# NEWS

urging Iraqis to vote no in the vote.

FROM PAGE 16

police officer told Reuters.

The document will need to be

The 82-year-old Koirala who

fainted during a scuffle with police

when protesters tried to break

through a police cordon was taken

to his home and freed on Sunday.

seven mainstream political par-

ties were also injured when police

used batons and lobbed tear gas

shells in the old part of the temple-

studded capital where the pro-

Seven political parties that

The king said his move was

prompted by the failure of squab-

pling political parties to quell an

increasingly deadly Maoist insur-

gency in which more than 12,500

The Maoists want to overthrow

The parties said they were

"We will continue our protests

until democracy is restored," said

Subhash Nemwang, a senior

member of the Communist Unified

Marxist-Leninist (UML) party, the

He said activists would organ-

Chaired by Environment and Forest

Minister Tarigul Islam, the meeting

also suggested relocating industrial

units, including the Tejgaon

recommendations to the prime

Medan, the bustling capital of North

Sumatra province with a population

of two million, were cut off for hours

officials were on the plane including

Governor Nurdin, who was heading

to the capital for talks with President

Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, said

Mandala Airlines was set up in

1969 and is one of several low-cost

airlines that fly across the vast

Indonesian archipelago. It is 90

percent owned by a foundation set

up by the army strategic reserve

Indonesia's worst in recent years.

Monday's crash was one of

In November last year an MD-82

plane belonging to the budget

carrier Lion Air crashed in the cen-

tral Java city of Solo, killing 26

centre is one of the busiest in

Indonesia and became the hub for

the reconstruction effort in nearby

Aceh province following the

Medan's airport near the city

people and injuring over 100.

December 26 tsunami.

provincial spokesman Edi Sofyan.

Several senior government

following the accident

Kostrad.

The committee will submit the

Agriculture Minister MK Anwar,

Industrial Area, outside the capital.

the monarchy and set up a com-

munist republic in the impover-

ished Himalayan kingdom.

seven-party alliance.

FROM PAGE 16

undaunted by the crackdown.

tests were organised.

liberties

people have died

Dozens of protesters from

#### Dhaka proposes 2 bodies **Britain considers** forced marriage

FROM PAGE 1 Talking to reporters after the meeting with Aiyar at the Secretariat, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said trade and tri-nation gas pipeline issues can be discussed separately. It is not right to link them.

Adviser to the Energy Ministry Mahmudur Rahman however toed a different line. linking the issues of trade imbalance, corridor through India and import of electricity from Nepal and Bhutan to the pipeline issue.

Aiyar later sounded very positive about the outcome of the meeting with Saifur, saying he would report it to the Indian government. When Dhaka officially approves the out-come, he hopes " to come back very soon to sign the (pipeline) agreement among India, Bangladesh and Myanmar," he added.

Aiyar, who arrived in Dhaka yesterday morning on a two-day official visit, earlier held meetings with the prime minister, foreign minister and energy adviser

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan had briefed the finance minister about the three meetings.

Saifur told journalists that traderelated issues should not be discussed with the gas pipeline issue Trade issues should be discussed by the commerce ministers of India and Bangladesh as they involve a lot of complicated matters like rules of origin

On trade imbalance, Saifur pointed out that Bangladesh has trade gap not only with India but also with China and Singapore. Agreements alone will not increase our export to India. If our goods are cost effective, India will not be able to bar them from entering its market," he said.

The finance minister however said the corridor issue and import of electricity from Bhutan and Nepal can be discussed with the tri-nation pipeline issue as a package deal.

Saifur also asked the Indian minister to immediately initiate the process of setting up the pipeline, saying even if talks start now, it will take at least two and a half years to start the work.

He also mentioned the lack of sincerity both in India and Bangladesh concerning the gas pipeline. "The problem with both Bangladesh and India is we talk more and work less."

Asked about Bangladesh's benefits from the tri-nation pipeline, Aiyar said Bangladesh will be able to take its gas from its north-eastern part to the areas around Jessore where Bangladesh has petrochemical plants.

Aiyar also talked positively about Bangladesh's demand for transit with Nepal. "A commitment in this regard has already been achieved in January this year

### AIYAR-MAHMUDUR MEET

Energy Ministry Adviser Mahmudur and Indian Minister Aiyar at a meeting between them discussed the muchtalked-about \$1 billion gas pipeline issue.

Both of them however stuck to their previous stances during the discussion.

Sources said Mahmudur informed Aiyar Bangladesh has agreed in principle to allow its territory for the pipeline, providing that India would have to consider the issues of trade imbalance and corridor to and electricity from Nepal and Bhutan.

Secretary Hemayetuddin said Aiyar's visit was not centred on any particular issue and Bangladesh is happy with his visit. Aiyar is an influential minister and a senior politician, he added.

ban

AFP, London

The British government said yester-

day it was considering making

forced marriage a criminal offence

as it deals with hundreds of cases,

mostly relating to people of Indian.

Ministers stressed the govern-

proceed and a consultation docu-

ment acknowledged a change in the

law could backfire by scaring many

more youngsters away from bring

see their families get into trouble,"

people of Indian. Pakistani and

Bangladeshi origin but there were

others in Britain with ties around the

world who were being forced into

Though the number of forced

marriages may be far higher, the

government's Forced Marriages

Unit has dealt with 1,000 cases

brought forward by unhappy

spouses since it started work in

without freely given consent," said

Home Office minister Baroness

and a form of domestic violence.

Every major world religion con-

We have seized many documents

which make us sure about his

connection with the Islamist mili-

tants both at home and abroad,"

said Zahur Chowdhury, assistant

commissioner (Detective Branch) of

suggest that he (Masud) has always

maintained close links to militant

groups based in countries like the

Besides, he took part in the

Afghan war along with many others

Masud has disclosed names of

his three main associates who had

been militarily trained in

Afghanistan. They are Moulana

Rezaul Karim of Digholia upazila of

Khulna, Syed Ăshraf Ali of

Batiaghata upazila, and

Mohammod Lokman Shaikh of

plant bombs in Kotalipara in

'Lokman was part of the plan to

The arrested homeopath also

detonated bombs at 13 points

Hadith mosque at Dumuria upazila.

Besides he linked to the plan-

ning of the blasts some leaders of a

fundamentalist political outfit that

blasts, said the sources in joint

nterrogation Cell (JIC) in

Chittagong. Arshadul Alam during

interrogation in JIC custody vester-

day admitted that the top brass of

JMB used over 150 mobile phones

on August 17 to co-ordinate the

numbers from Arshadul's mobile

phone, which became non-

unctional immediately after the

Sources in the JIC said that they

If anyone from the lower level

happens to know the identity of

those at the upper level he must be

disciplined and face punishments

like gauging out of eyes, the source

Our Satkhira correspondent

reports: A court here yesterday placed on remand Anisur Rahman

seven days' remand, reports UNB.

and Moulana Abdul Majid, 35.

bombings.

are now convinced that the cadres

and field-level workers of JMB had

The investigators retrieved the

near-simultaneous blasts.

blast incidents

added.

bank

carried out the blasts.

organisation, sources said.

Rupsha upazila of Khulna district.

US and Japan, he added.

rom Bangladesh.

The recovered documents

Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP).

"Forced marriage is marriage

"It is an abuse of human rights

marriage by their families.

"Many victims are reluctant to

Most of the cases concerned

ng charges against their parents.

the document said.

Patricia Scotland.

Red alert

demns it.

FROM PAGE 1

Pakistani and Bangladeshi origin.

Aiyar's visit following the tour by Indian External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh last month is very important to the Indo-Bangladesh relations, he said. Aiyar came to Bangladesh at the invitation of the foreign minister, he added.

Turning to the meeting between Aiyar and the foreign minister, Hemayetuddin said they discussed a wide rang of bilateral issues including expansion of trade, sharing of common rivers, water issues, and trilateral cooperation in gas pipeline.

"There was no in depth discussions...it was a general discussion between the two ministers.

Thev discussed all issues of bilateral cooperation and agreed to take appropriate steps to strengthen relations of the two countries." When asked about the tri-nation

gas pipeline, Hemayetuddin said Aiyar briefed the foreign minister about Indian plans to set up the gas pipeline and informed about several options regarding transport of gas 2000 and has seen 75 repatriations. from Myanmar.

The options include pipeline through Bangladesh, pipeline through deep-sea of Bay and transportation of gas from Myanmar through Bangladesh by converting it into liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), he added.

The foreign secretary said foreign minister listened to the Indian views on the issue and they exchanged views about the benefits of the gas pipeline to the two sides. Replying to a question regarding

the satisfaction of the ministers with the talks, he said "If the two ministers express satisfaction, it is obvious that they are satisfied."

There were certain issues (relating to gas pipeline) that needed to be ified or sorted out, and I think there has been some progress on that." he added

On a query about Aivar's meeting with the prime minister, the foreign secretary said all bilateral issues were discussed in a cordial atmosphere. He said the prime minister is looking forward to have bilateral meeting with Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh on the sidelines of the 13th Saarc summit here in

November. "We believe that the meeting between the two prime ministers would positively contribute to our bilateral relations," he said. Aiyar's visit is timely, particularly in the wake

Gopalganj, where former prime minister Sheikh Hasina was supof the recent visit to Dhaka by Natwar posed to address a rally," Zahur Singh. he added. Chowdhury quoted Masud as In reply to a question saying Hemavetuddin said the Indo-Bangladesh JRC meeting would be disclosed to the DB police names of held in Dhaka on September 19-20 a number of people who he said

as Indian Water Resources Minister Priay Ranjan Das Munshi is expected to arrive here on eptember 18. Talking to foreign office corre-

spondents after the meeting with Morshed Khan, Aiyar said, "I also wish to state that there are other areas of cooperation in the

operate overtly. Hydrocarbon sector." Earlier Masud was described as Answering a question, he said the a dangerous element for the society views have been expressed categorby some Islamist extremists ically in the tri-lateral press statement arrested recently in Chittagong, said issued from Yangoon. The statement AC Zahur. appreciated the high importance of the pipeline to energy security and economic development of the entire region seized cell phones must be leaders

# Aiyar seeks Hasina's

FROM PAGE 16 tance," he told the reporters after his meeting with Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence in the evening.

During the hour-long meeting, the Indian minister conveyed greetings to Sheikh Hasina on behalf of Sonia Gandhi. "There were deep family relations between the Gandhi family and the Sheikh family," he ment had not decided whether to said.

> "I also exchanged very old memories with the opposition leader," Ayar said mentioning that it was his first ever opportunity to meet Hasina in Bangladesh.

He recalled that he was the desk officer for Economic Affairs in the Indian Foreign Ministry in 1971 and coincidentally he was posted in Brussels when Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana were also staying there in August 1975.

About the tri-nation gas pipeline, Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil quoted party chief Sheikh Hasina as saying: "We will support anything that is good for the country and the nation. Awami League is devoted to the welfare of the people and the country."

Indian High Commissioner Veena Sikri and Awami League snatching PBCP founder leaders Saber Hossin Chowdhury Abdur Rashid Malitha alias

## Four killed

## FROM PAGE 16

hours yesterday. He was pronounced dead on arrival at the DMCH In Gulistan, a speeding vehicle ran over an unidentified woman of

sources said. arrest.

vesterday.

Bangladesh.

might be"

FROM PAGE 16

# Tarique rebuts BBC

#### FROM PAGE 1

'I didn't make any sort of admission nor did I name any international terrorist group to be involved in the August 17 blasts," Tarique told a press briefing at Hawa Bhaban. BBC Bangla Service on Sunday

night aired Tarique's interview on the countrywide explosions, saying Tarique suspects international terrorist organisations like al Qaeda might have carried out the August 17 blasts with the connivance of some misled people of the country'.

Tarique said the presenter in London has made a mistake while he [presenter] in the intro to the interview said, "This is for the first time that a top leader of the ruling alliance has admitted the presence of international terrorist group inside the country.

across Khulna city on August "And the BBC has admitted its 17. The bombs used were brought mistake," Tarique, son of Prime from India through Satkhira border Minister Khaleda Zia and late presi and kept stored inside an Ahle dent Ziaur Rahman, said reading out a statement.

"I want to make it clear that I didn't admit or deny anything," he said, clarifying his views on possible presence of cross-border militant groups in Banaladesh

"This is not possible for anyone immense distress to the patients. The standstill was resolved when say clearly who were involved in

Moudud

#### FROM PAGE 16 that his all activities would be made and Shohel Taj MP were present public, he would avoid corruption and partisanship," Anam said, adding that freedom of information is also necessary for the government to know how and where its

Economist Atiur Rahman suggested the formation of a civil society platform to establish the people's right to information, which is necessary for saving the lives of the people.

He observed that many countries have already enacted a law ensuring the right to information of the people. But Bangladesh is much behind in this regard.

Shawkat Mahmud said, "There are many barriers in our country in the context of free flow of information. The mindset of the government officials should be changed in this regard."

# Aiyar meets

FROM PAGE 1 part Manmohan Singh and hoped that she would see the Indian Premier at the 13th Saarc Summit in Dhaka in November.

Aiyar renewed the Indian prime minister's invitation to Khaleda Zia for a bilateral visit to India and hoped that the visit would take place "soon"

Prime Minister's principal secretary, foreign secretary and Indian high commissioner in Dhaka were also present.

## Bangladeshis FROM PAGE 1

ladeshi students live in New Orleans, the most severely affected city. They left the area before Katrina hit New Orleans

Director General of the External Publicity Wing (DGEP) Zahirul Haque said that one medical doctor named Dr Hayder who was on call at the time of hurricane got stuck for over three days until he was rescued. "He is also fine '

Haque said there are three Bangladeshi families in Biloxi (Mississippi), another coastal city ravaged by the calamity. These stormtossed families are now staving with their friends in adjacent states.

"We have been able to ascertain the whereabouts of two others--Dr Warisur Rahman and Dr Rana, Their houses have been completely destroyed by the hurricane," Haque said

He said in Mobil (Alabama) some 40 Bangladeshis live and all of them guit the area before the hurricane hit and have now returned to their houses. No casualty has been reported from Mobil.

Haque said according to Prof Kabir Hasan of the University of New Orleans, most houses owned by Bangladeshi-Americans, including his own, were severely damaged. He, however, did not appear concerned as these houses are insured.

Dr Anwarul Haque of Birmingham (Alabama) informed the Bangladesh mission in Washington that the Bangladeshi-American professionals would

2 UK soldiers, 14 Iraqis FROM PAGE 16 draft constitution is due to be held continued to battle insurgents in a document that has caused deep

the restive northern town of Tal divisions between the ousted Afar, where at least 13 rebels Sunni elite and majority Shias. were killed Sunday, the US mili-The Islamic Army in Iraq, an extremist Sunni group known for

The casualties included seven kidnapping and killing foreigners, rebels killed by helicopter fire issued an Internet statement after opening up on the forces from inside a mosque.

tarv said.

"Terrorists operating from rewritten and resubmitted if twowithin a mosque... engaged Iraqi thirds of voters in three of Iraq's and coalition troops... (who) were 18 provinces say no, numbers the unable to suppress the barrage of Sunni community could muster. machine gun and RPG (rocketpropelled grenade) fire and so they requested the assistance of Nepal frees Koirala

coalition helicopters," a military statement said. The helicopters returned fire on the mosque "immediately stopping the enemy salvo", the statement said.

The Iraqi army also reported that a US aircraft had fired on insurgents attempting to launch mortar attacks on a US military base near Balad, 75 kilometres (45 miles) north of Baghdad.

The insurgents were spotted by the overflying US aircraft which opened fire, killing four and wounding six, an Iraqi officer said.

The fighting came amid claims controlled more than 190 seats in from lawyers for Saddam that an the 205-member parliament October 19 trial date set for the dissolved in 2002 have been deposed Iraqi leader was politiprotesting since February when cally motivated with no basis in Gyanendra, officially a constitulaw tional monarch, suspended civil

"It is all politics. It has nothing to do with the law," said Jordanian lawyer Issam Ghazzawi. spokesman of the Amman-based defence team.

"The announcement about the trial date is illegal because it was made by the official government spokesman and not by the court. Ghazzawi told AFP, referring to government spokesman Laith Kubba who made the announcement.

Kubba said Sunday that Saddam and seven former henchmen would go on trial on October 19 over the massacre of more than 140 Shia villagers.

He also suggested that if found quilty and sentenced to death, the second largest group in the execution could be carried out immediately.

A Western official said the Iraqi ise anti-king rallies in Kathmandu Special Tribunal, the official body on Monday. organising the trials of former regime members, would make a Tk 60,000cr statement within a few days to clarify Sunday's announcement.

The trial will take place just four days after a referendum on Iraq's

## Meenabazar FROM PAGE 1

trate Rokan Ud Doulah yesterday fined them Tk 50,000 for selling those

minister The members of the court also found date-expired and substandard soybean oil, juice, choco-Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain, late, and juice powder kept on the Housing and Public Works Minister basement of the shop. Mirza Abbas, Water Resources The shop authorities, however

said they kept those below standard items on the basement to return them to the suppliers concerned. The magistrate realised the fine and destroyed the sub-standard stuff recovered. The same mobile court raided Agora, another popular departmen-tal store in the city couple of days ago and found selling rotten stinky Another mobile court led by ABM Abdul Fattah sent Moyazzem Hossain, the manager of Sisili Thai and Chinese restaurant for two months imprisonment as he failed to pay a fine of Tk 20,000. The same court realised Tk 89,000 from six bakeries and small restaurants in Badda area. The court also shut off Quintuple Beverage Industries that produces 'Paani" brand bottled water as the period of their BSTI registration has . expired. A mobile court led by Mizanur Rahman raided different restauissues. rants in Ramna area, filed eight cases and realised Tk 72,000 as fine. Another mobile court under Magistrate Mujibul Haq collected Tk 50,000 from five restaurant owners n Sutrapur area. None of the convicted restaurant owners were found to maintain hygiene standards. autopsy.

Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, State Minister for Planning Anwarul Kabir Talukdar, State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafrul Islam Chowdhury, State Minister for Land Ukil Abdus Sattar and senior officials of different ministries and divisions were present at the meet-The meeting discussed fears that the capital Dhaka could become an abandoned city by 2025 due to abnormal growth of the population. It also discussed insufficient water supply and sewerage facilities, water logging during monsoon filling of wetlands, grabbing of the rivers by setting up illegal installations and other environmental Shrimp farmer FROM PAGE 16 said previous enmity over the shrimp enclosure might be the reason behind the killing. Police recovered the body and sent it to Satkhira morgue for

leader Delwar Hossain Saidee MP, Shoaib is the second son of prominent religious leader Moulana Abdul Wahab alias about 50 near the roundabout at around 4:00am. A passer-by took her to the DMCH where she died soon after her admission.

Bulbul-e-Bangladesh of Sonadanga in the city, police He was hiding in Uttara in the capital for long to escape

January 26, 2002

during the meeting. Top outlaw FROM PAGE 1 and five SIMs. BACKGROUND money was spent.

Shoaib was accused of about 100 criminal offences including 25 murders in cases filed with different southwestern police stations. Besides, he reportedly had

direct involvement in the murders journalists Manik Chandra Saha, Humayun Kabir Balu, Awami League leaders Manjurul Imam, mayoral candidate SMA Haroon Sarder, Khulna Rab, University treasurer and district AL vice president Abdur Razzak Sarder, three UP chairmen, S Farhad of Fakirhat Police Station in Bagerhat and havilder Akram

Hossain of Boyra Police Lines. A think-tank of the PBCP faction, Shoaib had claimed responsibility for all the murders using his code name Ripon Ahmed in fax mes-

sages He was also involved in extortion, robberies, rape and abduction for ransom in the southwesternzone

He came to limelight after

Tapan from police on Khulna

A close relative of Jamaat

Judge's Court premises on

tion." "Asked whether international

terrorist organisations like al

Qaeda's may have links to the

August 17 blasts, he [Tarique]

replied that they might have," Masud said in the BBC Bangla

Service's evening-time bulletin

bulletin, BBC had corrected its

mistake in the interview by saying

that Tarique Rahman 'suspects

instead of 'admits' regarding the

possible presence of any interna-

tional terrorist organisation in

questioned Tarique whether he

thought al Qaeda or any other

militant organisation was involved in

the blasts, he replied saying,

Nurses stage

a strike and held agitation inside the

hospital. As a result, medical ser-

vices were disrupted causing

He also said when BBC had

He said in Sunday's night-time

However, Aivar objected to bilateral issues being linked to the pipeline project.

Aiyar after the meeting told reporters he held the meeting with Mahmudur with 'considerable satisfaction'

"We've had very constructive dialogue, which I think has opened the path to the resolution of the few remaining issues...," he said.

Mahmudur said the Indian minister has supported the three issues but opposed linking these to the pipeline project.

"We have pointed out our stance on the issues and said they are very much important for our economy" he told reporters after the meeting.

The energy adviser said he believes the level of confidence between the two sides has increased through the talks.

Mahmudur said the Indian minister's visit is a courtesv one and he wants to know his government's stance. "The goal of the courtesy visit has been fulfilled hundred percent"

He expressed the hope the differences between the two countries on the pipeline issue will be reduced in a considerable time.

The three countries agreed in principle to construct the pipeline on the basis of the proposal of Mohona Holding Ltd., a Bangladeshi firm, at the Rangoon meet of the energy ministers in January.

However, the project has not witnessed much progress due to preconditions set by Bangladesh for allowing passage through its territory. India feels Dhaka should be

happy with an annual transit fee of \$125 million, but Bangladesh does not see it as a fair deal.

If the pipeline is laid through Bangladesh to West Bengal -- as it was originally planned -- it will be 900km long and cost around Rs450 million. If it is laid through the northeast bypassing Bangladesh, it will be 500km longer

India is predicted to require 400 million standard cubic meters of gas everyday by 2025, up from current 90 million standard cubic metres. AIYAR-MORSHED MEET

#### During the meeting Morshed and Aiyar agreed to take up confidence

building measures to carry forward the existing relations between the two countries

Emerging form the meeting, Aivar said, "My impression is that things are moving forward.

Briefing reporters, Foreign

of JMB and Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB). Dhaka early yesterday morning on a British Airways flight from London.

On arrival at the airport, he told the press that Bangladesh has the potential to contribute in creating energy security in the Indian subcontinent. "The region is looking to creating energy security and Bangladesh has the energy poten-

Foreign Ministry Advisor Reaz Rahman, Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin and Veena Sikri Indian high commissioner in Dhaka and other high officials from Indian petroleum ministry were present during the meeting.

11 die in DR Congo plane crash

AFP. Kinshasa

Eleven people were killed yesterday when an Antonov 26 freight aircraft struck a tree near Isiro airport in eastern Democratic officials said.

The death toll of 11, issued by the national aviation authority (RVA), was higher than a provisional figure of seven given by local officials and the UN-funded Okapi radio.

"The accident has caused 11 deaths -- seven passengers, three Russian crew members and an escort, a member of the company that owned the aircraft," RVA director Emmanuel Mokoko told AFP.

province, Autsai Asenga Medard, earlier said the Antonov, owned by private airline Galaxie, caught fire after apparently hitting a tree as it came in to land at about 0630 GMT.

"The weather was very bad at provincial centre, Kisangani.

The plane crashed 1.5 kilometres (about a mile) short of the runway after flying from Beni, a town Okapi radio reported.

The Indian minister arrived in

tial." he said

Republic of Congo (DRC), aviation

Khokon, Monwar Hossain Ujjal, and Indian national Gias Uddin. The three who were arrested for sus-Deputy governor of Orientale

pected links to the blasts were taken on a seven-day remand each. They were sent to Dhaka to face

grilling by the JIC. Meanwhile, a Naogaon court yesterday sent to jail the two Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh

Isiro and that may be one of the reasons for the accident," Medard told AFP by telephone from the

eastern Nord-Kivu province,

the attack when the investigation is still on. And that is why in response Our Staff correspondent from to the interviewer's question I only Chittagong reports: Intelligence said 'it may be', which means I don't personnel believe that users of the know," he said

"I mentioned the word 'international' in a sense that not only Bandladesh other countries too are The identification of those cell being victims of terrorist attacks," he phone subscribers would lead to the said masterminds behind the serial

Acting editor of the BBC Bangla Service Masud Hasan Khan yesterday said, "Tarique Rahman in his interview didn't mention name of any international terrorist organisa-

JS session

#### FROM PAGE 1

adjournment of the other business of the House, sources in the ruling party said referring to the discus sion on the August 21 grenade attacks on an Awami League (AL) rally last year.

The field level workers of the The Business Advisory militant group think they have no Committee will take the decision right to know the identities of the prior to beginning the session on persons at the top level of the Thursday

Immediately after the August 17 serial bomb blasts, different professional bodies and civil society representatives demanded summoning a special parliament session to hold discussion on it, but the government did not respond.

The five suspects now on seven-Several lawmakers however day remand seem to know little hinted that the law and order situaabout the people at the top echelons tion after the August 17 bomb blast of the outfit, said the investigators. Meanwhile, sources said that a might dominate the upcoming parliament session slated for eam of intelligence men was now in September 8, as the state minister Dhaka to track down the person who had sent TK 1 lakh 45 thousand to for home affairs is scheduled to respond to lawmakers' queries at Arshadul's account with Islami the first sitting of the session. Bank's Agrabad branch before the

Lawmakers of AL, the main blasts. The money was sent from the Motijheel branch of the same opposition, and Jatiya Party have demanded holding discussion on August 17 countrywide serial bomb blasts and other burning issues in the upcoming parliament session adjourning other business of the House.

They submitted 22 notices at the parliament secretariat demanding discussion on August 17 bomb blasts, price hike of fuel and essentials. law and order situation, Tengratila gas field blowout etc.

The main opposition that started boycotting parliament last year protesting the speaker's (JMB) members, arrested in connection with the August 17 explorefusal to hold discussion on August 21 carnage adjourning other business of the House has sions, after police produced them before the court on completion of not yet decided whether they will join this session.

The two Abul Kalam Azad, 45, "We are not against joining the Police said the arrestees while parliament session. But the way the government is running the on remand have given important parliament has forced the opposiinformation about the cross-country tion lawmakers to stay outside. No hospital superintendent Dr. Syed Sigbat Ullah assured the staffs of proper action in this regard. After this they called off the strike and got back to their duties around 3:00pm.

They however gave a 72-hour ultimatum to the hospital superintendent to bring the culprits to justice, otherwise they will go for tougher actions

Nurunnahar filed a case in this regard with the Narayanganj police accusing the agent, Halima and two of her associates. Nasima and Dolna.

Bazar

burning issue is allowed for discussion in parliament," Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid said

yesterday. "We will consider joining the upcoming session if the government assures us that they will allow discussion on August 17 bomb blasts, price hike of fuel and essentials on adjournment motion." he added

Opposition Whip Faruk Khan said he submitted notices at the parliament secretariat demanding discussion on different burning issues.

Jatiya Party lawmaker GM Quader who submitted several notices demanding discussion on various issues including the August 17 bomb blasts said he is not certain whether the speaker will entertain any of his notices.

Meanwhile, the 36 lawmakers who were elected uncontested in women's reserved seats in parliament took oath yesterday. Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar conducted the oath at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

## 100 injured

FROM PAGE 16 Sharifpur village led by one Fayzul Haque swooped on their rivals, leaving at least 100 people from both sides injured," says a firsthand report.

Witnesses said the clashing groups used firearms and bottles during the clash that continued for two-hour.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control with the help of other people of the two villages.

Of the injured, 25 were admitted local Kaitak Hospital, 35 to Chhatak Hospital and seven to Sylhet Osmani Medical College and Hospital.

easily get over the economic loss inflicted by the hurricane but it might cause problem for the ordinary workers as some 250,000 jobs have been lost due to this disaster.

" So far, we have no news of any Bangladeshi casualty. However, it is still too early to say anything definitely as the situation is evolving gradually. We are, however, monitoring the situation closely," the spokesman said.

Ctg-Cox's

FROM PAGE 16

Presently, it consumes about 150 megabytes of bandwidth. The purchase committee also

approved a Tk 25.49-crore digital telephone installation project to be implemented in Chittagong, Khulna and Sylhet divisions. National Constructions Ltd, a local company, has won the contract for the project to be funded by the South Korean government

Besides, the committee approved an additional cost of 1 million euros for the Chittagong Wasa Madhurgaht Water Treatment Plant project. The contract for this project was awarded to Italian company Tesp in 2001, but the company has since been arguing for an increase in the project cost by 1 million euros.

The committee also approved appointment of a consultant for design and supervision of the Asian Development Bank-funded **Emergency Damage Rehabilitation** Assistance Project 2004. The consultant will be hired at a cost of \$ 13.5 million.

## AC trains

FROM PAGE 16 The project will be implemented with the government's own resources.

Speaking on the occasion, Nazmul Huda said the government is implementing 29 projects to modernise the railway sector, recognising it as a "thrust sector".

To implement the projects, the government is procuring locomotives, carriages, wagons and tank wagons, modernising old railway stations in the country's eastern and western zones, rehabilitating the railway's main lines and branch lines, and introducing computerised railway signaling system, the minister said.

# Indonesian plane

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said it was too early to ascertain the cause of the crash but that the 24year-old aircraft had undergone extensive safety tests in June.

The head of the National Transport Safety Committee. Setvo Raharjo, told the Kompas online the flight recorder had already been found. Seven committee members were now on site to investigate the crash. he said.

"This is clearly a great tragedy," said Transport Minister Hatta Radjasa

In front his heavily damaged grocery store, shopkeeper Daniel assessed his losses. "One of the shop attendants is

still missing .... my two young chil-

dren are in critical condition and my

wife has to undergo surgery," Daniel

said. He was out when the plane hit

grocery shop before smashing into

other two-storey shops on the other

of the tall signal lamps inside the

airport," said Rizal, a 19-year-old

and the surrounding areas of

Residents said the plane hit the

"The airplane's wheel struck one

Telephone links with the airport

the building.

student

side of the avenue.