Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia agreed to enhance cooperation in investment, commerce and manpower to the mutual economic benefit of the two brotherly Muslim countries

The broad agreement came during a meeting between Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Saudi Crown Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz at Azizia Palace Tuesday night when they also discussed supply of fuel oil on deferred payment against "365-day credit" to Bangladesh and defence cooperation.

A communiqué from Jeddah vesterday said Prime Minister's sons Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman. PM's principal secretary Dr Kamal Uddin Siddiqui and Bangladesh Ambassador Major Gen (rtd) SM Ikramul Huq were present.

Khaleda, who is now in Makkah to perform Umrah haji, apprised the prince of liberal and foreign investment-friendly policy of her government and invited Saudi traders and industrialists to invest in Bangladesh to cash in on an unfolding business bonanza.

She told the prince that her government has decided to hand over Rupali Bank to Saudi business tycoon Prince Bandar bin Abdur Rahman Al Saud. The prince expressed satisfaction over the

A business delegation from Bangladesh visited Saudi Arabia in May this year. The prime minister hoped that a similar business delegation from Saudi Arabia would visit Bangladesh. Agreeing with her, the prince said the trade and commercial relations could improve through enhancing contacts at business

On the matter of fuel purchase, the prime minister said unusual fuelprice rises on the world market created excessive burden on Bangladesh's economic growth. "Uninterrupted fuel supply is important for accelerating Bangladesh's developing economy

Khaleda requested the prince to supply fuel to Bangladesh on "365day credit". In response, the prince said it is possible to evolve a mechanism through discussion at the energy minister level meeting

between the two countries and assured all cooperation in this respect.

On workforce export to Saudi Arabia, the prime minister said Bandladesh is capable of sending skilled and semi-skilled manpower for new development projects in the kingdom. She requested him to recruit more doctors, engineers health workers and nurses and other skilled and semi-skilled professionals from Bangladesh.

About pilgrimage from Bangladesh, the prime minister said some 60,000 Bangladeshis would perform haii this year and requested the prince to carry 30,000 of them by Saudia airlines following the agreement between the Biman Bangladesh and the Saudia. The Saudi Prince agreed on the proposal.

On cooperation in defence sector, the Saudi Prince expressed his gratitude to the prime minister for sending Bangladeshi troops to protect the holy land of Saudi Arabia during the second Middle- East war

He stressed strengthening the ongoing training of the armed forces and joint training of the naval forces of the two countries.

Mentioning an excellent bilateral relation, the prime minister said Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia hold identical views and work in close cooperation in international arena Bangladesh has deep respects for the present dynamic and moderate leadership of Saudi Arabia."

Khaleda said Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia would work together for peace, progress and stability of the two brotherly peoples.

The prince hoped that the Muslim-majority Bangladesh would be governed by a government that would uphold the Muslim tradition and religious values and culture.

The prime minister invited him to visit Bangladesh and see the current development process in the country. The prince accepted the invitation and expressed his willingness to visit Dhaka at a convenient

Iran warns EU over **UN** sanctions

REUTERS. Tehran

Iran's chief nuclear negotiator told European states yesterday they would be the losers if they joined the United States to push through a UN Security Council resolution punishing Tehran for its nuclear

Ali Larijani's comments to the semi-official Mehr News Agency came a day after the European Union backed limited U.N. sanctions against Iran for not halting uranium enrichment, a condition for starting talks on an atomic incentives package.

"If the other side (the EU) yields to American pressure, it is natural that the situation will become radical. The world will not end but it will affect all our cooperation, in which I think the other side will lose more. Larijani said.

He did not specify what cooperation would be affected, but Iran has in the past threatened, if pushed, to review dealings with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). the U.N. watchdog that routinely inspects Iranian atomic facilities.

"Definitely, if a new resolution is issued by the Security Council, we will not be at the point that we are in now for the continuation of talks," he

One Iranian lawmaker was more explicit, however. "If any sanction

against Iran is ratified, parliament will oblige the government to have minimum cooperation with the IAEA," Hamidreza Haji Babaie was quoted as saying by Mehr, adding that this would start with barring

The West accuses Iran of seeking to enrich uranium to build atomic bombs, but Tehran insists it only wants to master the technology to make fuel for nuclear power plants.

The five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council -- the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France -- plus Germany have offered Iran political and economic incentives on condition Tehran first stopped enrichment.

But Washington has been pressing for moves towards sanctions as talks aimed at coaxing Iran to suspend the work dragged on.

"If it is imagined that it is possible to simultaneously use the policy of 'carrot and stick', it is an error in calculation." Lariiani said. The incentives package did not

threaten penalties if Iran refused, but the failure of months of talks between Larijani and EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana prompted EU foreign ministers to back incremental measures. "If the P5+1 really intends to

reach a compromise, the joint effort with Solana has paved the way for that to some extent," Larijani said.

About 14.5 million people are expected to travel by road, air and sea during an annual exodus from major cities to rural villages to mark the end of the fasting month. expected within days.

Authorities closed three regional airports where visibility was only about 100 yards due to fires used to clear land in the archipelago nation, said Transport Minister Hatta

Radiasa. also were reported at airports on

Borneo and Sumatra islands, offi-

fires, having arrested 300 people and filed lawsuits against six companies this year.

Kim makes since nuke test

North Korean leader Kim Jong II made his first known public appearance since his nation's nuclear test, official media reported yesterday, amid concerns that the regime was readying a second detonation.

Kim, accompanied by top Communist Party officials and military officers, attended a performance of songs praising him, the official Korean Central News Agency reported.

The exact date of the performance was not specified, but Kim most likely attended the event Tuesday evening on the 80th anniversary of the "Down-with-Imperialism Union" a politica platform on which the ruling party A second nuclear test was not

ruled out by Ri Gun, directorgeneral of the North Korean Foreign Ministry's American affairs bureau. in an interview with ABC News in Pyongyang that was broadcast Wednesday

Asked if there would be a second test, he said: "Even if there's a nuclear test, that is natural, so don't have to care much about this issue. The test itself ... will be natural."

In Tokyo, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice met with Japanese officials and said the United States was prepared to use the "full range" of its military might to defend Japan in light of North Korea's Oct. 9 test. Japanese Foreign Minister Taro

Aso said he was reassured by Rice's comments and emphasized Japan had no plans to develop nuclear weapons, a prospect the U.S. fears could trigger and arms race in Asia.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe also said that Japan will not build a nuclear bomb, declaring discussion on that topic "finished."

The North Korean performers sang high praises of the immortal exploits" of Kim and his late father. Kim II Sung, KCNA reported. The North Korean leader "waved back to the enthusiastically cheering artists and audience and congratulated them on their successful perfor-

Home ministry

FROM PAGE 1 receiving his gifts.

The home ministry has sent the gifts to officials ranging from additional deputy commissioners (ADC) to inspectors general (IG) under Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Elsewhere, superintendents of police (SP) and officials bearing higher ranks were also on the ministry's list of gift recipients.

2 JMB top shots

Javed was the mastermind of the bomb attacks carried out in Chittagong on August 17 and October 3 and the suicide bomb attack on November 29. Naimuzzaman was a close aide to Javed.

Rapid Action Battalion on December 13 last year arrested the two at a house in Kattali on the northern fringe of the port city with huge amount of explosive materials. different types of bombs and books and pamphlets on jihad in their procession.

Three cases were filed against the two with Pahartali Police Station two under Explosive Substance Act and one under Arms Act. Both the convicts made confessional statements before a court.

The charge sheet of the case under Arms Act was filed on January 21 this year while the charge was ramed on August 14.

The court recorded the statements of 14 witnesses in the trial before handing down the verdict vesterday. The convicts, however, said they would not appeal against

Two killed

FROM PAGE 1 Dhalnagar at around 4:30am, the BCP cadres opened fire on them. The law enforcers retaliated resulting in a half an hour-long gunfight.

Milon fell in the line of fire when he tried to escape, police said. He died on the spot. Police seized three bullets from the scene.

Milon was accused in 12 cases, including three for murder.

A total 116 alleged criminals, the nighest across the country, have been killed so far in Kushtia since June 2004.

Meanwhile, UNB from Chittagong reports that Abdus Salek and five others were arrested by the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) during an operation at Sarol union in Banshkhali upazila Tuesday morn-

Following his confessional statement. Rab took him to Kataria village of the same upazila at about 4:30am to recover hidden arms and arrest his cohorts.

"As soon as they came near the den of Salek, his cohorts opened fire on the law enforcers in a bid to snatch Salek, forcing the Rab men to retaliate," said a police official.

while trying to escape and died on the spot. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

A member of the notorious Amin Bahini. Salek was also a leader of an organised gang of robbers,

Nato strike kills 22 Afghan civilians

AP, Kandahar, Afghanistan

Nato air strikes killed nine civilians and wounded 11 others yesterday a provincial governor said, while 13 other civilians reportedly were killed in a firefight with suspected Taliban militants in southern Afghanistan.

The air strikes hit three homes in the Zhari district of Kandahar province, killing nine civilians and wounding 11. Kandahar Gov. Asadullah Khalid said, adding that an unknown number of Taliban militants also were killed.

Nato's International Security Assistance Force said the operation in Kandahar was believed to have caused "several" civilian casualties. The alliance said the operation

was meant to detain people involved in roadside bomb attacks in Paniwavi district, which borders 7hari. Nato said it regretted any civilian casualties and stressed it makes every effort to minimize the risk of such deaths during opera-

Elsewhere, a rocket hit a house during a nighttime clash between suspected Taliban insurgents and Nato and Afghan security forces in Helmand province's Grishk district, 135 miles west of Kandahar city, police said. A resident said 13 villagers, including women and children, died.

Nato spokesman Jason Chalk said alliance jets and helicopters fired rockets and dropped bombs on Taliban positions in the area after 2 a.m. Wednesday but could not say if they hit a civilian house. "For the moment, it's impossible to substantiate that claim." he said.

He said Taliban had been using mortars in the area of the clash.

At least one Taliban militant was killed and three police were wounded in Tajikai village before the rocket slammed into the house. said provincial police chief Ghulam

Nabi Malakhel. He said it was uncertain which side fired the rocket.

Abdul Rehman, a resident in the village contacted by phone, said a rocket fired from an aircraft hit the dried mud house, killing five women, five children and three men inside Since late 2001, there have

been numerous incidents of civilians dying in air strikes and other military action by international forces in Afghanistan. Many others have been killed in Taliban attacks, including scores in recent suicide President Hamid Karzai repeat-

edly has demanded that NATO and U.S.-led coalition forces take more care when conducting military operations in residential areas to avoid civilian casualties, which undermine his government's already weak standing in parts of the country.

"The government and Nato are fighting the Taliban, and civilians are the victims," an angry Rehman told The Associated Press.

He said the bodies had been retrieved from the ruins of the fiveroom house. He said police were at the house and were only allowing relatives of the dead to get close. This year, southern Afghanistan

has faced the deadliest spate in violence in the country since the ouster of the Taliban regime by U.S.-led forces five years ago, as newly deployed NATO troops have battled resurgent militants. In May, 17 civilians were killed

when coalition warplanes attacked Taliban forces in Kandahar province. The U.S. military, which said dozens of militants also died in the fighting, expressed regret over the

Touts feast

move about at the station for about two hours from noon but could not manage any ticket.

The staff at the ticket counters. when asked, told this correspondent that Star that all advance tickets for October 23 were sold out by 11:00am yesterday. And tickets for October 24 would be available today (The Eid might be celebrated that day).

Station Manager at Kamalapur Asoke Kumar Dey said, " On average we are selling daily 10,000 tickets of 19 inter-city trains operating in different routes across the country.

tickets on October 15, and it will continue till tomorrow (today)". We have also annexed three to four compartments with each train so that all passengers can get tickets."

Hundreds of people crowded Sayedabad bus terminal yesterday for advance tickets but the staff at ticket counters said this time they were not selling advance tickets.

Sayadabad Bus Terminal Owners' Association General Secretary A N M Mujibullah Naser told The Daily Star, "Passengers will get tickets at the counters when they will start their journey home"

"This time we are operating 200 more buses than in the previous year, and we have also kept 200 buses reserved for city service. We hope passengers will not find any trouble in getting tickets." But different sources at the

terminal said sale of advance tickets has been stopped only sell those at much higher prices. When asked, a number ticket counter staff at the bus terminals

said all advance tickets were sold out from October 8 to 12. Similar was the situation at

Sadarghat Launch terminal. Bangladesh Inland Waterways Passenger carriers Association Vice President Muhammad Badiuzzaman Badal said they

started selling advance tickets in

"Eighty per cent cabin tickets for Barisal route have been already sold out. For Bhola route, it is 75 per cent, Borguna route 60 per cent and other routes at least 60 per cent." he added.

They will double the trips of launches and steamers to avoid any crisis on the eve of the Eid, he mentioned

Meanwhile, the home ministry vesterday directed police to take stern action against black marketeers of bus, train and launch

A control room has been set up at Sadarghat launch terminal to ensure smooth journey of homebound passengers. Besides, three temporary terminals have been set

Hasan 'thinks'

Justice KM Hasan has been the first natural choice for the post of the caretaker government chief following a 2004 amendment to the constitution that extended the retirement age of Supreme Court judges.

The Awami League (AL)-led 14party opposition combine has been opposing Justice Hasan as the chief of the interim government on grounds of his affiliation with BNP in the past. But the BNP-led ruling alliance has been rigid to have Hasan in the post. The rigidity of the country's two

main political parties has triggered enormous political standoff ahead of the next parliamentary elections. Justice Naimudidn at a discussion on Tuesday disclosed that he

recently had a conversation with KM Justice Naimuddin said he told Hasan that he now has two options-to live the rest of his life with the honour of a former chief justice, or to

be a victim of the dishonest and

corrupt politics. "I do not know what he will do, but I suggested him to take a decision quickly," Naimuddin, also a former election commissioner, told The Daily

A source close to an eminent citizen, who also had a conversation with Justice Hasan this week, said

the former chief justice believes that

the ongoing controversy over him is "unexpected".

Referring to the conversation, the

prevailing political situation," the source told The Daily Star yesterday. Council of Houston. In his conversations with the wellwishers. Justice Hasan also clarified

that he has had no contact with any

On expiry of the present govern-Baghdad that killed 60 people. ment's tenure on October 27 President laiuddin Ahmed will invite Justice Hasan to take oath as the parties in his coalition.

Meanwhile, uncertainty in the

release, Maliki's press office said. the leading Shi'ite cleric in Iraq.

Alert call

everything goes otherwise. All upazila and district units of

the opposition's front organisations will also sit simultaneously the same days for preparations.

Sensing that the government may not realise its major demands, the opposition held an emergency meeting on Tuesday night and also decided to stage countrywide demonstrations on October 22 -the day before the final round of talks -- to observe the day as the reform proposals implementation day" 'as a warm-up step.

On the other hand, the BNP has started taking massive preparations to face the opposition alliance in the streets 'politically'. On October 13, the party held a

joint meeting of the leaders of its front organisations and lawmakers from the constituencies in the capital and directed them to foil any opposition's bid to create anarchy. The BNP's youth front Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal at an

extended meeting on October 8

decided to remain active in the

streets after October 27. At a reunion of Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), students' wing of BNP, on October 9, the party's Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman vowed to resist any attempt to create anarchy and urged JCD leaders and activists to

Voter list

act accordingly.

Officials at the EC Secretariat and a number of vendors said it might take a few days after the Eid holidays to kick off the massive

Abdul Khaleque Miah, proprietor of Rupa Art Press, one of the participants in the tender process.

Several vendors said it will not be possible to complete the printing task before December

meet the deadline if it continues?' said printing press owners Abdul Wazed and Nasiruddin. The vendors said they will need at least three weeks to complete

printing the list that was completed in August. Meanwhile, the EC Secretariat has cancelled holidays of all its

The field level election adminis-Secretariat and the district election officials are now waiting for the EC Secretariat's directives to prepare for the next parliamentary election.

10 US troops

more aggressive patrolling in Baghdad, the epicentre of sectarian

violence that kills 100 people a day. In the worst violence on Tuesday, four soldiers were killed when their vehicle was struck by a roadside homb west of Baghdad, the U.S. military said in a statement. Roadside bombs are the deadliest weapon for

Three were killed and one wounded while conducting operations in Diyala province, north of Baghdad.

Falling support for the war has become the top obstacle for Bush's Republican Party in its fight to keep control of Congress. Baker, who co-chairs a bipartisan

to expect a "magic bullet". "I will say one other thing -- there's no magic bullet for the situation in Iraq. It is very, very difficult," Baker said in a speech to the World Affairs

Iragi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki a Shi'ite who took office five months ago, is under pressure to ease vio-U.S. officials are growing increas-

ing a weekend rampage north of Maliki has pledged several times to rein in militias but disbanding them

arrested an aide of Moqtada al -Sadr, heads the Mehdi Army militia. The man, identified by Sadr's office as Sheikh Mazin al-Saedi, was freed on Wednesday after Maliki ordered his

Maliki travelled to the holy city of Najaf on Wednesday and met Sadr and Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani,

Lara, Morton

back while playing a shot. He called for treatment soon after smashing fast bowler Brett Lee for a six and managed to add only four more runs before spooning a catch to the covers off Glenn McGrath.

Morton remained unbeaten on 90. a knock studded with seven fours and a sweetly-timed six over long-on against McGrath in the penultimate over.

It is the first match for both teams in the main tournament. England and hosts India are the other two teams in Group A where the top two will qualify for the semifinals.

The centre wicket at the

Brabourne Stadium played better

than the dusty side tracks provided

for the previous two matches that

were described as "sub-standard" by South African captain Graeme The ball still did not come on to the bat to facilitate strokeplay forcing the batsmen to grind for their

80 by Sri Lanka in the final qualifying match here last week, recovered to hold their own after a shaky start against the spot-on Australian bowling. Wavell Hinds, opening the bat-

ting in the absence of Shivnarine

Chanderpaul, who was laid low with

food poisoning, edged Nathan

The West Indies, bowled out for

Bracken to the slips in the fourth

New man Dwayne Smith made eight when he flicked Lee to squareleg where Brad Hogg took a low catch to reduce the West Indies to

Chris Gayle, who appeared set while striking four boundaries in his 24, edged a rising ball in Shane Watson's first over to wicket-keeper

Adam Gilchrist. Australian captain Ricky Ponting brought Michael Clarke on for one over and the young left-spinner responded by trapping Ramnaresh Sarwan leg-before with his sixth

delivery. But Morton and Lara hit back with their century stand that left Australia chasing a challenging 4.7 runs an over under lights on a pitch that

40 hurt

FROM PAGE 16

On information, police rushed to the spot to bring the situation under The violent clash erupted

between the two sides when the law enforcers charged batons to disperse the mob. All sorts of vehicular movement

on the road remained suspended for

three hours due to the clash.

Tamil raid on Lanka

days after nearly 100 people, mostly

runs.

navy sailors, were killed in a suicide bombing on a convoy in a northcentral district

guised as fishing boats arrived to

attack the Dakshina naval base." the defence ministry said. "The navy destroyed ... three suicide boats and the other two approached the Galle harbour. selfdetonating at the entrance." it said in

rebels were on the boats. One navy sailor was killed, and 15 wounded, the military added. Smoke billowed from two or three spots on the sea front after the

Web site www.tamilnet.com said 15

gathered on a road by the beach as troops took position, witnesses said. News of the raid sparked minor looting in Galle, with some Sinhala criminal gangs targeting two shops belonging to the minority Tamil community, residents and police

Police opened fire in the air and dispersed the mobs before bringing the situation under control, they said. A curfew was also imposed on the town. Elsewhere, at least 20 vehicles

being driven by Tamils and minority Muslims were stoned and damaged by Sinhala gangs in the north-central region where Monday's suicide attack took place, Tamilnet said. Local police said the report was false. (70 miles) south of the capital.

Colombo, far from the northern and

eastern strongholds of the rebels

where much of the violence in the Indian Ocean island has been concen-Wednesday's attack was the first such in the scenic coastal region which is popular with foreign tourists. The port at Galle, home to a 17th Century

tsunami and has been the focus of reconstruction efforts by many aid

The raid came a day after the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) reiterated their commitment to planned peace talks in Geneva on October 28 and 29. Few expect the talks to achieve a

violence since late July that shattered a truce brokered in 2002. Last week, dozens of troops and rebels were killed and hundreds wounded in one of the deadliest

battles since the truce. More than 65,000 people have been killed since 1983 when the rebels began fighting for an independent

Keheliya Rambukwella told a weekly "The LTTE are trying to establish

RMG workers

stage set fire to it. Four fire fighting units from

The loss has been estimated at Tk 5 lakh, fire service sources said. Design Makers authorities said the vehicle that caused the accident did not belong to them and alleged

attack inside the factory. 37pc classified loans

Pubali Bank sources said. The former BB official who went on retirement recently, is the de facto owner of loan defaulter Shahidullah Shyamal & Co and the organisation has been repeatedly asked to repay

to BB in this regard. "Interestingly, this general man-

ager served for a long time in a department of the Bangladesh Bank that monitors different anomalies of the commercial banks." said a source. The top four defaulters Bangladesh Agriculture Development

Corporation Ltd. and Riko Motors --The BADC took the loan of Tk 53.45 crore when the bank was government-run. Pubali Bank filed a case against the BADC and got the right to auction for the repayment of the

the government for adjusting the amount from its payable taxes, but the matter has not been resolved vet.

Pubali Bank Tk 19.18 crore while another government organisation, Meghna Textile Mills Ltd, owes Tk 2.2 crore. The bank has been negotiating with the government for the recovery of the loans. Meanwhile, Pubali Bank won the

Leather, which owes it Tk 13.45 crore, and is now waiting for the decree. Riko Motors of Jessore owes

The organisation has become sick

due to management problems, Bank sources said. Albert David (Bangladesh) Ltd, an organisation owned by ruling BNP MP Shafi A Chowdhury, owes Pubali Bank Tk 5.29 crore. Shafi, also a former director of the bank, made a down payment of Tk 1 crore to reschedule the loan to qualify for the general

election in 2001. Kashem Cotton Mills Ltd owes the bank Tk 5.96 crore

Late Abul Kashem, who was a

minister before the country's inde-

pendence, founded the organization but his sons later failed to run the organisation properly, bank sources Pubali Bank has filed a case to recover the money. Four garment units are also on the

sources said. Borak Garments Pvt Ltd owes

Pubali Bank has filed cases against

Shanewaz & Brothers Ltd (Tk 6.5 crore), Slama Traders (Tk 3.65 crore), MAMatin & Co (Tk 2.01 crore).

Indonesia airports close due to haze

smoke from land-clearing fires, travelers preparing to return home to celebrate the end of the Muslim holy month Ramadan.

Flight cancelations and delays

The help of the army, firefighting airplanes and cloud-seeding have

have raged for more than two months, shrouding much of western Indonesia and neighboring Malaysia and Singapore with In Malaysia, air quality in the

A meeting of leaders from five Southeast Asian countries last week urged Jakarta to ratify a regional treaty on cross-border haze, and said financial assistance would be withheld until it did. The smog, which triggered

advised citizens to refrain from

health warnings in Singapore and Malaysia this year, has plagued Southeast Asia since the 1990s. Indonesia savs it is cracking down on those responsible for the

capital of Kuala Lumpur plunged to unhealthy levels. The government

outdoor activities.

Salek got caught in the 'crossfire'

source said Justice Hasan is yet to decide his next course of action. "I could not understand what he [Hasan] will do in the wake of the

political party or leader recently. Political analysts observed that the ongoing stalemate may not resolve until the time of handing over power to the caretaker government

they said.

chief adviser to the caretaker government in accordance with the constitu-Until then, nothing is going to be clear about how Justice Hasan will respond to the president's invitation,

people's mind has been mounting over the success of the ongoing dialogue between ruling BNP and main opposition AL to resolve the difference over Justice Hasan.

from about 200 vendors participating in the tender as of yesterday, the EC secretary said they would give the work order by today.

"We have not got the work order yet. The Eid-ul-Fitr is ahead, workers will not be available for a few days, and it will be hard for us to complete the whole printing process as per the schedule," said

"The whole country is facing acute electricity crisis. How will we

the task of data entry of the updated voter list before going for

officials from October 16 until completion of the next parliamentary election. tration has already sent a tentative list of the polling stations to the EC

FROM PAGE 16

U.S. troops in Iraq.

group appointed by the U.S. Congress to look at alternatives to policy in Iraq, warned on Tuesday not

ingly impatient over Maliki's inaction to crack down on militias, blamed for many of the sectarian killings, includ-

could put him in a precarious situation because they are tied to political The U.S. military on Tuesday a pro-government Shia cleric who

"Five Sea Tiger boats ... dis-

oreakthrough in the face of continued fighting and deep distrust. Hundreds of people have been killed in spiralling a statement. Military officers and the pro-rebel

Tamil homeland. explosions and dozens of residents The LTTE attacks on the military in Sinhala areas was aimed at triggering a backlash against minority Tamils living in the south of the island. defence spokesman and minister

> their strength and gain a psychological edge before the Geneva talks," he

FROM PAGE 16 Design Makers premises. They

different fire stations of the city rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire an hour later.

Dutch-built fort which is now a world that BSA Garments workers also vandalised machinery and properheritage site, is also one of Sri Lanka's oldest and biggest. ties worth Tk 50 lakh during the Galle was badly hit by the 2004

the loan, said sources at the Pubali The bank also lodged a complaint

Corporation (BADC). Cooperative Jute Mills Ltd. Sarwar Leather owe Tk 99 crore to Pubali Bank.

Pubali Bank, however, proposed Cooperative Jute Mills Ltd owes

case it had filed against Sarwar

Pubali Bank Tk 12.86 crore and the bank has filed a case against the organisation.

Pubali Bank Tk 4 crore, Ocean Garments Tk 3.59 crore. River View Apparels Pvt Ltd Tk 2.19 crore, and Nabi Hossiery Tk 1.81 crore.

list of the Pubali Bank's defaulters. Two of them failed to repay their loans as they became sick while two others defaulted on the loans 'willfully'.

these organisations for the recovery of the loans. Others on the top-20 list are

Alhaj Md Abdul Gafur (Tk 3.48) Stadmax Ltd (Tk 3 crore), Ahmed Iqbal Hossain & Co (Tk 2.98 crore), Ali Hossain & Co (Tk 2.65 crore), Mehar Industry (Bd) Ltd (Tk 2.25 crore), and

so far failed to extinguish fires that AP. Jakarta. Indonesia Authorities yesterday closed several Indonesian airports shrouded in threatening chaos for millions of