NEWS

from hospital

launch capsize.

the culprits.

local sources mentioned.

The river police filed a case and

About 1,700 people were killed

Our Barisal correspondent

Witnesses claimed about 40

The vessel had left Torki Ghat of

passengers were missing in the

Gournadi upazila for Naravangani

with about 60 passengers on board

most of them from Kalkini upazila of

Locals yesterday brought out a

This was the seventh killing of

In a separate incident, three

Sarboharas after the unsuccessful

attempt to persuade them into

people including two females from a

same family were slaughtered in

Krishnapur village of Galachipa

The victims were identified as

Locals and police said a gang of

Neighbours recovered the

bodies in the morning and informed

Abdul Ali Chowkidar, 60, his second

wife Hasina Begum,45 and daugh-

assailants broke into the house of

Abdul Ali at the dead of night and

surrender in December 2003.

upazila in Patuakhali district.

ter Tahmina, 13.

butchered them.

the police.

condolence procession in the area

and demanded immediate arrest of

reports: Salvage operation of MV

Digonto was not started till the filing

of this report yesterday evening.

arrested three of the launch crew

Probe body draws

FROM PAGE 1

Surveyors are directly responsible for ensuring the safety and security of launch passengers. They are the ones who are to make sure that vessels with faulty design and inadequate safety measures do not

ply. The probe committee has been asked to submit its report within 15

days. "An independent cell, which does not have any involvement with shipping business should probe such incident. Otherwise, it would never be possible to dig out the actual cause of the accidents."said Khabirul Islam, a professor of the Department of Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering in Bangladesh University of Engineering and

Technology (BUET). "How come, a person who belongs to the department and was directly responsible for ensuring safety of the passengers would find out the causes of the accident,"he wondered.

According to him, 80 percent of launch mishaps could be avoided if the expert knowledge in this regard is applied. "Blaming launch mishaps on storms shows a mere ignorance about the sector because the passenger ships would have to be built keeping the possibility of such storm in mind.

Shipping experts and the shipping ministry officials were astounded to see the name of Fakhrul Islam as the chief of the probe committee. "A person who himself was the

surveyor of the very vessel that capsized, can't be the investigator here," said a shipping expert adding a deliberate cover-up by this committee is very much likely because faulty design of the vessels and inadequate safety measures

He said, "It's simply a mockery because this committee's report would never be neutral, as it would be inclined to ignore all the respon-

Bangla Bhai

The authorities also directed police

stations and camps to beef up

security with additional deployment

outlaws, now much more active,

have gathered sophisticated fire-

arms, including AK-47 rifles, to attack

the police stations and camps," a top

Police Fazlur Rahman told The

Daily Star that he got information

about the outlaws marking the

Monday to arrest the dreaded

lynchpin of Islamic militant outfit

JMJB, blamed for killing at least

eight outlaws in vigilante action in

(Bandla Bhai) after we received the

order," a police officer said, asking

had information that Bangla Bhai

holed up in Naogaon. Asked why he

was not arrested, the officer said:

"But we could not trace him

Another police officer said he

Police received the order on

Naogaon Superintendent of

Naogaon police officer said.

police stations for attacks.

the northwest since April 1.

not to be named.

No are not laund

"We have information that the

of police.

sibilities that lies on none but on the

UNB, Dhaka

FROM PAGE 1

to mark the day.

writings.

left here for London vesterday.

would spend time with his family.

Socio-cultural organisations have

chalked out elaborate programmes

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia gave

separate messages on the occasion

said Nazrul's songs and poetry were

source of inspiration for all during

He said the poet always voiced

against all forms of injustice, repres-

sion and evil design through his

Nazrul's multifaceted literary works

enhanced the status of Bengali

through his creativity and realism,

was conferred upon national honour

for his contribution to literature

national, social and cultural life.

Mymensingh at 11:00am today.

Rahman will preside.

She observed that Nazrul Islam

A three-day programme has

The main discussion and cultural

been taken up to celebrate the day

attend the function as chief guest

while State Minister AKM Mosharraf

Hossain as special guest. State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima

Besides, a two-day discussion

A three-day book fair will begin at

Separate programmes will be

held in Comilla and Chittagong by

a bouquet while the senior most

Vice-Mayor of Shanghai City Yang Slong and World Bank Represen-

The prime minister is accompa-

Minister M. Saifur

nied, among others, by Finance and

Education

is computer operator of PBCP (Lal

Ahsanullah killing

reports in time, sources added.

reports are vet to be prepared.

Hossain.

The meeting also reviewed

progress in sensational murder

cases of Air Commodore Golam

Rabbani, businessman Shamsul

Haque, his son and their driver,

Rina, Monir, businessman Zakir

Among others, secretaries for

law, the inspector general of police

killed and 12 wounded in fighting

between US troops and militia loyal

to radical Shia cleric Mogtada Sadr

in Baghdad, hospital sources said

attended the meeting.

and 6:00am Monday.

Team told AFP.

FROM PAGE 12

vesterday

2 Britons die

4 PBCP men

and cultural programme will be held

at Bangla Academy and Nazrul

Nalinikanta Bhattashali Exhibition

Hall of the National Museum today.

nstitute in Dhaka (May 25-26).

the district administrations

FROM PAGE 1

he airport.

Khaleda

Planning

FROM PAGE 12

of the market

Pataka)

FROM PAGE 12

case." Babar said.

recovered from them.

kanmar

Khaleda flies

"A poet, lyricist and musician

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said

paying homage to the great poet.

the War of Independence.

iterature and culture.

the prime minister said.

at national level

President lajuddin Ahmed and

The president in his message

surveyors. Like all other probe committees this probe committee report would never see the light and the vested quarter in the department who are mainly responsible for the ferry disasters in the country, would escape the liabilities as usual, the shipping experts said.

The Director General of Shipping, AKM Ahsanul Azim, while contacted by phone yesterday declined to comment. "It's not the time to talk to any journalist," he said in anger and hung up immediately.

Ismail Zabiullah, the shipping 8:40am secretary could not be contacted, as he was busy over his trip to Malavsia. Nazrul's birth UNB reports, police arrested

three crews of the MV Lighting Sun that sank in the Meghna, with some 250 people on board. They are Abul Kalam, Noor Alam and Manik Khan. Chandpur district administration formed another one-member com-

mittee with Assistant Deputy Commissioner Kamal Siddigi in the lead. This committee was asked to submit report in a week. The Naval Transport Department

filed a case against the owner of the launch. Zonal Inspector of the department Motaleb Hossain filed the case. Meanwhile, till Sunday night 11

bodies were handed over to the district administration of Madari-pur, from where the launch sailed for Dhaka.

The Dhaka-bound launch capsized in the river at Anandabazar here when a storm broke in the early hours of Sunday, leaving scores dead. So far, 49 bodies were recovered. Meanwhile, a two-member

committee was formed to enquire into another ferry mishap when MV Digonto sank in the Meghna, 2 km north of Anandabazar, almost at the same time.

vigilante action hit a new high.

The state minister wants the

JMJB to continue its action to fight

outlaws, but his brother wants him to

mount pressure on police to arrest

Bangla Bhai as the JMJB last week

included him and his assistants on a

brother, a former legislator and five

others including four Naogaon

union parishad chairmen -- Goutam,

Janbox, Shahidul and Abdul Hakim

for punishment for their alleged

JMJB men based the list on

confession from underground

operative Badshah, whom they

bludgeoned to death on Thursday,

that the seven directed him to kill up

of Janbox and alleged outlaw opera-

tive Dulal and demonstrated in Atrai

Wednesday for outlaw links is still

missing. But locals say the JMJB

The JMJB attacked the houses

Khejur picked up and beaten up

the JMJB men in Atrai on

50 people in the region.

and Raninagar yesterday.

The JMJB listed the minister's

hit list of seven.

links to outlaws.

GDP grows over last **Police traced British envoy** off to London hotel five

FROM PAGE 1

Manufacturing that claims 16.25 percent of GDP will see 0.41 per-British High Commissioner in Dhaka centage point more growth from last Anwar Chowdhury, who was injured year to 7.41 percent. This is the in a bomb attack in Sylhet on Friday, highest growth that this leading light is going to embrace in the last six years. But economists point out that Informed sources said the this increment was largely due to a niured high commissioner, who was better readymade garment perforunder treatment at the Combined mance and did not have a broad Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka,

base. Transport performed far less than A special flight of British Airways was expected. With a sectoral share carried the high commissioner to of about 10 percent of GDP, its growth London. He boarded the aircraft dipped to 6.64 percent this year from straight from the CMH at about last year's 6.85 percent.

Wholesale and retail trade with a sectoral GDP claim of 14 percent increased marginally by 6.54 percent or 0.45 percentage point over last vear.

Real estate activities will see a growth of 3.81 percent from last year's 3.52 percent.

As the figures emerged, economists feel that the economy, although outgrew last year's, is not growing fast enough to meet many of the poverty targets.

"We need 8-9 percent growth a year to meet our commitment towards Millennium Development Goal (MDG).

Dr Zaid Bakht, research director of the Bangladesh Institute for Development Studies (BIDS), said. "But this 5+ percent growth has been there for quite some years and not enough to make any headway."

He pointed out that the manufacturing growth came mainly from the Nazrul had created his own distinct readymade garment sector, which style in Bengali literature and music could tap a new market in Canada.

"If garment faces difficulties in the post-MFA period, then the manufacturing will have no way out," he said. Bakht said the import substitute

industries are not doing well because Indians of weak demand, low purchasing power and bad law and order and politics stayed at

He also pointed out that a slow development programme implementation had its effect on the transport sector.

On farm sector performance, M Asaduzzaman, research director of the BIDS, said government spending on agriculture has dipped. About 3-4 percent of the ADP is being invested n agriculture which should be at least 8-10 percent.

Uttam Kumar Deb, researcher of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, said boro production was hampered in the haor areas because of excess rain. Bird flu scare also dented the poultry industry leading to lower growth.

UN examines FROM PAGE 12

will control oil revenues and enables

the interim government to discuss Iraq's debt with international financial institutions. The official said an enhanced role for the UN would be subject to a "circumstances permitting" clause.

quizzing at the JIC, saying they which means the UN will only be came here after a gang had given there if security is good assurance to send them to London Member states might be called in exchange for a hefty sum of on to provide soldiers for a new force to protect UN personnel, he money

said. In terms of security, the official said, the MNF force will have a regular "status of forces" agreement with the Iragi government so that it does not fall under local law.

However, detailed negotiations about its control will have to await the appointment of the interim government, due to be named by UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi before the end of May.

Bac under pressure

function of the programme will be FROM PAGE 1 held at Darirampur in Trishal of

under the Bac for questioning in two graft cases. President lajuddin Ahmed will

Police also asked the Bac to send a physician for him during interrogation by the joint cell, comprising army and police personnel.

The Bac, placed under direct supervision of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), told police a court placed Faruque on remand under it and that it could not hand him over to

any other authorities legally. The Proshika chief however was in Dhaka Central Jail till vesterday

Bac sources declined to say when and where he would be questioned. The Bac did not take a single

person, other than Farugue, on remand in the last few years, an ntelligence source mentioned.

The National Security Intelligence arrested him on Saturday although it usually does not make such arrests Earlier, the Bac had filed 15 cases

tative Christina Wallich along with other high officials received her at against the Proshika chief with the Pallabi Police Station Moreover the Bangladesh Ambassador to NGO Affairs Bureau had filed a graft China Ashfaqur Rahman and case with Pallabi police against Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Chai Xi were also Faruque and 11 others but they got bail from the High Court. present at the airport to receive

When Faruque was arrested, a quarter in the government tried to place him under the Detective Branch (DB) of Police. But the DB did not agree as none of the cases against him was filed with it or by it. He was

Yesterday, some government high-ups sent the officer-in-charge of the police station to the Bac office, asking it to place Faruque under the ioint interrogation cell and submit an

application to the higher authorities in The Bac contacted the PMO

directive on the matter. It then turned down the police request. Meanwhile, sources said the health condition of arrested Proshika

a few months ago.

soon after it came to power in October 2001, held up funds of five NGOs totalling \$61.70 million reportedly for financing the main opposition Awami League (AL). Proshika's share in the funds was over \$50

million.

Meghna launch death

do not have required money," he

added But shipping minister Akbar

Hossain told journalists the governonly in six launch disasters in ment would do everything to send Chandpur area in the last 10 years, the bodies home and compensation will be given to their families.

About MV Lighting Sun, leader of the salvage team Aminur Rahman said, " The launch was not Saturday, checked out before designed properly and was unfit to ply in this season."

Rostam strated salvage operation early Sunday and then topped due to low tide and exhaustion of the resuers. It resumed operation vesterday morning and continued till the afternoon.

Madaripu and Agailihara, Gournadi The rescue ship was supposed and Muladi upazilas of Barisal. to go to the salvage another cap-Mahfuzul Huq, Upazila Nirbahi sized launch M V Diganta following Officer of Gournadi, however said rescuing of the MV Lighting Sun. only one passenger was missing.

Outlaws gun down

FROM PAGE 12

once was involved in underground politics of Sarbohara. He used to ead the Zia group and established supremacy over his rivals by killing Kamrul Islam, leader of the rival faction, in 1991

A police officer of the North Zone Amid a growing popularity with the people of Jalla, Satla, Bagdha, said there are inconsistencies in the Harta area Aboni soon entered the statements of the arrestees. He said local politics. Attempts at his life the arrestees disclosed the name of never ceased as the followers of another Indian national of Kolkata, slain Kamrul and defeated UP who played a big role in bringing chairman candidates were allegedly active to bump him off. He managed to escape death twice in 1994 and It's too early to say anything about 1995 their motive," said a DMP police

In 1995 he was arrested in the special operation of police and later was released from jail after the case against him was dismissed.

For the last few years, he was nvolved with Awami League and after the general election of October 2001 he took shelter in Kotalipara of Gopalganj district.

Police said land dispute between Following an understanding with the local ruling party leaders, he Abdul Ali and his son with the first returned to the area and was rewife might have something to do with the killing. elected UP chairman of Jalla

Veterans grab key

FROM PAGE 1 ministry charge to reform-friendly Palaniappan Chidambaram, defence portfolio to senior leader Pranab Mukherjee and water resources portfolio to Priyaranjan Dasmunsi.

Seasoned diplomat K Natwar Singh became the new external affairs minister, a portfolio he had earlier held as a junior minister under PV Narasimha Rao.

He also called for a steady rela-

Natwar Singh vesterday sought to deepen a growing friendship with Pakistan, saying he would use his experience as ambassador to Islamabad to steer complex ties between the nuclear-armed neighbours

Trade Organisation in 1984. On the face of it, the water resources ministry for Dasmunsi, he second ministerial representa

Former Prime Minister Atal

Behari Vajpayee had used the inter-

linking project as a poll issue but

Congress has so far remained cool

to it. The draft common programme

of Manmohan Singh government

has merely said the techno-

economic feasibility of the project

and their getting weighty portfolios

came as surprise and created

murmurs of discontent in Congress

because both have lost recent

Among the Congress allies, the

most important portfolios have gone

to Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Laloo

Prasad Yadav (railways) and

Nationalist Congress Party

The sulking ally of Congress is

Ram Vilas Paswan who was given

charge of chemicals and fertiliser

who had expected the railways

portfolio to which he was outpaced

by Bihar strongman Laloo Prasad

initially refused to join the govern-

ment and reached the venue of

swearing in ceremony barely 20

minutes after former prime minister

VP Singh persuaded him to do so.

He was finally mollified with the

Jammu and Kashmir Ghulam Nabi

Azad, a confidant of party chief

Sonia Gandhi, got the weighty

urban development and parliamen

tary affairs portfolio and his party

colleague S Jaipal Reddy is the new

information and broadcasting

Senior Congress leader from

additional charge of steel ministry.

A clearly upset Paswan had

parliamentary elections.

Veteran Congress leader PM

has to be examined

this regard. which however did not give it any

Vice-president David William Biswas, now in jail, deteriorated yesterday. He had a by-pass surgery

Beginning from April, police raided the Proshika headquarters several times and sealed its cultural affairs wing. Activists of the ruling BNP also attacked its office, creating panic among officials and staff of the non-governmental organisation (NGO)

The BNP-Jamaat-led coalition,

A crackdown on Proshika followed allegations that it assisted the

PDB revives FROM PAGE 12 PDB to make the contract effective. But the ministry thought better of

remand Sunday.

them to Bangladesh.

officer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

leaving for Hong Kong.

nymity.

Police traced the hotel the five

Indian nationals, who were arrested

from a Bangladesh Biman aircraft

Police took the five to the guest-

house-like hotel in Gulshan after

they disclosed the information

during questioning at Joint

Interrogation Cell (JIC) yesterday, a

However, police could not arrest

Pargas Singh, Nirmol Singh

Manjeet Singh, Mangas Singh and

Sandeep Singh, all Sikhs, first came

to Dhaka from Kolkata by road last

week. They went to Hong Kong on

Police said the arrestees pro-

tested innocence during yesterday's

of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP)

"We started the probe yesterday.

The five were placed on a 10-day

May 16 and flew back Friday night.

police officer said preferring ano-

anybody as the hotel was locked.

issuing the guarantee letter considering TPE's failure to complete construction of Siddhirganj plant.

The TPE, in turn, tried to impose the project on the government by unilaterally importing 1400 tons of power plant equipment. However, the authorities did not officially accept equipment despite pressure from some PDB officials, as it did not have builder's guarantee.

These loopholes prevented the contract from being implemented despite pressure from lobbyists and political parties.

Tarique serves FROM PAGE 12

his legal notice that Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and General Secretary Abdul Jalil were making comments against him with intent to damage his personal, social and political positions.

Ashik Islam, a spokesman for Hawa Bhaban, BNP chairperson's tionship between New Delhi and political office, said the legal notice Washington and "not episodic" ties

"They have not taken charge because without our knowledge some changes have taken place. said a spokesman for the DMK responding to reports that the party wanted more powerful and addi-

tional portfolios. "What was agreed to was not done." Our correspondent Pallab Bhattacharya reports from New Delhi: Shivraj Patil, party colleague of Pranab Mukherjee now in charge

of defence ministry, became the new home minister. Mukherjee, a 57-year-old writer and journalist who had been billed as a potential prime minister, signed India's treaty to enter the World

operation to arrest Bangla Bhai for now as it will be tough for us to control sarbaharas (outlaws).

CONFLICT AND HIT LIST A conflict between a state minister

and his brother over the JMJB

Private Universities

FROM PAGE 12 have less than 1,000 teachers, many of them part-timers, sources said.

In some universities, there are heads of department but no permanent faculty members. Teachers are hired from different public universities to conduct courses. Some private universities have

procured land in the capital's suburbs to set up permanent campus, but the process seems to have ended there. There are some other universities that do not even have rented buildings for temporary campus and they hold classes at private educational institutions by making payments.

The committee members found that many of the universities are located in residential areas or housed in multi-storied commercial buildings, which also house garment factories and various firms.

Some universities have only two faculties -- business studies and computer science.

The committee will propose amendments to the Private

British HC

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh-born British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury suffered injuries in his legs and his bodyguard got killed when a bomb went off after the Friday prayers at Hazrat Shahjalal Shrine.

"The British High Commission in Dhaka will be open to public during normal office hours from May 25, said an announcement of the high commission's official web site.

The Sylhet office will remain closed until further notice, the announcement added.

The library service of the British Council also will resume today after a break of two days, officials said.

Meanwhile, Choudhury has left Dhaka for London to meet his family members there. However, his wife stavs back in Dhaka.

Although the British Council was closed, the "O" and "A" level examinations were held on schedule. armed revolution," Nizami said.

en secreted his body 20 fee underground after killing him. Police on Saturday rescued

Bashar, another outlaw whom the JMJB beat the same day and left on the road presuming him dead. Bashar is now in jail.

University Act to include more stringent measures to ensure that private universities run properly.

The proposed amendments concern specific infrastructure facilities, admission and tuition fees, and the number of faculties and permanent faculty members and teachers' salary, a committee member said, requesting anonymity.

The committee members have also prepared a guideline for private universities regarding the size of faculties and their members, infrastructure, academic council and mechanism for supervision and monitoring A member of the committee said

there are conflicts between the founders and administrations of private universities as the relevant act does not specify their functions.

Jamaat denies FROM PAGE 12

ruling four-party alliance government in jeopardy. The conference was held at the party headquarters

in the capital. On the previous bomb attack at the shrine in the wake of provocative statements by Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Saidee, Nizami said Saidee did not talk against shrines but against various anti-

social activities in those places. He also cited press reports that British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Anwar Choudhury was the target of the bomb attack, not the shrine. "So, those who are accusing Jamaat of carrying out the attack are actually involved with it...," he

added On the government's position on Bangla Bhai, Nizami said the government has already instructed police to take legal action against the self-styled commander. "We condemn the vigilante activities of Bangla Bhai and there is no link of the alliance government and Jamaat with the Jagrata Muslim Janata as Jamaat cannot develop any ties to any party believing in

viiniste Osman Farruk, Adviser for Foreign Affairs Reaz Rahman and Principal then sent to Pallabi Police Station. Secretary to the Prime Minister Kamaluddin Siddiqui.

AL in the movement to unseat the coalition government by April 30.

UK police launch

FROM PAGE 1

to the police officials, local people Police Station said the underground including some eyewitnesses. They operatives were preparing draft of also took some of the evidence col-PBCP handbills on the second floor lected earlier by the Sylhet police.

The other members of the team are Two drafts, one hand-written and sergeants Neil Laurel and Neil Powel. another computer-composed, were Allan Shaw, head of the political section of the British High Commission Police said Razzak and Tarek in Dhaka, and a CID official accompaare regional publicity commanders nied the UK investigators to Sylhet. of Rajšhahi and Khulna, while Shafi

In the latest development, the home ministry vesterday suspended Sylhet SP Shahadat Hossain for what it said was his failure to provide ade quate security during the visit of the British envoy to the shrine.

"We also had lengthy discussion on the killings of 11 members of a while detained one Shamim an alleged local member of the Islamist family in Banshkhali and gave outfit Harkatul Jihad, in Subidbazar, directives to quickly dispose of the but released him after interrogation.

The meeting found that many The deputy inspector general cases could not be proceeded due (DIG) and superintendent of police (SP) of Sylhet and officials of Rapid to delay in submission of autopsy report. It ordered health ministry Action Battalion, Bangladesh Rifles, officials present at the meeting to Directorate General of Forces set guidelines for submitting the Intelligence, National Security Intelligence and Special Branch and Sources said as many as 1936 Criminal Investigation Department murder and unnatural death cases were present during the two and a half were filed with different police stations hours of investigation in the 700-yearacross the country from January to old shrine area. March this year. Of them, 935 autopsy

The shrine remained out of bounds to public during the investigation and afterwards, paramilitary BDR members used metal detectors on the devotees before letting them in.

The DIG and SP of Sylhet updated the Scotland Yard on the status of the investigation in the case and two army intelligence officers narrated the grenade attack on the British envoy.

cabinet, home, establishment and The detectives took fingerprints from the veranda on the upper stairs of the main gate, where the grenade is suspected to have been hurled from. and some snaps and videoed the shrine premises and areas close by They enquired about the activities in the shrine, the gathering on the day of incident and the type of people who usually attend gathering in the shrine and in the mosque of Hazrat Shahjalal.

Gurdip Singh declined to com-But a US military officer based in ment, but Allan Shaw said the team Sadr City said 26 militiamen were has just started its job and they are not killed and four wounded in various in a position at the moment to make incidents involving attacks on US any comment. "The British police here patrols between 6:00 pm Sunday are helping the Bangladesh authorities in the investigation ... we're trying to "It is a bunch of small sporadic work with them," he said. He added events that add up." Captain Brian that information would be available O'Mallev of the 1st Brigade Combat from the British High Commission. Earlier, on arrival in the morning

the British investigators went to the British High Commission's Regional Office in the city's Kumarpara area and then to the office of DIG and held a meeting there. A copy of the English version of the first information report

on the incident was handed over to the British police. DIG of Sylhet Ali Imam Chowdhury told reporters they are in charge of the investigation and the British police will assist them in some matters. He,

Police yesterday evening, mean-

blast and suspected groups or people

an overnight stay in Sylhet.

the afternoon

The Sylhet District BarAssociation has called a press conference today at the Sylhet Press Club in connection with the last week's incident in which its President Abdul Hai Khan was also injured.

2 MORE WOUNDED **REFERRED TO DHAKA**

Two more victims of the attack. Zahi and Abdul Mukit, meanwhile, were yesterday referred to a Dhaka hospital from the Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital. Currently, 20 of the injured are under treatment at the hospital.

Earlier on Sunday night, Badrul Hossain Shamim, a UK resident who came to his ancestral home in Sylhet just weeks ago only to be wounded in the attack, was flown to Dhaka. He has been referred to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib University Hospital for better treatment, Sylhet hospital sources.

was mailed to Sudha Sadan, the residence of the opposition leader, and Jalil's Gulshan residence.

Ex-BTTB boss FROM PAGE 1

charges against them were not proved.

The government asked the BTTB to set up a PABX and landline phone system and other communication links in Ganges, Kobodak Gomati and Teesta projects of the Water Development Board for Institute of River Research in 1988-89.

Without inviting tender, the former BTTB chairman in underhand dealings with others asked Bangladesh Telecommunication Limited, the local agent of UHF system of US Motorola company, to set up the system. Maksud misappropriated Tk 10 crore instead of mplementing the projects.

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption filed six graft cases with Ramna Police Station, accusing Maksud and three others on May 16, 1991. The court recorded statements of 24 prosecution witnesses during the trial

Sramik League FROM PAGE 12

supporters of AL and its front organisations in Gazipur following Ahsanullah's assassination.

"As the seven-day ultimatum from AL chief Sheikh Hasina for the arrest of the killers expired on Sunday we are compelled to announce the shutdown," Matin said.

Sramik League leaders demanded international probe into bomb attack on the British envoy to Bangladesh at Hazrat Shahjalal Shrine in Sylhet and punishment to the criminals.

They also threatened to enforce a 72-hour road blockade programme across the country in the last week of June if their demands were unmet.

Among others, Sramik League leaders Abdus Salam Khan, Fazlul Haq Montu, Hasan Ali, Chandu Sardar, Tofail Ahmed, Aminul Haq Faruk and Jamaluddin Ahmed attended the press briefing. Dhaka city unit of Sramik League announced to hold a rally at city's Muktangon tomorrow protesting the murder of AL lawmaker.

Unknown assailants gunned down AL lawmaker Ahsanullah, who was also executive president of Sramik League, during an Awami Sechchhasebok League rally at Tongi in Gazipur on May 7. showers

referring to new warmth between tive in Manmohan Singh cabinet, two countries who were once on might look minor but he would have opposite sides of the Cold War. a key role in view of the proposed

"We will further strengthen. controversial river-inter-linking widen and deepen our relations with project which the previous B.IP-led Pakistan," Natwar Singh told reportgovernment had so zealously ers after taking office. championed.

"I myself served as ambassador to Pakistan and have some personal knowledge of the complexities and subtleties of India-Pakistan relations," he said.

Investors cheered Harvardeducated 58-year-old Chidambaram as he was made the finance minister after weeks of chaos and volatility in financial markets.

Sayeed has been rewarded with the But differences came up on the plum portfolio of power while his first day Manmohan Singh's comparty colleague Kamal Nath, a munist-backed coalition governformer private-sector industrialist ment opened for business. The rift is was given the charge of commerce not seen as a major threat, but and industry ministry. underlines the difficulties in bringing The induction of Patil, a former cohesion to the alliance. Speaker of Parliament, and Saveed

The seven ministers of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) party refused to report for their jobs yesterday, a day after portfolios for the 67-member council of ministers were announced

Tigers stare FROM PAGE 1

players off the field. The Tigers still President Sharad Pawar (food and trail by 163 to the Board XI's first agriculture) and DMK's first-time MP innings score of 320 for five Dayanidhi Maran (telecoms and declared. nformation technology).

First to go was Alok Kapali, who was looking good at 19. The righthander, under pressure for his poor run of form, started the day with a square drive for four off Lawson. But he then played forward defensive to a ball from Banks and it came off the inner edge of the bat to hit the stumps, eaving Bangladesh at 137 for five.

Mohammad Ashraful reached 73 and then couldn't keep a rising delivery from Lawson down and Wavell Hinds took the catch at forward short leg. Ashraful's dismissal at 143-6 sparked a collapse that saw the Tigers losing their next three wickets for only three runs.

Wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud was caught at silly point off Banks, who also had Alamgir Kabir bowled in the same over. Tapash Baisva fended a bouncer that looped to wicketkeeper Carlton Baugh (Jr), leaving the visitors huffing and puffing at 146-9 before rain came as a relief.

(Material of Reuters and AFP has The match started half an hour been used) behind schedule at 10:30 local time (8:30 BST) because of morning

minister

Yadav.

however, would not elaborate. Later in the afternoon, the Scotland Yard officials again met the officials of different agencies and police at the Police Rest House. They held discussions on the motive and nature of the

who might have link to the incident. They British police team will make

AL RALLY FOILED Police yesterday did not allow main

opposition Awami League to hold a scheduled protest rally in the city's Court Point area in the afternoon. They sealed the area and asked the opposition activists concerned not to gather there.

Police also foiled an attempt by Al-Islah, a madrasa-based organisation, to bring out a procession in the city in

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TODAY