Lankan court clears way for elections

Chandrika's term ends in Dec

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's Supreme Court ruled yesterday that President Chandrika Kumaratunga's final term expires in December, ending her controversial 11-year reign and clearing the way for a vote before November 21.

Opposition activists took to the streets and exploded fire crackers outside the Hulftsdorp Courts complex after the five-judge bench delivered a unanimous decision to a packed court room guarded by armed police and

"It is a unanimous decision." said Chief Justice Sarath Silva, ending months of wrangling between the president's People's Alliance and the opposition on whether her term ends this year or in 2006.

Kumaratunga had argued that a left-over year from her first term should mean she could stay in office until late 2006. She was first elected in 1994 and instead of completing the first sixyear term, called a snap poll in 1999.

The chief justice, who is a personal appointee of the president, in his 25page judgement ruled that her second and final term will end on December 22

The National Heritage Party (NHP) took the issue before the Supremé Court saying it wanted presidential polls held this year

NHP spokesman and lawyer Udaya Gammanpila hailed the ruling. This is not a victory for our party or the defeat of one individual, Gammanpila told AFP. "This is victory for democracy-loving people of this country. It is now up to the voters to

FROM PAGE 16 the US-led campaign to oust the

Taliban regime in neighbouring Afghanistan in late 2001.

sentences. The final word will rest with

the Christmas Day attempt was

named as Naik Arshad Mahmood, and

the civilians were named as Zubair

Ahmed, Rashid Qureshi, Ghulam

convicted of involvement in the plot

were jailed. Rana Mohammad

Naveed was sentenced to life impris-

onment, Adnan Khan got 15 years

behind bars and Aamir Sohail 20

tried," the military spokesman added.

"They were tried under the relevant

Amjad Farooqi, a co-planner in the

Christmas Day attempt on

independence of Bangladesh.

yearning for independence.

Champa, and Chhavanaut.

In May, Pakistani forces captured

His poem "Bidrohi" played a signifi-

His chief collections of poems

Nazrul's writings denounced all

cant role in arousing patriotism and an

are Agnivina, Sanchita, Dolan

social and religious bigotry, cultural

"I cannot say where the case was

Pakistani authorities in September

Sultan said another three people

Sarwar Bhatti and Akhlas Ahmed.

Musharraf himself.

All five have the right to appeal their

The soldier who was sentenced for

choose a patriotic leader.'

Gammanpila said the court setback for Kumaratunga could encourage her to dissolve parliament and call snap parliamentary election before the presidential vote, which is due any time between October 22 and

Officials said that under the presidential elections act, the vote would have to be held in a period of one month ending midnight on November 21, a month before Kumaratunga's term expires.

Wickremesinghe, had also called for elections this year to allow the country to choose a new leader and revive the island's stalled peace process with Tamil Tiger rebels

opposition contender for the presidency, narrowly lost to Kumaratunga at the December 1999 poll which was conducted three days after she lost her right eye in a suicide bombing blamed on the Tigers.

power," Wickremesinghe told reporters here at his party headquarters. "People's sovereignty cannot be taken away. When the government tried to deny their right they expressed their opposition.

He said a protest march he led last month from the island's southernmost point to the capital calling for presidential elections this year had paid off.

Janmastami FROM PAGE 16

plainclothes and uniformed police Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) were deployed and metal detectors were used as part of the security mea-

Devotees said the festival was celebrated in a low-key manner this time in view of the situation following the recent bomb blasts across the country. The number of participants in the rally and procession was less than in the previous year.

Inaugurating the rally at Dhakeshwari Temple, Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka said people of all faiths in Bangaldesh have equal rights to celebrate their religious festivals.

Local lawmaker Nasiruddin Pintoo, Maj Gen (retd) CR Dutta, Prof Nim Chandra Bhoumik of Dhaka

rally this time compared to over 40,000 in the previous years, said Manindra Kumar Nath, general secretary of Mahanagar Sarbajanin Puia Committee.

the committee, expressed satisfaction over the security measures taken by the government.

A Geeta jagna was also held at Dhakeshwari Temple for peace and prosperity of the country. Earlier in the morning, a discus-

Sree Chaitanya Shikkha and Sangskritik Sangha is holding a four-day programme including quiz competition, discussion, cultural function and Kirtan at Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University.

three-day programme, which include art and book exhibition and puja, at Protidandi Building at Sankhari Bazar on this occasion.

'Real' parents

of children under 16 and weighing less than 45kg as camel jockeys.

The United Nations Children Fund (Unicef), which is assisting in repatriation and rehabilitation of the iockeys, has found some of these children were trafficked and others sent to earn money for their families living in the LIAF or Bangladesh

Interviews with the 'quardians', who accompanied the children on August 11, also revealed most of the children were trafficked or illegally migrated. However, most of the women said in their passports they were the mothers of the children.

"An unholy nexus of the recruiting and travel agencies is involved in the process," an official of the BNWLAsaid.

Since August 11, every day at least 15 to 20 people visited the BNWLA office to see if their children have arrived. However, no-one brought with them documents of GDs (general diaries) they should have filed for their missing children, a BNWLA official said.

"It is possible that they claim to be the children's quardians, knowing monetary involvement in the reintegration process," the official said asking not to be named.

"We didn't hand over any children because we have to be sure they are not fake parents," Mominul Islam, an investigation officer of the BNWLA, said. Mominul is also a member of a three-member delegation that went to the UAE for identifying Bangladeshi children.

The legal procedures in identifying the real parents and reintegrating them will pose legal problems,

A guardian claimed she has two children -- one from Sylhet and the other from Habigani, he said. "Ir cases like these we are going through troubled waters," he

Citing another example, he said a mother in her passport claimed she has two sons, who were later identified as her stepdaughter's

There will be more critical cases like this among the 200 children identified as Bangladeshis, he

He said, "It is quite difficult to find out the real parents, and it is even more difficult to identify who would be the perfect quardians for proper reintegration and rehabilitation of the children."

Additional Secretary of Home Ministry Abdur Rouf said as soon as primary information of the children is provided, the ministry will convey it to the thana nirbahi officers (TNOs). "Under the TNOs, the Union

Parishad chairmen and the officersin-charge will verify their addresses, parents and other related information," he noted. A team comprising officials from

the ministries of foreign affairs, home, Unicef, BNWLA, IOM (International Organisation for Migration) will monitor the reintegration process, he told The Daily Star. "Unless the monitoring team is

convinced the parents are genuine and child rights will be ensured, no children will be handed over,' BNWLA Executive Directo Advocate Salma Ali said.

Jamal Uddin FROM PAGE 16

would be his husband's.

possibility Nazma told journalists at the Rab

She however did not rule out the

headquarters that they would go for a DNA testing of the remains. Shahid Chairman while talking to reporters at the Rab-7 headquarters

once again said that Maruf Nizam had plotted the abduction and had it done with he help of his business partner Helal.

Shahid, however, excluded Shahiahan Chairman's name as one of the kidnappers.

"I implicated him [Shahjahan Chairmanl in the abduction as he had a legal fight with my brother," Shahid said and apologised to Shahiahan there.

Shahid Chairman Thursday told iournalists how Jamal was abducted and who took part in the mission. His account matches the one Sobhan gave under 164. Shahid said that Helal.

Nazimuddin, Shafiuddin Ahmed, Garage Kashem, Yunus Babu. Ishaq alias "one piece Ishaq" and Sobhan driver participated in the abduction. He said they had handed over

Jamal to Kashem Chairman at Kanchan Nagor, where Kala Sultan, Kala Mahbub, Chhoto Osman, Rafiq, Master Mozaher, Alamgir and Shahajan were also present.

During interrogation by Rab, Shahid Chairman said Jamaluddin was killed within one month after his abduction. Kala Mahbub, Lamba Mahbub and Yunus Babu were directly involved in the mur-

Whatmore FROM PAGE 16

local conditions after two stints as Sri Lanka coach, says Bangladesh now has to build on the shock victory over Australia in a one-day match in Britain

"What we need to do is to get a few more of these wins on a consistent basis," he told reporters late on Thursday after nets. They also practised on Friday.

"We are playing in conditions which are little bit more favourable to us than in England and we are going to fight really hard for ourselves," he added.

Whatmore, who still has a home in Colombo, will use his extensive knowledge of the Sri Lankan players to help his present team.

"I am going to share every bit of information I have of the Sri Lankan team. If you do a job, you do it as well as you can, no matter whom you are coaching," he said. Whatmore, who started coach-

ing Bangladesh in 2003 and has signed a contract up until the 2007 World Cup, is convinced that Bangladesh can become a force in "With the population base that

we have, Bangladesh is a sleeping giant." he said. "It is going to take some time, but

this team is going to be around and we are going to improve."

The three-match one-day series starts on August 31 and the Test series starts on September 12.

Anonymous FROM PAGE 1

It however does not carry names of any organisation or individual.

Maulana Abdullah Hel Baki coming from India had started preaching the doctrine of Ahle Hadith in Pabna during the days of the then East Pakistan. Later his son Dr Abdul Bari, former vice chancellor of Rajshahi University, took the helm of the organisation. which over the years has attracted a huge number of Muslims to be its members in the northern region, says the leaflet.

"Achieving the hunger goal, Galib had dedicated himself to establishing an Islamic state while he was a young student. In 1978, he formed Ahle Hadith Jubo Sangha in Dhaka University, emphasising the importance of jihad in parallel to dawats [inviting Muslims]. Starting from Dhaka, the Jubo Sangha spread fast in 2.200 km3 of fresh water in the next

almost all the districts. The government in 1989 ousted Abdul Matin Salafi, one of the major organisers of Ahab. Before leaving the country, he made Galib its leader and handed over to him huge funds. But soon the other leaders accused Galib of embezzling Ahab funds and removed him from the post of

Rahman as the chief of JMB and describes Dr Galib as a close associate of Rahman.

It says Siddiqul Islam alias Bangla Bhai of Jagrata Muslim Janata, Mufti Hannan of Harkatul Jihad, Kawsar Hossain Siddique of Shahadat-e-Al Hiqma and some other less known extremist leaders--all came from Ahle Hadith Jubo Sangha. Bangla Bhai was even arrested as a JMB member at Mollarhat in Bagerhat.

Dhaka Zoo

In last one year, 10 deer have been

Rahman told BDNEWS that initially

Asian financial centres

FROM PAGE 16

the mid-1980s, the Financial Times recalled But Asian governments have

long been aware of the danger. US allies in particular have been on guard since the al-Qaeda attacks on New York and Washington in September 2001, which were followed by bombings in Indonesia

Jemaah Islamiyah group. Subsequent bombings in Madrid and London have heightened fears that a major metropolitan centre in Asia could be next.

and the Philippines blamed on the

In Singapore, armed police now patrol the MRT train system and entertainment districts frequented by foreigners. Guards from the legendary Gurkha forces armed with assault rifles and curved knives protect key foreign embassies.

Tokyo, which has the world's biggest public transport network, stepped up security after the July 7 bombings in London

Sydney also placed extra police and security guards on its public transport system, and the city has a mass evacuation plan involving the private sector.

In the wake of the London bombings, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong sounded a sombre note during the city-state's exuberant 40th independence day celebrations earlier this month.

"We must be psychologically prepared for this, so that if they ever strike here we will be resolute and indomitable, refusing to be cowed by the terrorists and staying one united people," he said in a televised address.

Singapore, frequently visited by American warships and aircraft, will host the International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings in September 2006 involving 16,000 participants.

In Hong Kong, a police spokesman said the territory, which will host the World Trade Organisation Summit in December, was under a "moderate" level of alert, the second highest.

"The chances that Hong Kong gets attacked are very low. But we keep ourselves prepared, alert and vigilant." chief superintendent Alfred Ma of the public relations branch

He said Hong Kong police undertake "regular exercises to cover different scenarios" and keep in

touch with overseas counterparts. Clive Williams, director of terrorism studies at the Australian National University, said he expected al-Qaeda to target people rather than institutions in an attempt

"If it was an attack in Tokyo or Japan or Australia or Singapore it's more likely to be a public transport target," he told AFP.

to alter government policy on Irag.

Aldo Borgu, from the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, doubted whether al-Qaeda would have the capability to attack targets in Asia.

"If they are specifically targeting financial institutions, with the aim of not necessarily killing people but wrecking economies, that's a change of direction," he said.

South Korea is also on alert in case it might be a target, especially during this year's Apec summit in November in its southern port of Busan. It maintains 3,600 troops in Iraq, the third-largest contingent after the US and Britain.

In Kuala Lumpur, anti-terror security is relatively low-profile compared to places like Manila or Jakarta, where the undercarriages of vehicles entering luxury hotels are checked with mirrors for hidden explosives.

Abdul Aziz Bulat, Kuala Lumpur city criminal investigation chief, said there was no evidence to show the Malaysian capital was a terrorist

"We are not and should not be a target of terrorists but we are alert for any possibilities," he told AFP. "We have not done anything to make people hate us.'

district unit of JMB, police said.

gence agency official said.

interrogation.

Barkatullah was absent from his

The militant leader will be trans-

ASP Atigur Rahman went to the

madrasa from August 12 to 17

without taking any leave, an intelli-

ferred to the Joint Interrogation Cell

(JIC) in Dhaka today for intensive

district on Wednesday and visited

different spots and discussed the

matter with local investigators,

reports our Satkhira correspon-

remand petition for Mamunur

The hearing on the 10 days'

Bagerhat militant

Investigators continue to quiz six arrestees--two from Dhaka two from Satkhira, one each from Khulna and Kushtia -- at the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC) in Dhaka.

Some 26 arrestees have already been sent to their districts, Joint Secretary (administration) of the Ministry of Home told a press briefing on Thursday.

Our Khulna correspondent eports: Barkatullah Morshed admitted to investigators that there are three strong training camps for Islamist militants in Chitalmari. Mollahat and Sadar unazilas under Bagerhat district where 52 of his students are being trained in arms and high explosives including

Barkatullah, who is now being guizzed at a seven-member interrogation cell, said he is a leader of banned Islamist militant organisation Jagrata Muslim Janata

"Apart from academic activities. students of Al Markaiul Islamic Madrasa and Orphanage get regular training on militant activities," an investigator said seeking anonym-

A younger brother to Akramuzzaman Bin Abdus Salam, director of Kuwait funded NGO Revival of Islamic Heritage Society, Barkatullah is now on a six-day

Huq is the chief organiser of the

Satkhira, will be held today, police They will be sent to the JIC in Dhaka after the court awards the

remand, sources said. Meanwhile, police have provided the Interpol a list of 17 people including Abdur Rahman for arrest, BBC Bangla Service reports said last night quoting police officials.

Demra contractor

FROM PAGE 1

Mukta said she returned home in the morning and found her husband

Police said they found mark of injury in the throat of the body and it was bleeding from the nose. The arrestees will be produced before court today.

Ruma resigns to destiny

FROM PAGE 16

"She [Feroza] perhaps did the same with her other children." Ruma savs. "She was perhaps planning to get married and so wanted to get rid of

house, but as ill luck would have it. soon she lost the second home too. "I went out to buy something and could not figure out my way back,' she recalls. But it seems luck was on her

side. As Ruma roamed aimlessly, crying incessantly, she caught the eye of Saifuddin Babul. "It was in the cantonment area where I found Ruma," says Babul. A childless Babul felt pity for the little girl and brought her to his house. His wife Ireen Jamal also accepted Ruma affectionately.

as her parents.

Babul tried to send Ruma to school and also kept private tutors

for her, but the girl took no interest in

to light recently after an unfortunate

On July 8, Babul's landlady Rawshan Ara beat up Ruma over a trivial matter and later attacked Ireen when she came to Ruma's rescue. At one stage, Rawshan struck Ruma in the eyes with a broom, causing severe sores.

Ireen took Ruma to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment, where someone advised her to contact the OCC (One-Stop Crisis Centre). At OCC Ireen met the Bangladesh National Women Lawvers' Association (BNWLA) officials, who took up Ruma's case.

The BNWLA sent a letter to Rawshan Ara asking her to come to BNWLA office to discuss the issue. 'We have not received any

While talking to this correspondent, Ruma categorically denied wanting to find her parents. "Why

should I try to find them?" she said. "They did not care when they deserted me--first, my father and then my mother...I don't want to go

The unusual tale of Ruma came

intolerance and oppression. He also got equal prominence and popularity as a music composer and lyricist.

section, but it is still a speculation.'

inferno under control firemen and Kung King staff to

"I was on duty at the old DEPZ pump, about one kilometre off the scene, when I first noticed the red tongues of the blaze licking the sky. I spent no time in reaching the spot. But the heat was so high that we had to stay about 100 yards away from the burning building," described Maheb Hossain, assistant plumber

may spread out, employees of the adjacent factories also started to sprinkle water on outer walls of their factory buildings.

managed to tame the raging fire, small flames were still burning at several points of the factory last night. Smoke with acrid stench of burnt chemicals, acids and rubber

Last year three Islamic extremists were sentenced to 10 years' hard

On Saturday, officials said former Pakistani soldier Islam Siddiqui, 35,

attack because a hi-tech jamming device on the president's Mercedes nad delayed the explosions o

In May, a Pakistani airforce official who escaped jail late last year after being sentenced to death for the same

plot was re-arrested.

Mamunur Rashid. the dramatists and cultural activists to

come forward to develop a healthy cultural environment in the country.

and anti-autocracy movements.

Fire burns down

Nazrul

FROM PAGE 16

noticed the blaze. I shouted out to everybody to run out of the factory,' said Sadekul Islam, a spinning section worker.

Admin chief Tapan said, "The fire

might have been sparked off by an electric short circuit at the dyeing When the fire fighters reached the scene at 3:15am, the blaze had already engulfed more than half of the factory. The fire brigade operators first tried to save two boilers from blasting and to check the

spread of fire. After three hours of struggle, they managed to bring the As the hissing inferno leapt up to the sky, about 500 workers from the nearby factories came to the scene running and joined hands with

Fearing that the raging flames

Though the fire fighters had

around the building. "The fire is under control and we are now damping it down, which may take one or two days more," said Dhaka Fire Brigade and Civil Defence (FBCD) Deputy Director

have to wait to put the fire out completely. It is because a huge quantity of petroleum by-products, acrylic, artificial fibres, chemicals, acids, liquid rubber and other inflammable objects used in spinning are fuelling the blaze," explained Dhaka FBCD Deputy Assistant Director Nurul

problem, as water slipped over the petroleum by-products and synthetic materials, making it impossible to get the smouldering stacks wet. A total of 80 firemen from 12 units including the DEPZ, Savar, Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Tongi, Gazipur and the FBCV Dhaka

twister, store, spare parts room and part of the spinning section of the factory were completely burnt down. already collapsed by last night and the rest developed big cracks and were about to fall.

November 21.

The main opposition leader. Ranil

Wickremesinghe, who is the main

"Today is a victory of people's

Five to walk the gallows

Libyan national Abu Faraj al-Libbi, the al-Qaeda's alleged number three. Musharraf has publicly accused al-Libbi of leading the two failed bids to

assassinate him.

Al-Libbi has since been handed over to the custody of the United labour for an earlier plot in Karachi in April 2002, when a remote-control device failed to detonate an explosives-laden van near the president's

was hanged before dawn in central Pakistan's Multan prison, for involvement in the December 14 attempt. Musharraf turned down his appeal for The general narrowly survived that

bombs. No one was injured in the

Bailey Road

others, spoke at the function presided over by Federation Chairman Mayor Sadek Hossain Khoka urged

He also cited the dramatists for their courageous role in the Liberation War

covered several hundred yards He also said the caretaker government and election commission reforms proposal must be imple-

"It is tough to predict how long we

Ltd. a Taiwanese-owned company,

was set up at the DEPZ in 1998 on a

32,000 square metre land and

employs over 800 workers.

University also spoke at the rally. About 5,000 devotees joined the

Subrata Chowdhury, president of

sion was held at the temple.

Pronab Sangha has arranged a

Former major FROM PAGE 1 identity till 9:00pm last night, said a number of highly placed Rab

The arrestee was under custody

of Directorate General of Forces

Intelligence (DGFI), said Rab. "We went to arrest Major Mozaffar, but we ended up capturing Major Moinul since he like Mozaffar had been evading capture since the assassination of Ziaur Rahman," added the source. Sources said Major Moin, a

freedom fighter, was commissioned

in the first Bangladesh War Course

in October 9, 1971. He was a stu-

dent of Barisal Medical College and Hospital in the 70s and joined the Liberation War with the army in He was an instructor in the Infantry School of Tactics in Sylhet in 1981. He was in Chittagong when President Zia was killed. "I am not sure whether he went to Chittagong on leave or for any other reasons But he never returned to his working

place in Sylhet," one former colleague of Moinul told The Daily Star last night. "He left the country either because he was involved in the Zia sale court martial of the freedom

He had settled in Canada and developed business there, added the source but could not confirm when he had returned to the coun-Meanwhile, none could confirm whether Major Moin was one of the

fighters," said the source.

accused in the court martial (Court in Camera) for mutiny after Zia's

Jalil

FROM PAGE 1 14-party. Speaking at the meeting, Bangladesh Bar Council Vice President Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud said the people of the country will execute the verdict of

He said the perpetrators of last year's grenade attack on the AL rally and those of the series of bomb blasts across the country are the

the Bangabandhu murder case if the

government continues to idle on it.

change. AL Joint Secretary Obaidul Quader also accused the government of harbouring the killers of Bangabandhu. "Those, who passed the indem-

mented for bringing a meaningful

nity ordinance to protect the killers of Bangabandhu, will never execute the verdict," he observed. Presided over by Shainik League President Bazlur Rahman, the meeting was also addressed by AL Organising Secretary Abdul Mannan, Relief and Social Welfare Secretary Prof Nazma Rahman and Shainik League General Secretary

Bad weather

Abdus Sattar.

vesterday.

FROM PAGE 1 "I have to go to a private clinic to attend to an operation in Shyamoli but I cannot go out of my residence as water submerged the road in front of my house," said a nurse.

While sources at ZIA told about

53 millimetres of rainfall recorded

there, the weather office in Dhaka

said at 5:00pm that they recorded

zero millimetre rainfall in the city

The weather office, however later informed that they got unofficial reports of more than 100 millimeters of rainfall in Uttara and its surround-

FROM PAGE 1 But this time, under the new plan between two of its states came within 10 days of President APJ Abdul Kalam's August 14 directive

Dhaka watching

to overcome 'various hurdles' in its Addressing the nation on the eve of the 59th Independence Day of India, Kalam emphasised, "Instead of thinking about inter-linking of rivers only at times of flood and drought, it is time that we implement this programme with a great sense of urgency. We need to make an effort to overcome various hurdles in our way to the implementation of this major project. I feel that it has the promise of freeing the country

that the ambitious project should be

implemented with a 'sense of

urgency' and efforts should be made

from the endless cycle of floods and On August 15, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia had a closed-door meeting with senior cabinet colleagues and a JRC member to discuss the country's strategy on JRC meet. A follow-up meeting scheduled for today at the water resources ministry was however cancelled due to the last-minute deferral of the meeting.

Though the JRC is supposed to meet at least twice a year, the last meeting was held two years ago. The meeting, held in New Delhi in late 2003, dragged on for 13 hours beyond its two-day schedule as India insisted on not mentioning Bangladesh's concern over the RLP in the agreed minutes.

Indian External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh, during his visit to Bangladesh early this month, at an exclusive meeting with Khaleda Zia assured that New Delhi would not take any unilateral decision on the Earlier on May 9, Indian High

Commissioner to Bangladesh

Veena Sikri said New Delhi would

consult all the co-riparian countries if its river-linking project involved any international river. "The project is entirely at its conceptual stage and the first focus is on its southern and peninsular rivers," she told reporters after a roundtable on 'Strategic Significance of Water Resources in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna Basins' in Dhaka organised by the

Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies. Sources at the water resources ministry and JRC members however said the history of Farakka Barrage still haunts their mind. One official recalled that when the then Pakistan government had first objected to the barrage plan, the Indian side assured it, saying, "Farakka Barrage is still at a conceptual level." But eventually that became a reality and Bangladesh has inherited the legacy of water scarcity in the dry season and

during the monsoons due to the barrage, regretted the official. The history of river inter-linking in India dates back to the 1970s and the issue surfaces whenever coriparian states clash, the sources pointed out. "It is essentially based on the original plan mooted by KL Rao, the irrigation minister in Jawaharlal Nehru's cabinet." said Radha Singh, director general of the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) of India, recently.

Rao had estimated that 2.640km

Ganga-Cauvery link canal would

cost Rs 12.500 crore (Rs 150.000

crore at current price). Rao's plan

was followed by another river-

linking project in 1977, involving Rs

24,095 crore. After examination by

expert committees, both the plans

were shelved due either to technical

difficulties or economic constraints.

overflowing of cross-border rivers

involving Rs 560,000 crore, the NWDA has identified 30 links for a feasibility study One such project by the erstwhile

Soviet Union to divert Siberian

rivers through a 2,200km canal

network to feed the Amu Darya and

the Syr Darya rivers in Central Asia fell flat amidst incursion of saline water, ultimately forcing the authorities to abandon the scheme in the The exploitation of the Colorado river in the US is cited as a good example of river networking but, even in this case, environmentalists

are concerned about the coastal

ecology of the region.

Stockholm confce calls on UN to give water central

AFP, Stockholm The UN should give water issues centre stage in its goals to reduce hunger and poverty in the world, water experts said at an international symposium, which wound

Meeting the UN's "Millennium

Development Goals", which call for

down in Stockholm yesterday.

poverty and hunger to be reduced by half within a decade, would require today's water access levels to double, they said. "The huge amount of water needed to feed the hungry has not been very clearly highlighted in the Millennium project," Malin Falkenberg, member of the scien-

tific programme committee at the

Swedish water institute said in her

closing remarks on Friday.

which is the number one goal, will require a massive quantity of fresh water," said Johan Rockstroem executive director of the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI). "We have 800 million undernourished people. To give food to 400 million people we must mobiles

10 years, which is equivalent to

increase in the required water

Participants said the huge

irrigation today," he said.

supply should be achieved with sustainable, often traditional techniques, and not by using Western technology without regard to local conditions and the environment. "Environmentally sustainable management strategies are a prerequisite for long-term and resilient improvement of the lives of

poor people." the SEI said in a report

to be submitted to a UN Millennium

Goal summit in New York on

September 14 and 15.

Rockstroem said the additional needs of agriculture should be met primarily with a better management of "green water" from rainwater and underground wells, rather than "blue water" from rivers and lakes. This means that the construction of dams should be reduced in favour

of updating ancient techniques like

rainwater collection, particularly

adapted to India, and fighting

ground erosion. "We need to revive these traditions for the future," said Sunita Narain, head of the Centre for Science and Environment and this year's Stockholm Water Prize winner. "We need to make sure that more

and more people can harvest in

different manners. Of course it's a

difficult challenge," she told AFP.

ameer of Ahab and Touhid Trust on January 5, 2002. The leaflet also names Abdur

FROM PAGE 16

sold for Tk 212,000. Curator of the Zoo Mofizur

the price for a deer was set at Tk 25,000 but because of unavailability of buyers, it has been reduced to Tk

Rahman, Alamgir Hossain and Mahbubur Rahman Liton, who were arrested on Wednesday from bombs and grenades.

Bangladesh (JMJB).

Detective Branch police of Bagerhat arrested Barkatullah on Wednesday from a madrasa at Kadia village under Bagerhat Sadar

Their another brother Mozammel

all her children.' In Dhaka, Ruma was placed at a

Babul tried by all means to find Ruma's parents, including making announcements on microphone in the neighbourhood for three days, but to no avail. Since then Ruma has been brought up at Babul's house like a daughter--their daughter. Ruma also began to treat the couple

back to them," she cried out.

response from her so far," informs Advocate Feroza Parvin Lucky, programme officer of OCC-BNWLA. Since then Ruma has been in custody of the BNWLA.

Headquarters were engaged in the The dyeing, administration, Some walls of the factory had

Selim Newaz Bhuiyan to The Daily

The fire fighters were facing

Kung King Textile (BD) Company