Dhaka to finally sign

agreement without settling the

compensation issue, sources said. The next summit due in July would formally endorse the agreement, likely to be signed by June and to be implemented in two phases by the year 2010 with adequate grace period for the least developed countries, namely Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. Nepal and Bhutan joined the grouping in the last summit and the grouping would be renamed in the coming one.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and other heads of state and government will attend the summit in Bangkok.

Yesterday's inter-ministerial meeting observed Bangladesh has no alternative to signing the agreement. Textiles Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury who was also present at the meeting nodded in approval, the sources said.

The minister however observed the agreement should be signed keeping the textile products on the negative list.

Dhaka sees ample opportunity to expand its market base in the east including Thailand and Myanmar following the free trade agreement, the sources said.

The government also informed Indian Foreign Secretary Shashank, who was in Dhaka last week, about its decision to sign the BIMST-EC free trade deal.

Representatives from the ministries of foreign affairs, commerce, finance, law and textiles were present at the meeting held at the conference room of the commerce

Duty cut

finished rod unless the government step leads to a fall in the unusual rod prices," said Toufiq M Seraj, president of a leading real estate and housing association, Rehab. Terming the step timely, bold and

pro-people, he said the government should now ensure its reflection on the market prices to reach the benefit to the end users. "Otherwise, what's the need of compromising a loss to the public exchequer?" he

"We will watch the situation for another week and then go for rod import collectively," the Rehab president said.

He also demanded an immediate inquiry into the price escalation of MS rod to Tk 42,000 a tonne from Tk 22,000 just over a year.

As the prices of rod in world market continue to rise, the tax cut will leave no significant impact on the domestic market prices, said Monwar Hossain, managing director of Khaled Steel Mills. "Rather, rod

prices are likely to rise further in the next two weeks," he added.

Nani Gopal Chowdhury of Metro Traders in the city's Naya Bazar said non-graded ingot rod now sells between Tk 31,000 and Tk 30,000 a tonne against the mill rate of Tk 29,500. The price ranged between Tk 16,000 and Tk 18,000 a tonne this

The mill rate of 40-grade rod at Khaled Steel Mills hit Tk 37,500 a tonne while that of 60-grade was Tk 40,000 a tonne, traders said.

An employee of Bikrampur Steel Ltd., Gias Uddin, said it would take at least six months to have an impact of tax exemption on the market

The local rod manufacturers and traders said imported rod would be costlier than that locally produced. But the Rehab president believed it (imported rod) would be cheaper because of the latest tax exemption.

Price of a tonne MS rod, however, has gone down by Tk 1,000 to 1,500

Passengers suffer

Planning Commission for administra-

tive approval to construct the bridge at Daulatdia-Paturia point.

Once the PCP is approved, the government will seek aid from donors and international agencies through External Resources Division under the Ministry of Finance, said a press statement of the ministry yesterday.

In the statement, Communications Minister Nazmul Huda has urged the people of southwestern region to refrain from agita-tion like hartal, protest march and roadblock. He also urged them not to go ahead with the 'grand rally' slated for March 15 to press for construction

He said the government is committed to building the second bridge at Daulatdia-Paturia point.

At Goalundo, the demonstrators yesterday brought out a procession and staged a rally on "Janatar Padma

Setu Mancha" during the roadblock. The rally was addressed, among others, by Azizur Rahman Bilu, former upazila chairman Iqbal Ahmed, BNP leader Abul Hossain Khan, Rajbari Press Club President Abu Musa Biswas, AK Mahid Hira and BNP leader Rakib Mehedi.

Speakers at the protest rally warned that they would continue such programmes till March 15 and then go for an indefinite strike if their demandwasnotmet.

The Council for Implementation of Padma Bridge at Daulatdia (CIPBD) is scheduled to stage a 'grand rally' at Daulatdia on March 15 to drive home the demand for Padma bridge at Daulatdia-Paturia point, said a press

release of the council on Thursday. In the press release, the acting president of the council, Shamshul Haque, urged the prime minister to fulfil her 'election pledge' of building the bridge at Daulatdia-Paturia point.

BNP goes tough

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia sat with her key cabinet collogues on March 10 after retired army major Abdul Mannan and Mahi B Chowdhury broke ranks with the BNP and resigned from parliament to join the alternative stream.

Sources said the BNP also decided not to allow any political activity of former president Badruddoza Chowdhury, convener of the alternative stream, and destroy his platform before it could take root.

"Three BNP legislators who were set to join the stream have turned back. On March 9, the deputies sat with major Mannan and said they were threatened with severe consequences," asource said.

"One of them was cowed down with the threat that his life would be miserable if he planned to join the new platform."

A top BNP leader asked a close friend of Mannan to advise him to return to the ruling party fold with threats that he would be 'destroyed' if he did not fall into line.

A few hours after Mannan shrugged off the advice, his businesses in Chittagong were attacked with bombs. Sources alleged the government asked concerned agencies to check tax records of his businesses with the intent of framing him in graft

"After the defection of two ruling party lawmakers, the BNP high command has become suspicious of more desertions," said a parliamentarian, requesting anonymity.

Intelligence reports say a dozen deputies are likely to join Badruddoza's platform, pegged as a 'dysfunctional stream' by Khaleda hours after the orginisation's launch.

About 30 ruling party legislators exchanged views with Badruddoza, the founding secretary general of the BNP, expressing their interest in joininghis platform, a source said. -

The police have been asked not to let Badruddoza's men to hold any programme, admitted a high police

On Friday night, police were asked

to keep an eye so that nobody could post a poster or write graffiti in favour

of the renowned physician. Police in their brash bid to carryout the orders arrested a dozen activists who were posting posters of Dr Kamal Hossain's Oikyo Procheshta. A court released them yesterday.

Loyal activists of the BNP at the

district level have been alerted of 'suspicious' movement of some party deputies and leaders.

In the northern region, a close relative of an MP was beaten in a preemptive signal of the consequences waiting in the wings of a desertion. The lawmaker did not attend the prime minister's public rallyin Rajshahi lastweek.

Some other lawmakers, suspected by the BNP of keeping touch with Badruddoza, were threatened with graft charges.

The government is considering whether Badruddoza would be 'allowed' to attend the Oikyo Procheshta convention, slated for today, as a

Oikya Procheshta

black money in politics will be placed in the convention.

Badruddoza Chowdhury, former president and convener of newly formed alternative political stream Kader Siddiqui, president of Krishak Sramik Janata League, and Kazi Faruk Ahmed, president of the Development Agencies in Bangladesh are likely to attend and former president Shahabuddin Ahmed is scheduled to send a message to the convention.

The organisation will offer a platform to form national unity, said Dr Kamal. "It will be a platform of secular and democratic people."

"The unity is not only aimed at forcing the government from power, but bringing positive changes to the current scenario dominated by political, social and economic unrest, Dr Kamal told The Daily Star

JUTA asks chancellor to appoint new VC

IU CORRESPONDENT

Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association (JUTA) vesterday urged Chancellor of the university President Iajuddin Ahmed to immediately appoint a new vicechancellor (VC) at the university from the recently elected threememberVC panel.

In a letter to the Chancellor, also the president, the JUTA said according to the norms, the VC was supposed to be appointed within a week of the election, but three weeks had elapsed since the February 19 voting

with no move as yet to this end. It also said the delay in selecting a new VC was seriously hampering administrative and academic activities at the university.

Prof Nasir Uddin, president of the JUTA, and Prof Amir Hossain, its general secretary, signed the letter. The three-member panel led by

Prof Mustahidur Rahman defeated incumbent VC Prof Jasim Uddin Ahmed-led panel in the polls. But crisis started brewing over

the top university post when a defeated VC panel candidate rejected the election results saying votes cast by two university deans were illegal

Race on in BNP

FROM PAGE 12 phonic contacts with senior party leaders and ministers, the aspirants for nomination are also making frequent visits to Hawa Bhaban branded by many as an alternative centre of power. Some of them have

also engaged lobbyists for them. Sources said around half a dozen of leaders aspire for party ticket for Dhaka-10 (Ramna-Tejgaon) seat. They include city BNP General Secretary Abdus Salam, Adviser to the Ministry of Commerce Barkatullah Bhulu, DCC ward commissioners Chowdhury Alam, MA Majid and Anwaruzzaman Anwar, Managing Director of Film Development Corporation and actorWashimul Bari Rajib. But a section of BNP leaders seek

to propose the name of FBCCI President Abdul Awal Mintoo for Dhaka-10 seat. They noted the party had earlier planned to make him a mayoral candidate for the city but it did not considering the ground

reality.

They think Mintoo will be the fittest candidate against Major (Retd) Mannan, who will also con-

test the by-polls.
In Munshiganj-1 (Sreenagar and part of Sirajdi Khan), five local BNP leaders intend to get party ticket. They are Kazi Azizul Haq alias Lebu Kazi, Krishak Dal central leader Mujibur Rahman, former Juba Dal leader Saju Kamal, former ICD leader Ali Akkas Nadim and film director Shafi Bikrampuri.

Party sources said the number of aspirants will continue to rise and that the party will select its candidates as early as possible so that they

can start campaign.
A top BNP leader said, "We will definitely select competent and popular candidates so that they can win both the seats."

Fuel crisis

FROM PAGE 12 against a demand of 60-lakh-litre.

The deputy commissioners of Rajshahi, Bogra, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh have urged the companies to send more supplies through the dealers, as diesel crisis has become acute.

Meanwhile, BPC sources in Bogra said it will take at least three months to refill the 18 empty depots at seven points of the region.

BNP's new bid

"We want the main opposition's participation in the discussion on the constitution amendment bill to be placed in parliament during its current session, seeking reintroduction of women's reserved seats in the House," the BNP secretary general told the opposition deputy leader yesterday. Hamid said, "Bhuiyan also pro-

posed to sit for a dialogue, if needed, to resolve the parliamentary

The opposition deputy leader told the ruling party leader he would discuss the matter with his party leadership and reply to the talks offer in a couple of days.

"It is not a serious move by the government as the BNP is not sincere about the opposition demands and it does not allow opposition lawmakers to speak in parliament. The BNP secretary general made the phone call just for the sake of making press reports and divert people's attention from the government's failure to run the country," Hamid told The Daily Star.

' If the government really wants the main opposition party in parliament, it should send a formal proposal for dialogue. What Mannan offered now is a mockery," he added.

Hamid also castigated the government for the attack on former president Badruddoza Chowdhury's programmes on Thursday. " Attack on the former president proves democracy does not exist in the country," he said.

Sonali Bank

loans through government guarantee and bonds, said a high official of

The outstanding loan-amount lying with these top 40 defaulters represents 31 percent of the total loan default of Sonali Bank, with the apparently more tight-fisted public sector defaulters holding 48 percent of the chunk.

"All general managers will take up this responsibility as their additional work," the bank's office order states, "they will routinely spend some extra time every alternate day to deal with the issue (by making phone calls or supervising development in filing cases etc)." The dozen GMs will have to

submit weekly progress report to the two DMDs -- Tahmilur Rahman and SM Aminur Rahman. The individual assignments for the GMs are as follows:

Mokhtar Hossain to recover loans from state owned enterprise (SOE) Bangladesh Rashayan Shilpa Sangstha (Tk 93 lakh) and private companies Dhaka Vegetable Oil Industries (Tk 50 crore), Riverside Leather and Footwear (Tk 50 crore) and Rahman Metal Industries (Tk

Mohammad Amanullah to knock SOEs Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sangstha (Tk 21 lakh) and Film Development Corporation (Tk 6 lakh) and private companies Azax Jute Mills (Tk 44 crore) and AR Hawladar Jute Mills (Tk23 crore).

Ziauddin Ahmed will deal with SOEs Ahmed Bawani Textile Mills (Tk 2.76 crore) and Bangladesh Texmills (Tk 17 lakh) and private company Islam Jute Mills (Tk 37 Nazmus Salehin is charged with

SOE Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (Tk 5 crore) and private companies Shamsul Al-Amin Cotton Mills (Tk 72 crore) and

Desh-Ma Shoe Industries (Tk 60

Zahirul Alam Sikdar will look into private companies Ahmed Jutex Mills (Tk 40 crore), Makbular Rahman Jute Mills (Tk 25 crore) and Nawab Askari Jute Mills (Tk 38

Abdus Salam will knock Directorate of Agriculture of the government (Tk 1.5 crore) and private companies Circo Soap (Tk 1 crore) and Dockyard Engineering Works (Tk31 crore). Abdul Malek Mia will deal with

private companies Barisal Jute Mills (Tk 28 crore) and Bunan Banijya Sangstha (Tk 26) and SOE Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (Tk I lakh). Mizanur Rahman will look into the food ministry (Tk 414 crore)

and SOEs Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (Tk 144 crore) and North Bengal Paper Mills (Tk 12 AKM Rashiduzzaman will press SOEs Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (Tk 60 crore), Amin Textile Mills (Tk 8 crore) and

Hamidia Metal Industries (Tk 17 lakh) and private companies Chittagong Jute Manufacturing Co (Tk 67 crore), Sonali Cotton Mills (Tk 40 crore), Saleh Carpet Mills (Tk 36 crore) and Jarina Carpet Mills (Tk23 crore). Karabi Mujib wili persuade SOE

Tangail Cotton Mills (Tk 1.4 crore) and private companies Yusuf Brothers Tannery (Tk 39 crore) and Diamond Tannery (Tk 37 crore).

Khatib Nazrul Islam will see private company Bogra Cotton and Spinning Co (Tk33 crore).

And Harisul Haq will see SOEs Khulna Newsprint Mills (Tk 75 crore) and Sundarban Textile Mills

Cricket wins

Nehra, given the task of sending down the final over with nine needed to win, bowled spot-on to concede just three runs and give his team a 1-0 lead in the five-match

India, on their first full Test tour of Pakistan since 1989, will also play three Test matches after the limitedovers series ends on March 24.

Rahul Dravid made 99 and Virender Sehwag hit a quickfire 79 off 57 balls as India, given first strike in perfect batting conditions, recorded their highest one-day total against Pakistan. But Pakistan responded magnifi-

cently and almost set a world record. falling just short of the most successful second innings total in one-

No team had scored more to win than Australia's 330-7 against South Africa two years ago. Inzamam led the way with a

superb 122 off 104 balls, Yousuf Youhanna made 73, Younis Khan 44 and Abdul Razzaq 27 off just 16 balls. Inzamam put on 135 for the third wicket with Youhana and 109 off 88 deliveries for the fourth with Younis

to lift Pakistan to 278-3 in 42 overs. Spinner Murali Kartik hit back for India with the wickets of Inzamam and Younis, and Mohammad Kaif took a stunning catch in the deep, but Pakistan kept the spirited run chase on till Nehra stopped them in

the final over. Inzamam was named man-ofthe match, but cricket was clearly the winner as both teams headed for the second match at Rawalpindi on

Millions of television viewers on

both sides of the border could hardly have expected the drama to follow after India ran up a seemingly impregnable target.

Dravid, who was bowled by the fiery Shoaib Akhtar one run short of his ninth limited-overs century, helped India surpass their previous best against Pakistan of 316-7 at

Sehwag greeted Inzamam's decision to field first by giving his team a flying start.

The free-stroking Delhi batsman. who smashed 14 boundaries and a six, put on 69 for the first wicket with Sachin Tendulkar and 73 for the second with skipper Sourav Dravid and Kaif (46) built on

Sehwag's blitzkreig by adding 118 for the fifth wicket to lift India past the 300-mark. The match began dramatically when Akhtar conceded 10 runs in

the opening over, including two wides and as many no-balls. Akhtar was not the only player affected by nerves. Off the last ball of the over, Shoaib Malik spilled a simple catch in the covers off

In his second over, Akhtar forced Tendulkar to give a catch at squareleg -- only to see Australian umpire mon Taufel declare a no-ball.

Tendulkar rubbed salt in the bowler's wounds by top-edging the last ball of that over to fine-leg for six, but fell to Akhtar soon after for 28 when he edged a catch to gully.

Pakistan added to their woes by sending down 20 no-balls and 10 wides, giving India five extra overs to

agricultural plans and implementing them properly in the light of fastchanging global economy. Steps would be taken to produce 25 lakh metric tonnes of additional food grain by 2015 to feed the increasing

government was considering forming a committee with the representatives of all relevant ministries, including agriculture, and fisheries and livestock, to draw up guidelines for development of agriculture, evaluation of progress and solution of agriculture-related problems.

sustainable, she said increase in other harvests also needs to be Special programmes have to be taken to increase the output of

oilseeds, pulses, spices, vegetables and fruits," she told the farm sector stakeholders. Khaleda mentioned the allocation of Tk 200 crore more than last year for the sector and the increase in agricultural subsidy up to Tk 300 crore. Besides, Tk 50 crore has been sanctioned to help set up farm

"More loans will be provided for agriculture and agro-based industries at low interest rates," she said and urged for proper utilisation of the preferential credits.

She also assured the farmers and agriculturists of significant raise in the budgetary allocation as well as subsidy for agriculture in the next budget. She mentioned the writing off of agricultural loans up to Tk 5,000 and exemption of land taxes for up to 25 bighas after the BNP government took office in 1992.

reached a new high of 2.52 crore metric tonnes last year and stressed taking up special programmes to enable the farmers to learn the preparation of organic fertiliser and

agriculture workers, block supervisors, agricultural scientists and researchers are attending the grand conference. The premier went around the

Agriculture Minister MK Anwar, Representative Mohammad Azizur Rahman Mollah also spoke.

stalls at the fair.

Housewife set on fire allegedly by husband

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

by her husband and his relatives at a village in Keraniganj Friday for her family's refusal to pay the dowry.

for life in agony at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with most ofher body burnt severely.

While Yasmin along with her husband and in-laws was watching television, fire engulfed her down her Salwar (trousers) at about 3:15 pm, but none advanced to save her until it went out itself leaving her

fire in an attempt to commit suicide," said Nasima Nasrin quoting her sister clinic, then to Mitford hospital at 4:00 p.m. and later shifted to the DMCH at

Nasima told newsmen at the DMCH that about five years back Yasmin was married to one Ali Ahmad, who demanded that his father-in-law Abul Hares send him to

Hares sent him there spending Tk 2.5 lakh nine months ago, but he returned after one month and remained unemployed. Ali again demanded that he be sent abroad again. But this time the in-laws

Yasmin of strangling her to death and of ousting her if she failed to manage the money from her father. Yasmin, second among three

sisters and two brothers, is mother of a two and a half years old son, Shisir. Police said they did not know about the incident.

Yasmin Murder FROM PAGE 12

A domestic help in Dhaka, Yasmin was going home in Dinajpur on August 27, 1995.

of reaching her home. But on way the cops rapped the poor girl, killed her and threw the body on roadside.

are now in custody, while driver Amrita Lalis still at large.
Additional Attorney General

Ctg car crash

Sitakunda vesterday. A Chittagong-bound bus from Comilla rammed into an autorickshaw carrying Mohammad Abu Naser, 17, Mohammad Omar Faruk, 18, Mohammad Mohiuddin, 18, and Shamsun Nahar Jharna, 17, her brother Mobarak Hossain, 25, at 9:30am near SKM Jute Mills on Dhaka-Chittagong highway, police

and witnesses said Naser, Faruk, Mohiuddin,

The SSC examinees and Mobarrak hired the three-wheeler for Sitakunda High School examination centre, to attend the test, relatives said.

Sitakunda police seized the bus, but the driver escaped. Police sent the bodies to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Default loans

FROM PAGE 1 been 'scared off' by powerful loan

Presently, with the MLCs there are more than 40,000 pending cases involving default loans of Tk 10,000

To back up banks, the finance ministry has recommended involving district administrations and especially to utilise the powers vested with the deputy commissioners in loan recovery, sources said.

Tk50,000 for the MLCs to accept cases. Most of the cases at Tk 50,000-level are related to agricultural loans, which can be better handled by the district magistrate's courts, it reasons It also suggests for banks to sell off mortgaged properties before filing the

However, commercial banks have repeatedly complained to the central bank and the finance ministry that, generally, they can't even take over the possession to sell of such properties, as the defaulters resort to threatening

Yesterday, while Law Minister Moudud Ahmed was reviewing the progress of dispute resolution by the MLCs, it was observed that a number

Two US soldiers

FROM PAGE 12 Baghdad, back to their base in the

nearby town of Hilla Six people were arrested, includng four carrying proper police identification, one former police official and a civilian, said US Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt.

Those persons are all under coalition custody being interrogated at this time," he said Friday.

The possibility that genuine policemen had been involved in the attack has raised questions about corruption in Iraq's new police force, which the US-led coalition has tried to defend.

"We have a very robust vetting rocess for all Iraqis that are hired or rehired into security services," said senior Coalition Provisional Authority spokesman Dan Senor. But "while it is robust it is also not perfect, as can be expected in any security service," he admitted,

Hilla police chief Keis Hamser Abud, whose officers made the initial arrests, said there was always the potential of bad policemen slipping through the net.

We are living in a time when we cannot have pure policemen 100 percent of the time. There are olicemen who are weak to bribery," he told AFP this week.

Several police have been arrested since the summer for involvement in secret cells of Saddam's nowbanned Baath party. primary contractors were free to hand out work to whoever they want.

"If you compel us to return the

Thursday afternoon when the gang

bducted her and took her to the

"I heard someone shouting for

Kohinoor murder

asked the beast for money if I knew he would kill you," said Kohinoor's elderly mother Almida as she wailed, hugging her daughter's lifeless body brought to her Pallabi house after post-mortem before burial at the nearby Kalshi graveyard yesterday

Aresident of Road no. 1, Block-D of Pallabi Section-12, Habibur had been threatening the victim's family after being pressed to return the money he had borrowed from Almida.

"About two and half years ago, he borrowed Tk 37,000 from my mother as he wanted to start a business. Eleven others had also lent him money for the purpose," said Aftab Uddin, Kohinoor's elder brother.

money, Aftab said they brought the matter to the local ward commissioner's attention. The commissioner then convened a meeting where he asked Habibur to pay back the money. But instead of paying back, an

angry Habibur began to threaten their

family.

"My mother went to claim the but Habibur's wife

money a week ago, but Habibur's wife

As Habibur never returned their

from the house. The two were taken on a three-day remand after being produced before the Court of Chief Metropolitan

Al-Qaeda claim

The statement to London-based newspaper Al-Quds Al-Arabi from a group claiming to be an al-Qaeda affiliate raised plenty of scepticism, mainly in the West.

But al-Qaeda watchers have not been so quick to dismiss it.

With Islamist websites not surprisingly chattering with conviction that the hand of al-Qaeda had struck terribly once more, Omar Bakri Mohammed, the leader of the radical Islamic group al-Muhajiroun, suggested a closer look at some of the evidence.

The controversial London-based

figure, who is suspected of links with

Abu Qatada, an alleged al-Qaeda

leader in Europe, urged the Spanish government to realise that the attacks were in response to its military support for the US-led war and occupation in Iraq. "I'm surprised that the (Spanish) government doesn't take notice that

Europe are really looking at it as a great retaliation against Spain's atrocities in Iraq," Bakri said. The statement signed "Abu Hafs Al-Masri Brigades/al-Oaeda" was received by Al-Quds Al-Arabi news-

Islamists in the Muslim world and in

paper hours after the horror struck. It "promised three operations, one called 'train of death' in Spain, one called 'black smoke of death in Italy' and one called 'the wind of death in the US'," Bakri said.

"All these operations have been

named and I do believe we should

take the threat of al-Qaeda seriously.

the Middle East and Europe on the Internet have some type of praise ... for the great victories achieved by al-Qaeda," in Spain, Bakri added.

"I believe it's a strong message to

all the people of Europe that unless Shop owners

FROM PAGE 1 traders at Patuatuli, Islampur and Kotwali kept their shops closed for three hours from 10:00am and staged a demonstration yesterday protesting the gruesome killing of Rezaul and demanding stern action against the killers.

They will hold a rally in front of Patuatuli market at 11:00am today. Srinagar police found Rezaul's

wrists at a place in Tongibari and feet at another place in Srinagar on Friday. His head was recovered from Sadar upazila yesterday. On information, Kotwali police from the capital rushed to Munshiganj along with the victim's

relatives and confirmed his identity

and sent the body parts to Narayanganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. The officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station said the trader left his shop at about 3:30pm on Tuesday on way to Sadarghat. As he did not return home till midnight, his wife Parvin Begum lodged a general

Rezaul was a resident of Abdur Rouf Road at Koltabazar in Sutrapur. Police were yet to find any clue to the killing.

you stop your own government's foreign policy ... and withraw your forces from the Muslim lands, especially in Afghanistan and Iraq, you ought to be (ready to face) attack

detonators and an audio tape in Arabic carrying a recitation of Koranic verses. In Norway, defense researchers have come across documents that

could link al-Qaeda to the train bombings, Norwegian television reported Friday. Defence Research Establishment staff who have specialized in digging up original al-Oaeda reports, told the NRK channel they had discovered a document posted on an Arabic website last year outlining al-Qaeda strategies on how to force

In an audiotape, the purported voice of bin Laden himself threatened attacks on several countries, including Spain, Australia, Britain, Poland, Japan and Italy.

where Madrid has deployed 1,300-

Civil society rally FROM PAGE 12 Altaf Hossain Chowdhury to resign

ruling alliance responsible for the attack, they also called for imposing a ban on communal politics. Calling the government a 'total

better treatment, Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said, "If the government or the DU authorities don't send him abroad, the Duta will do it." "The Duta has already started

Singapore," he added. From the rally, the SNS also announced its next programmes that include formation of district level citizens' committees by March 25, forming a human chain in the capital on March 25 at midnight and holding a national convention on

The rally was presided over first

March 31.

by Professor Anisuzzaman of the DU and then by poet Syed Shamsul

PM promises

population, Khaleda promised. The prime minister said the

Besides diversifying agriculture and making self-sufficiency in food

The PM said the rice production

its application for protecting the soil Organisers said about 13,000

State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, AKM Fazlul Huq Milon MP, Agriculture Secretary ASM Abdul Halim, Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council M Nurul Alam, Director General of the Department of Agriculture Extension Tariq Hasan, Director General of Bari Shahidul Islam, Representative of the block supervisors Abdul Karim and Peasant

A housewife was set on fire allegedly

Yasmin Akhtar, 25, is now fighting

badly burnt, alleged her relatives. "As I was screaming, my husband said he would save me only if I promise to tell people that I set myself on

Yasmin was first taken to a local 6:00 p.m., where she is undergoing treatment at bed No. 23 of ward No.

Ali on Thursday night threatened

The following morning she was picked up by the patrol police from a bus stand in Rangpur with promise

ASI Moinul and constable Sattar Abdur Razzak Khan appeared for the state and Barrister Shahdat Hossain

Mobarak and driver Nur Mohammad died on the spot while critically injured Jharna was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where she died at about 3:30pm, sources said.

A case was lodged with Sitakunda Police Station.

defaulters when trying to seize their mortgaged properties. As a result, the amount of default loans has continued to inflate and number of cases lodged with the Money Loan courts (MLC) to skyrocket.

Besides, the amendment suggests raising the minimum default-loanamount of Tk 3 lakh from the present

concerned cases with the MLCs. the bank officials concerned.

of cases settled by them were rerouted to the High Court. From there the loan defaulters obtained stay orders on the MLCs' verdicts and thus continued to get away with their

FROM PAGE 12
"Oh my child, I would never have Poli Rahman threatened to drive her out of the area," said Aftab. money, you will have to lose a member of your family," Aftab quoted Poli as saying to his mother. Kohinoor was going to her private tuition job at a house in Pallabi

afternoon.

help at around 3:00am Friday. As I came out of my house, I saw fire rising up from the farm," said a local resident. Some locals said they attempted to go near the farm but people guardingit did not let them get close. Police yesterday arrested two more accused -- Selim and Kashem -- from

poultryfarm, sources said.

the area. Kashem is an employee at the poultry farm where Kohinoor was murdered. Police also found Kohinoor's wristwatch near the farm. Earlier on Friday night, Pallabi olice arrested Abul Kalam Azad and

hafuddin Pintu, sons of the landlord,

forced to soften accusations against ETA after finding a van containing

and instability in the whole world."

The Madrid government was also

Washington and its allies to leave Iraq, and pointing to Spain as the 'weakest link".

Seven Spanish intelligence officers died on November 29 in a mortar and grenade attack in Iraq

immediately for what they said was "All the websites and the his failure to nab the assailants in the chatrooms of Islamists throughout 15 days since the incident. Holding the fundamentalist and communal factions within the

> failure,' they said people did not want to see it in power any more. On sending Dr Azad abroad for

working for sending Azad to

Haque. Among others, Justice KM Sobhan, Prof Borhan Uddin Khan Jahangir, cultural activist Ramendu Majumder, editor Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, writer Hayat Mahmud, Awami League lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor, Dewan Shafiul Arefin Tutul, Dr Jamal Uddin, women and trade union leader Shirin Akhter, Prof Sydul Haque Chowdhury, engineer Golam Mostafa and cultural activist Kamal Mahmud spoke in the meeting.