WB aid

The amount of the credit will depend on the strength of the structural adjustment programme. It could be in the range of \$150-\$200

million. The fund will be released in

one go after approval and there will

fundamentals seem to have been

restored, but structural reforms are

needed to address deep-seated

problems in governance, financial

and export performance, Temple

said the country's GDP growth could

be in the range of 4.3 to 5.3 per cent

situation is now on a favourable

track with a strong revenue mobili-

He also said the overall fiscal

On the basis of agriculture output

sector, energy and infrastructure.

He said the right economic

be no conditions," Temple said.

FROM PAGE 1

Target movie theatres

ROVING CORRESPONDENT. Natore

Cinema halls were the targets of

time on the first floor of the Rosv Cinema Hall in Natore town. Natore police then defused the bomb then but are yet to get any clues to who had planted the explosive device and why

On the same day, two similar bombs were discovered at two other cinemas at Raishahi and Chapainawabganj. Both the cases have so far remained unresolved. On the night of May 1, an explosion in the Kiron Cinema Hall and subsequent stampede left a schoolboy killed and some 25 others injured at Catchkoir in Gurudaspur upazila in

However, the authorities did not investigate the incidents and no measure was taken to avert such

cinema halls is quite a new phenomenon in the country. It needs to be seriously dealt with as some organised groups with a countrywide network are involved in it," a top police official said preferring

enough clues to be identified. Yet

our detectives are trying to find them out," he said.

"Our preliminary findings are that those incidents were preplanned to scare the cinema-goers but we could not reach any conclusion as we have no further information or evidences regarding the incidents." said a senior police official of Raishahi range police.

Faruk Ahmed, officer in charge of the Natore Police Station and investigation officer of the incident of bomb blast at the Rozy Cinema Hall, told this correspondent yesterday that the bomb found in the cinema was powerful but its timer was not working.

"It is clear to us that the perpetrators of the incident had no destructive intention but to scare people," he said.

About the Kiron cinema blast in Gurudaspur, Nazrul Islam, police superintendent of Natore district, said police could not make any headway in the Kiron cinema case as no further information or evidences were available.

On September 28, three people were killed and some others njured in two simultaneous explosions at a cinema hall and a circus show in Satkhira. And the latest incident in Mymensingh claimed 17 lives and injured some 200 per-

After the Mymensingh cinema

Police were trying to find out

The magistrate's court yesterday

The BNP-led four-party alliance

whether any of them had links with

the incidents and produced the

arrestees before the court yester-

placed on remand all the 21 persons

arrested Sunday in connection with

brought out a mourning procession

in the town in the afternoon. Several

hundred activists of the alliance

wearing black badges paraded

Hossain, Environment Minister

Minister Ali Ahsan Mujahid, Naziur

Rahman Moniur of the Jativa Party

and local MP Delwar Hossain Khar

BNP district unit office, the four-

party alliance leaders condemned

the bomb attack and demanded

immediate arrest and punishment to

Another procession under the

banner "We, residents of

Mymensingh, are shocked" was

also brought out in the town to

the afternoon as the four-party

activists used loudspeakers on

Sunday night urging all to join the

mourning procession. Black flags

were hoisted at residences, shops

and other buildings of the town as a

filed four separate cases with the

Kotwali Police Station accusing

unknown persons for the bomb

blasts. Four police officials are

vestigating the cases separately.

bodies were handed over to the

family members for burial, after

autopsy at the Mymensingh Medical

said a place outside was also raided

20 people, according to a list of 80,

including 24 models -- all acquainted

with Tinni and Ovi somehow or

body of Tinni with injury marks from

under the Buriganga Bridge on

November 16. Four days later, the

body was handed over as unclaimed

to the Anjuman Mufidul Islam, a

exhumed the body from the Jurain

graveyard on November 25 for a

second autopsy. Police arrested

Tinni's housemaids Shefali and

Bina, while her husband Shafkat

Hossain Piyal surrendered to

On November 23, police trans-

Keraniganj police recovered the

Police have so far interrogated

Tinni murder

Meanwhile, all the 17 dead

Owners of the four cinema halls

Most shops remained closed in

protest the bomb attack.

mark of grief.

College Hospital.

FROM PAGE 12

those involved in the act of terror

Earlier at a rally in front of the

Dulu joined the rally

Shahjahan Siraj, Social Welfare

Health Minister AKM Mosharra

along different roads of the town.

halls," the police official said.

ay, seeking remand.

the bomb blasts

blast, Rajshahi range police yesterday asked all police stations and police outposts in 16 districts of the region to beef up security at all public places, cinema halls in particular.

From now on the cinema hall owners will be accountable for the security of the cinema viewers, a notice in this regard said. It also said the cinema owners will arrange a thorough search for bombs or other destructive elements inside the halls. Besides, before the start of every show, the hall authorities will certify that there is nothing destructive in the halls Plainclothesmen will be on guard at all important public places, it further said

"We have decided to hold the cinema hall owners responsible for such incidents as it is difficult for police to go for checks at the halls before every show...if they (owners) can certify that their halls are secure, they can run the shows, said Anisur Rahman, police superintendent of Rajshahi district.

Replying to a question, Rahman admitted that it was difficult to launch a 'thorough search for bombs' due to lack of metal detectors. There is only one metal detector at every district headquarters in the region, he informed.



this fiscal.

sation, lower budget deficit, lower domestic financing and higher foreign financing. Despite a strong remittance

growth (32.3 per cent), Temple said such a trend is unlikely to be sustained. "The number of workers seeking employment abroad has been declining in recent years and prospects for quick global recovery continue to be fragile." he added.

SAARC summit put off

and competitive world," he said. SAARC, founded in 1985, has

been nearly ineffectual due to the constant feuding between its two largest members, which have fought three wars since independence from Britain in 1947 and came close to a fourth one over Kashmir

"We are not saying that SAARC is being declared dead, or in a state of coma," Niaz said.

The last SAARC summit was in Kathmandu in January 2002, at which Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf visibly embarrassed Vajpayee by reaching for his hand on the podium and offering "friend-That summit had been delayed

by more than two years by India's refusal to sit with Pakistan following a bloody incursion by Islamabadbacked Islamic militants in the Kargil area of Kashmir in 1999 Pakistan was next in line after

Nepal to host a SAARC summit. It was to be held in January 2003 but no exact dates had been set.

The Pakistani spokesman said it would be "unacceptable" for India to send its foreign minister, Yashwant Sinha, instead of Vajpayee, a possibility floated in the media India has refused any bilateral

talks with Pakistan since a failed summit between Vajpayee and Musharraf in July 2001 in the Taj Mahal city of Agra Indian hawks have been pushing

for a harder line against Pakistan since the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, which made the two South Asian countries strange bedfellows in the international "coalition against terrorism".

The two countries deployed one million troops to their borders after an attack a year ago on India's parliament by gunmen allegedly linked to Pakistan. They announced a pullback in October after aggressive international diplomacy.

Besides Pakistan and India, SAARC includes Bangladesh. Bhutan, the Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Together they represent about one-third of the world's popu-

Vajpayee had charged that Pakistan would try to turn the South Asian summit into a forum on

Kashmir, which "is not a SAARC issue.' He said that instead the fledgling

association, which represents the world's poorest region, should concentrate on economic coopera-SAARC has sought to forge two regional trade pacts, the SAARC

the SAARC Free Trade Agreement, but India-Pakistan differences have hampered progress. The Pakistani spokesman said other SAARC-wide meetings were

Preferential Trade Agreement and

"The idea is to get SAARC back on track as early as possible," Niaz

Parallel to the SAARC dispute, Islamabad and New Delhi are also

at loggerheads on whether the Indian cricket team will go ahead with a tour of Pakistan starting in Musharraf last week urged the

Indians to come and "entertain the public," assuring their security. India rejected the invitation, saying "cricket and cross-border terrorism" could not go together.

Sarwan hits ton But Samuels, while on 91, was

seventh over of the day.

Gayle was first to go after comoleting his ninth half-century, slashng a wide delivery outside the off stump into the safe hands of wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud.

Hinds added two runs to his overnight score of 73 before mistiming an attempted pull to Naimur Rahman at mid-wicket. Slow left-armer Enamul Hoque

then removed Shivnarine Chanderpaul with his second delivery that took the edge of the bat of he left-hander who was playing forward defensively. Chanderpaul scored only four in his first match of the tour after missing the one-day series due to injury on his right palm.

Bangladesh's success however ended at that point as Sarwan and Samuels steadily rebuilt the innings putting on 176 runs for the fourth

The pair were completely at ease against the friendly Bangladesh bowling attack and looked all set to complete their hundreds complementing each other into the nervous

beaten all ends up by a quicker deliver from young paceman Talha Jubair that trapped the 21-year-old Jamaican in front of the wicket Samuels struck 15 boundaries in his polished 175-ball knock. Sarwan though was not ready to

resign until he reached the magical three-figure mark, sneaking a single between slip and gully off Enamul. He clubbed 19 fours in his masterly innings with shots all around the ground before flaying Talha at deep third man where Naimur took a comfortable catch. Talha, who showed some fire

among the Bangladeshi bowlers, was unfortunate not to have his third wicket with the second new ball when umpire David Shepherd turned down a confident lbw appeal against Jacobs

The distinguished English umpire was convinced that the ball hit the bat of Jacobs, then on 4, first hough replays showed otherwise.

(Scoreboard and other stories on

Order: Arrest suspects

The victim was identified as a number of suspects, different intelligence agencies have recently compiled reports that found several AL leaders and some pro-AL inteland professionals were involved in a campaign against the government at home and abroad, they added. Although the final report was

been brought against him All the she ordered the law-enforcement agencies to go slow in taking legal action against them and recheck the

But the recent campaign against Bangladesh by a neighbouring country and the bomb blasts in four for interrogation, the OC said. They cinema halls in Mymensingh have are cashier of the SFL Mushfiqur forced the government to take a rigorous stance on those identified

by the intelligence agencies.
Sources in the Prime Minister's Office said Khaleda on Sunday ordered the authorities concerned was swindled out of the bank tactto take immediate action against the persons involved in the 'antibank officials. Bangladesh campaign and in touch with foreign secret agencies'.

people including 23 wanted crimi-

special security measures after the serial blasts at four movie theatres in Mymensingh on Saturday.

station, T &T exchange and microstops, launch and steamer terminals, Shanbaz gas filed and other places.

searching cinema halls and frisking moviegoers before and after a ferred the case to the CID that show. Mobile teams are patrolling the city roads and highway.

In Khulna, security measures have been stepped up in key installations, our correspondent reports.

the radio station, television centre, Goalpara power station, Khalispur T&T office and shopping centers. Sources said the city has been

put on high alert and security forces have been asked to be on watch round the clock. Our Madaripur correspondent

a drug peddler at Thantali yesterday morning. The team also recovered narcotics from Hafiz Khan's possession.

Later he was handed over to Madaripur Police In Kushtia, the law enforcers arrested a listed criminal in the town, our correspondent reports. Apart

asked the army, navy, the BDR and police to keep vigil on suspects and guard against any sabotage

The home ministry has also instructed the BDR to stay on high alert at the border points.

The government believes the bomb explosions, the second such incidents since the BNP's assumption of power on October 10 last year, were pre-planned. The first such explosions took place at a cinema hall and a circus party on September 28 last in Satkhira.

The government apprehends that more such sabotages may come and believes a neighbouring country may have a hand in them.

The intelligence agencies tapped conversations of some people about the Mymensingh explosions and the situation in other places, the sources said.

Similarity FROM PAGE 1

experts and professionals made the bomb. The matter is now being nvestigated.

Llightman of the hall Anwar, who was arrested in this connection, is being interrogated.

Those who planted the bomb might have sensed police presence at the hall and fled the spot. Police cordoned off all the three cinema

night as soon as they heard of the Mymensingh blasts. All three cinema halls reopened yesterday under police guard.

halls in the district town on Saturday

25 NGOs FROM PAGE 12

The present committee of ADAB has thus 'lost' credibility and accep-

Besides, more than 100 unknown organisations with no credible background have recently been inducted into ADAB as new "In such circumstances, there is

no point in remaining with ADAB which is now more of a pocket organisation rather than a representative one." the press release said. It is hoped that resignation of the

25 chief executives would sensitise ADAB leadership to become democratic and transparent by taking concrete and pragmatic steps.

"As soon as they do it, we would reconsider our decision and rejoin ADAB," the executives said.

AL calls hartal FROM PAGE 1

The AL also held a 'gayebana janaza' for the victims of Mymensingh blasts, but it refrained from bringing out a scheduled mourning procession in the city 'due to a sense of insecurity'.

With Abdus Samad Azad in the chair, yesterday's presidium meeting was attended by Zillur Rahman, Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Qamruzzaman, Abdul Momin, Abdur Razzak, Abdul Jalil, Suranjit Sengupta, SAMS Kibria, ASHK Sadique, Motia Chowdhury, Mohammad Nasim, Mohammad Hanif, Abdul Mannan Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Abdul Lati Siddigui and Abdul Mannan Khan.

tant meetings and other information.

Maldah, West Bengal, India. Similar charges have been

"Indian agency RAW has recently deployed a large number of

Held for 'spying' spies within the army," said an army

FROM PAGE 1

Following the Jalalabad Cantonment arrest, the army headguarters had directed the authorities of different army installations, units, and institutions to intensify surveilance across the country, the sources said.

Army sources said Mostafa has served the army in important positions at different offices since August 16, 1981.

Mostafa has been accused of supplying defence information to the Indian intelligence for the last two years.

He is charged with having supolied maps, designs, employment files of important army officials, directories of various formation, training manuals, load table, move plan, permanent addresses of officers of different units, organisational structure of different units, list of arms and manpower, abbreviation books and resolutions of impor-

The army acted on November 24 when it came to know that on November 13 Mostafa sold off confidential documents to India for a large sum of money.

The sources revealed further that the arrested supplied these documents to Indian intelligence official GTG (Code name) through one Moti in India. GTG's village home address is -- Duishtabigha Village, Kalichak Village, District

brought against Akashuzzaman.

However, the sources did not respond when asked why Indian agency chose to deploy increasing number of spies at this point in time.

In recent times, the Indian government has officially accused Bangladesh of sheltering and Pakistani Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) and al-Qaeda.

Anxiety grips AL

FROM PAGE 1

their houses in the capital for unknown destinations, following arrest of several party leaders since Saturday's bomb-blasts in Mymensingh Sheikh Hasina, suffering from

viral fever, is undergoing treatment at her Sudha Sadhan residence in Dhanmondi. Meanwhile, leaders and workers

of the AL yesterday failed to bring out a planned mourning procession in the city for the victims of Mymensingh explosions. The procession was scheduled

to begin from in front of the AL central office at Babgabandhu Avenue in the afternoon. But, police prevented them (AL activists) from bringing out the procession. However, they later held a "gayebana janaza" at the same spot.

Senior AL leaders including Abdus Samad Azad, Sajeda Choudhury, Zillur Rahman, Abdul Jalil and Motia Choudhury attended

AL accuses PM

divert people's attention in order to provide cover to its alliance partners. The leaders of these parties had declared in public that their goal was to set up a theocratic state on the model of Afghan Talibans.

The AL presidium also blamed he government for using the armyled 'Operation Clean Heart' to suppress the opposition. Claiming that at least 34 people have died in military custody during the last six weeks, the AL observed. "The Mymensingh blasts came in the midst of the operation. The army operation does not seem to have deterred the elements responsible for killing at least 20 and injuring hundreds. It appears that these groups enjoy a special kind of

The AL presidium drew a comparison between the prime minister's attempt to implicate the Awami League in the Mymensingh incident with the then Pakistani rulers' ploy of

Referring to a Reuters report that

quoted Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury as suspecting Al-Qaida link to the Mymensingh blasts, the AL said, "Speaking to the Reuters, While replying to newsmen's

away with denying his statement which was given to Reuters. Azad expressed deep frustration

ers like Tofail Ahmed and Saber

No clue to back charges FROM PAGE 1 The court also directed the as it was not the proper court to seek

Central Jail.

He said the three were arrested for four reasons - aiding and abetting people to turn the country's law and order volatile, disrupting communal harmony, tarnishing the country's image abroad and involvement in sabotage.

and a columnist were arrested as

part of the instruction from the high

command of the government, the

people will also be arrested soon

and law enforcers are on a manhunt

push by several AL leaders and

those already arrested to create

lawlessness and instability and

spread propaganda against the

government and the country.

for the identified persons, they said.

More listed and suspected

There are clear evidences of a

sources added.

Sources said the members of the joint interrogation cell (JIC) were present during the interrogation although the court directed the respective investigation officers of the cases to interrogate the

The Criminal Investigation Department is guizzing the other arrested, columnist Shahrier Kabir. alleged association with two foreign arrested for anti-state activities.

Shahrier was arrested for his journalists who were earlier Meanwhile, former minister Tofail Ahmed was produced before the Chief Metropolitan's Magistrate's Court, Dhaka at

investigation officer to submit the remand prayer to the court concerned in Bhola district. Tofail was arrested on his arrival

at the Zia International Airport on Sunday night from Singapore. He was arrested on charge of

killing a BNP activist, Anawar Hossain, on June 8, 1996. Anwar was killed during a clash at Bhola. A case was filed with the Bhola Police Station, accusing Tofail Ahmed and 12 others. The final report of the case was submitted on November 1996. Later, the case was revived following a petition by the victim's mother on November 19,

Defence lawyers sought bail for Tofail and cancellation of the remand prayer. They said a High Court bench on September 5, this year directed the law enforcers not to arrest and raid Tofail's house without any warrant of arrest within 5:00pm yesterday with a prayer for a the next six months. They said the seven-day remand. The court, arrest of Tofail is a violation of the however, rejected the remand prayer and sent him to the Dhaka

The prosecution side prayed for cancellation of the remand prayer

Tofail told the court that he was taken to the Cantonment Police

inhuman condition. AL Relief and Social Welfare Secretary Mukul Bose was also produced before the CMM's Court at 1:30pm yesterday with a seven-day

involvement in the bomb blasts at the cinema halls in Mymensingh.

remand for Mukul. The defence lawyers sought bail for him and opposed the remand prayer. They said he was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him

bypass operation and returned home only a month ago and he is not involved in the bomb blasts, the lawyers said. The prosecution side opposed the bail petition. After hearing both sides the

magistrate rejected the bail petition and granted a three-day remand.

Station and kept in the custody in an

remand prayer. The AL leader was accused of

The court granted a three-day

He was away from the country for

eliminating Bangabandhu through the infamous and fabricated 'Agartala Conspiracy Case.'

> the home minister blurted out the truth. The government's attempt to mislead and hoodwink the whole world will surely fail." queries, AL presidium member Abdus Samad Azad said that the home minister couldn't simply get

> over the arrests of opposition lead-Hossain Chowdhurv as well as academics and columnists. "The government has completely failed to protect the lives of the common

terrorists nearly a year ago. In January this year, a powerful time bomb was found for the first

"The spate of bomb blasts in

The perpetrators of such incidents in this region did not leave

Top AL, JP leaders they could not intercept the people the district town are under intensive who carried explosives into the

interrogation. They were arrested in the Station Road area for suspected involvement in the bomb explosions, when they were making a frantic bid to leave the town by motorbike.

Sources said nine youths, including son of a former AL lawmaker Ruhul Amin Madani, entered the town on four motorbikes at around 4:30pm Saturday. They came from the nearby Darirampur village in Trishal Upazila. They were trying to flee, when police and army personnel cordoned off the town after the bomb explosions at about 7:30pm Saturday, a sub-inspector (SI) of the Kotwali Police Station told The Daily

"Finding no way, the youths tossed their motorbikes and started running. Police arrested five of them in the Station Road area," said the SI, also an investigation officer of the bomb blast case.

interrogated the youths in custody for several times "We are trying to find out why they came to the town in such way and why they desperately tried to flee," said another police official

Police seized the motorbikes and

requesting anonymity The arrestees are Sarafat I IIIah Chand Mia, Mannan, Kamal and Russel Mia, all from Trishal. During interrogation, they mentioned the names of four accomplices --Hasan, son of the former AL lawmaker. Rashed, son of Mohammad

Idris, Mahfuz and Azimul, son of Nurul Islam. Police launched a manhunt for the youth who was intercepted by a

security guard at the Ajanta Cinema He tried to force his way into the cinema hall and left a bag with the security guard upon interception. A bomb in the bag went off when the

officials, employees and security guards of the four cinema halls --Ajanta, Purabi, Chhayabani and Aloka. They were picked up for interrogation on Sunday.

guard and others were checking it.

Police kept interrogating 15

they were on duty when the bombs went off," said a police official involved in investigation "We also asked the guards why

"We are investigating whether

Bail prayers of Saleem, Priscila rejected

BSS, Dhaka The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate

with a sedition ease. Saleem Samad was arrested on November 29 and Priscila on November 25. Police produced them before

(CMM)'s Court yesterday rejected

the bail petitions of the two NGO

activists Saleem Samad and

Priscila Raj, arrested in connection

Earlier, a prayer was also submitted to the court to withdraw the confessional statement made by Priscila before a magistrate on December 2.

magistrate Khondker Atiar Rahman at about 10:55 am. After hearing both sides, the court rejected their bail petitions as 'the case is sensitive and related to anti-state activi-

In the prayer, she said a police forced her to give the statement which was recorded by the magistrate. After hearing the petition, the court recorded it (petition).

Dr Kamal FROM PAGE 12

Keranigani Police Station.

charity, for burial.

Mymensingh," he said. "After visiting the spots and hospitals, we

came to the conclusion that it was a 'pre-planned' act of violence." Expressing his deep shock over the casualties, he said the nation should remain united to identify the

criminals behind the bomb blasts. However, facts about such bomb attacks were never made public ir General Secretary of Gano

Forum Saifuddin Ahmed Manik and

party leader Shamsuddoha also

attended the press conference held

at the Jatiya Press Club.

Road accident FROM PAGE 12

said sources at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Chittagong, four people were

killed in separate road mishaps on Saturday and Sunday. Police said Selina Akhter, 13, a resident of the port city was run over by a speeding truck while she was

crossing the road in Panchlaish

The same day Mohammad

area Saturday.

Noman, 25, was crushed under the wheels of a motor car near Port Colony under Port thana. Police and witnesses also said Liagat Ali, 40, was run over by a truck near Polytechnic Institute area under Bayezid thana and another

victim Azimuddin, 35, died when hit

morgue for autopsy. Separate

The bodies were sent to hospital

by a speeding bus on Sunday.

Our Magura Correspondent adds: A 4-year-old boy was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck yesterday afternoon in

Parnanduali area on Magura-Dhaka

cases were filed with the police.

Babu. Police seized the truck while the driver fled the scene

nighway.

Swindle bank without his knowledge. Several other charges have also

bank money The SFL MD has refuted all the charges and said the police report was motivated and unfounded. Meanwhile, four persons arrested earlier would be remanded

Rahman and three bank officials Apurba Kumar Roy, Ekramul Azad and Yakub Ali. Police vesterday said the money

fully in connivance with a group of

Ward commissioner FROM PAGE 12 The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) in a press release vesterday said that they have arrested 159

nals during a special drive in the city yesterday In Barisal, the army has taken

According to our correspondent, special army teams have been deployed at power stations, radio wave towers, radar station, bus

Forces are also engaged in

Troops have been deployed at

reports that the joint forces arrested

from Abedur Rahman Anu, accused in four murder cases, another criminal, Jahangir Alam, was also arrested yesterday.