

Ban hartal

The prime minister urged the members of the business community to mould public opinion against hartal. She said her party, while in the opposition, had kept the garment sector out of the purview of hartal.

The meeting which lasted more than two hours discussed many issues including economy, trade and business.

Referring to the recently concluded Cancun ministerial conference of WTO, the prime minister said that in the changed global scenario no one was giving any concession to others and called for forging better understanding through mutual cooperation between the government and the business community to help prepare the country to face stiff competition ahead.

She expressed the hope that all members of the opposition would join the forthcoming CPA conference in Dhaka and added that it was the responsibility of all to make the conference a success through performing their due role

She said that as a Commonwealth country, Bangladesh is hosting the CPA conference for the first time and urged all concerned to extend their cooperation so that the country's positive image could be reflected in the Commonwealth nations and also outside

Leading the 31-member delegation, President of FBCCI Abdul Awal Mintoo delivered an introductory speech

Catch them with their pants down!

ANN/ THE STRAITS TIMES

The Philippines government is looking to catch corrupt officials with their pants down It will launch a "Report-A

Mistress'' campaign this weekend. Anyone who suspects a public official or employee of having an extra-marital affair, or two, can file a report by email, snail mail or SMS.

Congresswoman Kim Bernardo Lokin said: "We believe that the ones who maintain second, or even fourth families, are the ones most likely to be corrupt because they are the ones who come under pressure to earn more."

She said some corrupt government officials even name their mistresses as "dummy owners" of properties and companies they have acquired.

But even before the launch of the campaign, phone calls and e-mail about suspected affairs have come flooding in.

Concerned that people were getting the wrong idea about the targets. Bernardo-Lokin clarified that "this is a corruption check, not an attack on mistresses"

President Gloria Arroyo, who was swept to power in January 2001 after Joseph Estrada was ousted on charges of corruption and misrule, ordered lifestyle checks on all public officials

hailing the government's measures and successes during the last two years for rejuvenating the national economy facilitating trade and business, and also ensuring the welfare of people

Those who spoke on the occasion included Amir Humyun Mahmud Chowdhury, Khurshid Ali Mollah, Abul Kashem Haider, Nurul Islam Patwari Mir Naseer, Aminul Hug Chowdhury Kazi Munirul Huq, Abdul Matlub Ahmed, Dewan Sultan Ahmed Akhtaruzaman Manju, Harunur Rashid and Kamaluddin Ahmed.

Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury and PM's Political Secretaries Haris Chowdhury $and\,Mosaddek\,Ali\,were\,present.$

Congratulating the newly-elected members, The prime minister hoped that the FBCCI, as the highest trade body of the country, will perform up to the expectation of the people

She BNP always provided support for the private sector and added it ould continue to do so in future. 'We believe that the private sector should play a key role in industrialis-

ation and promotion of trade and business of the country," she added. She said the government would play

its role as a facilitator in expansion and development of trade and industries. The Prime Minister sought sugges tions and guidelines from the FBCCI in

formulating policies and programmes of the government for promoting trade, business and industry. "The government will formulate policies but FBCCI should have an active role in the pro-

cess." she added She urged the business leaders to ensure proper utilisation and recovery of bank loans taken by industrialists and businessmen.

She laid emphasis on payment of due taxes as the government needs revenue to speed up development.

The prime minister said she will sit with the trade bodies, including the FBCCI, to exchange views on trade, commerce, investment and industrial isation.

She, however, stressed the importance of arranging sittings of the trade bodies with the finance minister and the commerce minister frequently to discuss new development plans and proposals. "We (government and businessmen) are friends and the door of the government is always open" she

Abducted student rescued from Nagaland

STAFF CORRESPONDENT An abducted Bangladeshi student was rescued yesterday from a hotel of the capital Kohima of Indian north-

eastern State Nagaland. Nagaland police also arrested four extremists involved in the abduction, said the BBC Bangla Service.

Rafigul, a college student of Sunamgong, was abducted on July 9 from his village. Rafiqul's family alleged that the kidnappers took their vital role in exchanging views among son to the other side of the border. the participants and share their Rafiqul told police that his father experiences of successes and failures. Abdul Mannan sent ransom to the The president wished the Junior kidnappers a few days back but the Chamber's 3Es (Educate, Enhance villagers caught and beat up two of and Energise) Summit a success. the abductors while they were receiving the money. Others along with Rafiqul crossed the border. AL rejects The kidnappers failed to realise FROM PAGE 1 the ransom, as police beefed up their formation in 1911. activities to nab them. That is why Prime Minister Khaleda Zia did not they kept Rafiqul confined until call on the opposition to join the police ease their operation, the BBC conference, although she is the chief quoted the Nagaland police as saying. patron of the Dhaka conference and

SC stays HC order on Nurul murder case

SUPREME COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday stayed the order of the High Court on Advocate Nurul Islam Murder case for 3 months.

The order came on a petition submitted by the government against the High Court order Chamber Judge of the Appellate

Division Justice Mohammed Fazlul Karim heard the petition and stayed the operation of the High Court's stay

order. Following the order of the chamber

udge, the trial of the case will continue. The case is now pending with the Divisional Speedy Trail Tribunal,

Chittagong Attorney General AF Hassan Ariff submitted that the High Court staved the trial ignoring the set principles of law. It had not even issued rule upon the government for reply, which is prerequisite for granting stay, he added

On September 22, The High Court stayed the proceedings of the trial court in the case on hearing of a writ petition filed by accused Md Abu Taher, his wife Nazma Taher and three others with the High Court Division.

Deputy Asttorney General Helal Uddin Mollah and Assistant Attorney General Zaman Akter Bulbul assisted the Attorney General, while Advocate Ozaer Farooq appeared for the accused.

Entrepreneurs FROM PAGE 12

With a strong foundation of education one can equip himself to seek out opportunities and then enlighten the society and ultimately energise the entire population.

"To most of us, education means formal education. However, a farmer who does not know how to read may be uneducated in academic sense, but he is educated as far farming is concerned," he saida adding, "education allows oneself to evoke the hidden strengths, install confidence, create awareness of one's existence and help us make correct decisions."

He welcomed the young entrepreneurs in the challenging, very attractive and competitive world of production and marketing and laid empha-

sis on building of new industries heavy or small -- to create more job opportunities for young and educated generation, and thus develop a

strong nation. The president underscored the mportance of utilising our man-

power in a better and effective way as the people are very hard working and ndustrious He also hoped that the summit

would elaborately discuss the possibility of utilising our manpower effectively and fruitfully and play a

Sircar, president of the conference,

formed a steering committee with 25

members, including two non-MPs -

Haris Chowdhury and Mosaddak Ali,

political secretaries to the prime

The AL was offered only two mem-

berships of the committee and in the

demanded exclusion of the two non-

Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid

Siddiqui told The Daily Star Tuesday

night that Haris and Mosaddak

backed out of the steering committee.

He also said he would talk to the AL

vesterday as his last-ditch effort to

bring it to the conference, but did not

call any of the opposition leaders until

policy decision of the government.

The court however gave the gov-

early yesterday evening.

Judiciary

FROM PAGE 1

sion

push the issue further.

MPs from the steering committee.

DU students instruction that non-university vehicles should not be allowed to pass through Earlier, as the news of Sagar's death the campus. Speed bumps at all imporgot out, agitated students damaged at tant campus points are also being built, least five buses near the campus and a he said. private car of a DU teacher in front of About the students' demand to relocate the filling station at Chankher Six students were picked up by police Pool intersection, DU VC Prof SMA Faiz

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia meets with the newly elected Executive Committe of the Federation of Chambers of

Commerce and Industry, led by the president Abdul Awal Mintoo, at the ICC yesterday.

from the spot but were later rescued by said, "We will request the pump owner to fellow students. Police also lobbed tworemove it," adding that a decision to tear shells inside Shahidullah Hall where permanently make the campus off-limits to heavy vehicular traffic is also forth-After Sagar's death Tuesday night, coming atiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders Following the death of Sagar, the DU

prevented Shahidullah Hall residents authorities have closed all entrances for vehicles to the university fearing attack More than 100 students vesterday by angry students. staged a sit-in in front of the vice Earlier Sunday night, students

damaged a taxicab and the petrol pump hour ultimatum to the DU authorities to near Shahidullah Hall after the fatal meet their six-point demand including compensation of Tk 5 lakh to the family of

They also submitted a memorandum Shab-e-Meraj to the DU VC demanding removal of the FROM PAGE 1 petrol pump, ban on heavy vehicles from called Al-Burag

campus roads, construction of more speed Devotees offered nightlong prayers oumps on campus roads, punishment of seeking divine blessings. The Islamic Foundation and differ

ing of traffic at university entry points. DU Proctor Prof AK Firoz said a ent other religious organisations held proposal to provide financial help to discussions, milah mahfil and Qur'an Sagar's family has already been sent to Khwani highlighting the significance of the DU Syndicate. "We have also given the night.

Deadly height

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iniured in the incident

Madhu's Canteen

Sagar was a resident.

rom bringing out a procession

chancellor (VC)'s office and gave a 72-

the drivers of the killer buses and monitor-

income bracket or without income opted for a cocktail of Phenergan, Easium, Avil, Sedil and Tidigesic -popularly known as 'Madras-Hydarabad' among addicts.

They also take other drugs like Sedexin, Eunectin, Noctin and Tryptin. None of them costs more than Tk2 apiece.

"Since an addict's body has been programmed to a specific drug, it begins reacting in an unnatural way when it receives a new item," said a doctor working with the NGO, which provides addicts in the DMCH area with healthcare.

"Because of heroin. Pethedine and other drug shots, their bodies have lost the

The druggists increased the prices, as the business became too risky, a medicine power to resist even minor diseases and

Angry villagers kill 2 robbers

PHOTO: PI

OUR CORRESPONDENT. Mymensingh

Angry villagers killed two alleged robbers at Joydarkhali in Gafargaon upazila early yesterday.

A gang of robbers stormed into Amir Uddin Fakir's residence at about 3:00am and looted valuables and cash. As the robbers left the house Amir's family members raised alarm A mob caught Kamal and Milon and beat the two, leaving them dead on the spot, police and witnesses said.

In another incident, armed rob bers stabbed a retired police personnel to death while five of his family members were injured at Gandrakhola in Trishal early vesterday

A band of dacoits swooped on Ramzan Ali's house at 2:30am and stabled him to death as he tried to resist them and injured five other family members, police said. Critically injured Hasina Begum,

Nasir and Ismail were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

Separate cases were filed with local police stations.

JS body for action against deceitful manpower agents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body has asked the government to take action against unscrupulous recruiting agents for their involvement in various irregularities in exporting manpower.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment at its first meeting Tuesday asked the authorities to prepare a list of such agents and cancel their licences, said meeting sources. months, I anticipate signing a bilateral

It also observed that all workers

Talibans meet Omar, vow more attacks

attacks by the Taliban.

At the meeting on September 17 Afghanistan Islamic Taliban commandsomewhere in southern Afghanistan, ers secretly met elusive leader Mullah Omar urged around 50 top military Mohammad Omar last week and vowed commanders and former governors not to step up attacks on Afghan governto slow their activities, Mullah Momin ment and US-led allied troops, a "I salute my Taliban mujahideen Taliban commander said on Wednesday. (holy warrior) brothers and the Afghan

Taliban guerrilla commander Mullah Sabir, alias Mullah Momin, told Reuters by telephone from an undisclosed location that Omar appeared "delighted" over a recent spate of

A hand grenade blast ripped through a

cinema in the northern Iraqi city of

Mosul yesterday, killing two people and

the movie theater was showing a

pornographic film when the grenade

exploded. Islamic militants have

attacked some cinemas in postwar Iraq

for showing movies they regard as

"A grenade exploded inside the

inema. Twenty people were injured,

two were killed," said Mohammed

Sadiq, an officer at the police station

nearest the cinema told Reuters by

Shopkeepers in the same street as

the cinema said they saw about 20

people carried out of the building,

some with very serious wounds. The

blast smashed windows in the cinema

but appeared to have caused little

Tk10 lakh looted

threatened killing if any of the resi-

dents tried to play smart, the duty

The gang took away Tk 20,000, 120

officer of Mirpur Police Station said.

to 20 minutes to commit the robbery.

Police said a witness had told them

2 die in Iraqi

cinema blast

REUTERS, Baghdad

mmoral.

telephone.

structural damage

FROM PAGE 12

Police Station.

wounding 20, police said.

REUTERS, Spin Boldak

"All the Taliban commanders should carry out the duties entrusted to them as a personal responsibility," he added.

Islam," Omar was quoted as saying.

people. They have courageously carried

out their jihadi (holy war) responsibili-

ties for the last two years to defend

Mullah Momin said he had started spreading Omar's message to other Taliban commanders who were not present at the meeting, adding that the eaders had agreed to "accelerate" attacks.

The United States toppled the Taliban in Afghanistan for providing a safe haven to Osama bin Laden and his al Oaeda network after the September 11, 2001, attacks.

But in the last few months the Taliban have carried out a spate of attacks in Afghanistan, and Afghan government officials blame their resurgence on support from across the border in neighboring Pakistan.

Japan used car FROM PAGE 12

and Forest and Environment Minister Shajahan Siraj. They will also meet policymakers to urge the government to continue with importing used (reconditioned) cars from Japan. The team will also visit Chittagong and exchange views with local auto traders, sources said.

JUCEA Vice-chairman Yeachunuri Fujinu and directors Cinici Menomey, Tosio Kemora, Wataro Katso, Nabhue Mitsuhasi, Keysuke Fukuda, Takaeuki Minoya and Keuzi Nisimura will also come with the delegation under the arrangement of Japanese finance ministry, foreign ministry and Japanese embassy in Dhaka, sources added.

tola of gold ornaments, mobile phone The finance minister, in his recent sets and other valuables, taking only 15 budget speech, announced that import of reconditioned vehicles Rowshan filed a case with Mirpur would be allowed only for another two

the inability of a section of small export

ing units, he added. "We strongly feel

that the compliance process through

market mechanism has proved to be

result-oriented and therefore, the threat

control the trade unions and many use

them for political purposes, ignoring the

interests of the workers, the MCCI

It is the non-worker elements who

of withdrawal of the GSP is unwise."

Duty-free access

FROM PAGE 12 improving the rule of law, curbing corruption and establishing an independent judiciary to protect property and the sanctity of contracts are essential if Bangladesh is to reach economic

growth level it is capable of. Bangladesh will have to implement significant political reforms as well if the economic ties between these two countries are to deepen considerably. he felt.

"Sometime within the next few

president mentioned. President of Women Entrepreneurs Association, Bangladesh Rokia A Rahman and Managing Director of GMG Airlines Ltd. Shahab Sattar also spoke at the meeting held at the MCCI conference hall in Dhaka. Deputy Chief of the US mission in Dhaka Judith A Chammas, Chief of Economic and Commercial Section of US Embassy Mark Tesone were present

The large chunk of the aid came

from donor agencies: the World Bank

gave \$560 million while the Asian

Development Bank provided \$203.41

without earning any revenue from this

About 5,000 tons of solid wastes are

generated in the city a day. Equipped

with 6,000 cleaners and 200 vehicles, the

DCC disposes of about 45 percent and

dumps them into the lone dumping site

at Matuail in Demra. The rest litter the

streets, surface drains, lowlands and

and spent Tk 1.50 crore on them in

During the three years of the contract

Managing Director of Rora

Enterprise M Aktharuzzaman, a former

BNP MP, gave a presentation on the

designed management of the

Savedabad and Mohakhali terminals

He said specific porters would carry

passengers' luggage to stop harassment.

He said proper traffic control

cleanliness and security will be ensured

and there would be separate passenger

sheds, waiting rooms, toilet and restau

The other operator, Diba Enterprise,

3 bus terminals

the passengers will get better service.

other open spaces.

FROM PAGE 12

maintenance.

Hospital area, increased prices at leas

twice the normal. Drug sellers increased the price of a Tidigesic ampoule to Tk 60-80 from Tk 40-50 six months ago, of Avil to Tk 10-15 from

Tk 5, and Phenergan, B-50 Forte and Sedil toTk8-15fromTk5. Thirty-year-old Joynal, formerly a rickshawpuller who began taking Pethedineundertheinfluenceofhisfriend

said he has no alternative to cocktails of cheaperdrugs "The drugstore keepers increased the prices of the drugs to cash in on our vulner ability," he said.

and employees in January So far, six officials from two corrup-

tion-plagued agencies -- the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the main tax collection agency, and the Bureau of Customs -have been indicted.

The authorities reckon that as much as \$40 billion, almost equivalent to the Philippines' foreign debt, has been lost to corruption in the past two decades.

Any "sensitive information' collected on officials will be studied by about 12 staff members, including volunteer lawyers

Those whose lifestyles do not square with their Statement of Assets and Liabilities will be recommended for "further investigation" by the Civil Service Commission and other gov ernment agencies.

"Having a mistress will just be a lead for us to check whether a public official or employee is living beyond his means," Bernardo-Lokin said.

"We do not mean to crucify the mistress. We are not judges of moral-

Bush, Schroeder FROM PAGE 1

and supply training for the security forces and police functions or be it some form of military function," he said. He told reporters later that training

of Iraqi soldiers could take place in Germany And he said chances were favorable

for a new UN resolution backing the USled occupation of Iraq, despite lingering differences over how soon the United States should hand over sovereignty.

"There are still different analyzes, but since both sides want to transfer government powers to Iraqis, the time frame must be bridgeable," Schroeder

The meetings were significant for Bush as he lobbied to win foreign contributions of troops or money fo the Iraqi occupation. The United States is seeking an estimated \$15 billion to \$40 billion

While Bush and Chirac continued to disagree over how quickly the United States should turn control back to the Iragis, the French leader said he would not stand in the way of a new resolution on Iraq.

In a high-profile speech before the General Assembly, though, Chirac publicly attacked the US doctrine of preemptive strikes against potential threats.

Khulna criminal nabbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A notorious criminal of Khulna was arrested at Rayerbazar in Dhaka Tuesday.

from Raverbazar.

Sattar is accused in several cases Khulna city.

murder case.

Sattar was directly involved in most after the BNP-Jamaat alliance came to

Police said Sattar tried to regroup the accomplices of Shikder but failed due to the frequent chases made by police.

PCJSS FROM PAGE 12

Asking citizens to be aware of "petty conspirators" and urging "democratic and humanitarian organisations", the leaders announced that "we will build a unified movement to confront the perpetrators of Mahalchari."

President of the PCJSS Pranati ries of the statement.

in Dhaka

Centre.

minister.

Acting upon a tip-off, the officer-in-

charge of Mohammadpur Police Station arrested Abdus Sattar, a member of Ershad Shikder's killing squad,

filed with different police stations of

He was also sentenced to a life term prison in his mistress Sahara Khatoon

of the murders committed in Ershad Shikder's ice factory at Skidghat. He went into hiding when Shikder was arrested, but returned to the scene

power, Khulna police sources said.

Bikash Chakma, General Secretary Sudhakar Tripura, and Bihanu owdhuri of the Pahari Chatra Parishad were the principal signatoonce they do new drugs, the resistance totally collapses," he said.

AIDS, syphilis and other contagious diseases spread fast among drug abusers, as four to five addicts use the same syringe without cleaning well or merely washing in the sewerage water.

"They are too weak to push the injection in veins properly and most addicts are suffering from infection in the body part theypushit," the doctorsaid.

As the addicts started living on the lowpriced drugs, pharmacies near major drugabuse hotbeds, including DMCH area, Bangabandhu National Stadium, High Court Mazar, Mohammadpur embankment, Gopibagh, Teikunipara, Savedabad, will inaugurate it at the China Dhalpur, Navabazar, English Road, Bangladesh Friendship Conference Nababganj, Kashaituli and Mitford

first week of August the opposition **BBC ONLINE** deputy leader protested it. He also

The highest court in Germany has ruled that a Muslim teacher has the right to wear a headscarf in class.

Thirty-one-year-old Fereshta Ludin, who is originally from Afghanistan, was denied a job in the state of Baden-Wuerttemberg in 1998 because she insisted on keeping her head covered in school.

The state said her headscarf would contravene Germany's constitutional religious neutrality, an argument which was upheld by a lower federal court last vear.

Ludin argued that the constitution guaranteed religious freedom.

To sidetrack the court's 13th resched-The German Constitutional Court uled deadline, the government in has now ruled by five votes to three that, April filed a plea with the Supreme under current laws, she can wear the Court for modification of the drafts on scarf - but it says German states should separation of the judiciary. The court seek to find an acceptable balance in rejected the prayer on May 26, saying law between religious freedom and that finalisation of the rules or their neutrality in schools. implementation does not require any

"The state legislatures are now free to provide the legal basis that has been missing until now," the ruling said.

ernment another four months' exten-However, the BBC's Tristana Moore says Ludin is not the only Muslim However, there has barely been woman to be refused employment at a any follow-up on the decision. Only state school because of her headscarf, one meeting of the cabinet committee so her case will have far-reaching on separation of the judiciary was held implications. on September 4 and that too did not

Ludin was refused a job in 1998 despite successfully completing an

salesman in DMCH area, preferring not to benamed, reasoned out.

"As the prices of heroin and Pethedine climbed because of their scarcity, the addicts began rushing to us for cheaper drugs and police began raiding our shops fortoll," he said. An official of Bangladesh Druggists and

Chemists Association said there is a provision of rigorous punishment for selling drugsto addicts.

"We know for sure godfathers force some drugstores to sell drugs to the addicts," the public relations officer of the sociation, ASM Munir Hossain, said.

The godfathers do the addicts only this 'favour' as they (addicts) hand snatched and stolen items to them to get small sums in return, headded.

Muslim teacher wins fight over headscarf

Fereshta Ludin

internship at a high school near Stuttgart.

Baden-Wuerttemberg education minister Annette Schaven argued that the headscarf was political and "understood as a symbol of the exclusion of woman from civil and cultural society". Ludin now works at a private Islamic school in the Kreuzberg district

of Berlin, which has a large ethnic Turkish population. She said the state was equating the

headscarf with "things I already distanced myself from during my own school years".

The decision follows a similar ruling in August, when the court said a department store in Frankfurt was wrong to sack a Muslim woman who wanted to wear a headscarf to work.

The store dismissed her on the grounds that her headscarf would 'antagonise rural customers".

should go through some sort of train ing programmes before going abroad. Presided over by Committee Chairman Nazir Hossen MP at the shortly." Sangsad Bhaban, the meeting advised the ministry to cancel licences if any recruiting agent fails to provide ade-

seekers. Asking the government to supervise more on the activities of agents, the committee instructed the authorities to check whether they charge workers more than the fixed rates and to take all steps to stop harassment against Bangladeshi workers abroad. About 700 private recruiting agents are now in operation and more than

quate training facilities for job-

two lakh fortune-hunters try to go abroad every year. State Minister for Expatriate

Welfare and Overseas Employment Mohammad Quamrul Islam and Secretary-in-Charge Dalil Uddin Mondal were present.

Bac sues 2 for navy's land purchase fraud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bureau of Anti-corruption (Bac) yesterday filed a case against two persons including a former navy official on charge of embezzling over Tk 93 lakh by producing fake documents during land purchase for retired navy officials.

Bac inspector S M Shahidur Rahman filed the case with Savar Police Station.

Ouazi Tofael Ahmed, a retired staff officer of the Bangladesh Navy, was involved in the purchase of land for the Naval Cooperative Housing Society Limited at Savar. A total of 83.685 acres of land was purchased with over Tk 1.23 crore between 1980 and 1994, of which 24.4425 acres were bought legally, a Bac investigation revealed. Tofael and Ansar Ali, a land broker, gobbled up Tk 93,67623 showing purchase of 59.2425 acres of land

through fake documents. The law ministry took up the matter after a high-powered commit tee of navy found irregularities in the land purchase.

tax treaty," the ambassador added. " am optimistic as well that Bangladesh and the US will conclude the 'Trade and Investment Framework Agreement'

Tapan said US provides export business to the garment industry to the extent of over \$2 billion, which is 40 per cent of the country's total garment exports. About 1.8 million workers, of whom 80 per cent are women, directly benefit from the business that has been

the last fiscal year, \$1,347.64 million developed in spite of the physical was project aid, \$176 million comdistance between the two countries. "In this background, it becomes modity aid and \$29.2 million food aid. quite disheartening when we have to

hear threats of withdrawal of GSP facilities on grounds of non-compliance of labour standards," the MCCI chief said.

million. The question is whether it is advis-Among nations, Japan gave the able to withdraw GSP facility owing to highest \$294.36 million.

Medical waste

FROM PAGE 12

hazardous. About 10 to 20 per cent of The DCC is not required to do so as per medical wastes is hazardous, requiring rules, an official noted. separation, sources said.

According to World Health Organisation (WHO) data, the average waste generated in Asian hospitals are 1.8 to 2.2 kg a bed but in Dhaka it is slightly higher -- 2.3kg a bed.

The SWMC is planning to choose one of the two modern mechanisms for waste disposal -- incinerator or autoclave steriliser. Incinerator is used to burn wastes and steriliser handles waste by steaming it at high temperature to kill all types of bacteria. The latter is environment-friendly and cost-effective, an

official said quoting experts. Dhaka Medical College Hospital the DCC will get Tk 9.46 crore of which Tk (DMCH) has an incinerator but its is not 6 crore will be spent on maintenance, the mayor said, adding that although the in operation. earning will remain almost unchanged,

DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka said they plan to procure modern equipment like hydraulic compacting garbage truck for solid waste management. "We are also thinking of productive use of wastes as a source of power and organic compost," he added.

The SWMC is also working out a financial baseline for waste management to balance the revenue earning and expenditure, the mayor said. "We have to provide huge subsidies in this sector as the annual revenue income in this sector is about Tk 17 crore and the

expenditure is Tk 60 crore. however, did not explain its operation The DCC disposes of around 500 plan tons of industrial and medical wastes

Foreign aid FROM PAGE 1