Rain injunction on life Dengue

ofl yesterday afternoon. Within the last

five days, the country experienced a total

of 825 mm of rainfall. The weathermer

said the rain caused by the westerly wind

accompanied by moisture from the

recorded 62mm in Srimangal followed by

50mm in Dhaka, 36mm in Tangail and

Sylhet, 34mm in Comilla, 27mm in

Chandpur, 25mm in Faridpur, 16mm in

Chuadanga, 15mm in Iswardi, 13mm in

percent more than the normal rainfall of

Our staff correspondent from Khulna

azilas of Khulna were marooned due to

Many makeshift houses collapsed

According to the Department of

Agriculture Extension (DAE), Aman crops

on 1.8 lakh hectares of land in the district

went under water. The four-day rain

washed away, causing a huge financial

loss to the district, upazila nirbahi offices

Lots of shrimp enclosures were

Paikgachha, Koira, Dumuria and

BDNEWS adds: The rail communica-

ons between the capital and 15 north and

southwestern districts have been snapped

following the sinking of a rail track near

Bhangura station on Sirajganj-Ishward

city, express and local trains remained

stopped from Saturday noon as a 200-

metre sinkage occurred in the track

between the Guakhara and Bhangura

stations due to incessant rainfall in the last

relations of the Bangladesh Railway, told

BDNEWS that the problem arises every

year at different points of the route due to

Black Cotton Soil' beneath the track,

which gets soft after absorbing huge

cations might resume by this afternoon as

the railway engineers were trying to repair

the damaged track with sandbags and

"Transhipment of the stranded

It was reported that thousands of

Senior railway official of the western

region Habibul Haq told BDNEWS that

the repair work is being disrupted due to

Nigerian plane

office called for Nigerians to pray for the

victims and said that emergency

response teams and rescue helicopters

The president's spokeswoman,

A spokeswoman for the Economic

Community of West African States

(ECOWAS), the 15 nation regional bloc,

said the group's deputy executive

secretary for politics, defence and

security, Malian General Cheik Oumar

Diarra, and a Ghanaian finance officer,

Emmanuel Quaye, were on board the

among the survivors

hit a herd of cows

businessmen.

2 accords

FROM PAGE 16

Saarc domain.

reach an agreement.

from January 1, 2006.

It was not clear whether they were

Diplomats said that they had been

Nigeria has a terrible record for

told that the plane was missing. It was

not clear whether any foreign citizens

were on board but the service is popular

aviation safety and has been the scene

of numerous crashes, including an

accident in May 2002 when an airliner

plunged into a suburb of Kano, killing

115 on board and scores more on the

near misses, including an incident in

July in which an Air France jet arriving in

the oil city of Port Harcourt from Paris

the plane was badly damaged.

There have been a number of recent

No-one was hurt in the incident, but

Bellview is a Nigerian-owned

private airline operating routes within

Nigeria and west Africa and from Lagos

to London. Its service to Abuja is popu-

lar with diplomats and international

began receiving worried calls late in the

evening after the flight did not arrive as

planned, but officials could offer them

three points in the free-trade deal: rules

of origin, sensitive lists and revenue-

loss compensation for the LDCs in the

a consensus on providing technical

assistance to the LDCs in the Saarc -

Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal.

The negotiators could only arrive at

The foreign ministry official said the

If the negotiations on all the three

itical issues are complete, the Safta

"We've made progress, but we need

will not be implemented on schedule

some more time for further negotia-

tions on these complex issues," the

official said, adding, "We hope to reach

a consensus on all the points before the

Committee of Experts might sit in

Kathmandu on November 29-

December 1 in their last-ditch effort to

In Lagos, friends of those on board

with expatriates travelling to Abuja.

Remi Oyo, confirmed that there had

been survivors, but could not say how

many. "God has been gracious, but I

don't have the figures yet," she said.

month of the Holy Ramadan after they had

been stranded at different stations

the on-going inclement weather.

had been sent to the scene.

He expressed hope that the communi-

amounts of rainwater.

Mostafa-e-Jamil, director of Public

Sources said movement of all inter-

caused damage to other crops as well.

reports: Some 40,000 people in nine

the continuous 200mm rainfall for the last

causing terrible sufferings to the people.

couple of days.

'The 5-day rainfall in the country is 183

Mymensingh and 12mm in Jessore

October," a duty forecast officer said.

The highest rainfall in the country was

Arabian Sea might catch up today.

across the country, said the weathermen, adding that there is no chance for the situation to change before tomorrow.

At different points across the city, hundreds of vehicles remained stranded for hours on the streets.

According to the city traffic control office, commuters were stuck in traffic for a long time as rain water flooded almost all the main thoroughfares in the city, including Saidabad, Azimpur, Mouchak intersection, Dhanmondi road No.27, Asad Gate, Gulistan roundabout, the stretch between Sadarghat to Gulistan, Farmgate, Mirpur, Mohakhali, Rayerbazar, and Mohammadpur.

"It took me two hours to reach Gabtali from Azimpur, whereas it usually takes slightly more than half an hour," Suranjit Saha told The Daily Star vesterday eve-

ning.

The chill weather resulting from continuous drizzling has made it even more difficult for the traffic personnel to maintain order on the city streets clogged with vehicles.

Prices of essentials, especially the agro-based products, have shot up once again as heavy rains have caused extensive damage to vegetables and other crops.

"Price will rise as most of the vegetables on vast tracts of lands have been ruined in the last few days," said Mizan Mia of Kanthalbagan kitchen market.

The rain also destroyed Aman crops,

people who live on lanes as hundreds of rickshaws and private cars occupied the

Children in most areas in Dhaka could not attend school, while office-goers faced serious difficulty in commuting. Many reached offices, but got completely soaked. Especially the garment workers got drenched to the skin while going to their workplaces on foot. All the passenger-sheds in the city were cramped all

"I was asked to pay a CNG driver Tk 60 for a ride to Hotel Sonargaon from Novotheatre on Bijoy Sarani, but I rejected

drivers suffered a lot as well, as they could not move freely due to traffic congestion.

"People get angry when I ask for more fare. But from early in the morning I could passengers are going on from the both not yet earn Tk 200," said Monzu Mia at sides of the damaged point," he added. the city's Panthapath, where he was stuck passengers suffered immensely in the

the capital were disrupted and patients suffered as rain water gushed into the hospitals. The emergency gate of Dhaka Medical College and Hospital went under filthy water, making the access for the patients a difficult task.

The Met office said that 51 millimetres (mm) of rainfall was recorded in the city as

Brokers scalp

different bus stands yesterday

Meanwhile, the state-run (BRTC) has increased the number of its buses to 600 from 453 on the occasion of the Eid. The Eid special bus service will operate from 53 stations in Dhaka from

The government has also decided to start special launch services from October 26 to be continued up to 10 days into the Eid. Bangladesh Inland Water

The extra launches will ply to Bhola, Patuakhali and Amtoli from Dhaka, and to Chandpur, Ichuli, Taltola, Ramchandrapur, Machuakhali. Sureshwar, Torki, and Matlab from

BIWTA will also introduce special ferry services on different routes to facilitate travel of about four million people from Dhaka to their villages ahead

advance tickets from tomorrow to October 29. Passengers will be able to buy the tickets every day from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Extra trains will also run from October 29 and will continue to operate

till November 12, railway sources said. Passengers who are from the middle and lower middle classes, and the poor are facing the harshest troubles trying to depart the capital by public transporta tion to celebrate the Eid with their fami-

FROM PAGE 16

Begum, 16, daughter of Iman Ali. Sources confirmed that, taking

Aftabuddin of East Chhatnai village. Rezia said two of the trafficked girls -- Sharmin Akhtar and Ronifa Akhtar -managed to escape from Dhaka when they realised the traffickers had an evil design to hand them over to a third party. But they could not say for sure what actually have happened to the rest

The others accused for trafficking by Rezia are Aminur, son of Nazrul Islam, Azizar Rahman, son of Nechharuddin, Aleya Begum, wife of Azizar Rahman, and Nazrul Islam, son of Shafiuddin, all of Gayabari village of the upazila. But none of the accusees has been arrested so far, though the officer in charge of the police station said they are out and trying hard to nab them.

DCC sources said they have strengthened the mosquito control activities in the city with special emphasis on Mirpur, Mohammadpur, Dhanmondi, Malibagh, Basabo, Sabujbag and Shyampur areas as infected patients came from those areas.

The Ades mosquito breeding grounds are the stagnant water in flowerpots, unused cans and containers and the water produced in the trays of freezers and refrigerators where the DCC spray teams have very little

The house owners can destroy the breeding grounds or keep them clean so that there are no stagnant water, DCC officials said.

JMB threat

tions in Sylhet, Feni, Khulna and Kanaighat and Beanibazar upazilas

Our correspondent from Jessore adds: The Indian authorities on Saturday set up closed circuit camera at the entrance of Petrapole border opposite to Benapole entry point to check entrance of "militant leaders and criminals" from Bangladesh into India and vice versa, Benapole land

Any Indian or Bangladeshi passport holding traveller, if considered suspicious, may now be interro-

Besides, the closed circuit camera will help to check smuggling of firearms and bomb manufacturing materials from India into Bangladesh, the sources added.

1.5 lakh tonnes

a proposal to the cabinet committee for

mport of 50,000 tonnes of prilled fertiliser.

"The fertiliser will be imported from China, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and Ukraine within the stipulated time of 60 days from the date of the approval,"

tively, according to the BCIC official

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman said the government has decided to import 1.5 lakh tonnes of fertiliser against the current demand of two lakh

"There is no shortage of fertiliser in

the country," he noted. The meeting also approved renovation and modernisation of three units of 100 MW Haripur power plant at a cost of Tk 84 crore.

SI jailed

FROM PAGE 16

questioned SI Tariqul, who was on the civil team, about the licence of a pistol and 11 rounds of bullet he owned. The pistol was seized from the house.

Later he was arrested when he failed to produce licence for the firearm and an arms case was filed against him the same day.

The investigation officer pressed charges against the SI on August 31, 2002 and the court framed charges against him on February 24, 2003.

At first the case was transferred to the Special Tribunal-13, but later it was shifted to the Speedy Trial Tribunal-3. But the case was transferred to the present tribunal again, as the stipulated time for disposal at the Speedy Trial Tribunal-3 was over

Assistant Public Prosecutor Shahidul Islam Sardar appeared for the state while Advocate TM Akbar defended the accused in the trial.

Plot handing

before judgement.

Mahtani signed the agreement on

behalf of their organisations. The company, a concern of Hong Kong's Must Garment Corporation Ltd., already has a readymade garment unit in the Dhaka EPZ, Mahtani said, adding that Bangladesh has vast potential in the readymade garments sector despite the withdrawal of the quota system, as skilled and hardwork-

ing manpower is available here. With the hopeful enactment of the Γrade Act 2005, the country is poised to become a leading player in the textile and apparel industry in the coming

decade, he said. Hong Kong's Must Group Chief Executive Officer Harinda BS Lamba was also present at the signing cere-

Adamjee EPZ is under the process of construction at the site of Adamjee Jute Mills, which was closed on May 29,

Bepza started development work of the site in the middle of 2004 after some primary work by the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation

and the Ministry of Jute and Textiles. Bepza has plans to develop around 200 industrial plots at the site in the first phase.

5 days of drizzle

"Huge crop land went under water due to this continuous rain and it is not possible for the farmers to harvest in the present situation," Abdul Latif, a trader of Karwan Bazar wholesale market, said yesterday.

The number of trucks transporting vegetables and other essentials to the wholesale markets in Dhaka has substantially gone down due to the rain, he said. Sources said the prices of onion

went up sharply in India, a prime source to meet the annual demand in the Bangladesh market, as onion production in India was not satisfactory this year. Heavy rainfall also damaged a good quantity of onion in India recently, pushing the price

"As the import cost has gone up, traders at different wholesale markets have already started selling onion at premium prices," said a source at the commerce ministry.

The prices of rice have also risen by

Tk 1-2 per kg from the prices four days back. Fine miniket rice was selling vesterday at Tk 27, which ranged between Tk 25 and Tk 26 four days ago; nazirshal was selling at Tk 30 and paijam at Tk 19. There are strong indications that

the prices of rice will go up further in the coming days as some major riceproducing areas have been heavily affected by floods, traders feared.

"It has become common that the essentials' prices increase every year cannot control it. Now, the ongoing rain is also taking its toll on people of the lower income bracket like us," said Abdul Baki, a resident in the city's Testuri Bazar area.

There is no dearth of supply of anything in the markets but it is beyond the purchasing ability of the people who live on fixed and limited incomes, he added.

Some winter vegetables are available in the market but they are selling at premium prices.

Newly harvested potato was selling at Karwan Bazar yesterday at Tk 60 per kg, while a pair of small cauliflower was selling at Tk 30 and cabbage ranged between Tk 30 and Tk

Meanwhile, the price of bean decreased, selling at Tk 50 a kg, from Tk 80 per kg of the previous week.

Indian tomato was selling at Tk 60, aubergine at Tk 36 and bitter gourd at Tk32 per kg.

This year the government tried to control the prices of some essentials. including onion, pulse and lentil, by allowing the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) to import them, but the attempt did not make any impact on the price spiraling.

Irregularities in selling essentials through the TCB and under the open market sale (OMS) programmes have foiled the government's attempt to stop the skyrocketing prices of essen-

Blacklisted firm

In response to the allegation, Food and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf told the parliamentary body that his ministry had not been informed whether the company was blacklisted.

"We have issued the company work order following a proper tender process. It [company] was on a list of 11 companies that the Indian High Commission in Dhaka had furnished us with," a meeting source quoted the minister as saying

The minister however assured the parliamentary body that they will look into the allegation.

Committee member and Awami League lawmaker Noor-e-Alam Chowdhury Liton raised the issue at the meeting. He said the food ministry has given the contract to National Cooperatives Consumers Federation of India Ltd, which, he said, has been blacklisted by the Indian food depart-

"Though the other participants in the tender had informed the food ministry of the fact, it [ministry] did not pay any heed to the allegation."

Committee Chairman Mohammad Shajahan told The Daily Star that India during last year's devastating flood had promised the Bangladesh government food grains worth of rupee 100 crore.

The Indian government later asked the food ministry to give an Indian company the contract to supply food grains after buying those from Indian market, the chairman

Dhaka supplied the food ministry to give work order one of them, said Shajahan

tary body also held a short discussion on monga, a near famine situation, in the several districts of north Bengal.

situation is not that worse. The newspapers are blowing it out of all proportion," meeting sources said quoting the deputy minister.

Even beggars feel

With their income plummeting sharply, more than a hundred thousand professional beggars in the city are going through a real tough time. The Daily Star met a good number of them at various points of the city, all of whom talked

Early this month, a group of 35

beggars at the High Court Majar said until recently they used to earn around Tk 100 to 250 a day. The level of income is directly proportionate to the physical condition of a particular beggar -- the worse the condition the higher the income. For instance, a blind beggar usually earns more than a lame one and those who seem physically sound earn Now their daily income has nose-

dived to Tk 30 to 100 a day. Because, as the beggars put it, people's capacity to donate has shrunk considerably, they no more give alms as generously as they "Their condition is also bad. Prices of

essentials have skyrocketed. But, in comparison, the income has not risen making it hard for the almsgivers to worry about the beggars," said Mohammad Kamaluddin, a 50-year old beggar from Rangpur. He had a grocery shop in his village. But seven years back his right leg was paralysed from typhoid and that forced him to choose this humiliatingprofession

Kamaluddin said previously he used to earn Tk 100 to 150 every day and with that income he could provide for his four-member family in the village. He in fact managed to marry off both her daughters in the last three years.

to Tk 30 to 50. Even on the first day of Ramadan, he made a piteous Tk 40. Whereas, Kamaluddin said, he earned more than Tk 200 taka on this day last year. On Shab-e-Barat last year he had earned Tk 800, but this year Tk 100 only. Kamaluddin begs in Old Dhaka,

usually in Chawkbazar and Moulvibazar commercial areas. "We are in a bad shape. Business is dull. We neither have the ability nor the mentality to give alms," said a local businessman.

will they help us from?"

Sheikh Nur Islam, president of Bastuhara (homeless) Samity and had been a beggar for 30 years, said with his income from begging he sent his son to school and then to college. His son has been living in Dubai for several months now. "I have not only provided schooling for my children and maintained my family but also have bought five rickshaws, which I rent out," Islam said.

He however does not beg any more but looks after the beggar community. He is extremely worried at the present situation, and expressed the fear, "If the several lakh beggars in the country are all going to die from starvation."

beggars also have to suffer harassment continuously at the hands of the law enforcers. "They often torture and lock us up without any reason," said Arab Ali. chairman of Pangu Sangstha, an organisation of the cripple beggars. With both his legs and hands muti-

lated by leprosy, Ali has been a beggar for over 40 years. The cripple beggars have to have assistants to push their carts. But the recent slump in their income has made it almost impossible to earn the assistant's pay, let alone anything for Ali and his fellow beggars demand

on different occasions built shelter homes for beggars, but none of us has found a place there. We have also heard of the government decision to evict all the beggars from the Dhaka streets by October 25. This is unjust and we are going to protest it," he said. He said, unless rehabilitated, the poor cripples have no alternative to

forced to beg, as we are cripple and incapable of doing any work. Aren't we the citizen of this country, does not the government have any responsibility to provide for us?" he asked in an angry market.'

Home ministry

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) over the last few months were also featured in the discussion.

Sources said, the home ministry expressed its anger over the failure of police. BDR and administrative officials' in keeping the illegal occupants under control.

More than 1,50,000 Rohingya refugees came to Bangladesh from Myanmar in the 80s and 90s. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) later gave them refugee status and allowed them to live in the shelter homes built in Teknaf. Ukhiya, and Naikhangchhari. The Myanmar government also took back a good number of Rohingya refugees on several phases.

The official record claims 13,000 Rohingyas are still living in Bangladesh. However, information collected by the secret agencies of the police claim more than 27,000 illegal Rohingyas are living in the Bandarban hilly areas alone.

The illegal occupants living in Naikhangchhari, Alikadam and Lama upazila of Bandarban district have been devouring the valuable forest resources like wood, bamboo etc. Besides, more than a thousand of them have their names in the voters' list in Bangladesh.

Bush hails ban

FROM PAGE 1 the US president of the steps taken 'to uphold the image of Bangladesh' and its 'continuous effort to root out terrorism from its land.

The discussion took place at a recent Iftar party hosted by the US

President Bush, who is leading a global 'war on terror', agreed that Bangladesh deserves due recognition and attention for its effort to eradicate terrorism and exercise the rule of law.

Tengratila blowout

Niko's repeated negligence has caused two rounds of blowouts in this field in January and July. The second blowout took place while drilling the first relief well to seal the first blown out well was

"The present drilling also saw a number of serious operational hitches," he added.

Niko was supposed to finish this job in October 1. When a writ petition froze all activities of Niko, it had obtained relaxation of a court order freezing its bank accounts till October 22. Sources said it has extended the relaxation till December through the High Court to facilitate completion of this well.

The sources pointed out in September when Niko finished drilling a 500 meter relief well reaching the first blown out relief well, it pumped in 4000 barrels of water and another 2500 barrels of cements to plug the affected But Niko soon realised that the

leakage from the field remained unchanged. Niko was also warned that its ill preparation to handle the situation might lead to a third blowout. This situation led Niko to pump in a massive 2.47 lakh barrels of water, 1000 barrels of special gel, 1000 barrels of mud and 750 barrels of cement. This

cement had disappeared and gas

Niko started drilling the Tengratila relief well with an undisclosed budget recently using a fund from its insurance company. Following the second blowout in

Tengratila on June 17, Niko drilled a 540 meter "data well" in late July to compile geological data that would help it undertake a flawless relief well drilling programme. Niko was found disqualified to

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

ROK reluctant

"Whatever the reasons are, the Bangladeshi workers are living illegally in Korea, which is damaging the workers' image of Bangladesh and will affect the manpower export to Korea as well as in other countries," he added.

The four agencies which have sent the 8.000 workers to Korea since 2000 jointly published advertisements in the national dailies, requesting the workers in Korea to come back and warning their guardians of legal actions if they do not tell their relatives to come back home immediately. In the joint advertisement, the

who come back at the stipulated time will be sent again to Korea at a lower cost and will be rewarded. The advertisement, however, did not mention what the costs involved. When contacted, MA Salim, MP of Silver Line Associates, said the agencies

agencies also declared that workers

Unique Eastern (Pvt) Ltd, Rupsha Overseas Ltd and Orbital Enterprise will soon fix the lower cost. On taking legal actions against the guardians, an official in the expatriate

ministry said no law in the country allows legal actions against relatives due to the crimes of someone else. MA Salim, however, said it was mentioned so that the guardians would heed the warning and encourage their

64 lakh names

registration deadline expired seven months later in September 2001. Given that some underage persons reached the voting age during the intervening period from February to September, NDI concludes that voter registration still outstretches the adjusted voting age

tion deadline were not updated, meaning their names still appeared in the old

The survey reveals that close to one half of the errors in the voters' list are a result of the failure to update names of those who migrated. And for the case of eligible persons being left out of the voters' list, NDI finds that many of them were not present at their locations when the list was prepared.

reasonable explanation of the overall anomaly between voter registration and P Lippert in the preface of final survey NDI sources said it would make a

repeat survey of the voters' list once the new voters' list is prepared ahead of the next general elections

Board of Directors. NDI's programs in Bangladesh have been funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), and the United Kingdom's Department for International International Development

Cooperation Agency (SIDA). However, the survey that NDI

FROM PAGE 16

on the mainland, a hospital was evacuated, state officials monitored gas supplies and workers assembled truckloads of water, ice and meals for relief efforts planned once the storm makes its expected pass over the state

moving into time of action as people are evacuating," Florida emergency management director Craig Fugate

On Saturday, Wilma was joined by Tropical Storm Alpha, which formed south off the Dominican Republic as the record 22nd named storm for the Atlantic season. It was the first time forecasters had to turn to the Greek alphabet for names in almost 60 years of naming storms. The previous record of 21 tropical storms and hurricanes had stood since 1933.

had maximum sustained wind near 100 mph. It was cantered about 90 miles north-northeast of Cancun. Mexico, or about 315 miles westsouthwest of Key West, and was moving toward the northeast at about 8 Hurricane centre director Max

"It's really going to take off like a rocket," he said. "It's going to start

moving like 20 mph." Tropical storm-force wind of at warned that a storm's strength can be

Noman tells

secretary (admin) of the fisheries and livestock Ministry, to create awareness among the people about the

ronment and information were included in the task force besides other stakeholders. The minister said two other committees headed by the director gener-

als of health and livestock depart-

ments are also working in this connec-

"The committee headed by direc-

He said grassroots level offices of the department have also been ordered to form vigilance teams comprising administration and poultry traders.

the home and environment ministries Iqbal Mahmood, joint secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, told the news agency.

As a preventive measure the zoo

authorities have cleaned up the two

lakes by removing the hyacinth clus-

preventing the outbreak of bird flu disease in the country.' He said donors' assistance would be sought to finance various components, such as vaccination, decon-

vaccinated all kinds of birds in the zoo.

seek assistance from the donor agen-

cies to implement a project aimed at

tamination, training of workers and

Noman said: "We are planning to

officials, and laboratory and testing The proposals seeking assistance will be submitted to the World Bank (WB), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the World Health Organisation (WHO),

On the amount of expected assistance, officials said this would be determined after finalising the proposal, now being prepared by the

said Md Abdul Karim, Secretary of the

Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock.

The Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) earlier said Bangladesh, as being the host of migratory bird, has the potential risk of being affected the bird flu virus. The virus has already spread across

According to World Health Organisation (WHO), nearly 15 million people of the world may die after

Biman to get fuel

Thursday. It will reduce the number of flights on other domestic routes too. Official sources said the state-run

airliner, pressed by the BPC for realising its outstanding fuel dues of Tk 508 crore In another development, private

In a telephone conversation yesterday, both State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin and Energy Adviser Mahmudur Rahman agreed that the BPC should continue to supply fuel to Biman until Eid and then both sides will

a meeting between the energy adviser Rahman's business.

to the Middle East and London will be raised. Officials in the civil aviation and tourism ministry said they found poor

New York, following the prime minis-

ter's wish, although it causes huge losses

to Biman. Besides, the number of flights

to bear the operational cost of the offices in these two cities," said a senior official in the ministry.

Biman will also readjust some of its international flights. The Chittagong-Yangon flight

as the fare is not cost-effective at all decisions are carried out.

dealing a heavy blow to the farmers. The situation was even worse for the narrow roads for almost the entire day.

and chose to go on foot," said an office-Taxi and CNG-run three-wheeler

for half an hour yesterday noon. Medical services in most hospitals in

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation

Transport Authority (BIWTA) will arrange the extra launch service on 17 routes from Dhaka and Narayanganj, BIWTA sources said. Barisal, Barguna, Chandpur, Ichuli, Madaripur, Kalaiya, Borhanuddin

Bangladesh Railway will start selling

Twenty girls

advantage of the prevailing Monga and alluring them with jobs of domestic helps, Alifuddin and his associates did collect and transport 20 girls to Dhaka from different villages of the upazila. The remaining 15 victims include Champa Begum, 14, daughter of Abul Kasem of North Titpara village, and Aina Begum, 15, daughter of

of the trafficked girls after they fled.

The letter written in the name of 'JMB commander" threatened of bomb attacks at important installa-Jessore. The letter also mentioned

of Sylhet district as target areas.

port sources said.

gated, they added.

importing two lakh tonnes of urea, one lakh tonnes of granular fertiliser and one lakh tonnes of prilled fertiliser. But the government approved

said a senior official of the BCIC. Granular and prilled fertiliser will cost \$293 and \$245 per ton respec-

about the miseries they are now facing.

But now his earning has gone down

Another beggar said, "Business neonle always used to give us handsomely. But most of them now complain that their business is going bad, where

The Indian high commission in with a list of 11 companies and urged The chairman said the parliamen-

The Deputy Minister for Food and Disaster Management Asadul Habib Dulu, however, told the meeting that there is no monga in the country. "The

combination apparently worked as presently the main gas leakage has

such an economic situation drags on, Economic concerns aside, the

rehabilitation. "Different governments

begging. "But if we are properly rehabilitated, we have no objection to leave the roads and if we receive adequate allowances we have no interest to beg," Ali declared. "Begging is not an honourable job, neither is it easy to beg, roaming around under the sun and in the rains. We are

relatives to return. "We actually want that they come back to keep up the workers' image of the country. Otherwise we shall loose our labour

population by about 5 percent. According to NDI, migration is the main source of error in the voters' list. Names of people who migrated to another location prior to the registra-

"The results of our survey provide a

population as well as internal errors within the voters' list. The major factor underlying both issues is migration and the subsequent dual voter registration, one at the place of work and the other at the place of original residence. As migration will likely accelerate, the issues raised here will continue to remain of concern," said NDI Bangladesh Country Director Dr Owen

Former US Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright chairs the NDI

 $conducted \,was \,supported \,by \,USAID.$

Wilma

in a South Florida suburb. About 1,300 people were in shelters

"The time of preparing is rapidly

east 39 mph is expected in the Keys and the southwestern part of the state by Sunday evening, and in Miami and other Atlantic coast cities around midnight. The centre of Wilma was expected to hit Florida's southwest coast as a Category 1 or 2 hurricane early Monday, although forecasters

health, education, commerce, envi-

tor general of livestock Dr Salehuddin Mahmud has been asked to submit reports twice a week after observing the countrywide situation," Noman

ters as a preventive measure and being infected by bird flu virus.

after Eid, has got no options left but to restrain its huge operational losses. and foreign airliners vesterday told the civil aviation and tourism ministry that. like Biman, they will not be able to

sit for "an amicable solution" to the nagging problem of dues. Although the BPC and Energy Division earlier sought the finance

operate sufficient Hajj flights this year due to aircraft shortages, the civil aviation and tourism ministry sought

against the increased cost of jet fuel. Mir Nasir told this correspondent last night that by flying 4,000 hajj pilgrims to Saudi Arabia at the low fare,

Biman will incur a loss of Tk 20 crore this

vear, which is over Tk 71 lakh per hajj

formed an eight-member committee

headed by its secretary to review the

fares to be quoted by airliners except

Later, the civil aviation ministry

Biman by October 31. BDNEWS adds: Biman has decided not to run its flights to some international routes, including Paris and Frankfurt, official sources said. It will, however, continue flights to

outcome from the Biman flights to Paris and Frankfurt during a review. "Even the Biman Headquarters has

might also face closure due to contin-

By 8 a.m. EDT on Sunday, Wilma

Mayfield predicted the storm would dramatically pick up speed later Sunday and its top wind speed would

Representatives of ministries of

"In July, we have issued letter to to stop hunting of migratory birds,"

Europe and many Asian countries.

operate Hajj flights at the low fare of \$ 950 per passenger.

ministry's intervention into the matter, and finance minister scheduled for vesterday could not be held due to Saifur Meanwhile, as Biman is unable to

assistance from the private and interna-But these airliners, including Saudia, made it clear to the minister concerned yesterday that they do not want to incur any loss by operating hajj flights at \$950, uous losses, while the flights to

Bangkok, Singapore and Kuala Lumpur will be reduced. Official sources said Biman can save huge amounts of money if the