\$1,368m ADB loan proposed for Dhaka

The country programming mission (CPM) of Asian Development Bank (ADB) has proposed a \$1,368 million lending programme (2004-06) for

The lending programme, consisting of 17 projects, will be placed before the ADB management for final approval, according to an ADB announcement in Dhaka yesterday.

Of the proposed loan amount, \$ 618 million is expected to come from Asian Development Fund (ADF) and \$ 750 million from the ordinary capital resources (OCR) with the annual average lending of about \$ 456

The proposed 2004-06 technical assistance (TA) programme includes a total of 28 projects for which ADB expects to provide \$14.7 million.

The programme accommodates several thematic priorities, including promotion of the private sector, good governance, gender and develop-

ment, and regional cooperation. The programme will be reflected in the country strategy and programme update (CSPU) for Bangladesh, which will be considered by ADB's Board of Directorate in August this year. "Board endorsement is required before the CSPU can become operational," said an ADB release

The bank concluded its CPM for 2004 with a wrap-up meeting at the Economic Relations Division (ERD) this week. ERD Secretary Mirza Tasadduq Hossain Beg presided over the final meeting.

The CPM concentrated on ADB's assistance to fewer sectors based on greater selectivity, strong commitments of the government to reforms and result-based programming, focusing on improving portfolio

It had also concentration on ADB's comparative strength and its long involvement in the sector as well as complementary with other development partners.

Edn commission

It recommends hiking up the teacher-student ratio to 1:30 at primary level and 1:40 at secondary level by the next eight years.

According to a report of the Unesco (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) containing the latest educational data, the teacherstudent ratio in Bangladesh is the poorest among 22 South and East Asian nations. There is just one teacher for every 57 school-goers in The commission puts emphasis

on instituting an effective mechanism to ensure enrolment of children in school at the age of five. It also advises to formulate and adopt a language policy and stresses the need for upgraded and proper teaching in English.

The report asks to decentralise the education administration, while retaining the existing educational structure, to reduce hassle of the grassroots people Talking to The Daily Star yester-

day Prof Moniruzzaman said his team came up with the recommendations from a holistic approach, at the same time keeping in mind what could be implemented immediately.

He said, with a view to encourage international standard research, centres of excellence could be established at different

The 340-page report contains separate lists of recommendations for development of primary and mass education, secondary, higher secondary and higher education and suggests setting up a permanent education commission to implement those A permanent commission is also required, it says, to identify and assess problems and continuous research and brainstorming and put those to work.

The report underscores the need

management.

The CPM was conducted from February 25 to March 17 by the ADB

Altaf

ers, producers and businessmen

his replacement.

could be protected, the interest of consumers will be protected as well. The business leaders told the

IGP and **DMP**

get one-year

fresh terms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

commissioner

The government has extended the

terms of both Inspector General of

Police (IGP) Shahudul Haque and

Dhaka Metropolitan Police

Commissioner Ashraful Huda for

Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and

Ministry of Home confirmed that

both the two top police bosses have

been given one-year extension of

service on completion of their previ-

The fresh contracts were approved

There has been widespread

speculation for the last few days

whether Shahudul and Huda would

get further extension or some fresh

appointments would replace them.

A case against Shahudul at the High

Court also led to speculation over

claimed the government has retained

the officials because of their high

Sources at the home ministry

ous one-year contract.

yesterday, PMO sources said.

Highly placed sources at the

minister they were selling soybean oil at a loss-making rate. They said they would adjust the prices of oils, depending on a US forecast that was to be available by noon yester-

Emerging from the meeting, Altaf told journalists that prices of rice in the last one month came down 6.45 When journalists asked whether

this improvement is a result of his assuming the commerce portfolio, Altaf said: "we are making an all-out Ruling BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin

Pintu and Adviser to the commerce ministry Barkatullah Bhulu were present at the meeting. Pintu urged the minister to reopen

the defunct Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) as a market intervening arm of the government.

Countdown

party on April 12 amid fears of 'violent confrontation'.

Some of Bangladesh's development partners and business leaders spoke out for term-completion by the elected government, but the AL is unbent on its stand. The AL and some left parties will

observe 'Basic Democratic Rights Protection Day' today in the run-up to a set of intensified agitation at the end of the month against the government what they say has failed to rein in crimes, corruption and price hike of

The AL has called daylong nationplans to announce longer shutdowns ahead of its deadline.

The main opposition is also trying to consolidate its relations with left parties after enforcing a simultaneous hartal on March 6 along with the Communist Party of Bangladesh, Workers Party, JSD-Inu, Samyabadi Dal and Gano Azadi League.

The BNP and its front organisations will stage rallies and proceseffort to add a zest to the party.

BNP, will address a public rally on April 10 in Dhanmondi-Mohammadour constituency after similar meetings in Jatrabari, Bashabo, Lalbagh, Badda and Mirpur for drumming up support.

that the month-long programmes were taken in view of the AL deadline.

Bangladesh, The Architectural Society of China, Hong Kong Institute of Architects, Ikatan Arsitek Indonesia, Indian Institute of Architects, Japan Institute of Korean Institute of Architects, Registered Architects, Architects Association Macau, Pertubuhan Akitek Malavsia. Institute of Architects Pakistan, Singapore Institute of Architects, Association of Siamese Architects Under Royal Patronage, Society of Nepalese Architects. United Architects of the Philippines. Sri Lanka Institute of Architects and Vietnam Association of Architects.

India in sight

avoid an innings defeat, were 207

fighting 107, his 11th Test century. with last man Shabbir Ahmed on nought. Kumble finished the day with figures of six for 71. India have not won any of their

previous 20 Tests in Pakistán, losing five and drawing 15.

Left-arm paceman Irfan Pathan had done the damage earlier on Wednesday, with a career-best four for 100 in only his third Test, to end Pakistan's first innings on 407 to ensure India could enforce the follow-on.

for five in their first innings. Virender Sehwag slamming a record 309 while Sachin Tendulkar added an unbeaten 194

Same killer out

the brutal murder of the businessman and his son," Awlad Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Sutrapur Police Station told The Daily Star

from Guddu (arrested for suspected links to the killing of Shamsul and Russell)," the OC said, "the killings of Shamsul and his son had similarities with that of watch trader Reiaul Karim Selim in many ways." the OC added

Dhanmondi. All the three were all of them hailed from Munshiganj. Besides, the arrestees are believed to have links to both the incidents.

A mob allegedly lynched Buddhu, 35, an accused in at least seven cases, on Sir Salimullah Medical College (Mitford) Hospital premises in Old Dhaka Tuesday night after he allegedly gunned down a BNP activist, Hannan, 25, at the same place minutes before. "Things will get more clear once

the killers of Buddhu and Hannan are arrested "the OC added. The OC said Shamsul and Russell were probably killed and the bodies shredded either in Dhanmondi or in Gazipur.

day remand, confessed to having links with Kajal earlier but not now. Guddu also refused his involvement with the killing of business-

call off strike

from hall

CU CORRESPONDENT

Students under the banner of General Students Action Council (GSAC) yesterday called off their indefinite strike on Chittagong University (CU) campus.

Nuruddin Chowdhury assured its leaders of meeting their six-point demand. Following a meeting with stu-

dents at Shamsunnahar Hall on Tuesday night, the CU authority expelled Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader Jebun Nesa Runa from the hall for ousting an allotted The VC also told students that

they would take punitive measures against the culprits responsible for Tuesday's attack on general students, which left 20 students The authorities also decided to

appoint Abul Monsur of microbiology department as the acting provost of Shamsunnahar Hall from esterday, campus sources said

afternoon female students locked Shafiqul inside his hall office for seven hours as he failed to take action against

the JCD leader. According to campus sources, the authorities may remove Prof

went on a seven-day leave yester-

No classes were held at the CU and some departments postponed their scheduled examinations due to

Runa, JCD activists demonstrated on campus in the morning.

Meanwhile, the three-member committee headed by Prof Nuruddin Mahmud to probe the Sunday night incident started its work yesterday.

US on change of power in "We are also trying to find out **Bangladesh** why the killers adopted such cruel method to kill them," the OC said,

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United States does not favour any party in the political process of Bangladesh and believes Bangladeshis have the right to select their leaders within the political framework of the constitution, according to a State Department briefina.

A spokesman for the US State Department made the remarks in Washington on Tuesday in response to a query about his views on electoral process in Bangladesh and the March 28 comments of US Ambassador Harry K Thomas in Dhaka on Bangladesh's politics.

Thomas said the US government likes to see stability in Bangladesh with the ruling BNP running its full term to 2006 unless parliament His comments came after the

main opposition Awami League set April 30 as the deadline for fall of the The briefing text supplied by the

US embassy here says: "The United States supports the right of the people of Bangladesh to select their leaders within the political framework of their constitution. We do not favour any particular party in the political process." "We do not support extra-

constitutional efforts, including disruptive actions and violence designed to remove a democratically-elected government." The spokesman agreed with

Thomas that the political opposition should only use constitutional means to advance its agenda.

Businessman FROM PAGE 12

Chittagong correspondent say

quoting sources. Rahim's family hinted that

Momin might have murdered him for Tk 3 lakh he borrowed from Rahim. also former senior vice-president of local Awami League, six months Momin called the fish trader out

of his Ichhanagar Bazaar house at around 7:30pm asking him victim to collect the money, they alleged. Earlier, the poultry trader

returned Rahim only Tk 40,000 and promised to pay back the rest by March 26, sources said. "Momin gave my uncle two cheques amounting to Tk 2.5 lakh on the deadline, but asked him to

take the entire amount in cash from him Tuesday night instead of depositing the cheques in bank," the victim's nephew, Mohammad Hafiz, told reporters at the CMCH yesterday noon. Receiving the phone call, Rahim,

father of four sons and three daughters, went out alone on his motorbike, but did not return, he added. His son Abdullah Al Mamun

lodged a case with Karnaphuli Police Station the same night making Momin the prime suspect.

Essentials' prices

12-14, papiya Tk 10, aubergines Tk 12-15, green chilli Tk 20-22 and barbati at Tk 20-24 "The prices of green vegetables

are likely to increase if it does not rain by this week." said Anwar Hossain, a vegetable trader in the Palashi kitchen market. "As the vegetable market in the

capital city entirely depends on the supply from across the country, the vegetable gardens in the rural areas being hit by the want of rain would affect the supply badly leading to a price hike in the city markets,' Anwar added. In citv's Karwan Bazar wholesale

market per kilo local onion was selling at Tk 15-16, Indian onion at Tk 13-14, per kilo local grown garlic was selling at Tk 36-38, Indian garlic at Tk 26-28, per kilo masur was selling at Tk 40, green chilli at Tk 14-16, tomato at Tk 8-10 and potato at Tk 8-9. "As some parts of the country

have been rainless for the last five months,a price hike of vegetable is imminent," said Abu Mia, a vegeta-

Tk 28,000cr

FROM PAGE 12 was asked to submit its probe report

in 15 days so that Pac can discuss the report at its next meeting scheduled for April 21. Quoting audit reports, Pac said

the civil surgeon's offices in Sherpur, Jessore, Jamalpur, Mymensingh, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Naogaon, Tangail, Rangpur, Nilphamari, Gaibandha, Sunamganj, Chapainawabganj, Bagerhat, Barisal and Bhola bought medical equipment during financial years 1995-96 and 1997-1998 at much higher prices. It said the civil surgeons bought

leucoplasts at Tk 845 against the market price of Tk 105, slides at Tk 850 against Tk 90, gloves at Tk 145 against Tk 10, disposable syringes at up to Tk 14 against Tk 3 and tissue paper at Tk 790 against Tk 40. "Clearly, this is robbery of the

state's money. The money should be recovered and the guilty punished," Rashid said.

The committee chairman also hinted that the 'corrupt' civil surgeons and officials might be summoned to the committee meeting.

We don't shelter terrorists

Foreign minister on alleged Ulfa bases in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan has said Bangladesh will cooperate with all countries including India in fiahtina terrorism.

"None within our territory are

carrying out any terrorist activities against any other country and none will ever be allowed to do so," Khan told newsmen at his office in the city The foreign minister's statement

followed Indian Foreign Secretary Shashank's recent comment about separatist Ulfa (United Liberation Front of Assam) leaders who. India claims, are operating from Bangladesh. Shashank, who recently visited

Bangladesh, told an Indian daily he feels Dhaka will soon cooperate with New Delhi on the Ulfa issue. Referring to Shashank's visit,

Khan told reporters that no particular issue was discussed with the Indian side, rather there was discussion about terrorism in general. "Bangladesh's stance on the issue is clear -- we don't shelter terrorists,' Khan said, adding: "None of the two countries will allow their territories to be used by any terrorist group."

He said Indian side was apprised of Dhaka's concern about various anti-Bangladesh propaganda and activities being carried out by organisations like Swadhin Bangabhumi. "We don't want such things to happen," he said, adding that Indian authorities have been provided with the address and fax number used by the anti-Bangladesh organisation.

leader Anup Chetia, Khan said the government cannot intervene in the matter as the case has already gone About the possibility of signing

On the extradition of jailed Ulfa

an extradition treaty with India, he said the matter was not discussed at all and that any such initiative is beyond his knowledge.

Regarding India's controversial river-linking project that the ruling BJP (Bharatiya Janata Party) has pledged to implement on reelection, the foreign minister said no country could withdraw water from international rivers without consulting upper and lower riparian countries as it could have serious ecological and economic consequences for the entire region.

Strike jerks Old Dhaka

aiding the killers.'

does not take action against the murderers, we will make greater plans. Today we have called a halfday strike ... tomorrow it will be for the whole day. We will call continuous strikes in all markets, if neces-

businesspeople to go ahead with

Islampur, Patuatuli, Babu Bazar, Badamtali and Tantibazar -- home to thousands of shops -- sank into gloom because of the strike.

until last week, backed down from the protest vesterday. Sources close to the SOBP said

AL lawmaker

University of Engineering and Technology found that all software including Office 2000 Professional, McAfee Anti-virus Utility, Data Recovery Utility, Bangla interface Soft with spell check and others were pirated. Tk 3,24,850 was paid to the firm for

Mohammad Manzoor Morshed,

case with Tejgaon Police Station

FROM PAGE 1

international appearance in the Asian Shooting Championship in Malaysia last month and finished tenth, accumulated 493.9 points. India's Purnima secured the

silver with 492.9 points and her compatriot Quheli bagged the bronze scoring 492.1.

5 US troops

Baghdad. The attack happened in Anbar province, which encompasses Fallujah, Ramadi and other towns where anti-US insurgents are

occurred in Malahma, 12 miles northwest of Falluiah, US Marines operate in the area, but it was unclear whether the slain troops were Marines.

gunmen in Fallujah attacked two four-wheel-drive civilian vehicles. killing their occupants and setting the cars on fire. Some witnesses said four people were in the vehicles, others said six. Footage from Associated Press

"We could not unite in the protest centrally under administrative Nawabpur. Kamal read out a pledge for

continuous street agitation in the event of government' failure to head Nawabpur Road, North-South Road, English Road, Sadarghat,

But some leading organisations such as Bangladesh Agriculture Machinery Merchants Association and a group of SOBP members, who were at the forefront of the agitation

State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar called SOBP

They are Mohammad Yar Hossain, proprietor of Access Computers & Equipment, Dr SM Ilias, former project director of Agricultural Research Management Project (ARMP) and director general of BJRI, and Abu Bakr. a retired captain and additional director (admin and finance) of the ARMP.

The case said the BJRI bough computers and related equipment from Access Computers & Equipment but the software supplied by the computer firm was not original. An investigation by Bangladesh

the pirated software

officer of Bac task force-1, filed the

Sharmin

Residents said the bomb attack

In another attack Wednesday,

Television News showed one man

beating a corpse with a metal pole. Others tied a cord to one of the bodies, attached it to a car and drove it down a street, surrounded by a cheering crowd. An Associated Press reporter saw two blackened bodies hanging from a bridge

leaders to his office on Monday

pressure. We had to take out individual processions," said Fazlur Although businesspeople in

main commercial areas of Chakbazar, Chakmuqoltuli, Nolgola and Shawarighat remained open. Some shop owners said they kept their businesses open under threats from ruling coalition leaders. A group with strong ties to the local lawmaker on Tuesday night threatened the shop owners with punish-

UNB, Dhaka

seventh meeting yesterday approved a 25-year national water management plan for protection and optimum use of the country's water resource. The work plan, approved at the

meeting with Prime Minister Khaleda

Zia in the chair, will be implemented in

three phases first phase (five years),

second phase (five years) and the third and long-term phase (15 years). Divided into eight major groups based on the country's hydrological regions, the national water management plan has 84 programmes.

The plan, finalised after holding 232 meetings of the council at different levels, will be reviewed after every five years and has provision of amend-

ing and fisheries resources will also be looked into with due importance. Cost recovery, cost sharing, development of institution and protecting the environment have been given

importance while drawing the 25-year national water management programme.

Collateral-free

stop financing the NGOs if they refused to do so. The decisions came as follow-ups to Monday's cabinet decision to waive

providing collateral-free farm loans from Pahela Baishakh, Saifur said, "From Pahela Baishakh, farmers will start production for the new year. They

He added the cabinet decision will also inspire the farmers and banks have been told to fully implement the decision.

should be able to buy cattle and seeds

from this new day so that they can

defaulting farmers would be entitled to new loans once they clear the first instalment of the previous loan and all certificate cases filed against the farmers will be suspended on pavment of the instalment.

490 crore and the government will pay rest the banks will deem as lost.

Open dialogue

was then chiefly criticised for its failure to curb law and order slide "Now I've to phone home at least three times a day to know whether my children and the family members are

Annisul also hailed the previous AL

Referring to a recent BGMEA view

government for keeping the prices of

that a democratically elected govern-

ment should complete its term, he said

essentials stable

the association was always above politics and supported a democratic change of government. Responding to the businesspeople's demands. Hasina. also Al president said the government is not sincere about dialogue

which is evident in its 'forcing the

opposition out of parliament'. "How can we sit with the party which wants to eliminate the Awami League through atrocities? How can we sit with those who've killed at least 12,000 workers of my party since the last general elections?" she asked.

Hasina said her party was com-

pelled to enforce hartal, as the ruling coalition's repression and misdeeds hit new highs. The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI), Metropolitan Chambers of Commerce and Industries (MCCI), Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers Association (BKMEA), Bangladesh Shop Owners Association (BSOA), Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (Rehab), Dhaka City Shop Owners Association (DCSOA). Bangladesh Courier Services Association (BCSA) and Bangladesh Agricultural Machinery Merchants Association

(Bamma) also took part in the discus-MCCI President Kutub Uddin Ahmad said the hope for expanding trade and business would evaporate i the government and opposition had no common agenda to face the challenges of international trade. Criticising hartals. Kutub Uddin.

also a former BGMEA president, said, "When the Awami League was in power, we, the BGMEA leaders, issued a statement criticising hartal. That time, the then commerce minister and now the general secretary of Awami League, Abdul Jalil, appreci-

ated the move, saying the language of the statement should have been more

Rehab President Towfig M Serai requested the AL to join parliament saying the business community felt confident if the opposition was in the House. "If needed, walk out from the House four times a day, but please join Quazi Moniruzzaman, former

president of the BGMEA, urged the

ruling and the opposition parties to

work together to face the looming challenges in the garment sector when the quota system goes. Requesting the AL leadership to come back to its previous no-hartal stance, he called upon the BNP-led alliance government to commit that it too would never enforce hartal when in

FBCCI Director Mohammad Helal

Uddin said, "Compared to the present

situation, I've to say that we, the busi-

opposition

ness people, were in a far better situation under the previous government of Awami League, though then we used to think otherwise." BSOA President Amir Hossain Khan said each and every businessperson was getting phone calls from the gangsters for tolls. "The criminals know everything about us; how much money I've in bank and what property

accountable to the extortionists. Hasina tried to defend her party's change of stand from an anti-hartal one while in power to a pro-hartal one now, saying she made the announcement seeking a similar commitment by the then opposition.

I'm going to buy." He said it seemed

that every businessperson was

with the present rulers and want a change through midterm polls. Senior AL leaders, including Abdul alil, were present at the programme. Among the other business leaders

She claimed people are frustrated

present in the discussion were former advisor to caretaker government Rokia A Rahman, BKMEA President Fazlul Haq, former BKMEA president Manjurul Haq, Masud Kader, FBCCI directors Aktaruzzaman Manju and Harunur Rashid, DCSOA General Secretary (GS) Delwar Hossain BCSA GS Abu Naser and Bamma GS AKM Masud Jahangir

sion and radio with a view to build an educated and science- and technology-savvy nation.

It asks to strengthen teachers'

training, rearrangement of curricula

It prescribes a suitable salary structure for teachers so that they feel encouraged to teach. The code of conduct and rules for promotion of teachers also should be respectable, it adds.

including internet, computer, televi-

and making registration obligatory for all primary schools irrespective of formal, non-formal, kindergarten and NGO-run ones. The commission thinks a new system of examination should be troduced that does not just declare a pass and a fail but really evaluates the quality of learning achieved by

the students. It. however, keeps

public examinations off limit to this

system.

Encouraging higher educational facilities in private sector, despite their high costs, the commission suggests establishing an accreditation council to maintain the standard of education. It advises the government to refrain from establishing single-

discipline public universities, e.g. on

agriculture, engineering and medi-

cine, as the concept is against universal education and the basic norms of university level education. It asks the authorities concerned ensure impartial enrolment at university level and taking appropriate measures for eliminating ses-

sion iams. It also recommends for establishing at least a hundred primary schools a year for the next 10 years after conducting a school mapping that will identify the localities deprived of or in need of more schooling

facilities, like remote areas and areas

of indigenous peoples.

sions in every ward of Dhaka in an Khaleda, also the chairperson of

Top BNP policymakers admitted

haul as the hosts, needing 268 to for nine on the fourth day.

wanted to conceal their identity or they were on drugs or they wanted to terrorise people in the locality. OC of Kotwali Police Station ABM Sultan Ahmed however suggested yesterday to journalists that Awami League men might

have killed BNP activist Hannan as he had filed a case with them on March 22 after the opposition activists allegedly ransacked the BNP office in Nalgola. Srinagar police, meanwhile, are interrogating Abdus Samad, a close associate of Kajal, and Tapash, Palash and Habib to gather more information about the killing of businessman and his son.

They are also accused in watch

trader Rejaul Karim Selim murder

Security FROM PAGE 12

are keeping a constant watch on markets, businesses hearts and

houses of businesspeople. The move came after fabric trader Shamsul Hag and his son Russell Sheikh were shredded into over 250 pieces after their abduction on Friday in the latest of about two dozen traders' killings in recent

day, State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar said security was tightened in Old Dhaka and all-out measures were taken to ensure safety of businesspeople. The government has attached top priority to improvement in law

and order, he said, adding crimi-

nals would be dealt with an iron

The administration would leave

hand.

Talking to The Daily Star yester-

no stone unturned in its hunt for the killers of Shamsul and Russell, he asserted. High officials largely blamed internal conflict among businesspeople for the fatal attack on businesses and said police

were poring over probable links

between businesspeople and

Home ministry officials said Babar held a series of meetings with top officials of the Armed Forces Division Police, the inspector general of police, chief of the newly floated Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and key ministry

Chuadanga **BNP** leader gunned down

Nationalist Party (BNP) in Zibannagar upazila of Chuadanga on Tuesday night. Police and witnesses said Abdul Haq, 55, president of BNP Baka Union unit, came under attack while

he was sitting at the party office at

Hashada Bazaar. Police quoted local BNP activists as saying a gang of six entered the office at about 8:30pm, shot Haq

Health Complex where doctors declared him dead District BNP leaders condemned the killing of Abdul Haq and demanded immediate arrest of the

Final survey team

Guandung in Bangladesh to Buchidong in Myanmar remains to

and Highways Division Additional Chief Engineer Abid Uddin, during its visit there, communications ministry sources said. The first team visited the area earmarked for the Guandung-Buchidong road and examined its

topographical features and suitabil-

ity for road construction.

struction works, the sources said. The Dhaka-Yangon highway will also help establish direct road link between Dhaka and Bangkok. As Myanmar is well connected by roads with its neighbours like Thailand and China, the 'look east' foreign policy of Dhaka will gain a fillip after Bangladesh establishes direct road links with the East Asian countries.

The communications ministry

officials said the construction work

would be a very difficult one, as a

Dhaka's decision to help

years ago. But, it requires around

500-km extra road-length skirting

major portion of the designated area

Bangladesh. India also helped Myanmar in constructing around 400-km of highways for establishing the direct and Monipur.

afternoon and asked them to with-Kamal said: "If the government draw plans for strike and protest.

> Rahman, a businessman from Lalbagh decided to go on strike in solidarity with the protesters in Sutrapur and Kotwali, shops in the

ment if they closed their shops in protest, a businessman alleged, declining to be identified for security

25-yr nat'l water plan approved

National Water Resource Council in its

ments, if necessary. As per the plan, issues of arsenic mitigation, river administration, dredg-

FROM PAGE 12 be cut to 12 percent from the present 15 percent, Saifur said. He warned the government would

all interest on agriculture loans up to Tk On why the NCBs should start

have a prosperous year ahead." The cabinet decided that the

The waiver will cost the banks Tk

the banks a chunk of the sum and the

JS complex FROM PAGE 12

FROM PAGE 1

Yousuf Youhana was batting on a

The tourists had amassed 675

adding that there may be three possible reasons -- the killers "We have had vital information

Police retrieved Selim's head and limbs scattered over Srinagar. Louhajang and Munshiganj sadar thanas. Shamsul and Russell's bodies in more than 250 pieces were found in Gazipur and called out before being killed and

He said Guddu, now on a five-

CU students JCD leader expelled

The GSAC withdrew the strike after Vice-chancellor Prof AJM

student forcibly from room No. 301.

They would also replace Shafigul Alam, house tutor of the hall, soon. the VC told this correspondent in the On Sunday night, agitating

Siddique Ahmed Chowdhury, provost of Shamsunnahar Hall. However, the VC refused to comment on it saying Prof Siddique

the strike. Protesting the expulsion of

> yesterday, claimed responsibility for the killing.

be completed to link the capitals of the two neighbours. The group of experts will follow up the works done by a threemember survey team. led by Roads

The team also had talks with the Myanmar authorities who offered to give full co-operation in the con-

> network connecting 38 Asian countries and linking them to Europe via Turkey. The next ESCAP review meeting on the subject will be held in Shanghai, China in the last week of

and intelligence officials yesterday. They discussed launch of the elite Rapid Action Battalion force, law and order and ways to cut

Unidentified assailants gunned down a local leader of Bangladesh

point blank and left the spot. He was rushed to Zibannagar

killers. Police yesterday picked up three people for interrogation. BSS adds: Outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (Janajuddho faction), in a message sent to a local newspaper office

is hilly. Of the 55-km stretch, only 10km is on plain land and the rest is Myanmar construct the link-road came after New Delhi had decided to build the Asian Highway bypassing Bangladesh. India signed a tripartite agreement on the road link with Myanmar and Thailand two

road link between Bangkok and New Delhi through Myanmar via the northeastern Indian states of Assam The Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific (ESCAP) of the UN took the initiative

for building the Asian Highway