The Daily Star



security to vehicles and pedestrians

during the construction work. But it

did not do so. It also did not take

proper security measures for the

the construction firm however

claimed that the railing collapsed as

some extortionistst, being refused

toll, tried to take away a hydraulic

iack that was holding the railing, the

has been served on the firm and

authorities will take action against it

on the basis of the investigation

report and the reply to the show

Meanwhile, DCC engineers are

July this year and it expires on

December 31.The councils were

elected on June 25, 1989. The task

before the new government is to

hold their elections or extend their

the demand by the settlers for their

proper representation in the RC. Its

22 members including six settlers

were nominated by the government,

along with the chairman, in October

1998 after a long dispute with Larma

Apart from these, the govern-

PCJSS is at odds with those who

ment faces the biggest challenge of

maintaining law and order in the

broke away on the question of

peace accord, demanding 'full

autonomy'. There were a number of

abductions of each other and

Against this background, the

new government perhaps wants to

take 'cautious steps' regarding the

clashes between the two sides

CHT issue, sources pointed out.

over implementation of the accord.

Another issue to be resolved is

Huda said a show cause notice

Testifying before the probe body,

construction work.

sources said.

cause notice.

tenure again.

PM opens National Youth Day 2001

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia vesterday underlined optimum utilisation of the huge potential of the youth force in the greater interest of the nation.

"Youths are the future of the nation. Socio-economic and cultural development of a nation is centered around the talent, courage and energies of the youth," she said while inaugurating the National Youth Day 2001 at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the morning.

As she arrived at the venue, young girls waving bands and ribbons welcomed the Prime Minister. She was received by State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman Patal

The prime minister hoisted the national flag and flag of the youths as the women's band of the Ansars and VDP played the national anthem She also released balloons and pigeons marking the occasion dedicated to the 'prime of life'.

The prime minister visited the different stalls displaying various facilities of training in computers tailoring block printing, pisciculture and poultry farming provided to the youths and some products from successful projects.

Youth is a period of energy, impetus and liveliness. Gigantic tasks can be accomplished utilizing this liveliness," the prime minister said speaking on the occasion.

She, however, also warned that youth is also the period when one can go astray and various problems and indiscipline may arise in society if employment, business and other working opportunities are nor created for the vouth.

She called on the youths to stand with their heads held high in every sphere of life and keep their mark of competence, skill and efficiency.

The prime minister said the youths have to reach the summit of success through their determination, labour and diligence.

She called upon them to take Bangladesh to a respectable position in the world community by developing and strengthening the

admitted to a reputed school in the

city, as there is only a few reputed

schools despite the mushroom

growth of schools in every nook and

corner of the city," one headmaster

government schools where stu-

dents can study from Class I to X at

subsidised tuition fees while admis-

sion and tuition fees are relatively

one of the reputed educational

high in private schools.

He said there is only twenty-four

of a city's prestigious school said.

Annual ordeal

country through hard work and their talent

Khaleda Zia assured them that the BNP government will always try its best for proper utilisation of the vigour and potential of the vouths. The youth ministry has chalked

out elaborate programmes which include weeklong Youth Fair January 15-21 at Ramna Park and cultural functions. "Whatever the disputes, youths will build the country" is the theme of this year's National Youth Day.

Businessman murdered in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna A gang of armed terrorists killed a

mobile phone businessman at Bonogram bazar in Ataikula upazilla of the district on Friday night The victim was identified as Abdul Gaffar, 30, who hails from

Rasulpur. Police said the miscreants called Gaffar out of his shop and chopped nim with sharp weapons. He died on the spot.

According to local people, the illing followed a dispute over land. The road communications on Dhaka-Pabna highway remained suspended for some time after the ncident.

Police rushed to the spot, recov-ered the body and brought the situation under control.

Four persons were arrested in this connection. Tense situation was prevailing in the area

Processions

FROM PAGE 1 ing the government's move to scrap the Special Security Act which was enacted during its tenure for protection of Sheikh Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana, two daughters of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The government imposed the ban on the stick and torch processions as these create panic amond the public and pose threat to vehi cles, the press release added.

December 4. Admission tests for

various classes will be held on

December 6, 29 and 30. Ideal High

School and College will start distri-

bution of admission forms in the first

the city and most of them have

already started admission proce-

dures for the upcoming academic

Trade treatv

There are about 200 schools in

week of December.

FROM PAGE 12



AL torch procession

sion on the opposition activists and the Hindus has forced it to call

Several hundred police and paramilitary BDR personnel will be office premises. Police fired more deployed at various strategic points than 20 rounds of tear gas canisters in the city during the hartal hours to to disperse the processionists. They maintain law and order. also picked up an unspecified

Meanwhile, AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman in a state-City AL General Secretary ment asked the party activists. Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and other AL leaders, who led leaders and others concerned to the procession, termed the police make the shutdown a success.

Earlier, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) imposed an indefinite ban on both stick and torch processions in the city

BNP-led four-party coalition gov-Unlike the previous ruling party, ernment took office. Earlier on the BNP will not bring out any anti-November 15, left-leaning political hartal procession during the hartal parties observed a six-hour country-"We won't take to streets as the wide general strike protesting the Awami League did," Sadeque government plan on gas export. Hossain Khoka, the president of the During her five years in office. BNP Dhaka city unit, told The Daily former prime minister Sheikh Star vesterday. Hasina had promised not to call

"Adequate police forces will be hartal even if her party were in the deployed in the city to maintain law opposition. Now, the party says the government's post-election represand order." he said

Looted gold recovered in Sunamganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sunamganj Police recovered about 150 tolas of

gold worth Tk 15 lakh yesterday looted from jewellery shop owner by the muggers in front of the Public Health Department office on Friday night in the town

Four people were arrested in this connection. Some unidentified muggers infront of the Public Health Department office intercepted owner of the Suma Jeweller when he was carrying the gold in a briefcase from his shop. They decamped with the briefcase by showing knife.

Police rushed to the spot and arrested four people with the help of rickshawpullers in this connection. Arrested are Abdul Hanif, 20,

Sangib Deb Nath, 18, Abdul Hasan, 20, and Biswanath Barman, 22 and recovered the gold at 2.00 am on Saturday

Sadar thana in this connection

3 murdered in city

Police took them to the Pangu

day. Unidentified miscreants stabbed to death one Abdul Mannan at Devaripara under Pallabi thana at about 10.30 pm on Friday night. Sources said the miscreants attacked Mannan behind the Plot

Family sources said Mannan returned home from Saudi Arabia in January last and was preparing to

PHOTO: STAR

A case was filed with Sunamganj

while Rakkhi Bahini. Brig. General Manzur is also from Rakkhi Bahini. The army men serving as ambassadors abroad are Major General Anwar Hossain (Morocco)

rank of Major General from erst-

Major generals

Haider is joining as officiating chief

General Wadood will join his new assignment upon his return from the US, where he is on training now.

Major General Jamil D Ahsan

who was on civil deputation for two

years has been appointed Div

Commander at Comilla. Earlier

appointed by the caretaker govern-

ment to command the Ansar-VDF

after completion of NDC.

by December 3

FROM PAGE 1

of BDR.

forces

Major General Hasan Mashud Chowdury (Abu Dhabi), Major General (Retd) Amin Ahmed Chowdhury (Oman) and Major General (Retd) Azizul Rahman (Bahrain)

The government is learnt to be considering more changes in key positions in the Army.

17 promoted

FROM PAGE 1 Shamsuzzoha, Joint Secretary in Shahidul Islam, Registrar of Cooperative Department; Nazmul Alam Siddique, Director General of BTV: Mohammad Ashraf. Director General of Relief Directorate and Mohammad Shahjahan, Joint Secretary in Food Ministry.

Their services have been placed at the establishment ministry for further posting, sources said.

The Superintendent Engineer of Facilities Department of Education Ministry, SFMA Mannan, has also been made OSD and his services placed at the establishment minis-

Acid burn cases FROM PAGE 1

and others working for the welfare of the victims were also attended the iftar party.

Nasrin Hug of Social Initiative said that they were happy that they could draw the attention of the prime minister to the agonies of the acid burn victims

Munira Rahman, Programme Director of Acid Survivour Foundation said, "We have drawn the attention of the Prime Minister for quick disposal of cases of acid violence and restriction on sale of acid"

from there, he was shifted to The acid attack victims present on Banghabandhu Sheikh Mujib the occasion were Sonia, Khodeza, Medical University Hospital for Nurunnahar, Salma, Ruma, Dolly, further tests. Lovely, Fazila, Asma, Mukti Ferdousi, Rubina and Shahinur. A tive, the jail authorities got him five-month old victim of acid violence, admitted to IDH on July 7. Mamun, was brought by his mother. While talking to this correspon dent_deenly frustrated Dong said "1

Among others, Speaker Jamir don't want to lead such a life. I want Uddin Sircar, Finance and Planning to go back to my family, please help Minister Saifur Rahman | GRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuivan, Communications Minister

Collapse of footbridge railing: Negligence of builders blamed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

General Ahsan served as Director General of BIISS. He was then Gross negligence by the construction firm resulted in collapse of the huge concrete railing of the underconstruction footbridge over Pragati Brigadier General Manzurul Sarani at Badda on Monday, a Alam of Signals Corps will take over Dhaka City Corporation (DCC)

as the Officiating DG of Ansar-VDP probe body report said yesterday. The one-member body comprise All the new appointees have ing DCC's Chief Executive Officer been asked to join their new posts (CEO) Nurul Huda submitted its report to acting Mayor Humayun Major General Rafigul Hossain Kabir. was the first to be promoted to the

One person was killed and 15 people were injured when the 60ton structure collapsed on two motor vehicles

The DCC has already blacklisted the construction firm, Surma International

preparing a report on conditions of existing and under-construction Sources close to the probe body told The Daily Star yesterday that footbridges, as ordered by the the firm was supposed to appoint its Mayor Hanif after the Badda inciown 'traffic personnel' to ensure dent, the sources said

Fate of CHT accord

FROM PAGE 1

tion of a new voter list, only enlisting permanent residents of the CHT. The settlers say this would strip them of their constitutional rights as citizens and that the demand was ignored by the immediate past Awami League government which signed the treaty, the caretaker government and the Election

Commission. The PCJSS called a general strike on October 1 and stayed off the general elections.

It has now renewed its call to the government to 'fully implement' the cord

PCJSS leader Jyotirindriva Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma, who is also Chairman of the Regional Council (RC) of CHT, has a host of other issues and has sought a meeting with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to resolve those, sources close to him said.

Besides, the issue of three hill district councils is vet to be resolved The past government as per a High Court order only extended their tenure The last extension was made in

condition did not improve. He was

then sent to Dhaka central Jail and

Three days after he tested posi-

FROM PAGE 12

the same way."

said.

AIDS: 2 foreigners at the hospital. "The government

has no separate funds for AIDS paitents. They get normal diet and apart from vitamins, they get no special drugs.' When contacted, home ministry

officials said such convicts cannot be released despite completion of their jail term. But efforts are underway to send them back to their respective countries. "Unfortunately the missions concerned refuse to recognise them as their nationals said one Jail official

He also said, "This is where I am CHT situation days I witnessed Awang Maung's FROM PAGE 1 that the situation in the CHT was (a Myanmar national with AIDS) deteriorating again. The collaboradeath in the next bed and perhaps tors of 'previous dictators' are the others here would see me die spreading tension among the tribal people which is not desirable, she Yuan, who cannot speak Bangla and also does not understand it, said She reminded all that those in expressed similar frustration power now have opposed the peace through gestures. None from the accord. Thai Embassy in Dhaka came to Hasina said that her government see him, the hospital authorities was able to make a lot of progress in establishing peace in the country After six years of confinement, without any support from a third 28-yea-old Awang Maung died in party. She said the AL government the same room in May this year. had taken up a massive develop Maung also was arrested for ment programme of Tk 2,149.17 illegal fishing. As he failed to pay a crore to develop CHT region. fine of Tk 2000, he was sent to Approval was also given to set up a science and technology university in Khulna Central Jail for 15 days Maung attempted to commit suicide the area, she added.

ple along with the motorbike yester-Hospital where they were operated upon.

Seventeen DCs

No 17, Road No 1 in Pallabi and FROM PAGE 1 Secretary of Chittagong stabbed him mercilessly. He died on the spot. DC of Brahmanbaria and Deputy

Democracywatch is organising its fourth Democracy Festival in Chittagong on December 27 an 28. The festival includes an exhibi-

tion, seminars, film shows and cultural programmes, says a press

ao back in December.

They said at one stage police cordoned off the entire stretch of hartal Bangabandhu Avenue and confined the AL supporters inside its central

institutions for girl students in the

Meanwhile, Holy Cross School,

city, vesterday completed distribution of admission forms for Class I through an interview. The results will be published on December 11. The school started distributing admission forms on Wednesday to enrol as many as 200 students. Distribution of admission forms for Class VI will begin on December 13.

Vigarunnesa Girls School have completed distribution of admission forms for both Bangla and English sections on its Bailey Road and Dhanmondi campuses. This year. there are 700 seats for Bengali section and 60 seats for English section in Class I. Admission tests will be held on December 27, 28 and 29.

Wills Little Flower School started distribution of admission forms on to proceed with care and caution in the campaign against Maoists. November 27 and would continue till

Power sector

FROM PAGE 1 Adamjee Jute Mills, the sources said

Even the so-called restructuring steps like creation of Dhaka Electric Supply Company failed to improve revenue collection or management due to lack of will of the authorities. the sources said. Owned by DESA. the company is supposed to function like competitive private companies

Increase of power tariff will not only have negative impact on the economy but also widen the scope of financial mismanagement in the sector, the experts said,

In the last ten years, when a new government came to power, it expressed the determination to take effective steps to realise the arrears. But in reality, nothing changed and

the arrears kept on increasing. "The donors have been forcing the government to implement their suggestions for what they say 'to bring about improvement in the sector'. Loss making organisations like DESA and DESCO have been created and price of power increased after every six months but there has been no significant pressure from the donors to realise the arrears", said a high official of PDB. "But we are under pressure from donors to clear the payment when-

ever we are late to pay the Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB) for one or two months", he Maoists in the kingdom

Observers here feel had India not agreed to renewal of the treaty for three more months, it would have given rise negative sentiments in Nepal especially at a time when the Deuba has requested Vajpayee help to tackle the Maoists, the source said.

Although the Nepalese Prime Minister has not disclosed the precise nature of Indian assistance New Delhi is understood to have agreed to expedite supply of defence hardwares to Kathmandu to combat the Maoist rebels. The sensitive nature of Indian

assistance to Nepal in the Himalayan kingdom was under scored by Nepalese ambassador to India B B Thapa when he told foreign correspondents here last evening that both the countries have

said. PGCB is also a brainchild of

Sources in PDB hinted that this

time the increase might be ten poisa

per unit as the immediate past

Awami League government did not

increase the rate in March this year

and another five poisa increase was

ture sector, which is unchanged in

The sources alleged that failing to

get the appointees during the imme-

diate past government's tenure

punished' through the probe body,

This correspondent during a visit

A senior PIB official said the

the group is now harassing them in

to the PIB saw indecent posters and

PIB situation

Asian Development Bank.

due in October.

November last year.

the last several years.

FROM PAGE 12

different ways.

letters in notice boards.

Some embassies international

inaugural ceremony as chief guest.

number of pickets from the spot.

action an infringement on demo-

This is the first ever Awami

League-sponsored hartal since the

Democracy

Chittagong

from Dec 27

festival in

cratic rights

Reason behind the killing could development agencies and internanot be known. Police filed a murder tional and local NGOs have already

Mob gauged out eyes of a confirmed their participation in the snatcher and beat up another at exhibition of Chittagong Democracy North Dhanmondi yesterday morn-Commerce Minister Amir Khosru

Witnesses said some youths Mahmud Chowdhury will attend the chased and caught two of the five snatchers when they were trying to mug a rickshaw-passenger at about Two seminars on 'Private 5.30 pm. The rest three, however, Terminal Issue of Chittagong Port' fled away firing gunshots.

and 'Good governance issues of the The two, identified as Mintu and new government' will be held during Ayub, were later handed over to the

Ministry Abul Hossain has been made DC of Sherpur, Deputy Director of Strengthening of Hydrocarbon Project Jalal Ahmed DC of Thakurgaon, Chief Executive Officer of District Council of Pabna Restadul Islam DC of Khulna, First Secretary of National Board of Revenue Pias Karta DC of Bagerhat, Deputy Director of Land Record and Survey Directorate Abul Kashem DC of Meherpur and Deputy Secretary of Power Division

evelopment Authority Mokshed Ali

Deputy Secretary of Education

Secretary of Shipping Ministry

Sadaruddin Ahmed DC of Natore.

Ebadat Ali DC of Sirajganj. DC of Sherpur Shaikh Abul Kalam has been transferred to Barisal while DC of Sirajganj Tariqul Islam has been made DC of Comilla.

Northern Alliance ready

FROM PAGE 1 The executive body will comprise

the festival

Festival

about 20 people, including former resistance fighters and commanders and technocrats, he said. The council will go to Kabul for the transfer of power.

Other names from the northern alliance being considered for the council include Avatollah Mohammad Mohseni, a Shiite leader, Abdul Qadir, a Pashtun leader who left the talks several days ago to protest the lack of Pashtun representation here, and Ismail Khan, a Taiik warlord, Mohseni said.

The last increase was in Meanwhile, a report from Jalalabad adds: A coalition bombing At present the price of per unit of raid in eastern Afghanistan vesterpower is Tk 2.15 for domestic conday destroyed a village and killed sumers, Tk 3.50 for small industries between 100 and 200 civilians, and Tk 4.65 for commercial use. witnesses and survivors said. The rate is Tk 1.75 for the agricul-

A senior provincial of official said believed the village had been bombed but thought the death toll was exaggerated. He said local anti-Taliban authorities had complained to the Americans that they were bombing in the wrong place.

Warplanes made four passes over Kama Ado village, 50 kilometers south of Jalalabad, and dropped more than 25 bombs, said Lalgul, a 33-year-old farmer who claimed he witnessed the attack from a neighboring village and helped rescue four survivors. Like many Afghans, he uses only one

deadlock begun after end of the name. tenure of Sheikh Abdus Salam and it Lalgul and other witnesses said will continue till appointment of a all 30 mud brick and wooden homes

new DG. The sources said the governtened. ment is looking for a new DG. The pro-BNP group is now trying to get appointed a DG of their choice.

that only between 15 and 20 civilians had died in air raids early Saturday and that residents were exaggerating. He said he fully supports US airstrikes in the mountains, but that US planes were hitting the wrong places.

"We talked to the authorities in the United States ... and we told them your bombing is not to the mark, there are civilians there, stop bombing that area," Zeman said.

He said a delegation had met with representatives of the non-Afghan fighters hiding in the mountains and had given them until Monday to decide whether or not they will surrender. After that, he said his forces could attack: "We will try our best (to defeat them)."

AUS military official contacted by The Associated Press said he had no information about the claim. However, Pentagon officials have said previously that they are focusing their bombing campaign on two parts of Afghanistan -- southern Kandahar province where the Taliban still have control, and the mountains south of Jalalabad. where more than 600 non-Afghan Taliban fighters and al-Qaida members are reported hiding in mountain caves.

AFP from Islamabad reports: The Taliban plan to defend their southern bastion of Kandahar to the last and would rather die fighting than be humiliated by the "forces of infidels," a senior official said yesterdav.

Abdul Salam Zaeef, the former Taliban ambassador to Pakistan, in the mountain village were flatsaid the militia would never hand But Nangarhar provincial over control of Kandahar where defense chief, Mohammed Zeman, Pashtun tribal forces have been said that he had received reports trying to negotiate a bloodless

"We have decided to defend Kandahar to our last. We will not hand over Kandahar to anyone." Zaeef was quoted as saving by the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press

"Our leadership prefers death over humiliation. (Taliban leader) Mullah Omar has ordered everyone to fight and not bow before the

clashes with opposition forces around Takhtapul town in the east of Kandahar province, but he did not elaborate.

ist held for four days by the Taliban in southern Afghanistan will be released Sunday, a Taliban official

"He is in our custody and we will release him on Sunday," Mullah Aminullah told The Associated Press yesterday. "We are releasing him on the recommendation of Pakistani authorities."

Taliban officials crossed into Chaman, a border outpost, to meet with Pakistani officials and two Canadian diplomats, to discuss the fate of Ken Hechtman, a free-lance journalist captured just across the

The Taliban leader said officials were considering prosecuting Hechtman, who writes for the weekly Montreal Mirror, on spying charges. But he said Pakistan's authorities persuaded him to release the journalist, and "he will be with Pakistani authorities on Sunday.

Barrister Nazmul Huda, Land Minister Shamsul Islam, Foreign Minister Morshed Khan and Works Minister Mirza Abbas were present at the party.

Shahriar Kabir FROM PAGE 1

SS Halder. Abdul Matin Kashru and Momtajuddin Fakir represented Shahriar

Deputy Attorney General Tarigul Hakim appeared on behalf of the state

Shahriar Kabir was arrested by the Special Branch of police on November 22 at Zia International Airport on his return from Kolkata Later, he was charged with sedition and sent to jail with a 30-day detention. However any specific charge is yet to be brought against him.

Various human rights organisations from home and abroad have protested the government action and demanded his release.

Since October, Shahriar had been protesting attacks on the Hindus. He went to Kolkata to interview Bangladeshi Hindus who fled there recently following the attacks.

WC opener

FROM PAGE 12 The Argentinians also triumphed in a controversial quarterfinal in the 1986 finals, when Diego Maradona scored his famous 'hand of god goal. Maradona added another sensational solo goal and Argentina went on to win that tournament.

France, who beat Brazil 3-0 in the 1998 final, top an easy Group A with Senegal, Uruguay and Denmark.

Brazil also got a good draw based in South Korea with Turkey, Costa Rica and first time qualifiers China, who could not have hoped for a better outcome.

Italy, the other favoured side, are in Group G against Ecuador, Croatia and Mexico. Asia's other qualifiers, Saudi

Arabia, did not have the same luck of the draw. They will play against Germany, Ireland and African champions Cameroon in Group E in Japan.

Joint hosts South Korea and Japan will both have been pleased with the way their draws work out.

South Korea in particular will be optimistic about their chances of progressing from a group that ncludes highly-rated Portugal, the United States and Poland.

Japan likewise will feel they have a chance against Belgium, Russia and Tunisia

(For schedule and related stories see Sport section)

She pledged for her continuous efforts to establish peace in the area saying that Awami League is committed to implementation of the peace accord.

JS sits today

twice. He left behind his wife and a

Dr Md Kauser Ali, who is in

charge of the hospital, said he

witnessed death of 25 AIDS patients

speeches during the last sitting.

Beginning its journey on October

28, the first session of the new

parliament has so far suffered

heavily owing to unmatched record

of absence of the lawmakers in the

largest ever treasury bench com-

prising 216 members. The senior

parliamentarians apart, most of the

young and new MPs appeared to

have lost interests in the dull pro-

ceedings, if the attendance register

Leader of the House Prime

Minister Khaleda Zia and most of

the ministers were irregular and the

ordinary MPs followed suit. A sec-

tion of the opposition consisting of

the two Jatiya Party factions, the

Krishak Sramik Janata League and

six independent members was no

exception while the largest opposi-

tion AL stayed off the House since

of at least 60 members in the 300-

strong House -- had forced adjourn-

ment of the proceedings on one

occasion while the speaker contin-

ued running the business without

one had brought the crisis to his

quorum on several occasions as no

The crisis of quorum -- presence

is anything to go by.

six-vear-old daughter.

FROM PAGE 1

of the parliament that had 18 work-Sircar, the prime minister and ing days until today witnessed the Roushan Ershad, leading the protreasury bench members playing Ershad Jatiya Party MPs, are devil's advocate apparently expected to deliver their valedictory

because of absence of their arch rivals in the AL and a faction of opposition still loyal to the government. Verbal salvo involving MPs and

ministers and the speaker dominated the proceedings almost regularly. Ministers came under verbal attacks on several occasions either for their absence or for not performing as per will of the treasury benchers who did not spare even the speaker for his intervention in the free-style deliberations in the House. The legislators also went after each other over many an issue.

The 35-day old eighth parliament is yet to form its standing committees on different ministries, which are intended to scrutinise performance of the government. So far, the Business Advisory Committee, the House Committee and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions have come into being. However, the AL representatives are yet to attend meetings of those

committees for obvious reason. The prime minister answered questions from the lawmakers only on last Wednesday while the parliament did not sit on four other Wednesdays scheduled for the PM's Question Time.

notice. The guorum crisis also caused delay in the scheduled start of all but the first two sittings.

the very first sitting.

The otherwise dull proceedings

forces of infidels. Zaeef added there had been

Meanwhile, a Canadian journal-

said

Aminullah and three other

border on Tuesday.