The Daily Star

Pak scientist gave nuke design to **DPRK:** Musharraf

AFP. Islamabad

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has confirmed that the country's disgraced nuclear scientist Abdul Oadeer Khan provided North Korea with centrifuges and their designs, a report said Wednesday.

But military ruler Musharraf, who was speaking to Japan's Kyodo news agency, said the hightechnology equipment handed over by Khan did not play a major role in giving Pyongyang a nuclear weapons capability.

Yes, he passed centrifuges -parts and complete. I do not exactly remember the number," Musharraf was quoted as saying when asked to comment on reports that Islamabad told Tokvo that Khan gave about 20 centrifuges to North Korea.

In February 2004, Khan, the father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb, admitted selling atomic secrets to the Stalinist state as well as Libva and Iran. He said he acted without government or military support.

Enriched uranium, made by passing a uranium gas through a series, or cascade, of centrifuge machines, can be fuel for civilian nuclear power reactors or the raw material for atom bombs.

General Musharraf said Khan's help would not have been decisive to North Korea's efforts to become a

Magistrate Mir Ali Reza of the

The court also fined Julfiker Tk

Complainant Azhar Ali later said

Earlier, the prosecution and the

10,000 and in default he will have to

although he will not get back his

money, he is satisfied with the

defence completed their argu-

ments, and the court recorded

statements of 24 prosecution wit-

On June 28, detectives arrested

Julfiker, about eight hours after he

took away Tk 14.47 lakh from Azhar

at Bijoynagar. The sergeant later

said he kept the money with one of

his 'sources', who was missing

Azhar, owner of Rajdoot Money

Exchange at Motijheel, alleged that

the police sergeant intercepted his

car when he along with his two

nephews was returning to his house

at Moneshwar Road in Jigatola at

Militants claim

be in jail for three months more.

Speedy Trial Court-6 handed down

the sentence in presence of the

FROM PAGE 1

iudaement.

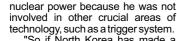
nesses.

since then.

capital in June this year.

convict. Julfiker Ali.

Cop gets 5yrs



technology, such as a trigger system. "So if North Korea has made a bomb... Dr. A.Q. Khan's part is only enriching the uranium to weapons grade," Musharraf told Kyodo. "He does not know about making

the bomb, he does not know about the trigger mechanism, he does not know about the delivery system." North Korea declared in June that it has a stockpile of nuclear weapons and is producing more.

Six-party nuclear talks on denuclearising the Korean peninsula, also involving United States, South Korea. Russia. China and Japan, are due to resume in the week of August 29. Pakistan has consistently refused

to let international investigators question Khan. The scientist has been officially pardoned by Musharraf but he has remained under virtual house arrest ever since. On Monday, UN nuclear inspectors said that enriched uranium particles found in Iran were from smuggled Pakistani centrifuges,

backing Iran's claims that it is not involved in enrichment work. The United States says such activity would show that Tehran is secretly trying to develop nuclear weapons

pressed charges against Julfikar.

Advocate Mohammad

Shahjahan appeared for the com-

plainant while advocates M Sajwar

Hossain and Momtazuddin Mehedi

discuss some "important bilateral

matters", including Bangladesh's

participation in the UN peacekeep-

The prime minister is expected to

leave Dhaka for New York on

September 11 to attend the UN

General Assembly session and a

seminar on global initiative on

poverty mooted by former US

defended the accused.

PM to join

president Bill Clinton.

FROM PAGE 1

ng mission.



Hygiene missing | India carrying out

"Our prime concern is India's anti-

to tell them that we'll stop co-

operation if they don't stop the cam-

paign," journalist Sadek Khan said at

a roundtable discussion at the Jatiya

independent existence and is now

running a campaign saying

Bangladesh is threat for them, he

said, adding the country wants to see

unrest in Bangladesh as in Nepal and

the discussion on 'August 17

Former chief election commis-

sioner (CEC) Justice Abdur Rouf

demanded making public the probe

reports of previous bomb attacks. "If

the aovernment doesn't do so, we'll

take it for granted that it has been

bribed and we'll go for legal action,"

"If I were there (in power), I would

ment if Veena Sikri's comment is a

making military training compulsory

The former CEC suggested

violation of diplomatic norms.

Bombing: Our National Security'

Jatiya Nagorik Forum organised

India cannot accept Bangladesh's

Press Club yesterday.

"It is really a good sign that they are not using chemicals in their product. FROM PAGE 16 discuss the bomb blast issue, they

coverage'

Sri Lanka.

he said.

But the environment of the factory is said Bangladesh media is 'creating not very good. The staff were wearing dirty cloths, so we fined them,' panic in the name of bomb blast said the magistrate. Another mobile court, led by Bangladesh propaganda. We'll have

FROM PAGE 16

Magistrate ABM Abdul Fattah, raided three confectioneries in Uttar Badda and collected Tk 95,000 in fines for using unsafe chemicals and colours in different food items.

The court also raided a sweetmeat factory, New Kalachand Mistanno Bhandar, and fined Tk 10,000, but, as the workers failed to pay the fine, the court sentenced one Md Selim Miah of them to three months' iail. Another mobile court led by

Magistrate Mizanur Rahman collected Tk 44.000 in fines from eight restaurants in the Farmgate and Khamarbari areas. "The condition of the small res-

taurants were very bad. The Chinese and big restaurants were found in comparatively better shape," said the magistrate. The mobile court of the Dhaka

City Corporation did not conduct any operation yesterday.

Demanding a standing committee According to a government press on security, he said, "We want to release, the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) fined know what action the government has taken against the home ministry different food traders, restaurant and law enforcers for their failure. owners and owners of cloth shops Tk 66.000 in Raishahi. During the have suspended them and set a raid, the authorities filed 17 cases tribunal for their trial." against 11 businessmen, the He also asked the government to release added take the matter to the Indian govern-

Lalmatia college

FROM PAGE 1 next day when I went to Shuin's house I found the door locked," said Zahir. Sharif, who hails from Kishoregani, could not be found.

"As the lockers were broken and cloths and other goods were in disarray, Sharif might have killed the woman and looted some valuables." said Harun-ur-Rashid, officer-incharge (OC) of Dhanmondi Police Station.

around 5:00 pm on the day. He The OC said a driver of a nearby snatched a bag containing Tk 5,35,000 and 50,000 Saudi rial and house saw a youth leaving the house carrying a small package at 3:00pm fled the spot, the complainant said. on Tuesday. The businessman filed a case

Shuin, the mother of two, was with Paltan Police Station under the divorced seven years ago after a long Law and Disruption Act. On July 9, conjugal life with a paediatric sur-geon, Dr Abul Kalam Azad DB Inspector Shamsul Islam, also investigation officer of the case, Chowdhury.

"My sister was a bit stubborn. We asked her not to live alone, but she never paid heed to us," said Jahangir. Shuin's brother, Kazi Shahidu Alam, filed a case with Dhanmondi Police Station accusing Sharif of

murder. Shuin was buried at Banani graveyard yesterday after an autopsy

On March 7, Dr Nazneen Akhter, 45, and her domestic help Parveen, 20, were slaughtered inside her Dhanmondi home, which was locked from the outside

Saarc information FROM PAGE 16

common agenda on the develop-ment of the information sector, official Monday. sources said. The last meeting held in

Islamabad had agreed to implement 11 of the 18 points. Sources said the Katmandu meet, to be chaired by Nepalese

Information and Communications

bombs came from India and the people involved in the bombing fled to the same country.

He said all illegal firearms come from the same country, adding: "We'll have to see how India and the US is behaving with us and blaming us."

Bashing Veena Sikri, poet Al Mujahidi said: "How could she be so audacious as to interfere in Bangladesh's internal matters?" He called for unity among Islamist parties Former Vice Chancellor of

Rajshahi University Prof Eusuf Ali meantime, mentioned that Justice Abdur Rouf was assigned earlier to unite all Islamic parties.

Security expert Brigadier Gen (retd) M Shakhawat Hossain said, "Some power of the state has gone to some people; the August 17 bombing is a manifestation of this.

"Before blaming any foreign power, find our own fault," he suggested, recommending formation of a national security committee in parliament, appointing a non-political person to co-ordinate intelligence

reports and brief the prime minister. Professor Mahbubullah of Dhaka University said problems of national security began during the country's birth. "Tajuddin and other leaders led the Liberation War sitting in India. We'll have to see how independently

they could work then." "Some so-called intellectuals newspapers and foreign writers are trying to portrav Bandladesh as a failed state and I think it is a clear conspiracy to turn the country into a

failed state," he said. Editor of Daily Sangram Abul Asad said, "Who are behind the birth of JMB, JMJB (Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh)? Some people instigated some humble men to form the organisaions to establish Islamic rule, assuring them of funds. The JMJB, JMJB men could not understand RAW (Research and Analysis Wing, India's intelligence agency)

was behind them." While conducting the discussion, Babul Ahmed, general secretary of Jasas, ruling BNP's cultural wing, said the US is financing some madrasas in Bangladesh to prove its claim of al-Qaeda and Taleban

Blaming media for portraying a negative image, he said: "The socalled Bangalees who eat in Bangladesh and splutter in India have captured most newspapers and the electronic media.

4 JMB top guns held

eports: Police on Tuesday night arrested Manna Hossain of Hossainpur village in Sadar upazila.

Alamgir Hossain, lecturer at Hazi Karop Ali Degree College in Kamarkhand, and Belal Hossair lecturer at Kamarpukur Dakhi Madrasa in Ullapara, held earlier in connection with the bomb blasts are on a weeklong police remand now.

HOME MINISTRY BRIEFING Investigators have extracted some important clues from four of the 29 detainees guizzed at the JIC so far.

One killed FROM PAGE 16

Chuadanga districts. Police took him to village Malihad in Kushtia to retrieve the firearms at around 3:30am. As police reached the Kushtia-Meherpur highway, the Janaiuddho men opened fire on them. Police fired in return that resulted in an hour-long gunfight.

Trying to escape, Sagar was caught in "crossfire" and died on the spot, police said, adding that two policemen including the officer-incharge of Mirpur Police Station was injured.

His body was sent to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy An I.G. ten bullets and eight

bombs were seized from the spot. Sagar was accused in 12 different cases including eight for murder. police said

In Chuadanga, criminals slaughtered a farmer for not paying toll at village Subolpur in Damurhuda upazila.

The victim was identified as Mizanur Rahman alias Pagla Mizan, 38

The criminals caught Mizan at Raisar Beel (water body) at around 1:00am and slaughtered him after taking to a nearby isolated place, police said.

Earlier the gang threatened to kill Mizan as he declined to pay Tk 50,000 as toll, family sources said. Police recovered the body and sent to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

2 multi-storev

FROM PAGE 16 Demra (DND) embankment yester-

They also removed some 10 thatched and semi-pucca houses from Shvampur canal. In the face of serious waterlogging due to heavy rainfall in June and early July, an inter-ministerial

meeting organised by the water resources ministry last month decided to remove illegal structures from the drainage canals in the DND Earlier on Tuesday, some 20

semi-pucca structures at Borobhanga, Boxnagar in Sarulia union were demolished, BWDB Sub-divisional Engineer (DND Irrigation) Sirajul Haq said, adding that the drive will go on as long as the mission is not completed.

for it. In fact, this clearly tells us that Canal excavation is also going on financial sustainability in running alongside the eviction drive, he said. CCs is not a big hurdle. Narayanganj district administration and BWDB are also conducting joint

drives to free the drainage canals under the district in DND area.

Constructing houses and industries in an unplanned way has already used up 85 percent of some 57 square kilometre area under DND embankment, once developed for an irrigation project.

JRC meeting FROM PAGE 1 which is now likely to be held next

month. A competent source told the news agency that the deferment was necessary as current session of

Saifur sets deadlines

internal affair.

DHAKA THURSDAY AUGUST 25, 2005

FROM PAGE 1 growing pressure on the country's foreign exchange reserve, Saifur explained to the secretaries.

Around Tk 247 crore is due from the six city corporations and a number of municipalities in electricity bills, he told the meeting, adding if any ministry fails to pay utility bill in

for the ministries, each of whom will time, it will be adjusted from its block have to submit to the planning allocation ministry its policy on utilising that Coming out of the meeting Saifur fund. told the press. "If a ministry fails to The meeting decided to take spend its allocation within the action against the officials who

schedule, the money will be relowould not go by the decisions of the cated to a better performing one." monthly monitoring meetings of the When asked if the recent counministries on the progress and trywide orchestrated bomb blasts status of ADP implementation. may affect the foreign aid, Saifur The meeting regretted that as quipped, "No. Rather the aid will

much as Tk 460 crore of the Tk 560 increase. crore Japanese debt relief fund Bomb explosions are taking place not only in Bangladesh but contributed to last fiscal year's ADP also across the globe, he said, citing

Experts call

assistants and family welfare assis-

tants, who routinely paid door-to-

door visits, under one umbrella and

ensure their attendance regular. But

as these officials opposed the idea

to evade accountability, this also

contributed to the failure to put the

Bangladesh, said, "It is very much

possible to make the CCs functional

provided the CCs have local gov-

ernment ownership and are oper-

He said, "Sitting at the health

ministry, one cannot expect a CC to

function smoothly...in other words,

the CCs cannot be run by trying to

centrally control them. The health

ministry can always act as catalysts

and help functioning of the CCs. As

long as the NGOs or CBOs have

proven in smooth operating of the

director of Water Aid, Bangladesh,

said. "Experiences of many in

running CCs already show that if we

can ensure quality services, even

the marginal poor are ready to pay

Dr Momena Khatun, health

Dr Shehlina Ahmed, programme

CCs, why ignore them?"

ated in decentralised manner."

Md Azam Ali of NICARE.

pened here yet," he noted.

FROM PAGE 16

CCs to operation.

had to be carried over to the current fiscal. Such indolence puts undesirthe bombing incidents in London and India as examples. "In India able pressure on the budget, it observed, and suggested quick bombs went off inside the parliament building, which has not hapapproval and implementation of the projects under the Japanese fund.

> that client attendance is very high due to the presence of the health assistants and family welfare assistants. A government directive to ensure their regular attendance and supply of the logistics can actually make the CCs functional.

He quoted World Bank Presiden

Paul Wolfwitz during his recent visit

to Bangladesh as remarking that he

was not at all concerned about the

bombing, which is the country's

Tk 1,651 crore as block allocations

The government has reserved

Professor Mahmudur Rahman coordinator of Dhaka Community Hospital Trust, said, "It is time we recognised the efficiency of the private sector apart from the CBOs and NGOs. And government must also decide where to engage which partners for maximum efficiency in running the CCs."

Hosne Ara Begum, executive director of Thangamara Mahila Sabuj Shangha, said the NGOs reach out to grassroots which is often not possible by the government mechanism. "So, using the experienced NGOs in running the CCs can be an appropriate option, she said.

The speakers also suggested providing guidelines on service specifications, quality standards, monitoring and evaluation, partnership development and the role of NGOs to facilitate the CCs.

They also recommended providing seed money to start the operation of the CCs and regular subsidy to cover the cost of care for the poor. Mahfuz Anam, editor-publisher

advisor of Canadian International of The Daily Star, moderated the Development Agency, said, "NGO Network for Public Private roundtable held at The Daily Star conference room. Partnership experiences also reveal

BNP candidates face

FROM PAGE 16 three to four minutes and 143 aspi-

nomination forms.

well in the interview.

reporters later.

Almost all of those interviewed

"I am very happy ...all members

vesterday expressed the hope to

get party tickets, claiming they did

of the interview board and its chief

talked to me in a cheerful mood,'

Rehana Bhuiyan Lipi, president of

Jativatabadi Mohila Dal Bajitpur

upazila unit of Kishoreganj, told

party nomination as she said a

senior minister, who is on the board,

asked her to start campaign in her

constituency. Mahmuda Salam Talukdar,

widow of former secretary general

of the BNP, told reporters that the

to know how I am pulling on.'

She is optimistic about getting

nymity, criticised relatives of the rants including wives and relatives of ministers and party senior leaders from Dhaka and Khulna divisions appeared before the board yesterday. The rest 142 from Rajshahi, Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions will face the board today

ministers and senior party leaders engaged in a hectic lobbying for narty ticket Rehana Buiyan Lipi said,

Another aspirant, seeking ano-

Nomination should be given only to those who are dedicated to the

of his five-day police remand. Masud was nabbed at ZIA onboard a London-bound Emirates flight The police also arrested Abdul

Alim, personal secretary to Masud and vice principal in charge of Ashrafia Madrasa at Norer Chela off Baridhara in the capital, vesterday and one Abdus Sabur Chowdhury at /IA on Tuesday night

for every institution, even, if necessary, for all youths. Saying it is impossible for Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to carry out such a countrywide attack, Dr Tareq Shamsur Rahman, a professor of International Relations at Jahangirnagar University, said there is big power

behind them. "We'll have to know why Abdur Rahman (JMB chief) visits India often," he said. "Those who are writing about Talebanism and fundamentalism in Bangladesh hail from

India." Blasting Veena Sikri for her comment, Tareq said: "I see a connection of this statement with those who are behind the August 17 attack."

Terming the Indian High Commissioner's comment as contrary to political decency, Chief Editor of the national news agency Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha Gaziul Hassan Khan said all the

FROM PAGE 1

presence in Bangladesh.

FROM PAGE 1

Jamaat activist Montejar, whose residence the militants used as a training camp, however escaped arrest. Police found a list of Jamaat-ICS activists and different Jamaat publications from his house

Jamaat, however, said it expelled Montejar two years before the incident. But police found from Montejar's diary that he had applied to become a Rukon, a midlevel position in Jamaat.

Police also recovered a letter written by the district Amir of Jamat to Monteiar. Police seized some leaflets, letters and receipts of subscription of the Jihad Fund of the JMB. A significant number of persons who paid subscription to the fund were Jamaat members, local police told the press.

In August 2003, Sohel, a student of Sunamganj Government College was arrested for links with the JMB. His brother Selim made the following statement to the press on August 23: "Shibir [ICS] turned my brother into an ultra-religious man and forced him to work for Jama'atul Mijahideen [JMB].

Local ICS president Abu Hanif, however, denied the link and said, "He might have worked for us previously but is no more a Shibir worker now.

Other than Jamaat, some leaders of the ruling BNP also supported the militants, specially Bangla Bhai and his group Jagrata Muslim Janata, Bangladesh (JMJB) in the northern districts. Bangla Bhai himself was an active member of the ICS until 1995.

When Bangla Bhai came into focus for his killings, a state minister, a deputy minister and a BNP lawmaker openly supported him and directed the local police to give Bangla Bhai shelter

According to a retired intelligence boss, many ICS cadres took part in the Afghan war during the 1980s and on return still maintain a network with different Afahan Muiahideen groups.

Last November, three militants were arrested with 24 powerful gelatin bomb-sticks and 124 electronic detonators in Gaibandha from a Shantahar-bound train. All of them said they are ICS activists although Jamaat disowned them.

Afterward, five JMB activists were arrested while making time bombs at the residence of one Naimuddin Hazi, a Jamaat worker.

On May 23 last year, JMB members marched through Rajshahi town with police escort, in which local Jamaat leaders and activists participated.

After the grenade attack on British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury at Hazrat Shahjalal Shrine in Sylhet on May 21 last year,

Khelafat Majlish Amir Hahbibu Rahman called a press conference to dismiss reports of his link to the incident. Jamaat and Islami Oikya Jote leaders accompanied him to the press conference.

On April 12 last year, when police were preparing to arrest some 80 militants who took shelter in a mosque in Shibganj in Sylhet, city Jamaat Amir Dr Shafigur Rahman refrained police from the action.

After his arrest in Debigani in Panchgarh on February 23 last year, militant Azizul told police he was previously a member of the ICS and now a worker of the JMB. Samiul Al Siju and Fazlul Haq, both JMB militants, admitted after

their arrest in Gangachura area in Rangpur on February 23 that they were active workers of the ICS. But

the assistant superintendent of police of Rangpur in his probe report on the attack on Brac office said the two are Rukans of Jammat. On July 19 this year, police

arrested 11 suspected Islamist militants including an adherent of Bangla Bhai and two Raishahi University (RU) students at their training camp at a newly constructed house at Puthiapara in Paba upazila. The team leader, Enamul, was an ICS member before he joined the JMJB nearly a year ago. The RU students, Golam Mustafa and Ibrahim Hossain, claimed they support' the ICS.

On June 1, 2004 Atrai police arrested the second-in-command of Bangla Bhai, Hemayat Hossain Himu, and released him the same night. Himu's brother Belayat Hossain met a state minister at the Circuit House before the release. On July 2004, three cadres of

Bangla Bhai were arrested at a hotel at Iswardi but later released. OC Azimuddin said. "We released them following a BNP leader's recommendation.

General Secretary of Iswardi unit of BNP Habibur Rahman Tota said, 'The arrestees are our men, not cadres of any organisation. I arranged their release following an order of Deputy Minister Ruhul Quddus Talukdar Dulu."

JAMAAT DENIAL Whenever any militant claims link to Jamaat, the party holds press conferences or issues statements to disclaim such connections.

On August 20, Jamaat Aimr Moulana Matiur Rahman Nizami at a press conference said his party has

no connection with militants. He said Jamaat does not believe in extremism and that such links are cooked up to malign the party.

Minister Tanka Dhakal, will address the remaining points and send its recommendations to the 13th Saarc Summit to be held in Dhaka on November 12-13.

After the fourth ministerial meeting held in Pakistan last year, a Saarc Information Centre was established in Nepal in May this year to pursue a collective agenda for the development of the information sector in the region.

As per the action plan, the upcoming ministerial meet will discuss the Trans National Satellite Broadcasting in the Saarc region as well as the update on the implementation of the Saarc Round-Up (monthly TV news bulletin) and Saarc News (weekly radio news bulletin) on their respective national channels.

It will also discuss holding a variety of activities on regular basis including activities using advanced technology such as simultaneous auto-translation of the programmes into the national languages of the member countries and the Saarc Radio Quiz in 2005 by eleconferencing as a test case.

The action plan also envisions a Saarc Feature Film Festival to be aired on all national TV channels as well as setting up a Saarc Media Development Fund.

The meeting is also expected to consider the recommendations made by the 2nd Conference of the Editors and Working Journalists regarding free movement of accredited media personnel within the region on the basis of reciprocity.

The Saarc, which was established in 1985, includes Bangladesh. Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

US sees

FROM PAGE 1

terror and holding them to account. When asked about the steps taken by Washington against terrorist organisations that took the responsibility for August 17 bombings in Bangladesh claiming to have links with al-Qaeda, the spokesman said the US put out a statement condemning these acts of terror.

"I know the Bangladesh govern ment is working very hard to identify the individuals responsible for these acts and certainly we stand with them as they search for these individuals and ultimately hold them to account for what they've done. We work -- in general terms, we work closely with Bangladesh on matters of combating terrorism and I think that we're in full agreement on

the need to fight terrorism." he said. However, the spokesman did not specify the exact action Washington took on reported help Bangladesh sought from the US to investigate all major bomb incidents.

nt Secretary Mohamma Our Satkhira correspondent

reports: Four Islamist militants named Nasir Uddin. Moniruzzaman Munna, Anisur Rahman Khokon and Monwar Hossain Uzzal in their confession to the police have implicated Abdur Rahman in the five bomb explosions carried out in Satkhira on August 17.

The blast sites were the bus terminal, Sadar Hospital crossing, Judge Court premise, Women and Children Repression Court premise and the deputy commissioner's office.

Nasir and Moniruzzaman are in police custody at the JIC, where they made the confessions. The remaining two detainees had confessed to Satkhira police and were then transferred to the JIC Tuesday.

Acting on the information given by Uzzal and Khokon, Satkhira police yesterday arrested three more suspected JMB activists in connection with the blasts. They are Mamunur Rahman, Alamoir Hossain and Mahbubur Rahman Litton, police sources said.

Our Raishahi staff correspondent writes: Police picked up four suspected Islamist militants from the Indian mission in the city yesterday afternoon. They are Mustafa Kamal, Nurul Islam, Asadul Islam and Abdullah Al Mamun of Gaibandha district.

The arrestees claimed to be members of Tableeg Jamaat, a nonpolitical religious, and wanted to visit India along with four Saudi Arabian citizens on a 40-day preaching mission. They said they had come to Rajshahi the day before yesterday and went to the Indian consulate to get visa.

Terokhadia Jame Mosque trustee Abul Kashem Ali and Tableeg Jamaat leader Abdul Baki came to Boalia Police Station to lobby for their release and said the detainees had been staying at the mosque. Our correspondent in Sirajganj

3 Nepalese

FROM PAGE 16

Magor, Bindu Maya Gurung and Lal Bahadur Tamang. The court said the charges against the three warrant death

sentence or life imprisonment. But they have been sentenced to life in iail as two of them are women.

Eighteen prosecution witnesses were cross-examined in the case.

Customs officials arrested the three from Zia International Airport (ZIA) with 9 kg of hashish and Tk 4.50 crore on May 6, 2001.

A case was filed with Canton-ment Police Station the same day. The investigation officer pressed charges against them on March 8, 2002.

ad ivionsii of the home ministry told a press briefing vesterday.

He did not name the four but said two of them were from Satkhira and two from Kushtia district

The police have arrested a total of 154 persons across the country in connection with the blasts until vesterday. Mohsin said.

Rab digs out FROM PAGE 1

and hid his body underground at a remote hill in Fatikchhari about one month after his abduction on July 24.2003.

Shahid also admitted that he was involved in Jamal Uddin's abduction till handing him over to another group for carrying him to the hideout under the custody of Kashem Chairman of Kanchan Nagor UP in Fatikchhari upazila.

Rab then brought Kala Mahbub (arrested on November 01, 2004) Shahid Chairman, UP Chairman Shahjahan (arrested on August 17) and microbus driver Sobhan faceto-face and cross-examined their statements.

From their separate interrogation afterwards, Rab became certain that Kala Mahbub and driver Sobhan were with kidnapped Jamal at the last stage of the abduction.

while searching in the remote area along with the two.

said Maruf Nizam, brother of ruling BNP lawmaker Sarwar Jamal Nizam, orchestrated the abduction plot and had it accomplished with the help of his business partner Helal and Shahjahan Chairman.

8 killed FROM PAGE 16

when a Dhaka bound bus from Tongibari upazila collided head on with another bus coming from opposite direction.

Five of the injured were admitted to different hospitals in Dhaka while others to local health complex and clinics.

All members FROM PAGE 16

minister said the government has made unprecedented security arrangements for the smooth holding of the summit, providing foolproof security for all heads of state and government.

He said the Dhaka summit will address some important economic issues like Safta, South Asian Development Fund and South Asian Poverty Alleviation Fund

Indian parliament was extended up to August 31, when the Indian cabinet ministers usually remain busy. The session was earlier supposed to be proroqued on

August 26. "Efforts are underway to hold the JRC meeting early next month," the source said.

Because of the parliament session, Indian Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar has also changed his schedule and is expected to visit Dhaka on September 5-6.

River erosion

FROM PAGE 1 15 points following Indian objections

"But we can't allow our territories to be devoured by the bordering rivers. We'll take up the issue at the upcoming meeting of Indo-Bangla Joint Rivers Commission (JRC), the minister said with deep concern. According to sources in the water resources ministry and JRC, due to Indian objections and occasional exchanges of fire between the BDR and BSF at various points, Bangladesh is now risking losing its bordering lands on the banks of seven out of 54 common rivers with India.

These seven rivers are Mohananda, Atrai, Nagar, Punarbhava, Korotoa, Muhuri and Feni.

The erosion points include Banglabandh and Moinaguri in Panchagarh, Poladanga and Gilabari in Chapainawabganj Borshalopara in Thakurgaon Mohonpur in Dinaipur, Adatola and Teliapara in Naogaon, Nich Kalikapur in Feni and Thaidong. Laksmichhari, Sonaimuri, Darogapara and Andermanik in Chittagong-Khagrachhari region.

Referring to previous meetings of the JRC, experts pointed out that on numerous occasions both India and Bangladesh had agreed to allow each other do revetment work, build embankments on their respective sides to contain erosion of rivers and stabilise their course. But they also agreed that none should go for building spurs and groynes in the cross-boundary rivers that might divert their course adversely affect-

ing the other's territory. Sources however explained that due to lack of clarity of the critical cross-border river management issues at local levels and due to differences of opinion over exact 'zero lines' at the porous Indo-Bangladesh border, tension prompts the border guards to go for unnecessary exchanges of fire.

The aspirant candidates had to TIGHT SECURITY

room

spend Tk 30,000 each to participate Security was tightened at the the interview. And each of the 30 Prodhanmontri Bhaban since getting party nomination will have to yesterday morning while the interdonate Tk 3 lakh to the party funds view began at about noon and as promised by the aspirants in continued up to 6:00pm. black and white while drawing the

Aspirant candidates were also not allowed to carry their purses with them while entering the Bhaban blasts.

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Irked by the committee members' refusal to take part in discussion on the issue, the chairman suddenly stood up, declared conclusion of the meeting and started leaving the

The committee members objected to the chairman's walking out, saying that the chairman of the committee can not walk out of the meeting

interviewers did not ask her any "The issue can be discussed in significant question. "They wanted the committee if all the members agree," committee member and Sonia Ponni, daughter of former ruling BNP lawmaker Shahidul deputy speaker Humayun Khan Islam told The Daily Star after the Ponni, declined to talk to reporters, saying she was not asked any meeting held at the Jatiya Sansgad Bhaban.

Peru plane crash

important question.

restart at daylight on Wednesdav because the plane crashed in a swamp area and was not easily accessible by road. TANS said it would send two planes with medicine and rescue

teams early on Wednesday. It was the third major accident involving a passenger airplane in

less than two weeks, after crashes in Greece and Venezuela. In January 2003. a TANS aircraft slammed into a hill in Peru's northern jungle, killing all 46 people on board. Belevan told reporters that 92 passengers and eight crew, includ-

ing the pilots, were on board the plane, which left Lima for Pucallpa en route to Iguitos, in the northern jungle near the Colombian and Brazilian borders. Iquitos is the largest city in the

Peruvian jungle, the navigation gateway to the Amazon and a popular tourist site.

'The plane was about to land in Pucallpa ... but it was caught in a crosswind. ... It did not crash, it was an emergency landing," Belevan said. He added that the aircraft was built in 1983 and TANS had recently rented it from a South African com-

pany. He declined to give a death toll. "It's really a Dantesque scene," said police officer Arioso Obregon One witness, Tomas Ruiz, told RPP radio the plane was "totally destroyed.

"The weather was really terrible there was a fierce storm at the time,' a police officer in Pucallpa said.

Police and survivors said many passengers suffered severe burns and broken limbs and were being treated in Pucallpa hospital. Photographs of the crash site shown

by TV station Canal N showed local people joining in the rescue effort. TANS, founded in the 1960s by the Peruvian air force to help serve remote jungle communities, became a commercial airline in 1998. It has around 30 percent of the local market, focusing on routes

often neglected by its competitors. Peru's deadliest air crash was on February 29, 1996, when a Boeing 737 owned by the defunct Faucett Airline crashed in the Andes as it prepared to land in Arequipa, 600 miles south of Lima. All 117 passengers and six crewmembers were killed

The elite force found the grave During interrogation, Shahid also