Hawa Bhaban

Terrorism, Communalism, Criminalisation, and Corruption'

Supplying motorbikes to election workers, setting up clubs and such bodies, and exhibition of wealth have already begun, Dilip said. "The practice of trading nomination has also become a tradition. The aspirant election candidates have already started campaign rehearsals, which has already polluted the electoral environment," he added.

organised by the 11-party yesterday

According to the 11-party paper, "Alongside the game of money, criminals are also vying for candidatures.... Many of them have been sentenced to five to 10 years' imprisonment. They are becoming qualified for election candidatures by filing appeals with the

Malnutrition

2004, prevalence of underweight

children in Bangladesh declined from 66 per cent to 48 per cent, the report said this achievement is a progress towards materialising the Millennium Development Goal

"If the progress persists the rate of undernourished children would be 33 per cent in 2015. But to speed up the programme, Bangladesh has to initiate up-to-date strategies," the Unicef programme chief observed.

The report says that about 36 per cent Bangladeshi children are born underweight, which is almost highest in the world. Undernourished and vulnerable pregnant women give birth to low-birth-weight children.

Over a half of the children under five and over one third of women are anaemic, the report said, adding that night blindness is another problem for Bangladesh children. If the rate, which is at present 7 per cent, decreases to only one per cent, it might be categorised as general illness.

The report, however, appreciated Bangladesh's performance in eradicating the diseases emerged from lack of iodised foods in the diet.

The rate of iodine deficiency disorder among the children in Bangladesh has dropped off to 34 per cent, which was 71 per cent in the last decade. The success has come due to the fact that 70 per cent of all edible salt in the country is now iodised, which has helped to reduce the toll of iodine deficiency disorders.

The rate of breast-feeding in the country has improved, which at present stands at 42 per cent though more efforts have to be taken to accelerate the rate, the report said.

Addressing the occasion Louis-Georges Arsenault, the resident representative of Unicef in Bangladesh, said South Asia and Africa are malnutrition prone regions. as the countries within these territories cannot avail themselves of quality food, proper care, sanitation and pure drinking water.

In Bangladesh, children of slum areas mostly suffer from these diseases caused by malnutrition, he said.

Improving nutrition not only helps children to grow, but it has a great impact on their survival, achievement at school, reducing maternal mortality and combating major diseases, Louis said, adding that improved nutritional status can have far-reaching implications on human development, economic growth and poverty reduction.

The latest example of such candida ture is that of Nurul Islam Sarker, sentenced to death for killing AL lawmaker Ahsanullah Master, in Tongi Municipal Election and securing second highest number of votes, it pointed out.

The culprits who introduced the use money power, communalism and corruption in politics should be identified and boycotted by the polity and the society, remarked 14-party coordinator and AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil at

into an investment centre for businesspower, and once in power start recovering that money with profit.'

AL Presidium member Tofail Ahmed said the masses are going through insecurity and misery due to the price spiral of essentials, while the ruling party men are busy pocketing black money.

He accused the ruling BNP of turning the Election Commission (EC) into its complice, adding the BNP in collusion of its communal allies is also linked with the killings of judges and journalists.

Gono Forum Presidium Member Pankaj Bhattacharya demanded asset declaration by all political leaders, and said the 14-party leaders should unilaterally declare their assets before the

mad observed said money power has driven away the honest and patriots from politics, and black-money owners have taken over cashing in on poverty and illiteracy of the people.

director of the Hunger Project, said reforms in the EC and the caretaker government system would not be

The parties should never consider money power in nominating election candidates and must exercise democratic norms within themselves, he

and outside the government nearing, they feared.

Salahuddin Ahmed, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Prof Mozaffer Ahmad, Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid, Justice Kazi Ebadul Haque, M Hafiz Uddin Khan, ASM Shahjahan, Prof Hasan Azizul Haque, Ataus Samad, Dr Quazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Hamida Hossain, Prof Ajoy Roy, Kofil Uddin Mahmud, M Mujibul Huq, Moslehuddin Ahmed, MA Bari, Principal Mahfuza Khanam, Mushtari Shafi, Abul Mansur, Sved Abul Maksud, Prof Shawkat Ara Hossain, Sharmin Murshid, Prof Badiul Alam Majumdar, Prof Musharraf Hossain, Lutfar Rahman Sarker, Nurul Hague, Prof Syed Anwar Hossain, Selina Hossain, Prof Moinul Islam, Sultana Kamal, Prof Jaheda Ahmed, Dr Shahdeen Malik, Prof Shahidul Islam

27 murdered

people, 21 died in 'crossfire'

leading national dailies of the country, the Odhikar report said 33 people were killed, 2139 injured, 205 arrested and 16 abducted in political confrontation $across\,the\,country\,in\,April.$

Besides, police arrested some 1400

Three people were killed, 75 injured

During the same time, nine people

related violence. The report said 50 children faced violence across the country in last

Among them, 19 were killed, eight

received injuries, eight were raped, four were abducted, one was arrested and 10 went missing.

injured while performing their profesthem, 20 were injured in police atrocities at Chittagong stadium while covering the Bangladesh-Australia second

He said, "Parliament has now turned men. They invest money to come to

Gono Azadi League President Abdus

Badiul Alam Majumder, country

effective unless reforms are made within the political parties on a priority basis.

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon and central leader Bimal Biswas, National Awami Party Joint General Secretary Shafigur Rahman former general secretary Muiibul Haque, and eminent journalist Ataus Samad also spoke at the discussion moderated by Gonotontri Party President Nurul Islam

36 citizens

leaders of militant outfits and take actions against their patrons, inside Otherwise, law and order might deteriorate with the next elections

The citizens who signed the letter

are Prof Jamal Nazrul Islam, Prof Abul Momen and Mizanur Rahman.

Based on reports published in 12

Last month one journalist was arrested, seven were harassed, five

people, mostly the supporters of 14party and general people, to foil the opposition's sit-in programme in front of the Prime Minister's Office on April

and four abducted in Chittagong Hill

Forty-three women including eight children were raped in April across the $country, the \, report \, said, \, adding \, that \, one \,$ of them was raped by the law enforcers.

Eleven women were killed after rape and one committed suicide after being violated.

including five women fell victims to acid violence while 21 people were killed and four others tortured due to dowry

Twenty-eight journalists were

World Press Freedom Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the slogan 'We will know, we will live,' for this year, the country will observe the 'World Press Freedom Day as elsewhere in the world today.

To mark the day, a two-day seminar starting from today will be held at the LGED auditorium in the capital as well as in 21 districts in other five divisions of the country. Mass-line Media Centre (MMC),

Media Watch, Voice, Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC), South Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA) and Young Power n Social Action (YPSA) have organised the programmes including the seminar supported by Unesco and Manusher

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, Deputy Minister for Information Ministry Abdus Salam Pintu and Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed will address the seminar as chief guests.

The theme of this year "Poverty Alleviation is possible by ensuring security of the freedom of expression, freedom of newspapers and other rights" seeks to incorporate the mass media in the fields of development and poverty alleviation, said the organisers at a press briefing at the Jatiya Press Club vesterday.

Presenting a written statement, MMC Executive Director Kamrul Hasan Monju said, "Freedom of democracy and expression holds the central position in ensuring democracy, people's participation and rule of law.' He also referred to the Unesco

Director General Cochiri Matsura's riew towards the Press Freedom Day and said the theme of this year is very significant in the present context of the The speakers also expressed con-

cern over the obstacles the media activists have to face to perform their They also urged the government to finalise the draft 'Right to Information

Act' and pass it immediately as well as

initiate a social movement to make

people aware of the right to know. Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul of Media Watch, Ahmed Swapan Mahmud of Voice and AHM Bazlur Rahman spoke at the briefing among others.

Cops seize

ers of hoarding fuel with a motive to smuggle the fuel out of the country.

Manoj Kumar, manager of the oil depot, denied the allegations of smuggling. But he admitted that owner had no valid licence to run the

Employers' body

effective and [becomes] unable to compete in the market." Elahi observed.

He noted that their representatives in the wages and productivity commission 2005 had submitted notes of dissent saying that wage increase ignoring the capacity of the state-owned enterprises to pay and also the productivity of the labour force in SOEs would aggravate the financial plight of the enterprises and their higher cost would force most of them to borrow more heavily from the banking sector.

He pointed out that accumulated losses of SOEs have become an issue of national concern as it amounts to imposing higher indirect taxation on the poor people of the country. Inefficient operation of SOEs has led to a massive wastage of public resources, conservatively estimated at 4.9 per cent of GDP annually since

B Chy's house

It will submit its reports by May 7.

Police have vet to arrest anyone in connection with Sunday's fire that gutted furniture, cash, clothes, books and other documents on the ground and first floor of the house.

Mahi B Chowdhury, son of the former president and a lawmaker from Munshiganj-2 constituency, filed a case with Gulshan Police Station Sunday night.

"He accused unknown people of deliberately setting fire to their house with chemical substances to kill the family members," the duty officer of Gulshan Police Station told The Daily

probe team of the fire brigade headed by Deputy Director (Operations) Selim Newaz Bhuivan will submit its report tomorrow to their director According to sources at the depart-

ment, firefighters are convinced that the fire did not originate from shortcircuit, gas or mosquito coil. "On examining evidence collected

guards and other people, and checksource in the fire brigade.

Govt killing time

it in the coming election judiciously. If voted to power, her party would control prices of essentials, create jobs, ensure minimum wages of workers, arrange housing for garment workers and put an end to 'looting' in

Farmers and workers across the country are now in miseries. More than 5,000 mills and factories have been closed and over five lakh workers retrenched during the tenure of the coalition, Hasina said. "Whenever BNP goes to power.

people face distress and disaster due to deterioration in law and order, and crises of electricity, water and other things," she said. "No electricity, no food, no peace and no security... These are the results of alliance government's misrule. Referring to the prime minister's

Hasina alleged that the coalition rulers are looting people's wealth hiked prices of essentials through syndicates backed by them and siphoning off crores of taka abroad. A top leader's family members have now become the richest persons in the country through looting.

We will make them furnish accounts of the money they looted from the people and make that public, if we are voted to power." The AL chief also asked her

partymen to prepare lists of people involved in corruption, terrorism and repression so that they cannot change their colours with the change of

Chaired by Sramik League President Abdul Matin Master, the rally was addressed by, among others, AL leaders Abdur Razzak, Suranjit claim of improvement in law and Sengupta, Motia Chowdhury, Sheikh order, the opposition leader said the Fazlul Karim Selim, Obaidul Ouader, killing of a labour leader during his Abdur Rahman and Mofazzal Hossain prayers in broad daylight proved the Chowdhury Maya.

RMG sector fears

me about Tk 4 crore in just a month, Munshi revealed.

Abdus Salam Murshedy, second vice-president of BGMEA, corroborating Munshi's statement said in his case the amount spent in airfreight was double his president's.

Since many garment factory owners are being forced to ship their product by air there are long queues in the airport too and airfreight charges have also gone up two times even three time the normal rate in some cases, said Shahidul Haq Sikder, vicepresident of BGMEA.

Annisul Haq, former president of BGMEA, said most of the garment factories are in Dhaka and Chittagong. 'I don't think it is possible to smuggle diesel in containers out of the country from Dhaka and Chittagong. Why is then this bar on carrying diesel in containers?" Haq asked. Haq gave examples of load shed-

ding in some garment factories in Rupganj and Joydevpur from April 24 to April 30. This week saw power outage about seven times a day and electricity remained unavailable for about three to eight hours a day. So, while a garment factory in Rupgani would have run for 60 to 72 hours normally in six days, it missed a stagHaq said. The situation is similar in

Tipu Munshi said he received news that Swan Sweater factory at Konabari was shut down due to power and diesel crises. The BGMEA leaders have already

met state minister for power and also sought appointment with the energy adviser, but have yet to get a date Munshi said. The country's RMG industry has

been struggling hard to keep afloat in a quota free world and more or less has managed to maintain its position. But the ongoing power and diesel crises have spawned great uncertainty over the fate of the industry and if the situation goes on like this Bangladesh might very well lose its business to India and China -- Bangladesh's competitors, Tipu Munshi observed.

When asked if export earning in RMG sector would drop this year and how much they are fearing to lose due to the power and diesel situation, the BGMEA leaders said it is not possible to say yet if export earnings would drop. They said they are trying their best to maintain schedules spending extra money, but added that they cannot afford to carry on this way

4 killed in city

him, the rickshaw nuller further said. Rob used to arbitrate in the locality.

At one stage of stabbing, the criminals also sprayed several bullets on him.

After they had left the spot, locals

rushed Rob to a local clinic where doctors declared him dead. The goons took away Tk 1.58 lakh from Rob, family members claimed.

Around five and a half years back. some gunmen shot and wounded Rob's elder brother Haji Abdus Sattar, who was also a local arbitrator.

Rob's wife filed a case the same day mentioning that four to five unidentified criminals killed her husband, Shyampur police said. Mentionable, Mohammad Abu

Hanif, 45, a business leader and also president of ward 39 unit of Sramik League, was gunned down at city's Karwan Bazar just a day before the latest

Police could not find any clue as of 5 pm yesterday, nor could they arrest

Following Rob's killing, businessmen of Shyampur Bazar, Nama Shyampur and Bou Bazar areas pulled their shutters down demanding arrest and punishment of the killers

In Badda, a teenage hawker strangled a four-year-old boy failing to marry his

Police recovered the body of Sohel, son of Manik Hawladar, from a field at

Amini asked

treatment while Amini's lawyers did not submit any petition as to why their client failed to appear before the court. Earlier, the court had recorded

statements of seven witnesses since

the charges were framed against Amini

on January 11, 2001. Amini at a meeting in Brahmanbaria on April 19, 2000 said Faruque and other employees of the Proshika would be killed on that very

The report was first published in Dainik Bhorer Kagoj on April 20. Later, the same news was published in other newspapers. Amini did not contradict the news or defend himself Farugue filed a case with the Court

of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate

against Amini on May 14, 2000.

Following the hearing, the court

summoned the accused but he failed The court issued arrest warrant against Amini on July 2 the same year. Amini appeared before the court and obtained bail the next day.

North Badda on Monday morning, He went missing on Sunday.

Police arrested Farid, 17, a spices hawker, from the area who confessed to

Sohel's family rejected Farid's proposal for marrying Sohel's aunt Sheuly several times. Being refused, Farid became angry and killed Sohel, police In another incident at Badda, uniden-

25, a bus helper, to death at Merul Badda at about 11:30am. The motive behind the killing could not be known.

tified youths stabbed Ezazul Haq Montu

Police could not arrest anyone in this connection as of 5 pm yesterday. Meanwhile, some local goons stabbed a salesman of a cloth shop at Aftab Nagar Balur Math in Badda at 9:30pm, after he refused to give over the

keys of the shop. Locals rushed critically injured Arifur Rahman Arif, 22, to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), where he

succumbed to his injuries. Police said before dying, Arif told them that three to four local vouths including Rashed and Ismail took him to Balur Math and stabbed him.

Police could not arrest anyone until

Writ petition

FROM PAGE 16 Secretaries of the law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry and of the EC have been made respondents

At preliminary hearing, Manzil Murshid, counsel for the petitioners, argued that scales (daripalla) have been used as the monogram of the SC since the establishment of East Bengal High Court in 1947.

He said they are being used in the

court's official pad, in chairs of the

election symbol of a political party.

sion among the people, and under-

lawful authority as well as liable to be

declared void," he said.

mine the status of the apex court.

judges, and in calendar and other publications. "They are also used in the flag of a judge's car," he added. week in Doda, and could be aimed at He also submitted that scales are souring the mood ahead of considered as the barometer of justice. So, the EC cannot assign them as an

Since the establishment of the High Court, the people of the country take scales as a symbol of justice, he said. So, he noted, the use of scales as a symbol by others could lead to confu-

"No one should be allowed to create confusion among the people by using scales as a symbol as they represent justice," the lawyer told the court. The inclusion of scales as a symbol in the gazette for symbol allocation by the EC is "mala fide, illegal and without

Khaleda may visit Kuwait **May 7-8**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is likely to pay a two-day state visit to Kuwait $from\,May\,7\,at\,the\,invitation\,of\,Kuwaiti$ Emir Sheikh Jabir Al-Ahmad Al Jabir Al Sabah.

A foreign ministry source said Prime Minister of Kuwait Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah conveyed the invitation to her on behalf of the Kuwaiti emir.

To confirm the date of the visit Kuwait Ambassador to Bangladesh Abdullatif Ali Ibrahim Ai-Mawwash met Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan vesterday and discussed the upcoming visit of Prime Minister

Official sources said the ambassador sought a confirmed date for the visit. As per the tentative schedule, Khaleda Zia's visit will start on May 7.

Foreign ministry sources said the prime minister is unlikely to attend the D-8 Summit to be held in Bali, Indonesia, on May 13. Foreign Affairs Adviser Reaz Rahman is expected to lead Bangladesh delegation at the Earlier, Indonesian President

had sent a special envoy to formally invite the Bangladesh prime minister to attend the summit. Khaleda Zia had accepted the invitation. But the reasons for not attending

Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono Soemadi

the summit could not be known immediately. Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and

Turkey are members of the D-8 group.

2 bombs found at Dinajpur madrasa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Dinajpur police recovered two bombs at a madrasa in Shasra in Dinajpur Sadar upazila vesterday morning. Police sources quoting Md Abdur

Rahim, principal of Daroil Madrasa,

said students of the madrasa noticed a bag hanging on the wall of an abandoned classroom and informed him of the matter. He later informed Dinajpur police about the bag around A police team of Dinajpur Police

Station led by Officer-in charge (OC)

Md Hamidur Rashid went to the spot

and recovered the bombs which were wrapped with tape. None was arrested in this connection. The incident left students, parents and madrasa authorities in

Lightning kills 4 in

C'nawabganj

day evening.

UNB, C'nawabganj Lightning killed four people and injured 15 others during a storm that lashed parts of Shibgani upazila vester-

Three of the dead were identified as Khairul, 30, of Ekbarpur village, Emy, 21, of Rashunchak village, and Rekha Begum, 32, of Selinabad village. Identity of another could not be

(UNO) confirmed the death of two people. The storm has caused extensive damage to mango groves, standing Irri-

Shibganj upazila nirbahi officer

boro crops and vegetables 35 Hindus

FROM PAGE 16

Schools, banks and offices in Doda and Udhampur districts were closed, following the strike call and traffic was largely limited to security vehicles and government cars.

Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil, who visited those wounded in the Doda attack, said the attackers were trying to trigger sectarian strife. "It has been noticed that not only

in Jammu and Kashmir but in other

places ... some people are trying to make brothers fight with each other," he told a news conference, referring to militant attacks at religious sites elsewhere in the country. Some Indian officials say the massacre could be a response to high voter turnout in by-elections last

Wednesday's talks. Residents of Kashmir, a region that triggered two of three India-Pakistan wars, said they were weary of vio-

"We have seen so much bloodshed that some of have us have become insensitive. These killings should end," Thakur Dass, who was visiting a relative wounded in the Doda attack, Pakistan condemned the killings.

"We condemn all acts of terrorism We are against terrorism because we its operation soon after it began. Silk ourselves have been victim of terror-Air also pulled out its operation in ism," Pakistani Foreign Ministry January 2004. These two airlines failed spokeswoman Tasnim Aslam said. to generate enough point-to-point

1m immigrants

and bandanas. In most cities, those who rallied wore white to signify peace and

In Los Angeles, the city streets were a carpet of undulating white that stretched for several miles, with palm trees and grass-covered medians poking through a sea of humanity. Marchers holding US flags aloft sang the national anthem in English as traditional Mexican dancers wovethrough the crowd.

While most demonstrations were peaceful, a Santa Ana rally of 5,000 in Orange County was marred by people hurling rocks and plastic bottles at officers. Police made several arrests, but it was unclear if they were protesters. And a march in Seattle was disrupted when a car struck a group of marchers, though niuries were minor.

In Chicago, illegal immigrants from Ireland and Poland marched alongside Hispanics as office workers on lunch breaks clapped. In Phoenix, protesters formed a human chain in front of Wal-Mart and Home Depot stores. Protesters in Tijuana, Mexico, blocked vehicle traffic heading to San Diego at the world's busiest border crossing.

Many carried signs in Spanish that translated to "We are America" and 'Today we march, tomorrow we vote." Others waved Mexican flags or wore hats and scarves from their native countries Some chanted "USA" while others shouted slogans, such as "Si se puede!" Spanish for "Yes, it can be done!" Others were more irreverent, wearing T-shirts

that read "I'millegal, Sowhat?" The White House reacted coolly

"The president is not a fan of boy-

cotts," said press secretary Scott McClellan. "People have the right to peacefully express their views, but the president wants to see comprehensive reform pass the Congress so that he can sign it into law. The boycott was organised by immi-

grant activists angered by federal legisla-

tion that would criminalize the nation's

was to raise awareness about immigrants' economic power. Industries that rely on immigrant workers were clearly affected, though the

impact was not uniform Tyson Foods Inc., the world's largest meat producer, shuttered about a dozen of its more than 100 plants and saw 'higher-than-usual absenteeism" at others. Most of the closures were in states such as Iowa and Nebraska. Eight of 14 Perdue Farms chicken plants also closed

Goya Foods, which bills itself as the

nation's largest Hispanic-owned food

chain, suspended delivery everywhere except Florida, saying it wanted to express solidarity with immigrants who are its primary customers. None of the 175 seasonal labourers

who normally work Mike Collins' 500

acres of Vidalia onion fields in southeastern Georgia showed up. "We need to be going wide open this time of year to get these onions out of the field," he said, "We've got orders to fill, Losing a day in this part of the season causes a tremendous amount of prob

It was the same story in Indiana, where the owner of a landscaping business said

unparliamentary statements.

AL walks out He also requested the state minister to

apologise for making the 'derogatory' In a bid to diffuse tension, famiruddin Sircar said he would consider ridding the records of all

Prior to the walkout, an unscheduled debate continued for over an hour when opposition lawmakers after Maghrib break raised the issues of ongoing power crisis, price spiral of essentials, police attacks on journalists and worsening law and order.

he was at a loss. About 25 Hispanic workers 90 percent of the field work force

never reported Monday to Salsbery Brothers Landscaping. "We're basically shut down in our busiest month of the year," said owner Jeff

Salsbery. "It's going to cost me thousands of dollars.' In the Los Angeles area, restaurants and markets were dark and truckers avoided the nation's largest shipping port. About one in three small businesses was

closed downtown, including the cluttered

produce market and fashion district. The construction and nursery industries were among the hardest hit by the work stoppage in Florida. Bill Spann, executive vice president of

the Associated General Contractors of Greater Florida said more than half the workers at construction sites in Miami-Dade County did not show up Monday. "If I lose my job, it's worth it," said Jose Cruz, an immigrant from El Salvador

who protested with several thousand

others in the rural Florida city of

Homestead rather than work his con-

struction iob. "It's worth losing several jobs to get my papers.' But the effect was minimal in some places. On Manhattan's busy 14th Street, only a few shops were closed, including a Spanish-language bookstore and a tiny

Latin American restaurant. In Las Vegas, major casino companies Harrah's Entertainment Inc., MGM Mirage Inc., Wynn Resorts Ltd. and Station Casinos Inc. said nearly all 60,000 employees reported to work. Executives and the union representing cooks, maids and housekeepers on the Las Vegas Strip had urged employees to work but also join

an evening rally The impact on some school systems was significant. In the sprawling Los Angeles Unified School District, which is 73 percent Hispanic, about 72,000 middle and high school students were absent roughly one in every four

In San Francisco, Benita Olmedo

pulled her 11-year-old daughter and 7-

from Mexico. "I want them to be as strong I

estimated 11 million illegal immigrants vear-old son from school. and fortify the U.S-Mexico border. Its goal "I want my children to know their mother is not a criminal," said Olmedo, a nanny who came here illegally in 1986

> Truck traffic at the twin ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach the nation's largest port complex was off 90 percent, said spokeswoman Theresa Adams Lopez. Some of the rallies drew small numbers of counter-protesters, including one

in Pensacola, Florida,

"You should send all of the 13 million aliens home, then you take all of the welfare recipients who are taking a free check and make them do those jobs," said Jack Culberson, a retired Army colonel who attended the Pensacola rally. "It's as simple as that."

Birmingham, Ala., company that supplies Hispanic labourers to companies around the Southeast, shut down his four-person office in solidarity with the demonstra-

Jesse Hernandez, who owns a

"Unfortunately," he said, "human ture is that you don't really know what you have until you don't have it."

PM blasts AL

The prime minister assured that the next elections would be free and impartial under the caretaker government and urged the people to foil any conspiracy against election,

democracy and development. Presided over by Deputy Minister for Information Abdus Salam Pintu, the meeting was also addressed, among others, by Jute and Textiles Minister Shajahan Sirai, Telecommunications Minister Aminul Huq, Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury, State Minister for NGO Bureau Affairs Lutfar Rahman Azad and Tangail BNP President Major

Gen. (Rtd) Mahmudul Hassan MP.

Thai Airways

vear, would earn Thai Airways US\$9.06 million a year in fees.

Thai Airways would handle passenger services, ground equipment, cargo and catering. It would also manage operations, maintenance and management of the terminal building and the ramps, and collect landing, security, embarkation and groundhandling fees.

The airport is situated on the route from Europe and Middle East to Far

Every day 20 airlines fly over Chittagong. With attractive fuel price, ground handling facilities and charges, some of these airlines could be encouraged to use Chittagong as Apart from some international

flights of the national flag carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines, three foreign airlines -- Phuket Air, a private airline of Thailand, Silk Air of Singapore and Thai Airways International had started international flights to and from Chittagong. Unfortunately, operation of Phuket Air did not last long, it folded cost. Phuket Air, however, resumed its service -- connecting Dubai. The airport project, initiated on March 12, 1998, was completed on

traffic even to cover the operating

schedule in March 2001. The airport

was expanded and modernised, not

only looking at the future need, but as

an alternative to Zia International Airport, Dhaka at times of need. The airport with 1.80 lakh square feet terminal building and other modern facilities like boarding bridges and luggage conveyors is capable of handling about 1.5 million passengers a year and nearly 6000 tons of cargo. The expanded and

strengthened runway is able to allow

anding of any aircraft now in opera-

tion commercially in the world. The government on June 23, 2005 decided to hand over management of the airport to Thai Airways for the next 10 years as it continued to incur losses. Thai Airways will pay a management fee of Tk 520 million over the period of the contract.

Shah Amanat International Airport has failed to achieve profitability and incurred consecutive annual losses of about Tk 320 million over the past four years.

2 foreigners Sub Inspector (SI) Gias Uddin,

investigation officer (IO) of the case, produced the arrestees before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, seeking a seven-day

able business' with them. He then requested them to come to Bangladesh. They came to Bangladesh recently and met Tanvir in Chittagong for discussion about their business. He became suspicious of their motive and asked them

to go to Dhaka. They did so and were

residing at the hotel. Tanvir later

came to Dhaka and the two showed

him how to make fake dollars.

sional duties in last month. Among

Test match. Even veteran photojournal-

ist Zahirul Huq, 65, could not escape

received death threat while cases were lodged against 30 journalists, and a newspaper office and a seminar were Odhikar prepared the report with

the assistance of Academy for

Educational Development.

remand for interrogation. The court however granted a five-day remand. Meantime, the three-member According to the prosecution, Tanvir had developed intimacy with the two foreigners through e-mail and they offered him a highly 'profit-

> from the house, talking with the police ing electricity and gas lines, they are sure the fire did not begin from any of those three common sources," said a