Kenya history-makers

Heath Streak won the toss.

Martin Suji, with three for 19, made the early breakthroughs before leg-spinner Collins Obuya ripped through the middle-order with three

Odoyo also captured the prize wicket of Flower who confirmed on Tuesday that he will bring down the curtain on his international career as soon as the World Cup ends.

The left-hander was bowled round his legs having faced 101 balls.

Former captain Alistair Campbell, drafted into the squad following Mark Vermeulen's skull fracture, managed just seven before he was lbw to Suji on a slow pitch where runs were hard to come by.

Zimbabwe's innings was summed up by the comical run out of Andy Blignaut for four.

After Flower called him through and then sent him back, both batsmen ended up diving into the striker's end as Maurice Odumbe's throw arrowed into keeper Kennedy Otieno, who sprinted down the pitch to complete the run out.

Zimbabwe recalled Henry Olonga for his first World Cup appearance since he and Flower staged their controversial black armband protest against President Robert Mugabe's regime during the team's tournament opener against Namibia in Harare on February 10.

Kenya opener Ravindu Shah was dropped twice and survived a confident appeal for caught behind before he was run out for 14, backing up ironically off another dropped catch by bowler Blignaut.

And Blignaut missed another opportunity of his own bowling when he put down a drive by Otieno

But Streak made no mistake when he safely held out-of-form Steve Tikolo at mid-off after the Kenya captain mishooked Blignaut to leave his side 33 for two in the 10th

Olonga did not help Zimbabwe's cause with eight no-balls.

It was symbolic of a poor display by a Zimbabwe side rocked by the pre-match resignation of selector SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the World Cup Super Six match between Kenya and Zimbabwe at Goodyear Park in Bloemfontein on Wednesday: **ZIMBABWE**

tials, series of bomb explosions, law and order. The Speaker

rejected such notices on what he

submitted notices on 10 specific

issues. They even proposed that

the House adopt a joint resolution

on the issues of US terror-risk list

and push-in after a discussion and

send them to the relevant govern-

ments to convey the sentiment of

Throughout the session, law-

makers often were not in the House

in time. Even, the 16th sitting

started without quorum half an

hour behind schedule, a violation

of the parliamentary rules of proce-

The front-row treasury bench-

ers stood up on almost every occa-

sion to retort to whatever point of

order the opposition deputies

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, Health Minister Khandaker

Mosharraf Hossain and Prime

Minister's Parliamentary Affairs

Advisor Salahuddin Quader

Chowdhury would usually clarify

on the opposition's point almost

every time. AL lawmaker Suranjit

Sengupta was religious to stand on

demand to remove Chief Election

Commissioner MA Syed for his

reported comments about two

ruling party lawmakers. The

Speaker ruled that the House

The Speaker gave a ruling on a

Main opposition AL lawmakers

Campbell lbw b M Suji A Flower b Odovo $GFlower\,c\,Otieno\,b\,M\,Suji$

Wishart c Otieno b M Suji

Taibu c Otieno b Obuya

claimed 'valid' reasons.

the Jatiya Sangsad.

dure.

Ebrahim st Otieno b Obuya Blignaut run out Streak c Shah b Obuya Marillier b Tikolo 21 Olonga c Odumbe b Tikolo Hondo not out Extras: (lb-1, w-4, nb-2)

20

19

19

0

133 Total: (All out in 44.1 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-26, 3-45, 4-66, 5-85, 6-95, 7-97, 8-114, 9-129 0 M R 2 M Suji 19 Odoyo 0 43 Ongondo 16 10 32 Obuya

2.1

Total: (For 3 wkts in 26 overs) 135

0 24

0

0 9

Result: Kenyawon by seven wickets

Jmpires: Srinivas enkataraghavan (Ind) and Aleem

Man-of the-match: Martin Suji

TV umpire: Billy Bowden (Nzl)

Match referee: Wasim Raja (Pak)

Venue hopping

office and headed directly for his

waiting vehicle. Officials quoted

Huda saying that he had no time to

Muktangon at 1:00pm," he report-

edly told the officials and left.

"Please wait for me at the

The convoy of buses and official

vehicles then headed for

Muktangon. Fortunately at exactly

1:00pm, Nazmul Huda arrived at

Muktangon. He got off his vehicle,

cut a ribbon, checked the interior

of a bus and was gone within seven

minutes. The officials sighed a big

cannot discuss such matter.

crossed off from the list.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia

answered 18 questions in three sittings on different issues during

the PM's half-hour question time.

But the questions put by the main

opposition lawmakers were

The AL boycotted the PM's

question time in protest. It alleged

Shatgambuj

and also a madrassah teacher in

Regional Chief of Department

of Archeology Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain revealed that

Fazlur Rahman was not an

employee of the department. He

added that previously there were

FROM PAGE 12

the locality.

illegally.

plastering.

36

20

14

28

Fall of wickets: 1-24, 2-33, 3-62

Otieno lbw b Olonga

Tikolo c Streak b Blignaut

Extras: (lb-4, w-6, nb-9)

Shah run out

Odovo not out

Blignaut

Olonga

GFlower

Marillier

Toss:Zimbabwe

FROM PAGE 12

inaugurate then.

sigh of relief.

Standing body

 $Odumbe \, not \, out \,$

Karim

Tikolo

Cement Project area at 10:00pm. Meanwhile, police arrested two

A case filed in this regard was

Bagerhat murder!: Two more held

UNB,Bagerhat

Police yesterday arrested two more people in connection with the sensational murder and gang- rape of three women at Komorpur village in Sadar upazila.

The arrestees are Mithu and Johra of Jatrapur.

Miscreants chopped to death Tapan Bhattacharya and raped three women of his family on Saturday night.

Altaf Hossain Chowdhury arrives at

CU CORRESPONDENT

Shibir (ICS) cadres at the Chittagong University railway station yesterday, sources said.

out a procession to welcome prospective students on the first day of CU admission tests yesterday.

ICS cadres slapped Akhi and pulled her scarf. They warned other BCL activists not to bring out any procession.

Polls campaigner shot dead in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, KUSHTIA

allegations against Helal Uddin of selling the department's books Sources at the Department of Archaeology also alleged that the recent facelift was in gross violation of the archaeological norms

and it "totally changed the interior of the mosque" due to modern Kaya Union Parishad election. They said the project did not

consider the original aspect of the site and went on modernising the boundary walls and some mural at

Archaeologists believe the Shaitgambuj was built before 1459 by Khan-e-Zahan Uluk Khan.

from page 1

a point of order.

The home ministry gave the order for interrogation of the five at the Joint Interrogation Cell in Dhaka,

"The arrestees admitted that they are members of the militant group and the camp was used as one of their training centres," said Superintendent of Police Nawsher

"We are investigating who guided the militants from behind

the scene," he said. "But I cannot tell anything

about their plans right now, as investigation is on.

The Daily Star that investigators found three clues to the group's The sources believe the mili-

tants had a plan to bomb a month-Chapainawabganj Pourashabha golden jubilee, scheduled to begin on March 16, the sources said.

They also suspect links with the Islamic militants of India and Pakistan, as police found some toll receipts on a letterhead of the Allama Abdullah Ibn Fazal Trust of Kashimnagar in Birbhum, West

Officer-in-Charge of the Chapainawabganj Police Station Ali Ahmed Hashmi believes the arrestees are junior members of the

yield to pressure during interroga-

"The administration is dealing with the matter seriously," said

Deputy Commissioner Nurul

Exemplary action will be taken against the militants, he said.

other members of the outfit, based

on their addresses, The investigators found

addresses of as many as 180 numbers saved in nine languages, including Spanish and Arabic, on a

Police are looking for one Mamun whose passport was

Abdul Hannan, madrassah principal, admitted that Ayub Ali (one of the arrestees) was a teacher of his institution but denied any

Muggers kill employee of SP's office

UNB, Joypurhat

Muggers killed an employee of the office of the Superintendent of Police and took away his motorcycle in the outskirts of the town on

Police said Modabbir Hossain Arju, 41, was attacked and killed by muggers at Goriakantha Bottola crossing while he was returning home in Joypurhat Limestone and

youths named Lalu, 28, and Atiqul,

handed over to the Detective

Four persons, who were arrested on Monday, were taken on remand on Tuesday.They are A Rahman, Harun Sheikh, Delwar Sheikh and Karim Sheikh.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Komorpur todav

Female BCL leader assaulted by Shibir at DU

A female leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was physi-cally assaulted by Islami Chhatra

Laila Akhter Akhi, vice-president of BCL CU unit, was manhandled by ICS cadres as she tried to salvage a banner that ICS cadres forcibly took away from BCL

The BCL was preparing to bring

Later, the BCL held a protest rally at the railway station protesting the attack on the female leader ment to the ICS cadres responsible

A polls campaigner was shot dead allegedly by his opponents at village Baniapara in Kumarkhali upazila of Kushtia in the early hours of yesterday.

The victim, Nizamuddin, 50, was a supporter of Belal Uddin Ahmed, a chairman candidate in

BB reforms FROM PAGE 12

neurs.

It suggested the proposal should be applicable only for banks that are to come if the authorities are hell-bent on implementing it.

But the central bank thinks restricting the number of directors and also ensuring their quality to run a bank is important. It also says some neighbouring countries have adopted similar measures. The competence of the board

and its ability to run the business has to be a concern of the regulator, particularly in the absence of a legal framework that exists in many countries for greater liability of the directors, both executive and non-executive, a BB high official

Regarding the move to raise the mandatory paid-up capital requirement for the PCBs to Tk 100 crore, the BB says there are PCBs which have capital bases between Tk 10 and more than Tk 80 crore, but most of these have deposits ranging from Tk 500 to Tk 3,000

taken into consideration the figure would be in excess of 3,000 per cent, the central bank said. The banks that are not doing well with a very small capital base would be looking for mergers with bigger banks if the new provision were implemented, it added.

The BAB agreed on the proposal for raising the capital base require-ment, but suggested implementing the measure in phases over four

The central bank thinks there is a need to improve the environment of governance in the baking system to meet the Basel global standards; otherwise the country has to pay a



Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia presides over a meeting of the ruling BNP-led four-party alliance at the Prime Minister's Office yesterday.

7th PW gives deposition

In his deposition, Masum told the court that at about 10.30pm on April 23, 1998 a telephonic message came that Shazneen had fallen victim to a serious accident. Soon after the news came, Masum along with his wife went to their (Shazneen's) Gulshan residence and saw many people present there. He also saw Latifur Rahman crying near the stairs and asked "What happened to Shazneen?" Latifur replied that Shazneen had been murdered, Masum added.

"Later, my wife and I went to Shazneen's bedroom and saw her body lying on the floor in front of the bathroom. Her body bore a number of injury marks and there was blood spilt on the floor. On the left side of her neck, there was a deep wound. We were shocked and came out of the room.

"After a few minutes, I saw some people (including carpenter Shaniram) sleeping at the tin-shed of the compound, despite so much of noise around. Later, I also learnt that domestic help Shahid and a kitchen knife were missing. "At 12.15am, I tried to commu-

nicate with Hasan (My aunt's

husband)) over telephone. But the

call was received by my maternal aunt Yesmin and she informed me that Hasan was sleeping. Later, I told her to inform Hasan of Shazneen's death.' "Afterwards, I saw three guests-Ahmad Shafi Chowdhury, Enam Ahmed Chowdhury and Anisuzzaman Khan--interrogating

the maid servants. Minu and

Parvin about the incident. Parvin

Justice's recommendation.

first told them that she saw Shahid

Two of the eight additional

judges appointed during Awami

League's rule two years ago were

promoted as judges last month on

recommendation of the Chief

Ahmed told yesterday's meeting

that the demand is unlawful, politi-

cally motivated and an effort to

make the Chief Justice controver-

sial and blacken the image of the

anyone to do it," he added.

"The government will not allow

Within an hour of the Oikkya

Parishad's announcement, presi-

dent of the Supreme Court Bar

Association Ozair Farooq told a

press conference that they were not politically motivated and their

objective is to uphold the highest

About the pro-government

lawvers' convention, he said: "It's

unfortunate. Their intention is to foil the national convention called

delusion," Djindjic was quoted as

saying by the Politika newspaper at

heralds turbulent days for Serbia

and a bitter power struggle for his

successor. Otpor, or Resistance, an independent pro-democracy group, said the shooting means

'criminals have won the battle" in

Diindiic had many enemies

because of his pro-reformist and

Western stands. He was key in

Milosevic's extradition to the U.N.

War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague,

Djindjic, a pro-Western leader,

saw Serbia's fate as linked to the

West and favoured greater cooper-

ation with the U.N. war crimes

tribunal, where Milosevic now is

standing trial on charges of geno-

He was pivotal in arresting and

handing Milosevic to the war crimes tribunal in June 2001. For

this, he was blasted by Serbian

cide and crimes against humanity.

The assassination of Djindjic

Supreme Court.

FROM PAGE 1

Netherlands.

Law Minister Barrister Moudud

Lawyers convention

knife. Then she said she saw a man sitting on Shazneen's body. She also said she did not see anything."

"At about 2.30am on April 24, police, including some women police, came and made an inquest report. At about 3.30am, I again tried to communicate with Hasan over telephone. But my aunt Yesmin received it and informed me that Hasan was still sleeping. Later, I learnt that Hasan had talked to my younger brother's wife at 12.30am on April 24." "On April 30, I called Hasan to

Latifur Rahman's Gulshan residence. Then, Shazneen's elder sister Simeen Hossain, her (Simeen's) husband Waqar Hossain, her brother-in-law Arshadul Haque and I asked Hasan when he heard about the tragic incident. But his answer was not satisfactory and he went away evading our questions" Masum told the court.

Masum continued, "On September 27, my wife and I went to Latifur Rahman's Gulshan residence at noon and later police took Shahid there, and Shahid narrated the incident chronologically. He said Hasan and his supervisor Badal hired him, Humayun, Parvin, Minu and Shaniram with money to rape and kill Shazneen. Shahid told us that on the night of the incident he, Humayun and Parvin entered Shazneen's bedroom. Before entering her room, Shahid took a knife from the kitchen and Humayun took the chisel of carpenter Shaniram.

Shahid said he stabbed Shazneen with the kitchen knife and Humayun hit her with the fleeing Shazneen's room with a by her hair and pressed the victim's

Hasina said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on

Hasina also said the prime

She said the recent appointment of judges to the Supreme

Kotalipara, Narayanganj AL office, Udichi's programme, Ramna Batamul and Dinajpur are results of BNP-Jamaat alliance's use of "extremists" for achieving their political end.

and human rights, and stop the The ruling BNP leaders were also invited to join the discussion

Parishad general secretary advocate Abdullah Abu, newly elected president of Dhaka Bar Advocate Mohammad Israfil and general Mahbub, Barrister Mainul Hosein secretary Advocate Mokhlesur Rahman Badal also spoke.

hands on the bed. Then the three pulled down Shazneen from the bed. She was almost unconscious. Shahid raped her in this condition. Shahid then came out with the blood-stained knife through the northern side door of the victim's room and threw it by the side of the tin-shed before fleeing the house. Shahid then met Hasan at Gulshan Avenue, Hasan was waiting there in a white microbus and asked him if the job was properly done.

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman ,15, the youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, Chairman of Transcom. was raped and murdered at their Gulshan residence on April 23,

Shahid told him that it was done as

per his instruction, the witness

Special Public Prosecutor (PP) Arfan Uddin Khan and Assistant PP Anisur Rahman appeared for the state, while advocates Mosharraf Hossain Kajol, MA Kamrul Hasan Khan Aslam and Abdus Salam Bhuiyan represented the accused.

Rakkhi Bahini

FROM PAGE 12

party's Bangabandhu Avenue central office.

"Your husband gave indemnity to the killers of Bangabandhu and you gave indemnity to vourself for the order issued for killing 58 people during the joint operation,'

Tuesday said in Parliament that the Joint Drive Indemnity Ordinance 2003 was not the first one in the country: a similar indemnity ordinance was passed by the Awami League government on March 7. 1972 exempting Rakkhi Bahini from trial by the civil court.

minister's remarks on prices of essentials were all lies.

Court exposed the government's "naked interference" in the judi-Hasina said bomb blasts at

She called upon lawyers to be united and establish the rule of law

government from interfering in the Awami League presidium member Zillur Rahman, AL law secretary Advocate Shahara Khatun, advocate Syed Rezaur Rahman, Bangladesh Awami Ainjibi

Serbian PM assassinated

dent earlier this month after the formation of a new state, Serbia and Montenegro. Djindjic's feud with Kostunica since the two jointly toppled

the country's much-needed economic and social reforms. Djindjic was often criticized by his opponents for seeking too much power and for "mercilessly"

Milosevic had virtually paralyzed

nationalists, including his former

ally Vojislav Kostunica, who

stepped down as Yugoslav presi-

 $attacking \, his \, political \, rivals.$ A German-educated technocrat known to supporters as "The Manager" for his organizational skills and as "Little Slobo" to his detractors for his authoritarian tendencies, Djindjic nonetheless managed to gain some political capital from his willingness to surrender Milosevic despite a constitutional ban on extraditing Serbian citizens.

Though derided for his fondness for big cars and flashy suits, Djindjic's trade of Milosevic for \$1.2 billion in international economic aid appeared to have won respect from people desperate to improve a living standard that ranks among the lowest in Europe.

Sylhet polls

Commissioner Abdul Quaiyum Jalali, district Bar Association Secretary EU Shahidul Islam, Publisher of the Daily Shyamol Sylhet Nururzzaman Moni, woman's rights activist Lovely Yasmin Zeb, woman ward commissioner candidate Moushumi Majid, district 11-Party Coordinator Advocate Bedananda Bhattacharya, Acting Editor of the Daily Jugabhery Aziz Ahmed Selim, Sylhet Press Club President Iqbal Siddiquee, Zia Parishad General Secretary (Sylhet) Aslam Kabir Titu, writer Rafiqur Rahman Lozu and Moulana Ziaul Hasan.

Massive arrest

house-to-house search.

Two separate cases -- murder of two constables and bomb explosions-- have been filed with the Sonadanga Police Station. No one was named in the cases.

The Inspector General of Police Modabber Hossain Chowdhury arrived in Khulna from Dhaka yesterday morning.

He visited injured constables Nizamuddin and Moniruzzaman at the KMCH soon after his arrival Later, he attended the namaz-e-

janaja of constabale Shariful Islam held at the police line ground. The IG has asked KMP officials to leave no stone unturned to reveal the motive behind the bomb attacks on police and to arrest the culprits involved in a series of bomb explosions in Khulna.

Tuesday night's bomb attack on patrol police was launched only four hours after the judicial confessional statement was given by two young men Sujon, 15, and Abul, 28.

They were arrested on Monday night by the DB in connection with the bomb attack and murder of traffic sergeant Ariful Islam on the night of March 1, outside the venue of International Trade Fair.

According to witnesses, there were six armed miscreants in masks who hurled bombs on petrol police near Janata Bank building at Sheikhpara. They left the place hurriedly on foot firing two blank shots from the arms looted from the victims.

Senior officers of the KMP said only one shotgun is still missing with ten rounds of bullets. But witnesses said three weapons were looted during the attack on patrol

When asked, a senior officer of the KMP said that he expected a breakthrough in the investigation very soon. He did not rule out involvement of drug traffickers in the bomb blast incident, since Sheikhpara is known as a drug trafficking point.

Dead bodies of constables Shariful and Ramesh have been sent to their village homes in

Chuadanga and Narail districts. SI Ashfaquzzaman of Sonadanga thana has been made

Iraq action

FROM PAGE 1

But doubts persisted over whether it had the nine votes necessary to win adoption of the measure, which also faces a triple veto threat from France, Russia and China.

In response, diplomats said Britain was seeking to lengthen a March 17 deadline, perhaps to March 21 or March 24, and add several specific disarmament demands for Baghdad to meet. With British Prime Minister Tony Blair under intense anti-war

pressure at home, Rumsfeld left

open the possibility the United States might invade Iraq without British forces. US officials, who have said they are ready to invade Iraq without UN approval, indicated they could be flexible on the question of Iraq's

final deadline -- but only slightly. "The Security Council needs to stand up, give him (Saddam) a very clear message that he needs to disarm -- that he has days, not

Ayodhya excavation

FROM PAGE 12 Zafariyab Geelani of Sunni Waqf Central Board, accompanied by two archaeologists R K Takran and Mohammed Abid and VHP organising secretary Champat Rai along with historians Ranjana Agnihotri and Prasad were among those present during the survey carried out by Archaeological Survey of India team

led by Dr BR Mani. Earlier, Mohammed Hashim Ansari, main plaintiff in the title suit pending before a court, announced his decision to boycott the exercise

termingit as a "political drama". "We have no faith in the ASI which comes under the Human Resource Development Ministry headed by Murli Manohar Joshi, a prime accused in the demolition case. If the excavation has to be done, why are they keeping out the makeshift temple? Tomorrow, there will be demand to excavate Jamma Masjid and Qutab

Minar," Anasari said. Geelani expressed apprehension alleging Joshi had replaced ASI direc-

toron the eve of the excavation. "We will watch the process. We will cooperate if it is done with honesty and dedication," he said.

Faizabad district administration

sources said excavation was likely to

begin in the afternoon and about 52 labourers with photo identity cards have been engaged for the purpose. Representatives and counsels of other parties including Mahant Ram Chandra Paramhans Das of the Ram

Janmabhoomi Nyaas, Ram Lalla,

CNG auto ban FROM PAGE 1

Umesh Pandeywere also present.

of Monipuri Para, who commutes to office in Kakrail by auto-rickshaw.

"I take my daughter to the Viqarunnisa Noon School every day. I have to find an alternative," said Shirin Sultana of Khejurbagan. Commuters apart, threewheeler drivers are disappointed by the ban. "Now we have to make a detour to reach most places. This route was a shortcut for us, as it

leads to others," said Ismail Hossain, a Mishuk driver. "We have to ask for more fares for long travels since our fuel cost will go high," said Amin Sheikh, who drives a CNG-run auto-rickshaw.

"I think passengers won't understand the problem," he added. Rahimuddin, another autorickshaw driver, says passengers do not want to pay high fares. "The government should think

about the consequences before taking any step," said Aminul Islam who works with a private organisation at Karwan Bazar. However, a few people welcomed the decision. "The measure

will help minimise traffic jam in the area," said Ashek Khandaker. The authorities defended the decision with the same point. "It was necessary since traffic movement on the road became slower than ever," said Abu Musa Mohammed Fakrul Islam, deputy commissioner traffic (south) of the

The traffic authorities may lift the ban once construction of a flyover at Mohakhali is completed,

Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

weeks, to disarm," National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said in a radio interview to be aired on Wednesday. The United States and Britain

can count on only four of the nine Security Council votes they need -their own and those of Spain and Bulgaria. Five nations, three with veto

power, are definitely against the resolution -- Russia, France, China Germany and Syria. The six undecided members --Mexico, Chile, Cameroon, Angola, Guinea and Pakistan -- suggested a 45-day deadline for Baghdad to demonstrate that it was in compli-

ance, although U.S. officials rejected this as too long. As war preparations continued in the Gulf region, the US Air Force on Tuesday successfully tested its massive "MOAB" bomb in Florida, putting a new facet of American military might on display.

The weapon -- officially the "Massive Ordnance Air Blast" but nicknamed the "Mother of All Bombs" -- packs 40 percent more power than America's current most powerful non-nuclear bomb, and US officials suggested Iraq should take note

Proceedings of MiG purchase scam case against Hasina

stayed

UNB, Dhaka The High Court yesterday stayed proceedings of MiG-29 purchase scam case against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

the Divisional Special Judge's Court, Dhaka. The court also issued rule upon the government to show cause why the graft case against Sheikh Hasina should not be quashed. The rule is returnable in four weeks.

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption

filed the case with Tejgaon police in

December 2001 accusing Sheikh Hasina and six others of causing a

The case is now pending with

loss of US\$123 million (Tk 700 crore) to the national exchequer in purchasing 8 Russian made MiG-29 in 1999.

All the accused in the case are Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud

Alliance

the four parties at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) yesterday chaired by Prime Minister Khaleda

It also decided to form a central

coordination committee and

to oversee campaign activities. A series of public rallies at all divisional headquarters will be held as part of the campaign. The heads of the four parties will address the rallies and talk about

various fields. Yesterday's meeting emphasised early implementation of the major election pledges of the

the government's 'successes' in

Issues like push-in, Indo-Bangla relations, inclusion of Bangladesh in the US terror-risk list and current rise of extremist organisations were not discussed. But some leaders felt that the government should defend itself against rising concern over price hike of essentials and deterioration of law and order. The prime minister said prices

of rice and some other items have already come down and the law and order is gradually improving. She said the government is

seriously investigating the bomb blasts and some other serious crimes and is determined to contain crime, meeting sources said

Militant arrest

However, police sources told

They also traded in explosives

and some unidentified men carried several bags of explosives from the camp at night, the sources

But a senior police official said they are highly trained and did not

Police are trying to find out

If the deposit to capital ratio is

He said their programme would remain unchanged and warned that the government would be held responsible if their peaceful convention was foiled, adding that he

was issued threats over the phone

by the Bar Association," Farooq

and told to call off the convention. He said they discussed with all political parties, professional groups and representatives of civil society the matter of ensuring judges' appointment and their confirmation on the basis of 'constitutional convention'.

but they did not show up, added Farooq distributed written statements of eight eminent lawyers supporting their demand. They are Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, Abdul Malek, Dr M Zahir, Mahmudul Islam, Kazi Golam

and Azmalul Hossain.