

When poverty makes

Arab Emirates (UAE) under a govern-

ment initiative have revealed these

Five years ago, when they were

Phulmoti, 40, and Abdul Aziz, 75,

of Barura upazila under Comilla were

easily lured by two local brokers to

send their children. Tareo. 10 and

children, eight from his first wife,

Hazera Khatun, and five from his

second, Phulmoti. The couple lives in

a two-room house on eight decimals

of land at Puranchal village. Abdul has

not a single piece of land for cultiva-

The possibility of a job for their

children was therefore a welcome

prospect. "The brokers promised that

they would train and employ the

children in the garments factories,"

Phulmoti told The Daily Star after

recently receiving Zahed and Tareq

from the BNWLA officials at the

Kasami Governement Primary School

that time we had no other way ... we

could not provide them with food nor

could we have. So, we thought if they

could work and had good food... what

sons to the dalals (brokers) if I knew

that they would have to ride on cam-

els and undergo such tortures...I

would even beg for them, but not

allow them to be sent," Phulmoti

Officials of the Bangladesh

National Women Lawyers'

Association (BNWLA) say these are

common scenarios. Victims of traf-

ficking are from very poor families or

families where the parents are not

present, making the children vulnera-

Another woman, Saleha Begum,

30 of Barura gave her son Lokman, 10,

to her relative Shefali to be taken to

the UAE. "Shefali said Lokman and

her son Sajeeb would go to school and

she would work in the UAE, so I hap-

take stringent measures against those

involved in terrorist activities using the

name of religion. The process of appre-

hending the culprits has been continu-

ing and they will be tried under the law,

Highlighting her government's

success in economic, education and

health sectors, Khaleda said those who

do not like to see this progress have been

trying to destabilise the situation. She

urged all including the businessmen to

remain alert against the vested quarters.

A 28-member delegation of the

board of directors of the country's apex

business body led by its President Mir

PM seeks help

pilv handed over my son to her.

FROM PAGE 1

she said.

"Surely I would not hand over my

is the wrong," Phulmoti said.

"What would we do...tell me...at

Altogether, Abdul Aziz has 13

nearly starving with only two meals a

facts.

dav.

tion.

at Barura.

regrets

Zahed, 12 to Dubai.

The mother of four sons and one

daughter, Saleha said her husband

Shajahan had no job. He also had no

land, and worked only 2 to 3 days a

week as a day labourer. For the last 6

months he has not even been at

little Lokman to a foreign land far

from me? I would never do it if my

husband could manage our living,"

Barura, who took Saleha's son to

Dubai, was also a divorced lady. She

said she was living a miserable life

with no support from her parents

after her husband divorced her about

posed to me that I could go to Dubai

and work, but I would have to take at

least two children with me. The dalal

said the children would go to school.

Then I pursued Saleha allow me to

take Lokman," Shefali said. But after

the arrival in the UAE, she was not

given any employment. Instead, the

children were taken to the camel

According to BNWLA officials, it is

always hard for a mother to hand over

her children. But the harder reality of

hunger, familial and social depriva-

tion make them so desperate that they

do not hesitate to leave their own

children to someone else, they added.

imposed on poverty. The way these

children were taken to a foreign land

by false promises also falls under

trafficking," said BNWLA Executive

Investigations have also revealed

that many of the fake parents who

accompanied the children while

going to the UAE and coming back

showed the children as their own in

the passports. This is also called

Salma Ali cautioned that greater

care for the poor is required to check

their vulnerability. "The ultra poor of

the country need special care from

the government and non-

government organisations to help

curb the reasons of trafficking," she

freedom, will also project the achieve

FBCCI President Mir Nasir Hossain

He lauded the government's success

Mir Nasir said hartal is a democratic

appreciated the achievements of the

government in various sectors like

in curbing terrorism and demanded

continuation of the activities of Banid

right, but its misuse is creating adverse

effects on the country's economy and

image. He stressed the need for consen-

sus of all political parties on major

economic, health and education.

ments of the country.

Action Battalion (Rab)

national issues.

Director Advocate, Salma Ali.

trafficking, she added.

observed

"But still, the blame cannot be

"Just at that time, a 'dalal' pro-

"How could I allow sending my

Shefali, 23, of Shakpur village of

home, she said.

Saleha adds.

4 years ago.

races, she added.

Ctg judges get death | Flood tightens

In Chittagong, following Monday's bomb attack on one judge and yesterday's bomb threats to three, the judges are now feeling too insecure. Some them even asked for bullet-proof jackets and stepped up security at and around their residences and offices, sources said.

Court sources said the unknown callers made phone calls to the offices of the three judges between 9:30am and 9:45am. The callers first asked about the

 $identities \, of the \, judges \, and \, hung \, up.$ A few minutes later, they again rang the judges and threatened them with

bomb attacks on their courtrooms, the sources added. BDNEWS adds: The higher authori-

ties were immediately informed of the anonymous phone calls.

The judges, officers, employees, lawyers and litigants in Chittagong Court Building were reeling under bomb phobia for the third consecutive day yesterday as security measures were not foolproof. Many judges and magistrates were

found shortening the court proceedings. An assistant judge, who received bomb threats yesterday, had to adjourn hearing on Tuesday for security reasons. " I took the chair but left the court

saying the proceeding could not be held for security reasons," said the judge.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports: The three judges who were threatened vesterday informed the matter to District and Sessions Judge Abdur Rahman Patwary and Metropolitan Sessions Judge Anwar Hossain

Later, a large contingent of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) led by the deputy commissioner (special branch) reached the court premises. They were put on guard in front of the judges' rooms.

The Chittagong District Bar Association at a protest rally vesterday demanded resignation of the state minister for home for what it said failure to ensure security in the court, BDNEWS added.

The rally held to protest Monday's bomb attacks on three district courts blamed Jamaat-e-Islami, a component of the coalition government, for 'patronising' militant fundamentalist outfit the JMB, which orchestrated the recurrent bomb attacks on courts

Vice President of the Bar Association Didarul Alam Chowdhury, former general secretary Montosh Barua and advocates Kamaluddin Iftekher Saimul and Jashimuddin, among others, addressed the rally held in front of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court

Terming courts as the last resort of the people for justice, the speakers urged the government to beef up security measures so that judges, magistrates, lawyers and litigants feel secure on court premises, the news agency added.

UNB adds: The judges of the Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge, Chittagong at an emergency meeting on Tuesday asked the government to take

adequate security measures for courtrooms and precincts.

The meeting was called in the wake of Monday's bomb attacks on the courtrooms in Chittagong, Chandpur and Laxmipur. At least two people were killed and scores injured in the attacks. Meantime, Supreme Court Registrat

M Fazlul Karim told the news agency in Dhaka they have already asked the home secretary and top police officials for adequate security measures for the Supreme Court and all subordinate courts at district level.

Our court correspondent reports Islami Ain Bastabayon Parishad, a militant organization, yesterday mailed three leaflets, similar to those spread on August 17, to Dhaka Bar Association (DBA), asking lawyers to help establish

Islamic rules in the country. Panic gripped the lawyers and court officials on receiving the leaflets.

'The leaflets were sent to the president, general secretary and office secretary by post at around 10:00am,' DBA President Abdus Sabur told The

Daily Star yesterday. "The leaflets were written in Bangla and Arabic." The panicked officials of the DBA mediately informed police, Rapid

Action Battalion (Rab) and intelligence agencies. Security measures have been beefed

up in and around the court precincts, and no-one without official purpose was allowed to enter the court premises. The law enforcers set up check posts

at all the entrances to the court and searched all people with metal detec-

The incident halted regular activities of the court and the crowded courtrooms remained empty after 1:00pm as news spread

Bimstec

FROM PAGE 1 task force to work out the terms of reference and to recommend the course of action after taking into account the work done on such a

pipeline. Thailand would host the first meeting of the task force on the gas pipeline early next year, Indian Power Secretary RV Shahi said.

He said a Bimstec Centre for Energy is likely to come up next year to enable member countries to share experiences in reforms, restructuring, regulation and best practices in the

energy sector. The location for the posed centre is yet to be decided. There was no concrete form of cooperation in the unconventional sources of energy but it was felt that

member countries could focus on small hydro projects, solar energy and generation of electricity from rice husk The Bimstec countries would draw

on each other's experiences on rural electrification as well as on efficient development of coal resources.

Cooperation in the energy sector is one of the main areas identified by the Bimstec countries when the economic group was set up in 1997.

village under Hakimpur upazila were killed when a wall collapsed on them during rain on Tuesday morning.

Besides, two children drowned in floodwater at Tarpanghat village under Nawabganj upazila. They are Russell, 12, son of Ansar Ali, and Farhad, 9, son of Abul Kashem.

Some 50,000 people were marooned and around 5,000 others rendered homeless due to the continuous downpour since Saturday. Most of the homeless people took shelter on high lands and in educational institutions.

The flood paralysed normal life across the district and caused a huge damage to crops. Classes remained suspended in most of the educational nstitutions for the last three days.

According to the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) sources, the incessant downpour inundated around 30,000 hectares of cropland in the district.

The district town is experiencing a evere waterlogging with some parts of the town and adjacent areas reeling under waist-deep water.

Local met office recorded 593mm rainfall in four days till yesterday. The worst affected seven upazilas are Sadar, Ghoraghat, Hakimpur, Nawabganj, Chirirbandar, Parbatipur

and Khansama Water Development Board sources said the water level of the

rivers Punarbhaba and Atrai increased by 33.5mm and 38.5mm vesterday. The Punarbhaba was flowing 45mm above the danger level and the Karatoa 1.25mm.

Most of the homeless people who took shelter on high roads and at educational institutions have been starving for the last few days due to lack of food. Around 150 families of Dinajpur

town also took shelter at different schools as rainwater entered their houses.

Safiqul Haque Chhutu, chairman of Dinaipur Pourasava called an emergency meeting vesterday to help the flood affected people and collected Tk 1 lakh for them. Deputy Commissioner (DC) of

Dinaipur Surat Zaman also directed all upazila nirbahi officers to take necessary measures for the affected areas of the district. Distribution of relief has been going on in the affected

areas since last Monday. Meanwhile, import-export activities have remained suspended at the Hili land port for the last three days as most parts of the area went under water due to the downpour. NILPHAMARI

The flood situation in the district deteriorated yesterday with more areas going under water. More than 50,000 people remained marooned in Saidpur and Sadar upazilas, reports our correspondent from Nilphamari. Most of the two upazilas are reel-

ng under 3 to 5 feet water. Flight operations at Saidpur airport were suspended on Tuesday as about 1,000 feet stretch of the runway was inundated after heavy rain.

catch a Dhaka-bound flight.

trict

point.

the district town.

The flights, however, resumed yesterday after the airport authorities pumped out the water, said Abul Kasem, station manager of the airport. The suspension of flight on

According to the District Relief

Office, 13 metric tones of rice has been

allocated for the flood-hit people of

Nilphamari Sadar upazila including

The Teesta was flowing at a height

Power supply resumed in the

district Tuesday night after 18 hours.

The collapse of a 33,000-volt electric

tower in Sadar Upazila on Monday

work at Saidpur railway workshop.

Floodwater entered the workshop

putting valuable machines at risk.

The flood also disrupted normal

The flood inundated about 10.000

hectares of standing crops, mostly

of 51.7 metre at the Teesta Barrage

Three share chemistry **Bali blast hunt** widens.

FROM PAGE 16

element in the world. Its combination with other elements, such as hydrogen oxygen, chrlorine and sulphur, provides an astonishing array of materials, ranging from living tissue to drugs and plastics that we now take for granted.

Chauvin, 74, of the French Institute for Petroleum, laid the theoretical groundwork for explaining how metathesis works by for the first time outlining how metal compounds act as bond breaking catalysts.

Before Chauvin's research, catalysts had been used to break carbon bonds but their role and reaction had not been fully understood.

His findings laid the groundwork for California Institute of Technology chemistry professor Schrock's quest for the metal that makes the most effective catalyst.

In 1990, Schrock, now 63, reported the construction of a group of very effective molybdenum catalysts, revealing that the metathesis method could be used for general purposes in organic synthesis.

Schrock's molybdenum catalysts later proved to have a downside, in that they were sensitive to oxygen and moisture

Massachusetts Institute of Technology chemistry professor Grubbs two years later discovered a ruthenium catalyst that was stable in air and could even initiate metathesis in the presence of alcohol and water.

Grubbs, now 60, thus found the standard catalyst which all new catalysts are measured against.

"This year's Nobel Prize laureates in chemistry have made metathesis into one of organic chemistry's most important reactions," the Nobel jury said on Wednesday.

Their findings "represent a great step forward for 'green chemistry', reducing potentially hazardous waste through smarter production", it said.

Among the benefits are advanced herbicides, additives for polymers and fuels and research into new treatment for bacterial infection, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, arthritis, migraine and HIV.

"Metathesis is thus an important weapon in the hunt for new pharmaceuticals for treating many of the world's major diseases,' thejurysaid.

The 2005 laureates will receive a gold medal and share a cheque for 10 million Swedish kronor (1.1 million euros, 1.3 million dollars) at the formal prize ceremony held on December 10, the anniversary of the death in 1896 of the prize's creator Alfred Nobel

Last year, Aaron Ciechanover and Avram Hershko of Israel and Irwin Rose of the United States won the Nobel Chemistry Prize for showing how our

Niko barely averts

FROM PAGE 16

days ago. has pumped in mud and is now pump-Tuesday caused sufferings to the

body cells give certain proteins -- the building blocks of all living things -- a "kiss of death" by marking them for elimination.

On Monday, the Nobel Medicine Prize went to Australian research duo Barry J. Marshall and J. Robin Warren for their pioneering 1982 discovery that ulcers are caused by bacteria.

And on Tuesday the Nobel Physics Prize went to Americans Roy J. Glauber and John L. Hall as well as German Theodor W. Haensch for groundbreaking $work \, on \, understanding \, light.$

The prestigious Peace Prize will be announced in Oslo on Friday and the Economics Prize is scheduled for October 10. The Literature Prize will most likely be awarded on October 13, but the Swedish Academy has yet to announce the date, which traditionally falls on a Thursday.

Hearing FROM PAGE 1

Additional District and Sessions Judge and acting judge of the tribunal KG Mostofa fixed November 15 for hearing the matters.

Monwara, wife of Jainal Sarker, another accused in Gabtoli explosive substances case, was also produced in the court vesterday.

Govt microcredit FROM PAGE 16

National Economic Council (Ecnec) at a meeting in April last year decided that the project would be kept under the Annual Development Programme (ADP) till June this year and then placed under revenue budget.

The implementation, monitoring network or an offshoot of it. In particand evaluation department (IMED) ular, police are hunting Malaysian under the planning ministry also militants Azahari bin Husin and evaluated the project and recom-Noordin M. Top. mended bringing it in the revenue sector.

The government, however, is yet to take any decision in this regard.

string of attacks in Indonesia, including nightclub bombings in Bali three On September 11, Rural years ago that killed 202, most of Development and Cooperative them foreign tourists. Secretary Hedayetul Islam made a written request to Finance Secretary United States and Australia, have Siddiqur Rahman Chowdhury for block allocation of Tk 11.50 crore for payment warned in recent days of possible new of salaries of the project staff and attacks in Indonesia.

meeting other expenses. Hedayet pointed out that if the oject is not continued, recovery of the 133.12 crore public money would become uncertain, and officials and employees of the project would be in

dire distress. He also sought suggestions from the finance secretary about running the project if a block allocation is not made. But the finance secretary is yet to

Following the second blowout in

Tengratila on June 17, Niko started

drilling a 540 metre "data well" in late

July to compile geological data that

would help it undertake a flawless

Being a very small company that

 $relief well \, drilling \, programme.$

tirely depends on hired c

respond to this.

by drilling a 500-metre relief well two

"A lot of gas has already escaped since the first blowout in January. That is why the pressure of gas which keeps on coming out has come down. Niko

fears of more attacks

REUTERS, Indonesia

Indonesian police widened their search yesterday for those behind weekend suicide blasts in Bali, and there were fears fresh attacks were in the advanced stages of preparation. On the resort island, Balinese

Hindus paused for a holy day of prayer four days after bombs ripped through packed restaurants. The three young bombers killed themselves and 19 others, and wounded 138.

"I look for blessings so that the spirits are gone," said Ketut Arini, 20, a waitress at one of the bombed eateries as she splashed water and placed offerings in the building.

Blasts at two eateries in Jimbaran and a cafe in Kuta Beach were almost simultaneous on Saturday night.

Police on Wednesday said they had nearly finished their forensic examination of the sites, and were considering reopening them to let people get on with their lives.

"The work here is almost done."

Bali police chief Made Mangku

Pastika told reporters as he surveyed

the Kuta Beach area. "Public activity

Police have launched a nation-

Attention has centred on the al

Qaeda-linked Jemaah Islamiah

Both are senior figures in the

Several countries, including the

"We continue to receive informa-

tion that attacks are in the advanced

stages of planning," New Zealand's

foreign ministry said in travel advice

President Susilo Bambang

Yudhoyono said on Wednesday he

had asked the country's military to

least 75 people about the attacks. Two

non-Balinese were being interro-

Police said they would also ques-

tion individuals across Indonesia

with links to previous attacks, includ-

ing some of those prosecuted and

making progress, no one has yet been

formally arrested or charged.

However, while police say they are

In Banten province on Java island,

police said they were seeking five

men linked to a convicted 2002 Bali

bomber now on death row. They said

gated for suspected involvement.

Police say they have questioned at

issued on Wednesday.

jailed.

help in the anti-terror fight.

shadowy JI network, blamed for a

wide manhunt and a senior officer

said it was focussed on Bali and the

needs to resume soon.

capital Jakarta.

JMB planned second

Galib in Kachua thana in Chandpur through a friend in February this year and joined the party," the JMB activist said.

He, however, failed to locate Galib yesterday, saying he does not know the address of Galib or if it is his real name at all.

The JMB activists used to sit at motivational meetings in Kachua once or twice a month, he said.

Mahfuz, whose organisational name is Faruq, confessed to having been assigned to blast a bomb in front of the Feni Press Club on August 17.

"But seeing a lot of people moving around there at the scheduled time [11:00am] that day, I abandoned the bomb without switching it on and left the area," Mahfuz told police during $primary\,interrogation\,yesterday.$

Verifying the information, Chandpur police confirmed that an unexploded bomb was recovered in front of the Feni Press Club.

"Mahfuz admitted to assigning Kalam and Belal for bombing at Chandpur court but said he did not go there to blast any bomb himself," Chandpur Additional Superintendent of Police (SP) Harunur Rashid told The Daily Star last night. Mahfuz, Galib, Kalam, Belal and a

few other JMB men met at Rahimanagar mosque two-three days before Monday and chalked out the details of the bombing at Chandpur court, according to Mahfuz's confes-

He also revealed the names of six local JMB leaders, which police did not disclose for the sake of probe. Police said they are looking for them. LAXMIPUR

IMB militant Masum, caught redhanded while blasting two bombs in the district on Monday, told police that he hurled the bombs despite knowing its consequences.

"We don't have faith in the laws created by humans and consider that the existing judicial system is against the law of Allah," the militant said during interrogation.

Since the judges, magistrates and lawyers "act against Allah", they are kafirs (non-believers), he said, adding, "We'll go to heaven for jihad against the kafirs and killing them.

He disclosed the names and addresses of some JMB leaders and activists, which police are verifying. "Most of the names appear to us as

organisational names," said a police KHULNA Nirala Tablig mosque in Khulna was

used for training a group of extremist IMB cadres how to carry out destructive missions, including murder, reports our Khulna correspondent.

The plan for the bomb attacks at 11 points in Khulna city and on Khulna University campus on August 17 was finalised at the mosque in the dead of night on August 14.

IMB cadre Shahidullah, 18, now being questioned in police remand, told investigators that 15 JMB cadres mostly aged 18-22, were present at the cret meeting.

Shahidullah was one of those who knew the modus operandi of bombs, he said, adding that the mosque was used as the venue to keep away suspicion.

Moulana Arif and JMB cadre Mahmud supplied the bombs at 11:00am on August 17 and sent the 11 cadres to the respective points of blasts, said Shahidullah.

Briefings of JMB cadres about jihad and how to operate arms and explosives in case of necessity were given several times at night over the last one year at the Tablig mosque

'We have information that Asadullah Al Galib [chief of Ahle Hadith Andolon Bangladesh] had visited the mosque several times since 2003," said a senior officer of Khulna Metropolitan Police.

Shahidullah further said he came in touch with Islamist militants Sumon and Faisal at Khulna Baro Bazar in 2003. "Sumon and Faisal introduced me to Moulana Arif at Nriala Tablig Masjid in 2003," he said.

Police said Sumon, a most-wanted JMB cadre in connection with the August 17 blasts, often visits India. According to Shahidullah, police caught him with firearms and explosives in Jhikargachha upazila of Jessore

in 2000 The militant told the police that the JMB has armed wings and women suicide squads in all major cities of the country and that they are dedicated to stage an armed revolution. Meanwhile, a case was filed under

the Explosive Substances Act against the three JMB activists held in Rajshahi Chapainawabganj and Panchagarh in connection with the August 17 serial bomb blasts

passengers including Taveba ing in water to maintain the stability the source added. Majumder, mother of the prime

minister, who came from Dinajpur to Niko Vice President Brian J Adolph in a press release yesterday said the company has successfully completed About 15,000 people have taken shelter at different schools, stadiums the drilling phase and it has started the and the Ansar-VDP barracks in diskilling operation of the exploded well.

"During this phase we will be conducting various types of operations which will require us to shut down periodically and observe the result. When we stop our pumping operation, gas, being lighter than water and mud, comes up to the surface in the relief well," he said.

"We released this gas on October 4 and flared it through our flare facility. It is a part of our normal operation. It should not be construed otherwise." Adolph said.

Niko started drilling the relief well with an undisclosed budget, using funds from its insurance company.

FROM PAGE 1

FROM PAGE 1

Bar council

aman paddy.

night caused the outage.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday urged the chief iustice to take necessary steps including deployment of law enforcement agencies to ensure security of the iudges. lawyers, and others concerned

on the court premises They sent to the chief justice a copy of the resolution of its Tuesday's meeting that said a sense of insecurity has been prevailing among the lawvers following the Monday's bomb attacks on in three district courts.

BNP, Jamaat

FROM PAGE 1

home ministry, said a senior officer of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) requesting anonymity.

We feel insecure in the wake of the bomb attacks in the country, said Mostafa Rashid Shuja secretary of Khulna district AL and former whip. Alhaj Mizanur Rahman, city AL secretary who received several death threats from extremists, also expressed his

concerns over the security issue. Most of the top leaders of Khulna AL, feeling insecure, have restricted their movements and political activi-

ties, said Sheikh Harun-ar-Rashid AI president of Khulna district.

for all work, Niko's faulty drilling in Tengratila led to the first blowout in January this year. The company

> started drilling in December with a target of reaching 1,700 metres. The government formed three

probe committees after this chapter and investigators told The Daily Star that Niko did not take proper safety measures and went on drilling up to 800 metres through the well, which had only 300 metres of concrete casing.

Niko then proceeded slowly for the remedial work. On June 17, the company once again proved its incompetence through the second blowout. Niko was found disqualified to

explore oil and gas in Bangladesh in the government's evaluation during the second round block bidding.

blamed it on hoarding.

Call for free

FROM PAGE 16

ing session.

In a statement, the Consumers

Association of Bangladesh (CAB) said

developed countries to provide spe-

developing countries and the LDCs.

Siddiqi, commerce secretary, Dr

Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive

director of CPD, Khushi Kabir, co-

International Chamber of Commerce,

Costly start to Ramadan

demand during Ramadan -- puffed rice and gram (local brand) -- also had a price hike of more than Tk 5 a kg, selling at Tk the price of fish has increased 35 per-34-36 a kg. cent, meat 13 percent, spices five per-Prices of other iftar items, such as cent, vegetables 37 percent, all within a

various categories of dates, ranged between Tk 45 and Tk 200 per kg vester day, against Tk 35 and Tk 180 previously Pressed rice sold at Tk 25 per kg against Tk 20 last week.

Prices of most essentials and vegetables in the kitchen markets that shot up by at least Tk 2-15 a kg over the last one week showed a fresh hike yesterday. of the WTO," the declaration added. Lentil was selling at Tk 52-56 a kg

yesterday, Tk 4 higher than on the previous days.

Onion and garlic yesterday sold at Tk 34-56 per kg respectively against Tk 26 and Tk 48 last week.

One kg of green chilli yesterday sold at Tk 80 and dry (red) chilli at Tk 65, against Tk 65 and Tk 56 respectively, potato and green papaya at Tk 14 and Tk 10, marking a rise from Tk 12 and Tk 8 respectively on the previous days.

Prices of bitter gourd, pumpkin, cabbage, cauliflower, lady's finger, patol, spinach, bean, and green leaves have increased Tk 4-10 per kilogram.

Orange sold at Tk 120 a dozen, rising from Tk 100 and apple (Australian variety) at Tk 80 a kg against Tk 60 a week

Traders at wholesale markets attrib-Bangladesh, and chairperson of NAC uted the price hike to torrential rain of the LDC Forum 2005 chaired the across the country, but other sources session

the men, several of whom have served jail time for possession of explosives, were wanted for questioning but not at this point considered suspects.

India reopens FROM PAGE 16

that the Indian secret service was abetting terrorism.

The South Asian rivals agreed in July 2004 to reopen both consulates, as part of a wider peace process launched earlier the same year and aimed at

ending nearly six decades of hostilities. The consulates in the two port

cities will make travel easier for members of families split during the subcontinent's partition in 1947, who can currently only seek visas at embassies in New Delhi and Islamabad.

Singh said that the opening of the consulate would coincide with the reopening of a rail link between southern Pakistan and Western India, which was cut off after the 1965 war between the two countries.

"We are looking forward to opening Khokrapar-Munabao railway link between Sindh and Western India," he said.

On Monday India and Pakistan signed deals to notify each other in advance of ballistic missile tests and to set up a hotline between their coastguards as Singh held talks with his Pakistani counterpart Khurshid Kasuri.

They agreed Tuesday to find a "We strongly criticise the lack of "common understanding" by January inclusiveness of the LDCs in the 2006 on the issue of the Siachen glacier governance and policymaking process in Kashmir, dubbed the world's high est battlefield, where both sides have The forum expressed its deep stationed thousands of troops.

concern over the lack of progress in The peace process was launched in fulfilling the commitments of the early 2004 to resolve eight issues including the dispute over the Muslimcial and differential treatment to the majority Himalayan state of Kashmir which is divided between Indian and Reaz Rahman, adviser of the Pakistan but claimed in full by both. foreign ministry, Faruq Ahmad

Ramadan FROM PAGE 1

chair of National Advisory Committee (special prayers), at night. (NAC) and coordinator of Nijera Kori The government has announced and representatives of other co-

new office timings for the month of organisers also spoke in the conclud-Ramadan in all government, semigovernment and autonomous and semi-autonomous organisations. Mahbubur Rahman, president of

BRTC has introduced special buses on the city's two busy routes so that people could return home without hazard from their workplaces for "iftar"

Macir Hoce minister at the International Conference Centre (ICC).

The FBCCI leaders appreciated the government for its success in curbing terrorism, particularly the arrest of the perpetrators of the recent bomb explosions

They assured the government of all cooperation in its efforts to maintain peace and stability and promote investment, production and trade in the country.

Referring to the upcoming Eid and Durga Puja festivals, the prime minister said the government has taken strong security measures to ensure safety of the businessmen

She urged the traders to avoid illumination in shopping malls as part of the government's energy saving measures.

Khaleda said her government is business-friendly and it has been working for the promotion of private sector. As a result, she said a congenial investment atmosphere is now prevailing in the country.

The present condition in all sectors in the country is better than any time in the past. The prime minister said and called upon the business community to work together to maintain the existing congenial atmosphere in the country.

Responding to a proposal to enhance efficiency of the ports, Khaleda said the government will extend all possible support to the proposals for building new ports in the private sector. She said the government enacted

new laws and amended old ones to facilitate trade and investment. If needed. new laws will be enacted for further improvement, she added.

The prime minister said huge proposals of foreign investment are now coming creating an opportunity of greater employment generation in the country, she mentioned.

She said the condition of jute sector has improved with the opening of closed jute mills and the jute growers are now getting fair price.

The prime minister referred to her Sergeant government's effort and her personal FROM PAGE 16 initiatives to promote export of jute to Moreover, the sergeant handed the Japan and medicines to different counrickshaw over to his source Rob, who tries and asked the business community later sold it to an unknown person at Tk to improve quality of their products to 3,000, the complainant said. expand market.

The sergeant also threatened Bashar with death if he discloses the incident or She hoped that the country's print files any case against them, Jahangir and electronic media, now enjoying full added

number of proposals on behalf of the business community, including enhanced government support for

The FBCCI president placed a

small and medium scale industries. The prime minister accepted some of their proposals and said the remaining ones will be considered after proper examination.

70 injured FROM PAGE 16

station 40km south of Gaibandha. The Gaibandha-bound Ekata Intercity Express entered the station and rammed the mail train waiting for clearance from behind.

Train communications through the station remained suspended for three hours until the damage compartment was removed.

The injured were rushed to Gobindaganj Upazila Health Complex.

The stationmaster blamed the mishap on the loco-master of Ekata for entering the station without clearance. He said it could be a major accident, but the driver managed to slow down the train.

No hearing FROM PAGE 16

ammunition hauled at Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Limited jetty on April 2 last year.

Charge framing of the other case filed under Special Power Act for smuggling in connection with the same arms haul, also did not take place yesterday and the court fixed its date on October 24, sources said.

Since the hearing of the arms case began on July 7, only five witnesses have been heard while one of them was declared "hostile".

Out of 43 accused in the case, 33 were arrested or surrendered. Of them, 20 are on bails and 13 behind the bars.

The others, including three prime accused -- Hafizur Rahman alias Hafiz, Din Mohammad and Abul Kashem Madhu have remained absconding.