Rape victim's mother demands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of about 30 hoodlums swooped on the house of Anil Kumar Shil of Purbo Delua in Sirajganj, beat the family members and then gangraped his daughter on October 8, before driving them out of their house, the victims alleged at a press conference in the city Saturday

Anil Kumar Shil said the hoodlums attacked their house at the dead of night and first beat the family members mercilessly. The hoodlums then confined everyone but the girl in a room and brutally raped her for over two hours.

The ordeal did not end there. Fearing that the Shil family might lodge a case against them, the gang kept them confined in their house till October 9.

As the news of the atrocities spread in the village, local people took the victims to a nearby hospital. Mysteriously, local police refused to accept a rape case and instead recorded a case of

A local journalist and convenor of Sirajganj district Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee later helped the victim seek a check-up by the Civil Surgeon at the district headquarters.

The report of the Civil Surgeon confirmed that Anil's daughter had

According to leaders of the Nirmul Committee which organised the press conference, the girl was able to file a case on October 14 with a Magistrate's Court at Sirajganj. The Magistrate recorded her statement and directed police to arrest 15 alleged



swollen arm at the press confer-

rapists and produce them before the court. Till Saturday, police

nabbed only one of the accused. The victim's mother told the newsmen she seeks justice, not

Addressing the press conference, Nirmul Committee leader Shahrier Kabir said they would publish a 'White Paper' on attacks

He urged the government to ensure security of Anil Kumar Shil and his family members and said "Fifty percent incidents of attack on the minorities were not published in

October 1 general election.

Civil society: Minority

ing more repression on the Hindus after they celebrate the festival without spontaneity

Placing reports of incidents of repression that its leaders found to be true they also made their observations from their investigation:

* On excuse of voting for a certain party, terrorist acts were unleashed to evict the Hindus in a bid to capture their houses and property. The acts included extortion, loot, damaging houses, arson, armed attacks, killings and indiscriminate repression on women.

* Such incidents began since the caretaker government took over and increased after the election in different areas, like Bhola. Activists of the party defeated at the election also became targets.

* Terrorists with identity of the winning political party have been continuing the medieval atrocities.

* Affected people do not think that common Muslims are involved patronised by the winning party are

No political party came forward in this crisis to save the minority. Neighbours in some cases provided shelters, but they had no courage to

preventive measures to check such atrocities on Hindus unleashed for at least one week after the election. country's law system was silent.

* It is the most inhumane statement that some incidents might happen during transition of power. However, the new government gave any measures taken by the adminis-

The evicted people want to go back home. They want support from local MPs and leaders of ruling party. But they did not get it.

Puja begins today

amid apprehension in some areas because of deteriorating law and

Meanwhile, State Minister for Water Resources Gautam Chakravarty called upon the Hindus to celebrate the Durga Puia in a festive mood, since the government has already extended its "all-out support" to the greatest religious festival.

"Upon the directive of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, I keep on making every effort to help Hindus celebrate the puja in a secure and ceremonial manner." said Gautam, the lone Hindu minister in the present government, on the eve of the festival.

He said Tk 40 lakh donated from the prime minister's fund has already been distributed through

them on the basis of Hindu popula-

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Puia Udiapan Parishad has called upon the Hindus to keep the Durga Puja low-key due to continued tortures and attacks on them in President of the Parishad Anil

Chandra Nath and its General Secretary Basudev Dhar in a joint statement yesterday said the Hindus are frustrated with the panicky situation arising out of attack and torture.

The situation did not improve because of negative comments by the ruling party leadership about the extent of violence, they pointed out.

The untoward incidents ahead of the Durga Puja this time is against the spirit of the traditional Bengali spirit, the statement said.

the DCs and the TNOs among

ferred to the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications. As the post and telecommunications ministry did not have adequate technical

The project envisaged installasub-system, INMARTSAT-C subsystem, Satellite EPIRB or VHF EPIRB, COSPAS-SARSAT, automatic identification system, harbour management system and vessel

traffic management system. heed to the shipping ministry requirements and prepared the technical part of the project in consultation with the Spanish supplier, and invited tender in a hurry,

sources said. pated in the bid and only M/S Sainsel's bid was found technically responsive. However, the company proposed for additional payment and some of its terms and conditions were not acceptable to the

BTTB, sources said. The BTTB later abandoned the

bid, which the company as well as the Spanish government strongly

In a communiqué to the Spanish government, the BTTB explained that since the tender in question was an international competitive bid, it was desirable that companies other than eligible Spanish manufacturers

The BTTB also requested that provisions be made so that international companies can participate in the bidding.

It is learnt that several others international companies have submitted proposal to supply required equipment for the project including modernisation of coastal stations in Mongla and Chittagong and COSPAS-SARSAT ground stations.

In a latest development, the External Resource Department (ERD) of the Planning Commission has conveyed a meeting to set modus operandi for the project on

The meeting has asked the BTTB to make a decision with in ten days as to whether it will accept the Spanish government proposal or consider fresh proposals, meeting

Sunday last.

Janaza of ex-MP Mustafizur Rahman to be held today

UNB, Dhaka

The first Namaz-e-Janaza of Mustafizur Rahman, Chief Editor of Dainik Rupali and former MP, will be held today after Johr prayers at the Baitul Mokarram National Mosque.

Then his body will be taken to Sandwip and he will be buried on Tuesday at his family graveyard after a second Janaza at the Mustafizur Rahman College ground at 3 pm.

The Qulkhwani of Rahman will be held on Friday at his residence at Sandwip. His family members requested all relatives, political colleagues and admirers to attend the programme, said a press

ETV issue

FROM PAGE 12
Hossain of the Department of Pharmacy and Prof. Abdur Rob of the Department of Geography of Dhaka University and President of a faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Gias Kamal Chowdhury jointly filed the writ petition.

The petition said international bids were invited for setting up of a private television channel on terrestrial band in the country. On July 9, 1998, the tender evaluation committee, after scrutiny, sent a list of bidders to the Ministry of Information saying the ETV was disqualified in the bidding. However, another list was sent to the ministry on the same day showing the ETV on top of the list.

They further alleged that the licensing agreement was forged with A S Mahmud despite the fact that he did not participate in the bidding at all. The license was subsequently transferred to the ETV

The ETV did not obtain any clearance certificate as per the Telegraph Act for functioning as a terrestrial channel. Moreover, it set up the key-point installation (KPI) at the BTV Bhaban without permission from the National Security Intelligence (NSI), they also alleged.

Barrister Ishtiaque Ahmed. Barrister Rafiq-ul Huq and Barrister Moniruzzaman Khan moved for the ETV, while Barrister Abdur Razzaque moved for the petitioners. Attornev General A.F. Hassan Arif represented the state

AL: Oath-taking

FROM PAGE 1
October 24 or 25, and Speaker Abdul Hamid, who has already taken oath as an elected MP from AL, would administer the oath-

However, it is still not sure whether the AL lawmakers would join the first session of the 8th parlianent that goes into motion on October 28. "It is almost certain that AL MPs

would take oath shortly as most party men are in favour of it," an AL presidium member told The Daily Star requesting anonym-

majority within the party fold favoured the party's playing a role in the parliament while building a movement against the new regime

AL presidium member Abdur Razzak, both of whom have won in more than one constituencies in the October 1 parliamentary elections, after retaining one each.

qué, signed by its Secretary General Feroj M Hasan, were distributed among newsmen attending Hasina's press conference in the city yesterday.

When contacted over telephone last night, Feroj M Hasan, however, denied issuing any communiqué Dhaka-2 constituency.

"We came in here hoping to strengthen

the war on terrorism, and we did so," said

He told reporters it was "not a setback

a senior US official

AL will publish white paper

developments her regime had

know the sources of money that built

huge industries and business

owned by the family members of

late president Ziaur Rahman. She

pointed her fingers at the Dandy

Dyeing, Marshal Distillery and Coco

Khaleda's brother Sayeed Iskandar

had Tk. 12 crore in loans he had

defaulted on waived and Tk 36 crore

the Dandy Dying had defaulted on

rescheduled by exercising 'un-

whether the new government will

allow unruffled progress of investi-

gations into 54 cases filed against

Khaleda Zia, her son and her

brother and ministers, whips and

lawmakers of the previous BNP

new coalition government for abruptly holding off the ensuing

NAM Summit to be held in Dhaka.

This (postponement) has tarnished

Bangladesh's image before the

She was equally critical of

eves of the international commu-

Khaleda's claim that Bangladesh

was not getting water as per the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty. "She

(Khaleda) can go to the river and

see for herself whether we are

prime minister for "threatening" the

AL about the street agitation. "I

condemn her fascist attitude and

like to make it clear that the AL cares

a fig about any threats when it

comes to protecting people's

She censured the first 100 day's

agenda of the new government

saying that the plan missed out on

some vital election pledges the BNP

had made in its election manifesto

especially the Special Powers Act.

Public Safety Act, autonomy of the

Hasina also criticised the new

getting our due share of water."

She came down heavily on the

She also expressed doubt over

The AL chief alleged that

launches.

authorised power.

Abdur Razzak, Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Abdul Jalil and Sajeda Chowdhury at the news conference. Hasina first read out a written statement for 45 minutes and then replied to queries put up by journalists

Hasina observed that during the maiden address to the nation, the new prime minister dished out deceitful propaganda against the AL. She noted that Khaleda's speech was devoid of minimum democratic norms and political

The AL chief came up with a huge volume of statistics to draw a comparative picture of the key economic indicators during the rule of her immediate past government and that of Khaleda.

She contested the prime minister's claim that Bangladesh, which used to be an 'emerging tiger' before, had been reduced to a 'sick "How come the country becomes a sick cat when we left office with granaries full of food stock and banks full of money, Hasina wondered.

She said her government left a food surplus of 26 lakh MT (metric ton) against a food deficit of 40 lakh MT during the previous BNP government. "When BNP had left office in

1996, there was only Tk 800 crore in

the country's banks whereas when we left, banks had a reserve of Tk 5,000 crore. During the previous BNP rule, the country's GDP growth and inflation stood at 4.5 per cent and over 6.6 per cent respectively. "But

nflation as low as 1.59 per cent." Hasina also said her government saw a rise in national savings and investment both in public and pridoubled during the tenure of the previous Awami League govern-

contact point for the home ministry

forth seven suggestions to curb

The FBCCI president also set

President of the Dokan Malik

Samity (Shop-owners' Association) Amir Hossain Khan said that the toll

my government pushed the GDP

growth up to 6.6 per cent and kept

Business leaders say and that no culprit will go unpun-

> Dispensation of justice has to be quick (to create that impression), he The former minister demanded that a "police point" near the slums.

which, he said, were dens of criminal and terrorist elements. Law and order is the only benefit the government can give to the

people, he said. "A government that fails to do so is not worth a dime." Abdul Awal Mintoo, a former FBCCI president, said that objective of the businessmen were to generate employment and create assets for the country but deteriorating law

activities. "Besides improved law and order we also need political stability as well as good governance in the country," he said

and order was hindering business

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) President Benazir Ahmed said firm commitment was required to establish rule He also said that the country

should prepare for the challenges of free market, but "all these depends on the law and order situation, a pre-

MA Quashem, another former FBCCI president, said even small traders or day labourers no longer felt safe that they would be able to return home with their day's earnElectric Merchant Association lled for accountability of police. RK Chowdhury of the Match

Malik Samity said that they required lots of land as they deal with explosive but complained that some of the terrorist.

saw those materialise

said the business community wanted to see pledges made in the election manifestos fulfilled.

one will forgive you," he said. He congratulated the home

minister for placing the son of a minister behind bars for his alleged crimes adding that he would have was sacked.

that no one was above the law.

over weekend

ment and the private sector and also

workweek point out that a six-day schedule will enable them to ge over with their office work within early afternoon. It will, therefore,

However, others feel this will make the minds of government office goers more bifocal with almost everyone looking for part-

family and recreation.

There is another view that if the government decides to switch over to a six-day format the schedule should be 9:00am-4:00pm for the first five days and 9:00am-2:00pm for the last day of the week. This will ensure better attendance and give personal time space to officials and employees, both in the morning and

weigh the pros and cons in terms of actual attendance, work efficiency and economic activity" before changing the present working schedule, said a ranking minister of the government.

minister.

Many however, feel that change in the work schedule will purely be cosmetic if Sunday cannot be declared a holiday. And in that case the five-day schedule should be continued.

house of the Bangladesh Bank six days a week, is being seen as the most crucial for the economy to get a real boost.

Nomination papers

FROM PAGE 1 electronic media, and separation of

the judiciary from the executive.

The former premier took the

opportunity to once again raise the

issue of unabated attacks on the

minorities across the country. She

alleged that hundreds of girls and

women were being raped while

thousands of people rendered

homeless in recent incidents of

export of gas, Hasina said, "They

(BNP) vehemently opposed gas

export while in the opposition. What

has happened now that they are

moving fast to reach that goal? We

made our policy on the issue of gas

export clear, putting priority on

domestic consumption but BNP

kept the issue in its manifesto

convinced that the immediate past

caretaker government had played a

partisan role and whether it would

sue advisors of that government

getting two important portfolios

welfare portfolios were given to the

Jamaat so that it can expand its

network further. It's a deep-rooted

she was surprised that the new

prime minister did not bring any

charges of corruption against her in

regard to the purchase of MIG-29s

and the Frigate. "I like to see her

filing cases against me regarding

these deals. If charges were proved,

at the price rise of essentials. "Ed-

ible oil was selling at Tk. 190 per five

litre can while I left office. Now the

price has gone up to Tk. 220. Bitter

gourd was selling at Tk. 14 per kilo (gram), now it is Tk. 30."

Hasina expressed deep concern

I'm ready to go behind the bars."

In a lighter vein, the AL chief said

Hasina said, "Agriculture and socia

all she said.

conspiracy.

Asked whether the AL was

unclear to confuse the people."

Responding to a query about the

violence against the minorities.

Khulna-2, three for Laxmipur-2, two for Feni-1, three for Molvibazar-3, five for Bogra-5 and 11 for Manikganj-2 constituencies.

Our Staff Correspondent from Khulna adds: Two persons filed nomination papers for contesting the by-election in Khulna-2 constituency (Sadar and Sonadanga). The candidates are Alhaj Ali

Asgar Lobby of the four-party alliance and Advocate Mohammad Mahtabuddin of the Jatiya Party (Ershad). Khulna-2 parliamentary seat fell

acant following resignation of BNP

League collected nomination

papers, but only two of them finally

Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia. She was elected from this seat by defeating city Awami League President Advocate Manjurul Islam. According to election officials, a total of 21 persons including those from Awami League and Jubo

Hasina evaded a direct reply. "Will remained in race. filing of cases ensure justice," was Our Laxmipur Correspondent adds: A total of three candidates About two Jamaat leaders' have filed nomination papers to

contest the parliamentary by-

election in Laxmipur-2 constituency. Abul Khair Bhuiyan, a central leader of BNP, field his candidature on behalf of 4-party alliance, Maulana Mesbah Uddin filed from Islami Jatiya Oikkya Front (IJOF) while Mohammad Mahmudul Hug Nanu filed his candidature as ar independent candidate.

The Luxmipur-2 constituency fell vacant after Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia vacated the seat.

Our Feni Correspondent adds: Two candidates filed nomination papers to contest in the Feni-1 constituency. Maj. (retd) Sayeed Iskandar, younger brother of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and a central leader of BNP, filed nomination paper to contest for the seat. Mohammad Israfil of Jatiya Party (Maniu) also filed nomination paper to contest for the seat.

In Bogra-7 constituency, a total of five candidates filed nomination papers to contest the November 12

Envoy tells PM

victory of BNP at the internationally

accepted free and fair election. "The victory reflected the trust of the people of Bangladesh in the present government," the envoy

Rahman who had laid the foundation of the Sino-Bangladesh bilateral relationship. China also recalled the contribu-

tion of Khaleda Zia toward further strengthening the bilateral relations, tion in March 2001.

together not only for strengthening bilateral relations but also in the international fora, including UN, to establish global peace and security.

economic assistance in those fields He further elaborated that the Chinese government would wel-

the two countries as well as prominent private-sector companies In reply, Prime Minister Khaleda

Alleged terrorist

FROM PAGE 12 was shot at.

Fatally injured Nasir was rushed o Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the on-duty doctor declared him dead Svedur Rahman, victim's elder

brother, said. Nasir was an Awami League (AL) activist and alleged that terrorists Kala Motin, Jahangir and Tuhin had killed him.

The reason for the killing could not be known immediately.

Rahman filed a case with Ramna police station but none was arrested

Biman

FROM PAGE 1 be set up at every airport and he himself would keep the keys of the boxes, he said adding drastic action would be taken against the persons responsible for passenger harass-

Motels and rest houses of the Parjatan Corporation in Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and three hill districts would be renovated and equipped with modern facilities to cope with the present demand, he added.

Mir Nasir, also president of Chittagong city BNP, said he has already asked the officers-in-charge (OCs) of different police stations of Chittagong Metropolitan Police not to gossip with any leaders of the ruling party in their rooms and to keep the door of law-enforcement agencies open to all victims.

"We will not compromise in establishing the rule of law in all spheres of national life and in fulfilling the expectations of the toiling masses who made a silent revolution in the last election against social disorders," he said adding the BNP has to struggle hard to preserve the victory of the people.

He said three ministers of the cabinet would jointly work for development of Chittagong and to build it up as the commercial capital of the country. Mir Nasir urged the journalists to explore the prospects of Chittagong and to identify its probems to help take necessary steps for development of the port city.

General Secretary of city BNP Alhaj Dastagir Chowdhury and other senior leaders of the four-party alliance attended the meeting.

JCD factions

FROM PAGE 12 two rounds.

Both the groups then fired more gunshots in the Mall Chatter area and chased each other. Later, a police bid to conduct a

raid at Surya Sen Hall failed due to resistance from JCD activists. When asked, Mamun denied that

he led his group during the clash and

said, "It was nothing but a silly feud

between junior level JCD workers." Meanwhile, two activists of Mamun group' were ousted from

Zia conveyed her sincere thanks and greetings to the Chinese lead-ership for the warm facilitation on the landslide victory of BNP in the

recent parliamentary elections.
The ambassador invited to Khaleda Zia for visiting China which she accepted, saying: "I am looking forward to visiting China at a conve-

Khaleda Zia appreciated the Chinese offer for possible economic assistance for socioeconomic development of Bangladesh. She hoped that there would be more Chinese investment in various sectors and requested enhancement of import of Bangladesh items by China, particularly jute, jute goods, tea, leather and leather

She particularly requested assistance in joint venture in IT, textile and other important thrust sectors.

The prime minister through the ambassador also extended invita-tion to the Chinese president and the premier to visit Bangladesh at

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Reaz Rahman and Foreign Secretary Mohsin Ali Khan were present during the meeting.

FROM PAGE 1

An Associated Press reporter at the scene in the Khair Khana residential district saw bodies of five of

Corpses of the others, including another two older boys and a man, had been taken away, neighbors

to get a look at the destruction. This pilot was like he was blind. There are no military bases here --

resident, Haziz Ullah As the bulldozers searched for more bodies, another jet screamed in high overhead and the residents

him and snatched the money at aunpoint.

The muggers fled the scene immediately afterwards and headed

FROM PAGE 1
ment, which had no legal authority to decide any policy matter of the state.

informed the court.

FROM PAGE 1

and nine upazilas of the district to ensure law and order for peaceful celebration of Durga Puja.

have been erected in the city and the upazilas.

Mandaps in the nine upazilas.

against oppression on the minorities at different places. The programmes include dawn-to-dusk hunger strike, human chain, submission of memorandum and covering the image of goddess Durga with black cloth. KMP sources said that Reserve

Forces would be kept stand-by in al the five thanas of the city to assis police in case of any undesirable situation. Deputy Commissioner Abdur

Razzak said 98 tonnes of rice and a

We want justice

Anil Kumar's wife displays her

ence on Saturday

on the minorities across the country within three months.

He also called upon the Awami League and other political parties as well as Non Government Organisations (NGOs) to come forward in aid of the minority families attacked by hoodlums after the

in the anarchic acts, rather terrorists

Administration did not take any

assurances several times without tration and checking the terrorists in

Sources said an overwhelming

of Khaleda Zia. Besides, diplomats also strongly advocated in favour of the opposi

racy to flourish. Meanwhile. Sheikh Hasina and

FROM PAGE 12 Dhaka-2 constituency

Hasına

Copies of the FEMA communi-

collection, terrorist and extortion had increased twofold with the same of terrorists working under a new banner. He also blamed law-

smuggling.

and the federation.

ing terrorist for which they were losing confidence of the people.

"It is our belief that police harbours terrorist and we hope your improve the image of the police,

Owners of small shops have put

in place their own line of resistance

enforcement agencies of harbour-

after being deprived of any help from the authorities, he said. Khan added that shops and restaurants of supporters and owners of the association who had vied in the election on the opposition

ticket were coming under attack

Khan told the ministers

business leaders would stop participating in future polls, he said. M Zahiruddin Khan, industry minister of the previous BNP gov-

If such a situation prevailed

ernment, said law and order is a psychological environment, which creates an impression in people's mind that no one is above the law Dilemma

ment offices may start leaving

the five-day dispensation,

government officials and employees are required to maintain a 9:00am-5:00pm schedule, which means a 37-and-a-half-hour week taking into account daily lunch and prayer breaks There are complaints that a substantial section of the staff takes a longer lunch break in the existing

FROM PAGE 12

shortly after 1:00pm.

that uninterrupted office hours without lunch and prayer breaks could lead to delayed check-in and early check-out. Besides, a six-day week may

schedule. However, there is a view

synchronisation between the public and private sector who need constant interaction.' **APEC** declaration silent on strikes

> industries as a result of the September 11 "All this has made the already grave economic situation even worse." he said. Leaders have sought to boost business confidence by talking up the future of a

region that accounts for almost half of

world trade and 60 per cent of output.

The summit brought Bush and Jiang face to face for the first time, and despite their age difference -- Bush is 55 and Jiang 75 -- the two leaders appeared to Bush has been gushing about

office in Beijing. His adjectives to describe China's showcase city have stretched from "miraculous" to "mind boggling". But vesterday, state media said Chinese tion and missile defence.

the Philippines, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam.

their lands have been grabbed by Delwar Hossain of Air Conditioner and Refrigerators

the government high-ups but never President of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry Farid Ahmed Chowdhury

"All we want is the security to make sure that we can send our kids to school and our wives to markets...if you cannot ensure that no

Advocate Mynuddin Ahmed Manik of the Resham Shilpa Samity called for building public confidence

give them the opportunity to involve in part-time business or a second

Thirty-seven and a half hours of work week packed in five days is better than the same working hours split over six days," said another

was quoted to have told the PM. He recalled the significant contrioution of shaheed president Ziaur

with particular reference to her visit to China in 1991 and 1995 as prime minister and as leader of the opposi-Describing the bilateral ties as 'excellent." he expressed his government's determination to work

The Chinese ambassador fur-ther expressed his government's eagerness to identify areas of cooperation and extend possible

come economic cooperation between state-owned companies o

ing four children, neighbours said.

said. Residents pushed and shoved

scrambled for cover -- with even ambulances on the scene roaring

the leader of Salim Bahini stopped

Rule on govt

The senior advocate further informed that the decision was nothing but a decision to participate the war between the US led International Coalition and Afghanistan. Even an elected gov ernment cannot do it without the approval of the parliament under article 63 of the constitution, he

sures have been taken in the city A total of 512 Puja Mandaps

the metropolitan area. According to the SP of Khulna, 503 policemen and 100 Ansars will

be deployed of the 461 Puja

On the otherhand, Khulna Puia Udjapan Parishad has taken up some programmes in protest

sum of Tk 1.40.000 have been

Dhaka faces IMO ire

know-how and manpower, the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone (BTTB) was assigned to implement the project. tion of a VHF and several remote repeater stations at suitable locations, HF subsystem, NAVTAEX

The BTTB, meanwhile, paid no Two Spanish company partici-

first bid and planned to float another

at all" that the statement did not specifically mention the bombing or bin Laden. "We're thrilled with this statement." he should participate. said, adding that it "does everything we After expressing deepest sympathy to the United States, the statement called for "increased cooperation to bring perpetrators to justice." It pledged a coordinated crackdown on groups involved in terrorism by choking off their

> up security at airports and ports and on At the end of the two-day summit in Shanghai, Chinese President Jiang Zemin took a firm stand against terrorism. "We condemned in the strongest

funds, stepping up electronic surveil-

lance of travellers and tightening cus-

The statement also called for beefed-

terms the attacks as an affront to peace. prosperity and the security of all people, of all faiths, of every nation," he said. The Chinese leader, who spoke in English, was wearing a crimson silk

jacket. Behind him stood the other APEC leaders -- including US President George W Bush and Russia's Vladimir Putin -- all n similar embroiders jackets in vivid red, blue, brown or green. On day two of APEC summits, lead-

tion's constructive role-playing in the parliament for the nascent democ-

would soon vacate the extra seats

lead to shorter working hours on the

ers traditionally wear a jacket or shirt

"Terrorism is also a direct challenge to

APEC's vision of free, open and prosper-

ous economies and to the fundamental

values that APEC members hold," the

reflecting the host country's culture and The declaration goes into greater detail about action that APEC should take to contain the economic damage, saying "it is more important than ever" for mem-

Goals of free trade by 2020.

draft says.

The accord, however, glosses over differences on US tactics in the war on terrorism, making no mention of the strikes on Afghanistan which have caused unease among several APEC The leaders in the declaration called

for measures to boost growth in a region

suffering its worst downturn in decades.

"It is important for all economies to

take timely policy actions to strengthen

markets and facilitate an early pick-up in global economic activity," the text said. Jiang, host of a glittering dinner on Saturday which culminated in a spectacular fireworks display that lit up the artdeco buildings of Shanghai's waterfront Bund, greeted leaders yesterday at the wedge-shaped Science and Technology

It was chosen to reflect APEC's emphasis on technology and show off China's economic prowess as it awaits entry into the World Trade Organisation,

day before the weekend, which could mean added commuting costs and compound the city's already overburdened traffic system. "What is important is that there is a conformity between the govern-

between these sectors and the

industrial community," said a ranking official who deals with working patterns and involved in charting the government calendar. 'If government offices have one set of office hours, i.e. from 8:00am to 2:30pm, and the private sector another set of office hours, i.e. from 9:00am to 5:00pm, there will be no

expected by year-end. In his opening remarks, Jiang stressed the damage to stock markets and aviation, insurance and tourism

hit it off fairly well. Shanghai, a city that was a dreary socialist backwater the last time he visited in 1975 when his father, former President George Bush, headed the US liaison

analysts were concerned about "lingering divergencies" on Taiwan, arms prolifera-APEC groups Australia, Brunei Canada, Chile, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru,

Association said that they heard a lot of encouraging directives from

saluted if the concerned minister

important thing is to ensure optimum attendance and maximum presence during office hours whatever the timeframe of work. That is more possible and practical with a five-day workweek instead of six given our work habits." Several advocates of a longer

Another official said, "The most

time employment. Proponents of a five-day week say that if required one can engage and concentrate on part-time employment during the weekend. Those who are better off prefer a day's rest and another day for the

in the afternoon. "The government will have to

However, keeping the banks functional, including the clearing-

Jasimuddin Hall after the incident.

their convenience.

Taliban killing at least eight civilians, includ-

the dead -- three women and two small children.

Muggers FROM PAGE 12

for Beparipara. A case has been filed in this

violating article 58D of the constitu

Khulna Jamaat

According to the DC (HQ) of KMP, 527 policemen will be deployed at the 51 Puja Mandaps in