SC finds flaw

It also directed counsels of both sides to complete their arguments in the first two hours after court resumption at 9:00am today.

Things took a dramatic turn after yesterday's court hearing -- CEC MA Syed tightened his lips and counsels of both sides shifted focuses in their arguments.

In last few days, the CEC repeatedly told. The Daily Star that he neither filed the appeal nor gave permission to anyone to file it, but was tight-lipped after submission of the approval to the highest court.

In his argument, Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud, counsel of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) candidate M A Mannan, questioned the authority of the CEC to give approval for filing the appeal.

Referring to a previous Supreme Court judgment, he said the CEC could not give such permissions individually bypassing the EC, as the body was comprised of other

Quoting the judgment that the CEC's authority was not sufficient, he also questioned the powers of the returning officer to lodge the

Before presentation of the CEC's approval, Rokanuddin raised the question of legality and transparency in filing the appeal and the attorney of warrant.

Former justice TH Khan, counsel of the appeal petitioner, termed the mistake in lodging the appea as minor and was apparently reluctant to argue on the point after the presentation of the approval document.

He argued for holding the by-polls in 90 days after the seat fell vacant at the resignation of

Mannan resigned from parliament and from the ruling BNP before joining the BDB. The special bench handling the

petition on Sunday referred it to the full court that heard the petition from 9:10am to 1:00pm with half an hour tea break.

Only journalists with accreditation cards were allowed to the court after two days of restriction.

When Rokanuddin argued the petition was tampered in different ways, the chief justice wanted to listen to the advocate on record? Maulavi Wahiddulah appeared

before the court himself and responded to the judges' queries on the allegation.

The chief justice asked him who directed him to change the petitioner's name.

As the advocate on record could

3 killed in city

FROM PAGE 12

At least 30 people were injured during the hour-long clashes,

Shopkeepers of eight markets in the area kept their shutters down for nine hours till 5:00pm fearing further violence.

Three people were killed and two others became maimed in five road accidents in Fulbaria area during last one-month, shopkeep-

A police contingent was deployed in Fulbaria area to avert any untoward incident, locals added.

At Malibagh, an enraged mob set fire to a covered van after it killed a private car driver at around

The van rammed Bazlur Rahman Shakil, 30, near Malibagh intersection, killing him on the spot, hospital sources said.

Locals chased and seized the

vehicle and damaged it before setting it ablaze. The crowd also damaged the signboard of New Era Medical in Malibagh, witnesses Bazlur was going to his sister's Malibagh house to deliver the

death news of their mother who died an hour before the accident, family members said.

In another incident, an unidentified young man died on the spot after he was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck at Khilkhet in Badda at about 1:00am. not satisfy the court, the chief justice asked him whether he took permission from the chamber udge before amending the peti-

Without a direct reply to the question, the advocate said he did it in front of the chamber judge, prompting chamber judge Tafazzal Islam, also a judge of the full seven-member court, to say he could not recall giving such an

Justice M Ruhul Amin again asked in Bangla whether Wahiddulah took permission before changing the petition, he kept from replying.

During the argument, Additional Attorney General AJ Mohammad Ali submitted the document of the CEC's approval.

Earlier, Rokanuddin said the tition first had the returning officer as the petitioner and the EC as the respondent. But later the EC was made the petitioner without permission from the chamber judge. The appeal was accepted without the warrant of attorney, he

Rokanuddin questioned if the DB candidate could file an appeal without the warrant of attorney and had a special bench constituted for hearing.

Briefing reporters on tampering with documents after the hearing, TH Khan said: "It is not a major issue. They raised it as if it were a big fraud."

He claimed Rokanuddin could not properly reply to the arguments he raised.

Citizens' rally urge all to resist JMJB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A citizens' rally in Rajshahi city yesterday called upon people to launch a united movement to resist militant activities of the Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB).

Speakers at the rally criticised Rajshahi police for escorting the May 23 armed showdown of JMJB in the northwestern city and obstructing yesterday's rally against the Islamis outfit blamed for killing at least eight suspected outlaws in vigilante action

Police stopped workers setting up the dais for the rally in the morning but backed off later in the wake of public protest. Police also tried to drive away demonstrators to clear

The speakers, including main opposition Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil, blamed the government for its failure to fight the armed militants in the northwest.

"We united in upholding the spirit of the Liberation War and our efforts to free the country from the misrule of the BNP-Jamaat alliance,"

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon slated Jamaat-e-Islami linking the ruling coalition partner to the rise of Bangla Bhai, dreaded operations commander of the IMIR He demanded arrest of the operatives and punishment to government officials who backed them.

"It's unbelievable that police who arrested hundreds of innocent people in April without charges are unable to capture Bangla Bhai,'

Communist Party of Bangladesh President Manjurul Ahsan Khan demanded a ban on Jamaat politics and accused the BNP-Jamaat alli $ance of patronising Bangla\,Bhai.$

Organised by Rajshahi Nagarik Committee at Shaheb Bazar, the rally was also addressed by Jatiya Samaitantrik Dal President Hasanu Haque Inu, Gonotantri Party President Mahmudur Rahman Babu, Gono Azadi League President Abdus Samad, Samyabadi Dal General Secretary Dilip Barua and Awami League organising secretaries Abdul Mannan and Akhtaruzzaman. RNC Convenor Golam Arif Tipu chaired the meeting.

A coalition of six fundamentalis

parties, the Muttahida Majlis-e

Amal (MMA), had called for a

nationwide strike on Friday in protest at Mufti Shamzai's killing.

A senior MMA leader, Maulana Fazlur Rahman, said: "We will not

sit silent. We will protest against

the brutal murder of a great reli-

ambushed by up to six gunmen

The car of Mufti Shamzai was

Blast at Karachi

Fears of a fresh round of inter-Muslim sectarian violence ran high in Karachi after the killing on Sunday of Mufti Nizamuddin Shamzái, a radical Sunni preacher, and thousands of police were deployed at mosques in anticipation of a backlash.

The blast at the Ali Raza Imam Bargah mosque was less than a mile away from where Shamzai, a pro-Taliban cleric who called for fjihad", or holy war, against the United States, was killed.

Sunni-Shia sectarian violence has killed thousands in the past 15

Jamil told the Reuters news agency,

Pakistan's information minis-

ter, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, said the

blast, during evening prayers, was

Initial reports said the explosion

An office building belonging to

Angry crowds quickly gathered

was so powerful it cracked the

the trust that manages the mosque

at the mosque and our correspon-

dent says a police vehicle was set

kilometre from the site of Mufti

cally to protect Shia mosques following Mufti Shamzai's death.

The blast took place only a

Police had been trying specifi-

Interior ministry spokesman

Abdur Rauf Chaudhry said it was

too early to say who carried out the attack but said it appeared to be

referring to a Shia mosque.

mosque's concrete dome.

caused by a bomb.

Shamzai's killing.

collapsed.

"We will be forced to take other steps if the killers of Nizamuddin Shamzai are not arrested," he said. A police taskforce has been formed to investigate the killing. "We heard that there was an explosion near the Ali Raza Imam Bargah," Karachi police chief Tariq No one has yet said they carried

gious personality.

out the attack. Up to six gunmen ambushed the car of Mufti Shamzai, witnesses

One of the 75-year-old cleric's sons, a nephew, a driver and a

police bodyguard were wounded. Mufti Shamzai was a strong critic of the US, urging a holy war after the invasions of Afghanistan

Sunni Muslims, including his students, rioted at news of his death, attacking a police station and burning cars.

Prime Minister Zafarullah Khan famali called the killing a "das-

tardly act of terrorism". The cleric's death came three

weeks after at least 14 people were killed in Karachi when a man, apparently dressed as a Shia cleric, ew himself up in a Shia mosque.

As many as 4,000 people have been killed in Pakistan since the late 1980s in Shia-Sunni sectarian

Tarique's legal notice yet to reach Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Legal notices served by Senior Joint-Secretary General of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Tarique Rahman were not yet received by Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina and General Secretary Abdul Jalil.

Tarique's lawyer Barrister Nawshad Jamir had sent the notices by mail through GPO (General Post Office) on May 24 for their alleged libelous and false comment against him.

However, sources said, the mails returned yesterday as the notices were not duly received by the addressees or persons on

Messengers of the GPO had gone to the Sudha Sadan residence of Sheikh Hasina and Abdul Jalil's Gulshan house several times, but returned the notices to the sender. saying that the addressees were not

Tarique's counsel had asked the espondents to reply within a week of receipt of the notices, "seeking apology for the false and fabricated tatements" against Tarique Rahman. Otherwise, legal actions would be taken against them, the notices said.

Ashik Islam, a spokesman for Hawa Bhaban, the BNP chairperson's political office, told the UNB that they would take steps in accordance with the law.

The notices had also stated that the BNP joint-secretary general would file separate defamation suits of Tk 100 crore each against Sheikh Hasina and Abdul Jalil, if they failed to seek apology for their "derogatory" comments against

Containers

Lutfozzaman Babar and attended by, among others, the home secretary, inspector general of police and director general of Bangladesh

"Introduction of scanning machine will help check smuggling and enhancing security," Babar said. "It is not possible to check smuggling overnight and we are trying to find out the barriers to solving the problem."

He also said the committee ordered immediate disposal of smuggling cases across the country It also ordered preparing a list of smugglers and hundi traders and submitting it at its next meeting.

The meeting decided setting up 10 cattle import corridors as sug-gested by the BDR and discussed steps to check raw hide smuggling.

It directed railway police to step up efforts to curb smuggling and suggested setting up mobile courts at Tongi, Koshba, Feni, Bilonia and some other railway stations.

The meeting also discussed measures to check drug smuggling and posting of women police at airports and land ports.

FM reaches

FROM PAGE 12 strengthening the regional eco-

nomic grouping.' "We are glad the Indian prime minister spoke about strengthen-

ing relations with neighbours. We will work together to advance the cause of the people of the region."

Morshed will call on Manmohan Singh and Sonia Gandhi and meet External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh, Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Mani Shankar Aiyer and National Security Advisor JN Dixit

Morshed got down to interacting with Indian leaders yesterday evening, having met former prime minister IK Gujral and CPI (M) veteran Somnath Chatterjee, timed to become the pay species. tipped to become the new speaker of parliament.

Official news agency BSS quoted Gujral as saying: It's a great joy to receive Morshed Khan, a leading minister of Bangladesh and a personal friend of mine."

Morshed said: "(I) came to see a great South Asian leader with outstanding contribution to

Aid to drive

FROM PAGE 1

present Tk 90,000.

The finance ministry has not yet planned how the planned Tk 1,000 crore agriculture subsidy, up from this year's Tk 300 crore, will be delivered directly to the farmers. The ministry is considering an agriculture ministry proposal for irrigation subsidy, which stipulates that each thana will have a committee headed by the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO). This committee will list how many deep tubewells are functional and the ministry will provide the subsidy according to this list.

The finance and agriculture ministries will meet today to decide how imported fertiliser would be subsidised.

The government plans to expand the old-age pension scheme, widow pension scheme, stipend and scholarships. The finance ministry is under

pressure to allocate funds for dearness allowance of government employees, which would mean an extra Tk 1,000 crore. The current budget contains Tk 700 crore for dearness allowance. Besides, the budget will

announce a special savings scheme for retired government officials

The budget is likely to propose a post-MFA linkage fund for the garments sector.

CEC's signature

"The CEC now appears stuck in deep mud. If he says that he has been tricked into signing the appeal papers, a government lobby that wants his removal will accuse him of failing to carry out his copy." him of failing to carry out his constitutional responsibilities," he

This lobby left its mark in the 14th amendment to the constitu-tion, which increased the retirement age of all constitutional posts excepting those in the EC. It means that the CEC will retire by the next

The CEC on Saturday told The Daily Star, "It is just a fraud as we have neither filed any appeal nor given permission to anybody to file it." He made the comment when the petitioners at the Appellate Division claimed that the EC has filed the appeal.

He also made similar remarks while talking to Dr Kamal Hossain on the phone, sources said.

Additional Attorney General AJ Mohammad Ali told the court after producing the EC file that the CEC himself created controversy and confusion about transparency of ne petitioner by denying his role to

Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud, counsel of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh candidate in the

Dhaka-10 seat Abdul Mannan in whose favour the stay order was granted, said: "The CEC must

explain (to clear this confusion)." The Daily Star tried to take Syed's comment on the issue and when journalists met him at his chamber, a visibly dumbfounded Syed did not utter a single word despite a barrage of questions. He looked shattered when he was heading home at 4:00pm.

A section of 'over-enthusiastic' EC officials led by the secretary filed the appeal against the HC stay order in an unusual pace. They contacted the Office of Attorney General (OAG) although according to norm they are to contact their own lawyers first. An assistant attorney general also joined them and collected the warrant of attorney from the EC to file the appeal, the sources added.

The EC officials led by the secretary yesterday spent a busy day holding meeting at his office for several hours and when journalists went there to meet them, they regretted not talking to them.

The OAG's involvement in the legal process, meanwhile, has raised many eyebrows since the government is not the party to the

Anti-tobacco day

tobacco epidemic' the activists cautioned, emphasising a massive anti-tobacco drive right from now.

The World No Tobacco Day 2004 with the theme 'Tobacco and poverty: a vicious circle' was observed in the country yesterday. Different organisations brought out rallies and held seminars on the occasion to raise mass awareness about harmful effects of tobacco. Tobacco use has sharply

increased in low and middle-income countries including Bangladesh in recent years although it has declined in many igh-income countries. About 75 per cent of tobacco users are in developing countries including Bangladesh, consuming around 60 per cent of the 5,700 billion cigarettes smoked worldwide each year. There are an estimated 1.5 crore smokers in Bangladesh

Bangladesh. This in itself justifies invest-ments in a comprehensive tobacco control programmes, the activists

Tobacco kills people at the height of their productivity, depriving millions of families of bread earners and nations of a healthy workforce, they mentioned.

The proportion of household

expenditures made on purchase of tobacco products is often very high in developing countries. If two-thirds of the money spent on cigarettes in Bangladesh were spent on food instead, it could save more than 10 million people from malnutrition, the World Health Organisation said in a report.

A study shows the poorest households in Bangladesh spend on tobacco almost 10 times their spending on education.

Bangladesh Cancer Foundation, Adhunik and Coalition Against Tobacco, Bangladesh Young Tourists Club, Rotary Club, Manash and many other organisations observed the

The organisations cautioned against tobacco companies' cam-paigns that their activities benefit societies as they create jobs, help tobacco farmers, fuel economies, contribute to improvement of healthcare and educational facilities and promotion of cultural

"Well-planned and well-managed charity, from sponsoring music, film and art festivals to creating education programmes for the disadvantaged and protect-ing the environment, in the name of corporate social responsibility has become a necessary element of tobacco companies in their busi-ness plans," noted Dr Habibullah Talukder, president of Bangladesh Cancer Foundation.

Bangla Bhai

ability.'

in Bangladesh can write whatever they wish as they don't care about account

"It is no matter what the newspapers are writing, but the fact is that the government is not harbouring any criminal in the country," he added.

The political secretary also denied the allegation raised by some human rights groups that police were assisting the notorious Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh leader in unlawful activi-

"I could have shown more respect to their (human rights groups) activities if they could come up with concrete evidence," he added.

Meanwhile, Noor Mohammad deputy inspector general of police, Raishahi, announced a Tk 50.000 reward for anyone who can help arrest

Gayle, missed opportunities

Overnight rain had made parts of the outfield soggy and the umpires after three inspections, have finally decided on starting play at 12:00pm local time (10:05pm BST). The West Indies resume on 262 for five, still 154 runs behind Bangladesh's first

innings total of 416. If the first two days had belonged to the two centurions from Bangladesh Habibul Bashar and Mohammad Rafique, it was surely Chris Gayle's time to enjoy day

The left-handed opener from Jamaica made an uncĥaracteristically watchful 111 not out playing 246 balls (14x4) and has featured in three vital partnerships with Ramnaresh Sarwan (87 for the first wicket), skipper Brian Lara (73 for the second wicket and Dwayne Smith (70 for the fourth wicket). And it is to him and wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs that the West Indies are looking to push along the innings when it resumes. But Gayle had been dropped thrice by butter-fingered Bangladeshi fielders, who let go as many as six chances.

Thankfully the last of those (Shivnarine Ćhanderpaul on three by Javed Omar at mid-wicket) did not cost much as the batsman was out four runs later.

Mohammad Rafique as usual, is starring with the ball and has two wickets for 81 from 30 overs.

"The wicket is getting lower and slower. So I think Rafique could have a major impact on the course of the game," said manager Faruque Ahmed who is also the coach now following the departure of Day Whatmore who left for Australia on Sunday to attend the funeral of his brother-in-law.

Gayle was relieved with the hundred after the dropped chances and a poor run of form coming into

"They are good lads and we crack joke here and there," said Gayle when asked whether he was good friends with the Bangladesh fielders who let him off the hook thrice.

"It was not possible to have a go on this wicket. And credit must be given to the Bangladeshi bowlers. They stuck to a plan and bowled very straight.

2 GIs, 2 Iraqis die

FROM PAGE 12

major road that leads to the Green Zone, a security area around US headquarters in central Baghdad, to defuse a second car bomb. Shia leaders, meanwhile, called

on US forces to halt "aggressive patrolling" around Kufa and Najaf to shore up a peace accord that is rapidly unraveling there, 100 miles south of Baghdad. The fighting in Kufa broke out

Sunday night and lasted until early yesterday. Shia attackers loyal to radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr ambushed a patrol with small arms fire, killing one US soldier, and fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a tank, killing another American, according to the US military. At least one Iraqi was killed and

eight injured, hospital officials said. Al-Śadr's militia often avoids taking its casualties to government hospitals for fear of arrest. Shia militiamen accused US

troops of firing near the city's main

militiamen lay on the mosque's blood-soaked floor, covered with blankets. "They have no respect for holy sites or for human rights," said one fighter, who gave only his first

name, Abu Sayf. "This is a violation

mosque, damaging its outer mar-

ble wall. The bodies of two slain

Experts warn FROM PAGE 12 chief guest, Professor Jahan Ara Begum, advisor on primary and

don't try to increase their skills,

which is an impediment to better

primary education," she said. Primary and Mass Education

Secretary Rafiqul Islam inaugu-

along with students'.

rated the workshop.

mass education to the prime minister, said: "The performance of teachers needs to be evaluated "Most teachers in our country

Licences of 187 firearms cancelled in **Bagerhat**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Licences of 187 firearms in Bagerhat district have been cancelled following an order by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The deputy commissioner of Bagerhat has asked the officers-incharge of all police stations of the district to seize the firearms.

The licence holders reacted sharply against the government decision, saying the government had deprived them of the privilege without showing any specific reason. Such a move by the home ministry would make their life most insecure in the district where outlaws reign, apprehended some shrimp traders.

However, the deputy commis-sioner (DC) said the licences have been cancelled, as per law, for not renewing those. Similar action will be taken against those who are yet to register their firearms after

MONGLA PORT

await golden handshake

1,122 workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Mongla Port Authority (MPA) will be releasing 1,122 dock workers from services through a golden handshake programme from the first week of June.

The port authorities and concerned parties signed an agreement in this regard on Saturday with the MPA chairman in the chair, sources In the second phase of the programme, the MPA will spend Tk 12 crore for releasing the staff under its Dock Workers' Management

Board, they added.

Between 2001 and 2002, the MPA handed over Tk 4 crore to 476 dock workers for releasing them from services in the first phase of the programme, MPA sources said. The MPA appointed 5000 dock workers at the port in 1987 on daily payment basis. As fewer foreign vessels anchor at the port in recent times, port activities require few staff.

Danish vessel hits navy ship, seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Port Authorities (CPA) seized a Danish cargo vessel as it hit a Bangladesh navy ship in the port channel on Sunday.

MV Tiger loaded with defence cargo collided with navy ship BNS Dhanshiri at about 6:30pm following an engine failure when it was entering the port channel, port said vesterda The naval ship sustained a little damage in the accident while the Danish ship, which came from Mumbai Port the same day, was

unharmed, they added. A CPA tug-boat towed the 65meter-long vessel to jetty No. 9

following the accident. The CPA, shipping ministry and naval authorities formed separate committees to probe the accident. They are expected to submit their reports within three days, said Quamrul Hossain, member (oper ation) of Chittagong Port.

and local agent of the ship. Vagrant centre

MV Tiger was scheduled for

sailing out for Kelang Port on

Tuesday after unloading at

Chittagong Port, said port sources

FROM PAGE 12 committee headed by a magistrate to probe the incident. Deputy Commissioner Harunur Rashid sent sample of the food to Dhaka for test.

Informed sources said the inmates complained to the minister of low quality food, unhealthy environment and even physical repression by the officials of the centre.

Another shot

FROM PAGE 12

Police said four armed cadres were killed and at least 19 others including five law enforcers injured in a fierce gunfight among these two groups and police on May 19 last month.

Meanwhile, police could not yet find any clue to the killing of eight Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF) cadres on Sunday Sources said Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Khulna range Abdul Aziz Sarkar on Saturday in a

meeting with superintendents of police of Kushtia, Jhenidah and Chuadanga ordered to launch a special drive in the region to resist the downward slide in law and and a police between sould not order. Police, however, could not yet nab any of the killers. At least 50 people were mur-dered in the district since January,

with 20 in the last month alone. At least 70 people including 18

and ASL brought out a procession

in the town yesterday evening to protest at the killing of Nakshatra

and accused the 'ruling goons' of

school and college students were abducted. Eight of them including three schoolboys were killed while others had to pay hefty ransom for Awami League, Jubo League

BTRC acts to end

should be bilateral or multilateral and it should be under the supervision of BTRC, officials said.

All incumbent operators should comply with the technical standards set by the commission for interconnection. They should also comply with other access and interconnection obligations as stipulated by commission or as issued by the BTRC commissioner from time to time, the BTRC said in its PSTN licensing criteria.

Experts say the state monopoly in fixed line telephony, Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB), does not have adequate interconnection to share with prospective fixed phone operators.

The country's cell-phone operators in the wake of a crippling interconnection scarcity opted for mobile-to-mobile telephones that still dominate the mobile telephony . Four cell-phone operators have around 2.30 million mobile phones, of which a little over 200,000 have mainframe fixed line

ators to spend about \$2 million on a separate tandem exchange to resolve the interconnection issue. The telecoms regulator should

may also think of awarding more officials said.

service, which too is generally of poor quality. The immediate telecoms market for new entrants in Bangladesh is about 1.2 million fixed lines,

which can be fed by the private

sector, says a study.

"The number of mobile sub-scribers is expected to reach around six to eight million by encourage setting up of infrastruc-

Filipino FM assures

FROM PAGE 12

draws together 23 countries that have a bearing on the security of

During the meeting, Bangladesh and the Philippines stressed the need for strengthening

programmes for women in the two countries, Delia said both the countries could "benefit from their respective experiences and mutual cooperation' She said the two countries can also share their experiences in matters of sending workers abroad.

ernment's programme for nurses' training, the Filipino foreign minis-ter offered modern training facili-

ment and other programmes for empowerment of women.

Delia appreciated the role of private universities in Bangladesh and said the Philippines would send an education team "soon" to look into the development programmes in this Saarc country.

that Bangladeshi products like tea, jute, jute bags, leather, leather goods, pharmaceuticals have great demand in American and The prime minister hoped that

Khaleda told the Filipino FM

the Philippines would also import some items from Bangladesh to enhance trade and commerce between the two countries. Filipino Under-secretary for Special Concerns Rafael E Segis, Ambassador Joseph Lino B Guerrero, Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Shamsher Mobin Chow-

Quota phase-out

"We are taking our time as it is a very sensitive issue for us. We need some clarifications and have requested our mission in Geneva to provide us with necessary information," BGMEA President Annisul

Huq told The Daily Star last night. He said BGMEA is discussing with small and big manufacturers to decide on the issue.

move. Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC) Augustine Tandillo recently called on Bangladesh ambassador in Washington, seeking Bangladesh's positive

The declaration expresses concern over apparel trade monopoly by China. "If quotas are removed on January 1, 2005, global textile and clothing trade will be monopolised by a few countries such as China. The consequence will be massive job disruption and business bankruptcies in dozens of

and clothing exports. In textile categories in the United States where a number of quotas have already been eliminated, China has taken almost 60 percent of the market in less than

increase its share, it said.

"China's massive growth has come at the expense of virtually all other participants in the market, especially the least developed and the developing countries which are poised to lose as many as 30 million obs due to the quota phase-out. "Trade in this sector has been compromised by the use of trade

distorting practices including deliberate currency undervaluation, state subsidies and the proliferation of non-performing loans and rebate schemes, among "For example, such trade distorting practices have allowed China to drop prices for textile and apparel products by as much as 75

percent, and have given China an unassailable and unfair advantage in world markets.' The phase-out of textile and clothing quotas was intended to liberalise trade for all nations, not to ensure domination of world trade in textiles and clothing by countries that use unfair trade practices, it pointed out.

to discuss this proposal by July 1, It also requested WTO to undertake a full review of global textile and clothing production, export and market circumstances so as to

Why keep cops

FROM PAGE 12

suing an agenda of killing proliberation and non-communal people after taking office joining

the economy was tottering on the edge of collapse, but the finance minister was trying to show the growth rate one percent up in the upcoming budget. "We took the growth rate to six percent during our rule. This gov-ernment presided over the fall of the

tion against the prime minister's family, she said: "Only one family will benefit from the economic growth whatever it may be, not the Hasina also said the common

She said the government raised the retirement age of Supreme Court judges through the 14th amendment to the constitution only to get a like-minded man placed as the chief of the next caretaker government.

affairs secretary of the ruling BNP, she claimed.

Jubo League Convenor Manjurul Alam Shaheen, the programme was also addressed by frontline AL

connection problem, said a telecoms expert. The BTRC has awarded PSTN

cence to Bashundhara Communi-cation & Network Limited (BCNL) while Westec Limited, QC Telecom Limited and Jalalabad Telecom Limited (JTL) have pre-qualified for the licence.

The telecoms market regulator

ture companies before bringing

private operators into fixed line telephony to thrash out the inter-

licences for fixed phone service, technically referred to as PSTN, on both national and zonal basis, Bangladesh's telecommunications market is characterised by

low penetration and shortage of

The growth of mobile subscribers has averaged around 85 percent The interconnection scarcity over the past three years, President forced private mobile phone operof Ericsson South East Asia Mats Olsson said.

2006," Olsson added.

the Asia-Pacific region.

trade and cultural relations and exchange of experiences in development sectors between the two Asian countries. Pointing out that there are many similar development

ties available in her country.

Referring to Bangladesh gov-

dhury and Ambassador to Manila She also hinted at collaboration in education, hospital manage-M Muniruzzaman were present.

The commercial counsellor of Bangladesh embassy in Washington informed the commerce ministry recently that top representatives from the group urged Bangladesh to support their "The president of the National Council of Textile Organisations (NCTO) Cass Johnson, and Executive Director of the American

involvement in this regard and to request the director general of WTO to revisit its textile related policies," the counsellor said in his

countries dependant upon textile

determine whether to finalise the phase-out process on January 1, 2008 or to develop an appropriate alternative arrangement. The group also sent a letter to

ranks with fundamentalist forces. The former prime minister said

rate to four percent. Now they are trying to raise it by one percent. In a veiled allegation of corrup-

man would continue to suffer because of high inflation rate.

He was a former international

Presided over by Dhaka District

Khan and Faruk Hasan Tuhin were elected president and general secretary of the Jubo League unit on a three-year term in direct vote by

Other office-bearers of the 71-member committee will be elected

leader Zillur Rahman, Jubo League Chairman Jahangir Kabir Nanak and General Secretary Mirza Azam.

At the conference, Shafiul Azam

Manmohan

The Indian premier said, "As members of the South Asian community, it is essential that we cooperate to build a stable, prosperous and peaceful region both through bilateral process and Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)."

He also wished to work closely with her to further intensify Dhaka-Delhi bilateral cooperation and promote regional cooperation.

The declaration urged the WTO to convene an emergency meeting

the US president, seeking his support in the matter. two years and is continuing to

soon, party sources said.

FROM PAGE 12 building a mutually beneficial relationship with all our neigh-bours based on sensitivity to each other's core concerns," he said in

197 councillors.

Thanking Khaleda for her letter of congratulations to him and for the sentiment she expressed, Singh said he fully reciprocates her views on the strength of bilateral relations rooted in historic and cultural links.