### Jail asked to produce 6 **JMB** men before court

A Dhaka court yesterday directed the jail authorities to produce six Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (IMB) mer before it on October 23 in the August 17 Dhaka serial bomb blast cases.

After scrutinising the case docket and other relevant documents, Judge Mohammad Monzurul Bachhid of the Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the

The accused are AHM Shamim, 23, Zakaria alias Jewel, 21, Nur Azam Siddique alias Yeasir, 27, Belal Hossain alias Tamim, 21, Aleya Ferdous, 27, and Akramul Islam, 23

All of them were arrested earlier and gave confessional statements to magistrates on different dates.

Earlier on October 11, Judge SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

### **SCBA** boycotts courtesy call on chiefjustice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) yesterday boycotted the conventional post-vacation courtesy call on the chief justice and the Supreme Court judges as controversial judge Faisal Mahmud Faizee was present at the function

The attorney general, government law officers, a good number of progovernment lawyers and some other  $lawyers\,attended\,the\,programme.$ 

The court opened yesterday after a 44-day annual vacation. Traditionally, the SC Bar members meet the chief justice and the judges of the Appellate Division and High Court Division on the first working day after the vacation. As the programme started at

10:40am at the judges' lounge of the Supreme Court, Attorney General AJ Mohammad Ali went to the lounge and met the chief justice and other judges. The other government law officers

The pro-government lawyers led by advocate Joynul Abedin then joined the function and greeted the judges. As the programme was going on,

the SCBA leaders at a press

### Duet closed after students' clash

Dhaka University of Engineering and

UNB, Gazipur

Technology (Duet) was yesterday declared closed sine die amid raging clashes between the rival student organisations that left 40 injured in the last two Official sources said the authorities

took the decision following fresh outbreaks of violence vesterday with the cadres of Islamic Chhatra Shibir and Chhatra Oikya fighting each other on the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## Unified system to lower science edn standard

Decision to change method 'secretly' criticised at discussion

Construction of the Dhaleshawari Bridge is on to establish direct road link

Bush plans changing

India improved its chances of

having new rules approved when it

voted with the United States and key

European states last month to threaten

Iran with referral to the UN Security

Congress remain deeply

But some members of the US

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Council for its nuclear activities.

between Dhaka and Munshiganj. The photo was snapped yesterday.

int'l rules for India

NUKE MATERIAL TRANSFER

The Bush administration this week is

expected to begin laying out in more

detail its plans to change US and

international rules so India can acquire

restricted nuclear materials under a

controversial deal some say under-

mines non-proliferation standards.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The planned "unified education system" with provisions for studying eighteen subjects at the SSC level will practically lower the standard of education, especially science education, speakers at a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium yester-

The decision to introduce the new system from the next year was taken so secretly that even the government high-ups were not aware of it, the speakers said, adding that the matter was not discussed in the cabinet or

In the new system, religious study

will be compulsory whereas fewer marks have been allocated for science and mathematics.

The move was taken as part of a plan to make the country a religionbased communal state, they said.

Dr Muhammad Zafar Iqbal of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology presented the keynote paper at the discussion organised by Bangladesh Shikka and Shikkhak Andolon Samannoy Forum.

Science education will be the worst victim of the new secondary education system, Zafar Igbal said.

The standard will be inevitably low as a student has to study 18 subjects carrying 1,200 marks with less importance on science and mathematics education, he added.

Provision for studying an additional language (Arabic, Sanskrit or Pali) along with religion will add to the burden of the students, he said.

Merely by bringing changes in the syllabus of the secondary education, the system cannot be called "unified" as it would not incorporate English medium education and madrasa education, he observed

There was no demand for such changes, he said, adding, "Introduction of the new system would be a major cheat to the nation"

BPC issues 72hrs

Biman to pay fuel

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation

(BPC) gave a 72-hour ultimatum to

national flag-carrier Biman to pay a

huge amount of arrears or face fuel-

In serving the notice yesterday, the

BPC management said the Biman

Bangladesh Airlines owes them Tk 508

crore in unpaid bills for jet fuel, bought

The warning came after a closed-

door meeting between Energy Advisor

Mahmudur Rahman and managing

directors of all the oil companies on

BPC Chairman Sheikh Khurshid

Alam issued the notice, saying: "If the

Biman fails to pay all its dues,

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted

anticipatory bail for four weeks to

issued a rule upon the government to

On September 11 and 12 this year

MA Dalim, MA Sayeed and MA Salim,

owners of Motalib Plaza, and Moktar

Hossain Palash, director of Good Luck

Real Estate Ltd, filed four extortion

cases against Dablu and Paban with

m

n

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

not be granted regular bail.

within four weeks.

Chief whip's

sons get bail

BDNEWS, Dhaka

supply cutoff after the deadline.

ultimatum to

arrears

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



A blast in scrap oil tanker MT Daya, centre, killed three people and wounded at least 15 at a ship-breaking yard in Sitakunda in Chittagong yesterday.

# US airstrikes kill 70 in Iraq

### Charter passage likely as Sunnis fail to veto it

US warplanes and helicopters bombed two villages near the restive city of Ramadi, killing an estimated 70 militants, the military said yesterday, though witnesses said at least 39 of the dead were civilians. The violence on Sunday occurred a

day after Iraq voted on and apparently passed a landmark constitution that many Sunnis opposed. As officials continued to count the millions of paper ballots Monday, the constitution seemed assured of passage after initial results showed minority Sunnis had fallen short in an effort to veto it.

A foreign election observer confirmed that apparent outcome in an interview with The Associated Press on Monday. He spoke on condition of

Independent Electoral Commission would announce the official results, which could be released Wednesday. The acceptance of the constitution

anonymity, saying the Iraqi

would be a major step in the attempt to establish a democratic government that could lead to the withdrawal of US troops. But Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice warned Sunday that violence will continue in Iraq, even if the new constitution is adopted. She said support for the insurgency would eventually wane as the country moves toward democ-

On referendum day, a roadside bomb killed five US soldiers in a vehicle in the Al-Bu Ubaid village on the eastern outskirts of Ramadi. On Sunday, a group of about two dozen

Iraqis gathered around the wreckage; they were hit by US airstrikes, the military and witnesses said. The military said in a statement

that the crowd was setting another

roadside bomb when F-15 warplanes hit them, killing around 20 people, described by the military as "terror- $But\,several\,witnesses\,and\,one\,local$ 

eader said they were civilians who had gathered to gawk at and take pieces of the wreckage, as often occurs after an American vehicle is hit. A tribal leader, Chiad Saad, said the

airstrike killed 25 civilians, and several other witnesses said the same thing, though they refused to give their names out of fear for their safety. SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

### Tata happy over incentive offer

JASIM UDDIN KHAN

Abdul Hamid Dablu and Akhter Hamid Paban, sons of chief whip Khandokar The Indian conglomerate Tata Group Delwar Hossain, in four extortion cases. vesterday expressed concern over the After hearing a bail petition filed by government's plan on rationing gas to Dablu and Paban, the High Court also different industrial units in the coun-

show cause why the petitioners should Tata representatives at a review meeting with the government negotia-The rule made by a High Court tion committee reiterated their bench comprising Justice SK Sinha and demand for a guarantee of 20 years' gas Justice Farid Ahmed is returnable

They informed the negotiation committee they have chosen both the Barapukuria and Phulbari coal mines for extracting annually about three

lakh tonnes of coal. The group also suggested that the government bring some amendments to the existing procurement and private

infrastructureguidelines instead of

bypassing these in procuring Tata The representatives at the meeting

expressed satisfaction over the discussion about incentive, which may be given to the group for its investment. They again demanded 0.24 TCF gas

for the Tata fertiliser plant and construction of a link road between Sangu gas field and the plant, and dredging infrastructure.

The government has sought an update report on the overall negotiations between the government and the Tata Group, and the investor has agreed to provide one soon.

The government again said Tata would not get any incentive that may create discrimination among other investors. Besides, Tata could

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#### Donors' team visits CHT

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A top-level donors' team arrived in Rangamati yesterday on a four-day visit to observe the progress of the confidence building programme among the people of this region.

The United Nations Develop-ment Programme (UNDP) undertook the special programme after the 1997 Chittagong peace accord that ended the armed conflict.

The team comprises European Union (EU) Ambassador Stefan Frohwein, Charge d'Affaires of Canada Robert Beadle, Barbara Payne of the UK Department for International Development (DFID), three other EU officials and high officials of UNDP's Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF) project.

UNDP sources said the objective of the tour is to observe the SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

### Dhaka to ratify 3 international conventions

Cabinet okays proposal

UNB, Dhaka

The cabinet vesterday approved proposals for the ratification of three important international conventions on terrorism, armed conflicts and space cooperation

With Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the chair, the cabinet in its regular weekly meeting also endorsed the draft of The Army (Amendment) Act 2005 for amending The Army Act 1952 to make changes to army ranks.

An official announcement said the neeting approved a proposal for Bangladesh's endorsement of an additional protocol on 'Saarc Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism' with a view to tackling terrorist activities in South Asia.

It approved another proposal for signing a protocol on 'Convention for the Protection of Cultural SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

### Cops, ansars get 3 yrs jail for mugging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

tenced two policemen and two ansars to three years rigorous imprisonment and fined them Tk 3,000 each for robbing a businessmen in the port city Metropolitan Magistrate Akram

A Chittagong court yesterday sen-

Hossain handed the punishment to Assistant Sub Inspector Bashir Ahmed and constable Alauddin of Panchlaish Police Station, and two ansars, Nurul Islam and Abdus Sattar.

The four intercepted businessman Abdur Rakib, who was in a rickshaw, in front of a community centre at Bahaddarhat intersection on August 3 and snatched Tk 4 lakh and gold ornaments from him

### Oct Sehri 5-33



Prayer Timing		
October 18		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-37	4-43
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-33	5-48
Esha	7-30	8-00
Source: Islamic Foundation		