No reason for rise in prices of essentials: NBR

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has categorically said there is no reason behind the reported price rise of some essentials following the budget proposals for fiscal 2002-03.

In a statement on Sunday, the NBR referred to reports in a section of the press that prices of essentials including rice, pulses and salt have increased and said that in the proposed budget there was no increase in tax and duty that could cause price rise of these products.

The NBR said it has long been observed that prices of some essentials increased following budget proposals due to hoarding by unscrupulous businessmen. As in the past, they might increase prices this time also only to make quick

It pointed out that supplementary taxes on a total of 120 products ranging from basic raw materials to intermediate raw materials including garlic, caustic soda, sodium chloride and petroleum ielly have been waived. Besides, the previous licence fee of 2.5 per cent has been waived, import duty has been reduced to 32.5 per cent from 37.5 per cent and the second slab has been reduced to 22.5 per cent from 25 per cent.

These decisions would result in decrease in the prices of finished products made from these raw materials. Productivity in the industries will also increase.

The NBR statement mentioned that all obstacles to private import of sugar have been removed. This will help reduce sugar price to Tk 22/23 It noted that smuggling of com-

puter accessories was the reason behind imposition of customs duty

Tarique FROM PAGE 12

any responsibility the party bestows on him. He said he does not support student politics as it is today.

Responding to another query, Tarique also refuted the allegation that the government has been carrying out 'political persecution' and 'acts of revenge' against political opponents.

State Minister for Education Ehsanul Huq Milon, State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babar, State Minister for Communications Salahuddin Ahmed and BNP lawmaker Zahiruddin Swapan were

on import of computers. Zero tariff facility for import of computer software and hardware in the country against 15 per cent and 10 per cent import duty on computer and software respectively in India were the reasons for smuggling of those.

Considering the situation, 7.5 per cent import duty has been imposed and the previous three per cent advance income tax has been withdrawn, meaning that the duty is now only 4.5 per cent, the statement

In the interest of consumers, import duty on brand new car has been reduced to 59 per cent from 125 per cent for up to 1649 cc, 89 per cent from 232 per cent for 1650 cc to 2699 cc and 150 per cent from 256 per cent for 2700 cc and above.

The decision has been taken to reduce environment pollution, save fuel and wastage of foreign currency for import of petroleum products, the NBR explained.

Recruiters FROM PAGE 12

Malaysia at a cost of Tk 70.000 each and then it would be applied in case of other countries, he said.

Malaysia is willing to recruit fresh workers from Bangladesh if recruitent cost is within 1000 US dollars. About 'unofficial charges' by a

section of officials in his ministry and the BMET, the state minister asked for specific allegations so that he can take action. Recruiting agents however said

they cannot send workers abroad at the government-fixed rate because they have to spend lot of money for buying visa and tickets and for expenses. The rate for Saudi workers was

fixed in 1983 when Saudi employers used to send free visa and air ticket for recruitment of workers. But now the situation has changed and Saudi employers are charging 5,000 to 6,000 riyal per worker for visa and there is no free ticket," said a leading recruiting agent. Of the nearly two lakh workers

going abroad per year on employment, more than 70 per cent go to Saudi Arabia alone, Around 12 lakh Bangladeshis are now working in that country. Some sources said only four

recruiting agents have been allowed to send workers to South Korea and they are doing monopoly business.

Although they charge Tk 2.60 lakh from a worker, they give a receipt for only Tk 65,000, the

He said, "We import 90 per cent

"We are one of the biggest pro-

of the fibres from Korea. If you set up

fibre plants in Bangladesh, you will

ducers of RMG in the world. So,

setting up of backward linkage

industries (in RMG sector) will also

regional bodies like ASEAN

NAFTA, EU are benefiting the

member countries, SAARC has

policy is "an act of unfriendliness" to

Bangladesh. India recently imposed

anti-dumping duty on import of lead-

withdraw tariff and non-tariff barriers

taking part in the exhibition which

Rajuk recovers

Rajdhani Unnayan Katripakkha

(RAJUK) yesterday recovered

several acres of land in Tongi evicting

thousands of slum-dwellers from the

the help of several hundred police

conducted a six-hour long operation

from 11:00am to clear the eastern

side of river Turag of all slums. The

site is also the venue for the yearly

ljtema Maidan and along the

Telephone Shilpa Sangstha were

removed during the operation, said

the duty officer of the Tongi police

from slum-dwellers because the

eviction drive had been announced

earlier. He however could not say

how much land was actually recov-

The government allocated around

160 acres of khas land on the eastern

side of river Turag to the Tablig

Jamaat for holding the Biswa Ijtema,

the second largest annual congrega-

tion of Muslims. But a big chunk of the

land had long been occupied by

been demanding removal of the

slums and recovery of the land for

peaceful holding of Biswa Ijtema.

Leaders of the Tablig Jamaat had

He said there was no resistance

All slums in the eastern side of the

According to sources, Rajuk with

eastern side of river Turag.

acid battery from Bangladesh.

on import from Bangladesh.

will continue till Wednesday.

land in Tongi

STAR REPORT

Biswa litema.

He said India's anti-dumping

Farid Ahmed said India should

Ninteen Indian companies are

Wali Bhuiya said when other

be economically benefited.

henefit you"

"completely failed".

40 more items

Refuting Tripathi's comment on this issue, Mahmudur Rahman said, "When you were aware of the matter why you didn't say this at that time? A real friend can never take the advantage of his friends' weak-

He said Bangladeshi products in some categories are much better in quality than Indian products in the same categories. He requested the Indian government to give duty-free access to those products.

He said twenty years ago, when Japanese had good performance in the American car market, they set up car plants in the USA. Both were benefited by this.

He urged Indian to follow such examples and to set up textile and other industries in Bangladesh. These can be owned by Indian entrepreneurs or can be joint venture projects.

Mahmudur Rahman also give examples how Singaporean support helps Indonesia to come up as a economic power and how USA helps Mexico to improve its econ-

He urged the Indian government to give such kind of support to Bangladesh, not only as a SAARC member but also as a neighbour.

"Ours is a country of about 130 million people. So if our per capita income increases, only then our ladies will be able to buy your

7 killed

FROM PAGE 1 50. Doyal Sulema Khatun. Devnath, 35, and Nurul Islam, 42. Four of the six critically injured

people shifted from local clinic to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) with multiple injuries are Abul Kashem, 45, Jahangir, 26, Nur Alam, 13, and Hashem, 50. Of the 11 others injured, six now

undergoing treatment at Rangamati Hospital are Anwar Hossain, 32. Dilejyit Tripura, 38, Maulana Nurul Azim, 22, Debranjan Chakma, 20, Sabeda Khatun, 55, and Moharam

Ali. 15. A case was lodged with Rangamati police.

In Jhenidah, two people were killed in a road accident on Dhaka-

Khulna highway in Sadar upazila Saturday. The deceased were identified as Hasan, 32, of Hudadauti village and Shudev, 30, of Bishoykhali village in

Sadar upazila, reports UNB. Witnesses said they died on the spot when they fell down from the rooftop of a running bus.

Dacoits kill 2 wood cutters in Sundarbans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two wood cutters were gunned down by dacoits Saturday midnight near Chandpai Forest Range office. The dead have been identified

as Babul Molla, 32, and Kamal

Hossain, 22, of Mongla area. Another person severely injured n the incident is Mantu Shaikh, 23. of Ulubunia village under Mongla thana. He was admitted to upazila

health complex According to police, nine unauthorised wood cutters went to the Sundarbans on Saturday midnight for felling Sundari trees. The dacoits who were coming from the opposite direction opened fire

taking wood cutters for policemen. Kamal and Mantu died on the

Police arrested two alleged wood cutters Yar Ali, 30, and Rashed, 35, who carried dead bodies to Mongla on Sunday morn-

They told police that the alleged dacoits have held four wood cutters hostage for ransom.

When contacted, OC Kamrul Islam of Mongla thana said hunt for the dacoits is going on to free the

Chirac's party

FROM PAGE 12

That Socialists and other leftists who ran the lower house for five years, looked set to be swamped with just 175-187. The National Front failed to

break into parliament despite Le Pen's shock success in reaching last month's runoff round of the presidential election. As runner-up to Chirac, Le Pen edged out Socialist Lionel Jospin, who resigned as prime minister. "What is clear today is that one

party, the UMP, is going to have more than 60 per cent of the seats. said pollster Roland Cayrol of the CSA institute as official counts started coming.

"It's the first time in the history of the Fifth Republic." The UMP is the first grouping to

unite most factions of the centreright since the present constitution vas adopted in 1958. Born amid the turbulence of the

oresidential elections, the UMP now has an unprecedented grip on public institutions -- including the presidency and both houses of parliament -- and a strong presence in town halls and regional councils.

The swing to the right offers Chirac a strong hand to cut taxes, ease labour laws and reform pensions after five years of paralysing "cohabitation" with the Jospin and

Hasına FROM PAGE 12

"What an injustice!" Hasina exclaimed. "Almighty Allah will not tolerate such a sin and will surely nunish the offender "she said

The opposition leader said a state of anarchy was prevailing in the country. In last seven months, over 7,000 people were killed, she said, alleging that numerous leaders and workers of her party came under indiscriminate attacks and were killed by goons backed by the ruling party.

Hasina consoled Bazlu's old father, mother and grandmother, and assured them of bearing the expenses for Bazlu's treatment.

The other victim, also named Bazlur Rahman, hails from Nalchhiti in Jhalakathi and was lying in a ward on the first floor. He was admitted to Pangu Hospital with tendons of his legs cut off in an attack on June 4 by BNP cadres, his family members

His only son, Rayan, 3, and daughter, Oishy, 5, were present at the hospital during the visit of the former prime minister.

From Pangu Hospital, Hasina went to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) to see another victim of political attack. Abdus Samad, who came from Puthia in Rajshahi, was allegedly attacked by BNP cadres on June 1 and referred to DMCH with critical head injuries. Awami League leaders Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin and Prof Rafigul Islam accompanied the

Sony's killers FROM PAGE 12

opposition leader during the visit.

He urged the law enforcers to take proper steps in this regard without showing any favour to any group.

The other speakers included JSD leader Hasanul Haq Inu, actor Asaduzzaman Noor, Sara Zaker, Shirin Akhter and Afroza Nahar

They expressed their solidarity with the students in their ongoing movement for justice in this case and for a healthy academic atmosphere in all educational institutions including the BUET.

They also urged the authorities concerned to make sincere efforts to ensure stern action against the killers of Sony. Later, the agitating students

launched a signature campaign in support of their demand. The campaign would continue till June 29.

Meanwhile, the Awami Leaguebacked Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) called a strike in all educational institutions in the country yesterday in protest against the 'killing of Sony by the JCD.'

Reconditioned vehicles

Token hunger strike in Ctg to protest ban

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A three-hour token hunger strike protesting the proposed ban on the import of reconditioned vehicles was observed at Chittagong Customs House premises here vesterdav

C&F (Clearing & Forwarding) men engaged in delivery of recondi tioned vehicles under the banner of C&F Owners Employees Oikya Parisad organised the hunger strike at 10am.

Though intercepted by police, a number of organisations related with the import and trade of reconditioned vehicles spontaneously ioined the hunger strike that was followed by demonstration and rally. Speakers at the rally demanded

agitation programme otherwise. C&F Agent Association General Secretary Altaf Hossain Chowdhury Bachchu, Bangladesh

mmediate withdrawal of the pro-

posed ban and warned of a greater

Reconditioned Vehicle Importers and Dealers Association (BARVIDA) organising secretary Shah Selim Tipu, Zafar Alam Majumder of C&F Agent Employees Union and Abdul Barek of an affiliated drivers association addressed the rally expressing their solidarity with the ongoing movement.

Oikya Parisad convener Nirmal Kanti Dev, member secretary Mahbubul Haq Chowdhury Babor, Enamul Haq Chowdhury, Helal Uddin Chowdhury and Abdul Alim addressed the rally among others. During the same time, BARVIDA

also staged a demonstration and held a rally at Chittagong Port Jetty In the rally, BARVIDA leaders

vowed to continue their agitation until withdrawal of the ban on reconditioned vehicles proposed in the budget for 2002-2003 fiscal.

3 PCJSS men abducted in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Three members of the PCJSS were abducted on gunpoint allegedly by rival UPDF's armed gang from Tarabunia area under Kawkhali thana of the district on Sunday night, police

The abducted persons are U Thoai Si Marma, 38, Mongbul Marma, 28, and Aung Sa Chi Marma, 42, villagers Earlier on Friday, Kalin Chakma

26, a villager was gunned down allegedly by UPDF men at Borodolu. Meanwhile, UNB from Khagrachhari adds: The factory manager who was kidnapped Friday was rescued on Sunday from a house in Matiranga upazila.

Police raided the house located in deep forest and rescued Abul Hasem, 35, manager of Plywood Factory at Polashpur in the upazila.

Police said the armed tribals, said to be the members of United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF), kidnapped him Friday night as he refused to pay

charge of causing disappearance of

evidence of offence and giving false

information to save offenders. But

Public Prosecutor (PP) Abdullah

Trial of the case began on July

his punishment will go on concur-

Mahmud Hasan, commenting on

the verdict, said it was given accord-

27, 1999. The court framed charges

against the 14 accused on May 10.

According to CID findings, Mukul

Begum wanted to remove a lungi

shop set up by Rubel's brother

Jewel and his friend Asif at the alley

leading to residences of both Rubel

and Mukul. This led to a conflict with

Rubel's family and at one point,

Mukul sought the favour of AC

the case submitted a charge sheet

to the CMM's Court, Dhaka, against

the 14 accused on September 24.

1998. In the charge sheet, 62 peo-

ple were shown as prosecution

After cross-examination of 35

Metropolitan PP Abdullah

prosecution witnesses, the court

Mahmud Hasan, Additional PPs

Golam Mostafa Khan and Khorshed

Alam appeared for the State while

advocates Sirajul Haq, Khan Saifur

Rahman, ABM Sharfuddin Khan

The investigation officer (IO) of

Akram to teach Rubel a lesson.

13 cops get life term

filing of the case. He took his seat at 2:00 pm and read out important

parts of the 186-page verdict in about an hour. About four thousand people

thronged the court compound and adjacent roads to hear the verdict. Additional police force was deployed there to maintain law and

Eleven of the convicts including AC Akram Hussain and Mukul Begum were produced in the court at 1:40 pm under tight security. They were present in the dock when the verdict was given. On hearing the judgement.

calm. Many of their relatives were also present to hear the verdict. However, family members of the victim -- Shamim Reza Rubelwere not present in the court during

Mukul Begum broke down in tears

while the other convicts remained

delivery of the judgement. Rubel, 24, a BBA student of the Independent University in the city, was picked up by a DB police team led by AC Akram from in front of their Siddheswari residence on July 23, 1998 and was beaten to death the same day. The victim's father Abdur Rab

filed a murder case with Ramna thana the following day.

Talking to The Daily Star at their residence yesterday evening, Rubel's eldest brother Iftekha Uddin said, "Due to security reasons, we decided not to go to the court. But we were informed about the verdict within five minutes of its pronouncement. Iftekhar said, "We will appeal to

the High Court within 30 days and seek more stringent punishment for

Belgium brought considerable

and defended well with Gert

Verheyen -- a far better midfielder in

defence than he will ever be when he

is going forward -- dropping back to

re-inforce the over-worked, but

However, Brazil have plenty to prove

in this World Cup, and there was an air

of inevitability, as Belgium wasted

what opportunities they created, that it

would be the South Americans and

not the Europeans who would score

ust why Brazil can never be written

off as possible winners of this

Rivaldo struck after controlling a

high pass from Ronaldinho on his

chest with his back to goal, bringing

the ball under control with his next

touch and then scoring on the turn

with a shot that deflected off defender

control was superb -- but that deflec-

tion off Simons gave Geert de Vlieger

no chance in the Belgium goal. Brazil

There was no doubt that Rivaldo's

increasingly open World Cup.

Timmy Simons.

The goal, when it came, showed

competent back-line.

Plenty to prove

They were organised, industrious

qualities of their own to the game.

He went on, "Mukul Begum is the main instigator. It was she who marked Rubel and asked her accomplices in DB police to pick him We think she deserved more stringent punishment.'

Regarding the other convicts, he said Hayatul Islam Thakur, Nuruzzaman, Ratul Parvez and Aminul Islam also deserved more stringent punishment.

Iftekhar however expressed satisfaction at the punishment for other convicts. Rubel's mother Jahanara

Begum was bed-ridden from Sunday night. His father died on May 24 last year. Asked about the verdict, AC Akram later told this correspondent. "I have been deprived of justice. If I

would have got justice, many of the

criminals would have been brought

The judgement said that 13 of the accused were given life-term and another-- Mukul Begum-- was given one vear's rigorous imprisonment as the allegations against them were proved.

The judge also mentioned that as per a directive from AC Akram Hussain and on instigation by Mukul Begum, SI Hayatul Islam Thakur along a team picked up Rubel from in front of their Siddheswari residence on July 23, 1998 and beat him to death the same day. The judgement said punishment

of the absconders would begin when they would surrender or be It further said Mukul Begum

nstigated the DB police to teach Rubel a good lesson. The court sentenced SI Haiyatul

had the luck denied Belgium when

mate's goal-a-game record with a left

foot strike from inside the area three

minutes from time after a superb

approach run and cross from substi-

tute Kleberson who had only been on

is going to be a final," said Ronaldo,

who to all intents and purposes missed the last World Cup final even

3-0 and Ronaldo, taken ill before the

final with either real or imaginary

demons, is only now returning to

anything like the form of the mid-

1990s when he was the best player in

England in what is likely to be one of

the most memorable matches of the

England in the World Cup -- in 1958,

1962 and 1970 -- they have gone on

consider. When they last met

in the first round with a goal from

So Brazil advance to face

Every time Brazil have met

though he was there physically.

"The Cup starts now, every match

France, of course, won that match

Ronaldo matched his team

they put the ball in the net

for a few minutes.

the world.

entire tournament.

Mukul, Syed Rezaur rahman, Mahbub Ahmed, Mosarraf Hossain Kaiol. Sheikh baharul Islam. Shamim Ahsan, Gias Uddin and

witnesses

gave the verdict.

Islam Thakur to an additional three Ehsanul Haq Samaji appeared for years' rigorous imprisonment on the accused

Brazil brave Belgium Jairzinho, still the only player to score

in every match in a tournament. Ronaldo and Rivaldo have both scored in every game so far. Both could yet match Jairzinho's unique achievement.

The England defence -- which has not conceded a goal for three matches now -- will not be able to let their concentration slip for a second Brazil's defence needs to improve to nullify the likes of Michael Owen and Emile Heskey. Perhaps a classic encounter is about

to unfold in Shizuoka on Friday.

TEAMS

Brazil: Marcos, Cafu, Lucio, Roque Junior. Edmilson. Carlos, Gilberto. Juninho Paulista (Denilson 57) Rivaldo (Ricardinho 90), Ronaldinho (Kleberson 81), Ronaldo **Booked:** Carlos

Goals: Rivaldo 67, Ronaldo 87 Belgium: De Vlieger, Van Kerckhoven, Van Buyten, Peeters (Sonck 73), Simons, Wilmots, Goor, Verheyen, Vanderhaeghe, Walem,

to win the trophy.

Here's another omen for them to Booked: Vanderhaeghe Attendance: 40.440 England 32 years ago they won 1-0 Referee: P Prendergast (Jamaica)

USA fly new high

Midfielder and skipper Claudio

Reyna saluted his side.
"We beat Mexico 2-0 at the World Cup. That says a lot about us. It's great to be the captain of a team which has come this far," said the

in the group phase in France four years ago and were 4-2 winners in a friendly in March, but Reyna said he "If we can get an early break and play as solid as this we can match

Germany beat the Americans 2-0

hem." he added. Scorer Donovan was ecstatic. "It's a great moment for all of us We are going to savour this, it's said the 20-year-old from

San Jose Earthquakes. Mexican coach Javier Aquirre said his team had been unsettled by the Americans' hustling style of play. "We conceded the goals at the worst times. They didn't want to play

and they didn't let us play our game, said Aquirre. The United States took the lead in heir first attack. Captain Claudio Reyna raced to Cuauhtemoc Blanco and then

the byline and found Josh Wolff who pulled the ball back for McBride to fire past Mexican goalkeeper Oscar Perez after eight minutes

The second was created in the second-half by Eddie Lewis who roared down the left wing and crossed to Donovan, sprinting into the area to nod home. Two goals down after 65 minutes.

Mexico were increasingly frustrated at their inability to beat veteran American goalkeeper Brad Friedel. That frustration boiled over when captain Rafael Marquez was sent off

for headbutting Cobi Jones in an

aerial challenge. As Mexico pushed early in the second half, Friedel palmed a Braulio Luna free-kick on to crossbar and no Mexican player was able to poke the ball home from the resulting corner.

Mexico appealed in vain for a penalty when John O'Brien used a fist to prevent the ball reaching Blanco's head and Aguirre was furious. "There were a few refereeing

Friedel was a giant as he denied

decisions which went against us - but I don't want to go into that," he added.

Gerardo Torrado.

After half an hour, Mexico injected new urgency into their attack by replacing Morales with all-time leading scorer Luis Hernandez - but his main contribution was a booking for a blatant dive.

The match deteriorated into a succession of niggling fouls and yellow cards, culminating in the sending-off of Marquez. TEAMS

Mexico: Perez, Marquez, Carmona

Vidrio (Mercado 46), Torrado (Garcia Aspe 78). Morales (Hernandez 28) Luna, Rodriguez, Arellano, Borguetti Blanco Sent Off: Marquez (88)

Booked: Vidrio, Hernandez, Blanco, Carmona. USA: Friedel, Berhalter, Sanneh,

Berhalter, Friedel

Pope, Mastroeni (Llamosa 90). O'Brien, Lewis, Reyna, Wolff (Stewart 59), McBride (Jones 79), Donovan Goals: McBride 8, Donovan 65

Referee: V M Pereira (Portugal)

Booked: Pope, Mastroeni, Wolff,

Judiciary separation

But the Awami League, the caretaker and the BNP governments already rescheduled the deadline

The caretaker government finished the preparation for the virtual separation of the judiciary and was about to announce it in early October, but after the last parliamentary election, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia asked the caretaker government to leave the

issue with the political government.
Afterwards, the BNP formed a cabinet committee that held as many as nine meetings on the issue.

The stage was all set for implementation of the directives, but the government once again sought a reschedule of the deadline due to the opposition by the BCS administration cadre.

Back in time, the administration cadre had dealt with both the executive and the judiciary from the British period until the Pakistan period.

Constitution shed this colonial tradition and placed higher and lower judiciaries instead. Both civil and criminal cases are since being dealt with under the Supreme Court. The fourth constitutional amendment hurt the independence of the judiciary, as everything was brought

The 1972 Bangladesh

under the president. But later, expresident Ziaur Rahman restored the participation of the Supreme Court through a consultative process, which is still a constitutional Mostafa Kamal said. "The entire position of the subordinate courts

came under comprehensive interpretation, analysis and order from the highest judiciary.' Of the 12 directives, most are declaratory in nature, meaning they take effect immediately from the

stitution, explained the former chief One of the directives -- the financial independence of the Supreme Court -- already took effect. The three major directives that remained unimplemented are -- (1) the constitution of a separate judicial service commission, (2) judicial paycommission, and (3) the judicial

date of its incorporation in the con-

service of Bangladesh. He said, referring to newspaper reports, that though the government has finalised the draft of rules for the judicial service and pay commission, the administration cadre stood in the way of establishing a unified udicial service.

"I believe the (1999) judgement of the Appellate Division makes no goals about it. There is a constitutional bar to allowing the administration to take part in judicial work. That branch clearly belongs to the judicial wing of the state in which the administration itself is sometimes the complainant, informant, or accused "said Mostafa Kamal

government must be, in any case, purged out of the judicial service for which a minimum of two years can be allowed for smooth transition, he To implement the decisions by

the highest court, it may not be

The administration wing of the

necessary to constitute a cabinet committee at all, depending on the nature of the decisions, he felt. "But since our decisions implied a thorough shakeup in the administration and a recasting of the administrative and the judicial wing of the country, perhaps a cabinet committee was considered to be a legiti-

mate step to examine the details

and consequences of these deci-

sions," Mostafa Kamal observed. The second part of the decisions

JS body

FROM PAGE 12 would discuss the bill in his parliamentary group shortly, meeting sources said.

Abu Yusuf Khalilur Rahman, Col. (retd)Shawkat Ali, AKM Jahangir Hossain, Abu Hena, Sardar Shakhawat Hossain Bakul, Nazir Hossain and Abdus Sobhan attended vesterday's meeting. The bill, placed in the House on

April 4, considers publication of secret decisions, reports, documents or proceedings of the parliament as punishable offences. As the bill defines persons other than MPs and parliament secretar-

iat officials as 'stranger', the parlia-

ment or the Speaker, under this Act, may expel any working journalists from parliament any time. It proposes empowerment of the House and its Speaker as 'magistrate' to summon any one and issue warrant of arrest against the offend-

According to provisions of the bill, the Speaker, with the approval of the House, will have the authority to award punishment including jai term and fine to the offenders.

The bill suggests that in the warrant of precedence of the state, an MP would enjoy the status of a Supreme Court judge and he/she would be entitled to a flag inscribed with the monogram of the parliament. The flag would be used in the car and the house of the lawmaker and none should disregard it, the bill

The proposed legislation gives lawmakers immunity to criminal charges and has empowered the Speaker to punish 'strangers' in parliament for 'misconduct' as defined by it. The bill says defamatory com-

offences.

ments about the President, Speaker, Supreme Court judges or MPs in the House or at the meeting of a parliamentary committee, or a subjudice matter are punishable

is whether it was necessary to review the judgment. Every litigant including the government, has an option for the review of a judgment by the appellate division, provided a

litigant can make out a case for "Our judgment was reviewed at the instance of the government on two points only. These points mainly focus on the constitution of a separate judicial service commission and constitution of a separate judicial pay commission. The government

the Appellate Division." The judgment by the appellate division on those two points became mandatory for the government. Since the review on other points was not allowed, there is no escape from the other ten points decided on by the appellate division, he pointed

lost the review case subsequently in

Commenting on the demands of the BCS administration cadre, he noted that since he has not seen the copy of the demands placed before the cabinet committee, he should not comment.

"The spirit of the judgment is (that) the administration will dissociate itself from judicial work completely and the judicial service will be a distinct branch of the government -- judging both the parliament and the executive. We have interpreted Article 35(3) of the constitution which says every person accused of a criminal offence shall have the right to a speedy and public trial by an independent and impartial court of tribunal established by the

"We have interpreted the word 'independent' to mean a structurally, organically and institutionally independent organ of the state. If the administration cadre is vested with the work of public trial of a person accused of a criminal offence, then this is a violation of the fundamenta right of the citizen.

the Article 35(3) of the constitution remain as a decorative piece in the constitution, flouted by the govern-

"We did not discuss in our judgment the position of the BCS administration on the dispensation of criminal justice and we did not indicate in the judgment whether the administration cadre will be absorbed in the judicial service. This question was not a frontal question before the court and therefore we

exercise The subordinate judiciary placed under the control of the executive for 250 years will not have a flying start,

the former chief justice said. "People will have to wait for the result. The Supreme Court will have to gear up its existing machinery of control and supervision of the subordinate courts including the magistracy. It all depends on how honestly the subordinate courts, the magistracy and the Supreme Court play their respective role in a fair,

Housing proposed for journalists, artistes and

Ministry of Housing and Public Works has initiated a proposal for building a housing project for journalists, artistes and litterateurs considering their contribution to the development of literacy, culture, heritage and politics.

State Minister for Housing and Public Works Alamgir Kabir took the initiative for earmarking a housing area for journalists, artistes and litterateurs on the land of National Housing Authority at Mirpur. He wrote a letter to the prime

regard coinciding with the observance of Black Day on June 16 by journalists marking the closure of al

He said all newspapers except four dailies were closed down on June 16 in 1975 and the journalist community have been observing the day as a Black Day since then. "I remember the journalists involved in this noble profession on this day," he

Matir Moina

Wars" and Woody Allen's "Hollywood Ending". In response to its soaring popu-

the soundtrack of "Matir Moina". The CD sells at theatres that are

screening the film, as well as in major music stores in France, the press release added.

If the administration continues to do what it used to do for 250 years,

ment, he said. "We wanted to keep a real meanng to the word 'independent'. I think e whole country is bound by the

did not indulge in a hypothetical

honest, transparent, efficient and speedy dispensation of justice.'

litterateurs

BSS, Dhaka

minister with an appeal to issue necessary directives to the Ministry of Housing and Public Works in this

newspapers excepting four. The state minister, in his appeal said journalists, artistes and litterateurs are part of democratic force and contributed a lot to all the democratic movements of the country and for the freedom of newspaper indus-

is going to enter the fifth, standing

out of large commercial releases such as the latest episode of "Star

larity, the French distributor of the film has released an audio CD on