Rahman, Bangla Bhai

Rahman, Ataur Rahman Sunny,

The interrogators are yet to bring Bangla Bhai face to face with Rahman and other top JMB leaders. They will do this later to find out the missing links in the information gathered from the militant kingpins.

The sources however declined to disclose the information given by Bangla Bhai for the sake of investi-

General of Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) MA Aziz Sarkar said last night they are just guizzing Bangla Bhai to gather information which will help Rab launch operation to arrest the absconding JMB members.

Our Barisal correspondent reports: Senior ASP of CID (Criminal Investigation Department) Munshi Atiqur Rahman, also investigation officer (IO) of the November 14 killings, submitted charge sheet to a first class magistrate's court in Jhalakathi yesterday.

JMB leaders are its military commander Ataur Rahman Sunny Amiad alias Khaled Saifullah, Abdul Awal, assassin Iftekhar Hasan Al Mamun alias Shihab. Shakil alias Mollah Omar, Sultan Hossain Khan Asadul alias Arif of Barguna.

Asadul alias Arif were tried in absentia in the bomb blast case filed in this connection while Mollah Omar was killed during a skirmish with Rab in Comilla on March 13.

Assistant Judges Sohel Ahmed and Jagannath Pandey were bombed to death in a suicide attack

The prime minister returned home

around 12:15am yesterday ending

good as we got commitment from all

sections of the Indian political

leaders to strengthen bilateral ties,

Indian media also gave wide cover-

age to the visit and appreciated

Dhaka's measures taken against

The foreign secretary said the

two prime ministers discussed all

the bilateral issues freely and

frankly during the visit. Admitting

that nothing specific came out of the

visit, he said this type of summit

level discussions only give policy

both sides expressed concerns

which will be reduced through

discussions. A home secretary level

meeting will be held next month that

will discuss the issue in detail.

Hemayetuddin told the press con-

the issue and emphasised reducing

Commission meeting will discuss

The next Joint Economic

The prevailing tension along the

On a question of security, he said

Hemayetuddin claimed that the

"I think the visit was extremely

the three-day visit.

he added.

militancy.

in Jhalakathi on their way to office in

About Molla Omar, the IO said evidence proved his role in the crimes and now it is up to the court to exempt him from charges since he is already dead.

The charge sheet was based mainly on the confessional statements of assassin Mamun, Awal and Sunny, evewitnesses and circumstantial evidence, he said.

Names of Meraz. Mehedi. Talha Mahmud may be included in a supplementary charge sheet as their real names and addresses and whereabouts are yet to be confirmed, he added.

During investigation, the IO recorded statements of 52 prosecution witnesses including Pallabi Pandey, widow of judge Jagonnath Pandey, Sultan Hossain, driver of the blown up microbus, Mannan and Badsha, injured in the blast.

Earlier, a speedy trial tribunal in Barisal awarded 40 years' rigorous imprisonment to Mamun. Bangla Bhai, Abdur Rahman, Awal, Sani, Molla Omar and Amiad in the bomb

Our Sirajganj correspondent adds: Detective police arrested two suspected JMB members in Charia Uzir village of Raiganj upazila in the district on Wednesday night.

The arrestees are Abdul Matin 25, of Gouripur village in Mymensingh and Tarigul Islam, 27 of Charia Uzir village.

countries, Hemayetuddin added. The commerce ministers of both the countries have been asked to take up the issue seriously, he said. "They (Indians) did not hide that the huge trade gap does not serve their interest. So they underscored the

The foreign secretary also said assurances were also given for removing tariff and non-tariff barriers to Bangladeshi goods entering the Indian market and not taking any steps to divert waters from common rivers which might create negative impact on the ecology of Bangladesh.

In a joint statement released Singh had reaffirmed their committhe security, trade and water shar-

They agreed that meetings of the hilateral institutional mechanism such as the Joint Economic Commission, Joint Boundary Working Groups, Joint Rivers Commission and the home secretary level talks, will be held more frequently and their outcomes will be monitored by the political leaderships on a continuous basis, the statement says.

JS body asks Desa

"The situation (in Desa) has not improved. But the officials have been provided with incentive bonus of Tk 10 crore in 10 years until 2001 through different irregularities," Pac Chairman Harun Al Rashid told reporters emerging from the meeting to discuss a performance audit report on Desa's activities, held at the Sangsad Bhaban.

In the face of severe criticism from the lawmakers, Desa Chairman Tawhidul Islam expressed his helplessness in taking actions against the meter readers, who are allegedly making cores of taka through gross irregu-

The House body asked Desa 20 to 30 years and indulging in corruption," the committee chairman said echoing the views of its

The Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in its audit report put forth different kinds of irregularities and financial corrup-

It detected irregularities in the process of providing incentive bonus. Desa has failed to achieve the targets of slashing systems losses, collection of revenue and updating its ledgers. But its officials provided wrong information to have

amounting to Tk 10.05 crore. The parliamentary body members blasted Desa authorities for Akbar

Committee Chairman Golam Mohammad Siraj said, "The parliamentary body is a part of the Jatiya Sangsad and it has jurisdiction to see whether any irregularities are taking place in the ministry's activi-

Members of the committee supported the chairman while rejecting outright the minister's comment. Taking a lot of flak from the lawmakers, Akbar Hossain later expressed regret for his words, meeting sources said.

He however claimed there has been nothing wrong in the process of purchasing the ship. The lawmakers then questioned why the project proposals had been changed twice.

The committee at its meeting on March 8 blasted the shipping minister for a "mysterious" increase in the cost of building an ocean-going

It described as "mysterious and dubious" the 43 percent increase in the cost over the first project pro-

The overall price of the ship at first was fixed at Tk 91 crore but the ministry raised the figure to Tk 98 crore in the second to Tk 130 crore in the third tender.

The parliamentary body yesterday asked the ministry not to exceed Tk 100 crore to purchase the ship and float international tender for it

"Aboard of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation has concluded that purchasing the ship at a cost over Tk 100 crore will not be financially viable," the committee chairman said at the meeting.

Ruling BNP lawmaker and committee member Abul Hossain Khan said the ministry must maintain transparency in making the purchase.

As the shipping minister claimed that his ministry has all along been keeping the purchase process transparent, the committee asserted that no one but the shipping minister will be responsible if any financial irregularity takes places in the process.

at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, Akbar Hossain told reporters that the ministry will purchase two shipsone new and one old--through open tender. About the ministry's initiative to

privatise the New Mooring container terminal in the face of fierce opposition from the Chittagong City Corporation mayor, the committee chairman said they hope the mayor will reconsider his stance He said the mayor had com-

mented that a Mafia gang will capture the terminal if it is privatised. The terminal is now under the grip of Mafia. We hope the situation will change after privatisation," he said.

"Committee member and Awami League lawmaker Fazle Karim Chowdhury has been asked to communicate with the mayor and request him to change his position the committee chairman said

Shanta

FROM PAGE 1

High Court and secured anticipatory

March 12.

The Daily Star correspondent esterday visited 79/1 Kalyanpur, the address used by Mohammad Firoz Mia in his complaint to the CMM Court, but found nobody by that name. Firoz, in his complaint alleged that Shanta and her husband entered his house at 79/1 Kalvannur on March 10 and

Mohammad Ismail, who claimed to be the owner of the plot housing several shops and factories, confirmed that he had no tenant by the name of Firoz Mia.

Nurul Amin, secretary of the local kitchen market cooperative, meantime said the holding number of the plot is fictitious. "The plot is on khas land and its occupiers have created the holding number themselves--it was not issued by the Dhaka City

officer often goes there to meet owner Ismail. Ismail. however. said the police officer is his relative.

At 1/5 Satmasjid Road, the address used by Daud Mia in his complaint, this correspondent found a businessman named Daud Ahmed Chowdhury who denied having any knowledge of the case. "I am a simple businessman and do not know anything about it," he said. Checking every business house

in the four-storey building at the address, including eight shops on the ground floor, no one was found named Daud Mia who accused Shanta and her husband of extortion, alleging that the couple demanded Tk 100,000 and extorted Tk 20,000 from him on March 11.

Barrister Amirul Islam, counsel for Shanta and her husband, yesterday said the police advised to file the false cases in an act of vengeance because the couple had filed cases against two deputy commissioners

Target of JMB attacks

'It remains unclear whether JMB, despite its recent setbacks, retains the ability to launch new attacks" the public announcement said.

The US Embassy advised all Americans in or travelling to Bangladesh to take extra care and precaution while going out in public and to be cognisant of the current "American citizens in Bangladesh should remain vigilant especially if visiting courts or municipal government offices", it noted.

The announcement that will remain valid till September 21 this year was issued to alert US citizens to recent events related to the security situation in Bangladesh. On March 12, the Peace Corps

decided to suspend indefinitely program in Bangladesh due to concern that JMB elements are still at large and might attempt to attack Peace Corps volunteers in Bangladesh, perhaps in retaliation for the capture of JMB leaders. Consequently, all Peace Corps volunteers have departed

It said the US Embassy received several plausible but unsubstantiated threat reports involving the Peace Corps in Bangladesh. "However, the decision to suspend the program followed a careful assessment of Bangladesh's broader security environment, and was not based on any single threat or incident," it added The announcement mentioned

that an outlawed Islamist terrorist organisation, JMB, claimed responsibility for a series of bombings and suicide attacks in Bangladesh between August and December 2005 that killed approximately 30 Bangladeshis and wounded nearly It said JMB leaflets called for the

nplementation of strict Islamic law in Bangladesh, justified the use of indiscriminate suicide attacks, and condemned Western social and

They also identified the governments of the United States and the United Kingdom as enemies of . Ňewspapers and Bangladeshi non-government organisations, which receive funding from the United States government, have received threats purportedly from JMB. No Americans were killed or wounded in any of the attacks.

political concepts as un-Islamic.

US citizens planning to travel to Bangladesh should consult the Department of State's Consular Information Sheet for Bangladesh and the current Worldwide Caution Public Announcement, it said.

⊢armers

siege to the power station for four hours. They also barricaded the nearby Dhaka-Dinajpur-Rangpur Highway

A vehicle carrying State Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, who was on his way to Thakurgaon from Svedpur Airport, also got stuck on the highway along with other vehi-

On information, administrative officials of Thakurgaon and Dinaipur as well as the police rushed to the

At around 2:00pm, the angry farmers agreed to lift the siege and remove the barricades as the administrative officials promised them fertiliser. Palli Bidvut officials also assured them of three to eight hours of power supply every day during the peak hours.

Sonia quits

Announcing her decision to quit, she said she also decided to step down as the Chairperson of National Advisory Council (NAC) of India's ruling United Progressive Alliance for the Common Minimum

accorded Gandhi, who had spurned the post of prime minister soon after Congress stormed back to power in 2004 parliamentary polls, the status of a cabinet minister.

Announcing her resignation, Gandhi told reporters, "Some people in the last couple of days have been creating an atmosphere that the government and parliament are favouring me. It has hurt me. I said earlier I have not come to politics for profit. That's why I have decided to resign from Lok Sabha and NAC chairperson post."

She however asserted she would run for office again from Rae Bareily constituency.

The resignation by Gandhi came in a little more than a week after actress Jaya Bachchan's membership of Raiva Sabha, upper house of Corporation.

But the actress's disqualification triggered the debate whether other lawmakers, who had occupied or are occupying office of profit should be disqualified. Sources said there are 62 lawmakers who fall in this category

Even Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee, who is a CPI (M) member, has been accused of holding office of profit. Prime "bail out" Sonia Gandhi.

The government's move to introduce the ordinance had caused uproar in parliament on Wednesday, leading to the sine die adjournment. Neither Sonia Gandhi nor Somnath Chatterjee had attended the parliament on that day

Opposition MPs led by former orime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had met President APJ Abdul Kalam Gandhi's disqualification as an MP. They said the president forwarded the complaint to the election com-However, India's Chief Election

on Wednesday seeking Sonia

Commissioner BB Tandon said he has not received any petition challenging Gandhi's Lok Sabha membership. Since Jaya Bachchan's disquali-

fication the Congress president had been under BJP attack demanding the same action against her for holding the office of profit by being the NAC chief and chairperson of various trusts. The Leader of the Opposition in

the Lok Sabha LK Advani said the president should not sign any such ordinance relating to offices of profit. He also said there cannot be two standards, one for Sonia Gandhi and one for Jaya Bachchan.

Work ban

FROM PAGE 20

On February 13, following a writ petition filed as public interest litigation, by advocate Khairul Alam. a Supreme Court lawyer, the High ban for two weeks on judicial activities of Rezaul Karim Khan Chunnu for his alleged participation in the political activities of the ruling BNP.

The High Court bench also issued a rule upon the government to show cause within two weeks as to why it (government) should not be directed to take legal action against Chunnu for his alleged misconduct under government service rule. The High Court, on February 13,

extended its injunction order for four

On February 14, Chunnu filed an appeal in the Supreme Court seeking stay on the High Court order.

February 16, dismissed the appeal and also asked Chunnu to face the High Court. Chunnu, on March 22, filed a petition in the High Court to vacate its injunction order. The High Court bench fixed March 28 for hearing the petition.

Advocate M Enavetur Rahim moved for the writ petitioner before the court and Barrister Fakrul Islam

Mohiuddin sends

port services as 'expensive' which is contrary to the view of the Chittagong Port Authority.

He demanded immediate formation of a maritime council for fixing cost-based tariff for the port users after examining the allegations of that particular quarter which believes that the port services are expensive.

The mayor pointed out that nowhere in the world the major ports have been leased out to private management. He said that even in the United

States, a process is underway to bring under government control at least six ports that had been handed over to private management. Mohiuddin also questioned the efficacy of the move.

The mayor asked who would give the guarantee that the new erminal under private management would not be turned into a safe haven for smuggling arms and neroin as it happened in case of CUFL iettv.

Mohiuddin said that the Chittagong Port now handles about eight lakh containers a vear without having any modern equipment and when it is ready with modern equipment, the handling capacity of the port will go up by four times. "So

there is no scope to describe the port as inefficient and ineffective, he added.

does not cancel the decision. He also brought allegation of corruption against shipping minister and requested the prime minister to

investigate his overall activities. NBR targets

provide false information to hide their actual income and expendi-

bill, expenditure on children's education and foreign trip are usually left empty by the directors. "Recently we have identified some leading directors who pro-

vided false information about their utility costs," said an official in the The directors of banks, insurance, leasing, pharmaceuticals and cement companies, cellphone operators and some big manufac-

Kenya lost

the four-match series and more importantly guaranteed them a place in the ICC Champions Trophy to be held in India next October.

It was also Bangladesh's second series triumph after their 3-2 win over Zimbabwe last year.

Rafique held his nerve in the exciting finale after the visitors who lost the first two games with out any fight, almost threatened to topple Bangladesh's fighting total The experienced left-arm spin-

Kenvan surge by removing dangerman Ongondo with the first ball of the 49th over. The Kenyans needed 25 runs from the last 12 balls with four wickets in hand with Ongondo

looking in ominous touch (17-ball

ner, who finished with a career-

best 5-47, effectively stopped the

But the tall right-hander completely missed a slog sweep only to be bowled by Rafique, who also had Kenya's find of the series Tanmay Mishra (48) caught in the deep before effecting a smart run out in that eventful over.

batsman in the final over to fold the Kenyan innings at 211 with four balls to spare. Man-of-the-match Rafique not only shone with the ball but also

had lost four wickets for 68 in a twopaced wicket. The left-arm spinner is only the second Bangladeshi bowler to

claim five wickets in a match after

Aftab Ahmed's 5-31 against New

But despite left-handed opener Shahriar Nafees' (57) second fifty in the series, the home side needed a sublime effort from super-sub Alok Kapali (55 off 57 balls) to post a decent total after

Kapali shared an invaluable 89run stand for the seventh wicket with wicketkeeper-batsman Khaled Mashud (39). His fifth oneday fifty after 21 matches contained four boundaries.

four wickets for only 10 runs and with more than four overs to spare. Bangladesh also suffered an njury blow going into the fourth

and final game at the same venue tomorrow with Kapali twisting his ankle while fielding. Bhuiyan

opinion that the proposed committee may have six to eight members some of whom may be members of Besides, they think, those having experience of contesting a number

of elections and those well acquainted with election procedure can be taken in as the reforms are related to electoral rules and the caretaker government system. A senior cabinet member believes

small in size so that the members can work out a solution to the reform issue in a short time. "It should be a committee of BNP d Awami I eague." he sai that the AL would represent the 14-

HC orders

FROM PAGE 20 people killed and scores injured on

ordered him to surrender before the trial court for bail within two weeks The court asked the CMM's Court in Dhaka to consider the matter of the bail subject to realising compensation for the victims and the government to assess the extent of the

Attorney General (DAG) Golam Mohammad Chowdhury Alal submitted that the accused did not comply with the High Court order asking him to surrender before the trial court.

Sub Inspector Khalilur Rahman of Tejgaon Police Station, on February 26, filed the case accusing seven people including Deen

JMB

FROM PAGE 1

filed for the explosion near the Dhaka Sheraton.

DB Inspector Shah Mohammad Moshiur Rahman, also investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted a petition for showing him arrested in the Supreme Court blast case and sought for a 10-day remand for

said Rahman was directly involved in the countrywide bomb blasts on August 17 last year, including the blast on the Supreme Court premises. So he needs to be quizzed to find out vital information about the bombings and whereabouts of other JMB leaders and members, the IO added.

After the hearing, Metropolitan

Ataur Rahman Sunny, Operations Commander of banned Harkatul for interrogation.

Asia Energy warned

Mahmudur Rahman said the observation of Asia Energy on his comment is "unwarranted and totally unacceptable".

"This issue is a policy matter of the government and you are strongly advised not to try to interfere with the policy decision of a sovereign country," the Energy Advisor said in his etter to Gary Lye.

Earlier on March 16, the energy adviser termed government's exploration licence agreement with Asia Energy against national interest and demanded punishment for those responsible.

"How an agreement like this can be signed in a sovereign country?" he asked while speaking at a meetthe-energy-reporters dialogue at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU). Contradicting Rahman's

remarks, Asia Energy's letter said

that the agreement was properly

negotiated and legally signed on the basis of the law of the land. The multinational also expressed its concern over the

'potentially harmful impact" the

and their property. Taking the security concern into account, Mahmudur Rahman, in his

company's property and personnel. "We would like to assure you our full cooperation in arranging your

Asia Energy submitted a scheme to the government involving its USD 12 billion investment in the Phulbari coal-mine project over the next 30

It has also submitted a \$ 476 million investment proposal to install a 500-megawatt coal-fired power plant alongside the Phulbari coal-

Of the total \$12 billion invest-

China in accord

active efforts to appropriately resolve the Iran nuclear issue."

Russia, backed by China, wants

Both nations fear that involvement by the 15-member council. which can impose sanctions, could escalate and lead to punitive measures including possibly military action.

Russia would block the proposed UN statement on Iran. Qin said: "In making any actions or decisions the concerned parties should be focused on whether they truly help to reach a lasting resolution of the ran nuclear issue, and whether they help the peace and stability of the region ... That is why we should give diplomacy more time and more

soil, easing fears that Tehran could divert atomic material to develop

tionally monitored plant on Russian

Security held informal contacts here Wednesday but failed to break an impasse over a draft statement urging Iran to suspend uranium enrichment.

US ambassador John Bolton nosted the gathering at his country's UN mission, which was attended by his counterparts from Britain, China. France and Russia. "No agreement," Russian

Ambassador Andrei Denisov told

reporters after the 90-minute ses-

sion which he described as "constructive". "We truly tried to keep unity of our small group ... We still need time to

consult," he added. "The consultations continue, Bolton said.

After two weeks of talks, the 15member Security Council is unable to agree on a Franco-British statement that aims to reinforce demands by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that Iran halt activities such as uranium enrichment, which could aid weap-

Tuesday the council postponed a scheduled formal meeting to allow more time to narrow differences the text. No new date has yet been set.

ons development.

Diplomats said the talks are bogged down over Russian and Chinese objections to any hint of

punitive measures in the statement.

US-UK forces rescue

Straw said he had talked with Kember's wife Pat throughout her husband's ordeal and had spoken to her again since his release. "It goes without saying that she is absolutely

said A Downing Street spokesman said Prime Minister Tony Blair "is delighted by the news. He is particularly pleased for those released and

their families. The three freed hostages last appeared in a video broadcast on pan-Arab satellite television Al-Jazeera on March 7 in which they issued a new appeal for their governments to work for their release

Fox was found handcuffed and shot dead on a rubbish dump in west Baghdad on March 9. His body had been wrapped in a blanket and stuffed in a plastic bag. At least 430 foreigners are

known to have been taken hostage in Iraq since the March 2003 US-led invasion, a US diplomat said in Baghdad earlier this month. They include 41 US nationals,

some of them Iragi-Americans

year-old freelance journalist who was on assignment for the Christian Science Monitor when she was abducted on January 7. She has since appeared in three videos broadcast on Arab television.

The latest deadline set by her cap-

Seven are still being held, includ-

ing US journalist Jill Caroll, a 28-

tors passed in late February with no word on her fate. Earlier this week, a German television station said that the government in Berlin believed that two German engineers kidnapped in Iraq in January were still alive and were being held for criminal not

political purposes. Rene Braeunlich and Thomas Nitzschke were seized in northern Irag on January 24 and their captors have issued two videos in which they threatened to execute the men unless Germany closes its embassy in Baghdad and ends cooperation with the Iraq government.

Another Briton, Ken Bigley, was beheaded in October 2004 by a group led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi the Jordanian-born leader of Al-Qaeda in Iraq and the country's most wanted man with a 25-million dollar US bounty on his head. And Margaret Hassan, a Britishraqi aid worker who was kidnapped

n 2004 is also believed dead though her body was never found. At least 32 people were killed in nsurgent attacks in Iraq Thursday, including 23 slain in a suicide car bombing at a Baghdad antiterrorism unit, the latest in a string of

attacks on security forces. "A suicide car bomber drove into the entrance of the headquarters of this unit charged with major crimes,' a security source said.

"The latest toll in the attack is 23 killed, including 10 police, and 35 wounded, mostly police," the source said. An earlier count had put the

adviser's remarks could cast or security of the Asia Energy officials

letter, noted that there should not be such concern for security of the

genuine security needs as before,"

mine in Dinaipur.

ment, the company has earmarked \$2 billion as capital cost and \$10 billion as operating cost, company

to delete large sections of the draft statement the Security Council has been studying for nearly two weeks as a first reaction to Iran's nuclear research, which the West believes is a cover for bomb-making. Iran insists it wants only to produce electric power.

Asked whether China and

Meanwhile, envoys of the five veto-wielding members of the UN

out around 11:00 am (0800 GMT) in the central Baghdad district of Wahda. The blast shook the surrounding area and sent a thick plume of smoke into the sky.

"Many citizens had come to sort out administrative business when the suicide bomber driving a red

headquarters' entrance," said Abdel "There were many women

CHRONOLOGY AP from Toronto reports a chronology of the kidnapping peace activists in Iraq:

32, and Briton Norman Kember, 74. and American Tom Fox. 54, are kidnapped in Baghdad by a group calling itself Swords of Righteousness Brigades. Nov 29: Christian Peacemaker Teams blames the kidnappings on

network Nov 30: The influential Association of Muslim Scholars

calls for hostages' release

Dec 2: Al-Jazeera broadcasts a second video in which kidnappers

casts videotape showing four activists with warning of "last chance" for authorities to release Iraqi prison-March 7: Al-Jazeera broadcasts

governments to help them. Fox is not seen in the video. March 10: Fox's body is found in

Baghdad. March 23: The three remaining

hostages - James Loney, Harmeet Singh Sooden and Norman Kember are freed by a military operation

employees' union," it added

JMB leaders including Abdur

Abdul Awal and Hafez Mahmud.

When contacted Director

The seven other chargesheeted

of Krisnakati of Jhalakathi and Of them. Khaled Saifullah and

Govt denies allowing the ways and means for reducing

the trade gap between the two

need for evolving a mechanism for reducing the gap."

after the visit, Khaleda and her Indian counterpart Manmohan ment to work closely together to find mutually satisfactory solutions to

border and repeated exchange of fire between the border forces of Bangladesh and India will also come up during the meeting, he

the gap by any means.

larities. "I have surrendered...I have nothing to do...my hands are tied, sources quoted him as saying. authorities to transfer the meter readers frequently. "No meter reader should be allowed to stay at a station for over three years. But they are staying at the same station for

members. tion in the activities of Desa.

the incentive bonus, the audit report said siting specific instances. The finance ministry allowed introduction of incentive bonus in fiscal 1991-92. Until 2000-01, Desa authorities gave incentive bonus

continued irregularities. "You (Desa officials) are speak-

About the huge trade gap in favour of India, the foreign secretary said the Indian leaders recognised

> ing of development for the last 10 vears. What have you achieved?' committee member and Awami League lawmaker Shawkat Ali questioned.

In its report, the CAG office also

projected irregularities in the billing

system, tampering with meters and failure to reduce systems losses. It mentioned that Desa officials have not issued bills for years. Satmasjid office of Desa in Dhanmondi has not prepared bills against 165 subscribers for one vear. 420 subscribers for 1 to 3 years, 150 for 3 to 5 years, 128 for 5

to 7 years and 150 subscribers for

ers themselves prepared bills

though they were not entitled to do

so. The billing section is supposed

The report also said meter read-

seven years

to issue bills on the basis of meter book submitted by meter readers. The CAG office pointed out that introduction of electronic meter system to reduce systems loss has become a futile exercise due to irregularities. A total of 20,000 electronic meters costing Tk 50 crore were installed in fiscal 2000-01 but it failed to reduce systems

meter was Tk 30,000 but it was given to subscribers who use below 500 unit of electricity. The main objectives of introduction of electronic meters could not be achieved as those were given to subscribers who use less units of electricity with little possibility of their tampering with meters, the report said. "The electronic meters have been misused due to pressure of the

The price of each electronic

Emerging from the meeting held

bails in all three cases. Shanta had sued 28 policemen, including two deputy commissioners, for brutally assaulting her on

snatched Tk 45,000.

Corporation," said Nurul Amin. Another neighbour said a police

The chairperson of the NAC

Parliament, was disqualified on the grounds she had held the office of profit by being the Chairperson of Uttar Pradesh Film Development

Minister Manmohan Singh's government was understood to have decided on an ordinance to exempt 62 posts from the definition of offices of profit. This move, the opposition alleged, was a "ploy" to

The Appellate Division, on

The mayor threatened to go for a tough programme if the government

The taxmen found that certain columns in the form such as utility

turing companies will be brought under the drive, the NBR sources

Mortuza, who took two wickets with the new ball, then bowled the last

Paceman Mashrafee Bin

scored a vital 33 after Bangladesh

Zealand in 2004 at Dhaka they were reeling at one stage on

But Bangladesh failed to put up a big total after they lost their last

> Qin said on Tuesday China supported a Russian compromise proposal that would allow Iran to use nuclear fuel enriched in an interna-

the high-profile committee should be

party opposition combine in the

Court bench for bail in a case filed for the collapse incident that left 22 February 25.
On March 12, the High Court

damage in the collapse. Opposing the bail prayer, Deputy

Advocate TH Khan moved for the

interrogation. In his forwarding report, the IO

Magistrate Shafique Anwar granted the petition for showing Rahman arrested in the case and granted the remand prayer. Earlier, JMB military commander

Jihad (HuJi) Bangladesh Chapter Mufti Abdul Hannan and JMB Gazipur Regional Commander Enavet Ullah were shown arrested in the case and placed on remand

He said the attack was carried

A policeman who survived the blast said that the bomber managed to get into the complex before blowing himself up.

pickup smashed through the door and exploded his car inside the

among the victims," he said.

Oct 2002: Christian Peacemaker Teams sets up in Iraq six months before the U.S.-led invasion. Nov 26, 2005: Canadians Jim Loney, 41, and Harmeet Sooden.

occupation of Iraq. The four hostages are shown on videotape broadcast by the Al-Jazeera news

the U.S. and British invasion and

Dec 1: Families and friends of hostages plead for their release.

threaten to execute the four hostages unless all Iragi prisoners in US-and Iragi-run detention centres are released by Dec. 8. Prime Minister Paul Martin promises all federal government resources to secure the release of hostages. Deadline subsequently extended to Dec. 10. Jan 28, 2006: Al-Jazeera broad-

new videotape showing three activists apparently calling on their

a town north of Baghdad.

conducted by multinational forces in