Surgery underway

Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) was going on."

He said following the reports, his family was leading an insecure life and that the report was part of a "big conspiracy".

titled "Press conference protesting false, distorted, defamatory and motivated reports in Daily Prothom Alo and The Daily Star", Mahmudur said the reports trespassed on his privacy and exposed him and his family to insecurity by publishing his home address and car number.

"Am I a big terrorist? Don't I have the fundamental rights?" the Bol chief

He said such reports prove that

against him by The Daily Star. He also refrained from making any comment, despite repeated questions, on why there was such huge cash deposited in his account where usual practice is to deposit such huge money through

number of benefits from his former employer Shinepukur Ceramics although he had officially severed all ties with the company before assuming office of the government.

the ceramic company, Shinepukur continued to bear various expenses of Mahmudur including a monthly payment of Tk 5 lakh, payment for his credit card, cell phone, utility bills and

The report based on an investigation of The Daily Star said the ceramics company had transferred two of its vehicles to the Bol chief and is paying for all repairs, maintenance and salary

At the press conference vesterday Mahmudur said all such benefits and services are part of an agreement signed between the company and him prior to his assuming the Bol office.

He also distributed a computer printout of an agreement on plain white paper (not letterhead of the company) dated November 15, 2001 and signed between him and Shinepukur Ceramics where it stated that Shinepukur Ceramics owed Mahmudur Tk 1.50 crore.

a sum of Tk 45,00,000 because he had given the money to the company as interest free loans, an amount of Tk 75,00,000 in compensation since Mahmudur agreed that he will not exercise his option to take up shares of Shinepukur Ceramics and Tk 30,00,000 as an ex gratia payment.

One of the clauses of the agreegiving technical advice to Shinepukur

A press statement was also issued ment saying it owes similar amount of money in three different heads, which the company offered to pay in installments, and that the payments will be

At the press conference appeared in a section of press belonging to a particular person, Latifur

Rahman

He said the Bol had issued a letter suspecting some questionable trans-

interest and level playing fields to other He said there were a number of ministers like the commerce minister

who came from the private sector but there was no reports regarding conflicts of interest and level playing field about him. raising such questions did The Daily

private sector was not given a level playing field? And where do you (The Daily Star) see the conflict of interest?" Mahmudurasked. He added that Latifur Rahman as an industrialist borrows money from

board of the Bangladesh Bank? Isn't there a conflict of interest?" he asked. number of calls as one of the newspa-

one of them was issuing threats in his day afternoon. absence. Mahmudur said he has filed a general diary with Gulshan Police Station in this regard.

HSC results

FROM PAGE 1 minister at a simple ceremony, said

a press release of computer centre of education boards. Heads of different educational

institutions were asked to collect results from examination centres and examinees were requested to collect their results from respective examination centres or educational institutions, it added. Results of overseas centres

including Abu Dhabi, Doha, Jeddah Tripoli and Riyadh will be also published today. Results will be made available via internet at www.mofa.bd.org. Publication of results was

delayed by a week due to bureaucratic tangles.

Examinations under Dhaka, Chittagong, Jessore, Rajshahi, Commila, Sylhet, Barisal Boards, Madrassah Education Board and Technical and Vocational Education Board began on May 28.

"If anything happens to any of my family members, I will hold Motiur Rahman, Mahfuz Anam and the reporters responsible," the Bol executive chairman said.

He also said he pays tax on all his

Mahmudur also claimed he had paid an editor of a newspaper for his medical treatment. When pressed by iournalists to reveal the editor's name. the Bol chief executive refused to do

Question and Answer:

Question: Mr executive chairman, you said a section of the press has carried the story with malafide intention. But here we are talking about a government office whose executive chairman is signing office memos of a private company. What is your expla-

Answer: While severing ties with Shinepukur Ceramics, I signed an agreement under which I agreed to extend technical support to the ceramic company as and when required. So I am acting in that capacity, but I am not signing any office

Question: Can you please explain why you lobbied for visa from Italian Embassy for a gentleman who is an employer of Shinepukur and why you extended VIP facilities to him at the

Answer: We extend such (VIP) facilities to any investor, foreign or local. That's why we have a lounge there. But we did not lobby for visa for

Question: You said you have paid an editor of a newspaper when you were with Shinepukur Ceramics. Every time there is a press report against you, you come out with similar observations. You made similar comments when there was a report against you in the Daily Jugantor. Can you please explain if it has become your habit to make such allegations against newspapers and editors and can you please disclose the name of the editor?

Answer: No, I will not disclose the name of the editor. Question: Mr executive chairman.

can you please explain why such huge transactions, amounting to even Tk 25 lakh a month, are done in cash and not

Answer: Well, I was receiving money, as I said, as per agreed terms and conditions. Question: Are you contemplating

ing the newspapers? Answer: I have sought legal opinion and would act according to the

legal advice. Question: Mr executive chairman. can you please explain why you are accompanied to this press conference by so many Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal

(JCD) activists? Answer: I am a professional man and I have many well wishers in society. After they saw the reports in newspapers, they came to hear my version of the story. But they are not only from the JCD. I am sure there are also some from the Bangladesh Chattra League (BCL). Actually they

Question: Mr executive chairman, you said it was unethical on the part of the newspapers to have disclosed the location of your house. But how ethical is it to name an industrialist in this press conference who has nothing to do with the contents of the news

Answer: It came as part of the

Question: Mr executive chairman,

discussion

you have preferred to convene a press conference, instead of issuing a rejoinder or complaining to the press council, which would have been the normal response. Can you please explain why you decided to call the press conference leaving aside the other two options? Answer: What is the use of giving a rejoinder? We know how much the newspapers publish. They will carry a

part of it and state in their reply that they stand by their reports.

Robbers clean FROM PAGE 12

merce minister I find no logic behind scious soon after eating the it and this is totally unfair,' he told the drugged food.

reporters.

SS Enterprise (a leather bag shop) and Gahana (a silver ornaments shop) after cutting the iron grills. The matter came to light yesterday morning," said an executive of Amin Centre Traders Association while ports to enter the capital due to the talking to this correspondent yester-'The four men joined the firm only

The four then looted PC

Jewellers, Mayabi (a saree shop),

two months ago," said Association President Nurul Alam, but could not confirm the value of the loot, which was estimated by another source to be at least Tk 20 lakh. Deputy Commissioner (North) of

Chittagong Metropolitan Police Mia Luthfar Rahman Chowdhury also called it a 'big burglary', adding that an assessment of the damage was being made.

The drugged security men -Nurul Islam, Belayet Hossain, Nurul Imam. Shafique and Aminul Islam -were undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital, police said.

Push back

20, Hafez, 13, Hasina, 10, Fazlar, 9, and Rafiqul, 25 were pushed into Bangladesh Saturday

The Indians said they had been

Law and order

54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the High Court on April 17 declared such detentions ille-

September this year, 56 people were killed in police excesses and 61 others died in the custody.

2001. Mohima's suicide in Rajshahi

Dhaka shocked the nation. dismay of people.

Beethi's father-in-law Shafiullah

Altaf said Anwar used to torture Beethi for dowry. "I saw marks of injuries in her body when I visited

No case was filed with Dhanmondi Police Station till 8:30 last night. Police said they will file a case after receiving the inquest

tion again this year," he said, adding that the monopoly was also affect-

Saleh alleged that some ministry and Biman officials might have a stake in the deal that promotes such monopoly at passengers' cost. They might be getting lucrative packages from the Saudi Arabian Airlines for extending the restriction

He also demanded of the authorities to level the airfare for both ballotee and non-ballotee Hajj

Seeking anonymity a high official of the civil aviation and tourism ministry told The Daily Star that though the ministry was yet to take a decision on the number of carrier of Hajj passengers, it is most likely that the last year's restriction would

would earn an additional amount of Tk 3 crore for the restriction on airlines." he said.

OIC Summit

reiterate Bangladesh's call for greater unity, solidarity and cooperation among the OIC member

ng dynamism to the organisation. significance for Bangladesh in view

of its candidature for the post of OIC

Bangladesh will work closely

with fellow member countries in addressing all political, economic. trade, social and cultural issues of interest and concern, and charting a course for the future of the Muslim Bangladesh will call for a long-

ous, peaceful and progressive Muslim Ummah. Foreign Minister M Morshed

Khan yesterday left for Kuala Lumpur to attend the ministerial preparatory meeting of the OIC Summit conference. The preparatory meeting begins today in the Malaysian capital.

The commerce minister admitted

the prices of some essential perish-

able items like onion and cucumber

have soared and blamed the hike

mainly on the prolonged rain and the

bar to the essentials-laden trans-

Commonwealth Parliamentary

The commerce minister held a

series of meetings with the whole-

salers, retailers, refiners, Dhaka

City Corporation (DCC), govern-

ment officials and representatives of

private organisations to keep the

by DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain

Khoka, the commerce ministry

decided that price lists of the essen-

tial items would be put on display in

29 DCC-approved markets in the

first phase to deter manipulation of

In the second phase, 20 to 30

more DCC-approved markets will

display the price list and DCC

inspection teams and the market

committees would jointly implement

"But decisions taken earlier at

such meetings were not imple-

mented and price lists not updated.

retail prices.

the decision.

At such a meeting also attended

Association conference.

2 market FROM PAGE 12 out any reason 'but as the com-

arrest on suspicion under Section

Repression on women and children was also on the rise. Odhikar reports say 18,400 women were victims of human rights violation last year and 12,959 in

and Fahima's killing after rape in Grisly killings added to the

Thirteen-year-old Khandaker Shihab Ahmed was sliced to death in Motijheel in April this year, Rubayet Ahmed Bappi, 8, was dumped in the Buriganga after killing in August last year and 20month-old Marian Islam Noushin was killed by bullet in the lap of her father in Uttar Badda in May last

Hooliganism reached a new neight when Rumi in Chittagong, Simi in Dhaka and Rumi in Khulna were harried to commit suicide.

Abduction of businessmen for ransom also rose remarkably over the years. Police record shows 1,040 people were abducted in 2002 and 834 in the previous year. Police say 16 kidnaps in the last

75 days took place in Chittagong. Non-government statistics say more than 50 people were kidnapped there in the first six months of this year.

Abducted Chittagong magnate Jamal Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury could not be traced even after 78 days of his abduction.

Businessman Rezaur Rahman Zakir's body was recovered from Boalia on August 12, days after his Besides, UP chairman and

businessman Nasir Uddin alias

Rana was killed in Chittagong and BNP leader Moulana MA Kader was killed in Motijheel on October 17 last year. Even law-enforcers could not escape fatal armed attacks by criminals. Twenty-two policemen were killed on duty in the first six months of this year, including two detectives in a hotel room in

Malibagh on May 14, a constable on May 18 in old Dhaka and a subinspector at Agargaon on June 3. Police recorded 963 cases of

robbery in 2002, up from 758 in

AL deputies FROM PAGE 1

tions from Commonwealth coun-Hamid wrote a letter to CPA Secretary General Denis Marshall, apprising him of the 'government acts of harassment'. He alleged that securitymen con-

"If they found any objectionable substance, they could take the briefcase. It was not their job to ers," Hamid said. Faruque, an opposition whip,

ference and said the incident proved that there was no democracy in Bangladesh. He said three British lawmakers saw the whole incident. "Wasn't the

behaviour?" he asked. Sohel said they were kept waiting as if they were under 'spot arrest'. Hamid took a swipe at the government for 'widespread mismanagement at the CPA conference'

that included non-playing of the national anthem at its launch and hoisting of the national flags of some countries upside down.

ent at the press conference.

2001. The heists in Sonali Bank near the Sangsad Bhaban in

March last year and Pubali Bank in Rampura in June this year showed serious decline in law and order.

The government took several Odhikar says from January to steps, including Operation Clean Heart involving army and Operation Spider Web involving

the paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles, to change the scenario. It also established Speedy Trial Tribunals, formed the Rapid Action Team (RAT) of police and upgraded it into the Rapid Action

> The 85-day Operation Clean Heart that began on October 17 last year saw a drop in crimes but drew fire from opposition political parties and the civil society for 44 custodial deaths.

> During the drive, 11,032 people including 2,427 listed criminals were held and 1,994 firearms and 29,735 bullets seized.

> But the anti-outlaw Spider Web in the southeastern region launched on July 19 this year proved a failure reportedly due to faulty strategy, police betrayal and lack of intelligence hack-ups.

> None of the top criminals could be held and only a few firearms were recovered from 11 districts in Khulna region.

Top criminals also slipped through the dragnet of police-BDR-Ansar in another joint drive that began on May 13 last year. Paramilitary BDR and police

cracked down on city bus terminals in July this year to curb extortionists, but to little effect. The government on November 5 last year ordered deposition of licensed firearms by November 15

and extended the deadline later, but a huge number of the arms were not deposited. The nation smarted from the seizure of about 1,00,000 bullets and 100 kg explosives from Bogra

The government prepared a list of 23 top criminals on Dec 26 in 2001, but most of them are hiding, largely in India.

As the government has no extradition treaty with other countries except for Thailand, the criminals cannot be brought back. Of the 23, Abbas alias 'Killer Abbas', Freedom Sohel, Khorshed

alias Rasu, Kamal Pasha, Titon, Moshiur Rahman Kochi and Liakot were arrested, while Aladdin was

lynched by a mob.

Kamu FROM PAGE 12

were passing the area in a rickshaw at about 1:05pm Being intercepted, the pair fired twice at police. Police fired back injuring both, Later, locals helped

police arrest Kamu with a revolver

and his accomplice Uzzal when thev

loaded with six bullets and Uzzal with 18 bullets, sources said. They are undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, hospital sources said. . Kamu is an accused in 57 crimi-

nal cases including 17 for murders

while Uzzal has 19 cases agains

him with various police stations of Narayangani, police said Separate cases under the Arms Act were lodged against them with

Sabujbagh Police Station. In another drive on Saturday Kafrul police arrested Shah Alam and Mamun for their alleged involvement in the robbery of Tk 40 lakh from Sanwar Habib Sinha, an Acme Laboratories executive, at

Rasul Bari in Savar on July 29. Acting on a tip off, a police team raided Kazipara at 1:35pm and held the criminals. Police were after the pair since driver of Sinha's official microbus named the two criminals in his confessional statement.

Alam, a professional criminal, was driving the private car that intercepted Sinha's official microbus and he took the booty firing at Sinha and another staff, police said.

Grading system

The revisions agreed to by the syndicate replace the previous tenstage CU grading system with a new eight-stage grading system.

Under the revised system, the grades of A+, D and F are the same as they were in the previous system. Eighty per cent is an A+. 35 per cent to 39 per cent a D, and below 35 per cent is still an F. However, under the revised system, the grades of C- and C+

have been eliminated and replaced with a unified C grade, and the grade range from 40 per cent to 79 per cent has been divided into six stages in place of the previous eight. For instance, under the previous system, 75 per cent to 79 per cent was an A and 70 per cent to 74 per

cent was an A-. Under the revised

system. 70 per cent to 79 per cent is

an A and 60per cent to 69per cent is In addition to agreeing upon the revised grading system, the syndicate urged the respective examination committees of previous years to re-calculate the grades awarded to current students in previous examinations as per the newly revised

grading system. The examination committee has been asked to publish the new results based on the revised grading

system as early as possible. When contacted, the CU VC told The Daily Star that the decision came as per the recommendations from the different faculty deans. "We merely harmonised the recommendations of the different deans which were to revise the existing grading system, but not revive the

Teenaged girls

FROM PAGE 12

Police took them to their custody and kept them there yesterday. The girls told police they had converted to Islam Thursday since it

whom they married or where they

were staving since the incident. "As the girls are too young to be handed over to 'their husbands', we have decided to let the court decide whom the girls should be handed over to," the duty officer of

Dhanmondi police said yesterday.

an abduction case Thursday against five youths namely Johnny, Mamun, Murad, Parag and Taranga. Police arrested two youths Sajjad Hossain Liton and Saiful Haq

Parag from Hotel Noor at

Kathalbagan Tuesday. The two

Elephant

wildlife management and nature conservation wing has served legal notice on Rahman.

IUCN, the world union of conservation, describes the Asian elephants as critically endangered. The number of the elephants in the country's forests is between 196 and 227. In addition, around 100 migratory elephants occasionally cross the border and enter the

A recent conference on elephant in Dhaka acknowledged that as many as 170 people have been killed and 101 injured in attacks by elephants in the last five years. At least 22 elephants were poached during the same period.

Donors

In his written deliberation, Siddiqui observed, "Although all donors do not try to influence the policies of the government in a way detrimental to the interest of the recipient countries, policy reviews may be conducted considering the requirement of the LDCs and their local priorities.'

"It is also very important that planning, consultation and supervision costs should not be too high,' the deputy speaker said. He pronosed reconsideration of the rate of made to pay.

economic context." "Generalised perception of the donor agencies is not suitable for many of the areas which require

special attention. General policies cannot solve the problems in all cases. For example, withdrawal of subsidy from all sectors is not always beneficial. There are special sectors where subsidies should continue, considering the local needs," said Siddiqui. delegation, Chief Whip Khondaker

on conjoined twins

The biggest challenge facing pediatric neurosurgeons dividing 2year-old Egyptian twins joined at the head is separating the intricate connection of blood vessels in their

at Children's Medical Center Dallas, said Saturday, the first day of the complicated separation surgery.

into the vascular division," Thomas said. "This is where they're going to begin to expose the blood vessels by removing the bony plate and to begin the process of dividing the venous system that joins Ahmed and Mohamed."

safe return. Their parents were in

Dallas for the surgery. Doctors have spent more than a

As of late Saturday, the twins were

Hartal

to Moheshkhali in Cox's Bazar as the site for proposed deep seaport.

The hartal will start at 6:00am. The committee leaders in a press statement yesterday evening said infrastructure required to turn the port city into the commercial capital is yet to be developed and law and order downslide posed a threat to

normal life. They pointed to abduction of Chittagong magnate Jamal Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury and abduction and murder of millionaire business-

man Rezaur Rahman. They accused the ministers from Chittagong of failing to unite in lifting Chittagong out of the poor state of development.

listed in stable condition and the operation was continuing, the hospi-

The first step was to remove skin expanders inserted in the boys' heads about five months ago. The extra skin and tissue created by the expanders will cover the head

wounds. Much of Saturday morning was spent positioning the boys in a specially made bed that lets doctors swivel their bodies for easy access to the front and back of their heads,

While each boy has his own brain. they share an extensive attachment

of blood vessels, which neurosurgeons must separate "It is all in God's hands now," an uncle of the twins, Nasser

phone interview. "He is the one who can save their lives." The boys were born June 2, 2001. by Caesarean section to Sabah Abu el-Wafa and her husband. Ibrahim

Mohammed Ibrahim, said in a tele-

Water level

FROM PAGE 1

Mohammed Ibrahim.

loads as a precautionary measure and this has added to the traffic jam, he said. "Three ferries have already been

brought from the Mawa terminal to help the situation." he added. BIWTA (Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority) sources said the river is being dredged in the

shoal areas and they expect normal ferry services to be restored by tomorrow. Meanwhile, the problem is causing tension between ferry operators and road transport workers. At least 10 people were injured when the two groups clashed at

Deputy Commissioner of Manikganj Mohammad Abdul Bari and Superintendent of Police Mosharaf Hossain Bhuvan visited Paturia terminal yesterday.

Bol chief

bundles of posters and tried to post them on the wall. Some of the posters read: "Stop harassing honest, dynamic and progressive executive chairman of Bol Mahmudur Rahman -- DUET Jativabadi

their microbus now parked at the far end of the parking lot. They threw the posters inside and went pstairs Inside the VIP lounge, the situation turned even worse as journalists could not find seats because of

lounge of about 70. When Mahmudur Rahman was asked to explain the presence of the JCD men, he said: "Well, I am a professional and have relations with many. They have come as wellwishers. You won't be surprised if

quickly advised the Bol chief, "You don't need to reveal the name. You have every right to keep mum." As the reporter asked the outsider not to interfere, the situation turned chaotic as journalists also

JCD workers were heard passing rowdy comments about and threats to journalists. "Eh, the journalists know it all!"

one said. "A good beating up of the shalara (a derogatory remark) would straighten them up," another

Newly elected CPA conference

President Peter Milliken, speaker of

the Canadian House of Commons,

said the CPA provided an excellent

forum for lawmakers across the

CPA meet ends

development goals

The CPA general assembly adopted a five-year plan emphasising the need to fight corruption and develop post-conflict capacity building.

"The mission of the CPA is to

promote the advancement of parliamentary democracy by enhancing knowledge and understanding of democratic governance and by building an informed parliamentary community able to deepen the Commonwealth's democratic commitment and to further cooperation among its parliament and legislature," the strategic plan said.

Addressing a press briefing after the close of the conference, outgoing CPA conference President Jamir Uddin Sircar said delegates from the developed countries of the Commonwealth took note of their developing counterparts' pleas for greater market access and transfer of labourers from the densely populated countries to sparsely populated ones.

and his wife gave a civic reception to the CPA delegates at the South Plaza of the Sangsad Bhaban Saturday afternoon. The conference, first ever in

observers, spouses of lawmakers and officials, began amid boycott of the main opposition of the host country, for the first time in the CPA's

Money link

conference like that of the

Speaking at the press conference

journalists are becoming tools of vested quarters who use them for their personal gains. In his comments. Mahmudur did not deny any of the allegations brought

account payee cheques. The Daily Star on October 10 carried a report stating that the Bol executive chairman was taking a

The report said even after he left even house rents

of Mahmudur's two drivers.

It said that the company owed him

The distributed agreement also provided for his other benefits. ment also said Mahmudur will be

completed by December 31, 2004. Mahmudur said both the reports

Pointing to The Daily Star report, some questions regarding conflict of

"So why me? Besides, before

banks. "Then how can he sit on the He said his family had received a pers had disclosed location of his flat

FROM PAGE 12 three children through Birol border near the Kishoriganj Border Outpost

Hazera, 45, Khaleda, 25, Rajiya,

living at a place near New Delhi, sources in the BDR said.

Housewife's body found hanging at

her home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Body of a young housewife was

at Babupura slum in Nilkhet Dhanmondi police had to enter the house through the window, as the door was closed from inside to recover the body of Ismat Ara Beethi, 26, at 1:15pm. They sent the

husband, strangled her and hanged her body from the door hook," Altaf Hossain, Beethi's father said.

her last Thursday," he added.

Hajj pilgrims

ing travel agencies

nto this year," he said.

continue. Asked about the reason for

countries. Dhaka also calls for revitalisation of the OIC and bring-

was also present at the press con-

Hotel base bombed

seen leaving the hotel carrying suit-It was the second big car bombing in the capital in the past four days. A suicide bomber hit a police station in

Sadr City, the northeast Shiite Muslim

slum, on Thursday, killing at least 10

Mustafa said his facility was treating 32 wounded and that four were in critical condition. Saad Hamid, 41, a shopkeeper about a block from the scene, said police caught a car bomber at the same spot six weeks ago before he

concrete barrier, and hurled bricks to the third floor of nearby buildings. said the car approached the Baghdad Hotel on the wrong side of the street. "It

could detonate his explosive. Authorities then erected a blast wall at the end of the street. The force of yesterday's blast blew First Lieutenant Don Calderwood, a spokesman for the 1st Brigade, 22nd Infantry Battalion.

war in Iraq

Another witness, Sabah Ghulam, 37, was in a car right behind the one

the hotel ... A policeman shot at him four times, and then there was the explosion." He said the windows in his car were shattered. Windows were blown out of buildings as far as two blocks from the

Toyota Corolla, suddenly turned into

THREE US SOLDIERS HURT Another roadside bomb exploded outside a US base in Saddam

Attacks on occupying troops in Iraq have killed 94 soldiers since Washington declared major combat over on May 1. A military spokesman said there had been 28 attacks in the 24 hours to Saturday afternoon, wounding 11 soldiers. He said the from Asia and Africa also took part in usual daily number of attacks was the general discussion at the final around 12 to 20. plenary session.

"This is the part of the procedure that carries the most inherent risks," Dr. Jim Thomas, chief of critical care medicine

"This is where they're going to get

Relatives of the boys in the tiny village of el-Homr, near the southern Egyptian city of Qus, prayed for their

year planning the surgery to separate Ahmed and Mohamed Ibrahim. The operation is expected to take a team of 50 to 60 medical personnel anywhere from 18 to 90 hours to finish.

Paturia terminal on Saturday. Later. a magistrate with the help of local people brought the situation under

Some 10 people piled out of it with

Chhatra Dal" and others similarly eulogised the Bol chief and vilified the media. Some of the JCD men wanted to take the posters to the VIP lounge, some wanted to hang them outside. But then some 'senior' activists came and told them something. The JCD men immediately scuttled for

the presence of the JCD people. They even felt intimidated by the presence of the strangers who far outnumbered the journalists who occupied about 50 chairs in the VIP

you find even Chhatra League people here.' Newsmen asked for their identity, but they just avoided any direct

reply, most saying something in the

Commonwealth to share experience. The next conference will be held in Canada in August-September, 2004. The lawmakers of developing countries at the meet of the largest forum of parliamentarians expressed dissatisfaction at the present world power structure and alleged the developed world treated

them as colonial states.

Hamid Siddiqui.

Later in the day, the CPA executive committee had a brief meeting at the Cabinet Room of the Jatiya Sangsad with Milliken in the chair. Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka

On the last day of the confer-

ence, Sircar chaired both final

plenary and closing sessions,

addressed by, among others,

Milliken and Deputy Speaker Akhtar

Bangladesh, also attended by 200

whenever necessary. are all students and engineers. by Shinepukur Ceramics yesterday evening which referred to the agree

action against Holcim, one of the companies Latifur Rahman is involved Mahmudur said the newspaper raised

Star verify whether anyone from the

where his family stays. The callers had made several indecent comments and

If the price lists were hung at every market, half of the problems would not have been there," said a commerce ministry official, preferring

found hanging inside her residence Saturday.

> body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy. "Anwar Hossain, my daughter's

alleged that she committed sui-

FROM PAGE 12

restriction on airlines, he said the restriction is aimed at benefiting the national carrier Biman. "Biman

fined the lawmakers in the entrance from 10:00pm to 12:30am. The summit assumes special

country's image tarnished by such term vision for the OIC of a prosper-

AL leaders Syed Ashraful Islam, Ashim Kumar Ukil, Nuh Alam Lenin and BM Mojammel Huq were pres-

engines and dozens of Iraqi policemen rushed to the scene. Guests were

people, including the bomber. Earlier reports had said the hotel housed CIA headquarters but the agency denied that. At al-Kindi Hospital, Dr Ahmed

over at least two sections of the thick One witness, Sevan Armin, 33

was travelling at high speed. The guards at the gate fired on it. The car hit the concrete blast barrier and exploded." Armin had a slight head that exploded.

explosion. The suicide bomber's car had reached within 70 yards of the hotel, the apparent target.

The blast rattled windows in the

Palestine Hotel, home to many mem-

bers of the international press corps

covering the aftermath of the US-led

Hussein's hometown of Tikrit yesterday, wounding three soldiers, one seriously, an army spokesman said. The explosives were detonated outside a gate at the headquarters for Task Force Ironhorse as two US Humvee vehicles were passing, said

old class system of grading."

was a precondition to their marriage, said police. However, they declined to disclose names of the two young men

The two will be produced before the court today. After the two went missing, the father of one of the teenagers filed

confessed to knowing the matter from the very beginning, police said.

FROM PAGE 12

country.

FROM PAGE 12 assistance that the developing countries get from the donors.

interest that recipients of loans are He went on to add, "The project costs calculated by the of donor agencies might be suitable for developed countries, but such costs are often a burden for the LDCs having a totally different socio-

Head of Bangladesh's CPA Delwar Hossain, delegation member Abdul Mannan MP, Member of the British House of Lords, Lord Lea, and delegates from several other Commonwealth countries

Some irritated journalists

demanded that they leave the room

before start of the conference. At

this, Mahmudur Rahman asked

'outsiders' to leave and some of the

crowd went outside The rest stayed on and kept passing comments during the press The press conference was interrupted several times as journal-

ists protested interference by the

JCD men and outsiders brought in

Mahmudur Rahman said a particu-

lar editor had approached Beximco

for funds for treatment abroad

At one stage of the conference,

by Mahmudur Rahman.

When a Prothom Alo reporter asked him to name the editor, one of the outsiders reportedly from Beximco

The press conference over, which witnessed scorching questioning to the Bol chief, some of the

wanted expulsion of the outsiders.

line of "Err...we are just here."

On CPA delegates' overwhelmng recommendations for the UN reforms, CPA Secretary General Denis Marshall told reporters, "The CPA does not pass any resolution or place any demand. Rather the delegates expressed their views on

the UN, WTO and millennium devel-

opment goals."

92-year history.