KM Hasan

discussion on the 30th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman organised by the Bangabandhu Parishad at the Engineers' Institute in the city.

How can a justice feel embarrassed to hear a case while he took oath to keep himself beyond any family tie with anyone?" she said.

The present government extended the retirement age of justices in a planned way to get a loyal person as the chief of caretaker government and

rig the election. she said The AL chief also questioned the neutrality of Justice MA Aziz as the

chief election commissioner "Bangabandhu's murder was not merely the act of a few army offi-cers...the defeated forces of the Liberation War and even some freedom fighters were involved in the conspiracy to eliminate the spirit of the Liberation War, "she said.

The AL leader made an oblique reference to late president Ziaur Rahman of masterminding the murder, saying, "What was the role of

General Ziaur Rahman, who was picked as the chief of army just after the killing of Bangabandhu and took overpower after a few months?"

Being a freedom fighter, Ziaur Rahman rehabilitated the Razakars by grabbing state power and halted the trial of the war criminals, she

The former prime minister urged all pro-liberation and progressive forces to launch a united movement against the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition to free the nation from the clutches of misrule.

Hasina said the ruling BNP lawmakers have been repressing journalists across the country. "This government has turned the country into a den of criminals. Bangladesh is now being treated as a country of violence and widespread repression on journalists,"

Presided over by National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, the discussion was also addressed by Prof Nurul Islam, journalist Golam Sarwar, Advocate Mahbub-e-Alam and Bangabandhu Parishad

Traders to keep

murderers are not arrested and brought to justice within the next three

DISPUTE ADDED TO TOLLS AS REASON

Thirty-six hours into the outrageous murder, the police last night was yet to pin point the motive for it. However, they said issues like extortion and business disputes were gradually gathering more focus in their investi-

Law enforcers and family members also hinted that Shahidullah's stiff insistence to realise an outstanding rent to the tune of Tk 65 lakh from a garments factory owner might also be a reason for his assassination.

Roots Garments, which rented a 19,200sq-ft floor of the Mirpur Mazar Co-operative Market building, owes the sum to the market association, of which Shahidullah was the general

The owner of Roots Garments, who claims to be a ruling BNP leader and on very good terms with a BNP minister and a Dhaka lawmaker, did not bother to pay the rent despite repeated reminders from the market association, local business leaders

"Mazar Co-operative Market Association submitted a written complaint to Mirpur-based Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-4) on February 17 and requested it to help the association realise the due," said an association

leader seeking anonymity. He also said, after submission of the complaint to Rab-4, the garments factory owner had a brawl with

"We are now mainly focusing on

However, Energy Adviser

Mahmudur Rahman yesterday told

the press the government will dis-

cuss with legal experts before taking

action against Niko when it receives

investigation reports from two other

committees-- one is assessing the

loss in gas reserves and the other is

determining the environmental

loss to be submitted by August 31

and environmental damage by

second blowout inside six months

could perhaps have been averted

had Niko's relief well contractor

options when it reached a precari-

Altaf suggests

The commerce minister yesterday

prescribed publicity of religious

sermons while the advisor to the

ministry advocated for stopping

extortion to curb the price hike of

essentials during the month of

taskforce on 'prices of essentials.

Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain

Choudhury urged media people to

publicise the Islamic teachings and

Hadit so that the traders do not hike

the prices of essentials during the

that while the prices of essentials are

reduced about 20 to 25 percent

during the festivals of other coun-

tries, here the traders hike the prices

able to do so," the minister said,

ple to publish news on the eye of the

Ramadan that essential commodi-

ties are available in the market so

Barkatullah Bulu, the advisor to

the commerce ministry, said the

traders have to pay at least Tk 2,000

in extortion and other purposes per

expressing his helplessness.

that people do not panic.

"I do not know when we will be

He also advised the media peo-

double or more during the festivals.

The commerce minister regretted

Presiding over a meeting of the

preaching to

arrest price

hike

Ramadan.

holy month.

BDNEWS, Dhaka

"The Niko contractor had two

The report also noted that the

September 30," Rahman said.

chosen a better option.

"We expect the report on gas

illegal tolls demand and the dispute

over the rent (as possible causes)." said Mirpur Police Station Officer-in-Charge Abdur Rob. Meanwhile, police arrested Mohammad Selim, 18, an alleged

criminal, from his south Bishil house at about 1:00pm, suspecting his involvement in the killing. The OC said Selim was present on

the spot. "Once we start interrogating him, we may find a lead to the killing,'

CASE FILED

Jobaida Akhter, wife of slain Shahidullah, filed a case with Mirpur Police Station early yesterday. But she did not mention any specific reason for the killing or name anyone as killers.

She said a gang of six unidentified criminals shot her husband dead.

However, in the FIR (first information report) she mentioned that some criminals had been demanding a huge amount in illegal tolls from Shahidullah for the last few months.

She also mentioned that her husband might have been killed also due to unknown reason. **CONDITION OF PRINCE**

Kazi Tofazzel Hossain Prince, son of Shahidullah, is gradually recovering from his bullet wound. Doctors at Shamirita Hospital said prince is still in a post-operative unit, but his condition is now better.

The killers shot Prince in the abdomen when he tried to save his father when they were shooting at his father soon after the Jumma prayer at South

ous situation on June 23 while trying

to drill the relief well. It either could

control the sudden kicks by letting

the gas flow out and burning it down

or manage the gas pressure by

using mud," said a committee

better option was to use mud tech-

nology. We experienced a similar

situation in January where Niko tried

to flow out the highly pressurised

gas and that led to the first blowout.'

of teamwork in Niko's operation. A

small company. Niko relies heavily

on contractors, whose commitment

and accountability were shrouded in

questions. The company has less

the gas field only once. A few hur-

riedly left the spot soon after the

disaster instead of helping tame the

raging fire," said another investiga-

"Some staff on contract visited

than a dozen staff on its payroll.

The investigators also found lack

he added.

"The committee felt that the

Niko solely blamed

Khaleda, Hasina condole Lankan FM's death

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Prime Minster Khaleda zia and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed deep shock at the assassination of Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar.

In a message sent to Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga, Khaleda said:

"Kadirgamar was an outstanding statesman and with his untimely death, the world and South Asia, in particular, has lost a leader and a man of peace."

"The government and the people of Bangladesh joined me in condemning this dastardly act in the strongest terms," she said, and hoped that the assailants would be apprehended and brought to justice.

Sheikh Hasina also expressed deep shock at the assassination of Lakshman Kadirgamar.

Hasina, also the Awami League Chief, strongly condemned the heinous attack on the Lankan foreign minister and said. "We all have to be united against terrorism.

Hasina said Bangladesh Awami league is always against all kinds of

terrorism and for peace. She expressed condolences to Kadirgamar's family and the people of

Sri Lanka Foreign Minister Morshed Khan also expressed deep shock at the assassination of his Sri Lankan coun-

Govt to sell

FROM PAGE 16

The price hike of essentials put the four-party coalition government in embarrassment frequently during the last four years

Even the ruling party lawmakers expressed their worry about the price spiral and feared its negative impact in the coming general elections. That is why the government has drawn up such price control programmes, sources said.

The food ministry informed the taskforce that the ministry is starting OMS in the capital from September 1 through 650 dealers and from September 15 throughout the country through more than 18,000

The commerce ministry said that acting upon its suggestion the National Board of Revenue has withdrawn the ban on the import of rice and sugar through land ports. Its effects are already noticeable in the market.

Fakhruddin

FROM PAGE 16

The firm does not mix any sort of chemicals in their food but we found the kitchen unclean, and there were insects like bees in the raisins they mix with food," the magistrate told The Daily Star yesterday evening.

The magistrate filed a case under section 24 of the Dhaka City Corporation Act and punished the firm a fine of the said amount, which Hazi Mohammad Rafig. son of Fakruddin, paid immediately.

Another court, led by ABM Abdul Fattah, raided Ganaktuli in Hazaribagh and Nazimuddin Road in old Dhaka.

During his raid, he fined Tk 25,000 to Sonar Bangla Food Products at Ganaktuli for selling expired vermicelli. The same court sealed off

Sydney Bakery and Confectionery when none of the firm's staff could be found during the raid. The owner, along with his staff, fled the scene and closed the shop after hearing that the court was coming. The magistrate issued a warrant against its owner.

Magistrate Fattah also closed Happy Pharmaceuticals for having no legal papers. The magistrate asked the owner

to submit his documents to the local police station, and ordered him to keep the shutters down until police find the papers satisfactory.

FDI grew 50pc

and power to support the momen-

The principal constituents of

manufacturing sector are textile

(17.69 percent), chemical (7.16

percent) and leather and rubber

(2.83 percent) sub-sectors that

represent about 88 per cent of this

significant sector. Textile continued

to be the highest FDI-recipient in the

manufacturing sector. Growth in the

manufacturing sector creates

enormous employment opportuni-

and allied (0.49 percent) and glass

and ceramics (0.19 percent) also

have been attracting FDI to a certain

BOI officials expect that the

Western Europe is the largest

regional source (45.22 percent) of

FDI in Bangladesh during 2004,

which could be sub-divided into two-

European Union (18 percent) and

other Western Europe (27.22 per-

cent). North America's investment

United Kingdom contributed 16.26

percent that is 90.33 percent of the

of Asia (33.61 percent) -- the second

largest source-- which includes

In the European Union, the

The developing region consists

amounts to 13.33 percent.

total FDI from this area.

announcement of lucrative fiscal

incentives for agro-based sectors

would attract more FDI in the short

and long term.

Agro-based (1.37 percent), food

tum, the survey report suggested.

FROM PAGE 16

Niko hired a US company after the first blowout to carry out the drilling of a relief well. "The chief was a leading blowout expert, but the field staff never worked on a relief well before," he said.

The probe committee, however, did not find any fault in Niko's planning for the relief well.

Niko, which was found disqualified on technical and financial grounds during the evaluation of the second round block bidding in 1997, is now drilling a so-called 'data well' for geological information of the area damaged in two major blowouts. Thereafter it will draw up its plan for a second relief well to plug the hole in the main well.

But sources at the energy ministry are highly critical of the Niko move. "This move will drive the last nail in the coffin of the 260 billion cubic feet (bcf) gross reserve. The Tengratila field will continue to burn till December," said an energy

"You need to plug the hole through a relief well as soon as possible. I'm not sure if the government would ever be able to put any pressure on Niko," he said in frustra-

The energy advisor earlier said that the government will collect due compensation from the Niko by blocking its payment against gas bill from the Feni field, also jointly developed by Niko and Bapex. Experts, however, contradicted his line of thinking, saying that as per legally tag Feni with Tengratila.

Emergency declared

FROM PAGE 1 in the slaying, military spokesman

Daya Ratnayake said.
"We strongly suspect the Tigers because he had threats from the

LTTE," Ratnayake said.
Two suspected Tamil rebels were arrested a fortnight ago after allegedly spying on Kadirgamar, he said.

The rebel group, which has been observing a ceasefire since February 2002, denied responsibility for the killing and said the government must look "inwards" to get at the killers. "Denying any involvement in the assassination ... LTTE's political head,

S.P. Thamilselvan Saturday con-

demned Colombo for hastily blaming

the Liberation Tigers for the killing," the pro-rebel Tamilnet website said. The rebels had branded Kadirgamar, a member of the minority Tamil community, as a traitor to their cause of setting up a homeland for mainly Hindu Tamils within Sri Lanka which is mainly Buddhist and ethnic

Analysts feared for the uneasy truce between the government and the rebels, already rocked by higher violence in recent months, and said the high-profile killing could re-ignite the island's three decade-old civil war.

"There should be both local and international pressure on the parties to hold the course, build confidence and maintain the ceasefire," Sunanda Deshapriya, director of the Centre for

Special security FROM PAGE 16

tsunami in December last year and then for the Indian prime minister's refusal to join on security grounds, is now scheduled to take place on November 12-13 this year.

Meeting sources said as part of the tight security measures, different intelligence and law enforcement agencies will keep all the entry and exit points of the capital under

Zia International Airport will be under a high security alert during the arrival of Saarc leaders and foreign ministers. Entry to the airport will be restricted and baggage and checkins will be monitored closely ahead of the meet.

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) will be deployed to ensure security of the leaders.

The law-enforcement agencies will start a crackdown on criminals and conduct block raids on slums, hotels and other areas in the capital in order to track down potential 'troublemakers' during the summit. "More steps are on the cards. Dhaka will be foolproof in the secu-

rity perspective," the state minister told reporters emerging from the Secretaries of the ministries concerned, chiefs of the law enforcement and security agencies and top officials of different govern-

ment bodies attended the meeting

held at the home ministry. The meeting also discussed the security measures for land and seaports and reviewed the activities of five security subcommittees

PolicyAlternatives, toldAFP.
"Otherwise, there's a chance we

will go back to ẃar." **ŬN Secretary General Kofi Annan** led international condemnation of what he called a "criminal and sense

"It's completely insane, it's a major setback for the peace process," said Erik Solheim, the top Norwegian envoy trying to engineer a lasting peace deal between the government and the LTTE.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called it a "senseless murder" and "a vicious act of terror." She said those responsible must be brought to justice.

Neighbouring India also condemned the "terrorist crime," but expressed hope that Sri Lanka would maintain political stability.

Hajj flight

"The decision to increase the plane fare for hajj pilgrims is also unfair as the increase is not imposed on the passengers of other routs of the

Biman," the HAAB president said. He sought the prime minister's intervention into the matter before the cabinet meeting tomorrow takes the final decision of increasing the fare.

HAAB Secretary General Zinnur Ahmed Chowdhury Dipu said the government should invite international tender for carrying hajj passengers by other international flights also if it fails to retain the plane fare at \$

"We strongly believe that many international airlines will come forward to carry the haii passengers and the plane fare then will come down below \$ 900," he said.

Presently the Biman can carry only 40 percent of the total hajj pilgrims from the country while other nternational airlines, including the Saudia, carry the rest 60 percent, Dipu said.

"If the civil aviation ministry decides to increase the plane fare of Biman, the international airlines will also increase the fares of their haji flights, thus taking away a huge amount of foreign exchange from the country," he added. Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Hajj

Passengers Welfare Council

(BHPWC) yesterday at another

press conference strongly protested the civil aviation ministry's proposal to increase the plane fare of hajj pil-"Performing the hajj will become difficult for the country's Muslims because of the government's decision to increase the plane fare, council President Advocate Abdullah Al-Naser said while addressing the

Press Club. He also demanded withdrawal of the government decision to carry hajj passengers by only two airlines.

press conference at the National

BHPWC members Sheikh Ahsan Ullah, Abdus Salam, Manjurul Islam and Golam Hossain also spoke at the

Dhaka, S'pore

FROM PAGE 16

economic cooperation in potential

Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin yesterday left for Singapore to lead the Bangladesh side at the talks. The consultation is considered an important event following Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's return visit to Singapore on March

Earlier on June 21-24 last year, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong visited Bangladesh. The two countries signed Investment Guarantee Agreement and decided on MFA-to-MFA consultations during Loong's visit.

Bangladesh seeks Singaporean investment, particularly relocation of their sunset industries. Two-way trade is insignificant as the balance of trade is in favour of Singapore.

Ahead of his Singapore visit, Hemavetuddin had told reporters Dhaka would try to persuade the Singapore government to buy more products from Bangladesh. Singapore imported fresh vegeta-

bles and fruits worth about \$10 million in the 2004-05 fiscal year. "We will approach them to buy

more goods from Bangladesh. Though there is a bright prospect in this regard, we can't compete with the neighbours of Singapore because of airfare," Hemayetuddin said. "We will ask them to reduce the

airfare so that Bangladeshi

businesspersons can export more items." he added.

At the consultation, Bangladesh side will emphasise export of skilled and semi-skilled human resources and signing of a trade agreement. Besides, Bangladesh will also seek more Singaporean investment.

The foreign secretary said Bangladesh would seek technical cooperation in different sectors, scholarships for Bangladeshi students, cooperation in horticulture, training to Bangladesh port officials by Singapore Port Training Authority and visa liberalisation for Bangladeshis.

Foreign ministry officials said a common outlook and shared interests have led to broader and deeper ties between Bangladesh and Singapore.

"Our relations with Singapore is positive and friendly. Leaders of both the countries had made several visits in recent years, showing a positive indication towards working together for each other's benefits," said a senior official of the foreign ministry.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman visited Singapore in May last year to attend the Bangladesh Investors' Conference jointly organised by the Singapore Manufacturers' Federation and Bangladesh's Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Deal with Lahmayer

FROM PAGE 1

the new project. We have spent 60 percent of the project's budget. On August 4, the LIPPS refused the RPCL high officials, its parent organisation the Rural Electrification Board (REB), police and magistrates' entry to the plant site. The officials were visiting the place to investigate corruption charges against the LIPPS and Sky

Engineers. The government last week issued arrest warrants against LIPPS chief Captain Reza and more than seven of his accomplices. Meanwhile, Reza and his gang had fled to Singapore one day after the sabotage took place, rces said. If proved guilty of subversion and

damaging the power plant among other allegations, the culprits may be awarded at the most capital punish-Captain Reza and his companies have been keeping the RPCL hostage for a long time and draining out millions

Using the LIPPS as consultant of the RPCL, Captain Reza also acted as a middleman for Alsthom and Siemens which built both the existing two units of the Mymensingh plants. Each of these projects cost double the price of the power projects of similar size implemented by the PDB. Sources close to the Siemens said the

German company now regrets having any association with Captain Reza. Lahmayer, the German consultant that was the parent organisation of LIPPS, now has no relationship with LIPPS as Captain Rezabought all its shares. Last year, the RPCL lost 45 million

euro German grant due to corruption of the LIPPS which was exposed by The CORRECTION The Daily Star news item headlined

"Cops raid office to nab Lahmayer chief" published August 11 mistakenly named Zahirul Islam as the chief of Sky Engineers. The name of the chief of

Saarc foreign secy meet postponed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 31st session of the Standing Committee of the Saarc foreign secre taries slated for August 17-18 in Islamabad has been postponed in the wake of the assassination of Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar.

The August 16 one-day meeting of the 26th session of the Programming Committee of Saarc senior officials has also been postponed.

A highly placed source at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the news came when the concerned desk contacted the Pakistan foreign office vesterday. Islamabad will soon announce

fresh dates for the two meetings, the official added. Pakistan currently holds the rotating chair of the seven-nation South

Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc).

The high official however said the death of the Sri Lankan foreign minister would not affect the 13th Saarc Summit in Dhaka on November 12-13. The Standing Committee was due

to chalk out the agenda for the Dhaka summit and review the progress of implementation of the decisions made at the 12th summit in Islamabad in January last year.
The Programme Committee was

tasked to finalise a report on Saarc activities since the Islamabad summit.

Official sources said Islamabad has already conveyed the postponement news to the other Saarc member states -- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

Trial of killings FROM PAGE 16

the army personnel who took part in the Bangabandhu killing operation also killed Habibur Rahman, Anwara Begum-1, Anwara Begum-2, Moyful Bibi, Sabera Begum, Abdullah, Rafiqul, Safia Khatun, Shahabuddin, Kasheda, Aminuddin, Honufa Bibi, Rezia Begum and her daughter Nasima in Mohammadpur.

On November 29, 1996, Mohammad Ali, a resident of Sher Shah Suri Road who was injured in the attack, filed the case with Mohammadpur Police Station accusing Lt Col Syed Farook Rahman, Lt Col Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Major Bazlul Huda, Lt Col Khondader Abdur Rashid, Lt Col Shariful Haq Dalim, Lt Col SHMB Noor Chowdhury, Maj AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed, Lt Col Abdul Aziz Pasha, Capt Abdul Maied, Capt Mohammad Kismat Hasem and Lt Col MA Rashed Chowdhurv. The Criminal Investigation

Department on April 30, 2001 pressed charges against 18 people. Of them, Lt Col Farook and three others were detained.

The absconding accused are Resalder Moslehuddin, Lt Col Khondader Abdur Rashid, Lt Col Shariful Haq Dalim, Lt Col SHMB Noor Chowdhury, Maj AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed and Lt Col AM Rashed Chowdhury, Mai Shariful Hossain. Lt Col Abdul Aziz Pasha, Capt Abdul Majed, Capt Mohammad Kismat Hasem, Capt Nazmul Hossain, Dafadar Marfat Ali Shah and Dafadar Mohammad Abdul Hashem Mridha. Of them, Aziz

Pasha died in Zimbabwe in 2002. Former minister Taher Uddin Thakur, the lone civilian accused in the case, is now on bail.

64 district bodies

Talking to reporters yesterday, EC Secretary SM Zakaria said the EC will form the committees at the fieldlevel to coordinate the enumeration task. "Such committees will be formed before the start of collection of information about people eligible to be voters." he said.

Meanwhile, preparatory work is going on in full swing as the EC secretariat plans to complete collection of information by October and enumerators will start registering people as voters in November. The EC secretariat plans to

recruit some three lakh enumerators, 75, 000 supervisors, 7,000 assistant registration officers, and 500 revising authorities for preparing the list. After completion of the recruitment, training programmes will start for those officials.

Meanwhile, the printing of over eight crore registration forms has already started

BUDGET AT A GLANCE

The EC yesterday again sought from the finance ministry a fund of Tk 146.29 crore as the ministry on Thursday sent back the budget proposal due to procedural flaws.

The EC secretariat yesterday sent the proposal with a summary signed by its secretary SM Zakaria. The EC officials said they hope the budget issue would be settled in a week through discussion with the finance ministry.

The proposed budget estimates a cost of Tk 75 crore for remuneration of about four lakh enumerators and supervisors. Remuneration cost EC Tk 56 crore in preparing the last voter list in 2000. This time, the EC secretariat

estimates the cost of printing the voter list to be at Tk 27 crore while it was Tk 22 crore in 2000. The officials at the EC secretariat

said they sought Tk 111 crore in 2000 for preparing the previous have the list prepared.

SP show-caused

Four magistrates, six police officials and 112 constables were supposed to be on duty at the shrine of Hazrat Shah Saved Ahmed Gesu Daras. popularly known as Kolla Shahid, to ensure security of the more than 100.000 devotees gathered there to celebrate the annual weeklong Urs.

But, on Friday midnight, the third day of the Urs, 10 nearsimultaneous bomb explosions froze the devotees in terror, sparking of waves of panic throughout the surrounding areas at Kharampur, six km off Akhaura

Mosaheb Ali, 40, who was killed in the blasts, came from Baradi village in Narayanganj

Though there was a report that a woman named Hasna Begum was also killed in the attack but the police denied it. Her body was not found on the spot too. Witnesses said the first bomb

wen off at 11:50pm near the donation box at the main entrance to the

The rest of the explosions took place one after another within the next five minutes. Five of them

blasted on the shrine premises, two at the main gate and two in front of the nearby Akhaura Railway School.

Police also recovered another bomb, live, from the spot.

Meanwhile, the DC vesterday formed a 3-member probe body into the bomb attack headed by additional district magistrate. The committee has to submit its report within a week.

Of the injured, 26 were admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital. Akhaura Upazila Health Complex and various local clinics, while another five with critical wounds

Chandra Das. 30. of Mirpur. Dhaka: police constable Motahar Hussain. 35; and Rafique, 35, of Narshingdi.

ence he and his brothers had in Dhaka

Medical College and Hospital in the

aftermath of the blasts. "It seemed he

was having rest after a long day of

the mortgage of the house, family members said. "None of the govern-

ment officials has ever visited us even

to make query about the dead,

disgust at the way the government is

The family members expressed

AL had helped the family to clear

work," he recollects.

Mamun alleged.

Father's death kills

Pallab has four brothers and three sisters none well off to support the family as well as bear the expenses for

Italy but cannot contribute anything to the family as he has to count a substantial amount as payment in instalment for the loan his father took to send him abroad said Pallah

League (AL) and member of AL central He would look after the family of his eight children all by himself. He had mortgaged his house for the education of the children. He was as dutiful,

dawn, say his fazr prayers, and mop our entire three-katha house, Mazharul Islam Mamun, Rafiq's third child, said, adding, "Before going to his shop at 8:00am, he would wake us up Rafiq, hailing from a village of

Movement in 1952 and never returned. He took part in the Liberation War

He had seldom missed any meeting, procession or rally of AL for 30 long years. He would prepare chewing ginger and take in a small container to every programme of the party. Besides, he used to take pocketful of

those with his fellow party men, law enforcers and journalists in the rallies "He would buy around 18 types of

"He had a wooden frame, knife and never let anyone get close to him during preparation of the item, which he would do sometimes even in the

dead of night," he added. He used to call AL President Sheikh Hasina mother. He never missed any programmes addressed by Hasina and went to airport almost every time the AL chief left the country or returned back.

injured over 100, rescuers found Rafiq leaning against a closed shutter of a shop on Bangabandhu Avenue Shrapnel smashed both his legs Three splinters pierced though his ribs, one through his right chin while some might have reached his brain, Pallab said, who rushed to the hospital hearing the news.

probing the August 21 grenade attacks on the AL rally. 'This government will not properly investigate the grisly crime," said Mamun, adding, "All they [government] are doing is a farce in the name of probe and trial.'

"We like to know who the killers were, and the trial may come later, said Maya, daughter of Rafiq. "Even if Awami league had made the attack, as claimed by the government, we want to know the names of the mastermind behind the cowardly and cruel attack,

Mid-ranking

FROM PAGE 16 e party and against the "misrule"

of the alliance government. The leaders, who head different secretarial posts, at a meeting of the party secretariat also criticised the ongoing internal feuds of different party units and break of chain of command in the party hierarchy which they said will be damaging for the party in the next election,

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil, who chaired the meeting, admitted that break of chain of command is one of the reasons of the internal strife and that the district unit leaders have often contacted him or the party president directly disobeying the chain of command, sources

The AL leaders asked the party top brass to resolve the longstanding internal feuds without further delay and complete the

district unit councils by next month. The AL's central office bearers at the meeting also suggested motivating people in favour of the electoral and caretaker government reforms instead of launching any fresh "oust-government" move-"It is true that people are not

We could not create confidence in the public mind that we will serve better than the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition." a leader told the meeting. Another leader suggested holding meetings at different places across the country on the AL's views

happy with the alliance rule, but

what is Awami League itself doing?

on issues like agriculture and indus-Abdul Jalil told the leaders that he and Organising Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury will meet party chief Sheikh Hasina and convey the

Bakri, who famously praised the

September 11 hijackers in the

United States in 2001 as "magnifi-

cent", triggered outrage after the

July 7 bombings when he said he

would never tip off police if he knew

a Muslim was about to carry out an

said no link between the two bomb-

ing waves emerged from early

are not connected," a counter-

terrorist source told the newspaper.

contained, rather than being organ-

ised by some kind of mastermind."

findings from the inquiry.

Meanwhile The Independent

"The key point is that the events

"It appears they were self-

However, the apparent discovery

the July 7 cell were operating alone

increases the chance that other

suggestions.

FROM PAGE 16

bombers and figures alleged to be behind the repeat attempt found no evidence of a "mastermind" plotting the attacks, or of involvement by the

development in Prime Minister Tony Blair's attempt to rein in foreign hardline Islamists who for years have been tolerated in Britain, many as refugees, despite their openly

"Goodbye and good riddance!" said the Daily Mail newspaper. "The presence of this poisonous rabble-rouser with his gospel of hate

and his ruthless sponging on a society that showered him and his family with benefits was always an affront.

"The truth is he should have been kicked out of this country years ago," said The Sun, Britain's biggest selling newspaper. "What happens if Bakri flies in to

similar units with no track record were forming, sparking fears of further attacks.

on the intelligence radar. There are know about out there.

quite probably others we do not

were sent to Dhaka hospitals for better treatment. The seriously hurt people include Litton, 40, of Brahmanbaria: Abdul Barik, 60, of Dhaka; Asadullah, 30, of Manuhardi; Sahed Mia, 50, of Brahmanbaria; Saheda Bhanu, 60, of Sarail; Monir Mia, 60, of Habiganj; Akbar Hussain, 70, of Dhaka; Sukkur Bibi. 70. of Svlhet: Bhanu

said, narrating the gruesome experi-

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Pallab's education Biplop, one of his brothers, lives in

Rafig. who was a widower and 68years-old when he died, was an adviser to Dhaka City unit of Awami

loving and caring to his family as he was devoted to the party, said his children. "Abba [Rafiq] would rise before

and enquire if we need anything." Homna upazila in Comilla, first came to the capital to participate in a procession during the days of the Language

of 1971 and was shot in the leg in a battle in Comilla. After independence, he had kept away from the party for a couple of years and instead concentrated on the trade of selling bicycle

guavas from his tree at the house He was well known to all for sharing

spices and crush those to fine powder. Then he would add the powder to smashed ginger," said Pallab. a tin-tray to cut smash and bake the ingredients of the ginger item. He

Immediately after the August 21 blasts, which killed 22 people and

"My elder brother [Chanchal] first thought Abba was sleeping," Pallab

Britain to deport

al-Qaeda terror network. Bakri's ban was a significant expressed extremist views.

"It is concerning that none were

truck while carrying their goods. South, East and Southeast Asia of dollars as the annual 6 million-dollar voter list but were allocated Tk 101 Britain? Will the prime minister risk He said if the extortion is (31.47 percent) and West Asia (2.14 Sky Engineers is actually Mostafa contract the government can not LIPPS O&M contract is actually worth crore. Finally, it took Tk 95 crore to checked, the prices of essentials will uproar by refusing to let him disempercent). Africa also contributed \$1 million, according to the Power Kamal, who is now wanted by the come down substantially. 3.02 percent of the FDI in 2004. Development Board (PDB). bark?" the tabloid asked.