Hasina: Step down

The procession paraded through

Paltan intersection, Press Club,

Shahbagh intersection, Elephant

Road, Science Laboratory intersec-

The procession paralysed the

Law-enforcers were deployed in

Hasina in her speech urged all

force to keep peace during the

pro-liberation forces to join hands

against the government and forge a

united moment against the govern-

politicising all branches of the

administration, especially the

judiciary and the civil administration.

dysfunctional due to the autocratic

style of the alliance government.

she said, adding the opposition was

ment will have to face trial for

destroying hard-earned democ-

gagged, even in parliament.

She accused the government of

The parliament has emerged

"The Khaleda-Nizami govern-

She called upon people to

observe the countrywide dawn-to-

city traffic leaving all sorts of vehi-

cles stranded in clogged streets.

the square at Dhanmondi.

waived back to her.

demonstration.

ment for its 'quick fall'.

Opened-up Farakka triggers flash floods

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Late water flow of the Ganges basin and opening-up of Farakka Barrage have swollen the Padma and Mahananda rivers, triggering flash floods in the downstream areas of Chapainawabganj and Raishahi.

According to official reports nearly 80.000 people were marooned in 20 unions in six upazilas of the two districts and some 35.000 people were affected by river erosion in the last 48 hours.

"The Indian authorities open up the gates in June every year to ease immense water pressure over there," said a flood expert.

"The Ganges basin's floodwater entered the country rather late this year. But it is not an unusual situation and will continue for a few more days," said Selim Bhuiyan, executive engineer of the flood control and forecasting centre. "But the situation in Rajshahi and Chapai-nawabganj may further deteriorate," he added.

The Padma and the Mahananda

their danger levels vesterday

The flood-affected upazilas are Paba, Godagari, Charghat and Bagha in Rajshahi district and Sadar and Shibganj in Chapainawabganj.

Floodwater entered Rajshahi city through Dargah Ghat sluice gate and different sewerage lines connected with the Padma, inundating some areas of Bulonpur, Police Line. Dargahpara and Sagarpara.

The Water Development Board (WDB) opened all the sluice gates on the Rajshahi Town Protection Dam for diverting water to the lowlying areas for irrigation and for cleaning the drains in the city.

In Shibganj upazila, about 50,000 people were marooned after 80 per cent areas of four unions --Paka, Ujirpur, Monakosa and Durlovpur were flooded. At least 20,000 people in Char Majhardiar, Haripur, Khidir-pur, Taranagar, Satdigha Adarsha-gram and Khanpara in Paba were affected. Another 20,000 people were affected in Bagha upazila during the last 24 hours.

up trade -- known as trade facilita-

activists who oppose trade deals

sang "Money can't buy the world" to

the tune of the Beatles classic "Can't

buy me love" and held up banners

tural business leader in Mali, said:

"We in Africa have lost but the

powerful countries have lost too. It is

For the world economy, Cancun

'This is a huge setback. It's a

setback to the WTO. It's a blow to

the Doha Development round, and

which very badly needed a boost to

confidence," said British Trade and

South Africa was disappointed

Industry Secretary Patricia Hewitt.

that no concrete trade agreement

was achieved at World Trade

Organisation talks in Mexico, but

pleased that advances were made

achieving a concrete outcome in

Cancun is tempered by the

advances that have been made,"

Erwin said in a statement released

Monday after WTO talks for a multi-

lateral trade accord collapsed, with

most countries in the region

criticising a lack of willingness to

For its part, India said the talks

"The draft accord did not take

The European Union (EU) and

South Korea, one of the coun-

South Korean farmers, waging a

Lee Kyang-Hae, 55, who had led

"The WTO ministerial talks'

failure resulted from the struggle by

anti-globalization activists sparked

by Lee Kyang Hae's holy sacrifice,"

KAFF said in a statement

collapsed because developed

nations failed to gauge poor coun-

tries' concerns in drafting a new

into account the interest of develop-

ing countries," Commerce Minister

Arun Jaitley said from the Mexican

Japan strongly pushed the

tries charged with helping to torpedo

the talks by refusing to compromise,

battle against freer trade, said the

failure was a triumph for them and

vowed to boost their campaign after

on Monday declined to comment.

multilateral trade agreement.

ngapore issues

Asia expressed disappointment

key areas, Trade Minister Alec

"Our disappointment at not

it's a setback for the world economy

Sekou Oumar Tall, an agricul-

Delighted anti-globalisation

tion in WTO jargon.

reading "We won."

a shame for everyone.

is an opportunity lost.

Erwin said Monday.

in the capital.

compromise.

The shank of spur No. 1 of the Tk 120 crore project for protection of the left bank of the river Padma has been washed away by severe river erosion

Barrage were opened by the Indian authorities on Saturday to lessen the heavy pressure of onrush of water into the Ganges from upstream, sources in Rajshahi WDB said

be redesigned," Mannan said.

Cancun talks collapse

Bangladesh Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, also coordinator of 49 LDCs, told the meet that the LDCs would want special safeguard measures without conditions or limitations on product coverage for protecting their domestic agriculture.

There is now a danger that the talks failure could hasten the formation of regional trading blocs and country-to-country deals, which will hit the poorest nations hardest.

The breakdown of talks was the biggest defeat for trade liberalisation since a chaotic meeting in Seattle in 1999 was rocked by violent street protests and a similar revolt by poor countries.

Some countries criticised the meeting's chairman, Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Ernest Derbies, for pulling the plug too quickly as some progress was reported on the thorny issue of massive EU and US subsidies to

domestic farmers. Poor nations boasted they had scored a political victory in proving they would no longer be bullied into a bad deal by the dominant trading powers, the United States and

Europe

For once, a coalition of developing countries, led by Brazil, China and India, worked as a bloc to counter-balance the weight of the

much richer US, FU and Japan. "It was not possible to get a concrete result." said Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim. "but we think that we have achieved

some important things: firstly, the respect for our group. The deadlocks centred on the

four so-called "Singapore issues" pushed by Japan and the European Union, which were first proposed at an earlier meeting in 1998.

The four issues are: How countries treat foreign investors, standards for anti-monopoly and cartel laws, greater transparency in government purchasing, which might help foreign companies win public sector business and trade facilitation, making things like customs procedures simpler.

The issues were passed to Cancun from delegates at the last WTO meeting in Qatar because they were contentious.

the suicide of one of their leaders in Developing countries balked at including these issues in the trade talks, especially investment rules. the 120,000-member Korean Advanced Farmers Federation arguing that the complexity of negotiating in completely new areas (KAFF), the country's biggest farmwould leave them at a disadvantaers organization, stabbed himself to geous position compared to the rich death Wednesday in an anti-WTO countries who would be able to take advantage of their greater technical

expertise "We have always alerted people that unless they listen to the developing countries ... this is what will happen," said Malaysia's trade

They also said it would now be

deadline for a comprehensive

reform in world trade by the end of

2004. The World Bank says a good

accord could add \$520 billion to

world incomes by 2015 and lift 144

But Ugandan delegate Yasphal

Tondon said: "The blame for the

collapse must go to the Western

countries, because they insisted on

Dave Timms of the British devel-

opment lobby group, the World

Development Movement, agreed

"The collapse of the talks was the

only option for the developing coun-

tries -- walking out was better than

the deal on the table. It is the EU that

must take responsibility for the

by some other rich nations in press-

ing for new rules on investment,

competition, government procure-

ment and cutting red tape that holds

The European Union was joined

million people out of poverty.

putting their issues first.

failure.'

als to the negotiating table.

Australia expressed deep disapminister, Rafidah Aziz, pointment at the latest failure of US and EU negotiators comglobal trade reform talks and set its plained that Brazil, India and other sights on a controversial bilateral key developing countries had free-trade deal with the United brought more rhetoric than propos-

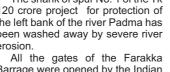
Australian Trade Minister Mark Vaile said the failue of the talks very tough to meet the WTO's own represented a "lost opportunity" to bridge the gap between rich and poor countries on trade reform

> Thailand shrugged off the outcome, saying it would continue to focus on bilateral trade arrangements to sell its products.

> "Thailand is not affected because we are focussed on bilateral trade relations," Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said. "Multilat eral cooperation is difficult because it is about negotiation."

Pakistani agriculture experts and business leaders hailed the breakdown of the talks, saying the meeting's agenda was suicidal for the developing countries.

"Pakistani agriculturists have opposed the World Trade Organization from the very beginning as it is suicidal for the poor countries like us," leading agriculturist Qamar-uz Zaman Shah, said.



"India has controlled the Ganges with surface treatment of its right bank from Farakka to Nimtita to divert the mainstream of the river to the left. That is why it is directly hitting the left bank in Chapainawabganj," said Abdul Mannan, an executive engineer of Rajshahi

Meanwhile, India has undertaken a Rs 300 crore project to protect the left bank of the Ganges in its territory. "The Indian project, if implemented, will cause more damage to us, creating a completely new situation with new problems, and the whole project might have to

Cricket

winning the toss in the day-night encounter, lost opener Mohammad Hafeez in the sixth over when paceman Tapas Baisya had him caught behind for two.

Yasir Hameed, who made 116 in the first game, and Youhana, who scored 106 in the second, put the Pakistani innings back on track during their 77-run stand for the second

Bangladesh once again squandered some easy chances including two attempted run outs to allow the pair to settle in. Yasir holed out at long on from the

bowling of left-arm spinner Mohammad Rafique for a 66-ball 40, including three boundaries. Youhana added another 36 with his

skipper in quick time before being

bowled by Mushfiqur Rahman in the 31st over. He made 65 off 74 balls, including nine boundaries. In the last overs, Shoaib Malik chipped in with two towering sixes in his 18-ball 21 as Pakistan added 83

runs in the last ten overs, mainly

thanks to Inzamam. Abdul Razzaq also contributed with 15 but became one of three wickets to fell in the 49th over when he was bowled by Baisya, who finished with his best one-day figures of 4-56. The bowler will have a chance to grab a hattrick when the teams move to Rawalpindi for Thursday's fourth

Pakistan lead the series 2-0. They won the first match at Multan by 137 runs and the second at Faisalabad by 74 runs.

spent on vaccines, contraceptives and essential drugs and the rest will be utilised during the period of extension proposed

A letter was sent to the World Bank recently seeking extension of the HPSP for full utilisation of the funds, newly appointed Health Secretary Sarwar Kamal said.

Sources pointed out that the government had to seek this extension as it failed to launch the much-talkedabout Tk 9000 crore Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Programme (HNPSP) on July 1 this year.

The HNPSP was scheduled to be launched if the Executive Commi-ttee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) approved it. But it was yet to be sent to the ECNEC for approval, a health ministry source said, seeking anonvmitv.

This resulted in blocking of funds for salary of about 24,000 family planning field workers since July 1 this year, the source added.

4 forest staff

FROM PAGE 1 'We went to Fatikchhari forests on board a jeep and a pick-up to visit the plantations and gardens owned by our department. While we were visiting a roadside garden at Harinmara, the loggers attacked us and kidnapped four of our men and

took away two rifles," the DFO said. "But, I and some other team members managed to escape." "They took the victims to the

nearby deep forests under the cover of darkness," the DFO said. " | nformed the local police about the incident. They raided the hideouts of the kidnappers in the jungle with support from the BDR and rescued two forest guards at around 10:00pm and two others including the deputy ranger at about 1:00am the same night," the DFO added.

Police said the whole forest area was cordoned off during the raid at night and the victims were rescued along with the rifles.

to melt away into the deep forests. Police and forest officials said legal proceedings had earlier been initiated against some illegal loggers in the area.

ised the attack after the sudden drive by the mobile forest team angered the illegal loggers.

A case was filed with Fatikchhari



President lajuddin Ahmed poses for photograph with recipients of Tonatuni Award 2003 after they called on him at the Bangabhan yesterday

Telecoms act

nternet service providers (ISPs). The telecoms act states that

breaching individual privacy by tapping or eavesdropping on telephone conversations between two persons is a punishable offence as it infrinaes civil riahts. Although the intelligence agen-

cies cannot legally eavesdrop on telephone conversations, allegations have long been there that they monitor and tap phone calls illegally. But they cannot at present use the information derived by such means as evidence in the court of law.

However, after its amendment. the intelligence agencies will be able to manoeuvre freely to listen to individual phone calls, bust e-mails and produce tapped and e-mailed messages before court as evi-

Sources said the intelligence agencies have been able to persuade the Prime Minister's Office to bring changes to the telecoms act. citing the rise in terrorist activities in Bangladesh and September 11 terror attacks on the World Trade Centre in New York, US.

The agencies also convinced the telecoms ministry to change the telecoms law. The ministry has recently held a series of meetings

Not guilty yet FROM PAGE 12

a bomb- throwing case No. 82/4/2001 with Sutrapur Police Station on April 25, 2001 under the Public Safety Act. Police arrested Jamal on April 28

and produced him before a court that sent him to custody, with a oneday remand. The jail authorities sent Jamal to

the correction centre on June 30, The BLAST investigation

revealed that police filed the FRT (Final Report True) on July 3, 2001. which found Jamal innocent and appealed for his release to the Public Safety Tribunal- 4. The judge ordered to free Jamal on Novembe 18, 2002 that to this day goes unheeded.

A resident of the city's Sayedabad area, Jamal used to live by pulling rickshaw.

Death threat

FROM PAGE 12

its youth wing Jubo Dal and an outlawed organisation. Four 'extremists' also attended it, said the identical letters sent by an unidentified person.

"İ inform you of this murder plan through letters sent by post as I feel nsecure to meet you in person," the

Asked about this, Tayebur admitted he and the three others received the letters on Sunday. "I am not afraid because Allah will save us.' he said. Lobi, Martuza and Shachchu

also said they are not at all fright-None of them has filed any

general diary with police in this

On the other hand, the planning

ministry sources claimed there were

only 26 projects awaiting clearance

from the Executive Committee for

National Economic Council

have not vet been sent to the plan-

ning ministry even two months after

the budget, they said.

As many as 260 ADP projects

So, where have all the projects

"The planning ministry has a

tendency to send the project pro-

posals for clarification back to the

departments under different minis-

tries repeatedly and does not get the

The planning ministry compli-

cates the process by seeking details

of every project, although they are

sent after scrutiny by the depart-

ments and ministries concerned.

The ADP of the current fiscal

envisages approval of 336 projects.

Since the July budget, Ecnec has

approved only 43 projects and the

finance ministry approved another

Ecnec should ideally approve all

six or seven of less than Tk 10 crore.

total picture," explained an official.

dozen projects.

(Ecnec).

said officials

with the Ministry of Law and BTRC.

The agencies want a change in the subsection of Section 30 of the telecoms act. which deals with protection of privacy of telecommunications, by incorporating the words, put here in italics: "to ensure protection of the privacy of telecommunications; subject to the national security laws".

The government came under scathing criticism at home and abroad after the move became public last week.

The Paris-based journalists rights organisation Reporters sans frontières (RSF) has expressed concern at the proposed changes, saying these would legalise invasion of piracy and undermine freedom of expression

BNP refutes

FROM PAGE 12

mentioning him my name. Education Secretary Shahidul Alam issued the circular to keep administration free from what the education ministry called political and party influences

But Siddiqui described it as an attempt to undermine the rights of ministers and lawmakers. Agriculture Minister MK Anwar

and Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar

Hossain protested the opposition lawmaker's allegation and demanded expunction of the statement from parliament proceedings. "The BNP is a pro-people party

and did not come to power with assistance of any government official. People gave the BNP a clear mandate," said Anwar, also BNP vice-chairman.

The chief whip dubbed Siddiqui's speech as contrary to the constitution and the Rules of Procedure.

Siddiqui walked out of the Jatiya Sangsad as he was denied the floor speak on Education Minister Osman Farruk's statement that justified the circular as an instrument to discipline postings and transfers in

Enclosing recommendations of any minister or lawmaker with the applications is a misconduct and a punishable offence, the education ministry said in a press release

yesterday. Such a practice runs counter to Section 20 of the Government Employees (Conduct) Rules, 1979 and is a punishable offence under Section 3(B) of the Government Employees Discipline and Appellate Status, 1985, while Section 30 explains that political influence in government service is prohibited, says the press release

Last night, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law Ministry submitted to the House three reports on as many bills sent to the committee earlier for scrutiny.

The bills are the President's (Remuneration and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill, 2003, the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2003 and the Bangladesh Legal Practitioners and Bar Council (Amendment) Bill, 2003.

The House is likely to take up the bills for passage at today's sitting.

ADP projects left in catch 22 state

the ADP projects in the first few

months of the budget to ensure their

timely implementation, but the

present situation clearly indicates

yet another disappointing ADP

Frustrated by only 30 per cent

implementation of the ADP in the

first six months of the last fiscal, the

planning ministry issued some

Ecnec meetings a month -- one on

the first Wednesday every month

and the other on the third

Ecnec meeting to approve new

projects and the finance minister to

departments have not sent ade-

quate projects to justify two Ecnec

Last month, it decided to hold two

The prime minister will chair the

But different ministries and

In the current fiscal. Ecnec held

only three meetings -- one chaired

by the prime minister and the others

by the finance minister -- clearing 43

new and revised projects until

yesterday. In the last fiscal, Ecnec

held nine meetings and approved

The planning ministry estimates

implementation in the offing.

directives to speed up work.

approve revised projects.

meetings a month.

Wednesday.

Stop changes in CPC. bar council order '72, lawyers demand STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Order 1972 Amendment Bill.

The demand was made at the meeting held at the Supreme Court

October 1, will deny people of justice. It will also create controversy about judges as the amend-115, are anti-people, they added.

Order 1972 Amendment Bill 'undemocratic' and said it will slash constitutional rights of the autonomous Bar Council

Majumdar, the meeting was attended by, among others, Ozaer Farooq, Eusuf Hossain Humayun, Mahbub Ali, Subrata Chowdhury Sahara Khatun, Shahabuddin Ahmed, Khaleda Sarkar and Saikat Acharva.

Hartal

FROM PAGE 1

sion of enforcing the general strike. The government held a meeting with the action committee leaders yesterday, but they turned down the government proposal for withdrawing

they were going to hold another round of meeting with the government last people in the name of discussion with

convener of the action committee, told journalists yesterday evening. The main opposition party Awami League (AL) and left-leaning 11 parties lent support to the shutdown.

Bangladesh Garment Workers Unity

Council also extended its support to political parties brought out processions and held rallies in Dhaka yester-

They said about 1.00.000 workers lost their jobs last year and another 1.50.000 are living under the shadow

Our Khulna correspondent adds: Khulna unit leaders of the committee expressed their firm determination to enforce the strike despite the government decision to reopen the laid off jute mills in Khulna fulfilling one of their eight-point demand.

The demands of the committee include 10 per cent dearness allowance for the workers, payment of all salary and other arrears, provision for gratuity and guarantee of fair jute

that it will take at least 20 Ecnec

meetings to clear all the projects of

"Approval is only part of the

whole process that causes delay in

implementation," said an official,

wishing not to be named. "And the

process may take years to com-

A source cited the example of a

project to build a four-storey annexe

to the Supreme Court premises.

The project was cleared by a pre-

Ecnec meeting on September 6.

2001, processed by the law ministry

in a revised proposal, sent to the

Ecnec secretariat only last month

projects results in non-utilisation of

a significant portion of the ADP. In

fiscal 2001-02, the Tk 19,000 crore

ADP was revised down to Tk 16,000

crore. Yet, the government utilised

revised down to Tk 17,100 crore

from Tk 19.200 crore. But the gov-

ernment failed to utilise even the

revised target, sources said.

In fiscal 2002-03, the ADP was

The 2003-04 ADP has been set

Slow implementation of the

and approved last week

only Tk 14,090 crore

at Tk 20.300 crore.

this fiscal.

plete."

Procedure Code (CPC) Amendment Act and the Bar Council Bar Association hall.

The speakers said the CPC Amendment Act, to be effective from

They termed the Bar Council

Chaired by Abdul Baset

Action committee sources said

"The government is misleading

us," Shahidullah Chowdhury, joint

Meanwhile, different left-leaning

day to drum up support for the strike. of being put out on the street.

Speakers at a meeting of Sammilita Ainjibi Samannaya Parishad, a lawyers' body, yesterday demanded immediate withdrawal of the Civil

ments to all the sections, except

members of parliament had supported Swedish entry in the eurozone, reflecting a gaping chasm between the views of elected

Killing of Arafat

other parts of the world," he said on Fox News Sunday," speaking from Baghdad.

Olmert, said killing Arafat was an option after a decision in principle by Israel's security Cabinet on Thursday to remove the Palestinian president

Powell said on CNN's "Late Edition" he had learned from the Israeli government that it had no current plans to remove Arafat. But he called Olmert's statement unhelpful to Bush's "road map" for Middle East peace.

Shalom yesterday dismissed comments by Olmert. But Olmert's words, following an

sraeli decision in principle to expel Arafat from the West Bank, drew anger in the Arab world and blank incredulity in Europe.

dangerous thing," Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told reporters during a visit to France.

he said, through a translator. The European Union also coun-

Arafat, who denies accusations that he has fomented violence. "We do not expect it (assassination)," EU foreign policy chief Javier

sels caution in the handling of

Solana told reporters in Brussels. "It does not go through our imagination that that can take place,

Iraqi police chief

FROM PAGE 12 their heads in traditional Arab headdress, Sabri added. The three policemen from

to establish a national Iragi police. Khaldivah is 30 km west of the flashpoint town of Falluiah, and part of a Sunni Muslim tribal belt where loyalty to ousted president Saddam

occupying forces. On Saturday the US military issued an apology after nine security guards from Fallujah were killed the previous day when US troops opened fire as the guards were apparently engaged in a high-speed

However, there are wide discrepancies in the version of events given by the US-led coalition and residents in Falluiah.

Agroup of masked men. describing themselves as anti-US resistance forces. Saturday warned the deaths of the security guards would be avenged.

Fallujah when the convoy they were travelling in was hit by a roadside

dusk hartal on September 25.

Hasina said the present government was killing the leaders of her party and the people were unnerved by the atmosphere of panic.

tion and Kalabagan before reaching "About 24.000 leaders and workers of the Awami League have The AL chief, on an open jeep, been killed under the alliance rule, waived to people who lined both sides of the streets and many

She said abduction of businessmen and schoolchildren turned into a regular feature, exposing the nosedive in law and order

Hasina excoriated the government policies of closing down mills and factories and putting thousands of workers out onto the streets.

She said government employees were being promoted on the basis of their political beliefs. Hasina levelled charges of

widespread corruption against the prime minister, saying in only 23 months of governance she and her sons amassed a huge wealth running into crores of taka.

"They are smuggling money out of the country," she alleged.

She extended her party's support to the daylong countrywide general strike called by the Jute, Cotton and Textile Mills Employees Action Committee for today against the government policy to close down mills and factories.

Swedes say 'no' to euro In Rome, the president of the

debacle in his country.

racy," she said.

"We are confident that the Swedish government will choose the way forward to keep the euro project alive in Sweden." the Commission said.

Sweden's influential daily

Dagens Nyheter said the referendum outcome was a rejection of what Swedes' view as Stockholm's elitism, headlining its front page "A slap in the face of power" alongside a picture of a grim-faced Persson. "The 'no' camp has won a crush-

ng victory, and it's a sock in the jaw to the political and economic elite in Sweden," editorialist Henrik Brors He noted that 80 percent of

Prodi. attributed the outcome of the vote to the fear of change in Sweden, which is enjoying one of the strongest growth rates in "The Sweden which produces...

Furopean Commission, Romano

fought to get into the euro," he told the newspaper La Repubblica. "But it didn't succeed due to fear

of the new among public opinion. Meanwhile, the Swedish "no" vote also dampened hopes of convincing other EU members still outside the euro zone -- notably fiercely euro-sceptic Britain -- to

accept the currency. Sunday's vote leaves Sweden. as well as Britain and Denmark. outside the European single currency, and damages the chances of Britain's pro-euro camp. Danish voters rejected the currency before it went into general circulation

FROM PAGE 12

officials and the people they repre-

Israel's vice premier, Ehud

Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan

"Assassination is an extremely

"If the Israelis assassinate Yasser Arafat and if everyone assassinates their adversary, then the world would be in total chaos,

Khaldiyah were part of US attempts Hussein has sorely tested US

car chase.

On Sunday, one US soldier was killed and another three wounded in

anything of that nature is going to

take place.' He stressed he had neither sought nor received guarantees that Arafat, confined to his ruined West Bank headquarters in Ramallah for more than a year, would not be

The Quartet of diplomatic patrons of an Israeli-Palestinian States, the European Union, Russia and the United Nations -- would meet in New York next week on the sidelines of the UN General

Assembly session. Arafat has denied orchestrating violence in a three-year-old Palestinian militant revolt against Israel for independence.

Shalom, responding to Olmert's

comments, told foreign journalists at a briefing: "There will be no immediate action. It's not official policy of the Israeli government . . . We don't speak about killing (him). We didn't speak about it before, and we don't

Apology

speak about it today.

on the issue.

FROM PAGE 1 offended at Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's declaring a BNP newcomer an 'undeclared lawmaker' in a Faridour constituency and Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar's observation on

effective running of the House in the absence of the main opposition. A Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker took the floor on a point of order and pleaded for a ruling from the speaker

Shah Md Ruhul Kuddus, the Jamaat MP, expressed outrage at the AL's threat of non-participation in the parliament session and also in the upcoming conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) in Dhaka.

Kuddus said. "The AL lawmakers remained absent from 70 sittings in a row and joined the 71st to keep their membership. In his ruling, the Chair termed the CPA conference billed for an October

4 start very important for Bangladesh and hoped the main opposition party would take part in it considering the prestige of the country. Sayedee

FROM PAGE 12 election for Pirojpur-1 constituency

null and void for submitting false statements on his poll expenses and violating other election rules. Sources in Jamaat said the order has embarrassed the right-wing party

that proclaims honesty as being the foundation of all its activities. Top leaders of the party have reportedly discussed ways to over-

come the image crisis caused by the

The other kidnappers managed

Police believe Monu Mia organ-