water.

(OECD), the development aid to the

country was \$1,240 million in 1990,

but it plummeted to \$110 million in

in achieving gender parity in ter-

tiary education, reducing maternal

mortality and fully containing the

spread of communicable diseases

and reducing the proportion of

population without safe drinking

"The targets that we are strug-

gling to reach would be given

emphasis in the next poverty reduc-

tion strategy papers, now being

tion as well as gain universal access

to primary education and reduce

the under-five child mortality and

A delegation from United Nations

Economic and Social Commission

for Asia and Pacific during a visit to

Benapole land port in April last

year recommended that the

Jessore-Benapole highway should

be included in the proposed Asian

implemented, travel distance

between Dhaka and Benapole

would be reduced by around 100

kilometres, said RHD officials.

Tk 500-550 from Tk 400-450.

and Fresh, saw a sharp rise.

The price of eggs rose by Tk 3-6

The prices of powdered milk of

A 400gm pack of Dano pow-

dered milk rose to Tk 212 from last

week's Tk 201 while a 400gm pack

of Fresh powdered milk leapt to Tk

also became dearer after quite a

increase of vegetables prices on

end of season for some vegetables

ies increased by Tk 20-40 per

all retail markets rose by Tk 1 per kg.

increased by Tk 10-50 at the mar-

kets in the capital over the last two

employee of Dhaka Medical

College Hospital who came to

Palashi kitchen market yesterday

said a month ago he could manage

his family's daily kitchen expenses

within Tk 200, but now he has to

Abdur Rahim, a fourth class

The prices of all types of fish also

Prices of rice of different variet-

and start of season for others.

48-54 per dozen at different retail

different brands, including Dano

Once the Asian Highway is

infant mortality rates.

Benapole

FROM PAGE 16

Highway.

markets.

200 from Tk 195.

increased by Tk 8-10 per kg in the Meanwhile, most vegetables

Bazar said they are selling sugar at the last week. The prices at almost

Non-stop price hike

Bangladesh is behind schedule

MDG challenges

FROM PAGE 1

According to draft Labour Force

Survey 2005-06 of Bangladesh

Bureau of Statistics, unemploy-

ment rose by one lakh or 5 percent

create employment opportunities

at a much faster pace," reads the

Dr Zaid Bakht, research director

of Bangladesh Institute of

Development Studies, said the

government should provide policy

support and fiscal incentive for the

labour-intensive industries to over-

complete primary school remains a

difficult task. A remarkable success

has been achieved in increasing

primary school enrolment, but that is

under threat from problems in pre-

The country requires continued

support and assistance from its

development partners to beat off

the hurdles getting in its way of

It may not be able to generate

required resources from domestic

sources and so will need sustained

support from the donors, notes the

oped countries failed to contribute

0.7 percent of gross national

income (GNI) that they have

pledged for the developing coun-

assistance (ODA) to Bangladesh

has been falling over the years.

Given by the 30-country grouping

named Organisation for Economic

Co-operation and Development

The prices of pulses increased

Pulses of different varieties were

Sumon, a trader at Nimtoli

by Tk 8-12 per kg over the last week

at both retail and wholesale mar-

selling between Tk 68 and Tk 95 per

kg at the retail markets of the coun-

Anandabazar under Shahbagh

Police Station, said he sold pulses

depending on their variety.

between Tk 58 and Tk 84 last week

Old Dhaka said the price of pulses

retail market. They cited end of the

season and shortage of supply as

Tk 10 per kg in the last two weeks.

Sugar was selling between Tk 40-42

Tk 40.5 per kg, but the price was Tk

The price of flour increased by

Tk 4 per kg last week and a 1kg pack

of flour was selling at Tk 43-48 at

the retail markets yesterday,

local-variety and Indian variety-

are hovering around Tk 17-20 per

kg. They sold at Tk 12-15 per kg a

The prices of onions--both the

The price of sugar climbed up by

the main reasons for the hike.

Traders at Karwan Bazar and in

FROM PAGE 1

try yesterday.

27 a month ago.

depending on brands.

hike of soybean oil.

Moreover, official development

tries seeking to achieve MDGs.

Besides, it continues, the devel-

Planning Commission study.

meeting the MDGs.

venting dropouts, the report adds.

Ensuring that all boys and girls

come the growing unemployment.

"The challenge is clearly to

between 2002-03 and 2005-06.

report on the MDG campaign.

AP, Baghdad

Funerals were held Friday for many of the victims of a twin bombing in a crowded Baghdad shopping district that killedat least 68 people and wounded 120 - a stark reminder that Iraq's violence may have slackened but has not fully abated.

The funerals were held in the primarily Shiite, middle-class Raghdad neighborhood of Karradah, the area where the back-to-back bombings took place.

There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the attack Thursday, but the method is designed to maximize death. It has since 2006 been the hallmark al-Qaida in Iraq, which is responsible for killing thousands of people with such attacks.

Like in previous such attacks, the tactic seeks to draw in the people with the first blast - especially security, medical workers and other first responders - before a second bomb detonates.

Iraqis were enjoying a pleasant spring evening when a roadside bomb hidden under a vendor stall detonated in Karradah. Five minutes later, a suicide bomber wearing an explosives belt detonated, Mohammed al-Rubaie, the head of the Karradah municipality, told the state-run Al-Iraqiya TV.

Interior Ministry officials said Friday 68 people were killed and 120 injured after several people died from their injuries overnight. An Associated Press count from

officials at five hospitals shows at least 67 dead and 119 injured. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to media.

Many of the victims were teens or young adults, and four were women, police and officials at three hospitals said.

Hassan Abdullah, who owns a clothing shop in the area, said he was walking to the site of the first blast to see what happened when the second bomb went off.

"I saw a leg and a hand falling near me as I was walking. The whole place was a mess. Wounded people were crying for help, and people started to run away," said Abdullah, 25. "The aim of such attacks is the random killing of as many people as possible in order to terrorize Iraqi people."

A police officer said the blasts also damaged seven shops and four parked cars. Like the rest of those who provided information, he spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to release information.

Violence has dropped substantially in Baghdad over the last halfyear with the boost in U.S. troops, a cease-fire by a powerful Shiite militia, and many Sunni fighters turning against al-Qaida in Iraq. But multiple killings are still a

Chicken, egg prices

daily occurrence.

FROM PAGE 1

government organisations regarding bird flu have worked behind the increase in sales of eggs and chickens, said traders at different city markets.

They, however, predicted a shortage of supply in near future. Meanwhile, the increase in sales has also seen a hike in the price of

poultry chicken. Salesmen of Swadhin Broiler House at Nimtoli Anandabazar under Shahbagh Police Station said they used to sell 200 kilograms of poultry chicken daily before the bird fluoutbreak. The sale plummeted to

20kg to 30kg last month. "But, the sale increased significantly in the last four days. We sold 140kg poultry chickens yesterday," said Jamal Uddin, a salesman of the

A trader at Palashi Bazar said the demand of local chicken has come to normal in the last four days and the prices of both the poultry and local chickens have also increased.

He said the price of poultry chicken rose by Tk 10-15 per kg, jumping to Tk 75-80. They sold at Tk 60-65 per kg a week ago. The price of a medium-sized local chicken also increased by Tk 25, he said.

Abu Hanif, a supplier at Karwan Bazar, said, "We used to supply poultry and local chickens to hotels and picnickers and on occasions like marriage during December-February. But the business came down by 90 percent only in the last two months due to bird flu."

The business started to get normal again in the last few days as they are getting orders from most city hotels and people for different occasions, he said.

The chicken markets in the city looked busy with customers purchasing chickens and eggs yester-

Rahima Begum, a customer from Begun Bari, said, "We stopped eating chicken and eggs for a few weeks now. But, since there were no reports of death or people falling ill anywhere in the country and the government gave assurance about safety through the media and mobile phone operators, we have started purchasing chickens and eggs again.

Another customer argued the prices of eggs and chickens are quite reasonable compared to other essentials and they are also nutri-

Wholesalers at the city's Kaptan Bazar chicken market said about 70 percent business was restored in the last couple of days.

Fazlul Haq, a leader of Mahanagari Hash Murgi Arat at Tejgaon, told The Daily Star that they used to sell 30,000-40,000 birds every day on an average before the bird flu outbreak and the sale came down to 5,000 last month.

Another leader of the wholesale market said although the sale took a turn for the better, suppliers and traders at different levels are still being harassed while carrying chickens to different places.

A shortage of chickens may occur within a few weeks as most poultry farms stopped hatching of chicks fearing bird flu. Many traders even stopped investing in the sector. the wholesale leaders said, adding that culling of domestic fowls across the country and closure of many farms will also cause the shortage.

Women's Day today

FROM PAGE 16 the scourge is completely elimi-

Prof Kabir Chowdhury said the campaign against acid violence is a social movement and people from all walks of life should take part in it. Civil society members, artists and representatives of different NGOs

took part in the rally. All-male rallies will also be held in 12 districts today.

Meantime, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said on International Women's Day that investing in women and girls has a multiplier effect on productivity and sustained economic growth, adding that "No measure is more important in advancing education and health, including the prevention of HIV/AIDS. No other policy is as likely to improve nutrition or reduce infant and maternal mortality."

Bangladesh will also observe the dayin a befitting manner.

President lajuddin Ahmed in his message said women have been contributing significantly to growth and development since the dawn of

He stressed the need for effective participation of women at all levels of

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed in his message said women's participation is equally important besides men's to achieve sustainable and steady development.

Bangladesh is committed to ensuring best utilisation of the funds for the development of women and ensuring their equal participation at all social and state levels, he added.

Different organisations will hold various programmes to mark the day. Committee to Celebrate the International Women's Day will hold discussion and cultural programmes at Dhanmondi Club

playground at 3:30pm. Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Orenda Communication, Chinese Embassy in Dhaka and Bangladesh International Film Movement will jointly organise Women Personality Award and Film Festival 2008' at Shilpakala

Academy auditorium at 4:00pm. Institute of Education and

Research (IER) of Dhaka University will organise a discussion meeting, poster exhibition and debate at its seminar room at 4:00pm.

Jatiya Nari Jote will organise a discussion on 'National Women Development Policy 2008 on bringing dignity and equality between men and women' at Colonel Taher Auditorium on Bangabandhu Avenue while Biplabi Nari Sanghati, Community Development Library, Jatiya Garhostho Nari Sramik Union, National Garment Workers Federation and Karmajibi Nari will also hold discussions at different

Samajik Protirodh Committee, Partnership of Women in Power, Bangladeshi Migrant Welfare Organisation, South Asia Partnership Bangladesh, Padakkhep Manobik Unnayan Kendra, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS), United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB), Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, Jatiya Nari Sramik Trade Union Kendra, Shakkhor Environment and Education Development Society, Dhaka Development Forum, National Girl Child Advocacy Forum, Khan Foundation, Samajtantrik Mahila Forum and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad will hold different programmes including rally, discus-

sion, seminar and symposium. Sampriti Mancha, Sammilita Nari Samaj, Centre for Services and Information on Disability, Women and Gender Studies department at Dhaka University and English department of Jahangirnagar University will also hold various

BNP Secretary General Khondokar Delwar Hossain, leaders of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Workers Party of Bangladesh (WPB) and Bangladesh Sramajibi Nari Moitree called for protecting women's rights by empowering them in every sphere of the society.

FROM PAGE 16

had an altercation during which her husband Kazi Mizanur Rahman beat her up causing serious head injuries, they said.

Following the incident Mizanur called in physician Madhusudan Mandol who advised her to be sent to the Khulna hospital as her condition was deteriorating.

Madhusudan said the condition of the victim was deteriorating when he examined her. He said she was apparently hit by something blunt on the head.

Sabiha was taken to Khulna Surgical Hospital that night and as her condition continued to worsen the doctors there advised she be taken to Dhaka.

Meanwhile, OC Mizanur left for Dhaka on a three-day leave on the plea of giving statement to a Dhaka court as a prosecution witness, police sources said.

Superintendent of Police (SP) of Satkhira Mirza Abdullahel Baki yesterday told The Daily Star that the OC called the police station and informed the station about his wife's death. He said he made a request to Dhaka Metropolitan Police to inform him about what had happened.

He said he has initiated an investigation into the matter even though no cases were filed in this connection.

Sources in the Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday said they were trying to secure the body but could not do so as of 10:00pm.

Sabiha who hails from Habiganj was the second wife of Mizanur of Mirpur, Dhaka.

Minimum wage

FROM PAGE 16 some of the workers to be engaged in criminal activities for additional income or be engaged in multiple jobs -- a violation of laws of the Middle Eastern coun-

The meeting also decided that all the Saudi Arabia-bound workers -- either with individual or group visas -- must undergo an orientation session before their departure.

A spokesperson at the expatriates' welfare ministry said 616 Bangladeshis were found to be detained in a deportation facility in Riyadh for various reasons and 286 Bangladeshis were detained for criminal offences.

As of February 9, a total of 348 Bangladeshis were in the facility awaiting deportation, the spokes person added.

Some of the Bangladeshis were detained as they violated rules by switching jobs or did not have valid work permits or their visas expired, he said.

"It may be mentioned that many Bangladeshis wishing to save the money for their trip back home destroy their valid documents and surrender to Saudi police. According to the Saudi rules, the Saudi authorities pay for the airfare of the deportees, he added.

Even a number of middlemen are encouraging legal Bangladeshi workers that they could save money if they returned home through the deportation centres, he said.

Razzak warned that the govern-

ment would have to shoulder the

responsibility if anything happens

to Hasina for not being allowed

Ahmed asked the interim adminis

tration to hold dialogue with the

political parties and create an

atmosphere conducive to holding a

mind whether the election will be

held as per the roadmap since the

chief adviser and advisers are

making contradictory statements

about the national election an

Presidium Member Suranjit

Sengupta said no polls would be

allowed before the general elec-

tion. He cautioned the EC that

cases would be lodged if it opts to

hold the local government polls

first. He asked the commission to

announce immediately a specific

Acting general secretary Syed

date for the long-stalled parlia-

Ashraful Islam gave the govern-

ment a seven-day time to release

Hasina and send her to the US.

"Treatment of her ears is only

possible in Florida as that's where

she had treatment several times

AL leader Asaduzzaman Noor

recited a poem while Abul Mal

Abdul Muhith, Sultan Mohammad

Mansur Ahmed, Latif Siddiqui, Dr

Hasan Mahmud, Yafes Osman,

AKM Jahangir Hossain, Prof Abu

Sayeed, Habibur Rahman Khan,

MA Aziz and Qamrul Islam spoke

Bangabandhu Sangskritik Jote,

Amra Muktijoddhar Santan and

different socio-cultural organisa-

tions arranged programmes to

commemorate Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's March 7

struggle for independence.

speech, a watershed in the nation's

Bangladesh Chhatra League,

mentary election.

before."

among others.

local government polls," he said.

"There is confusion in public

fair and credible election.

Presidium Member Tofail

FROM PAGE 1

overseas treatment.

week ago. "No legal Bangladeshi worker The price of poultry chicken spend Tk 250 to buy the daily has been deported to Bangladesh shotup Tk 10-15 per kg and stood at as yet," said the spokesperson.

AL demands

Power projects

FROM PAGE 1 June for testing and commissioning purpose. Initially, about 10 mmcfd gas at a pressure of 80-90psi will be consumed by the plant," said a source, adding, "But due to gas crisis, the whole scheme has become uncertain."

This gas crisis was triggered by declining gas production of the offshore Sangu rig and lack of gas pipeline capacity that could supply larger volume of gas to Chittagong from Titas gas field or the gas fields in Sylhet. According to Petrobangla, there is no project in hand that could resolve the gas crisis within a couple of years. The government is considering a Tk 1200 crore pipeline project that could end this problem but it will take a few years to complete.

"One way to tackle this situation on a short term basis is to divert some gas supplies from the two 210MW Rauzan and the 60MW Sikalbaha plants in Chittagong and supply 10 mmcfd gas to the Chittagong EPZ. These three plants presently consume 120 mmcfd gas. The machines of these plants are not very efficient and it is a good idea to utilise a part of the gas for more efficient production of power," noted a source.

Another idea is to install the plant in Dhaka EPZ, instead of Chittagong EPZ and dedicate the power to Chittagong EPZ. "Dhaka. for now, does not have the problems being faced by Chittagong," he added.

power project also remains uncertain. Korean EPZ sources told The Daily Star that it was eager to invest for 1,000MW power plant at the EPZ site if the government could ensure gas supplies.

petroleum oil if necessary," said a Bepza official. "We cannot just sit idle when

investors have become fed up with load-shedding. Thousands of people are working at the EPZs and the nation is earning valuable foreign currency. This is why the Bepza devised the plan to have its own plants. If there is gas crisis, we will do it in some other way," he

"Power is the lifeline of modern development," said an investor, "But we do not see enough moves from the government that encourage us to invest more."

The country is set to have more than 1000MW power shortage this summer.

The power investors themselves were assigned to ensure their gas supplies. Sources said that MHL had initially obtained assurance from the Bakhrabad Gas Field Company of Chittagong of enough gas supplies for a 10MW plant at the Chittagong EPZ and it had made preparations accordingly But the government later asked

MHL to build a 40MW plant. Petrobangla sources said the country will continue to face at least 200 mmcfd gas supply shortfall this year and the situation will continue to worsen.

However, the crisis in Chittagong could have been tackled easily if the government approved a small pipeline project, costing between Tk 40 crore and Tk This means, the Korean EPZ 50 crore, to transmit high pressure gas from the Titas gas field to the Ashuganj-Bakhrabad (AB) pipeline. The 14 kilometre 20 inch pipeline could transmit 200 mmcfd from the field to the AB pipeline at a high pressure of 1000psi. The work "If we cannot have gas facility, would take just one winter to comwe shall ask the investors to set up plete. This Petrobangla proposal, the plants with dual-fuel facility so however, did not get due attention that they can generate power using of the government.

Dr Kamal

FROM PAGE 1

"Our expectation is an effective parliament constituted through a fair election and I hope the government fulfils its commitment to hold a free and fair election by the end of this year," he said.

Referring to the historic March 7, 1971, he stressed the importance of national unity to face national challenges saying the present mass awareness will take the people of the country to the desired elections.

He hoped the government makes a decision on the trial of war criminals soon as the Sector Commanders Forum has huge support across the country for the cause.

drafted," said a senior official of the Ganatantree Party President Planning Commission. Nurul Islam said politicians, the However, it's not all gloomy. Election Commission and the Bangladesh achieved gender parity government have to decide how the in primary and secondary schooling elections are held in the country. He in 2005. Besides, it is well on course said all bars to indoor politics must to halve the proportion of populabe withdrawn. tion below national poverty line and Making suggestion on keeping minimum level of energy consumppolitics free from "those who trade

on religion", he said questions would be raised against our independence if war criminals were not brought to book. Gono Forum leaders Pankaj

Bhattacharya, Subrata Chowdhury Ganatantree Party leaders Bhupendra Bhowmik Dulan, Monir Ahmed and Enamul Hoque Mollah were present among others.

CA on polls

On a long-term rehabilitation project in the Sidr-hit southern coastal belt, he said work on preparing the project has started and after its implementation the region will have a new look.

The CA directed the officials concerned to do what the government can do for extending cooperation to the farmers in proper time. This will make it possible to launch an agricultural or green revolution in this region, he said.

Tk 75-80. Chicken was sold at Tk He said there is no alternative to 60-65 a week ago. The price of local raising agricultural production to chicken also increased by Tk 100 keep prices of commodities at per hali (four pieces), climbing to tolerable level overcoming the adverse influence of prices in the international market. Fakhruddin said the government per dozen; eggs were selling at Tk

is also trying to keep the prices of commodities at tolerable level through various measures. The objective of the government, he said, is to increase as quickly as possible the agricultural production

along with increased production of fish and milk. He said a programme of Tk 600 crore agriculture loan has been launched under which Krishi Bank and four nationalised banks have already started disbursement of

long time. Traders blamed the Responding to the various demands of the local people, he assured them of solving those on priority basis and informed that many demands like Kalapara-A wholesale trader at Karwan maund at the wholesale market in Kuakata road communication remain in the long-term rehabilita-

> tion project. The CA, however, said the decision for operating a ferry service over Galachipa River will be taken.

Regarding setting up of fish and agricultural products processing industries in the region having immense potential, he said the government will give all necessary support to the private sector in this

Ali gets bail

FROM PAGE 16

of Moulvibazar advocate Ebadur Rahman Choudhury became Ali's On February 25, a High Court

division bench comprising Justice Md Mujammel Hussain and Justice Syed AB Mahmudul Haque granted a three-month interim bail to Ali. When Ali emerged through the

jail gate, his wife, son and members of the legal-aid committee received him. The atmosphere turned heavy when his 15-year-old son Didar called him Abba. Didar was born a few months after Ali's arrest.

was trying to do something for Ali within the legal framework. Superintendent of Moulvibazar District Jail Md Shahjahan said the

After Ali's release the DC said he

release of Ali was a victory for humanitarianism. Sabbir Ahmed Choudhury, member of the legal aid commit-

tee, said he was happy to be able to do something for Ali.

Musharraf

FROM PAGE 16

only if all of them demonstrate peace," Musharraf said.

The new federal and provincial governments should sustain the process of development and fight the scourge of extremism and terrorism, he said.

Pakistan has been combating an Islamist insurgency led by Al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters since Musharraf joined the US-led "war on terror" in 2001.

The violence has soared recently. Around 600 people have died since the start of this year in suicide attacks, roadside bombings and clashes, mostly in northwestern Pakistan on the Afghan border.

With Washington and other allies pressing for stability in Pakistan, the PPP party has not yet indicated whether it is ready for a full showdown with Musharraf. The coalition is expected to get

support of some independent MPs to secure the two-thirds majority with which it could theoretically launch impeachment proceedings countries. They mentioned that at against Musharraf. least 400 Bangladeshi criminals

Gunman kills 8 inside library in Jerusalem

The killing of eight people at a Jewish religious college by a Palestinian gunman will not derail peace talks, the Israeli government has said.

The gunman was shot dead after opening fire with an assault rifle inside a crowded library at the Mercaz Harav seminary in West Jerusalem. Israeli police said the attacker

was a Palestinian resident of East Jerusalem:

Some Israelis have called for peace talks with the Palestinians to end but Israel has said they will Palestinian Authority President

Mahmoud Abbas condemned his Hamas rivals - who are in control of Gaza - for hailing the attack. Hamas described the shooting

as a "natural reaction" to Israeli military actions in the Gaza Strip last week that left more than 120 Palestinians dead. In the attack yesterday, a gun-

man entered the library at the Mercaz Harav seminary on and Mofizul Islam Kamal and Thursday evening, where about 80 students were gathered, and fired an AK-47 rifle for several minutes, witnesses say Students scrambled to flee the

scene, jumping out of windows, witnesses said. Most of those killed were reported to be teenagers. At least nine people were injured.

A student reportedly shot the gunman twice before an off-duty

Goods train derails in Comilla

UNB, Comilla

Train service on the Dhaka-Chittagong route remained suspended for two and a half hours as a goods train derailed in Comilla vesterday.

One bogie of a Chittagongbound goods train coming from the Dhaka went out of the track at a place between Gunabati and Hasanpur railway stations at 1:00pm, disrupting communications on the Dhaka-Chittagong rail

Later, trains remained stranded at different points causing sufferings to the passengers.

Railway sources said the train service resumed at about 3:30pm after a relief train from Laksam put the derailed bogie back on track.

Poultry farmer

FROM PAGE 16

Dr M Sajedul Islam, civil surgeon of Rajshahi, said, "It would take only seven days for him to be cured if it is established that he's caught the avian influenza virus", he said.

Nearly 500 bird-flu infected chickens were culled at Ashraf's farm on February 23.

Bangladesh team.

West Bengal CID subinspectors Tothagata Pandey and Soloma Chakraborty, SI Joy and BSF and BDR officials were also present

Selim were handed over in September while Mohammad Rafiq, Mohammad Babul alias Jewel and Habibur Rahman Taj in October.

Emon was arrested near New Market in Kolkata on December 6 last year for possessing fake passport and had been at Alipur Jail. CID said Emon, son of Dr Harunor-Rashid and Dr Jahan Sultana of Dhanmondi in the city, is an accused in at least 22 criminal cases.

"Dakat" Shaheed, chief of an inter-district robber gang, was arrested in Kolkata in December 2006. He was wanted in at least 15

Talking to The Daily Star, CID Inspector Shyamal Chowdhury said, "Before the handing over of the two criminals, the West Bengal government has disposed of all the cases filed against them."

extradition treaty between Bangladesh and India, both the criminals were handed over following a negotiation." In a meeting in October last

Israeli army officer killed him.

The head of the Zaka rescue service described a scene of carnage at the seminary. A previously unknown group called the Jalil Freedom Battalions the Martyrs of Imad Mughniyeh and Gaza claims to have carried it

out, according to Lebanese Hezbollah media. The Palestinian leadership has been split between Mr Abbas's Fatah faction, in control of the West Bank, and Hamas, who have ruled Gaza since forcing out Fatah last

The Palestinians - without Hamas - have been engaged in a US-launched peace process with the Israelis since late last year. While UN Secretary General

Ban Ki-moon condemned the attack, the Security Council failed to agree on a statement on Thursday night.

The Libyan representative said his country and several others wanted the council to couple any condemnation of the Jerusalem shootings with one against Israel for killing large numbers of civilians, including children, in Gaza.

Bullion traders

Sources said Bangladesh Jewellers' Samity, Bangladesh Poddar Samity and Dhaka Goldsmith Association held a joint meeting at Tantibazar yesterday afternoon.

Bangladesh Jewellers' Samity President MA Wadud Khan, General Secretary Dildar Ahmed, Poddar Samity President Kaisar Ahmed and leaders from Dhaka Goldsmith Association were present at the meeting. Talking to The Daily Star Wadud

10 activities and formed a 15member action committee comprising five leaders from the three organi-"The committee would meet the home adviser, inspector general of police (IGP) and the director general of Rab and file complaints against the

Rab-10 drives with them," he said,

said, "The meeting condemned Rab-

adding, "We would request them to let us know how we could continue our business without harassment." Sub-inspector Mizanur Rahman of Kotwali Police Station, also the investigation officer (IO) of two of the five cases, said, "The gold traders in the area do not maintain required papers and stock records." He said he

was not sure why Rab raided only five Abdul Hannan, officer-in-charge of the police station, said, "The traders have licences but most of them do not obey the rules and directives of the-

deputy commissioner's office." The arrested traders are Dulal Ghosh of KC Bullion Store, Mohammad Harun and Mohammad Nazrul Islam of Harun Bullion Store, Narayan Ghosh Tutul of Maa Gold House, Alok Das of Ajoy Bullion Store, Suranjit Sur, Sagor Ghosh and

Sukumar Nandi of Tanmay Jewellers. Flight Lt Humayun Kabir of Rab-10, who led the drive, said they arrested the traders as they could not showthe required papers.

India hands over 2

FROM PAGE 1

Talking to the reporters, Aref said, "We have been trying to bring back the other criminals arrested in India.'

Earlier in September and October last year, Indian government handed over five Bangladeshi criminals. They are Mohammad Rafiq, Mohammad Babul alias Jewel and Habibur Rahman Taj, Ibrahim and Lamba

Of them, Ibrahim and Lamba

Earlier, on February 7, a twomember CID team went to Kolkata to discuss repatriation of three Bangladeshi criminals Khandakar Tanveerul Islam Joy, Sanjidul Islam Emon and Harisuddin. But the Indian authorities yesterday handed over Emon and another criminal Ishaq, not Joy and Haris.

Ishaq, a close associate of

He said, "Although there is no

year, BDR and BSF exchanged lists of criminals hiding in both the

good number of Indian criminals in Bangladesh. CID sources said they had earlier provided Indian authori-

ties with information and docu-

ments on about ten top criminals,

including Joy, Piyal, Subrata Bain,

have been hiding in India while a

Molla Masud, Shadat Hossain, Khorshed, Shahid, Jissan and former MP Pintu's brother Monir. Besides, some political leaders, including Jaynal Hazari and Shamim Osman, have been stay-

ing in India. Moreover, 'Nengra' Tajgir, Tutul, Bikash, former DCC ward commissioner Fazlur Rahman Babul, and Aga Mithu of Narayanganj are also staying in

Rohingyas

FROM PAGE 16 Umrah but stayed in there for a

long time, violating the law. "Knowing that Saudi authorities give Rohingyas special favour, they also destroyed their passports. They later claimed that they were tortured in Myanmar and were forced to migrate to the kingdom," he told The Daily Star over the telephone on Tuesday.

He said those Bangladeshis also

managed to get work permits,

adding that they identify themselves as Bangladeshis and want to be sent back to the country only when Saudi law enforcers arrest them on criminal charges. "Such cases are very irritating for us. The Saudi authorities are also seriously annoyed about it," the official said, adding: "Surely if someone is from Bangladesh, we

we cannot allow the Rohingyas to be deported to Bangladesh.' "Bangladesh mission and Saudi authorities may jointly investigate the matter and take decision about them who claim they are Bangladeshis but fail to prove it", the official said.

shall ask the Saudi authorities to

deport them to Bangladesh. But,

An immigration expert said, "We must be careful that Rohingyas don't get Bangladesh passports in any way. Otherwise the image of Bangladeshi workers will be tarnished."

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