economic and social development. He said Asia has the highest number of relatively affluent nations but it also had a multitude of poor, with an estimated one in every five Asians still

Asia, however, was making great progress if only because countries like India and China, which had the largest number of poor, were making impressive strides in developing their econo-

"Nonetheless much work remains to be done in these and other countries and the challenges are enormous," he said, adding that the burden weighed greatest on countries that were least able to shoulder it.

Abdullah said many Asian countries had missed out on the industrial revolution and "were seen mainly as suppliers of raw materials and natural resources to furnaces and factories

He said the Asian countries must

Information technology and telecommunications, he said, had enabled leaps in productivity never thought possible before and it could be a new source of prosperity for the countries.

could also be a new source of poverty. "It is therefore vital for us to work together and build capacity, so that our poor, the ones who are most in need of a helping hand, will not be further left behind."he said.

Highlighting the second challenge facing Asian countries, Abdullah said any programme to eradicate poverty must involve human development as the most valuable resource of the

He said while it was vital to provide literacy, adequate health services and clean water, Asian countries must foster a quality education system supplemented by skill training and lifelong learning facilities.

"In every country, education and skills development will be the key to human and economic development. Once we have developed our infrastructure and built the hardware, it is equally important to concentrate or developing the software.

Abdullah also said based on a classification by the United Nations Development Programme which measured a country's achievement in terms of life expectancy, educational attainment and adjusted real income, only eight Asian nations were deemed to have "high human development."

As for good governance, he said it involved governments dedicating to the welfare of the people and serving them. This meant efficient and responsive delivery systems, financial prudence, government, business and society free of corruption, transparency and accountability as well as businesses with a healthy social conscience and not solely profit-

He said Asia had much to do in this field as many of the nations were still voung as independent entities and still in the early decades of nation-building.

"Asia's agenda should therefore concentrate on developing systems that can deliver the economic and social goods to the people," he said, adding that there was no "cookie cutter" or common mould for every country to use to achieve this.

On the fourth challenge of regional peace and stability, Abdullah noted that parts of Asia and many countries were still vulnerable to ethnic and religious tensions, autonomy and separatist pressures, militancy and

More arsons in Natore

Deputy Minister for Land Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar Dulu.

The two-hour rampage yesterday was led by Dollar and Dalim, both nephews of the deputy minister. The

the houses and shops, then set those afire spraying green coloured gunpowder. They also netted fish from three ponds at the village.

Talking to The Daily Star, deputy minister Dulu denied that BNP men

About involvement of his relatives he said he would take stern action against them if it were true.

"Agitated villagers committed it when they came to know people from the village were directly involved in murdering Gama," Dulu said.

the incident and consider it unfair. there must be a limit to things like killing. They (AL) are killing our men one after another and if the killings go

Foyez Uddin Shah, father of Naldanga thana AL general secretary; SM Feroz Shah, Naldanga thana AL vice president, Ansar Ali Shah, Ahad Ali Shah, Momin Ali Shah, Masu Shah, Fuad Shah, Shahin Shah, Abbas Ali Shah, Rafiqul Haque Shah, Fatik Shah, Dr Moslem Uddin Shah, Moksed Ali Shah, Shahabuddin Shah, Emdadul Shah and Saidur Rahman Shah.

The shops are owned by Ahad Ali Shah (furniture store), Dr Moslem (dispensary cum drug store) Shahabuddin Shah (jewellery shop), Sudhir Shah (grocery), Amjad Ali (tea stall), Yakub Ali (rice store), Fuad Ali Shah (barber's shop), Almai Ali Shah (tailoring shop), Fatik Shah (fertilise) shop), Shafiqui Shah (bi-cycle shop) and Nazrul Islam (radio repair shop).

Witnesses said the arsonists barged into the village with firearms and lethal weapons at around 10:00am and looked for some youths. Failing to find them out, the attackers first set fire to the house of Moslem, a rural doctor.

The house of BNP worker Wajed Ali Kalu was also looted during the

The elements also dragged out women and children from the houses and harassed them. The women, however, declined to be identified.

The attackers then went to Amtali Bazar to loot shops and set those afire. At around 12.15pm, a fire service

team from Natore town reached the spot and took about an hour to extinguish the blaze. Police came there when the attack-

ers were returning but they took no action, locals said.

But Superintendent of Police Sayed Nazrul Islam told this correspondent police fired five blank shots and lobbed three tear gas shells to disperse the 'mob'.

'A mob torched some five houses and three shops and fled away as police reached the spot," he said.

A team of journalists visited the village at about 2:00pm and found traces of fire at some points and noke still filled the air. The affected families were wailing on the ruins of their burnt houses and the entire village looked virtually devastated.

We have lost everything. They (attackers) were men of the minister (Dulu)," said Fulera Begum, daughter of Fayez Uddin.

Similar statements were made by ny others.

The victims of the February 7 arson were living under the open sky with the house-owners going into hiding in fear.

No police guard was posted at the village till vesterday's attack. The deputy minister's nephew

Dalim and his (Dalim's) friends Abdur Razzak, Sentù and Golap led the February 7 arson, villagers said. Asked why no security measure

was taken earlier, the SP said police were busy nabbing the killers of Gama and that the villagers did not lodge any complaint about the incident.

paraded down the streets of ward No

Babul received a call on his cellphone

after he said his Maghrib prayers at

Esha prayers, introduced himself as a

iournalist and said Babul had an

accident on Zoo Road," she said in the

to the DMCH, we went there only to find

him gunned down by unidentified

Mirpur Police Station yesterday. No-one was arrested nor the motive

their house at Block-B in Pallabi.

first information report (FIR).

The victim's wife, Selina Banu, said

"A man came to our house after

"Having been told that he was taken

Selina filed a murder case with

Businessmen murders took place during the procession that

asked the association President Abul Khaer Bhuiyan to take measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents in the area.

were struggling to survive and would be forced to stop paying Vat (valueadded tax) and all other taxes if the order, they added.

Bangladesh Dokan Malik Samity (BDMS) in a meeting yesterday also expressed deep concern at the deteriorating law and order and recent rise in robbery, killing and extortion.

The meeting especially con-demned some recent incidents including killing of businessman at Nawabpur, jewellery robbery at Karnaphuli Garden City, police torture on Polwel Market shopkeepers and Monday's killings at Karwanbazar and

In retaliation to Babul murder businessmen and locals of ward Nos 2, 3 and 5 of Mirpur yesterday kept the shutters of their shops down. They also took out a procession demanding arrest and trial of the killers who sprayed bullets on Babul in front of Don Tailors on Zoo Road in Rainkhola after

the Maghrib prayers. Locals informed Mirpur police who rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with bullet wounds in

his chest and abdomen. After the killing, local businessmen at a meeting decided to observe the

strike there yesterday to press for the arrest of the killers. However, no untoward incident

AL finds

FROM PAGE 12 ended up in the indefinite House boycott coinciding with AL's.

The JP, next to the AL in strength with 14 lawmakers, staged a stormy walkout from the session on Sunday, protesting government's restriction on the former president from flying abroad. The government did not even show any reason for the bar, prompting the JP lawmakers to take a hard line like boycott.

The AL that remained out of parliament for eight months now is thinking of initiating dialogues with the JP as well to add speed to its anti-coalition efforts. With 59 representatives to

parliament, the AL has been bovcotting the Jatiya Sangsad since June 25 last year and its return is not n sight -- an issue that will be discussed at the next meeting of the AL Parliamentary Party.

Kader Siddiqui of Krishak Sramik Janata League and Anwar Hossain Manju of JP (Manju) apart, no opposition representative attends the House where the presence of coalition lawmakers is not satisfactory resulting in quorum crisis. HARTAL

'The prime minister and her government will have to resign if it doesn't meet our demands by February 10," Hasina threatened earlier at a Paltan Maidan rally, calling the February 12 hartal.

To drum up support for the hartal and anti-government demonstration, the AL exchanged views with professionals on January 11-16, staged demonstrations on January 18, held rallies and processions in districts on January 21-23 and in upazilas on January 27-29 and organised hustings over the last

"The government's nonresponse is also a response and we'll react accordingly," Hasina's Political Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury told The Daily Star esterday

AL sources say the government pushed the party to go ahead with the hartal despite business leaders' appeal against it. Bangladesh Cricket Board also made a plea in newspaper advertisements for not enforcing hartal. The party will draw up its next

programme, mindful of the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup and SSC and HSC examinations in March and May.

U-19 WC cricket

Some 600 boys and girls from Bir Shreshtha Nur Mohammad Rifles Public School and College, and Bir Shreshtha Munshi Abdur Rouf Rifles School and College, dancers from the Rangamati Cultural Institute and Shilpakala Academy took part in an impressive cultural

The night's events culminated in a brilliant fireworks display organised by the Bangladesh Army.

The tournament proper kicks off on February 15 in four zones --Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna. Matches will be played in eight venues five of which have been newly built.

7 UPDF men

gunpoint.

The sources however could not confirm whether they were abducted for ransom or taking revenge.

Shabekong area is a stronghold of the UPDF, a tribal organisation opposing the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) peace accord signed between the

government and the PCJSS in 1997. Several bloody clashes between the two rival organisations left four UPDF men killed and 10 others abducted in Naniarchar upazila last

Additional Superintendent of Police Khairul Alam said they received information about Monday's abduction yesterday, and police backed by army immediately started a rescue operation in the

He however said success of operations to net criminals in the forest-clad hilly areas is very lim-

Resolve problems

FROM PAGE 12

ndian Premier Atal Behari Vajpayee during the Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) summit in Islamabad as "very fruitful and far-reaching," the Indian envoy said the meeting had taken the relationship to new heighs.

She said India attaches great mportance to its relations with Bangladesh and would like to work together. She stressed on continued contacts at different levels to deepen

The envoy called for dialogue and exchange of visits at different levels between the two countries.

Veena said that there was a lot of demands of Bangladeshi products in India and expressed the hope that trade and commerce would be ncreased between the two countries. She said besides the Safta agree-

ment, Bangladesh and India could also go for bilateral agreement to boost trade relations. Veena invited Bangladesh to participate in the trade fair scheduled

to be held in November in Delhi and said India would provide special facilities to Bangladesh at the fair. The prime minister reiterated her nvitation to Indian Prime Minister

Vajpayee and urged the envoy to convey her greetings to her Indian counterpart and the Indian president. The envoy also reiterated

Vajpayee's invitation to Khaleda Zia to visit India at a mutually convenient

NGOs blast govt

will turn the private voluntary organisations into another set of departments of the government that has adequate regulations for NGOs.

Abdul Muveed Chowdhury in the chair. the FNB in a resolution said the 1978 ordinance was intended to ensure proper utilisation of foreign

Faruque Ahmed in a statement alleged the 2004 amendment would help the government establish absolute control over the NGOs and make them toe the line of the fourparty alliance by taking over their management, funds, resources and the authority to work independently. "We feel the proposed amend-

ment says transparency through effective action against an NGO for irregularities but to take over that NGO to carry out its own political agenda.

The statement described as illogical the provision for taking action against an NGO when an individual of the organisation is involved in irregularities.

The way the bill defines the terms irregularities, maladministration and political activity -- is vague and ill-intentioned, the organisation

Aroma Dutt, executive director of government-blacklisted NGO PRIP Trust, says: "This move will make people poorer. We have been working for the last three decades and the development model of Bangladesh is known world-wide." "No NGO is involved in politics. If

an NGO talks about class struggle or poverty alleviation and that is perceived as politics, it will be sad, The move is aimed against destroy-

She levelled charges against the Jamaat-e-Islami, a ruling coalition partner, and said: "Jamaat does not want women's empowerment. The government has targeted those

BNP to kick-start

the movement politically. We want to face the opposition democratically because we know it well that the opposition has no solid issue to win public support to dislodge the government," Khoka added.

including M Saifur Rahman. Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, MK Anwar and Matiur Rahman Nizami, at yesterday's meeting with the prime minister said the government has enough time, in terms of its tenure, to ward off the opposition

They also suggested that the government should continue its appeal to the opposition to sit across the table to come back to parlia-However, the ministers held that

create lawlessness hold rallies and processions across the country to highlight govern-

to counter the opposition demands. When asked about AL's 15-point charter of demands. Information Minister Tarigul Islam said the government is determined to curb crime and is not at all harbouring

ment's activities and achievements

terror-mongers as claimed by the

"The Awami League planted the seed of violence and provided state patronisation, but we are working to root out violence and nobody can say that the alliance government is patronising crime in the country," he

About the price hike of essentials, he said most of the essentials are within the purchasing capacity of the consumers and sometimes imported items like soybean oil prices rise due to fluctuation in nternational market prices.

corruption commission to deal with it. "The BNP is the first government in Bangladesh to have taken such a courageous step," he said. About AL's threat to topple the government, Tariqul said such a

complete its tenure. "People might not accept the demand that a democratic government step down only after two years in office. Asking an elected government to resign much ahead of its tenure is undemocratic and it would weaken the democracy in Bangladesh that is only flourishing,

Gold jewellery

driver Milon Hossain

Police said they were stationed at the roadblock at Mohishapur under Sharonkhola upazila in Bagerhat on the look out for outlawed political operatives.

Suspecting that the recovered items from the car might be of the recently looted jewellery from the Karnaphuli Garden City in Dhaka, local police informed the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of Police in Dhaka about the seizure. Lutfar, however, claims himself to be a black marketeer of gold, not a

1.3cr disabled FROM PAGE 12

advisor to caretaker government. It is a duty of all of us to help integrate the disabled to the mainstream, she maintained.

Director General of NGO Affairs Bureau Shahjahan Majumdar gave the number of disabled people in the country. The speakers expressed their solidarity and committed their support for establishing the rights of the disabled.

ADD volunteer Shiuli said during a programme to identify disabled persons in some parts of the city, she found the upper- and middleclass people being less cooperative in naming their disabled family members than the poor ones.

The ADD reported that the disabled demanded representation in parliament to discuss their issues at policy level

The ADD has been working in six areas of the city to empower the disabled, establish their rights and to be of help in their deprivations. It has been working in 23 districts for the last one decade.

Bank robbery

FROM PAGE 12 A case was filed on the next day against Ward Commissioner Ashique Ahmed and Union Parishad Chairman Usman Ali and his two stepbrothers. Police held Usman soon after the

ncident, while Tk 5 lakh and two motorcycles, reportedly used in the robbery, were recovered from his house. Ashique is absconding, while Usman's brothers were caught but shown arrested under section 54. Police have arrested six persons so

far, including a cleaner of the bank,

who is believed to pass information

of money transport over mobile

Based on the information obtained from the arrestees, a joint team of CID police from Dhaka and

from the house. The team also searched Chapal's house at Amtala in the town but found nothing illegal. It then sealed the house for further

FROM PAGE 12

The dead are bus passengers Abdur Rashid, 48, and Mohiruddin, 50, and trucker Abdul Kader, 60. They died on the spot.

The seriously injured people were admitted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital, while others to Gobindaganj Health Complex.

A case was filed with Gobindaganj Police Station.

Sultan Ahmed Russell also reached the spot in the early hours of yesterday to assist the police in defusing tension in the area. None of the deceased could be

identified till yesterday evening. The lynching raised the death toll

in Bagerhat to seven in last 10 days. In another incident Monday night, a suspected member of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) was beaten to death by an angry mob at Munshipara 3rd Lane under Khulna Police Station.

The dead was identified as Russell, 21.

Police said Russell was arrested succumbed to his injuries at Khulna Medical College Hospital at around 9:30pm Police recovered 50 posters of

PBCP's Marxist-Leninist faction Monitoring Alliance). from his possession. His body was handed over to his father Babul Gazi vesterday. Sub-inspector Abul Khair lodged

Correction

In our report on seven women held at ZIA on Feb 9, it was inadvertently mentioned in the heading that they were barred from boarding a Kuwait-bound flight instead of Jordan-bound flight. We regret the

Joint forces nab 413 in midnight raid

Joint forces raided different parts of the capital after Monday midnight

Mirpur, Kafrul, Shyampur, Demra

criminals and 43 accused in various

43 die in Iran

Emirati visa requirements. Foreigners whose visas are expiring need to exit and re-enter on a new visa, which takes two or three days

to process. Kish is a favorite destination for those renewing their travel documents because tickets are cheap and Iranian visas aren't needed Cheap hotels cater to such travel-

In Tehran, Kish Airline officials refused to comment.

Ad firms

ment firms entered into a legal battle following the DCC's move to raise advertisement charges in July 2002. Several firms obtained a stay order on the DCC move, resulting in

a halt to DCC's renewing contracts

of 4,407 advertisement spaces in

the city. Moreover, the DCC held the

entire hoarding as illegal, there being no renewal since June 2003. The High Court ruled in favour of

bench issued the status quo. Khoka alleged that the firms are now 'taking advantage' of the status quo and constructing huge pillars for billboards, raising levels of sight

streamline the sector and create a full cell for it.' "The DCC is considering all

operators." he said. Meanwhile. Outdoor Advertising Owners Association in a press conference in the city yesterday blamed the DCC for violating the status quo by destroying hoardings. The DCC officials refuted the allegation, saying they are removing the billboards erected after the court

Tawfiq Aziz Khan

One of the leading journalists of the country, Tawfig Aziz Khan joined the then Pakistan Observer as a staff reporter in 1958 while he was a student of Dhaka University.

He worked as public relations

officer at the erstwhile EPIDC (East

Pakistan Industries Development Corporation) and Titas Gas Corporation from 1968 to 1975, Bichitra as general manager. Tawfiq Aziz Khan joined The

managing editor. He became executive editor in 1997 and worked in that capacity till his death. The first English sports commentator of the country, he worked in radio, and later in television, since

Tawfiq Aziz Khan was the founder editor of the fortnightly Sports World (Krira Jagat). He was also involved with the weekly Holiday at the initial stage of its publication. Six times he was elected presi-

Association and a permanent member of Jatiya Press Club.

He was a founder member and president of the country's first group theatre 'Drama Circle' and served the Rotary Club of Dhaka North-West as its president for two consecutive years from 1999.

the road between Dhaka and Yangon via Teknaf in Cox's Bazar and Buchidong in Myanmar declared as the Asian But a certain portion of the roads and

culverts on the Myanmar side up to Buchidong needs development, the official added. Following the reluctance of Yangon to

develop the road on the stretch, Dhaka

from Bangkok to New Delhi, the official

agreed to construct it at its own cost to set up the road network, according to sources in the communication ministry If the highway stretch is constructed, there will be no major interruption in the Dhaka-Yangon road link. It would also cut the distance at least by 500 kilometres

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific (ESCAP). the coordinating body, will recognise the road as Asian Highway if the countries could develop it as per the specified standard and requirement, he added.

State Minister for Communication Salahuddin Ahmed told The Daily Star vesterday that the road would be built on a bilateral understanding. Later, it may be selected as the Asian Highway, he said. According to sources, the govern-

ment had approached the donor agencies for funds for the highway project but the response was not positive. The donors are not interested in the affairs of Myanmar because of their lack of understanding with the ruling military junta there, they pointed out.

Six to die

FROM PAGE 1

Those awarded life imprisonment are Mamun alias Picchi Mamun alias Abu Naser Mridha, Ripon alias Nurunnabi, Jewel and Masud alias Masud Rana. They were fined Tk 25,000 each, in default, they are to suffer one more year in prison.

Of the total 10 convicts, four were tried in absentia. The are Nazrul Islam, Ripon, Jewel and Masud.

According to the prosecution,

Sub-Inspector Kanokuzzaman alias Kanok, 40, was shot and bombed to death by a gang as he tried to resist them from snatching his briefcase. in which he carried a viscera report of a case, in Agargaon area on June 25.2001 Kanok arrived at Gabtoli bus

terminal from Dinaipur with the viscera report and started for his destination in the capital at about 5:00am. Inspector Wahiduzzaman of Tejgaon Police Station filed a case

in connection with the killing. The

case was transferred to the tribunal

in August last year for trial

Tangail AL MP
FROM PAGE 12
Dr Razzak alleged that despite his talks with Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Forest and Environment Minister Shahiahan Sirai. State Minister for Jute Lutfar Rahman Khan Azad, and Harris Chowdhury, political secretary to the PM, police took no steps to arrest the criminals who manhandled him at Nedurbazar in

Modhupur on February 6. Abdul Hamid Chowdhury, deputy leader of the opposition in parliament, who was also present at the briefing, said armed miscreants belonging to ruling BNP assaulted his fellow partyman when he was exchanging post-Eid pleasantries with the people of his constituency.

BNP-AL blame

FROM PAGE 1 of AL adherents at Shahpara, where a gang destroyed 16 houses in an arson attack on Saturday night after the killing of Sabbir Ahmed Gama. District BNP President and

Deputy Minister of Land Ruhul

Kuddus Talukder Dulu and General

Secretary Shahidul Islam Bachhu

claimed villagers saw some AL

workers among the killers. A group of masked men launched the attack and fought with Gama's friends for half an hour after the killing, Bachhu told journalists at Natore Circuit House. On the February 7 arson attack

on Shahpara villagé. Dulu said: "We

are not a fringe political party nor did

we torch houses of Awami League

leaders to wipe them out to win elections.' On the attack on the Janakantha ournalist, GM Iqbal Hasan, during a hartal called by ruling BNP's youth front Jubo Dal in protest at the killing, he said, "Some immature people beat him up, being angry at

Natore AL General Secretary

his report.

the allegation against the AL of He alleged police under influence of the deputy minister refused to receive the case against the arson-

Hanif Ali Sheikh at a press conference at Natore Bar Bhaban denied

Iraq cop station

and the court house. The provincial governor said all

some policemen. "No Muslim could have done this. It appears the amount of explosives used was huge because it killed so many and devastated the buildings," said Imad Lifty.
US forces cordoned off roads

Earlier yesterday, a suicide bomber blew himself up outside the

mineral corporation, along with the committee members also visited the site yesterday. **BNP MPs** FROM PAGE 1 The northern region is known as crop bowl of Bangladesh but farmers are not getting agri-inputs at fair price." He feared this will have a negative impact on overall crop production and demanded distribution of inputs at fair price. In response, Agriculture Minister MK Anwar said the government is

that the prime minister has already ordered Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) to mport triple super phosphate (TSP) f necessary, other types of fertilise will also be imported, he added.

the lawmakers there would be no fertiliser scam during the tenure of this government. He also volun-

teered to take full responsibility in case of any such scam. Responding to a query from Sohrab Uddin, the minister said

each upazila. In case of any allegations against them, he advised all to report to district-level fertiliser monitoring committees.

Asia faces

suffering from the effects of poverty.

mies, he said.

owned by our colonial masters."

now ensure that they do not let the information age pass them by.

He warned that the digital divide

countries was their people. access to good education and high

of Sabbir Ahmed Gama, nephew of

houses torched yesterday included some half-burnt ones in the previous The attackers looted everything in

were involved in the incident and claimed some angry villagers who loved Gama were responsible for it.

Asked about such retaliatory attacks, he said, "Although I condemn

without any protest, the killers will be encouraged. The torched houses belonged to

government failed to improve law and The National Executive Council of

The KNIATA members said they

behind the murder could be known until late last night. Referring to the recent spree of killing and extortion, the BDMS leaders in yesterday's meeting said they would hold a press briefing between February Mirpur. 15 and 17 to announce a greater agitation programme. BDMS President Amir Hossain Khan chaired the meeting at a city

> Meanwhile, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry president, Abdul Awal Mintoo, said yesterday he would convene a meeting soon and sit with different trade bodies and business eaders to discuss the latest situation.

> restaurant, where, among others, Anwar Khan (Khulna), Asir Uddin Asu

Mia (Chuadanga), Belal Ahmed

(Chittagong), Humayun Kabir, Rezaul

slam Montu (Uttara), Ali Ferdous and

IntesarAhmed (Rajshahi) spoke.

At a meeting with Chairperson

donations received by the NGOs. ADAB Chairperson Qazi

programmes collapse," the state-The ADAB alleges the government's purpose is not to establish

ment is simply monstrous and, if

enforced, it will severely restrict the

space for NGOs' operation and

make all their pro-people

ing a few selected NGOs," Aroma says, terming the proposed act as

fully prepared to face any threat of

PMO sources said ministers,

the government should keep the state machinery ready to face any eventualities and take appropriate measures if the opposition tries to Sources said the PM has asked the party and alliance leaders to

On corruption, Tariqul said the government is going to enact a law to set up an independent anti-

threat is 'ridiculous' as the government has about three more years to

Bagerhat and Pirojpur police raided Lutfar's rented house at College Road in Jhalakathi town Tuesday morning. The team recovered another 1.25kg gold ornaments

investigations, police sources said. 3 killed

tion at Chapriganj on the highway at about noon.

4 'outlaws' FROM PAGE 12 A team of joint forces led by Captain

from the house of one Mustafizur Rahman of the area but was forcibly taken away by an angry mob who beat him black and blue. Russell

an FIR (first information report) with Khulna Police yesterday as complainant of a murder case naming no-one as accused.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

and held 413 people. Paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), Armed Police Battalion (APBn) and police carried the raids in Tejgaon, Badda, Ramna, Dhanmondi, Mohammadpur

and Pallabi areas. The forces nabbed 48 wanted

cases, police said. They held 64 people in Mirpur, 60 in Pallabi, 59 in Kafrul, 56 in Mohammadpur, 32 each in Demra and Badda, 29 in Ramna, police

FROM PAGE 12 including Indians, Pakistanis and Filipinos, who make up the bulk of the Emirates' work force -- to exit and return in order to remain within

mayor told newspersons at his official residence in the city. The DCC and outdoor advertise-

the DCC in September 2003, but the firms appealed against the decision in January this year. A consortium of six advertisement firms filed another case with the High Court and the

"The DCC could earn five times of Tk 4 crore that it earns now from its rented spaces," the mayor said adding "What we are trying to do is

modern aspects of advertisements. We might involve our zonal offices or hand over the section to private

FROM PAGE 12

before joining Dainik Bangla and Daily Star in 1990 as its founding

1958. He was also the resident editor of Cricketer Asia of Hong Kong and Sports Times of Lahore.

He was also a national committee member of Fema (Fair Election

He died of lung cancer at the age of 64 on February 11, 2001.

Bangladesh-Myanmar

The decision to construct the road was taken as Bangladesh wants to have

> New Delhi and Bangkok. It is constructing roads bypassing Bangladesh through Assam and Monipur following

Bangladesh's reluctance in giving road transit and transhipment facilities to the next-doorneighbour. An agreement was also signed among India, Myanmarand Thailand two

The government is also preparing a

India also provided assistance to

draft agreement to be signed betweer

Myanmar in building roads and bridges

for connecting road network between

Dhaka and Yangon in this regard.

years ago to develop the road network in The communication ministry officials. however, do not feel such agreement is needed among Bangladesh, Myanmar

and Thailand as the road network between Yangon and Bangkok already "Definitely, if such an agreement is signed, it would give extra momentum to establishing the road network among those countries but it's not 'urgent' as Yangon is already well connected with Thailand and China." said a high official in

tion ministry. "We only need to reach Yangon by road," the official requesting anonymity added. The recent foreign minister-level meeting of the BIMST-EC - -Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka Thailand- Economic Co-operation that also groups Nepal and Bhutan - also

agreed to work to develop a trilateral

nighway linkage among Bangladesh,

The next follow-up meeting of the

Asian Highway is likely to be held at

Myanmarand Thailand.

Youth killed

ach, chin and one hand.

From Page 12 Krishna, resident of Radhikamohan Bashak Lane, received a bullet in his chest and had stabs in the stom-

His father said he was a Jubo

League activist of ward No. 72 unit

and said Bhutto had threatened him

with death if he attended political

The killer had allegedly kept his son

hostage for several hours before

being caught in a hectic police drive.

lor at Bangladesh embassy in

n Dhaka asked Bangladesh consul-

ate in Riyadh to take necessary

carried a Gaibandha address and

was posted from Khulna. It reached

The letter said hundreds of

the diplomat's office on February 8.

Meanwhile, the labour counsel-

No case was filed till 9:00 last 3 Bangladeshis

Riyadh visited the spot on Monday. The Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment

Bodies of the victims would be sent home after autopsy, the source said.

Bomb threat

steps to file case.

FROM PAGE 12

Muslims are being killed in India by anti-Islamic groups and Bangladeshi mujahids need funds to go to India to fight the persecutors. Confirming the report, Rajshahi Range Deputy Inspector General of Police Anisur Rahman told reporters

that the letter contained names of

five persons in Gaibandha and that

he had asked Gaibandha police to

look into the matter.

Gas pipeline FROM PAGE 1 sources at Petrobangla said. It, they said, also suggested departmental action against the officials of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited (TGTDCL) who were allegedly

responsible for supervising the

Probe committee members -

Petrobangla Director (Operation) M

Ismail, Sylhet Gas Company

Limited Managing Director Rahman

Morshed and Gas Transmission

Company Limited (GTCL) Director (Operation) Abdus Salegue-submitted the report to Petrobangla Chairman SR Osmany. The chairman of Petrobangla the state-owned oil-gas-and-

aware of the fertiliser situation and

Sarwar Jamal Nizam appre hended a fertiliser 'scam' and called for precautionary measures. The agriculture minister assured

there are five BCIC-authorised dealers for fertiliser distribution in

brought down part of the building of the dead were locals, including dent of Bangladesh Sports Writers'

leading to the blast site.

house of Amer Suleiman, chief of the al-Duleimi tribe in the area and head of the local US-appointed authority in the restive town of Ramadi, 68 miles west of the capi-

tal, wounding four bodyguards.

the planning division of the communica-