47 killed in explosion at China house

At least 47 people were killed and 20 injured in a northern Chinese coal mining town vesterday after a crowd gathered to watch a burning house which then exploded, residents and state press reports said.

Privately stored explosives were responsible for the blast around 6:30 am (2230 GMT Thursday) at a home in Dongzhai village. Shanxi province. Xinhua news agency said.

Xinhua and residents said the death toll was so high because people had gathered around to watch events after the house caught fire, while others rushed to help put out the blaze, and then the explosion occurred.

"The house first caught fire so a lot of villagers were standing around watching when it suddenly exploded," a villager who identified himself only as Li told AFP by tele-

account. "A lot of people were standing around the home to watch the fire and then it exploded," said the resident, who did not want to give her name

Xinhua, citing local police, said preliminary investigations showed the fire had indeed triggered the explosion, resulting in at least 47 people dead and more than 20 others injured.

an ordinary one-storey home, which they suspected had been an illegal storage site for explosives to be used in coal mining.

"There are a lot of people in Xinzhou prefecture who are running private mines and storing up explosives," a third resident, who also did not want to identify herself, told AFP.

"I don't know if the home belonged to a mine owner, but a lot of people work in mines here."

Shanxi province is China's biggest coal mining production area and a region where accidental explosions of illegally stored explosives have occurred previously.

In April at least 34 people were killed when illegally stored explosives owned by a private mine operator blew up in a hospital com-

At least 10 people were killed and 18 injured in a blast at a local government leader's house in neighbouring Shaanxi province last month that was also linked to mining

In July 2 last year in another mining tragedy for Ningwu county, where Friday's incident occurred, a gas explosion at a coal mine killed 36 people and injured 11.

That explosion made headlines as the mine owner hid the bodies of 17 dead workers to evade punish-

Ningwu county police said that an investigation was ongoing into Friday's blast and refused to rule out that illegally stored explosives may have been the cause of the tragedy.

China's public security ministry last month announced a crackdown on the sale and storage of illegal explosives, amid a rising demand from illegal coal mines seeking to cash in on China's thirst for energy.

'There is a large demand for illegally made and trafficked explosives," said Xu Hui, a leading police official.

"A lot of criminals are seeking big profits and they are ignoring risks and brazenly engaging in the illegal activities of making and trafficking

funerals for those killed on Thursday,

the deadliest day in the Palestinian

territories since March 8, 2002 when

46 people were killed in the Gaza

member Security Council met behind

closed doors to discuss a draft.

presented by Qatar on behalf of the

UN's Arab Group, that calls on Israe

as the occupying power to abide by

its obligations under the Geneva

Convention on the protection of

appeared doomed in the face of

opposition from the United States, a

veto-wielding permanent member,

because it does not mention the

Palestinian rocket attacks and the

five kilometres (three miles) into

northern Gaza to expand a self-

declared buffer zone aimed at pre-

venting rocket attacks, massing

around Beit Hanun and moving into

remains of the Dugit, Elei Sinai and

Nissanit settlements, razed last year

as part of Israel's historic pullout from

Gaza that was meant to draw the

found that Israelis want to go further.

with an overwhelming 82 percent

seeing the assassination of Hamas

leaders as the best means to release

what has become the worst Middle

East crisis since Hamas came to

power in March and Israeli Prime

Minister Ehud Olmert formally took

demands of Shalit's captors, coun-

tered by threats of a "new era of

violence" from the armed wing of

side after Thursday's exchange of

fire between the border quards.of

the two countries at Bhatsala and

its Indian counterpart asking for

holding a flag meeting to defuse the

tension, but the BSF did not respond

and Komorpur areas, who left their

homes following Thursday's

from Bogra reported that the people

of an enclave in Kurigram district

remained surrounded by the BSF

The Daily Star correspondent

BDR official Captain Amin said at

least 12 families in Sittilai enclave

under Bharungamary upazil of the

district remained surrounded by the

Indian border quards since

An official of 27 Rifles Battalion

yesterday said the BDR had sent

three letters to the BSF asking for a

flag meeting, but the BSF did not

exchange of fire, are yet to return.

Meanwhile, BDR sent letters to

Over 100 families of Bhatsala

BDR, BSF

Komorpur border points.

as of 5:00pm yesterday.

for the last four days.

Tuesday.

Israel has flatly rejected the

the helm in May.

FROM PAGE 16

Shalit and stop rocket attacks

Nevertheless, an opinion poll

curtain on a 38-year occupation.

Israeli forces took over the

two neighbourhoods of Beit Lahiya.

Ground forces advanced at least

capture of the Israeli soldier.

But the text in its present form

In New York, experts from the 15-

Strip and West Bank.

civilians in time of war.

Israel presses

Nablus, where radicals have threatened to unleash untold violence should Israel move further into Gaza.

Two 16-year-old Palestinians also died from Israeli fire during an incur-

crisis since the soldier was abducted, Israel on Thursday sent troops deep into the northern Gaza Strip, effectively creating a buffer zone in a territory it withdrew from in September last year.

Israel has vowed to use every-

Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas charged the offensive had "new crimes against humanity", in comments carried by

Abbas, whose repeated calls for militants to stop launching rockets have gone unheeded, urged the international community and UN Security Council to put pressure Israel into ending "this destructive

policy immediately" Inspecting troops based near Gaza, Israel's chief of staff Dan Halutz warned that militants had and would "pay a heavy price" if they continue their attacks, maintaining

Israel has already attacked the The return of troops to Gaza has Gaza offices of both the Hamas premier and interior minister, raided disastrous 1982 invasion of Lebanon multiple militant targets and detained where soldiers similarly sought to a third of the cabinet, as well as the create a security zone but became deputy speaker of parliament. International appeals for restraint have largely fallen on deaf ears in

"Israel is not willing to sink into a swamp in Gaza, and the IDF is operating in the field in order not to sink into Gaza." said Defence Minister Amir Peretz. who has been publicly

criticised for his handling of the crisis But Palestinians have continued their rocket attacks unchecked, firing three towards Israel on Friday, bringing to 12 the number of such crudely

intervention to stop Israel's largest military operation since its pullout

His government -- boycotted both financially and politically by Israel and the West -- has put its security forces on high alert and urged all Palestinians to take up arms against

Aid groups have expressed concern about the difficulties of providing assistance to 1.4 million people living in impoverished Gaza following months of financial crisis and the suspension of direct Western aid to the government.

"Public institutions and nongovernment organizations working in the West Bank and Gaza are struggling to provide water, sanitation food, health and social assistance in the Gaza Strip," CARE International

warned.

| Police refuse

of you. Three are still left to be eaten," said Badsha quoting Montu, who made threatening call to Zaman, one of the accused in the abduction case

now. Please do something for me as I have nobody to turn up to," Badsha said over phone from his hideout as police were looking for him.

Faruq Hossain, a BNP leader of the area, has close connection with local BNP activists who are threatening the victim's family with dire consequences if they move forward.

Bangram Mahmud Hasan Alal and Anwar Hossain are trying to settle the issue on 'mutual understanding' on the instructions from local RNP lawmaker Salauddin Babu, locals and family members said.

"Police seem more active in dealing with the abduction case, rather than the murder incident. Police mounted drive regarding abduction case only to pressurise us not to move further with the murder case. We will file the case with a court in Dhaka," said Foysal, son of Badsha Miah.

Pro-AL teachers

non-government institutions will now be on strike to press home their demands that include payment of 100 per cent basic salary from the public exchequer.

Kazi Faruque, chief coordinator and convenor of the Front, said raising their salaries by 10 per cent is an election pledge of the BNP-led ruling alliance but the government is yet to implement it. This has compelled them to go for an indefinite strike.

He also asked the striking

Selim Bhuiyan has asked the striking teachers and employees to stay for an hour each day at their workplaces to know the views of guardians of the students, local political leaders and journalists regarding the strike.

demonstrations at upazila level to make the government accept their demands.

The teachers and employees belonging to different platforms have been staging demonstrations, holding rallies and bringing out processions since June 9 to realise their demands. They gave a deadline for this -- June 29 -- the day the budget for the current fiscal year was passed.

increase in house rent, medical allowance and implementation of various Unesco and ILO recommendations.

Heroin smuggling

FROM PAGE 1 ministry emphasising the necessity of the visit.

A member of the probe team said evidence of the seized heroin has to be placed before the court and persons who made the seizure list have to give their statements before the court to ensure punishment of those involved in the smuggling of the illicit drugs.

Sources in the home ministry said the ministry would request the UK government to ask the officials who prepared the seizure list to give their statements before the court in Bangladesh.

The probe committee proposed names of all the five members and two investigation officers to the home ministry for the trip to UK. However, the home ministry will finalise whether the seven men would go to the UK. The home ministry will bear all expenses for their visit

The CID-led investigation team started the probe on a home ministry directive after a National Board of Revenue (NBR) inquiry found five Bangladeshi business firms' involvement in heroin smuggling to

The NBR launched the inquiry last year as the UK customs in a message through the British mission in Mumbai, India accused BD Foods Ltd, Emdad Traders, Jamil International, MM Enterprise, and Green Heaven Enterprise of smuggling 75.5kg heroin to the UK.

On May 14, police arrested Badruddoza Momen following the confessions of his two accomplices -- Nazmul Haider Buyiyan Bulbul, a former official of BD Foods Limited. and his cohort Mokhlesur Rahman Nayan, a cargo handler -- to have smuggled 22.5kg heroin to the UK on Momen's orders.

Badruddoza, who is now in jail, admitted to the interrogators that he had smuggled illegal goods to the UK a few days before his arrest. Kazi Zafar Reza, proprietor of

Rainbow Enterprise, and Abul Bashar, owner of Green Haven Enterprise, had also confessed to a magistrate that they smuggled 54kg neroin to the same country.

The manager of BD Foods Mohammad Mainuddin also gave a confessional statement before a magistrate in connection with the heroin smuggling.

Rajuk staff cash in

money charging up to Tk 50,000 for approval of each building plan. In an announcement, the government first deferred implementation of the new rules up to June 30. Later, a notification dated July 2 issued by the housing and public works ministry and signed by a

deferred it until December 31.

According to sources in the ministry and Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (Rehab), the government took the decision in the face of pressure from some sections of commercial and private builders and small plot

senior assistant secretary further

"The government is also reluctant to enforce the new rules fearing loss of public support at a time it is preparing for the next general elections," said a top official of the ministry, requesting anonymity. Minister for Housing and Public

Works Mirza Abbas told The Daily Star that the new construction rules were made over a period of three years with participation from all stakeholders in the sector. "I blame corrupt officials of Rajuk

for spreading misleading information about the new rules. We need to tell people that they would be benefited more if they follow the new rules," Abbas said. Abdul Awal, president of Rehab

said vested quarters have convinced the present rulers to take such a decision, arguing that implementation of the new rules will have a negative impact on them in the coming general election. But this is The Rehab president said he

would organise public discussions to inform all stakeholders and the

common people that they should accept the rules for their own good.

The new rules have an in-built mechanism to make them effective, and they provide for rigorous punishment of those who flout them. Under the new rules, a total of 17 agencies under One Window Service Cell will approve development plan and construction design

An urban development committee will also have authority to hold public hearings on allegations of irregularities in construction work.

Professional architects and engineers will supervise and conduct any construction work and be liable for their decisions. They will deal with the authorities in obtaining approval for different phases of land development and building construction. An intending builder has to seek plan approval in phases -- first for foundation development and then for structural construction. Once engineers issue comple-

tion certificate endorsing that a building has been constructed as per the approved plan, the building owner has to obtain occupancy certificate to use the building. Certificate has to be renewed every five years to ensure that a building is used for authorised purposes.

Architect labal Habib said landowners in the capital would benefit more with the enforcement of the new rules. The Institute of Architects,

Bangladesh, is offering a service for those interested to know the new rules in detail. he said

3 Ahab leaders

that the coincidence is significant. The three Ahab leaders along

with Galib were arrested on February 23 last year from their Nawdapara den in Rajshahi over allegations of their involvement with international militant outfits and receiving foreign funds to fuel militancy in the country.

Later, they were charged with bomb attacks and robbery at different NGO offices.

Sources said although the law enforcement agencies seized important documents proving their militant activities from Nawdapara Salafia Madrasa and Galib's house, the documents were not produced in the cases. GOPALGANJ BAIL

First class Magistrate Moshiur Rahman granted the three militants bail in the Kotalinara case. During the hearing, the peti-

tioners said they have been in jail for one and a half years but the investigators could not show any charges against them. They also argued that the

pleaded that seven other militants-- Selim Uddin, Masum Mia, Abdullah, Abdun Nur Saveedi, Isarat Ali, Shawkat Ali and Tarikul

Islam--all arrested in the case mentioned the names of the accused having links to the

illegal documents seized from The court inspector, however,

Selim said in his judicial statement that they are followers of

Ahab and work underground for the Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB). INVESTIGATION

Investigators seized documents that Galib and Samad Salafi arranged visits for militant leaders Akramuzzaman and Entaj Zakaria to Kuwait through the RIHS before Akramuzzaman and Zakaria

staved in Kuwait and supervised Ahab's "invitation and jihad' Samad Salafi, a rich and influ-

ential man from Godagari in Rajshahi, had close ties with Indian Abdul Matin Salafi who was expelled from the country in 1988 for militant links. But he continued to play role through Galib and

Javed and Khaled, two Kashmir mujahids caught in Nepal in 1998, named Galib and Samad Salafi as their Bangladeshi links. In 1997, Bangladesh Rifles

(BDR) in Rajshahi caught four other Kashmir mujahids from the Godagari border.

Later, the BDR also picked Samad Salafi from Nawdapara. But 12 hours later, a BDR vehicle dropped all of them at Salafia

in the country without passports and engaged in training the Rohingyas in Chittagong.

Clash for third place

aimed at winning the World Cup final in Berlin on Sunday.

Domenech said he had no worries that his ageing team would be fit and raring to go for Sunday's match which, given the stinginess of both defences, could well stretch

"It's true that we were exhausted, but being tired after a semifinal is normal and we will recover in time," he said at the French training camp near Hanover.

guvs are not old. At 30 or 35 you still follow a preparation and then it's faith that makes the difference. "Over six months you can

expect players of that age to have problems, but not over a period of a month and seven matches.' Lippi, in tune with his players.

has saluted the magnificent form shown at the World Cup by 34vear-old French skipper Zinedine Zidane saving that the midfielder was "probably the best player there has been in the past 20 years.

form Zidane and they have improved as the tournament has gone on. Beating Portugal confirmed that they are back to their best," he said. But Alessandro Del Piero, a

former teammate of Zidane at Juventus said it would be a mistake for Italy to concentrate solely on nullifying Zidane's threat in Sunday's final.

"He has performed magnificently so far and I hope that ends on Sunday," Del Piero said of the Real Madrid midfield maestro who will retire from football after the Berlin showpiece. "But France have other danger-

ous players who can hurt you in an

Vieira came on as a substitute. FIFA meanwhile have announced that the referee for the match will be 42-year-old Twins die

FROM PAGE 1
"The pair had some bleeding through the anus on Wednesday. As we treated, the bleeding stopped around two hours later," Prof Kabirul said, adding that they also injected one bag of blood into the body on Thursday but they died.

Physicians said they might have died due to infections as many people gathered around the hospita bed where they were kept and touched them. Besides, parents were reluctant

to take care of the twins, they added. Doctors said they received a similar case in 2004 and managed to separate the twins, but they did

BNP move

FROM PAGE 16 The party has finalised a pre-

election campaign strategy. As part of it, Tarique already visited a number of constituencies including those in Barisal, Mymensingh, Feni, Luxmipur, Kushtia, Meherpur Noakhali and Chandpur districts. The strategy gave more impor-

tance to areas where large-scale development work has taken place. party lawmakers have a strong footing and BNP's coalition partners have significant public support, a Hawa Bhaban source said.

Udichi

FROM PAGE 16 The national committee and district committees will also perform cultural programmes on July 27 and hold rallies in the capital and all districts on August 6 where tougher agitation will be announced.

As part of the protest programme of the national committee, cultural activists and members of civil society yesterday held a grand rally at the Central Shaheed Minar, where speakers urged the government to reinvestigate the Udichi murder case for identifying the real culprits.

They also called upon the government to look into the involvement of Islamist militants Bangla Bhai and Abdur Rahman who recently confessed to their involvement in the bomb blast at the Udichi programme. Nasir Uddin Yusuf, convenor of

the national committee of the Movement for the Reinvestigation and Trial of Udichi Murder Case, presided over the rally where cultural activist Ramendu Maiumder. former president of Dhaka University Teachers Association AAMS Arefin Siddique, General Secretary Akhtaruzzaman, Workers Party General Secretary Bimal Biswas, Udichi President Prof Batin Sarkar and Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists President Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul also addressed

Hasina

FROM PAGE 16 possible to ensure a better chance of AL candidates at the polls. They also asked her to notify the candidates at least three months ahead of the polls so that AL can enjoy victory

beyond doubt. The local leaders said the longstanding intra-party conflicts influenced the results in all the five constituencies in the district in 2001 general elections. They urged her to take stern organisational action against those who went against the party in the last elections. The leaders asked Hasina to nominate people who are popular, who can reach mass people, and who are active in AL politics to ensure victory in the next elections.

In reply, Hasina assured them that they would nominate candidates after examining the grassroots leaders' views of the nomination aspirants.

The local leaders earlier in a question-answer form put four names forward with their views about the politics and popularity of the prospective candidates. The AL chief said the govern-

ment has finalised all conspiracy to rig the next general elections as they know people would not vote for Urging people to be aware of

hesitate to use it and take administrative favours to buy votes in the General Secretary Abdul Mannan of AL Dinaipur town unit told The Daily Star after the meeting that there are intra-party feuds in Dinajpur AL. He said there are a number of candidates racing to get AL tickets. "We informed our party chief about these problems and requested her to take effective

measurers in this regard to ensure

victory in the next election," he

Hasina assured them of taking necessary action to deal with the problems. She also urged the grassroots leaders to initiate groundwork for the next elections alongside the ongoing movement.

Grassroots leaders of Rajshahi district are to meet the AL chief

completed satisfactorily. Development projects were also

undertaken in the names of Janata Club at Godarpara and Ekata Club at Chhoto Kumira under sadar unazila, and Mahila Ekata Club in Katnarpara area in the town

Iran govt keeps world guessing on answer

EU hails 'good start' of talks with Tehran

REUTERS, Brussels

Iran kept a frustrated world guessing about its response to proposals aimed at defusing a standoff over its nuclear programme Thursday when Tehran's chief negotiator met the European Union's foreign policy chief.

Ali Larijani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, told reporters he would give a preliminary response next week to a package of economic, technological and political incentives designed to entice Iran to halt uranium enrichment. "We are serious about continuing

negotiations and will start next Tuesday with talks," he told reporters on meeting EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana in Brussels. The two men are due to meet again next week. Pressed to say if he had brought

with him an initial answer to the major powers' package, which Solana delivered to Tehran on June 6. Larijani said: "We will talk about it Tuesday." A US official later told State

Department reporters in an email that

Larijani did not respond to the proposal during his meeting with Solana. The European Union said talks with Iran late on Thursday on a package of incentives to end a nuclear standoff were constructive and laid the

basis for a fuller response by Tehran at a second meeting due next week. 'It's a good start for what we expect will be a positive meeting on July 11," Cristina Gallach, spokeswoman for EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said on Friday of his two-hour meeting with Iran chief nuclear negotiator Ali

response," she said of a long-awaited

reply to a package of technology, trade

and other incentives for Iran to halt

We expect on Tuesday that they will be able to give us a substantial

uranium enrichment.

Asked whether the EU was confident Iran would have given a full answer by the time of a summit of Group of Eight industrial powers in St Petersburg on July 15, she said:

"We want to create the conditions for the start of negotiations as soon as possible ... I have always said we are not using the word 'deadlines'." she said, adding that the summit and an earlier meeting of major power foreign ministers on July 12 were nonetheless

key dates She gave no details on the content of the talks between Solana and Larijani, which she described as a 'tete-a-tete" meeting with just an interpreter, saying only that Solana stressed the benefit to Iran of accept-

Solana is due to host Larijani for a second round of talks in Brussels on July 11 with the countries behind the offer, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany, also to be present at the

UN nuclear watchdog head Mohamed ElBaradei earlier warned Iran the world was running out of patience because it had not replied to the proposals.

The Iranian counterpart authorities told me that they need some time to provide the response," ElBaradei, who heads the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), told reporters in Ankara after talks with Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan.

But by saying that I hope that Iran also understands that the international community is getting somewhat impatient. The earlier they can provide an answer is better for

People in hill dists

society representatives of the district took part in the dialogue held as part of a series of dialogues on 'National Election 2007: Civil Society Initiative for Accountable Development'.

Chairman of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Regional Council and President of Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma was the chief quest while Executive Director of the CPD Debapriya Bhattacharya was the moderator. Former chairman of Rangamati

president of CHT Land Rights and Protection Committee Gautam Dewan chaired the discussion and Deputy Minister for CHT Affairs Moni Swapan Dewan and Chingkew Roaza were present as the special guests. Chakma Circle Chief Barrister Devashish Roy and renowned scien-

tist and Chittagong University teacher

'Nagorik Committee 2006' were

nal Nazrul Isl

Local Government Council and

present at the four-hour meeting to receive public feedback. Rahman spoke on behalf of the organ-

"We see military interference in every single activity in the hill districts," said Shaktipada Tripura, a member of Rangamati Headmen's Association. He demanded immediate withdrawal of the army after an operation.

Suresh Kumar Chakma, a UP chairman, demanded a separate ministry for the indigenous people. He also demanded constitutional recogni-

Skop threatens FROM PAGE 16

garment workers although it was agreed that all workers will be released and cases will be withdrawn.

The Skop leaders said negligence and non-payment of due wages to workers for years, lower wage structure and imposition of inhuman conditions by the garment owners sparked off the recent violence in the apparel sector.

government, garment owners and general people aware of the exploita-The country will see further agitation if the government does not implement the agreement by July 30, he said, adding that workers from across

Skop leaders Nurul Islam Chowdhury Asadul Alam, Jafrul Hasan, Habibur Rahman Akand, Abdul Mukit Khan, Shafiuddin Ahmed Abdul Kader Hawlader and Shafigur Rahman Majumder also spoke at the

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Garment Sramik Trade Union Kendra also held a rally at Muktangan yesterday demanding immediate release worker leaders Ali Reza Tuhin, Ali Akbar and Nur Alam Siddique. The trade union leaders said

cases, the government filed false cases and arrested Tuhin and Ali Akbar, worker leaders of Savar-Ashulia, on July 4. They demanded immediate stop to

"I think they need to make sure that everybody in Iran is on board.

tion of the indigenous people Addressing as the special guest Deputy Minister for CHT Affairs Moni wapan Dewan underscored the

Jamal Nazrul Islam criticised the roles of World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Bangladesh. He said the donors are pouring millions of dollars in the hill tracts without

He warned the government and the army against sponsoring a development agenda with a bad intention in the hill tracts.

solving the crisis in the hilly areas. day could not deter people from

theirviews Among others, Nadia Afrin, Mahbubul Alam Chowdhury, Alo Rani Ich, Sunil Kanti De, Habibur Rahman Habib, Priodarshi Chakma, Dulal Kanti Sarker, Rocky Chakma, Mamunur Rashid Mamun, Sukumar Dewan, Moulana Mohammad

Bashundhara

the decision that he was murdered,' said investigating officer (IO) of the case Omar Ali of Gulshan Police

someone called him over telephone on Tuesday night and the following morning informed that Sabbir died after falling from the rooftop of the building. Asif claimed Sabbir had no

Police took the GD as a regular case as none of Sabbir's family filed anv case until vesterdav. "There is no point in filing any

murder case," Asif told The Daily Star.

I filed the GD which the police can use to probe the incident," he added. Ali, however, expressed his disappointment saying neither Bashundhara Group nor the family

Sabbir's colleagues and borrow his diary to find out clues. Meanwhile, the residents and

hours outside the gate even though

security guard of nearby building. Another security guard of a nearby building told The Daily Star that he did or cashing on to the wall.

Tuesday night and a caretaker of the building heard a sound around 4:30am and found the body on the

contradicted with the police report saying the body would have bore different sort of bruises if it had fallen from any height. "Only the head of the victim was found smashed," the source added.

Another resident gave a similar

Villagers described the house as

sion into the similarly volatile northern West Bank town of Jenin on But in the biggest escalation of the

thing in its power to increase the pressure on the embattled Hamasled government to free 19-year-old corporal Gilad Shalit and to stop

the official WAFA news agency.

that "40 terrorists" had been killed in the offensive. evoked memories of the army's

bogged down in a deadly quagmire before pulling out in 2000.

manufactured projectiles launched since the army's latest offensive began. Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniva, whose offices were the target of an Israeli missile strike on Sunday, demanded international

the Israeli military

Hundreds of mourners perspiring

in the oppressive heat attended the

"I don't know how I should act

Montu Miah, elder brother of

Chairmen of Birulia and

teachers and employees to call telephone number 9129806 in case of any untoward incidents during the strike. Oikya Jote Chief Coordinator

He also urged them to stage

Their demands include

police could not produce any

into strength-sapping extra-time.

"As far as I am concerned my

"France are back with a top-

and Thuram were all starters at the Stade de France that day while

The Kashmir muiahids staved

instant. We have to make sure we keep an eye on everybody.' The Italians have confirmed that experienced defender Alessandro Nesta would definitely miss the the game due a groin injury but that

had been expected as he has been

out of action since picking up the injury in the group stages. Elsewhere Marcello Lippi's men had a clean bill of health and they have back in their available ranks gritty midfielder Daniele di Rossi who has seen out a four-match suspension incurred earlier against the United States.

But it was thought unlikely that

Lippi would tamper with the line-up

that defeated Germany to put Italy

in a World Cup final for the first time Domenech seems certain to stick by his approach of playing Thierry Henry as a lone striker in front of a four-man midfield marshalled by Zidane, who is one of six French players who would collect their second World Cup winners medals should they win on Sunday.

Zinedine Zidane, Fabien

Barthez, Lilian Thuram, Patrick

Vieira, Thierry Henry and David

Trezeguet were all in the squad that played in the 1998 competi-Zidane, who scored two goals in the 3-0 win over Brazil. Barthez

Argentine Horacio Elizondo.

BNP men FROM PAGE 16

malpractices, Hasina said BNP-Presiding over the rally, Samaitantrik Sramik Front President Jamaat men who have looted huge amount of public money would not Abdullah Sarkar said their agitation in the last few months has made the

> the country will stay in the streets until their demands are met.

despite agreement on releasing the arrested workers and withdrawal of

tortures against garment workers for the sake of the industry. Presided over by Advocate Montu

Hafizul Islam

Ghosh, the rally was also addressed by Ahsan Habib Lavlu, Ruhul Amin, Sadegur Rahman Shamim and

need for a national vision and a sea change in the existing political culture.

leaving any positive impact on the

Expressing solidarity with the struggle of the hills people, Motiur Rahman said the overall problems of the country will not be resolved without Heavy downpour throughout the

giving them the opportunity to express

Shahjahan and Konishka Chakma attended the dialogue.

Station but he did not disclose his findinas Sabbir's family had earlier said

reason to commit suicide.

members of Sabbir were cooperating with him properly in investigating the matter. He however said he would talk to

security guards of the building said, "Posh cars, belonging to nonresidents of the flat, used to come here around midnight and leave between 2:00am to 3:00am in the morning." "The cars waited for two or three

the building has a large garage," said a

not hear Sabbir falling from the rooftop The police inquest report however said the on-duty security guards on

Sources in the morgue however

attending the dialogue. The partici-