in the Indian state of Gujarat on

earthquakes at the so-called roof of

the world, thousands of kilometres

inside Asia, in northern China and

the former Soviet central Asian

could not explain the phenome-

scientist Paul Tapponier of Paris'

Institute of Global Physics, and his

US colleague Peter Molnar of the

Massachusetts Institute of Tech-

nology (MIT) in Boston, came up

they discovered "internal" earth-

quakes were actually linked to the

cataclysmic friction between the

land masses of the Indian sub-

zones far away from the immediate

seismological "zone of conflict" are

between the two continents has

created six giant fault lines across

Asia, comparable to California's

San Andreas fault, which has

caused deadly earthquakes on the

three sub-inspectors were sus

The case was handed over to DB

One of the arrested, Sharif

and 11 people including Sumon's

Munna, gave a confessional state-

On the basis of a statement by

another arrested, Ramzan, DB

police recovered the machete with

which the bodies were cut into

pieces and the scooter used by the

Abdul Momen filed the case with

Sutrapur police following the kill-

protest against it and police inac-

processions demanding immediate

arrest and punishment of the kill-

Mohsin's father Mohammad

The incident triggered public

People of the area brought out

ment before the CMM's Court.

pended for negligence of duty.

father was arrested.

gang members.

west coast of the United States

Sumon held in Comilla

also vulnerable to earthquakes.

This theory helps explain why

For this grinding conflict

Working from satellite images.

Until 20 years ago, scientists

It was in 1975 that French

There are also sometimes strong

Clash of tectonic plates

causes quake in India

Friday.

republics.

with a theory.

continent and Asia.

PARIS, Jan 26: The violent

earthquake in northwest India that

left more than 1,000 feared dead

and a trail of flattened buildings

today is just the latest manifesta-

tion of an aeons-old geological

phenomenon, reports AFP.
Asia and the Indian sub-

continent were originally entirely

separate, but at some point long ago

the two land masses collided. For

some 40 million years in fact, India

has slowly continued to grind its

slow, grinding clash of tectonic

plates -- underground layers of the

earth -- is what produced the Hima-

lavan mountain range, and even

now periodically leads to devastat-

the slow-motion collision builds up

tremendous pressure, crushing

Himalayas north to the frozen

wastes of Siberia in Russia's eastern

extremity, and from the Aral Sea in

It is like a gigantic, natural

This is why earthquakes are so

common in the Himalayas, even if

they are rarely as strong as the one

From Page 1

Later, they gave a photograph of

A DB team from Dhaka then

"The main accused could be

Sumon to Comilla police. Acting on

a tip-off, they raided a residential

went to Comilla and confirmed

Sumon's identity and brought him

arrested as DB was working very

hard for the last several months to

trace him" DC of DB Abdul Hannan

Mohsin and Saem from their houses

at SK Das Lane and took them to a

nearby Rifle Club. They sent a

message to the victims' families for

The families then repeatedly

appealed to Sutrapur police to

rescue them but they did not

respond. The gang then killed the

boys, cut the bodies into six pieces

Sumon's armed gang picked up

bulldozer, edging forward just a few

Central Asia to the Pacific Ocean.

The effect stretches from the

and deforming the earth's crust.

The continuing momentum of

This phenomenon, an infinitely

way into its neighbour.

ing earthquakes

centimetres a year.

hotel arrested him

to the capital last night.

Tk 50,000 as ransom.

Bharat Ratna awarded to Lata Mangeshkar

NEW DELHI, Jan 26: India has conferred its highest civilian honour on "Melody Queen" Lata Mangeshkar, whose music has enthralled audiences in the country for decades, reports AFP.

It also bestowed awards on Indian-born conductor Zubin Mehta and US economist and diplomat John Kenneth Galbraith.

The honours list, declared late Thursday on the eve of the country's Republic Day, additionally gave the highest civilian award of Bharat Ratna (Jewel of India) to Bismillah Khan, a maestro of the "shehnai," a classical Indian wind instrument

Mangeshkar, 70, whose songs are played at the official Republic Day celebrations every year, was quoted as saying Friday that she was overjoyed.

Speaking to The Times of India daily from London, she said, "I am very happy and grateful to the nation and its people who have showered on me such love and affection.

"Compared to so many big artistes, I am such a small artiste. Ultimately for us the country means everything and for keeping its name and fame high, I will do

The 86-year-old shehnai virtuoso Khan echoed her.

God," he said: "I have so much more to learn. I want to learn but I have no more strength. Age has caught up with me.'

India on Friday celebrates its transition to a republic in 1950, three years after gaining freedom from British colonial rule The second highest award, the

Padma Vibushan or Special Decoration of the Lotus, went to Bombay-born conductor Mehta, several Indian classical musicians and Galbraith, who served in India. Galbraith was one of the most

popular US envoys to India, who shared a warm rapport with then prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

The Padma Bhushan, or Decoration of the Lotus, was conferred upon Indian film legend Amitabh Bachchan, called a "one-man industry" by French director Francois Truffaut, and Arun Netravali. the Indian-born president of Bell Laboratories.

Others honoured include evergreen film actor Dev Anand, who despite being in his seventies still plays swashbuckling heroes, dancer Yamini Krishnamurthy, tennis player Leander Paes and industrialist Rahul Bajaj, owner of the world's biggest scooter manu-

Mir to splash down safely in south Pacific: Moscow

MOSCOW, Jan 26: Russia announced Friday that the 130tonne Mir space station would splash down to safely to Earth in the Pacific Ocean in between Australia and Chile in early March, reports The foreign ministry stressed

that most of the 15-year-old craft would burn up in the atmosphere and any parts of the orbiter that survive the descent would fall harmlessly into the Pacific Any debris from Mir will splash

down "in the open sea, in the southern Pacific and removed from (existing) routes used by ships and airplanes," a foreign ministry state ment said.

The largest piece of debris -whose estimated size was not given would crash into the sea about half-way between Australian and Chile, south of the Polynesian islands, said the ministry

sections of Mir may come tumbling down over their territory when the fault-prone Soviet-era space craft makes its fateful descent around March 6.

minute developments once Mir's last plunge is underway.

The ministry statement said most of the once-revolutionary space lab would burn up in the atmosphere some 70 to 90 kilometers (about 40 to 65 miles) above

"No more than 30 minutes will pass from the moment Mir enters the dense layers of the atmosphere until the fragments that do not burn up hit the sea," the ministry said.

One scientist with Russian space control warned last month that no object the size of Mir -- the craft is some 30 meters (yards) long -- has ever been brought down to Earth

The scientist speculated that up to 40 tonnes of Mir may survive the fiery re-entrance and hit the sea.

The decision to abandon Mir follows several glitches in recent years, including a serious fire and a near-fatal collision with a cargo ship

Last month, Russia lost contact with Mir for almost 24 hours, sparking international alarm at the possible security threat if such a communication breakdown recurred while Mir was hurtling towards Earth.

Russia has also found that its commitment to the new International Space Station (ISS) has stretched its budget to a breaking point, making it unable to support both space projects.

Moscow has promised to keep Tokyo informed of minute-by-

Joseph Kabila sworn in as Congo president

KINSHASA, Jan 26: General Joseph Kabila ALIVOLISMA, Jan 20: General Joseph Kabila took the oath of office today to succeed his slain father as president of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), a vast, ruined country split by a war which involves the armies of five nearby states, reports AFP. The general -- just 29 years' old, the Supreme

Court revealed -- was little known outside military circles before a bodyguard pumped three pistol bullets into president Laurent Kabila on January 16, and is untested as a politician. Wearing a dark suit with a blue tie, he declared, in a firm, clear voice before the Supreme

Court and members of the provisional parliament:
"I, Joseph Kabila, swear fidelity to the nation," and
went on to your to protect its independence and The audience in Kinshasa's historic Palace of

the Nation on the bank of the Congo River erupted in ululation and applause, but a cross-section of people on the streets of Kinshasa told AFP they doubted whether he would have the strength of will to impose himself as an effective leader.

His father, who died of his wounds on January 18, the government said, was buried Tuesday in front of the palace in a mausoleum once topped by a statue of King Leopold II of the Belgians, who ran the territory as a private estate for 23 years. Kabila's pledge to protect the country's territorial unity struck some as ironic: the government, backed by troops from Angola. Namibia and Zimbabwe who are also protecting the regime against any dissidence by DRC troops, holds just half the huge nation, the size of western Europe; on the other side of a zigzag frontline stretching through rainforest and savannah from the northwest to the southeast are rebels backed by troops from Rwanda and Uganda.

The parliament established by his father, who overthrew longtime dictator Mobutu Sese Seko in May 1997, proclaimed Kabila president on Wednesday

He was due to make an address to the nation -- his first public speech since the assassination -- on Friday evening, state radio announced. Kabila, the fourth president of the DRC

since independence from Belgium in 1960, faces mounting pressure from the interna-

tional community, ordinary citizens and his allies to end the two-and-a-half year old war.

"We do not want to create problems for the government of Pakistan which has always responded to the needs and difficulties of Afghan

people," he said.
"We are not doing it under US or UN pres-

Sure."

The militia emerged from Islamic seminaries

in Pakistan and Afghanistan in 1994, and set up political offices in Pakistani cities before it seized Kabul in 1996.

It is accused of narbouring indicted terrorist Osama bin Laden and allowing terrorist training camps to operate in Afghanistan. The sanctions include an arms embargo, the closure of its overseas offices, scaling down of its diplomatic missions and a freeze of bin Laden's

It is accused of harbouring indicted terrorist

Thousands of Pakistani Islamists rallied

and the country Friday in support of the

Taliban offices closed in Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, Jan 26: Police have sealed a branch office of Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia here in line with UN sanctions imposed last week, officials said Friday, reports AFP. The political office has been shut and its staff shifted to the Afghan consulate in Peshawar, they said

said.

Taliban ambassador Abdul Salam Zaeef,
Taliban ambassador Abdul Salamic Press, said quoted by the private Afghan Islamic Press, said the militia had closed its political offices in Peshawar, Quetta and Karachi.

The Alghan embassay however continues to function in Islamabad, which has close relations with the fundamentlist Taliban. Pakistan is one of only three countries that recognises the Taliban received.

regime. In Quetta, capital of southwestern Baluchistan province, Afghan counsul general Abdullah Hammad said the militia decided to close its political offices after receiving instructions from

Aides of Clinton

asking staffers to report any suspected vandalism, but a spokesman said Thursday he doubts anything will be done with the findings.

"What we are doing is cataloging that which took place," White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said. He refused to say what acts of vandalism had been reported, the extent of any damage or even why the review was being conducted.

"I don't think anything will ever come of it," he said. "Part of changing the tone in Washington is to allow some things that others may have made a focus of, to let pass."

Karen Tramontano, the coun selor to Clinton's chief of staff, John Podesta, said she was in the White House West Wing and adjacent office buildings late the night before Clinton left office, and saw no

"We left everything in good condition," she said. "We all left our offices intact."

However, several former officials in the Clinton administration told The Washington Post that some pranks were played on the incoming Republicans, but they say nothing malicious was intended.

The actions were meant to be humorous or expressed the frustration of White House staffers who were losing their jobs, the Democratic officials said.

The Bush administration said they didn't find the alleged vandalism funny and say it will cost taxpayer money to clean up and repair.



being made by Bangladesh government to bring Golam Azam and others responsible for war crimes to

natural gas reserves and called on European Union to support Bangladesh government in its attempt to exploit these resources. It also welcomed the Commission's proposal to allow duty-free access for all products from least

The European Parliament also

Mufti Hannan

Hasmot Ali Kazi and Wasim Akhter

Aminul Islam, Wasim Akhter and Mehedi Hasan confessed their involvement in the bomb planting near the meeting venue of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Kotalipara before the court under Section 161 of

The absconding accused are Mufti Hannan, Habibullah alias Saiful, Hasanuzzaman and Khokon.

Police recovered 60 KG explosives, two big live bombs, gun powder and some explosive materials from the soap factory of Mufti Hannan and from the residence of Hasmot Ali Kazi on July 23 last year.

sheet against seven persons includconnection with a case filed under Arms Act.

welcome to make observation before the polls, during the polls and after the polls to make the

'The observers both from home and abroad will absolutely be free to move and observe the polls They will be given free access to

neutrality of the poll observers, he said if somebody is biased, if somebody makes false statement they

visiting Bangladesh January 27-February 6 to determine the scope and structure of the EU election monitoring in the upcoming polls.

The mission of seven people, including four Commission offitive of Swedish EU Presidency and two consultants, will have two meetings with the CEC for a preview of the entire gamut of the election process.

monitor the seventh parliamentary elections.

Met office

that jolted western India killing many vesterday, also shook the

damage or injuries.

Pabna, Satkhira, Barisal and Noakhali districts, according to reports.

(AP) report, an apparent aftershock of the quake hit Bangladesh 30 minutes after the tremor. Hundreds of frightened residents came out into the streets in Satkhira, it said.

JCD posts

From Page 12

of posts of vice-president and 30 of the posts of joint secretary, the insiders said.

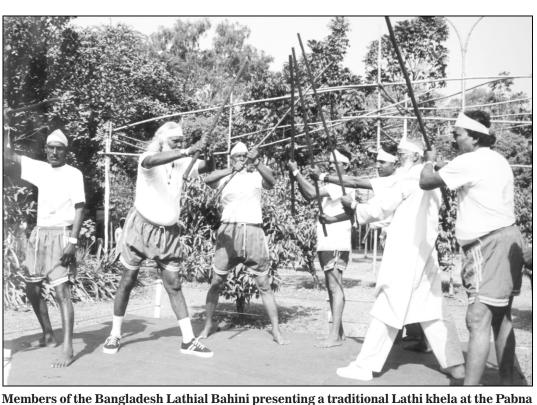
Most of them have no link with JCD or BNP for long and are either doing business or "controlling markets and slums" or are unemployed, the insiders said.

senior leader of JCD said hostilities in the organisation may intensify if the "ousted and expelled" activists are accommodated in the fullfledged committee.

They (Pintu-Laltu) are in the grip of BNP hardliners and are moving towards turning JCD into an organisation of non-students to serve their petty group interests".

A supporter of Pintu said those opposed to Pintu and Laltu will be given "reply" soon.

'The process to form a fullfledged committee has started and they (opposed to Pintu) will be gradually removed from JCD units at universities, colleges and at district and thana levels", he said.



Festival yesterday. The two-day long festival has been organised by the Pabna Association in Dhaka to mark its platinum jubilee.

DMCH plagued with constraints

Faruk at around 8:30pm, this corre-

spondent came to know that he had

more than Tk 40 lakh in a couple of days' notice. Hasina inaugurated the national blood transfusion centre and attended the Millen-

January 5.

nium Get-together of the college on

Most of the money was spent on whitewashing and decorating the college and hospital buildings. polishing the floors, cleaning the toilets and corridors, repairing and renovating the parking area and the walkways, and other arrangements for the inauguration ceremony and the get-together.

To make sure that everything went smooth, the health minister, secretary and additional secretary, director general of health, director of the hospital and other high officials were on round-the-clock supervision, as patients at different departments suffered without medicine and other facilities. The prime public hospital in the country is supposed to treat them free with all additional costs borne. On the same day, while talking to

the assistant in-charge of the neurosurgery department Mohammad

From Page 1

entirely on the President. "We can

not stop him from resigning if he

wants to do so. He has the right to

resign anytime. If he does so, we will

have to elect a new president," she

Hasina also reminded that it was

her party that elected Justice

Shahabuddin President and that

end the "controversy" over appoint-

ment of the two judges. The meeting

will take place after the law minister

But the PM bitterly criticised the

senior lawyers' suggestion for eleva-

tion of two High Court judges to the

Supreme Court as desired by the

pro-opposition lawyers who staged a

rowdy protest at the court corridor

against the appointments made by

compromise formula lack sugges-

tion for action against the lawyers

who let loose vandalism at the

Terming the formula unconstitu-

tional, the Prime Minister said its

implementation may encourage

others to go for violent protests to

aged, and police said 1000 people

had been killed there. The air force

said it had landed two helicopters at

its base in Bhuj and the government

said the runway would be able to

Police in Gujarat's commercial

The Nuclear Power Corp. has

"The director of Kakrapar atomic

power station has confirmed that

both nuclear units are working

normally, there is no trouble," the

corporation's spokesman told the AP

designed to be earthquake proof.

He said all Indian reactors were

Gas pipelines, most power supply

"The whole state has been

stations, phone lines and water

service were knocked out in the arid

affected. Communications have

been disrupted all over the state,

around dazed, a few pulling at

pieces of wood and stone.

two 220-megawatt nuclear plants at

Kakrapar, about 200-300 kilometers

center of Ahmedabad, a city of 4.5

million, reported at least 260 dead

in that city, where 50 multistory

buildings had collapsed.

south of the epicenter.

on condition of anonymity.

state that is prone to drought

handle small planes by Saturday.

highest court?" she asked.

"Why does the senior lawyers

the President.

BNP refused to vote for him.

only five ampoules of Oradoxon and eight ampoules of Diclonefec injections in stock for the rest of the "I have to make do with these

until the staff for the next comes with fresh stocks," Faruk said. Ruhul Amin, store in charge at the hospital, said that he had a

imited stock of life-saving drugs. "We supply drugs on the basis of demand," Amin said, "but at times we cannot give a ward more than its 'allocation', even if it needs more."

A doctor informed that after office hours ending at 2:30pm, there was no way patient could get access to antibiotics and other important medical aid.

The gynaecology and obstetrics department dealt with 4,200 cases in one single operation theatre in 1998. Two years on the scenario remains the same. Mothers and their new-borns sleep on the floors because the hospital does not have funds to buy extra beds.

Neurosurgery, one of the busiest among 37 departments in the

realise unconstitutional demand.

Asked about last week's bomb

explosion at a CPB rally in the city.

Sheikh Hasina blasted BNP chief

Khaleda Zia for blaming the ruling

"Her (Khaleda's) statement

party for the incident even before

proves that she knew about the

explosion beforehand. Otherwise,

she would not have made a

primary investigation.

tables and overhead lights at the operation theatre. In 1998 the hospital attended

hospital, does not even have proper

24.744 patients, one-third of whom had to stay on floors and corridors during treatment. They brought their own food and drugs.

One doctor at the gynaecology and obstetrics department said that she was yet to receive a set of operation lights she had requisitioned for a vear back. Another doctor informed that the casualty ward badly needed an additional suction machine and blood pressure measuring devices

The scenario is more or less the same in other departments and

"We have repeatedly requested the hospital authority to supply enough stock of medicines and other emergency supplies but they show little or no concern," said an intern doctor on duty at the casualty

in direct elections to parliamentary

seats she said and assured that her

party would consider as many

women candidates as possible in the

privileged and protected by quota

system. Speaking for equal rights,

the women should not ask for

favour. Why don't they participate in

direct election in increased num-

her?" She called upon women's

organisations to field women candi-

dates in all the 300 parliamentary

form alliance with small pro-

liberation parties in the next elec-

tion, she said, "We will consider

nominating candidates from those

The press conference followed

State Minister for Foreign Affairs

Abul Hasan Choudhury, State

Minister for Information Prof Abu

Syeed, PM's Principal Secretary Dr.

Jawadul Karim and Foreign Secre-

tary CM Shafi Sami were also pres-

police reported at least 31 dead

three people were killed in a stam-

pede at a diamond factory. When

parties"

Asked whether her party would

"Personally, I don't like to be

next general election.

Opposition's mass upsurge each and threw those in the man-

There were public appeals even The officer-in-charge of to the Prime Minister, seeking

Car bomb blast in Spain: One killed

SAN SEBASTIAN, Spain, Jan 26: A civilian cook for the Spanish Navy was killed when a limpet bomb attached to his car exploded today in the first fatal attack of the year blamed on the Basque separatist group ETA, reports AP.

The blast, at 7.40 am local time tore the roof off the car and blew the victim's body out of the vehicle. The victim was named as Ramon Diaz Garcia, 51, said a police spokesman, customarily not identified. Two other people were also slightly injured in the blast.

her return from a visit to Cambodia where she attended the conference of Association of Asian Parliaments offices in the city for the past 12

The bomb exploded as Diaz drove his car away after having breakfast in a bar near his house. Employed as a cook at Navy

led police and politicians to immediately blame ETA, which has killed some 800 people since it began a campaign for an independent Basque state in 1968.

President urges womenfolk

efforts to increase the pace of female education by exempting school fees, supplying free books, providing food for attending schools and such other inducements. NGOs are also supplementing these facili-

women in this society has been progressing slowly since middle of the last century and mentioned that the spread of education changed the system that bread-earner man of the house is master of everything keeping women within four walls.

have been organising themselves for a greater role to play in society. In an environment of man-dominated society, it was almost an uphill task to march forward and make progress in establishing rights and creating opportunities for the developanniversary of India's constitution, ment of women.' swayed just before Vajpayee and

Appreciating various activities of the DBPW that established the first hostel for working women in the country, President Shahabuddin hoped that more women organisations would come forward to help themselves in matters of working

"In recent years the number of working-class women, particularly in the urban areas, has registered a phenomenal growth, demanding more physical facilities for accommodation, transport, insurance, etc." said the President.

The function was also addressed DPBWC founding president Selima Ahamad who flew in here from Karachi, current president Razia Matin Chowdhury, MP, general secretary Zulekha Haque and other leaders like Rokeva Mannan. Ferdousi Ali and Monira Khan

Vegetable exporters

earnings from vegetable exports to nosedive. Revenue from this sector has gone down from Tk 200 crore in 1996 to Tk 160 crore in 1999.

Had Biman extended full cooperation, export earnings from this sector would have shot up to Tk 400 crore per year, said SM Jahangir, a leader of the association. The fare for cargo transport by

Biman is also exorbitant. The fare increased several times over the past few years. Price of vegetables in he London markets, by contrast, declined due to huge supply of vegetables from India and Kenya, one source said

In 1995 the fare was Tk 52 per kilogram on a Dhaka-London flight but now the fare has gone up to Tk 67.55 per kilogram. Exporters from India and Kenva

get subsidy from their governments

and can sell vegetables at lower prices, said local exporters. The fare on Dhaka-London route other destination, they said Officials at the Biman cargo

department admitted that they had to offload vegetable items only under technical problems. "If a Dhaka-London flight is full,

official. "We can only carry 25 tonnes when it isn't." "Although booked for 25 tonnes, sometimes we have to offload goods when the flight is carrying passen-

gers to its capacity," the official admitted requesting anonymity. But exporters want an end to the practice of giving more space than capacity. They argued that Biman

Biman's General Manager

is almost double compared to any several attempts.

an international court. The resolution drew attention to the fact that international companies started exploiting Bangladesh's

developed countries, excepting arms, to European markets, which will have a positive effect on imports from Bangladesh into the European

welcomed the efforts of Bangladesh in recent years to combat child

During investigation police arrested four of the 17 accused. They are Anisul Islam, Mehedi Hassan alias Abdul Wadud alias Gazi Khan, alias Tarek Hossain alias Marfat Ali.

the Criminal Procedure Code.

Mofizur Rahman, Munshi Ibrahim, Mahmud Azahar alias Mamunur Rashid, Rashed driver alias Shimul, Shah Newaj alias Azizul Haque, Lokman, Yusuf alias Abu Musa Harun, Sheikh Mohammad Enamul Haque, Ismail alias Noor Islam,

Earlier, police submitted a charge ing Mufti Hannan to the court in

Polls observers

From Page 12 election more transparent.

monitor the elections," he said. Asked about the question of

will be discredited. "You can't hide truth, it'll come out," said the A Needs Assessment Mission of the European Commission will be

In June 12, 1996 general elections 189 foreign observers had been in Bangladesh. Besides, the diplomatic missions in Dhaka engaged 81 other observers to

From Page 1

southern part of Bangladesh. "Panic-stricken people came out of their houses and began to run for safety," said the report said. However, the local Úpazila Nirbahi Officer said there were no reports of

The tremor was also felt in

According to an Associated Press

At lease 20 of them were assured

Talking to this correspondent, a

said Gujarat's home minister Haren Pandya. The quake was also felt in Nepal, and an apparent aftershock hit Bangladesh, where hundreds of panicked residents flooded into the streets of Satkhira, on the border

with India In Ahmedabad, hundreds of people besieged the fire station asking for help to dig their relatives out of the collapsed buildings, said fire chief Rajesh Bhat. A bulldozer worked near one collapsed building to clear the rubble as people stood

To another question, the Prime readymade statement." Minister said she will meet the She said the government has group of five senior lawvers who taken extra security measures for proposed a compromise formula to public rallies. "From now on we will

> have be cautious so that the Opposition does not plant bomb at Âwami League office to blame the ruling Blaming BNP for recent acts of terrorism, Hasina said the Opposition has now opted for violence after failing to face the government

politically. "Begum Zia has brought

in terrorists in Chhatra Dal leadership in line with her politics of terrorism." The PM reiterated her call to BNP to help passage of the bill seeking retention of women's reserved seats in parliament. She also urged the opposition party to place its suggestions in parliament

for increasing seats for women and direct election to those. More women should participate

Quake in India, Pakistan

facing a riotous crowd," Bhat said. "A fear psychosis is developing in the People have fled their homes and are taking refuge in open fields. About 70 children and some teachers were feared dead in the debris of their school building in one part of Ahmedabad, while in another district 19 engineering

students were believed trapped in their collapsed college. Baijubahi, an Ahmedabad man who uses only one name, said his wife had died in the earthquake and six members of his family were still

trapped in their building.

The police are trying to persuade me to go to the hospital for my wife's post-mortem," he said. "I'm more concerned about the rest, who could have survived. The quake struck as many cities were celebrating India's 51st Republic Day, which commemo-

rates the adoption of the constitu-

tion. The temblor caused high-rise

Bombay, Madras and Calcutta,

many hundreds of miles from the epicenter. The swaying lasted more than two minutes in Gujarat, according to witnesses, but just over a minute farther away, as in New Delhi. The government said there had been 18

Cabinet Minister Mahajan

insisted that the quake measured 6.9, according to a preliminary figure given by the Indian Meteorological Institute. However, the US Geological Survey, taking an average of seismograph measurements from around

aftershocks.

the world, said it was 7.9, close to a major quake that can kill thousands. In the town of Surat where

the quake hit, diamond workers in the three-story factory crowded into a narrow stairwell and tried to push their way to the only exit, said police official Vineet Gupta. In India's capital, New Delhi, bleachers set up for the Republic Day parade celebrating the 51st

other dignitaries arrived. In Pondicherry, on the southeastern coast, the crowd watching a Republic Day parade panicked briefly, fleeing the festivities, but were quickly calmed by loudspeaker announcements.

In the desert state of Rajasthan,

the 8th century Jaisalmer Fort, a

popular tourist attraction, was buildings to sway from New Delhi to damaged. Some of the distinctive yellow stones supporting the gate fell and the walls developed cracks. Millions of Hindus at the world's largest religious gathering in Allahabad, in Uttar Pradesh, more than 1,000 miles east of the epicen-

> In India's financial capital, Bombay, people sleeping late on the holiday rushed onto the streets and held onto doorways as the skyscrapers swayed. On June 16, 1819, another

them. No injuries were reported.

ter, felt the ground sway under

quake in western India killed between 1,500 and 2,000 people.

nani, close to San Sebastian, on Saturday. At midday today, civil servants and politicians took part in five-

vears. Diaz was married with two

children, aged 24 and 17. He was to

be buried in the small town of Her-

minute silent vigils outside government and official buildings. Such protest has become customary following ETA attacks.

Protest demonstrations were also called for Saturday across the northern Basque region.

The characteristics of the attack

From Page 1

SA Samad and Press Secretary

The President said condition of

Slowly but steadily the women

we cannot carry more than 17 tonnes of goods," informed one

should provide space as much as it

(Cargo) Jahangir Imam could not be reached over telephone despite

A Progress M1 craft is due to nudge Mir from its current orbit and manoeuvre the craft to a final destination of 47 degrees latitude and 140 degrees longitude, Moscow said Several nations, and in particular Japan, have voiced fears that