

Thousands line up

flags with similar slogans written on them. A blow of whistle signalled the beginning and end of the human chain.

At the end of the demonstration, the protesters came on to the road shouting slogans like 'Down with Khaleda-Nizami regime', 'Shut down Hawa Bhaban' and 'Return the wealth of the people' while others sang patriotic songs while passing through on trucks.

Although AL President Sheikh Hasina did not participate in the programme, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil paraded the road from Bangabandhu Avenue to Russell Square.

Jalil told newsmen that the human chain programme was part of the party's move to pull down the government by April through a mass movement including two back-toback dawn-to-dusk hartals on April 7 and 8. "Our demand is simple resignation of the government and midterm elections," he said and congratulated people for making the human chain programme a success.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, AL organising secretary and political secretary to Sheikh Hasina, said the programme showed the AL does not believe in creating anarchy in the name of politics. He said city resi-dents expressed their non-

'Jubo Dal' men beat up 2 cops in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Activists allegedly of the ruling BNP's youth front beat up two sub-inspectors after storming Bhera-mara Police Station in an afternoon assault yesterday that prompted the arrest of an attacker.

Police captured Majibur Rahman, organising secretary of Bheramara Poura Jubo Dal unit, who allegedly led a group of 12 in the attack at about 2:00pm. Majibur is accused in two other cases. Reason for the attack could not be known.

The Jubo Dal men kicked and punched sub-inspectors Sankar Kumar Ghosh and Abul Hossain Sarif.

Kushtia Superintendent of Police Abdus Salam, who arrived at the police station on a visit during the attack, directed police to arrest the escaping gang

Extortionists

FROM PAGE 12

towards the Mirpur Mazar. Afsar died on way to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Traders at the shopping complex closed their shops yesterday and staged an impromptu demonstration protesting the murder and demanding arrest and trial of the killers.

Some 30 minutes after killing Afsar, the gang went to Banaful Display Centre at Green Road and threatened to kill the employees there unless they were given Tk 5 lake by the end of the day said

confidence in the government by spontaneously participating in the uman wall demonstrations. "The AL will soon announce more such anti-government programmes with mass participation of the common

people No major untoward incidents were reported during the demonstration. Large contingents of riot police and plainclothes detectives were deployed along the roads.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Inu) led by its president Hasanul Huq Inu formed a separate human chain from Dainik Bangla crossing to Motijheel Shapla Chattar demanding résignation of the government.

Vehicular traffic jostled to steer clear of the demonstrators only to clogup the roads in the process.

AL sources said the success of the programme is proof of the main pposition's organisational capabil-. Top AL leaders joined it in groups at their designated areas.

AL sources claimed that several people were injured when cocktails were thrown at demonstrators led by AL leader Abdur Razzak at Kalvanpur

Congratulating people for mak-ing the "mass no-confidence human all" a success, AL President Sheikh Hasina asked the BNP-Jamaat alliance government to step down on its own before its too late and "give people a respite from its misrule"

In a statement, she said the alliance government has pushed the country to the verge of destruction through corruption, nepotism, nurder, loot, rape, extortion, robberies and abductions. "The BNP government was

compelled to step down on this day March 30) in 1996. Today, people nave once again expressed their non-confidence by standing in protest along the 22-km way from Pallabi to Bahadur Shah Park," she said

Jayanti Murder FROM PAGE 12

basing on the first information report (FIR), statements of 20

witnesses and the post-mortem report found Azam Reza guilty. The IO quoting the postmortem report said, death was due to cerebral failure resulted from

head injury, which was homicidal in nature. Police recovered the body of

Jayanti, a teacher of Australian International School, hanging from the ceiling fan in their Banani house on January 9 afternoon. Jayanti's mother filed a General Diary (GD) with Gulshan Police Station, where she mentioned that Azam killed Jayanti to pave the way for making Mimi his life partner Iavanti's mother filed a case later accusing Azam Reza, his sister Shampa Reza and Afsana Mimi.

Hosts in trouble

FROM PAGE 1 Rahul Dravid at first slip. Seamer Balaji was successful off

pledge to remove 'corrupt judge' UNB, Dhaka

Re-elected Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) President Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud

vesterday said his insistence on removing an additional judge of the High Court for fixing bail and bringing transparency to appoint-ment of judges earned him law-vare confidence yers' confidence.

Rokan reiterates

Talking to newspersons after his panel's (Sammilita Ainjibi Samannay Parishad) sweeping victory in March 28-29 polls, Rokan listed the achievements during his first term. "I strongly supported separation and independence of the judiciary, transparency in

appointment and promotion of judges without taking political affiliation into account and upholding the rule of law.

"Constitution of the Supreme Judicial Council to probe allegation of corruption against judges is an outcome of my struggle. Upon our constant pressure, the government was compelled to form the Judicial Service Commission for recruitment of judges in the lower

courts, meeting partially our goal of separation of the judiciary," he Rokan referred to the govern-

ment's foot-dragging on acting on a Supreme Judicial Council report and said it was heavily telling upon the public coffers. The controver-sial additional judge is enjoying all the benefits from the public funds since October last year.

"The delay in taking action in this sensitive issue might be the main reason for the election debacle of the government-backed panel....the SJC cannot be a reha-bilitation centre for corrupt judges," he said pointing finger at the controversial additional judge Stad Shebidur Pahman Sved Shahidur Rahman.

Supply from Jalalabad gas field disrupted

UNB, Dhaka

Gas supply from Unocal's Jalalabad field yesterday remained suspended for over an hour, disrupting power generation.

The disorder forced the Power Development Board (PDB) to go for a fresh 400mw loadshedding against the projected 200mw. The power outage in the peak evening hours stood at 600

Capital Dhaka was also not spared the severe loadshedding, as people from various areas complained of untold sufferings in this hot and humid weather in absence of power, coupled with water scar-

The countryside also suffered from loadshedding during the peak time of irrigation. Production in a number of industrial areas was hampered

PDB officials said the peak-hour demand of electricity yesterday was projected at 3,400mw plus. They

CU students

NEWS

around 2:00pm.

after these attacks.

forced her out.

not met.

Shumi, Tania, Mamun, Joshi

Earlier on Monday, female students locked Shafiqul Islam,

house tutor of Shamsunnahar Hall,

inside his office for seven hours

from 7:00pm as JCD leaders Runa

and Mamun threw out the luggage

of Shimu from room No. 310 and

Prof Dr Siddique Ahmed

Chowdhury, provost of Shamsunnahar Hall and the proctor

agitation against the vice-chancellor if their demands were

unwanted on the campus.

Meanwhile, the GSAC declared

They also vowed to launch

Vice-chancellor Prof AJM

Nuruddin Chowdhury, who rushed

from Dhaka in the morning hearing

the volatile campus situation, told

reporters, "We have invited agitat-

ng students for a dialogue to solve

FROM PAGE 12

wounded in the attack. Of them, Zulfikar, Ripa Sardar, Mohiuddin Mohi, Amzad and Russell were Chakma, Shilpi, Suchy, Nandita, Monti Boishnab, SCF leader admitted to Chittagong Medical Monzurul Haque, Helal and Prabir College Hospital. were treated at CU medical centre

Many students alleged JCD goons attacked general students in presence of CU Proctor Prof Mujibur Rahman and police, who did not resist the ruling BNP's studentwing cadres.

Protesting the attack, the GSAC called an indefinite strike at the CU from today and announced their six-point demand including removal of the proctor, provost and house tutor of Shamsunnahar Hall and expulsion of JCD leader Jebun Nesa Runa.

Bangladesh Chhatra League, left-leaning Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU), Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) expressed solidarity with the GSAC.

Snatching The Daily Star photojournalist Jobaer Hossain Sikder's gears, JCD cadres assaulted him and broke into pieces his zoom lens when he was taking snaps of the attacks.

the problem. The beat BCU leaders Ahsanul However, he brushed aside the Haque Nipun and Shah Alam near CU railway station at around possibility of closing the university on.

In another attack, police clubbed Prof Nuruddin was also holding a meeting with resident students of agitating students, who were pro-testing the Sunday afternoon oust-Shamsunnahar Hall, which contining of Shimu Mohsina from ued till the writing of this report at Shamsunnahar Hall by JCD leader 7:30 last evening.

Additional police forces were deployed on the campus to avert JCD men again chased them at the same spot in police presence at any untoward incident.

top thrust sectors for enhancing

productivity, as it would effectively

expedite employment generation.

tion of gender inequity, increased

employment generation for women and development of infor-

mation and communication tech-

nology (ICT) as vital for the coun-

try's economic progress. She also urged to quicken the pace of pov-erty reduction and to utilise the

surplus labour force efficiently and

Rushidan underscored elimina-

Reforms fail to rein

fully

FROM PAGE 1

Runa in the afternoon.

11:30am.

University said the reform programmes failed to boost employment generation and help the manufacturing sector grow. As a result, poverty level in the coun-try remained almost static, he added.

Summing up the report, Bangla-desh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) Research Director Rushidan Islam Rahman said employment generation largely depended on skill development and, so, both the issues must be addressed simultaneously.

"Economic liberalisation has badly affected the employment situation," she noted, adding a large segment of the workforce was involved in low-productivity employment because of a huge mass of surplus labour and lack of skills.

Rushidan pointed out, according to a survey of Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics in 1999-2000, 32 percent of the total workforce in Bangladesh were under-employed, meaning working less than 35 hours a week.

The survey also found 8.4 percent of the male labour force as underemployed, compared to a massive 71.2-percent female underemployment. The BIDS director urged the

policymakers to recognise training and skill development as one of the

GP employees' house in **Mirpur looted**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers yesterday looted valuables reportedly worth around Tk 11 lakh from the house of a GrameenPhone (GP) employee in Mirpur Section-

Cutting the kitchen window grill at house No. 5, road No. 2, block B, a gang of four entered the first floor house of Zakaria Hossain Khan at around 3:00am when he and his nephew Ferdous Alam were sleep-

Zakaria filed an FIR (first information report) with Mirpur Police Station, which said, "We heard some noise from the kitchen and suddenly four armed robbers held us at gunpoint.'

The gang threatened to shoot if they made any sound. The robbers also tied their hands with rope and locked them inside a room, it added. The gang looted most household electronic goods including TV, case. You have other children to think and worry about," a caller told personal computer, lap-top computer.

However, police failed to recover the goods till 6:00 in the evening.

Outlaw leader slaughtered in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

pieces two days after their driver was found hacked to death in a car on the A gang belonging to an outlawed organisation yesterday hacked to far outskirts of Dhaka on Friday. death another underground outfit leader at Bera in Pabna.

to be hanged. We want justice. Can The gang captured Yaar Khan, 27, in Ayenkhar Dol area under you promise that?" Yasmin asked State Minister for Home Affairs Masundiva union when was passing Lutfozzaman Babar when he visited the family. Accompanied by Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Babar the area. They slaughtered him and dumped his body in a lake, locals assured her of justice. said

Emerging from the house, the Yaar was a listed criminal of state minister repeated: "Spreading Bera Police Station and an accused alarm among people is the implicain various criminal cases including tions of these attacks. We will track of murders, police said. down who are behind the killings as

Human dev status FROM PAGE 12

"These achievements would be

"Bangladesh has come out of

farmers have doubled rice produc-

tion over the last two decades," he

jeopardised if we fail to minimise

the existing pervasive income gap

The report concluded that economic growth would be nei-ther sustainable nor deliverable in workforce. Hossain Zillur Rahman of

a just manner, without serious Power and Participation Research commitment for employment Centre said increase of literacy rate generation and human resources and women workforce and lowerdevelopment. ing of fertility rate are some suc-The small-scale producers, who use the most labour-intensive cesses of Bangladesh.

production process, are the worst victims of the increasing open trade, it maintained. CPD Director Professor

between the rich and poor," he said. "Economic growth must be Mustafizur Rahman and Professor pro-poor.' Muzaffer Ahmad also spoke on the occasion, among others the vicious circle of famine as the

Move to bring FROM PAGE 12

Presiding over the session, ment to bring them back, ministry Kholiguzzaman, chairman of sources said. Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad, The money will be later realised said economic growth will be of

from the recruiting agency's deposit against its licence.

Old Dhaka stop tinue to kill more," Menon said.

University College campus.

On a visit later in the day, former

president HM Ershad blasted the

state minister for his comments and

'The government will not be able to

stay in power if they don't bring the killers to justice."

"The government cannot skirt its responsibility for the deaths of the

businessmen. They (ruling BNP

leaders) know who committed the crime. If we let animals (killers) go, it

will reduce us to the level of animals

DHAKA WEDNESDAY MARCH 31, 2004

Killers" -- in shell-shocked Old Dhaka, a hotbed of attacks on businesspeople and businesses. Kajal, reportedly Haq's family friend with a past of leading crime gangs in Old Dhaka, is accused of The area with a matrix of streets killing Sergeant Farhad on Jagannath

and lanes sank into gloom because of the strike: only signs of life came from southbound travellers using Sadarghat launch terminal. "It's not a simple case of extortion assured Haq's wife and daughters:

most businesspeople don't have the courage to stand up against such criminals," Rouf said. "Political instability is to blame for the recent killings in our area. I don't blame any party in particular, but both opposition and ruling parties have to share the responsibility for what is hap-

THREATENING CALLS

phone calls from unnamed persons

scared their family and raised serious

Haq's wife before she hung up in fear.

worried about our security," said Yasmin, the eldest daughter of Haq.

"We have alerted police ... we are

Police recovered the bodies of

"We want nothing but the killers

our investigations reveal more in

The mayor chimed in: "Other

Workers Party President Rashed

"It has nothing to do with fear. If

political activists are allowed to roam

even after being accused of murder-ing Sergeant Farhad, they will con-

union expressed fury at Annan's decision.

senior UN officials get to retire with their pensions," Guy Candusso, the

anion's first vice president, told AFP. "They still have to answer for their role."

The latest report will not be

"There are 22 people dead and

Annan spares

businessmen should not be alarmed

as the murders took place out of a

Khan Menon and other top 11-party

left alliance leaders, who visited the family at the same time, differed with

dispute between two partners."

the state minister later.

FROM PAGE 12

time.

Haq and Russell in more than 250

"You didn't do right by filing the

concern about security

morning find on Sunday.

too," Ershad said. In the wake of a case filed against Kajal as the prime suspect after remains of the 56-year-old and his INVESTIGATION

Investigators quizzed a man popu-larly known as Guddu with potential 29-year-old son were retrieved in Gazipur on Sunday, threatening links to the killings after he was arrested in Sabujbagh on March 27. He told police he was close to Kaial but did not have any role in the kill

> Guddu, now on a five-day remand, named up to seven people with ties to Kajal, who has been evading capture since the incident. The investigation officer refused to give more details.

Sources said a team of 150 police-Ministers and political leaders men and intelligence agents ringed a Dhanmondi house on Monday and activists of all hues continued to pour in Haq's home in the old quarnight, but Kajal fled scaling the comter of the city to offer condolences to pound wall the family numbed by the macabre incident that was brought to light in a

Earlier, police arrested Kajal's four other accomplices Abdus Samad Bengal, Tapash, Palash and Habibin Srinagar, Munshiganj.

CEC promises free polls to alternative stream

hief Election Commissioner (CEC)

M A Syed vesterday assured a alter-native political stream delegation of holding all upcoming elections and bye-elections in a neutral and peaceful manner, trying to dispel its doubts about free polls.

The delegation, led by Abdul Mannan, member secretary of the

national convening committee of the stream, made a courtesy call on

the CEC at his office and expressed its concerns about how free and fair the bye-elections in two Jatiya

Sangsad (JS) constituencies and the upcoming municipal elections would be.

The Dhaka-10 and Munshiganj-1 JS constituencies fell vacant on March 10 when Abdul Mannan and Mahi B Chowdhury resigned from the BNP and parliament. Bye-elections in those constituencies are to be held within 90 days from March 10

The other members of the dele-gation were Firoj M Hasan, Gias Uddin Ahmed and Majibur

They also informed Syed that their political party would be registered with the election com-mission.

Saifur however was hopeful that

In its report submitted to the com-

The committee recommended

Committee Chairman Mushfigur

setting up of a special bench in the High

Court for speedy disposal of the pend-

Rahman said the judicial system would

need 10 years to dispose the cases if the

special benchwere not constituted.

revenue due to cases pending with

March 10.

Rahman.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

shop manager Elias.

"For the last one month or so Ashik, a notorious criminal, had been calling us demanding that we send him Tk 2 lakh. He said he would kill us all if he had to come to get the money," Elias said.

Following repeated threats, the manager of the Banaful sweet shop at Mirpur filed a general diary with Mirpur Police Station on February

Assistant Commissioner of Police (Mirpur Zone) Kamrul Ahsan said a police team was deployed near the shop after the diary was filed, but was withdrawn after a week as the extortionists stopped calling.

A case was filed.

Country set

FROM PAGE 1

is equivalent to 17 trillion cubic feet of gas. Given the present trend of energy consumption and gas crisis, the mine will become the biggest alternative source of energy in the country.

But there will be an immediate impact of the Tk 1024-crore hard rock mine project that is already extracting granite and selling it to selected consumers.

Three years behind the schedule for its operation and still going through some glitches, the project is all set to start commercial sale of 1.6 million tonnes of granite a year from October.

The project will drastically reduce dependence on hard rock import as it will produce 1.6 million tonnes of granite against an annual demand for 3.4 million tonnes. This will save between \$38 million and \$58 million a year although the granite will not be cheaper than the rocks usually imported from India.

"This is because the project is costly and slow implementation has made it costlier," said a Petrobangla source. "But still it will be a profitable venture.

As per the original contract, the project's North Korean contractor Namnam and its Polish consultant Kopex were supposed to complete the turn-key project in 2001.

But financial crunch of Namnam stalled the progress of work for many months. When the project restarted by extending the contract with Namnam, its cost increased to Tk 1024 crore from Tk 894 crore.

"The project is suffering due to the absence of a consultant for the last one year," said the Petrobangla source. "Petrobangla experts are doing the consultant's job but we really need the original consultant's help.

Although the contract with

only his second ball when he trapped left-hander Imran Farhat (38) Ibw to reduce Pakistan to 73 for two.

But Hameed and Inzamam fought back in an attractive 153minute partnership worth 160 runs.

Inzamam, who had struck centuries in the last two matches in his home town of Multan, got into his stride quickly. The 34-year-old Inzamam, nicknamed "Sultan of Multan" by local fans, brought up his half-century off 76 balls with a

single off leg-spinner Kumble. But just when he was looking dangerous, Inzamam was given out caught at forward short-leg off Kumble. Television replays, how-ever, suggested the batsman might have been unlucky.

Kopex was extended through

supplementary contract in March

last year, it had to wait for clearance

Till January this year, Namnam extracted over 3,00,000 tonnes of

granite, of which Petrobangla sold

over 1,75,000 tonnes to different

consumers. Till then 80 percent of

Officials of the project and of

the project was completed.

or so, Petrobangla sources said.

Clearance will be given in a week

by the cabinet.

All govt offices FROM PAGE 1

secretary to the prime minister, who launched the facility at the Secretariat, stressed use of ICT as a tool for development and speeding up administrative communica-tions.

citv.

Establishment Secretary Sarfaraj Hossain and secretaries of different ministries and other high govern-ment officials were present.

Ulfa issue

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"Bangladesh has got the text of the proposed extradition treaty as well as mutual legal assistance treaty and we are hoping these will be signed soon," Shashank told Indian Express.

The Indian foreign secretary, however, said it was too early to talk about modalities for the return of the Ulfa leaders.

New Delhi alleges its northeastern insurgents find shelter in Bangladesh, but Dhaka maintains it will never allow its territory to be used for anti-Indian activities

Dhaka firm

FROM PAGE 1

closer.

opportunities.

Bangladesh.

alleviating poverty, he said.

Petrobangla said the project faced a Reduction in Shanghai, were dislot of opposition from the hard rock cussed. importers' lobby as the mine is The ambassador termed hreatening their 'ways of business'. Bangladesh a trusted friend of China and said co-operation in various sectors of economic devel-opment of Bangladesh would be

The coal project also saw various hurdles and even some major disasters. Several workers were killed in disasters inside the mine expanded and increased in a bigger while sub-soil water reservoir wav leakage repeatedly flooded the The prime minister hoped that the excellent bilateral relations would expand and consolidate further to bring the two people more mine, allegedly designed badly.

Besides, delayed appointment of consultant has pushed the schedule of the \$220 million coal-fired Barapukuria Power Plant Project. This plant will consume 70 percent of the one million tonnes of coal to be produced annually. The rest will sold to general consumers and exported.

The power plant is costlier by at least \$70 million than other plants of the same capacity.

Built by Chinese company CMEC, 83 percent of the coal project was completed by February this year and by that time 62,574 tonnes of coal were extracted.

Appreciating Bangladesh'a achievement in poverty reduction and microcredit, he observed that other countries could also follow The Cabinet Purchase Committee approved Monday appointment of another Chinese company Shandong Ludi Consortium for production, management and maintenance of the Barapukuria Coal Mine at a cost of 49 million dollars. Shandong will take over the mine's responsibility from October

were expecting to generate 3,200mw in the peak hours enforc **Biman's DC-10** ing a 200mw load shedding.

UNB, Dhaka

After flying over the sky of Dhaka for quite sometime, a DC-10 air-craft of Biman Bangladesh Airlines landed safely as one of its engines that developed technical fault was shut down.

survives scare

Sources at the state-run airlines said the flight from Dubai landed at Zia International Airport at about 2:40pm.

As news spread from the control tower, the airport officials took all-out measures and fire fighting units from various points also rushed to the airport bracing for an emergency.

The pilot, however, immedi-ately shut down the faulty engine and managed to land the aircraft safely.

BGMEA wants

FROM PAGE 1

against the national interest is not desirable

Responding to a demand of the BGMEA, the prime minister announced that a national coordination committee will be formed soon to help the garment sector face the post2004 challenges when the quota system will be phased out.

The committee comprising representatives from the ministries of commerce, finance, textile and shipping and other departments concerned and the BGMEA will find ways and means to protect readymade garment sector in the post-2004 period.

The delegation placed a num-ber of demands including estab-Mentioning the investment-friendly atmosphere and incentive packages for investment, she hoped lishment of a central bonded warehouse to the prime minister. that China would invest in Bangladesh availing itself of the

The BGMEA leaders hoped that the government would take some Ambassador Chai Xi apprised the prime minister about the povpolicy decisions for survival and flourishing of garment sector. erty reduction conference, to be organised by the World Bank on

They lauded Khaleda Zia for May 25 this year, and said the peo-ple of China eagerly awaits once again to welcome and greet Khaleda Zia. keeping garment industry out of the purview of hartal when she was FROM PAGE 1 in the opposition.

The prime minister said the government gives highest priority to garment sector as it has created employment for a large number of people, including women, and is playing a significant role in the overall economic growth.

Bangladesh's participation in the upcoming world conference might benefit other countries in Assuring the BGMEA leaders of all-out cooperation of the government to face the post-2004 chal-Ambassador Chai Xi conveyed greetings of the Chinese leaders to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. lenges, the prime minister said she discusses about expansion of

These Bangladeshis were sent to Jordan without permission from the government. "Although they were sent ille-

gally, we are bringing them back home only on humanitarian con-siderations, " said Mohammad Quamrul Islam, state minister for expatriate welfare ministry. He also said Bangladesh

Association of International Recruiting Agencies has been asked to take action against the agency concerned and realise the money to be spent from the government fund for this purpose. The association has also been

asked to ensure the agency returns the money the victims gave it -- Tk 1.60 lakh to Tk 2.20 lakh each -- to get job in Amman.

Earlier, the government brought back 32 Bangladeshis from Sri Lanka and four from Russia.

market and other issues relating to readymade garments whenever she gets an opportunity to talk with leaders of other countries.

She stressed the need for production of goods according to the demand of the buyers and said products as per buyers' orders must be supplied in time.

The prime minister said the government is trying to enhance standard of utility services, including the supply of gas and electric-The consumers should also pay their bills in time, she added.

The BGMEA leaders informed the prime minister that there are two forums in their organisation but they are working together setting a unique example of amity.

Hossain Chowdhury, Adviser to the Ministry of Commerce Barkatullah Bulu and Prime Minister's Political Secretaries Harris Chowdhury and M Mosaddek Ali were present.

Asif

secured the silver with 691.8 points.

It was an improved performance by the Pabna wunderkinder after his Manchester marvel, where he hit a superb 691.1 to shatter a 12vear-old record.

A BKSP student, Asif is the torchbearer of the legacy that started with Atiq-ur Rahman and Jahangir Sattar Nini, who won the first Common-wealth gold for Bangladesh at Auckland in 1990.

little significance unless the income inequality is removed. Vice-chancellor of Dhaka

University SMA Faiz inaugurated the workshop. Country representative of the UNFPA Suneeta Mukherjee spoke as a special guest.

Met office

FROM PAGE 1

mentioned.

Shahnaz Begum, a BADC official, however, said the Boro cultivation scenario doesn't look too bad. "I have already visited some places. The condition is not so bad. At some places, the grains have dried up, but largely the condition is good.'

She said the government has already announced a Tk 300 crore subsidy for farmers and directed the department to take special measures in case there is any chance of production loss.

A large number of irrigation FROM PAGE 12 equipment is required in the dry season, said a source in the BADC. Last year, farmers used as many as tence to Joseph and Mamun. 23,434 deep tube wells, 9,24,023 shallow tube wells, 79,850 low lift life term Tk 50,000 each and they pumps and 22 floating pumps.

Also, 13,055 hand-operated vear in default. pumps, 4,965 artesian wells and 6,509 dug wells helped irrigation in 32,511 hectares of land, he said, adding the requirement of pumps increases every year.

Out of 75 lakh hectares of arable land, 40,18,237 hectares have been brought under IRRI- Boro cultivation in 2003-04.

packed courtroom at 11:45am. He Aminul Haq, chief engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board, did not admit there was deathbed before a magistrate two days after he was shot points to the drought-like situation in the counfact that Joseph, Haris, Munna, try. He said the authorities were Mamun, Shahin and Paris shot the rather preparing for a flood, adding victim. that a flood information centre will be opened on the first day of April.

Men flee

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Some of the families paid them after negotiating the amount while those who failed to come up with the money are fleeing the villages.

People of Assassuni upazila are judgement although he expected living in fear under the tyranny of the outlaws who regularly visit the accused villages brandishing firearms to extort money.

Locals alleged that police did not take any action to protect villagers although a list of the criminals was submitted to them following the murder of police informer Haroon Dhali a few months ago at Budhata of the same upazila.

Police said additional police were deployed in the area to prothere to appear before the Court of tect villagers

made public but a summary given to journalists paints a devastating picture of UN operations after the world body returned to Iraq follow-**Revenue Tk 372cr** ing the ouster of Saddam Hussein in the US-led war. FROM PAGE 1 for the entire financial year.

Echoing another inquiry released last year, an investigative panel found evidence of "lethargy revenue collection would meet the target at the end of the fiscal year. that is bordering on gross negli-gence" and a repeated failure by UN staff to appreciate the extent of the mittee. NBR noted that it was not able to realise Tk 556 crore in outstanding security risks.

"This false sense of security was a state of mind that was shared by all the senior UN political and humani-tarian staff in Iraq," the report said.

It also found "conflicting state-ments" by UN security staff and the US military over whether the United Nations had asked the United States to vacate personnel and equipment from the hotel area before the attack.

ishment of the fugitives will be

effective from the date of their arrest

Trial Tribunal-4 gave the verdict at a

observed the victim's deposition on

Moreover, Joseph is an accused

"So they do not deserve any

in 19 cases and Mamun in three

cases, including of murder and illegal possession of arms.

sympathy. Consequently, I am inclined to award the extreme

penalty of death to them," the judge

completed their arguments and the

court recorded statements of 16 of

JCD's Dhaka city unit, was shot and fatally injured by an unidentified

gang at the premises of the Court of

District and Sessions Judge in the

old part of the city at 11:00am on

September 25,1995 when he went

Morshed, 27, joint secretary of

22 prosecution witnesses.

observed.

Judge AR Masud of the Speedy

or surrender, the judgement said.

Criminals Joseph, Mamun

courts.

ingcases.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate in a absentia. This is the first time that a

tribunal handed down death sen-He died from the wounds at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on The court fined the convicts with October 2,1995.

His father filed a case with will have to be in jail for one more Kotwali Police Station accusing Joseph, Haris, Munna, Paris, Sayeed, Tapan, Shahin, Badal and The convicts with death can appeal to the High Court against the verdict in seven days and the pun-Bidi on September 25, 1995.

The investigation officer of the case however pressed charges against 10 including Mamun on March 11,1997 showing 22 people as prosecution witnesses. The court framed charges against them on October 4,1999. The case was transferred to the tribunal on August 14 last year for quick disposal and the trial was complete in 103 working days.

Separate land

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landless at a faster rate compared to the Bangla-speaking people. About 43 percent of the indigenous people in the northern region are very poor and 92 percent of them are day labourers, he added.

Replying to a query, he said if a separate land commission is formed, the indigenous communi-ties must have a major representa-tion in it. There are 45 categories of indigenous people in the country, he mentioned Azizullah Bhuiyan, Morshed's father, said he is happy with the capital punishment for all the he mentioned. The prosecution and defence

Sanjeeb Drong alleged that successive governments over the years tried to evict indigenous people from khas (Governmentowned) lands in the name of distributing those among them. Whenever a land survey is conducted, the lands of indigenous people get reduced, he said.

A Samata report suggested ensuring the rights of indigenous people in all spheres of national life.

Commerce Minister Altaf