Rekindling the memory

President lajuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina gave messages on the Martyred Intellectuals Day, paying tribute to the members of the Bengali intelli-

lajuddin Ahmed paid homage to the martyred intellectuals and prayed for eternal peace of their departed souls.

Calling the massacre of the intellectuals a "black chapter" of history, he said the assassins tried to make the country brainless and leaderless

The nation will never forget the evil design of the killers and the supreme sacrifice of the intellectuals will inspire all to be imbued with patriotism, the president said. Khaleda Zia said, "The supreme

sacrifice of the intellectuals will be meaningful only if we can work in unison for the welfare of the country sinking all differences."

She offered deep sympathy with the members of the martyred intellectuals' families.

Sheikh Hasina called upon countrymen to build a vigorous movement against "unholy forces" to uphold the spirit of independence and the Liberation War to pave the way for a democratic and noncommunal society

She regretted that a political party in power made some of the killers of the intellectuals ministers and created an opportunity for them

to hoist the national flag. "What can be more to be condemned than this?" she lamented

Conspiracy is still on to murder the valiant sons of the soil, Hasina alleged. "The defeated forces are very active to unleash attack." Hasina paid tribute to the martyred intellectuals and conveyed sympathy to their families

To mark the day, different sociocultural and political organisations have planned out elaborate programmes, including discussion and wreath-laying at the monuments at Mirpur and Rayerbazar.

The Awami League (AL) will place wreath at the Martyred tellectuals Memorial in Mirpur, the Rayerbazar monument and the portrait of Bangabandhu and hold a discussion at its central office on the Bangabandhu Avenue to be presided over by its President Sheikh

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will place wreath at the Mirpur memorial and hold a discussion at the Jatiya Press Bangla Academy will lay wreath

at the memorial in the morning and organise a discussion at its auditorium with Dr Ashraf Siddiqui in the

The Liberation War Museum has arranged a three-day programme beginning today The Islamic Foundation,

Bangladesh will hold a discussion titled "Importance and Significance

of Intellectuals and Victory Day" at

State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharref Hossain Shahjahan will attend the discussion meeting as chief guest and Religious Affairs Secretary Khwaja Abdur Rahman as special guest. Director General of the Islamic Foundation Syed Ashraf Ali will preside over the meeting.

The Dhaka University (DU) will place wreaths at different monuments on the campus and in DU residential areas in addition to the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial. A discussion meeting will be held at the Teachers and Students Centre (TSC) at 10.30am.

The AL's student chapter, Bangladesh Chhatra League, will place wreaths and demonstrate on the DU campus against the arrest of intellectuals and bomb attacks.

The Left Democratic Front, Jatiya Party of HM Ershad, Bangabandhu Lalitkala Academy and Sonar Bangla Jubo Parishad have also arranged programmes.

The government will arrange special discussion meetings and symposia on the occasion. The Bangladesh Television (BTV) and Bangladesh Betar will broadcast special programmes. Newspapers will publish special

supplements highlighting the significance of the day.

Lest we forget









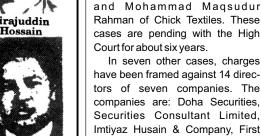
Santosh



Shahidullah







Associates, Rupon Oil and Feeds and SES company. Of three other cases, two against Beximco Pharmaceuticals and Shinepukur Holdings are pending with the Appellate Division following their petitions against High Court verdicts. Hearing of the case against the other company --Chittagong Cement -- will begin at

Capital Securities, HMMS and

Share scam

Anu Jagirdar of Premium Securities; Zafar Ahmed and Zahir Ahmed of

Apex Foods; Zafar Ahmed and Zahir

Ahmed of Amam Sea Food:

Mohammad Bhai and Aziz

Mohammad Bhai of Olympic

Industries and Iftekher Mohammad

FROM PAGE 12

Although seven years have passed since the stock market crashed in late 1996, the investors are still to see beginning of trial of the accused in the scam. Many stock market analysts say disposal of the cases are crucial for restoring investors' confidence in the stock market which continued to remain sluggish since the crash.

the Appellate Division today.



Sirajul Huq

Munir Chowdhury



Dr Alim

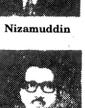
Chowdhury



Dr Rabbi













Armitage sees support in Asia for Iraq war

REUTERS, Sydney

The United States' second most senior diplomat concluded a fournation Asian tour Friday, saying he had found "pretty fair" backing for Washington's determination to disarm Iraq's weapons of mass destruction US Deputy Secretary of State

Richard Armitage, whose trip was overshadowed by a North Korean weapons crisis, said he had not been fishing for commitments should the United States launch military action against Baghdad. But he found what he called a

reassuring level of doubt in Japan, South Korea, China and Australia that Iragi President Saddam Hussein would voluntarily renounce his guest for chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. "I found an extraordinary good

support for the activities of the United States involved in the UN Security Council resolution 1441, Armitage told reporters in Sydney. the last stop on his week-long tour through the region. "I found a healthy degree of

Saddam Hussein to fully and completely disarm. "I was not asking...for any spe-

cific thing, we were just exposing people to our views and soliciting theirs, (but) I found pretty fair support for the course of action on which we're embarked," he added. Iraq submitted a 12.000-page

dossier on its arms programs to the United Nations last Saturday in accordance with Security Council resolution 1441, which under US pressure threatened serious consequences if it did not comply and

Almost 100 UN arms inspectors are in Iraq examining sites that could be developing weapons of mass destruction a decade after

Iraq's defeat in the 1991 Gulf War. The United States has continued to build up its military forces in the area in preparation for possible

Armitage said he had not read

Iraq's dossier. But he harboured doubts as to whether it would prove

satisfactory. "I understand the declaration was very heavy in terms of kilos," he said. "I'm not sure of its weight in terms of its content."

During Armitage's trip to the region, North Korea raised the stakes in its stand-off with the United States over its nuclear weapons program by saying it will reactivate a nuclear power plant at the centre of a Cold War weapons

Dr Kamal

FROM PAGE 1 any delay and further extension of

He suggested that the government respect the constitution and refrain from taking any action that deprives any person of liberty. "There should be adequate and credible materials to prove an objective basis for such action."

Added the constitutional expert: "That the executive is failing to discharge its constitutional responsibilities is evident from the large number of cases in which a lot of people are victims of alleged repres-

Asked about the reported abuse of sections 54 and 167 of the Criminal Procedure Code in arrest and remand, Dr Kamal said law enforcers should be asked to refrain from abusing the power arbitrarily. He reminded that the Supreme

Court had issued a set of clear quidelines in a writ filed on the custodial death of university student Shamim Reza Rubel. "Police must follow those guide-

detained of the reason of detention to ensure the right to legal counselling and refrain from torture in custody and remand."

DPRK asks **IAEA**

FROM PAGE 12

He urged North Korea to keep the IAEA's surveillance system intact if it goes ahead with a decision to restart a suspended nuclear programme

"It is essential that the containment and surveillance measures which are currently in place continue to be maintained, and that the DPRK not take any steps unilaterally to remove or impede the functioning of such seals or cameras," monitoring Pyongyang's nuclear facilities, ElBaradei was quoted as saying in the statement.

The North Korean decision, announced earlier, sparked alarm in South Korea and expressions of deep concern among the major nuclear powers.

Pyongyang said it would scrap its 1994 Agreed Framework with the United States and immediately reactivate facilities that had been mothballed under the accord because it was running short of In October, deliveries of fuel oil to

North Korea under the framework were suspended after the United based on enriched uranium.

Framework had been the key to overcoming a crisis in 1994 and 'Continues to serve as an important instrument for maintaining peace and stability on the Korean penin-

issue by peaceful means."

announcement of the trade conces-

more concessions on other items,

Bangladesh in its economic prog-

ress as well as to further strengthen

Bangladesh PM that from now on

formal or structured meetings

between the two countries and said

that decisions could also be taken

through informal talks and even

through telephonic conversations

The Thai PM said that his country

would do everything for the develop-

ment of Bangladesh and requested

the Bangladesh PM to instruct her

administration and cabinet col-

leagues to offer proposals on

Bangladesh's needs and place

them before the Thai government.

He said that the Thai PM told the

the bilateral ties.

Blair's challenge

Rashidul

originally broke the story on December 1 -- for 100,000 pounds (158,000 dollars, 155,000 euros) for his storv. "I should try and get some money

mother, according to the same source. Prime Minister Blair rounded on journalists over the so-called . Cherieaate affair on Thursday,

out of this, shouldn't I?" he asked his

saying it was time to move on now that everyone has "had their pound of flesh" A clearly annoyed Blair, asked in Copenhagen before the start of an EU summit about the latest accusations against his wife, said he had

more important things to deal with. "We've been answering your guestions for two weeks now and frankly I was elected to deal with things that are really important to people," he told reporters.

"I'm here at this summit to deal with issues to do with international terrorism and the European economy... and that's what I intend to do." "I say this with very great respect. I think that everyone's had

their pound of flesh and now it's time to move on.' He said that peo wrongdoing by his wife should produce evidence if they had it. "If there's any evidence at all of anything criminal or improper then they should give that evidence." he said.

Earlier in London, Blair's office denied fresh reports about his lawyer wife's connection with the convicted Australian fraudster.

"The question is, 'Did Mrs. Blair ask for, receive (papers), or have any improper involvement in the (deportation) case?'," a Downing Street spokesman told reporters.

"The answer is, 'No'."

The Scotsman's claim dealt a blow to Downing Street's struggle to draw a line under a furore that originally surrounded Mrs. Blair and Foster's role in helping her find two apartments to buy in Bristol, western England.

Dr Sadeque

Foster, 40, the boyfriend of Mrs. Blair's close friend and "lifestyle guru" Carole Caplin, is appealing against an immigration order to leave Britain due to his past fraud convictions, most notably for bogus slimming products. The Downing Street spokesman

suggested Foster was at the root of

a steady stream of press revelations, saying: "We are not going to continue to dance to the tune of Peter Foster, a convicted conman." Mrs. Blair acknowledged this week that she took part in a conference call with Fosters' lawvers and Caplin -- who also denied the

Scotsman's report on Thursday -- to

assure her friend about the proceedings against the Australian. In a remarkable public apology meant to put "Cheriegate" to rest once and for all, Mrs. Blair said it was a mistake to have asked Foster to help her find and buy the flats in Bristol, where the Blairs' son Euan is at college

"I am not superwoman." the civil rights lawyer, part-time judge and mother of four said on Tuesday.

In the House of Commons, the prime minister rejected calls on Wednesday from the opposition Conservatives for an independent

Pakistan to repatriate Afghan refugees

Dr Aminuddin

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan and neighbouring Afghanistan said yesterday they had finalised an agreement to repatriate at least 1.2 million Afghan refugees over the next three years from camps along their common border "A draft of the tripartite agree-

has not been signed," Afghanistan's Minister for Refugees and Repatriation Enayetullah Nazari told a press conference. Nazari's counterpart Aftab Ahmed Sherpao, Pakistan minister for state and frontier regions, said

the pact would be signed "most

probably in January" in Geneva, in

ment has been finalised, but so far it

the presence of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. The two governments put the finishing touches on the agreement with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) during Nazari's visit to Pakistan to assess the condition of some 1.5 million Afghan refugees in

the country. The agreement outlines a plan to voluntarily repatriate a minimum of 400,000 refugees annually over the next three years, the ministers said.

"After three years, we will have to see," Nazari told AFP. "After that we will discuss the mechanisms. The main thing is the voluntary nature of the return. The United Nations announced on

October 23 that Pakistan and Hamid

Karzai's year-old government in

Afghanistan had agreed on a deal

for the voluntary return of refugees.

be unearthed.

added.

Sangskritik Jote

day programmes. Air Vice Marshal (Retd) AK

colourful balloons.

It said the truth behind the bomb blasts at Udichi's programme at

exploded the bombs at Mymensingh cinema halls," it

The declaration also pledged to

Khandaker, deputy chief of the armed forces of Bangladesh during rated the programmes by releasing

Shimul Yusuf rendered patriotic The declaration said that the rights of the small ethnic groups in

even three decades after independfor political reasons

collaborators of the Pakistan Army during the 1971 Liberation War are sharing state power.

Jessore, in the capital's Ramna Botomul and Paltan Maidan, in churches, and at Satkhira are vet to "The same culprits have

"Such incidents of bomb blasts attest to the failure of government and its intelligence agencies. The government has thus failed to

spheres of life. Hundreds of people enjoyed the cultural function that followed the

inaugural session. Meanwhile, Victory Day

programmes of the SSJ begins today at the Fine Arts Institute and TSC island of the Dhaka University, Dhanmondi Mukta Mancha and near the stadium at Mirpur.

BSF

FROM PAGE 1 more than two persons together," said a senior BDR official, preferring

He also informed this correspondent that the BSF and Indian police have been jointly raiding the villages in the border areas every night, and during the last five days they claimed to have arrested four Bangladeshis from their side of the

The sources, however, said that there was no other motive behind the sealing off the border and sud-

Bangladeshis in the border villages, through loud speakers, not to move along the borders for their safety. The BDR and the BSF had a flag

Colonel Quazi Anwar, sector security at the border points to check smuggling and illegal entry.

He hoped that the situation would

become normal within a week

meeting vesterday on border seal-

Thailand to cut tariff on 128 items lines and safeguard the rights of the persons in custody. They should duly inform the family of the persons

Thirty-seven medical teams from government agencies and nongovernmental organisations are working to provide healthcare to the devotees. Thirty more beds have been added to the Tongi Hospital and 32 ambulances have been

provided, the sources said. Besides 1,500 policemen, army and BDR personnel have been deployed there to maintain security and ensure smooth traffic on road leading to the venue. The army has erected three bailey bridges over

Turag river. Fire extinguishers and five electricity generators have been

kept stand-by. Police said they arrested 26 alleged pickpockets there yesterday. Seventeen of them were produced in court

Bangladesh Railway has introduced special train services and Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) has provided 200 special buses. The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation has introduced special ferries on Paturia-Kazirhat, Paturia-Daulatdia and Mawa-Charianaiat routes.

Meanwhile, some devotees alleged that the water supply system was inadequate. They had to pay Tk 5 for a bath and Tk 2 for ablution. Individuals coming from

nearby areas sell water to devotees They said food prices are very high at makeshift hotels and restaurants around the venue. "We have to pay Tk 30 for a small

niece of beef and Tk 5 for a plate of

between the officials of the two Ali from Rangpur. "Despite of all these difficulties we are happy to be able to attend the iitema." said one devotee.

The litema will conclude tomor-

row (Sunday) with an akheri

Army drive

munajat. (concluding prayer).

and nine shotguns

fied criminals" from different areas of the country and seized nine firearms with 20 bullets in the last 24 hours ending at 6.00am yesterday.

Kader Shikder of Narail, Abdul Mannan and Khorshed of Feni and Sohel Sarker of Narsingdi.

(DMP) in a press release yesterday said they arrested 130 people including 19 wanted criminals in a special drive in the city.

States said North Korea admitted to a US envoy it had embarked on a new and separate nuclear program ElBaradei said the Agreed

He called on all parties to the agreement to "renew their commitment to its terms and to enter into a dialogue aimed at a resolution of the

aspects of Chittagong and Cox's sions, further assured us of giving In reply, the Thai PM assured with the objective of assisting that his country would extend all possible assistance to turn there would be no need for any

> The Thai PM said that the Thai Airways were keen to construct a most modern hotel in Chittagong and would also soon arrange for issuance of Thai visa from Chittagong. He also said that Thailand was eager to construct

At the meeting, Khaleda Zia sought Thai assistance and cooperation to improve the transport and traffic system in capital Dhaka and other major cities and said that Thailand could help Bangladesh

to assist Bangladesh in this sector. He offered to provide training for our traffic police. The Thai PM showed keen interest in establishing direct road

communications between Bangladesh and Thailand and said his country was ready to take effective steps for the construction of Asian Highways linking Bangladesh, Myanmar and Thailand. In this context, Khaleda Zia said

that a high-profile delegation of Myanmar lead by its CEO would visit Bangladesh on her return from

Thailand should work together for implementation of the Asian Highway for the greater benefit of The PM also sought Thai cooperation to improve the health and The Thai PM suggested her to immediately send Bangladesh

health services in Bangladesh. The issue of poverty reduction in Asian countries was highlighted in the meeting, while Principal Secretary to the PM; Dr Kamal Siddiqui placed a concept paper on the strategy of reducing poverty in Asian countries.

he has already initiated a dialogue with the leaders of the Asian countries to fight poverty through combined efforts. At the meeting, PM Khaleda Zia said that Bangladesh is keen to join

so that it could get membership of The prime ministers decided that from now the prime ministers and ministers of the two countries would visit Thailand and Bangladesh on a

required for such visits. "It was a free, frank and unstructured meeting. Both sides discussed the matters so openly. We

said the foreign secretary. Communications Minister Nazmul Huda. Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin. Principal Secretary to the PM. Dr Kamal Uddin Siddiqui and Foreign Secretary Shamsher

Bangladesh leader. The PM and her entourage members enjoyed a splendid show of Thai dance and music by these

village market of Thai traditional items and later had a lunch in an open terrace hosted by the Thai PM. Waterfall programmes over, Khaleda Zia and her entourage members flew to Bangkok from Chiang Mai on a special aircraft.

ensure the security of the countrypetty differences among the proliberation parties, they told a rally following inauguration of the fourresist the anti-liberation forces in all

The function was addressed by Prof Anisuzzaman, Ramendu Majumdar, Asaduzzaman Noor MP, Belal Chowdhury, Nasir Uddin Yusuf, Liakat Ali Lucky, Mannan

the country continue to be trampled

The declaration termed the government rule imperialistic where

border.

den tightening of security. The BDR is also alerting

ing. Another flag meeting is likely to be held on the same issue on December 20. commander of Rajshahi BDR, confirmed the report to journalists and said that the BSF tightened

None of the officials at the DB office could, however, be contacted for their comments on the charges

brought against the arrested jour-

Nahid Enam told the journalists

that she was taken to the DB office

at about 4.00am and kept there till 12.00 noon. Her husband went to the DB office at about 10.00am and she was allowed to come out after signing a paper. Reuters in its Saturday night December 7) desptach headlined, Bangladesh cinema bombs kill 15.

The international news agency also quoted the home minister as saying that the political opponents of the ruling party could be behind

attention of the international community and world leaders. The home minister was also severely criticised by his cabinet colleagues for his reported comment to Reuters that the Al-Qaeda might have links with the bomb attacks in Mymensingh. Home Minister Altaf Hossain

attacks as reported by Reuters and his subsequent denial were rather baffling to the media. The home minister on the following day ruled out any Al-Qaeda

four cinema halls, and termed the attacks a 'sabotage and conspiracy' against the nation. "I want to reiterate in unequivocal

terms that Al-Qaeda elements do

not exist in the country, nor do they

have any place here," the minister

said in a press conference at the

home ministry on Sunday. The rejoinder was finally sent to Reuters on the following day (Monday). The news agency withdrew the report on December 12.

The BBC quoting Reuters said that they have informed their higher authorities of the arrest of Enamul. They are also probing the matter internally. An editor of South Asia affairs is expected to reach Dhaka soon and he will submit his report after investigation.

Waste dumping FROM PAGE 12

dumping wastes along the flood protection embankment and in Kalyanpur, Rayerbazar, Mirpur and At Matwail the DCC has 72

sites for dumping at Amin bazaar, Kamragichar and Matwail and looking for a place at Badda. But it is hard to get a place for dumping ' said Md. Alam, chief conservancy

Human sea at Tongi

low quality rice," said one Hashem

FROM PAGE 12 The police headquarters in a press release said they arrested with Bangladesh. 1,340 people including four "identi-

The "identified criminals" are The Dhaka Metropolitan Police

The Foreign Secretary said that the Thai PM had given a firm commitment to consider all the requests and proposals of Bangladesh because Thailand sincerely wanted to extend trade and business ties

> leather products in Bangladesh. The Thai PM said that he would soon send an expert team to Bangladesh for feasibility study and would pursue the Thai entrepreneurs to invest in Bangladesh. Khaleda Zia urged the Thai PM to extend support to turn the port city

of Chittagong into a centre of busi-

ness like Chiang Mai. She also

elaborated the prospects of tourism,

Bangladesh sought Thai invest-

ment in the leather sector and also

assistance to improve the quality of

trade and investment and other

Chittagong into a hub of trade and commerce like his own province of Chiang Mai. He said that he would also look into possibilities of offering help in developing Cox's Bazar and other cities in Bangladesh.

some five-star hotels in Dhaka. He said that a Thai delegation would be sent to Cox's Bazar soon to examine how to turn this town into an attractive tourist spot.

through providing technology and training. In reply, the Thai PM said that his country would be more than happy

short notice and no formality will be

Thailand and assured that the proposed Asian Highway, connecting the three countries, would be on the top of the agenda of the meeting. She said all the three countries --Bangladesh, Myanmar and

the people medicare system in Bangladesh. Health Minister on a visit to Thailand with a proposal and assured to give assistance to improve the quality of

Dr Thaksin Shinawatra said that

the ASEAN and sought Thai support for becoming its member. In reply the Thai PM said that he would extend full support to Bangladesh ASEAN.

are really happy at the friendly gesture on the part of the hosts, At the meeting, the Bangladesh side was represented by Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan,

Mobin Chowdhury. After the meeting, the Bangladesh delegation accompanied by the Thai PM was taken to the Hucykaew Waterfall where Khaleda Zia was given a warm reception. Hundreds of Thai children wearing traditional dresses welcomed the

children. She stopped briefly to watch the performances for many times, inquired about the dance and cultural programmes and had a word of appreciation for the performing children. At the venue, she also visited a

the 1971 Liberation War, inaugu-

Hera, Golam Quddus and Hasan Mofidul Hag read out the 'declaration letter' at the function and

ence and religious minorities are being oppressed at different times

BSS newsman held

wound nearly 300" guoted the home

minister as saying that the

attacks could be the work of Osama-

bin-Laden's Al-Qaeda network or

any other terorist group, and that he

had ordered a national security

the explosions. The Reuters news item drew

Chowdhury's comments linking Al-Qaeda with Saturday's bomb

connection with Saturday's blasts at

protests from local people they are no longer dumping city's wastes indiscriminately. He said that the department has already stopped

Aminbazar acres of land for solid waste dumping. After one or two years it will not be possible to use the ground any more. So they are looking for new sites to dump wastes "We have got