Saarc Summit

meeting yesterday with the ambassadors and high commissioners of the Saarc countries accredited to Bangladesh. He also informed the ambassadors and high commissioners about the types of programmes scheduled for the summit.

The high commissioners and ambassadors of India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and deputy high commissioner of Pakistan attended the meeting. The Maldives has no mission in Dhaka.

Hemayetuddin said the programmes set for the summit are very similar to the postponed February summit.

"We are trying to accommodate all the programmes because previously it was scheduled for three days and now it will be held on two days, so there is time constraint," the *foreign secretary said.

Replying to a question, the foreign secretary said no special envoy would be sent to the member states as this has been done earlier. But fresh invitation will be sent to some individuals due to changes of the persons holding the position like the

foreign minister of Sri Lanka.

As per the programme schedule, the inaugural session of the summit will be held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre and the concluding session at the International Conference Centre inside the Prime Minister's

The foreign secretary said the ambassadors and high commissioners will inform their respective governments about the programmes and he would sit with them again if they have any opinion or suggestion about the

There will be several pre-summit meetings, including the meeting of Saarc Standing Committee on November 10 and a foreign ministers' meeting on November 11.

The 13th summit, now scheduled for November 12-13, was postponed twice before; first due to the tsunami disaster and again following India's last minute backtracking on the grounds of political developments in Nepal and security concerns in

Military finds

finding mission Thursday.

All intelligence units of the army, navy and air force, including the DGFI started the inquiry with the DGFI acting as co-ordinator. The government civil intelligence agencies also took part in the inquiry.

The DGFI also prepared a report on the findings, which they will submit to the authorities concerned soon, said sources.

After his arrest in Monipur on September 20, Harun confessed that he had trained JMB cadres on bombmaking and operation techniques and also named eight serving defence personnel as trainers of the JMB bomb squads, investigators in Kishoreganj said.

According to them, Obaidullah Suman, who is now in Kishoreganj jail, identified Harun at the Kishoreganj Police Station as their

Newspapers also carried reports with reference to the investigators that Harun named the eight military personnel as being involved with the August 17 attack.

Checking Harun's statement given to civil investigators and interrogating him, the military intelligence found that the lance corporal is not the 'Harun' referred to by Obaidullah Suman. "Suman does not know this Harun," said the source.

Harun's statement also did not include anything that establishes links of any serving military personnel with the attack

"The lance corporal [Harun] kept saying that he was in no way involved in the attack or with Jama'atul Mujahideen," said the

Harun was handed over to Kishoreganj police Monday and the court sent him to jail as police did not seek any fresh remand.

"This Harun is not the person Obaidullah Suman knows. We're still looking for the Harun mentioned by Suman," Sub-Inspector Waziullah of Kishoreganj Police Station, who is investigating Harun's role, told The Daily Starvesterday.

On the lance corporal's fate, he said, "It'll be decided in the course of the probe.

Although the military intelligence was sure that Harun did not name any military personnel in service, it received the names of a few military men from different sources who might be involved with

"But the information and names were not specific. In spite of it, we conducted an inquiry but did not find any military personnel linked with the militants," said the military

15 pirates killed

by Lieutenant Mahbub, was on patrol in the river Meghna on said Babul, second-in-command of trawlers of the pirates between two among the dead. Mizan managed to chars and challenged them.

"As the pirates opened fire on the law enforcers, the joint force also retaliated," said the OC.

In the first phase of the gunfight, the police and coastguards traded around 200 bullets while the pirates who were 70 in number shot about

Following the battle, police and coastguards through wirelesses sought help from different police stations and coastguard camps.

On information, police teams from Lalmohon, Tazmuddin, Monpura, Bhola Sadar and Ramgati started for the troubled point.

The reinforced forces, led by assistant superintendents of police (ASP) Bimal Kumar Das and Asaduzzaman and Lieutenant Jobayer, launched a drive yesterday

"One of the two trawlers backtracked while pirates from another one fired shots on the law enforcers," said an official who took part the operation.

Lieutenant Mahbub said 15

pirates died on the spot, but their bodies could not be found. Sources Monday night. The team found two Mizan Bahini, and Hannan were escape from the scene

> Mahbub also said that 30 pirates were wounded.

The joint force arrested Shipon, 25, of Tazmuddin, Halim, 40, of Char Alexander and Faruk, 15. All the three were bullet wounded.

The other injured law enforcers are constables M Selim and Salam and coastguards Joardar and Zia.

EC credibility

FROM PAGE 16

review the appointment of the poll officials and screen out those who have affiliation with any political party no matter whether that party is in power or in the opposition. Fema observed that it is the

constitutional responsibility of the PSC to recommend candidates for appointment befitting with the functions attached to the posts.

"In this case, it is reported that they selected partisan persons for the non-partisan office. This is, therefore a serious lapse on their

Tuesday Group

anywhere in the world," he said on

condition of anonymity. He said the government does not want any informal grouping of foreign envoys accredited to Bangladesh and hoped that all foreign diplomats would follow the Vienna conventions, which "we know and they know fully."

Referring to the Tuesday Group's plan for holding a seminar on "International Electoral Best Practices Conference" in November in Dhaka, the government high ups said it is direct interference into Bangladesh's domestic politics.

"Will the countries of the socalled grouping allow our ambassadors or high commissioners accredited at those countries to speak about their electoral system if they see, any loophole of their voting system or think of requirement of reform?," he questioned, adding that it is not the duty of diplomats to interfere in domestic politics,

including the election system. When asked that the Tuesday Group wants to provide technical assistance to Bangladesh for ensuring more free, fair and transparent

procedures in the next general election, he said a seminar or conference is not at all required if they truly want to provide such technical

He further said the countries of the grouping have long been providing various assistance for the socioeconomic development of Bangladesh as well as technical support in many fields. They have not called conferences for this, he added, questioning why they need a conference for providing technical support for elections.

"If they (Tuesday Group) want to give us a transparent ballot box, thick or thin ballot paper, ink etc., they can offer us, but does it require for a huge conference to give those tous?" he questioned.

The Tuesday Group comprises the Ambassadors and High Commissioners accredited to Bangladesh from Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and the USA, as well as the ambassador of the European Commission and the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations.

Inqilab editor attacked in Laxmipur

BDNEWS, Laxmipur

A motorcade of Inqilab Editor AMM Bahauddin and Jamiatul Modarresin (JM) leaders came under attack at Chandraganj in

Laxmipur yesterday.
At least 20 JM leaders and activists and journalists were injured in

Jamiatul Modarresin held the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir responsible for the

The attackers also vandalised five motorcycles and one microbus.

Accused OC

FROM PAGE 16

evaded a direct answer and said, "We do not make it public before arresting anyone."

Police are reluctant to arrest the OC even after the killers had been threatening the family members to withdraw the OC's name from the first information report (FIR) that Kamrul's father Abdur Razzak filed with the Kafrul Police Station.

Police have so far arrested 11 people, and one of them confessed to a magistrate of his involvement in the killing.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) nabbed two more suspects, Zia and

Jewel, on Monday. Rab sources also said Jewel admitted to Rab that the OC ordered Mirpur top-goon Taaj to exterminate one of Kamrul's family members. Shah Alam carried out the murder on Taaj's order, the Rab

sources added, quoting the arrestee.

lob records

Hussein told reporters after the

The establishment secretary, however, did not mention the num-ber of the missing ACRs, Jahangir

Without mentioning the name of the person involved in the incident, Establishment Secretary ASM Abdul Halim told the meeting, "We can't believe that an officer [like him], who is known as honest, is involved

The opposition lawmakers and members of the committee also asked the ministry to inform the committee of the then joint secretary who was in charge of preserving

The establishment ministry in a report also informed the parliamentary body that a three-member committee has been formed this month, comprising senior officials of the ministry, to recommend how to improve the system of preparing

The committee will review the existing systems in the neighbouring countries and then submit its recommendations before the parliamentary body, said the report.

Opposition Chief Whip and committee member Abdus Shahid told journalists that the opposition lawmakers also demanded discussion on the government policy about promotion, transfer and demotion of government officials.

The committee chairman gave assurance that those will be discussed at the next meeting, Shahid

BDR, BSF agree

FROM PAGE 1 'We will have more coordinated patrolling," Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) chief Major General Jehangir Alam Choudhury said here at the end of the first day of talks with R.S. Mooshahary, head of India's Border Security Force (BSF).

Ties between the two neighbours are usually friendly but relations are sometimes upset by skirmishes along their border.

In August, Indian and Bangladeshi border guards traded fire in a row over repairs to a riverbank, forcing the evacuation of hundreds of villagers on the Indian side. Each side blamed the other for starting the clash

On September 9, three Bangladeshi villagers were killed by Indian guards after they strayed across the border near the eastern Bangladesh town of Akhaura.

Mobile courts

FROM PAGE 15 their concerned areas will be given

magistracy powers. Besides, two magistrates will be given additional power at district level. Sanitation inspectors under the upazila health officers will also be given magistracy power. A subcommittee has been formed to take decision in this regard.

It also decided to set up high quality testing laboratories at divisional level and medium quality laboratories at district level. The meeting discussed import of testing kits for quick detection of adultera-

The meeting also discussed the activities of the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) and the mobile courts in the city corporation areas. The new law Bangladesh Pure

Food (Amendment) Act 2005 was passed in the Jatiya Sangsad by amending the 1959 law regarding the matter. A report on the activities of 262

maid for the last seven years. mobile courts from May to September 23 was submitted at the meeting. The mobile courts realised Tk 1.22 crore in fine during the period. A total of 136 accused persons were sent to jail.

Lack of investment

The president called for maintaining a balance of financing between the capital market and the bank as the domestic bond market has not yet developed to a desired level, for which industry financing is predominately met through bank financing.

He hailed the moves for constituting Asian Bond Market and uniform listing rules in the region.

He said the Bank Company Act, 1991 has been amended and steps have been taken to elevate governance scenario, as the issue of corporate governance has emerged as an important agenda in Bangladesh. In his speech, the commerce

minister urged the multinational companies and the giant corporate houses to raise capital through the share market to make it vibrant. He said the process of issuing initial public offering is a costly process as the issuer has to pay for

underwriting cost, listing cost, portfolio managing cost, etc which makes some issuers stay away from the share market He underscored the need for simplification of the process and

In his speech, Mahbubur Rahman said increased South-

investment and finance through the capital market that can provide a strong base for encouraging mobilisation of savings, generation and harnessing of financial resources and channelisation of the same to promote investment. He said the seminar is organised with the aim of revitalising the market and drawing a roadmap for a long-term sustainable develop-

South teamwork is the key to pro-

moting cooperation in areas of

The two-day seminar will discuss topics such as privatisation of the public sector enterprises through the capital market, development of bond market, issues relating to foreign investment through capital market, investment of pension fund market consolidation and demutualisation, rules and regulations of valuation methods, IPO share pricing for cross-border trade, corporate governance, legal, auditing and accounting standards, role of the media, and other relevant

Policymakers and expert professionals from Bhutan, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, South Korea and Thailand have attended the semi-

Biman paralysed

downsizing the cost.

services to foreign flag carriers at Bangladeshi airports, they could not fly out of the country during this

Power and water supplies at the ZIA remained suspended, central airconditioning system was switched off and telecommunications were also disrupted during this time.

Local private airlines GMG however operated some flights from the

Biman sources said the strike caused the national flag carrier 'direct loss' of at least half a million dollars. Biman could earn this money by providing the foreign flag carriers services like cleaning, ticketing, ground power supply, cargo and luggage handling, engineering etc.

Eyewitnesses said passengers coming to Dhaka in four Biman flights and Qatar Airlines' one faced unprecedented ordeal. They could neither collect their baggage nor rest properly due to lack of electricity or water. They arrived at the airport

"Worse still, they had no idea what is happening and why they are stranded," a Biman staff told this

At one stage, the jittery passengers broke some glasses inside the airport building and flung plastic chairs at the waiting lounge, witnesses said. Many of these passengers were

awaiting a connecting flight.

A number of incoming passengers left the ZIA without their baggage. Biman assured them that their uggage would be delivered later.

In Chittagong, 109 out of 177 passengers of a Biman flight arriving from Abu Dhabi left Shah Amanat International Airport without their baggage when they came to know about the strike. The others however kepton waiting at the lobby.

Moreover, around 80 Dhakabound passengers who came from Dubai and Abu Dhabi remained stranded at the airport.

In the capital, more than 3000 Biman employees belonging to five different associations early yesterday morning gathered at the Biman headquarters -- Balaka -- chanting anti-establishment slogans.

At about 11:30am, the agitating staff beat up a member of Biman Officers Association and ransacked some office rooms at Balaka while their leaders were negotiating with State Minister for Civil Aviation Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin and the Biman authorities.

The leaders agreed to withdraw the strike as Nasiruddin signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with them.

The 5,500-strong Biman staff have six associations. Five of them led by a steering committee are pressing for an 11-point charter of demands. This committee on Monday night decided to enforce the strike.

Their demands include 220 percent hike of their pay, withdrawal of Biman's retirement order for Captain Nasim, who is president of Bangladesh Airlines Pilots Association (Bapa), removal of the director flight operations for alleged negligence to duty and curbing corruption in the national airlines.

Biman staff raised the demand for pay hike after the government started implementing the new pay scale for its employees. Biman staff are still drawing their pay as per the previous salarystructure

22 more jockeys FROM PAGE 16

broker when I was only three-andhalf years old. It was really a very hard job and sometimes the camel owner even beat me mercilessly," said Mintu.

He said they were paid about 300 to 400 dirham each. Taslima told journalists that she had been working there as house-

"I'm not a broker. I went there as a housemaid and was leading a very happy life with high salaries and good fortune," she said in an apparentunhappytone.

steering committee had a meeting with the state minister on September 9 to discuss the pay hike. Although the minister initially disagreed over the pay rise, he concluded the meet ing verbally promising a pay hike in instalments

As part of the process, a proposal for the new pay is supposed to be placed at the Biman Executive Directors' (ED) meeting. But the steering committee became impatient at the delay in fixing a date for the meeting. The authorities finally scheduled the meeting for yesterday. Meanwhile, Biman abruptly

chief Captain Nasim that angered the While unofficially talking to the steering body leaders on Sunday, the state minister flatly denied making any promise about pay hike. He also declined to formally meet them that

ordered forced retirement of Bapa

day, the sources said. "A week ago, we gave a notice to the authorities with an ultimatum to resolve the issues by Monday. Otherwise, we will be compelled to go for a strike," said Fakhrul Alam Bhuiyan, convenor of the steering

committee. The committee also faxed its strike decision to all the 11 foreign airlines that operate flights to Bangladesh, he added.

The MoU states the authorities will increase staff pay by 62.5 percent in three phases -- January, July and December this year. About the Bapa chief, it was

decided that he would go into retire-

ment 18 months later as per the service rules. When contacted, Biman acting Managing Director Mahmoodur Rahman said, "The agitating staffs did not serve any prior notice about

the strike. On the pay hike issue, he said, "On Monday, we issued a letter assuring them of implementing a new pay scale. But they were not happy with it."

Mahmoodur admitted that

Biman incurred a huge loss due to the strike but he did not give any figure, saying, "It will take time to assess the He also said the Bapa chief's retirement order was issued as decided by the Civil Aviation

Aurhoritty of Bangladesh, "He was

found medically unfit after April 2004

in two rounds. 2 RU teachers

The clashes began at 11:30am, when two rival groups of JCD led by Akram and Babu, hurled cocktails at each other over a follwing a scuffle over borrowed money.

There were also exchanges of crackers when Akram group attempted to enter Sher-e Bangla Hall where Babu group took shelter.

ICD men also assaulted and hurled abuses at RU Proctor Prof Shamsul Alam and Student Advisor Prof Zahid Hasan Milky when they tried to quell the unrest.

Police intervened half an hour later and brought the situation under control. After the clashes, a group of JCD leaders asked the authorities for

postponing the MBA exam on the

pretext that RU JCD Joint Convenor Masudur Rahman Rana, Tomal, Shamim and Babu, also examinees, were injured in the clashes. The Examinations Committee Chairman Prof Sheikh Md Shamsul Arefin told them that the VC Prof Altaf Hossain (who was staying in Dhaka) ordered on phone to post-

pone the examinations as the

examinees belonging to JCD have been injured. At the postponement decision, nearly a hundred angry examinees held a demonstration in front of the unsafe foods. Management department. They Three other mobile courts also surrounded Student Advisor Milky raided different restaurants and fast and informed himEthat Rana and Babu were not allowed to attend the

exam for being non-collegiate. "We postponed the examination to avert further clashes," Milky told the journalists.

Pak PM not happy over Saarc performance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pakistan Prime Minister (PM) Shaukat Aziz has expressed disappointment over the performance of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) due to what he said the differences existing among the member states.

Addressing an international conference on "China and the emerging Asian Century" at the Institute of Strategic Studies in Islamabad yesterday, Aziz said the Saarc has failed to perform like the Association of South East Asian nations (Asean) and other regional Shaukat Aziz observed that reso-

lution of these differences through political and diplomatic channels is necessary for effective performance of the Saarc, according to a report of GEO Pakistan news agency. An Indian UNI report quoted the

Pakistan PM as saying, "The Saarc remained a hostage to certain issues in the region, largely due to ties between India and Pakistan."

He urged the Saarc states to take steps to resolve their problems in order to make the grouping stronger. He also called for making the body more effective and urged the members to promote economic

Aziz said Pakistan has taken the lead to revitalise regional cooperation. Apart from South Asian Free Trade Agreement (Safta), the group-ing adopted Saarc Social Charter at the Islamabad Summit, hoping that it will play an important role in improving the lives of people in South Asia and eradicate poverty, he added.

Delhi to consider

FROM PAGE 16 there is no proposal as of now to take up any Himalayan river link.

He said he was taken aback by the 'extent of disinformation" in Bangladesh about India's interlinking project. "There was even an apprehension that the Brahmaputra would be linked with the Ken-Betwa link and reach Uttar Pradesh state. We removed this misgiving," the minis-"India emphasised that none of the links of the Himalayan region

concerns of the neighbouring coun-tries were examined and addressed in an open and transparent manner," He said India did not agree to Bangladesh's suggestion for includ-ing the inter-linking programme as

rivers will be attempted until the

part of the specific agenda and it was discussed as a "miscellaneous item". Dasmunsi said India has offered to review the 1996 Ganges Water

India maintained that sharing of waters was as per the prescribed formula. Under this, the average receipt of waters by Bangladesh in the last nine years has "exceeded" the flows indicated in the treaty while the flows received by India had been less than the "prescribed indicative flows", the Indian minister said.

On the issue of sharing of Teesta waters, the Joint Rivers Commission recognised that the lean season flows will not meet the requirements of India and Bangladesh. While India wants Teesta waters for irrigation, Bangladesh needs it for navigation, he said. The secretary-level joint commit-

October and April to determine the modalities and dependable flows for sharing of water based on existing data, according to Dasmunsi. He said Bangladesh's apprehensions about the Tipaimukh dam project were "cleared" and Dhaka was assured that the project has no

component for irrigation and was

meant for power generation and

tee of experts will meet between

flood control only. Nabisco fined

found the number of such packages has significantly reduced," Rokan

Ud Doulah told journalists. Earlier, the court raided an herbal medicine factory named Green Pharmaceutical at the city's Kathal Bagan, but failed to seize its oral saline, which is presently being sold in the markets without any expiry date and without the

approval of the drug administration. The workers of Green Pharmaceutical said the manufacturing of their oral saline, named Green Tasty Saline, presently remains suspended, but the owner, Khodadad Ahmed, denied the claim, saying they just manufactured it on a trial basis, not for selling.

found that the medicine company had not taken any permission from the government to set up their The court directed the concerned authority to take action by

carrying out a thorough investiga-

The mobile court, however,

tion in this regard. Another mobile court of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) raided Coffee House Chinese Restaurant and Malancha restaurant at Elephant road and fined them Tk 11,800 and 5,000 respectively for keeping an unhygienic environment, using many unlabeled materials and serving

food shops in Gulshan, Motijheel and Dhanmondi, filing 14 cases and fining them Tk 1,29,000 for keeping their kitchens unhygienic and selling foods that were not properly

Fuel station strike

government depots from today. As a result, there will be no stock of fuel available at the pumps, which means avirtual strike

Contacted, the energy ministry adviser blamed the association leaders for calling the strike as only two of their demands have link to his minis-

He said the ministry in the last one month took some strict measures, which have lessened kerosene consumption by 33 percent and petrol by 11 percent. The association leaders have called the strike as these measures are hampering their interests, he

Moreover, most of the association members do not support the strike, the energy ministry adviser added.

He said they have formed a committee to look into the interests and demands of petrol pump owners that will submit a report on October 31.

Instead of joining the committee the leaders are enforcing a strike for suspicious reasons, he alleged. Meantime, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) in an official letter

eaders to join a discussion at 10:00am "We will sit with the BPC, though it has no authority to meet our demands," Mohammad Nazmul Haque, president of the association, said. They had held talks with the BPC in the past that brought them no

yesterday asked five association

The leaders said they will continue

Iraq's al-Oaeda FROM PAGE 16 be a Palestinian, infiltrated into Iraq

have killed 1,200 Baghdadis," mostly in car bombings, Rubaie said. Lunato said Abu Azzam, also known as Abdallah Nahim, but whose real name was Abdallah Muhammed Al Juhaari, was "the second-most wanted al-Oaeda

in April, and "we believe he must

person in Iraq". He headed al-Qaeda in Baghdad and was operational commander for the organisation in the country, she "He was killed in a joint operation

of Iraqi and multinational forces

Sunday at 4:50 am" in a high-rise building in the city after being located thanks to "multiple intelli gence sources and information from a close associate," she said. "During the operation, which was held with the intent of capturing him, he fired and he was killed by return

fire," she said, adding that one other insurgent was wounded in the raid. al-Qaeda in Iraq is held responsible for some of the more spectacular attacks in Iraq, along with multiple kidnappings and beheadings, and Zarqawi has declared "all-out war" on the country's majority Shias.

In the latest attack against secu-

rity forces, 10 people were killed by a

suicide bomber wearing an explo-sives belt who blew himself up in a crowd waiting outside police recruitment centre in Baquba, a restive town northeast of the capital, police said. Many of the victims were newlyrecruited policemen reporting for

Another 26 people were injured in the A car bomb also exploded in a

civilians were hurt. Buet VC

festival of the Hindus

FROM PAGE 1 College and Hospital. Buet students at a press conference on Saturday called an indefi-nite strike demanding a seven-day vacation for the largest religious

However, Buet authorities had declared a one-day holiday for October 12, festering resentment among general students. Two groups of students yesterday locked the two main entrances to the university and barred students,

When the VC was heading towards the Buet Central Mosque to say Zohr prayers, agitating students demanded that he should announce a seven-day vacation. But the VC rejected the demand saying classes would not be held for four days in addition to the one-day

teachers and staff to enter the cam-

official holiday. The students demanded official announcement of the four days as Durga Puja vacation, but the VC rejected it.
Witnesses said the VC during the
altercation handed two students over to police, but others rescued the two from the cops.

When the VC was returning from the mosque, angered students asked him why he had turned the students in to police. In response, the VC accompanied by Director of Students' Welfare Anwar Hossain asked the students' names, departments and roll numbers. The students lay down on the road and chanted slogans against

each other for over 15 minutes, the witnesses added At one stage, police and JCD activists arrived on the scene and rescued the VC and the director. The police clubbed the agitating students to disperse them, leaving at least four injured.

the VC, demanding his resignation.

Both the sides were manhandled by

The students took out a procession and held a rally at the Buet Shaheed Minar where up to 15 JCD activists threatened them. processions from the Buet residential halls reached the Shaheed Minar and attacked and drove away the JCD men. The students said their agitation will continue until the 'fundamen-

talist'VC resigns. Tension runs high on the campus after the incidents. Additional police have been deployed to avert further

for comments.

The VC could not be contacted

the strike until their demands are met. The 12-point demand includes hike in sales commission and compensation for operational loss due to

storage leakage and evaporation of petroleum fuel. Forming a monitoring committee, issuing light firearms licences for petrol pump owners, establishing testing labs at the government depots to prevent fuel adulteration and framing a guideline to establish petrol pumps and CNG stations are other

The association leaders urged the government to immediately form nine vigilance teams as proposed

arlier to stop fuel adulteration. The leaders said they are the legal banner of petrol pump owners as only they have the membership of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce

and Industry.
On the other hand, two factions of Bangladesh Petrol Pump Owners Association are not joining the strike and will keep their businesses open. Currently, there are about 1,700

petrol pumps for oil distribution

3 JCD men

FROM PAGE 16

cross the country.

ostami area on November 12, 2003. Sources said Bablu was a JCD activist loyal to State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin. The six convicted were loyal to Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman, the sources added.

The factions loyal to the ministers Mir Nasir and Noman had serious

rivalries over issues like supremacy in the area, share of extortion and formation of party committees in Bayezid Bostami and Sher Shah Colony areas. The murder of Bablu at the colony ground was a consequence of their feud, sources said. Bablu's mother had filed a murder case with the Bayezid Police Station accusing nine including the six punished by the tribunal. The investigation officer (IO) submitted

long investigation accusing a total of 14 persons on August 22, 2004. The monitoring cell of the home ministry on August 23 sent the case to the tribunal. The verdict came after 135 working days with 14 out of 33 prosecution witnesses examined. The seven who got acquittal were: Jahan Chowdhury, mother of Masud and Sohel, Abdur Rashid Titu, Rashed, Mohammad Hasan,

the charge sheet after a ten-month

Mohammad Jamal, Quamrul and Mansur, All except Masud and Sohel are absconding since the murder, court sources said. Special Public Prosecutor Quamrul Islam Sajjad moved for the state while lawyers Pradip Kumar,

US Gulf Coast

FROM PAGE 15 Evacuees streamed back into Houston, which was spared Rita's worst, and although the return was far more orderly than the chaotic evacuation of the fourth largest US

man who returned after evacuating central Baghdad street as a private to central Texas, said the sparse convoy passed by. Police said five supplies were a concern. "I did the right thing," he said of getting out of Rita's way. "I just worry about get-ting food."

> Beaumont Fire Department said. One person was killed in a tornado in Mississippi and 23 elderly

Texans perished in a bus fire during the evacuation on Friday. Reports of another three deaths in Texas could not be confirmed. But in Louisiana's coastal Cajun country, where Rita pushed up to 15 feet of sea water 35 miles inland, and where the Coast Guard, wildlife wardens and National Guard troops rescued hundreds of people from

rooftops or atop water tanks, no deaths were reported.

Alcide "Joe" Boudwin said his heart sank when he saw the twisted

thrown from rooftop to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The son-in-law of an officer-incharge (OC) allegedly pushed a teenage home help from the roof of a four-storey building to death as the

working at the house of Shahana Begum, daughter of OC Zakir Hossain of Jamalpur Sadar, died at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) after she was taken there at Mohammad Hasan, husband of

girl tried to resist Hasan but at one of oint, she fell from the rooftop of the Police arrested Hasan In another incident, Saddam Hossain, 10, son of Borhanuddin, allegedly committed suicide at his of

him for failing in school exam.

failed to pass the Higher Secondary Certificate exams this year, tried to commit suicide taking poison in different areas in the city.

Parameshwar and Nasir Uddin

their first day at work, police said. city, traffic was heavy and shops remained low on supplies. Roland Moreno, a maintenance

> Rita's death toll jumped to six on Monday, when five people were found dead in an apartment in Beaumont, Texas, from breathing carbon monoxide from a generator, District Chief Jeff McNeel of the

ruins of what had been his home in Home help

girl resisted him from raping in Mirpur in the city yesterday. Maleka Akhtar Shilpi, 14, the girl

6:00am at his Kalyanpur house alleged her aunt Ambia Begum. The

Shahana, tried to rape Shilpi at

Bangshal house in Kotwali. Family sources said Saddam hanged himself from the ceiling of a bathroom after his parents scolded

Meanwhile, five examinees, who