NEWS

Regional centre

FROM PAGE 1

the UN," said Stefan Frowein.

centre in Dhaka. Elaborating,

he said security officials,

investigators, police officials

and intelligence agency peo-

ple from India, Pakistan,

Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka,

Afghanistan, Myanmar and

some other countries will

Earlier, emerging from a

meeting of all the nine EU

countries' ambassadors and

high commissioners with

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni,

Frowein said they discussed a

wide range of issues including

climate change, energy situa-

tion, CHT development,

human rights and counter-

foreign ministry, he said the

EU has been strongly support-

ing Bangladesh's position on

climate change, and will be

with it. He reiterated EU's

stand to support Bangladesh's

concern at the COP 16 to be

held in Cancun in Mexico next

tion, he said European inves-

tors are ready to invest in

different sectors in

Bangladesh, but they (EU

investors) always complain

envoy said, assured that the

electricity situation would

start improving early next

year. He hoped that investors

would definitely come to

invest here if they found

Among otherissues,

Frowein said, the EU envoys

also discussed with the foreign

minister financing the

Bangladesh will soon become

a member of the Asia-Europe

Meeting (ASEM) established

in 1996 for deepening rela-

tions between Asia and

Power line

He disclosed that

planned centre.

FROM PAGE 16

improved energy situation.

The foreign minister, the

about the electricity crisis.

Turning to energy situa-

Briefing journalists at the

terrorism.

month.

ter-terrorism training.

Law Commission

was received by the secretary to the legislative and parliamentary affairs wing of the law ministry yesterday.

Law Minister Barrister Shafique Ahmed confirmed the resignation.

Dr M Shah Alam, a member of the commission, is likely to become the acting chairman of the commission until the government appoints its new chief, sources at law ministry

Shah Alam is a professor of law department at Chittagong

according to seniority," law minister added. The retired High Court

Act, 1996. Sources said Justice Rashid

was not feeling comfortable following a difference of opinion with the law ministry and the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry.

over a debate whether the constitution would be reprinted as per the Supreme

Court verdict on the Fifth Amendment of the constitution or it would be reprinted after amendment by the parliament.

Justice Rashid was against the idea of reprinting the constitution before bringing any amendment in it by the parliament in light of the judgement, sources added.

At a recent meeting with the members of the standing committee on law ministry, Rashid stuck to his stance alone while others including the law minister gave opinion to reprint the constitution as per the SC judgement.

"After that meeting, he [Justice Rashid] might not have been feeling comfortable to continue his job and may be, this is one of the main reasons behind his resignation," a member of the standing committee told The Daily

Sources in the law ministry seeking anonymity said some quarters in the government were not happy with the performance of the commission since the joining of the justice.

Justice Rashid retired on January 26, 2009 from the High Court Division of the Supreme

Fresh attack

house at 5:00pm and attacked us with sharp weapons," Shamsul Haque told The Daily Star as he lay on his hospital

"They also ransacked three other adjacent houses of our

in-charge of Ghatail Police Station, said Hasan Ali, son of the injured couple, has filed a case in this regard accusing 15 people though none have

nel have been deployed at the

this year, 20 people were injured and 30 houses including a makeshift mosque were damaged in a series of attacks by the bigots centering construction of an Ahmadiyya

looting incidents in August, Khalilur Rahman Akanda, a

long-suffering Ahmadiyya of the village, filed a case accusing 56 locals of harassing members of his community.

"Since filing the case, the accused had been threatening the local Ahmadiyyas saying that they will attack us again once they got bail," said Rubel Hossain Akanda, nephew of the injured couple.

"Of the accused, 55 surrendered in a Tangail court and got bail," he added. A section of locals under

the banner of "Imam Parishad" have long been campaigning against 40 Ahmadiyya families in the village.

Mirza Ghulam Ahmad founded the movement Ahmadiyya Muslim Jama'at on March 23, 1889, envisioning it to be a revitalisation of Islam. Ahmadiyyas consider themselves as Muslims and claim to practice Islam in its pristine form.

Make people aware of right to info

PM asks Information Commission

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the Information Commission to create awareness among people about their rights enshrined in the Right to Information Act.

The commission should take effective steps to convey to mass people the government activities for their well being by providing them necessary information, she The premier made the

remarks when a delegation of the commission led by Chief Information Commissioner Muhammad Zamir called on her at her office. PM's Press Secretary Abul

Kalam Azad briefed reporters after the meeting.

The premier formally launched the new web-site of the commission and said the commission can play vital role in ensuring transparency of the government by providing necessary information through the website and other

The commission must inform the people of their rights by disseminating information it is collecting from all levels across the country, she added.

Referring to the govern ment efforts in social development, she said social menace like poverty can be reduced if a democratic government can sincerely work for the well being of the nation.

Awami League government always works for changing the lot of the people whenever it comes to power, she added.

The commission members informed the premier that they are facing problems while gathering information from non-government organisa-

TRIPLE MURDER

Prime accused confesses killings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sumon, the main accused in the Jatrabari triple murder case, confessed to the killings before a Dhaka court yesterday. Sheikh Mahbubur Rahman,

investigation officer of the case, however, declined to give any details of the statement.

Sumon is nephew of Mizanur Rahman, one of the

Mizanur Rahman, along with his wife Bithi Rahman and mother Sufia Begum, was shot and stabbed to death at his Jatrabari residence on Shahid Farug road on September 30.

Jatrabari police earlier quoting Sumon said the mur der was committed to grab family property.

Meanwhile, detective police took Sumon's associate Delwar Hossain Delu, who was arrested on Monday, on a three-day remand.

DB inspector Mahbubur said they also picked up Delu's sister-in-law Ruby on Monday, as they recovered the bloodstained dresses of the accused killers from her house.

She was released vesterday after interrogation.

On October 3, police recov ered Mizanur's pistol, which the killers used in the offence and then took away, from a tin shed makeshift structure on Shahid Faruq road where it was left along with two knives.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Taufiq Mahmud of DMP's Wari Zone had told The Daily Star that Sumon confessed he and two of his accomplices committed the murder with Mizanur's firearm.

He also disclosed one of his associates' names to police.

Taufiq said Sumon had a plan to kill all of Mizanur's family members.

Ontu, son of deceased Mizanur couple, survived, as he left home a few minutes before the incident that took place around 7:30am.

Govt re-fixes

FROM PAGE 1 timing -- 9:30am to 4:15pm --

Shyamal said. Asked whether kindergar-

tens have to follow the new timing, he said it will be applicable to schools which are run by the government.

Earlier this year, the government had fixed the timing of all public, registered nongovernment and community primary schools across the country from 9:30am to 4:15pm.

In the meeting the PM said, if the managing committees of other schools take initiative to give the students tiffin, the government will provide subsidy to it. Sirajganj. The PM directed the MoPME to take steps in this

Another project for establishment of four fashion

design and training institutes and a basic centre for the development of handloom fabrics with Tk 36 crore was also given approval. Under the project, four textile institutes will be set up at Dhaka, Tangail, Sirajganj and Kushtia.

Moreover, a project for setting up four textile institutes involving Tk 127 crore, construction of new youth training centres in 11 districts with Tk 146 crore, a Tk 253 crore project for rehabilitation of Ghorashal Thermal Power Plant, revised project for refurbishment and development of Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury stadium at Chittagong costing Tk 71 crore as venue for holding ICC World Cup 2011 in Bangladesh were also okayed.

Europe at all levels.

considering its strong com-ASEM is an interregional mitment to eliminate all sorts forum comprised of the of terrorism, as well as its European Commission, all the support to EU causes in the 27 members of the European international fora, including Union, 14 members of the ASEAN and three regional He said euro 1.5 million groupings. was available for setting up the

The main components of the ASEM process include dialogues on political, economic and security issues, and education and culture. Besides, the forum discussed some international issues on which Bangladesh and EU hold common views at the come to Dhaka to have coun- UN. Meanwhile, a press release

of the foreign ministry said the EU envoys asked for a regular Bangladesh-EU members' dialogue to discuss all issues of mutual concern in a comprehensive manner. The foreign minister wel-

comed the initiative and offered her suggestions about the procedure to be followed to institutionalise the process. At the meeting, the UK

offered further assistance in energy development and Denmark offered to assist in setting up a climate change fund. Dipu Moni thanked the

envoys for their assistance offers, welcomed energy assistance especially in renewable energy technology transfer. She strongly reiterated that Bangladesh was in a position to utilise climate change assistance, and called upon the developed countries to fulfil their earlier commitments in this regard.

The meeting, which lasted one and a half hours, was attended by Arturo Perez Martinez, Spanish ambassador; Itala Occhi, Italian envoy; Charley Causeret, French envoy; Alphons Hennekens the Netherlands ambassador; Rolf Dieter Reinhard, CdA German Embassy; Jan Moller-Hansen, CdA Danish Embassy; Mrs Ylva Sorman-Nath, CdA Swedish Embassy; Nick Low, British deputy high commissioner, and Mrs Tirza Theunissen of the Netherlands Embassy.

Attack on train FROM PAGE 16

Rokonuzzaman Rokon and activists Iqbal Hossain,

Sachchu, Ashraf and Torik. Police picked them up conducting raids at different residential hotels in the capital and

A total of 76 people have been arrested so far in eight cases filed for the Sirajgan violence.

The cases were filed with Sirajganj Government Railway and Jamuna Bridge Western Police Stations for setting fire to the train, attacking police and passengers and looting valu-At least six people were run

over and killed by the train when it ploughed through the crowd spilling onto the rail tracks from the rally at Soidabad near the Bangabandhu Multipurpose More than 100 passengers

travelling from Dinajpur to Dhaka, were injured when opposition supporters threw stones at the train and vandalised it.

Incensed by the deaths, they also set it on fire and beat up its driver and a guard of a nearby level crossing.

Welfare Board Golam Kuddus

was made the acting secretary

to Rural Development and

Member Directing Staff of

BPATC Mesbah-ul Alam, with

an equivalent post of an addi-

tional secretary, was made the

acting rector of the training

centre, while Rural

Development and Cooperative

Division Secretary Rokeya

Cooperative Division.

Major shake-up Government Employees

Commission.

(BPATC) Delwar Hossain was

made the chairman of Land

Director General of

Reform Commission.

Cultural Affairs Secretary Hedayetullah Al Mamun was made the information secre-

On October 7, the government issued a notification transferring Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Muhammad Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan to the education ministry. The notice was cancelled yesterday, keeping him at his current post.

Sultana was made a member of Bangladesh Textile Mills the Privatization Commission. Corporation (BTMC) Chairman Chairman of National Mizanur Rahman was trans-Housing Authority Niaz Uddin ferred to the liberation war Mia, whose position is equivaaffairs ministry as its acting lent to an additional secretary's, secretary, Director General of was transferred to the appointthe Land Record and Survey ment, posting and deputation Directorate Dr Aslam Alam was (APD) wing of the establishmade the acting secretary to the ment ministry pending a post-Disaster Management and ing. Housing and Public Works Relief Division, Additional Ministry's Joint Secretary MA Secretary to the Primary and Hannan will replace Niaz at the Mass Education Sumaiya National Housing Authority. Joint Secretary Mohammad Begum was sent to the cultural affairs ministry as its acting Iqbal, who had been an OSD, secretary, while Commissioner was posted to the housing and of Government Transport Pool public works ministry.

Ibadat Ali was made an acting The contractual appointmember (equivalent to a secrement of Petrobangla Chairman tary) of the Planning Dr Hossain Monsur was extended by two years. The establishment ministry Additional Secretary to the Establishment Ministry issued separate notifications regarding the reshuffle. Mohammad Sadik was made

department.

the acting secretary to the Yesterday's was the second major reshuffle in the civil Election Commission Secretariat, while Rector of bureaucracy since the Awami Bangladesh Public League-led government took Administration Training Centre over the rein of the administra-

Around 1.32 lakh applition in January 2009. The latest cadres, said PSC sources. move came within a week of rearranging the entire police

should be left to the army have only heightened the possibility of his arrest.



project yesterday. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Rajuk knock down illegal structures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajdhani Unnyan Kartripakkhya (Rajuk) knocked down six structures, including two concrete buildings, on the peripheral road of the ongoing Hatirjheel development project at Kunipara in the city's Begunbari area yesterday. The eviction team was led

by Rajuk Executive Magistrate Dr Abdul Mannan.

"The structures obstructed continuity of the proposed road of the project," said Shafiqul Islam, authorised officer of Rajuk. Among the structures were

a five-story building, a threestory building, and four other makeshift shops, he said. "The two concrete build-

ings were constructed illegally and remained as the last major obstruction to the construction of the road," said Islam. The team demolished portions of the concrete build-

ings and will continue with the drive today. In case they cannot complete the job, they would take up further drives, said Islam. A bulldozer and a 30-

member labour force were engaged to carry out the job.

Superintending engineer Raihanul Ferdous and Executive engineer Jamal Akhtar of Rajuk were also present during the eviction.

Rafique slates

FROM PAGE 16

And the High Court is a tool to establish the rule of law," he added.

Unfortunately, the judgment in a case depends not on the case's merit but on the judges' preference for respective political parties, observed Hug. "How will human rights be ensured when people these days name different higher courts after different political parties?" Citing two cases against

daily Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman, he said a court sentenced Mahmudur to six months in jail and fined Tk 1 lakh, while another court on the same charge fined him Tk 100 and a day's imprisonment for failure to pay the fine. He made the remarks

addressing a session of the two-day national conference titled "Bangladesh Tomorrow". The session titled "Human Rights, Democracy & Governance in Bangladesh" was held at a city hotel. The lawyer said the courts

have to be independent and courageous. They have to discharge duties without bias towards any party. The Centre for Sustainable

Development (CSD), an NGO, arranged the two-day programme, which ended yesterday. Borhan Uddin Khan, professor of law at Dhaka

University, presented the keynote paper at the session moderated by CSD Secretary General Mahfuz Ullah. The speakers included Piash Karim, professor of economics at Brac University,

New Age Editor Nurul Kabir, Bangladesh Human Rights Foundation Chairman Elina Khan and politician Mahmudur Rahman Manna. They pointed out custodial deaths, torture on remand and

extra-judicial killings by the Rapid Action Battalion are pulling democracy and governance from behind. BCS preliminary

FROM PAGE 16 examination.

A total of 14,470 candidates have qualified for the written

standing committee member cants sat for the first-round said his recent comments that exams in 110 centres across the decision on Khaleda Zia's the country on July 30, vying for 2,572 posts of various Dhaka cantonment house The PSC advertised for the

examination on March 14.

Mahbub trashes

FROM PAGE 1 Mahbub said the intelligence

force halted the election for a month sensing that he, if elected, would protest against illegal and unconstitutional power takeover by the caretaker government. "I did not become a legal

adviser of DGFI despite their repeated requests. If I were a DGFI agent, they would have worked for me in that election," Khandaker Mahbub added.

The SCBA president alleged that Syed Ashraf, staying in the UK or USA at that time, resorted to a conspiracy to hold a blue print election of the association to get Shafique elected.

He termed Ashraf's comments "indecent, irresponsible, condemnable and sad from a responsible person who holds important portfolios in both the government and AL.

Ashraf would have to pay for the statements, Mahbub

Ashraf, Awami League general secretary and LGRD and cooperatives minister, could not be contacted despite repeated attempts made over phone. He on Monday said, "After

the 1/11 political changeover he [Mahbub] worked as a DGFI agent and during that time he ran for the president position of Supreme Court Bar Association and DGFI chose him for the post." Even the intelligence force

had done everything in its attempt to ensure his victory, he said.

He added had Mahbub won that election, parliamentary elections would not have been held and democracy would not have returned to the country.

The AL leader's statement on Khandaker Mahbub, also an adviser to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia came as the latter demanded that the government immediately go for an out-of-court settlement of the issue of Khaleda's cantonment house. SCBA PROTESTS ASHRAF'S STATEMENT

The SCBA in a protest letter to the press strongly condemned and protested Ashraf's state-

In a press statement SCBA Secretary Mohammad Badruddoza said the association thinks the AL leader's statement is tantamount to tarnish the image of the association and undermine the highest court premises. He also urged the government's responsible persons to refrain

SQ Chy FROM PAGE 1

policemen were in front of his

BNP activists started gathering at about 11:00pm chanting slogans that they would resist any attempts to arrest their leader. Contacted in the early

hours today, Hasan Chowdhury, assistant commissioner of detective police in Chittagong, denied that they were going to arrest Chowdhury. Recently, a seven-member

investigation team of the International Crimes Tribunal visited different crime scenes in Chittagong to gather evidence of war crimes committed in 1971. Chowdhury's name came up in some victim families' accounts of the killings during the Liberation War. Since then, there has been apprehension among his party men that he might be Sources close to the BNP

Some of the violence

from making such statements. BARRISTER SHAFIQUE'S STATEMENTS

Contacted, Shafique Ahmed said what Ashraf said about Mahbub was right. "We have heard that he [Mahbub] was backed by DGFI in the Supreme Court Bar Association election when I was elected president."

"They [DGFI officers] told

me that I am a lawyer of Sheikh Hasina and I cannot run for the president of the Supreme Court Bar Association. As I did not agree with their view, they deferred the poll for a month. "As they had information that I would win, they even

called the then attorney general and asked him to stop the election. "Please ask him [Mahbub] who backed him in that election and from which party he

stood for the election?" added Shafique Ahmed. Asked from which panel he contested the election after the pro-AL panel replaced his nomination with Shafique, Khandaker Mahbub said he became a candidate from pro-

Chechen

BNP panel.

FROM PAGE 16 He added that all the deputies inside the parliament were alive and safe, after being evacuated

from parliament. The attack began at the start of the working day, as deputies were arriving at parliament.

The attackers stormed the building, sparking several exchanges of fire with security guards. Two of the attackers appear to have detonated explosives just outside the building.

Chechen police spokesman Ramzam Bekkhoyev told the Associated Press news agency that attackers had run inside the building, shouting "Allahu Akbar" - Arabic for "God is great" - before opening fire on

people inside. A spokesman for the Chechen parliament, Zelim Yakhikhanov, said deputies had feared they would be taken hostage when they heard shoot-

ing outside the building. "We managed to take refuge on the third floor where we stayed until the end of the operation," he told AFP news agency. Reports say some hostages

were briefly held but have now been freed. It is still unknown how such a small group of armed men penetrated the usually heavily

fortified government building. The pro-rebel news website Kavkaz-Tsentr quoted its own unnamed sources in Grozny as saying they had heard a "powerful" explosion, followed by heavy gunfire for more than 30

minutes. The city has been sealed off and armoured vehicles were patrolling the streets, it added.

There has been no confirma-

tion of the identity of the attack-HISTORYOFVIOLENCE

Rashid Nurgaliyev is visiting Chechnya and is thought to

Russia's Interior Minister

have held an emergency meeting with Mr Kadyrov. Mr Nurgaliyev later com-

mended the Chechen security forces' response to the attack. "The Chechen interior

ministry acted professionally and competently," he said. "This meant that the operation was carried out successfully."

He called the attack "untypi-Mr Kadyrov is also reported to have briefed Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin on the

phone.

The BBC's Tom Esselmont in the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, says this attack is highly reminiscent of those which peaked in the 1990s and then again some five or six years ago.

appears to have been displaced into neighbouring territories of North Ossetia and Ingushetia. This attack shows the battle

is far from over and Chechnya is far from being in the secure situation the Russian government would like to see, our correspondent says.

FROM PAGE 1 letter, dated October 06, 2010,

Talking to The Daily Star,

University. "The charge will be given

judge resigned from the office as per section 5(4) of Bangladesh Law Commission

The difference occurred

community," he added. Mominur Rahman, officer-

been arrested so far. "Additional police personvillage," he added. Earlier, in June and August

mosque in Chandtara village. Following the attack and

FROM PAGE 1 climate change. South Asia is especially vulnerable because of changes in weather patterns that result in natural disasters, including floods in Pakistan and

affected more than 20 million people, Maplecroft said. "There is growing evidence climate change is increasing the intensity and frequency of climatic events," the firm's environmental analyst, Anna

Bangladesh this year that

Moss, said. "Very minor changes to temperature can have major impacts on the human environment, including changes to water availability and crop productivity, the loss of land due

to sea-level rise, and the spread of disease. Bangladesh is rated No1 because of a double whammy. It has the highest risk of drought

and the highest risk of famine.

It is also struggling with

extreme poverty, high dependence on agriculture -- the economic sector most affected by climate change -- and a government that is the least capable of coping with climate impacts. As for India, "almost the whole (of the country) has a

high or extreme degree of sensi-

tivity to climate change, due to

acute population pressure and a consequential strain on natural resources," Maplecroft said. "This is compounded by a high degree of poverty, poor general health and the agricultural dependency of much of

the populace."

and national action to protect China (49th), Brazil (81st) and Japan (86th) were among countries in the "high risk' category. The "medium risk" category included Russia (117th), the United States (129th), Germany

(131st), France (133rd) and Britain (138th). Norway led the group of 11 nations considered at least risk, which is dominated by fellow Scandinavians as well as the Netherlands, which has worked hard to defend its low-lying land from rising seas.

Maplecroft published a

climate vulnerability index in

2009 that placed 28 nations at

"extreme risk", headed by Somalia, Haiti, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone and Burundi. However, the 2009 and 2010 indices are not comparable, Maplecroft's Fiona Place said.

Bangladesh The new index, largely reworked, uses three "subindices" that focus especially on a country's ability to respond to climate change stress.

The most serious vulnerabilities to climate change are found in a group of developing countries with socio-economic systems ill-equipped to address development challenges such as food and water security, in addition to being burdened by unstable economies and weak

institutions," Place said in an email exchange with AFP. "This is the case for a large number of countries, with southern Asia and Africa of

particular concern."

FROM PAGE 16 up a strategic plan of action on climate change and creating an adaptation fund. DSK consultant AKM Mamunur Rashid said the poor people -- farmers, farm work-

ers, the landless and fishermen

Govt mulls law

-- will be affected most by the climate change. It is, therefore, imperative that the finances are best used for the victims and that the intermediaries do not eat up the big portion of the money, he said.

"Decisions on the policies, programmes and eligibility procedures concerning the adaptation fund must be expedited to provide additional resources required by Bangladesh for climate adaptation," Rashid said.

the forests of Bangladesh given their significance in fighting climate change effects. It also demanded full integration of climate change issues into economic planning and management at both

national and regional levels.

Bangladesh Paribesh

DSK called for the global

Andolon General Secretary Dr MA Matin said it is vital to monitor that the money Bangladesh will get to mitigate climate change are not misused by corrupt politicians or bureaucrats. DSK Chairman Dr ABM Abdullah, Executive Director

Dibalok Singha, DanChurchAid South Asia Regional Representative Nina Iiona Ellinger, journalists Pranab Saha and Abu Jafar Surya, among others, also spoke at the programme.