The Paily Star

Hasina criticises bills to raise high-ups' pay UNB, Dhaka

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina has denounced the bills on enhanced salaries of the prime minister, the speaker, ministers and MPs as a classic instance of "selfseeking" and "greed for money" of the BNP-Jamaat alliance govern-

"When the entire nation is perturbed at the spiralling prices of essentials, the government is busy SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

BLASTS, FUEL PRICE HIKE

AL forms 8-km human chain **STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The main opposition Awami League (AL) and its front organisations yesterday formed an eight-kilometre long human chain in the city in protest against price hike of fuel and essentials and countrywide serial bomb blasts on August 17. Holding Jamaat-e-Islami chief Motiur Rahman Nizami responsible

for the August 17 bomb blasts, the AL leaders demanded Nizami's expulsion from the cabinet

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



Main opposition Awami League leaders and activists form a human chain in the capital yesterday protesting the August 17 countrywide bomb attacks

deferred by a

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Palestinians take control of Gaza

Israel ends 38 years of occupation

AFP, Kissufim

Israel closed the door yesterday on four decades of occupation in the Gaza Strip as Palestinians took control of a territory for the first time in history amid a blaze of celebratory gunfire and ransacking mobs. Thousands of Palestinian secu-

rity forces swarmed into abandoned settlements, raising their flag over land that Israel captured in war 38 vears ago, as Israeli tanks rolled out to end a military presence steeped in bloodshed.

"The sun of freedom rose today over the Gaza Strip for the first time in more than 38 years after the last Israeli soldier left," trumpeted the official WAFA news agency as Palestinians woke up to a new dawn in their struggle for statehood. The operation completed Israel's

first full withdrawal from occupied Palestinian territory, hailed by the international community as a new chance for peace but a political gamble for Prime Minister Ariel

Sharon, erstwhile champion of the ist faction Hamas, which has Jewish settler movement. declared the pullout a personal By davbreak, thousands of victory for its five-year campaign of Gazans were flocking towards the violence, organised a military evacuated areas. desperate to parade in Neve Dekalim, once the glimpse the last vestiges of an occupation built on prime real estate for decades declared off limits to

Palestinians "We are seeing soldiers, tanks and Israeli military vehicles leaving our land and the Israeli flag lowered and replaced for always by the Palestinian flag," said Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas, describing it as a "day of joy."

"Much work still needs to be done but nothing can take away from this victory."

Smoke spewed into the air over former settlements in southern to terrorism and the army is pre-Gaza from burning rubbish as pared to act in every possible way," he said, without elaborating. enormous national flags fluttered from telephone masts while mobs of youths poured in, ransacking and mander General Avi Kochavi was setting fire to synagogues and other huildings.

The main Islamist fundamental

Biman raises domestic fares STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Biman Bangladesh Airlines has decided to increase the fares of its domestic flights due to rise in aviation cost including fuel price hike. The increased fares will come into effect from September 16, said a Biman press release yesterday.

The new fare for Dhaka-Chittagong one way flight will be Tk 3,075 against its earlier fare of Tk 2,625. The fares for Dhaka-Sylhet will be Tk 2,700 against Tk 2,250 and Dhaka-Cox's Bazar will be Tk 3 5 SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Results of 25th **BCS** written test published

warned that the end of Israel's UNB, Dhaka military rule in Gaza had ushered in

е

The results of the written test for the 25th BCS examinations 2004 were published yesterday, with 10,293 candidates coming out successful. Psychological test (written) of the successful candidates will be held on October 14. The viva voce of the candidates will start from October 25 The candidates who will be absent in the psychological test will not be eligible for the viva voce, savs SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Dhaka, Islamabad to bolster trade

MONJUR MAHMUD

High-powered delegations of Bangladesh and Pakistan have agreed to raise bilateral trade from present US\$ 215 million to one billion by 2007, providing differential treatment to each other and removing existing bottlenecks.

At the two-day Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting at the National Economic Council in Dhaka that began yesterday, the two countries also agreed to form a ioint business council and a joint chamber so that these can give a boost to the existing trade.

Pakistan proposed to continue negotiation on a bilateral Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Bangladesh Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Choudhury and the advisor to Pakistan Prime Minister on Finance, Revenue, Economic

"A bilateral FTA between Pakistan and Bangladesh would greatly facilitate increased trade between the two countries. An FTA

plan was deferred by a week due to does not detract from any multilatthe opposition called hartal on eral agreement but rather augments September 21, official sources said. it," said Dr Salman Shah. 'The Tata team was scheduled to "We need to have differential arrive in Dhaka on September 19. treatment for each other. but we will ask them to come on Strengthening and deepening trade September 25 due to hartal." and economic relations with Mahmudur Rahman, executive Bangladesh is a major priority for chairman of the Board of Investment Pakistan government," said Salman (Bol), told the news agency. Rahman said the third round of

Shah. He emphasised the need to negotiations will last for three weeks establish a direct shipping service when issues, such as coal explorabetween the two countries to protion licence, fiscal incentives, power mote trade and proposed to estabpurchase agreement and gas lish bonded warehouses for stockpricing for setting up steel, power ing products for sale in the local and fertiliser plants will be dismarkets and also for re-export to third countries.

cussed. Communications Secretary Md. Bangladesh investors, traders Shafiqul Islam will lead the nd businessmen can capitalise or

Talks with Tata Kahn's son for keeping week for hartal its original form The third round negotiations with

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Tata on the billion-dollar investment

The Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban must be protected in its original form as one of the architectural marvels of the world, says Nathaniel Kahn, son of world famous architect Louis I Kahn who made its master plan.

"This is not only my opinion but also of the people of Bangladesh and many others abroad," he said yesterday at a press briefing at the Jatiya

Press Club, organised by the Institute of Architects, Bangladesh (IAB).

This world class architectural monument should immediately be declared a national and world heritage site with its master plan unaltered, Nathaniel said. "Many people around the world see it as the face of Bangladesh and its people.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



largest Jewish settlement in Gaza.

Its green banner and the black

standard of rival faction Islamic

Jihad were hoisted above a ran-

sacked synagogue in the settle-

ment, spray-painted with Nazi

a policy of "zero tolerance" towards

continued violence after militants

fired a makeshift rocket into Israel

"From now on, it's zero tolerance

Israel's Gaza divisional com-

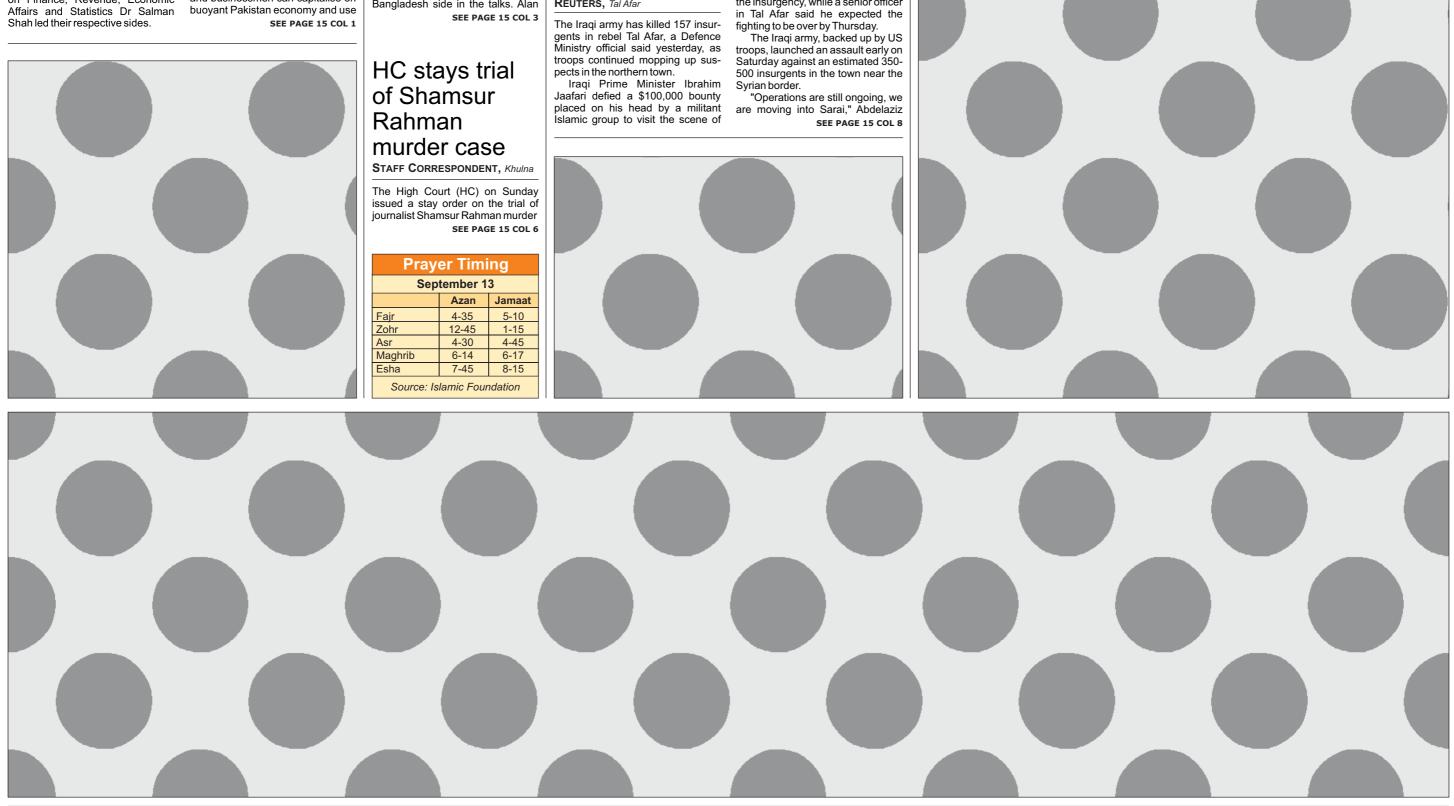
SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz

swastika.

during the pullout.

JATIYA SANGSAD BHABAN



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