NEWSPAPER LEADERS SUMMIT

Global media trend reviewed

ARUN DEVNATH, from Bangkok

Global newspaper circulation went slightly down, but newspaper advertising revenues are on the upswing, the World Association of Newspapers (WAN) revealed at a high-profile summit in Bangkok yesterday (Thurs-day) after an annual survey on world

Some developing markets showed strong circulation gains, while many mature markets saw sales decline, according to a survey-based presenta-tion at the 2nd Asian Newspaper Leaders Summit at the Dusit Thani

Organised by the Paris-based WAN, the second summit that ends today (Friday) came after the first

summit in Seoul last year. On Bangladesh, WAN in its report "World Press Trends Asia 2004" highlighted that the archaic Official Secrets Act introduced by British colonialists in 1926 makes it a crime to publish 'secrets'. The Bangladesh government has more than 25 laws that could rebuke, fine and punish journalists

with jail terms up to several years. On employment, WAN said only six to eight newspapers and magazines pay salary and wages to their journalists and workers in a country that has 1,566 newspapers and periodicals published in Bangla and English.

The report refers to the shifting media landscape in Bangladesh that panned the sale and distribution of a July edition of international newsmagazine Newsweek, saying the edition published simultaneously from New York, Singapore and Malaysia, contained "misleading and objectionable comments" about the

Quran.
The aims of the summit are to form understanding among publishers and related organisations in Asia and make way for dialogues and exchange of ideas that would "lead to development, innovation and a stronge newspaper industry regionwide", said Thanachai Theerapattanavong, chairman and CEO of Nation Multimedia Group that hosts the

Founded in 1948, WAN groups 72 national newspaper associations, individual newspaper executives in 100 nations, 13 news agencies, and nine regional press organisations.

"A newspaper is not only about paper anymore ... It doesn't matter how it is delivered -- via the paperboy or a news kiosk, or by computer, mobile phone or any emerging tech-nology," WAN President Seok Hyun

FUTUREROLEOFTHEEDITOR Future of the Newspaper (SFN), highlighted two modern themes sweeping the newspaper industry in his presentation paper "Future Perspectives: Key Strategic Issues for Newspapers in Asia"

The role of the editor is moving from the writer to the reader; and news breaks when it is consumed, not when it occurs, he said.

The speaker underscored the editor's efforts to keep himself updated on world affairs with the help search engines, including Google In the second theme, he indicated the vital role of technology in the fast

growth of newspapers.

He said cellphone-based communications are the force for newspapers

The new media tool provides an opportunity to develop more secure relationships with readers and advertisers, develop new revenue streams in media consumption and communication, and provide operational efficiencies within the newspaper company.

Chisholm highlighted changes and xperiments in new formats and designs of newspapers as the media

landscape is shifting.

He pointed to The Economist that has a magazine size, yet it is a serious newspaper. He said the trend indicates the switchover to the concept that small is beautiful. CIRCULATION AND MEDIA

Newspaper circulations were up in 35 percent of the countries surveyed year-on-year in 2003, and up in 28 percent of countries between 1999

In terms of daily circulation of all newspapers combined, China tops the list of countries around the world with more than 85 million copies sold, followed by India with more than 72 million copie

Japan and the United States come

next with 70,339,000 copies and 55,185,000 copies sold aday. North America is the world's largest advertising market for daily newspapers, with 70 percent of the world's advertising share for dailies, followed by Europe with 23 percent, the Asia-Pacific region with 16 percent and the rest of the world with 4 per-

The report highlighted the role of the Internet as crucial to revenue earnings with consumption of newspapers online growing 350 percent since 1999. It was at 35 percent in 2003.

Internet advertising revenues opped US\$10 billion in 2003 and are forecast to grow to more than US\$13 billion by 2006.

14 abducted

In response to request from Bangladesh, the West Bengal government had taken initiative to send them back.

The BNWLA and Prajak, a volun-tary organisation of Kolkata, helped bring the children to Bangladesh with the assistance of Bangladesh Deputy High Commission there.

The 14 children are Md Shaheb Sheikh, Md Khairul, Md Ziarul Rahman, Md Sirajul Islam, Md Al-Amin, Md Suman and Md Noor Salin of Chapainawabganj, Md Kuddus and Md Saddam Hossain of Satkhira, Md Shahidul Sheikh and Md Mamun Sheikh of Khulna, Md Shamirn Shikder of Bagerhat and Md Zakir Hossain and Md Johnny Hossain of Jessore.

procedure to bring these innocent children was so prolonging that they had to stay at the correction centres for long. They were on the verge of entering criminal world while staying with real offenders there," said Salma Ali, BNWI A executive director.

Lack of coordination between the home and social welfare ministries and Border Security Forces of India and hassle in identifying the children also slowed down the process, she

She said many children and women are in detention in several countries, the government of which must cooperate in sending them back home.

To solve the problem, she urged the governments of the Saarc nations to sign a multilateral treaty.

The draft of a bilateral agreement between Bangladesh and India prepared with the consultations of the government and non-government encies of Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Bhutan has already been sent to the Prime Minister's Office, she noted.

The BNWLA is making legal efforts to bring back 35 girls from different shelter homes and correction centres

President flies to **UAE** to mourn Al-Nahyan's death

UNB, Dhaka

AlNahyan, president of the United

Mobin Chowdhury, who accompa-nies the president, told the UNB that he president would meet new UAF ruler Shaikh Khalifa bin Zayid bin Sultan al-Nahyan, the eldest son of late Shaikh Zayed, today (Friday) and convey Bangladesh's condo-

Sultan Al-Nahyan died on

This is the first foreign trip by Iajuddin Ahmed after he was sworn in as president on September 6, 2002.

President, PM greet Bush

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday greeted George W Bush on his reelection as president of the United States of America.

The president in his message said: "I sincerely hope that during Bush's coming tenure, like this one, the excellent relations existing between Bangladesh and the United States would continue to flourish in all areas of interaction and cooperation to

The prime minister in her message said the victory of Bush was a manifestation of the American people's appreciation for the strength of his eadership and unwavering convic-

The relations between Bangladesh and the United States are rooted in our shared commitment to democracy, freedom and social justice. Our two countries closely cooperate in many areas, including trade, economy and security, to our mutual benefit," she said.

Civil society

FROM PAGE 12

Hena Das, Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan Prof Mustafa Nurul Islam, Kalim Sharafi, Justice KM Sobhan, Prof Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir and Major General CR Dutt were among the signatories to the statement.

campaigners plan to replace the signboards of Nakhalpara, Narayanganj and Brahmanbaria that would read 'Kadiani's (Ahmadiyya) Place of Worship'. Earlier they did the same in Chittagong, Khulna and Patuakhali to 'caution the Muslims against getting duped into saving prayers there.

bill declaring Ahmadiyyas non-Muslims in the ongoing parliament

to 86, their fourth lowest total, Habibul Bashar's men need a victory to stay alive in the three-match series after a 2-0 Test whitewash.

live coverage from the Big Bowl.

The home side has made one change from the first one-dayer with opener Nafees Iqbal replacing experienced all-rounder Khaled Mahmud.

vehicles and increase the number of Champions Trophy in England.

The 20-year-old right hander is likely to open with Javed Omar push-Travelling to and from Zia International ing his Chittagong mate Aftab Ahmed Airport will also be easier." to bat in the middle-order. Khaleda said her government

"We have decided to include always attaches priority to the Nafees to bolster the top-order which has been extremely disappointing for the last seven or eight months. I hope the top five overcome their mental barrier and put some runs on the board," said chief selector Faruque Ahmed to the Daily Star Sports last

> Meanwhile, Daniel Vettori, who is leading the Black Caps in the one-day series after Stephen Fleming flew home following the second and final Test in Chittagong, said that his hatsmen are ready to revel on a good batting pitch at Dhaka and clinch the series with a game in hand.

TEAMS

Mushfigur Rahman NEW ZEALAND (from): Daniel Vettori (captain), Nathan Astle, Mathew Sinclair, James Franklin, Hamish Marshall, Craig McMillan, Brendon McCullum (wicketkeeper) Scott Styris, Peter Fulton, Chris Harris, Chris Cairns, Andre Adams, Ian Butler and Kyle Mills.

Khaleda asks

the constitutional caretaker government system, it has the only option to go to polls under the BNP-led alliance government," the prime minister said, in an oblique reference to Awami League's demand for procedural changes in the system.

She assured her party men that upazila polls would be held, but it would take some time because of a difference of opinion within the

party.
Mayor of Rajshahi Mizanur
Mayor of Rajshahi Mizanur Rahman Minu MP and State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima Rahman were present on the dais.

Taking feedback from her grass-

roots level party men on overall situation, the prime minister assured them that massive development work would start all over the country after the Eid. The prime minister listed the development efforts of the govern-

ment being carried out in various sectors, including education, in creating mass awareness on various issues and the programmes for employment generation. Mentioning the huge expenditure in different education programmes, she called upon her

party workers to make sure that

those are properly implemented at the field level. "We will reap the

benefits of our programmes later," Khaleda said the government has also laid importance on agriculture and is supplying agricultural inputs, including seeds and fertilisers, to the small and marginal farmers to recoup the losses caused by the

She also mentioned the waiver of

interest on agricultural loans up to Tk 5,000 and disbursing fresh loans to the farmers without collateral.

The prime minister called upon the field level leaders and workers to stand united and strengthen the organisation to deal with any situa-

Bar Council

uation results, will have to reply in seven days.

The Bar Council executive committee took the decision at a meeting with its Vice Chairman Rokanuddin Mahmud in the chair.

Sources said the council, in primary investigation, found evidence of discrepancy in information he provided during his membership. The Bar Council, lawyers' regula-tory body that issues enrolment

certificate to lawyers for practice, will also investigate similar allega-tions raised against some other awyers, they said. The chief justice withdrew Faizee from the bench in the wake of the

illegation and lawyers' threat to boycott his court. He also thrust full responsibility of the bench upon Justice Ali Asgar Khan, Faizee's senior judge in the bench, as Asgar declined to sit with him in the court.

Two major dailies reported that Justice Faizee, one of the 19 additional judges whose appointment on August 23 drewsharp criticism, had tampered with his marks-sheet of ILB degree obtained from Chittagong Law College in 1989. An enquiry committee of Chittagong University unearthed the fraud in 1996.

Bush to 'unite' US

commitments, to a Palestinian state for example, reflected low expectations that Bush would take any bold new steps to end a conflict that has dominated regional politics for more than 50 years.

With many analysts underlining how divided the America is, the US president made a direct appeal in his victory speech for the support of Americans who had voted for John Kerry.
"I will need your support and I will work to earn it. I will do all I can

do to deserve your trust," he said. "A new term is a new opportunity to reach out to the whole nation."

Vice-President Dick Cheney, in

contrast, has suggested the administration now has a mandate for a range of conservative social and economic policies.

These are likely to include issues

ranging from tax reform to abortion and same-sex marriage. SECONDTERM Bush's second term in office does not officially begin until January. But Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld is among those who are unlikely to

last a full second term. But because of the need for continuity on Iraq policy, the 72year-old is expected to stay on for

another year or so if he wants to.

The fate of Secretary of State
Colin Powell is unclear. He is expected to go, but not everyone is

convinced that he wants to. There is speculation he might be replaced by the recently appointed US ambassador to the UN, John Danforth.

National security adviser Condoleezza Rice has said in the past that she wants to return to her university career, but she is close to the president and is thought by some to harbour presidential ambiMIDDLE EAST AWAITS

Arab commentators and ordinary people were divided between those who believed Washington would change course and those who thought Bush's views were too deeply entrenched. Some forecast

Bush has said he supports a
Palestinian state alongside Israel
and an international peace plan
known as the "road map", which
imposes obligations on both sides. But for most of the two years

since he began to ostracise Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, his administration has made only sporadic attempts to bring Israeli and Palestinians together.

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, who has close ties with Washington despite some differ-

ences, said in a congratulatory message he was confident Bush would now work vigorously on common goals including a compre-hensive Middle East peace. An official in the United Arab

Emirates, who asked not to be named, said: "We hope (Bush) will live up to his commitments, especially on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict ... It will help everybody." Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince

Abdullah also proposed joint efforts to solve the Palestinian problem and "combat terrorism and also realise There were similar calls from

King Mohammed of Morocco, who called Bush a "great friend", and from Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Ourie.

provides an excellent opportunity ... Now is the time for the United States to take a strong and more active lead in resolving the current conflict."

2 killed in 'crossfire'

killed in a 'crossfire' between the Rab members and the outlaws in Rupsha upazila of Khulna, Rab sources said.

and Fairullah alias Fairuddin, 26, were beaten to death by a mob at Hindupara slum in Gulshan in the capital when a Rab team raided the slum for seizing arms. The Rab

KHULNA CROSSFIRE Rab sources said when a Rab-police joint team went to Nandan sluice gate in Rupsha with outlawed party leader Nasim to seize arms in the early hours yesterday, his accomplices opened fire on the law-enforcers

prompting them to retaliate. Nasim sustained bullets during the encounter and doctors declared him dead when he was rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital, they added.

reports Nasim was convicted for murdering Rupsha upazila Awami League leader Haroon Sarder and sentenced to 32 years in jail. He was a suspect in journalist Manik Saha and police havildar Akram murder

During the joint operations in his den, the law-enforcers seized one Pakistan-made single barrel gun, one pipe-gun, one cartridge, and some leaflets, brochures, diaries and notebooks bearing evidence of his involvement with the outlawed

custody when a band of robbers opened fire on the police who took nim to Arjungari for seizing arms early yesterday. As the police retaliated, a gun-

fight occurred between the robbers and the law-enforcers. Sona received bullets in his head and back and died on the spot. The police said Officer-in-

Charge (OC) of Dupchanchia Police Station AFM Jabid Hasan and Sub-Inspector Anisur Rahman were injured as the criminals stabbed them during the encounter at about

pipe gun, 23 bullets, and three sharp weapons from the spot. Sona, hailed from Muktagacha village of the upazila, was wanted in several cases including 11 robbery and a murder in Dupchanchia, police said. **GULSHAN MOB LYNCHING**

4:00pm. When the criminals tried to escape, locals nabbed them and manhandled two, Shamim and Fairuddin, who died on the spot. The Rab members with the help of locals arrested six of their accomplices -- Ripon, Amin, Badal, Nahid

Sohel and Faruq. They seized one pistol with three bullets, a toy pistol official in Sylhet yesterday, adding, and some sharp weapons from the Rab-1 Commanding Officer Lt Col Chowdhury Fazlul Bari told The Daily Star that when the Rab members raided the slum, the criminals

The Rab members however rescued six criminals from the wrath correspondent says notorious of the mob and arrested them, he robber Sona, who was arrested on

City bogs down in tailbacks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The city yesterday experienced a severe traffic congestion that left hundreds of thousands of commuters stranded on the streets for along time.

Most of the city thorough fares

were jammed full of heavy traffic. The worst hit areas were Purana Paltan, Kakrail, Elephant Road, Green Road, Baily Road, Moghbazar Crossing, Mouchak, roads from Dhanmandi-3 to Science Laboratory, Rampura to Malibagh Mahakhali to Banani, Asad Gate to crossing on Dhanmandi Road No 27.

Traffic in some places, like the newly opened Bashundhara City Shopping Mall, New Market, Dhaka College, Moghbazar crossing, Bangla Motor crossing and Mouchak, virtually came to a standstill for up to an hour. Traffic police in many areas were

seen standing helplessly as traffic grew chaotic. Speeding vehicles driving on the wrong side of the roads to reach destination faster was a common sight. Such disorderly driving only worsened the situation. "I just can't control the traffic anymore. It's beyond my capacity

now. Two of my colleagues too are struggling to bring the traffic in order," said one of the traffic sergeants, who faced an uphill task to control the traffic at Mouchak yesterday afternoon. For security of the motorcade

carrying Pakistani Prime Minister, many roads yesterday were kept free of vehicles for some time. And it only added to the miseries of the commuters on city streets that are already congested due to heavy rush of Eid shoppers.

People were stuck in traffic for hours on Mahakhali crossing yesterday afternoon as vehicular movement was restricted for the prime minister's visit there to inaugurate country's first flyover. Markets that mushroomed over

the years without ample parking space account for heavy snarl-up during Ramadan when people in huge number go shopping. Traffic gets even slower before Iftar as everybody make rush for home.

Bride, schoolgirl abducted in Kushtia, Ihenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A bride and a schoolgirl were abducted in Kushtia and Jhenidah Wednesday.

Sources said abductors led by Sakbar Ali, 29, son of Siraj Mistri picked up Kajali Khatun, 20, daughter of Chad Mohammad, in Mahiskundi village in Daulatpur at 8:00pm. They took her to an unknown place and demanded a ransom of Tk 1 lakh over cell phone.

The sources said Sakbar wanted to marry Kajali and threatened her family with dire consequences after her marriage to another person.

In Jhenidah, Samapti Khatun, 10, daughter of Korban Ali of Kripalpur village in Sailkupa, was kidnapped from her house. Police said Noor Islam alias

Munna with his accomplices picked up Samapti, a student of class six, at about 7:30pm. Noor demanded Tk 50,000 within 12 hours for her release. Otherwise, she will be trafficked to Pakistan, he

threatened. Meantime, police could not rescue Likhan, 10, student of class six, who was abducted Thursday from the same area one week back. His captors demanded Tk 20,000 as

Sylhet F-28 salvage operation begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The salvage operation of crashed F-28 aircraft of Biman Bangladesh Airlines near Sylhet MAG Osmani International Airport resumed yesterday after having been suspended for a week.

A seven-member team from Dhaka headed by Engineer Abdur Rahman restarted the operation yesterday morning.

Earlier, Biman's 11-member team led by its chief engineer started the salvage of the F-28 on October 13, but left Sylhet halfway to comoletion a week back. The aircraft skidded off the runway and fell into a ditch on October 8.

An official of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) said it will take weeks more to complete the salvage work. However, the salvage operation will again be put off after five days due to Eid vacation, said a Biman

the work will resume after the Eid. Biman sources said after retrieving the engines and other valuable parts, the F-28 will be sold in tender for scrapping.

The salvage team has already

recovered some small parts from the wings and cockpit and is on way to separate the engines. Biman authorities are doubtful of smooth going of salvage work, as

FUNDS EMBEZZLEMENT

Pac for bar on foreign travel of accused surgeons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

(Pac) of the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday decided to ask authorities to prevent some civil surgeons and government officials accused of embezzlement from going abroad when the cases

are pending.

The parliamentary body in a couple of days will ask the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism to impose restriction against the accused, committee Chairman Harun Al Rashid yesterday told reporters after The Pac apprehends the corrupt overnment officials have embezzled

Ik 109 crore in purchasing equipment and medicines for 17 civil surgeon's offices. Eighteen accused explained their position at yesterday's meeting against the allegations and all

laimed they were not involved in any irregularities. Then joint secretary of the health ministry Azizur Rahman, who has been identified as the key person behind the graft, did not show up. He also skipped the last meeting of the Pacon October 17.

The committee has decided to make a decision at the next meeting,

A parliamentary sub-committee has investigated irregularities in only nine CS offices and found Tk 4.62 crore to have been embezzled, which it terms the tip of the iceberg.

network involving CS offices, health ministry, Health Directorate, district account offices, purchase committees and some senior officials of the finance ministry that gobbled up the

The committee has identified a

The CS offices, during 1995-98, bought equipment and medicines at higher than market prices in a bid to embezzle money, it said in its probe

For example, a leucoplast was shown purchased at Tk845 against the market price of Tk 105 and a slide at Tk 850 as against the real price of Tk90.

Arafat slips

while others saw him close to death.
In the West Bank city of Ramallah, Palestinian officials said Arafat was not in a coma. "It's not true at all that Arafat went into a coma," Tayeb Abdul Rahim, a senior

aide, told reporters.

A briefing by the hospital had been expected but was put off without any explanation. It was not clear whether it would make any statement during the day.

"New tests have been carried out

internal examination). Nothing was found out from those tests," a senior aide said earlier on Thursday. Arafat, for decades a symbol of the Palestinian struggle with Israel, was rushed to France from the West

including an endoscopy (visual

ach pains, diarrhoea and vomiting. Arafat's slide into illness has raised fears of chaos among Palestinians locked in a 4-year-old uprising, and the death of a leader Israel and Washington see as an obstacle to peace could shuffle the cards in the Middle East conflict.

to treatment although aides said the Palestinian leader could remain in the hospital in a southwestern Paris suburb for several more weeks. Meanwhile, another Arafat aide

has denied there was any setback

and accused Israel of spreading

Israel's Channel Two television.

"These unfounded reports are not coming from French medical teams, these are leaks from the Israeli side," said Mohammed Dahlan, a former Palestinian secu-

DÓCTORS SEEK EXPLANATIONS

Leila Shahid, the Palestinian's

permanent envoy to Paris, earlier said that there was a setback in Arafat's health and that doctors were trying to find out what had causedit. "Obviously in his case, there could be setbacks at times and this is a setback," said Shahid. "(On

hursday), the doctors will give a very clear and direct explanation and report on what is happening." (REUTERS, AP, AFP)

The speaker yesterday told the House that the prime minister's question hour for Wednesday has been deferred to the next schedule

she was busy in state affairs. BNP lawmaker Sultan Mohammad Babu urged the government during the question hour for 'camel rearing' to meet the demand of meat. Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah al Noman asked the MP to take private initiative in this regard but he promised to co-operate.

AL flays govt

FROM PAGE 1

famine) situation exists in the northwestern region, adding the country's economy is now better than ever before. A total of 11 lawmakers took part in

part in driving the prices skyward. He named BNP men as the extortionists, and said the home ministry failed to do anything about it.

control. He identified profiteering by BNPbacked businessmen as the main culprit. Suranjit said, "This year, Eid shopping is not for the nine crore people who live below the poverty line, it's for the

"Every entrepreneur has to pay tribute to Hawa Bhaban for doing business," Suranjit alleged. "Democliving in a kingdom," he noted, and in an oblique reference to Tarique Rahman, the prime minister's eldest son, said people are now living under the rule of a prince. The government has no accountability and has made the country suffer a famine-like situation," said the out-

racy is no more in the country. We are

spokenALdeputy.

Deputy Minister for Food and Disaster Management Asadul Habib Dulu however denied media reports on death of people from starvation in the northwestern region, claiming not a single man has died there for want of

BNPlawmaker KM Obaidur Rahman

did even better, he posed the question to the opposition bench, "Where is

and claimed the economy is sound and stable. "Hundreds of people are rushing to the city's shopping malls ahead of the Eid. Is it not enough indicator of a good economy?" was his second Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim,

Mohammad Nasim and AKM Jahangii Hossain of the AL and Zahiruddin Swapan and Moazzem Hossain Alal of the BNP also took part in the discussion.

The session was adjourned till 4:15pm on November 28.

Islamabad wants

which, he said, should be tapped for economic development of the region. "But we have to improve the human development index in South Asia," he added.

He said Pakistan has recently said

There are no sweetheart deals in Pakistan anymore," he said. Pakistan also floated Eurobond issues to raise \$500 million which was eventually oversubscribed, Aziz

Pakistan had to restructure the process and inject required capital and take some other steps before privatising the state-owned enter-

On reform measures in his country, Aziz said Pakistan has lowered taxes and tariff regimes that in turn helped to curb leakage and raise revenue earnings. In reply to a question, he said

offices simultaneously," adding, "We don't need to learn any lesson on democracy from anywhere.' Replying to another question on Indian allegation about ISI agents

Asked about the political situation in Pakistan, Aziz said, "Every country's politics is different from other... and politics goes its own

About any possible return to Pakistan of two exiled former Pak prime ministers Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif he said they might not be returning soon for "legal or other

Hop over Mohakhali FROM PAGE 1 railway system, the prime minister said Mohakhali flyover was part of that plan

After the opening function, the prime minister travelled across the colourfully decorated 1.12 km long and 17.9 metre wide flyover in a motorcade. As soon the motorcade left the place, a jubilant crowd raced up the overpass, although pedestrians will not be allowed to use it.

In 2001, Khaleda laid the founda-

tion of the flyover, which was con-structed by a Chinese firm at a cost of Tk

113 crore with the financial assistance

aiming to free the city from traffic

of the World Bank. The flyover with four lanes has 42 shock-transmission units to prevent damage by earthquake. The prime minister said the construction of Khilgaon flyover is in progress and there are plans to build some more flyovers in the city's most

congested areas including Jatrabari. "We want to build a modern Dhaka

City with congestion-free roads and

improved, safe transportation system,"

she told the function at the west ramp Khaleda however expressed the apprehension that the opening of the Mohakhali flyover would cause traffic congestion in some other nearby Expressing similar apprehension, Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman, Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Sadeque Hossain

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Quamrul Islam suggested construction of a one-kilometre underpass through the Dhaka They also suggested removal of railway lines and relocation of stations, including Kamlapur Railway Station, out of the capital and construction of a

road on the rail line.

Khoka and State Minister for

tion and construction of underpass The prime minister however said

'I am ready to mobilise necessary

funds to relocate the Kamlapur station

either at Tongi or Joydevpur," Saifur

said and asked the communications

ministry to start the process of reloca-

shifting of railway lines, level crossings and bus terminals, widening of roads

and construction of bypass and underpasses should be done in phases.
Outlining the steps taken to reduce the traffic congestion, Khaleda said the city could be freed from congestion by allowing only fast moving vehicles.
"But we cannot evict all slow-moving vehicles overnight because it involves

bigger size public transports but such a plan cannot be implemented in a short Khaleda said the flyover would reduce long queues at Mohakhali level crossing. "This will save travel time.

livelihood of huge number of families.

"We also need to discourage small

improvement of communication system and most of the new roads, bridges and railway lines were con-structed in the independent Bangladesh during the BNP periods.
"We have constructed the Jamuna Bridge, which was the century-old dream of the nation. We are continuing the process and have completed con-

plans will be implemented in next two Khaleda said her government is not only improving the communication system but also trying its best to streamline and expedite the pace of development in every sector, but this need a conducive atmosphere, peace, stability and security.

"We are working with sincerity to

ensure peace and security in public life

struction of important roads and bridges in the last three years. More

through pragmatic and tougher steps that have already improved the situation to a great extent, "she said. Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, State Minister for Communications Salahuddin Ahmed, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Communications Syed Manzur Hossain, World Bank Country Director Christine I Wallich, and Communications Secretary Shafiqul Islam also spoke at the function.

President Iajuddin Ahmed left for Abu Dhabi last night to express Bangladesh's deep sorrow at the death of Shaikh Zayed bin Sultan

Arab Emirates.
Foreign Secretary Shamser

mutual benefit of our two countries."

tion at a difficult time for his nation.

Meanwhile, the anti-Ahmadiyya

Leaders of the anti-Ahmadiyya organisations yesterday said they are ready even to sacrifice their lives to carry out the capture programme, The IKNMB in a press release yesterday asked the government to pass a

Crucial 2nd in the first one-dayer at Chittagong on Tuesday where the Tigers crashed

The day-night match will commence at 1.30 pm with STAR Sports and Bangladesh Television beaming

The young Chittagonian had earlier played four one-dayers with a highest score of 40 in his last game against West Indies in the ICC

BANGLADESH (from): Habibul Bashar (captain), Javed Omar, Nafees lqbal, Aftab Ahmed, Mohammad Ashraful, Rajin Saleh, Khaled Mashud (wicketkeeper), Manzarul Islam, Khaled Mahmud, Mohammad Rafique, Tapash Baisya, Nazmu Hossain, Khaled Mahmud and

Qurie said in a letter to Bush Your leadership for a second term

In Bogra, notorious robber Atiqur Rahman Sona, 37, was killed in another 'crossfire' between the police and robbers in Arjungari area of Dupchanchia upazila, police said. Alleged criminals Shamim, 30,

arrested six other criminals during the raid.

Our Khulna correspondent

BOGRASHOOTOUT Quoting police sources, our Bogra Wednesday, tried to escape from the

The police seized a revolver, a

Tipped off, a team of Rab-1 encircled Hindupara slum in Gulshan to arrest some alleged criminals at about

tried to flee and local people caught eight of them with a pistol and

Sylhet has cranes not strong enough to lift the aircraft.

Bank last Friday with severe stom-Moudud

following a request by Khaleda Zia as The French doctors said on Tuesday that Arafat was responding

rumors. The report first aired on

Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid by submitting a notice demanding discussion on the issue. The House witnessed severe quorum crisis when the discussion was held. One of the discussants, senior AL eader Abdur Razzak said unbridled extortion from the people transporting essentials to marketplaces plays a major

Suranjit Sengupta of AL said, "The government is mocking at the people saying the prices of essentials are under

ruling alliance men who loot, extort and plunder."

good bye" to International Monitory Fund (IMF) because his country has been able to turn round its economy. In this context, he mentioned the recent public auction of cellular licences in his country which netted about \$500 million in lincence fees.

About the process of privatisation in his country, Aziz aid, "It's a very complex issue...

The Pakistan prime minister, who is also the current chairperson of Saarc, was here on a two-day official visit as part of his tour of the

operating from Bangladesh soilan allegation that Bangladesh has always denied the Pakistan prime minister expressed his ignorance on this, saying, "It might have come from the archives!"

Pakistan's parliament is "supreme and sovereign" and the parliament has decided that President Gen. Pervez Musharraf "can hold the two

course."

But their parties are functioning