Rotten fish

series of reports published in The Daily Star. Later, the DCC also formed a mobile court to raid the restaurants in the city

The DCC mobile court first raided the officers' canteen of the home ministry and found preserved rotten fish. It ordered the rotten fish to be thrown out and fined the canteen Tk 4.000

Later, the court raided the two cooperative canteens at the secretariat employees and fined them Tk

DCC Public Analyst Md Golam Sarwar said most of the canteens at the secretariat are situated beside the drain, giving flies easy access to the uncovered food items. "They also mix rotten food items with new ones," he

The court also fined the confectionery at the secretariat Tk 2,000 for preserving expired food items. The court filed five cases against

Another mobile court led by Magistrate ABM Abdul Fattah raided eight fast food shops, restaurants and sweetmeat shops in Uttara and col-

lected Tk 1,35,000 in fines. "We found that the La Bamba authority has been producing all of their 'mouthwatering' food items in a car garage in Uttara," said Abdul Fattah.

court fined La Bamba Tk 25,000 for not maintaining hygienic

standards. The court also fined Sea-Shell Chinese restaurant Tk 25,000, Khajana restaurant Tk 20,000 and VIP restaurant Tk 25,000, as the court found artificial colours and an unhygienic environment in their kitchens.

The court recovered ammonia and textile dve from Ali Baba sweetmeat shop and instantly fined it Tk 25,000.

The same court also fined some small confectionery and sweetmeat shops, including American Fast Chicken, Candy Slosh and Mr Baker, at the Railakshmi market in Uttara and fined them a total of Tk 10,000.

Another mobile court led by Magistrate Md Rokan Uddoulah raided two bakeries--New Alamin Bakery and Abdul Aziz Bakery--in Dovagani area and found chemicals unsafe for health being used in their products. The court collected some

samples of the chemicals. As the owners of the bakeries were

Subal Das

FROM PAGE 16

film arena as a music director by giving directions in "Akash Aar Mati" film. He worked as music director in nearly 300 films.

His body will be brought to Dhaka soon and be cremated in religious tradition, the sources said.

Bangladesh Sangeet Parishad Secretary General Ferdous Hossain Bhuivan, Vice-President Sheikh Shadi Khan expressed their deep shock at the death of Subal

not present during the drive, the court arrested the managers and sent them to jail for one month and also charged a fine of Tk 1,000 each.

The court issued summons against the owners of the bakeries and ordered them to surrender to the court by August 23.

our Jahangirnagar Meanwhile University (JU) correspondent reports: mobile court yesterday fined Tk 10,000 to different shops and restaurants on the JU campus for supplying substandard food and keeping an unhygienic environment in their

The mobile court led by Magistrate Zahid Hossain and accompanied by police raided 16 shops at Battola Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib (BSM) Hall and university main gate premises

The court fined 10 shops at Battola and BSM Hall Tk 500 each, while it fined six shops at the university gate area different amounts. The court also threw out singaras and samosas from a restaurant at the university main

During an investigation by The Daily Star, several packets of expired pasteurised dairy milk were found at a shop at the university gate No. 1, while most restaurants on the campus were found using soyabean oil already used once or twice.

Taking advantage of the reluctance of the university authorities in looking after the food standard, a group of shop owners and businessmen are making money by selling below-standard food items, possibly causing various diseases, including jaundice, diarrhoea, typhoid and other waterborne contagious skin and abdominal diseases among the resident stu-

A total of 1023 students were diagnosed with different diseases from June 20 to 25 and about 20 students contracted jaundice last month, medical sources said

Although Acting Proctor Mafruhi Sattar announced a plan to form a body to regularly monitor different outlets on the university campus several months ago, the decision is yet to come into effect.

Japan quake

FROM PAGE 16 across four provinces.

"It's the strongest earthquake I've ever felt. I'm worried another big one will hit," said Eiji Kikuchi, who was inside a gas station and almost collapsed when the earth started

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who is in the middle of a reelection battle, rushed back to his office where a crisis management

centre was set up. "It was a big earthquake. I would like our party to place top priority on earthquake measures," Koizumi was quoted by Jiji Press as telling a

Bid to deface Kahn's

its legitimacy.

Construction of the fountain. almost halfway through until Monday, stopped and workers were seen removing the circular wall. The authorities ordered removal of the entire structure as soon as possible, workers

Iftekhar Alam of the DCC's Dhaka Beautification Cell said they had given the responsibility of the median at Manik Mia Avenue adjacent to the parliament complex to the City Bank which is beautifying the area on behalf of the DCC using its own funds. "We never permitted the bank to build anything on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises," he added.

Engineering Consultant of the City Bank ANM Alamgir said the fountain would greatly enhance the beauty of the area. "We have got written permission from the DCC to build the fountain on the footpath in front of the Sangsad Bhaban.'

Sources at the Architecture Department of the Ministry of Housing and Public Works said it is a must to nymity.

seek permission from their experts for any construction on the premises of architectural marvel.

A top official at the Ministry of Housing and Public Works pointed out that the incident showed lack of coordination among different agencies of the

Earlier, a high court ruling had asked the government to retain the original nature and design of the parliament complex, which is accepted as an architectural icon worldwide. A proposal to declare it a world heritage is now under consider-

An engineer at the PWD and incharge of the Sangsad Bhaban area said they had no idea who was constructing the fountain. "In case of even the slightest intervention in the original design, we are required to conduct meetings with architects, planners and engineers to get the work approved. But in this case, we have no knowledge of it," he said, requesting ano-

Sudden slash in tariff

In announcing the decision, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) in a press statement said the move has been taken to make prices of essentials such as rice, pulses, wheat cooking oil and spices cheaper and at the same time to reduce production costs of industries, check inflation and

The NBR sources said the items which eniov special waiver on tariffs will also come under the reduction

The NBR stated that although the highest tariff rates were reduced in the last few years, the lowest rate of 7.5 percent remained unchanged. As a result, the tax incidence of these industries on account of machinery and raw materials remained unchanged. This has put them in an adverse situation in the global compe-

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman talking to journalists yesterday said although it was the government's commitment in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) programme to reduce tariff protection, he would not have been taken the decision right now but for taka losing its ground and oil prices hiking.

"As taka lost value, it has adversely affected raw materials and essentials prices," Saifur said. "

Asked if the decision was taken to get the DSC funds, he said when the budget was passed, the DSC conditionalities were still there, but

players." He ruled out the possibility of a surge in imports of finished products because of the tariff rate reduction because the items getting the tariff benefit are not imported in large

amounts. The finance minister said increasing exports and keeping essential prices under control are his main tasks now. "I am not worried about getting DSC funds," he added. "Even if we do not get the World Bank loan, our

Asked how he would manage the budget as the tariff rate reduction will lead to revenue erosion, he said he has already instructed the NBR to catch the tax dodgers to make them pay more. He also hinted that more measures will be taken to increase tax

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), giving his comment on the step said such ad hoc measures will not help stabilise the market. He said transparent and comprehensive steps are needed to tackle the issues concerning exchange rate, inflation rate and interest rate

He also noted that the step taken within a month of the budget not only goes against fiscal discipline, but will erode confidence in trade and industry. The finance minister's budgetary neasures will also come under ques tion, he added.

its report will now be placed with the government for adopting the strategy

Minister's Principal Prime Secretary Kamaluddin Siddiqui, chairman of the committee, presided over the meeting at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

handed over to the finance minis The final draft report will be

Economic Council (NEC) for the approval.

Prime accused

Action Battalion (Rab) on Sunday evening from a residential hotel in Chittagong, police said.

Avilash, son of Doyal Krishna Chakma of Hazachhari village under Naniarchar thana, was arrested after the Rab personnel were tipped off about his presence at Saikat Boarding in Lal Dighirpar area in Chittagong on Sunday. The Rab then handed him over to Naniarchar police on Monday.

Naniarchar police prayed for a 10day remand before magistrate Mozammel Huque's court yesterday. However, the court set next Saturday for hearing on the remand appeal, sub inspector (SI) Monirul Islam from Kotwali thana of Rangamati told the Daily Starlast night.

An accused in nine cases including abduction and extortion. Avilash had been absconding for quite a long time and police efforts to nab him failed over and over again. At last, police sought the Rab's assistance for capturing Avilash.

Two Britons and a Danish were abducted from Kalapahar area in Naniarchar on February 16, 2001 by terrorists allegedly belonging to the United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF), an indigenous platform who oppose the CHT peace deal. The foreigners were on a visit to oversee the progress of a road construction project funded by the Danish govern-

After a month-long negotiation, the hostages were however set free on March 16, 2001 in a remote jungle in Kawkhali upazila under Rangamati district from where they were flown to

for years.

Meanwhile, the Investigation Officer (IO) of the sensational abduction case was transferred from Naniarchar, slowing down the prog-

ress of the case. "Only final report of the case was submitted and the charge sheet has not been completed yet. We are banking on Avilash for a lead to unearth the abduction case," said

Khaleda warns

FROM PAGE 1

Stressing the importance of ensuring the best utilisation of the available resources, she said, "Our partners in these ventures are our friendly countries and donor organisations and we have to pay back the foreign loans. We have to keep these facts in mind.'

implementation of all projects in the first phase of the current fiscal year. "Last year the ADP implementation was 90 percent. This time we should reach 100 percent," she told the meeting attended by ministers and secretaries.

in these projects is being provided by Asian Development Bank (ADB), Japan and the World Bank.

PSC with Cairn FROM PAGE 1

FROM PAGE 16 sqkm-area, Petrobangla officials

Under the new deal, Cairn will now conduct three exploration wells in the areas within next three years through an investment of \$50 million.

Rejoinder

FROM PAGE 1

Terming the report "false and fabricated", Nasir claimed that neither his wife nor he nor any of his relatives tortured the girl. Had they tortured her, the police

staff concerned would have definitely mentioned it or sent her for medical check-up when she was taken to the police station, he said. On July 13, the alleged theft took

place at his home, Nasir claimed, saying, "I was outside of our house that day from 10:00am to 11:00pm. My wife called me on my mobile and informed me about this and I advised her to keep Aklima at our home. "I came home at midnight and asked her [Aklima] about this. She

confessed that she took the bag and next morning I handed her over to the police. Nasir said he went to Rayerbazar

slum where Aklima's uncle lives and also talked to Aklima's mother and uncle over mobile phone. **Our reply**

Our report was prepared after talking to Aklima in Dhaka Central Jail, police officials concerned and Aklima's relatives and Abdullah Nasir, who was quoted extensively. The reporter also visited Aklima's

uncle at Rayerbazar who denied receiving any call from Nasir. After her release on bail from the Dhaka Central Jail, Aklima described her terrible experience at her employer's house to her lawyers, who came forward to help Aklima on humanitarian ground.

Move for 'opposition day'

they are allowed to counter ministers' statements," a meeting source said quoting Sircar.

Supporting the proposal, Jativa Party lawmaker GM Quader said ministers will be careful to make any statements in the House if lawmakers are allowed to counter their state-

The parliamentary body meanwhile agreed in principle to make the private members' day more effective to meet the need for opposition day, meeting sources said.

The UNDP-funded project --Strengthening the Parliamentary Democracy in Bangladesh -- had made a number of proposals including introduction of opposition day. It proposed 10 such days a year to allow opposition lawmakers to discuss various issues. It also proposed holding a general discussion on various issues every 10 working

"It is a good proposal for allowing opposition lawmakers to discuss different burning issues in parliament. We supported introduction of opposition day but the ruling BNP opposed it," Awami League lawmaker and committee member

Promod Mankin told The Daily Star

"The ruling alliance lawmakers will lose interest in attending House sittings if opposition day is introduced. Only the opposition lawmakers will speak on the day, then why the alliance lawmakers will attend the sitting," Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain told the meeting opposing the proposal, sources said.

Finally, the committee decided to go for zero hour and formed a fivemember subcommittee to work out steps to introduce the system. The time will be shared equally by the treasury bench and the opposition lawmakers.

Once the system is introduced, lawmakers will at least get some time to speak and it will also reduce allegations that opposition members are not allowed to speak, GM Quader

At present, lawmakers taking the floor in the name of point of order speak on different issues as they have little scope to raise any issue in parliament. They take the floor with permission from the speaker but the chair disallows most of the points of

ACC asked to revive and what so

FROM PAGE 1 said. "The budget for 2005-06 fiscal

year has allocated a fund for such expenditure of the ACC."

An ACC high official vesterday said, "In the past when we asked the government for its advice on this matter, we did not get response. If we were given the same directive earlier we could have made some progress with these cases by now."

The Cabinet Division had earlier took a different stance on incorporating the former Bac officials into the

employees and said that before screening they cannot be attached to the ACC. This not only stalled the 5.050 cases, but all activities of the ACC," the official added.

However, ACC Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan on May 7 wrote to the law ministry, asking who will conduct these cases -- the govern-

ment or the commission. The ACC Act does not clearly vest this responsibility

in the ACC. On June 26. the law ministry suggested that the commission's prosecution unit would be able to deal with the cases. A month later, the Cabinet Division told the ACC that after the government approves an organogram for the ACC, it can form its prosecution unit which will conduct the

Then the ACC told the Cabinet Division that since it linked conducting of these cases to the completion of the commission's organogram, the onus of carrying out the cases now lies with

According to the ACC Act, the government is responsible for the ACC organogram and budget. As the government took no steps, the threemember ACC itself initiated the process of forming the draft organogram of over 1,000 staff and sent it to the establishment ministry in April for

to the commission saving it is incomplete and suggested incorporation of

Rab not ready

FROM PAGE 16

Jamaluddin Ahmed Chowdhurv. To do that it needs a legal basis, Rab-7 commanding officer Lt Col Quazi Emdadul Haque told The Daily Star yesterday. "We cannot detain or interrogate them merely on the basis of a verbal confession. At least the confession has to be made under Section 164 for us to make such a move," he explained.

However, the Lt Col said they would not spare anyone, even if he be a mighty godfather, if he is implicated in a statement made under Section 164 of the CrPC The Rab-7 grilled Shahid, the

prime suspect in the abduction case remanded in its custody for five days by the trial court last Monday, for six hours since early morning yesterday but was rather tight-lipped to the press about the outcome.

Officials of Rab-7 also denied journalists access to Shahid. To justify the bar they said they wanted to keep Shahid physically and mentally fit in order to extract as much information as possible from him as well as to avoid any repetition of the 'Amar Das' incident.

Amar Das another suspect in the abduction case, died mysteriously in the same night he was

5 orphans

Rafuqul Islam Babu, 10, Jewel, 8, Dulal Hossain, 9, Rubel, 7, and Zahid, 9, have been staying at the orphanage on Rajani Chowdhury Road in Sutrapur for the last six

They told the magistrate that Superintendent Moslemuddin Babul and Mokhles, a senior inmate of the home for orphans, have been sexually abusing them for over four years. But they did not speak of the acts as the offenders were constantly threatening them with expul-

The kids broke down in tears while Metropolitan Magistrate Nani Gopal Biswas was recording their statements.

Rubel told the court that he was forced from time to time to go to Mosleuddin's room, where Mosleuddin would molest him. Still, Rubel did not reveal the 'dirty deeds' in fear of being ousted from the home.

vomit and feel ghastly. Rubel said as his lips guivered and tears rolled down his cheeks. Besides the five, Mosleuddin and his accomplice had abused seven

Sometimes Mosleuddin would

urinate into his mouth, making him

When Jewel's mother, Ferdousi Begum, went to the orphanage on August 7, she came to know that her son had fallen sick after being abused by Mosleuddin and Mokhles, captain of the orphan

students.

Ferdousi filed a case with Sutrapur Police Station the same day, accusing Mosleuddin and four others of molesting her son. Police also arrested Mokhles the

Aghast on learning the incident,

same day but could not catch Mosleuddin Mokhles is now in custody

taken on remand by the Detective Branch of police. Many a quarter including Jamal's family was frustrated at the 'dubious death', as it was believed Amar would have made stunning revelations if he Lt Col Haque said the Rab high

command ordered them not to allow media to meet or talk with the detainee at this stage of the case. "My DG asked me to keep Shahid Chairman away from media

He said they would invite the press to meet and talk with Shahid Chairman "only when we feel the time is right'

On how Shahid is being treated in Rab custody, a Rab-7 official said. 'His honeymoon period is over. He is being quizzed methodically and extensively to unearth clues and facts of Jamal's abduction."

ment. Jamal is dead. But we are not in a position now to believe or disown this statement. The truth will come out very soon during the remand." he told the press. Though the court remanded Shahid for five days in Rab custody

followed by five days in Criminal Investigation Department (CID) custody for interrogation, Lt Col Haque hinted that they might not hand over him to the CID when Rab's remand period expires next

the entire 10-day remand period in our custody. And we would like to carry out interrogation during the second phase of remand in coordination with the CID."

The Rab-7 chief said their prime concern was to rescue Jamal alive and destroy the kidnapping syndicate "so that none would dare to repeat such a crime"

160 killed

FROM PAGE 16 said that military helicopters had flown over the crash site. "We believe it will be difficult to find

survivors," he said. The mountains were shrouded in cloud and rain but air force helicopters and emergency rescue teams had been sent to the scene, Venezuelan officials said. Twentytwo Colombian rescuers were also heading for the crash site.

The jet had taken off from Tocumen International Airport near Panama City. Chacon said that the pilot had

possessing firearms hidden at differ-"It started to fall at a speed of 7,000 feet (2,100 metres) a minute," the minister said on state television West Caribbean was set up only five years ago by a group of Colombian businessmen.

small turboprop Let 410, crashed into a mountain after problems taking off at Providencia island killing the two crew and six of the 12 passengers.

Pac terms

FROM PAGE 16

The Public Accounts Committee (Pac) of the Jatiya Sangsad, which had formed the subcommittee, at a meeting vesterday rejected the probe report. It described as 'incomplete' the report that says the disappearance incident had resulted in a loss of Tk

13.30 crore to public exchequer. Sailed from Kandla port of India, MV Hafina was coming to Chittagong, but disappeared on the way with 12,000 metric tons of rice causing a loss of Tk 13.30 crore in FY 1998-99 according to an audit objection report by the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).

Pac at yesterday's meeting also asked the subcommittee to make a

complete report within a month. Meeting sources said Shamsul Alam Pramanik, a member of the subcommittee and also a ruling BNP lawmaker, blamed the inadequacy of the report on the committee head Manjur Qader. He said Qader had submitted the report much earlier in the face of negative attitude of the

other members of the committee. Qader trying to defend his decision said that secretary of the food ministry did not co-operate in the enquiry

The meeting sources said Qader's comments visibly annoyed the Pac Chairman Harun Al Rashid, who asked, "Why should a Member of Parliament seek help from a secretary and what sort of work he himself has

During the meeting, seven audit objections covering fiscal years 1995-98 and 2000-01 and involving Tk 6.01 crore under the shipping ministry were

placed before the Pac Besides, the committee discussed an audit objection that says Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) has incurred a loss of Tk 4.06

crore because the officials concerned did not pay for oil import on time. A probe committee formed by the shipping ministry in 2000 had blamed the BSC authorities, including its executive director (finance) and general manager (finance) for the loss. But the ministry has yet to take any action against them.

The shipping secretary could not tell the meeting why they have not taken any punitive actions against the persons responsible. The Pac has asked the ministry to implement the recommendations of

Weekly holiday

FROM PAGE 1

the probe committee.

moment," he said.

He also reminded the fact that the present government's tenure is comng to an end. The government must consider how much logical it will be on its part to take such a decision at this

fag end of its term, he said. Many have opined that it is a very important issue and deserves an immediate decision, Saifur told the media, agreeing to the idea.

The RFF in a statement on Monday said the increasing global prices of petroleum pose a serious challenge to the country's economy. "The threat underlines the need for drastic measures. At the same time, the government along with the people in all strata of the society need to promote austerity measures," it said.

gested weekend holidays might be observed for two days in the governernment offices at the district levels except those connected with infrastructures and other services needed by trade and industry on a continuous

As the first step, the BEF sug-

Two-day weekly holiday exists in many countries across the world and, in fact, it was once practised in Bangladesh too, he said. Six-working-days-a-week does not necessarily mean that everyone is working, Saifur observed. "Many

come to the office, gossip, have tea and go back home," he said. "Two-day weekly holiday will bring down the petrol cost and the officials can then go to their native villages and cultivate ginger and chilly or start

poultry farm and become self-reliant,' Saifur observed. Besides, if urban people often visit the villages, the rural people will become more conscious through

exchange of views, he opined 4 outlaws killed

FROM PAGE 16 The Rah team retrieved one shutter

gun and 20 bullets from the spot. Police said Mujibur of Kalikapur village of Faridpur upazila in Pabna was accused in 20 different cases including nine for murder, while Panu of village Modi was accused in 19

cases including eight for murder. In the Kushtia incident, the sadar police arrested GMF cadre Sujon Hossain from Lahinipara of Kushtia

with a rifle on Sunday morning. Based on information extracted from him, when a police team went to recover more firearms, the GMF operatives ambushed them at Nagar Mohammadpur of sadar upazila at about 4:00am. As the law enforcers fired back, a two-hour gun battle

At one stage, while attempting to

In another incident, Rajbari police

escape from the police van. Suion was caught in the line of firing and died on the spot, the police said. According to police, Sujon, a deputy chief of the outfit, was accused

in five murder cases.

said they arrested GMF cadre Sajal of Manikkat of Pangsha upazila, accused in five murder cases, from Manikganj district on Sunday night. Saial was taken to Raibari where during an interrogation he admitted to

ent places in Rajbari. Upon his information, as a team of Pangsha police reached Mathurapur village to recover the hidden firearms at about 2.30am, the GMF cadres opened fire on them. The police also returned the fire, resulting in an hourslong gunfight.

"crossfire" while jumping off from the police van to escape. He died on the The police recovered a pistol and a shutter gun from the spot.

Sajal received bullets in the

Traders term it part

Shahadat Group had hired the three gunmen to kill Shahidullah, owner of

a list of around 200 businessmen of 20 markets and the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) ward commissioners of Mirpur, from whom they have demanded tolls ranging from Tk 2 lakh to Tk 50 lakh, the traders

"Soon after Shahidullah's killing. the extortionists phoned me and said my fate would be same as his if I don't pay up the toll immediately," the president of one of the market committees told The Daily Star yesterday.

received a phone call from a man identifying himself as Shahadat while a fellow businessman, sitting next to me, received a call at the same time from another man also claiming to be Shahadat, and both

relayed the same message." DCC Commissioner of Ward 10

Even at 1:00pm yesterday, the extortionists phoned the owner of a

Wounded woman

FROM PAGE 16 was undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Hospital as of last night. Her left wrist was blown apart and face burnt badly when one of the three bombs planted in her house went off

Monday morning. She had her wrist amputated at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital on Monday. But as blood was oozing out of her ears, she was referred to Dhaka. said Dr Rana Noor Shams, residential medical officer of the hospital.

In another development, Khokan and Hossain Mia. arrested for suspected links to the blast, were taken on remand yesterday, a day

court vesterday with a petition for five days' remand, but the court granted three days'. Meanwhile, police have yet to

dismantle the two bombs that were

body on Monday confirming that recovered unexploded from Kamrul and Dipu carried bombs. Hosena's house. "Three people in a CNG-run Locals under the banner of Noncommunal People formed a human chain in front of local press club yesterday afternoon, protesting attacks on the Ahmadiyyas in

Brahmanbaria.

High-powered FROM PAGE 16 secretary. Energy Ministry's Joint Secretary (admin) Sheikh Abdur

Rashid is its member. The committee has been asked to submit its report by August 31, officials at the Energy and Mineral Resources Division said yesterday. They said the ministry announced the committee late on Monday.

The terms of reference for the committee are: 1) On what basis

3) Whether finalisation of joint venture agreement (JVA) was as per rules. The three non-producing gas fields were declared abandoned during the Awami League regime in late 2000 after the Canadian company came up with an "unsolicited" proposal for developing abandoned

or marginal gas fields of

Bangladesh on April 27, 1997.

there was any flaw; 2) The frame-

work of understanding (FoU) with

Niko was signed after approval from

which level and who signed in giving

the approval, basis of approval; and

demanded Tk 12 lakh and later negotiated it down to Tk 6 lakh. "You

are next in our list," the business

man quoted the caller as saving Confession

Selim, arrested in Shahidullah murder case, yesterday told Magistrate Jahangir Alam under Section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) that Shahadat planned the killing at a South Bishil house in Mirpur on August 11. Shahadat hired Arif and two

others [for the killing] and my duty was to point out Shadidullah to them. Azam [Shahadat's accomplice] threatened to kill me if I refused to do that," Selim said. "I prayed the Jumma prayer with Shahadat in the same mosque [where Shahidullah prayed] and

to point him out to the killers, who opened fire after he had walked 10 to 15 yards." Selim said he ran away from the scene with his accomplices. He

came out with him," Selim contin-

ued, adding, "I touched his shoulder

even attended the namaz-e-janaza of the victim. According to Selim's statement, the group of Shahadat includes Boti Raju, Shahin, Kawsar Mollah, Sohel, Shamim, Rafiq, Quaiyum

Mollah and Azam. Locals said Shahadat took over the control of the area after Kala

Jahangir had gone in hiding.

2 injured

FROM PAGE 16
Comilla Sadar Hospital, official

sources said. The other suspect, Dipu, 20, son of Muhammad Ali of Kotwali police station in Dhaka, fled Akhaura Upazila Health Complex despite police quard. The bomb blasts at the shrine of

Daras, popularly known as Kolla Shahid, left one person killed and some 50 others including a policeman wounded. Meanwhile, Upazila Nirbahi Officer of Akhaura Mezbah Uddin Chowdhury was withdrawn yesterday in a departmental action follow-

ing a Cabinet Division order. A copy

of the order was sent to the deputy commissioner of Brahmanbaria, the In Akhura, local traders gave detailed statements to the probe

three-wheeler were passing by my shop minutes before the bombing, said Dulal, a grocer in the shrine area. Kamrul and Dipu are two of them, he said.

persons jumped out and two bombs they were carrying exploded, injuring them," he said. Dulal and other traders caught

Traffic Inspector Alimuzzaman, who

driver and the other person, they threatened to explode more bombs and fled away," Dulal told the probe Police deployed to ensure security at the shrine on the occasion of a seven-day urs took all the injured

including the two to Akhaura Upazila

Health Complex. Sensing danger,

Earlier on Saturday

Brahmanharia Superintendent of

Police ATM Tareque was showcaused and officer-in-charge of Akhaura Police Station was sus-

energy, sources said.

FROM PAGE 16 forecasting and water resources management, medicine, agriculture

and the peaceful use of nuclear

this year has been declared as the "vear of friendship" between the two Bilateral relations and economic cooperation between the two countries are growing, and both the sides have deepening cultural and educa-

science and technology cooperation, foreign ministry officials said. On arrival at the Beijing airport the Bangladesh prime minister will be received by a vice foreign minister and then taken to the State

tional relations and expanding

She will lead a 42-member delegation that includes Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, Advisor for Energy and Executive Chairman of Board of Investment Mahmudur Rahman, Principal Secretary to the PM Dr Kamal Uddin Siddique, ERD Secretary Ismail Zabihullah and additional foreign secretaries M Khairuzzaman and Touhid Hossain.

A 24-member business delegation led by the Bol chairman will also accompany the PM. The delegation will include president of Women Entrepreneurs' Association of Bangladesh, FBCCI

Sayeeful Islam, BGMEA President Annisul Haq, BKMEA President Fazlul Hoque and other high profile

In the evening of the first day of her tour. Khaleda Zia will attend as chief guest a grand reception organised by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with foreign countries at the Great Hall. The Bangladesh PM will be given

official reception at the Great Hall by

her Chinese counterpart Wen

After talks with the Chinese

President Hu Jintao there, Khaleda

Jiabao on Thursdav afternoon.

Zia will have discussions with Wen Jiabao that will be followed by signing of agreements. In the evening, the Chinese premier will host a banquet in hon-

our of Khaleda Zia. On Friday morning, a group of CEOs of renowned Chinese companies will meet Khaleda Zia at the Kerry Centre where she will address a business seminar organised by the Chinese Government Business Organisation.

afternoon. In the evening, Chairman of National People's Congress of China Wu Bangguo will call on Khaleda Zia at the Great Hall.

Kong from Guangzhou province on Sunday afternoon and return to Dhaka on Sunday midnight.

make exports competitive.

tition, the NBR added.

dollar was not as costly. "The world is changing fast," he

observed. "We are being trampled by the maneuvering of the major global

development programmes will not

PRSP finalised

Talking to the UNB, Siddiqui said the report will be formally

placed with the National

FROM PAGE 1

Dhaka by an army helicopter. A senior leader of UPDF as well as a member of the now-defunct Maoroom, a secret publication of UPDF, Avilash had been eluding arrest

She put emphasis on speedy

The Ecnec approved eight development projects with an outlay of Tk 998 crore, including Tk 449 crore in project aid. The foreign aid

claims didn't commit".

We stand by our report.

commission. It had asked the ACC to refrain from attaching them until they are screened and selected by the commission. "Since the ACC was formed in November we tried to move ahead with our tasks by temporarily attaching the Bac officials. But the governmen declared those officials as its reserved

government approval. But the ministry sent the draft back

for the time being for the sake of the case," he said, adding, "The high command, however, assured to reveal the truth to the nation [in due

"As per his preliminary state-

Saturday. He said, "We wish to keep him for

reported trouble with one engine and minutes later its second engine also failed

In March, another of its planes, a

Prince Group of Companies

The extortionists have drawn up

said.

He said, "In one instance, I

Masud Khan said, "They demanded Tk 2 lakh from me some 15 days ago and threatened to kill me if I refuse. He has filed a general diary (GD)

with the local police station. saw mill on Mirpur Mazar Road and

Hazrat Shah Sayed Ahmed Gesu She was first rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital but later shifted to BSMMUH.

after victim's son Salahuddin Chowdhury had filed a case. Police produced the two before a

As the vehicle stopped due to mechanical fault, two of the three

later handed them over to police. "As other traders and devotees attempted to catch the autorickshaw Feni, Kamta and Ćhhatak gas fields were declared abandoned; whether

Dipu fled the same night.

pended for negligence to duty and failure to ensure security at the shrine. Meantime, the probe body is

likely to submit its report before

expiry of the dateline, Saturday.

PM flies to China

Marking the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Bangladesh and China,

Guest House Diaoyuti.

President Abdul Awal Mintoo, BTMA Chairman MAAwal, DCCI President

China TV and Channel-9 will interview Khaleda Zia on Friday

On Saturday morning, she will enjoy a river cruise hosted by the governor of Guangxi Zhuang and then visit Foshan Industrial Complex in Guanazhou province. Khaleda Zia will leave for Hono