Kala Jahangir

Earlier, Kala Jahangir was given death sentence for killing Advocate Habibur Rahman Mondol while 'killer' Abbas got 17 years' RI in an

and Raquibul Bari as the charges brought against them were not

The punishment of the fugitives will be effective from the day of their arrest or surrender and the convicts with death can appeal to the High

The victim's parents Waliur present in the court during the delivery of verdict. They broke down in tears and expressed their satisfaction over it, but apprehended that the fugitives might attack them at any time.

were stayed for a long time following an order of the HC.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements

Saidur Rahman Newton, DCC Commissioner of ward No 8 was ants in the city's Dhanmondi on May 10, 2002. The victim's mother filed a Station the same day.

During the investigation of the case, Ayub, Shakhawat and Rubel gave confessional statements to magistrates on different dates.

police pressed charges against Kala Jahangir and 19 others on February 28, 2004.

while Syed Rezaur Rahman Moslehuddin and Mohhamad

Commissioners -- Binov Sarker Bina of ward No 72, KM Ahmed Raju, of ward No 46 and Shahadat Hossain Sikder of ward No 44 -were also killed on different dates.

pending with different courts of the

Govt had earlier info

Babar said it was a conspiracy against the country.

The government will investigate the reasons behind the vandalism at the factories that do not have any

be checked despite having prior intelligence, Babar said the information was not detailed--agencies just reported that it will happen.

"We do not wait for intelligence reports. We can also understand the situation ourselves. But one has to realise my strength," he said.

forces, make them ready and distribute their duties."

"It is a crisis and we have tried in the fastest possible way to contain it," he said, adding that the situation is now under "total control".

"The incidents on the first day were surprising to us, we did not have enough time for preparation on the second day, but we contained

the situation on the third," he said. There was also a lack of coordination among the officers and the forces. "The forces were staying at one place and the officers elsewhere. The force cannot really act

without officers," he said. On the possibilities of further "sabotage", Babar, who is "confident" to handle the situation, said "You never know. It is a conspiracy

The remarkable achievements in the garment sector of the country "may be a reason for resentment to some people". Babar said. "When we came to power in 2001, our garment export was \$5 billion a year, and now it has crossed \$10.5 billion. If the growth continues, our export will be \$20 billion in the next 10 years.

There was no reason for involving the factories that have records of regular payment, he said, adding, "The workers of these factories locked in fight with outsiders. These workers and their management did not want any violence, but the

some ruling party men's involvement in the vandalism, he said, "It is not true. Even as such, it is not to my knowledge. We will not spare anyone if it comes to our knowledge."

The government has failed to

If the government could deploy

realise the gravity of the situation."

army to ensure water supply or

maintain traffic in the city, why the

same would not be done to save an

industry that earns three-fourths of

the country's total export income,

of rampage in some 200 RMG

factories in Dhaka and around will

not be less than \$1 billion, Hoque

said, adding that some buvers have

demand for deployment of army at

the RMG-concentrated areas to

as an act of sabotage carried out

by local and outside conspirators

Commerce Minister Hafizuddin

Ahmed said now the situation is

under control of the law enforcers

who foiled some similar attempts

ter for special incentives to the

affected owners of the factories,'

Mohammad Nasim, Abdur

Rashed, Fazlee Shamim Ahsan

and GM Haider Ali were present at

Tk 100cr fund

Committee member and Awam

League (AL) lawmaker Faruk Khan

told reporters that the TCB is now

ineffective, corrupt and poorly

managed. The present government

has destroyed it. But it was a profit-

making organaisation during the AL

TCB in a pre planned way to help the

Syndicate responsible for price

hike. TCB is now busy constructing

buildings because there is a scope

Meeting sources said ruling BNP

of corruption in the tender process,

lawmaker Rustam Ali Farazi and

Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker

Abdullah Taher also criticized the

commerce ministry and TCB for

failure to control prices of essen-

"This government has destroyed

"I will request the finance minis-

BKMEA leaders Bahauddin

Wednesday morning.

he told reporters.

the meeting.

FROM PAGE 16

Faruk said.

Labelling the workers' agitation

avert further damage," he said.

'We have reiterated our

already cancelled their orders

The losses caused by two days

he asked.

FROM PAGE 1

The BGMEA leaders blamed outside extortionists rather than their workers for the attacks on the RMG units and demanded a judi-

ing a monitoring cell at BGMEA comprising representatives from the law enforcement agencies, and providing compensation to the owners of the damaged factories.

It also decided to form a committee to work for developing the

ters concerned for their "irresponsible role" even after the prime minister asked the commerce and home ministers to look after the

He said the law enforcers were contacted when massive attacks

worked as we were told," Murshedi said. "The ministers later said the decision of opening the factories on

The BGMEA leaders decided to meet the prime minister and request her to issue a statement to save the RMG sector.

Business leaders from different sectors were present at the meeting held at the BGMEA auditorium and expressed their solidarity with the BGMEA leaders.

and former BGMEA presidents Saiful Islam, Anisur Rahman Sinha and Mosharaf Hossain MP were present at the meeting.

BD News adds: After his meeting with the commerce minister, BKMEA President Fazlul Hogue said, "We have seen very little initiative from the government to protect the country's main indus-

Saifur blames

(EPZ). But vandalism was unleashed there too. Again factories other than readymade garment units have also been targeted, he

the minister noted.

while they along with cattle were coming to Bangladesh from India. They died on the spot.

The BSF men then took away the

Bangladeshi traders by the BSF. BDR asked its Indian counterpart

to return the bodies.

Commerce minister

ries and find out who were the culprits behind such 'heinous' acts causing a huge loss to the country's the minister said

measures to find out the criminals behind the garment industry ransacking.' Turning his attention to the

Canada-Bangladesh business relations, he said, it is improving gradually. Exports to Canada was \$125 million in 2003-04 which has increased to \$271 millions in 2004-05, he noted.

the business policy for the post MFA (Multi Fibre Arrangement) era and encouraged the private sector creating opportunities for local and foreign investors for new ventures. This sector has been the engine of growth." he said.

in improving bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Canada.

Barbara Richardson, high commissioner of Canada in Dhaka, appreciated the growth of economy in the country and the private sector's

further improve, she said, adding that Canada will now diversify its import basket from Bangladesh. Rahman said the chamber's signifi-

prosperity through strengthening trade and investment cooperation between the two countries. Its role will also be to properly utilise the opportunities that the Canadian government has granted

cant role is to accelerate economic

including duty free access of Bangladeshi products to Canada Trade Commissioner Mortoza

Tarafder, CBCCL Vice-president Shahab Sattar, and Director Tanwir Nawaz also spoke.

CNG scam

committee will sit at least once in

cations ministry act behind the committee chairman's not holding regular meetings, sources said. The Committee Chairman Syed

"We asked both the subcommittees to place their report in the next meeting on June 1. Otherwise the committees will dissolve automatically on that day," Manjur Hossain told reporters after the meeting held at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yester-

"If they fail to submit report, the main committee will take the next step about the matters." he added.

alleged irregularities in import of the next meeting.

"We have not got all the necessary papers from the ministry. That is why we could not finalise

tasked with probing alleged irregtions, requested for time extension till June 10 but the committee did not comply with, sources said.

that the ministry take initiative for BRTC bus services across the

They condemned recent violence in the garment industry units in and around Dhaka and demanded finding out the culprits through proper investigation.

EC yet to stop

rejected the EC's appeal against the HC directive and asked the EC to prepare the voter list based on the existing electoral rolls.

Legal experts, however, said the EC should have ordered to stop the "The Election Commission should take initial step to stop the task after the court's order and it can wait for the certified copy of judgment to cancel the draft voter list prepared." Ghulam Rabbani, former udge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, said yesterday.

But the EC has made no move formally regarding the SC's judgment while the EC Secretariat officials are in a quagmire. "We are waiting for the Election Commission's directives in this regard. But the commission is waiting for the certified copy of the judgment," a senior official of the EC

Law officers at the EC Secretariat said they are trying to collect the certified copy of the iudaement.

Most of the Tk 60 crore already spent from the public exchequer for preparing a fresh voter list seems to have been wasted and four-monthlong efforts of about three lakhstrong manpower for preparing the voter lists have virtually turned futile exercises. The EC will have to initiate new

procedure to prepare the voter list based on the existing electoral rolls and the task will involve fresh preparations and expenditures. Besides the experts who have been monitoring the preparation of

the controversial voter list, some election officials both in the EC Secretariat and field level blamed the CEC and two other election commissioners, Justice Mahfuzur Rahman and SM Zakaria, for wasting the money. They said the money would not

have been wasted if the commission prepared the voter list following the January 4 HC directives. "The chief election commis-

sioner was misguided by his colleagues in preparing the voter list," said a senior election officer wishing

of intelligence forces have also been

areas, where protesting workers had

bring out processions at several areas.

in the city including at Shewrapara,

section No 14 in Mirpur, behind Purab

Cinema in Pallabi, and Raverbagh bus

stand in Demra yesterday morning but

Nine persons arrested in Mirpur and 11 each in Kafrul and Tejgaon on

Tuesday, were produced before the

court yesterday, who were later sent to

Visiting Mirpur, Tejgaon and Uttara

FROM PAGE 1

The government cannot escape responsibility for the wastage as it provided support for the CEC to prepare the fresh voter list ignoring the HC directives, he added.

He said the government has appointed two election commissioners to provide the CEC with majority in the commission as the then two election commissioners were in favour of implementing the HC's directives to prepare the voter list.

"The chief election commissioner could not justify the preparation of the fresh voter list, but the two election commissioners will remain in the posts." he said

HUGE TASK TO BE STARTED

The EC will have to start massive task again to revise the voter list of 2000. The EC had prepared the draft voter list published on May 3 in about nine months since August last year. But it has only five months ahead before the next caretaker government assumes power to conduct the next parliamentary Officials at the EC Secretariat

said they should immediately start the task, but they are passing time idly as the EC is waiting for the certified copy of the judgement. The EC will have to recruit a large manpower to do this task.

The posts of secretary and additional secretary at the EC Secretariat are vacant while promotion of some field level officers who have been working for over 20 years at the same post has been stalled due to unwillingness of a section of officers at the EC Secretariat.

The EC acting secretary left Dhaka last week for South Korea, but he did not empower any officer to discharge his task.

In absence of the acting secretary, officials are consulting with an election commissioner, who was the immediate past secretary to the EC Secretariat, sources said

Nazrul

lajuddin

A physician said they are optimistic

Bangladesh High Commissioner in

Singapore Munshi Faiz Ahmed

received the president at Singapore

Airport at 9:50pm, Mokhlesur Rahman

Chowdhury, press secretary to the

president, told The Daily Star last

Chowdhury that the president's condi-

tion was stable when he reached

the ailing president took off from Zia

International Airport at 5:00pm.The

Speaker saw the president off at the

treatment at Mount Elizabeth Hospital

in Singapore. He is accompanied by

his wife Prof Anwara Begum and son

at 3.30pm on Tuesday for a medical

check-up. A seven-member medical

board, headed by Professor MA

The medical board advised send-

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, who is

Due to the president's illness,

Sircar had earlier acted as the

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar who was

scheduled to back home today from

London, returned to the capital yester-

president in 2002 following the resig-

nation of Professor AQM Badruddoza

day cancelling his programmes.

Chowdhury from presidency.

Malek, was formed for his treatment.

ing him aboard for treatment as his

condition was not improving

expectedly, sources said. "His heart

condition is not good," a source said.

now visiting the United Arab Emirates

inquired about the president's health

condition overtelephone.

laiuddin was admitted to the CMH

The president will be undergoing

The high commissioner told

Earlier, an air ambulance carrying

about the 75-year-old president's

FROM PAGE 1 control without medicine."

Singapore

ImtiazAhmed.

Minister Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina have issued separate messages, paying rich tributes to the rebel poet whose poems and songs had inspired the nation during the War of Independence in 1971. Different sociocultural organisa-

the rebel poet.

Nazrul Institute includes discussion. children and juvenile art competition, Nazrul songs competition, drama and documentary film on Nazrul

morning. Dhaka University (DU) has also chalked out programme to mark the

day. Bangladesh Betar, BTV and private TV channels will air special programmes on the life and works of the national poet.

party opposition alliance, held the BNP-Jamaat alliance government responsible for anarchy in the RMG sector and said the government has shifted blame to the AL only to cover the main conspirators of creating anarchy in the RMG sector.

page of 'harassment' of the opposition leaders and workers in Gazipur, Tongi and Savar.

Senior AL leaders including Sajeda Chowdhury, Motia Chowdhury, Obaidul Quader. Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Aktheruzzaman, Abdur Rahman, BM Mozzamel Hague, Asim Kumar Ukil and Maqbul Hosain were also present at the press conference.

PROBE

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB), Jatiya Oikya Mancha and Bangladesh Tariqat Federation yesterday demanded judicial inquiry into the last few days incidents in the garment industries at Tongi Gazipur, Savar and the capital.

A neutral inquiry committee led by a Supreme Court bench is very much needed for return of normalcy. Oikya Mancha President renowned lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain, BDB President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Bangladesh Tariqat Federation President Syed Nazibul Bashar Maizbhandari said in a joint

the government is responsible for ensuring the safety of life and property, it should do so in the case of

> president of Gono Forum, said the situation has emerged due to the government's failure to contain price hike of essentials and power shortage, and unsatisfactory wage for workers.

> demanded inquiry should be made public within one week. BDB President Badruddoza

Chowdhury said immediate negotiations with open mind are needed to reach a solution recognising the legitimate rights of the workers.

(rtd) Abdul Mannan, among others, was present at the press confer-

Workers talk

said Bashar, a UKGT worker. The factory authorities increased his wage to Tk 1,000-1200 three months ago. The amount is too small even for a single person," he

The authorities of UKGT, a sweater factory at Jamgora in Savar, very often allegedly force workers to work overtime without fixing any wage and in most cases without any payment.

Although 'piece rate' (wages per piece of ready-made garments) is supposed to be more than Tk 22, workers used to be paid Tk 11.80, which enraged them most. Moreover, their wages were not paid in time and usually payment was made at the middle of a month, allegations said.
The factory authorities used to

sack workers without any reason and did not allow any worker to enter the factory if he/she was late even by a minute. Workers were not allowed to enjoy many of the public holidays, they alleged "Besides delayed payment of

wages, the authorities always paid us less than our due wages. We don't know how the estimate of wages used to be made," said Faruk Hossain, timekeeper of the factory.

Despite repeated complaints about this, the factory authorities gnored the workers' plight. Sometimes, the workers even did not get their wages.

The factory-in-charge and the production manager always behaved with many female workers n indecent ways. They used objectionable words. Since we are poor, girls, we did not dare to protest this, said Duljan, a female worker of the factory.

Ear Hossain, another worker, said. "Prices of essentials are soaring but our wages remained the same for years. We are fighting for the price of our labour, and against those who are pocketing our money over the years.

UKGŤ workers have been agitat-

ing since May 3 for their 11-point demand including wage hike,

weekly holiday and reducing extra working hours. The factory authorities had assured workers of a decision on their demands by May 13 but they

closed the factory on May 16, forcng the workers to take to the street s alleged. When the workers demonstrated on May 18 and 20 at Jamgora hundreds of workers from other factories joined them. The authori-

ties of some factories later barred

their employees from joining the Monday's violence followed this. While talking with a number of workers of garment factories mainly in Mirpur area of the capital, this correspondent learnt that of the factories that have come under attack, only a few do not pay wages regularly. But most of them make

regular payments. The workers however said the get too poor wages, and that the rising gap between their earning and expenditure is making their life miserable.

Lutfunnesa, 30, a worker at Ying Ming International Ltd at Shewrapara, said, "A helper's wages range from Tk 950 to Tk 1,150 and a machine operator gets Tk 1,600 2,000 a month. In the past we somehow managed to live with this poor amount but now our sufferings have mounted due to price spiral of essentials.

Md Rusel, 23, who irons clothes at M&M Shirt Shamim Group at East Shewrapara, said he gets Tk 2,100 a month. Their factory pays wages Opposing any violent movement

for realising demands, he said workers should sit with factory owners and settle things peacefully 'If needed, I can also join them. We really feel our wages should be raised," he added.

CEC, 2 commissioners

law clearly called for updating the

existing voter list, he started ignoring them completely. So much so that after their meeting in August 05, the CEC stopped meeting them or talking to them over telephone till Januray this year, when two new Election Commissioners, more pliable to his way of thinking, were appointed to office. These two Commissioners -- former secretary to the EC SM Zakaria and Justice Mahfuzur Rahman -- immediately after assuming office started publicly criticising Munsef Ali and Mohammed Ali saying that they were misleading the public, and fully supported the CEC in his move to make a new voter list.

In the meantime, Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil and two others went to the High Court (HC) challenging the CEC's move to go for a fresh voter list. In January this year, the HC pronounced that taking the previous voter list as the base, the list should be updated to include new voters and eliminate those who died, etc. The directive clearly called for updating of the voter list and not making a new one. Of the two new commissioners. Justice Mahfuzur went public criticising the verdict saying the HC had no power to pass such a judgement and give directives to the EC.

In a meeting of the EC, where the voting was three to two, with Aziz, Zakaria and Mahfuzur on one side and Munsef and Mohhammed on the other, it was decided that the EC would appeal to the Supreme Court. Munsef Ali and Mohammed Ali retired last month. Now rid of the two dissenting commissioners, the CEC had no problem in having his way. While the appeal process was on, the CEC with the support of his two new commissioners went full speed ahead with the preparation of the fresh voter list. It was apparent from the way the voter list was being prepared that not much care was being taken to ensure its authentic-

On May 3, the nation was stunned to discover that the voters had grown a whopping 22 percent as compared to the previous list totally contradicting the official statistics of our projected voter growth as per figures of 2001 census report. Stories after stories came out about fake voters, voters from non-existent villages, a single house having nearly 100 voters while whole villages having less than 10. Stranded Pakistanis who refuse to be voters having their names included and Rohingas refugees being made voters. Prominent persons including sitting MPs being excluded from voter list. In short the voter list was a scandal.

The CEC's attitude to the press is a story in itself. He never seemed to have realised that the role of the Election Commission was always to operate on the principle of complete disclosure and full public confidence. He did not seem to understand that not only was the EC to act with the highest propriety but also had to be seen to be doing so. He found the media to be meddling in his arbitrary ways and started first

castigating it and them shutting it off. The role of SM Zakaria while he was secretary to the EC needs to be underscored here. During the last two years of the tenure of the former CEC MA Saveed, he declined to attend any meeting. When Sayeed asked the government to give him a new secretary, Khaleda Zia's government gave Zakaria an extension

in the post. Known for his tota loyalty to the present government, he was rewarded with the post of election commissioner. His public support for the new voter list, which has now been turned down by the Supreme Court, also deprives him of any moral authority to continue as election commissioner. The same holds true for Justice Mahfuzur

National Election is the process through which the majesty of public opinion is expressed. It is a most sacred task and we need people upon whom the public in general can repose the highest trust However regrettable, Justice Aziz and Justice Mahfuzur do not enjoy that trust anymore. Zakaria never had it. It was only the government's extreme partisan decision that brought him here. For the sake of democracy and for a free and fair election, and before further indignity befalls them, they should resign. That will be their best service to the

As for the government, we hope a significant lesson is learnt. Do not try to influence the election process by fiddling with the Election Commission. As our PM never tires. of telling us about upholding the image of the country, can we return the favour and say, for God's sake constitute a truly independent Election Commission after taking all parties into confidence. Let us move away from the destructive logic of "Since we were not consulted in selecting the CEC when we were in the opposition, we will not consult anvone now." Too many crises are converging all at once. To overcome them, we need unity. The process of unity can begin with the process of selecting a new CEC and new commissioners. We are assuming that our appeal to self-respect will not fall on deaf ears.

Japanese firm

FROM PAGE 16

The purchase committee approved another shipping ministry proposal for the appointment of a consulting firm for computerisation of container terminal management system and management information system at

8 crore. Six foreigners and four local specialists will do the task within the next 18 months. The committee also approved

the appointment of a consulting firm for conducting survey on and prepare technical design for expanding the Dhaka-Chittagong highway to four lanes at a cost of Tk 19 crore.

Besides, the committee approved the contract of a partner NGO for implementing the Second Urban Primary Healthcare Project at a cost of Tk 182 core.

approval of bid offer for upgrading the 500-bed Mymensingh Medica Hospital to 1000-bed at a cost of Tk 56.5 crore, approval of bid offer for setting up main building of the National Institute of Neuroscience in Dhaka at Tk 30.81 crore, approval for importing 35,000 barrels of lubricant base oil at Tk 34.53 crore and approval of appointment of contractor for establishing the second Shitalakhya Bridge in

of 16 prosecution witnesses.

gunned down by a gang of miscremurder case with Dhanmondi Police

The detective branch (DB) of

Special Public Prosecutor Abdul Latif Talukder appeared for the state

Shahjahan defended the accused. Three other DCC Ward

The cases of the killings are

against the country.'

outsiders did." On intelligence report about

FROM PAGE 16 each parliamentary standing

Pressures from the communi-

Manjur Hossain, however, once again expressed his determination to probe the allegations against the communications ministry in import of CNG autorickshaws and allocation of land to set up CNG refuelling

Nadim Mostafa, ruling BNP lawmaker and head of a subcommittee tasked with probing CNG autorickshaws, told reporters that he would submit the reports on their investigations in

the report," he said. Ruling BNP lawmaker Mahmudul Huq Rubel, who is head of the other sub-committee ularities in allocation of land for setting up CNG refuelling sta-

The committee recommended large contingents of police have been deployed at all sensitive places in

> Fifty fire fighters were working in each shift at the burnt sites. An uneasy calm is prevailing at the

Ashulia and Savar including the

Tight security localities due to the fear of police harassment and arrest including in Zirabo, Zamgora, Gazirchat, Noroshinghapur, Shimoltoly and

> Most of the workers did not come out of home yesterday as a rumour ran rife regarding an order to open of fire on any kind of demonstration. A police van with 20 to 25 riot police

Kathhgora where thousands of work-

any side of the highways and asking everyone to leave for respective destinations immediately. Fire at LSSML was extinguished completely yesterday morning. "We hope to start again soon with all our former employees back to job. We have not estimated the amount of loss

reports quoting a BEPZA news release that enterprises of DEPZ will resume normal operation today with The outsiders unlawfully forced in the Dhaka EPZ factories and ran-

sacked 27 garment factories of Dhaka

EPZ, set ablaze a Korean sweater factory, A-One (BD) Ltd and damaged

several vehicles inside the Dhaka

EPZ." added the release.

FROM PAGE 1 The presidents and chairmen of these chambers and trade bodies in

They said the miscreants caused damage to the factory buildings. burned machinery and raw materials and forced the workers to come out of the factories The image of the garment sector,

lence, they observed. "We appeal to all concerned to

garment industries too. Signatories to the statement Dr Kamal Hossain, also the include presidents and chairmen of Chamber of Commerce and

11 trade bodies

which earns a bulk of the foreign

save these factories from wanton destruction in the hands of hooligans and miscreants not related to the workers." said the statement. The business leaders said since

FROM PAGE 16 President lajuddin Ahmed, Prime

tions have chalked out programmes to celebrate the birth anniversary of The four-day programme of

The teachers and students of Nazrul Institute will place wreaths at the grave of the national poet on the Dhaka University premises in the

Jalil, also co-ordinator of the 14-

He demanded immediate stop-

3-PARTY DEMAND JUDICIAL

At a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday, the three opposition leaders blamed the four-party alliance government for failure to take prompt steps towards finding solution to a genuine prob-

He said the report of the

BDB Secretary General Major

nation.

Chittagong Port. Nathan Associates Inc of the USA has been awarded the job at Tk

The committee also approved four more projects, which are

Demra at a cost of Tk 62 crore.

of the four cases filed for killing four DCC commissioners on different

arms case. The court acquitted Ripon Khan proved.

Court (HC) against the verdict within 30 days from the day of receipt of judgement copy, the judge said. Rahman and Rabeya Begum and his wife Ferdousi Ahmed were

The proceedings of the case

problem regarding workers' payment, he told reporters at his office yesterday. On forming any probe team, the state minister said the government is concentrating on settling down the situation at pres-Asked why the violence could not

The authorities had to bring police from Khulna, Rajshahi and other parts of the country, Babar said, adding, "It is not easy to bring

Govt failed

cial probe committee to investigate the incidents and punish the responsible. The meeting announced a ninepoint proposal that includes form-

relation between the workers and Murshedi criticised the minis-

and vandalism were going on at Savar on Monday, but they arrived much late. "When we met the commerce and home ministers after the incident at Savar both assured us about opening the factories the next day saying they would deploy 80 platoons of law enforcers. But nothing

Tuesday was wrong.

Mahbubur Rahman, president of International Chamber of Commerce, Latifur Rahman, president of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, AK Azad, president of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries, Mohammed Ali, acting president of FBCCI, SM Abu Taiyeb, BGMEA vice-president,

those in the export processing zone

If the workers have any grievances over their pay and other benefits they could have told it to the prime minister and their problem could be solved through discussion,

BSF kills

opened fire on the cattle traders

A source in BDR 41 Rifles Battalion admitted the killing of two

FROM PAGE 16 The government will carry out inqui-

readymade garment (RMG) sector. Referring to Islamist militant activities and the government's move to arrest them a few months back the minister said, "I ensure that the government will take all possible

"The government has reshaped

He assured CBCCI of assistance

vandalised factories and demon-Bangladesh and Canada have strated on streets. The Daily Star correspondents found the areas calm. strong business relations and it will Law enforcers were seen patrolling the areas, as well as guarding some of the factories that were attacked on Tuesdav. CBCCI President Masud Some protesting workers tried to

> law enforcers foiled their attempts. A total of nine cases were filed with Mirpur, Tejgaon and Kafrul police stations (PS) against several hundred named and unnamed workers in connection with Tuesday's rampage in

> > No case was filed with Uttara and Sutrapur PSs.
> >
> > GAZIPUR Several hundred workers vesterday demonstrated at Borobari area at 9:00am and vandalised Moonlight Garments factory. BDR and police later dispersed the protesters, a

Several hundred demonstrators got on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Salna and ransacked factories of Concord Garments, Utah Knitting Quality Garments and Sang Kwang Apparels at about 11:00am. Local people alleged that police stormed Salna village and indiscrimi-

correspondent in Gazipur reports.

10 injured. One of them was admitted to Gazipur Sadar Hospital. Rab helicopters flew over Gazipui twice in the morning while BDR, Rab and police were seen patrolling troubled spots, reports news agency UNB. Vehicular traffic on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway was thin with only a few vehicles seen on the road.

nately beat up people, leaving at least

others, arrested on Tuesday from the district, were produced before court vesterday with a 10-day remand prayer. The court granted five-day for each of them. Three policemen, who are in charge of Chandana, Konabari and Hotapara police outposts, filed three

cases with Joydevpur PS against

Uncertainty looms over the fates of

thousands of workers outside Dhaka

2000 people.

SAVAR

Meanwhile, 29 people including union leaders Mashrefa Mishu and six

Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) as those have been declared closed for an indefinite period. "We did not get last month's salary and fear we will have to fast in the coming days as we're running out of our savings," Halima, a finishingsection worker of Little Star Spinning Mills Ltd (LSSML), told this correspondent as she was standing outside the burnt factory building.

"We cannot even look for new jobs

Meanwhile, some workers left their

as all the factories here are closed

indefinitely," a frustrated Halima said.

rented houses for their home villages

According to the workers, the situation is worst for the workers of six Meantime, 12 platoons of BDR men, about 400 Rab members and

on board was seen patrolling the two highways making announcements through bullhorns prohibiting people to

hold any unnecessary gathering on

yet," said Md Ali Hossain, assistant manager of the factory. State-run news agency

a joint statement declared their solidarity with the owners of readymade garment and other industries, whose factories were damaged and looted by the miscreants in the last few days.

exchange, was tarnished at home and abroad as a result of the vio-

the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Metropolitan Industry (MCCI), Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh (ICC-B), BSTMAPLA, Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF) BCCAAMEA, LFMEAB and Bangladesh Terry Towel and Linen Manufacturers' and Exporters' Association (BTTLMEA).

AL demands FROM PAGE 1