# Nine including

FROM PAGE 1
court yesterday following prolonged quizzing over the serial bombings.

Satkhira correspondent reports: Police arrested Indian citizen Gias Uddin, 38, one of the most wanted suspects in Satkhira, in Kalaroa Bazar at 12:15pm yesterday.

Gias, son of Omar Ali of Nityanandakati village in North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, along with his family lives in a rented house in Kadamtala near the town.

Also a local leader of banned Jama'atul Muiahideen Bangladesh (JMB). Gias told police he was tasked with blasting bombs at Satkhira bus terminal.

Police sources said Gias passed the school final-level examination from India and worked as a private tutor before he came to Bangladesh in early 1990's and married a local woman in Kalaroa.

He served as an Imam at Kashempur Ahle Hadith Mosque, but the mosque committee sacked him in 2002 learning his link to religious

The sources said Gias joined the JMB after he came in contact with its chief Abdur Rahman in 2001

Another Indian national arrested on August 23 but released for unknown reasons was again held yesterday, reports our Gaibandha

Police said Sayel Hossain, 35, a resident of Kaliganj village in Ranaghat in West Bengal, entered Bangladesh on August 3 without passport and visited different shrines. He was sent to jail custody follow-

ing a case filed against him for entering Bangladesh without valid docu-Our court correspondent adds:

Former Islamic Foundation director Moulana Fariduddin Masud was again placed on remand on expiry of his five-day remand.

Airport Police produced him before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka seeking a 10-day

The investigation officer (IO) told the court Masud has direct link to the serial explosions and he withdrew crores of taka from his bank accounts before August 17.

Moreover, he needs to be quizzed further to find out information about withdrawal of money from his accounts, the IO said.

The defence lawyer, Syed Rezaur Rahman, submitted a bail petition and appealed for cancellation of the remand prayer.

The lawyer said his client was implicated in the case as part of conspiracy to harass him.

Moreover, Masud's name was not in the first information report (FIR), but he was implicated to vilify his image in the society, the counsellor added.

Masud told the court he has always worked for peace and prosperity of the country. "I've taken part in an anti-terrorism conference in England and delivered speeches on the issue on several occasions. I'm also author of several books against

UNB from Naogaon reports: Police arrested two more suspects --Abul Kalam Azad, 45, and Abdul Majid Master, 35, -- in Manda upazila yesterday. The police said they are active JMB members. Our Khulna correspondent adds:

Police arrested Ahle Hadith Andolan, Bangladesh (Ahab) leader Zafarullah in Bamandanga village in Rupsha upazila on Sunday.

Bagerhat police arrested JMB leaders Abul Kuddus, superintendent of Dighra Dakhil Madrasa in Mongla, and Siddiqur Rahman in Swarankhola upazila the same day.

Ahab leader Golam Moktadir Babu, Abul Kalam Azad and Mujibur

after being quizzed at Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC). Police sent them to jail showing them arrested in

the August 17 blasts case. BDNEWS reports from Panchagarh: Police nabbed three more suspects on Sunday night but released one of them.

The two arrestees are Md Badiuzzaman, 32, superintendent of Panchagarh Satmera Darulfalah Dakhil Madrasa, and Khalilur Rahman Pradhan alias Khalil Pradhan, 50, of Bhaulaganj in Debigani upazila.

Our Tangail correspondent adds: Two out of seven arrestees admitted their link to the JMB, saying they had physical training at Delduar stadium a v months ago.

Police interrogating the two --Mohammad Yasin, 18, a muezzin, and Rahmatullah alias Mamun, 25, -said they are well trained and remain tight-lipped. They are facing a seven-

The police said they have released five others yesterday as allegations against them were not proved.

Locals said the JMB chief and his brother Ataur Rahman, chief of JMB military wing, used to visit about 50 madrasas in Delduar. They said militants started their

activities centring Barapakhia Charpara Madrasa, while its teacher, Harun, was the organiser of the JMB activities in Delduar. The officer-in-charge of Delduar

Police Station said they are hunting for Khaled Siddique of Singharaji village. Under Khaled's leadership an experimental explosion was carried out at Nagarpur on June 13.

Meantime, police in mid-June took two alleged militants to a court showing them arrested in a robbery case though they were nabbed from Delduar for their militant activities and possessing bombs and arms, reports

One of them has already gone into hiding after obtaining bail from the

Police said locals of Tarabari in Nagarpur held the two -- Mainul Islam Ranga Miah, 25, of Bogra and Mesbaul Salehin Razan, 24, of Sherpur -- following two explosions and turned them in to police. In Bandarban, mysterious leaflets

were circulated by post in the name of Bangladesh Islam Rakkha Parishad yesterday, according to the news

The handbills headlined "To the activists of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh" urged the young to join armed struggle.

Govt yet to near the root A government spokesman yesterday admitted that they are yet to dig out the root of the August 17 bombing though some grassroots activists were

"It was not possible for us to go to the root of the attack." Mohammad Mohsin, joint secretary (political) of the home ministry, said at a regular

press briefing. Those who have confessed to their involvement in the blasts are 'base-level workers,' Mohsin told ournalists at the ministry.

He said six members of JMB have revealed some names including their leaders, which cannot be disclosed

the sake of the invest The joint secretary said some important information is likely to be retrieved from a member who is learnt

to be a leader of the upper tier. He said 169 people have so far been arrested in connection with the

As many as 41 were brought to the JIC and 16 of them are still being quizzed at the cell, while the rest have been sent back.

He said six - four from Satkhira and two from Kushtia -- of the arrestees admitted to their involvement in the August 17 attack.

Rahman were sent back to Khulna

law rule.

### Harmful

cream and selling them at

of chemicals and two drums full of artificial materials that were used to produce cosmetics items without the permission of the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution

"The owner of the factory does not even know how to read and write, but he become a chemist and has been producing cosmetics, said Md. Rokan Ud Doulah, the magistrate of the mobile court. Abdul Miah could not be found,

but the court seized the materials and arrested his wife. A case against the couple was filed under the Special Power Act-1974.

the Tejgaon and Gulshan police station areas and filed 14 cases and collected a total of Tk 1,53,000 from different restaurants, bakeries, sweetmeat shops and other food traders for not maintaining hygiene standards.

Meanwhile in Narayanganj, six samples of seized rotten wheat have been found to be inedible. A special team led by magistrate Halimuzzaman seized a total of 11.186 sacks of rotten wheat on August 7 from the Nitaiganj area of the town, where most of the flourmills are situated, our Narayanganj correspondent reports. Razzak Traders imported the wheat to store and make flour.

All six samples were separately tested at the Mohakhali Public Health Institute. An analyst involved in the testing has commented that the wheat seemed to be rotten and inedible. The test reports were

imported the wheat from India as poultry feed and intended to mix it with good wheat.

ment is trying to make the country a

communal state by destroying the spirit of the Liberation War, the speakers said. The forces of evil killed

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, but they could not kill the ideal of Bangabandhu as he is immortal to all progressives, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil said.

Mohammad Hanif said, adding that the August 17 countrywide bomb blasts occurred with the direct patronisation of the government. He urged the countrymen to be

united to oust the government to establish a government of the peo-Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur

Razzaq MP, Tofail Ahmed, Sajeda Chowdhury, Motia Chowdhury, Obaidul Kader, Suranjit Sengupta, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Rahmatullah Chowdhury also spoke at the rally.

## Aug 21 suspect

FROM PAGE 16

of the most wanted criminals

CID produced Monzur before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court Dhaka with a 10-day remand

The forwarding report placed before the court said Monzur drove Mukul and others on a microbus to Bangabandhu Avenue on August 21 last year and he knows all the culprits involved in the bombing. So he needs to be interrogated to find out clues of the incident and whereabouts of the bombers, the report said.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mir Ali Reza granted a seven-day remand for interrogation after the hearing.

Saibal Saha Partha, Abdur Rahman, Habib alias Hannan, Waliullah, Hasan Zahid Tusher, 7ahir Hossain, Akhter, Jiten, Monir, Mohammad Hossain, Avub Ali. George Miah, Moklesur Rahman and Badsha Miah were arrested in the August 21 grenade attack case filed by the police on August 22.

Among them Partha, Abdur Rahman and Moklesur were granted bail from the High Court.

## Outlaw killed

FROM PAGE 16 police conducted another raid early

yesterday to nab his accomplices and recover illegal firearms and When police reached

Undharmanik area, Mithu's accomplices opened fire on the law enforcers, forcing them to retaliate. During the shootout, Mithu was shot and died instantly, police said.

However, the accomplices of Mithu managed to flee the scene, leaving behind a revolver, a shutter gun and eight bullets.

Police said Mithu was accused in 15 criminal cases, including nine for

### Saarc information FROM PAGE 16

film festival and a Saarc media development fund.

The recommendations of the meeting will be placed in the Saarc Summit in Dhaka in November.

In his welcome address, Information and Communications Minister of Nepal Tanka Dhakal said that Nepal will press for mutually shared information on criminal activities to combat terrorism that has become a major "irritant" in the

Sri Lanka's Deputy Minister for Information and Media Cegu Isadeen and Bangladesh's Information and Communications Secretary Md Mahabubar Rahman are representing their respective

# Power sector

of a newspaper item. "You should make comments after scrutinizing the procurement process in the power sector," he added.

He pointed out, "It should be checked whether the newspaper item or the correspondent who has covered the news report is biased or not," and questioned, "How much honest he is?"

Earlier, addressing the inaugural session of a two-day international workshop on Infrastructure Financing at the Bangladesh Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, Wallich alleged that, due to lack of corporate governance, serious corruption is occurring in the infrastructure, especially in the power sector of Bangladesh.

"Over the past 6 years, some 15 power plants have been publicly tendered but only 3 were awarded The procurement process followed was questionable and nontransparent and not in the interest of good outcomes for Bangladesh,

"Had the tendering process not been undermined, two world-class project finance structures --Meghnaghat II and Sirajganj --could already be providing 900 MW of very low-cost power to the system. Instead, we now see load shedding of about 900 MW a day, expensive suppliers credits, and contingent liabilities, for the government," the WB country director said. Against a plan of adding 3000

mw by 2007, Wallich sees only 730 mw in the pipeline --an amount that does not even meet the current shortfall.

Commenting outside her scripted speech, Wallich referenced a report in yesterday's Daily Star that described the government's illconceived crash programme to add 430 mw power by the next election, and said, "In the Fenchuganj power project, there has been repeated retendering [six times]...This happened because of someone's personal interest [to grab the pro-

Hassan Mahmood defended himself, saying, "The Daily Star report is not an indicator for corruption. You send your men and check it vourself. Bring all your multilateral donors and tell us where

we have corruption.' Then he said, "Where will you not find corruption? It is in every coun-

Noting the Sirajganj 450 mw project, which was cancelled after nalisation on political reasons, Mahmood said, "The Sirajganj project was a killer for the country.

Mahmood claimed that the repeated re-tenderings of various power projects are taking place according to the guideline of the WB to maintain transparency in the tendering process.

"I think the guideline of the WB for the procurement process should be changed," the state minister said. During his recent visit to Dhaka, Paul Wolfowitz, the World Bank

president, had also expressed concerns about large-scale corruption in power projects. The WB had also previously written letters to the government expressing the same concerns. Last year the government lost a

45 million Euro German grant when the Rural Power Company Ltd (RPCL), a concern of the Rural Electrification Board (REB), refused to open books for an international auditing. The Daily Star had reported a massive corruption bid in the RPCL

The Daily Star is regularly reporting how corruption attempts have led to six terms of tendering for the mw Fenchuganj bid - which ultimately went to a disqualified company - the faulty deal for the Meghnaghat 2 bid, the faulty bid handling of the Chandpur 150 mw plant and many other stories related to power projects. So far, with the exception of a couple of weak rejoinders, the government has not protested these reports.

# Polls financing

FROM PAGE 1 and for those of us who would like to help finance it," she added.

Wallich's observations elicited sharp reaction from State Minister for Power Iqbal Hassan Mahmood who along with Finance minister M Saifur Rahman was taking part in the work-Mahmood claimed that the news-

paper reports make the picture of corruption look grim. Saifur Rahman said corruption has declined in the last one year. Wallich in her speech said political

national elections through corruption including irregular public procurement and a system of patronage and influence in all sectors and ministries. "I cannot youch for the number and it may well be apocryphal. This is about \$3.3 billion or five percent of GDP, a

large number for a country at Bangladesh's income level," she "If true, this amounts to \$21 per Bangladeshi, or to put it another way, it's a 5.3 percent tax on the average income of all Bangladeshis. And vet

and the parties have no audited accounts," she quipped. Addressing the inaugural session of the two-day international workshop on Infrastructure Financing in Bangladesh at a city hotel, she also said, "Unfortunately, once political parties become dependent on funding from routine corruption in the sectors.

"Until and unless the system of election financing is addressed, infrastructure governance reforms will be struggling uphill--improvements will occur, but cannot be fully successful unless the bigger picture of election financing is also reformed." she observed. Bangladesh Bank (BB) and the Board of Investment (Bol) have

WB. "The power sector, as President Wolfowitz noted, is a tempting target [for corruption], given the magnitude of its transactions. The government of Bangladesh must remain alert, lest this be allowed to happen," she pointed out

"So what about solutions?" she asks and replies herself, "The High Court directive delivered in May last, demanding the candidates must disclose their income, assets and liabilities, the assets and liabilities of family members, their bank loans and repayments, and sources of income,

She said, "Future IDA [International Development Assistance of the WBI commitments will of course depend on country performance, the pace of economic reforms and project implementation.

Bangladesh's current problem of infrastructure does not lie in the infrastructure sectors, rather in Bangladesh's system of political governance, said the country director

Investment Climate Assessment for Bangladesh identified poor quality and poorly managed infrastructure as the major deficiency in the investment climate, together with security and law and order. Moreover, Bangladesh is denying

itself access to readily available power

projects by failing to address the

essential role of procurement pro-

cesses, she continued. "Since 1999, some 15 power plants have been publicly tendered but only three were awarded. The procurement process followed were questionable and non-transparent and not in the interest of good outcomes for Bangladesh," she said. Finance and Planning Minister M

funding. He said, "Huge election funding is not uniquely a matter of Bangladesh. Political parties in America or Japan or Germany raise billions of dollars during national elections. Can these amounts be raised from the candidates alone?"

Bank president talked about corruption before. Corruption exists in every country. But in our case, they [WB] say, you are a poor country: if you misap propriate all development funds through corruption, then how will the poor get money?" Saifur told the press. Lack of corporate governance is a

major problem for the development of infrastructure in Bangladesh, Saifur admitted. "I do not agree that we have corruption from top to bottom," Saifur said adding. "We believe corruption will

come down further with the full functioning of the new institutions like Anti Corruption Commission that the current government has set up." Saying that corruption in the country stems mainly from poverty, Igbal

Hasan Mahmood, the state minister for power, energy and mineral resources, said, "It's true we are poor, we are corrupt but what about the developed countries? They are intellectually corrupt."

Mahmudur Rahman, adviser to energy ministry, said unless the country achieves double digit industrial growth, it will be very hard to reach the target of seven percent GDP growth by 2007 and the millennium development goals.

WB Vice-president (Financial Sector Network) Cesare Calari presented the keynote paper at the workshop arranged to promote longterm finance for the development of infrastructure, including ports, power and telecoms.

Policymakers, regulators, investors, operators, bankers, and international experts are participating in the workshop, the first of its kind in Bangladesh, to discuss policy and operational issues as well as international best practices of infrastructure.

### Faridpur-1

FROM PAGE 16

A public holiday has been announced in the constituency to enable the voters to exercise fran-

As many as 1,994 officers including 146 presiding officers, 616 assistant presiding officers, and 1,232 polling officers have been given the responsibility to conduct the polls in the constituency with 3.22.298 voters, the Election Commission sources said. The Faridpur-1 constituency

comprising Madhukhali, Boalmari and Alfadanga upazilas fell vacant after Kazi Siraiul Islam, who was elected member of parliament on Awami League ticket, joined BNP on Besides Abu Zafar and Sharafat

## Oil surges

FROM PAGE 16 sweet crude for delivery in October, touched a high of \$70.80 in Asia vesterday morning on news that Katrina was swirling dangerously close to the heart of US production and refining operations around New

Orleans. After the hurricane was down graded a notch lower from a maximum category five storm, at 5:00pm (0900 GMT) the benchmark futures contract was trading at \$69.08 a barrel, up \$2.95 from its close of \$66.13 in the US market Friday. The price was more than double

evels at the end of 2003. Share markets across Asia and the Pacific tumbled, with dealers saying the cost of crude had struck a

level widely seen as a break point -

at which oil costs begin eroding economic growth, weakening currencies, fuelling inflation, and pressuring central banks into raising interest rates. Tetsu Emori, chief commodities strategist at Mitsui Bussan Futures in Tokyo, said the market will await the actual impact of the hurricane on production but he believed 70-dollar

"Seventy dollars is completely far away from the fundamentals," he told AFP. "It's quite difficult to sustain.

oil may not be sustainable because

the US summer holidays are now

drawing to a close, reducing gaso-

line demand.

But Dariusz Kowalczyk, a Hong Kong-based investment strategist at CFC Seymour Securities, feared that the impact would be longerlasting as damage to offshore oil rigs and onshore refineries would take time to repair.

Offshore production platforms have been evacuated and refineries onshore shut down ahead of Katrina, one of the most powerful Atlantic hurricanes on record. The Louisiana port in New

Orleans, which handles 11 percent of US crude imports, or one million barrels of oil a day, was on the path of the storm as were refineries in Alabama and Mississippi. Kowalczyk compared Katrina to Hurricane Ívan which pummelled

year, causing widespread damage to the region's oil production infrastructure and leading to a 22 percent rise in prices. While prices have stabilised after breaching \$70 a barrel, "we are still in a very bullish market," he said,

the US Gulf Coast in September last

even hit \$80 a barrel. "I think it will be a more sustained move higher... There is room for significant volatility in the days ahead." he told AFP.

He pointed out that the February

futures contract on the New York

adding it was possible prices could

Mercantile Exchange has struck \$71.87 a barrel -- the highest level for any contract and an indication of where the prices could go. Gasoline prices in particular have shot up three percent from Friday's close -- a worrying trend

because of its direct impact on US

### Jewellers observe

areas before police barred them at Topkhana Road on the way to the Jativa Press Club.

court granted six days.

consumers, he said.

dum to home ministry stating their demands. Meanwhile, the heist case, filed with the Gulshan Police Station by the owner of Venus Jewellers

Representatives of the traders'

bodies then submitted a memoran-

Gangacharan Malakar, was shifted to Detective Branch (DB) of police Sunday night. Investigation Officer (IO) Inspector Sirajul Islam of DB yesterday produced 19 arrestees before the court with a 10-day remand prayer. The

"We arrested a few more except the guards of the market today [Monday] on suspicion," the IO told The Daily Star. "But we are yet to recover anything," he added. Meanwhile, police suspended

Sub-Inspector Rezaul Haq of Gulshan

Police Station, who was in charge of

the area Saturday night, for his failure to make the market secure. Burglars heisted gold ornaments weighing about 4,000 tolas and other valuables worth about Tk 5 crore, breaking through the ceiling of the 15-

storey shopping complex Saturday

## 4 Rab men

The court also fined Tk 5.000 each, in default they will have to serve 30 more days of RI.

The complainant will be returned Tk 2,45,500 recovered from Waliullah and Tk 10.000 from Khorshed after disposal of the appeal, if the convicts file, the court said.

Complainant Ratan Ali, who was present in the court, expressed his satisfaction over the verdict.

The convicts went to the Mirpur residence of Ratan at about 12:20pm on March 23 and identifying themselves as Rab-4 members, they robbed Tk 7.8 lakh from Ratan's house. Five of the convicts managed to escape using two CNG-run threewheelers waiting outside but the locals held Sergeant Atiqur.

Following leads obtained from

Atigur, a joint team of the police and Rab arrested Waliullah and Khorshed. Ratan filed a case with the Mirpur Police Station under the Speedy Trial

(Law and Order Disruption) Act the same day, accusing the six people. Investigation officer (IO) AKM Nahidul Islam of Rab-1 on April 2 pressed charges against the four Rab members and their two sources.

The IO. also assistant superintendent of police (ASP), submitted the charge sheet to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Dhaka Court Sub-inspector Mohammad

Nazmul Haq appeared for the state, while advocates Syed Rezaur Rahman, Abul Kalam Azad and Mosleuddin defended the accused.

# No plan now to raise

possible hike in oil prices, a ruling BNP lawmaker and member of the committee asked the adviser to clarify whether the government has

decided to increase the price. The lawmaker also told the meeting that unscrupulous traders have already increased the prices of

oil following the newspaper reports. "The adviser assured us that he will ask the ministry today to take stern actions against the crooked oil traders," Habibul Islam Habib, a member of the committee, told reporters, adding, "He also told us

categorically that the prices of oil will

not be increased. Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman on Saturday at a high-level meeting hinted at a probable decision to increase the oil prices, saying Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) had to borrow Tk 5,000 crore from the nationalised commercial banks as local petroleum price has not been adjusted to

On whether the petroleum prices will be raised. Saifur referred to the present price of oil in the world market, which was \$68 a barrel, and said the government will have to count \$ 2 billion to import oil in the current fiscal year. Asked then if the government will raise the price, he said, "We have to review the situation very soon.

**GAS FIELD BLOWOUT** 

The parliamentary body at yesterday's meeting expressed deep concern over the latest blowout at Tengratila, and condemned the previous government for awarding an 'inept' company like Niko Resources the bid for exploring gas.

The ruling BNP lawmakers and members of the committee blasted the previous Awami League government also for allowing the Canadian oil company to operate in Feni,

Chhatak, and Kamta Gas Fields

day's meeting in a report briefed the committee members on 'how those gas fields were awarded to Niko

Referring to the content of the report, the committee members said they knew nothing about it before. 'Now we are clear that the Awami League government had signed the agreements inappropriately." committee member Nazimuddin Alam

However, the fact is, the present government had awarded the three gas fields to Niko after relaxing the conditions. The previous government had initiated steps to allow the company to extract gas from the three abandoned gas fields, but they could not succeed in the face of

nothing to do as there was no way to violate the agreement which was

moving for the compensation claim by October after assessing the damage caused by the blowout

tion for the damage at Magurchhara Gas Field due to our weak performance in the legal battle. So, this time we will appoint expert lawyers to make sure we succeed, Mahmudur Rahman said. The parliamentary body asked

the Jamuna Group to install a central meter in its Gazipur plant so that the gas it consumes can be measured properly. "We have asked the ministry to stop supplying the company gas if it fails to install a central meter within a month," the commit-

# India, Pakistan hold talks

"The dialogue is on with Pakistan.

What result it will have, it is not possible for me to say now." the news agency quoted Singh as saying.

countries on issues such as nuclear weapons, conventional warfare and cross-bordertrade.

ministry officials. The peace drive is aimed at resolving decades-old disputes between the

triggered two of their three wars since independence in 1947. Delhi which began Monday, a home ministry official said India would take up the case of all Indians in Pakistani jails including Sarabjit Singh -- sentenced to

northern Pakistani city of Lahore. Pakistan says Singh is an Indian soy who carried out the 1990 bomb attacks His family says he is a farmer who crossed the border while he was drunk and has urged Pakistani President

more than 700 of its nationals are in Indian home secretary V.K. Duggal, meanwhile, said that besides

## Jamal Uddin

FROM PAGE 16

Shahid Chairman however claimed he was involved in the abduction till the victim was handed over to another group to take him to a hideout run by Kashem Chairman in

But Sobhan, driver of the microbus used in the abduction, and Kala Mahbub repeatedly said Shahid, union parishad chairman of Anowara, is the culprit who supervised the abduction and murder keeping close contact with Maruf Nizam, brother of ruling BNP lawmaker Sarwar Jamal Nizam of

Shahid Chairman was placed on remand for another five days from yesterday under the Criminal

During quizzing by Rab-7, Shafi confessed that under active supervision and directive of Shahid Chairman, he (Shafi) and five others --Shahid Chairman's business partner Helal, Nazim, Yunus Babu, Ishaq, driver Sobhan and Ali -- picked up Jamal Uddin from Chandgaon

Munir and Mostafiz, a BRTA staff, for ransom of Tk 70 lakh and Tk 7 lakh. and Tk 1 lakh as his share of the

ransom realised in the two abduc-He told journalists at Rab-7 head-

Following the abduction, he went into hiding in India and returned around a month later. He heard from Shahid Chairman that Jamaluddin

he added.

He then went to Dubai and returned home about a month ago was staying at a friend's house in

The energy adviser at yester

during the last AL rule'.

told reporters.

severe criticism. 'The alliance government had

already signed by the previous government," said BNP lawmaker Ilias Ali. The energy ministry adviser told the meeting that they will start

"We could not realise compensa-

India and then took refuge in Pakistan,

including mafia don Dawood Ibrahim.

minding 1993 serial bomb blasts in its

commercial capital Mumbai which

left hundreds dead.

India accuses Ibrahim of master-

India will also ask for the deporta-

tion of Maulana Masood Azhar and

Hafiz Sayed who head the Jaish-e-

Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Taiba

militant groups respectively, media

reports Monday quoted Duggal as

battling Indian security forces in the

dismantle what it says are "terrorist

training camps" in its territories,

including its portion of Kashmir,

Islamic rebels to bolster the rebellion

in Indian-administered Kashmir a

should not be there, they should not

be: when we say fake Indian currency

should not be pumped into India, it

should not be: and similarly when we

say fugitives who are international

criminals and have been indulging in

anti-national and terrorist activities

should face the process of law, they

Pakistani home secretary Syed

Kamal Shah told reporters Sunday

that Islamabad, too, was keen to

Dengue strikes

Kolkata, the state should take

measures to check Aedes breeding

in our bordering districts, particu-

larly in Rajshahi, where a few

upazila was trying to board the ferry

with about 40 passengers aboard at

He said all the passengers

On information. Fire Brigade

about 3:30pm," said a spot account.

except the ill-fated ones, swam

members rushed to the spot and

recovered five bodies trapped

inside the bus. They salvaged the

High officials of police and local

The security forces could not

arrest any criminals in this operation

but time is not far when they will be

Official sources said the special

operation was started on August 19

at Naikkhongchhari, Thanchi and

Alikadam bordering areas, including

and police took part in this operation

which was supervised by Bandarban

Rangamati adds: An army team

seized one AK47 rifle and 15 bullets

at Bongaltoli near Baghaichhari

army regional headquarters.

upazila early yesterday.

About 2,000 jawans of army, BDR

Our correspondent from

Acting on a tip off, an army team

caught," the spokesman added.

ashore soon after the accident.

administration visited the spot.

12,000 bullets

bus at about 5:30pm.

FROM PAGE 1 magazines of pistols.

inaccessible parts.

months ago I found Aedes larvae.'

discuss the subject of prisoners.

disputed region of Kashmir.

Duggal told Zee Television

charge it denies.

should," Duggal said.

FROM PAGE 16

Five die

FROM PAGE 16

The two groups are among many

New Delhi will ask Islamabad to

India accuses Pakistan of training

"When we sav terrorist camps

### FROM PAGE 16 'terrorists" who committed crimes in

When I meet President Musharraf, I may be able to say something." The New York talks follow a series of meetings, known as the Composite Dialogue, between officials of the two

The latest round in the Indian capital is at home secretary (interior ministry) level and precedes a meeting later this week in Islamahad between senior foreign

nuclear-armed rivals, including over the core issue of Kashmir. Each country controls part of Kashmir but claims it in full. The territory has

Ahead of the two-day talks in New death earlier this month for allegedly masterminding bomb blasts in the

Pervez Musharrafto grant him clemency India says there are 1,348 Indians in Pakistani prisons while Pakistan says

the issue of detainees, New Delhi would press Islamabad to deport

whole episode

Fatikchhari.

Investigation Department (CID).

Residential Area on July 24, 2003. He also confessed that he along with same group had abducted Haji

Shafi said he received Tk 2 lakh

quarters that he always maintained contact with Kashem Chairman Shahid Chairman and Amar Das, the negotiator of the kidnapping syndi-

was killed following a deal between Maruf Nizam and Kashem Chairman,

Later, army personnel raided

some other suspected hideouts and rounded up two others, Ripon Kumar Chakma, 25, and Milon Chakma, 28, in this connection.

raided a house in the area and found the rifle and the ammunition wrapped up in a polythene bag. They picked up the housewife, Laksmi Rani Chakma, 35, as the owner of the house was not present during the raid, sources said.

### fourth schedule of the constitution becomes illegal. The paragraph says, "The Proclamations of the

20th August, 1975, and 8th November, 1975, and Third Proclamation of the 29th November, 1976, and all other Proclamations and Orders amending or supplementing them, hereinafter in this paragraph collectively referred to as the said Proclamations and all Martial Law Regulations, Martial Law Orders and all other laws made during the period between the 15th day of August, 1975 and the date of revocation of the said Proclamations and withdrawal of Martial Law (both days inclusive), hereinafter in this paragraph referred to as the said period. shall be deemed to have been validly made and shall not be called in question in or before any Court or Tribunal on any ground whatsoever.'

Similarly, paragraph 18 of the

fourth schedule becomes illegal. It

says, "All Proclamations,

Proclamation Orders, Marital Law

Regulations, Martial Law Orders and other laws made during the period between the 15th August, 1975, and the 9th April, 1979 (both days inclusive), all amendments, additions, modifications, substitutions and omissions made in this Constitution during the said period by any such Proclamation, all orders made, acts and things done, and actions and proceedings taken, or purported to have been made, done or taken, by any person or authority during the said period in exercise of the powers derived or purported to have been derived from any such Proclamation, Martial Law Regulation, Marital Law Order or any other law, or in execution of or in compliance with any order made or sentence passed by any court, tribunal or authority in the exercise or purported exercise of

such powers, are hereby ratified and

confirmed and are declared to have

been validly made, done or taken and

shall not be called in question in or

before any court, tribunal or authority

Rules of Mustaque, Sayem on any ground whatsoever."

The court passed verdict in

response to a writ petition challenging the Martial Law Regulation (MLR) 7 of 1977, which tried legalising all illegal acts of the Martial Law government prior to that time. Masudul Alam filed the petition on behalf of Bangladesh Italian Marble Works Company (BIMWC), reclaim-

ing a cinema hall in Wiseghat in

Dhaka that it lost during the martial

The Attorney General's Office

yesterday declined to comment, but

sources said the government will

soon appeal the verdict at the

The BIMWC once used to own the Moon Cinema Hall in Wiseghat. After the independence, the cinema hall was announced abandoned and the government handed it over to the Muktijoddha Kalyan Trust. The marble works company filed a writ petition in 1976, claiming its ownership. In 1977, the High Court asked the government to hand over the hall to the company. However, the MLR 7 negated the High Court order, making the cinema hall continue to be an

In 1994, the BIMWC again filed a

writ petition. But the High Court and

later the Appellate Division said that

since the fifth amendment has vali-

dated the MLR 7, the company

abandoned property.

cannot reclaim the property.
Finally, the BIMWC moved against the validity of MLR 7 in 2000. The implications of the petition have turned out to be far-reaching, as it hits a wide area of unconstitutional and undemocratic power transfers in the volatile mid-seventies. Barrister Azmalul Hossain stood for the petitioner. He was assisted by Barristers ABM Siddigur Rahman

and Mezbaur Rahman, Additional

Attorney General Fida M Kamal

moved for the state while Barrister

Akhtar Imam represented

Muktijodhdha Kalyan Trust.

FROM PAGE 16

The mobile court seized ten jars

Another two mobile courts raided

submitted vesterday to the court. Police sources said a syndicate

AL men march FROM PAGE 16

The government is turning the country into a terrorist state,

> parties lack financing mechanisms and raise huge sums of funds for

> > the ceiling of election spending/contributions is a fraction of this

> > the systemic corruption that pervades the system is self-reinforcing.

organised the workshop sponsored by

and any criminal record."

Wallich observed the recent

Saifur Rahman while giving his views to the press after the workshop differed with Wallich on the question of election

"This is nothing new. The World

"A discussion should be held involving the donor agencies and the other countries to find out how much corrupt we are and how much the developed countries including America," he said. Speaking at the workshop,

The voting will start at 8:00am and continue till 4:00pm without any break

June 4 by crossing the floor. Hossain, another candidate in the run is Krishok Mohammad Sadek, who stands for his 43rd election, with a record of security deposit forfeiture in previous elections.