Strike at BUET

At the press conference, the authorities' laid-back role before and after the killing. They alleged that the authorities did not take proper initiatives to avoid untoward incidents like shootout on the campus.

Their 'negligence' to action against the criminals has exposed the failure of the present authorities. they alleged

Meanwhile, the teachers on the platform of BUET Teachers' Association brought out a silent procession in the city yesterday, protesting the killing of Sony.

The association leaders submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, urging her to take punitive action against those responsible for the killing.

On Sunday night, law enforcers raided all male halls of Dhaka University (DU) and arrested 138 students. Twenty-two students were arrested in Kabi Jasim Uddin, 30 in Ziaur Rahman Hall, 21 Bangabandhu Hall, six in Surya Sen Hall, nine in Jagannath Hall, 11 in Shahidullah Hall, 27 in AH Hall, seven in Mohsin Hall, five in AF Rahman Hall, five in Zahurul Haque Hall and one in SM Hall.

Campus sources said police with the BDR backup ringed the campus at 2:30am and continued a manhunt for the criminals until 5:30am. They could not arrest any criminal nor could they recover any firearms, though.

Resident students of the DU have expressed grievances over repeated raids on their halls since the killing. Law enforcers broke open lockers and ransacked their rooms. They also alleged that many of their valuables, including cell phone and money, are missing.

Police are yet to arrest any of the masterminds of the shootout even two days after the incident. Police their gang members fled the city soon after the incident, but the sources said they were staving in the capital, sheltered by the ruling

Even Muki himself wrote a statement denying his involvement in the shootout and faxed it to the offices of all dailies on Sunday. Meanwhile, Dhaka University

yesterday asked all outsiders to leave the halls by June 13. Otherwise, they will face legal action, the authorities declared. A

Committee advised the students who have completed their courses

not to stay in halls.

The meeting also banned the student leaders' participation in official meetings of the university. From now on, the names of student leaders will not be printed in invitation cards of hall programmes.

The meeting decided that three separate identity cards would be issued to students -- green cards for resident students, yellow for seatsharing students and white for nonresident students.

The Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday in protest against the

The government was trying to divert the issue, BCL leaders alleged. They condemned police harassment on innocent students in the name of manhunts.

Cessna crash

FROM PAGE 12 after watching the bad weather.

The pilot was over-enthusiastic on his obtaining the solo flying license and flied in the bad weather ignoring a warning by the control

The investigation committee has obtained the weather report on the day of the incident to determine how bad the weather was. The weather was pretty bad and wind speed sometimes crossed the danger

The four-member investigation committee led by Squadron Leader Masud Imam of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) earlier recorded statement of officials of the control tower, evewitness account and the statements of officials of the private flying acad-

The committee also asked the Air Parabat officials why they let the pilot fly in bad weather.

Friday's air accident was the second crash of an Air Parabat training flight. Earlier on September 27. 1998, two trainee pilots died when a Cessna C-150 training flight stagola in the city.

likely to submit a final report tomorrow, a member of the committee

India: Pak aircraft

US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage last week managed to extract a commitment from Pakistan to "permanently" halt incursions of militants from Pakistan-administered Kashmir, a move India said it would reciprocate with a series of "de-escalatory measures"

Announcing the first of these at the press conference, Rao said: "The government of India has decided that with effect from today, June 10, all restrictions placed since January 1 this year on Pakistani aircraft and Pakistani airlines to

The last Pakistan International Airline flight from Lahore to Delhi was on December 31.

"Of course, as before, normal procedures of approval involving the ministry of external affairs, civil aviation and director general of civil aviation, as appropriate would apply," Rao said.

A Police spokesman in Jammu said, "There has been a marked decrease in intensity of crossborder firing compared to last week along the international borders of Samba, Kathua and R.S. Pora".

"Although both sides exchanged mortar fire during the night it was on a low scale. No loss of life or injuries have been reported," he said. In Poonch sector, one of the main

flashpoints along the Line of Control, the de facto border between India and Pakistan in Kashmir, shelling continued during the night but damage was limited to a government guest house and a police camp, the spokesman said.

Indian and Pakistani troops have fought pitched artillery and mortar battles in the western region of

expected package of measures to ease tensions with Pakistan is not likely to include any military steps at this stage, a defence ministry

source said yesterday. The source told AFP that any let up of military pressure would only be claims are responsible for murde

ing its parliament last December. There is no point in suddenly letting go of all the military pressure which has been built up over months without evidence of gaining something substantial," the source said.

Sony murder

seeking her intervention to help award exemplary punishment to the

secretary to the prime minister received the memorandum, as she was at the cabinet meeting.

"Criminals always seek shelter especially of the party in power, and unleash violence in the guise of

Hasina: JS

going through allegations against nearly 550 party leaders and activists case by case.

"Since the party has to decide many issues, the meeting will be a lengthy one and even it may be adjourned today," said a meeting source.

attended the meeting.

While briefing newsmen, former prime minister Sheikh Hasina was

to protect the interests of the rich by taking away money from the poor. Hasina claimed that prices of all essential items have already shot up and life has become unbearable for the commoners.

"Whereas we gave six budgets that did not affect the life of commoners.

Analysing the income tax provision proposed in the new budget, Hasina said, now a person who earns only Tk 206 a day will have to

did not consider how such a lowincome person manages the family expenditure

Regarding disciplinary action against the party men, Hasina said the party got several thousand allegations against them immediately after the last parliamentary election. After sorting out those, a committee investigated the allegations and submitted its report to the ALCWC.

Hasina said her party is also investigating whether there are reasons other than the 'crude rigging' for its defeat in the last elec-

Most of the allegations could not be proved, she said. The party is discussing these and will proceed democratically, she added.

She mentioned that if the ALCWC takes action against any party man, he can appeal to the party's National Committee, and even challenge the National Committee's decision at the party's

central council. The ALCWC has also sought extension of tenure of the Central Committee, which would expire on June 23, to hold its biennial central council immediately

Govt may revise FROM PAGE 1 from the rank and file of the ruling

BNP. Some ministers even expressed their grievances to the Prime Minister, saying the tax measures would alienate BNP from the middle income group people.

A section of ministers think that the proposed duty on import of milk. soyabean oil and sugar should be reconsidered

However, the finance minister arqued that there is no need to withdraw the proposed duty on sugar. He said, lifting of restriction on import of sugar by the private sector will ultimately bring down the price.

"We are expecting that the sugar price will drop by taka four to five pet kg once the private sector starts mporting sugar," said a ruling party leader who preferred not to be

The proposal to bring down the ncome tax exemption limit to Tk 75,000 from Tk 100,000 also triggered resentment in the ruling party. BNP policy planners will discuss all these issues taking into consideration the reaction of different professional and business organisations and suggest revision of the tax proposals, ruling party sources said.

'The revision in the tax measure will be made after thorough discussion in the parliament," a ruling party

Constable

FROM PAGE 1 barrel of his rifle on his chin.

Other sources said Saiful's rifle was loaded with five bullets and after the incident four bullets were found in it

Senior officials of Dhaka Metropolitan Police visited the spot after the incident.

The body was sent to DMCH after the inquest report. Autopsy of the body was done at the hospital morgue in the evening.

An unnatural death (UD) case has been recorded with Teigaon police station in this connection.

Sate water

FROM PAGE 12 vast majority of the population still practice open defecation.

This causes to spread germs and pollute water leading to mortality due to water-borne diseases. The paper suggested launching a campaign on sanitation and hygiene promotion to improve the situation.

The participants observed that the environment is confronting the negative effects caused by these problems in the water supply and sanitation sector.

The workshop was presided by Dr Dibalok Singha, national coordinator, WSSCC-Bangladesh. Saidur Rahman, joint secretary of local government ministry, Rokeya Ahmed from Water Aid, and representatives from UNICEF, CUP, CARE Bangladesh and Proshika, among others, were present.

The workshop was supported the Department of Public and Engineering and Danish International Development

Sundarbans FROM PAGE 12

This will help prevent oil spillage and pollution of water from dumping of waste oil from ships and protect the marine environment, he said.

The minister said the MARPOL was scheduled to be placed before the Cabinet yesterday for ratifica-

The government in collaboration with the ADB conducted a study on oil spillage and its effect on the Sundarbans from June 2001 to June 2002.

The recommendations of the study include setting up of ecology monitoring stations to monitor risk assessment and oil spill effect, selection of rehabilitation areas on a priority basis according to their environmental sensitivity and immediate remedial steps after an oil spill. It suggested that brooms made of readily available materials such as bamboo, gunny bags, raw iute and straw should be kept ready to collect the floating oil on the water mmediately after an oil spill.

The inaugural session was also addressed by, among others, Sabihuddin Ahmed, secretary, ministry of forests and environment Golam Rahman, secretary, ministry of shipping and Makoto Mizutani of

Death threat

FROM PAGE 12

Shamsuddin's house at Satish Sarker Lane and his close neighhour on the west, which they shared for drainage purpose. Blocking the passage, the person forced the neighbour to sell the land to him and started construction of a building in the name of a Mahila Madrassah. Shamsuddin alleged.

Digging of earth during construction of the building led to the collapse of verandah of Shamsuddin's house and threatened the main building. But the person did not pay heed to protest, Shamsuddin

Arafat HQ FROM PAGE 12

time a separate interior minister, named as General Abdel Razag al-Yahiva, a former negotiator with Israel.

Palestinian security forces also arrested two high-ranking Islamic militants in the Gaza Strip suspected of involvement in last week's Israel, claimed by Islamic Jihad, which killed 17 people plus the



Railway authorities demolished 50 illegal structures on their land at Narayanganj yesterday. The drive will continue

Signs of possible showdown over next Indian president

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New

The choice of a candidate for India's next President seems to be developing into a face-off between the country's ruling BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and the Congress-led opposition.

The signs of a possible showdown between NDA and the opposition began emerging on Saturday evening after a consensus on elevating Vice President Krishan Kant appeared within reach after Telugu Desam Party (TDP), the biggest supporter of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee government from outside, pitched in for Kant.

The chief of TDP, which rules the southern state of Andhra Pradesh. N Chandrababu Naidu, is reportedly in favour of Kant as the next President. It is an open secret that it was because of Naidu that Kant was made the vice president five years back after his shift as Governor of Andhra Pradesh.

Kant's choice as the NDA consensus was scuttled by a powerful section of BJP and it ally Shiv Sena in its entirety which pressed for P C Alexander, á Christian and a former close aide of Indira Gandhi, as the Presidential nominee of the ruling

The tussle within BJP as well as NDA on the candidature of Alexander, governor of the western state of Maharashtra, bastion of Shiv Sena but now being ruled by a Congress-led coalition, led to the twice postponement of NDA meeting here on Saturday and Sunday to finalize its Presidential candidate.

Vajpayee himself is reportedly in favour a consensus candidate but a section of BJP is understood to be sticking to Alexander and is even ready for a contest with the opposition nominee even though the arithmetic of the electoral college for

Presidential poll (comprising members of the two houses of Parliament and members of assemblies in states) is delicately-poised.

On paper, the arithmetic is slightly in favour of NDA subject to assurance of the crucial support by TDP whose stand can tilt the scale either awav. The suggestion from a section of

NDA for Alexander's candidature has had the effect of galvanizing unity among opposition parties, including Congress, the Left parties and Samajwadi Party, which last night decided to field incumbent President K R Narayanan for his second term.

In fact a delegation of senior opposition leaders called on Narayanan last night and requested him to be their candidate in the event of a contest. Narayanan,

NEWS ANALYSIS

according to Congress spokesman S Jaipal Reddy, has not clarified his stand but not entirely turned down the opposition request.

Sensing there is disagreement in

NDA over Alexander's nomination. the opposition appears ready for a contest against him primarily on the calculation that Narayanan, who comes from backward caste, may come out triumphant on the basis of caste equations.

Vajpayee has already politely conveyed to Narayanan that NDA favours sticking to the convention of not giving a second term to anybody

Although Congress and the Left arties have right from beginning favoured a second term for Narayanan, they had at once stage appeared to veering round to of forging opposition unity. The NDA is not without its share of worries about the result if there is a contest especially in the light of Chandrababu Naidu's preference of Krishan Kant and the view of Jayalalitha-led AIADMK, the ruling party in Tamil Nadu state, in favour

In fact, Chandrababu Naidu's refusal to come to New Delhi yesterday despite a request by some senior BJP leaders for consultations on Alexander's candidature led to the cancellation of the NDA coordination committee meeting for the second successive day and is viewed as symptomatic of his unhappiness. A coordination committee scheduled for Saturday was cancelled owing to differences within NDA on Presidential nomi-

A defeat for NDA in the Presidential poll would be a big loss of face for the ruling alliance. But a section of BJP is of firm belief that the alliance will come out victorious since Chandrababu Naidu has authorised Vajpayee to decide on the consensus candidate of NDA and it will be difficult for Naidu to go back on his public stand.

But the emergence of Alexander as the favourite of a section of BJP as well as NDA changed that scenario and had the unintended effect

choice since Samaiwadi Party too

indicated its willingness to back the

elevation of the present vice presi-

The section in BJP also feels it will manage to rope in the votes of BJP's newest ally Kanshi Ram-led Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) which has a sizeable number of backward caste members in Uttar Pradesh state assembly. According to calculation of this section, if backward caste members' vote is split, Alexander could be the winner.

Portugal stay afloat

point of co-hosts South Korea and the United States, who earlier parted

1-1 in Daegu. The Portuguese, who dropped Rui Costa for Sporting Lisbon midfielder Paulo Bento to start alongside Joao Pinto, had been highly favoured to win the group.

But after a disastrous 3-2 loss to the United States they were doubly intent on providing coach Antonio Oliveira with a 50th birthday present.

Once Pauleta opened the scoring on 14 minutes there was no doubt about that and Oliveira was well satisfied afterwards. "It's a good win today and the

players gave their all for their country," he opined. Despite the torrential rain Portugal made a lively start as Pauleta twice went close in the

opening ten minutes. But the Bordeaux striker made it which zipped inside Jerzy Dudek's Piotr Swierczewski whipped in an

third time lucky in the 14th minute with a vicious right-footed shot

effort as the Poles sought to get

two of the US goals last week, was untroubled as the ball sailed over his The Pole then earned himself a

suspension by fouling Pauleta for his second booking of the event. Scottish referee Hugh Dallas was busy as he also cautioned Jorge

Costa, Frechaut and Rui Jorge. The Portuguese looked aghast at Dallas, having tried to secure a different man in the middle than the fourth official at their Euro 2000 semi-final defeat on a controversial

penalty to France. His report saw three Portuguese stars suspended. But that night was forgotten as

Portugal stepped through the gears after the break. Pauleta scored his second to kill the tie after 65 matches, sliding in to bundle home from six yards out after

a fine low cross from the right flank

by Luis Figo. Figo was desperately unlucky not to add a third within barely a minute. a curling right-foot effort from the edge of the box coming back off the

Nuno Capucho came on for Sergei Conceicao for his first World Cup appearance as Portugal threw on a fresh pair of legs in the soaking, strength-sapping conditions.

Pauleta made it three on 77

minutes, turning Tomasz Waldoch

inside out before Rui Costa finished

off the scoring after stretching low to convert a Capucho cross in the 87th Costa, who replaced the ineffectual Pinto on the hour, should have made it five in the final minute but his mishit

was cleared off the line. **TEAMS**

Portugal: Baia, J. Costa, Couto, Jorge, Figo, Conceicao (Capucho, 69), Bento, Frechaut (Beto, 64), Petit, Pinto (R. Costa, 60), Pauleta Poland: Dudek, Zewlakow(Rzasa, 71), Hajto, Waldoch, Swierczewski, Kaluzny (Bak, 16), Krzynowek, Kozminski, Kryszalowicz, Olisadebe, Zurawski (Zewlakow,

Goals: Pauleta 14, 65, 77, R.Costa

Attendance: 31000 Referee: Hugh Dallas (Scotland)

Tunisia baffle Belgium awesome task of beating tourna-

2-0 to Russia last week, pulled level

in spectacular style just four minutes later when Raouf Bouzaiene scored goal difference. from a curling left-footed free kick. Bouzaine's strike came just after Tunisia's chances his team had the ball in the net from Slim Ben Achour's thundering shot.

already whistled for the free-kick. In the dying minutes of the match, Belgian goalkeeper Geert De Vlieger had to beat away a potentially match-winning shot from Kaies Ghodhbane, while substitute Wesley Sonck poked a shot wide at the other end seconds later.

That effort was disallowed however

because referee Mark Shield had

over the crossbar but the spoils were shared. Belgium's second draw of the tournament means they have two points and remain third in Group H.

behind leaders Japan who have four

Russia in Shizuoka on Friday to be

sure of going through, while Tunisia

are on a single point and have the

Belgium now need to defeat

points and Russia on three.

Ghodhbane fired another shot

in Osaka the same day to qualify on Ghodhbane refused to write off

ment co-hosts Japan by three goals

"We still have a chance to go through to the second round," he

said. "We are improving game by game. This is our best game for a long time and I think we showed the real face of Tunisian football today. "Hopefully we can get the result we need in our final game.'

taining first half followed by a largely sterile 45 minutes before the final flourish at the impressive Big Eye Stadium. Shortly after Bouzaiene's goal Ziad Jaziri came close to giving the

Tunisians the lead but just failed to

The match divided into an enter-

And at the other end, Bart Goor lifted the ball over the crossbar from close range when played in by Peter Van Der Hevden. And the impressive Hatem

get his foot to a cross.

Trabelsi's cross from the byline just needed a touch to turn it into a goal.

Trabelsi was again the provider when Kaies Ghodhbane's well-hit volley flew just wide just after the restart Belgium took advantage of their towering strikers by floating in a

succession of crosses but none produced the winner. Belgian coach Robert Waseige brought on Mbo Mpenza as a second-half substitute in a bid to inject some urgency but Tunisia had the best of the last 10 minutes.

TEAMS

Gabsi (Sellimi 67), Bouzaine, Ghodbane, Trabelsi, Bouazizi, Melki (Beya 88), Ben Achour, Jaziri (Zitouni 77) Goal: Bouzaine 17

Tunisia: Boumnijel, Badra, Jaidi,

Belgium: de Vlieger, Deflandre, De Boeck, Van Buyten, Van Der Heyden, Simons (Mpenza 74), Verheyen (Sonck 46), Wilmots, Vanderhaeghe, Goor, Strupar (Vermant 46) Goal: Wilmots 13

Attendance: 37,900 Referee: M Shield (Australia)

Rid party of criminals

Two of the newly elected BNP ward commissioners were killed by gunwielding murderers who belonged to the same party, as if they could do anything they pleased without being remotely worried about the police and other law enforcement

Let us examine the BUET

incident. The 23-year old, second year, term-2, star marks-acquiring

female student, died in crossfire

between two armed groups of the

BNP's student wing, the JCD. The

fight was over a nearly Tk 1 crore

(Tk 10 million) teachers' housing project. The two JCD factions were nvolved in an open gunfight to prevent the rival side from participating in the bidding process to get the work. How can people like them be students and members of student bodies? How can members of the student front of a political party that believes in democracy possess guns and indulge in shootouts and still be considered part of the democratic process? In Bangladesh, they can because most armed killers have their godfathers in the main party who are either ministers, advisors, MPs or

power-wielding party bosses, and

big contributors to the party funds in

some cases. With their political

clout, they literally provide immunity

to the criminals who are then left to themselves to create their empires of crime, terror, drugs, extortion and influence peddling. Md. Mukammel Hyat Khan, nicknamed Muki, led one of the JCD factions in the BUET shootout, and Sony was the victim. He was the joint organising secretary of the JCD's (suspended) central committee. He was also general secretary of the BUET unit of the JCD till he lost his studentship after his failure in studies. He was thrown out of the campus but staged a comeback after the BNP's election victory. He was not a gangster till a party high-up, an MP and an advisor turned him into an armed cadre One of the recently murdered BNP

ward commissioners used to supply him with firearms to carry out criminal activities. The other faction is led by Md Mushfiquddin, nicknamed Tagar, a student of philosophy of Dhaka University enrolled in the 1993-94 session. He also started off as an ordinary student who was later picked up by the armed gangsters of the JCD, patronised by another godfather, and thrust into leadership when he proved his 'worth'.

The point here is that Sony's death may be an unfortunate. accidental death. But the reason for it is far from accidental. When armed cadres of the ruling party are given a free reign to do as they please, when they are allowed to nterfere in the normal activities of the government, especially tenderrelated activities, then it is only a matter of time that innocent people will fall victim to the armed criminals who are in an open competition to gain and control territories for criminal activities. These will inevitably lead to gun battles in the open, killing innocent people like 20month old Naushin, just the other

Think for a minute of the arrogance of these people. They decided to force the university into the order for construction of the housing complex. The only obstacle that stood between them and the contract was the rival gang belonging to the same organisation So, both sides decided to have a shootout in broad daylight to determine who is more powerful and whose reign should prevail. It is almost as if there were no authority to be afraid of.

When can members of a front organisation of the ruling party feel so emboldened as to defy the university (which did not matter at all for them), the police, the BDR who are now helping the police improve the law and order, and the government itself? When they know that their godfathers are powerful enough to protect them from the law, the government and the ruling party and save them from any eventuality This is the fundamental point that we would like to make today. The BUET tragedy is the outcome of a serious malaise within the ruling

FROM PAGE 1 try into hell? Or, do you want the ex-

prime minister (Sheikh Hasina) to

home minister would have resigned.

gested that the home minister issue

Referring to Sony's death in a

come back and interus?'

Law enforcers

across the country were cited. Quader Siddiqui

> investigation into the alleged repression and torture on innocent people by the police, BDR and army

shoot-out between pro-BNP student groups, the KSJL MP said had it happened elsewhere it would have riahts. shaken the government and the At this stage, Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain sug-

statement on the sensational Taking the floor, Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury told the House that the government was determined to put the killers in the dock at the earliest. He also an account of police action so far taken to nab the killers and others who

Police have arrested over 100 people during 30 raids in 11 student halls since the killing took place on Saturday, he informed the parliament. Illegal arms were also seized during the raids, he added.

fought Saturday's gun battle on the

BUET campus.

opposition.

'Killing of Sony by assailants is unfortunate and cruel. It is not important which party the criminals belong to. Their only identity is that they are criminals," he said assuring the House that they culprits will have to face trial. Earlier, Quader Siddigui accused

the treasury bench of not acknowledging a section of the opposition lawmakers attending the House as

party and its front organisations especially the JCD, which have been deeply penetrated by criminal elements

Setting up an inquiry commission to investigate the BUET incident or catching and punishing those responsible for Sony's death (though this is most important and must be done) will only scratch the surface of the problem. The malaise has gone much deeper and spread much wider for the BNP leaders to treat it like a disease of its student front alone. The roots of the party criminals go far and deep and they have spread their tentacles all over Let us remind the ruling party of how the AL's problems started from its student front and then engulfed the whole party, as symbolised by the

likes of Jainal Hazari. Let us also remind the BNP that criminal activities of the JCD did not start yesterday. It began right after the party's October victory. As early as November 1, the group led by Pintu -- JCD disgraced, at point arrested but later set free on bail, but never removed from the JCD's presidency -- occupied Shikkha Bhavan (education ministry) to hijack the tender documents for construction of 12 model schools So widespread was the JCD's criminal network and activities that on November 18 Khaleda Zia suspended the central committee of

Surprisingly, Pintu was nominated for the last parliamentary election. Of relevance, on 14th November many newspapers published photographs of guntotting JCD cadres capturing DU halls. Nothing happened to them. In fact, they were patted on the back for having driven the Bangladesh Chhatra League (the AL's student front that had occupied these halls by force throughout the party's term) out of the campus.

Massive arrests have been made in the last two days, following Sony's death. According to the home minister, over 100 people, mostly students belonging to the JCD, have been arrested for questioning. These are necessary moves but hardly the type that will rid us of criminals now affecting the BNP activities. If the ruling party gangsters can dare to participate in open gun fights in the heart of the capital, where the PM and party chief sits, then imagine what can and does happen at district, thana and upazila headquarters and in smaller towns where no restraining power exists. Ask district administrators and they will tell you. if they dare.

It appears that the BNP's (with its allies) two-thirds victory has induced a dangerous complacency in them. It is so taken by its resounding victory over its arch rival that the fact that much of the foundation of its victory is being destroved does not seem to concern the party at all. Seldom has such a massive electoral mandate been so callously squandered, as is being done by the present ruling

History bears testimony to the fact that a landslide has always caused more harm than good to the victor. The seed of destruction seems ingrained in such a victory, for it makes the victor overconfident, arrogant and repressive All of this can be said about the post

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia faces an enormous challenge. Perhaps a greater one than defeating her rival for this one is an internal fight. South Asian leaders have not shown too much dexterity in winning such fights, if, for instance, we take Sheikh Muiib, Indira Gandhi, Benazir Bhutto, Nawaz Sharif Chandrika Kumaratunga and Sheikh Hasina

The PM still enjoys public goodwill and trust. There is still a feeling that she does not know what is going on (which is not really a compliment to her. How can she not know if she reads newspapers? But does she?) and once she does, she will clean up her house. How long this 'generous' public concession will last is anybody's guess. But

history tells us, not for long.

FROM PAGE 12 incidents of human rights violation

The statement urged the government to be more careful about the gross violation of human rights and to proceed on the matter lawfully. They also demanded proper

and exemplary punishment to those involved in the violation of human Some victims who became victims of the recent brutality of the law enforcers across the country

The victims alleged that members of the law-enforcement agencies ransacked houses of general people while conducting searches and tortured them physically although there was no allegation against them. They added that the police

were present at the press confer-

demanded money from victims after the arrest and on refusal, they tortured them inhumanely. Rakib Uddin from Sirajganj said an army team swooped on his residence on the night of May 21 and physically abused him. They even tortured his mentally chal-

enged daughter, he alleged Two directors of the ASK, Noor Khan and Dr. Hamida Hossain also spoke at the press conference. They said according to the Bandladesh Constitution and other declarations of different international bodies, torture on arrested

people is strictly prohibited.

Referring to section 9 of the

Rifles order, 1972, the ASK said the paramilitary BDR had no right to violate human rights in the name of crackdown on crime.

pay income tax. The government

mark of 40 nautical miles.

The investigation committee is

An Indian civilian was killed and two others were injured yesterday when Pakistani troops shelled border villages in disputed Kashmir. Another report adds: India's

instituted once India has verified claims by Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf that he has reined in Islamic militants New Delhi ous raids on Indian targets, includ-

FROM PAGE 1 President Dr M Habibur Rahman and General Secretary Dr Hasib Mohammad Ahsan submitted a memorandum to the prime minister,

Haris Chowdhury, political

FROM PAGE 1

Most of the ALCWC members

highly critical of the proposed budget for fiscal 2002-2003, the first budget of the BNP-led coalition government. It was placed in the parliament on June 6 She said the budget is designed