certify projects before sending to Ecnec

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Secretaries will have to certify that all projects have been properly scrutinised before being sent to the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecnec) in order to weed out unnecessary and over-

"When a ministry is submitting a project proposal to Ecnec, it should attach a certificate from the secretary. The secretary will have to point out specifically that the project has been properly scrutinised and its economic viability reviewed," said Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman responding to a host of complaints from economic cadre officials at a discussion yesterday.

Secretaries now sign all project proposals before these are sent Ecnec. But they must also play the role of chief accounts officers of their ministries and certify the proposals, the minister said at his discussion with economic cadre

The officials complained that different pressure groups often force them to design and forward for approval unnecessary projects with inflated budgets. If they refuse to cooperate, the pressure groups threaten officials with transfers and harassment.

Saifur suggested them to ignore such pressures and inform him whenever they are threatened.

Economic cadre officials including those from the Planning Commission frankly discussed with him various problems of conceiving and implementing

The minister pointed out that most wastage took place in the roads and social infrastructure projects. Their financial viability is

by various departments under a ministry. While doing it, they keep a number of loopholes," Saifur noted. "For instance, in the roads department, the office concerned inflates project cost in connivance with contractors. The contractors are seen visiting the offices of the secretary and other high officials. Their cars are seen in front of the

The minister warned that stringent actions will be taken against officials found involved in such foul play.

He observed, "There are many projects, which seek funds double or even triple the actual cost. During the revision of a project, the cost multiplies progressively.

doctors and equipment, Saifur said describing his experiences of visiting such hospitals. " In one hospital, I saw operations being done using water kept in a bucket.

what should be there inside the building. " Community clinics are now sprawling in the villages. These are built in remote locations and patients need to be taken there through paddy fields or jute fields. Doctors will refuse to go there even if they are paid high salaries."

Mostak Ahmed Chhotu and Ruby --from the locality. "We have seized a mobile phone from Chhotu and

found the contact numbers of some

operatives of the gang who we suspect carried out the killing," Assistant

Kamrul Ahsan, said.

adjacent to the camp.

for three days.

targets

ommissioner (AC), Mirpur Zone,

Fakhruddin's brother-in-law

slam received the bodies from the

DMCH at 3:00pm on completion of

a graveyard Mirpur Section-10.

autopsy. The two were buried later at

AC Kamrul dismissed sugges-

tions that internal feuds among the

stranded Pakistanis led to the kill-

him during the Ramadan and threat-

ened him with death. Fakhruddin

Local businessmen will wear

black badges and mourn the deaths

Banking reforms

The reform initiatives for a decade in

the banking sector failed to reach

targets for multifaceted problems, said a Bangladesh Bank report yester-

But the central bank in its report

submitted to the parliamentary

standing committee on banking

process as the necessity for reforms

became more urgent in the context of economic globalisation and the lull in

economies of Southeast Asian coun-

report at length and decided to delib-

"I think trade union activities should be totally banned under the

banking reform programmes,'

committee Chairman Mushfiqur

measures claiming that good results

could already be seen as a result of the

Tropical cyclones

1970 and 1991, killed as many as 300,000

Though only 10 percent of the total

opical cyclones of the globe form in the

Bayof Bengal and the Arabian Sea, those

account for as high as 93 percent of the

global loss, meteorologists attending

The four-day seminar titled 'Tropi-

cal cyclones and storm surges in South Asia region' is organised by South Asian

Association for Regional Co-operation

(Saarc) Meteorological Research Centre

countries have assembled in this meet

with the prime aim to devise ways for

minimising damage from tropical cyclonesandstormsurgesinthisregion,

application of meteorology. The semi-nar also has an immediate objective to

arriveatimprovedcommontechniques

of short-, medium- and long-range

weather forecasts and warnings that

can assist in better planning.

ith particular emphasis on agricultural

Meteorologists from the South Asian

FROM PAGE 12

and 140,000 people.

eseminarsaid.

He backed the on-going reform

erate on trade union issues soon.

Rahman told newsmen later.

The committee discussed the

reforms stressed intensifying the

fail to reach

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Father, son shot dead

Fakhruddin's room.

"They demanded the key of the almirah without saying anything else," Fakhruddin's wife, Shahida

 $"As\,my\,hus band\,said\,there\,was\,no$ money with us at the moment, one youth punched him twice," Shahida once pointing at the head," she broke down in tears while narrating the incident to The Daily Star.

Fakhruddin collapsed on the ground. Two more youths, both brandishing firearms, entered the house and one of them grabbed

Fakhruddin's 18-year-old daughter, out as she cried out for help, Shahida

"Miraj rushed to her aid but one of the gangsters shot him twice in the chest and in the left arm while two more stood guard at the main door," the mother continued, strangling a

Miraj was a class nine student of Jannat Academy High School at

"While leaving, they asked about the whereabouts of my youngest son Siraj, who is seven years old, and threatened to kill him too," Shahida said, adding that they took away nothing from the house.

Fakhruddin had two sons and two daughters.

The gory episode ended in no more than three minutes and the gangsters, aged between 28 and 32, walked away right before the eyes of a

Locals rushed the father and the son to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where they died at 8:30am.

Afterwards, some 500 traders of Pallabi New Society Market, where Fakhruddin had two grocery stores, closed their shops and gathered before the victims house. Later, the traders and locals brought out a procession protesting the killings and demanding justice before laying

running the House properly as per the constitution and the rules of procedure," he added.

"If I want, I can put the TIB in the dock by introducing a law through the parliament. But as the custodian of the House, I don't want to take such legal action as will be unpleasant," he

The speaker questioned the transparency of TIB activities and said, "Practically they (TIB) don't know the meaning of transparency because TIB made the report on the basis of guesswork that does not reflect the reality.

In its report published on Thursday, the TIB said three last sessions of the Jatiya Sangsad were summoned only to meet constitutional obligations. The report also said

sittings, eating into taxpayers' money. "People who made such remarks are looking for an alternative. But what do they suggest? They are thinking in an undemocratic and autocratic way," the speaker observed.

Sircar pointed out that the TIB did not contact him or the chief whip or secretary of the parliament secretariat before publishing its report. "I want to know why they published such a report without discussing us. I am also requesting the TIB not to do so in future, "he said.

About the criticism of quorum crises and irrelevant discussions in parliament, Sircar said these were not major things for the running of the

Cricket

ensure that domestic calendar should in no way be interrupted because of any international event," said KZ Islam, former cricket board

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, another former president, however questioned the involvement of the

should be on providing a solid foundation for six divisions," he

Cricket Control Board Maqbul Hussein Dudhia cited world champions Australia as the prime exam-

today? Because the difference between their Test team and those playing in the first-class competition is minimum. That's why any first-class player can walk into the Test team, he said.

Libya to part

standing is that they did have a much further advanced programme," than previously thought.

activity and bars citizens from traveling to Libya on US passports without government permission Washington last month renewed this passport restriction for a year but said it would review the matter every three months.

Bush offered the prospect of US assistance for Libya in the future, saying: "As Libya becomes a more peaceful nation it can become a source of stability in Africa and the Middle East. Should Libya pursue internal reform, America will be ready to help its people to build a more free and prosperous country."

Delhi wants

FROM PAGE 1 the separatists and thanked Bhutan for launching the first military campaign in the Buddhist kingdom's modern history.

ciated the Bhutan king's proactive role and thinks of him as a genuine and trusted friend," a government official said after the meeting. "He would like Bangladesh to follow Bhutan's lead.

Bangladesh "should draw a lesson from the recent operations of the Royal Bhutan Army," said Manik Sarkar, the chief minister of the insurgency-wracked state of Tripura which borders that

"They should also conduct a similar kind of operation there," said Sarkar, who described Bangladesh as a "friendly country."

any anti-Indian militants to operate from its soil. However officials in New Delhi charge that rebels cross the porous border with Bangladesh to carry out hit-and-run strikes against troops in India's troubled

"Operatives of local 'Chand Group' demanded Tk 2 lakh from **Tender hitch**

FROM PAGE 1

But allegations have been raised against both the organisations of not carrying out the work properly. Even the secretary of the health ministry admitted the claim, meeting sources said.

Committee members and officials concerned were present at

Security agencies

FROM PAGE 1

the commerce minister said. Mahmud told reporters that the

draft of the proposed Consumer Protection Act had been completed and it would be placed before the cabinet soon.

Among others, Industries Minister Matiur Rahman Nizami, Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury and Shah Mohammed Abul Hossain, state minister for finance and planning ministry, were present at the meeting.

Journalist

constitution provides for freedom of expression subject to 'reasonable restriction', the press is constrained reportedly by national security legislation as well as sedition and criminal libel laws.

Referring to a June 2002report of the Paris-based Reporters sans frontières, (reporters without borders), it said Bangladesh had the highest incidence worldwide of violence against the press.

It added that the freedom of expression and freedom of the press are recognised throughout the world as essential foundations of a true democracy. It strongly urged the authorities to conduct full and impartial investigations into the attacks and threats on the journalists.

Referring to the death threat on seven journalists in Pirojpur district, the association said violent assaults and threatening language have no place in a civilised society. The threats were delivered in identical hand-written letters accompanied by pieces of white cloth apparently meant to represent death shrouds, it observed.

Noakhali carnage

Incensed villagers moved in for action after Noakhali lawmaker Mohammad Shahjahan, other influential people and Superintendent of Police Mejbahunnabi asked the landless people to unite grainst the robbers. $people \, to \, unite \, against \, the \, robbers.$

The villagers with police back-ups raced into the forest with sharp weapons, attacked the hideouts of robbers and beat them dead in scenes reminiscent of primeval

"It was not possible for only 400 policemen to launch any largescale operation against the robbers in an outlying area without participation of the locals," Mejbahunnabi said, trying to justify the gangster-cleansing

The situation careened out of control, the officer said adding: "If police had intervened, the death toll would have been much higher."

Barring a few incidents, the mob violence has now stopped as police on loudspeakers urged people to back out of the rampage and arrested over 81 people linking them to robbery until yesterday.

The locals linked the killing spree to a government plan to lease out about 12,000 acres of shoal for shrimp farms.

The allegation coincided with Monday's directive of the High Court that asked the government not to harass or evict for the next two weeks the landless people from

The court also challenged the legality of the government's seven-month-old decision to declare the shoals as a shrimp farming zone and asked the government to explain why the area will not be allotted to landless locals.

Noakhali Deputy Commissioner Mostafa Kamal Haider, who heads an interministerial committee, says, "We did not lease out the lands yet. Our committee will review the situation and send a set of recommendations to the ministries of land, environment and law. It will then decide on the next step.'

"After declaration of 11,955.59 acres of land as a shrimp farming zone in May, entrepreneurs were invited to apply for lease through open notification. According to the land allocation policy for shrimp cultivation, each lessee has to deposit a yearly fee of Tk 1,500 an acre. Later, the land ministry stayed its plan to lease out the land to the applicants because the environment ministry wanted to undertake a greening project there," the district administrator explains.

The forest department began planting trees on the shoals on the Meghna river in the 1970s and claims to have covered 3.8 lakh acres under its programme, but the Deputy Commissioner's Office put the figure at 67,000 acres.

The locals allege a set of dishonest employees misappropriated hefty funds for the greening programme and the whole area up for tree planting could not be

Employees of the forest depart ment kept many clearings in the forest with intent to use them as rice paddies, said Tajul Islam of violence-scarred South Char Clerk, adding: "They also catch and sell fish from canals and other waterbodies.'

The locals also accused the forest department of playing the vital role in deforesting the area.

Talking to The Daily Star, Jahangir Alam of Samir Hat, Nur Hossain of Urir Char, Hafiz Nurul Haq and Abdul Karim of South Char Clerk and Shahabuddin of Bangla Bazar detailed how the

formed a chain of crimes. With the trees maturing in the 1980s, the forest employees have been logging them with the help of boatmen, shepherds and shrimp

farm leaders, who graduated into professional bandits. As the sleazy trend continued, the first major clash took place between forest bandits and forest employees over the share of 'profit'. The bandits accused the employees of taking away the bulk of money from wood sale.

Amid a wave of clashes, the forest department filed a series of cases against bandits, who have since secreted themselves deep in the forest and set off parallel logging and natural resource thefts. Wanton violence went on,

killing a forest range officer and injuring a number of employees in the incidents that led to filing of over 2,000 cases against the robbers. Many robbers also suffered Land-grabbers, including local political leaders and businessmen,

homed in on deep-forest plots, trying to have links to the bandits, who controlled the forest to the Leaders of mainstream political parties, BNP, Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami, are also blamed for links with the bandits,

patronised by well-known busiess executives Some bandits, grouped as Azad Bahini, carried out large-scale illicit logging and encroachment in 1998-99 and Mofiz of Hatia led his

shrimp farm in 1999. They then sold the illegally occupied lands to different industrial groups who now have agrofishery projects and made shrimp hatcheries on 200 acres in Urir

In the name of agro-industry ventures, political leaders got plots from the bandits who encroached upon them before. The plots include 150 acres on Char Majid, 150 acres on Urir Char, 100 acres on Char Mouja, 45 acres on Char Clerk (owned by a local AL leader), 400 acres on Char Alauddin (owned by district Jamaat amir and Shibir leaders), 80 acres on Jalchera (owned by the local BNP MP) and l 15 acres in Nabagram.

It is also alleged that an official of the Prime Minister's Office, two senior policymakers and several lawmakers also grabbed forestlands to build the plots into shrimp farms.

They also paid the bandits tolls to make a hassle-free run of their business: they never attacked the shrimp farms, although three lakh people of the coastal region are iving in fear.

The shoals also play host to a large number of migrated landless farmers from Hatia, Sandwip, Bhola and Manpura and the bandits sold them lands.

Next comes terrorising of the locality by the robbers. Lawmaker Shahiahan, advisor to an interministerial committee on utilising the shoal lands, points out: "Roboers have so fai lled at least 200 people. They also raped more than

He says the law and order downslide prompted the villagers to hunt down the robbers and kill

On hearing the allegations, Divisional Forest Officer Ashit Ranjan Pal says: "When the greening programme began in the 1970s or when the criminals were deforesting the chars, I was not in Noakhali. I cannot exactly say what happened.'

"But I can say such sweeping allegations are baseless."

BoI survey

FROM PAGE 12

To correct the shortcoming, the MCCI advises the BoI to obtain information on both inflows and outflows, as well as the stock of FDI and private debts by administering appropriately designed questionnaires in its future surveys.

ance with those in the balance of payments (BoP) account prepared by the Bangladesh Bank. This is inevitable, because the bulk of the FDI and private debt is used for financing imports of capital equipment and machinery, the chamber

The BoI figures are also at vari-

debits in the current account of the BoP statement but, in absence of regular feedback from the Customs as well as National Board of Revenue (NBR), the corresponding credit entries are not adequately entered in the capital account."

The resulting discrepancy is reflected in the increase in errors and omissions of entry. As an example, the MCCI cites the errors and omissions in the BoP statement for FY02 which add up to as large as US\$356 million, almost equal to the over-all balance for that year (\$365 million).

can be resolved if the central bank gets regular feedbacks from the BoI or, better still, if the BoI, the BEPZA and the Bangladesh Bank jointly conduct such surveys in future, the Chamber News recommends. In its opinion, the increase in

FDI which the BoI survey report shows can be significant for at least First, the bulk of the increased FDI inflow, according to the report, has gone to the manufacturing

ents of FDI flows in the past were

the non-traded sectors (e.g. power,

from non-traded to traded sectors (mainly the export-oriented ones) is likely to facilitate export growth and also create new jobs, the cham-

Secondly, since 2001, when the world has been witnessing a steady decline in FDI and the prospect for FDI growth during the calendar year 2003 as predicted by the UNCTAD remains gloomy, the surge in FDI here is a welcome development, offering an optimistic picture of investors' confidence. However, the MCCI also points out that 58 percent of the 427 projects registered with the BoI and the BEPZA have neither reported any new injection of FDI nor reinvested

their earnings. Out of the 262 BoI-registered projects, only 100 projects (38 percent of the total) and of the 165 BEPZA-registered projects, only 79 (48 percent of the total) have reported FDI inflows. Overall, thus, only 42 percent of the registered projects have reported any FDI inflows, the Chamber News states.

Rejoinder

notice. But later the land ministry put all activities regarding leasing out of the land to the applicants on

According to the land allocation policy for shrimp cultivation, the lessee has to deposit Tk 1,500 for an acre every year as lease money. As no single application has been forwarded to the ministry for approval, no lease money has been realised or received in advance from any applicant.

We stand corrected.

PM

freedom fighters will be to materialise their dreams through building a happy, prosperous and peaceful country.

She asked all to work together like the times during the Liberation War to attain the objective of the freedom fighters by removing disputes and divisions.

"They are the central strength of our national unity," Khaleda, also chief patron and adviser of the Muktijoddha Central Command Council, told the function organised by the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, marking the Victory Day.

All present on the occasion stood in one-minute silence to pay respect to the martyred freedom fighters. Munajat was also offered

Khaleda presented the family members of the seven Bir Shrestha martyrs of the Liberation War and woman Freedom Fighter Bir Protik Taramon Bibi with goodwill gifts.

Attack on newsmen **Jubo Dal expels** 9 activists

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The committees of the Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal in Jhalakathi Friday expelled nine activists and cautioned another 15 for the attack on the journalists in the district on December 8.

Ironically, Mir Zia Uddin Mizan, president of district unit Jubo Dal and allegedly the kingpin of the attack and a close aide of the state minister of law, chaired the punishment meeting.

Sources said the Juba Dal committees of district, town and upazila at the organisational office took the decision after the district BNP office secretary submitted an inquiry report, examining 51 witnesses.

The journalists of Barisal division termed the act 'an eyewash' and will stage a sit-in demonstration in front of the National Press Club on December 27. Barisal Reporters Unity also called a convention at Barisal Shahid Minar on December 29.

Move to grab 200-yr old temple land foiled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Devotees and local people yesterday foiled an attempt to grab a 200-year-old temple land in the

Touhidul Hossain Chowdhury, a neighbouring influential who claimed himself to be a businessman and director of a private bank, allegedly masterminded the

around 2.30am vesterday. They dragged priest Gouranga Prasad Bhattachariya out, assaulted him, ransacked the temple and looted some cash.

Later, the gang erected an iron gate in front of the temple to block the common passageway in a bid to grab the two-katha-temple land in presence of Touhid Chowdhury, the locals alleged. An on-duty Ansar commander, AKM Sarwar, admitted that some policemen accompanied the gang. Kotwali Police Station how-

"Touhid Chowdhury bought a 8.5-katha land just behind the temple in 1996 and made several moves to grab the temple land as it was located in front of his twostoried 'Chowdhury Building'," said senior lawyer Rana Das Gupta, also a Hindu leader.

in October, 2001.

Witnesses said immediately after the attack on the temple, some local people and devotees put up a resistance, resulting in a series of pitched battles between the two sides. The goons later fled the scene. An Ansar member, Nurul Hakim, was slightly injured in the clash.

and devotees brought down the

While contacted, Touhid Chowdhury denied the charge of

Regional HR meet demands Saarc convention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day regional discussion on human rights violation in South Asia ended in Dhaka yesterday calling for adoption of a convention on human rights at the 12th Saarc summit in Islamabad next month for protecting such rights and putting an end to the 'culture of impunity.'

The participants also urged the Saarc leadership to form a task force at the summit to draft a South Asian charter of human rights that will also provide for a mechanism to handle complaints.

Human rights activists from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and host Bangladesh took part in the discussion on "Breaking the Chains of Impunity: Human Rights Intervention in South Asia", organised by Odhikar, a rights group. They expressed the view that

impunity to criminals persists in the region mainly due to governments' intentions to cling to power for long abusing state power. Absence of independent judiciary and virtually non-functioning parliaments are the other causes of impunity to human rights violations, they said.

Yesterday's discussion, split into two sessions, focused on impunity in cases of crimes committed by govern-ment security forces in South Asian countries. The persons in power consider themselves above law and abuse police and other forces for personal or political gains, it noted.

The discussants said although there are national human rights commissions in some South Asian countries, they can only make recommendations. These bodies should be given judicial powers to make them effective, some discussants felt.

"A human rights commission should not only receive complaints, investigate those and recommend actions, but should also take the matters before courts as a party", said Gopal Sivakothi Chintan of Nepal. Former law minister Abdul Matin

Attorney General AF Hassan Ariff said, "We cannot establish rule of law if

The morning session on 'Role of National Human Rights Institution in Farhad Mazhar in the chair. Zia Ahmed Kabir of Bangladesh placed reports on

Graft charge

DFP Syed Mahbubur Rahman was sent to the PMO on December 3 for approval. But it has not been placed before the prime minister due to unknown reasons.

They said Information Minister

Tariqul Islam and acting Information Secretary Nazmul

As per provision, the president will give his consent after the PM permits framing of charges. The DG of DFP has been

The summary is based on an inquiry committee report, which found the DG to have misappropriated about Tk 36 lakh through

ment) of the information ministry conducted the inquiry in August-September on allegations of corruption in purchase, use and sup-

through tender manipulation and irregularities in 2001-2002 and Bomb scare on

Biman flight

A Bangladesh Biman flight to Karachi scheduled to leave at 8:30

All passengers were disem-

barked and the aircraft was being searched till the filing of this report at 11:00pm. Sources said an anonymous caller phoned the control room and

said a bomb has been implanted in the aircraft, triggering the search. Early this month, another Biman flight made an emergency landing

gets threat from Kala Jahangir

men STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged member from notorious Kala Jahangir Group has been phoning up a top government official's house at Tejkunipara for a few days, saying the gang will visit

"The person making the calls identified himself as a member of Kala Jahangir group, but has not clarified his intention," said the government official, preferring not to be named. "Strangely, he remains silent if

anyone other than my wife Simul Chowdhury picks up the receiver,' he added. The official said, "When my wife

instant.

was that of Zawahri, bin Laden's right-hand man.

Jazeera and another Arabic satellite television station, Al Arabiya, have broadcast similar tapes in the past that the CIA later said bore the voices of bin Laden and Zawahri.

providing bases and help to US forces to fight Muslims should be ready for "judgment day.

According to the summary, the DG undertook production of four film documentaries and three video films without prior approval of the ministry and illegally obtained raw materials, causing

loss to the national exchequer. The DG also drained Tk 16.73 lakh in needless costs through tender manipulation and irregu-

He has been found involved in manipulation of tenders for supply of film roles and illegal requisition of films. The summary also states, the DFP made four documentaries -- "Jibon Jemon Jebhabe", "Tour-

ism", "Gonotontrer Uttaran" and

'Festival of Bangladesh", and three

video films -- "Esho Sundorer Pathey", "Shishu Apaharan Rodh"

and "Tomar Moto Bondhu Ke Achhey", but the investigators found those films were not made at all. Moreover, over Tk 18 lakh has been withdrawn against fake bills. It further says the DG, who is also convenor of the tender com-

lakh through tender manipulation

and irregularities in purchase of

various raw materials for making $films in 2002-2003 \, fiscal.$ It states that such activities of DFP DG Syed Mahbubur Rahman are punishable crimes under the Article 3 (B) and recurrence of corruption under Article 3 (D) of

Khaleda visits

campus over allegations of incongruity in the function schedules

The Samajtantrik Chhatra Front

and Progressive Students' Alliance

of RU will jointly form a human

chain wearing black badges in the

arrival. They alleged that the chancellor of the university and president was not invited to the programme, nor any former vice-chancellors,

lone 'professor emeritus' have been asked to attend the function. Two hundred and five teachers of DU in a statement yesterday condemned the invitation to prime minister to distribute gold medals to the outstanding students

Ruling BNP's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) will bring out a procession on the campus and hold a rally to wel-

3 Iraqi police

opened fire on a police patrol south of the oil-rich city of Kirkuk, killing three policemen and wounding two, said police Lieutenant Salam

Beg area, 55 miles south of Kirkuk city, in northeast Iraq, when US troops opened fire on them around midnight Friday, he said. There was no immediate com-

checkpoint on a road in the Sleiman

Aznar meanwhile flew in to a Spanish base in Diwaniya, 110 miles

south of Baghdad, for the first time to

the region since the US-led war on Iraq, from Madrid and via Kuwait. He was expected to lunch with troops before heading back to Spain

later in the day, a move to boost morale over the Christmas season, a government official said.

Secretaries asked to

not reviewed, leading to wastage. "Projects are mainly designed

ministry.

Hospitals are being built one after another. But there are no officials of different ministries.

The minister said project designers pay more attention to construction of buildings than

Police arrested two youths -

said. "The other intruder shot him

ings. "It may be a sequel either to business rivalry or non-payment of Rani, by the hair and dragged her extortion money. Many locals said the killings were pre-planned. "Minutes before the incident, they came to my shop and inquired about the house of 'salt trader Fakhruddin'," said a grocer

kept his shops closed for two days following the threat," a local businessman said while other businessmen present nodded in approval.

crowd of locals as none dared to challenge them.

siege to the police station.

TIB report FROM PAGE 12

said at a press briefing at his Jatiya Sangsad office yesterday.

quorum crises continued to dog the

president and renowned organiser.

oard in the affairs of each district. "The focus of the (cricket) board

Emphasising a strong domestic set-up, Zimbabwea-born Chief Executive Officer of Bangladesh

"Why is Australia so strong

(Details on page 13)

Washington bans most economic

"The Indian premier has appre-

Bangladesh denies permitting

infrastructure.

the meeting, which was presided over by Mashiur Rahman.

inter-ministerial committee would hold regular meetings to monitor market situation and take steps to tackle any adversity. Replying to a question, he said a

FROM PAGE 1

"These transactions enter as

This problem of discrepancy

sector, whereas the major recipi-

gas etc). This shift of FDI inflow

Our Reply:

city's predominantly Hindu area of Hazari Lane after clashes that left one injured.

land-grab move. Local people alleged that some 15 to 16 armed goons backed by a police patrol barged into the Jaikali Mandir at Hazari Lane at

ever refuted the allegation.

He said both the devotees and the inmates of Chowdhury Building have been using the common passageway and the erection of the gate was an attempt to gradually grab the 200year-old temple violating a court order that issued a status quo back

Afterwards, agitating people

attempting to grab the temple

Khosru said, "Human rights is guaran-

teed by our constitution and even the parliament has no right to enact any law that goes against fundamental human rights."

we fail to break the chains of impunity.

Combating Impunity and Justice for Victim' was held with columnist Awan of Pakistan, Gopal Sivakothi Chintan of Nepal, Buddhadeb Chowdhury of India and AH Monjurul

Alam Siddiqi recommended the summary and sent it for the PM's

massive irregularities. The joint secretary (develop-

The inquiry found that around Tk 36 lakh has been withdrawn against fake bills for four docu-

STAFF CORRESPONDENT last night was postponed on bomb scare just before its departure.

at Mumbai following a false bomb Top govt official

the place soon.

asks the man what he wants, he says the gang will soon visit our house and make its demand

X-mas alert FROM PAGE 12

The speaker said Arab nations

accused under articles 7 (1) (A), 3 (B) and (D) of the "Public Servant (Discipline and Appeal) Rules,

mittee, caused a loss of Tk 16.73

the Public Servant (Discipline and

Appeal) Rules, 1985.

Our correspondents from Rajshahi report that different students' and teachers' organisations will protest prime minister's arrival on the RU

and other irregularities.

RU Kajla gate area and will greet the PM with black flags upon her prominent educationists or the

instead of Chancellor and President Iajuddin Ahmed.

Zanganeh at Kirkuk Hospital. The policemen were manning a

ment from the US military.

come BNP chief Khaleda Zia.