## French report warned

FROM PAGE 16
A report by the Direction centrale des renseignements generaux (DCRG), roughly the equivalent of the Special Branch of the domestic police, said monitoring France's Pakistani community was vital if the country was to avoid violence, the newspaper said.

Written in late June, the 20-page report on the Pakistani community in France said: "The United Kingdom remains threatened by plans decided at the highest level of al-Qaeda.

"They will be carried out by agents who will take advantage of the pro-jihad sympathies within the large Pakistani community in the United Kingdom." Three of the four bombers who carried out the July 7 attacks were Britons of Pakistani origin.

Intelligence chiefs had reduced the threat level from al-Qaeda to "substantial" from "severe - general" in June after the May general election. The London blasts killed 56 people including the four bombers.

A French police source confirmed the existence of the DCRG report: "It's a technical study. The Pakistani community, like all communities in the country that are likely to cause difficulties or that are gaining in importance,

"This monitoring is normal, and of course it's updated," added the source, who asked not to be named. The security services had stepped up their efforts in the wake of the London attacks, the source said.

France, which Le Figaro said has a 35,000-40,000-strong Pakistani community based mainly in the Paris area, "is not shielded from these sort of violent groupings when you realise the ations) between the Pakistani community in Britain and many of their compatriots living in France.

"Following the Pakistani community (is) vital in terms of preventing any violent act (in France)," the report added.

The report cited statements in March by the Jaish-e-Mohammad (Army of Mohammad) -- a banned al-Oaeda-linked Kashmiri militant group that branded France hostile to Islam. They could trigger attacks on French interests in Pakistan, the report said.

The Pakistani community in France was increasing through illegal immigration and networks specialising in forged identity papers. But most Pakistanis in France wanted to integrate and disapproved of the activities of a minority bent on religious extremism, the report added.

Pakistan was central to a major case in June at the main Paris criminal court, which jailed a Pakistani with joint British nationality for five years for terrorist conspiracy.
Ghulam Rama, 67, was found

guilty of using trips to Britain, New York, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia ween 2001 and 2002 as cover

while he organised terrorist attacks. He was also convicted of helping 'shoebomber" Richard Reid during his stay in Paris. Reid, jailed for life in January 2003 was overpowered by passengers as he tried to detonate a home-made bomb hidden in one of his shoes during a Paris-Miami flight in December 2001.

### Clearing agents

FROM PAGE 1

president of the federation said. Earlier in the meeting with its advisor M Salimulah in the chair, the federation decided to continue the agitation programme.

The federation demanded the cancellation of the clean report finding (CRF) activity of pre-shipment spection companies. They also demanded the with-

drawal of the recent circular issued by the Ministry of Commerce to turn all the C&F companies into limited companies, the cancellation of monitoring by the central intelligence cell of the NBR and the suspension of issuing new C&F licence for next five

Export and import through Benapole land port, the largest land port of the country, has continued to be suspended since the Benapole C&F agents called an indefinite term

After the meeting, the C&F federation advisor Salimulah told The Daily Star that the NBR officials have to say sorry to the federation at first for their comments terming clearing and forwarding an unnecessary work.

"Clearing and forwarding is a globally recognised service and the job is being done through the law nacted in 1969," he said.

Meanwhile, the ACA has arranged press conference today at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity to press

home their demands. BDNEWS adds: BGMEA in a press release yesterday called upon NBR and striking bodies to resume the activities of the Benapole land port soon for the greater interest of the national economy.

As the strike at Benapole port has prevented unloading of imported raw materials of export oriented readymade garments industry, the

#### Natwar visit signals boundary demarcation will be taken at the government level after the Joint Working Group submits its

report on the demarcation of 6.5-km

boundary, adverse possessions and

with the tri-nation gas pipeline, the issues of Bangladesh's export to

Nepal through India and the proposal

for the import of energy from Bhutan,

which are also economic issues,

Bangladesh as non-secular. We are

guided by our own thoughts and

Natwar's remarks about India's wish

for a secular Bangladesh and joint

fight against terrorism and funda-

does not tolerate and will not tolerate

international terrorism, he said

adding, "We are against international

terrorism and blind fundamentalism

government system and Election

democratic parties to form a greater

unity to have a meaningful change

tive parliament that will be repre-

present state of ruling and we are

working for that change," he added.

create any political crisis in the

country initiate dialogues with the

opposition without making anymore

held among the parties which have

representation in parliament and the

parties which formed alliance with

of the current parliament are businessmen by profession that shows

how our parliament has been

grabbed by people who only want to

make money," he said referring to a

Mannan, Major General (retd) MA

Halim and Firoz M Hasan also took

13 fishermen

die in trawler

capsize in Bay

Thirteen fishermen drowned when a

fishing trawler capsized on Sunday

evening near Hiron Point in the Bay

as Noni Gopal, Al-Amin, Rafiq Mistry,

Neyamul, Karam Ali, Mahbub,

Shahiahan, Hasan, Habib Mreda

informed locals about the trawler

capsize after returning to

Patharghata in Pirojpur from the Bay

Abdul Rob. Abu and Abu Bakkar.

of Bengal yesterday.

Twelve of the dead were identified

Fishermen of other trawlers

of Bengal due to strong current.

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal** 

part in the discussion.

BDB leaders Major (retd) MA

He said the dialogues could be

Eighty-three percent members

sented by honest people.

Dr Kamal urged all progressive

He said people prefer an effec-

"People want a change of the

Dr Chowdhury said, "Don't

Bangladesh never tolerated,

"It would not be right to consider

he said in response to

The foreign minister said along

enclaves, he said.

need to be worked out.

mentalism

of any religion."

FROM PAGE 16

Commission.

in the country.

those parties.

Dr Kamal

Terming India and Bangladesh "natural friends" Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan said: "We don't have Kashmir between us, we don't have nuclear buttons between us. We can work together for mutual benefit following the visit of Natwar Singh.

During his three-day visit, Natwar had formal talks with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan and Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman,

which were dubbed "fruitful". The Bangladesh and India dialogue, possibly for the first time when did not accuse each other, indicating a softening of their positions, is definitely a positive indication for improving the bilateral rela-

tions, diplomatic sources said Both the sides think that Indo-Bangladesh relations will step forward further when Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda

Zia pay visits to each other's country. Natwar said high-level visits from India would take place soon, including the trips of the Indian commerce minister and water resources minister, when the Indian side will make its effort to resolve the trade gap and

water sharing issues. While Dhaka has always urged New Delhi to take steps for reducing about \$1.5 billion trade imbalance Bangladeshi products fail to get adequate access to Indian markets due to imposition of tariff, para-tariff and other barriers.

Morshed Khan yesterday reiterated that India should open its market for all Bangladeshi products without tariff barriers.

"We have given them everything, we've nothing more to give now... is now India's turn to provide Bangladesh with equitable treatment in trade," he told reporters at the Zia International Airport, where he saw off his Indian counterpart Natwar Singh vesterday morning.

Talking to reporters at the airport, Natwar Singh said he hopes the Bangladesh prime minister will visit New Delhi either before or after the Saarc summit in response to the Indian prime minister's invitation.

The 13th Saarc Summit in Dhaka on November 12-13, where Dr Manmohan Singh will attend, is expected to bring a significant change in the region that never happened earlier for various reasons, he said.

Meanwhile, talking to reporters at his office yesterday afternoon, Foreign Minister Morshed Khan said, "Trespass may happen from either side. They are members of informal border-trade syndicates. There is no Bangladeshi who had gone to India

for illegal stay." If any Bangladeshi lives in India illegally, there is an international norm to deal with it, he said, adding, "Wholesale 'push-in' by Indian

authorities is in no way acceptable to Referring to many Indian shops, restaurants and offices in Bangladesh, he said many Indian

citizens are working here legally or

During the official talks with Indian external affairs minister Natwar Singh on August 6, Morshed Khan said, "We have agreed to discuss the matter at the next home secretarylevel meeting. The outcome of the discussion along with other issues will be taken up at the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission meeting headed by the

The bodies of the fishermen could not be rescued for heavy tides until esterday evening. The trawler is yet to be salvaged. A decision about the land-

#### A victim

The infamous Indemnity Ordinance was finally scrapped in 1996 that paved the way for holding trial of the case. The murder case was filed on October 2, 1996.

A lower court on November 8, 1998 handed down capital punishment to 15 retired and sacked army men for assassinating Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Muiibur Rahman and most of his family members on August 15, 1975.

The High Court (HC) upheld the punishment of 12, four of them are now in jail. The four filed leave to appeal petitions against the HC verdict. The case remains pending as these petitions have not been heard in the Appellate Division.

PRESENT STATUS OF APPELLATE DIVISION

Of the seven judges in the Appellate Division, Justice Md Ruhul Amin and Justice Mohammed Fazlul Karim have already heard the case in the High Court.

Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain (the present chief justice), Justice MM Ruhul Amin and Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury felt embarrassed to hear the case at different times. Justice MA Aziz was appointed CEC on May 23.

Justice Md Tafazzul Islam is the only judge in the Appellate Division who is eligible to hear the case at this stage, as he did not feel embarrassed nor did he hear the case in the High Court or Appellate Division. HEARING UNLIKELY **BEFORE 2007** 

The hearing of the leave to appeal petitions is unlikely to resume before March 2007 when Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain will retire.

His retirement will create a vacancy in the Appellate Division that will lead to the appointment of a permanent judge. Besides, appointment of a judge to the post vacated by Justice Aziz may offer an opportunity to resume the hearing.

But until these appointments, the status of the Appellate Division will remain as it is.

The chief justice was supposed to retire on March 1, 2005. Now he is going on retirement on March 1, 2007 as parliament amended the constitution to extend the retirement age of Supreme Court judges from 65 years to 67 years

WHAT GOVERNMENT CAN DO Still, a solution can be reached if the government decides to appoint judges on ad hoc basis to the Appellate Division, If it happens, the hearing can resume even today. But it solely depends on the government's willingness to complete the

In October 2001, the then Chief Justice Mahmudul Amin Choudhury wanted to have a judge in the Appellate Division and suggested an appointment on ad hoc basis but he did not get a positive response from the government.

However. Law. Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed has already ruled out the possibility of any such appointment. On several occasions he said the government is not going to appoint judges to the Appellate

THE CONVICTS Lt Col Syed Farook Rahman, Lt Col Khondakar Abdur Rashid. Lt Col Shariful Hag Dalim, Risaldar Moslehuddin, Lt Col Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Lt Col AM Rashed Chowdhury, Lt Col Mohiuddin Ahmed, Lt Col Noor Chowdhury, Maj Bazlul Huda, Maj AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed, Capt Abdul Mazed and Lt Col Abdul Aziz Pasha were sentenced to death in the

Of them, Lt Col Farook, Lt Col Sultan Shahriar. Lt Col Mohiuddin and Maj Huda are in jail. Lt Col Pasha died in Zimbabwe in 2002 while the others are absconding.

case

## Assam on high

FROM PAGE 16 and the troops are conducting a massive hunt across the state to nab militants responsible for the

serial blasts," Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi told AFP. The deadliest attack occurred late Sunday when a powerful blast rocked a crowded market near Boko village, about 40km from the main city Guwahati, killing three people

and wounding nine. One of the injured died in hospital Monday, the official said. "The conditions of at least two

are reported to be critical," A. Das, a doctor at the Guwahati Medical College, said.

Assam's inspector general of police Khagen Sharma said the attacks were "nothing but attempts to create chaos to terrorise people ahead of Independence Day," on August 15. The day marks the end of British colonial rule in India in 1947.

"We had reports that the Ulfa would target vital installations and security forces beginning Saturday and they have done it."

More than two dozen rebel groups in the oil-rich northeast are fighting for secession and routinely boycott celebrations on Independence Day, which they observe as a "black day"

Apolice official said militants also blew up a gas pipeline late Sunday in eastern Assam and two power transformers, a railway track and a government officers' housing colony in other areas.

They also bombed two oil pipelines belonging to the state-owned Oil India Limited (OIL) Sunday, triggering massive fires.

India's northeast is a large and remote area comprising seven states of which Assam is the biggest. More than 10,000 people have lost their lives to insurgency in the past two decades.

## Islamic extremists

Ibrahim Muktar Said, 27, Ramzi Mohammed, 23, and Yassin Hassan Omar, 24, were ordered to remain in custody until Nov. 14 on charges of attempted murder, conspiracy to murder, possessing or making explosives and conspiracy to use explosives. They face life in prison if

convicted. Said was accused of trying to detonate a bomb on a bus in east London. Mohammed is suspected of attempting to bomb the Oval station subway train, while Omar allegedly targeted an underground train near Warren Street station

The men spoke only to confirm their names.

The fourth main suspected attacker. known both as Osman Hussain and as Hamdi Issac, was arrested in Rome and is being held there on international terrorism charges. British authorities are seeking his extradition.

Armed officers stood guard near the entrance to the court in southeast London near Belmarsh highsecurity prison. A helicopter hovered overhead.

The court appearances were the first in Britain by those suspected of direct involvement in the failed July 21 attacks, which didn't kill anvone but set the London capital on edge exactly two weeks after the July attack. The July 7 bombings killed 56 people including the four suicide

No one has been charged in connection with the July 7 attacks, but police have said they believe they have all the July 21 attackers in custody after a series of dramatic arrests last month.

Another man, Manfo Kwaku Asiedu, also appeared in court charged with conspiracy to murder over a bomb in a backpack found July 23 near a London park. He was also ordered to remain in custody until Nov. 14. The backpack containing the bomb was found near Little Wormwood Scrubs park in northwest London.

The Bow Street Magistrates Court was also due to consider the case of Haroon Rashid Aswat, a British citizen of Indian descent, who had been deported to Britain Sunday after Zambian authorities held him in connection with the London bomb-

British police arrested Aswat, 30,

on a US extradition warrant accusing him of conspiring to set up a training camp in Bly, Ore., between October 1999 and April 2000 with the aim of preparing and equipping individuals to "fight jihad in Afghanistan," police said in a statement. Aswat had been detained in Lusaka, Zambia, since July 20,

where he was questioned about 20 phone calls reportedly made on his South African cell phone to some of the bombers responsible for the July The United States has 60 days under US law to secure an indict-

ment against Aswat now that he has

been arrested on a provisional Three other men were also due in court Monday in connection with the bombing case. Police have charged Sirai Yassin Abdullah Ali, 30, Wharbi Mohammed, 22, and Asias Girma, 20, with assisting people in evading

Six people appeared in court last week charged with failing to disclose information about the whereabouts of Hamdi Issac and were ordered to

remain in custody until further hearings. They included Issac's wife and

Attorney General Lord Goldmsith's office said the Crown Prosecution Service's head of antiterrorism would meet with senior Metropolitan Police officers to discuss possible charges against three prominent clerics as part of a crackdown on those the government believes are inciting terrorism.

Clerics Omar Bakri Mohammed Abu Izzaden and Abu Uzair, have appeared on British television in recent days and a spokeswoman for Lord Goldmsith's office said prosecutors and police would look at remarks made by the three and consider whether they could face charges of treason, incitement to treason, solicitation of murder, or incitement to withhold information known to be of use to police.

Mohammed has reportedly said

since the July 7 attacks that he would not inform police if he knew Muslims were planning another attack and he supports insurgents who attack troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.
"No decision on charges has

eral's office spokeswoman said, speaking anonymously because civil servants cannot be The spokeswoman said prosecutors may also seek access to taped recordings made by an undercover

been made yet," the attorney gen-

Sunday Times reporter who reportedly recorded members of a radical group praising the suicide bombers as "The Fantastic Four." The newspaper's story said its reporter spent two months as a recruit" of the group, the Savior

Sect, and described the organisation as inciting young British Muslims to become terrorists.
(AP, AFP, BBC Online)

### 4 Ctg cops

FROM PAGE 16 Another three cops and an ansar were closed for snatching money from a person near the Outer Stadium under Kotwali Police Station the same night.

The DMP on Friday closed two of the cops including an ASI and a

### Manmohan

FROM PAGE 1 next year as she will make her foreign visits before and after the

Talking to reporters at his office vesterday afternoon. Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan said, "We are making our efforts so that the meeting between the two premiers on the sidelines of the summit could produce substantial results."

#### Lost memory

is no government funds for these unidentified patients. Dr Prince of the neurosurgery department said if the government allocates funds for such patients, no patient will have to bear such suffering any more.

Director Brig Gen Sarker MA Matin of the DMCH could not be contacted despite repeated attempts, while Deputy Director Kazi Kamaluddin Ahmed avoided

# Contractor accused

otherwise it is considered an act of sabotage," a well-placed RPCL

The REB-RPCL officials were visiting the plant site to investigate

an allegation of corruption against Sky Engineers, a sub-contractor for the under-construction third phase 70MW power plant. Sky Engineers is owned by the chief of LIPPS, while the third phase

plant is being built by German company Seimens, which is also represented in Bangladesh by the chief of LIPPS. The contract was awarded without any negotiation and LIPPS facilitated the deal as consultant.

After one day's effort the REB-RPCL officials managed to re-start the power plant. However, during the effort they found that the LIPPS staff had sabotaged some vital

LIPPS annually drew \$6 million for an operation and maintenance contract signed through an unsolicited negotiation years ago. PDB sources said the value of their contract should have been less than \$1 million

"Following the incident, the RPCL board held a meeting and unanimously agreed that LIPPS has seriously violated its agreement and sabotaged the plant and its contract should be scrapped," said the

"We shall take the final decision upon legal scrutiny in the next RPCL board meeting very soon," another top REB source guipped.

According to these sources, the REB-RPCL officials made a sudden visit to the Mymensingh plant site upon receiving complaints from igh Speed, a third party contractor for Sky Engineers. High Speed had deployed 295 personnel in the construction for the third phase Mymensingh plant. However, following an unknown

dispute, the Sky Engineers suddenly barred the High Speed staffs from entering the project site. Since the RPCL has already spent 60 percent of the investment for the plant, it felt that this problem should be resolved the earliest. "When this was informed to the secretary for power, he instructed

the Mymensingh plant operator

LIPPS to permit entry of the High Speed staffs," said the RPCL But again they were not allowed an entry, saying that their gate nasses have been cancelled. an amazing situation. This is an RPCL property, but Sky Engineers

is issuing and cancelling the passes," said an RPCL official Upon receiving information, the secretary for power reiterated that the REB and RPCL do not need

anybody's permission to enter their property. He suggested the REB to investigate the state of security at the project site, which belongs to the government, not any private citizen. This time, the RPCL-REB top officials along with the police and two magistrates went to the project

site. But the plant's operation contractor, LIPPS, flatly denied their

entry. LIPPS also gathered a good

number of people armed with canes waiting at the gate. In-charge of administration of the plant site, Firoze Kabir, told the visitors that he has been instructed by the LIPPS chief not to allow any entry. He also said if anyone enters forcibly, he will be attacked, said a

source who was on the spot. "Then we contacted the police high officials for police reinforcement, the secretary, the state minister for power and the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Then with a stronger force we revisited the spot and upon seeing so many police, they opened the gate. But we realised they have shut down the plant and most of the people had fled the site. Within a few minutes, the remaining LIPPS and Sky Engineers officials were also gone, he added.

Last year, the RPCL lost a German grant of 45 million euros due to the corrupt role of LIPPS which was exposed by The Daily Star. However, due to the close link of the LIPPS chief with the "alternative powerhouse" of the govern-

ment, nothing has happened so far. Allegations of corruption against LIPPS were raised by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and German donor KfW in the past. The LIPPS chief asserted strong influence over the RPCL to resist an auditing by the German govern-The German government's initial investigation found that the chief of LIPPS illegally remains present at the RPCL board meetngs and there are many irregularities in the RPCL.

The RPCL, registered in 1994 was formed with REB, sharing 51 percent and five Palli Bidyut Samity (PBS) sharing 49 percent. During the Awami League rule,

the LIPPS chief waged political backing from Sheikh Helal, a relative of the-then prime minister. Now the LIPPS chief wages similar political backing.

#### 2 SIs face

eight members of the family including her husband and father-in-law.

According to the allegation brought by Shafigul's family, the police stormed into their house and ransacked valuables and furniture and seized important documents. They also misbehaved with the family members.

Kazi Niez Mahmud, brother of Shafiqul, alleged that Ilsi Noor Shanta--wife of Shafiqul's son Moinul Islam Sohel, her brother Saiib and father police inspector Borhan came to his brother's house at around 3:00am with some policemen. As the members of the house made a little late to open the door, the police beat some of them mercilessly, he alleged

He also told The Daily Star over phone that Shanta, Borhan and Sajib took away three mobile phone sets, wristwatches and some gold ornaments.

However, Deputy Commissioner (North) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Obaidul Hag said the allegations made by Shafiqul Islam are not true.

A top police official who inquired the incident denied the allegation that police ransacked furniture or misbehaved with the family members. Seeking anonymity the official said the SIs were not guilty, but we had to stand-release them following pressure from the police high-ups. Shanta in the FIR (first information

report) filed on Sunday said the accused, including her husband and father-in-law, used to torture her for dowry of Tk20 lakh. Shafiqul's family members tried to

kill Shanta on December 22, 1999 pouring insecticide into her mouth but she survived after being treated at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, police said quoting the FIR. Later Sohel and his family members pressed and tortured Shanta,

mother of two children, for Tk20 lakh.

As the demand for dowry was not met Regarding Shanta's allegations about dowry and torture mentioned in the case, Niez Mahmud said the allegations are not true.

### Media gag at

FROM PAGE 1

The restraint had been imposed on Election Commissioners AK Mohammad Ali and M Munsef Ali following serious disagreement between them and Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz over declaring the election schedule for women's reserved seats in parliament and preparation of the voter list for the

next parliamentary election.

Despite the EC decision about the roll, the discord remains as the two election commissioners appear to be

sticking to their guns. "We are still saying what we said earlier," Election Commissioner AK Mohammad Ali said, explaining their [the commissioners'] position on the voter roll issue.

"We gave our opinion that the list must be prepared in accordance with the Electoral Rolls Ordinance 1982," he added.

"The chief election commissioner had once said it would not be possible to prepare a fresh list without amending the ordinance. But now he's saying that there is no legal bar to preparing a fresh list. I don't know why he has shifted from his earlier stance, Mohammad Ali said.

According to the EC decision, the voter list for the next parliamentary election will be prepared afresh, like the previous ones, in accordance with the electoral ordinance.

Fresh rolls were prepared in 1983,

1990, 1995 and 2000 following the Electoral Rolls Ordinance 1982. "It was a consensus decision and there is no reported discord within the commission," EC Secretary SM

Zakaria told reporters yesterday. The decision for a fresh roll was made at Saturday's meeting, say the

minutes of the meeting.

But it was kept back from the media till the EC made it public on Sunday. During the August 6 meeting, the CEC asked the election commissioners not to disclose anything about the meeting. After the meeting, he and the two election commissioners denied taking any decision and said they

But the EC on Sunday did not hold the scheduled meeting, and instead announced the decision.

Election Commissioner AK Mohammad Ali however said the August 6 meeting did not take any decision. The CEC yesterday declined

### Six removed

FROM PAGE 1

to meet journalists.

The Bangladesh-born Britons --Kazi Nazrul Islam, Kazi N Rahman and Nurun Nahar Chowdhury -- all hail from Sylhet, Nurun Nahar was on a wheelchair when she was removed

from the flight. The Moroccans are Elhithu Tarek Yasin Ellacch and Mohammed

"The British Airways through their intelligence sources got information that some passengers were on board with bombs." Azad Zahirul Islam. security chief of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB), told The Daily Star yesterday. Following the tip, the CAAB

gers from the plane and offloaded their luggage. "We thoroughly searched the BA-144 flight but did not find any bombs, weapons or any threatening materials." Azad said. "We also did not find anything suspicious with the six passengers,

authorities removed all the passen-

he added. Immigration officials at ZIA also said they have quizzed them but found nothing suspicious. "DGFI (Directorate General of Forces Intelligence) personnel took them in their custody and released them after further interrogation," an immigration

Sources said the British citizens have left for Sylhet while the Moroccans checked in at a Gulshan Meantime, the BA in a press release yesterday apologised for the delay of its flight. "This was caused by additional security checks follow-

ing reports of suspicious behaviour,' the release says.
It also says six passengers were offloaded from the flight. "The safety and security of our passengers and staff is of paramount importance and will not be compromised," it adds.

## Bar leaders for disclosure

president of the association, chaired

as nine times?"

therally.
The SCBA leaders also demanded resignation of the ruling coalition to end its 'misrule and

establish the rule of law'.

Referring to Friday's grand rally of pro-BNP lawyers, Barrister Amir-Ul Islam said the law ministry had instructed the district judges to contact lawyers so they do participate in the rally.

"District judges are now in grave peril," he said, urging the Supreme Court judges to shield the lower court

On the stalled process of Bangabandhu Murder Case in the Supreme Court, he questioned, "Out of which passion or aversion did the

"If the atmosphere is not congenial to hearing of the case, then it is an omen of disaster for the nation. he said. Allegiance to ruling parties these days seems to be the only criterion to be a judge and it stains the image of the judiciary, Amir-UI observed. 'The authority to appoint judges

must not rest with the executive," said, adding the lawvers will keep on agitating to uphold the judiciary's mage with the public. Criticising the role of Law Minister

Moudud Ahmed in the Jhintu issue, he said, "The law minister has constantly flip-flopped on the issue. The government has undermined

the rule of law and independence of

the judiciary, he said, asking, "Will the country be ruled by the killers or

law minister's resignation as popular Advocate Abdul Baset Mojumder said. "Make pubic all the documents

on presidential mercy to Jhintu." "We'll continue to protest the wrongs done by the government and

marching to the National Press Club. police put barricades on the road 20 Supreme Court After jostling with the policemen for some time, the lawyers stormed the barricades and marched to the press club, chanting slogans fansi chai (Jhintu-Moudud are two

# US embassy in Saudi

"This gives the markets an

premises in Riyadh as well as two consulates would shut until Wednesday in response to an unspecified threat.

on August 8 and 9," it said, without providing further details.

the past two years. The British Foreign Office on Monday warned Britons travelling to Saudi Arabia that the terrorist threat there remains high and that there are "credible reports" of further

9.5 million barrels per day and has the capacity for an additional daily quota of 1.5 million. There's uncertainty in the mar-

about terrorist action or disruption of oil supplies in Saudi Arabia.'

at US refineries, which are battling to provide sufficient gasoline and heating fuel to meet robust demand, particularly from the northern hemisphere. The United States is the world's biggest consumer of energy.

maintenance but there a lot of general problems," Investec analyst Bruce Evers said Monday. The failure by oil ExxonMobil to restart its 245,000 barrels-per-day refinery in Joliet, Illinois, as scheduled last Thursday,

was particularly compounding

worries of a supply disruption, dealers said. Although consumers have access to large supplies of heavy, sour crude, refiners prefer light, sweet oil -- such as Brent North Sea because of its low sulphur content and relatively high yields of gaso-

line, heating oil as well as diesel and

Rahman received Natwar Singh at

On arrival at Joyag, Gandhi Ashram Trust Secretary

Jharnadhara welcomed the Indian

External Affairs Minister and his

entourage. Later, he went round the

museum where some of the items

used by Mahatma Gandhi are kent

and signed the visitor's book of the

Singh saw some damaged portraits of Mahatma Gandhi at the

museum and assured that he would

arrange to get these restored through the Gandhi Trust in India.

Natwar Singh said he was glad to

Speaking briefly on the occasion

# New warm-up sign

"Oh, you are here," an apparently surprised Natwar said, spotting Morshed already waiting at the hands cordially and sat on sofa side

65th birthday, which incidentally fell vesterday.

Those present at the scene

quickly took their turns and also

was Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin who received for-

mally the Indian Minister. Talking to the reporters at the airport, the foreign minister said India should open its market for all Bangladeshi products with zero tariffs and without non-tariff barriers

Morshed termed India and Bangladesh "natural friends" and said: " We don't have Kashmir between us, we don't have nuclear buttons between us. From now on we can be working together for mutual benefit after the visit of

Natwar Singh. NATWAR VISITS GANDHI **ASHRAM IN NOAKHALI** 

Noakhali district.

Singh arrived at Begumgamj upazila headquarters by a helicopter at 8:00am and later went by road to Jayag, the place Mahatma Gandhi visited back in 1946.

Hashem and Deputy Controller of Protocol Mahfuzur Rahman accompanied the Indian minister. **Deputy Commissioner Shahadat** 

Hossain Majumdar and Police Superintendent AKM Shahidur

by law?"

Describing the demand for the demand, former SCBA president

its fall is imminent," said SCBA President Mahbubey Alam.

Ojayer Farooq, former SCBA president, asked the government to resign 'for the people to be at peace'.

and Ruhul Quddus Babu, among others, spoke at the rally. After the rally, participants brought out a procession at about 4:45pm.As they got out of the Supreme Court premises and were

vards off the main entrance to the 'Jhintu-Moudud dui bhai, ek dorite brothers, we want them to be hanged

The SCBA men held another rally

period of ill health that saw him hand

over the reins of power in the last

limited support to oil prices, with the

event seen as unlikely to disrupt

energy production in Saudi Arabia.

Fahd's death had provided only

Oil prices are 40 percent higher

than a year ago. However adjusted

for inflation, they remain far below

levels reached in the wake of the

1979 Iranian revolution when prices

surged to upwards of 80 dollars a

peaks last week owing to disruptions

Prices had reached historic

"Some refineries are down for

vears of his turbulent rule.

barrel in today's money.

# Fahd died in hospital after a long

said Tim Evans, a senior analyst at IFR Markets.

opportunity to blast to new highs in the near term, although the ongoing flow of ample production means that a major downside risk for this market remains," he said in a note to clients. The US embassy in the Gulf

kingdom had said Sunday that its

"In response to a threat against US government buildings in the kingdom the US embassy in Riyadh and the US consulates general in Jeddah and Dhahran will be closed

The US embassy warned on July 20 that terrorists could strike again in Saudi Arabia, which has been rocked by a spate of bloody attacks attributed to Al-Qaeda militants in

attacks in the near future. Saudi Arabia is the world's bigest oil exporter, producing about

ket," a trader at Bache Financial said. "People are worrying

# A week ago the kingdom's King

Begumganj helipad.

Sikri on Sunday night

by side. And moments later, it was only after Veena Sikri whispered some thing in his ears that Natwar wished Morshed "Happy Birthday" on his

wished Morshed happy birthday. Morshed's presence at the airport also caught the attention of other waiting journalists, as on the day of arrival at ZIA on August 6, it

"We've given them everything, we've nothing more to give now... It

is now India's turn to provide

Bangladesh with equitable treat-

ment in trade," he said. Asked if Bangladesh received any specific assurance from the Indian Minister in resolving any bilateral irritants, he said, "We don't think everything will be right overnight. Despite all difficulties, we will remain constructively engaged with

each other to find solutions.

Earlier in the morning, Natwar Singh visited Gandhi Ashram at Joyag in newly formed Sonaimuri upazila of

Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran, Joint Secretary Mohon Kumar, Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Veena Šikri. local MP MA

lack of presence.

row [today] as we are informed to have police for the raid," he added.

#### under Kotwali Police Station, owned by Amjad Hossain. 'Tipped off, we raided the factory

adding. "My sources informed they also produce antibiotics but they must have removed those sensing our presence " The court ordered Kotwali police to seize all the products from the factory and to file a case under the

conduct yesterday's raid due to a

#### come to such a place and happy to see that the people here still remember Mahatmaji who was loved by people of all faiths for his mission of

Fake medicine fined for having unclean atmospheres. Some also failed to show expiry dates on labels, the magis-

trate told The Daily Star yesterday

at Gulshan but did not find any fault

The court also went to Pizza Hut

with the restaurant. "It was clean and we did not find any fault with it," the magistrate added. Another court led by Rokonuddoullah found a false medicine factory Sheikh Distributions at North South Road

today [yesterday] and found unregistered saline," the magistrate told The Daily Star. "They were producing different brands of medicine, balms and condoms," he said,

police said the file was under process as of the filing of this report yesterday evening at 8:30pm.
Meanwhile, Magistrate Nurul
Alam of Dhaka City Corporation told The Daily Star that he could not

Special Powers Act 1974, Kotwali

"We will continue the raid tomor-

#### SCBA Secretary Enayetur Rahim, Advocates Sahara Khatun, Subrata Chowdhury, Bashir Ahmed judges feel embarrassed for as many

together with one rope).