Ahmadiyya book ban

JS body for speedy trial

sub-committee headed by former

Commenting on the meeting's outcome, Mahbubur Rahman said, "The Ministry of Land agreed with all the recommendations of the parliamentary committee. The minister and the secretary of the ministry supported the decisions."

Earlier, on December 28, Mahbubur Rahman at a press briefing at his office at the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) Bhaban gave details of a report, based on information gathered by the JS body from the land ministry and authorities concerned. He said the government land constituted about 10 lakh acres of state land, six lakh acres of vested property and two lakh acres of abandoned property.

occupied by grabbers when the government controlled only four lakh acres. The rest six lakh acres of land still remain unused and ungoverned, he said.

Considering the dismal situation, the parliamentary body yesterday recommended to the government for taking up an initia tive to amend the Speedy Trial Act in order to pave the way for trying trial courts. "We asked the ministry Trial Act in the coming session of the Jatiya Sangsad on January 18,'

The deputy collectors and magistrates were also asked to evict illegal occupants and establishocedure against the land grab-

The parliamentary body also recommended to the government to take measures for returning the lands under different ministries and departments to the land minis try after fulfilling the formers' demands. The meeting maintained that other ministries or departments were not entitled to lease out public lands.

CNG 3-wheeler 'scam'

"It was very surprising that

bers are also party to it as both in the meeting had mentioned that they were involved in procuring CNG three-wheelers. He requested the standing committee chairman to ensure a proper inquiry by neutral investigators.

On the allotment of ministry's allegation or query in this regard.'

For the sake of accountability.

elaborated on the background of introduction of CNG autorickshaws for pollution-free environment.

Padma Bridge

utility bills, Tk 20 on land registra-

tion for every Tk 20,000 and Tk 20 on driving licence. The ministry said the measures

would pool funds for the crucial

the land grabbers in the speedy to take steps to amend the Speedy the committee chairman said.

ments from the state lands and vested and abandoned property For this, the committee emphasised using the Special Powers Act and criminal legal procedure instead of civil legal

He said 55,000 two-stroke three-wheelers were phased out

from the capital and 10,000 envi-

ronment-friendly CNG three-

wheelers introduced. The limit to

the number of CNG vehicles was

made as per capacity of the city in

order to overcome traffic conges-

"Anyone with the permission of

the commerce ministry is free to

import 10,000 CNG three-wheelers

for the capital and any number of

the four-stroke three-wheelers for

elsewhere in the country," he said.

omy, he noted, government does

not fix price -- it is determined by

and are expected to leave for

Bangkok on Tuesday, says a press

share in GrameenPhone has a

stake in cellphone business in three South and Southeast Asian

countries -- Bangladesh, Malaysia

An international telephony and

ommunications group, ȟead-

of Oslo, Telenor operates in the

It is the leading telecoms com-

and Thailand.

Nordic region.

Telenor that owns 51 percent

Telenor CEO

In this era of free market econ-

"For the sake of natural justice, the complainant can never be the investigator," he told committee Chairman Syed Monjur Hossain, mentioning that he has serious reservations about some decisions taken on January 7 by the commit-

members Advocate Nadim Mostafa MP and Ataur Rahman Khan MP, who had alleged sleaze in the sale of CNG autorickshaws, were made investigators that natural justice does not permit.

Nadim Mostafa was made convenor of the inquiry committee and another complainant, Ataur Rahman Khan, member. It's not sion is a lawyer.

land for CNG-refuelling station, Huda wrote that the state minister quartered in the Norwegian capital for communications alone is responsible for the matter. "He (state minister) can reply to any

pany in Norway and one of the rgest companies listed with Oslo he suggested that the state minister Stock Exchange with an annual turnover of NOK 48.7 billion in for communications (Salahuddin Ahmed) can be called by the parlia-

Telenor is also listed with Nasdag (National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotation System).

Telenor has an extensive international company portfolio, with the largest operations in cellphone communication via companies in countries in Europe and Southeast Asia with more than 30 million customers, and is the leading satellite broadcaster in the

Nordic region. Telenor is also the world's third largest provider of satellite services via Inmarsat system and one of the leading television distributors in the Nordic region.

PSI scrap

scheme is no longer needed as the customs authorities have developed valuation data-base and that they can now obtain transaction prices from the internet, they said.

Such an idea is misleading as the customs' present valuation database is based on the Clean Report Finding (CRF) data provided by the PSI companies.

such data will not be forthcoming and the present database of the customs will become obsolete within three months of discontinuation of the scheme, they stated.

Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry President Abdul Awal Mintoo, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Kutubuddin Ahmed, Foreign Commerce and Industry President Shafiuzzaman signed the state-

It is true that there were some anomalies in the first scheme of the PSI, for which it has been misused in some cases but these have been overcome in the second scheme which should help vield increased revenue to the exchequer, the

decision to continue with the PSI scheme which was taken in line with committee consisting of the representatives of trade and industry and headed by the member (Customs) of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), they said. The business leaders mentioned

that the GATT (general agreement on tariff and trade) valuation rules require that any price information should be current, for which the government issued the statutory regulatory order in 2002 stating that price information cannot be related to any period beyond 90 days.

Secondly, the internet sites do not provide transaction data. Any data to be used for price analysis have to be obtained from paid sites and it requires expertise which the Bangladesh authorities reportedly do not have at this time, they argued.

It will not be helpful to the economy, which is under pressure to be more and more competitive in the prevailing globalisation process. In all likelihood, it will also cause loss of revenue for the government, the business leaders warned.

The overall growth of the NBR collected revenue in the pre-PSI period was 3.09 percent and it is 8.18 percent in the post-PSI period. This achievement is all the more remarkable as there have been significant reductions in the rates of customs duties and composition of import basket in the recent years, they said.

PSI has thus protected and, in fact, helped enhance the government's revenue, which is acknowledged by the NBR in the letter of invitation for the recent PSI tender, the statement added.

Moreover, the PSI scheme service charges turned out to be a substantial source of revenue for the government. The PSI service charges which are paid by the importers yield about Tk 45 crore a year as surplus, it said.

Hasina visits Benin plane crash victim's house

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday visited the house of Warrant Officer Shafiqul Islam killed in the Benin plane crash along with 14 other Bangladesh Army officers.

Shafiqul's mother, sister, wife and children broke in tears to see the former prime minister at their house at Hatkhola in the city.

The Awami League chief tried to console the bereaved family and asked them to have patience. She also prayed for the army officers killed in the tragic accident. Hasina later visited the house of

ate Ziauddin Ahmed Poltu, president of the AL ward No. 81 unit. She stayed some time with his family and prayed for the departed. Party leaders lawmaker Sheikh

Fazlul Karim Selim, Major General (rtd) AMSA Amin, Major General (rtd) Subid Ali Bhuiyan and Sayeed

Lawyers' body formed to back **B** Chy

Khokon accompanied her.

UNB, Dhaka

Supreme Court lawyers have formed an 81-member committee to extend support to former president Badruddoza Chowdhury's vision of alternative politics.

Syed Matiul Islam Mantu has been made convenor of the new forum, Bikalpadhara Supreme Court Lawyers Committee, with Mustafizur Rahman as its member secretary.

The committee was formed at a meeting at the Bar Hall on Saturday afternoon in the presence of a large number of lawyers, says a press

The meeting in a resolution expressed solidarity with Dr Badruddoza in his political ideas of freeing the nation from crime and

corruption. Another resolution said the 81member committee was formed to extend the fullest support to his alternative stream of politics.

Mizanur Rahman, M Anwaruzzaman, Mofizul Islam, Moshfequddin Bakhtiar, Dr Tareq MR Chowdhury, Qamrul Islam and convenors of the committee.

The meeting urged all district Bar ssociations to form similar committees to extend support to the former

5 more districts FROM PAGE 12

Canada at the reduced rate from Saturday.

The BTTB knocked down its overseas call charge for land telephone owners to Tk 7.5 a minute from December 30, initially for the capital's callers.

Rate for calls over cellphone to USA, Canada and Malaysia will also be Tk 7.5, but charges for call over both cell and fixed phones to Australia and the UK will be Tk 7.50 and Tk 18 a minute. and Tk 18 a minute.

"The newly introduced call rates are expected to be expanded throughout the country within next three months," a BTTB announcement said Sunday.

To make a call at the reduced rate, the subscribers have to dial access code 012 and then country code, area code and telephone number.

The country code of both the USA and Canada is 1 while for UK it is 44, Australia 61 and Malaysia 603. Call can be made from phones having both ISD and NWD facilities. Moreover, overseas call can be made in direct dialling system,

meaning one need not call the operator for booking. To avoid entertaining illegal calls, users should lock their telecans, users snould lock their tele-phones through a code and instruc-tions for locking and unlocking phones can be found overleaf of the telephone bill.

Stretched

FROM PAGE 1

life is that the progresses in medical science have increased people's life expectancy. Therefore, people no onger need to retire at 57, as they still remain fit at that age.

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman chaired the committee meeting yesterday which also discussed decentralisation of administration, scrapping of the Official Secrets Act and ways to speed up the decision making process.

The cabinet committee has asked secretary-level committee on administration reforms, headed by Cabinet Secretary Saadat Husain, to submit its recommendations on these issues by end-February.

tralisation of administration, the meeting considered possibilities of decentralisation at geographical as well as tier levels. Explaining, a high official of the Cabinet Division told the press, "We are considering decentralisation division- or location-wise. For instance. Chittagong divisional administration may be bestowed with certain degrees of powers that it doesn't hold at present. The other consideration is to diffuse and delegate authority and power among the ower administrative tiers.

The meeting also discussed changes in all government forms through incorporating newformats.

to bring more transparency, accountability and mobility in the administra-

Saddam's WMDs may

British Prime Minister Tony Blair suggested yesterday that Saddam Hussein's alleged weapons of mass destruction may never be found in

"In a land mass twice the size of the UK it may well not be surprising you don't find where this stuff is hidden", Blair told BBC television. The prime minister, US President George W. Bush's staunchest ally in the war against

Saddam, added: "You can't be definitive at the moment about what has happened." Asked if he had been wrong in highlighting the threat of weapons of mass destruction, whose pursuit by Saddam was cited as a main justification for the war launched in March, Blair replied: "You can't say

that at this point in time.

"What you can say is that we

Blair again insisted the US-led Iraq Survey Group scouring Iraq had already uncovered evidence of

the group had unearthed "massive evidence of a huge system of clandestine laboratories". However, Blair said Sunday: "What they have found already is a whole raft of evidence about clan-

been disclosed to the United Nations, a network.

PM asks cops

Police Week 2004. A total of 122 SPs, including six women police supers, attended the meet. The PM expressed her satisfac-

tion seeing the women police supers and assured that female cops would be given more responsible jobs. Referring to the new uniform of

varied colours for different disci-

plines of the police force, the PM

said she intends to see a new police for the new century and new millennium. "Not only the change of dress, the police force will have to go for overall change of its image, as an

She also appreciated the performance of police in the last two

aide and friend of the people," she

Khaleda asked them to take stern action against anyone involved in terrorism and criminal she told the police officers. She also asked the police to

ensure fast and fair investigations for quick disposal of cases but warned them to be careful so that innocent people are not harassed.

and facilities to improve their equipment, new vehicles, providing standard training and ongoing construction of three 20-storied

Chowdhury, State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babor, PM's political secretaries Harris Chowdhury and Mohammad Mosaddek Ali, IĞP Shahudul Haque and other senior police officers were also

They pledged to carry out the instructions of the prime minister.

AL to join JS

framing of Awami League leaders, including lawmakers, and workers

recent offer for the speaker-mediated or direct talks to resolve parliamentary standoff, Hamid said, "Discussions will not be necessary, if the ruling party meets our

Jatiya Sangsad boycott.

The AL presidium member, Suranjit Sengupta, echoed his voice. "We have seen the coalition's

two and a half years in office, but no important issues like crime, rape, killing and law and order downslide

Dubbing BNP's election office,

ruption, Suranjit said the govern-ment would have to disband such centres to make parliament func

The AL lawmakers walked out of the eighth session of the eighth parliament, over the switching-off of the leader of the opposition's microphone by Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui.

The ninth and 10th sessions of boycott.

The AL demanded an apology from Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for declaring a non-MP BNP new-comer, Shah Mohammed Abu

It also demanded apologies from Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar for his comment that parliament runs smoothly without the opposition State Ministe Works Alamgir Kabir for using derogatory words against Hasina in the House.

Iwanaga, also a former deputy

director general of the Rome-based

International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI), noted

that with the rise in people's income-level, dietary pattern too changes leading people to have more balanced diet, lessening

dependence on rice. Dietary diver-

sification also helps people get nutritionally fit and enhance their

path Japan did a few decades ago --

developing agro-based industries to raise people's income-level, he

Meanwhile, addressing the CIMMYT staffs in Dhaka, Iwanaga

sured by sheer rise in acreage of one

particular crop or the other; rather it

should be measured in terms of

improvement in the livelihood of

About his meeting with Agriculture Minister MK Anwar, he

said, the minister's call for incorpo-

rating farmers' traditional wisdom

into scientists' endeavours touched

During his stay in Dhaka, Iwanaga also visited Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute at

oydevpur, Wheat Research Centre

in Dinajpur, USAID office in Dhaka

and Brac's maize fields in Bogra. He

also held talks with Executive

Chairman of Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC) Dr Nurul Alam.

Saddam's trial

Baghdad has been rocked by a

string of car bomb attacks, the

most recent one on December 31

gutting a packed restaurant, killing

US troops have also been con-

ducting a major offensive, called

Operation Iron Grip, in which rebel

positions on the outskirts of the

capital have been hammered with

eight people and wounding 24.

resource-poor people.'

his heart.

"Success should not be mea-

Bangladesh should follow the

ability to work, he added.

Sustainable high cropping

threat to farm sustainability in Bangladesh and stressed replenishing the fertility level with organic materials instead of applying too much of chemical fertilisers.

solution to the problem of agricul-tural sustainability in Bangladesh, the expert noted. The agrarian economy of Bangladesh badly needs more international assistance for the farm

sector. So, the Planning Commission should put agricul-tural projects top on agendas while seeking aids from bilateral or multilateral donors, he thought.

his four-day official visit to Headquartered in Mexico, the CIMMYT is one of the 16 apex centres of agricultural research run by the Washington-based Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Other commonly known CGIAR centres include

"Bangladesh is unique in the world in terms of population density. The number of small-hold farmers is too many here for obvious reasons of land fragmentation and poverty. The situation will worsen if per unit yield is not enhanced keeping the farming sustainable at the same time," he

Iwanaga suggested that Bangladeshi farmers should go for cash crops like potato instead of cereals only.

Iwanaga, who is from Japan, said, "In 1951, Japan was one of the poorest countries in Asia. The apanese used to consume 130 kilograms of rice per person per year. Today we're one of the most buoyant economies in the world and an average Japanese eats only 65 kilogram of rice a year."

activities without any fear and hesitation. "None shall be spared,"

She listed various activities for the improvement of police force

lifestyle, such as police recruit-ment, arming them with modern buildings in Dhaka for housing. Home Minister Altaf Hossain

On the ruling BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan's

He questioned Bhuiyan's authority on meeting the AL demands but said he would make him aware of AL's position on the

were discussed in parliament, Suranjit said.

the House also went through AL's

Zafar, a de facto lawmaker in

FROM PAGE 12

Crop diversification is a fitting

Iwanaga, who previously served in important capacities in Centro International de Agricultura Tropical and International Potato Centre, was speaking to The Daily Star on Thursday at CIMMYT's regional office in Dhaka at the end of

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), International Food Policy and Research Institute (IFPRI) and International Potato

observed.

Referring to the dietary pattern of the Bangladeshis and Japanese,

He pointed out that Bangladeshis consume 150 kilo-

gram of rice per person per year.

artillery and canon fire, sending thunderous booms across the capital at all hours. In other developments, the USled coalition said anti-US guerrillas were probably behind the downing of a Blackhawk helicopter near the restive town of Fallujah last week that

left nine dead.

Ramos supports Dhaka-Manila academic link

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday emphasised the need for exchange programme for university teachers and students between Bangladesh and the Philippines Fidel V Ramos, former president of the Philippines, called on him at Bangabhaban.

"To ensure public welfare, sharing of knowledge and ideas is essential in today's world, Iajuddin told the visiting former president, said a Bangabhaban Supporting Iajuddin's proposal Ramos said any linkage programme between Bangladeshi and Filipino academics and students would surely benefit both c o u n t r i e s . The president also hoped the relations between Bangladesh and

the Philippines would be strengthe n e d . Lauding the success of micro-credit programmes in Bangladesh for poverty alleviation, Ramos said his country has adopted Grameen Bank's concept for its rural areas for socio-economic development. Jose Lin B Guerrero, Filipino ambassador to Bangladesh, and Di Carmen Z Lamagna, vice-chancellor of American International University, Bangladesh, were also present during the meeting.

Charges framed in Rumi murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

against four accused in the Rumi murder case.

Judge Mohammad Shahinoor Islam framed charges against Sajjad Hossain Rony, Hasan, Taimur Rahman and Mizanur Rahman for their alleged involvement in the crime, sources said.

Earlier, the case was shifted from the Speedy Trial Tribunal. On April 14 last year, college gir Farzana Afreen Rumi, 22, hanged herself from a ceiling fan at their

'Mobile' Kader's petition rejected

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday summarily rejected the petition of 'Mobile' Kadér who stands accused of murder in the Speedy Trial Tribunal.

He sought to transfer the case to

another court, alleging bias of the trial court, but Attorney General AF Hassan Ariff submitted that the petitioner failed to give sufficient grounds for transfer of his case. The HC division bench of Justice Mohammad Awlad Ali and

order following submissions of both sides. Earlier, the court had dismissed the prayer for stay of proceedings

Justice Abdul Awal passed the

Mobile Kader is on bail by the HC in the murder of Maulana Abdul Kader, gunned down in Dhaka in October 2001.

tribunal, the trial is now nearing completion with deposition of 15 prosecution witnesses. Advocate Mahbubur Rahman

On transfer of the case to the

Eco-park

appeared for the petitioner.

of the trial court.

FROM PAGE 1 Development Project in the 3,000-acre heart of the sal forest, sparking angry protest from indigenous people who live in the forest for ages and fear the project will destroy their peace

destroy their peace. Hamid came down heavily on the government policy of develop-ment which he said was character ised by 'killing people who protest'. "The government took the

indigenous people's protest as a flimsy excuse and wanted to silence them at the barrel of gun," he added. "Now the forest guards and police are framing innocent ethnic minority in false cases in a fresh wave of harassment," he alleged.

Hamid asked the government to

drop the charges or not to follow the cases filed against the indige-nous people in the wake of Piren's killing He demanded allocation of the lands, enjoyed by indigenous people for generations, among

Bhola said any development scheme in the area should be taken

consultation with the ethnic Garo or Koch people. Promod, lone lawmakers from the Garo community, said repression on the community began before independence by the Pakistani regime and peaked after the promulgation of the Special

He said Garos lived in the area for ages and paid taxes to the Zaminders, but the Pakistani government stopped taking taxes from them in 1952-53. Since then the people of the

Atia Forest Ordinance.

community are living under the shadow of land insecurity, he said. Hamid asked the government to form a high-powered committee to resolve the land disputes in the areas inhabited by indigenous

satellite television channels, under a guideline with a motive to control

"In this era, the media cannot be controlled," she said, adding, "The move brought to light the government's autocratic face.'

On the ban on Ahmadiyya publications, she said if there were anything to ban they were the publications of Moududi, idealist of the Jamaat-e-Islami. "There are many derogatory remarks against our prophet Mohammad (SM) in Moududi's books," she claimed.

She accused the coalition government of encouraging religious fanatics through the decision.

She asked the religious zealots, ampaigning for declaration of the Ahmadiyya sect as non-Muslim, to stand by the oppressed Palestinian

"If you have any good will, then go to Palestine and save Muslims from Israeli persecution," she said.

The AL chief said her party

believed in secularism and in people's rights to freedom of expres-She termed her party's charter of 15 demands as a 'demand of time' and urged all to join hands to achieve the objectives.

Focussing on her party's plan, she said the AL would reorganise the party and go for an all-out movement against the government simultaneously.

Editor of the Daily Jugantor

Golam Sarwar, The Bangladesh Observer Editor Iqbal Sobhan

Chowdhury and acting Editor of the Daily Ittefaq Rahat Khan also spoke on the occasion.

Senior journalists Habibur Rhaman Milon, Haroon Habib, Swapan Saha, Shafiqul Kabir, Azizul Islam Bhuiyan, Ashraf Ali, Abeer Hasan, Akhter Ahmed,

Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, Noim Nizam and Shaymol Sarker also took part in discussion, among others. Bazlur Rahman, Editor of the Independent Mahbubul Alam,

1,200 Mongla

from the finance ministry that the money would be released very soon," Shipping Secretary Zulfiqar Haider Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday.

try's second seaport.

port, he observed. He said the government hopes the workers will withdraw their strike following the decision of

golden handshake. Chairman of the MPA will inform workers' union leaders of

PM seeks free RMG

Describing Bangladesh as a demo-cratic, liberal and moderate Muslim country, Crowley said the South Asian country could be a model for other Muslim countries.

They lauded the government's

delegates of her government's programmes.

Both Crowley and Meeks praised Bangladeshi workers in the US and said they were contributing significantly to the US economy. The delegates lauded the role of Bangladeshi troops in the United Nations peace keeping missions and said their contribution has

of 15 Bangladesh soldiers in a plane

hosted by Foreign Affairs Minister M Morshed Khan at State Guest House, Padma.

Abdul Awal Mintoo, president of the Federation of Bangladesh

Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) received them at Zia International Airport in the The US Congress team will meet Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury and Leader

Sheikh Hasina. They will hold talks with the FBCCI members on issues like bilateral trade and commerce, investment promotion and other

They will also attend a conference on "Water and Arsenic

Contamination" organised by the International Farakka Committee.

of the Opposition in Parliament

and Awami League President

America-Bangladesh Friendship Society will accord a reception to the US Congressmen. They will visit an adolescent centre run by the United Nations

Rescind ban

The notice, addressed to the secretaries of ministries of home the inspector general of police, asked the government to withdraw the order immediately. "On failure to do so we are instructed to take

ban last Thursday in view of what it said was objectionable materials in the Ahmadiyya publications that "hurt or might hurt the sentiments of the majority Muslims of Bangladesh'

Ahmadiyyas is viewed as the first step towards declaring Ahmadiyyas The legal notice quoted the four organisations as maintaining that the purported government decision

Jayanti murder of murder charge,

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A murder case was filed with Gulshan Police Saturday night accusing Azam Reza, a Dhaka Bank executive, of murdering his wife Jayanti Munshi Reza, a teacher of Australian International School whose body was found hanging at

(FIR), Sadekin alleged that Azam and TV artiste Afsana Mimi were involved in an illicit affair for the last one year, adding that Azam took to torturing Jayanti when she pro-

"The murder was preplanned. Azam killed her in cold blood," she mentioned in the FIR.

Police arrested Azam from near Azimpur graveyard Saturday eve-

In the forwarding report, police said Azam is a murder suspect

of no legal effect inasmuch as it is wholly arbitrary, being vague and

historic sites in the capital.

and having no basis in any law." The four organisations also said the ban "is unconstitutional and void inasmuch as it is in gross viola tion of the fundamental rights of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat to equality, non-discrimination and equal protection of law as guaranteed under articles 27, 28 and 31 of

They also found the government

the constitution."

decision as "gross violation of the rights to freedom of expression and freedom of religion as guaranteed under articles 39 and 41 of the constitution.' The notice said the decision to ban the publications "is in contra-vention of several important international human rights instruments including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights to which Bangladesh is a signatory." "It is also against the spirit and content of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of

Based on Religion or Belief, adopted by consensus in the UN General Assembly on 25 November 1981." The notice finally asked the government "to take immediate steps to confirm that the press release was issued without any order having been passed under any law or to furnish us a copy of any order passed in this matter, and to

rescind and withdraw it immediately".

Intolerance and of Discrimination

Labourer crushed under bus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

posing as passengers, stabbed him and kicked him down from the speeding vehicle after he refused to nand over his Tk 800 at Moghbazar vesterdav.

the TMC building at 5:00am. The labourer, Motiur Rahman, 30, and 11 others of Hossain Gao village in Ranishankail, Thakurgaon were going to

Balaganj Banglabazar in Sylhet with the money we earned there," the victim's brother-in-law Khalilur Rahman said. The 12 reached the Savedabad Bus Terminal from Sylhet at 4:00am and then boarded a Gabtoli-bound local bus to go to Shyamoli.

Discussing the agenda of decen-

After the meeting, Saifur told ournalists, "We have discussed ways

never be found: Blair received that intelligence about

Saddam's programmes and about his weapons, that we acted on that. "But I don't know is the answer."

secret weapons programmes. Paul Bremer, the US official charged with running Iraq, last month rejected Blair's claim that

"You are entitled to ask, 'What was the point of having all these elaborate concealment mechanisms if there was nothing to con-

destine operations that should have

The Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal Khulna yesterday framed charges

Trial in the case would start on Wednesday, they added.

Daulatpur Police Station when the accused allegedly attempted to

crush in Benin recently.

Parishad, women's rights organisa-

The government imposed the

The ban that followed a campaign by religious bigots against the non-Muslims.

to ban the Ahmadiyya publications "is without any lawful authority and **Husband accused**

on police remand

her Gulshan house Friday. Jayanti's mother Lucille Sadekin filed the case. In the First Information Report

night and indulge in wife-beating.

Afsana, a client of Dhaka Bank,

however, denied the allegation saying her relation with Azam was strictly business-related.

according to primary investigation. Azam was taken on a four-day remand yesterday after Gulshan Police presented him before the court of Chief Metropolitan

The robbers, unidentified and at large, also beat up 20 other passengers and looted cash over Tk 30,000 and other valuables during the incident that took place near

Shyamoli.

Editor of the Daily Sangbad Chief News Editor of ATN Bangla Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul and senior AL leaders were present.

Currently, there are some 3,700 registered workers under dock management board at the coun-

After the golden handshake, the remaining 2,500 would handle the existing volume of goods at the

the decision in a meeting sched-uled for tomorrow.

steps in education, empowerment of women and developing reforms in the economic sector. The PM also apprised the US

heightened the country's image US Ambassador to Bangladesh Harry K Thomas, accompanying the Congress team, conveyed US condolence to the PM at the death

Earlier, the visiting Congressmen attended a lunch

and Naripokkho and Mahila

appropriate legal proceedings," it

tested the matter. Sadekin alleged that a drunken Azam would come home late at

ning after forensic report indicated Jayanti was murdered.

Magistrate, Dhaka.

A day labourer was run over and killed by a bus when robbers,

"After 17 days' backbreaking work, we were returning from Palagani Ranglabazar in Sylhet

state minister for land Kabir Hossain to make a draft bill for exchanging land between Bangladesh and India. The subcommittee is to submit its draft in

Of that, eight lakh acres of land worth Tk 70,000 - 80,000 crore are

tee that formed a probe body. The minister said committee

acceptable under the purview of the law," said Huda, who by profes-Besides, he said, the two mem-

mentary body The minister in the letter also

If the PSI scheme is scrapped,

Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Mahbub Jamil, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association President Quazi Moniruzzaman, Dhaka Chamber of Fazle RM Hasan, Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury, Bangladesh Textile Mills Association President MA Awal and Bangladesh Aushad Shilpa Samity President SM

The recent announcement also contradicts an earlier government the recommendations made by a

business leaders observed.