a Bangali. My

fight on for Islam." "I am here because this country belongs to nobody," he says. "It is Allah's land. Even my body is not mine,

identity is I am a Muslim. And I must

about the role of his ministry, but also

Well-placed sources said the rumours had surfaced after some guarters in the government discussed among themselves removal of Moudud from office 'for his outspoken comments that have made the situa-

The situation apparently led to

was going to resign. A government quarter was in favour of removing Moudud, while some others in the government opposed the idea on the point that if he

tion if Moudud is removed. Ousting him will amount to admitting that there was something wrong in the process,'

Against this backdrop, the government now prefers not to make any further statement and bury the issue. followed in granting the presidential nardon to Jhintu was legal, a senior minister told The Daily Star yesterday,

Asked whether any kind of discus-

One of ruling BNP lawmakers

The major role in granting the

STATEMENTS When the parliamentary standing committee on law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry grilled the law minister for not giving an opinion (in the summary prepared for Jhintu's clemconcealing facts in the summary While briefing reporters, the law minister once had claimed that he would have opposed granting pardon

any opinion in favour or against the pardon. He also said that the prime minister should not be blamed as she made her decision on the basis of the summary [prepared by the home ministry]. It was rather the duty of the officials at the Prime Minister's Office to examine all facts before forwarding it (summary) to

the President's Office for final decision,

he told reporters at his office on July

to Jhintu, had the home ministry

included all necessary facts in the

summary. He also said that his minis-

try did not furnish the president with

Then making a U-turn on Saturday, Moudud attempted to rationalise the presidential pardon, saying that his name was not in the FIR (first information report) and there was no witness against him He told reporters that his ministry

would recommend pardon for anyone,

who has been sentenced by a martial

law court, and his name was not in the

FIR or there was no witness against

Although the law minister met the prime minister on Saturday, he denied it while talking to the journalists at around 2:30pm the same day. But news agency UNB reported

UNB quoted the law minister as saying. When reporters raised the issue of Jhintu's clemency yesterday, the law minister did not say anything. He has confined his discussion with reporters

Corruption during BNP's 1991-96 had

filed a case against Moudud for cor-

ruption while he was the industry

minister of former military ruler HM

to reserved seats for women only. MOUDUD'S **CORRUPTION CASE** Now defunct Bureau of Anti-

Ershad's government. Moudud had filed a petition for quashing the case and it was a part heard earlier. Yesterday was fixed for further hearing and it was item No. 4 on the cause list of a High Court division bench. But Moudud's counsel sought for more time for the hearing, which the court granted.

When this correspondent con-

tacted one of the lawvers to know

about the court decision, he skipped

the issue, saving that the develop-

ments were nothing significant. Meantime, Sammilito Ainjibi Parishad of Narayanganj yesterday protested inviting the law minister to a reception ceremony for the newly

demanded the plan for having the law

ency) after examining all documents, Moudud blamed the home ministry for

that Moudud had admitted to the meeting. "I was not asked by the prime minister, but I sought an appointment from her to discuss certain issues,"