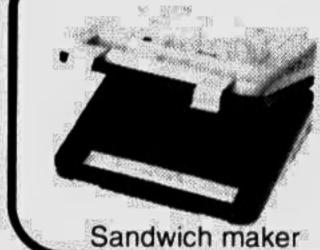
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**PHILIPS** 

## House of Commons lauds CHT agreement

The British House of Common has lauded the recent political development in Bangladesh after the signing of CHT peace agreement, reports UNB.

According to a message received in Dhaka yesterday, an early day motion lauding recent political developments in Bangladesh was tabled in the British House of Commons on February 19.

The motion welcomed the steps to restore democracy in Bangladesh and congratulated the Bangladesh Prime Minister's efforts to bring peace to the region, particularly the successful negotiation of the Chittagong Hill Tracts peace accord.

It also recognised the need for increased foreign investment, particularly in the energy sector and the welcomed continued friendly relations between the British and Bangladesh governments to promote development in Bangladesh.

The motion was sponsored by members of the House of Commons Oona King (Labour) Jim Fitzpatrick (Labour) Stephen Twigg (Labour), Ernie Ross (Labour), Joan Ryan (Labour) and Judy Mallabar (Labour). Earlier, a meeting of the All-

#### Manzoor Murder Case: Hearing on Mar 19

By Staff Correspondent The hearing of the Manzoor Murder Case has been fixed on March 19, by the First Additional District and Sessions Judge's court, Dhaka yesterday.

Yousuf Hossain Humayun, the defence lawyer of HM Ershad, an accused in the case told The Daily Star last night that the trial of the case is not being held on grounds of cancellation of the gazette notification that earmarked a building at Nazimuddin Road for holding the trial of the case.

The same building adjacent to the Dhaka Central Jail is now being used for the trial of the Bangabandhu Murder Case. he added

The prosecution had earlier told the court that another gazette notification would be issued cancelling the earlier gazette, he said, adding that it was, however, not done as of yesterday.

In yesterday's hearing of the case, the defence counsel of Ershad pleaded before the court to fix such a date for hearing of the Manzoor Murder Case, when the trial of Bangabandhu Murder Case is not scheduled.

Party British Parliamentary Group on Bangladesh was held in a committee room of the British parliament.

The High Commissioner for Bangladesh Mahmood Ali and Sheikh Rehana attended the meeting on invitation.

During the meeting, the High Commissioner highlighted the social, economic and political measures undertaken by the present government in particular reference to CHT agreement. arms surrender and holding successful trilateral Bangladesh-India-Pakistan business summit on January 15.

Oona King, addressing the meeting expressed the hope that return of peace and stability in the Chittagong Hill Tracts would help create an environment for the inflow of foreign investment to Bangladesh.

### BNP: Legal action

From page 1 nar incident Mannan Bhuiyan accused a terrorist group belonging to the ruling Awami League of unleashing the rowdyism, putting Begum Zia's life at risk.

Asked last night if they could identify any of the trouble-mongers, the BNP secretary general replied: How could we identify them in such an atmosphere, for which we were not prepared. It was a preplanned act by the ruling party terrorists who took position at the Minar before our arrival there."

When his attention was drawn to press reports that the people surrounding Begum Zia created the situation at the Shaheed Minar, Mannan Bhuiyan angrily asked, "Can it be called journalism?"

To another question as to how it was possible for others to infiltrate into the crowd of supporters around the BNP chief, he replied the ruling party activists had gathered there earlier and had got mixed up with the crowd. He answered in the negative when asked if they had got any hint of such an incident before going to the Mi-

Asked to substantiate his statement blaming the AL for the incident, the BNP secretary general argued that promptlymanaged press statements and propaganda through the stateowned media, blaming the BNP for the rowdyism, proved that the government had prior plan to state the Shaheed Minar in-

Mannan Bhuiyan termed 'false' a press report saying that a central leader of his party was behind Saturday's incident.

# Political patronage

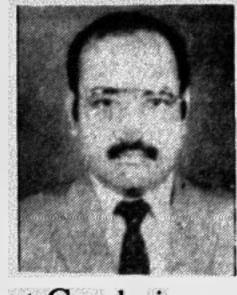
According to the service rules of the banks, bank employees cannot be involved in politics. But the labour law permits TUs to work as fronts of national labour organisations. Taking advantage of this. the TUs of banks received certificates as fronts of labour organisations of different political parties. This way, the TUs gradually got directly involved in politics, the report pointed

In another startling revelation, the report said there are high officials in the management who had once been TU leaders and these officials act as 'shields' for the TUs against any management action. In exchange, these former TU leaders get a share of illegal earning of the TUs. This makes the banks

internal control over TUs weak. The task force report said although there are laws to curb corruption and irregularities of the trade unions, these have not been applied. For example, clause 57 of the Bank Company Act says it is a punishable crime to stage rallies or processions inside a bank. This law is being violated almost every day in one or another bank, but not a single case had been filed till January 31 this year, the report said. The only instance of application of the law was in this month for harassment of the Governor and a general manager of Bangladesh Bank by some employees of the Bank.

The report said the bank managements have become conditioned by the misuse of power and corruption of the TUs and they take the misconduct of the TUs for granted. If any official is harassed by the TUs for his taking any action against any employee, instead getting support from the bank authorities, he is often reprimanded for being tactless and transferred to other

QULKHAWNI



The Qulkhawni of Engineer Khurshid Anwar, Director of Confidence Cement Ltd., will be held today (Tuesday) after Asar prayer at the deceased's residence

at Gandaria.

All relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to take part in the Qulkhawni to pray for the peace of the departed soul together.

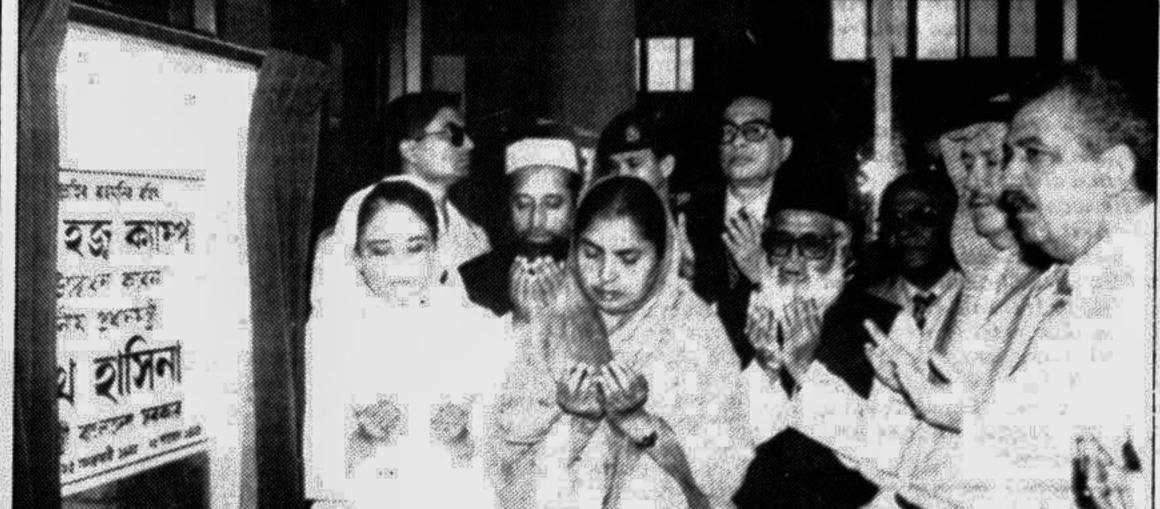
Address: 159, Distillery Road Dhupkhola Play ground, (Near Kather pool),

Gandaria, Dhaka.

-Requests the family of Late Engr. Khurshid Anwar

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offering munajat after inaugurating the Hajj Camp at Uttara in the city yesterday. - PID photo

#### PM inaugurates permanent Hajj camp complex

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday inaugurated the permanent Hajj camp complex at Ashkona opposite to the Zia International Airport to facilitate Hajj formalities of the pilgrims before their journey to holy city of Makkha, reports

lnaugurating the camp, built at a cost of taka 40 crore, the Prime Minister said the pilgrims had to suffer a lot in absence of a permanent Haji camp. She said that a permanent Hajj office would also be set up in the complex.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Mohammad Nurul Islam and Religious Affairs Secretary Abdus Sakoor also addressed the gathering. Sheikh Hasina said that the

complex would also be used for other religious activities. She said that the activities of Imam training academy of the Islamic Foundation would be run in this complex.

Later, Sheikh Hasina unveiled the plaque of the newlybuilt Hajj complex. She offered munajat and then went round various sections of the complex.

#### Maid allegedly raped: Accused absconding

By Staff Correspondent A 30-year-old maid was raped at least twice allegedly by a son of the house owner at Tallabagh under Mohammadpur thana in the city since Wednesday last

Police said yesterday that the maid lodged a case with Mohammadpur thana on Sun-

Quoting the FIR, police said Roni, a young man, first attacked and raped the maid while she was sleeping in a verandah of the house at about 12:30 am on Wednesday.

During the day, inmates of the house confined the maid in a room for about 24 hours with out any food. They tried to convince and at one stage, threatened the maid not to talk about the incident with anyone else.

The following night, the young man again raped the maid and threatened her with death if she disclosed it to any-

The next day, the inmates of the house took the maid to a local clinic at Shyamoli as she fell sick. As her condition deteriorated, the maid was transferred to another clinic on Panthapath.

Tejgaon police somehow came to know about the incident and rescued the woman from the grip of Roni's family. The young man, the only ac-

cused in the case, fled before police came to know about the incident. Later, the victim lodged a case with Mohammadpur thana Sunday night. Police were searching for the accused

## Biman fails to press F-28 into domestic service

By Special Correspondent

will fly it.

Meanwhile, Biman has

formed an enquiry committee

to investigate the cause of dam-

age to the ATP's right landing

gear during landing at Zia In-

ternational Airport on Satur-

with 67 passengers and four

Forex reserves

The country's foreign ex-

change reserves increased to

1831.56 million US dollars on

said the reserves was 1719 mil-

lion dollar at the end of June.

crease in export receipts and

wage earners' remittances, for-

eign exchange reserves are

BNP unleashed

violence at Shaheed

Minar: Zillur

tary and LGRD Minister Zillur

Rahman yesterday protested

the statements made by BNP

leader Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan

at the press conference at Minto

In a statement, he said, "It is

Road and the rally at Ranina

only possible to display such

insane attitude at the Shaheed

Minar by the party born in the

darkness of night through the

politics of killing, coup and

Zillur said the people were stunned at the violence un-

leashed by BNP in broad day-

light at the central Shaheed

Minar on February 21 in "pres-

ence of and with provocation

from their leader BNP chair-

of BNP came as a rude shock to

the people, he said adding that

"their acts of terrorism even

outshone the barbaric acts of

language movement of 1952."

the autocratic rulers against the

said Mannan Bhuiyan had re-

sorted to 'falsehood' at the Sun-

day's press conference to 'ab-

solve themselves from any re-

sponsibility of the heinous act

BNP partymen were saying that

"there is none in Awami League

to be made minister" and on the

other, Bhuiyan said "we will

make 50 ministers from Awami

League, including the prime

state of imbalance and abnor-

frain from such irresponsible

attitude and said, "otherwise,

people will not forgive you."

This has unmasked their

He requested the BNP to re-

He said on the one hand, the

at the Shaheed Minar."

minister."

mality. Zillur said.

The Awami League leader

The heinous and insane acts

person Begum Khaleda Zia."

Batainool, reports UNB.

conspiracy.

Awami League general secre-

1997. It was 1731 million dollar

As a result of current in-

A Bangladesh Bank official

February 18, reports UNB.

at the end of January 1998.

showing a steady uptrend.

crew from Rajshahi.

The plane was returning

Bangladesh Biman failed to press its just procured F-28 aircraft into its domestic service yesterday.

The aircraft arrived on Sunday but the Civil Aviation Authorities could not receive the 'certificate of airworthiness' till yesterday. Biman sources

It will join the Biman's lone ATP, serving its domestic flights, as soon as it gets clearance, they said.

The F-28 has been procured on lease from an Indonesian airline through a British com-It will replace the Biman's F-

28 which was badly damaged during crash landing off the Sylhet airport on December 22. The aircraft will be on one month's 'wet lease with pilots' After one month, it would be on 'dry lease', when Biman pilots

#### Strike: 250 trucks stranded with perishable goods

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Feb 23: About 250 trucks loaded with perishable and other goods have been lying stranded at both sides of the Sona Masjid Land Port for the last two days.

The deadlock was created after the indefinite strike called by the Sona Masjid Land Port Development Committee formed by the importers, exporters and local elites to press home its 10-point charter of demands.

The demands include stoppage of harassment by BDR personnels of the importers and exporters, turning of the Sona Masjid Land Port into a complete one and increase facilities for the importers and agents at Sona Masjid.

The Sona Masjid Land Port Development Committee started the strike for an indefinite period since February 21 following failure of a discussion meeting on the previous day with the Deputy Commissioner of Chapainawahganj, the Superintendent of Police and the BDR Battalion Commander.

### Brojen Das hospitalised in Calcutta

Brojen Das, a legendary swimmer of the country, has been under treatment at a clinic in Calcutta, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has already inquired about his health condition and extended her help for his treat-

Brojen Das became famous by crossing the English Channel in record low time in the

CHITTAGONG, Feb 23: A young man was beaten to death by an angry mob at the Patharghata Brickfield Road under Kotwali thana in the city last night, police said.

Tarek Mahmud, 22, police said. Police arrested nine persons in this connection. The victim had come under attack at around 10:30 pm last night by about 30 people at a slum area in the brickfield road when he went there to rescue two of his friends confined by the mob.

# husband, wife

wife were injured when an unidentified group threw acid on them at north Sayedabad under Demra thana in the city

Police identified the injured couple as Rana, 40, and Ranu Begum, 30. The injured were under treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

them through a window while Rana and Ranu were sleeping at their house at Kajla at about 2:30 am, police said. The motive behind the attack could not be

till filing of this report in connection with the incident. A case was lodged with Demra thana in this regard.

# set on fire

By Staff Correspondent

the city on Sunday morning.

The victim was identified as Shahanaz Begum, 23, daughter of Awal Khan. She was admit-Hospital in a critical condition

Quoting the FIR, police said her husband Zahurul Haque often tortured her.

On Sunday, Zahurul started beating his wife during an altercation with her at Majhpara at about 11.30 am. At one stage, he poured kerosene over her and set her on fire.

A case has been lodged with Demra thana. However, none was arrested in this connection till filing of this report.

### Activists of BCL, JCD clash at city college

By Staff Correspondent

Chhatra League and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal clashed at Kabi Nazrul Islam College over the incident of displaying a banner in the campus at Sutrapur area in the city yesterday. The feuding student bodies

about half-an-hour from 1 pm. police said. Witnesses said at least three gunshots were fired while sev-

eral cocktails were exploded during the clash. Police lobbed at least three rounds of tear gas shells and

activists of the feuding groups. No casualty was reported in the violence. None was arrested in connection with the incident till last night.

## From page 1

velopment work possibly early next month.

Hasina is expected to formally inaugurate the airport development work next month, official sources said. The final date is yet to be fixed.

### DSE index

said.

"But these few lakhs of taka is nothing and it does not effect the market much", a DSE broker said, pointing to Agrani and Janata banks' fund size of Tk

to inject part of pension and insurance funds into the market, but the proposed amendments to relevant laws are being scru-

The Dhaka stock index

## Rowdyism condemned

From page 1

incident, started functioning yesterday. The committee headed by Prof Shahadat Ali of Zoology Department of DU met for two hours from 4 pm to 6 pm yesterday at the lounge adjacent to the Vice Chancellor's office and will continue to meet everyday at the same time at the same venue, a DU press release said yesterday. Witnesses have been requested to give their statements either verbally or in writing before the probe com-

mittee on February 25 and 26. Leaders of BNP's student front JCD, who are accused of creating a chaotic situation at the Central Shaheed Minar on Saturday and against whom a case was filed with Ramna thana, addressed a students' rally in front of the DUCSU Bhavan yesterday . Habibunnabi Sohel and Monir Hossain — two of the four JCD leaders accused in the case filed by the DU Registrar - addressed the rally in presence of police. reinforced after the incident to tighten security on the campus.

Though a tense situation prevailed on the DU campus yesterday over convening of rallies by rival student fronts, BNP-backed JCD and Awami League -backed BCL, at the same venue at the same time, no untoward incidents took place as the two organizations later held their rallies at separate venues.

The JCD announced at the rally that it would gherao the BTV Bhavan at Rampura in the city at 11 am tomorrow (Wednesday) to protest what it called "distorted presentation of Shaheed Minar's incident". It termed the incident a stagemanaged show and held BCL workers responsible for it. BCL also held a rally at the

foot of 'Aparajeo Bangla' on the DU campus and submitted a memorandum the Vice Chancellor demanding disciplinary action as per the 'Proctorial Rules' against those responsible for marring the sanctity of the Shaheed Minar and assaulting some teachers. Senate members and cultural activists. The VC, Prof AK Azad

Chowdhury, assured the BCL leaders of taking necessary action and informed them that a case was filed in connection with the incident and a probe committee was formed. Following his assurance, the BCL leaders postponed their scheduled strike on the DU campus

Addressing the protest rally of Sammilito Sangshkritik Jote at Central Shaheed Minar, the speakers demanded of the government exemplary punishment to those responsible for marring the sanctity of Shaheed Minar and assaulting teachers and cultural activists. Chaired by Jote's vice-presi-

#### Cricketer

From page 1 underwent a two-hour long operation by Prof Rashiduddin

Ahmed.

Dr Brahim Prakash, and Indian neurologist from Apollo Hospital in New Delhi, arrived in the city late on Sunday and had consultations about Lamba's treatment with Rashiduddin. He left later the same evening convinced that the cricketer could not be brought back to life.

"Lamba had sustained injuries on the left side of the brain. The small contused area of the brain had enlarged following convulsions and respiratory disturbance due to inhalation of vomitous material." said Rashiduddin, the head of the neurology department of PG hospital.

At around 11:30 am yesterday morning, following a meeting, doctors of the neurology department resolved in favour of switching off the artificial respiratory system. The end came at 3:40 pm. (Contd on page 11)

**Old Numbers** 

dent Nasiruddin Yusuf, the rally was addressed by Justice KM Sobhan, Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Gaziul Haq, Ferdousi Majumdar, Syed Shamsul Haq. Salahuddin Badal, Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, Golam Kuddus, Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Kamal Lohani, Aeysha Khanam, Shamim Akhter, Faiz Ahmad, Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, Ma-

Vice Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Amirul Islam condemned the incident.

statement condemned the incident and demanded exemplary punishment to the persons responsible.

ment condemned the attack on Ramendu Majumdar.

#### Cabinet

asked the minister concerned to submit the complete proposal, including its modus operandi. for consideration by the next Cabinet meeting.

idea, the government was supposed to set up a bank called Self-Employment Bank with the money. But some ministers yesterday objected to its nomenclature on the ground that donors including the World Bank and International Monetary Fund may 'misunderstand' the government plan as "it sounds inconsistent with the principles of the country's freemarket economy".

The cabinet also approved a Housing Ministry proposal to set up a 'Housing Fund' of Taka 50 crore. The fund, a creation of the country's national budget for fiscal 1997-98 in last June. will provide loans to 'poor peo-

cision, a15-member board of trustees headed by the Prime Minister will manage the fund. Some other members of the trustee board are Public Works and Housing Minister, Finance Minister, Labour and Manpower Minister, Social Welfare sources said.

Acquisition and Reacquisition of Immovable Property Ordinance, 1982.

known immediately.

## UP govt

From page 1

Pradesh. Vajpayee's statement came after he broke his fast unto death in New Delhi which he

He said the verdict was a slap in the face of the governor who, he alleged, had missed no opportunity to misuse his office

Meanwhile, an indefinite curfew was imposed on four areas of Gorakhpur and police charged batons in Barhariach, Botin in Uttar Pradesh during a general strike called by the BJP. demanding removal of the gov-

#### Annan

From page 1

Clinton told a meeting of US

But he added that he must still talk with Russian Prime Minister Boris Yeltsin and French President Jacques Chirac about the agreement of which Washington has insisted

# **New Telephone Numbers of**

The Daily Star

(With effect from Wednesday, 25th February, 1998)

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#### This is politics gone mad "stunning" things are in the offof our political parties, has ing can only cause dismay to been to blame it on the Awami those who want to see a healthy parliamentary practice in play.

League. Are we to understand that it was the AL which selected all those who surrounded Begum Zia's car from as far as the TSC and came all the way to the Minar premises? Were all those AL cadres, who stood in line from the morning under the numerous banners showing the names of BNP and its front organisations and who were in the Minar area when the BNP chief arrived? Instead of soul searching and weeding out those who are responsible for insulting the memory of the martyrs, embarrassing the party and especially its chief, and committing such a politically unwise act, BNP is taking the 'conspiracy' route. This again comes from the unthinking politics that assumes that people know nothing, and that a lie can be made truth just by

saying so.
Politics has also gone mad

on the ruling party's side. The

latest incidents of 'buying' op-

position MPs to join the gov-

ernment is politics at its uneth-

ical worst. Prime Minister's

announcement that more

The explanation as to what can AL do but to assist, if BNP lawmakers want to join the par-liament, is as credible as Mannan Bhuiyan's claim that AL was responsible for the Shaheed Minar incident. AL should never overlook

and underestimate the impact of the fundamental dishonesty of the process they have now started to follow. It is bankrupt politics which can only produce bankrupt policies, leading to bankrupt government. Trivial-ising the post of ministers, be they of deputy or state variety. actually trivialises the whole cabinet and as such the gov-ernment, and by implication, the election itself. Already there is widespread skepticism about the honesty and integrity of politicians. The latest 'buy-ing' of opposition MPs through offer of ministership has greatly deepened the already ex-isting suspicion. PM herself has acknowledged that what she was doing was contrary to par-

liamentary norms, yet she

promised more of it.

For God's sake put a stop to this politics gone mad. Nothing good can come of it, even if something glitters in the short run. The deep hatred that seem to mark the relationship between AL and BNP is giving an ever bigger role to the unscrupulous on both sides. Soon the 'unscrupulous' will take over leaving the honest among both the parties high and dry. As a first step for reversing this process, BNP should return

to the parliament. This will bring back some sanity in our politics. BNP made a fundamental error by boycotting the House without any reason that the voters found credible. Its continued absence will further frustrate the voters and isolate the party. The best way to come out of the above error would be to return to the parliament. We said so earlier and we say again. parliament does not belong to the government, but to all representatives of the people. BN-P's stubborn refusal to accept this fact is tearing itself asunder from within. It is another example of politics gone mad. Return to the parliament and begin to reverse the madness that is engulfing our politics.

### Young man beaten to death in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

The dead was identified as

# Acid thrown on

By Staff Correspondent A middle-aged man and his early yesterday.

The attackers threw acid on

known immediately. However, none was arrested

# Wife beaten up,

A woman sustained serious burn injuries when her husband allegedly doused her with kerosene and set her on fire at Matuail under Demra thana in

ted to Dhaka Medical College

Activists of the Bangladesh

hurled brickbats and chased each other in the college for

charged baton to disperse the

# Ctg airport

crore with Japanese assistance The visiting Japanese experts have already started the field survey to initiate the de-

Prime Minister Sheikh

From page 1

Last month, the government advised the nationalised commercial banks to operate in the market, which prompted two NCBs to start operation in the secondary market.

one crore each. The government also agreed

tinised by the Law Ministry.
"These funds should be immediately made available in the market," the broker said.

dropped to a shocking 44month low on January 17 beating 686.52 on May 4, 1994 and for the second time yesterday the index dipped below 700 points to 698.03 points.

#### dents Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University. Meanwhile, the three-member probe body, formed by the Dhaka University Syndicate to investigate the Shaheed Minar

munur Rashid and Sharier Kabir.

Sangrami Nari Samaj in a

Ganotantri Party in a state-

From page

According to the original

ple' for construction of houses. According to the Cabinet de-

Minister, Relief and Disaster Management Minister, Cabinet The Cabinet also approved a proposed amendment to the

The Cabinet endorsed another proposal on promotion and protection of bilateral investment between Bangladesh and the Philippines. The content of the proposal could not be

fine, swift, decisive victory for the moral standpoint" - for democracy, for the constitution, for the people of Uttar

began demanding dismissal of the Uttar Pradesh government.

for partisan ends.

governors that he had talked to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan after he concluded the deal today, as well as to British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

on being the final judge.

**New Numbers**