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**FOOD ADULTERATION**  
Mobile courts to up action before Ramadan

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Activities of the mobile courts will be expedited throughout the country before the Ramadan to implement the new law to check adulteration of food.

The decision was taken yesterday at a meeting of the officials of different concerned offices, including magistrates involved with the mobile courts, with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair.

The minister said after the publication of gazette on the new law, the activities of special and specific courts will start drives across the country before the Ramadan.

The meeting decided that sanitation inspectors engaged by the city corporations and municipalities in

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**JCD men as poll officials hurt EC credibility**

Fema observes

UNB, Dhaka

Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (Fema), a non-government electoral watchdog, yesterday expressed concern at the recent appointment of 150 JCD activists as upazila election officers on recommendation of the Public Service Commission (PSC).

The appointment, just before the preparation of countrywide electoral rolls for next general election, has not only created distrust but has eroded the credibility of the Election Commission (EC), Fema said in a statement.

It said to restore the confidence of all stakeholders in the electoral process and ensure the participation of all political parties in the general election, the EC should

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**Criminal killed in 'shootout' with police**

BSS, Narayanganj

A wanted criminal of Fatullah was killed and two policemen were injured in a 'shootout' between the police and a gang of criminals at Kashipur Goalbandh in Fatullah early yesterday.

Police said the criminal, Rubel, 30, of Kashipur, had been wanted in seven cases, including three for murder.

The injured cops, Abdul Haq, 40, and Asad Ahmed, 45, were admitted to Rajbarag Police Hospital with bulletwounds.

Police seized one gun with three bullets and a revolver left by the criminals at the shootout spot, police said.

**Lack of investment prospect taking funds out of Asia**

President says at ICC seminar inauguration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday said the surplus funds of the Asian region are invested outside due to a dearth of investment opportunity.

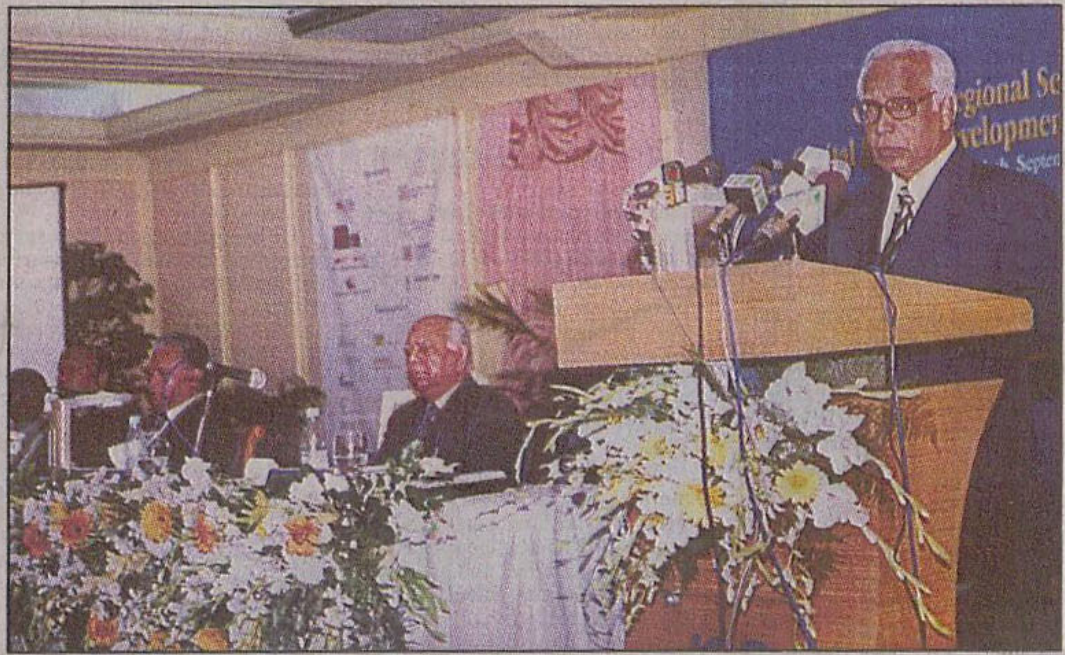
The president said uniform listing rules will facilitate cross-

border listing of securities within the region which will ultimately increase supply of securities.

He said this while inaugurating a two-day regional seminar of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Bangladesh styled 'Capital Market Development: Asian Experiences' as chief guest at a city hotel.

Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Choudhury, Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Chairman Mirza Azizul Islam, ICC Bangladesh President Mahbubur Rahman, ICC Bangladesh Vice-president Latifur Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

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President Iajuddin Ahmed addresses the Dhaka regional seminar of International Chamber of Commerce, Bangladesh at a city hotel yesterday.

**US Gulf Coast left in rubble, floodwater**

REUTERS, New Orleans

Parts of the US Gulf Coast lurched back to life on Monday after Hurricane Rita, although many areas remained under rubble or floodwater after enduring a second major storm in less than a month.

At least six people were killed in Texas and Mississippi, police said, but despite taking the brunt of the storm, Louisiana appeared to have recorded no casualties. The US oil industry also seemed to have avoided the worst.

"This is not going to be easy folks, it's not going to be fast. Recovery is a

slow, methodical process," said David Paulson, acting director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Paulson said mass evacuations clearly saved lives.

More than 1,000 deaths, mostly in Louisiana, were blamed on Hurricane Katrina, which reached shore on August 29.

Low-lying New Orleans, ruined by Katrina and partly flooded again after Rita swept through during the weekend, began to allow residents of one of its most devastated neighbourhoods to check on their homes.

Some in St. Bernard Parish saw

for the first time what Katrina had done when floodwaters breached the levees protecting the city and also tore apart a tank of crude oil at a nearby refinery.

"I don't know what I think. Thinking makes me cry," said Diane Delaune, 44, as she stood outside her house and looked at black sludge coating the ground and thick, alien-looking blue-grey mould stretching 9 feet up her walls.

"We'll rebuild and then we're selling the son of a bitch," said her husband Kenny, 51, as he hauled out the couple's few unscathed possessions.

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**Saarc Summit groundwork on track**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin yesterday said all necessary preparations are going on in full swing to make the 13th Saarc Summit in Dhaka a complete success.

He said all concerned ministries and authorities are working relentlessly to ensure foolproof security, comfortable accommodations and other necessary arrangements for the heads of state of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) and other members of their delegations.

"Everything is set and we can reassure that the 13th Saarc summit is going to be held on schedule," he said.

Talking to the diplomatic corps at his office, the foreign secretary informed he had a preparatory

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**22 more jockeys return home**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Twenty-two minor boys, who had been working as camel jockeys in Abu Dhabi, returned home yesterday by a Biman Bangladesh flight.

The Biman flight with the jockeys and three brokers among other passengers landed at the Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport at around 9:00am. The airport immigration kept them in their custody and later sent them to Dhaka, following an instruction from the Ministry of Home Affairs, by the same flight at 4:35pm.

Of the 22 camel jockeys, identities of only five aged 9-15 and one broker were confirmed until 7:45pm yesterday. They are Mintu, 9, of

Gazipur, Karim, 15, of Boalmari in Faridpur, Majid Alam, 15, of Cox's Bazar, Jasim, 13, of Dhaka, and Hasan Ripon, 14, of Dhaka. Broker Taslima claimed herself to be the mother of Mintu, sources said.

Following initiatives of the Bangladesh Embassy in Abu Dhabi, police recently detected and held the jockeys. After their detention, the embassy took measures to send them back home.

Talking to journalists at the airport yesterday noon, some of the jockeys revealed that many more young children are still working in Abu Dhabi and other Middle Eastern countries as camel jockeys.

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**Accused OC of Motijheel refuses to report to police lines**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rafiqul Islam, the closed officer-in-charge (OC) of the Motijheel Police Station accused in the murder of a college student, is refusing to report to the Rajbarag Police Lines in violation of rule.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday asked him to immediately report to the police line.

DMP Commissioner SM Mizanur Rahman yesterday issued the notice to the closed OC who is the prime suspect in the Mirpur Commerce College student Kamrul Islam Momin murder case.

When asked whether the closed OC would be arrested for his link with the murder, the commissioner

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**JCD men assault 2 RU teachers**

3 hurt in clash

RU CORRESPONDENT

At least three students were injured and two senior teachers, including the proctor, assaulted when two groups of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) clashed on Rajshahi University campus yesterday.

The authorities, pressurised by the JCD, postponed the MBA first semester examinations of Management department, sparking instant protests among the general students.

The injured JCD activists--Manik, Bulbul and Shamim, all resident students of Sher-e-Bangla Hall were admitted to RU Medical Centre.

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**Iraq's al-Qaeda top man killed**

AFP, Baghdad

Iraq yesterday claimed a major coup with the killing of al-Qaeda's number two in the country as a suicide bomber blew himself up at a police recruiting centre, leaving 10 dead.

Nato Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer visited Baghdad to inaugurate a training mission, the first direct alliance involvement in Iraq since the 2003 US-led war to oust Saddam Hussein, which caused a rift amongst the allies.

"We managed to kill the number two of al-Qaeda in Iraq," national security advisor Muwaffaq Rubaie

told AFP.

Abu Azzam was shot dead Monday in a joint US-Iraqi raid on a safe house in Baghdad following a tip-off from a local Iraqi, he said, although US military spokeswoman Lieutenant Michelle Lunato said he was killed Sunday.

Rubaie described the operation as "a major coup" which would likely hobble insurgent forces loyal to Jordanian-born Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq and the country's most wanted man.

Abu Azzam, who was believed to

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**RIVER-LINKING Delhi to consider Dhaka's concern, says Dasmunshi**

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

India said on Monday it has assured Bangladesh of keeping the latter's concerns in view if and when rivers having origin in the Himalayas are taken up for linking as part of the ambitious inter-linking of river basins.

Water Resources Minister Priyaranjan Dasmunshi told reporters here that during his recent visit to Dhaka he has conveyed to Bangladesh that India proposes to take up peninsular river links under the inter-linking programme and

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**Security to be tightened in Ramadan**

Says Babar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar yesterday said the government has taken adequate measures to maintain law and order during Ramadan and Durga Puja.

Talking to local journalists at the office of the deputy commissioner of Khulna, the state minister reiterated the government's determination for stringent measures to deal with the terrorists. "None will be spared if involved in the August 17 serial blasts," he said.

Babar urged people to cooperate with the law enforcers. He said the government has tightened security in all key installations across the country.

Later, the state minister attended a closed-door meeting to discuss the law and order situation.

The meeting was attended by the cabinet secretary, the home secretary, the inspector general of police, the director general of Rapid Action Battalion, the DIGs of Khulna and Barisal Ranges, the deputy commissioners and police super of Khulna and Barisal divisions and the commissioner of Khulna Metropolitan Police.

**3 JCD men to die for killing**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal of Chittagong yesterday sentenced three Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) men to death and three others to life imprisonment in the Shafiqul Alam Bablu murder case.

Tribunal Judge M Hasan Imam handed down the death sentence to the JCD cadres Abdul Quader Masud, Abdul Malek Sohel and Mohammad Jahangir and life imprisonment to Saber Ahmad Tarzan, Lutfar Rahman and Md Afsar. The tribunal, however, acquitted seven others accused in the case.

Sohel is also a convict sentenced to life in the former Chittagong port authority (CPA) chairman commodore Golam Rabbani murder case, sources said. Sohel and Quader's mother was also one of the accused but she was acquitted.

Court sources said Shafiqul Alam Bablu, former science and technology secretary of JCD city unit, was killed by the criminals due to a feud over supremacy in the city's Bayezid

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