city

private hospitals.

The irony is that the poor

organ sellers are the least

paid in the whole process.

Usually sellers get between

Tk 20,000 and Tk 30,000

even though they are prom-

ised between Tk 3 lakh and

Tk 6 lakh. The rest of the

money directly goes to the

possible that the trade

Parents, mostly mothers,

were the donors in more

than half the 21 kidney

transplants they had done

in the last two years,

Bhuiyan said. "We use

national identity card to

verify identity of the donors.

allowed to donate organ in

my hospital as those cannot

be verified from an authen-

organ trade, Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujib Medica

University announced that

from now on the hospital

authorities would use DNA

tests to confirm identity of

Minister AFM Ruha

Haque himself admitted

that there were fraudu-

lence going on but could

not suggest a way out of

the problem immediately.

"We are trying to handle

the matter strongly," he

Interestingly, Health

donors.

After media revealed the

tic source," he added.

"Other relatives are not

pocket of the middlemen.

difficult.

42 bombs

FROM PAGE 20 Masudur Rahman, additional deputy commissioner (ADC) of DMP, said police, acting on a tip-off, conducted a raid at Jubo Dal activist Ataur Rahman Litu's Meerhajirbagh house at about 9:30am.

They recovered the explosives from a sand-pile lying beside the stairs on the ground floor of the multistoried building, he said.

Law enforcers arrested Belayet Hossain, 40, manager-cum-caretaker of the house, as the building owner Litu was on the run, said the ADC.

Petrol bombs and cocktails were wrapped up with red scotch tape, witnesses

Detectives were quizzing Belayet to find out reasons for keeping the bombs at the house and their sources as well. "Police are trying to arrest Litu," ADC Rahman added.

ADB wants

FROM PAGE 1 Thevakumar.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said the World Bank had made allegations of irregularities in four projects taken during the tenures of the last caretaker government and the BNP-led four-party alliance government.

The minister was addressing the inaugural session of a two-day regional conference on Public Investment Management. Planning Minister AK Khandker chaired the conference titled "Improving the Efficiency of Public Investment Management". Of the projects taken by

the present government only the Padma Bridge project has come under question from the World Bank, said Muhith. The World Bank, the

largest donor and coordinator of the project, has recently asked Canadian police to investigate allegations of corruption against SNC Lavalin, a Montrealbased company, for getting selected as a consultant of the Padma Bridge project.

"We have not yet received any document about the allegation of irregularities involving the project but the government suffers from the pitfall of the allegation," said Muhith.

On allegation against the Canadian company, the minister said consultant for the Padma Bridge project has not been appointed yet.

He hinted that the Canadian company's bid for consultancy on the project could be cancelled. Other parties can be

considered for the job as the complaint has been made against a single company, said Muhith.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police are probing the allegation of corruption against SNC Lavalin that allegedly violated the Canadian law in pursuing the company's bid for consultancy work of the Padma Bridge project.

Viqarunnisa

FROM PAGE 20

In the case, allegations were also brought against Husne Ara Begum, the principal of the school and college, and Lutfur Rahman, in-charge of the Bashundhara branch, that they tried to cover up the incident and delayed taking action against the cul-

Yesterday's ruling came after the victim's father submitted a no-confidence petition challenging the dropping of the names of Husne Ara and Lutfur Rahman from the charge

Mohammad Shahadat Hossain, officer-in-charge

of Badda Police Station and also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet on August 11 dropping the names.

The school authorities fired Porimol on July 5 following widespread criticism and agitation from students and other quarters. He was arrested the following day.

On July 11, Porimol confessed to raping the student.

DGFI meddled

FROM PAGE 1

d' affaires of the US embassy in Dhaka Geeta Pasi said in a cable that reporters have "minders" who shadow their movements and routinely call or send text messages to the reporters with "advice" on stories to report or suppress as well as on the tone of coverage.

In another cable, she said pressure on the journalists, however, eased and military interference in their coverage reduced, particularly since late May

Referring to editors of different newspapers, one cable said pressure on them in January and February 2007 has resulted in increased selfcensorship.

"Electronic media, however, still need to provide advance information on political programming," said the 2007 cable.

In the aftermath of the August 20-22 nationwide anti-government agitation in 2007, the DGFI told TV stations to halt all talk shows, which had become the country's most popular and freewheeling from the public disclosure, it added.

In September 2007 the office of the then information adviser Mainul Hosein distributed guidelines for the resumption of TV talk shows that included numerous restrictions to prevent anti-government comments being made on

The guidelines forbade live talk shows and said that any kind of "instigating, blind and biased opinions and statements that can create resentment toward the legitimate government of Bangladesh should be avoided".

Those were very broad parameters for producers who had learnt that the military can be sensitive to the smallest perceived slight, and talk shows have become more cautious and less critical of the government, the cable said.

Quoting a journalist as saying to a US embassy one incident, the DGFI was comment that Bangladeshi Bangladeshi troops on peacekeeping missions.

"The talk show presenter who made that observation was removed from the program to placate the military," the cable quoted an anchor of the program to be saying.

concerns that they were particularly vulnerable to arbitrary arrest and detention under the then emergency rules, the cable said adding that this was especially true in the country side where some journalists were detained after displeasing local authori-

BDR carnage trial

FROM PAGE 20

Shakil Ahmed were among the 74 people killed in the carnage at Pilkhana. The body of Shakil's wife was the mass graves.

reminded the defence lawyers not to ask irrelevant and repetitive questions to the witness. But the lawyers continued to do this.

"It is not crossexamination, rather it seems it is a programme of lawyers to appease their clients," the court then remarked.

The court also asked the prosecution to make copies of relevant chapter of the Evidence Act, and distribute those among the defence lawyers to teach them how to cross-examine.

The defence counsels mainly questioned the complainant, former officer-incharge of Lalbagh Police Station, about the 74-hour delay in filing the case and shifting it to New Market Police Station, and content of the First Information Report.

Explaining the delay, the complainant said collection of information, review of the whole situation and taking government approval in some matters were the reasons behind.

Two of the counsels told the complainant and first witness, former othat they think the mutiny was the result of conflict of interests among the army officers, but on instructions from the

Two killed

man was run over by a passenger bus around 8.30pm when he was crossing Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue.

He was taken to Dhaka Medical Collage Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

Enraged, people near the accident spot broke glasses of four vehicles including the bus. The driver and other staff of the bus fled the scene leaving the vehicle.

Mahbubur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Police Station, said they seized the bus.

In Tejgaon, Monowara Begum, 50, a sweeper of Dhaka City Corporation, was hit by a van around 5:00am in front of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute.

Some co-workers of Monowar, who were also sweeping the place at the time, took her to DMCH where she succumbed to her injuries in the afternoon.

official, the cable said, in incensed over an on-airexpatriate labourers remitted more money than

Journalists also raised

high-ups, he (witness) implicated "innocent" BDF

jawans who believe in a certain political ideology. The complainant denied also retrieved from one of Mosharraf Hossain Kajol, The court yesterday

special prosecutor of the case, said whatever the defence says, truth will be unveiled in the long run. The defence lawyers also appealed to the court not to

> keep the accused in fetters since they are not infamous criminals. The court then asked the prosecution to look into the provisions of the Jail Code

and inform it about those on the next date of hearing the A total of 824 BDR jawans and 23 civilians are accused in the carnage case. Charges against them include arson, theft, looting, dumping dead bodies, holding people

hostage and destroying

Housing

property.

FROM PAGE 20 Mohammad Jahangir said they have heard that some people have illegally occupied the hill at Kolatoli and built some establishments. Grabbers used to raze hills during the day, but these days they are doing it at

night, Selim added. On Monday, police arrested 27 workers for hill cutting and filed a case against 29 people including Mujibur Rahman with Cox's Bazar Model Police Station under **Environment Protection** Law. All the arrested were

later released on bail. Joynal Bari, deputy commissioner (DC) of the

district, visited the spot. "The microwave station may collapse anytime disrupting the district's wireless communication,

he said. Set up in 1976, the tower maintains wireless connection and satellite transmission with the rest of the country.

The DC said a master plan is being implemented on 90,000 acres of land to build a planned Cox's Bazar. The Cox's Bazar Development Authority, which has been formed recently, will supervise the job, he added. Anyone willing to build

any establishment in the district will have to take permission from the authority, he said, adding that a drive will be launched to demolish all illegal structures in the district.

Sushma

FROM PAGE 20

She stressed that Indian foreign policy was good for regional cooperation, and was drafted by the central government in the interest of India, no matter which party was in power.

She however said relations with China needs 'careful handling'.

Talking about the Bangladesh trip, she said it would have been better had West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee accompanied Singh to Bangladesh. Responding to ques-

tions, Sushma, who is in Singapore on an official trip said, "Relations between the two countries (India and Bangladesh) have strengthened. As for Teesta water sharing, it would have been better if the prime minister would have taken the chief minister of West Bengal along." She added, "There was

some communication gap that is why she (Mamata) did not join the delegation. Since she was not in the delegation, the prime minister thought it would be safe to just keep it aside for a later period. (But) That is not the end, beginning has been very, very good."

Touching on India's foreign policy and its relations with neighbours, Sushma Swaraj called for 'careful handling' of relationships with China.

Asked to elaborate further on careful handling, Sushma, who was speaking to journalists after delivering a public lecture 'Building Bridges for Peace and Regional Cooperation India's role with its East Asian Neighbours' said, "I have used the word careful handling. Careful handling says everything."

Responding to questions on the recent media reports of an alleged incident between the Indian and Chinese naval ships in the South China Sea, she said the Chinese have contradicted it.

Sushma, however, quickly pointed out that there were complexities in relations between the two countries and the relations should be handled care-

In her lecture, he highlighted India's need to further act on its 'Look East Policy'.

Graft halts

FROM PAGE 20

Health Technicians Association Mahabbat Hossain Khan.

Asked about this, the

DGHS authorities said

recently they will soon move to appoint health techni-

Abul Hasnat denied the allegation against him. "It is completely fabricated and intended to tarnish my image," he said when contacted.

The largest public hospital in the country, Dhaka Medical College Hospital, is also suffering from shortage

of health technicians. Director of the DMCH Brig Shahidul Haque Mallik, when contacted, said the hospital needs 155 health technicians but it has 80 posts for them in different sections like pathology, radiology, radiotherapy, physiotherapy and dental

He also said due to shortage of such technicians, they cannot provide round-the clock service. So, a significant umber of patients are forced to go to outside diagnostic centres to get immediate service.

Prof Rashid E Mahbub, former president of Bangladesh Medical Association, said, health technicians are part and parcel of health service, and standard doctor-health technician ratio is 1:5. But in Bangladesh, there is only one technician for three doctors. Certainly it hinders health service.

The present government has recruited more than 4,000 doctors and 2,000 nurses, but no health technicians. The 50-bed district sadar

hospitals have been upgraded to 100- bed ones but diagnostic facilities that require technicians are yet to be increased.

Illegal organ trade

out in Apollo Hospital while

two in LabAid. Other pri-

vate hospitals like United

and Square did not disclose

to The Daily Star the num-

ber of transplant operations

between private hospitals

and organ traders is evident

from the fact that none of

the sellers from Joypurhat

were given any document

that says they had donated

their organs. The arrested

suspects of the syndicate

also confessed to have

collaborated with doctors

institutions--Columbia

Asia Health Care and Trade

Worth Ltd--that made

necessary arrangements

from fake relationship

certificates to getting visa

for the sellers to travel

abroad for the surgery. The

offices of these "institu-

tions" are now closed and

the police are trying to

catch the people involved

Moniruzzaman, how-

ever, said, "It seems the

private hospitals are not

directly involved in the

organ trade but becomes

one of the main beneficia-

ries of the trade by carrying

out the transplant surger-

charge between Tk 5 lakh

and Tk 7 lakh for a kidney

Usually a private hospital

Kidney transplant sur-

geries cost no more than Tk

in the organisations.

They also named two

of private hospitals.

The nexus of interest

they had done.

who interrogated the suspected chief of an organtrading syndicate.

The syndicate lured over 200 people, from Joypurhat alone, into selling their organs for money.

The investigators' observations have been supported by the testimony of those who sold their organs by faking their identities. None of the seven organ sellers of Joypurhat, whom The Daily Star interviewed, could recall that their identity was verified at least once.

Four members of Shaharul Islam's family, who sold their kidneys, said nobody ever asked for their identity. "It was apparent that in

no way I could be the recipient's kin. I was wearing ragged clothes while the recipient was rich enough to afford a costly liver transplant in a wonderful hospital," said Mehadi, 23, a rickshaw-van puller of Bamongram of Joypurhat who was lured into selling his kidney but ended up selling a lobe of his liver instead. Mehdi, on his first-ever

trip to the capital, was talked to by doctors of LabAid hospital, who only assured him that his liver would grow back. Private hospitals includ-

ing LabAid and Apollo, however, claimed that they had several doctors interview the donors to crosscheck their identities even though they had certificates of identity.

our knowledge and were guided by the rules of the country," said Director of LabAid Maj Mahbub. So far 18 kidney trans-

plant surgeries were carried

Entrepreneurs must have an

initial capital of Tk 400 crore

to apply for setting up a bank,

and an equivalent amount

has to be collected through

Initial Public Offer (IPO) in

three years of the bank's

permission to set up new

banks will have to meet 20

Another board member

said one of the conditions

stipulates that if anyone is

accused in a case for default-

ing on loan or tax, the person

cannot apply for setting up a

sponsors are not allowed to

buy stakes in the new banks

with the money borrowed

from any bank or financial

of a new bank has to be the

same both in urban and rural

areas. Minimum 5 percent of

the bank's loan has to be

disbursed in the agriculture

sector and minimum 10

percent of the bank's net

income must be spent on

Corporate Social

be deposited with the central

bank as application fees for

government body, chairman

of the Anti-Corruption

Commission Ghulam

day after Communications

Minister Syed Abul Hossain

invited Bangladesh chapter

of the international graft

watchdog to probe if there is

any corruption in his minis-

move came amid allegations

of corruption in the bidding

process of the \$2.9-billion

largest donor and coordina-

tor of the project, has

recently asked Canadian

police to investigate a

Montreal-based company

for allegedly resorting to

corruption to be selected as

Guerrero dashed to Dhaka

this week to convey the

bank's corruption concern

to Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina and Finance

ing the start of the construc-

The allegations are delay-

Minister AMA Muhith.

WB Vice-president Isabel

a consultant of the project.

The World Bank, the

Padma Bridge project.

The minister's unusual

His comments came a

Rahman said yesterday.

Besides, Tk 10 lakh must

Responsibility (CSR).

FROM PAGE 1

The number of branches

Another condition says

The applicants seeking

FROM PAGE 1

inception.

institution.

such conditions.

transplant surgery while liver transplants cost about Tk 30 lakh.

ies at high cost."

50,000 at the National "We did everything in Institute of Kidney and Urology, a public hospital.

The hospital authorities said the operation should not cost more than Tk 1 lakh considering medical treat-

Bar raised high

the proposed bank. Sponsor shareholders with more than 5 percent share of a new bank must sign a capital maintenance agreement with a mention that if the new bank fails to maintain minimum capital in the future, the entrepreneurs will individually or jointly fill the

deficit. An entrepreneur can have a minimum share of Tk 1 crore and a maximum of 10 percent of the total capital.

Any individual, company or members of a family will not be allowed to hold more than a maximum of 10 percent of the total shares of a new bank. The bank's sponsor shares are not transferable in three years of the bank's inception without the

central bank's permission. Bangladesh Bank yesterday approved the revised guidelines with these conditions for setting up new

Bangladesh now has 47 banks -- the highest in the subcontinent. The central bank did not allow setting up any new bank since 2001.

Coming under pressure from an influential section, the finance ministry recently sent a letter to the central

tion of the 6.1 km long

cial that the government

would rather drop the com-

panies accused of corrup-

tion from the bridge project

than further delaying its

gate his ministry's activities

during the last two and half

years Abul Hossain claimed

that he is an honest man and

has nothing to hide. He

directed officials of his min-

istry to cooperate with TIB,

International Bangladesh is

an international non-

government organisation.

An NGO like this does not

have any authority to inves-

tigate corruption of a gov-

ernment institution and

certify its transparency,"

said Ghulam Rahman, the

top boss of the country's

former caretaker govern-

ment adviser Akbar Ali Khan

said TIB is unable to act on

the ministry's request legally

Echoing the ACC chief,

anti-graft watchdog.

and professionally.

"Transparency

In asking TIB to investi-

Muhith told the WB offi-

bridge.

construction.

he said.

ment patients receive in said.

bank to initiate giving per-

mission for new banks. Ruling party lawmakers Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh have applied for setting up The Farmers' Bank Ltd and Modhumati Bank Ltd, while National Professor Kabir Chowdhury has sought permission to set up Self Employment Bank.

Some board members told vesterday's meeting that world economy is still in recession and banks are getting closed in many countries. It would not be wise to allow new banks in such a situation.

A few other members said the size of Bangladesh's economy is now much bigger, and banks are making a good profit.

Bangladesh Bank has so far received 82 applications for setting up new banks since 2001. Of them, 20 applications have been submitted during the present government's tenure.

A high-up of Bangladesh Bank said those seeking licence for setting up new banks must submit fresh applications in line with the new guidelines.

does not have specialisation

in the act of investigation,

ministry copied to the ACC

the letter it sent to TIB. The

ACC said it is yet to receive

The communications

he said.

the copy.

Confirming the depart-

mental actions, the minister said he will not tolerate any corruption in his ministry. "I invited Transparency

exists in other places of the try in a bid to ensure transparcountry too as obtaining a ency," he told The Daily Star fake certificate is not that last evening. The ministry also reshuf-

National Kidney and Urology Institute Director Prof Zamanul Islam pline in its activities. Bhuiyan said faking documents is easy and "that is employees voluntarily went to why we do not allow kidney the truth commission during donations unless the donors are parents or sib-

> government. actions came following a recent spree of media reports about corruption in the communications ministry and subsequent demand for

> Although ruling Awami League in its election manifesto promised to fight corruption with a strong hand, until yesterday the government made no move against selfconfessed corrupt officials in different ministries and departments since assumption of power. Instead, many corrupt officers were pro-

> The communications ministry is the first to take measures against such perquite a long time.

Meanwhile, the corrupt officials and those who were benefited by them strongly lobbied the government highups all through yesterday in a bid to thwart the communica-

The communications minister received a number of telephone calls from different persons yesterday requesting him to refrain from the move, but he remained adamant about taking actions, the

slip through." The officers who were made OSDs are: immediate past chief engineer Shahab Uddin; Additional Chief Engineer Abdul Aziz Joarder; Superintendent Engineer Sohrab Hossain Mia; subdivisional engineers Golam Mohammad and Abdul Halim; executive engineers Manjur Ahmed Bhuiyan, Khandaker Golam Mostafa, Piar Ahmed Jorjis Hossain, Sanaul Haq Badrul Alam and Shafigul Alam Bhuiyan; and assistant

The two employees who were punished are Head Assistant Mazharul Islam and Work Supervisor Abdul Latif

Alam, Abdur Razzak and Abdul

Abul asks all to help TIB probe No extension

FROM PAGE 20

administration announced a

However, Ghulam Rahman said the commission is not "an institution to issue transparency certifion Bailey Road and open for

He said they would welcome if the minister provides specific information to investigate corruption.

TIB is giving a second thought to the invitation.

"We cannot do it if the matter involves criminal investigation," said TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman. TIB can carry out investigative research, he added.

Iftekharuzzaman, however, said TIB will get involved only after reaching a mutual understanding with the ministry on the terms and reference of its work.

FROM PAGE 1 suspended until then, said

17 corrupt

communications ministry officials. Communications Minister

Syed Abul Hossain took the actions yesterday evening. An order in this regard was sent to RHD last night, the ministry officials said.

DB sources said it is International Bangladesh to see the activities of my minis-

fled 10 administrative officers yesterday to bring better disci-Forty-two RHD officers and

the two-year of the immediate past military backed caretaker regime, confessed to their corruption and got clemency by handing over small portions of the ill-gotten money to the Yesterday's punitive

actions from a cross-section of the population, according to ministry sources.

moted to important positions. A total of 448 government officials and employees went to the truth commission, confessed to corruption, and got clemency.

sonnel, although it also had stalled on taking actions for

tions ministry's move.

sources said. About coming to the decision in the evening, a high official of the ministry said, "It took all day to come to the decision because we were busy plugging the loopholes, so the punished personnel cannot

engineers Nurul Haq, Mostak Ahmed Chowdhury, Noor

Motin. Biswas.

"TIB is an organisation run by social scientists. It

At the press meet, the tax

six-day-long Income Tax Fair to be held in all divisional cities from September 17 Among other services,

people will be able to collect

visitors from 10:00am to

Tax Identification Number (TIN) instantly from the fair. In Dhaka, the fair will be organised at the Officers Club

6:00pm on all six days.

In the last three years, the tax authority extended the time for submission of income tax returns although it had initially been strict

about not extending the deadline. Last year, NBR increased the time for tax return submission by a week following demand from the business chambers. In 2009, the deadline was extended for a

2008, it was extended twice- a month each time. Out of 26 lakh TIN holders, only 9.0 lakh pay income tax, according to NBR.

month. And in the year