The Daily Star

\$21b economic benefits

FROM PAGE 16

"The mine and power station development is expected to contribute up to an additional one per cent to [the] GDP. This represents an average of US\$0.7 billion addition to [the] GDP per year," a press release says quoting the study report.

Asia Energy is now seeking government approval to developing an open-pit coal mine with a 15 million tonne annual production capacity at Phulbari in the northwest district of Dinajpur. The project also includes setting up of a 500 MW coal-fired power plant, which will be upgraded later to a 1,000 MW plant.

In the 30-year project life, Asia Energy plans to invest an estimated \$3 billion capital on the mine and the power plant, and to spend \$10.4 billion in operating costs.

According to the press release, the UK-based company will earn \$7 billion from the project and the government \$1.2 billion in rovalty and \$2.8 billion more as corporate tax. Besides. Bangladesh Railway. Mongla Port Authority. Income Tax Division and the customs department will make \$3 billion earnings, it says. "The project is expected to

contribute significantly to the development of the Banaladesh economy by adding up to 10 per cent to the country's energy supply by 2015," the study claims, adding, "The productivity and business growth impacts will be very significant. The US\$13.7 billion indirect impact over the life of the project is likely to

materially underestimate the bene-

The effect of this development is expected to radically improve the social and economic wellbeing of the local, regional and national community in Bangladesh," in areas as diverse as job opportunities,

health facilities and general literacy. GHD reckons eight to 10 additional jobs would be created for every direct employee of the project. In the construction phase, the project will employ about 2,100 people. When the mine becomes fully operational it will employ 1,200 people along with 450 others in barging and shipment operations in

The project also will effect a total expenditure of \$314 million on railway and port development to provide a reliable export route, says the GHD release.

According to GHD projection, \$4.2 billion will be pumped back into the Phulbari project area, including \$310 million for resettlement and relocation of part of Phulbari Township and the surrounding villages.

There will also be programmes to boost the local agricultural production and to re-cultivate the land back-filled after the mining. A major operation will also be there to inject water drawn from the mine into the nearby fields by laying a pipeline network of over 100 kilometres in lenath

contract, has identified a resource According to the GHD release, base of 572 million tonne highquality thermal and semi-soft coal in the Phulbari basin. The plan for

mining the coal received environmental clearance in September last year. The pre-mining activities are scheduled to start later this year. The coal production is expected to begin in late 2008 and, through rapid increment, the production is projected to reach 15 million tonne per annum by 2013.

GHD has extensive experience in working on and evaluating major infrastructure projects. It used a multiplier of 1.75 for the indirect impacts, which it terms conserva-

tive, given that multipliers in terms of spin-off industries and service sector growth for similar large-scale projects around the world range from 1.5 in highly developed economies to 3.5 in poorer, subsistence ones

The multiplier effects included development of industries from the mine's valuable co-products but did not take into account any contribution from the foreign exchange savings from local coal substituting imported ones. The forex savings over the project life will be to tune of

Many suggest privatisation of

speed up the system of consign-

ment releasing, Muzaffer Ahamad

port. But corruption was not reduced

itself ready to go into operation.

Monzur E Khoda and Muzahidul

Islam helped him in preparing the

men have to pay bribes at fixed

rates of Tk 253 per ton of goods at

Benapole land port and Tk 325 at

The report stated that business-

there.'

report.

\$3 billion, GHD savs. Asia Energy, which operates in

Clean candidate

NEWS

Bangladesh under a government FROM PAGE 1 the people through mass media

should be implemented According to the order, the candidates are supposed to provide information including their educational

qualifications, criminal records, if any, profession, sources of income. assets and loans taken individually or in the name of the companies in which they are chairmen, executive directors or directors. The civil society thinks it is neces-

sary to incorporate information on the candidates' tax records and their previous political affiliations including changes of political parties.

evaluating policy, the committee will "We would like to see whether form a taskforce, review overall policy, political parties are nominating their analyse the election manifestos of the candidates who have huge black money or are backed by musclemen," Debapriya said while explaining why this body has come up with the clean candidate concept.

"We don't think that there is any alternative to political rule but want to ensure that the present political process is more transparent, fair and free from corruption." he said. The citizens' body does not think

that a fair general election is possible without reforms in the EC and the electoral laws. Dr Debapriva, also CPD executive director, said explaining the committee's background, aims, objectives and plans for the next course of action.

He made it clear that the committee will work independently and finalise its modus operandi while the CPD will provide secretariat support only. Categorically mentioning that the

political parties and conduct survey on the outlook of the possible lawmakers about development policy. As part of the effort to start a dialogue and create awareness, it will

hold discussions with political parties, the EC. the Anti-Corruption Commission and the National Board of Revenue. It will also arrange special dialogues with the participation of expatriate Bangladeshis. The committee will sit again on April

body will not accept any foreign dona-

tion. Debapriva said. "We are spend-

ing the money of the CPD and other

associates. However, we will mobilise

funds from local individuals and

As part of a pre-election

programme for 2006-07 that will

continue until October, the committee

has taken up a two-pronged strategy--

framing a vision statement and evalu-

ating policy, and engaging in a dia-

logue to create awareness among

For the vision statement and

institutions "

people.

24 to discuss its next course of action about the clean candidate campaign and give a shape to the vision statement

CPD officials Dr Fahmida Khatun, Fatema Yusuf, Dr Uttam Dev and Naveem Hasan were present at the briefing, among others.

US analysts FROM PAGE 16

drawn up scenarios for keeping control of the Strait of Hormuz. A follow-on TIRANNT analysis, which began in October 2003,

air force report and the one Hafiz calculated the results of different Uddin said in parliament, Chairman scenarios to provide options to commanders, Arkin wrote. of the standing committee on The Marines, meanwhile, have defence Lt Gen (retired) Mahbubur come up with their own document Rahman said he does not know called "Concept of Operations" that what the water resources minister explores the possibility of moving had said in parliament. "We have

forces from ship to shore without accepted the report of the air chief," establishing a beachhead first. the former army chief told The Daily "Though the Marine Corps Star enemy is described only as a deeply religious revolutionary country ers' allegation, Chief of Air Staff Air named Karona, it is with its Revolutionary Guards, WMD and oil Vice Marshal Fakhrul Azam told the wealth -- unmistakably meant to be meeting that the Bangladesh gov-Iran," Arkin said.

ernment has not paid any commis-Various scenarios involving sion to anybody for the purchase. "I Iran's missile force have also been don't know whether the Chinese examined in another study, initiated government has paid such commisin 2004 and known as BMD-I, which is short for "Ballistic Missile Defence sion or not," Shawkat quoted the air - Iran", Arkin said. chief as saying.

In June 2004, US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld alerted the parliamentary body said an Strategic Command in the US influential lawmaker who is close to Omaha, Nebraska, to be prepared the prime minister's family allegedly to implement CONPLAN 8022, a dominate the defence purchase. global strike plan that includes Iran, according to the scholar. February 22 told parliament that

Food, fuel FROM PAGE 16

gas, rubber bullets and baton charges against demonstrators and arrested hundreds of ringleaders.

The government initially tried to prevent large-scale protests by banning public gatherings, calling day and night curfews, cutting mobile phones and rounding up hundreds of political activists.

did not have scope to raise any Under sustained pressure, the supplementary questions, as the king on Thursday called for elecquestion-answer session was not tions and the royal government has allowed more dissent while restorlawmakers' questions were given in ing services like mobile phones. writina But there has been no let up in

the strike or protests. have been commissioned recently Public transport was unavailable while the will arrive in October. Sunday with inter-city and local bus stands deserted and almost all

businesses closed. Gasoline was scarce and long transparent, the AL lawmaker lines could be seen at the army and questioned why only two proposals police-run pumps, the only ones still were sent to the airforce headquaropen. Prices for vegetables have ters. "How many bidders had particisoared on dwindling supplies.

pated in the tender for the pur-"Very few trucks supplying food chase?" Shawkat asked. have entered the Kathmandu valley over the past few days," said Binaya give an answer to the question. He Shrestha, planning officer of the Kalimati Fruits and Vegetables said the director general of defence purchase (DGDP) knows about it Market Development Board which and the committee will be informed supplies 325 wholesalers in the of it later," Shawkat added. The

. Housewife Rainai Kumar said the price of onions rose to 100 Nepalese rupees (1.38 dollars) a kilogram (2.2 pounds) from 25 rupees two days ago.

FROM PAGE 1 furious and launched a full-scale attack on the reporters and photogra-

phers present there. The situation turned so scarv that the journalists ran into the Bangladesh dressing room for safety where the members of the cricket team provided them with first aid and tried to console them in any way possible. Australian were waiting for Sangram Parishad captain Ricky Ponting also expressed

\$93.6m fighters

FROM PAGE 1

between the price mentioned in the

Responding to the AL lawmak-

Sources in the armed forces and

The water resources minister or

"each plane will cost \$5.85 million."

But according to the latest report,

the planes in fact cost \$ 7.36 million

purchase of fighter aircraft for the air

force is a continuous process. He.

however, did not elaborate on the

question to the minister on the topic

committee chairman confirmed it

The air chief in his report said the

later.

Hafiz Uddin told the House that

each

purchase process

DHAKA MONDAY APRIL 17, 2006

DGDP has sent two financial bids to the air force headquarters. In those bids. China guoted \$120 million for 16 aircraft while Russia \$420 million.

Referring to this point of the report, the AL lawmaker alleged that the authorities concerned had manipulated the tender process by sending only two offers having a gulf between the bid prices. " The guestion arises as to the transparency in the purchase process. The issue has yet to be clarified as I did not get any answer to my questions," the AL lawmaker told reporters.

The air chief however told the meeting that he does not know whether the DGDP had received any other offers besides those.

About the participants in the tender for the 16 fighter planes, the air chief's report says the DGDP had made a shortlist comprised of those two bidders.

The committee chairman said he told the meeting that they want to ensure transparency in the defence ministry. "We want to make the defence ministry is free of any sort of corruption. We have bitter experience regarding the purchase of Mig-29 during the previous government " the chairman said

The government has awarded The lawmaker who put the China the work after taking into consideration technical and financial viability, he added.

On the allegation of corruption in the purchase, he said the Antiheld and instead replies to the Corruption Commission or intelligence agencies can investigate if there had been any irregularities in Of the 16 fighter planes, eight

the procurement. About the necessity for purchasing the fighter planes, the air chief's Alleging that the process of report said it had been declared in purchasing the aircraft was not 1989 that air force's fleet of aircraft will be phased out by 1990 and which is why it became essential to procure the 16 fighter planes.

The previous AL government had purchased eight Mig-29 fighter "But the air force chief could not planes from Russia at a cost of \$123.98 million, giving birth to widespread controversy.

The BNP led alliance government in 2003 approved the plans to purchase 16 fighter planes and an international tender was floated for the purchase accordingly.

Kansat turns normal

FROM PAGE 1 released in the early hours of (RCC) Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, Saturday, the police contingents were also a member of the committee, said called back to their camps on Kansat they have already agreed to imple-Rural Electrification Board premises ment the 14-point demand of PBUSP and section 144 was cancelled in the but people are unaware of it. He afternoon. however, said all aspects of the demands will be discussed again.

Although Rabbani had told the government side to meet them at Chapainawabgani Circuit House, he later changed the venue to Rajshah

Editor, publisher Tk 142cr FROM PAGE 16

FROM PAGE 16

defence counsels told the court that the daily ran factual news but the case was filed as part of a conspiracy to harass the defendants.

Moreover, the charges brought in the complaint against the four were baseless and concocted, the counsels added.

Advocates Syed Ahmed Gazi, Kamruzzaman Mahboob, Ashraf Ul Alam, Chaitanya Chandra Halder, Mahbubul Hag. Emdadul Hag Lal, Samiul Karim Alamgir, Anwarul Kabir Babul and Shahidullah Miah moved the petition on behalf of the defendants.

The court also granted bail to former editor of the Jugantor Abed Khan, its Publisher Salma Islam and the Ajker Kagoj Editor Kazi Shahed Ahmed

Chief Whip Khodaker Delwar Hossain on April 2 sued the editors of five dailies -- the Prothom Alo. Janakantha, Sangbad, Jugantor and the Ajker Kagoj for running alleged 'defamatory' news against him.

In his complaint, Delwar said the Prothom Alo published a news headlined "Chief whip took rice and pulse for his two residences from the parliament" on March 13. The daily also published two reports on March 14 and 16 revealing that the chief whip alone spent the half of Tk 27 lakh entertainment allowances allotted for the whips in the parliament for the

and it was published to tarnish his

The Janakantha published a news item on March 14 headlined "Now there are allegations against chief whip of corruption hard on the heels of similar allegations against his two sons". The chief whip claimed that the report was run only to defame his reputation in the society.

news report on March 15 under the headline "Father and sons in the gossip". The complainant alleged that the story tarnished his image in his political circle. The Daily Jugantor ran another report on March 14 with the headline "Chief whip's direction to send rice and pulse to his residence

this report was also false. The chief whip also slammed the Daily Sangbad for a news item it published on March 18 under the headline "Hot spices for the rotten arliament"

Meanwhile, another Dhaka court esterday exempted Matiur Rahman and Mahfuz Anam from attendance in person in another defamation suit filed on June 11, 2003 by Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, parliamentary adviser to the prime minister.

Anwar passed the order following a hearing of the petition that had been filed by defence lawyers on July 22,

lounge of the National Press Club.

Professor Muzaffer Ahmad, trustee member of TIB, said corruption and bribing at the land ports have been increasing prices of the goods and ultimately consumers are suffering and the government is losing revenue. He suggested that the government should take bilateral and regional initiatives at state

The Daily Ajker Kagoj published a level to solve the problem. bribing at the land ports," Professor of the report. creates a stir". Delwar claimed that land ports to curb corruption and to

Metropolitan Magistrate Shafique

FROM PAGE 16 According to navy and police sources, a four-member patrol team

of Bangladesh Navy, acting on a tipoff, intercepted and chased two engine-boats allegedly carrying smuggled fuel oil on the Karnaphuli near Chittagong port channel around midnight.

The alleged criminals navigated the engine-boats into Noya-"People have to be aware to hatkhola canal at Charpatharahata pressurise the government to stop on the bank of the Karnaphuli and the corruption and the system of were joined by over fifty of their accomplices of the same syndicate to attack the navy patrol team, they Muzaffer said following the release said

They attacked the navy men with lethal weapons forcing the latter to retaliate with gun fires resulting in a clash in which the three were shot dead and one was injured with a said adding, "We did it in Teknaf land bullet wound, said the sources.

Local people of Charpatharghata, however, alleged that the When asked, why the Anti navy men opened indiscriminate fire Corruption Commission (ACC) and the 'onslaught' continued for does not function in this sector. about an hour. Professor Muzaffer said ACC is not In the firing by the navy men

independent and could not make Yusuf, Kader and Mansuf Ali were killed on the spot while Sekander, The study report was prepared 50, was injured with a bullet on the by Saidur Rhaman Molla. Dipu Roy, right leg, they said.

They further alleged that actual ninals, whom they

Navy kills 3 'pirates' Of the killed and injured, Mansuf Ali was a jetty worker of Chittagong

port and the rest were boatmen. Sekander, who is now undergoing treatment at Chitta-gong Medical College Hospital, told journalists that he came outside his house to urinate when a bullet hit him.

Local lawmaker Sarwar Jamal Nizam MP while visiting the spot along with local UP Chairman Salahuddin Bakul yesterday morning said he knew the victims as innocent and none of them could be

pirates Meanwhile, Charpatharghata-Bridgeghata Sampan Chalak (boatmen) Kalyan Samity enforced an indefinite strike protesting the incident

They demanded withdrawal of the label "pirates" from the records of the slain and the injured persons, a fair investigation of the incident and measures against the responsi-

and foreign friends--both deceased

and alive--who were involved with

the government as well as the

us with new commitments," she

said, calling upon all to take a fresh

vow to establish the ideals of the

A separate programme has been

taken to observe the day at

Muiibnagar in Meherpur district. The

programme includes placing floral

observe the day with due honour.

Jamaat leader

Majid, 52, is a Rokon member of

Jamaat. He is also the president of

the editors' panel of Weekly Ajker

temporary office at Shapla Square

off they arrested Majid at a bookstall

in Dinajpur Railway Station Bazar.

The source claimed Rab arrested

him for his active involvement with

Divisional Treasurer of JMB and he

looked after the legal affairs of JMB

last October, at the Rokon confer-

ence in Dinajpur, in connection with

the August 17 bomb blasts there.

Rab sources said Majid was

released on a guarantee of Aftab

Uddin Mollah that he would be

returned when Rab needed to quiz

in the division, the source added.

Majid was the Rajshahi

Rab had arrested Abdul Majid

in Rangpur yesterday.

He was being quizzed at Rab's

A Rab source said acting on a tip

wreaths at Muiibnagar memorial at

"The Mujibnagar Day comes to

martyrs of the Liberation War.

Navy Petty Officer Mokhlesur Rahman filed a case with Karnaphuli Police Station in con-

capital.

20 journos

last fiscal year. The complainant alleged that the news was fabricated 2003.

Charges framed

FROM PAGE 16

"I ordered the bomb attacks...I don't accept your law. I ordered killing the judges. I confess my guilt," JMB supremo Rahman said at the crowded court when Judge Abdus Salam Sikdar wanted his statement on the charges.

Rahman's second-in-command Bangla Bhai told the tribunal, "I don't seek justice under the British-made laws; I seek justice under the law of Allah.

Bangla Bhai, also the operations commander of JMB's twin-militant outfit JMJB, said as a member of JMB Majlish-e-Shura, the lawmaking body for Islamic rule, he does not require any lawyer.

Sunny said as the commander of Dhaka South region, he had ordered the bomb attack in Chandpur on the instructions of his leader Abdur Rahman, also his eldest brother.

AL sends names

FROM PAGE 1

an end to exchanging letters and nominate five BNP representatives to initiate the dialogue quickly.

Bhuiyan told newsmen that the 14party has given responsibility to the AL regarding nomination of its represen-tatives, "but we have to consider whether or not our allies will allow us to nominate our representatives only from the BNP."

Terming the exchange of letters between the AL and BNP positive, he said the environment could be created as both the parties want a fruitful discussion.

Before dispatching the letter, AL Presidium Member Tofail Ahmed at a press briefing at the AL central office on Bangabandhu Avenue disclosed the names of the AL.

Earlier, the AL leaders talked to party chief Sheikh Hasina and final-ised the names and the draft.

A 14-party meeting presided over by AL Presidium Member Abdur Razzak finalised the names of the AL leaders for the dialogue. The meeting was attended by 14-party members, including Tofail Ahmed, Obaidul Quader, Motia Chowdhury, Rashed Khan Menon, Hasanul Haque Inu, Bimal Biswas, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik and Abdus Samad.

AL Office Secretary Abdul Mannan Khan, Deputy Office Secretary BM Mozammel Haque and AL leader SM Kamal Hossain handed over the letter to the BNP secretary general at his official residence.

The court fixed April 30 for hearing the cases

Twelve other JMB cadres, who were arrested from different places in Chandpur after the August 17 and October 3 blasts there and at other places across the country, denied their involvement in the bombings.

Chandour police filed three cases against the 15 accused as one person was killed and 20 others were wounded in separate blasts there As the JMB leaders were brought

to the court in a prison van amid tight security at 10:55am. lawyers shouted slogans demanding their hanging for killing judges and lawyers.

Earlier, Abdur Rahman, Bangla Bhai and Sunny were brought to Chandpur from Dhaka under tight security. They looked unrepentant after the indictment. Twelve other accused are: Abul

Kalam Azad alias Rashed, Shamim Hossain, Kalam Hossain Duke, Mahfuz Khandaker, Masum Rahman, Rahmatullah, Abu Sufian alias Jewel, Osman Gani Sohag, Gofran, Rezwan Hasan Redwan, Ismail Hossain and Sohrab Hossain Billal. Most of them hailed from Kachua upazila of Chandpur district

Shamim Hossain told the court that he is a JMB member but was not involved in the bombing operations. He said that police blindfolded him and

took his signature under section 164. Public Prosecutor (PP) Qamrul Islam, Additional PP Salimullah Selim and Assistant PP Joynul Abedin were present, among others, in the courtroom.

_and phone FROM PAGE 16

The call from a BTTB land phone to a mobile phone can also be made from a BTTB fixed phone that has only local call facility.

"Users across the world pay more for land phone-to-mobile phone calls than the land phone-to-land phone ones, but the BTTB did not go for this typical charging for a long time," said a BTTB official

The finance ministry in January approved the BTTB proposal for increasing the call charge submitted to it on December 22 last year. Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) recently gave its approval to the new tariff rate

Teknaf land port to release them. Customs officials collect 71 percent

of the total bribe and 29 percent goes to the land port officials at Benapole. At Teknaf land port customs officials collect 94 percent of the bribe.

The report also said in two consecutive financial years from 2003 to 2005 the customs officials of Benapole collected Tk 99 crore as bribe and Tk 40 crore was collected by the port officials. The customs officials of Teknaf collected Tk 2.9 crore during the same period.

Mobile court FROM PAGE 16

enforcers rescued us. The mobile court members were confined at the

office room for nearly 40 minutes. Ibrahim added. Following the attack, the court comprising a magistrate, personnel

from Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute (BSTI), Dhaka City Corporation and Directorate of Narcotics Control, media people, six BDR men, and two policemen, left the factory without conducting the drive.

BDNEWS adds: Magistrate Tapan Kumar Biswas said, "As soon as we entered the factory, employees and officials started shouting abusive words at us and asked us to leave the factory."

They attacked and injured the members of the mobile court, said the magistrate, adding, "At one stage, I called for additional forces and police from the Tejgaon Police Station rescued us.'

"We had conducted a drive in the factory earlier and found many defects. The decision to conduct a fresh drive was taken to verify whether the factory rectified its faults."

"It is an act of contempt of court and attack on the government officials and

law enforcers," he said. Police were preparing to file cases against the factory authorities on charge of contempt of court and creating obstruction to the government work, the duty officer of Tejgaon

Police Station said. Besides, cases will be filed against six officials and workers of the factory, he added.

Blaming the incident, Bangladesh Photojournalists Association demanded exemplary punishment of the culprits

nection with the 'clash' and recovery smugglers, managed to flee while of fuel oil, the police said. the firing killed some innocent A tense situation is prevailing in

villagers who came out of their houses either out of fear or curiosity. Charpatharghata.

sion-free society.

cultural function.

FROM PAGE 1

Dinajpur.

JMB

Mujibnagar Day

FROM PAGE 1

exile and the supreme commander of the armed forces.

Syed Nazrul Islam was made acting president in the absence of Bangabandhu, who had been arrested by the Pakistani occupation forces on March 25, 1971. The Pakistani army also massacred thousands of unarmed Bangalees in Dhaka and elsewhere in the then East Pakistan on the same night.

At the ceremony a contingent of police gave the guard of honour to the acting president, who received the salute and hoisted the national flag of independent Bangladesh.

The Mujibnagar government with Tajuddin Ahmed as the prime minister led the country's nine-month long Liberation War that ended through the occupation forces' surrender on December 16.

The main opposition Awami League (AL) and its front organisations have taken up countrywide elaborate programmes to observe the day.

In the capital, the national and party flags will be hoisted at Bangabandhu Bhaban in Dhanmondi-32 and at the AL's Bangabandhu Avenue headquarters at 6:00 this morning.

Leader of the Opposition and AL chief Sheikh Hasina will chair a party discussion on Muiibnagar Day at the Institution of Diploma Engineers in the city at 3:00pm. She will also place floral wreaths at the portrait of Sheikh Muiibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Bhaban at 7:00am.

In a message on the occasion, Hasina recalled the Muiibnagar government's contribution to the emergence of Bangladesh.

She paid rich tributes to Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, M Mansur Ali, AM Quamruzzaman and others who formed the first government of Bangladesh.

She said the farsightedness and skills of the Mujibnagar government made it possible to compel the Pakistani forces to surrender to Bangladesh only within nine months of the Liberation War.

Hasina also paid tributes to all political leaders, army and administrative officials, civilians, diplomats

his sympathy while video-taping the injured journalist in what was for him a unique incident.

> Interestingly during the ugly episode no Bangladesh Cricket Board high officials including the media committee chairman Riazuddin-al Mamun or general secretary Mahbubul Anam were present. BCB president Ali Asghar claimed that he only heard about the incident in the afternoon and assured that the culprits would be brought to justice.

Meanwhile, protesting the police attack, the journalists at a meeting at the Chittagong Press Club decided to boycott the coverage of the cricket match today (Monday). The boycott will continue until the perpetrators are punished accordingly.

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh Sports for realising their demand of Journalists Association, Bangladesh Shahjahan's resignation, as the Sports Writers Association, Bangladesh Sports Journalists and Writers Community, Bangladesh Photo Journalists Association, former national cricket captains. Cricketers Welfare Association of Bangladesh and former Cricket Board directors ransacking and looting of houses, condemned the incident.

The full fury of the law enforcers during the lunch break not only embarrassed the whole nation but also cast a gloomy prospect for the port city to hold any future international matches.

PM returns FROM PAGE 16

agreed to enhance bilateral trade and investment.

arrested and in police custody. The PM attended a banquet hosted in her honour by her Turkish the movement on August 8 last year, two villagers were killed on January 4, April 6 and three on April 12.

Khaleda went to Istanbul from Ankara on Friday and called on ment for the delay, costing so many Turkish President Ahmet Necdet Sezer. She also attended a dinner hosted in her honour by the

The PM led a 34-member delegation to Turkey. Her delegation included Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan. A six-member business team also

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Health and Family Welfare Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain. Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Political Secretary to the Prime Minister Harris Chowdhury and State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar were present at the airport to receive the PM.

Convenor Golam from Raishahi and declare the end of Circuit House. their strike, roadblocks were still there At least a hundred Sangram until 9 in the night. So, the activities at Sona Masjid Land Port, some eight Parisad leaders and activists waited at Godagari in Rajshahi yesterday for the kilometres off Kansat, Shibganj

rial statue to the Kansat victims.

of their jurisdiction.

to fright

lives.

The Parishad leaders did not press

killing two people and resulting in the

The Daily Star earlier reported that

death of an elderly man from heart due

six people, instead of three, were killed

in that police excess, as locals said

they saw police torturing Mansur and

Saveem Uddin of Kvathapara and

Shahin of Chakkatti and their bodies

were missing. They feared them dead,

After the Parishad had launched

As a precondition to vesterday's

negotiations, 37 Kansat agitators

arrested on charge of killing, violation

were released from prison. The gov-

but actually the three men were

However, as the demonstrators

upazila, Chapainawabganj district, release of the remaining five arrested were yet to resume. PBUSP members. After receiving the Rabbani and his team returned to news of their release, Rabbani started Kansat at 9:20pm and held a 7-minute for Rajshahi Circuit House, where he discussion with the waiting Sangram reached at 12:10pm amid tight secu-Parishad activists. They decided to rity. The talks began in the ground-floor remove all roadblocks in the area overnight and also withdrew the strike.

hall at the circuit house at 12:35pm. DEMANDS MET In the MoU, the government

accepted all but one of the 14-point The government committee yesterday PBUSP demands including withagreed to cancel two categorical drawal of electricity metre charge, meter charges [Tk 10 for 220 volt and lowering the minimum power connec-Tk 50 for 440 volt], to allow presence of tion charge from Tk 105 to Tk 78, the subscribers during meter reading providing compensation for the dead and not to impose any illegal fines. and the injured, and installing a memo-

The committee also reset the monthly connection charge at Tk 78 instead of Tk 105, although the Sangram Parisad demanded it to be government negotiators said it was out Tk 72. The charge was Tk 45 in 2003.

It also agreed to abolish the policy Participants of the breakthrough of charging fees and fine on the farmtalks pointed out that the situation on ers if any transformer or electric cable April 12 in no way called for police firing and assaults on villagers, and raiding, is missina.

As per the Parishad's demand, the government will provide each family of the dead Tk 2 lakh in compensation. It will give Tk 1 lakh to the Parishad activist who suffered an eve injury and Tk 50,000 to each of 10 badly injured villagers.

The government also agreed to compensate Tk 25,000 to each of 100 injured people and Tk 3,000 to each of 600 other injured on the basis of a report to be prepared by the district civil sergeant, a magistrate and the PBUSP convenor.

seven on January 23, five more on The meeting also decided to charge any fines if any electric connec-Although the locals sighed in relief tions are taken from any house or at striking an accord at long last, they institution for religious programmes or came down heavily on the governorganisations.

> Four cases filed by police against PBUSP activists will be withdrawn immediately while one filed by a BNP man will be settled legally through a consorted initiative.

A total of 160 people have been accused in the five cases. The meeting decided that those who were not arrested will not be nabbed or harassed in the future. The government also agreed not to charge any fines for the bills due since August 8, and the bills will be paid in nine instalments.

It was decided to observe January 4 or January 23 as prayer days for salvation of the dead in the movement.

other law enforcers and withdrew section 144 -- two other conditions set by the Sangram Parishad for holding the peace talks. The five conditions Rabbani dictated for holding the government-PBUSP dialogue were withdrawal of police, of section 144, and of five cases filed against some PBUSP men,

release of the arrested PBUSP members, and resignation of the local BNP

Thirty-two of the 37 arrestees were

counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan and addressed a meeting of business leaders. She also formally unveiled the plaque of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Avenue in Ankara.

Governor of Istanbul.

of section 144 and assaulting police ernment also called back police and accompanied the PM.

lawmaker

9:00am, followed by a guard of honour, a public meeting and a AL Acting General Secretary Obaidul Quader urged the countrymen, all pro-Liberation War forces, party leaders and activists to

Liberation War on this historic day. "Let us join forces to lead the country to the cherished goals,' Hasina said and called for making the current movement into a success to build a democratic, repres-