$BDR\ chief's\ comment\mid_{\tiny \texttt{FROM\ PAGE\ 16}} \tiny \texttt{Wage\ Board}$

AL itself will take decision whether it will participate in the election or not, Hasina said replying to a query on the comment of ruling party leaders that she went to India to take suggestion about AL's running in the next election.

AL does not take decisions at any Truth unveils one day and the one's dictate, she added. truth has been unveiled," she said.

Altaf denies links

"Why does the government feel so The former PM, who was the targe nervous if I visit India on personal of Mufti Hannan's abortive assassina ground?" said Hasina, who offered tion attempt, said, "It has also been fateha at Ajmer Sharif and had meetproved that the BNP-Jamaat governings with Indian PM, Leader of the ment are the patrons of the militants Opposition, Congress Party chief Sonia and extremists.

extremists and militants.

must be looked into," she added

Referring to a statement of Mufti

Hannan, the opposition leader said it

has now been proved that the former

home minister Altaf Hossain

Chowdhury had given shelter to the

Hasina said Prime Minister Khaleda The former prime minister said in Zia, who is in charge of home and the meetings she had discussions on defence ministries, will have to answer poverty alleviation, establishing lasting as to what she did in protecting the peace and strengthening regional public life.

"It seemed that there is no government in the country. If there is no government, why people will pay tax,"

Replying to a query, Hasina said the PM and other leaders can say whether Saarc Summit will be held after the abnormal situation created out of the comment of the BDR chief.

Senior AL leaders received her at

"Mufti Hannan did not say anything

When reporters told him Hannan's

On whether Hannan made the state

ment on apprehension, he said Mufti

Hannan is not of that nature to saying

anything inconsistent on apprehension

"I know him, he is a courageous man. He is

an alem passed from India's Deoband

Madrasa. He had fought Russian troops in

four to five others had met him at his office

Baitul Mokarram Mosque three years ago.

We talked standing on the street and we

for cases of his party men and alem-ulema

after he was made home minister, he

had met Abdur Rahman, chief of

Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB),

which is blamed for the August 17 coun-

trywide blasts, in Medina but never in the

IOJ Chairman Mufti Fazlul Haq Amini

who was also present at the press confer-

ence, said Hannan had lied if he disclosed

did not have any further contact."

Muhiuddin admitted Hannan and

"Last time I met Hannan in front of

He met Altaf many times and lobbied

Moulana Muhiuddin also admitted he

about me. A vested quarter is propagating

these to disgrace the alem community,

statement was recorded at Rab office, he

said, "Ifhe had said it, he lied."

on return from Afghanistan.

he alleged.

cooperation in the sub-continent She denied she had any commen on American invasion. Referring to a Press Trust of India (PTI) story circulated in Bangladesh by

 $Gandhi\, and\, senior\, ministers.$

America." "Moreover, there was no reporter of PTI at the place mentioned as the dateline of the report. Their objective

erased from the charge of attempt to

assassinate Sheikh Hasina, the then prime

The commerce minister's office

vesterday tried to contact monthly

Madina Editor and Islami Oikya Jote

leader Moulana Muhiuddin, who, accord-

ing to Hannan, played mediator between

commerce ministry officials that

Muhiuddin will arrange a press confer-

ence to protest Hannan's version," said a

ence that he had never lobbied with Altaf

whether Hannan at all linked Altaf to him

and, if he did, what exactly he had told

Saturday, the Huji leader said he had

contacted Altaf (the then home minister)

through the editor of monthly Madina to

get his name erased from the Hasina

mercy petition and asked me not to move

openly until situation normalises,'

Hannan said. "Although I submitted a

mercy petition, the home minister (Altaf)

was made commerce minister before he

could do anything for mercy to me,'

Hannan said, adding that he did not flee

vesterday afternoon from the commerce

ministry said Altaf Hossain vesterday

protested reports on Mufti Abdul Hannan

Hossain, the rejoinder said: "The minister

mentioned that he never met Mufti

Hannan, he does not know him. So, there

The Press Information Department

also sent a letter to The Daily Star office las

night for publishing the rejoinder with due

Law enforcers have started a massive hunt

for Shakil, who has reportedly been

possessing deadly arms and also used to

Altaf's nephew, possesses a cache of

grenades and deadly arms, Rab sources

Anis are jointly running readymade

garments business at Basundhara super

market at Panthapath in the capital.

Besides, he was involved with a

Manikganj-based NGO, and used to

supply money to the militants, sources

Madina editor Moulana Muhiuddin

Khan, also senior vice-chairman of Amini

faction of Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ), denied

having relation with Mufti Hannan. But he

admitted they had earlier met more than

Muhiddin said at a press conference held

to protest against Hannan's claim that he

(Muhiuddin) mediated between Altaf and

"He is a good man and a good alem,"

Admitting that the former home

minister is a friend of him, the IOJ leader

said, "I never went to Altaf Hossain with

nished by publishing motivated and false

news in the new spapers in this regard," he

said, terming publication of such news

California, wrote the letter to appreci-

ate Bangladesh's \$1 million donation

to the relief fund for the Katrina vic-

The warmth of the heart of Aldana

May be it is unusual for a super-

nower like the US to accept a grant

from a third world nation like

Bangladesh. But certainly the donation

helped win the hearts of people like 10-

The Bangladesh embassy has

received thanks not only from the Bush

administration but also from ordinary

citizens by post, e-mails and phone

could be felt in the letter that bears the

impression of her palm where she

signed, saying "A hand of thanks."

Dhaka's \$1m

FROM PAGE 16

year-old Aldana.

"My image has been severely tar-

Shakil went into hiding after Hannan's

Shakil, who used to identify himself as

Shakil and Hannan's younger brother

supply money to Mufti Hannan.

(Hannan) to submit mercy petition

Signed by public relations officer Ali

the country on the minister's assurance.

"The minister advised me to submit a

Muhiuddin later told a press confer-

Altaf's office also tried to verify

Talking to reporters at Rab-1 office on

"Mohiuddin's office assured the

minister and President of the main oppo-

sition Awami League.

the Huii leader and Altaf.

commerce ministry source

for Hannan.

journalists

murder attempt case.

ALTAF'S DENIAL

that involved him.

ALTAF'S NEPHEW

"INEVERLOBBIED

FOR HANNAN"

claimed.

BSS and UNB news agencies, she said,

"I did not have any comment on

Meeting insiders said representatives of journalists and employees demanded 60 percent DA while the owners' representatives suggested 20 percent, prompting the chair to apply his judgement in settling the matter, which was unanimously accepted by

Officials said the recommendation would now require government

The Sixth Wage Board came nine years after the fifth Wage Board, though the wage boards are supposed to be constituted every five years under the provisions of Newspaper Employees (Condition of Services) Act 1974.

The last Wage Board had announced 35 per cent DA, but this is for the first time that the owners, journalists and employees have reached a unanimous decision on

KL vet FROM PÅGE 16

from Bangladesh has remained suspended since 1997 while the country sent back thousands of undocumented Bangladeshi workers during this time.

Bangladesh's contesting for the post of OIC (Orgnisation of Islamic Conference) secretary general last year and her refusal of a number of investment proposals from Malaysian companies are the main reasons behind not opening the market for Bangladeshis, ources said.

Meanwhile, although Malaysia declared that they would allow re-entry of the workers returning home after expiry of job tenure, only around 2,000 workers out of some 14,000 Bangladeshis who returned home after

But others declined as the Malaysian authorities asked them to join fresh jobs where they would be treated as beginners, often with very poor salary compared to what they got

Meanwhile, officials at the expatriates' welfare ministry said several hundred Bangladeshi workers went to Malaysia during the last few months on ndividual recruitment. Besides, two autonomous provinces of Malaysia recruited a few thousand Bangladeshi

In mid 90s around half a million Bangladeshis went to Malaysia for job. Most of them came back home after expiry of job tenure or in the face of crackdown on undocumented workers

Low causes

Muhiuddin's name

A message faxed to The Daily Star office FROM PAGE 16

admitted.

The weathermen told The Daily Star that the low over the west central Bay and the adjoining northwest Bay off Orissa coast is unlikely to weaken by tomorrow increasing the possibility of

is no possibility of suggesting him The office also added that 45mm to places over the country during this

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been asked to hoist local cautionary signal number three and inland river ports signal number two.

All fishing boats and trawlers on the north Bay have also been advised to keep close to the coast and proceed

with caution. In Dhaka, residents of Mirpur, Badda, Uttara and Old Dhaka have been witnessing a severe waterlogging problem for another spell due to the

avy downpour. Our Comilla correspondent says Vast areas under Comilla Sadar and different upazilas including Comilla town have been inundated due to flash

floods caused by the ongoing heavy rain as well as onrush of hilly water. Standing Aman paddy on 3,500 acres of land under Chowddagram,

Laksam and Barura upazilas has been submerged and vegetable gardens of about 2,000 acres under Burichong, Comilla Sadar, Debidwar and Chandina upazilas have been damaged due to the heavy rainfall. The day to day life in the district

town has been paralysed with about two-third of the town going under knee-deep water, causing great sufferings to the dwellers.

The water level of the river Gumti is also increasing following the heavy rainfall and onrush of hilly water.

Our Barisal correspondent reports: The low-lying areas of the Barisal region, including the Barisal and Patuakhali towns, went under water because of the rainfall and high tide under the influence of full moon.

Local weather office recorded 111mm and 96mm rainfall in Barisal and Patuakhali during the 24-hour period till 6:00pm yesterday.

Transplanted aman paddy fields, 1200 shrimp enclosures and over 5,000 ponds went under water in the affected areas of the region. Road communications with

Patuakhali, Baufal, Dasmina and Kuakata tourist zone were cut off, after several ferry ports including Dapdapia of Barisal and Boga, Kalapara, Mohipur and Hajipur of Patuakhali went under

Barisal and Patuakhali river port $authorities\, have\, already\, stopped\, plying$ of passenger water craft below 65 feet in ngth due to the bad weather.

Meanwhile, about two kilometres stretch of the flood control embankment under Patuakhali district have been badly damaged, officials of Water Development Board (WDB) and the upazila administration said.

meeting of the board, constituted to refix the wages, allowances and other benefits of journalists and newspaper and news agency workers and employ-

approval for its enforcement

that declaration went back to Malaysia.

vorkers in last couple of years.

9 candidates

FROM PAGE 16 Jote and opposition Jatiya Party

(Ershad) has one lawmaker each. The elected BNP lawmakers are

Khodeza Emdad Lata, Newaz Halima Arlee, Fahima Hussain Jublee, Rasheda Begum Hira, Rezina Islam and Saimun Begum while the elected Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker is Rokeya

The two other elected female lawmakers are Naima Sultana of Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) and Nur-e-Hasna Lily Chowdhury of Jativa Party (Ershad).

BNP has 36 out of the 45 reserved seats for women in the JS while Jamaat has four, Jatiya Party (Ershad) has three and Bangladesh Jativa Party (BJP) and IOJ has one each.

Land transfer

FROM PAGE 16

making the Hebas, Bantan Namas (Partition Deeds) and Baina Namas (Deeds) in the amendment to land registration act-2004 mandatory is against the spirit of the constitution and Muslim law.

He also said the provision of making the latest Khatian for transferring lands in the land transfer (amendment) act-2004 is to cause harassment.

Petrobangla

FROM PAGE 16

giant's proposed \$2.5 billion investment plan in Bangladesh.

The Tata officials gave a detailed presentation on the open-pit mining at the meeting. Tata has proposed to use around 3 million tonnes of coal annually from Barapukuria coal mine for its

Earlier, the Prime Minister's Office in principle decided to award a part of Brapukuria coal mine to Tata on build, own and operate (BOO) basis by bending rules.

The government negotiation committee headed by Secretary of the Ministry of Communications Shafiqul Islam has set a detailed schedule to continue the third round talks for the next three weeks.

After vesterday's meeting, officials of both sides said the negotiation is on the right track to sign the final deal by this year. Both sides are optimistic about the signing of the \$2.5 billion deal in time.

"The government is very much positive towards the investment deal and it is advancing well," said Shafiqul The group will again meet with the

Petrobangla officials and the National Board of Revenue (NBR) today to discuss issues relating to gas security, tax exemption and fiscal incentives.

Tata, India's largest private sector group, intends to set up a 1,000 MW power plant, a steel mill with an annual capacity of 420,000 tonnes and a one million-tonne capacity fertiliser fac-

The Bangladesh wing of the British company in its study shows that the mine has 572 million tonnes of high quality coal. The two-year study costing \$18 million involved 300 people to see environment impact of the project

On September 11, the Department of Environment gave the company environmental clearance for the open

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Asia Energy (Bangladesh) Gary Lve handed over the feasibility study and scheme of development to the director of the Bureau of Mineral Development of the energy ministry.

"The operating cost of the mine for 30 years will be \$10 billion," Lye told a press conference at Sheraton Hotel vesterday. During this period, the mine will produce coal worth nearly \$24 billion. The average price of coal has been estimated at \$50 per tonne. Lye's economic projection shows

that in 30 years' time, Asia Energy will earn \$7 billion while the government will earn a royalty of \$.2 billion and \$2.8 billion as corporate tax. The Bangladesh Railway, Mongla port authority, income tax division and customs department will earn another Replying to a question on the low

royalty rate for the government, which is only 6 percent of the mine's revenue, Gary says, "Six percent royalty is a global standard. The government will earn more through corporate tax and other ways. The (regional) infrastructure will be boosted, which will not happen without this project."

If the government approves the plans, the company will start land acquisition next year, mine development in 2007 and start production of 1.5 million tonnes of coal a year from 2008. Production will gradually increase to 15 million tonnes per year "We are now preparing the financ-

ing documents. We are also making a land acquisition plan and we intend to

The database report shows that the

ministries overseeing forests and

environment, the private sector, relief

and disaster, and finance belong to a

of the opposition lawmakers, all the

ruling BNP lawmakers and members of

the body echoed Nazmul Huda's view

on the TIB findings and blasted the

non-governmental organisation

committed to countering corruption

for tarnishing the image of the alliance

government by publishing baseless

"The standing committee system,

which is effective enough to ensure

accountability of the ministry, has not

raised any such allegations against the

communications sector," a meeting

source quoted Huda as saying while

Criticising the newspapers for

running 'false' reports, he said, "It was

I, who as the information minister had

Hinting at the Bangladesh chapter

of TI, he said people in the country are

not fit to probe the so-called corrup-

tion situation. Rather people from

outside should be brought in, if

Ruling BNP lawmaker Manjur

Hossain said the TIB has prepared the

report with an ulterior motive. "We

want to look into the way TIB had

nrenared the report," meeting sources

If the TIB report is found false, a

Later talking to journalists after the

meeting, Manjur denied making any

call for framing laws against journal-

Ruling BNP lawmaker and commit-

legal notice can be issued on it, he

quoted Hossain as saying.

needed, to probe.

initiating a discussion on the issue.

ensured the freedom of the press."

Meeting sources said in the absence

more corrupt grouping

JS body to probe

take the land from 2006," Gary said Showing an aerial 'gravity map' of a large coal stream, Gary said a part of Phulbari town is situated on the coal stream, requiring relocation of 40,000 people. In any large project, a nation needs to relocate people for greater

"Coal production will trigger jobs and industries. Hopefully there will be a win-win situation for all.'

Other than coal, the mine will

produce gravel, silica sand and other high-end minerals that will have positive impacts on other types of The CEO noted that the company aims at exporting 4 million tonnes of

coal to India a year through railway via

Darshana border post, 8 million tonnes to other countries through Mongla port and supply 3 million tonnes to the Gazipur-based domestic market. On the question of open pit mining versus underground mining, he said, "Usually underground mining is done when open pit is not possible. Underground mining poses a great risk

safe and it allows 90 percent coal In 30 years' time, the company will dig up an open pit at one point and proceed to another when extraction of coal from that spot is over. The old spot will then be filled up with earth so that

of land collapse. The coal recovery rate

is only 25 percent. Open pit is proven

people can productively use it. A total of 67 separate reports were incorporated in the feasibility study and scheme of development, detailing different aspects of the mine ranging from mine design and water management to coal handling, processing and

community) Anwarul Islam were also

between Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New York last month that ended without any major announcement or concrete initiatives, as many had

Even before that meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, the neighbours exchanged barbs on their long-running dispute over the Muslimmajority Himalayan region of Kashmir.

remains divided by a ceasefire line, the result of the two countries' first war over the territory soon after independence from Britain in 1947. Tens of thousands have died in Indian

separatist revolt against Indian rule India wants Pakistan to do more to stop militants slipping across the ceasefire line into Indian Kashmir.

rights abuses in the region. launched a so-called composite dialogue on a whole range of issues including

While little progress has been made towards a resolution of Kashmir, the two sides have reached agreement in several diplomatic, sports and transport links, as well as on some trade and prisoner

with the lack of movement on Kashmir. "The whole exercise of the peace process and the so-called composite dialogue has, unfortunately, been centred on peripheral matter and gloating over

"We must realise that the idea of composite dialogue has come a cropper and rethink our policy," the newspaper

India and Pakistan have gone to war three times, twice over Kashmir. "Now it's high time for both countries

they have to agree to give some relief to Kashmiris," Ayaz said. "They're continuously talking about

people-to-people contacts, which is a move forward," he said.

sides had agreed on the need to withdraw troops from a disputed Himalayan glacier but both sides say there are problems over verifying positions before a pull-back.

on the Siachen Glacier, the world's highest battlefield at 18,000 to 22,000 ft in the mountains of northern Kashmir. But one avenue of cooperation on

energy appears in jeopardy since late last month when India joined the United States in voting to refer old friend Iran's nuclear programme to the United Nations Security Council for possible sanctions. India has been planning, along with Pakistan, to build a \$7 billion gas pipeline overland from Iran across Pakistan.

at risk in the wake of India's vote at the international Atomic Energy Agency's governing board meeting.

Hearing cancelled

FROM PAGE 16

Mollik pleaded for accepting the Naraji cancelling the final report that created

Their opponents Advocate Hamidul Haque and Nazrul Islam prayed for recording the final report and a hearing on the naraji petition.

Mili's father Mansur Rahman Mollah, the plaintiff, in the Naraji petition alleged that the final report that was made on the basis of a suspicious DNA test, was motivated and influ-

He claimed that documents that were sent for DNA tests were not the same as those were seized.

During the demonstration on the court premises against the final report, police intercepted the protesters when they tried to reach the court building.

They also held a rally, which was addressed, among others, by Mili's mother Hasina Begum, freedom fighter Zalal Uddin, Mohila Parishad General Secretary Kalpana Roy and women leader Morjina Khatun. Nine-year old Mili was raped and

killed in the city on May 3 this year.

Motijheel OC FROM PAGE 16

stayed at a hideout and appeared before the HC yesterday with an anticipatory bail petition.

Ordering police not to arrest Rafiq, the HC bench of Iustice Sheik Rezowan Ali and Justice Sheikh Abdul Awal asked him to surrender before a lower court in four

Deputy Attorney General Abdul Baset did not oppose his prayer. Former law minister Advocate Habibul Islam Bhuiyan and ruling BNP

the petitioner. Gunmen killed Momin, a student of Dhaka Commerce College, on September 13 in front of his Ibrahimpur house. His

to arrest the OC and merely closed him to Rajarbagh Police Lines on September 15 as his name was on top of the 26 accused in the FIR (first information report) filed with Kafrul Police Station.

Police have so far arrested 13 of the FIR-listed accused. Momin's family alleged Rafiq was

press conference in Dhaka that OC

victim, but no-one was hurt. Unknown callers also threatened the victim's family to withdraw the case, the

Moon moves

Once again, though, astronomers are urging those without the proper viewing equipment not to look directly at the Sun with the naked eye; blindness could result.

In the UK, only a partial eclipse will he visible: the Moon will be seen to take a large chunk out of the Sun

Depending on where one is standing, between 44 percent (Aberdeen) and 64 percent (Plymouth) of the Sun will be covered, according to the Society for Popular Astronomy.

Not every eclipse can be total. The Moon's orbit around the Earth is not perfectly round; the satellite's distance

apparent size in our sky fluctuate by

Sun on the near side of its orbit, it totally

the far side of its orbit, the satellite will not completely obscure the star's disc and a ring or annulus of sunlight is seen. The effect is to throw an "antumbra'

'path of annularity'

significantly dim for those in this path, a substantial portion of sunlight will still be visible and potentially highly dangerous to anyone tempted to squint Unless you have access to a teleing Moon and Sun on to a piece of

A good option will be to watch the event on one of several websites geared

The path of annularity across the Earth's surface begins out in the North Atlantic at 08:41GMT Its snake-like route then takes it across the Iberian Peninsula, passing Madrid at 08:56 GMT; crossing the western Mediterranean and moving on to the African continent, and arriving at

south-eastern route, through southern

After briefly skirting northern Chad, the antumbra sweeps across central Sudan where the period of greatest eclipse will be experienced at

four minutes and 31 seconds, according to the US space agency's "Mr Eclipse", Fred Espenak, who has become an oracle for eclipse calcula-The path then heads along the

before entering Kenya and Somalia. It leaves land at 11:30GMT and only a ship in the Indian Ocean could experience the end of the eclipse at 12:22GMT.

path of annularity and with clear skies should look for the "beads" or "gems' that skirt the fiery ring.

streaming through valleys and past mountains on the Moon's surface. This is the fourth annular eclipse of

"We will hunt down the perpetrators

"I received information at the time

Dozens of people, most of them

Indonesian, waited in tears outside the

morgue in Sanglah Hospital, near the

island's capital Denpasar, for news of

friends and relatives missing since the

with 12 Indonesians, Hospital officials

that terrorists were planning an action

in Jakarta and that explosives were

Bali bombers

Video footage of one of the blasts showed groups of tourists, many of them apparently Westerners, seated at candlelit tables talking and sipping drinks in the seconds before the explosion. The footage, obtained by Associated Press Television News, then shows a bright flash accompanied by a loud bang and gusts of black smoke.

It was not immediately clear whether the three suicide bombers were included in the death toll, which

Long lines formed at checkout counters at Bali's international airport with a steady stream of taxis dropping

"We were up all night trying to change our ticket," said Veli-Matti Enqvist, 51, who had been scheduled to leave Bali with his wife on Wednesday. when they heard the blasts. "We finally found something ... we're going."After the 2002 bombings, there was an immediate and massive evacuation of foreign visitors which devastated the island's

The latest bombings struck two seafood cafes in the Jimbaran beach resort and a three-story noodle and steakhouse in downtown Kuta. Kuta is the bustling tourist centre of Bali where the two nightclubs were bombed three

The latest attacks came a month after Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono warned of possible terrorist attacks. On Saturday, he blamed terrorists and warned that more attacks were possible. The president was in Bali on Sunday to see the devastation firsthand

2 die in Satkhira

FROM PAGE 1 Locals informed police after finding the

A bomb squad of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) rushed from Dhaka and neutralised the bombs.

Indian press FROM PAGE 1

correct", he said.

criminals might have been involved," he said, adding, "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs thinks the BDR DG's comments were distorted and there is a communication gap on the part of Indian Ministry of External Affairs". The important thing is not to dwell

on the misunderstanding but to continue the useful and constructive talks held between two friendly countries, which is also recognised by the Indian side, he added.

ournalists that the Bangladesh foreign ministry was yet to communicate with its Indian counterpart in this regard. It was reported in the press that

criminals in India colluded with those in Bangladesh to stage the August 17 India reacted sharply to the

Kotalipara nor had he taken part in staging the August 17 blasts. A student of Sarsina Madrasa in Barisal, Hannan studied in Deoband madrasa in India. After graduating

the Harkatul Jihad.

Asia Energy submits No breakthrough last year after they went to the brink of a fourthwar in 2002.

Both countries claim the region but it

Kashmir since 1989, when a Muslim

Pakistan says Indian forces should stop Despite their fundamental differences over Kashmir, a ceasefire has held there since late 2003 and the two sides have

other areas including the restoration of But frustration is growing in Pakistan

settling them," Pakistan's the Nation newspaper said in a Sunday editorial.

good sign, but both countries have to In a sign of the progress the old rivals have made, Indian Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee said last week the two

Several thousand soldiers have died

But analysts say that project could be

The probe bodies were once again given a week's extension of time to

The sub-committees will be again to submit reports in a week," Manjur Hossain, chairman of the

The parliamentary body on January last year formed a sub-committee headed by Nadeem Mostafa to probe the allegation against Nazmul Huda of allowing only one company to import

parliamentary body, told The Daily

It formed another sub-committee Hague Rubel on February 14 last year to probe the allegation against State Minister for Communications Salah Uddin Ahmed in allocation of lands to

set up CNG filling stations. Both of the sub-committees had been asked to submit report in a month. But despite having been

granted several time extensions, they

The government side represented by

Law Secretary Jainul Abedin moved for

family had a dispute with the OC over a piece of land near their house. Police authorities did not take a move

threatening them from his hideout. They expressed apprehension at a

Rafiq's going free poses a threat to their Earlier on Thursday, unidentified gunmen opened fire on the house of the

family alleged. Another police officer is now behind bars for a similar incident. disgraceful".

Singh's visit follows a meeting

In London, this partial eclipse starts at 08:48BST and ends at 11:18BST.

from the planet varies from about 356,000 to 407,000km (221,000 to 253,000 miles). This difference makes the Moon's The annular duration here will last

about 13 percent. If the Moon happens to eclipse the

blocks out the star (a total eclipse). But if the Moon eclipses the Sun on

or "negative shadow" on the Earth's surface as the Moon moves across the face of the Sun. It is the track of this antumbra that is referred to as the And although the daylight will

scope or binoculars equipped with proper solar filters, or approved eclipse glasses, the advice is to use a pin-hole camera technique to project the eclips-

up to stream it. Algiers a 09:05GMT.

From there, the path follows a

Tunisia and central Libva.

southern Sudanese-Ethiopian border

Those lucky enough to be in the

These are caused by sunlight

the 21st century. The next total solar eclipse is on 29 March, 2006. It will traverse equatorial West Africa, the Sahara, the western Mediterranean

and bring them to justice," he said. Western and Indonesian intelligence agencies have warned repeatedly that Jemaah Islamiyah was plotting more attacks in the world's most populous Muslim country. Last month, Yudhoyono said he was especially worried the extremist network was

climbed to 26 on Sunday, according to Sanglah Hospital spokesman Putu Putra Wisada. Six Americans were among the

off passengers. The couple was walking on the beach

tourist industry.

vears ago.

bombs in plastic jugs.

accused of being involved is "not "The BDR DG said that some Indian

The spokesman, however, told the

BDR DG Jahangir Alam at a press conference in New Delhi after official talks with BSF DG on Friday said

remarks while the Indian Ministry External Affairs at a press statement on Friday night said the BDR DG's remarks were totally "baseless and

One Australian and a Japanese citizen were among those killed, along

ready," he said Saturday.

were trying to identify the other victims.

about to strike.

Mufti talks

FROM PAGE 1 were dropped from the Kotalipara Under interrogation by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Hannan has confessed to planting 76-kg bomb at Kotalipara on July 20, 2000, but he did

not elaborate on how he got involved

Interrogators had tried to know

in the plot, sources said.

about how and where the bomb was manufactured, which types of explosives and materials were used in it, and from where the materials were collected. But Hannan kept mum about all those questions. "He has also been quizzed about

other blasts that took place in the

country, but nothing could be elicited," an investigator said seeking anonymity. In the forwarding report placed before the court yesterday, police did not mention that Hannan has already been sentenced to life imprisonment in an arms case. According to the law, if a person is given any punishment in

absentia, it must be mentioned in the forwarding report. A Dhaka court sentenced Mufti Hannan to life in prison on December 30, 2003 in an arms case in absentia. In the verdict, the court said that the punishment of the convict would take from the day of his arrest or surrender.

But his punishment did not begin

to apply from Saturday, as there was no

custody warrant against him in connection with the arms case. Hannan told Metropolitan Magistrate Kamrunnahar that he went to Pakistan for study in 1979 and later he visited some other countries also for study. He said he returned home in

On his return, he had set up 'Al Hamdullah Hafezia Madrasa' at Kotalipara. He claimed that he had not been

involved in planting the bomb in

1981. He went to Afghanistan in 1984

for military training.

from a madrasa in Karachi, he later joined the Afgan war against the Soviet occupation. He was even wounded by bullet in a battle there. Returning home at 1995, he started organising

Protest rages on against

Phulbari municipal town to create public awareness about harmful effects including environmental and social hazards of

Chairman Shahajahan Ali as its convenor. "People of Phulbari are getting united to resist the open pit mining as it will result in a long term environmental and socio-economic hazards for residents of 40- square km area," Shahjahan told this

and other commercial units within a 6,500-hectare area might face removal in the process of coal mining using open pit method, he pointed out, "This will destroy the heritage and culture of Phulbari. We cannot allow this to happen, and therefore, we are protesting open pit mining.' Replying to a question, the municipal

the communications ministry **PROBE INTO THE CNG SCAM** The parliamentary body at yesterday's meeting also discussed the progress of

The two sub-committees formed to import of CNG run auto-rickshaws and allocation of land to set up CNG filling stations have yet to produce any report.

Earlier on Saturday, the chairman told The Daily Star that he would not extend the probe period. dissolved automatically if they fail

CNG-run three-wheelers.

tee member Fazlul Haque Milon at the meeting said the newspapers do not

Protection Committee addressed a rally organised by the committee at the municipal town on September 24. Speakers at the rally, attended by

several thousand people, demanded that

the government must take steps within

three weeks to stop Asia Energy from

going ahead with its mining project.

The rally was addressed by Sheikh Mohammad Shahidullah of the protection committe, Abdul Matin of Bangladesh Socialist Party and Tipu Biswas of the Communist Party of Bangladesh. Meanwhile, Badruzzaman, a geolo-

gist of Asia Energy, said the company has

set up an information centre at Phulbari to enable local people to know about the gigantic project. East Phulbari would fall in the mining area and a new township with all civic amenities would be developed on the west of the Chhoto Jamuna river as an extension of the existing western part of Phulbari town, he said. "The affected people will be compen-

sated for their loss of land, property and livelihood," he claimed.

Asia Energy Bangladesh's head of corporate affairs Brian Mooney, General Manager (GM) Mushfiqur Rahman and GM (environment and

"We should also look into whether any other ministry is involved with the TIB to divert the development fund from

they confine themselves to desks. They

Ruling BNP lawmaker Nadeem

Mostafa said if need be, suits can be

filed against TIB with the High Court.

do not bother to go to the spot.

the stalled probe into the corruption allegations against the minister and state minister of the communications probe the allegations of corruption in

submit reports.

headed by BNP lawmaker Mahmudul

report on good works of the government. Most of the time while reporting failed to come up with any report.

the mining project. The 171-member committee is headed by Phulbari Municipality

correspondent. All houses, schools, madrasas, shops

chairman however said people of Phulbari would consider giving up their

protest 'if the method of mining is

Leaders of the National Oil and Gas