megawatt power plant.

Chittagong port.

development.

division, he said.

how to use it.

tion to the port users.

times creates problem.

Chittagong port and the city.

He also urged developing a

Senior Vice President of CCCISM

separate traffic system for

Nurul Hoque blamed the CPA's

inept management for the acute

container congestions at

Chittagong port a Public Limited

Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury

said the unnecessary debate

between different quarters centring

Chittagong port, airport and

Newmooring Container Terminal

(NCT) has created a division among

the Chittagong people and it stands

in the way of their progress and

their interest to invest in the

Chittagong airport but they turned

their back due to this debate and

suggested the inclusion of 'social

commitment' in the manifestos of

ruling and opposition political

discussants, CPA Director (Traffic)

Ahsan Kabir said that 90 per cent of

the country's maritime trade takes

place through Chittagong port but

many of the port users don't know

consignments at the port yards for

months together?" he posed a ques-

lack a centralised control that some

Why do you people dump your

Kabir, however, admitted they

CCCI member and owner of

Bengal Shipping MA Awal regretted

the non-fulfilment of the promise of

Karnaphuli third bridge for the last

Chittagong now and if they can't do

anything about the bridge I would

request them to step down," he said.

transfer of the Naval Academy to

any other suitable place, saying that

the Academy, which is located in the

most important point of Chittagong

port area, poses a threat of acci-

Shah demanded privatisation of

Chittagong port and the NCT. He

the corruptions at Chittagong port.

University Prof AJM Nuruddin

Chowdhury demanded operational

efficiency of port, development of

utility services, capacity building of

educational institutions, creation of

specialised EPZ, deep-sea port, civic

The roundtable was attended,

among others, by CCCI Member

commodore (rtd) AZ Nizam,

Chariman of Chattagram Unnoyan

Sangram Parishad SM Jamaluddin,

Rangunia EPZ Managing Director A

Qaiyum Chowdhury, CCCI Member

captain (rtd) Ahsan Aziz Shelly,

Women Chamber's Senior Vice

President Khaleda Awal.

Rashid Chowdhury and CPA engi-

Gani Chowdhury conducted the

Noakhali, Feni and Laxmipur at her

ies of district, upazila and munici-

pality units attended the meeting.

Presidents and general secretar-

Hasina further alleged that the

government established a reign of

terror and turned the country into a

haven of militants, anti-human-

right activities and oppression on

image, they have appointed lobby-ists squandering \$ 75,000 per

month, she told her party men while

taking stock of the country's situa-

voted to power, her party will restore

peace, bring the prices of essentials

and fuel oils down to the reach of

common people and solve water

tion government for destroying the

judiciary, parliament, administra-

tion and the Public Service

reforms in the caretaker govern-

"There is no alternative to

She said the AL-led 14-party

She blasted the government for

believes in communalism and

leaders and workers to prepare for

the upcoming general elections,

settling all misunderstandings.

She asked the grassroots-level

parochial politics.

Hasina also criticised the coali-

The former prime minister said if

'After destroying country's

opening session of the roundtable.

neerMASabur.

Hasina

Dhanmondi residence.

FROM PAGE 16

the journalists.

Commission.

Bangladesh Bank GM Harunur

CCCI Secretary and CEO Osman

economic growth of the port city.

also urged the media to highlight

Vice Chancellor of Southern

CCCI Director Mannioni Hoque

"There are eight ministers from

Awal also demanded immediate

Defending criticism by some

parties in next general elections.

CCCI Director Ershad Ullah

Three airlines had expressed

Company for its greater efficiency.

He suggested declaring

Former CCCI president Amir

Chittagong sidelined in the development process. Still, there were some impediments to the process of bringing about desired develop-

and make a priority list of such impediments and publish a series of investigative reports with specific suggestions and guidelines from experts to overcome them, Mahfuz Anam mentioned.

The barriers to development process must be brought to the knowledge of government high-ups and other quarters concerned and The Daily Star for this,

He also suggested creating mass awareness in this regard and proposed formation of a group comprising several wings to lobby for the required development in different

that situated at a strategically important geographical location, the country's premier seaport at Chittagong has a huge region, including the landlocked seven northeastern states of India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and a large portion of China, as its hinterland

Providing this hinterland with transport facilities side by side with bridging two exclusive economic

The CCCI president regretted the negligence to Chittagong and said, "I don't know whether any port city in the world is neglected so much or not. This city has immense potentials and what we need most now is a proper policy to reap benefit from

Mahmud said Dhaka is the 'brain'

Moinul stressed building Chittagong as a regional hub and said greater connectivity with the neighbouring seven sister states of India and Thailand and Myanmar is

bus, and Haldia and Kolkata would seize the opportunity.

He criticised the role of finance minister in the implementation of the much-needed Karnaphuli third

He demanded setting up of a

utilise the potentials of Chittagong power for achieving the desired because of political idiosyncrasies

He emphasised the need for a complete package for greater economic growth and development of Chittagong.

in the port city as a unique industrial

"Besides, we want see such lawmakers in the next parliament who would give top priority to the economy," Nurul Islam added.

Ahmad Chowdhury demanded that Chittagong should be 'constitutionally declared as the 'second capital' and a province of Bangladesh to implement the road map of economic growth of the port city prop-

Farid Chowdhury criticised the dilly-dallying in constructing the Karnaphuli third bridge, "How many times shall we have to beg the finance minister for the bridge?" he

However, BDR could not catch

heroin.

raid.

Narcotics Control.

Primary teachers FROM PAGE 16

teachers put 37,000 government

ment and the Election Commission (EC) to ensure a free, fair and neutral The teachers will also start a election," the opposition leader fast-unto-death from June 24 in the

meet their demands. opposition combine will continue No classes were held in the its agitation to compel the governcapital's government primary ment to accept the proposals for electoral reform.

schools yesterday. Some students, who were not aware of the strike, what she said their continuous came to the schools only to return torture on the minority community and journalists. Hasina said the Earlier on Thursday, the teachgovernment doesn't believe in secularism and liberal politics; it

ers held a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar where the leaders of the association announced the strike programme. After the rally, they took out a procession and submitted a memorandum to the prime minister.

ship should take necessary steps to reduce the tension," he told the news agency prior to his departure for Baku, Azerbaijan, to attend the 33rd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM).

dents may happen along the 4,200-km porous border between the two countries, but "unnecessary ten-sion" should be avoided for good neighbourly relations.

British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury about some issues related to the upcoming elections, Morshed said this might be his personal opinion. "As a friend one can advise, but there is no scope for showing any guardianship in a sover-

Asked about ICFM meeting, the foreign minister said Bangladesh will stress the need for effective economic cooperation among the OIC member-states to improve lifestyle of the common people alongside implementation of the political

Bangladesh has long been pressing for Islamic common market for the benefit of the member-countries. We will insist on identifying common economic ground and cooperation in shipping, insurance, removal of tariff and non-tariff barriers,"

The three-day ICFM begins on June 19 against the backdrop of recent developments in the Muslim world. This meeting bears a special significance as it will pave the way for the forthcoming Islamic summit scheduled to be held in Senegal later this year with a number of important

The meeting is expected to deliberate on Palestine and Arab-Israel conflict, Middle East peace process, situation in Iraq and Afghanistan, problem of refugees in the Muslim world, reform of the United Nations, Iran and IAEA, combating international terrorism and 'Islamophobia'.

No polls

An emergency meeting of the opposition line-up also asked the BNP-Jamaat alliance government to form a supreme judicial council to terminate the controversial commissioners if they do not

nator Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya, the meeting decided to gather at three locations -- Russel Square and Dhanmondi 27, Agargoan met office and Mohakhali rail gate-- on June 20 for its EC siege programme.

The opposition combine will simultaneously lay siege to the district election offices across the country on the same day to realise

demonstrate in the capital today and conduct mass communication tomorrow in every ward to drum up

support for the siege programme.

The meeting accused the alliance government of arresting and harassing hundreds of opposition workers ahead of the agitation

Razzak told the meeting that the alliance government politicised all sectors including the EC to materialise its election blue print.

"We will have to resist any election of conspiracy," said Razzak. He programme.

Senior leaders including Dilip Barua and Mukul Bose also spoke at the meeting, which was attended by city 14-party leaders.

36-hour raid in Fatullah area of Narayanganj, Senpara, Kazipara and Sheorapara areas of Mirpur.

from Sheorapara.

while capturing the three.

association with his friends Masud and Sohel, slit throats of his classmates Kazi Naimul Islam Badhon, Wadidul Kabir Tonmoy and Kazi Nibrush Nilav and looted valuables from Badhon's house.

The victims were not acquainted with Jahan's friends. The boys used to hang out at Tonmoy's and Badhon's flats

while their parents were at work. BDR, BSF

FROM PAGE 1

around 2:00am and forced BDR to retaliate with 6 to 7 shots at BSF. No casualty has been reported in After the incident, the Indian

border guards reinforced its strength along the border and beefed up patrol. As a countermeasure, BDR has

been put on alert to avoid any untoward incident, BDR sources Panic-stricken residents of the

bordering areas fear that a skirmish between BDR and BSF might erupt any moment. On contact, second in com-mand of BDR's 41 Rifles Battalion Major Humayun confirmed the incident and said that BSF men

fired 5 shots targeting BDR to which the BDR retaliated. Previously on June 13, BSF declared red alert and dug bunkers along the Bhomra border after the killing of a BSF man by BDR gun shot on June 12 in a fierce gun

battle between the two border guards on the river Ichhamoti near Padmashakhra in Sadar upazila as the BSF entered into the Bangladesh territory to abduct Bangladeshi nationals. Situation has been tense along

the bordering areas since then.

BB worried

Sources said Bangladesh Bank's governor also talked with the Oriental Bank's owner who gave assurance that fresh capital would be injected into the bank to rejuvenate the bank. The owner said the money would be injected through issuance of right shares, the sources added.

The face value of the shares of Oriental Bank is Tk 1000 while it was traded at Tk 790 at Dhaka Stock Exchange on Thursday. Sources said looking at the present condition of the bank it is very unlikely that shareholders of the bank would go for further invest-

A number of top bankers said seven banks were identified as problem banks' back in 1994. Six of them have already come out from that status but Oriental continues to be in bad form and has become the only 'problem bank' and its condition is deteriorating. If it is not restructured in line with BB's proposal it might have a negative impact on the entire banking sector.

FINANCIAL CONDITION OF ORIENTAL

In December 2001, Oriental's accumulated loss stood at Tk 86.34 crore which has climbed up to Tk 450 crore in March 2006. Again at the end of March 2006 the bank's overall capital deficit stood at Tk

Only four out of 30 private commercial banks have provisional shortfall. Three of them have a provisional shortfall below Tk 60 crore, while Oriental's shortfall stands at Tk 322 crore in March

The bank incurred a loss of Tk 12 crore in the last few months as it failed to maintain statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) and paid high interest in call money market. Besides, its deposit growth is also declining. Last year its deposit growth dropped by three percent from the previous year.

As of last Thursday, its

borrowings from the call money market stood at Tk 41 crore while it owes more than Tk 300 crore to nationalised banks as well as other financial institutions, which are continuously pressurising Oriental to pay up. If Oriental was finally forced to pay up, it will be very difficult for the bank to run even day-to-day business.

Besides, other banks are also reluctant to give it any new loans in the call money market putting the bank in dire straits.

OWNERSHIP CHANGING AND LOSSES MOUNTING

When the bank was set up in 1987, Investment and Development sources said.

Company and local Amanullah Group -- former owner of Pepsi franchise, had major stakes in it with 34.67 and 40.46 per cent and then it was called Al-Baraka Bank (later renamed Oriental Bank). From the very beginning the bank gave loans to influential people violating regulations and these loans were never recovered. Consequently, it has been always on a losing streak.

One of the bank's big defaulters Abul Khair Litu and his Bengal Group took a huge loan. The bank also gave loans against fictitious names and organisations. The bank filed criminal cases against Litu and obtained arrest warrant. Litu escaped arrest by an ad

In January 2002, Al-Baraka sold its shares to a number of Hong Kong-based investors while in December 2001 Amanullah Group also sold its shares to five local companies. It was learnt that Litu purchased those shares using fictitious names and established his control over the bank's management. Consequently, the bank's condition continued to

In 2005, the bank's ownership once again changed hands and Orion Group and its sister organisations bought 83 per cent of the shares. Orion Group's Chairman Obaidul Karim told Dainik Prothom Alo that they have now 42 per cent of those shares while the other 41 per cent belonged to foreign companies. He also said he bought the shares for Tk 34 crore from Litu.

But the bank's situation did not improve this time either and continued to turn from bad to worse day by day. There are allegations that loans have been taken in real and fictitious names violating bank rules. Karim however denied these allegations while talking to Prothom Alo.

Following the labelling of 'problem bank', the bank had an observer appointed by BB who remains present in the bank's board meetings. Over the last few years a number of special Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) were signed between BB and Oriental but things did not A BB source said the BB-

appointed observer used to be present in the bank's board meeting but the bank's influential directors used to get loans from the branches and those loan proposals did not require the board's approval. The bank's higher management also connived with the a Jeddah-based Al-Baraka corrupt practice of the directors,

Neutral EC must

with local development activities.

They asked the major political parties to give nomination to those who have been involved with politics for long instead of the moneyed

They also demanded cancellation of the provision of tax-free car import by the lawmakers as it makes them 'corrupt'.

The non-government think tank Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) organised the discussion with the joint collaboration of The Daily Star, the Prothom Alo and Channel i as part of a civil society initiative for accountable development.

Executive Director of the CPD Debapriya Bhattachariya conducted the six-hour long discussion in which the local political leaders, lawyers, teachers, development workers and professionals participated. Several hundred people from cross section of society attended the discussion at Sylhet Zila Parishad auditorium amid an inclement weather.

Prominent educationist Prof Mohammad Abdul Aziz presided over the dialogue.

The speakers also suggested imposing a ban on contesting in the general election for at least five years by renegade politicians.

The candidates must be honest and competent as well as committed to improvement of the society and development of their areas, they said.

All have already rejected the acceptability of the Election Commission, said former lawmaker Hafiz Ahmed Mojumder who attended as a special guest. He suggested fixing a maximum age for election candidature.

ing the post of speaker and deputy speaker in parliament independent and free from party affiliation. Another special guest, promi-

nent politician M A Haque, suggested immediate introduction of ID cards. He stressed the need for removal of corruption from the administration, as honest and competent

Prof Mohammad Abdul Aziz observed that the security personnel should not be directly involved with the election process. He suggested introduction of a system where MPs would face no-

Aziz said false and take voting cannot be stopped without introduction of voter ID cards while the election cannot be free and fair without curbing the influence of musclemen.

member Jatiya Nagorik Committee formed for preparing a vision paper on the basis of people's voice raised at the regional dialogues throughout the country. Abdul Quaiyyum, deputy editor

of the Prothom Alo, Sharmeen Murshed of Broty, an NGO for election monitoring, and Anisatul Yusuf Fatema of the CPD also took part in

the discussion. The main objective of the civil society initiative is to create pressure on the administration and the political parties for good gover-

He expressed the hope that the people would get the message and would not make mistake after getting proper information about the

candidates. "I am very hopeful that Bangladesh would achieve eco-

nomic growth very soon as it was established through massive sacrifice," said Dr Zafar Iqbal.

If people become aware of it, they would carry forward the movement for honest and competent candidate, he said.

The other speakers who participated in the discussion include, advocate Bedananda Bhattacharyia, advocate Abdul Hai Khan, Syeda Zabunnesa, Shafi Ahmed Chowhdhury MP, advocate Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury Safwan Chowdhury, Faruq Mohammad Chowdhury, Brigadier general (Rtd) Zobaer Siddiqui advocate Gholam Rabbani Chowdhury, Dr Kabir Chowdhury, Irfanuzzaman, Chowdhury Delwar Hossain, Aslam Kabir Tiru, Himadri Sheikhar Roy, Abul Fateh Fattah, Bahauddin Selim, Dr Syed Shamsul Alam, Azharul Islam, Uzzal Roy, Shaymoly Rani, Farzana

Siddiqui, AFM Kamal, Dr Mostafa Hasan, Shamimur Rahman, Zaida Sharmin, Akhtarul Islam, Shushanta Kumar Dash, Dr Mohammad Yunus, Dr Mizanul Haque Kazal, Ashraf Ali, Anisul Islam, Govinda Pal, Syed Abdul Hannan, Abdus Samad Nazrul, Abul Hossain, Abdul Wadud, Lokman Ahmed, and Prof Habibur Rahman.

51 killed

FROM PAGE 16 possible step to safeguard national security," he told a press confer-

Sri Lankan jets pounded rebel targets on Thursday and Friday in retaliation for an attack on a civilian bus that killed 64 people in the worst violence since a 2002 ceasefire, raising fears of an imminent return to a two-decade civil war.

Meanwhile, the Tigers, who deny Thursday's bus bombing, threatened retaliation if air force bombing restarted. They said that if air strikes near the northern rebel stronghold of

Kilinochchi resumed they would

"We have clearly told the Norwegian facilitators and (the Nordic truce monitoring mission) SLMM that if the air strikes continue the LTTE will definitely take retaliatory action," head of the rebel peace secretariat S. Puleedevan told Reuters. The government said air force

attack helicopters flew to Mannar and took part in the clash but there were no other air strikes. Rebels and officials said other front lines were calm. The government said it had

captured three Tigers in diving gear

as they came ashore on the island's west coast just north of the capital Colombo and not far from beach resort of Negombo. Two of the men took cyanide and were taken to hospital. Tiger fighters wear poison cap-sules around their necks and are renowned for committing suicide

to avoid capture. The military said they were captured with magnetic mines they had intended to attach to the hulls of naval patrol boats.
Two explosions took place underwater near the beach as the

men were arrested, the military said, but no-one was hurt. Sundarbans

FROM PAGE 16 accomplices opened fire on the Rab team and Kamal was bullet hit while trying to escape Rab custody during the gun battle. He died on

Rab men fired 38 shots during the 20-minute encounter, the press release said. One pipe gun, one air gun and 24 different kinds of ammunition were recovered from the spot. Kamal's accomplices how-

ever managed to flee. Kamal, ringleader of notorious Kamal Bahini, was wanted in 27 criminal cases including eight murder cases, rape cases, robbery cases, extortion cases and theft cases filed against him with different police stations of Bagerhat,

Ghanaians stun FROMPAGE1 With the victory, Ghana assured

with the victory, Ghana assured that the United States would not be eliminated from contention even with a loss later Saturday against Italy. A USA win would put all four teams even at three points in

Sulley Muntari added the sec-ond goal after Cech made save after save. He seemed to have intimidated the shooters until Muntar sent a rocket of a shot into the upper right corner of the net with the Czechs down to 10 men.

Gyan picked up a pass from cap-tain Stephen Appiah and easily beat Cech from just inside the area only 68 seconds into the match. Heavily outnumbered by Czech fans in the crowd, Ghana's supporters roared with delight and danced in their seats in the 45,000-seat Cologne Stadium. Gyan missed a penalty kick in the 67th after Czech defender Tomas

Uifalusi was sent off. He hit the right goalpost moments after putting a shot into the net -- but before the referee blew his whistle to restart Ujfalusi brought down striker MatthewAmoah to draw the penalty.

The Czechs were missing strikers Jan Koller and Aston Villa's Milan Baros with injuries, but it was the defense that broke down Vratislav Lokvenc, the lone striker

for the Czech Republic, was quiet for most of the game and will be sus-pended in the third group match for getting his second yellow card of the Ghana coach Ratomir Dujkovic

shook up his team's defense following a 2-0 loss to Italy. His strategy worked, in great part because of the early score by Gyan. Ghana dominated with Appiah and Michael Essien repeatedly

exposing weaknesses in the Czech defense. Cech did well to stop a shot at close range from Amoah in the 70th, and again from Muntari three

With Essien and Appiah running the Czech defense ragged, Cech also stopped a barrage of late shots, with Gyan missing another one-on-one chance in the 79th.

But Muntari found the net with a shot that left Cech no chance -and the Americans a better chance.

Barapukuria FROM PAGE 16

The authorities detected hundreds of technical faults and shut down the plant several times. The plant is being set up under a

supplier's credit of more than \$250 million while the much bigger Meghnaghat 450MW gas-fired AES power plant was set up at a cost of \$170 million. With the help of a section of unscrupulous PDB officials, CNC is killing time to end the guarantee

period, sources said. Operation and maintenance of the power plant has become impossible due to CMC's non-compliance with the contract and its non-cooperation with PDB, said a source.

There are also allegations of gross irregularities in procuring the plant's turbine by changing the design without approval of the authorities. The plant requiring 2,500 tonne of

coal production from the mine. The remaining 35 per cent coal will be used for brick-fields and

3 DEPZ units closed

shut down as workers' representatives and chairman of Bepza Ashraf Abdullah Yussuf failed to make any

progress regarding the worker demands in a meeting at DEPZ last Meanwhile, production at two

other factories in DEPZ remained suspended yesterday as workers demonstrated demanding the removal of alleged corrupt factory officials.

Garment section of Youngon Group, one of Youngone's four factories, could not resume oper tion yesterday or fix any date for resumption of work as workers refused to return to work. The factory has been out of operation since June 13.

Workers of Paddocks Jeans Ltd, which was supposed to resume operation yesterday, turn up and demonstrated demanding the removal of an alleged corrup human resource officer, two time keepers and a personnel manager Workers claimed those peopl

often cut their overtime bills an never paid full salary to those who resigned or left the factory. The workers also demanded bette food during breaks and immediate implementation of the Bepza rules.

Workers of garment section of

officials fled fearing attacks. The workers' demands include

payment of unpaid leave-bonuses of last three years, better fooduring breaks and the removal of the personnel manager, two floor in-charges and a line-chief.

authorities also closed that will fearing violence. Admitting the unpaid leave bonus, Hedayetul Islam, chie executive officer (CEO) of the garment section, said, "We have

meeting their legitimate demand as per Bepza rules. Workers of A-One (BD) Ltd dtd not resume work yesterday. They demanded the removal of Humayun, manager administra-

tion, and Monju, security inspector

Meanwhile, work at Redpoint hours vesterday as officials of the factory reached the factory late fearing workers' attack. This caused rawmaterials shortage Redpoint workers alleged.

en there are no officials to sup ly the raw materials," said zmul, a worker of the factory.

Owners and investors of the ories thronged the DEPZ office in after the workers expressed eir dissatisfaction yesterday. ey feel they cannot keep their ories operational until the ation improves.

Workers' demands are increasalarmingly. The 11-point and placed on June 11 by ther sof our factory became 17-on on June 17 and we are afraid the present situation,"

ayetul Islam of Goldtex said. Overall situation in the DEPZ is mal as production in most of factories continues uninterted," said AZM Azizur Rahman,

oirala leaves or medical reatment n Bangkok

general manager of DEPZ.

P, kathmandu

epal's ailing Prime Minister Girija rasad Koirala left for medical atment in Bangkok Saturday, a ay after hammering out a deal th Maoists that will see the rebels in an interim government.

Prime Minister Koirala left urday afternoon for medical ek ups in Bangkok," said mta Kumar Gautam, the pre-'s assistant. The 84-year-old prime minister ported to have serious prob-

with his lungs and recently

Friday saw a historic meeting

ween the prime minister and

ded a lifelong smoking habit. le was accompanied by three palese doctors and was ected to remain in the Thai ital for a week, his aide said.

el Maoist leader Prachanda that ulted in an agreement to diswe the recently reinstated govment and form an interim ernment, containing the rebels. he elder statesman of ralese politics, Koirala has ed as prime minister numertimes in the past. He assumed top job in April again after eks of protests forced King

mendra to end 14 months of ect rule. Since coming back into power, rliament has stripped the king of is former political role and

removed his control of the army. Since the rebels began their ceople's war" in 1996, some 12,500 people have died.

Iraq attacks

"How could we resume work

ment.

"We are using all available assets. Coalition and Iraqi -- ground, and water -- to locate and dete mine the duty status of our sol diers," Major General William Caldwell, the spokesman for the US military in Iraq, said in a state-

He said teams of divers were working the canals and Euphrates river near Yusufiya, a rural area which has seen fierce fighting between US forces and al Qaeda militants.

More than 2,500 US soldiers have died in Iraq since the US-led invasion in 2003. Prime Minister Nuri al-Mable

under pressure to rein in violence that has killed tens of thousands

Red rules FROM PAGE 1

22 minutes when striker Gilardino dived to head in Andrea Pirlo's inviting free kick. Any thoughts that Italy would hit the cruise control button were soon

dispelled, however, as they self-

destructed spectacularly in the space of a minute. After 27 minutes the Americans were gifted an equaliser when the lively Convey's cross was sliced into

his own net by Cristian Zaccardo. Things got even worse for Italy a minute later when defender Daniele De Rossi was sent off for a blatant elbow on Brian McBride right in front of the referee.

Pablo Mastroeni almost gave the

Americans the lead with a dipping shot from 25 metres after 42 minutes only to be shown a straight red card seconds before the interval for a scything foul on Pirlo. The fireworks continued imme-

diately after the break when referee Larrionda pulled out his red card for the third time when US defender Eddie Pope, who had already been booked, lunged in from behind on Gilardino. With any semblance of pre-

match systems and tactics already in tatters, the action swung from end to endlike a basketball match. Carlos Bocanegra headed a 52nd minute Pirlo free kick against his own

bar and, at the other end, substitute DaMarcus Beasley had a goal disallowed for offside after Gianluigi Buffon had allowed his shot to squeeze under his body. Italy were effectively playing with nine men as Simone Perrotta was

the best chances.

of Iraqis, launched a security ep on Wednesday with 50,000 troops backed by 7,000 US

ops to pile pressure on al-But the operation, mounted day after US President rge W. Bush made a surprise it to Baghdad to bolster liki's month-old government,

failed to stop attacks. in more violence of the type arried out by al-qaeda, a bomb ed six people and wounded 11 a crowded market in central ghdad and mortar rounds d two people and wounded

eda as part of what US officials v is a campaign to ignite a secian civil war between majority lites and Saddam Hussein's nce-dominant Sunni Arab

int killed seven people. Four days into the crackdown, the Interior Ministry has not yet announced any arrests or other

As the wounded from Saturday's blasts were being treated, state television broadcast footage of Iraqi soldiers marching to the sound of martial

The US military has said it pects al-qaeda's new leader, vho it identified as Abu Ayyub al-Masri, to use the same tactics as Zargawi, a Sunni Arab militant who had concentrated mass

Fire breaks out OM PAGE 16 Tory building," said a reporter. A

ector of a nearby garment unit outed at the newsmen at that time, saying they should be killed by shooting, the reporter said.

picked up three staff. Rafez Alam Chowdhury, manag-

some of their staff misbehaved with the journalists as the journalwhen they were trying to extinguish the fire.

questioned.
Chief, Planning of Chittagong
Port Authority (CPA) Hadi Hossain sustainable development of the country was not possible keeping Babul underscored the need for a four-lane Dhaka-Chittagong Highway, Chittagong-Cox's Bazar Railway Track and another 450

ment of Chittagong, he pointed out. The Daily Star wants to identify

they should be purused constantly for resolving the problems, he said, pledging continued support from

sectors in Chittagong. Saifuzzaman Chowdhury said

zones of the Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) and Asean (Association of South East Asian Nations) countries, Chittagong port could easily be transformed into one of the main ports of the world, he

CCCI Director Dr Moinul Islam and Chittagong is the 'heart' of Bangladesh and that the port city pumps blood in the national econ-

needed for this this opportunity, we might miss the

deep sea port by giving top priority Honorary Consul General of Japan M Nurul Islam said, "We can't amenities and decentralisation of

He also urged the policy-makers to take into consideration the huge potential of 'recycling industry' in Chittagong, saving it has developed

Former CCCI president Farid

5.5kg heroin traffickers by boat on the river Padma near Harishankar of Godagari to apprehend only a portion of a large consignment of tion.

any of the smugglers during this The seized drugs were handed over to the Department of

primary schools under lock and capital to force the government to

FROM PAGE 1 along the border...Political leader-

He however said one or two inci-

Asked about recent statement by

issues on the agenda.

The meeting is expected to delib-

resign on their own. Chaired by city 14-party coordi-

The opposition alliance will

programme. AL Presidium Member Abdur

warned the government against any attempt to foil their June 20

Cops arrest FROM PAGE 16

Later, the police also arrested Jahan, 16, son of Abdul Kader The police also recovered some of the looted valuables Class VII student Jahan, in

Mojumder also suggested mak-

lawmakers would not be able to run the country properly with a corrupt administration.

confidence of the electorate.

Prof Anisuzzaman and Dr Zafar Iqbal spoke on behalf of the 27-

nance, said Prof Anisuzzaman.

coal a day will consume 65 per cent of the estimated 1 million tonne yearly domestic purposes.

Goldtex Ltd refused to go to work around 10:00am yesterday after the authorities announced that none of the workers' demands would be met, factory workers alleged. They set up barricade at the main gate of the factory and the

As agitating workers rushed to the weaving unit of Goldtex and asked workers to stop work, the

already suspended the personi manager and assured workers

another market in the Shi'ite rict of Kadhimiya. Attacks on crowded markets a common tactic used by al-

inority. In the town of Mahmudiya just outh of the capital, a car bomb targeting an Iraqi army check-

usic, part of a government ampaign to bolster the image of security forces.

attacks against Shias.

Police rushed to the spot and clubbed the factory staff. They also ing director of the factory, said

hobbling and all three substitutes ists were asking them questions had been used but they carved out