Al Qaida: Nuke

The Pakistan-based AIP quoted

residents of Chaghi district, some

30 kilometres south of the border,

as saying the helicopter went down

"It is a helicopter which was

shot by the Taliban but it managed to reach Baluchistan where it

crashed," a resident was quoted as

AP adds: Afghan opposition forces claimed the capture of

several towns yesterday near the

strategic northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif, after US warplanes cleared

Meanwhile, US jets resumed

strikes on Taliban front line posi-

tions yesterday north of the capital

Kabul, swooping down to drop

more thana a dozen bombs near an

air base the opposition northern

The alliance, which launched a three-pronged attack Sunday toward Mazar-e-Sharif, seized

Ogopruk and two other towns in a

pre-dawn assault, said Ashraf

Nadeem, an opposition spokesman. The area is 70 kilometers

"We attacked while the

south of Mazar-e-Sharif.

alliance has long been trying to

the way with intensive bombing.

overnight Sunday.

saying.

secure.

American.

AL-BNP clash in Pabna: 30 hurt

UNB, Pabna

At least 30 people were injured when supporters of BNP and Awami League clashed in Hariabari village of Sadar upazila

Bullet-hit Sohel Hasan, 25, Anwara Khatun, 40, Aslam, 23, Liton, 22, Newton, 26, and Sabura Khatun, 23, were admitted to Pabna General Hospital while Nurul Islam, 36, and Noor Islam, 22, in Rajshahi Medical College

Hospital in critical condition. Police rushed to the spot and arrested Kayes, Abul Kalam, Kaisar, Taslim Mallik, Rani Mallik, Abul Kalam Azad, Monirul, Natu Mallik and Zahurul and recovered three firearms and ammunition from

The house of Abdur Rashid was ransacked and looted during the 3-hour clash when both sides used

BCL threatens fresh agitation at SUST

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Bangladesh Chhatra League unit of Shahjalal University of Science & Technology yesterday threatened to go on a fresh agitation programme after tomorrow if their demands are not met by that day.

The BCL declaration came at a press conference held at the Sylhet Press Club yesterday afternoon. At the conference they alleged that JCD activists in connivance with outsiders had already ruined the academic atmosphere on the campus. The JCD activists are also involved in extortion and other crimes on the campus. A number of development projects of the varsity have also been lying suspended due to the JCD men's pressure for tolls.

firearms and lethal weapons.

Witnesses and police said rival groups led by Abul Kalam of Awami League and Abdul Majid of BNP fought as sequel to previous enmity and to establish supremacy in the

Habibur Rahman Tota, general secretary of Pabna district BNP, told UNB that it was fight between two brothers and has no political

BNP MP accuses

Moni also informed Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury and senior BNP leaders about this. He also called upon the former minister to give up such activities.

He drew attention of the Chair to make his point as 'notice of question of his privilege' in the House when it was about to go for discussion on

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar first refused to allow Moni to speak but on request from Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain, he finally agreed.

But the Speaker found the notice not in conformity with the privilege motion as prescribed in the Rules of Procedure and asked the lawmaker to notify later on. However, he took note of the notice and directed the home ministry to ensure security of Moni's life and property.

Anwar Hossain Manju was not the

FROM PAGE 12

heads". A case has been filed with Gulshan police accusing Manju as a suspect in the attack.

"Despite being a ruling party MP, I fled my village home along with my family members and I could not go back there since the general election," said Moni, seeking protection from the Chair for his life and property.

thanks motion on the presidential

BJP to take up

edly driven out of their homes.

The report alleges assaults on Hindus, destruction of their properties and temples and atrocities against Hindu women in Bangladesh and charges that these incidents have gone up since the government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia took over.

Meanwhile, the Trinamool Congress, a constituent of the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA), has decided to send a delegation of party leaders to meet Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani and demand that the Indian government take up the issue of "atrocities" against Hindus in Bangladesh with Dhaka.

The Trinamool Congress delegation, likely to be led by its memher of parliament Sudip Bandopadhaya, is expected to meet Advani soon, party chief Mamata Banerjee said

Meanwhile, the Committee for the Protection of Minorities in Bangladesh vesterday demonstrated outside Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi demanding an end to "widespread atrocities" on Hindus in that coun-

The demonstrators shouted slogans against Bangladesh government's "failure" to protect the minorities and demanded an end to "harassment" of Hindus in that country.

Committee leaders said South Asia would continue to be a "dangerous place" as long as minorities in Bangladesh continue to be subjected to "atrocities" and "deprived" of their rights.

After the show of protest lasting over an hour, a delegation of the Committee submitted to a High Commission official a memorandum addressed to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. The memorandum calls for her immediate intervention to end "unremitting atrocities" on minorities in Bangladesh, restore their rights and properties and stop their "exodus" to India.

The memorandum said "atrocities" on Hindus in Bangladesh, 'destruction" of their properties and temples had increased since the October 1 general elections in that country.

It is because of these "attacks" that the Hindus in Bangladesh could not celebrate their biggest religious festival Durga Puja this year in the manner they wanted to, it said. The memorandum said "a large number of Hindus were forced to leave Bangladesh and cross over to India in the face the "atrocities" and this has put a burden of refugees on India.

This was the second demonstration in front of the Bangladesh High Commission in less than a month to protest the "attacks" on Hindus in that country. The Vishwa Hindu Parishad had held a demonstration last month.

Addressing the protestors, the

Hasina

party alliance.

She said despite Awami League's repeated complaints the caretaker government, CEC and the president did not take any steps to stop pre- and post-election terrorism against Awami League, common people and the minori-

"I like to ask why you have collaborated with the alliance to rig the vote and in exchange of what?" Hasina questioned.

Referring to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's vow to eliminate terrorism and corruption, she blamed the alliance leader for uttering good words on one hand and letting loose her terrorists on

Hasina denounced both the caretaker and present coalition government for instigating terrorism against innocent people. She also questioned why the human rights organisations that are champions of humanity kept mum at this terrible situation.

Awami League leader Matia Awaiin League leader Matia Chowdhury, Gopalganj AL presi-dent Mohammad Ali Khan Habu Mia, Kotalipara thana AL president Hemanta Kumar Adhikari and on behalf of the victims Shefali Sarkar and UP chairman Gias Khan addressed the meeting.

Earlier, a heart-rending scene occurred at the Ramshil College ground where several thousand people mostly victimised women and children burst into tears when Sheikh Hasina came to this remote village by boat from Kotalipara.

Many told their nightmarish tales they experienced in Gournadi and Agoiljhara after the election. Hasina consoled them and assured full cooperation from Awami League for their safety.

Korea Week FROM PAGE 12

into a wall (Melodrama) at 18:50

Art Show

An exhibition of Korean painting by Prof. Loo Doo-shik is now being held at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Acad-emy. The show remains open from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. till November Merchandise Show

The Korean merchandise exhibition is now being held at The Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel Ballroom I, II, III. The exhibition runs till November 8. **SEE ALSO CULTURE PAGE**

Saifur

FROM PAGE 1

development objectives and reforms plan.

The donor community also pinpointed some steps needed to bring down fiscal deficit, accelerate privatisation process and initiate reform measures in the financial They also focussed on reform

measures on the telecom, power and other sectors and address the structural problem of the country's economy, sources said.

The deteriorating foreign exchange reserve was also discussed in the meeting. The donors, according to meeting sources, mentioned that the declining foreign exchange reserve was a reflection of the 'fundamental weaknesses in the economy'

In this context, they suggested that the government undertake structural adjustment programme to remove infrastructure bottlenecks, improve governance and strengthen the financial sector.

The minister briefed them about the government's commitment to curb corruption and wipe out terrorism. Rahaman also told them in details the measures the government has taken so far to bolster the economy, which include lowering bank rate, cut in export credit interest, lowering interest rate on different savings instruments and other measures.

connection with BTTB insiders and

the former post and telecommuni-

this grey telecom market robs the

According to a BTTB estimate,



A sequence from the dance drama, Mahua, staged at the Shishu Academy auditorium yesterday to mark the National Revolution and Solidarity Day.

PM: Local industries

dent Afsar Karim Chowdhury.

During the meeting the prime minister once again called on the opposition Awami League to join parliament to strengthen the democratic process for the welfare of the people. She reminded all that the gov-

ernment and the opposition has equal role in parliamentary system, and that they should play their due role by coming to the House.

Khaleda Zia stressed on building public awareness against smuggling and said that the people themselves can play a vital role in checking this menace that is deterrent to development of the country's industries. The Prime Minister informed

the delegation that the government will set up growth centres based on the growth potentialities in different parts of the country to assist the marketing of local prod-

She emphasised on setting up of more agro-based industries to reduce the dependence on readymade garment sector.

President Shahabuddin Ahmad

and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia

issued separate messages on the

In his message, the President

highlighted the importance of the

day and said the people of the country firmly established the

ideals of independence on that day

being imbued with the spirit of the

On the occasion, the President

thanked the members of the armed

forces and people of the country

In her message, Prime Minister

Khaleda Zia said sepoy-janata had

set a rare example of patriotism by

foiling all conspiracies against the

independence and sovereignty of

the country on that day in 1975.

Congratulating the members of the

armed forces and people on the

and wished success of the day.

War of Liberation in 1971.

functions.

occasion vesterday.

In this regard, Khaleda Zia assured that the government will encourage food-processing and jute-based industries.

Dwelling on environmental pollution, the prime minister reminded all that the government has decided to convert all govern-ment vehicles to CNG system. She stressed optimum utilisation of the country's natural resource, gas, and said that more gas-based industries will be set up.

During the discussion on the economy the business leaders hoped that the present govern-ment with its pragmatic steps will be able to overcome the situation in the present scenario of global recession, staggering domestic economy and decline in foreignexchange earnings.

They praised government decisions as the reduction of bank interest rate and central depository system and said the steps so far taken would help rejuvenate the capital market.

They also hoped that the govnment's quick decision of sending high-powered delegations like the one sent to US led by the for-

Revolution & Solidarity Day

The business delegation

gas to the prime minister.

land to build a permanent infrastructure that can be used as the proposed Human Resource Entrepreneurs Development Institute with a hall room for regular trade fairs.

in the meeting. Commerce Minister Amir

Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury and State Minister for Commerce Barkatullah Bulu were present in the meeting. Among the members who spoke

on the occasion were Nurul Alam, Salahuddin Abdullah, Monzurur Rahman Raskin, Motiur Rahman, Zainul Abedeen, Kamaluddin Malikand Giasuddin Ahmed.

by the commerce minister will be quite beneficial in the wake of the future introduction of WTO regula-

pointed out various problems, particularly those related to infra-structure facilities like power and They also demanded a piece of

Improved diet will be served at

Bangladesh Television and

Bangladesh Betar and the private

channels will air special

programmes highlighting the

significance of the day. National

dailies will bring out supplements

and publish special articles on the

Army, Navy, Air Force, BDR,

Police and Ansar bands will per-

form in select places in the capital

The day will also be observed

hospitals, prisons, orphanages,

children and vagabond centres.

eign minister and another headed

There was no comment from

Representation of the DCCI in the Board of Directors of different nationalised banks was also sought

Americans were bombing,' Nadeem said in a satellite telephone interview." It was not only us who killed. It was mostly the

He claimed 300 Taliban defenders died and 300 defected to the opposition, and said five opposition fighters were killed and nine wounded. His account could not

be independently verified. The seizure allowed opposition forces to push yesterday toward Shol Ghar, and heavy fighting was reported about 45 kilometers southeast of Mazar-e-Sharif,

the Taliban on Nadeem's claims.

Despite the latest apparent opposition successes, they have not been able to make major advances toward Mazar-e-Sharif, and remain well south of the city with winter closing in. The opposition, which is outgunned by the Taliban, has received ammunition and other military supplies from the United States.

In the capital Kabul yesterday

S Asian

FROM PAGE 12 Conference.

"The idea of the consultation was to formulate a document (strategy). This will be presented at children and child abuse.

Representative in Bangladesh, K M Ehsanul Haq, Secretary, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and Naseem-Ur-Rahman, Chief of Information and Advocacy of UNICEF, among others, were present at the press conference.

Jail Killing

The witness further said, at about 8 am on November 4, 1975 he went to his office and came to know from his colleagues that four people at

Rouf told the court that on November 4, 1975 he came to know from jailer and his another colleague that following the directive of Bangabhaban, the four leaders were murdered under the leadership of Captain Moslehuddin.

what appeared to be a small US spy plane that cruised over the city at mid-afternoon. Later, puffs of black smoke

Taliban gunners opened fire at

could be seen in the southern outskirts of the city. Taliban gunners fired repeated bursts of antiaircraft rounds, but it was unclear whether they hit anything. There was no immediate statement from the authorities about the incident.

US jets have been pounding Taliban positions defending Mazar-e-Sharif throughout the air campaign, now in its fifth week.

The United States has more than doubled the number of its special forces troops on the ground Afghanistan in the past week, Defence Secretary Donald H Rumsfeld said in Washington.

The airstrikes also have unleashed one of the biggest weapons in the American arsenal and the United States has stepped up its psychological war against Afghanistan's ruling Taliban mili-

The 6,750 kilogram "daisy cutter" bomb creates a huge fireball that incinerates everything within 600 meters. New American leaflets being dropped in Afghanistan proclaim, "We are watching" and show pictures of Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar and a license plate military officials say belongs to a vehicle he

The Pentagon yesterday flatly denied a report that a US helicopter crashed Sunday in southwest Pakistan near Afghanistan's southern border. "There was no helicop-ter crash," said Defense Department spokesman Bryan Whitman.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder offered up to 3,900 troops to the campaign but said there are no immediate plans to deploy ground forces.

The United States requested help in combatting nuclear, biological and chemical weapons; medical services; special forces; air transport and naval forces to protect shipping lanes, Schroeder said. Parliament will make specific decisions on deployment, he told a news conference.

Rumsfeld, returning Monday from a visit to five countries near Afghanistan, said the number of special forces troops there had risen by 2 1/2 times since last week. He offered no numbers, but Pentagon officials said the total remained below 100.

Security guard

FROM PAGE 12 Police Limited.

The incident occurred after an altercation between Afsar and Halim over their duty roster. At one stage of the altercation Halim became agitated and shot Afsar, hitting him in the right eye. Afsar

Halim tried to flee the spot but people caught him and handed him over to Dhanmondi police.

died on the spot, sources said.

Police seized the rifle that was used to kill the victim and recovered cartridges from the spot after the incident.

Afsar's body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy yesterday

Ali Akber, another guard of the house, filed a case with Dhanmondi police that arrested Halim for his alleged involvement in the killing.

Zia second Grand Master Shady telecom business

FROM PAGE 1 GM. Niaz had achieved the feat

back in 1986. Zia had received his first norm at the British Open in London in August 1999 and his second at the Goodriche tournament in Kolkata

earlier this year. The newest sports hero of Bangladesh is expected to fly home today from Paris at 9:30am.

Meanwhile, Zia's parents were

brimming with pride after the

news reached them.

UZ Parishad polls

FROM PAGE 12 Upazila Parishad elections were first held on May 16 and May 20, 1985 to elect chairmen of the 460 Parishads for a period of five years. The next election was held over a period of 10 days from March 14, 1990. After coming to power next year, the BNP

repealed the Upazila Act. The Awami League government revived the law in November 25, 1998. According to the revived Act, the elections must be held within 180 $days after the law is {\it gazetted}.$

The EC accordingly took repeated initiatives to hold upazila elections. But due to non-cooperation and resistance from the then Opposition party against holding of any election under the then CEC and the AL gov ernment, elections could not be held.

Syed, after taking charge as CEC in

May last year, also said that the atmo-

sphere was not congenial for upazila

elections and he started preparations for the general elections first. At a stage, as the 180-day time limit was nearing its expiry, the AL government took a fresh initiative to extend the time. As per the amended law, the government would have to hold the election within 180 days or in case of 'force-majeure,' it could hold the same at a convenient time made

known through gazette notification.

Talking to The Daily Star Sport over telephone yesterday, Zia's father Paigamuddin Ahmed, a retired civil engineer, and mother Zerina Ahmed said that their son

had been trying to get this norm for a while now. He knew how tough it

added. general secretary Sujauddin Ahmed facilitated Zia on his tremendous achievement. He also

made sometime next month He also revealed that the by becoming a GM, Zia is sure to take

houses.

chopped Sunil to death. Police arrested 12 persons yesterday for their alleged involve-

K M Shahidul Haq visited the village vesterday morning. A tense situation was prevailing in the area till filing of this report

"I know how much he wanted

this. Hopefully he would be more

confident in life from now on and

his rating over 2500 which at pres-

Minorities

They dragged some of the family members out of their houses and beat them. At one stage, the gang

crores of taka every month.

cations minister.

Inexplicable inertia by the ministry and influence of a vested group within the BTTB have let some shady software export firms to carry on with the illegal call-termination business unhindered. Some of these firms are known to have

country of Tk 27.1 crore a month as calls are being diverted through these firms, which openly advertise of low-rate international calls. And vet, the government has done little to effectively fight the illegal activi-By sticking to exorbitant overseas call rates, way too high by any international standard, the BTTB

created the breeding ground for the vice. And when the VSAT market was opened up for Internet Service Providers (ISPs), it also created the scope for illegal call diversion at cheaper rates taking advantage of the BTTB's high tariff charges.

on total accounting rate (TAR), which is currently one of the highest in the world at 0.50 standard drawing rate (SDR) a minute. TAR is the amount that is shared equally by the BTTB and the foreign telecom firm through which the call is routed. As TAR is kept high, call tariffs also remain high. While the world went for lowering TAR to make international calls cheaper to the benefit of both the clients and the telecom firms in terms of higher user charges, Bangladesh refused to do

The BTTB have long been proposing to the ministry to lower TAR

to 0.20 SDR per minute to lower

international call rates that would

be make illegal call-termination

unattractive. So far as records go,

the latest proposal that the BTTB sent to its chairman and the minis-

try was on October 16.

Last Thursday, the BTTB held another meeting with the ministry on TAR reduction in which the telecom minister felt the urgency to

Interestingly, despite the urgency and logic behind tariff reduction showed in the proposals,

"This is why the high-ups in the ministry and the board resist any move to lower TAR," said a source. "They have high stakes in the vice and as long as they fend off any such decision, they will continue to earn money uninterrupted.' How it happens

nology to illegally operate call termination. They hire a satellite and then have some kind of understanding with a foreign operator, say in the United States. When someone wants to make a call from the US to Bangladesh, he places the call through this operator who sends this call via the satellite to the ISP's number. The ISP fixes a gazette called Passport. The function of Passport is to direct the call at the ISP's end to the ultimate destination number thereby bypassing the BTTB. This way, the ISPs and the operators don't have to pay the BTTB fixed TAR and make calls possible at a very cheap rate.

BTTB officials feel that unless TAR is drastically reduced, flow of

said the revolution of sepoy-janata had paved the path for establishment of multi-party democracy in the country. The prime minister also called upon all irrespective of party affili-

auspicious occasion, Khaleda Zia

people. Special prayers will be offered in all mosques, temples and churches for continued peace, progress and prosperity of the country.

social and economic security of

Ziaur Rahman. The day has been declared a public holiday and the national flag will fly atop public and private buildings. Different buildings will

also be illuminated.

with due fervor in Bangladesh missions abroad.

other places.

reduce TAR. A glaring example $A \, divisional \, engineer \, of \, the \, BTTB$ has clearly shown how some of the

phone display showed a local Dhaka number - 9352629. How could his relative from Canada call through a local phone connection? The engineer started investigating the matter and found that the number - 9352629 - actually belongs to Spectra Solutions Ltd, a local ISP

that is widely suspected to be involved in the vice. "This organisation has 250 phone lines. The display of 9352629 in the mobile set in case of a foreign incoming call clearly proves that

level AL léader. Tk 20 for a minute of international involved in the game are suspected to be Hightech Traders, and Dhaka call, the client is being charged Tk 60

> Spectra revealed that former post and telecommunications minister Nasim himself had lobbied for giving telephone connections to the company.

owned by someone linked to a top-The most known ISP engaged in such call-termination is Spectra Solutions. Other major players

"When VSAT was opened up for ISPs in 2000, we had warned the government of the impending the BTTB in an internal letter said to fight the grey market. Although

tain Naimur Rahman during a press briefing at the Sonargaon Hotel on Tuesday.

"Our training sessions went

very well this time and the players are mentally and physically prepared to put up a good fight over five days," said Naimur, who led Bangladesh to their five predictable defeats since earning Test status last June.

young fast bowler Masrafee-bin-Murtaza Kowshik. Neither has played in any of Bangladesh's previous five Tests. Bangladesh will field six special-

three bowlers. Al-Shahriar will open the innings with the regular Javed Omar. Habibul Bashar, Aminul Islam and young sensation Mohammad Ashraful, Khaled Mahmud and Naimur Rahman will

form the middle-order.

ist batsmen, two all-rounders and

discarded former Bangladesh vicecaptain, means that Akram Khan will have to sit out the first Test. On the other hand, Kowshik's introduction will certainly give bite

The return of Mahmud, the

"He is fairly fast. He is certainly faster than anybody I've seen bowl in Bangladesh, and is the only bowler capable of putting any batsman on the back foot which is

Chappell also said that

Test against Zimbabwe

and one-day series in Harare and Bulawayo. New Zimbabwe captain Brian Murphy said that they are hopeful

of maintaining a hundred per cent

blend of youth and experience and

"Our squad I think is a fine

over the next 12 days we are expecting to play ten days of good Test cricket and come out on top," said Murphy. His coach, former Australian

brothers -- Andy and Grant, to end the losing streak. "We have studied a couple of videos on Bangladesh's performances so far. But what we want to focus on is our own performance. I'm thinking of a collective rather than individual effort to win

But he admitted that it was not easy to replace experienced players like Neil Johnson and Murray Goodwin, who left Zimbabwe to

matches. I hope that it will be an

exciting series," said Marsh.

"You can't find players like them overnight.'

mer Zimbabwe captain Alistair Campbell, team manager Babu Meman denied that the left-hander was dropped from the squad because of his comments in the press recently, but rather for being out of form. He also said that debutant

centurion Hamilton Masakadza was not available since he was sitting for his school exams. The squad, which was originally

a 15-member one, became a 14member one with the last minute injury to left-arm spinner Raymond Price.

has made the family proud.

pursue more success," said "Unlike previous times, he was much quieter while preparing to leave for Europe last month. He was and he had worked very hard to

informed that the official announcement regarding Zia's elevation to a GM is likely to be

FROM PAGE 1 Daspara village at around 12:30 am and started looting and ransacking

ment in the attack. District police superintendent A

Paigamuddin Ahmed also spoke of Zia's determination and ingle-mindedness to reach his

reach his destination", Ahmed Bangladesh Chess Federation

The BTTB tariff rate is dependent

reduce tariff to fight the grey opera-tors and said he would do everything to this end.

the higher authorities remained lethargic while the multimillion dollar illegal business boomed. According to one source, if the TAR reduction move can be delayed by one month, at least Tk 50 crore is split between corrupt officials of the BTTB and the ministry.

The ISPs use a very simple tech-

Currently, the ISPs are using some 7,000 telephone lines with different exchanges. If 2000 of these lines are used for call-termination for five hours a day, then some 1.8 crore illegal calls are made to Bangladesh as against two crore

ation to extend all out cooperation to the government to expedite

Members of various political, social and cultural organisations

will visit the mazar of president

illegal calls will increase in future in earning for the BTTB, it would and the country will be losing more in foreign exchange. Incidentally, all the major international telecom

Bangladesh to lower TAR as illegal calls also deprive them of sharing tariff. Startek of the USA has told the BTTB that calls are being diverted through ISPs as they charge very little, around 10 to 23 cents. This has resulted in drastic drop in calls from the US to Bangladesh. It suggested lowering of TAR to 0.20 SDR or even lower. MCI and Sprint, two other major telecom firms in the US also made similar observations. Their views were presented to the BTTB

firms with whom the BTTB has

direct circuits have in fact asked

According to a BTTB investigation, calls from the US are being made at between six to 12 cents a minute. The present 0.50 SDR TAR was imposed in August 2000. But again, mysteriously, it took the BTTB almost a year to lower call rates for customers. The tariff cuts were made effective from July 1, 2001. The question is: why was this delay made to the advantage of illegal operators? More intriguing is the fact that while it costs the BTTB only about

secretary and the ministry in June 2001 but generated little action from

Tk 45 during off-peak hours. Such astronomically high profit margin also encourages the grey market to Following this decrease of TAR from the previous 1 SDR, the BTTB witnessed some increased tariff earnings, but not according to the increase in telephone lines or cir-

A year after the reduction in TAR,

further cut in rates is now necessary

cuits, showing leakage in calls.

eventually increase. Moreover, there have been pressures from different international operators to

local ISPs are illegally operating call-

According to his complaint submitted on March 22, 2000, he received a call from Canada. But his

this (Spectra) is illegally engaged in diverting foreign calls," the engineer came to conclusion. Despite the proof nothing happened to Spectra because it is

per minute during peak hours and Computer City. A BTTB investigation against

> problem of call-termination and said TAR must be reduced before allowing free hiring of VSAT," said a BTTB official. "But the government just ignored our advice and went ahead with the move."

the Yokohama Conference," Hasan said adding that many countries in the region have formed legislation to eliminate sexual exploitation of Shahida Azfar, UNICEF

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will organise cultural programmes at district and upazila levels while documentary films will be screened at cinema halls and

the new cell were murdered.

His side will contain two new faces in Khaled Mahmud and

to the limited Bangladesh bowling attack.

important at this level," said Bangladesh's Australian coach Trevor Chappell while talking about the 19-year tearaway from Narail.

Bangladesh would do better this time than they did in Zimbabwe last April when they lost both Test

record against the home side.

Test opener Geoff Marsh, however, said that he was not only banking on the brilliance of the Flower

pursue better career abroad.

Regarding the absence of for-