NEWS

Bangladesh.

month or so.

affairs," he said.

internal problem.

About SAARC, Khan said the

regional body seems to be getting a

momentum following the current

initiatives by India and Pakistan to

normalise their relations -- a move

that has already been praised by

Committee comprising foreign

secretaries of the member states

would be meeting in Kathmandu in a

the recent house arrest of Aung San

Suu Kyi of Myanmar, he said

Bangladesh does not, as a matter of

principle, want to interfere in the

internal affairs of other countries,

particularly neighbours. "We also do

not want others to interfere in our

hoped that the government, opposi-

tion and people of Myanmar would

find a better way to resolve their

1999 when he was named specia

presidential advisor for Caspian

portfolio a month after Bush nomi-

nated him for the job on September

11, 2001, the same day as the

errorist attacks in New York and

Washington. In that capacity he has

had some dealings with Middle East

you would think of for this job, but he

Department official told AFP

Tuesday. "He is a very capable and

will get the job done,"

JCD leader

"He's certainly not the first quy

a State

He took over the nonproliferation

Basin energy diplomacy.

However, the foreign minister

When pressed for comments on

He said the SAARC Standing

Ship crisis at Mongla Port Tk 148 cr shrimp awaits shipment

11 crucial sectors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A huge quantity of frozen shrimp worth Tk 148 crore has been lying at the Mongla Port as there are no ships available for their shipment to several countries. Sources said 138 containers of

frozen shrimp were still awaiting shipment at noon yesterday for export to the USA, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Singapore, Hong Kong and South Korea, and are in danger of being damaged in case of further delay in shipment.

The delay is greatly affecting 25 fish processing factories of Khulna,

sub-sectors like air pollution, trans-

portation system, fuels, surface

water pollution and management,

waste management, wetland man-

agement, sanitation, forest and

protected area management,

natural disasters, land degradation

government should develop a

comprehensive action plan to

provide arsenic-free water in all

townships. They observed the red

marking of tube wells in rural areas

is not enough to deal with the situa-

They said arsenic mitigation

should be given top priority and

suggested both short- and long-

term measures to provide safe

steps -- ban on two-stroke three-

wheelers and polythene shopping

bag -- have brought a great relief to

the people, particularly in Dhaka.

but more steps are required to free

the country from environmental

achievements made in the field of

environment but felt there are many

the National Environmental Policy

which was prepared in 1992, to

meet the present demand and

The speakers recommended

introduction of financing and other

incentives to attract local invest-

ment to the sector, development of

export-oriented agro-based indus-

tries and incentives to encourage

investment in new export-oriented

to improve port management and

develop inland container freight

stations, strengthen the ready

made garment (RMG) sector to

meet post-Multi-Fibre-Arrangement

(MFA) challenges and explore the

feasibility of central bonded ware

They said steps shpuld be taken

other ways to improve it.

The Forum lauded the significant

They also emphasised updating

The participants said two specific

The speakers suggested that the

FROM PAGE 1

and water bodies.

tion.

water

hazards.

future challe

Trade policy

industrial activities

houses to cut lead time.

said a spokesman of Khulna unit of Bangladesh Frozen Food

Exporters'Association. Mongla Port has been suffering from crisis of container ships since January: only 22 such ships left the port since then till May 28 when the

last ship left the port carrying 40 containers of frozen shrimps for export to European countries. Frozen food exporters savs foreign ships are reluctant to come

Mongla Port due to problems including enforcement of Bangladesh Flag Vessel (Protection) ordinance and corrupt practices of port officials.

has been our normal practice.

The anti-corruption bureau is

"Interestingly, very few bureau-

being used to harass and humiliate

political leaders, a discussant said.

crats have faced corruption

charges. The present laws and rules

of the anti-corruption bureau are

fective

of the Energy Sector

No progress in bank robbery case STAFF CORRESPONDENT Police have failed to make anv

headway so far in tracking down the criminals who looted money from a bank at Rampura on Tuesday The robbery case was transferred to the Detective Branch (DB)

of police but the investigator could not provide any detail. "We have not as yet found anything worth mentioning,' Inspector Enamul Haq told journalists

At least five police teams are nunting for the criminals across the city, sources said. According to another police

source, they suspect that two local, isted criminals, Pauruti Jalal and Alauddin, may have been involved in the robbery. Police believe they could make

headway if either could be arrested. Meanwhile, the three bank officials picked up by Khilgaon police were released after questionng. Several others, picked up from the spot and adjacent areas. were released as well, as their involve-

ment could not be confirmed. Armed robbers looted about Tk 6.5 lakh from a Pubali Bank branch near Rampura Bazaar Tuesday noon and stripped two customers of over Tk 1.6 lakh

Alleged robber Development and Governance beaten to The forum discussion on the energy sector blasted the government and a section of experts for death

in N'ganj

hours of Tuesday.

identified.

thana

house

committed

of Fatema

ADP

per cent.

FROM PAGE 1

Dogachia villages

the fleeing robbers

bush near her house

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

An alleged robber was beaten to

death and another critically injured

by villagers during a robbery at

village Barasadipur under

Sonargaon thana here in the early

Police said a group of about 12 armed robbers entered the house of

one Sohrab Mia of the village at

about 2:00am and started looting

valuables holding the residents of

he house hostage at gunpoint.

ooted cash and gold ornaments.

Both the robbers were severely

beaten up by angry villagers, leav-

ng one dead and the other critically

njured. The deceased could not be

The injured robber was taken to

tained injuries during a clash with

60-yr old woman

raped in Jessore

FROM STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A 60-vear old woman. Fatema

Bagdanga village in Jessore sadar

by five young men-

atema turned down the proposal.

opposing the marriage proposal

file any case fearing further reprisal.

However, a case has been

recorded by the Jessore Kotwali

police in connection for the murder

the government's reform measures.

He said the availability of foreign

aid has led to increased role of

the ADP since independence.

the early 1990s and local resources

In the fiscal 1999-2000, local

In the fiscal 2000-2001, the

The current original ADP con-

sists of 48.66 per cent in local resources and 51.34 per cent in

was scaled down to 42 per cent.

igures were 54.20 per cent and

resources accounted for 49.85 per

cent of the ADP and foreign assis-

became more dominant.

tance 50.15 per cent.

5.80 per cent

government hopes.

foreign assistance in the next ADP.

available in the next three years.

spreading 'misleading' information on gas reserves in favour of its port. It alleged that there was a move apparently to serve the purpose of foreign oil companies that advocate gas export.

The government is spending a huge amount of money in nonproductive areas, but it turns mise when it comes to the energy sector nvestment The forum said Bangladesh was

now on the verge of a energy crisis because of the unwillingness of the government to utilise gas resources, although there was no ason to create the crisis.

Budgetary Discipline and Fiscal Programme The forum said fiscal balance, as

well as the BOP, improved perceptively during FY02 and FY03. While some of these came about through conscious policy choices, a large part of the adjustment took place by default, since the Annua Development Programme (ADP)

could not be fully implemented. 'This influenced positively the fiscal balance and the government's need to borrow. Similarly, the BOF improved due to import drop, in a period of export slowdown, and the role of different factors in enhancing the remittance flow," a discussant said.

"Whatsoever, the fundamental weaknesses of public finance remain in place. These largely include low revenue effort with marginal share of direct tax, rigid revenue expenditure structure along with low quality of many ADP

The participants urged both ruling and opposition parties to resolve sensitive trade issues like projects." The forum said weak

capable of launching investigation against any individual. "Corruption is a social cancer. If we have to address corruption we have to start from the very top in the administration. How many ministers in the past have been punished for corruption? Trial starts but the accused gets away with the change

of government. This has been our normal practice," Professor Moinul Islam of Dhaka University said.

final draft recommendations in the

Task Force Report on Governance

(Corruption and Judiciary) and

endorsed formation of an independ-

ent anti-corruption commission.

Advocate Sigma Huda mean-while said, "Often it is noticed that the anti-corruption bureau harasses nnocent civilians using their power. This is objectionable. The anticorruption bureau is to investigate and try government officials, not civilians

The anti-corruption bureau is being used to harass and humiliate political leaders, observed Abdul Matin Khasru, the former law and

FM rejects FROM PAGE 12

objective, it's a mere reference.' He said the opposition may

campaign against him for opposition's sake, but "it will be unfortunate' He said there is no instance that

previous governments had consulted with the opposition in selecting their candidates for the post. About why the government handpicked Salauddin Quader instead of any career diplomat, the minister said, "We found him to be

the best by all counts.' Referring to his meetings with foreign ministers on the sidelines of ICFM (Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers) held recently in Kuala Lumpur, he said 20 to 22 countries have already supported Bangladesh's candidate

The government, the minister said, will soon send formal letters to the governments of the OIC member states seeking support to Bangladesh's candidature.

But alarm raised by the residents At the OIC summit to be held in drew villagers to the spot and they Malaysia in October, Bangladesh caught two of the alleged robbers while the rest managed to escape in will further discuss with OIC leaders an autorickshaw along with the he said.

justice minister of Awami League Gathering at the Academy for Planning & Development government. "Interestingly, very few bureau-Auditorium, speakers dwelled on the

crats have faced corruption charges. The present laws and rules of the anti-corruption bureau are defective "We appreciate the cabinet for approving formation of an independent graft body. But there should be a timeframe for approval of it in the

parliament. He also felt the need for citizens' watchdog to help check corruption where independent media can play a vital role.

"I am also in favour of effective parliamentary standing committees to curb financial and administrative crime. Amena Mohsin, another teacher

from Dhaka University, pointed out that law should be used impartially against everybody. "Permission from the prime minister is required to lodge corruption case against senior bureaucrats. Why should we not let the law take its own course?" Prominent politician Dr Kamal

Hossain pointed at the link between crisis of good governance and corruption

"People are sick and tired of corruption, and we have not been

AL concern

Star vesterday.

ist of Islami Chhatra Shibir at Doulatpur under Fatikchhari upazila answer the AL letter, in which yesterday morning. Salauddin Quader was accused of The dead was identified as Amanullah, 25. anti-Bangladesh activities and misdeeds. until vesterday.

Committee (ALCWC) yesterday

election to the OIC top office will be ensured, if a candidate beyond controversy is chosen, said the etter.

"We look forward to a reply (to our letter). But the government is determined to push ahead with its campaign for the candidate," AL Organising Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury told The Daily Star

the government does not backtrack on its nomination, said Saber.

country, they said.

two criminals screaming but did not

through the lone gate. The other criminals managed to flee. After the 20-minute shootout, the policemen found an unidentified criminal' lying dead in the western

wife Hasina Ákhter Bizli.

Humayun and Hamzu to the DMCH for autopsy yesterday morning.

Humayun's body was handed over to his relatives after autopsy in the noon. He will be buried at his family graveyard in Chandpur.

Meanwhile, slain criminal Hamzu's brother Jewel went to receive his body, but the body was kept at the DMCH morgue as the authorities refused to hand it over

Corruption: United fight Morshed: Gas export

able to address this over the years

corrupts nation in the world."

to prevent it.

Very sadly though, Transparency

vate sector. So, merely an inde-

pendent anti-corruption body would

sector had monopoly business. So it

was easy to cheat public and make

money. But once private sector

entered with mobile phone venture,

corruption in the telephone sector

dropped sharply," Choudhury said.

and AL lawmaker Suraniit Sengupta

and Editor of Prothom Alo Motiur

According to police, Amanullah

was passing by the Doulatpur Board School at around 11:00am when

unidentified gunmen sprayed him

Amanullah died on the spot. Police recovered the body and sent

Dhaka, Khulna and Svlhet

The temperature may fall by 1 or

degrees Celsius all over the

Rahman also spoke.

"For example, the telephone

not be able to stop corruption.

India-Bangladesh JEC meeting, he said it should be held by July this vear.

International has indexed Bangladesh as one of the most About Indian allegation of terrorist camps inside Bangladesh, the Former industries secretary Al foreign minister said the govern-Ameen Choudhury urged all to find ment agencies conducted inquiry outwhy corruption occurs and ways according to an Indian list, but no such camp was found. It was also "Corruption has its roots every conveyed to the Indian government, where. Not only it's in the public service system but also in the pri-Khan added.

On the possibility of summit-level visit between Bangladesh and India, Khan said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia already visited India as head of the Bangladesh government during her first term in office and it is now Indian Prime Minister AB Vaipavee's turn to visit Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has already extended an invitation to the Chief guest Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman, special guest Indian prime minister to come to Dhaka. It is important to hold frequent interactions at the summitlevel for good neighbourly relations and mutual economic benefits, the foreign minister pointed out.

Peace roadmap

FROM PAGE 12

FROM PAGE 1

the factory.

widened.

record.'

for the last few days.

the

Powell said the team would "provide a mechanism so they (the Israelis and Palestinians) can to talk each other directly and have someone in the room who can sort of make calls to get them the resources they need.

He told reporters before leaving Aqaba that the monitors' brief would extend beyond security concerns and exchanges of intelligence.

"There's going to be an economic component to the team that's coming in because we've got to look just beyond security to the economic needs of the Palestinian people and the Israeli people."

Some members of the team are already on the ground and Wolf is expected in the Middle East "in the very near future," a senior White House official said. Wolf is a 33-year State Depar-

deployed. tment veteran who has served in

FROM PAGE 12

dedicated auv.

issues.

Australia, Vietnam, Greece, and Party activists and relatives tried Pakistan and was US ambassador to bring out a procession with the to Malaysia from 1992 to 1995, but body, but police barred them has little Middle East experience. Lafani left behind his wife. After his tour as Washington's

envoy in Kuala Lumpur, Wolf Shafiur Chowdhury, the victim's became the US ambassador to the brother, filed a case with the Keranigani Police Station but none was arrested till last evening.

Underpowered force

he Dhaka Medical College FROM PAGE 12 Hospital. Four villagers also sus-

tion. His younger brother Abdul Hye Jewel identified him at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) vesterdav noon

Despite being tipped off that some criminals including listed criminal Pichchi Hannan were holding a meeting inside an underconstruction building of the National Archives, only seven policemen including four from the Armed Police Battalion (APBn) went to arrest Begum, was allegedly gangraped and killed on Monday night at them. Led by Saidur Rahman Babul, officer-in-charge of the Mirpur Police Station, the team also SI Humavun abir and S

to the Orthopaedic Hospital, where he died a few minutes later. "During the shootout, we heard

find them later," Kanchan said. Police arrested Ainul of East Goran and Masum of Tejkunipara when they were trying to go out

corner of the premises. Later identified as Hamzu, his body bore 10 bullet wounds. Searching the body

SI Humayun Kabir joined the police service in 1990. He left behind four-vear old son Arif and

Police sent the bodies of

tion in the Ghorashal Factory yesterday. The factory consumes 40mmcfd gas.

Sangu shuts down

time yesterday amid resistance by

A top official of Titas Gas Ltd said that gas pressure in Titas system as well as in Bakhrabad and other systems was falling alarmingly. "We are holding emergency meetings to resolve the problems," he said.

For the last two years, Petrobangla has been hammering on several urgent gas pipeline projects to maintain a steady supply to match the demand growth Sources said these pipelines would require Tk 2,000 crore to build. "Gas is the lifeblood of the economy -there should not have been any

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, a post he held until

unionists. Sources said being

nformed of the arim situation. Prime

Minister Khaleda Zia asked the

authorities to suspend production in

As per a Petrobangla request

Industries Corporation (BCIC)

made a move to suspend produc-

Gas demand has been exceed

"This extra demand is being met

from the gas that naturally accumu-

lates in the pipelines. But as the

shortfall prevails, gas pressure is

falling drastically," said a source in

Petrobangla, "the gas demand was

1273 mmcfd yesterday and this is a

A top official of Bangladesh Gas

Field Ltd that owns a number of gas

fields said that as far as the gas field

situations were concerned, every-

thing was okay. "There is no imme-

diate problem in any of the gas

fields. But we are on high alert," he

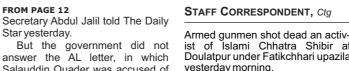
ng supplies for several weeks and

in the last few days the margin

Bangladesh Chemical



with bullets



The AL Central Working

thunderstorms accompanied by gusty wind at few places over Chittagong and Barisal Divisions. Divisions on the other hand may experience moderate shower today said met office sources.

The AL will go on a movement, if

took a resolution for asking the ruling alliance to drop Salauddin Quader from the run for the OIC top post. Bangladesh's chance to win the

to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for autopsy. Drizzle FROM PAGE 12

the Free Trade Area (FTA) and the SAARC cumulation, trade-related infrastructure and development of agro-based industries soon to perk up exports.

Financial sector reforms

To make the new money loan court law effective, it was suggested that all parties concerned including bank management and officials in particular should play the key role.

The speakers, however, suggested bank management take step for an out-of-court settlement and not to reschedule default loans more than twice.

They said although there is scope for making further corrections, many of the prescriptions pursued by the donors are 'tough and difficult to accommodate.

Criticising the performance of nationalised commercial banks (NCBs), the participants said even the central bank does not have the disclosures and audit reports of these state-owned banks.

A memorandum of understanding for the NCBs prepared by International Monetary Fund (IMF) should be made public and discussed in the parliament, they observed

Information and Communication Technology

The forum urged the government to allocate one per cent of the GDP to harness the information communication technology (ICT) sector as an anti-poverty tool

They also called for deregulating state-owned Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) liberalising its international gateway for private sector participation establishing a level playing field for both public and private telecom operators and giving greater latitude to the telecom regulatory body.

The forum said keeping the huge population in view, the government should concentrate more on providing tele-access rather than increase ing tele-densitv

Corruption and Judiciary

Change in political leaders' attitude and will and combined efforts by political parties, civil society and administration are required to fight corruption and improve the judiciary, the discussants said.

They felt transparency in administration and public service system was a prerequisite to ensure good governance and a corruption-free society.

"Corruption is a social cancer. If we are to address corruption, we have to start from the very top of the administration," a discussant said.

"How many ministers in the past were punished for corruption? Trial starts but the accused gets away with the change of government. This

performance, declining foreign aid and diminishing foreign direct investment (FDI) keep the balance of payment (BOP) vulnerable to

external shocks. The challenge of macroeconomic management will become clear if investment picks up, it observed. The forum identified poverty and

poor educational standard at primary level as two major challenges to the government. All important public debates

including budgetary and fiscal ones should take place in parliament to ensure transparency and account-Industrial Policy, Privatisation

and SME

The forum said industrial policy, privatisation and SME were the main barriers blocking the industrialisation process in Bangladesh. Commercial banks are doing good business by charging high interest. They are declaring healthy dividends within a few years of

inception, the discussants said. They said in addition to high interest, extortion, high cost of electricity, water and transportation was making business difficult and

non viable in competition. Terming privatisation as a better process for investment, a discussant said without strong political will privatisation would not be success-

Administrative reform and ocal Government

The forum said administrative reforms remained stagnant as successive governments reneged on their election pledges, exposing the lack of commitment of political parties

It urged the government to revive the upazila system to get rid of the bureaucratic grip on the local bodies. The forum observed although

major political parties had common policy and strategy on some burning issues like independent anticorruption commission, separation of the judiciary from the executive and human rights commission, they were continuously slipping on their election pledges.

The speakers urged civil society members to press the government to delivering its election pledges. Reforms in administration are

going on at a snail's pace as political leaders and bureaucrats want to continue enjoying power, they observed.

He recommended introduction of district-based local government tiers for devolution of power and people's participation in the decision-making process.

Police said there were evidences Mostafa Kamal. of rape and murder by strangulation.

"More than six criminals includ-Police recovered the body from a ing Pichchi Hannan were having biriani in a room on the ground floor According to police, the women when our first police team reached had been missing since Monday the place at 10:30pm." SI Kanchan evening while she was returning Kumar Rov who took part in the later home from one of her relative's stage of the operation told The Daily Star Nazma Begum, daughter of the

As soon as the criminals, sitting victim, alleged that the crime was on the western side of the building, saw police, they opened fire, he Hazrat Ali, Altaf, Rahim, İman Ali said. "As our forces were guarding and Alauddin of Bagdanga and the only gate, the criminals were desperate to make their way out," he Police said Hazrat Ali of said Bagdanga wanted to marry Nazma,

Responding to Babul's call for 30 six years back. But her mother reinforcement, a team of nine policemen led by Kanchan from the Police further said Monirul, the Mohammadpur Police Station only son of the slain woman, was joined the first team, five minutes murdered by Hazrat Ali in 1999 for after the shootout began. The members of the family did not

Twelve minutes into exchanging fire, Humayun Kabir was hit by bullets in the head, right thigh and right knee.

Three of his colleagues took him

police recovered five bullets from a magazine and six loose ones from the pocket of his trousers.

Police recovered 1.040 bottles of phensidyl in six sacks from a room in

the ground floor. According to police, the gang used the place as a Phensidyl depot

Later, police teams searched the Agargaon, Mirpur, Tejgaon, Mohammadpur areas, but failed to trace any of the criminals.

The construction workers and guards said over the last 20 days some youths used to go there in private cars in the evening and stav 11:00pm. They would bring something in the boot of the car. However, the workers did not know who those people were.

SI Kanchan, investigation officer of the murder case, produced Masum and Ainul before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, with a seven-day remand prayer

without permission from police

Environment FROM PAGE 12

opposition leader Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the eve of World Environment Day.

President lajuddin Ahmed in his message stressed the need to ensure optimum use and proper management of natural resources, including water. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in her

message emphasised the need for efficient management of water resources at regional and international level in view of the world's severe water crisis.

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina in her message called upon all to be more conscious about environmental issues in order to protect the environment, nature and mankind.

ties souaht help of the deputy comnoted an official of Petrobangla missioner to release the staff and suspend production in the factory.

Forum closing FROM PAGE 1

ceremony as special guest at the Hotel Sheraton at 4pm.

Because of gas pipeline limita-tions, the gas fields could not supply Professor Rehman Sobhan, chairman of the CPD and convenor more than 1253 million cubic feet of the Policy Review Task Forces, per day (mmcfd) now. But the demand has crossed 1270 mmcfd will chair the ceremony.

The working sessions of the forum will also commence simulta-neously at three venues-- CIRDAP Auditorium, National Press Club and Academy for Planning and Development Auditorium.

At CIRDAP, the issues of transport and infrastructure and urban governance will be discussed while at the Academy for Planning and Development, rural economy, agriculture and non-farm activities and poverty eradication and ment generation will be tackled

At the National Press Club, education, health and population policies will be discussed.

Legal binding, state funding AL suspends 9

Another Tk 13,000 crore will be FROM PAGE 1

a more rigid and meaningful code of conduct for political parties to strengthen the electoral process. Election expenses of candidates Foreign assistance dominated should have a ceiling but at the same time be enhanced to make However, this trend reversed from those more realistic, they stressed. Besides, a person convicted for a crime and iailed for at least six In fiscal 1998-99, the share of months should be disqualified from local resources was 41.51 per cent contesting polls, they thought. and that of foreign assistance 58.49

Renowned lawyer and constitutional expert Dr Kamal Hossain said ministers have been violating the constitution. "If the parliament is not answerable to the people, that is the government is not answerable to the parliament, then you are violating the constitution from morning to evening. This is the crisis of aovernance -- no one is answerable to anyone. And people are frustrated and losing faith in us."

foreign assistance. But the local He went on, "All political parties component was later revised up to must unite and come to a consen-58 per cent while foreign component sus to create an environment for good governance and make the The government has taken some parliamentary system effective. But steps like excluding unnecessary sadly we notice that our politicians projects, implementation of poverty are debating over fake issues. alleviation programmes using cash People are hostage to such debates nstead of food and ensuring that a on who proclaimed the independproject be completed within three ence of Bangladesh. Interestingly, years with a maximum one year even some leaders have expressed grace period. These steps will frustration over such debates ensure financial discipline, the Imagine how the people feel!

Kamal Hossain observed, "We would not feel helpless only if we all unite against money and muscle power

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan said, " Our political leaders have to first change their mindset. It is very sad that often politicians avoid social encounters and that political environment is worsening."

cians change their mindset, I doubt if we can overcome the current crisis in democracy by formulating laws. We can formulate laws but we have to make behavioural changes to make democracy work. We must be liberal and come out of the existing parliamentary practice, which is taking our people nowhere. The foreign minister said people

are fed up with issues that are discussed in the parliament. They now want to know what is their future.

He said, "We must unite to make the parliament effective. Unless we do this, we cannot expect the parliament to function properly even in future. Our present mindset would take us nowhere."

Khan added, "In fact, we are compelled to tell lies since the day we took oath. We spend many times what we are allowed to spend during election campaign. Do you think a candidate spends merely Tk 3 lakh?

Let us work together and create an environment for making the parliament more effective."

Chairman of the CPD Prof Rehman Sobhan chaired the session. The others who spoke are Abul Ahsan, chairperson of the Fair Election Monitoring Alliance, and Feroz M Hasan, secretary general of the organisation

Panni murder FROM PAGE 12

On the night of May 18, they tied her up and looted till 3:00am. Tightly gagged, Sultana died of suffocation. Besides gold ornaments and a mobile phone set, the gang looted Tk 82,000 in cash that the four shared

The following day Dhanmondi thana police recovered the body and arrested Mamun and Alauddin for questioning.

However, Mamun was later released when Sultana's family members requested police to do so saying that he was very faithful.

Upon Alauddin's confession Mamun, along with Nasir and Emdad, was arrested on Tuesday. Investigators also recovered Tk 82.000 and the mobile phone set

from the house of Emdad's brother at Savar.

FROM PAGE 1 close relatives of ex-AL lawmaker

Jovnal Hazari, removed from the post of Feni district AL general secretary last April

Hazari with at least 18 cases against him is blamed for notoriety that earned the AL a bad image. He fled home during the rule of the last caretaker government.

Yesterday's ALCWC meeting formed a three-member inquiry committee to examine involvement of others in Saturday's attacks. The committee headed by Syed Ashraful Islam, MP, will submit its report in two weeks. Two other committee members are Bir Bahadur. MP. and Fazle Rabbi, another AL leader.

The suspended leaders include Hazari's cousin Mosharraf Hossain Hazari (ex-pourashava chairman), brother-in-law Badiul Alam Belal president of ward No. 1 unit of the AL) and Habibullah (acting general secretary of Feni municipal unit), Ismail Hossain Hazari (member of Feni municipal unit), advocate Liaqat Ali (president of Feni Sadar thana unit), Ekramul Haq Ekram (second-in-command of Hazari's class committee') and Sukhdeb Nath Tapan, Abu Sufian Badi, and Ruhul Alam Manik (members of the district unit).

Ten Chhatra League and Jubo League leaders likely to face disciplinary action are Didarul Kabir Ratan (district BCL president), Susen Chandra Shil (general secretary of district BCL), Hazari's nephew Taslim Hazari (president of Feni College BCL), Manik (BCL leader of Paikgachhia), Deen Mohammad (member of Sonagazi BCL), Qamrul Islam (vice president of district BCL). Mizanur Rahman Hazari (member of district BCL). Hazari's nephew Titu Hazari (district BCL leader), Dablu (district BCL leader), Zakir Hossain Titu (leader of Chhagalnaiya Jubo League).

"The ALCWC took the disciplinarv action against the local leaders. as they were found guilty of violating party rules," AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil told reporters after the

meeting. The ALCWC also formed another committee with its Joint General Secretary Sved Ashraful Islam as its head and AKM Jahangir Hossain, MP, Bir Bahadur and AHM Mostafa Kamal as members to investigate a recent attack on party leaders over dissolution of AL Nangalkot thana unit. The committee will submit its report in two weeks.

Khan said, "Unless the politi-