Saarc summit in Dhaka | Meherpur BNP to be a landmark event

India hopes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian Foreign Secretary Shyam Saran yesterday said the 13th Saarc Summit in Dhaka is going to be a landmark event to discuss important steps like setting up of the regional poverty alleviation fund.

We have a substantial agenda at the Saarc summit in Dhaka," Saran who returned from the US last night told reporters in New Delhi.

Predicting an upbeat future for the South Asian grouping that was formed two decades ago, he said, The Saarc is moving from the stage of making declaratory sentences to doing collaboration work."

The summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) is scheduled for November 12-13. The seven-nation group comprises Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

According to a PTI report, Saran said the Saarc countries are discussing attaching Afghanistan to the regional body.

"We have been talking to each other about the possibility of Afghanistan joining as a new member," Saran added.

This figured during the meeting of the Saarc foreign ministers on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York. All the ministers agreed the Saarc meet in Dhaka in November would be a "landmark" summit, he added.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai had expressed keen interest in his country joining the Saarc during Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's recent visit to Kabul. Singh had

assured Karzai that the Saarc members will consider the proposal soon.

Karzai told Singh Afghanistan could be a bridge between the Central Asia and southern and western Asia. He had earlier discussed the same issue with Pakistan President Pervez Musharaff, who was very positive lowards the sug-

The Indian foreign secretary said was agreed that there should be a substantive" agenda for the 13th Saarc summit.

"Our efforts should be to move Saarc from a stage of declaratory statements to a stage of actually doing some collaborative work," he

The Saarc ministers had an exchange of views on the setting up of the poverty alleviation fund and specific proposals dealing with lisaster management in the light of the tsunami that affected several

Asked about the inclusion of a new member, an important official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh said the decision came at the Kathmandu summit to prepare criteria for inclusion of members and observer in the Saarc.

He said a number of important Asian and European countries including China have expressed keen interest to get Saarc observer

Bangladesh raised a point to give China the observer status, but India proposed to prepare criteria first before giving anyone this status.

However, the criteria are yet not prepared, the official added.

although those belonged to the

pipeline contractor Tk 8 crore for the

pipeline construction, insiders said.

from the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), the govern-

ment's Explosives Directorate

Petrobangla, the JGTCL or even the

Joint Management Committee

comprising Bapex and Niko officials.

There is no Gas Purchase Sales Agreement (GPSA) against this pipe-

line. There is no instance of any

private oil company attempting to se

up infrastructure to sell gas to any

consumer outside the government since Petrobangla holds the first right

of refusal to purchase gas from any

Just within one month of complé

tion of this pipeline, Niko's faulty

drilling of a relief well led to the sec-

ond blowout at the Tengratila gas

earlier. Government investigators

who found Niko's drilling plan faulty

also blamed delayed drilling of the

received around \$20 million from its

insurer. An insider says Niko never

told the government how it spent this

money and what part of it was used in

drilling the relief well. It used the

money to do something it may need

to bow to Niko's desire, Titas wrote to

Niko that these pipes could accom-

modate a gas flow pressure of only

150 PSI while Niko needed a pipeline

that could cope with a pressure of 500

authority and ordered Titas to give

Acting upon the advice of the World

Bank and IMF, the government

initiated reforms of the nationalised

commercial banks (NCBs) and as

part of the reform programme, the

finance ministry appointed the PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) as

advisors to the management of

advisory team and a CEO started

working in October last year.

Accordingly, an eight-member

PwC, who was given the charge

The annual report was prepared

There is no written guideline for

the accounting system, the PwC

report pointed out, adding that

there is also lack of staff with the

required skills and experience for

necessity of a lot of provisions to be

made for bad and doubtful assets

under the heads -- loans and

advances, investments, other assets,

etc for the sake of reflecting the true

reforms, advisory teams that are

working with Sonali and Janata

report of 2005 in line with the IAS-30

for the first time, sources said, add-

ing that the two banks will have to

keep about Tk 3400 crore

provisioning for their bad loans.

Meanwhile, as part of NCB

will prepare the annual

financial position of the bank.

The report also identified the

preparation of accounts.

in line with the diagnostic report.

Mosharraf then reasserted his

When Mosharraf had asked Titas

Following the first blowout, Niko

relief well for the disaster.

in future.

to 1,000 PSL

the pipes to Niko.

FROM PAGE 1

Agrani Bank.

government.

Agrani loss

Niko reportedly paid its local

The company had no permission

Niko pipeline scam

(DCFP) and used those to set up a 19 km illegal pipeline between Tengratila and Doarabazar in

Sunamganj. Sources said Titas planning department officials told Petrobangla that they had flatly refused to give the pipes to Niko since those were procured for the DCFP with ADB financing, and also because these were low-pressure

Documents obtained by the probe body showed the Titas chief had given the pipes to Niko as per verbal directives from Petrobangla

Sources said the investigators are digging further into the scam that is a flagrant example of favouritism. breach of law and undermining national interest.

The Daily Star report irked the ADB that is financing the \$113.4 million DCFP aimed at setting up a field. This relief well was being drilled robust compressed natural gas to seal the well that had exploded (CNG) distribution system in the capital and its outskirts. The stakeholders include different gas companies under Petrobangla.

The ADB asked the energy ministry late last week to clarify if Niko had taken the pipes, and whether the government had the authority to give those to the company.

The ADB also warned of suspension of funding the project for such irregularities.

"Major part of the clean fuel project funds still remains unutilsed. Titas has procured pipes required for the project but is yet to make a substantial progress in implementing it. The Gas Transmission Company Ltd (GTCL) has just ordered procurement of the pipes and Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Ltd (RPGCL) has not done anything yet," one source pointed out.

Titas had procured the pipes with foreign currency using ADB funds but Niko reportedly paid Titas in local currency for illegally taking the

pipes.
"Whether they made the payment in foreign or local currency is irrelevant. What matters to us is they have no right to take Titas' pipes," noted

The Daily Star reported that while Tengratila gas field was burning during March- June, Niko was busy

constructing the 19 km pipeline to transmit Tengratila gas to Niko was planning to sell

for a three-year period on a Tk 36 Tengratila gas in future to the undercrore contract, identified the major construction Lafarge Cement factory problems in relation to the bank's or to the Jalalabad Gas Transmission accounting system, organisational Company Ltd (JGTCL) although it and staff related issues, credit manhad no contract or even formal disagement, human resources, etc and cussion with these parties. submitted a diagnostic report to the

The then state minister for energy (later ousted) Mosharraf Hossain forced Titas to give away the pipes

GPA-5 galore

FROM PAGE 16 in 2003. Science group secured 4,584, business studies 628 and humanities group 297 GPA-5s.

Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk said the numbers of GPA-5 achievers increased as students are taking part in the exams with better

no chance to pass or achieve good result by dint of copying as all of the public examinations are being held in a copying-free environment."

Dhaka Board topped the GPA-5 achievers' list with 2,804 students striking the feat, Rajshahi ranked second with 1,177 and Jessore grabbed the third position with 492.

leader killed in bomb attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Criminals yesterday killed a BNP leader in Meherpur by hurling bombs on him while another BNP activist, who was attacked and injured by a gangin Kushtia on September 20, died n Rajshahi yesterday. Azizur Rahman Silu, 25, BNP

eader of Kasba Union in Meherpur, was killed when a gang hurled bombs at him around 2:45pm. Sukur Ali, a member of Kasba Union Parishad, vas also injured in the incident.

Police sources said Silu and Sukur were returning to their village Kasba-Bhatapara from Gangni upazila on a motorcycle when a gang of four eportedly ambushed them near an olated Kasba field.

The gang hurled two bombs at them and fled the scene. Silu died on the spot while locals rushed the njured Sukur to Meherpur General Hospital. He was later shifted to Kushtia General Hospital.

Sukur was undergoing an operation at the time of filing this report. His eft leg and eyes have been badly burnt, hospital sources said.

"Both the men were our enemies but I don't know who carried out the killing," said Roni Biswas, a regional leader of the outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) Janajuddho

Law enforcment agencies includng Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) started a massive drive to hunt down the criminals.

Meanwhile, BNP activist Majibar Mondol, 45, died yesterday at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) following an attack on him at Kushtia on September 20.

Police said a gang stormed into Majibar's house at Udaynagar village of Daulatpur upazila in Kushtia and beathim up severely around 11:00pm.

Seriously injured, Mazibar was taken to Kushtia General Hospital and later sifted to RMCH as his condition

IDB to consider enhancingoil import funds

UNB, Dhaka

The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) will consider enhanced fund support for Bangladesh to help overcome the tetent of shock that prompted the government to divert a substantial amount from the fund which would have been used to achieve development

This was stated by IDB President Dr Ahmad Mohamed Ali during a meeting with Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman on the sidelines of the ongoing Bank-Fund Annual Meetings in Washington on

According to a message received in Dhaka yesterday, Dr Ali said he will raise the finance minister's proposal for enhanced fund with the IDB Board for a decision at the earliest possible time.

The proposal is a timely one which warrants serious considerations by the bank's board," said the IDB president.

Saifur appreciated IDB for providing Bangladesh with the substantial credit line facilities and requested further enhancement of the support to help overcome the recent oil shock.

The minister also raised the possibilities of the IDB providing assistance to the OIC member countries to help them modernise their madrasa education so as to enable the madrasa graduates to qualify themselves for competing in job markets home and abroad.

The IDB president also appreciated the proposal as it would facilitate madrasa education to be at par with the mainstream education system and agreed to consider the idea with right earnest. It was also agreed that the IDB-

aided Waqf Mutawalli Committee in Bangladesh would be reviewed and further strengthened.

Road march

FROM PAGE 16 Canadian company.

The government has to rehabilitate and compensate the victims of the Tengratila gas explosion General Secretary of the Communis Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Mujahidul Islam Selim said at the

rally.
He demanded cancellation of the oil-gas agreements that go against national interest and punishment of the ministers, bureaucrats and experts involved in the process of signing these agreements. The committee leaders urged

the people to come forward to protect the gas resource and make the road march a success. With the committee President

Sheikh Muhammad Shahidullah in the chair, the rally was addressed by Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, economist Anu Muhammad, Workers Party Politburo Member Haidar Akbar Khan Rono, CPB leader Ruhin Hossain Prince and Sylhet Division Development Council President Abed Raja.

The committee leaders will address meetings at different places on their way to the road march that is scheduled to end with "Tengratila Declaration" at a rally in Tengratila on September 28.

Hasina tells

Emerging from the hour-long meeting, Chammas told reporters, "We've discussed many issues including the upcoming elections, the August 17 bomb blasts, and other unresolved crimes."

On the next general polls, she said, "We are urging all to work together to hold the election in a free and fair atmosphere."

She however declined to comment on the government's turning down the Tuesday Group's bid for holding a high-level conference in Dhaka on the issues of best election Asked about her comment she

made on September 13 about the elections in Bangladesh, the US envoy said, "What I said is nothing new. I said this many times before. There was distortion of my state-ments in the media. Till now I stand by my remarks."

Chammas at a luncheon meeting of American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh on September 13 said though Bangladesh is generally recognised for conducting free and fair elections, it should address the concerns that the next elections 'may be problematic.'

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Hasina's political secretary, told the reporters yesterday's meeting discussed the party's plans for holding a free and fair election.

Citing the controversial appointments of ruling alliance's student activists as election officers and biased' activities of the chief election commissioner, Saber said the reality is not the same as propagated by the

prime minister at home and abroad.
"A free and fair election cannot be possible under Chief Election Commissioner MA Aziz. He has proved through his comments he is not an impartial person," Saber said. "This government is doing every-

thing possible sensing the people will reject it at the next general elections. So the government is taking all measures for vote rigging," Saber said quoting meeting discussions.

On the August 17 serial blasts across

the country, the AL leader said the prime minister in her speech in parlia-ment tried to hide the perpetrators. AL leaders Kazi Zafarullah and Syed Abul Hossain were present.

PM shocked FROM PAGE 16

the resilience of the America people would be equal to the task of coping with the disaster and its aftereffects.

Khaleda expressed her govern ment's support in helping the affected people and their families to return to normal life.

4 more confess part

FROM PAGE 1 Ataur Rahman alias Sunny, younger brother of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) chief Abdur Rahman, used to bear all expenses for their lodging and meals.

Yasir said he on a number of occasions had been in processions with Siddiqul Islam alias Bangla Bhai, operations commander of Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB), in Bagmara of Rajshahi and otherplaces. Booklets and leaflets on jihad

used to be composed and printed from the East Bashabo house of Ataur, both the detainees told the magistrate, said court sources. In mid July, Ataur came to the

house with a bag containing firearms and papers on jihad and told them about the plans for August 17 blasts, they added. After the near-simultaneous blasts, Ataur paid Yasir Tk 2 lakh. Belal was already getting Tk 3,000 a

month from Ataur for his service for Besides the two, Abdur Rahman Masud, who was arrested in Kaliakoir in Gazipur on September 19, admitted his role in the country-

wide explosions. He said he had met Nurul Islam Uzzal alias Jubair and another man at Kaliakoir about two years ago and they had inspired him to join JMB to work for 'jihad'. Metropolitan Magistrate Mir Ali Reza recorded his confessional statement.

Induced by the JMB operatives, he had gone to Narsingdi Ahle Hadith Madrasa and come into contact with Ataur, who along with JMB leaders Hasan and Solaiman had prepared him for jihad.

He said JMB leader Jahid gave him a time bomb on August 17 at the house of another JMB man Habib in Savar and asked him to detonate the bomb near Khilkhet Foot Over-

BDNEWS from Bagerhat adds: JMB member Abdullah Sheikh, 45, yesterday confessed before a magistrate's court his link to the countrywide terrorist attacks. Magistrate Mohammad Sobur Hossain recorded his statement.

Abdullah was arrested in Chitalmari upazila on September 21. Son of late Abdul Barek, he hails from village Aruaborni.

Meanwhile in Bagerhat, Ahle Hadith leader Daud Sheikh was taken on a five-day remand yesterday for interrogation.

Police arrested him in Mollarhat on September 9 with leaflets and textbooks on jihad.

BDNEWS from Khulna reports: Police early yesterday arrested a person at village Tilak in Rupsha upazila of Khulna for his alleged connection with the blasts of August

The arrestee, Khairul Alam, 23, is an imam of a mosque in Baoidanga. He hails from village Madardanga in Koira upazila of Khulna.

He had been missing from the area since August 20, three days after the explosions.

Maizbhandari

FROM PAGE 1 the country. In these circumstances, it is not possible to belong to the politics of BNP, which now appears to be an associate of Jamaat, Najibul Bashar said in his resigna tion letter addressed to the BNP chairperson and the prime minister.

Bashar, a former lawmaker, endered his resignation to the BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at his official residence yesterday

Talking to The Daily Star last night, he said the LGRD minister had requested him not to resign from the party at this moment.

"We are planning to have a new political platform to launch movements aiming at rooting out Jamaate-Islami and all other communal forces," Bashar said about his next

He said they will declare the formation of the platform at a press conference on October 3 in the In his letter to the prime minister,

Bashar described his resignation as a step to resist the people who are the enemies of Islam under the guise of the religion. The central BNP leader's resignation came at a time when confes-

sions of some militants detained for

suspected links to the August 17 blasts suggest Jamaat's connection with the terrorist attacks. Bashar also alleged that Jamaat

was behind the recent home ministry notification that imposed a restriction on holding annual orosh mahfil (Islamic functions) at different shrings across the country.

"In this situation, doing politics with Jamaat is nothing but deceiving one's own conscience," he continued in his letter.

Saifur for more aid

He expected that the additional commitment of aid should be

alone is not the panacea for poverty reduction and recalled the Monterrey Consensus that recognised trade as the engine of growth.

the world leaders through the consensus rekindled hopes of a better life for about three billion poor of the world who earn less than two dollars a day. "Insecurity of livelihood and lives of these poor people emerge as a threat to peace and security anywherein the world."

The Monterrey Consensus and wide-ranging participatory process in developing PRSP have popularised MDGs throughout the developing world. "But we are far away from the set goals," Saifur said, emphasising that it was high time to act together to deliver on these promises to meet the growing aspiration of the poor.

mentioned that faster reduction of

About the continued improvement of policies and governance by many developing countries, he

income poverty is a formidable task without stronger economic growth led by sizeable investment in infrastructure and capacity building.

economy of low-income countries and said macroeconomic balance and poverty-reduction strategies of these countries have been thrown out of gear.

the meeting of Bangladesh's achievement of over 5.5 percent annual growth despite all this adversity. Bangladesh made impressive gains in human development rallying the country to the category of medium developed countries in the Human Development Index, he

"As part of governance improvement, Bangladesh has been implementing a series of institutional reforms in almost all sectors to minimize waste and inefficiencies and curb corruption," he told the donors. Bangladesh Ambassador to the

Director Zakir Ahmed Khan, Bangladesh Bank Governor Salehuddin Ahmed, ERD Secretary Ismail Zabihullah and Finance Secretary Siddigur Rahman Choudhury were among the members of Bangladesh delegation to the meetings.

OC mastermind

FROM PAGE 16 The elite force nabbed Tuhin and Zia

sation with Taaj over telephone and asked him to kill Kamrul. Acting on this directive, Taaj turned the mission on to his accomplice Shah Alam, who orchestrated the killing,

The arrestees also said Shah Alam first opened fire on Kamrul and they were guarding the spot.

There is likeness between their statements and Johnny's confession, made before a magistrate, in orchestrated it.

front of his Ibrahimpur house on September 13 following a feud between the family and the OC over

the OC as the prime suspect.

Police high-ups closed the OC and asked Additional Commissioner Faruq Ahmed to prepare a report on his alleged involvement. Ahmed submitted the report on Friday, showing four reasons behind the killing including the feud.

The report has been sent to the police headquarters, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner SM Mizanur Rahman told The Daily Star yesterday.

3 robbers

FROM PAGE 16 under Chandina upazila and Mohammad Habib, son of Shahabuddin of village Bishnupur

The law enforcers seized the private car, two ram daos and two knives.

Moudud

sooner we do it, the better it is for us,"

Broadcast media is playing a very important role in motivating people to increase food production, empowering women and controlling population, he felt.

allowed to operate in the past, "Were all of them allowed on political con-siderations?" he asked, adding competition will be intensified if mo private channels are allowed.

Khalid Hassan, country director of AC Nielsen Bangladesh Ltd, made presentation on Media Consumption in Bangladesh.

its price has come down substantially and battery-run TVs are now available in the rural areas where there is no electricity. Gavin Anderson and Tony O'Regan, two media experts from

focusing on broadcast media liberalisation in Africa and South East Asia respectively. Anderson said 46 percent of the population in Bangladesh don't have access to media while 97 percent

people in Sri Lanka have access to it. Regan said the number of radio listeners in Bangladesh is declining because a lot of people find nothing

Prof SA Salam of journalism department of Dhaka University and Selim Zaman, BEI project researcher also made two presentations at the

Former ambassador Faroog Sobhan was in the chair.

7 hurt

FROM PAGE 16 men responsible for throwing bombs on their procession.

BCL General Secretary Nazrul Islam Babu, Shariful Islam Swapan, Marufa Akther Popy, Rafiqul Islam Kotowal, Ali Hasan Tarun, Rafiqul Islam Sujon, Mustak Ahmed and Jewel Ahmed conference.

BCL for the incident, the JCD destroy the congenial atmosphere of the campus. JCD Senior Vice President Sultan Salauddin Tuku, DU unit President Hasan Mamun, General

grave concern over yesterday's bomb blasts on the campus that

left seven students injured. In a statement, Duta President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique and General Secretary Prof Md. Akhtaruzzaman, urged the government and the university authorities for immediate punishment of the criminals responsible for the blasts. .

HSC results

Diploma-in-Commerce Examinations under Bangladesh Technical Education Board were also published yesterday -- all under the

gradingsystem. As many as 23 Alim examinees and wo of Business Management stufents also secured GPA5.

Education Minister Osman Farruk nanded over the result sheets to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office. State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Huq Milon, Education Secretary Faruq Ahmad Siddiqi and the heads of the education boards vere present.

The prime minister expressed atisfaction over better results this year compared to past few years, ncrease in the number of students getting GPA-5, falling number of expulsions for adopting unfair means, and also over considerable decrease in the incidents of cheating in the public

Khaleda expressed the hope the concerned administrators and teachers will keep up the trend and make more effort and carry out motivational activities for better result in future.

She also asked them to put emphasis on English education and suggested summoning the principals of he colleges, which did bad in the exams, to know the reasons and overcometheshortcomings.

The education minister said motivational as well as corrective measures are being taken after analysis of the "Students are now taking at the

examinations better prepared as they know public examinations are being held in a copying-free environment, he told the prime minister. Rajshahi Board this year fetched

'Criminal' shot dead in Mirpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals gunned down a youth after abducting him from Mirpur in the city last night.

Police said several accomplices of infamous Shahadat Group abducted alleged criminal Jewel from road No. 1 in Mirpur Section No. 6 at 9:30pm and took him to an under-construction building.

They shot him in his head pointblank and fled the spot, leaving him dead on the spot. Police said Jewel was an FIR (first information report)-listed accused

FROM PAGE 16 attending doctors declared Tapash dead. His uncle Anisuzzaman, injured by bullets, is undergoing

treatment at the hospital.

It was alleged that Tapash was killed in an intra-party feud. Police arrested Tapash's other uncle and district AL President

sons and 10 others. They have also sealed off the residence of Mohiuddin. Tapash's father, late Khalequzzaman Khoka, was also a chair-

man of the Munshigani Municipality. The officer-in charge (OC) of Sadar Police Station quoted witnesses as saying Nayeem, one of the close associates of AL leader Mohiuddin, shot Tapash. Nayeem is among the 13 arrested in connec-

tion with the murder, he said. A tense situation was prevailing in the district town. Additional police have been deployed.

Search for victims

FROM PAGE 16 Texas governor Rick Perry said the low toll was "a blessing" and praised what he called the largest evacuation in US history which saw about three million people flee the Texas and Louisiana coasts before the

storm. Officials pleaded with the multitudes who fled in advance of the storm not to rush back, warning that the zone remained dangerous due to

President George W. Bush who had led appeals for people to get away from the coast before Rita struck joined the Texas and Louisiana governors in urging evacuees to stay in their refuges. "The situation is still dangerous," said Bush.

Biman staff

Committee and the state minister for civil aviation.

FROM PAGE 16

Meantime, BDNEWS reports Biman employees also demanded the withdrawal of the decision on forced retirement of Captain Nasim, president of Bangladesh Airlines Pilot Association (BAPA).

The Civil Aviation Authorities Thursday in a letter forcibly grounded Captain Nasim showing the reason of high blood pressure.

Israel strikes FROM PAGE 16

Hamas's most senior leader.

Mahmoud al-Zahar, announced his group's decision to halt attacks shortly after Israel killed an Islamic Jihad leader in an air strike in a resumption of its policy of targeting militants for assassination.

The decision would ensure the safety of Palestinians in Gaza, he

the highest pass percentage of 65.93 and Sylhet Board the lowest of 44.40. Dhaka Board last year obtained the highest pass percentage of 53.60 and Barisal Board the lowest 36.42.

In Dhaka Board, 70,711 of the 132,120 examinees passed the exams with the pass percentage of 53.52. As many as 32,807 students took part in the exams in Chittagong Board and 18,061 among them passed at 55.05 percent against 43.73 of last year.

Among the 103,281 candidates under Rajshahi Board, 68,096 came out successful with a pass percentage of 65.93 against 45.23 in last year. As many as 68,214 students appeared in the exams under Jessore Board and 43,452 passed. The pass percentage is 63.70 against last year's 42.70.

Under Comilla Board, 20,550 examinees out of 34,218 passed with a success rate of 60.06 percent against 51.80 last year. Barisal Board had 27,343 candidates and 17,085 of them passed. The pass percentage is 62.48

against 36.42lastyear.
As many as 17,105 students appeared under Sylhet Board and 7,594 came out successful with the pass percentage of 44.40 against last

The percentage of pass is 64.74 in Alim Examinations against 41.40 last year, 30.98 in HSC (Vocational) examinations against 29.24 last year, 59.98 in Business Management examinations against 68.29 last year and 50.97 in Diploma-in-Commerce examinations against 74.55 last year.

Tuesday Group FROM PAGE 1

FROM PAGE 1
course of action following the government's refusal to allow the
planned conference, added the Adviser of the Foreign Affairs

Reaz Rahman on Sunday communi-

cated the government's stance during a meeting with Canadian High Commissioner in Dhaka David Sproule and Ambassador of Norway Aud Lise Norheim. The group members at yester-day's meeting decided to continue a alogue with the government highups to make them aware of the 'benefits' that the proposed confer-ence may offer in holding the next

eneral election in a more free and irmanner. The Group sources said it only wants to provide technical assis-tance to Bangladesh to make its future general election more transparent. They said the group has no plans to discuss reforms in the electoral laws or changes in the

information report)-listed accused in businessman Shahidullah killing case.

The meeting, which lasted about one and a half hours, starting from 3:30pm, however, decided not to take any such step that might strain, the relationship between the government and member countries of ernment and member countries of

thé Tuesday Group. We will talk to policymakers of the government and try to make them understand that the initiative to hold the conference has been taken out of a good intention and that we will not take sides in domestic politics. We only want to provide Bangladesh with technical assistance in electoral matters and we Mohammad Mohiuddin, his two don't intend to interfere in the

internal affairs," said a diplomat on condition of anonymity. The diplomat said that the group considers Bangladesh a democratic country and will continue helping it

to strengthen its democratic pro-The Tuesday Group comprises the ambassadors and high commis-sioners accredited to Bangladesh from Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK, US, European Commission, and the resident co-ordinator of the United

It has been planning to hold a seminar in Dhaka sometime in November this year on "International Electoral Best Practices"

Nations.

Cabinet okays FROM PAGE 16 Sunday to Thursday will be from

break for prayers from 1:15pm. The meeting also approved the Cable Television Network Policy It also okayed the draft of the Third National Plan of Action for Children 2005-2010 for strengthen-

9:00am to 3:30pm with a 15-minute

the draft of Bangladesh Workers' Welfare Foundation Law 2005. The draft of Comilla University Law 2005 aimed at setting up a new

ing child development activities and

university in Comilla was also approved in the meeting. Cabinet ministers and state ministers concerned attended the

Kidney dialysis

FROM PAGE 16 dialysis solution, kept at higher temperatures than the required 15C to 25C. Keeping the chemical at higher temperatures poses a serious health hazards to patients.

The workers of the stores also failed to show proper documents for importing the chemicals from Malaysia. The court filed a case against

Qaiyum Hasan, the owner of

Bangladesh Health Products. Qaiyum, however, denied any wrongdoing and said some doctors have been conspiring against him. Three other mobile courts raided

different restaurants and fast food shops in Gulshan, Paltan and Shahbagh areas. The mobile courts fined Tk 1,35,000 and filed 14 cases against the restaurants and fast food shops for not keeping hygienic environment and serving unsafe and unhealthy food.

directed to the poor countries on the basis of their actual needs, demonstrated utilisation performance and improved governance. "No amount of aid is likely to deliver poverty reduction without sound institutions and governance in a country," he categorically said. The minister pointed out that aid

He said the common goals set by

He referred to the devastating impact of oil-price hike on the

The finance minister apprised

United States Shamser M Chowdhury, World Bank Alternate

following statements of Johnny, another accused in the case who was arrested on September 20. They said OC Rafiq had a conver-

the sources added.

which he had claimed someone masterminded the killing and Alam Kamrul was gunned down in

His father Abdur Razzak had filed a case against 26 people including

under Comilla Sadar upazila, to Laksam Upazila Health Complex.

FROM PAGE 16

Asked whether permission for satellite TV channels are now given on political considerations, Moudud said some TV channels were also

He said use of radio in Bangladesh is declining but use of TV is rising as

abroad, made separate presentations

to listen to. He regretted this situa-

BCL President Liagat Sikder said the JCD and the Shibir men blasted the bombs "under the direction of Hawa Bhaban" as part of their conspiracy to put a stop to the demonstration against the Upazila Election Officers' appointments.

Khan also spoke at the press Meanwhile, JCD also brought out a procession on the campus protesting the blasts. Blaming leaders said that it was a plan to

Secretary Saiful Islam Firoz, Jayanta Kumar Kundu, Mostafa Khan Safori, Mamunur Rashid and Akramul Hasan spoke among Dhaka University Teachers Association (Duta) expressed its

caminations.