the cause of the flame

Jamuna Group in an off-hand estimate claimed the fire gutted machines and goods worth more than Tk 100 crore. The group in a press release also prom-

ised to give compensation to the victims. Originated at simplex section-16 of the factory at about 10:30pm, the fire immediately engulfed the whole factory triggering panic among some 700 employees working at the night shift.

The factory was totally devastated as the fire raged for several hours burning down machines and piles of cotton and

"Suddenly I saw clouds of smoke covering the whole factory. Electricity went out immediately," described a 15year-old worker. "I heard yells of trapped workers and instructions to leave the factory."

The workers rushed towards the exits and found one of the two gates locked, said witnesses. Some of the workers lost their way to come out of the factory for darkness and smoke, they added.

The factory authorities in the press release claimed electricity went out automatically when the fire broke out while the workers alleged the mills officials switched off the powerline.

Several workers claimed they had managed to control the fire immediately as it broke out but the flame rose again from smouldering flammable goods like cottons, yarns and threads.

Seeing the flame and smoke, several thousand workers of the six other mills and factories located inside the same boundary rushed to rescue the trapped workers but could not near the burning

Hanif

FROM PAGE 20

while the city AL held a 'doa' mahfil at the party central office at Bangabandhu Avenue for early recovery of Hanif.

Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas yesterday visited the hospital and offered 'doa' for his recovery.

Meanwhile, AL Advisory Council member and former law maker Imamuddin Ahmed, seriously injured in a road accident, is fighting for life at Sikder Medical College Hospital in the city. He is in deep

Hasina visited him at the hospital yesterday.

Bush waives

FROM PAGE 20

with respect to Pakistan, the prohibition contained" in the Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programmes Appropriations Act, Bush told Rice, asking her to inform Congress about the

Following the September 11, 2001 terror attacks in the United States, Washington passed broad legislation waiving restrictions on US arms exports and military assistance to Pakistan and India.

tioned following nuclear tests in May 1998, and additional sanctions were levied against Pakistan when Musharraf launched the coup.

US-Pakistani ties have improved considerably since Musharraf made a key decision after the 2001 attacks to back Washington's ouster of Afgha-nistan's radical Taliban regime, which had supported the terror group al-Qaeda.

The United States regards Pakistan as a non-Nato ally, a designation given to close friends.

Reaching the spot at about 11:30pm, Gazipur Fire Service tried to douse the flame but it continued to spread.

Later, 12 more fire units from Savar, Tongi, Tejgaon, Kurmitola, Mirpur and the headquarters with 80 firefighters strengthened the force to bring the blaze undercontrol by 6:00am yesterday.

Shahidur Rahman, deputy assistant director of Gazipur Fire Service, told the press that the fire could have originated from the friction of machines or from electric short-circuit.

He however said the reason could be

ascertained after proper investigation. Firefighter Shamim Ahmed, 40, and police Havildar Sattar, 45, were injured while dousing the fire. They along with another injured factory worker were admitted to Gazipur Sadar Hospital.

Relatives thronged the hospital after the charred bodies were taken to the hospital morque. Later they received the

Hundreds of workers and locals were seen gathering at the hospital to find their relatives as some of the workers were missing, they claimed.

The high officials of Jamuna Group local political leaders and district police and administration officials visited the

Bird flu

FROM PAGE 20

enza -- which can be fatal to humans -- had been found in Sambawa Farm near Kaduna, 300km north of

But Auwalu Haruna, secretary of the Kano State poultry farmers' association, said that a similar infection, identified earlier as "fowl cholera", has been spreading through flocks further north for the past two weeks.

'The disease is spreading like wildfire," he told AFP.

"We have 20,000 new infections reported today, bringing the figure infected birds to 80,000. What worsens the situation is the farmers movement of infected poultry, in a frantic effort to minimise losses." he

Haruna and several market stall holders told AFP that once chickens are seen to be infected, farmers are killing them and rapidly dumping the on the market in an effort to beat any future quarantine and make a quick

"The announcement by the federal government of bird flu at Sambawa Farm shocked us, but we are just waiting for confirmation from the veterinary institute in Vom for our birds." Haruna said.

International experts from the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation were expected to arrive in Nigeria on Thursday and the agriculture ministry has promised a large-scale operation to quarantine farms and destroy sick

Outlaw killed

Molla dead on the spot. One pipe gun, four live gun cartridges and three used shells of bullets were recovered from the spot, the press

According to Rab, Molla was the acting regional leader of the party in charge of Rampal and Mongla upazilas of Bagerhat. He was an accused in 10 criminal cases filed with Rampal Police Station. Allegations of bomb attacks, extortion, abduction for rape and ransom were brought against him in those cases, the press release added.

Danish envoy

pledge to provide Bangladesh with financial help in agriculture, sanita-

out two messages from his prime minister and from world bodies for pacifying the protestors, who launched attacks on western missions in several countries.

One message was issued by Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen and the other jointly by the secretaries-general of UN, OIC

the drawings," the envoy quoted his prime minister's message.

Ambassador Niels Severin Munk presented another joint statement OIC and EU

these "offensive caricatures" is shared by all individuals and communities who recognise the sensitivity and responsibility in treating issues of special significance for the adherents of any particular faith, even by those who do not share the belief in question.

speech. But we understand the deep hurt and widespread indignation felt in the Muslim World. We

should respect the beliefs and

tenets of all religion," the statement

The spokespersons of the world communities, at the same time. condemned the deplorable attacks on diplomatic missions that have occurred in Damascus, Beirut and

property can only damage the

Meanwhile, strict security measures have been taken in and around the Royal Danish Embassy Dhaka, as Hijbut Tahrir Bangladesh, an Islamist organisation, has declared to lay a siege to

"The Danish people have been asked to move in the city with caution," police sources said

"About 80 policemen are guarding the Danish embassy while the plainclothes men are keeping strict vigilance surrounding the embassy as part of the security measures, said a police official

Besides, the elite Rab members are also patrolling the area.

Additional law enforcers will also be deployed at five entry points of diplomatic zone and other Danish instalments to avert any

also be checked while passing the area during the programme to ensure foolproof security of the Danish embassy

Blanket arrest

prison yesterday said they had not have enough space even to sit comfortably, let alone sleep. The number of toilets is too little and many of the inmates are falling ill due to the

drop of molasses as breakfast, and a small amount of rice and lentil soup as Abdul Quddus told The Daily Star, seven days he spent in the iail.

sleep in the jail sitting in a highly congested space," said Abdur Rahim, another victim. Prison department sources said as

per the rule they serve a chapati and some molasses as breakfast, and rice with lentil soup and fish or beef of vegetables as lunch and supper.

oods and fruits for the blanket-arrest Usually 10,000 detainees are kept n Dhaka Central Jail that has a capacity to house just 2,500 inmates. The am-packed situation aggravated

ate vesterday were seen sending

of the 14-party opposition combine. However, until vesterday evening about 1.900 people arrested under the police clampdown on the opposition ine-up had been released, including

Sabujbagh police arrested Abdur Rahim. a rickshaw-puller, and his wife Nargis Begum at their house before the opposition's long march programme. They alleged a police sub-inspector (SI), who had arrested them, exacted Tk 2,000 from them. threatening otherwise to implicate them in a case under the Narcotics Control Act. The SI finally showed them arrested on suspicion.

Rahim and Nargis who came out of ail vesterday said they had to spend Tk 3,500, collected by selling their daughter's silver ornaments, some furniture and utensils, to get the bail.

Halima Khatun, 52, looked the most weary among a few hundred relatives of the mass-arrest victims waiting at the prison gate yesterday. "I have searched for my son, Mohammad Hanif, everywhere and have not slept at all for seven days at a stretch until I came to know on Tuesday that Tejgaon police had him," she said in a feeble arrested

The police picked up Hanif, a rickshaw-puller from Muktagachha in Mymensingh, on February 1 from a tea-stall at Begunbari in the city, where he had come to visit his sister. His sister Azida Begum was also

vaiting at the jail gate with a one-yearold child in her lap. Azida said she had to spend Tk 2,000 borrowed on interest from a neighbour to bail out her

another by hand, Shahnaj Begum, wife of rickshaw-puller Belal Hossain has been waiting at the jail gate for the last four days.

The police arrested her husband, the lone earning member of the family, at Keranigani crossroads at about 11:00am on February 3. A court granted bail to her husband on February 6. but he had not been released until yesterday.

"Every day I come to the jail gate in the morning with the hope to see my husband released. But, every time return alone at 8:00pm." said Shahnai

Japan expects

election observers. Japan intends to continue such assistance, utilising our knowledge, experience and

technology," he said. "I believe that, for Bangladesh, mproving governance is one of the main pillars for policy efforts to achieve development and poverty reduction and also to promote trade

Bangladesh government in its efforts to improve governance. This includes assistance for its efforts to improve the capacity of law enforcement agencies, improve civil servants' training programmes, raising resident participation in local government and enhancing transparency as well as in capacity building efforts for implementation skills in

maior sectors. "In the Country Assistance Programme for Bangladesh that is scheduled to be revised in the near future, Japan intends to prioritise development of the private sector, together with transportation and power," the Japanese foreign minis-

As such Japan intends to continue assistance for improving the trade and investment environment. basic infrastructure development support as a means of invigorating investment and exports, as well as human resources development assistance to private sector companies, mentioned.

Japan believes that Saarc South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) can provide a framework for stability and development in the South Asian region. This is why it supported Saarc activities through the Japan-Saarc Special Fund since 1993m Aso said. This was the first and the only financial assistance from a country outside the Saarc region," he pointed out.

"Japan was among the first to recognise Bangladesh's sovereign status after its independence in 1972. Even prior to independence and continuing to the present, Japan has continuously provided assistance to Bangladesh for poverty reduction and economic development, among other purposes,"

(Full interview on page 11)

42,000 women unpaid

man and its members, but nobody helped me with a single paisa for my daughter's treatment. If I were given a little support, I could save my

daughter."
She said when diarrhoea affected her daughter in the morning of the last Eid-ul-Fitr, she sought money from her neighbours but everybody refused her. Disappointed, she ran to a local doctor, Mohan. He provided a bag of saline but refused to do anything more without money and said, "Females cannot be trusted." Without treatment her daughter

Halima had no money to arrange her daughter's burial. She did not even have enough money to buy a shroud. One of her neighbours lent her the money and helped her to arrange the funeral. "I could not save my child for

died at dawn after a day and a half.

money nor could I give her a proper burial, what sort of a mother I am, Halima lamented.

Her tragedy did not stop there. Now the lender. Dulaler Ma. is pressing to get her money back and threatening to break down Halima's newly built tin-shed house if she fails to pay immediately.

The story of Jyotsna, another

worker on the same team of road maintenance workers, is almost the same. Her seven-year old daughter, Rozina, had been suffering from typhoid for a couple of days. She was taken to the upazila health complex where the doctor advised regular treatment for six months straight. "I don't know how I will manage

the money to purchase costly medicines to save my child" Jyotsna said. "The government should pay our

dues or let us leave the job. What will I do? I have children. If I worked as a domestic worker in somebody's household rather than working for the government, the employer would understand my pain, he would support us," she said sobbing.
The RMA women work on the

roads from 8:00am to 2:00pm. They have no chance of doing anything else during the period. Amena Begum who came to the

Satroshia union administrative headquarters with her 6-year old son said, "I have taken goods of over Tk 2.500 on loan from a local shop. Now the arocer does not trust me and does not want to give me any more foodstuffs on loan since could not pay back the previous one yet. I try to avoid going to the shop. Other shop owners also do not trust us enough to give food on loan.'

suffering from fever for three days. Amena's another colleague Mina Begum said, "I leave home early in the morning while my children are still asleep. I can't look at their faces. I have no word to say to them if they

The road crews of Satroshia union said they met with the thana nirbahi officer (TNO) and the chairman of the union several times and sought their salaries. But the officials said they could not help the women if the government had not released the salary fund. They said their job was just to supervise the women's work

Two of the donors to the programme, CIDA and EC, have been pursuing the ministry concerned to release the fund to reduce the sufferings of these poor women workers. But their requests remain

Government Division Secretary Md KM Zahirul Islam on January 23, 2006, Counsellor and Head of Development Corporation of the Canadian High Commission Robert Beadle, and First Counsellor and Head of Operations of the EC Francoise Collet urged the government to release the fund.

"The situation is dire since the impoverished women have not been paid wages for over six months. Consequently, the women and their families are suffering as they are unable to afford basic rations, including food and medica supplies through the severe cold of this winter," the letter read.

"I have lost my daughter, my heart breaks. I have no food to eat. no cloth to wear, people do not trust us, what will I do," Halima posed a question to the government

Halima and other RMA crews appealed to the government for quick payment of their salaries so they can pay off their loans and feed their children like before and continue their iobs.

4 govt officials FROM PAGE 1

industries ministry

According to the FIR, the accused have caused "financial loss to the state in a bid to achieve personal gains by abusing their official power in connivance with one another"

They have been sued under Section 418/109 of the Penal Code and Section 5(2) of the Corruption Prevention Act 1947

Dhaka, Islamabad

Asian Free Trade Area) agreement so that it comes into effect on sched-

The foreign secretary said the issues of repatriation of stranded Pakistanis (so-called 'Biharis') and apportionment of assets of preindependent Bangladesh would also be taken up during the official talks between the prime minister and her Pakistan counterpart

Shaukat Aziz The official discussion between the two prime ministers scheduled to be held on February 13 would focus on expanding cooperation in trade, investment, agriculture, tourism, communications, educa-

tion and cultural sectors, he added The talks will be followed by signing of the three MoUs (Memorandum of Understanding) by Agriculture Research Council, Export Promotion Bureau and the Ministry of Tourism of the two coun-

Hemayetuddin said Khaleda Zia, current chairperson of Saarc. will also exchange views with Pakistani leaders on the implementation of the decisions taken at the 13th Saarc summit held in Dhaka in November last year

The prime minister will call on Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf and exchange views on bilateral, regional and international

issues of common concern. Replying to a question, Hemayetuddin said enhancing the volume of bilateral trade, which is in favour of Pakistan, will be a major focus of the talks. According to official statistics, in last fiscal year (2004-2005) Bangladesh imported Pakistan goods worth \$138.63 million and exported \$63 million.

When asked with what degree of importance Dhaka would raise the issue of repatriation of stranded Pakistanis, he said it would be taken up with the seriousness it demands. On apportionment of pre-

ndependence assets, Additional Secretary Touhid Hossain, who was present at the news briefing, said at least \$200 million remains in a Pakistani bank, apart from other

proposal," he added. Asked about cooperation in combating terrorism, he said Bangladesh's position in war on terror is well known to the world. The two sides will exchange views on that.

that during her stay. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will visit a relief camp of earthquake victims near Islamabad. Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat

Bangladesh premier

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, Health and Family Welfare Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain and Agriculture Minister MK Anwar will be on the 43-member delegation that will accompany the prime minister.

Besides, a 32-member business delegation drawn from leading private sector industries will go with

The prime minister will return

Nazmul said the multinationals cannot patent their formulas in Rangladesh due to the waiver given to the LDCs under the WTO Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). He blamed the local patent officials for their ignorance of the consequences and impacts of patent rights and the latest developments in the TRIPS.

He demanded an immediate executive order to stop patenting any pharmaceutical formula.

But, a senior official at the patent and trademarks office said they have issued patents for the pharmaceutical formulas as per the law, and there is nothing unusual. On average, he said, the patent office issues 300 patents for formulas and products a year and 90 percent of them

President SM Shafiuzzaman said, ing Bangladesh would be able to manufacture and export patented drugs until 2016." He said the government has failed to reap the full benefits of the

Patent and Trademarks Law of 1911 due mainly to bureaucratic tangles. and lack of awareness and partici-

be made in the law.

EC ignores law

less than two lakh voters while 191 constituencies have over two lakh voters each. The number of voters in the rest 42 constituencies ranges between three lakh to six lakh plus.

Due to wide discrepancies between the constituencies in terms of population, the ceiling of TK 5 lakh on election expenditure seem unreasonable as all candidates irrespective of sizes of the constituencies must abide by the same upper limit of expenses, electoral experts observed.

They gave the example of neighbouring India where the ceiling on election expenditure varies from constituency to constituency. Officials at the EC Secretariat

tive for demarcation, as they did not

yet receive any instruction from the They said demarcation of the constituencies is a huge task and may take at least a year to be completed. Moreover, the commission has to face political pressures and

Because of a large number of appeals and objections, it took over a year for the EC to complete the

The constituencies across the country have varying sizes of enfranchised population. For example, the number of voters in Dhaka-1 and -2 has been less than 2 lakh while that is about 5 lakh in Dhaka-4 and over 6 lakh in Dhaka-5.

have less than two lakh voters while Mymensingh-4 has about 4 lakh. Gazipur-3 has 1.5 lakh voters while Gazipur-2 has 5.5 lakh

RU Prof murder FROM PAGE 20

the masterminds of the killing.

against Shalehi, also a master's student at geology and mining department, due to political pressures, sources said. The police employed forces to

students' movement protesting the murder, but he was not seen any-

where on the campus yesterday. Shibir gathered over a thousand workers, mostly outsiders, on the campus and paraded in a procession and held a rally with Rokon Uddin, city unit general secretary, in

Shibir's image. "Journalists are trying to turn the RU into a volatile campus publishing false reports." RU unit Shibir Secretary Noor Muhammad called upon newspersons to refrain from hatch-

Shibir leaders at a press conference at the RU Cafeteria claimed Shalehi was outside Rajshahi during the murder.

They said Jahangir is the organising secretary of ward unit Jubo League and his statement was Asked how Jahangir, an SSC

PM condemns

world and offended the people of other faiths. "We are firmly confident in free anybody's feelings, belief, dignity, legitimate rights and reputation, Khaleda observed in the statement. "We believe that limits of free

FROM PAGE 1

violated through publications of cartoons," said the prime minister. The prime minister said when the present world is passing through a vulnerable situation to keep peace and friendship intact, such instigation is very undesirable and sorrowful. It will only contribute to deterioration of

dom and responsibility has been

"So, we expect regret and apology immediately from the appropriate level for this act," she said in the Khaleda further said Dhaka is

also sympathetic to the international protests against this communal "But we don't support any ill

She made a clarion call to the people of Bangladesh to uphold the country's reputation and national image in the present situation.

the capital and elsewhere in the

President lajudin Ahmed, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina, in separate messages, said the supreme sacrifice of Hazarat Imam Hossain (RA) in Karbala teaches us to search truth and establish justice in every sphere

Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh

Ahmadiyyas

any attack on the Ahmadiyyas. Fanatics under the banner of International Khatme Nabuwat Movement, Bangladesh (IKNMB) have been holding rallies, making announcements through loudspeakers and distributing leaflets in the area as part of their campaign to motivate people, especially the madrasa teachers and students, to

IKNMB Chairman Mufti Noor Hossain Noorani announced the

President of Dhanikhola Ahmaddiyas, lodged a general diary (GD) with Trishal Police Station on February 28 seeking security of their life and property.

had been living there in peace but

Khatme Nabuwat's programme. Helal Uddin, a farmer of the village

A Khatme Nabuwat committee formed with Abdul Kader Khan Kanhori and Principal Maulana Nazrul Islam as its president and secretary, who are also local leaders of Islami Oikya Jote, yesterday brought out a truck procession to drum up support for today's orogramme

Mymensingh Superintendent (SP) of Police Abdullah Baki, who along with the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Trishal Police Station Abdul Latif Bhuiyan visited the area several times in last couple of days. assured the Dhanikhola people of

Police officials also held discussions with Khatme Nabuwat leaders to persuade them to maintain

Demanding full security for the Ahmadiyyas in Dhanikhola, eminent citizens of the district met the SP yesterday morning.

The Ahmaddiyyas have been living at the village on the bank of Sutia river since 1964 and the mosque was built in 1965.

Iran dismisses

nuclear weapons but instead nuclear technology and science. Science cannot be destroyed by Western weapons," Mashaee said in Farsi destroyed by Western through an Iranian interpreter. The Iranian nuclear crisis esca-

lated last week when the International

Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) voted

to report the Islamic republic to the

United Nations Security Council over its nuclear programme. Iran said on Monday that largescale uranium enrichment work would begin in "due course" in response to

Mashaee described Rumsfeld as

"Dracula" and said threats of military action against Iran "are all lies and mere tough words.' shown that "all of Iran's

the IAEA decision.

peaceful means. The top Iranian official has travelled to Indonesia for meetings with Vice President Yusuf Kalla, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and others although the issues being

Kalla said Indonesia opposed any

military action against Íran based

simply on suspicion that Tehran was

Jakarta abstained during last week's vote by IAEA board members in Vienna to report Iran to the UN Security Council.

Earlier China said it welcomed nuclear talks between Iran and Russia planned for next week to defuse a

crisis over Tehran's atomic "We hope that this Russian invitation to Iran to hold talks on the 16th about participating in an international uranium enrichment centre will help break, or encourage a break, in the current stalemate over the Iranian nuclear issue," Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan told a regular

The deputy head of Iran's National Security Council would lead Tehran's delegation to the talks in Moscow next week. Russia's Itar-Tass news agency reported earlier.

Sunny, Awal

younger brother of Abdur Rahman. Abdul Awal is a member of JMB

Sohel Ahmed, 35, senior assistant udge of Nalchhiti upazila, and Jagannath Pandey, 38, senior assistant judge of the Sadar upazila, died and three people were wounded when the judges in Jhalakathi on November

14 last year. Police caught Mamun immediately

Substances Act was transferred to the Barisal court, Judge Abdul Matin fixed six consecutive dates for framing the charges. But until vesterday Sunny and Awal could not be produced

around the court premises. At first, the law enforcers did not allow journalists except those from BTV and a newly-launched TV chan-

each of the four detained accused-Sunny, Awal, Mamun and Sultan--for

their versions.

had made earlier to a magistrate were true. But Sultan Khan denied the allegation.
The judge convicted Mamun of mprisonment under section three of

Sunny, Awal and Mamun instantly

confessed to committing the crime.

They also stated the statements they

ake effect at the same time. Sunny and Awal were declared guilty for aiding and abetting the bombing and sentenced each to 40 years in prison.

The court framed charges against Sultan and the four on the run and fixed February 14 as the date for next

33 killed

FROM PAGE 20 bilising the rule of President Pervez Musharraf and his alliance with

Washington in the US-led war on In neighbouring Afghanistan, at

the Ashura commemoration in the Ashura marks the martyrdom of mam Hussain, a grandson of the Prophet Mohammad. Tensions tend to rise during the month of Moharram, the 10-day period end14, Mamun, who was undergoing treatment at Barisal Medical College Hospital for the injuries sustained in

Sultan Hossain, driver of the microbus, filed two cases, one for murder and the other under Explosive Substances Act, accusing Mamun. After investigation, Sohrab Hossain, officer-in-charge of Jhalakthi Police Station, submitted a charge shee

SUNNYUNBENT After the court order, the JMB military chief said they have been dealt out the sentences for trying to establish the rule of Allah. "We are not sorry for what we have done. We've dedicated our

faction over the court's order. "I hope the other accused too will make an admission of guilt as did Sunny. Awal and Mamun," she said in her reaction to the verdict.

what they'd been doing was wrong," she said, bursting into tears. Thanking the government for giving her a job in a bank, Rita

Hasina vows

they were demonstrating for uninter-rupted supply of electricity at Kansat in Chapai-nwabganj. This government has so far 'killed' 26,000 people, half of them opposition leaders, workers and supporters, she alleged.

During the previous AL rule, prices of essentials were stable and within the reach of general people, she said 'We made the country food surplus but the alliance government has turned the country into a food deficit one," she

district AL General Secretary Mohammad Abdullah gave them money for blasting bombs, Hasina said the government is forcibly taking such statements to mislead the nation. She urged the people to unite for a movement to topple the alliance

Quader, Syed Ashraful Islam, Mukul Bose, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, BM

tion, improving governance and some other sectors At the briefing, the diplomat read

foreign and security policy of the European Union. "In a press statement issued few days ago, the Danish daily Jyllandsposten apologised to the Muslim world. The newspaper stressed that it was not their intention to be offensive. The newspaper apologises for the indisputable offence to many Muslims caused by

It states that the anguish in the Muslim World at the publication of

"We fully uphold the right of free

believe freedom of press entails responsibility and discretion and

elsewhere. "Aggression against life and image of a peaceful Islam," the joint

the embassy today.

untoward incident, police said. They (police) said vehicles will

Aso noted

About bilateral FTA with

The foreign secretary informed

Aziz will host a reception and ban-

home on the night of Feb 14. WTO waiver

new drug of its manufacturer during the period in case of the LDCs.

On the other hand, Bap 'As per the TRIPS, the LDCs includ-

TRIPS, as it is yet to revise the

objections while fixing boundaries of a constituency. demarcation in 1995

Similarly, Mymensingh-1 and -3

Dr Mia Muhammad Mohiuddin as Police on February 7 arrested Mohiuddin but could not take action

keep watch on Shalehi hours after Taher's body was found on February 3, but they were seen yesterday looking for his location. The Shibir leader was leading

the chair Rokon termed Shalehi a "holy person", saying it is the media that published his name to tarnish

ing conspiracy against Shalehi. "If they do otherwise, we know how to teach them." he threatened.

examinee, can be a leader of the Awami League's youth front, they said it is none of their concerns.

expression of opinion and thought and freedom of press. But it is a responsibility to remain aware so that this freedom doesn't curtail

attempt of destroying peace, harmony and stability anywhere, taking advantage of this situation," the prime minister noted.

Ashura FROM PAGE 1

Television and private TV channels will air special programmes, while national dailies will publish articles highlighting the significance of the

programme on February 24 at a press conference at Abbasi Alia Madrasa in Trishal to capture Dhanikhola Ahmadivya mosque after the Jum'a prayers today. Advocate Monjur Anam

Amid growing apprehension, some families have shifted their members to other places, said Humayun Kabir, an Ahmadiyya

The people of Dhanikhola village they are now panic-gripped due to

warned that a referral to the council would bring "an end to diplomacy" as well as tough international inspec-

Senior Iranian officials have

Mailish-e-Shura (highest policymaking body) and Abdur Rahman's son-in-law.

after the blast and seized an unexploded bomb strapped to his thigh. After the case filed under Explosive

before the court The two JMB leaders were brought to the tribunal at 9:15am amid tight security. Members of police, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and Armed Police Battalion stood guard on and

nel. Later they were let in following intervention by the judge and the On taking seat, Judge Abdul Matin read out the allegations brought against the militants. He then asked

carrying out a bomb attack on the two judges and awarded rigorous life Explosive Substances Act and another 10 years in prison under section four. Both the sentences will

After the bombing on November

least five people were killed and 27 wounded when clashes broke out hetween Shias and Sunnis during western town of Herat.

government to get rid of 'misrule, all rts of torture and repression'.

Mozammel Haque, Asim Kumar Ukil and Abdul Mannan Khan.

and high representative for common

issued on February 7 by the UN,

unbearable crams, they added. "I would receive a chapati and a lunch and supper," mass-arrest victim adding the menu was the same for the

"For the last eight days I had to

Many relatives crowding at the jail

rurther with the arrival of 2,500 more arrestees ahead of the February 5 rally

260 released yesterday.

With a baby in her lap and holding

and investment.' Aso said Japan intends to assist

ter said.

Pakistan, Hemayetuddin said if the Pakistani side raises it, it would be discussed. "We are now studying the pros and cons of the Pakistani

quet dinner on February 13 and

property rights on June 27, 2002 defined the period up to 2016 as a transitional one, during which the LDCs would not be needed to provide patent protection for pharmaceutical products. It also waived the exclusive marketing right of any

are held by the multinationals.

ask for food waking up in the morn

said they have not taken any initia-

In a recent letter to Local

President Musharraf will host a lunch on Feb 14 in honour of the

FROM PAGE 1 The WTO council on intellectual

pation of the revision-committee The high-level committee comprising representatives from the Bapi and the industries, commerce and law ministries sat several times but failed to finalise the changes to

nuclear actions and activity are for

attempting to acquire nuclear weap-

the blast, gave confessional statement to a magistrate the same day.

ives to working for Islam," he told the REACTIONS Rita Pandey Pallabi, the widow of Jagannath Pandey, expressed satis-

requested the police to be prompt in submitting a charge sheet in the

Hasina said the alliance government

has killed 10 'innocent' farmers while

The AL chief alleged this government is using militants for political On militant kingpins Sani and Awal's statement that Gopalganj

Senior AL leaders present on the occasion included Tofail Ahmed, Advocate Abdul Hamid, Obaidul

"I would not have to be in white [dress] had they realised earlier that

The opposition leader said the present rulers have increased prices essentials, seeds, electricity, diese and many other things only for their financial gains.