# PM asks people

are the enemy of Islam, the country and the people," the prime minister said, adding that the government has taken steps to end such terrorist acts.

from noon to the afternoon in Keranigani and Nawabgani upazilas. laying the foundation of the third Buriganga Bridge and inaugurating two newly built bridges--Tulshikhali Bridge  $over the \, Dhaleswari \, river \, and \, Mohakabi \,$ Kaikobad Bridge over the Ichhamoti

Addressing the public meeting, she urged people to join the ongoing "nation-building movement" to expedite forward march towards a happy and prosperous Bangladesh under the leadership of the BNP and the coalition government

BNP-led alliance again into government to keep the continuity of the current flow of development activities being carried out by her government.

Khaleda said if the continuity of government is not maintained, the development programmes taken by the present government will be stalled.

Chaired by local MP Abdul Mannan. the rally was also addressed by Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury, State Minister for Labour and Employment Amanullah Aman, State Minister for Communications Salahuddin Ahmed, Sultana Ahmed MP and Fahima Hossain

Thanking people for coming to the meeting, Khaleda said one of her government's key objectives is to make

resources through education.

Listing her government's various pragmatic and successful education schemes and programmes, she said that enrollment for schooling hit the 100percent mark while dropout almost

The prime minister renewed her pledges that if the BNP-led alliance returned to power in 2007 general elections, women education would be free up to the degree level from the intermediate level.

Earlier, she unveiled the plaque of the foundation stone of the third

Buriganga Bride at Oaspur in Keraniganj The 708-meter-long bridge over the Buriganga from Oaspur to Basila in the capital's Mohammadpur area will involve Tk 48.86 crore funded by the government and Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

The bridge is scheduled to complete in three years.

She also opened Tulshikhali Bridge over the Dhaleswari river in Keranigan and Mohakabi Kaikobad Bridge at

### Pvt airliners

civil aviation ministry yesterday took the decision with State Minister for Civil Aviation Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin in the chair.

The decision came as Bangladesh Biman became unable to carry its share pilgrims mainly due to lack of adequate aircraft. Biman has also failed to hire aircraft for carrying the

# Essential drugs turn

leading pharmaceuticals companies are either unavailable or already selling at a higher price.

'They have either stopped or reduced supplying those medicines for the last ten days," said Anawar Hossain, manager of the Lazz Pharma on the Mirpur Road.

As a result, the public is compelled to buy those medicines at a higher rate, even though the companies have not yet  $announced\,their\,own\,increased\,rates.$ 

"I bought an antibiotic just three days ago at Tk 10 per piece. But today the medicine shops are asking for Tk 14 per piece," said Md. Anawar Hossain, a customer at Shahbagh, yesterday.

According to sources, leading pharmaceuticals companies, who control more than 80 percent of market share in the pharma-ceuticals industry, are planning to increase the price of anti-ulcer, anti-biotic, vitamin, minerals, cholesterol, diabetic, and hypertension drugs. All of these medicines are commonly consumed here, according to an expert physician of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University

But the drug association president played the price-hike issue down, saying that smaller companies are free to sell their medicines of such types at lower prices.

"We do not have any problem if smaller companies sell their medicine at a lower rate," Safiuzzaman said.

Sources confirmed that they have finalised to re-fix the price of ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin, dompredone, omeprazole, ceftriaxone, flupentixol, cephradine, cefixim, clopidogrel, carvedilol, multivitamin, multiminearal, and broma-zepam.

"It will not be more than six to seven types of medicine," said Safiuzzaman. "We are compelled to increase the price as the exchange rate against the dollar has become high and the price of active

ingredients is also on the up," he said. Meanwhile, medicine traders in different parts of the city confirmed that

the leading pharmaceuticals companies price on the medicine and spends have stopped supplying several types of medicine, including omeprazole, cyprofloxacin, ceptixosin, levofloxacin, ocarmin and proviten "They will supply again after re-

fixing the price. We have heard they have adjusted the price but would announce on September 16 and start to supply," said a salesman of the Lazz

Some traders have already increased the price of different medicines for lack of supply. "The price of ceftriaxone injection was Tk 180 but it has been

selling at Tk 280 in the market," said a trader from the Shahbag area. But Safiuzzaman has said his associ-

ation has decided to sell the ceftriaxone injection at Tk 300 per piece. Medicine traders added that other medicines, whose price

pharmaceuticals companies may re-fix at a higher price, are already selling at a rate Tk 1-5 higher. The medicine of omeprazole group used to sell at Tk 3 per piece, but it has

shot up to Tk 5. The price of omeprazole tablet has been fixed to sell at Tk 4 by the leading twenty companies, sources said.

On the other hand, the price of ciprofloxacin used to range between Tk 8 and Tk 14. The price of ciprofloxacin for popular pharmaceuticals companies was around Tk 10. But the price is going to be fixed at Tk 14 for all of them,

sources said. According to pharmacology experts, prices of medicine in Bangladesh are

already high. A leading pharmacology expert, citing an example, said the generic cyprofloxacin antibiotic, which is prescribed for urinary track infections, enteric fever and respiratory infections. has been selling at different prices in the market. The same drug, Hiflosin, produced by Hudson Pharma, sells at Tk 7.5 per piece, while ciprocin, produced by

### Roundtable

FROM PAGE 1

Mymensingh, Sylhet and Rangpur, are located in the earthquake-prone zone

Citing seven major earthquakes in the region in the last 150 years, he said the epicentres of two of these were within the territory of the country. "More than 90 percent of structures

in the country are non-engineered buildings, which are most vulnerable to earthquakes," Jamilur said, suggesting strengthening them to resist devastation from tremors. "But some of these vulnerable buildings must be demolished to avert major causalities in case of an earthquake.'

Representatives from the fire service said that although they have a number of trained personnel, they are badly equipped to address an earthquake disaster. In the old part of the city, rescuers with heavy equipment do not have access to many areas. "We can only carry some light equipment and conduct rescue operations if any disaster occurs, said Selim Newaz Bhuiyan, deputy director of Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence.

Prof Nizamuddin of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) expressed concern over the lack of coordination among different government bodies. Most people are in the dark about how to manage the post earthquake scenario,

Dr ASM Maksud Kamal, assistant professor at Geology Department at Dhaka University, emphasised a strict land-use practice on the basis of soil tests in the construction sector. An analysis of earthquake devastation in Taiwan, Japan and other countries makes it clear that structural resistance to earthquakes greatly depends on the soil condition, he pointed out

"Not everywhere can you build safe multistoried structures. It greatly depends on the soil as to how the building will resist an earthquake," said Maksud, who is also secretary general of the Bangladesh Earthquake Society, adding that the authorities should immediately adopt a policy of land use.

The experts noted that in case of an earthquake, half of the causalities would occur due to building collapse and the rest because of fire and smoke

To minimise causalities, all multistoried buildings must have clearly and prominently defined exit ways, they

Dr Mehedi A Ansary of Buet said ouildings having parking facilities on the first floors with exposed pillars are vulnerable to earthquake. "We should take measures to strengthen those pillars by constructing concrete walls taking into consideration the use of the

Wasa Superintendent Engineer Mohammad Nurul Haque and engineer Mohammad Abu Sadeque said Rajuk must step up monitoring and supervision of constructions. Chief Architect of the Department of

Architecture Abdus Salam mentioned that people building residential structures often use those for various other This poses a big threat to the strucures due to the load capacity of the buildings. For instance, a residential

structure is built for five people but if it is

turned into a classroom, it instantly

becomes weaker due to its load capac-Khadem Ali, president of the Institute of Architects, Bangladesh, engineer MA Awal of the REHAB, Md Lutfar Rahman, superintendent engineer of Desa, Major Zahir Uddin, direcor (operation) of the Fire Service and Civil Defence also spoke at the

Editor of The Daily Star, Mahfuz Anam, moderated the roundtable held at the conference room of the newspa-

### Hasina

FROM PAGE 16

reaction to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's address while exchanging views with leaders of the Sarbojanin Puja Udjapan Parishad at the party's Dhanmondi office.

In her address, the prime minister regretted the "administrative and intelligence failure" regarding the recent serial blasts and admitted that her government could not do well in eliminating corruption.

The AL chief said, "The government has failed to ensure security of the people and even of the state. Why the people will have to suffer for a failed

government.' Referring to the price spiral of essentials, the former prime minister said a famine-like situation is prevailing in the northern districts. Even in the holy month of Ramadan, people are unable to procure food as prices of bare necessities have gone up too much.

Hasina was critical of the prime minister's arguments about price hike of essentials and said, "How will she realise the sufferings of commoners? She and her government only knows how to make money by capitalising on people's sufferings.

The AL president said the skyrocketng prices of essentials are not coming down as the prime minister's family members are doing business and making illegal profit.

The prime minister in her address claimed that people's purchasing capacity has increased in the last four vears of coalition rule.

The opposition leader said since the alliance government came to power in 2001, AL leaders and workers, and minority people have become victims of violence that includes killing and

She told the parishad delegation that the AL always upheld the spirit of the Liberation War, secularism and communal harmony

Greeting the Hindus on the occasion of Durga Ppuja, Hasina urged them to work unitedly with the people of other religions to build a prosperous

Those present included AL leaders Abdul Jalil, Abdur Razzak, Motia Chowdhury, Suranjit Sengupta and Tofail Ahmed, President of the Puja Udjapan Parishad Chittaranjan Majumdar, Maj Gen (retd) CR Dutt and economist Debapriya Bhattacharya.

# Ecnec refers two

ties, he added.

495.92 crore.

The Ecnec approved the revised expenditure after the money was spent, but formed an investigation committee to look into the source of the additional

nications ministry for the construction of a bypass in Mymen-singh town was approved in March 1998 with an estimated expenditure of Tk 19 crore, but an additional Tk 10 crore was spent on the

find out if any irregularities were there.

cussed the reports of both the probe committees and decided to refer the matters to the ACC for further investiga-

A planning ministry source said approval for the additional money was sought after spending the amount. The

Married Hindu women also put vermil-

ion (Sindur) on each other's forehead on

The Hindus believe Dashami is the

day when Goddess Durga accompanied

by her children Lakshmi, Saraswati,

Kartik and Ganesh starts for Kailash, her

Mahalaya, the first day of the festivi-

ties, is followed by a series of unique

rituals on the days of Sashthi, Saptami,

Ashtami, Nabami and Dashami or

Mahasaptami, Mahashtami and

Mahanabami, culminating in Bijoya

Dashami, which marks the end of Durga

Durga Puja, the greatest extravaganza

of the Hindus, is the worship of 'Shakti' or

divine power symbolised as Devi Durga.

The worship is the symbol of the fight

between good and evil with the dark

forces eventually succumbing to the

Thousands gathered vesterday to

celebrate the Mahanabami and Bijova

Dashami, which was followed by the

Kumari Puja at the Ramakrishna

different Puja mandaps in the city,

including the ones at Jagannath Hall of

Dhaka University, Ramna Kali Mandir,

Siddheswari Kali Mandir, and in the

temples of Tanti Bazar, Shankhari Bazar

Kalpana Das Gupta, a visiting devo-

tee at Ramakrishna Mission Temple,

said, "Everything is alright, we have

Leaders of political, social, cultural

organisations and members of the civil

society visited the Durga Puja mandaps

and exchanged greetings with the

Hindus during the five-day puja festival.

Secretary Abdul Jalil MP, presidium

member Suranjit Sengupta, Tofail

Ahmed, Abdur Razzak MP and many

other AL leaders visited the

Awami League (AL) General

People from all walks of life visited

Mission Temple on Tuesday.

and Bangla Bazar.

performed the puia nicely.

Festivities intensify on the days of

the eve of Bijoya Dashami.

husband's abode

Bijoya Dashami.

projects were revised without approval and extra works were done, once again

The investigation report on the 16town project recommended disciplinary actions against the PDB officials involved in the over expenditure and irregularities.

The report on the Mymensingh Bypass project pointed out various irregularities in the survey, land acquisition and earth filling.

### 5 Shibir men

barred entry of students without ID

Additional police were deployed as tension was running high on the "We will resist Shibir on the cam-

pus by any means," BCL university unit President Kamrul Hasan Ripon told The Daily Star after the incident. JCD university unit General Secretary Anisur Rahman Khokon said

the general students will resist the

Shibir men if they try to come back to Meanwhile, the ICS leaders at a rally in front of the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque yesterday demanded immediate arrest and

expulsion of the BCL activists from

Dhaka University who attacked the ICS

men on the DU campus on Sunday.

ICS Secretary General Shafiqul Islam Masud said they will launch a movement against BCL at all the educational institutions across the

# Remove 'failed'

price hike of essentials, the rise of militancy and the government's failure to control the law and order

the increase in the salaries of the ministers and lawmakers.

the price hike of essentials, but paying no heed to the issue the government has increased the salaries of the

created further disparities between the poor and the rich. The prime minister has admitted the failure of the administration and

the responsibility of guiding these people ultimately goes to the cabinet, Dr Kamal said. "If you really accept the failures then dismiss the ministers who failed to perform their duties," Dr Kamal,

also president of Jatiya Oikya Mancha, asked the PM. On the government's indifference to taking action against the ministers whose names have been revealed by some of the people arrested in con-

ment is thinking about them. Dr Kamal, pointing out the fact that there was no discussion in parliament on the August 17 bomb blasts. questioned, "What more important issues are there to discuss other than

He also questioned the PM's sincerity in admitting failure by pointing out that the government is appointing partisan people as election officers at the upazila level for manipulating the next national polls.

Commission that, he said, does not operate without government instrucpassing days under total insecurity

measures taken even in mosques and the price hike of essentials are the proof of it, he added. "This government has presented the nation with communal militancy, bomb attacks, terrorism and price

Gono Forum General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Samyabadi Dal General Secretary Dilip Barua, Ganotantri Party leader Nurul Islam, 11-Party Coordinator Mofizul Islam Khan Kamal and Jatiya Mojdur Party leader Zakir Hossain also spoke at the

Later, a procession was brought out from Muktangon that marched the city streets.

### Population

economic and reproductive health indicators on average are on the progressing trend, maternal mortality ratio still remains a major concern for Bangladesh," said Suneeta Mukherjee.

nancy related complications in Bangladesh. Those who survive suffer 30 times morbidity."

On empowering young people, Mukherjee said, "Bangladesh has a young population of 45 million. About half of the girls (48%) get married before the age of 19 and 60 percent of

"Investing in human rights and poverty alleviation education could reduce the risk of violence and civil

Global efforts to "make poverty history" are bound to fail if the world leaders do not act now to end gender discrimination, the UNFPA report says.

promises made to the world's women and young people, they will not be able to meet poverty reduction goals agreed to at the 2000 Millennium Summit and reaffirmed at World Summit in New provide a unique and exceptional

Dr AKM Akmal Hossain Azad director general of Family Planning,

### Nepal king

be held in the Republic Hall of the

failing to stem a Maoist rebellion urged political parties to cooperate and take part in the vote, the radio

# Diarrhoea breaks

people now cross the breaches by rafts. The Darbastha union parishad (UP) building is now under waist-deep

Akhirapara, Charaktola and Haripur markets of the union have been submerged by gushing water through the breaches.

Standing crops in this union have been completely damaged.

"I spent all my cash for transplanting Aman seedlings on two bigha of land, but all have gone under water. Now everything is dark ahead," said Hafizur Rahim, a marginal farmer of Namapara village. "I cultivated banana on one and a

no demand for bananas in the market now," said Sudhir Chandra of the same We are nearly starving but have not yet received any help," said Monindra Nath of Daspara village under

half bighas of plot that floodwater has

already damaged. Moreover, there is

It is difficult to reach the marooned people in remote areas for want of boats, Darbastha UP chairman said, adding that they are conducting relief work among the people sheltered on embankments or high land.

Darbastha union.

Many marooned people in remote areas of Palashbari upazila are also facing difficulties for want of food and

Our Rangpur correspondent adds: Four people died and many others of different villages in the district became sick as a result of flood-related diarrhoea and starvation. About two hundred people from

different villages under Haragachh union were given treatment for diarrhoea at the union hospital, sources said. Badarganj upazila health complex

s facing a tough situation to accommodate the diarrhoea patients, a medical With the receding of floodwater in Badarganj, Pirganj and Mithapukur upazilas, some intestinal diseases like diarrhoea and dysentery have broken

out, the district civil surgeon said,

adding that the situation has remained

under control as 93 medical teams are

working round the clock following the

of the diarrhoea patients are available with the medical teams, he said, adding, "A control room in the district headquarters is observing the diarrhoea situation.'

Meanwhile, many diarrhoea patients complained that in absence of mobile medical teams, they had to go to the upazila health complexes from

remote areas. Diarrhoea has also broken out in many areas other than the flood

affected ones. Starvation for long hours might be the cause of diarrhoea, said a medical officer

## Irregularities

equesting anonymity.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman formed the working group, headed by Mohammad A Rumi Ali, BB deputy governor, to find measures of stopping the smuggling of foreign currency. A big rise in imports, but not that much revenue increase had prompted Saifur to take action.

The report says when trucks from India enter Bangladesh with goods, their prices are being paid off through hundi. In many cases, Bangladeshi importers buy those trucks and bring goods on them.

to return within 72 hours, the concerned Bangladeshi exporters change their colour, fix a false Bangladeshi number plate and start using them.

Rumi Ali yesterday made 25 recommendations to plug in the loopholes through which foreign currencies are being smuggled out.

tions will soon be sent to the finance ministry for the next course of action. Managing Director (MD) of Janata Bank SM Aminur Rahman, also a

of 82 branches of different banks associated with foreign trade across the country. The group members also spoke

with customs officials of the land

## Hannan barred

As Hannan was about to start his submission, Court Inspector Abdul Aziz Khan obstructed him and told the court, "He will make a political speech if allowed to speak here. He should not be allowed to do so."

The court, however, still asked Hannan to make his submission.

The court inspector at this point asked Hannan not to make any "political speech".

In his submission, Hannan said, "I am a commoner, a madrasa student. I am not involved in the bomb blasts. I have been falsely implicated in the case for harassment.

Metropolitan Magistrate Shamsul Alam later granted a five-day police As police told the court that Hannan

is sentenced to life imprisonment in a case filed with Gopalganj Police Station under the Arms Act, the court ordered to make the sentence effective from yesterday The militant leader also faces three

other cases: one filed with the same police station under the Explosive Substances Act, a sedition case and another filed with Kotalipara Police Station for attempting to assassinate former prime minister Sheikh Hasina by planting a 76-kg bomb at her meetng venue on July 20, 2000.

Hannan was arrested at Maddhya Badda in Dhaka on October 1 after absconding for several years. KHULNA

Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (IMB) cadre Anisuzzaman, arrested in Gopalganj town on Sunday, was placed on a five-day fresh remand on Tuesday for interrogation in connection with the August 17 serial bomb blasts at eight spots in Bagerhat town.

However, he was shown arrested and remanded in a theft case, reports

our Khulna correspondent. A day after his arrest, Anisuzz-aman made a confessional statement before a first class magistrate of Bagerhat, saving he was involved in blasting a bomb at a house under construction in

Bagerhat town on August 17. Detectives, meantime, were continuing the interrogation of JMB cadres Shahidullah alias Lokman and Mahbubur Rahman alias Palash, both now under a five-day remand at Khulna Detective Branch office in connection with the August 17 serial bomb blasts in

### RAISHAHI

Charghat.

OYPURHAT

Our Rajshahi correspondent reports: Two entry passes for the Secretariat were found at the JMB Rajshahi den. The inscriptions on the undated

passes show that they were issued by

the youth and sports ministry to one SA Haque Moni of Charghat upazila. Sources at Charghat said Moni introduced himself as a journalist of

the Daily Inqilab. The Inqilab Rajshahi office, however, denied having any reporter in

Two fugitive JMB men, chargesh-eeted

Tuhin, son of late Abul Kashem of Harhil village of Sadar upazila in Joypurhat, and Rouf, son of Malek Fakir of Marwari Patti East Bazar area of the town, surrendered before the court of

Tuhin and Rouf are among the eight absconding accused of the 28 chargesheeted accused for the August 17 blasts in Joypurhat. CHANDPUR

was brought to Dhaka from Chandpur for interrogation at the Joint Interrogation Cell.

The acting superintendent of police of Chandpur said Galib and his aides planted bombs at the judge court, DC office and other important government establishments on August 17 and

International's yearly lists that placed Bangladesh as the world's number one corrupted country for the last four vears, the ACC commissioner said,

tarnished the image of the country." "Our target will be to come down from the top position of the list next year, and for that ACC has already

missioner also visited the Zia International Airport yesterday and held a meeting with the high officials

## TCB to beef

taskforce recommended the revitalisation of the state-owned marketing agency.

The TCB recently imported 300 tonnes of lentil and 200 tonnes of onion while the procedure to import 100  $tonnes\, of\, gram\, is\, currently\, underway.$ 

### Quake relief

within 10 minutes of takeoff because Pakistan said there was no room to land at the airport near Islamabad. The plane later landed with 25 tons of supplies. Many bodies were still buried

yesterday as rescue operations in the devastating Kashmir earthquake increasingly became a relief mission for those who survived.

local officials believe may have claimed as many as 40,000 lives, many of the worst affected had yet to see any aid, despite huge pledges from around the

"They are using Islam insidiously--they

The prime minister had a hectic trip

She also urged people to vote the

per piece. Neofloxin, produced by Beximco Pharma, sells at Tk 12. But another company, General Pharmaceuticals, provides the same medicine to Dhaka Medical College and

"We tested the medicine and came

BSMMU at Tk 2.5 per piece.

Square Pharmaceuticals, sells at Tk 14

to know that the medicine has standard quality," said a professor from the 'So, we can assume the production cost of that medicine is lower than Tk 2.5," he said. "Just two months ago the exact cost of cyprofloxacin was Tk 1.67 and some companies have been making

a profit of not less than Tk 12 for per piece," he pointed out. Experts say there is no reason for such widely fluctuating prices. Assistant Professor Sayedur Rahman a prominent pharmacology expert from the BSMMU, said that all pharmaceuticals company are compelled to follow the current Good Manufacturing Product (GMP) and

pharmacopoeia, a technical manu-

facturing process.

'They just follow the rules and produce the medicine. Medicine is such a thing that they don't have the option to mix extra medicine or extra chemicals to increase the quality of the medicine. So, the production cost should be more or less the same as well as the sale price, he said. "I don't see any reason for different prices of drugs as the price of

active ingredients has been reducing in Other sources added that the price of medicine is unusually high in Bangladesh because regulators of the drug control directorate do not negotiate with the pharmaceuticals compa $nies\,regarding\,prices.$ 

The pharmaceuticals companies put the indicative price, and regulators just approve it without negotiating with the company people, which makes the price unusually high," said a small pharmaceuticals company owner, equesting anonymity. 'So the big company puts a high

money on physicians to prescribe them and make a hefty profit," he said. "We are lagging behind in the race as our capital is less," he added. Arguing that point, an official from leading pharmaceutical company said that the company's per unit cost is

## high as their establishment cost is very

sources said.

Govt to hire FROM PAGE 16 from seven companies short-listed

from 24 who have applied for the job,

asked to submit their financial

The seven companies will be

proposals and a high-level government committee will select one after examining their work experience and capability of doing such a job. Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain presided over the meeting attended by Cabinet Secretary Saadat Hussain, Economic Relations Division

Secretary Ismail Jabihullah, Shipping

Secretary Rafiqul Islam and other

high officials. Earlier, a pre-feasibility study recommended Akaram point in Mongla and Moheshkhali in Cox's Bazar for setting up the deep-sea port. The consultant firm will select the

Ministry officials said the deep-sea

port has become a necessity as the

volume of economic activities

increased in the country over the

final site for the port.

They said such a port will bring dynamism in the economic activities not only in the country but also in the South Asia region as India, Nepal Bhutan and other neighbouring countries will also be able to use the port for export and import.

Saifur said the government hopes the ACC will be able to find out how much money was involved in the corruption. After the investigation the government will act on the findings and take action against those involved in the irregulari-

The Power Development Board (PDB) project for supplying electricity to 16 towns was approved in May 1999 by the Ecnec with an estimated expenditure of Tk 225.55 crore. In May 2005 a revised proposal was placed, showing an additional expenditure of Tk 270 crore, which increased the total project cost to Tk

money spent in the project and if that amount was spent in line with set rules. Another project under the commu-

The revised project got the Ecnec approval in December 2003. The Ecnec. however, formed a probe committee to

Yesterday's Ecnec meeting dis-

Durga to be immersed

Ramakrishna Mission Temple a 12:30pm yesterday. Many programmes, including voluntary blood donation, and distribution of Prasad and Anjali offerings, were held at the Puja mandap premises during the puja celebrations in the city Makeshift fairs were also held at the

 $adjoining \, places \, of \, the \, Puja \, mandaps.$ 

Faisal Mahmud Faizee.

Bar body

FROM PAGE 16 Enayetur Rahim yesterday told the news agency that the lawyers of the Supreme Court have been demanding removal of "controversial" judge

"Justice Faizee has no original LLB

Bar Council certificate by providing false information about his age Bangladesh Bar Council has issued him a notice to show cause in this regard, but he did not reply," the SCBA secretary said.

Advocate Enayet said the SCBA

had sent a letter, requesting the

president to take steps against Faizee.

certificate. He allegedly received the

"On June 30 this year, the president, had directed the law ministry to into the allegation Faizee, but the ministry put a deaf ear Besides, he said, the lawyers are

waging movement against the political appointment of 19 High Court judges to protect the image and dignity of the highest court. Chaired by SCBA President advocate Mahbub-e-Alam, the meeting also expressed concern over the security of the courts, lawyers, judges

and litigants following the incidents of bomb blasts at different courts across the country. The SCBA also decided to make it mandatory for the lawyers to show

court premises.

Meet twice in Nov

obligations for the summit. Moreover, the heads of five Saarc state government, especially the prime ministers of Bangladesh, Pakistan and India, will meet again at the CHOGM in Valletta, Malta on November 25-27.

Nepal and Bhutan, the other two

Saarc countries, are not

However, Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga will not be able to attend the Commonwealth meet as her second term ends before that. The national election in Sri Lanka is set for November 17. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is likely

Commonwealth members.

Besides, she will hold meetings with a number of leaders of the Commonwealth member states and discuss bilateral issues.

Bangladesh joined the

Commonwealth in 1972.

to meet her Indian and Pakistani

counterparts on the sidelines of the

CHOGM, a high official of the Prime

Minister's Office told The Daily Star

The special theme for the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting is "Networking the Commonwealth for Development". The CHOGM meetings bring together presidents, prime ministers

and heads of state to discuss Commonwealth and global issues, and develop a consensus on collective policies and initiatives. These summits provide a unique forum for consultation at the highest level of government. It would also deal with issues of

global challenges, terrorism, conflic resolution, democracy, transparency, freedom of the judiciary, economic stability and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

billion citizens, about 30 percent of the

world population, are drawn from the

and traditions. Members range from the vast countries like Canada to small island states like Malta. Diplomatic sources in Dhaka said Malta is ideally placed to host this meeting as it stands at the crossroads of the Mediterranean, the European

Union and the Commonwealth.

Besides, its history and heritage

backdrop for a constructive and

forward-looking discussion about

development through networking. They said Commonwealth leaders are looking forward to the Malta meet as its theme will allow them not only to discuss important issues of bridging the digital divide but also identify ways of enhancing cooperation for prosperity, development and democracy. and using Commonwealth networks to achieve these goals. The opening ceremony, which will

presidents and prime ministers, of almost all Commonwealth countries and many other Maltese and foreign dignitaries

Mediterranean Conference Centre (MCC) in Valletta, will be attended by 53 heads of government, mostly

# and suffering. The recent security

foreign intervention," Menon said.

education, access to reproductive health services and an end to genderbased violence. "While the social, demographic,

Reading out a written statement to a crowded audience of media professionals, she said, "An estimated 12,000 mothers die every year from preg-

them become mother before 19.

broadest range of faiths, races, cultures

MA Mannan, director general of Department of Mass Communications, Prof Mahmuda Islam of Dhaka University's sociology department, Dr Bushra Binte Alam, national programme officer, and Asma Akter, UNFPA national programme associ-

# four-party government in February for

in the August 17 incident, surrendered before the district and sessions judge's court yesterday, BDNEWS reports

Though these trucks are supposed A meeting of the group chaired by

working group member, told The

Chandra Das and prayed for bail. petition and sent them to jail.

# October 3 this year.

ACC to probe

started its work," he said. The ACC chairman and the com-

### of the civil aviation authority there.

FROM PAGE 16 New Delhi was forced to turn around

into more areas of northern Pakistan

ABB source said the recommenda-Daily Star that the group, divided into four sub-groups, interviewed officials

District and Sessions Judge N Narendra The court, however, rejected the

The news agency also reports: JMB regional commander Saifullah Galib

"Whether the report is true or false, it

beneath levelled buildings, and the United Nations warned of the threat of measles, cholera and diarrhoea outbreaks among the millions of survivors. Food and other relief aid flowed

But four days after the quake that

Speakers at the rally also criticised

"We had demanded steps to check

ministers and MPs." Dr Kamal said. He also said the increase in the ministers' and MPs' salaries has

the intelligence agencies in finding the militants and bomb attackers, but

nection with militant activities, he said nobody knows what the govern-

the security issue of the country?"

Dr Kamal accused the government of destroying the Public Service Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon said the people are

hikes and finally it will present us with

FROM PAGE 1 women empowerment through

identity cards while entering the

Today's Commonwealth is an association of 53 countries. Its 1.8

Unless these leaders live up to

But a precise date for the elections to the 205-member house was not set.