Researchers cry for preserving heritage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A policy should be there to conserve historic sites, researchers suggested at a seminar in the city

"Conserving only the national heritage is not enough. The areas surrounding historical sites also need to be preserved," researchers

The speakers at the seminar on " Environment and thinking of the young researchers" held yesterday at the Teachers Students Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University also recommended integrating a tourist package for visiting various histori-

The research conducted at Laksmi Bazar, Sutrapur and Farashganj area in the old part of the city, recommended the conservation of four buildings. These include the mansion of Reboti Mohon Das, Ruplal House, 45 B.K Das and the mansion of Jatin Babu.

Mahmud Bin Hasnath, Ashrafuzzaman Khan and Shahadat Hossain of the department of Urban and Regional Planing (URP) of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) jointly pre-sented the research on 'Policy Development for the Conservation of Historic Sites'

no notable institute or research centre for these purposes in Bangladesh.

will reach in future after accomplishing further development activities is quite unimaginable

Green Force, a sister organisation of the Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA).

Mahmud presided over the semi-nar while BAPA General Secretary Abu Naser Khan moderated the

Among others, Prof. Helal Uddin Khan Arefin, Dr. A.Q.M Mahbub, Prof. Israt Islam, Saiful Haq and Rashida Akther addressed

The organisers said, from now on a seminar would be held every Saturday at the TSC participated by young researchers.

Hunt on for Bombay train bombers

for the perpetrators of a bomb attack on a commuter train in the Indian city of Bombay which killed 11 people and injured more than 70

The chief minister of the western state of Maharashtra, Sushil Kumar Shinde, said police had not ruled out the possibility of the involvement of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in Thursday night's blast.

Police said earlier they suspected the outlawed Students' İslamic Movement of India (SIMI) was behind the explosion on a crowded suburban train during $peak\,evening\,rush\text{-}hour.$

"The possibility of the involvement of ISI and SIMI and a few other such organisations cannot be ruled out," Shinde told reporters after heading a disaster management meeting.

"We have some more information today and believe that the culprits will be nailed soon," he

In the Indian capital police on Friday evening went on full alert after six bombs were found in the city's main rail station, a police spokesman said.

The homemade bombs were

hidden in a plastic bag and stashed in the station's main carpark, Police Deputy Commissioner R. S. Gumman said, adding the explo-

"The bombs were built to detonate by the day's temperature and an explosion would have caused huge casualties because the area they were kept is always packed with passengers and rail personnel," another official said.

After Thursday's blast in Bombay police threw a security ring around railway stations, airports and other key installations. They also set up road blocks across the western Indian city.

station panicked commuters, most of them office workers on their way

Briefcases, handbags and paper files fluttered down on platform number three at Mulund as office workers reinforced by fire department rescuers and rail staff rushed the injured to nearby hospitals.

The impact was so powerful it blew a gaping hole in the metal structure and left seats in a mess of twisted metal.

Bombay, India's financial hub, had seen three other bombings in December and January, which left

Kenya Lee-struck

KENYA

Otieno b Lee

D Obuya b Lee

Modinotout

M Suji not out

Bowler

McGrath

Bichel

Harvey

Lehmann

McGrath

Toss: Australia

Patel c Ponting b Lee

Shah c sub (Hauritz) b Hogg

Tikolo c Bichel b Lehmann

C Obuya c Gilchrist b Bichel

Ongondo c Gilchrist b Bichel

ASuji c Ponting b Lehmann

Total: (For 8 wkts in 50 overs) 174

Fall of wickets: 1-3, 2-3, 3-3, 4-82,

1

3 14

1 31

0

AUSTRALIA: Ricky Ponting, Adam

Gilchrist, Matthew Hayden, Damien

Martyn, Darren Lehmann, Andrew

Symonds, Ian Harvey, Brad Hogg, Andrew Bichel, Brett Lee, Glenn

Umpires: Billy Bowden (NZ) and Steve Bucknor (WI)

Match referee: Mike Procter (RSA)

TV umpire: Asoka De Silva (Sri)

Extras: (lb-10, w-6, nb-1)

5-131,6-139,7-141,8-144

10

8

10

Did not bat: Asif Karim

captain Ricky Ponting and David Obuya was yorked off the last ball of

It was the first ever hattrick by an Australian bowler in World Cup history and the second in this tour-nament following Sri Lankan Chaminda Vaas' feat against Bangladeshinthefirstround.

Down 3-3, Kenya made a remarkable recovery when opener Rayindu Shah and skipper Steve Tikolo added 79 for the fourth wicket.

Shah, run out in both his team's earlier Super Six matches, hit six boundaries in his 46 before he holed out in the deep off left-arm spinner Brad Hogg.

Tikolo went on to make his team's top score of 51, finally running into form ahead of the crucial semifinal. Hitesh Modi remained unbeaten on 39, sharing a ninth wicket stand of 30 with Martin Suji, who made 15 not

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard of the Kenya innings in

Ronaldo set to end wedlock

AFP, RIO DE JANEIRO

Ronaldo is set to divorce his wife Milene Domingues, the Jornal do Brasil reported Thursday.

World Footballer of the Year

The couple was married on Dec 24, 1999, and has a three year-old son. Ronald. The Iornal said the couple, who

have denied past reports of a split. had agreed on an amicable separa-

Ronaldo's two goals which gave Brazil a 2-0 World Cup final win against Germany in Japan last June

completed an amazing comeback. That thrilling performance secured a 45-million-euro (45million-dollar) move from Inter Milan to Spain's European cham-

pions Real Madrid. Four years earlier in France he had flopped with a mystery illness some claimed was just stage fright as the French trounced Brazil 3-0 in

the 1998 World Cup final. His 22-year-old wife, who hates her nickname of Ronaldinha, is an international soccer player herself and turns out for the Spanish women's side Rayo Valecano

Prof. Mahmud said there were

"The extent to which pollution

The seminar was organised by

Economist Prof. Wahid Uddin

AFP, New Delhi

A manhunt was underway Friday sive devices were soon disarmed.

The deafening explosion as the train was pulling into Mulund

three people dead and 77 injured.

for newspaper industry. The meeting was attended by Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Akhter Ahmed Khan and Monjurul Alam of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, Fazle Imam and Abul Hasham of press federation Afrar their World Cup Super Six day-night match against Australia at Kingsmead in Durban on Saturday:

> Abdus Shaheed and Omar Faruq of Dhaka Union of Journalists. To make the grand rally a success, presidents and general secre-taries of all unions and the unit

FROM PAGE 12

Sources said links between the Mujahidin and the Al Hamida were suspected following recovery of similar leaflets and other papers from their hideouts.

thana Ali Ahmed Hashmi however said they were yet to have 'strong evidences' about the militants plans.

Deputy Commissioner Nurul Haque said the hideouts of the militants and their possible designs were luckily unearthed before any untoward incident took place. Tough action would be taken in this regard, he added.

Meanwhile, an army team led by Captain Zahurul Haq reached the frontier town yesterday to examine the bombs recovered.

PDB promises

0

51

39

15

0

3

2

0

2

17

32

42

23

0 22

the transmission and distribution mechanism could not contain the sudden surge of load during peak

The electricity demand is estimated to shoot up to 3,600 MW during summer, which is the gen-

eration capacity of PDB. "I am hopeful we would be able to maintain smooth supply of electricity if big power generation units do not trip unexpectedly,'

PDB has repaired its key grid and transmission installations, he said. He added that the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) is having problems with its transmission and distribution networks despite uninterrupted supply of electricity from PDB.

DESA consumes a lion share of electricity produced by PDB.

Ashura observed

UNB, Dhaka

Holy Ashura, the 10th of Muharram, was observed on Friday as a day of mourning and solemn remembrance of one of the greatest tragedies in the history of Islam.

On this day, in the Hijri year 61, Hazrat Imam Hossain (RA), the youngest grandson of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM), made supreme sacrifice to uphold the true teachings of Islam.

Hazrat Imam Hossain along with other members of his family and some close associates embraced martyrdom in the desert of Karbala on the banks of the river

President Iajuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina ve separate messages to mark

Different religious and political organisations arranged various programmes, including discusons, to observe the day. The Shite sect of the Muslim community brought out a mourn-

ing procession from Hosne Dalan Imambara and Bibika Raoza in the city's Farashranj area on Friday

Bangladesh Islamic Foundation arranged a Milad Mahfil at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque. Special munajat was offered seeking divine blessings of Almighty Allah for the peace, prosperity and greater unity of the Muslim Ummah.

Special prayer and Milad Mahfil vere also held in different mosques in the country after Juma prayers.

Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television broadcast special programmes and national dailies published special articles highlighting the significance of the

Grand rally of journalists, employees on April 20

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Journalists, workers and employ-ees of the newspapers and news agencies will hold a grand rally at the National Press Club on April 20 to press home its seven-point

The demands include formation of sixth wage board and declaration of 60 per cent dearness allowance.

The leaders of Sangbadik-Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad placed the demands at a meeting in the city yesterday, calling for protection of their rights

Other demands include implementation of 5th wage board in all newspapers and news agencies, steps to ensure that all workers can eniov holidays, and national policy

Hashem of press federation, Afsar Uddin Ahmed Khan and Matiur Rahman Talukder of employees' federation, and Ealhi Newaz Khan,

chiefs and deputy chiefs will hold a preparatory meeting at the National Press Club on March 20.

Militant plan

The officer- in- charge of Sadar

Police were yet to nab any mili-

7 companies

FROM PAGE 1

cent to 88 per cent of shares of six companies and 28 per cent of shares of Bangladesh Monospool paper

The government owns 50.35 per cent of Padma Oil's 4,900,000 shares and 65.92 per cent of the 994,000 shares in Eastern Lubricants. The shares will be sold off

through Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) and other brokers' houses, a Privatisation Commission news release said yesterday. "The offloading process will start

soon," Commission chairman

Enam Ahmed Chowdhury told UNB yesterday without being specific. Although the government has decided to offload its shares in the Rupali Bank, the modalities are not vet set and the Commission has not

yet been asked to execute it, he said.



Police club participants, including women, after a bomb explosion injured six people of a Muharram procession in Lalbagh Friday morning. One of the injured is DCC Ward Commissioner Mir Ahsraf Ali Azam.

Watchdog for micro-finance institutions suggested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Micro-finance institutions (MFIs) should be provided with legal basis to take deposits for carrying out their credit programme from own funds, said Prof Muhammad Yunus, managing director of Grameen Bank

He said there should be an

independent micro-finance com-

mission that would work as the regulator for this sector. "Donors' money can't always help micro-credit programme. They (MFIs) find it difficult to continue their present programme due to lack of funds. Ultimately they must start taking deposits from the borrowers, but a legal frame-work is necessary for this," he said at the inaugural session of 45th Grameen International

Eight representatives from five countries including the United States, Australia, India and Nepal are participating at the 13-day

Dialogue Programme in the city

Prof Yunus said about 90 per cent of the loans, that Grameen disburses, are from its own funds and the savings from the depositors. And over 82 per cent of the depositors are Grameen's borrow-

The bank also gives 8.5 per cent interest on the deposits, he added. "Grameen Bank encourages borrowers to deposit money so that

they or other borrowers can receive loan at the time of their need", said Each new branch of Grameen Bank now starts operation with public deposits and it lends money to the targeted borrowers only

when it mobilises enough funds to

carry its lending activities entirely with its own deposits, he said. ' It is working out very well," said Prof Yunus adding that if conducive laws are promulgated, leading NGOs, running microcredit programmes, may seriously consider converting themselves

into formal financial institutions. He said the government should not fix the interest rate of MFIs. If a binding is imposed, many of the MFIs might engage themselves in unfair means to get more interest than the government-fixed one. "In a free market system, MFIs

can fix whatever interest rate they

feel better. Ultimately, the MFIs that would charge high interest rate, would not find any borrower," He denied the allegations often raised against Grameen Bank for charging high interest rates. "All

these stories are made up. The man, who criticises us for high interest rate, does not know what rate we charge," he said. Prof Yunus said Grameen Bank provides income generating loans with 20 per cent interest rate,

" All are simple interest rate, calculated on declining balance method. If a borrower takes a loan of Tk 1000 and pays back the entire amount in weekly instalments within a year, then s/he actually

sary logistics to the police stations housing loans with eight per cent and higher education loans with five per cent interest.

pays Tk 1100" he added.

Hu Chinese president

People's Congress puts him in charge of what is officially China's highest body of political power, but is in fact little more than a rubberstamp assembly.

A new premier, likely Wen

Jiabao, will be elected Sunday with his government appointed Monday to complete the move to a younger "Fourth Generation" of communist leaders. Hu, groomed for more than a decade to lead his nation, will have his work cut out maneuvering

himself from the shadow of Jiang, who clearly took centre stage Saturday. Despite being named Communist Part secretary in November to go with the presidency, he is surrounded by Jiang's men in the nine-member Politburo

wielding organ. Analysts say he will have to carefully try to consolidate power

would lead us to that conclusion,"

he said in Athens in answer to a

Earlier, AFP from Washington

Standing Committee, the

Communist Party's elite power-

in his new role, is expected to determine foreign policy in partic-

And the task ahead is daunting in a country on a rapid modernisa-Public frustration is rising over forced relocations, there is mass

unemployment, burdensome rural taxes, and official corruption. China's entry into the World Trade Organization is expected to make matters worse, bringing more wrenching social and economic changes in a country whose political system remains closed

and secretive. The new leadership has pledged to address many of these concerns but, at least in the coming months, political powerplaying is expected to take precedence.

"I think Hu will fully exploit his position as head of state to project himself as leader of China," said political scientist Joseph Cheng from Hong Kong's City University.

wants to play an important role in diplomatic affairs, especially on the question of Taiwan.'

David Zweig, a China expert at Hong Kong's University of Science and Technology, cautioned that Jiang's influence should not be overstated, saying Hu had made inroads into the Jiang powerbase since being appointed party secretary in November.

expected Hu Jintao or even Wen Jiabao to come out with their own agendas, their own policy directions, so quickly," he said. "One doesn't want to overesti-

"The flip side is that no one

mate Jiang Zemin's influence on domestic policies." Asked who will be more high profile, Jiang or Hu, Cheng said:

Jiang can't compete with Hu for

international limelight. Asked who will be more powerful, Cheng said: "I think it's a gradual process. Jiang will gradually fade out and Hu's position will be

Lawyers' rallies

leaders of Awami League, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Communist Party of Bangladesh, among others, attended the anti-government

Law Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda and Barrister Aminul Huq who were present at the pro-government lawyers' rally, however, claimed that they were at the rally as law-

"We have come here to face Awami League's conspiracy (against the judiciary), "said Huda.

State law officers across the country were also 'forced' to attend the rally as Nazmul Huda made their presence 'mandatory' The law minister termed the

opposition's argument regarding the process of confirmation of the Higħ Court judges as irrational. "It is not compulsory to fully comply with the recommendations made by the Chief Justice for confirmation of judges," he observed.

The pro-government convention ended with a procession taken out outside the Supreme Court compound.

The anti-government rally was held with only representatives of different Bar associations from across the country. Suranjit Sengupta, MP, Noor-e-Alam Ziku, ASM Abdur Rab, Hasanul Haq Inu, Dilip Barua, Prof. Mostafa Chowdhury and Prof. Abul Bayes spoke at the rally.

The anti-government lawyers blasted the government for ignoring the recommendations of the Chief Justice in confirming services of the six additional judges of the High Court.

The anti-government lawyers also held a post-rally press briefing where Bar President Farooq alleged that their rivals staged the rally at same premises same time by exercising state power. Condemning the pro-government convention, he

claimed that no genuine representatives of Bar associations attended have 13 policemen and 12 ansars. Besides, 220 BDR troops and that conference and that law officers were forced to attend it.

Cinema blasts FROM PAGE 1

and initiating investigations into all incidents of bomb blast. The inquiry commission was formed following the bomb blasts at Ajanta, Chhayabani, Purabi and Aloka cinema halls on December 7 last year. The blasts killed 21 people.

journalist Enamul Haque Chowdhury were implicated in bomb blast cases The ruling coalition has been blaming the opposition for the blasts.

Top opposition leaders includ-ing Saber Hossain Chowdhury and

UP polls

place because of legal complica-

A discord developed between the chief election commissioner (CEC) and the government over deployment of troops in the elec-

The government did not meet the demand of the EC for committing troops to polling centres. The government did not deploy the paramilitary BDR at all troubleprone centres either.

The row led two lawmakers of the ruling BNP to demand in the House removal of the CEC. Newspapers reported a few days

ago that the CEC asked his officials to prepare for a mid-term election at a meeting. But the CEC dismissed the report as fabricated. Later, he stopped making com-ments on the election and asked

journalists to investigate it them-Meanwhile, the EC sources said the re-election to 46 suspended centres would take place by March 24. Eighty-eight others have already He urged the President not to appoint new additional judges until the services of the six were confirmed. He also requested the Chief Justice not to administer oath to new additional judges to be appointed by the President.

"If it takes place, we will announce a tough programme," he told reporters.

As part of their agitation, Farooq said they would continue discus sion with political parties, professional groups and civil society to gather support for their demands. They would also hold meetings with lawyers in divisional head-

Meanwhile, three eminent lawyers yesterday in a joint state-ment said they do not support or oppose any groups. They urged the wyers to stop toeing party politics

on the issue and get together. "In a section of the press a news item was published last Thursday quoting Ozair Farooq to say that eight senior advocates, including Dr. Kamal Hossain, Barrister Syed Istiaque Ahmed, Dr. M Zahir, Barrister Mainul Hossain and others supported the stand taken by him in connection with nonconfirmation of six additional

judges of the High Court Division. "We did not support or oppose or appease any opinion group among lawyers," said the state-ment signed by Kamal Hossain, M Zahir and Mainul Hossain.

BNP rift

FROM PAGE 12 with the support of ruling party

Government cadres are reportedly bringing illegal arms into the city and harassing campaigners of opposition parties. Law enforcers however denied the allegations.

Sources said the administration

trates -- one in each of the 90 poll ing centres and one to escort each of the 35 mobile patrol teams -- to ensure smooth elections. Each polling centre will also

has decided to appoint 125 magis-

130 policemen will be deployed in the city to quell any trouble.

Army will be also deployed on the Election Day on March 20. Meanwhile, today's scheduled inauguration of Shekarpur-Doarika Bridge by the prime minister has been postponed till 23rd March due to polls

CEC

FROM PAGE 1

demanded removal of the CEC. They also demanded proof of the allegation and threatened the CEC with legal action. Moniruzzaman Sharif, commissioner of ward No. 1, read out a written statement at the press

On the other hand, the Rajshahi Nagorik Committee brought out a procession in Rajshahi city, demanding removal of the mayor.

Fazle Hossain Radsha

Workers' Party politburo member,

said, "Truth can never be sup-pressed. Victory may be snatched, but not people's heart. Badsha was a mayoral candidate from the Nagorik committee

and defeated with a narrow margin. He threatened a movement against the mayor. Selim Sardar, a former deputy mayor of the RCC, told newsmen

that Minu lost the right to his posi-

Robbers stab

none could be arrested.

FROM PAGE 12`

(DMCH). The mother and daughter were released yesterday while Akramuzzman was at the postoperative section of the hospital. A case was field with the Uttara Police Station in this regard but

Earlier, armed robbers gunned

down a housewife when she cried

for help at her residence at sector 6

of Uttara Model Town on February

Training policy

tors.

sures in the new policy to make training courses attractive and that training institutes will be developed and facilities for trainers

The prime minister underscored the need for improving the quality of training and preparing training programmes after need assessment. The officials also have to be posted in relevant places after their training, she said. She said foundation training

would be made compulsory for all

cadre officers and non-cadre officers would also have to be brought under the compulsory foundation training programme, adding that the Establishment Ministry and Public Administration Training Centre (PATC) have already taken up some Finance and Planning Minister

M Saifur Rahman, LĞRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul

Cabinet Secretary Dr Sadaat Hussain, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr Kamal Siddiqui Establishment Secretary AB Chowdhury, Public Service Commission Chairman Dr Zinnatunnesa Tahmida Begum and Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Fayez attended the meeting among

FROM PAGE 1 professionals, diplomats and government officials attended the

were announced amidst pin drop silence, the audience burst into applause to hail the successes of the business heroes. Two giant screens displayed in brief their successes in business. The finance minister said busi-

As the names of award winners

"We will provide necessary rules, regulations, infrastructure

community, "As finance minister of the country, you will have all necessary support from me so that vou can continue with your business in a healthy atmosphere.

enhanced to encourage instruc-

programmes to that effect.

Mannan Bhuiyan, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Agriculture Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami, Industries Minister MK Anwar, Science and Information and Communication Technology Minister Dr A Moyeen Khan, Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk, **Business heroes**

function.

ness can flourish only in a congenial environment and that the government would take all steps

and fiscal and monetary support to facilitate proper growth of business," he said. Saifur assured the business

"At the same time, Jiang Zemin while not antagonizing Jiang, who, stronger and stronger. Iraq war is only days away

reported: The United States, Britain and Spain prepared to hold an emergency summit on Portugal's Azores islands today, in a last-ditch effort to win UN backing for war against Iraq.

seek it in solidarity with Tony Blair and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, his spokesman said. "The president does think it's important to go the last mile for diplomacy," Ari Fleischer said of the day-long trip. "And if it's important to our friends and our

allies, it's important to President

Bush believes he does not need

UN approval to wage war but will

The three nations have cosponsored a UN Security Council resolution widely seen as setting the stage for war, but have come up against Russian and especially French veto threats that cloud the initiative's fate. On Portugal's Atlantic island

chain, the leaders were to pursue

every last bit of diplomacy, to

work toward passage of a (UN)

Security Council resolution in New

York, and to push the diplomatic

initiatives one more time," said Fleischer. The three allies have also made frustrated efforts to win over six

non-permanent council members,

some of whom have openly pushed to extend and enhance UN inspections in lieu of war. British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Friday flatly refused to discuss Iraq when he met Arab and Israeli reporters to hail Bush's

pledge to publish a "road map" for

Middle East peace leading to a

Palestinian state by 2005. But his spokesman said earlier in the day: "We are continuing to work flat out at the United Nations to try to find the necessary consensus and common ground, and that is where all our efforts are focused.'

Meanwhile, at a meeting of European Union defense ministers outside Athens yesterday, EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said he was "not very optimistic" about the chances of avoiding war on Iraq, although he insisted diplomacy must continue.

with other world leaders on this,"

"There is always a chance to avoid a war. A war is a last resort. War is not a good thing ... There is

still some diplomatic space, and in particular some diplomatic time to continue working, he said. The White House on Friday shot

Saddam three weeks to pass specific tests or face war, calling the initiative "a nonstarter.' US officials also downplayed talk of the hastily arranged summit becoming a "war council" and said approval of a new resolution paving the way for military action might compel Saddam Hussein to

down a Chilean compromise proposal that would have given

disarm or quit Iraq. "It is still possible for Saddam Hussein to see the writing on the wall and to get out of Iraq and therefore preserve peace, Fleischer told reporters, reviving "The prime minister is still the notion of exile as a solution to the escalating confrontation. engaged in talks, in phone calls

A day after the United States

dropped its demands for a vote on a

new Iraq resolution this week and

even said it might leave the measure in limbo, the spokesman

renewed Washington's commit-

ment to the world body. "The president is still committed to this diplomatic process and still committed to trying to push it through the United Nations," said