Restriction

FROM PAGE 1

government which may pose threat to national security. Another provision of the

draft policy asked the private electronic media not to use vulgar films or programmes produced locally or abroad which are contrary to the values of the country.

They must not air any programme against a friendly foreign country that may harm the relationship.

No programme which shows new tactic in committing crimes will be tolerated, the policy said. The electronic media will also be discouraged to show horrible and disgusting acts and gruesome pictures of dead and injured people.

No political propaganda or views of any political party will be allowed to broadcast and political figures, foreign diplomats and national heroes can not be used to promote commercial products. The draft policy also

makes it mandatory for the broadcasters to air the government approved programs, including speeches of the President and the Prime Minster and press notes. Any advertisement relat-

ing to religious functions like wajmahfil, urs, and puja, will need prior permission from the government.

The draft policy states that the Information Ministry will decide on the matters which are not mentioned in the policy. However, the Information

Ministry official said they prepared the draft in a manner so none of its provisions conflicts with the constitutional rights of freedom and expression or the Right to Information Act.

He added the government will place the draft broadcasting policy on online for eliciting public opinion. It will also discuss the policy with the private broadcasting organizations and other stakeholders.

10 hospitals

FROM PAGE 20

The court sent him to jail after recording his state-

Saiful Islam Molla, one of the six arrested in this connection, on Thursday gave his confessional statement before the same court.

52 drug FROM PAGE 20

ROM PAGE 1

Asked, an official of the drug administration said, "The companies (52 cos) might file cases against our decision to stop their operation. To avoid such legal hassles, we want to serve showcause notices on them.'

Trial of Tarique

Mohammad Ibrahim, an assistant director of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Out of the 15 cases against Tarique Rahman, this is the first to go on trial in nis absence.

After recording the statement, the judge fixed October 18 for the next hearing to record in part the statement.

Earlier in the day, the judge rejected a petition by Mamun's counsel seeking an adjournment of the hear-

In the petition, barrister Fakhrul Islam told the court that they had earlier filed a writ petition with the High Court for quashing the proceedings of the case.

But the hearing of the writ petition remains pending. So they prayed for an adjournment of the current

hearing. Opposing the petition the prosecution said there was no legal bar to going on trial as defence could not bring any stay order from the

higher court. Mamun was produced

before the court while Tarique remains abscond-

Earlier on August 8, the court framed money laundering charges against Tarique and Mamun. The court also issued an arrest warrant for Tarique who is at

present in London. ACC official Ibrahim filed the case with Cantonment Police Station in October 2009 against Tarqiue and Mamun for laundering Tk 20.41 crore to Singapore between 2003 and 2007.

The charges were pressed against the duo on July 6 last

Tarique was arrested on March 7 of 2007 and later allowed to travel abroad for treatment.

10yr on

FROM PAGE 20

as bridges and tunnels coming into the city. President Barack Obama

visited the North Memorial Pool, which sits in the footprint of the north tower. Obama walked around the pool hand-in-hand with First Lady Michelle Obama, former President George W Bush and his wife Laura as an eerie silence fell over lower Manhattan which was devoid of traffic and where construction has stopped for the morning. People gathered near the

site, some clutching American flags, to watch a large screen set up to show a remembrance ceremony here. Some wore T-shirts reading, "Never Forget," a slogan popular since the attacks. "It was our Pearl

Harbour," said John McGillicuddy, 33, a teacher from Yonkers, New York, getting coffee and carrying two American flags on his way to the World Trade Centre, referring to the Japanese attack that led America to join World War

"Things have gotten

better, we are more aware as a country about things going

on in the world," he said. Family members arrived wearing T-shirts with the faces of the dead, carrying photos, flowers, American flags and other mementos in an overwhelming outpouring of emotion.

The attacks are now such a part of American life that learning about them is part of the school curriculum. This was the first anniversary which included an American president. The memorial includes

two plazas in the shape of the footprints of the Twin Towers with cascading 30 foot (9.1 metres) waterfalls. Around the perimeters of the pools are the names of the victims of the September 11 attacks and an earlier 1993 attack at the Trade Centre.

In the September 11 attacks, 19 men from the Islamic militant group al-Qaeda hijacked airliners and crashed them into the World Trade Centre, the Pentagon outside Washington and a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

President for crisis

consulted and over the way the deployment was being ordered.

Following the president's unilateral decision of army deployment, Patricia A Butenis met privately adviser Dr Akbar Ali Khan on November 14,

Khan described the council of advisers meeting on November 12 that nixed a military deployment as a 'virtual coup d'etat". The advisors vigorously protested to chief adviser [Iajuddin] Ahmed his decision and his failure to consult them," said the cable sent to Washington on November 14, 2006.

The army deployment much annoyed the four CG advisers, who were negotiating with BNP and AL to break political impasse over elections. They resigned as the advisers.

In another cable sent to Washington on November 22, Butenis said the caretaker government advisers active in the dialogue continue to express frustration to diplomats at their lack of timely access to chief adviser lajuddin Ahmed, "who is, however, clearly available to leaders of the former ruling party BNP".

lajuddin, who assumed the office of the chief adviser on advice of BNP that made him president, also stood on the way for resolving the crisis over reconstitution of the Election Commission during his caretaker government regime, described a number of diplomatic cables.

Apart from the advisers' negotiation to resolve political stalemate, the US ambassador and British high commissioner Anwar Chowdhury on December 10 separately met Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia for flexibility on a compromise package, according to the cable of the same day.

"The meeting was overtaken by the two parties' subsequent repudiation of key elements of the package, particularly whether controversial election commissioner Zakaria would stay or go," wrote Butenis.

About the meeting with BNP chief Khaleda Zia, the ambassador wrote referring to the aborted compromise election package, Khaleda denied that her party had ever agreed to the departure of election commissioner Zakaria.

Three days after, another cable said, the US ambassador met Iajuddin Ahmed and told the chief adviser it was unfortunate that controversial election commissioner SM Zakaria could not be persuaded to depart since the aborted compromise package seemed so close to agreement.

"Regarding Zakaria, Ahmed made it clear he is not prepared to force the issue without the endorsement of Bangladesh Nationalist Party chairperson Khaleda Zia," said the

cable on the meeting with Iajuddin. At the meeting the ambassador said two

recent developments have raised concern: the resignation of four advisers and the nationwide deployment of the army well in advance of elections where there was no evident law and order justification.

"It is important to empower the new advisers to be active to counter perceptions that the caretaker government acts at the behest of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP], Butenis told Iajuddin referring to induction of four new advisers in his counci of advisers.

Another cable said the US ambassador earlier pressed CEC MA Aziz to resign. On November 6, 2006, the ambassador met privately with Aziz for 15 minutes to press him on the resignation option.

Aziz categorically ruled out resignation, saying the constitution and his commitment to deliver a successful election preclude his resignation, the cable

In the wake of growing political crisis, Aziz however agreed to go on leave for the period of elections, but the crisis was not resolved.

Amid such a situation, the council of advisers in a last ditch effort prepared a package of proposals after a series of hectic meetings between the advisers and the two major political alliances.

The proposals include reconstitution of the EC by sending election com missioners SM Zakaria and Modabbir Hossain Chowdhury on leave and appointing new election commissioners, transfer of secretaries, rescheduling of the announced election schedule and correction of errors of the

updated voter list. The package proposal had rekindled hopes for an amicable resolution of the dispute as the BNP also agreed with it and the Awami League led 14-party started moving towards election, shunning street

agitation. But things suddenly began to change for the worse. The BNP-led fourparty alliance appeared opposed to sending Zakaria on leave and the president emerged adamantly opposed to steps to make Zakaria take time off work.

Cox's Bazar

FROM PAGE 20

swimming near Sugandha point of the beach around 12:00noon.

Lifeguard members rescued two boys at about 12:15pm and Ibrahim around 12:30pm. Ibrahim died on the way

to hospital.

Syed Nur, director of Robi Lifeguard Station, said the three friends went swimming during the ebb tide, which is risky.

A group of 82 people from Jatrabari went to Cox's Bazar on Friday.

Abul Hossain, the group leader, said they were scheduled to head for Dhaka yesterday afternoon.

PM

FROM PAGE 20 immediately known if

Industries and commerce minister of Tripura, Jitendra Chaudhury, told The Daily Star yesterday that Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar, who visited Dhaka with the Indian premier first week of this month, also invited Hasina to visit his state. In Dhaka, foreign minis-

Governor DY Patil, who recently visited the Bangladesh capital, also extended an invitation to the prime minister. They said the visit may

policemen in Mirpur.

the capital on Saturday

afternoon to join a discus-

sion with a group of

Haque who organised the

meeting said the purpose of

the discussion was to update

the friends of Grameen on

what is happening in the

held yesterday and the

directors went sightseeing at

noon. When a microbus

carrying them reached

Dhanmondi, they found out

that they were being trailed

by a group of people on

One of the board mem-

bers said the bikers also

filmed them, prompting

them to return to their place

Later in the day, the situa-

"There was a power out-

age in the evening and we

went to the rooftop of our

building. When we wanted

to get back into our rooms,

we found that someone

locked the door on the roof-

top from outside," said a

was unlocked, but it was not

clear who locked and

unlocked it. The board mem-

bers saw some policemen

and a group of other people,

who identified themselves

as former Grameen employ-

by making road safety issue

tion with Deputy Inspector

General of Police (highway

police) Humayun Kabir over

effectiveness of the police

wing and alleged that its

"The highway police do

members extort motorists.

nothing. They extort,'

Shajahan told the meeting

amid strongly opposition

ted to state minister for

home a list of spots where

minister and a senior leader

of ruling Awami League,

Shajahan has been seen very

keen on protecting the inter-

est of road transport sector

After the meeting was

over everybody left the room

but Shajahan Khan was seen

speaking to his federation

leaders at a corner of the

by the media and the civil

society recently after he

suggested that 28,000 peo-

ple be given professional

driving licences without

proper tests. He even went

on to say that education

should not be mandatory for

Hossain said SSC pass is not

mandatory for getting driv-

ing licence. "If one can read

and write and understand

signs and signals, we will

consider him an educated

stance against issuing driv-

ing licences without proper

enough for getting

Later in the day, Syed Abul

one to get a driving licence.

He was heavily criticised

room in a low voice.

Shajahan said he submit-

Despite being a cabinet

from Humayun.

drivers get extorted.

trade unions.

He then had an alterca-

over emphasised.

Minutes later, the door

motorbikes, said Shirin.

of stay in Mirpur.

board member.

tion became panicky.

But the meeting was not

Rights activist Shirin

Grameen well-wishers.

FROM PAGE 1

organisation.

December.

Quoting Manik Sarkar, schedule. Agartala, the capital of

Tripura, expects Hasina's visit would help boost trade and economic relations between the northeastern state and its closest neighbour Bangladesh. Tripura is surrounded by

Shyambazar.

He said onions were sellban by India, said Ahmed.

India, he added.

reports.

Bangladesh meets much of its local demand for onions by importing it from the

correspondent reports. Babul Hasnat Durul, an onion importer at Sona Masjid, said their suppliers are not shipping onions against the previously placed orders by Bangladeshi

"We are worried. If onions are not exported against the already opened letters of credit (LCs), we will incur losses," said Durul.

following the ban on exports, said Islam of the C& F Agents Association. The disruption in supply

from India led to the hike in the prices of locally produced onions, said Mohammad Aminul Islam, an onion wholesaler at Karwan Bazar. He bought a 40 kilogram bag of onions from Pabna on Saturday at Tk 1,450, he said. Prices for the same stood at Tk 1,300-1,350 last week, he added.



Manmohan will come. The university has already sent a letter of invitation to Hasina for the first-ever visit by a Bangladeshi prime minister to the northeastern Indian state.

try sources said Tripura

take place in November or

Indian media yesterday reported that Hasina is keen to visit Tripura and that Tripura University is now in consultation with the Indian and Bangladesh governments to finalise the

Bangladesh on its three sides. The bilateral trade favours Bangladesh as its exports there are worth Tk 257 crore and imports Rs 1

Onion prices

FROM PAGE 1

market. Those who are still hoarding stocks are reluctant to sell as well," said Idris Ahmed, owner of a wholesale store, Dhaka Baniyalaya at

ing at Tk 35-36 a kilogram at the wholesale market of Shyambazar yesterday. Prices went up since Friday afternoon, after news of the

The prices of locally produced onions also rose, influenced by the move by

This is the second time in less than a year that India restricted onion exports to curb the hike in prices, according to Indian news

On September 8, an Indian ministerial panel banned onion exports following a steep rise in prices, reports Reuters, quoting Food Minister KV Thomas. The restriction came in effect on Friday. "We will review the ban every fortnight," said

Thomas.

neighbouring country. Since Saturday, 80 onionladen trucks entered Bangladesh till yesterday afternoon, our Chapainawabganj corre-

spondent reports. No shipment took place at the Bhomra Land Port yesterday. The trucks carrying onions that came to the Ghojadanga Land Port on the Indian side returned without shipment, our Sathkhira

importers.

The LCs came to a halt

Shajahan-led federation's recommendation, a large number of people already obtained professional driving licences from the BRTA without any tests. During the meeting, Shajahan had expressed that he was unhappy with BRTA Chairman Ayubur Rahman Khan who has taken a strong

licence."

sive language with us," alleged Majida Begum, a Grameen director.

"Police treated us as if we

The board members were

were thieves," said another

ees outside the building, the

employees of Grameen Bank

misbehaved and used abu-

"The so-called former

Grameen Bank directors speak to the media last night after they were allegedly

Grameen board members

board member said.

board member.

that building.

also grilled by some other people who introduced themselves as journalists. Police told the board members that they had been informed that several JMB members were captured in

Deputy But Commissioner of Detective Branch (North) Mahbubur Rahman denied conducting any drive there to arrest any JMB member.

Abdul Malek, officer-incharge of Darussalam Police Station, said: "We heard that a group of Grameen Bank officials had gathered for a meeting. We went there to give them protection, not to make any arrest." When rights activist

Gonoshasthaya Kendra Founder Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, and lawyer Sara Hossain reached the scene, the former Grameen officials left the place in a hurry. Shirin said police were supposed to protect them,

Shirin Haque,

Road safety left in limbo

The National Road Safety Council was formed in 1995 by representatives of ministries and divisions of the government, law enforcement agencies, experts and different organisations to stop accidents and deaths. The meeting which was supposed to be held every three months was held after

almost a year yesterday. The communications ministry had taken an attempt to invite civil society members, especially those who are now demanding that the communications minister resigns, to vesterday's meeting but it failed due to strong opposition from Shajahan Khan and his

union leaders. THE DECISIONS MADE The meeting yesterday

decided to form two subcommittees. Prof Anwar Hossain of Dhaka University will head one such committee that will collect public opinion on road safety. The other committee will be headed by State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku and it will engage Rab and Special Branch of Police to prevent overloading of vehicles and

make fake licences. The council meeting decided to outsource the job of issuance of fitness certificates to vehicles. Several private companies could be given the job in an attempt to have tests done on vehicles meticulously before given a clean bill of health. Sources say that taking

hunt down people who

However, with the bribes BRTA employees take photographs and "check" vehicle road worthiness in minutes. Outsourcing will also ensure transparency, the sources said. In the meeting, a perma-

nent fund for road repairs was talked about for several hours and the decision was made to create the fund with regard. money from sources like Khatun was in the meeting issuance of fitness certificates, tolls from bridges and but she had left early.

harassed by some former employees of the microcredit organisation and plainclothes

PHOTO: STAR

8 cops FROM PAGE 1

In its report on September 8, the probe body said the six students were innocent. A group of villagers beat them to death and injured another on suspicion of being robbers, as the policemen there did not try to stop the villagers.

board members accused

them of wrongdoing.

Al Amin, sales representative of a juice company and the lone survivor of the mob attack, said he along with his six friends went to Keblar Char in Bardeshi village of Amin Bazar on the night of Shab-e-The six victims were Tipu

Sultan of Tejgaon College; Towhidur Rahman Palash Kamruzzaman Kanto and Ibrahim Khalil of Mirpur Bangla College; Shams Rahim Shamam of Maple Leaf International School; and Sitaf Jabi Munif of Bangladesh University of Business and Technology. Two cases -- one by local

sand trader Abdul Malek and the other by police -- were filed in connection with the incident. In his statement, Malek claimed that the six people

who died in the mob beating were robbers, and four of them extorted Tk 5,000 from him earlier that night.

Police also filed a murder case against five to six huninstead they harassed the dred unidentified villagers.

fines for overloading vehi-

'We will send a proposal been asked to ply with 6.5in this regard to the cabinet this month for approval, said the communications

minister after the meeting. The meeting also decided to produce 2,000 instructors who will teach people how to drive. They will also teach drivers traffic rules and road safety. Accident Research Centre (ARC) of Buet and the BRTA will work together to

produce the instructors. When reporters asked Abul Hossain why the decision they had made yesterday were so similar to the ones made in earlier council meetings, he said his ministry decides but cannot implement alone. He said his ministry requires cooperation from other ministries for implementation.

HOME MINISTRY

CRITICISED The home ministry was yesterday criticised for its "indifference and reluctance" to implement deci sions of the communications ministry.

National Road Safety Council member Prof Anwai Hossain of Dhaka University identified three major reasons for accidentoverloading, over speeding and overtaking. At the meeting yesterday

the communications ministry said police were supposed to check these malpractices. They are supposed to ensure that no unfit vehicles are on the road, drivers use seatbelts, they do not talk on their phones while driving and carry authentic driving licences.

State minister for home Tuku could not say why his ministry failed to implement the communication ministry's decisions. Syed Abul Hossain asked

the home ministry to ensure that steps are taken in this Home Minister Shahara

Touts cash

FROM PAGE 20

Paturia early Wednesday and he got his ticket yesterday noon for Tk 1,700. Bokul Mollah, another

trucker from Sarongtia of Sreepur upazila in Magura, said he reached Paturia Wednesday morning too and he got the ferry ticket from a scalper yesterday noon for Tk 1,500. The tickets actually cost

Tk 960.

Many drivers and assistants of trucks waiting at the terminals for days were in a pickle as they ran out of money to buy food even. Ashraf Ullah Khan, man-

ager (commerce) of BIWTC,

denied the allegation of his officials and employees taking bribes. In-charge of Paturia Police Outpost Mahbub Hossain said scalpers and employees and officials of

this but he assured that no policemen were involved in such heinous activity. The disruption is equally bad in Mawa. Ferry service on Mawa-Kawrakandi route was suspended for over two hours after ferry Bhasha Shaheed Barkat ran aground near Mawa terminal, our

BIWTC could be involved in

Munshiganj correspondent reports. The service resumed around 11:00am but was halted just five minutes later as another ferry Jamuna got stuck metres away from where Bhasha Shaheed Barkat was stranded.

The ferry service, how-

ever, resumed 10 minutes Sirajul Haq, manager of BIWTC Mawa terminal, told The Daily Star that the ferry

service is being run through a shallow channel despite apparent risks. BIWTAVISIT A team of experts from the headquarters of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority reached Paturia around noon yesterday and

went to the channel area

where poor navigability has become a major issue. After a four-hour lookaround, the team's consultant Mominul Haque said, "We have sufficient water 1,200-1,300 feet downstream. Two dredgers will start dredging tomorrow [Monday] to make it a per-

approach channel will be usable for ferries within two to three days." The BIWTA in the evening issued a press statement saying all ferries of Paturia-Daulatdia and Mawa-Kawrakandi routes have

manent approach to the

terminal. The permanent

foot draft until the BIWTA fixes the navigability. It asked heavily loaded lorries not to use the ferries

and use alternative routes. However, the apparent alternative route in question is a really long detour using the Bangabandhu

Bridge. Media shown

FROM PAGE 1

As the reporters protested it, the shipping minister said the meeting was for the road security council, not open to the public.

"Were it a public meeting, we could have held it at Paltan Maidan," he said. At one stage, Tuku joined

Shahjahan and angrily asked

the journalists to wait outside

"If necessary, we'll call "We're working for the interest of the country. So, you people wait outside and let us

continue the meeting. We'll let

you know the outcome of the

meeting,"Tuku said. The reporters then wanted to know whether it was a secret meeting, saying that they, too, are in favour of

road safety. At one stage, Tuku stood up and shouted at a reporter who was insisting on cover-

"Where [from which press] do you come from?" Tuku demanded. At this stage, Sahara Khatun requested the report-

ing the event.

Asked why then the journalists were invited, Tuku said it was "a misunderstanding," and they will try to avoid such situation in future.

After the meeting, commu-

ers to leave the room.

nications minister explained his position of not allowing the media at the meeting. "At my ministry, I usually

allow journalists to attend such meeting and I used to do this. But this was a different meeting. Rather, the council decided to give a press briefing," he said.