Policy takes U-turn ACC sends letter Accords with workers Boishakhi TV

fiscal's original ADP. Within the first half

of the fiscal Tk 202 crore was spent, which

is 74 percent of the allocation, while the

overall average rate of spending in ADP in

six months time is 27 percent. Despite

such an anomaly in spending, the revised

current ADP has raised the allocation for

The gas sector is a major revenue earner

for the government. In the last fiscal

Petrobangla and its nine affiliates gave

over Tk 2700 crore to the national exche-

quer and this trend prevails in the current

allocated Tk 999 crore for various pro-

jects of the oil, gas and natural resources

sector. But the revised ADP has taken

away the major chunk of the allocation

Therefore, this reduction implies major

slowdown of development activities

forcing the nation to buy more of expen-

sive gas from international oil companies

and thus draining out foreign currency.

golden eggs for the nation. Unfortunately

the political leadership never under-

For the power sector, which has

become a major political issue due to

massive load shedding, the government

allocated Tk 3119 crore or 12.73 percent

of the original ADP for the current fiscal.

In the revised ADP this allocation has

been increased to Tk 3382.12 crore or

15.73 percent, which is the highest

among all allocations. The next ADP

allocates Tk 3160 crore or 12.16 percent

condition of implementation in the

power sector programmes. All the power

generation projects are decades old

according to ADP documents, and they

do not reflect any sense of urgency on the

part of the government in implementing

enough power projects to catch up with

and Evaluation Department (IMED)

recently reviewed a number of power

projects and found that the low imple-

mentation of power projects are caused

by faulty project paper designs, ineffi-

ciency in financial projections, pro-

longed procurement procedure, and

failure to obey financial and planning

disciplines. It found that on an average,

the authorities deploy five project direc-

Saifur-Ilyas row

Ilyas Ali.

if no punitive action is taken against

resign from the cabinet and the party

unless Ilvas Ali is sacked. This threat

 $has\,not\,gone\,down\,well\,with\,the\,prime$

minister. It has been interpreted as an

attempt to pressurise her, especially

before the budget session, and the

minister may stick to his rigid position

and suddenly take any decision. On

the other hand, the party high com-

mand has also been annoyed by the

finance minister's open comments

like "What have I got? I have neither

been made the deputy leader nor

deputy prime minister". Such public

senior leaders, who reportedly

advised the PM not to give in to such

tion against his two sons have weak-

ened Saifur's position in the party. His

whimsical actions, arbitrariness in

decisions, and alleged involvement of

his immediate family members in

mega projects and decisions of vari-

ous ministries have greatly eroded

Saifur's standing in the party and

the finance minister and Ilyas Ali on

Sunday, a senior minister was called

to Hawa Bhaban in the evening and

was asked to be prepared to take over

the charge of finance ministry, if

however, accused the BNP secretary

general of instigating Ilvas against

Saifur. Their argument is that the

secretary general will be the senior

most leader in the party in the absence

of Saifur Rahman. The disenchant-

ment of several senior cabinet col-

leagues with the finance minister has

been known for some time. They

complained of being ignored, mal-

treated and even insulted. They found

Saifur not to listen to them and act

arbitrarily. More and more Saifur was

seen to listen to no one and behave as

had asked and restricting his political

leverage in the district are being seen

by party insiders as a clear signal that

maybe the finance minister has at last

overstepped his authority, thus losing

The PM's refusal to act as Saifur

he pleased as a minister.

Supporters of the finance minister,

Following the PM's meeting with

inside the cabinet.

necessary.

mments have clearly angered other

Moreover, allegations of corrup-

Party insiders said the finance

impending election.

Saifur Rahman threatened to

The Implementation, Monitoring

2000 megawatts of load shedding.

But these figures do not reflect the

stands its value," said another official.

The gas sector is capital-intensive.

"This kind of policy is ultimately

The gas sector is the goose that lays

The original ADP for the current fiscal

fiscal, Petrobangla sources said.

slashing it down to Tk 394 crore.

Petrobangla sources said.

said a senior official.

LESSER ALLOCATION FOR POWER

the sector to Tk 420 crore

the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), said he believes the new projects have been incorporated in the ADP due to political pressure. If roads are constructed near a minister or MP's village home there will be some development work going on in the area, and the ruling alliance people will also make some money from them. "If a large number of projects are taken up, money is wasted on the one hand and on the other hand low quality projects enter into the ADP." Bakht said.

"We have been expecting an ADP in line with an austere budget since there are various challenges in the present national and international economies and since three different governments are going to implement the new budget. Adding Tk 4,500 crore to the new ADP is not pragmatic under the circumstances."

Transport is among the four sectors that have received the highest allocations in the revised current ADP, while it has received the second highest allocation in

There are 22 projects in the transport sector. One of those projects -- construction of a bypass road in Jhenaidah -- will cost Tk 19 crore. But in the revised current ADP only Tk 50 lakh and in the been allocated for the road.

many such road projects and there are chances of misappropriation of money, sources said.

Last week, BIDS sent 'Policy Recommendations for National Budget mentation."

It pointed out that among 183 projects in the transport sector in the original ADP of the current fiscal, 138 were road

years," the BIDS recommendation said.

In rural development and institution sector there are quite a few projects with similar names like 'rural development', 'rural road development', 'marketplace development' etc. Experts said in such projects chances of corruption are

Under the public priority, rural communication and haat-bazar development and rehabilitation project, Tk

China, India sign military accord

Chinese foreign ministry said, in a deal that is expected to see the neighbours conduct more military training exer-

The memorandum of understanding was signed during a visit by Indian Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee to Beijing, foreign ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao told reporters.

"Reinforcement of mutual trust and exchanges will be benefitial for the development of all-round cooperation partnership in the two countries."

The Indian defence ministry said $ahead\,of\,Mukherjee's\,trip, which\,began$ Sunday, that the agreement would institutionalize training, exercises and forces of the countries.

develop a "strategic and cooperative partnership for peace and prosperity between India and China," and enhance trust between their two mili-

taries, the ministry said. The China Daily reported Monday that the agreement could become an instrument for a regular and sustained

dialogue between the two countries on Mukheriee held meetings with his Chinese counterpart Cao Gangchuan

and Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing on Monday, then met with Premier Wen Jiabao on Tuesday.

During his five-day trip, Mukheriee will also visit military bases in Beijing and Shanghai as well as in Lanzhou, the capital of northwest China's Gansu province, the Indian embassy said.

China-India relations have improved in recent years as both countries have made efforts to complement

resolved a decades-old border dispute -- the result of a brief but bitter conflict in

Sources said the ACC also informed the government how the organisational structure prepared by the Cabinet Division conflicts with the ACC Act.

The Cabinet Division will place the proposal for the ACC organogram before the National Implementation Committee on Administrative Reforms (Nicar), headed by the prime minister, for final approval. The Nicar will decide on the matter at its June 6 meeting.

Upon learning the Cabinet Division move, the ACC held an emergency meeting on Monday and took a unanimous decision of rejecting the government's proposed organisational structure.

The ACC also attached the minutes of the meeting and other relevant papers to the letter.

Govt to ask SC

hearing the death references of the militants' cases if it maintains the existing serial.

The Jhalakathi court sentenced JMB chief Abdur Rahman, operations commander Siddiqul Islam and five others

ment will take quick steps for hearing of the death references of the militants' cases by preparing paper book on priority basis.

the two judges' killing case in Ihalakathi reached the HC vesterday, sources said.

Four repairmen

was undergoing a renovation work 10 years after it had been built. Two local contractors, Tushar and Dupley, have been doing the work.

According to police, a mould of the south portion of the bridge collapsed at about 12:30pm on the workers, who

Farig, Kalu and Kased.

Police recovered and sent the bodies to Meherpur General Hospital. Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Meherpur Talukdar Shamsur Rahman and Superintendent of Police of the district SM Rokunuddin

The contractors have fled the area, police said.

Kuwait fund FROM PAGE 1

kilometre long Padma bridge with facility of train communication," he

government first took the initiative for construction of the Karnaphuli bridge and it conducted a feasibility study in 2001, sources in the communications

After assuming power, the present government in its first cabinet meeting approved the project and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia laid the foundation stone of the bridge on April 19,

The tender for construction of the bridge on build, own and operate basis was invited on January 15 this year.

was held only 100 yards from the Dainik Andolaner Bazar office. Three ruling party lawmakers of the district were also present in the meeting.

When contacted Editor of Dainik Andolaner Bazar, now in Dhaka fearing attacks on him, said a vested quarter is conspiring to gag the newspaper. Ferming Monday's attack pre-planned he expressed his determination to keep on denouncing crime against all odds. 'We will continue publishing our paper if local administration takes proper security measures," he added.

Contacted, the ruling party lawmaker Shahidul told The Daily Star, Dainik Andolaner Bazar with its baseless reports was sullying my image." He however denied his involvement in the incident regarding the shutting down of Dainik Andolaner

2,500-year-old

among the relics discovered during a Bangladesh-France joint excavation at the Mahasthan site in Bogra in 1999.

The other artefacts that are around 2,500-year old include ring stones, bronze mirrors, a huge collection of coins, bronze statues and terracotta pieces of different periods.

A high official of the Archaeology Department said a few antiques have been preserved in display boxes in the museum. However, most of the finds including the stove, the coins and statues could not be properly displayed due to the shortage of display box as well as space and other facili-

A source at the department said most antiques including the bronze statues, terracotta pieces of the Gupta period have been kept in store without

and labour federations signed during 1997-2005, the labour leader' demands included minimum wages, maternal leave, identity cards, weekly holiday and emergency exits. They also demanded that main gates of the factories be kept open in case of an emergency.

Although the deals provided that the factory gates would not be under lock and key in emergency situations, this is not being followed. The accident at KTS garment in Chittagong on February 23 is an example of such violation of the

Issuance of renewable identity cards for all workers, as agreed upon after the Globe Knitting factory incident in year 2000, is also yet to be a reality.

A section of garment workers in Tejgaon area blamed some labour leaders' unholy alliance with the owners for the delay in implementing these agreements or non-implementation of those. It is the responsibility of both the garment owners and labour leaders to implement the worker's demands raised in the last one decade, they felt. The garment owners and labour

leaders however blame each other for non- implementation of workers' Delwar Hossain, president of

Bangladesh Garment Sramik Oikya Parishad, said, "Actually, the owners come to consensus with workers federation when they fall in trouble like labour unrest. They use the deals as tools to

"BGMEA leaders as well as garment factory owners are not sincere to meet workers' demands," he said, adding that BGMEA leaders have always shown a negative attitude towards labour laws.

He denied that labour leaders are involved in unholy alliance with owners overworkers' demands.

BGMEA President Tipu Munshi admitted that some factories do not follow labour laws nor meet workers' demands as per deals signed at different times. But most of the export-oriented factories abide by international labour laws because of the 'compliance issue'.

"Without ensuring compliance, it is very difficult to get export orders from the buyers," he added.

On the writ petition against minimum wages, he said, " It concerned a procedural problem. But garment owners are still ready to implement the minimum wages that the government will suggest".

Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, assistant executive director of BILS said, "The big problem is that most of the garment owners do not agree to obey labour laws." The deals already signed are merely an eyewash to bypass the demands of workers, he added.

If BGMEA leaders would have taken effective steps to make its members implement the deals, there would be no workers unrest in Bangladesh's gar ment industry, he stressed.

3 killed in 'encounters

Alamgir and Farug were killed when Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) men and their accomplices were involved in a firefight at Shyamoli in the capital while Saidur was killed in crossfire when police and his accomplices engaged in a gun battle at Mujibnagar in Meherpur early Family members of Alamgir and

Faruq claimed the two were missing for the last two days.

Rab claimed they raided a club in Shyamoli around 1:10am where four to five men were allegedly planning criminal activities. As Rab men reached the spot, the alleged goons opened fire on them from their hideouts to which Rab retaliated. During the battle, a number of the gangmen managed to escape while Rab claimed to have found bullet $riddled\,A lamgir\, and\, Faruq\, on\, the\, spot.$

Rab also recovered an automatic pistol, one pipe gun, several bullets, two cellphones and several bottles of phensidyle from the spot. The law enforcers said both the dead were accused in different cases including murder cases.

Rab filed two cases against the two with Mohammadpur Police Station, one for attacking the law enforcers and the other under Arms Act.

Meanwhile, Faruq's father Mujibur Rahman told The Daily Star Faruq, driver to a Major of Comilla Cantonment, had been residing near the cantonment in Comilla with his family for several years.

Ouoting Farua's wife Shilpi, Mujibu said Farug left home on Sunday around 7:00pm after receiving a phone call. He has been missing since then. His family members tried to call him over telephone several times but could not reach

"Learning about the so-called 'encounter' on TV, I went to

Mohammadpur Police Station and later found his body at Dhaka Medical College (DMC) morgue," he added. He claimed no criminal case was filed against his sor with any police stations.

Meanwhile, Alamgir's mother Rokeva Begum said her son worked as an electrician for an electronics company. She said on Sunday evening someone went out saying he was going to Shibchar Learning about the death of her son she also found the body at DMC morgue.

Claiming her son 'clean', she said, "I am challenging my son was not involved in any criminal activities."

Meanwhile, Saidur was killed in an encounter with police at his home in Tungi Gopalpur near Mujibnagar in Meherpur. Saidur was the Meherpur district commander of Janajuddho, police claimed.

on Monday evening, Later, following his information a police team went to Tungi Gopalpur with him to arrest his accomplices and recover hidden firearms. When the police team reached

team. Police retaliated leading to a gun Police claimed Saidur, trying to escape custody during the battle, was

caught in the line of fire and died on the spot. Police however failed to recover

Police claimed Saidur was accused in six murder cases filed with Mujibnagar Police Station.

Tributes paid to Zia

Acting President Jamiruddin Sircar placed wreath at the grave of the former president at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the morning. After placing wreath, he stood in solemn silence for sometime and offered fateha, seeking eternal peace of the departed soul.

Prime Minister and BNF Chairperson Khaleda Zia also placed wreath at the grave and offered fateha seeking divine blessings for the late leader and peace, progress and prosper-

She also distributed food, sarees, lungis and money in cash among the destitute in different parts of the city on the first day of BNP's three-day programme, marking the death anni-

The prime minister first distributed cooked food among the poor, including women and children, at Shukrabad bus stand. Later, she distributed food at Mohammadpur BRTC bus stand, Kalabagan bus stand, New Market footoverbridge, Nawabpur, Nayabazar, BNP central office at Nayapaltan, Motijheel, Segunbagicha and on the premises of Bangladesh Shishu Academy and High

She is scheduled to visit and distribute food on 116 spots of the city during the three-day programme

LGRD Minister and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Telecommunications Minister M Aminul Haque, Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas, City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury, Dhaka City BNP General Secretary Abdus Salam, among others, accompanied the prime minister.

Apart from placing wreaths at the grave of Ziaur Rahman, the day's programmes included Ourankhwani. special prayers, discussions and semi-

nars on the life and works of the late leader. National dailies brought out supple

ments while Bangladesh Betar, BTV and private TV channels aired special programmes, highlighting Zia's eventful

Aug 17 blasts

presence of four of the accused --Masum Billah, Hafez Al-Amin alias Abdullah alias Sentu, Mostafa Hasan and Abu Zafor -- all activists of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh

Sub-Inspector (SI) Abul Hossain,

also investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet against the five on December 31 last

The judge fixed the date of verdict on completion of arguments of prosecution and defence lawyers on May

witnesses and examined the records.

The main accused Masum was the JMB's regional chief in Patuakhali-Barguna region. Earlier he gave statement to the court under Section 164. He joined JMB in 2001 when he was a student of class nine. He was also an activist of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami.

Patuakhali on February 12 this year $following\,detention\,of\,his\,parents.$ Al-Amin, who was also an ICS

activist, was arrested along with 32 others from a mosque in Barguna town in June 2004 for their alleged involvement in militant activities.

villages in Barguna and Patuakhali districts, were also ICS activists, police said.

Court, Dhaka against Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas and MD of the channel Kazi Mohammad Shahidullah.

After the hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Mamun Al Rashid recorded statement of the complainant and directed the officer-in-charge (OC) of Gulshan Police Station to submit a report by June 27 after an investigation into the matter.

In his complaint, Bulu mentioned that due to his conflicts with Shahidullah over running the channel, he had earlier decided to withdraw his No 117 share from the channel and informed Shahidullah about it over telephone on April 16 this year.

Shahidullah told him that he (Bulu) would have to sign a form if he wants to withdraw his share, to which the complainant agreed given that all his money against the share is returned.

saving that his (Shahidullah) close friend Mirza Abbas would kill the complainant if he does not hand over the share without taking any money, Bulu added. Later, on May 10, the defendants

But Shahidullah threatened him

again threatened the complainant to hand over the share while he was Moreover, being directed by Mirza

Abbas, the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakkha (Rajuk) on May 25 made attempts to demolish the ground floor of the complainant's Bulu Ocean Tower in Banani and damaged a lot of the floor violating the rules and provisions of the Rajuk. The minister is threatening continuously over telephone to kill him, the complainant

When the complainant went to the Gulshan Police Station to file a case for the threats over telephone, police refused to register it as a regular case. So he filed the case against the accused with the court, Bulu added.

Advocates Taposh Kumar Dutt, Abdus Shukur and Liakot Ali Shikder appeared for the complainant.

Sonargaon Hotel FROM PAGE 16

However, he said the Kingdom Group does not want to set up any new hotel here. Rather, the group intends to buy an existing one. "We have no plan to invest in other

Prince Talal, the owner of Kingdom Group, proposed Bangladesh government last year to purchase Sonargaor Hotel.

Later, the government at a cabinet

areas," Nikos Hadjos said.

meeting decided not to sell the hotel considering its profit margin. The hotel has given Tk 516 crore to the government as tax since its operation in 1981 and earned a net profit of Tk 110 crore during this period, Civil Aviation

and Tourism Ministry sources said. Alamgir said Pan Pacific Group, the present operator, is managing the hotel quite well and there is no reason for its handover to others.

In the last fiscal year, the hotel had earned Tk 20 crore net profit, the minis-"We have offered them to set up new hotels or to purchase Hotel Saikat in

Chittagong and the government will support them with everything, including land," he added. He said the Kingdom Group will

inform us of its decision after consulting Prince Talal. The agreement between the government and the Pan Pacific Group for

operation of the management of the Sonargaon Hotel will expire in June next "The Pan Pacific Group has already offered us to continue operation, but we will take the decision at the board meet-

ing," the minister said. Sonargaon Hotel was built in 1981 with a loan of Tk 33.87 crore given by the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan, according to sources.

12 companies

FROM PAGE 16

The companies are Globeleq Summit Consortium, Orion & Delta Power, Power Line Engineering of Thailand, Noorpoor Technologies, Maser (M) SDN BHD of Malaysia, Maining Industries, Marubeni Corporation of Japan, PHP Power Generation, China-Metallurgical Construction Group, AES Technologies of USA, YTL Power of Malaysia and the GMR Energy of India, according to

They said this was the third tender invited for the project to implement it on build-own-operate (BOO) basis Yesterday was the last date for submission of tender documents.

The first tender was invited in 2003 and it was rejected by the Prime Minister's Office. The second tender was invited in 2005 and the government rejected the bidding again as it found it technically faulty and the financial offer Among the firms, Summit had vied in

Power Development Board (PDB) while its partner Globeleq is now operating the 450MW Meghnaghat and 360MW Haripur Power plants. Summit has also been operating three small power projects in the country. These two power plants were the

the first tender under a joint venture with

based AES Corporation installed the Of the Orion & Delta Power, Orion owned the 450MW Meghnaghat Power

Plant offering the lowest ever power tariff for the project. As per the rule, Power Cell, the implementing agency of the power ministry, will scrutinise the bidding

Udichi blast case

The judge also fixed June 27 for further arguments in the cases.

At about 12 noon, the Special Tribunal Judge Abul Hossain Bepari came to the court and informed the parties and lawyers present that he had encountered some legal complexities while examining the documents for preparing the judgment adding that he required more legal explanations and arguments from both sides.

The court premises and the adjoining areas were cordoned off by the police and the Rab (Rapid Action Battalion) as part of the strict security measures taken up by the administration due to the scheduled delivery of judgment vesterday.

Besides, several hundred curious people and journalists also thronged the court compound to hear the verdict.

Earlier on May 25, Special Tribunal Judge Abul Hossain Bepari fixed the date of delivering the verdict of the two cases filed for the Udichi tragedy after a long hearing and

On March 7, 1999 two high-

powered bombs went off at the Munshi Meherullah Maidan in the town at the 12th annual national conference of Udichi, killing 10 peo-

ple and injuring 200 others. After the incident Sub-inspector (SI) Abdul Aziz filed a case with the

mentioning any names On December 14, 1999 Senior Assistant Superintendent of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) Dulal Uddin Akand submitted a charge sheet to a Jessore court accusing 24 people including Environment and

another BNP leader Nurun Nabi. The court framed charges on July 9

The High Court cleared the charge against Tariqul Islam on August 12,

In the last hearing on May 25, 22

Defence lawyer Debashish Das told the journalists that the accused denied their involvement with the incident and were pressurised to give

EU puts LTTE

European Union (EU) Monday.

conviction that solutions to the issues at hand have to be sought only through political means and not through military means," a statement from Rajapakse's office said.

any military option by anyone. Tigers guerrillas had earlier argued that their intentional isolation could

fresh impetus and encouragement to

the LTTE to think afresh and resume

talks with the assistance of the

"Two men escaped with gunshot injuries and reported to police this morning," Samarasinghe said. "We are

mine attack elsewhere in the island's north on Tuesday morning,

The report of the ma the EU ban on the LTTE took effect, cutting off the group's funding from Europe, and while Sri Lanka's key international financial backers met in

Γokyo to discuss their engagement. The US, the EU, Japan and Sri

FROMPAGE 16 The teachers will bring out a silent rally wearing shrouds from 12:00 noon at Muktangan today and stage a rally at

of their long-time demand. The non-government teachers' representatives now in Dhaka will communicate with their colleagues across the country through mobile phones calling them to join the greater

Reading out a written statement, the association President Mohammad Shamsul Alam said various political and social leaders expressed solidarity with them during the hunger strike, but the government that is indifferent to the issue has not given any assurance of

iobs for the last 11 years.

going to end soon.

"We are sad and troubled. We think the result of the government's indifference will have repercussions in the upcoming elections," he said.

The association president said in 1997 when Khaleda Zia was the opposition leader, she expressed solidarity with the teachers and supported their demand on the ninth day of their hunger strike at Osmany Udyan.

nationalised," Shamsul Alam quoted the then opposition leader as saying. Khaleda Zia, during the teachers'

grand rally on September 10 in 2000 at the same venue, also made the same promise, but now she has no time to pay heed to the teachers' demand, which is a matter of life and death to them, the association president said. Secretary General of the association

Mrigendra Mohan Saha, Senior Vice President Shahidul Islam Khan, Vicepresident Swapan Kumar Roy, among others, were present on the occasion.

Jessore Kotwali Police Station without

Forest Minister Tarigul Islam, the then opposition BNP leader, and

accused were present out of total 23.

statements under section 164.

meeting in Tokyo Tuesday to review the

island's faltering peace process amid

fears that the nation of 19.5 million

people was slipping back to full-scale

There was no immediate reaction

from the Tamil Tigers to the EU ban, but

the Tigers had earlier said that the

widely expected proscription could

jeopardise peace efforts and have

implications for Scandinavian truce

Three of the five nations contribut-

ing staff to the Sri Lankan Monitoring

Mission are from Sweden, Denmark

and Finland, all three countries with

membership in the EU unlike Norway

as a last ditch attempt to stall the EU ban,

the Tigers on Monday accepted an

invitation from Norway to travel to Oslo $\,$

next month to discuss how to shore up

Tigers would reconsider their decision

but the LTTE's political wing leader S. P.

Thamilselvan told a pro-rebel website

Monday that an EU-wide ban on the

An EU diplomat, speaking on condi-

"If they had been serious at the

tion of anonymity, said in Brussels that

negotiating table we could have thought

about another way, we would have set

up a virtuous circle, instead of this

vicious circle that we're in at the

However, Sri Lanka's aid donors

eeting in Tokyo are expected to nudge

both sides to resume peace negotiations

and scale down violence that had

claimed over 600 lives since December.

Pakistan, India

Pakistan and India opened talks in the

Pakistani capital yesterday on combat-

ing terrorism and drugs trafficking as

well as on practicalities for the

exchange of civilian prisoners, officials

nuclear-armed rivals ahead of the two

days of talks, India released 59 Pakistani

fishermen before Islamabad recipro-

The talks are part of a slow-moving

peace process that has improved

relations between the two neighbours

but is yet to produce a breakthrough on

the Kashmir dispute that lies at the

Indian Home Secretary V. K. Duggal

told reporters after his arrival in

Islamabad late Monday that the two

sides would finalise a Memorandum of

Pakistan and India agreed in

India accuses Pakistan of sending

September last year to free all prisoners

who have served their sentences, and

both sides are in the process of deter-

mining the number of such prisoners.

armed militants into its zone of

Kashmir to foment a 17-year old insur-

gency against New Delhi's rule in the

divided Himalayan state. Pakistan,

which holds the other zone, denies the

of the Parliament Secretariat

Understanding on increased coopera-

tion in curbing drug-trafficking.

heart of decades of strained ties.

cated freeing 71 Indians.

In a goodwill measure between the

open talks on

terrorism

AFP, Islamabad

moment," he said.

 $the LTTE had \, brought \, the \, ban \, on \, itself.$

group would affect the peace process.

It was not immediately clear if the

the ceasefire agreement.

In what Western diplomats here saw

and Iceland which are non-EU nations.

monitors.

Lanka's peace broker Norway were

slapped on the group by the 25-member "The government is of the firm

"It therefore rejects any suggestions that these measures by the international community would or should encourage

encourage Sri Lanka's government to launch an all out offensive against them and seek a military solution to the drawn outethnic conflict. "The government hopes that this clear and firm message would provide a

Norwegian facilitators," the statement The military and police meanwhile were Tuesday investigating reports that the Tigers had shot dead 12 construction workers in the restive eastern

A total of 14 men from the majority Sinhalese community were killed on Monday night, military spokesman Prasad Samarasinghe said, quoting two

sending a team to investigate (but) getting to the area is slow because of Two policemen were wounded in a

Samarasinghe said.

Pry teachers

the same time tomorrow for realisation

demonstration in the city, the association leaders said.

nationalising their jobs. Bangladesh Non-government Primary Teachers Association has been in the movement for nationalising their

The ruling BNP in its electoral manifesto in 2001 declared that it would nationalise the jobs of the nongovernment primary school teachers, but failed to take any decision in this regard although its five-year tenure is

"If we go to power, your jobs will be

Commission at today's meeting will also discuss the creation of more than

Commission today for approval, sources said. In the draft budget the JS secretariat sought Tk 18.65 crore for employees, Tk

Tk 40.71cr

15.75 crore for lawmakers, Tk 2.54 crore for chief whip and whips, Tk 1.17 crore for parliamentary committees and Tk 1.03 crore for the speaker and deputy speaker. The Parliamentary Secretariat

200 posts in parliament that include security guards, private secretaries to the chairmen of the parliamentary standing committees, committee officers, record suppliers, operators and drivers, the sources said.

structure development in the current

the coming fiscal's ADP

coming fiscal's ADP only Tk 2 crore have been earmarked for the road. The Chatmohor--Hamkuria road development will require Tk 34 crore, but only Tk 1 crore in the revised current ADP and Tk 5 crore in the coming fiscal's ADP have Small allocations have been given for

2006-07' to the government where it said. "A large number of road projects are often taken up on political considerations resulting in very thin distribution of resources over many road projects and consequent slow rate of project imple-

"Because of a large number of road projects, resource allocations to these projects have been such that at the current rate of implementation, nearly 20 percent of the projects will require a completion time of more than 10 years while about 10 percent of them will require completion time of more than 20

traditionally high. But still allocation to this sector is conspicuously higher than many other needy sectors.

AFP, Beijing China and India signed an agreement yesterday to expand defence ties, the

"Military exchanges will be an important part of bilateral ties," Liu

other contacts between the armed The agreement would aim to

defence issues.

instead of compete with each other's However, the two still have not

Division, meanwhile, said in the wake of controversy the government may consider increasing posts in the ACC organogram and any

correction can be made if necessary.

The law minister said the govern-

Meanwhile, the copy of the verdict in

were working under the bridge. The injured workers are Mahbub,

visited the spot.

The previous Awami League

BNP cadres Anisuzzaman said Shahidul in a meeting on May 28 threatened to throttle the daily within 24 hours. The meeting

called Alamgir over the phone and he of Madaripur to visit his grandmother He had been missing since then

According to police, they arrested

Khoksa around 4:30am yesterday,

any firearms or arrest anyone.

Another accused Asadul alias Arif is still absconding.

Earlier, the court heard 32 out of 40

He surrendered to Rab in

The two others, hailing from

Saidur at a house in Mujibnagar upazila

Janajuddha operatives ambushed the

country's first base-load plants and US-

documents of the aspirant bidders. After the scrutiny, the officials said the responsive bidders will be asked for submitting their technical and financial