Get ready for all-out action

AL asks workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Main opposition Awami League (AL) vesterday asked the party workers to get ready for an 'all-out movement' in a bid to overthrow the BNPled alliance government.

The AL leaders at a rally said 'they would not return home' unless the BNP-Jamaat alliance government quits office immediately to 'free the people of its misrule'. The coalition government has no right to hold office any more, as it has failed to control price spiral of essentials and live up to people's expectation, they said

The rally was organised in front of the party's Bangabandhu Avenue headquarters to protest the price hike of essentials

AL presidium member Zillur Rahman told the rally that the alliance government had pledged to wage a crusade against violence and corruption before the last general elections, but, instead, has destroyed the country

Amir Hossain Amu said the government has unleashed terror in the country through its armed cadres and the people want an end to it. He urged party leaders and workers to gear up the anti-government

AL leader Abdur Razzak asked Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's government to quit immediately. "We will not allow the country to be ruined under such a misrule."

He alleged that the huge arms retrieved in Chittagong recently came from the 'masters' of the alliance government abroad by the ship of "Saka (Salauddin Quader) Chowdhury" and these were unloaded at the jetty which is under the ministry headed by a razakar

President Mohammad Hanif, the rally was addressed, among others, by Mukul Bose, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and Nazma

Another Bangla year

explosions that left 10 people killed at the Ramna Green, the traditional venue, on this day in 1408 (2001 AD).

A security blanket has been thrown over the lush green Ramna Park and the areas close by, which many fear may dampen the festive mood.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) meanwhile has taken 'foolproof security measures' to ensure unhindered celebrations of Pahela Boishakh in the capital and made roads stretching from Shahbagh to Doyel Chattar to Matshya Bhaban offlimits to all modes of vehicles

Chhayanaut, a cultural organisation, has erected a huge podium at the Ramna Batamul under heavy police quards to hold its trademark cultural programmes at daybreak today.

The day is a public holiday. Men, women and children of all ages clad in punjabi, pyjama and sari will throng traditional Boishakhi Mela (fair) and cultural functions in the capital and elsewhere, where handicraft, artefacts and sweets of all shapes, sizes and colours will be also up for sale

People will be gorging themselves on Bangla delicacies such as Paanta Bhat (rice cooled in water overnight), hilsa frv. lentil and smoked chilli at home and various places of Boishakhi congregations, as well

Students of the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University will take out Shobhaiatra at around 8 ir morning with the revellers wearing colourful masks.

Mughal Emperor Akbar introduced the Bangla New Year to perk up tax collection. In keeping with the tradition, traders and shopkeepers will open Halkhata (fresh accounts book) and offer sweets to the customers and

Different socio-cultural organisations meanwhile have taken up elabo-

rate programmes to celebrate the day. The Bangla Academy has taken up a daylong programme to mark the occasion and the Nazrul Institute plans to hold a musical programme at its premises today. Sammilita Sangskritik Jote will be celebrating the New Year at Rabindra Sarobar at Dhanmondi in the afternoon.

The Shilpakala Academy organises a cultural programme at National Art Gallery this evening while Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) arranges a week-long Boishakhi Mela

at Dhanmondi Club ground beginning today. Greater Mymensingh Cultural Forum holds a New Year greeting ceremony at Mohuatala at Ramna

Proshika, an NGO, arranges Paanta and hilsha at the sprawling green adjacent to Dhanmondi lake at 7:30 in the morning. The Liberation War Museum organises a programme for the children and juveniles at its Café Theatre at 10 am.

Kochi-Kanchar Mela, a juveniles' organisation, organises a 'Pitha Utshab' (cake festival) and a cultural programme at its headquarters today. Various other organisations

include Bulbul Lalitkala Academy, Bangladesh Pathanatak Parishad, Rajshahi University Alumni Association and Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha have also taken up programmes to mark the day. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina. Gano Forum chief Dr Kamal Hossain, Jatiya Party (Manju) Chairman Anwar Hossain Manju, Bikalpa Dhara Convenor AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menor issued separate messages last night wishing the countrymen a happy new

SC irked

FROM PAGE 1 apparently expressing its annoy-

"The delaying process is very unfortunate that shows disregard to the court." it said.

The court advised the attorney general to convey its sentiment to the government. "Do you realise the consequences of non-compliance of the court orders?" it said in an apparent indication to the pending contempt proceedings in the matter.

Highly embarrassed Attorney General AF Hassan Ariff submitted that developments toward implementation of the court's directives were not communicated to him and pleaded for adjournment of hearing on the petition for two weeks.

The court adjourned the hearing till Monday next, but asked the attorney general to come up with an affidavit citing specific reasons for seeking further extension.

(collaborator).

Suranjit Sengupta said the Hawa Bhaban (the BNP chairperson's office) has taken away political rights of the people and it must be closed down as it harbours criminal activities and corruption.

Presided over by Dhaka City AL

parliament with 45 of them.

Recently a government bill proposed to increase the reserved seats for women to 45 from 30 for the next 10 years. The bill also proposed to distribute these seats proportionally among the parties in the Jatiya Sangsad, replacing the system where the ruling party alone enjoys all of the reserved seats. The proposed bill, however, disapproved of the provision of direct polls in the reserved seats bypassing the demand of the women organisa-

EC calls security review meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) has asked home ministry officials, deputy commissioners, superintendents of police and officials of all detective branches to attend a law and order review meeting on April 24 ahead of the May 5-10 municipality elections, EC sources said.

The EC secretariat yesterday sent letters to these officials asking them to come up with suggestions of ensuring free and fair polls

Sources said the EC has no plans. et to ask the government to deploy army during polls but it might still consider doing so if necessary.

"We are not thinking about troops deployment yet. But if the local administration fails to ensure peaceful atmosphere in any vulnerable polling centre, we will consider asking for the army," Election Commissioner M Munsef Ali told The Daily Star yesterday. "The home ministry with the help

of local administrations will devise security measures to ensure smooth polling. In the event of any allegations of unfair voting, the EC will decide whether the situation warrants deployment of the army," said an official of the EC secretariat.

The EC secretariat has already designated 1862 polling centres in 117 municipalities. Over 35 lakh voters are expected to exercise their franchise to elect 117 chairmen and 1116 male and 372 female commis-

PM asks

The meeting also discussed administrative problems. Saifur said The preparatory discussion also

> tries will be brought under seven clusters. For instance, he said, economy related ministries will be grouped together. Similarly, there will be administration or local government group of ministries. Officials in each group will be trans-

enterprises and banks, donors observed the government has slowed down on the process Agreeing to the perception, Saifur said Bangladesh is still ahead of other south Asian nations in reform

The BDF sessions will cover policies and programmes on povgood governance, the government-NGO partnership, human development, trade-investment climate development, and implementation of development programmes.

Several hundred women massed at city's Shahbagh yesterday to write a long banner of 'NOs' as a symbolic gesture denouncing the government

RESERVED JS SEATS

Women flock

to write 'No'

to govt plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

plan of proportionate distribution, instead of direct election for the reserved seats for women in parlia-Angikar-Bangladesh and

Prakitojon, two non-government organisations (NGO), arranged the programme that began at 10:00am to run till 1:00pm.

Explaining the motto of the campaign Engineer Muhammad Hilaluddin, chief director of the Angikar Bangladesh said, "Here the 'no' means we do not want selection for 45 sets of ornaments, or even we do not want indirect election in parliament. We want direct elections to the women's reserved seats and government should propose it accordingly (in the 14th amendment bill to the Constitution)."

Among others, Maleka Begum, Shahnai Shumi from Bangladesh Nari Pragati Shangha (BNPS), Shahida Begum Parvin from Trade Union Centre, Rebeka Sultana from Ganashsthya Kendra, and Advocate BARashid of Supreme Court Lawyers Association spoke on the occasion.

The speakers said the government proposal regarding the women seats n parliament indicates that it does not want real representation of women, rather it merely wants to decorate

The speakers demanded the government should announce direct election for the reserved seats and ensure real representation of women in parliament. They also demanded further increase in the women seats from 45 to 100 to be reserved for the next 15 years.

MUNICIPAL POLLS

his lawyer says he's

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Rafigul Islam Kajal, the prime accused to a viral fever".

In a time petition, defense lawyer advocate SM lqbal asked the court to adjourn the hearing of Sub-inspector (SI) Farhad murder case saying Kajal, one of the 40 accused, could not come as he came down with a viral fever. Despite the ludicrous claim, the

prosecution did not oppose the petition and Judge Mohammad Rabiul Hassan of Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka adjourned the hearing till July 28. Police is hunting for Kajal since the

March 26 murder of old Dhaka businessman Shamsul Hag, his son Russell Sheikh and their driver Moazzem Hossain.

while 12 others have been absconding since the murder of the police officer. Earlier, the court recorded state-

SI Farhad was shot dead in front of Dhaka's Jagannath College during a gunfight between two factions of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal on March 5,

unidentified people -- sprayed bullets on her son Akhtar Hossain at Satish

Intelligence briefing declassified

try to "bring the fighting to America."

Most of the information in the article

was an analysis of previous terrorist

attacks by al-Qaida and a summary

and discussion of general threat reporting from the late 1990s.

consultation with an FBI analyst.

warning of the 9-11 attack?

related to the 9-11 attacks

The draft was prepared by CIA after

Q: Did the PDB item include any

The only recent information con-

cerning possible current activities in the

PDB related to two incidents. There is

no information that either incident was

pected "recent surveillance of federal

buildings in New York." This informa-

tion was based on a report that two

Yemeni men had been seen taking

photographs of buildings at Federal

. Plaza in New York. The FBI later

interviewed the men and determined

that their conduct was consistent with

tourist activity and the FBI's investiga-

made on May 15, 2001 by an unidenti-

fied individual to the US Embassy in the

UAE "saying that a group of Bin Laden

supporters was in the US planning

attacks with explosives." The caller did

not say where or when the attacks

counterterrorism staff convened the

Counterterrorism Security Group,

whose members include State, DoD, JCS, DoJ, FBI, and CIA, and reviewed

-- The information was also shared

-- The PDB article advised the

We had no information, either

President that CIA and FBI were

before or after 9/11, the connects the

caller's information with the 9/11

Q: The PDB item stated that "al-

Qaida members have resided in or

traveled to the US for years, and the

group apparently maintains a sup-

port structure that could aid attacks.

Was this new information and what

The presence of individuals associated or affiliated with al-Qaida

in the United States was not new

known to the intelligence and law

enforcement communities for a

ing individuals associated or affili-

ated with al-Qaida in the United

States a fact noted in the PDB

the FBI was conducting approxi-

mately 70 full-field Bin-Laden-

Unbelievable

itigants around. He cried embracing

his father and gave a blank look being

unable to comprehend all that was

premises, who castigated the com-

plainant of the case for what they said

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Towfiqul Alam however

granted bail to Iman upon a bond of Tk

,000 with two guarantors -- the father

Iman appeared before the Court of

and one of his lawyers. The prosecu-

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka

in his father Anwar Ali's lap along with

the lawyers at 1:30pm. The lawyers

while moving the bail petition told the

The complainant's son-in-law, Ali

criminal cases accusing other family

land of Iman's father at Sayedabad in

the city.
In the first information report (FIR)

filed with Sutrapur Police Station on

January 4, Dulari Begum alleged that a

ang of 12 – Galkata Faruq, Babul,

Ramjan and his younger brother

(Iman), Kala Jahangir, Suman and six

Sircar Road in Sutrapur at about

1:00pm on December 17 last year.

tion did not oppose the bail petition.

The sensational appearance drew

related investigations.

FROM PAGE 1

aoina on in the court.

was framing the boy.

As also noted in the PDB article,

This information had been well-

The FBI was actively investigat-

was being done about it?

the information provided by the caller.

with Customs. INS, and FAA.

nvestigating the information.

- On May 17, 2001, the NSC's

The second incident involved a call

tion identified no link to terrorism.

The first incident involved sus-

RELEASE, White House

BIN LADEN

The White House released on April 10 the declassified text of the August 6. 2001 Presidential Daily Briefing (PDB), US," and a fact sheet explaining how the PDB was viewed by the administration before the terrorist attacks on the United States September 11, 2001.

Following are the texts of the White House fact sheet and the August 6, 2001 PDB: (begin text)

The August 6, 2001 PDB item entitled "Bin Laden Determined to Strike in US" was prepared in response to questions asked by the President about the possibility of attacks by Al-Qaida inside the United States. The PDB article did not warm of the

Although the PDB referred to the possibility of hijackings, it did not discuss the possible use of planes as

The PDB was based largely on background information about past terrorist attacks conducted by al-Qaida and general threats from the late

The only recent information concerning possible current activities in the PDB related to two incidents. There is no information that either incident was related to the 9-11 attacks.

Q: Why was this PDB prepared? DCI Tenet has already described the genesis of this PDB item in a letter to the 9-11 Commission dated March

This PDB item was prepared in response to questions President Bush asked his PDB briefer The President had seen previous

intelligence reports about possible al-Qaida threats to US targets outside the United States. The President had asked whether

any of the information pointed to a possible attack inside the United When this PDB item was presented to the President on August 6, 2001, his PDB briefer told him that it was pre-

pared in response to the President's

previous questions Q: What information does this PDB tem contain? The article advised the President of what was publicly well-known: that Bin

Laden had a desire to attack inside the Bin Laden had stated publicly in 997 and 1998 that his followers would

Kajal at large, viral fever

in last month's triple murder, is still on the run, but his lawyer for another murder case said his client failed to appear before the court yesterday "due

Ten other accused also failed to appear before the court vesterday

ments of 19 prosecution witnesses including the complainant of the case.

A murder case was filed with

Kotwali Police Station on the same day. The investigating officer of the case pressed charges against Kajal and 39 others on November 8, 1994.

8 Russian FROM PAGE 12

countries are currently being held by insurgents, and the FBI is involved investigations into the abductions, a coalition spokesman said.

Foreign nationals are being urged to flee Iraq as governments and private companies react to growing insecurity and a wave of kidnappings.

And Russia's biggest contractor in Iraq, Tekhpromexport, is pulling its 370 staff out of Iraq because of the spate of abductions of foreign-

ers.
"The eight hostages have been freed and are now at home." Interenergoservis general director Alexander Abramov told Interfax There was no immediate word on the identity of the kidnappers or what had led to their swift release. Seven Chinese nationals seized

on Monday. Three Czech journalists were reported missing. The fate of three Japanese hostages whose captors threatened on Thursday to kill them unless Tokyo withdrew its troops from Iraq

separately near Falluja were freed

remained unclear. Fighting erupted in al-Karma, near Falluja, and a Reuters photographer at the scene said he saw clouds of smoke after US helicopters fired missiles at targets in the

Sunni town. The US army said a bomb attack on a convoy killed a US soldier yesterday and wounded another soldier and a civilian contractor. The convoy, travelling from Baquba to Naiaf was hit just after midnight by a roadside bomb planted south of

Meanwhile, an aide to radical Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr has been released from US military custody after five hours in detention,

Ctg arms haul

FROM PAGE 1
After checking circumstantial evidences, the committee came to the conclusion that three men -- Din Mohammed, a labour contractor, Haji Sobhan, proprietor of a trawler, and Hafizuddin, owner of a car found near the Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL) jetty -- were involved in the arms smuggling. The brother of Hafizuddin told the committee that Hafizuddin has a criminal record including a murder in 1998. "We will be able to disclose where

the arms consignment was destined for once any one of the three men are arrested," the home secretary said.

to Chittagong on April 5 and visited several places including CUFL, Kafco and two ships, and interviewed 31 people before returning to the capital on Thursday Faroog said the two trawlers and

10 trucks that brought and offloaded the weapons have already been "Without permission from the commerce ministry, it is illegal to dock

arms and explosives without permission." he said. Asked whether he will make the probe report public, Farooq said, "We

soon as it is finished.

gence, saying that it was rather due to police's prompt action that the arms and ammunition could be seized. Faroog avoided a direct reply

reports that eight AK-47 assault rifles went missing from the arms cache before it was seized. About allegations of the US and Pakistan's involvement in the incident, he said, "I do not like to be

signment did not have the country of origin written on it. "We will employ our best efforts to probe the incident," he said in reply to a question whether Interpol could be

Farooq suggested setting up observation towers at the jetty and strengthened patrolling in the area to

Other committee members Brigadier-Generals Rezaul Haider Chowdhury and Enamul Haque Chowdhury, DIG (Deputy Inspector General) of CID (Crimina Investigation Department) Faroog Ahmed and DIG of SB (Special Branch) Shamsul Islam were pres-

Block raids FROM PAGE 12

three lakh of Fu-Wang. Police action followed a close-door

meeting on Monday night chaired by CMP commissioner GM Sabbir that reviewed the law and order. The eight listed criminals are Murad Ali. 30, Swapan Chowdhury, 29,

40 and Farid Alam, 32. green signal to re-arrest the listed 30 criminals who secured bail from the

Police had listed 70 top terrors for arrest. Of them, 60 were brought to book in the last two years, but 30 were set free by the court.

used during the unloading of smuggled arms at Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Limited (CUFL) jetty on April 2 and arrested its driver Monzurul Alam and

Pahela Boishakh programme curtailed

DU CORRESPONDENT

The traditional colourful programmes to celebrate the Pahela Boishakh, the first day of the Bangla New Year, today at the Institute of Fine Arts of Dhaka University have been curtailed this year due to fund crunch and delay in forming the organising commit-

An 11-member organising committee, headed by the Director of the institute Prof. Abdus Sattar, was formed just four days before the programmes although it is normally done at least a month before.

Mustafizul Haque, a teacher with the institute and also a member of the organising committee, said they would not be able to stage a grand programme this time around unlike in previous vears due to lack of funds. He reasoned that had the committee been formed a month ago, they would have been able to get good sponsorship.

The institute does not get any allocation from the university authorities for holding the Baishakh programmes, he said, adding that they have had only Tk 50,000 in sponsorship and raised a meagre sum from the teachers.

The teachers and students who used to take initiatives in the past to celebrate the Pahela . Baishakh have stayed away this year, sources said. They put this down to ruling BNP's student wing Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal's (JCD) beating up of the institute's students for protesting the brutal attack on eminent writer and ntellectual Humayun Azad last

"We will not take part in this years' Baishakh programmes," a student said.

"Many students, who used to hold Baishakh programmes, have

BURIGANGA ENCROACHMENT 20 structures, 200 shanties dashed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joint team of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority and Dhaka district administration yesterday demolished 20 concrete structures and 200 shanties on the bank of the river Buriganga

On the fifth day of the week-long eviction drive, a member of the team was injured in the head during the operation. He was given first aid.

No untoward incident occurred during the drive, said officials who conducted the drive. However, they feared encroachers will return soon if keep the cleared areas protected. "We are clearing the encroached

ers are occupying those places,' said a member of the joint team. The current drive concludes Thursday, officials said adding that once it is over, measures will be

areas and finding that new encroach-

The team has so far dashed 450 llegal structures, including markets in Mitford, Nolgolla and Swarighat

ATTACK ON KEPZ MD 3 more

suspects arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested yesterday three more suspects in Sunday's armed attack on Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ) Managing Director (MD) Golam Robbani from Nasirabad in the city. The arrestees -- Md Farid, Asgar

Ali and Nezam Uddin-- were produced before court, which sent them on remand. The three were nabbed from their

hideout at Nasirabad at about noon. Earlier, four other suspects were arrested and police got some clues to the attack that critically wounded Golam Rabbani, also former chairman of Chittagong Port Authority. Police have launched a hunt for

former KEPZ MD Abu Naser Chowdhury and ex-chief security officer Humavun Kabir, who went into hiding after being accused in the Police already attached movable

property of both of them following a Robbani, stated to be in critical

condition, would be flown to Bangkok for treatment, sources said. Meanwhile, police have not been able to arrest the gang that gunned

down the accounts officer of Taiwanese firm Fu Wang Ltd at Agrabad here on Sunday and looted Tk 3 lakh from his possession The victim, Babul Hossain, came under attack when he along with

The two incidents on the same day triggered a security scare

passed out and left the campus this year," Mustafiz said. But he added this year' programmes 'won't be too bad as our freshers

are working for the programmes'. The hostility between the JCD activists and general students has dampened the mood for the Baishakh programmes. The JCD men of the institute tried in vain to collect sponsorships for the Baishakh programmes, prompting the general students to keep aloof as they feared the JCD men may deal out the sponsorship proceeds among themselves, the sources

The institute students usually bring out a colourful procession styled Mangal Shobhajatra (auspicious procession) where the revellers wear colourful masks every year. But this year a few numbers of masks and dummies have been arranged for them. '400 to 500 masks, one sculpture of pigeon and two sculptures of elephant head have been made this year," Mustafiz said.

The Mangal Shobhajatra will start between 8:00 and 8:30am and the cultural function at 10:00am, he added.

Govt terms Time report politically biased

Bangladesh yesterday described Time magazine article titled "State of Disgrace" in its April 12 edition as deeply flawed, politically biased and sensational reporting. "It generates skepticism because

lacks balance. It is poorly

researched, uses corroborative sources that are obviously politically biased and leads one to predetermined conclusions. It is a classic example of sensationalist reporting," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a rejoinder. The rejoinder said, "Question arises as to why the author (Aravinda Adiga) so hurriedly penned this imbalance picture. The

timing of the report, the sources

quoted, its narrow focus and harsh

conclusions point to a highly motivated report. It follows upon the heels of another slanted story the "Deadly Cargo" by Alex Perry which sought to smear Bangladesh as a radical Islamic fundamentalist The rejoinder then went on to

ask,"Is it an odd coincidence that both these times correspondents were based in New Delhi?' The Time's article has done a major injustice to a country that has

functioning democracy despite huge constraints of poverty, overpopulation and all the ills that characterise underdevelopment, it continued. The Foreign Ministry observed that core of the report hinges around three volatile elements tainted by the authors' conclusionsa law and order situation "sliding into anarchy,"

indeed been forging ahead as a

"structured hierarchy of a medieval feudal system" and the spread of a brand of "intolerant Islamic fundamentalism. It said all three elements have been concocted into a heady brew to justify the title of the article, "State of

Asia's mostly dysfunctional country. The rejoinder claimed the report is flawed because it has been exaggerated. The language used is deliberately provocative. It extrapolates a country-wide situation from a single locus within the author's direct experience in Dhaka's Karwan

Disgrace" and the sub-title, "Inside

whisker

FROM PAGE 12 construction site, police said.

Parents alleged that the developer -- Adel Properties Ltd.-- ignored repeated requests from them as well as teachers at the school to use safety measures. In the past one vear, construction materials from the building fell down several times, they

Local people also made similar people in the past, they alleged.

he had bought more jute curtains to be used as safety net. Adel also said he would take action against the workers and ask

ages caused yesterday. Meanwhile, most construction sites in Dhaka ignore safety aspects Several fatal accidents occurred over the last two years as slabs, etc. fell down from under-construction

buildings some colleagues was on way to a Rajuk Chairman Igbaluddin bank to deposit the company's Choudhury said it is mandatory under the building construction rules to have safety nets around all construction sites. Engineers and architects at the site must ensure safety

Economic success

FROM PAGE 1

law and order, curb corruption, and ensure good governance. "But, due to the present political context we could not derive benefits from these measures," he said.

placed at the three-day BDF meet, starting on May 8 in Dhaka. The finance minister delivered half-an-hour introductory speech and then invited the donors to

Donors agreed with Saifur on the satisfactory economic performance

tative from European Union noted that the government should act as a facilitator, not the regulator. He blamed the government for trying to regulate the NGOs in recent years. that the government is not trying to

transparency and accountability in

the government has finalised a set of recommendations from a couple of public service reforms commis-

Mohammad Abdul Awal also spoke ferred to and promoted within their cluster of ministries. On reforms of state-owned readymade garments and textile

erty reduction strategy paper and millennium development goal, and infrastructure to support growth and

under multi-fibre agreement (MFA) by the end of current year," she told the inaugural function.

The prime minister stressed the

need for setting up hi-tech spinning

and weaving, knitting and dyeing-

finishing factories to overcome the hurdles. Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Textiles Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury and Chairman of the BTMA

at the function. The prime minister said the government is offering various scope and facilities for encouraging investment from home and abroad in setting up such kind of exportearning industries. "Our objective is to produce

items by using purely domestic raw materials," she told her business audience. Former BTMA chairman A Matin Chowdhury made a presentation highlighting the prospects of textile

on the current policies on bonded warehouse, Saarc cumulation and rules of origin

reduced to 137 for eight, Ashish But just when Hameed was Nehra and Irfan Pathan adding two beginning to look dangerous, wickets apiece as the Indian pacemen revelled in helpful condi-

Balaji rattles Pakistan

duck when he miscued a flick to backward point, where Yasir

Hameed juggled with the ball before

catching it on his third attempt.

Rahul Dravid on 10 with and makeshift opener Parthiy Patel on 13. Pakistan had started fluently but Ganguly's ploy of swapping his

inswinaer. In the next over, left-arm paceman Nehra rapped Imran Farhat (16) on his pads right in front of offstump to leave Pakistan 34 for two. Captain Inzamamul Haq and Hameed attempted to steady the Pathan had him edge an outswinger

Inzamam fell for 15 in the next over, caught behind while pushing at a ball

ing Shoaib's off-stump. Sami and Akbar frustrated the

scamper across for what would have been his maiden Test half-India, playing their first full series in Pakistan in over 14 years, won the first Test in Multan by an innings and

Indians in a dogged partnership as the pitch eased out in the third session before Kumble trapped Akbar Ibw with a googly. Sami was the last man out, run

his associate Liton Borua. 52 runs. Pakistan hit back with a nine-wicket win at Lahore.

at the state-run CUFL jetty. So, the

will submit it to the government as

when asked about the role of other

speculative," adding that the con-

asked to run the investigation. avoid such incidents.

Forty teams of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) raided the areas to nab those involved in recent incidents of gun attack on Golam Rabbani, arms smuggling and robbery of Tk 56 crore of Base Textile and Tk

Zahurul Alam, 38, Jahangir Alam, 28 Zakir Hosssain alias Zeki, 26, Faridul Islam alias Ledu, 28, Mohammad Idris Sources said the CMP received

Mohammad Faisal, Azgar Ali and

money. throughout port city.

taken to protect the river. corruption operating within the

Saved by a

allegations. Various materials falling from the building injured severa Jahangir Mohammad Adel owner of the construction site, denied that safety measures were not taken at the site. He also claimed

them to compensate for the dam-

measures, he added.

touched on various issues -reforms, non-government organisations (NGOs), governance, corruption and others -- which will be

for the last one year. But they expressed their dissatisfaction over the alarming fall of law and order, meeting sources said. They also reminded the government of its commitment during the last BDF meeting to improve the situation But it did not improve in the last 10 months, donors said. On the NGO affairs, a represen-

Saifur countered the view saying regulate NGOs, but to ensure

government measures to improve the sector.

> sion reports to get administration in He informed them all the minis-

industry in national economy as well as problems facing the sector. In the presentation, he urged the government to maintain status quo

FROM PAGE 1

Sami struck seven fours in his highest Test score, sharing in a record-equalling ninth-wicket stand of 70 with Fazl-e-Akbar (25). Local hero Shoaib gave the Indian reply an early jolt, sending back Virender Sehwag for a first-ball

The visitors were 23 for one at the close, still 201 runs behind with bowlers around proved fruitful with

Balaji, in his second spell, trapping opener Taufeeq Ibw with a sharp

to Vangipurappu Laxman at second slip to be dismissed for a breezy 38-

innings in a 43-run partnership.

from Nehra that was angling away as Pakistan slumped to 77 for four. Pathan bowled vice-captain Yousuf Youhana for 13 and Balaji had wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal caught at second slip before uproot-

out while taking on the arm of Irfan Pathan at mid-off while trying to

The five-member committee went

smugglers must have unloaded the

"We have got photographs of two of the three men involved in the crime and a manhunt is on to arrest them." He flatly ruled out any police negli

secret agencies at the Chittagong port. He also disagreed with press

court that the complainant implicated Iman in the case despite knowing his Hossain, earlier also filed nine other members in a bid to grab three katha

Mohammad Nizam were taken to custody on suspected involvement in gun attack on Golam Rabbani. Besides, police seized the taxicab