## Traffic rules

FROM PAGE 16 violating the traffic rules," IGP Nur

The police boss also observed that the nagging problem of traffic jam in the capital is not possible to fix within a short time and suggested adopting several short and longterm strategies to get rid of the men-

addressing a monthly luncheon meeting of American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (Amcham) at a city hotel as the chief guest and speaker.

Amcham President Syed Ershad Ahmed, Vice President Trevor MacDonald and Executive Director A Gafur addressed the meeting. The topic was Traffic jam in Dhaka city: Challenges and possible solution.

When a participant observed that the truck and bus drivers dare to violate traffic rules as the sergeants take bribes from them, the IGP said that the tendency is going down adding that the previous corrupt recruitment process is responsible

get the job of a sergeant earlier, Nur Mohammad said adding that he was positive that a new batch of around 700 sergeants to be rolled in the streets shortly will be free from this negative practice as their recruit-

traffic jam that includes re-adjusting the school and office times keeping at least one-hour gap, reducing and convenient and cheaper ones and fixing different fares for rush hour and non-rush hours.

ANTI-HOARDING DRIVE

## 500 tonnes of rice seized in Chuadanga

About 500 tonnes of rice were seized in this tiny border district town in an anti-hoarding drive vesterday.

Some of the hoarders were arrested but later set free with the local joint forces commander Lt Col Badrul Hasan.

hoarders are not rice traders. Moneylenders, pesticide dealers, iron rod and cement dealers, and jute traders hoarded the rice at secluded places. They formed a syndicate with the motive of creating artificial crisis of rice.

Meanwhile, price of coarse rice has come down by around Tk 3 per kg from Tk 30-31 a kg in local markets due to the anti-hoarding drive. Five teams of joint forces are carrying out the drive.

Acting on intelligence reports, they raided Barobazar,

Badurtala, Alokdia, Dingedaha and Sarajganj markets, and seized the hoarded rice.

FROM PAGE 1

assistance depends on the assessment of the mission," said a planning ministry official. The mission would also suggest possible projects in which the donors can con-

plea for providing food support instead of money, sources in the donor agencies said the mission would not deal with food support.

The government earlier estinecessary for relief, recovery and medium to long-term restoration

implemented in FY08 at a cost of \$ 520 million. Of this, \$ 143 million would be provided from the budget of FY08 and another \$ 377 million would be met this year from additional foreign assistance. Another \$ 603 million is needed for medium term projects and \$ 982 million for

Meanwhile, the WB has already made a commitment to provide \$ 325 million assistance and the ADB another \$ 180 million to recover the

losses caused by Sidr. On January 10, the board of WB approved a proposal for disbursing \$ 100 million financial support to the government by the end of this month. The amount will help reduce the strain on the budget of

The WB will provide another \$ 100 million by April for social investment programmes to restore the livelihoods of the cycloneaffected impoverished population through micro credit, emergency assistance funds, community infrastructure activities, skills development and income generating activities.

The WB's assistance in longerterm projects will depend on the findings of the DNA. According to a preliminary estimate, the size of the long-term programme of WB is around \$ 125 million.

conference room of the Local Government and Rural Development Ministry.

A committee led by Commerce Secretary Feroz Ahmed was formed at the meeting to investigate the cause for frequent labour unrest in the garment factories, Iqbal told a

Iqbal also told reporters that government intelligence teams have already identified the persons involved in the latest incident at

"The law enforcers will round up the identified persons for the unrest they caused in the garment

The meeting was attended by Commerce Adviser Hussain Zillur Rahman, Home Ministry Secretary Abdul Karim, President of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Anwar-Ul-Alam Chowdhury (Parvez), President of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) Fazlul Hoque, Director General of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Shakil Ahmed, Director General of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) Hasan Mahmud Khandaker and state Inspector General (IG) of police Noor Mohammad.

BKMEA president Fazlul Hoque said some vested quarters have been misleading the workers to try and destroy the RMG sector potentiality of the country.

"More than 90 per cent of the factories have been paying their workers according to the minimum wage recommendations. But, vested quarters are trying to make the sector volatile as local exporters work to recover the losses incurred last year," Hoque said.

## Foreign adviser

Anwar Choudhury was also hopeful of the government's ability to hold elections by the end of 2008 as it is on the "right track."

"They have to understand that this government has to succeed. I think they do understand that, Iftekhar told reporters, adding, "Failure is not an option." Iftekhar briefed the envoys

about government plans to hold dialogues with political parties and the gradual process of lifting the ban on indoor politics. "This is a new chapter," said

building among all the stakeholders would be difficult but will have to be completed. Iftekhar said the envoys raised a number of issues, including mili-

tancy, to which the adviser told the briefing that this government's ability to maintain social and economic stability would deter militants. He also sidestepped concerns

over human rights abuse, saying human rights abuses have gone down and the concerns will be addressed through the yet to be formed National Human Rights

### Edible oil

the two oil products were Tk 43.09 per kg during January-August and Tk 56 in November 2007.

The commerce ministry and the Export Promotion Bureau also conducted separate investigations and submitted their reports to the National Coordination Committee on checking corruption and serious crimes on January 8.

"We have submitted our investigation report on the export of edible oil, but we are not authorised to speak anything about it," said Nur-Un-Nabi Talukder, joint secretary for the commerce ministry and the head of a probe body.

NBR Chairman Muhammad Abdul Mazid told The Daily Star that some traders misinterpret the harmonised system of code and take

"The NBR is working on the issue and thinking of formulating a longterm policy so that businessmen cannot misuse the complexity of product specification," Mazid said.

Asked for his comments, Edible Oil Refiners and Importers Association President MA Rouf Chowdhury said, "The mater is really suspicious and if any member of the association is found involved in exporting edible oil to India a cheaper rates, the association will take action against it.

"There was no reason to export edible oil at that time as the country was struggling to fulfil its internal requirement. The issue should be investigated properly and if anything is found wrong, the traders involved should be punished," he added.

Talking with The Daily Star, the managing directors of United Edible Oils and Bay Fishing's parent organisation TK Group, Mostafa Kamal and Abu Kalam, said despite "some supply dearth" in the country, they exported edible oil to some northeastern Indian states to grab the potential market there and keep it

under their control. "We can export products to Assam by lorry which is a major advantage for the business," Kamal

added. The country's annual requirement of edible oil is around 14 lakh tonnes and 90 percent of this is imported from Malaysia, Indonesia,

Argentina and Brazil. Bangladesh also has 50 edible oil refineries that import bulk edible oil and distribute it across the country after refining.

# Offenders warned Selim Bhuiyan

FROM PAGE 16 building up assets through illegal

NIKO CASE Metropolitan Magistrate Waliul Islam recorded the statement of Selim Bhuiyan after the ACC's Assistant Director SM Sahidur Rahman produced the detained businessman to the magistrate's chamber.

Details of his confessions, however, could not be known immedi-

Selim was placed on a four-day remand for interrogation in connection with the case after task force members arrested him Thursday.

The ACC in its January 11 forwarding report said Selim was involved in reaching contract with Niko and that all the dealings between the government and the energy company were made through him.

The case, in which Khaleda Zia and five other people are also implicated, was filed with Tejgaon Police Station on December 9 on charge that awarding the gas exploration deal to the Canadian company caused huge losses to the

The other accused are former law minister Moudud Ahmed, former state minister for energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain, former energy secretary Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, former acting energy secretary Khandaker Shahidul Islam, 'and Kashem Sharif, vice president (South Asia) of Niko Resources Bangladesh Ltd.

Detained Khaleda, Moudud and Mosharraf were shown arrested in the case on December 30.

In the case statement, ACC Assistant Director Mahbubul Alam said Khaleda Zia, who was the custodian of the country's wealth in her capacity as prime minister, criminally violated her oath and abused power by giving Niko through corruption the opportunity to extract gas worth Tk 10,000

The plaintiff said the other accused were complicit in the illegal deal. HELALCASE

The corruption watchdog's Assistant Director Syed Ahmed,

who is also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet against the Helal couple to chief metropolitan magistrate's court, showing 23 people

as prosecution witnesses.

The IO prayed for arrest war rants against them and sough attachment of their property as Helal and Rupa have been in hiding since the case was filed with Ramna Police Station September 24 on charges of concealing Tk 7.60 crore in their wealth statements and amassing Tk 16.22 crore through illegal means.

#### Hasina

**FROM PAGE 1** with the District Court of Dhaka to establish Aziz's claim.

"No undue favour was received or necessary from the former prime minister of Bangladesh," he

On September 2 last year, the ACC filed the case against detained Hasina and six prominent personalities for helping a foreign company and its local partners-Wartsila Consortium, Summit Group and United Group--win the deal "through mutual understanding and use of influence"

The case statement said the three companies paid the Tk crore kickback, which was spent for buying a house in Dhanmondi for the Bangabandhu Memorial Trust set up and controlled by Hasina.

The other accused in the case are former energy secretary Dr Toufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, former Power Development Board chairman Noor Uddin Mahmud Kamal Summit Industries and Mercantile Corporation Private Ltd Managing Director Aziz Khan and Director Farid Khan, United Group Chairman Hasan Mahmud Raja and Director Abul Kalam Azad.

#### 4 killed

FROM PAGE 16 from the SUV.

In the past three years, a series of explosions in Lebanon have targeted mainly anti-Syrian politicians and journalists.

The last car bombing on Dec 12 in Beirut's suburb of Baabda killed Lebanese army Maj. Gen. Francois Hajj and two other people.

## Delwar tells

foiling a military coup. Fakhruddin Ahmed, during his

Saturday's address to the nation on the occasion of the first anniversary of the caretaker government, said his administration would soon move to initiate dialogues with political parties of the country in line with a decision taken by the council of advisers.

When asked about Delwar's teleconference, Rizvi Ahmed, acting secretary general of BNP told The Daily Star, "He [Delwar] replied to a few questions from journalists while inaugurating the website of Khaleda Zia Antorjatik Mukti Andolan.'

The chairperson's presence is a must for a fruitful dialogue with the government, Rizvi said echoing Delwar's comment.

When Delwar was asked during the teleconference to evaluate the activities of President Iajuddin Ahmed, he said he [the president] had imposed the state of emergency as conspiracies were going on at the time to cripple the coun-

At that time, "he [the president] was compelled to bow down to try. pressure and failed to take a firm stance as he is a non-political person," Delwar said. To make his point, Delwar mentioned the success of former political president Abdur Rahman Biswas in tomake certain quarter happy.

"The government is talking about dialogue, but we want to know the objective and agenda of the dialogue," he said alleging, "The government is trying to create division in BNP. ... All kinds of conspiracies are going on so BNP

cannot participate in the election." Asked whether they would participate in the election with Khaleda Zia in jail, Delwar said only the chairperson can take the decision in this regard, but they did not get the permission to visit her. The pro-Khaleda secretary

general of BNP said they were ready to accept any party in power through a truly free and fair elec-He also said justice cannot be

served with the emergency power rules enforced and nobody will accept the verdicts of the types of trial that are being conducted now.

Responding to another query, Delwar said the country is passing a transitional period and only an elected government can overcome the existing problems of the coun-

Blasting Saifur Rahman for his recent activities, Delwar said he [Saifur] has done everything, including appointing a secretary general through an illegal meeting,

# Matin given reins

"I don't know what prompted the chief adviser to give the home ministry to another adviser. As far as I can recall, all chief advisers of caretaker governments in the past kept the portfolio of home ministry with themselves," former adviser to the 2001 caretaker government M Hafizuddin Khan told The Daily Star yesterday.

Matin, who is also the chief of the National Coordination Committee on Serious Crimes and Corruption, had been given the charge of the communications ministry first, but the chief adviser recently gave the ministry to newly appointed Adviser Maj Gen (retd) Ghulam Quader.

About the change in his portfolios, former communications adviser Matin yesterday said he does not think that he failed to run the communications ministry well.

"My ministries have been changed through a normal process and it had happened several times earlier too," Matin, a key figure in the reformist interim administration and who also has the charges of the land, the shipping, and the liberation war affairs ministries, told reporters yesterday.

the National Coordination Committee is not going into action against the corruption suspects on its last published list at the moment as the government is overloaded with investigations and trials of those who had been on the previous lists.

made changes in the portfolios of another adviser and of the three special assistants to the CA in a follow-up to the recent reshuffle in the council of advisers.

notification issued by the Cabinet Division said the portfolios of Adviser M Anwarul Iqbal were also changed placing the LGRD and cooperatives, textiles and jute, and the labour and employment ministries under his jurisdiction.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed redistributed the portfolios of the advisers 'under rule 3(iv) of the Rules of Business 1996', said the notifica-

assistants to the chief adviser. The chief adviser redistributed

the portfolios of the special assistants to the CA 'in exercise of the powers vested in him under rule 3A (ii) of the Rules of Business 1996', it said. office here.

Adviser Iftekhar later told journalists that France "occupies a very important position in the world and Bangladesh will work closely with her in bilateral and multilateral fields"

the independence".

## Sidr assistance | Mirpur sizzles

FROM PAGE 1 workers went to the Rab office and had Shakhawat freed by 3:30pm.

This all helped calm the workers who ended the day with a rally in front of MBM factory late afternoon. Anwar Hossain, deputy commis-

sioner of police (Mirpur Zone), told The Daily Star, "We have been trying our best to keep the situation under control. We believe it is very much their [workers'] right to press home their demands. But they must do so peacefully and remember that unruliness is not to be put up with."

The demonstrators alleged that the MBM Garment authorities have been giving no attention to their demands forcing the workers to continue the street agitation over the last few days.

At least 100 people including 50 workers and 20 policemen were wounded in clashes Monday.

CLASHATDEPZ A tense situation was prevailing in

the EPZ area with additional forces deployed to avert further fighting. Yesterday's incident was a sequel to the previous day's. Around 2,000

workers of Indonesian company Shine Fashion Monday staged demonstration inside the DEPZ demanding a rise in allowances for meal and transport, said witnesses.

They went back to work after the factory authorities assured their demands would be considered.

As the employees gathered in front of the DEPZ main gate at around 7:30am yesterday, they found a notice announcing that the factory would remain closed for an indefinite period.

Incensed, they tried to enter the EPZ premises only to be attacked by the security men and police. The workers resisted leading to a clash that left at least 20 injured.

Officer-in-Charge of Ashulia

#### Selim Al Deen

FROM PAGE 16

was a great playwright "not only of Bangladesh or in Bengali language but also by any standard, be it national or international ... How many times, both here (Kolkata) and in Dhaka, have I (we all) leapt in joy or drowned in despair as we experienced the magic and mystique of his words."

Born in Bangladesh, Rudraprasad joined Kolkata-based theatre group Nandikar in 1961 and became leader of the group in late 1970s. As a thespian, he appeared in some Bengali art films -- Bernardo Bertolucci's Little Buddha and Roland Joffé's City

## DU demos

FROM PAGE 1

Robaet Ferdous, Zinat Huda, Dishani Chakravorty, Kajol Krishna Banerjee were present at the rally.

Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury, Prof Anu Muhammad, Salimullah Khan, Ahmed Kamal, Ashfari Hossain expressed solidarity with the demonstrating students over tele-

two-hour abstention from class

DUTAMEETING

Dhaka University Teachers Association (Duta) will hold a requi sitioned meeting today to decide what they can do to have the teachers and the student released and discuss the stalled election of the executive committee for 2008.

Teachers belonging to pro-Awami League Blue Panel and left leaning Pink Panel called for the meeting as Duta's acting president and general secretary "failed to make any decision in this regard"

The pro-BNP-Jamaat White Panel termed the meeting unconstitutional and decided not to join.

# Police Station Kamrul Islam and

Shine Fashion's General Manager Major (retd) Mainul Alam were among those wounded. Police arrested a worker named

Nazmul Hossain on the scene. DEPZ has 88 factories with about 2 lakh workers.

#### Bush urges Opec nations to pump more oil

AP, Riyadh

President Bush urged Opec nations yesterday to put more oil on the world market and warned that soaring prices could cause an economic slowdown in the United States.

"High energy prices can damage consuming economies," the president told a small group of reporters traveling withhiminthe Mideast.

"It's affected our families. Paying more for gasoline hurts some of the American families, and I'll make that clear to him," said Bush, heading into more talks with Saudi King Abdullah. Shortly after Bush spoke, the Saudi oil minister said the kingdom, responsible for almost one-third of the cartel's total output, would raise oil production when the market justified it.

In a stern warning to Iran days after a Jan. 6 confrontation with US warships in the Persian Gulf, Bush put Tehran on notice that it needs to be careful. The president said it would not matter to him whether an attack against an American vessel resulted from an order by the government in Iran or a rash decision by an Iranian boat captain.

"It's not going to matter to me one way or another," Bush said. If the Iranians hit a U.S. ship, "there are going to be serious consequences," he said. U.S. officials claim Iranian speed-

boats swarmed three Navy warships in the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow waterway that is the only entry and exit to the Persian Gulf. They said U.S. Navy commanders were considering firing warning shots, before the retreat of the five Iranian speedboats, which the Pentagon said were operated by the eliteRevolutionaryGuards. Iran has denied that its boats threat-

ened the U.S. vessels.

## FROM PAGE 16

programme at his Gulshan house where Abu Dhabi chapter of Bangabandhu Parishad donated Tk 5

Ifthekhar Hossain Bakul handed over the cheque to Zillur Rahman for helping the cyclone-affected people in

lakh to the AL's committee for relief

"We have to think deeply why thegovernment has taken the matter so seriously and whether there is any scheme behind it," Zillur said adding that why the government did not take up the matter immediately after

Over the chief election commissioner's (CEC) remark that elections had been held earlier while martial law had been in force, the AL leader The students will also observe a observed that it is very tough to partici pate in polls under state of emergency.

> "Electoral campaign is necessary prior to taking part in the election. We will have to go door to door and listen to people," he said wondering how these would be possible with state of emer-

> Asked whether they would participate in the polls or boycott it if it is held under state of emergency, Zillur replied

> AL presidium member Abdur Razzak , AL leaders Dr Hasan Mahmud, Dr Dipu Moni, Nazma Rahman and Maj Gen (retd) Shubid Ali Bhuiyan were present, among others,

# Musharraf faces

doing nothing to deal with them," he

Sharif, the man ousted by Musharraf in a military coup in 1999, has repeatedly called for the president's resignation since returning to

Karachi and thousands of paramilitary forces were fanning out across the city, Pakistan's largest, officials

spokesman Captain Mohammad Fazal said, adding that another 4,000 were on standby. The blast Monday evening ripped

"We have deployed 10,000 per-

on their way home. "There was no specific target, it was just meant to kill ordinary civilians. The terrorists chose a soft target to spread panic and terrorise soci-

factory as workers were buying food

Officials said the bloodshed was meant to force the government to push back the elections again, a move that could further undermine stability in the Islamic republic of 160 million people.

It was one of three bombings in Pakistan on Monday night. One person was wounded in a

blast at a political party office in the northwestern city of Peshawar, while a third explosion in the southwestern town of Hub caused no casualties. On Tuesday a suicide bomber blew

border, the military said. There was no damage or casual-

ties among security personnel, it That attack occurred in the same district as a major battle between Pakistani troops and suspected

Ex-general Musharraf has come under mounting criticism for failing to stem the growth of Islamic militancy fuelled by the US-led "war on terror" in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Musharraf's spokesman Rashid Qureshi quoted the president as saying the election schedule would not be changed again regardless of the violence.

Benazir FROM PAGE 16

the southern port city. He did not say what kind of evidence he provided to the British "They had some questions... We

will now consult other party leaders

and give them further evidence,"

the Benazir Bhutto family home in

added Zardari, who took over as cochairman of Benazir's Pakistan People's Party after her murder. He and the couple's 19-year-old son Bilawal, who is being groomed to

assume full leadership of the party when he is older, have both called for a formal UN inquiry into her death. Benazir Bhutto, a former premier, was assassinated in a gun and suicide bomb attack at an election rally in Rawalpindi on December 27 but

conflicting government accounts of her killing have caused a storm of controversy. Zardari said the British police team had a "limited mandate", covering only the cause of death, and

that the UN should also be involved. "The government rejected our appeal for a UN probe, so the People's Party will directly approach

former UN secretary general Kofi Annan on the matter. Six of the British detectives left Pakistan bound for London on

Monday with evidence collected from their investigation. Four other members of the team are staying in Pakistan to help local police with their probe.

# constructing flyovers from one end

to another end of the city, introduc-

ing underground rail service, under-

taking co-ordinated and integrated

strategies among different agencies

Wasa and BTTB without any inte-

grated plan, plying of slow and fast

moving vehicles on the same road,

rail-crossings and insufficient park-

ing arrangements as major causes of

requirement for a standard city is 25

percent of the total area, Dhaka has

got only 7.5 percent, Nur

Mohammad said adding that the

hawkers, salesmen and shopkeepers

occupy 30 percent out of this 7.5

percent. Besides, construction

materials and waste containers of

Dhaka City Corporation eat up

said 74 trains move every day to and

from Dhaka. On an average, it takes

five minutes to get clearance for

each crossing and thus the vehicles

hours daily, which is really difficult

people's tendency not to abide by

law, inadequate logistics and short-

age of manpower as some of the

that the subway would be installed

in next two to three years in phases.

Ahmed observed that traffic jam is

having negative effects on the devel-

Transport Authority (BRTA) he said,

"People feel badly harassed when

they go to BRTA." They often make

intentional delay in getting work

done leading to corruption, he

required," he told reporters at his

Asked about transparency in

former prime minister Sheikh

Hasina's trial, Ariff, who is a former

attorney general, said it is not true

that transparency is ensured if a

large number of people throng the

court on trucks. And, he said, it is

also equally not true that the pres-

ence of a few people would guaran-

The law adviser said it is impor-

tant to ensure whether the victim

has faith in the trial proceedings

leaders without specific cases, he

deemed illegal if a higher court

declares it so, adding that in every

democracy there is such detention.

But it must be ensured that it is

On whether people have got

confidence in the judiciary after its

separation from the executive, the

adviser said, "Whoever will get

injunction, will have confidence,

others not," adding that the judi-

ciary has gained freedom in the

context of a framework following

Dr Hossain Zillur's remarks about

the release of detained Dhaka

University teachers and students

no matter what the court's judge-

ment be, Ariff said the adviser

spoke about the government steps

He said the government has

On whether appointment of

special assistants to chief adviser

conforms to the constitution, the

law adviser said the government

tional and made the appointments

Opposing Tarique's petition, the

state counsel yesterday told the

court that it was necessary to take

Tarique on remand for the sake of

the investigation and that the

investigation would be hampered

he is ill and had been tortured

during the earlier police remand.

Tarique's counsels argued that

Tarique, also senior joint secre-

tary of BNP, was once interrogated at

jail gate, the counsels told the court,

arguing that he may be interrogated

Meanwhile, the jail authorities

yesterday took Tarique to

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical

University (BSMMU) and Dhaka

Medical College Hospital (DMCH)

Deputy Inspector General

(prison) Major Shamsul Haider

Siddiqui told The Daily Star that

Tarique has been complaining about

BSMMU at 10:30am for a blood test

and to DMCH in the afternoon for

magnetic resonant imaging of the

Hopes for talk

be ironed out in the court of law or

ment said once the agenda of

dialogue is finalised with parties,

the government would formally sit

Sources in the caretaker govern-

at the Election Commission.

Tarique was first taken to

The DMCH will deliver the test

Tarique was taken back to jail

headache and pain in the neck.

spinal chord.

FROM PAGE 1

with them.

result tomorrow.

around 3:30pm.

at jail gate again if it is necessary.

for some pathological tests.

if he cannot be taken on remand.

HC asks govt

to be taken after the court verdict.

jurisdiction to free any accused.

Asked about Education Adviser

said the detention should be

About detention of political

Law adviser

opment activities.

FROM PAGE 16

tee transparency.

and if the trial is fair.

not misused," he said.

its separation.

Replying to a query, the IGP said

Amcham President Syed Ershad

About Bangladesh Road

major challenges they are facing.

Nur Mohammad identified

had to make stopovers for up to six

About the rail crossings, the IGP

significant portions of space.

Whereas the minimum road

traffic gridlock.

Mohammad said.

working for city development, replacing rickshaws by ensuring proper rehabilitation of the rickshaw pullers and decentralising the city. The IGP identified overpopulation, inadequate and unplanned He made the observations while road networks, rampant excavation of roads by city corporation, Desa,

One had to bribe Tk 4 to 5 lakh to

ment process was fair. The IGP put forward several short-term strategies to reduce replacing private transport with

The long-term strategies are

# UNB, Chuadanga

seized rice given back to them on condition that they would sell it in the market at Tk 26 per kg, said He said it is surprising that the

Puratanbazar,

Donors

tribute, he added. Asked about the government's

The ministries have designated primarily considered it constituhigh officials who would assist the by amending the Rules of Business. mission during their assessment, the sources added. mated that \$ 2.1 billion would be

and rehabilitation work in the cyclone-affected area. Part of the programme would be

longer-term projects.

FY08 following the non-planned spending resulted by the cyclone.

briefing after the meeting.

factories," Iqbal said.

Iftekhar, who said that consensus

# Commission.

FROM PAGE 1 66.92 per kg in November. The average production costs of

In a separate notification issued by the Cabinet Division the head of the caretaker government announced reshuffling of the portfo

The new portfolios of the special assistants are as follows: Raja Debashis Roy -- the Chittagong Hill Tracts affairs, and the environment Matin said the task force under and forest ministries; Brig Gen (Retd) MA Malek -- the post and telecommunications, and the social welfare ministries; and Prof M Tamim -- the Energy and Mineral Resources

immediately," the notification

#### FROM PAGE 1 survivors of Cyclone Sidr where there is reduced overall food availability. Providing assisted-food rations consisting of rice, pulses, edible oil, blended food, salt and high energy biscuits, WFP will continue to deliver food assistance

in the affected districts in collabo-

ration with the Government and NGO partners. Contributors to the WFP emergency operation in Bangladesh include Australia, Canada, European Commission, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, USA, UN CERF and private

donors. Cyclone Sidr severely affected 9 million people and claimed 3,347 lives.

## DU violence

FROM PAGE 16 August last year. After the defence lawyers completed cross-examining investigation officer (IO) of the case Subinspector (SI) Sirajul Islam, Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Rabbani fixed today for recording the testimony

now in jail. The court also set today for the closing arguments of the case. Earlier, the court recorded statements of 15 prosecution witnesses including the complainant of the

Another Dhaka court fixed

today for the cross-examination of

IO Babul Bhuiyan in another case

filed against the same accused.

of the accused, five of whom are

The accused four teachers and a student were produced before the court vesterday for the hearing. The magistrate allowed them to sit down during the proceedings. The accused teachers are Dhaka University Teachers' Association

(Duta) President Prof Sadrul Amin,

General Secretary Prof Anwar

Hossain, Science Faculty Dean Prof

Harun-ar-Rashid, and Applied

Physics Department Chairman Prof Neem Chandra Bhowmik. The cases were filed against 5,000 to 6,000 unnamed students and teachers of Dhaka University and outsiders on August 22 in connection with violating the EPR vandalising public and private properties, obstructing police performing their duties and assaulting law enforcers on the

campus and its adjoining areas.

nection with instigating the violence on campus and in Shahbagh area on August 21 and 22. Advocates Syed Rezaur Rahman, Masud Ahmed Talukder, Abdul Mannan Khan and Mosleuddin Jasim defended the

The police pressed charges

against only four teachers and 15

students on September 9 in con-

Jiabao on Monday signed a broad agreement that they said would push an often testy relationship to a new level of cooperation. The pact included a pledge to make a renewed effort to solve a

Himalayan border dispute over

which they fought a brief war in

"Our prime minister has stated

India

FROM PAGE 16

on a number of occasions that there is enough room for the rise of both India and China," said Nirupama Rao, India's ambassador to Beijing, according to the China Daily. Nuclear energy cooperation between the two countries could

help slow the depletion of world

energy resources, said Xu Liping,

an international relations expert at the Chinese Academy of Social "The populations of India and China constitute one-third of humanity. The energy consumption of these two engines is very great, so joint development of

#### nuclear power can help reduce resource consumption," he said. "This could have a positive significance."

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Artefacts

specific date. A foreign ministry press release yesterday said the French envoy also assured the adviser of sending back the objects of art. The Bangladesh government sent 42 artefacts for the Paris exhi-

bition; but after the heist of two

Vishnu statuettes from the airport

on December 22, the government

cancelled sending the remaining

possible", without mentioning any

items and asked the French government not to hold the exhibition. The ambassador did not say who to bear the shipment costs of the artefacts to Dhaka. He only said the issue is being resolved.

The press release said

Ambassador Causeret told the

foreign affairs adviser that bilateral

relations between France and

Bangladesh are excellent and that

the artefact issue would not have

any negative impact on them under any circumstances. He also said he would work to promote bilateral relations across the political, economic and cultural spectrum during his time in

He said Ambassador Causeret is an old friend of Bangladesh, having served here immediately after

AL asks govt

the country's southern districts.

assuming power.

gencyin effect.

that they would take final decision after learning the government's stance and declaration in this regard.

## at the programme.

the country from exile in November. Police were on high alert in

sonnel at all sensitive points and installations," Paramilitary Rangers through a busy intersection outside a

ety." interior ministry spokesman Brigadier Javed Cheema said.

himself up outside a paramilitary post in the tribal region near the Afghan

Taliban extremists on Monday, in which seven soldiers and 23 militants

were killed.

the UN, "he said. He added that he had spoken to

The chief adviser yesterday also

Meanwhile, UNB reported that a

lios of newly appointed three special

Division, and the Power Division. "The orders will be effective