

Social Welfare

class V.

said

paper they require is not ordinary.

is thick and expensive," explained

an official of the Directorate of

project manager, claimed that all books except arithmetic books are

being supplied to students up to

"We supply all textbooks --Bangla, English, Science and

Sociology for students but we don't

have the capacity to print arithmetic

textbooks for technical reasons," he

problems in the printing procedure,

for instance, in Science books there

are numerous tables, which cannot

be printed, making these texts

Directorate of Social Welfare, Abu

Taher, when contacted, claimed that

the government has been supplying

have a smooth supply of textbooks

for students up to class V but unfor-

tunately the printing press is not yet

ready to print textbooks for students

textbooks to blind students.

A concerned official in the

practically incomplete.

from classes VI to VIII."

UNB, Dhaka

corruption case.

Tofail granted

anticipatory bail

in corruption case

Former Industries Minister Tofail

Ahmed was vesterday granted

anticipatory bail for 2 months or till

the submission of charge sheet in a

A division bench of the High

Court comprising Justice MA Aziz

and Justice Momtazuddin Ahmed

granted the bail when Tofail

appeared before the court with the

bail petition. The petition was

Roy added "there are a lot of

Contacted, Anil Kumar Roy, the

EU's no to embargo on The untouchables Blind to books illegal immigration

AFP, Seville

European Union leaders agreed yesterday not to slap sanctions on poor countries as part of a plan to step up measures to combat illegal immigration, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said.

"We have reached a very balanced solution that clearly indicates that we want to limit and to channel immigration." Schroeder told a press conference. "You know, and I am not

ashamed of it, that I would have liked to go further in the way of sanctions. But it was not do-able."

Spain, which passes the EU presidency to Denmark on July 1, and Britain had hoped to propose sanctions against poor countries that fail to cooperate with Europe on

curbing illegal immigration. But they were forced to back down yesterday in the face of resistance led by re-elected French President Jacques Chirac, who argued that FU development aid was better used as a carrot, not as a stick.

Several other countries joined France and Sweden in criticising the notion of sanctions -- notably Portugal, Belgium and Luxembourg.

Wrapping up a two-day summit in Seville that was shaken by a string of bomb attacks in other parts of Spain, the leaders also reaffirmed that the European Union's planned 2004 enlargement into eastern Europe was firmly on track.

This common aim can be realized within the timeframe envisaged only if each candidate country adopts a realistic and constructive approach" in the final stages of accession talks, a draft version of

the summit conclusions said. Discussions were delayed vesterday by more than an hour as

the leaders took in the World Cup quarter-final match between South Korea and Spain.

And Seville was bracing for tens of thousands of demonstrators expected on the streets in the evening, at the tail end of the summit. Their three-hour march, organ

ised by a coalition of groups called the Seville Social Forum, was to set off at 8:00pm (1800 GMT) and be followed by a "concert against globalisation" into the early hours of today.

Mymensingh Illegal immigration was the **REUTERS**, Dhaka dominant issue for the EU leaders who met beneath the mosque-like Monsoon floods, caused by heavy

llegal immigration.

Floods kill 3, maroon

The officials said 100 people

were also injured when over 300

mud houses collapsed in the floods

that destroved roads and communi-

cations in the Mymensingh and

"Some 500 people were also evacuated to 20 shelters," Manirul

Islam, deputy commissioner of

Rangpur, told this news agency by

had been marooned in Rangpur

rate if the rains continue," he said.

the Mymensingh district where

150,000 people had also been

marooned, officials at Mymensingh

Meteorologists forecast more

rain and gusty winds of up to 50

kilometres per hour over the country

n the next 24 hours due to a persis

tent monsoon low over the Bay of

vehicles fled the scene soon after

He said nearly 50,000 people

The three children were killed in

"The situation may deterio-

Rangpur districts.

telephone

district.

2 lakhs in Rangpur,

dome of the Seville convention rains, have killed three children, centre -- an architectural reminder damaged hundreds of houses and the eight centuries, until 1492, marooned some 200,000 people in when Muslims ruled much of Spain. northern Bangladesh over the last Set to be endorsed was a prothree days, officials said yesterday. posal to create "without delay" a

body that would bring together the chiefs of the 15 EU member states' border police services. Diplomats say it could serve as

the embryo of a single European border police, but not for many years yet. The leaders were also to agree

-- To review by year-end the list of countries whose citizens need visas to enter the European Union.

-- To launch a "common identification system for visa data" based on a feasibility study to be presented in March next year. -- To speed up the conclusion of

agreements with third countries on the speedy repatriation of illegal immigrants. - Adoption by the end of this year

of a program to send Afghan refugees back home, now that peace has returned to their nation. -- Formal adoption at the next EU interior ministers' meeting of legisla-

Bengal and the central part of the country. tion that would tighten up penalties for persons involved in smuggling foreigners into Europe. 14 killed

FROM PAGE 12 brother of his, Josef, is serving a prison term.

Accused in three cases with the Gulshan Police Station on charges Spain, which passes the EU of murders and other criminal presidency to Denmark on July 1, cases, Syed Imam Hossain left the and Britain wanted to go a step country recently to avoid arrest. He further by proposing sanctions was the former JCD leader of against poor countries that fail to Titumir College and had ties with cooperate with Europe on curbing influential ruling party leaders.

Prokash Kumar Biswas accused in an arms case with the Mirpur Police Station, is also out of the country. He is the brother of Bikash, a notorious criminal, and rival of Kala Jahangir.

Jobber Munna, accused in nine cases with the Tejgaon Police Station on charges of murder, robbery and other criminal offences, is hiding in Keraniganj. He was a Jubo Dal leader and close associate of Hiron, an infamous name in the transport sector.

Munna had been staying with Titon, another criminal, at a rental house in the Cantonment before the latter's arrest

Abbas alias Killer Abbas, accused in 10 cases with Kafrul, Kotwali and Cantonment police stations in connection with murder and other criminal conduct, is hiding at Kafrul. Arman. accused in three cases with the Ramna Police Station in connection with violent crime and possession of arms, at present stays in Eskaton. He is a close associate of Jubo League leader Liakot

Mollah Masud, accused in nine cases with the Ramna Police Station which include ones filed under the Public Safety Act, murder and other criminal activities, is staying abroad. Educated in a madrassah, Masud is a close associate of Trimuti Subrata Bain, another notorious gangster. Mosiur Rahman Kochi is an

For Spain, it was another misera-

ble end to a World Cup campaign

that had promised so much. Spain

have never finished higher than

fourth, back in 1950, and they have

now lost in the guarter-finals on four

absent because of a groin injury

they looked toothless in attack,

although they still created the better

With their leading forward Raul

The South Korean fans packing

the stands had been relatively

subdued as the game neared its

occasions.

chances.

Pride of Asia

accused in 19 cases including one the USA for murder, was gunned down at the

court premises on June 29. 1999. Trimuti Subrata Bain, accused in 17 cases with the Ramna Police Station. left the country after the murder of 'Seven Star' gang leader Chanchal. Born a Christian, he adopted Islam after his first wife left him. He married a Muslim girl and changed his name to Fateh Ali. He formed a gang named 'Seven Star with the help of Moallah Masud, Tikka, Joy, Chanchal and Babu.

Immamul Hossain alias Helal and Picchi Helal, accused in seven cases with Mohammadpur and Ramna police stations in connection with murder and other criminal activities, has also left the country. Before his departure he was staying at Asad Avenue in Mohammadpur. Mohammad Alauddin, accused

in 11 cases with the Tejgaon Police Station in connection with murder and other crimes, is staving at Tejgaon. He ran in the last DCC election for a post of ward commissioner. Mohammad Hannan alias Pichhi

Hannan, accused in 11 cases with the Tejgaon Police Station, is hiding at Joydevpur. According to sources, Liakot Hossain and his brother Hannan, a

former general secretary of Siddeswari College students' union, were both accused in a case with the Motijheel Police Station. They are now hiding in Keraniganj.

Aga Shamim, another most wanted criminal and booked in three cases with the Kotwali Police Station, has left the country for Sweden along with his family mem-

bers Jafar Ahmed Manik, charged by Motijheel and Sabujbagh police stations on charges of murders and other criminal activities, has also left the country.

accused in 14 cases with Sagar alias Amin Sagar and Cantonment and Kafrul police Tokai Sagar, an accused in seven stations under the Arms Act and cases with Cantonment, Kotwal Explosive Substances Act. He is and Ramna police stations under hiding at Ibrahimpur. His brother the Explosive Substances Act and Ataur Rahman alias Azad, who was other criminals activities, is now in

Meanwhile, the Detective Branch of Police claimed to have arrested Khorshed Alam alias Rasu from Dhanmondi Club in the city on May 28. Rasu, a gang leader dominating the Moghbazar-Siddheswari area, is accused in two cases with the Ramna Police Station.

The detectives also arrested Khandaker Naim Ahmed alias Titon from his rental house in the Cantonment area on June 12. Titon has been accused in five cases with Dhanmondi and Hazaribagh police stations in connection with murder and other criminal offences.

Kamal Pasha alias Pasha, with notoriety as a professional killer, was handed over to the Mohammadpur Police Station by his father on May 20.

Sony's death FROM PAGE 12

Report of the committee, headed by Vice Chancellor of the National University Prof Abdul Momin Chowdhury, is based on discussions and interviews with BUET authorities, students, police and others

Thanking the committee for its work, the Prime Minister reiterated her assurance to nab those involved in the shootout

Sources in Prime Minister's Office said that the committee had tried to identify those responsible for the death of Sonv and made certain recommendations to check recurrence of such incident.

The government will examine the report and take steps in line with the recommendations, the sources added

Khaleda had earlier assured Sony's parents that those found guilty of killing their daughter would not be spared.

Others on the inquiry committee are Additional Secretary of the Education Ministry Mohammad Abdur Rashid Khan and Deputy Secretary Sheikh AK Motahar Hossain.

The visually impaired people use

the Braille system for reading and writing. Created by a 15-year-old blind French boy named Louis Braille. The basic Braille symbol is called the Braille cell and consists of six dots arranged in the formation of a rectangle, three dots high and two across. The dots are arranged to make up the alphabet, numbers and

punctuation marks and used for tactile reading and writing. In 1991, the Ministry of Social Welfare initiated a project titled Braille Press and Artificial Limb Centre (BPALC). Part of this project was to print around 60,000 textbooks in Braille each year for the

schools In 1995, the government purchased a computer for printing Braille texts but it had no Bangla software. It took another five years before the software was made available for printing Bangla textbooks.

The Tk 50 lakh machine set up on the first floor of the National Blind Training and Rehabilitation Centre n Tongi, Gazipur, was tested in 1995 but it did not start printing until late 2000.

"Our students studying from class I to VI virtually do not get any textbooks for their education from the government although a very limited number of textbooks recently printed on a 'trial basis' were supolied here," said one of the teachers.

"Due to this problem many students have given up attending schools," another teacher said. requesting anonymity. "From the very beginning of the establishment of the institution, we have not been supplied with textbooks and we have a very scanty attendance for this reason.

However, many institutions are getting their textbooks from a number of NGOs working with the visually impaired, although students complained of the supplies being rregular and often insufficient.

moved by Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmood on behalf of Tofail. The schools are not given an The Bureau of Anti-corruption adequate supply of paper for writ-ing. "There is no provision for sup-Bhola. in a case accused the former minister of misappropriation of plying paper to students. We have a public funds in collaboration with imited supply of paper, which is some officials. used only for printing. The type of

FROM PAGE 1 Turks tame Lions when a Dhaka-bound coach collided head-on with a truck coming from Dinajpur near Boikhola ir Basail upazila. Drivers and helpers of both

FROM PAGE 12

El-Hadji Diouf said. "We knew we would have to stop one day or another but that does not make it any less of a shame.

"Tonight it might have gone either way but the luck was on Turkey's side tonight and we wish them well for the rest of the tournament."

Henri Camara had almost snatched victory for Senegal in the final moments of regulation time when his powerful low shot was well saved by Rustu Recber.

But the Africans were always chasing the game against their wellorganised and more experienced opponents.

Turkey had the lion's share of the second half attacks, with the runs of Diouf Bayer Leverkusen midfielder Yildiray Basturk and Inter Milan's Emre Belozoglu streching the Senegalese defence who were

TEAMS Booked: Daf. Diouf

(Mansiz 67), Sas Booked: Emre, Mansiz Attendance: 44,233 Referee: O Ruiz (Columbia)

headed past Senegal goalkeepe Tony Sylva. The ball trickled agonisingly close to the line before the lunging Omar Daf swept it clear.

Senegal had enjoyed a brief Station. period of dominance early in the opening period and might have scored had Henri Camara not got in the way of Diouf's shot. Camara managed to turn and get a shot in but his effort was disallowed because he had been offside on the initial shot. Had he just let the ball go through his legs, the goal may well

have been realised.

Senegal: Sylva, Coly, Diatta, Cisse, Daf. Camara, Papa Bouba Diop Pape Malick Diop. Diao. Fadiga

have stood and Africa's dream might

Turkey: Rustu, Korkmaz, Akvel. Alpay, Ergun, Davala, Basturk. referring to the constitutional provi-Tugay, Emre (Erdem 91), Sukur sions. Terming the move a bad precedence, she said it would be ominous for the future of democracy in the country. She viewed it as a result of

Police seized the vehicles and filed a case with the Basail Police Germany.

Hasına FROM PAGE 1

the accident.

"It is an insult to the nation's highest office and democracy, we feel ashamed of it," the opposition leader said while briefing newsmen at her parliamentary chamber. She termed the move by the ruling party as a clear violation of the constitu-

"By no authority can a parliamentary party take any resolution asking the president to guit his office. It is only at the parliament where a motion can be moved to discharge the president," Hasina, also the former prime minister told reporters,

politicise the state segments.

Hasina recalled some of the activi-

ties of former president, Justice

Shahabuddin Ahmad that harmed

her government and party activities

and said. "we did not take such

ssues because of his neutral role.

Shihab murder

in the process.

partv interests.

FROM PAGE 12

against them.

court on May 19.

against six people.

ing since the incident.

places in the city.

against the accused on May 9.

Shihab, 13, a student of class

seven of Motijheel Model School

front of his school on February 7

witnesses

Rubel,

looked a marginal off-side decision. The players spoke with grim That is a remarkable achieveresignation after the match, though, ment for a nation that had failed to as they tried to come to terms with win a single World Cup match in five defeat. previous appearances at the finals.

like that," said goalkeeper Iker Casillas. "It is just what we expected. For both teams, it was the sec-

ond time running that they had endured extra time, Spain beating Ireland on penalties and South Korea ousting Italy with a golden goal from Ahn Jung-hwan.

Casillas had been his side's hero against Ireland but he could do nothing, although he came within a whisker of saving the first South Korea spot-kick from Hwang Sun-

hong. "Last week I said that penalties

Casillas had been forced into just

A Morientes header gave Spain

their first good chance on 27 min-

utes, goalkeeper Lee Woon-jae

clutching the ball gratefully just

South Korea were getting

nowhere, as Ivan Helguera and

Ruben Baraja created a formidable

barrier in front of the defence and

Spain gradually took control of the

de Pedro flashed a left-foot shot just

wide from 20 metres and in injury

time Fernando Hierro rose highest

lead four minutes into the second

Spain thought they had taken the

in a crowded area to head over.

With halftime approaching, Javi

one real save in the match, when he

beat away a snap shot from Park Ji-

shrugged.

sung on 67 minutes.

under his crossbar.

game

Formidable barrier

half. De Pedro's free kick cross went in after hitting the back of Kim Taeyoung as a group of players went up for a header but the goal was disallowed, apparently for off-side.

With both teams tiring, the match went into extra time and only two minutes into it, Morientes thought he had sent Spain into the semi-finals.

Instead, the game went to penalties and the first seven were confidently converted before Joaquin's weak strike was saved by Lee Woon-iae diving to his left.

Victory for Hiddink's side over Germany would take them through to the Yokohama final on June 30. Brazil will play either Turkey or Senegal in the other semi-final. To get there they will almost certainly have to play better than they did on Saturday, although Hiddink was in are a lottery and today I just couldn't no rush to get to work on his prepastop any of them," Casillas ration.

ROK float in fairyland 'Death threat'

From Page 1 The state minister said that the filing of the GD (No. 632) got delayed by some days due to pressure of official responsibilities.

Babar said he is verv much perturbed by the threat and he filed the GD so that the authorities could take legal action should anything happen in the future.

According to a highly placed home ministry source, Nurul Islam Babul had a strained relationship with Babar as the state minister strongly opposed giving licence for manufacturing liquor and mobilised opinion in the cabinet to cancel the

permission. The source added that the liquor licence was issued to Jamuna Distillerv in a secret manner, defying the opinion of the officials concerned who processed the applica-

The prime minister then asked both Altaf and Babar to see her with all the documents relating to the licence on June 5, according to

sources. After examining the files, the prime minister held the home minister responsible for issuing the licence and reprimanded him for

taking such a sensitive decision al on his own. She then advised Altaf to examine the legal aspects of cancelling

the licence. She also asked the home secre tary to take immediate steps to cancel the licence after she came to know that Babar was threatened by Babul. Later, the licence was

cancelled. A close aide of Babar said Nurul Islam Babul of the Jamuna Group

"We knew the referee would be

Basturk, one of the Turks' German-born players, rounded Papa Malick Diop but curled a shot wide and when he was later released on the right he overhit a cross which floated across the entire goalmouth.

visibly flagging.

Turkey could have had the game wrapped up by half-time if they had been more clinical in front of goal and it was their captain Hakan Sukur who was the biggest culprit.

The Parma striker, who was substitued with more than 20 minutes remaining, should have put Turkey ahead in the 27th minute after a breakaway move that finished with Hasan Sas squaring the ball to him just outside the six-yard box. Unmarked and with nothing more to do than sidefoot the ball into the net, Sukur allowed it to slip under his foot and away to safety.

Sukur spurned two more chances before Yildirav Basturk ran on to Sas's lob into the box and

Saifur faces resistance

FROM PAGE 12

Dr Yunus mentioned that the trouble-ridden Chittagong port is harming the national economy. 'Chittagong port is the noose which is tightening around our neck. It is going to kill us, if we cannot get ourselves out of it."

He suggested opening up the borders for neighbours on a reciprocal basis and building port facilities and road network, also keeping in view serving the neighbours eastern India. Nepal and Myanmar "We can bring prosperity to ourselves faster only if we are willing to share it with our neighbours," he stressed.

Syeduzzaman said transparency, not participation of all. is more important in the process of preparing the national document for poverty reduction. He also stressed gradual reduction of about Tk 3500 crore annual losses of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) and a strategy to invest those in a better way.

Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud reminded that the poverty reduction strategy must not fall in "donors trap." He went on. "We should set our own target and not follow the donors' prototype model as that will not work.

About the poverty reduction strategy, Prof Mahmud asked all concerned to be farsighted. "Our problem is unique. Scarce land is our major problem due to scattered develop-



sation of the BNP chairperson's election office at Banani, they said. In his reaction, Tareg said, "I tried

to carry out, with all my dedication any assignment the party gave me.' He said he would try his best to discharge the new responsibility thrust upon him

"I am grateful to the party leaders and workers for their unstinted love, support and cooperation in carrying out the responsibilities the party had given me during the last election campaign, before and afterwards. he said.

He said he looked forward to working for the party with dedication

and commitment. Justice Shahabuddin Ahmad, Hasina said that her government had appointed a neutral person in the presidency and the BNP had the opportunity to go to him on many

ment of housing and unplanned road network. Twenty years from now, there might not be any land, we will only see roads and houses. So, how best we

can utilise our land should be planned from now. He also said growth is not the only way to reduce poverty. "We should not focus only on income growth. Our major focus should be

on social sector development," Prof Mahmud noted.

Doctor days FROM PAGE 1

He repeated some of his comments made to the press the previous day, following his resignation.

In one of his remarks, the disheartened president said he treated a lot of patients all his life but unfortunately none of them stood beside him at the time of his 'grave distress' denoting political leaders and party colleagues. He said he accepted this as a part of life and will continue to dedicate the rest of his life for the care and treatment of patients both at home and abroad The former president intends to

travel to a few countries and see patients there free of cost. The telephone at his residence

and North Goran areas after 53 was fully restored yesterday after days of the incident. being inoperative the previous day.

conclusion and the atmosphere was not quite as intense as in the side's previous victories over Portugal and Italy

the ruling BNP's all out efforts to The supporters, who had created a huge mosaic at one end of the She said there are certain constiground proclaiming the side to be tutional provisions to remove the 'the pride of Asia", exploded into life, president form the presidency and though, when Hong crashed his none of the provisions were applied penalty into the roof of the net.

"These fans are fantastic, with-The moment a person becomes out any violence, so I am so happy president, he is of the state and not for them," South Korea's Dutch of any party. The people do not coach Guus Hiddink, "More dreams expect him to act in a partisan have come true

manner," said Hasina adding that Hiddink, who had three separate none can use the presidency for coaching spells in Spain, consoled During the hour-long briefing, the Spanish players before celebrating his own side's victory.

> Match officials were surrounded by furious Spanish players at the end of the game in scenes that threatened to turn ugly.

decisions despite his (Shahabuddin's) harmful acts." Fovotian referee Gamal Ghandour had also disallowed a Referring to former president Spanish goal in normal time for what

Iran quake kills 500

FROM PAGE 1

ince, Central province, the northern Gilan and Ardebil provinces and the western Zanjan and Kordestan provinces, state television said "Inhabitants in the affected areas

Earlier, the court recorded stateare horrified." IRNA said.

ments of 28 out of 33 prosecution State television broadcast the first images of the affected areas The trial of the case began at the Saturday afternoon, showing dustcovered inhabitants in the Avaj DB Inspector Nazrul Islam district of Bouynzahra. The resisubmitted the charge sheet to the dents were crying and kneeling on CMM's court, Dhaka on April 18 the ruins of their houses.

Most footage showed buildings The court framed charges and homes which had been entirely destroyed, with personal belong The accused are Monir Hossain ings strewn amid the rubble.

Liton, Abu Syed, Mahbubul Haq It also broadcast images of ruins Faisal Sharif Raju, Imran in the western Hamedan province, Hossain Sabuj and Nasim Sheikh. where three people were said to have been killed and more than 100 Of them, Liton and Syed were others injured. arrested and later sent to jail hajat The four others have been abscond-

An official at Iran's seismological nstitute, who asked not to be identified, said province officials were being warned about the threat of more aftershocks.

and College, was abducted from in He added that "we have called on them to evacuate inhabitants in The abductors killed Shihab the areas most at risk from suffering. same day, slashed his body into further quakes. pieces and dumped those at several

For its part, IRNA quoted an official as saying "aftershocks of DB police recovered the decom-Saturday's quake will be felt for the posed parts of the victim's body from coming two weeks." three places in the city's Bashabo

Ten villages in Razan and three villages in Kabutarahang, both districts of Hamedan province,

"We'll have a little glass of champagne now and what comes tomorrow comes tomorrow." Hiddink said.

TEAMS

Spain: Casillas, Puyol, Nadal, Hierro, Romero, Joaquin, Helguera (Xavi 93), Baraja, De Pedro (Mendieta 70), Valeron (Luis Enrique 80), Morientes Booked: De Pedro, Morientes

South Korea: Woon-Jae Lee, Jin-Cheul Choi, Hong, Tae-Young Kim (Hwang 90), Yoo (Chun-Soo Lee 60), Park, Yong-Pyo Lee, Song Nam-II Kim (Eul-Young Lee 32) Seol Ahn

Booked: Yoo Attendance: 42,114. Referee: G Ghandour (Egypt)

FROM PAGE 12

tion. And all this was done while Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was in the USA for treatment. Another official said the Babar held up the file for about a fortnight

on the ground that senior ministers and the prime minister should be consulted first because of the possible repercussion from various quarters.

But Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury reportedly took the file from him and unilaterally gave the approval to the Jamuna Distillery allegedly violating all rules and procedures.

The source said two other ministers were also involved in the approval of the licence and that there might be some underhand dealings in the whole affair.

Sources said after the prime minister came to know about the licence she discussed the issue with some senior ministers all of whom disapproved of the permission to produce liquor.

had a two-hour long conversation with Babar over telephone before the state minister met the prime minister. It was during this conversation that he allegedly threatened to kill the state minister.

The aide further said Babul allegedly claimed himself as the third richest man in the country.

BNP sources said the conflict between Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury and his deputy Lutfozzaman Babar has taken a serious turn over the liquor licence ssue

Talking to The Daily Star, a senior minister yesterday said the licence to manufacture liquor was given without assessing the socio-political aspects. He said since the BNP shares power with the Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote, the home minister should have con-

sulted with the cabinet prior to

issuing the licence.

India president

FROM PAGE 12

president and the prime minister. But does harmonious relationship mean that the president should be a 'yes man' of the political dispensation? Does it imply that the president should always follow in words and deeds what the political government asks him or expects him to do? While none wants a constant tug

of war between the president and the political government, is the president not entitled to have his own views?

For almost four and a half decades since independence, the Congress party would choose a presidential candidate and ensure his victory on a consensus or in an election. So overwhelming was Congress majority in both houses of parliament and in legislatures in . almost all states.

But gone are those days. Electoral verdict in parliamentary elections as well as in state legislature polls and coalition governments now ensure that the largest party in an alliance is not in a position to make its allies as well as the opposition to go by its choice for the post of president.

In the early fifties, a difference of opinion cropped up between the then president Rajendra Prasad and prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru on the Hindu code bill

Radhakrishnan worked with three prime ministers -- Nehru, Lal Bhadur Shastri and Indira Gandhi --

Awami League lawmaker Kamal Ahmed Majumdar and two others with Pallabi thana in the city on In the case, she had alleged that

Janakantha editor

on December 30 last year, eight men forcibly took her to Kamal's office at Pallabi where he tried to rape her.

Pallabi police arrested Kamal Ahmed but he got bail from the High Court on January 31.

The woman later filed a complaint case against the six persons Janakantha with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka for printing the news along with her photo and identification on three consecutive days, saying this was against the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000.

The case was registered as a regular case with Ramna thana.

The investigation officer (IO) of the case submitted a charge sheet to the CMM's court on Thursday. The case was sent to the special court the same day.

Water plant FROM PAGE 12

the sources said.

Another project with a capacity to supply 45 crore litres by purifying the Padma water is also under consideration, the WASA chairman said. The plant is likely to be set up at Pagla in the city.

but there were no differences, at least publicly, during most of his tenure To ensure that the president is

not a rubber stamp, the constitution was amended to empower him to refer matters back to the cabinet. Jail Singh had exercised the power when he returned the postal bill. Jail Singh's tiff with the then prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi is well known. K R Narayanan also used his

power to ask the cabinet to reconsider its decision in 1998. He had then asked the government of prime minister Atal Behari Vajpayee to reconsider the cabinet decision to dismiss a democratically-elected government of Rashtriva Janata Dal ed by Laloo Prasad Yadav in Bihar.

President Narayanan, during his five-year tenure, did not shy away from making veiled criticism of Vajpayee government's policies and suggested correctives. But it was taken by the political dispensation in the right spirit and there was no confrontation between them.

The post of Indian president has become more crucial with the advent of coalition politics and demise of one party's rule. It is the president who has to assess if a party or a group of parties has enough strength in parliament so that they can be invited to form government after general elections.

"to find out what was going on" and President Mohammad Khatami

the nation, has called on officials to "cooperate with each other in order to be able to provide swift help to the victims," state radio said.

Iran is one of the most quake prone regions in the world, with almost daily tremors.

The extent of damages are often ncreased by the weak structure of buildings, while relief efforts are generally hampered by badly built roads

Newspaper reports regularly warn of possible severe earthquakes, whilr academic studies advise officials of the need to take measures to reduce potential damage and increase the effectiveness of relief efforts.

suffered damage of between 50 and 70 per cent. state radio reported. January 1. Relief workers have been sent to the area, with dozens of helicopters en route as well.

The tremor was felt strongly throughout Tehran. Iran's 10-million strong capital, moving furniture and breaking china, especially in the northern residential district of

Farmanieh People went out into the streets

"to be reassured," a building concierge told AFP.

who expressed his condolences to