The recruitment process began in May after the government ordered for completion of recruitment against 70 percent vacant posts of class three (clerks and personal staff) and class four (peons, drivers,

cleaners) employees by October 31.

Around 60,000 such posts remained vacant under different ministries and district administrations until October. Of the total, the district and other lower level offices were to recruit some 20,000 people, official sources said.

But the 'drama' began when the government all of a sudden on October 28 suspended the recruitment process amid widespread allegations of corruption, irregularities, nepotism and political influence in the recruitment process.

On November 20, the govern-ment cancelled all complete and incomplete recruitment. And finally on Sunday, the government revoked the cancellation order declaring the recruitment until October 28 valid, amid pressure from the ruling party.

There were allegations that some recruitment was done secretly even after October 28 as the district officials issued appointment letters with backdate signature.

Reliable sources said the suspension order came following intelligence and field level reports that the district administration in collabora-tion with a section of BNP leaders had recruited many pro-Awami League people. Influenced by some leaders, the prime minister later cancelled the whole recruitment

process, they argued.

But the cancellation sparked a serious backlash in the rank and file of BNP leaders and officials. As ministers, MPs and senior leaders lobbied for the withdrawal of the cancellation order, the prime minister was finally convinced to reverse the November 20 order.

Sources at the Prime Minister's Office said some senior ministers

Nine bureaucrats

Service Conditions) Rules 2004.

The law ministry sent the corrected drafts to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) for the president's approval last month. But the estabishment ministry took the drafts back from the PMO and set up an inter-ministerial review committee.

On November 1, the committee reviewed the drafts and sent its opinions to the ministries con-

When the SC asked the government yesterday why it has been repeatedly requesting for time extension to separate the judiciary from the executive wing of state, the attorney general submitted documents containing the opinion of the inter-ministerial bureaucrats' meeting.
But the court found the opinions

of the bureaucrats contravene the sprit of the SC's 12-point directive and subsequent orders.

The court asked the attorney general to read out the minutes of the inter-ministerial committee meeting. After listening to the minutes, the court expressed its anger and dissatisfaction at the points of disagreements the inter-ministerial committee expressed on the two draft proposals.

"Are secretaries to correct and mould the court's directives from now on?" the court asked the attor-

ney general. It observed that the president and parliament were to use their wisdom once it returned the two corrected drafts to the law ministry. "Arewe to depend on the wisdom

of the government officials too?" the The attorney general then asked for an extension of four more

months for implementation of the 12-point directive. The court replied: "We will look into the issue of time extension later. First, let those nine government officials explain their actions to the court."

The inter-ministerial bureaucrats' committee said there was a disparity between the court directives and two law ministry drafts on

separation of the judiciary. Reacting to opinions of the committee, the court said: "How dare the government officials question

whether we (the SC) or the law ministry is right?" Reviewing the inter-ministerial committee's opinions, the court observed that according to the Criminal Procedure Code, an appeal

against the magistrate's court can be made at the sessions judges' court. But it seems the committee wants the appeal to be made to assistant and joint secretaries. They added that according to

articles 115, 116 and 116 (a), magistrates are part of the judicial service, but the inter-ministerial committee said they are not.

The officials who have to appear before court are Lokman Hakim, joint secretary; Badrul Alam Tarafdar, joint secretary; Mohammad Abdur Rab Hawladar, joint secretary; Mohamad Abul Kalam Azad Chakladhar, deputy secretary and Khalilur Rahman, senior assistant secretary of the establishment ministry; Shafiqul Islam Talukdar, deputy secretary, and Mohammad Harunur Rashid senior assistant secretary of the law ministry; Mohammad Fazlul Haque, deputy secretary of the cabinet division; and AKM Motaleb Hossain, deputy secretary of the finance

After the court order, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed told newspersons that the government's reply submitted to the court did not distort the court's directives. He said the government officials will appear in court to state this position.

On the other hand, Dr Kamal Hossain, intervenor of the case, said the show-cause notice implies that everyone has to respect the higher

argued that the appointees might move against BNP if they do not retain the jobs. It may also leave a negative impact on the next general elections as lakhs of people were involved in the matter.

Meanwhile, the aggrieved employees, who were already appointed by the district adminis trations, started staging demonstration across the country against the cancellation order.

Local leaders of BNP allegedly rovoked the aggrieved employees and their families to go for street demonstration aiming to create pressure on the government. It is alleged that the leaders did so because they took bribes while getting them jobs.

Sources estimated that the dis-trict officials and ruling party lead-ers shared around Tk 100 crore through the recruitment of class

three and four employees.

Officials said 55 districts have completed recruitment of employees and most of them were given appointment letters before October 28. The newly recruited people also drew salaries and festival bonus before the government cancelled the recruitment.

When the recruitment was cancelled, the aggrieved employees even filed cases against the govern-ment order in Pabna, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh, which was another reason for the withdrawal of the cancellation order, sources said.

Cobra nabs 3, foils robbery attempt in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Elite detectives of Cobra foiled a robbery attempt at a Sutrapur house last night and caught three robbers with two firearms and a machete.

Shamim alias Hridoy, one of the robbers, received bullets in the left knee while attempting flee. He was admitted at orthopaedic hospital. His two accomplices -- Wasim and Aslam -- were in custody.

The gang of four went to Mozammel Hossain's house on Wari Street at 8:00pm to commit a robbery. Three of them entered the house confining the guard while one stood guard at the gate.

"Receiving phone calls by locals, Cobra team-4 rushed there immedi-ately and caught the three," Shafiqul Islam, assistant commissioner of Detective Branch who led the team told The Daily Star.

illacigobbeniguarding the gate "Shamim tried to free himself from our grip and bullets from our shotgun hit him during the jostling,"

said the Cobra officer. The law-enforcers seized a point 32-bore revolver and an LG (lightgun), a machete, scotch tape and a container of balm from them.

BCL calls hartal

FROM PAGE 1

The BCL announced a weeklong agitation programme including the hartal at a press conference at Chittagong Press Club yesterday

Earleir, Mohim's body was brought

to morgue at Anderkilla in the city from Chandanaish for autopsy. Businessmen of the area put their

shutters down while fellow party men and relatives thronged Mohim's house to see the body. Mohim was buried at Garibullah

Shah Mazar Graveyard. City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and local AL leaders and workers attended

A Rab press release said Rab men seized one pistol, one revolver, three locally made guns, and 49 bullets from thescene of the shooting. The 'shootout' broke out as armed

cadres loyal to Mohim opened fire on Rab in a bid to snatch him, said the Rab team arrested Mohim from

Shah Amanat International Airport Sunday night. He was accused in a number of cases including assistant commissioner (CMP) Bashir Ali

Mohim received bullets while attempting to escape during the 'shootout.' He was rushed to Chandanaish Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

100m may die

huge outbreaks throughout the region earlier this year that killed 32 people in Vietnam and Thailand.

Believed to be transmitted through contact with bird droppings, he said the speed of the virus's pread and its adaptation to a form that can be carried by pigs and cats had shown conditions were ripe for a devastating pandemic.

Suu Kyi

FROM PAGE 12 the party, has been held since May 2003 by the military junta following a clash between her supporters and a pro-junta mob.

A group of low-ranking civil servants went to her home in Yangon on Saturday to tell her about the extension, according to an NLD source. The extension was confirmed by junta officials responsible

Security remained tight around her home on Monday and barriers remained in place on the main road

The extension to her third term of house arrest comes two days after the ruling military announced that it had released more than 9,000 prisoners from its jails in the week from

MALIBAGH MURDER

HC rejects quashment petitions of Iqbal, 4 others

The High Court (HC) yesterday dismissed the quashment petitions filed by former Awami League lawmaker HBM Iqbal and four other accused in the sensational Malibagh murder

The court discharged the rule issued earlier and vacated the stay order. Now there is no legal bar to start the trial of the case, lawyers said. A division bench comprising Justice Syed Mohammad Dastagir Hossain and Justice Mamnun

Rahman delivered the judgement after hearing the petitions.
On February 13, 2001, a procession led by the then Juba Dal president Mirza Abbas and other BNP leaders was brought in the capital in support of hartal. When the procession

reached Malibagh crossing, several rounds of bullets were fired on it from another procession passing the area led by Dr Iqbal. Three people died and veral others were injured. After assuming power by the BNP led coalition government, police reinvestigated the case and submitted supplementary charge sheet accusing 24 people, including Dr Iqbal. The case was transferred to Speedy Trial Tribunal-1, Dhaka fortrial.

Dr Iqbal and four others filed separate petitions with the High Court for quashing the proceedings of the case. The court issued rule and stayed the case in the trial court.

4 girl students abducted in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Traffickers abducted four girl students of a madrasa in Sharap Pur

village in Assassuni upazila Sunday. The victims are: Rebeka Khatun, 14. daughter of Shawkat Ali, Taslima Khatun, 14, and Aklima Khatun, 12, both daughters of Abdul Latif of Bakra, and Mukta, 12, daughter of Shahidul Islam of Sharap Pur. They were students of class seven and eight at Sharap Pur Dakhil Madrasa in Assassuni.

Police said quoting eyewitnesses and Abdul Wahab, Swarnali Union Parishad member, traffickers led by Masuma Khatun picked up the girls.

Masuma, daughter of Ruhul Amin, in the name of taking to a market took them to Satkhira town, from where they boarded a Dhakabound bus, sources said.

The officer-in-charge of Assassuni Police Station admitted the incident, saying they are trying to rescue the girls.

Partha

FROM PAGE 12

Police Station the same day accusing Partha of undercover destructive

The e-mail to the Bangla daily sent on August 23 from the address hikmatulzihad@yahoo.com claimed responsibility for the August 21 carnage on an Awami League (AL) rally that left 23 people killed and over 200 hurt.

It also threatened to kill AL chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina in a more planned way in seven days after the gory episode.

The investigation officer pressed charges against Partha on September 8, showing 12 people as prosecution witnesses.

On September 15, Partha was shown arrested in the August 21 grenade attacks case filed by Motifheel police.

Advocate Khondaker Abdul Mannan of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (Blast) conducted the case on behalf of Partha.

Drowning in debt

FROM PAGE 1 instalments. She was forced to sell the corrugated tin of their house and move in with relatives.

"As my son was away from the house, my daughter-in-law sold the corrugated tin from their small house," said Md Majed Mia, father of

Shafique. Habibur Rahman, an official of Asa tells The Daily Star, "This is an isolated incident though we are not sure whether it happened or not." He adds. Asa has launched a complimentary loan programme from last September under which loans will be given to those who are unable to pay their weekly instalments.

This complimentary loan is soft and they don't need to pay it in weekly basis," Habib points out.

The villagers said, when they are unable to pay an instalment to a loan shark, some borrow from an NGO to clear the debt. Later, they must sell their valuables to pay the NGO loan.

'We have lost almost everything during the 20 days long floods and could not earn at that time. But we had to continue the weekly instalment during that time also. The employees of the NGOs do not move from our yard until we pay them the weekly," said Majed Mia, father in law of Morsheda from the Thana Kalsi village.

Meanwhile, a report by the Disaster and Emergency Response Group of donor agencies this month said millions of those affected by floods will struggle for another year with no guarantee of stable food supplies. The monga, a season when there are no crops to harvest and food runs short in the north, exacer-

HR workers

day national conference on "Institutional Protection of Human Rights: Role of Civil Society, NGOs and Media" at the IDB Bhaban in the

Lutfor Rahman Khan Azad was special guest in the concluding session of the conference arranged by the law ministry in cooperation with UNDP and Australian High Commission in Dhaka.

Deputy Attorney General of Bangladesh, Adilur Rahman Khan, and Associate Professor of the Department of Law of Dhaka University Dr Asif Nazrul spoke in

human rights activists alleged police frequently abuse the 'Code of Criminal Procedure 1898' that includes Section 54 of the CrPC and Section 86 of the DMP Ordinance.

Complaints were also made against abuse of Section 167 of CrPC, Special Powers Act 1974, Special Security Force Ordinance 1986 and Joint Drive Indemnity Law

Such transgressions are "direct

violation of human rights as the laws cover a wide range of situations like lack of investigation, of punishment and of justice," said the DU teacher Asif Nazrul. He also noted that the lawenforcing agencies cause extrajudicial killing, systematic harass-ment of political opponents, vic-

timisation of innocent people for serving personal interests taking advantages of the impunity.

"Impunity can spell disastrous impact for the disadvantaged and weaker population of the country. Legalised impunity breeds further violation of rights and facilities many other forms of impunity," said

To challenge the "vicious cycle of impunity" effectively, he suggested immediate formation of a separate, independent and powerful investigating agency like the proposed national human rights commission.

Opposition holds rally

FROM PAGE 1

opposition efforts to mobilise public opinion for the December 11 ' Noconfidence Human Wall' to expedite fall of the government.

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil said people of the country are fed up with the misrule of the coalition government. "People want to get rid of this government as it has failed to check deterioration in law and order.

The AL general secretary also blamed the alliance rulers for 'politicising' the administration and urged people to unite to put an end to the prevailing situation. Workers Party President Rashed

Khan Menon said criminal activities are on the rise but the government is indifferent to it. Political unrest in the country will last as long as the BNP-led coalition government remains in

power," said Menon. He also said there is no alternative but to go for a bigger movement against the government.

General Secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Mujahidul Islam Selim said the alliance government has become a danger to the

deep rooted in the country as Jamaat-e-Islami is an ally of the present government," Selim

AL Joint Secretary Obaidul Kader said people are now passing their days in utter insecurity.

Referring to 'crossfire' inci-dents of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), he said, "The government of Khaleda Zia will be ousted through

acrossfire of movement."

Thousands of people from
Dinajpur, Panchagarh,
Thakurgaon and Nilphamari

the meeting was also addressed by Gono Forum General Secretary Party leader Fazle Hossain Badsha President of Gono Azadi League Abdus Samad and Samyabadi Dal President Abu Hanif

Assets management

for recoveries. Deployment of

private experts also eliminates

the central and Eastern Europe, Latin America, and Africa have AMCs.

The creation of an AMC for Rupali Bank can also be used as a technique to attract new investors to the bank, sources said.

In line with the consultant's suggestion, the government may consider one of the four processes to privatise Rupali Bank. The first one is retaining Rupali's current structure as an integrated body along with its loan portfolio.

ing the loan portfolio into those loans, which are regarded as either current and which are being highly unlikely to be recovered. In this process, the recoverable loans will

stay with the bank and the bad loans will go to the AMC.

Besides, the government may consider splitting the bank's China, Thailand, Korea, branch network by location, type of business or geography. The branches of urban locations may be separated from those in the rural areas. The separation could also be made considering the types of loans and deposits of the branches.

The last approach is a combination of the three processes.

The Pakistani model of privatisation outlines the sale of an institution to a strategic investor with management and majority ownership, sale to a strategic investor with management and minority ownership, management buy-out and public offer of shares on the

stock exchange. The government will now scrutinise the consultant's report and take its decision soon," said a

The World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) have been hammering on privatising the four nationalised commercial banks which are heavily burdened with default loans of around Tk 12,000 crore.

All set to hold Ijtema

Thursday and ends on Sunday morning through Akheri Munajat. The venue has been expanded to the eastern side to accommodate more devotees as the organisers expect a larger gathering this year

compared to previous years. Thousands of devotees sit on the adjoining roads, pavements and open spaces for lack of space under. the canopy every year. Besides, thousands take shelter in nearby houses in Tongi and Uttara and participate in the Ijtema.

Hundreds of tube-wells have been installed and temporary latrines set up on the eastern and western sides of the venue. Temporary water reservoirs have

facilities to the devotees. Army personnel were constructing four pontoon bridges on Turag to enable people to cross the river

also been set up at different corners of the ground to provide ablution

A large number of devotees from home and abroad have already come to Dhaka for joining the Ijtema. Many of them are now staying at Kakrail Mosque, the main

centre of the organisers, and other President lajuddin Ahmed,

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina are expected to participate in the Akheri Munajat.

will be translated in various languages so that devotees could understand them. The government has taken adequate measures to ensure security during the Ijtema and already

The police have set up checkpoints at different entrances to the ground. Rapid Action Battalion and army personnel were also seen yesterday on patrol in the area.

The Dhaka-Mymensingh highway will be off limits to traffic and vehicles will be diverted to Ashulia from Tongi bridge during the Ijtema. The authorities have asked Tangail-Mymensingh bound people to avoid Tongi road for some days.

MILITANT THREAT

Nat'l swimming begins today without women participants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women swimmers are not taking part in the Keya Cosmetics Eighth National Long-Distance Swimming Championship beginning today on the Dakatia river in Chandpur in the wake of militant's threat. Bangladesh Swimming

Federation yesterday postponed the only women's event in the face of 'Anti-Islam Activities Prevent Committee's (AIAPC) threat. Chandpur District Commi-ssioner Taherul Islam told the AIAPC

leaders, who submitted a memorandum to him, that State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman ordered to postpone the event. Fifteen AIAPC leaders including Jamaat-e-Islami district committee

militant action to resist the event at

General Secretary Saleh announced

member body to probe the 'stealing' incident at the godown on the third floor of the Customs Circle Office

5 die

FROM PAGE 1 on November 25, Raihan Ali, 45, of Dangmarka, died on November 27, and Idadul Islam, 36, son of Hekmat Mistri of Mathurapur, died on

The sick are secretly taking treat-ment to avoid police interrogation, sources said. The families of the dead also have not filed any case, as police would then take away the bodies for inquest, they added.

ent drug stores and by illegal vendors. When contacted, Officer-in-Charge of Daulatpur Police Station Mujibur Rahman told The Daily Star that they do not know anything

Tata opening
FROM PAGE 1
billion in power, steel and fertiliser, among others, in a first such huge investment proposal from any

co-ordination committee that should also have representatives of other ministries related to Tata's investment proposal.

Tata will start a feasibility study

Mosharraf told journalists after ordination Committee headed by the commerce minister. We hope to form this co-ordination committee

India," Mosharrafnoted. Tata will also see how gas pipe-line for their industries here should

be installed and which could be the potential locations for the pipeline and the proposed industries "Tata wants to complete the study fast. It wants to take loans

The Tata delegates arrived in Dhaka on Friday and will fly out today leaving Manzar Hossain behind. They also met State Minister for Power Iqbal Hassan Mahmood and high government officials on

Tigress found

FROM PAGE 1 autopsy at noon, the body of the tigress was dumped into the ground near Kashiabad Forest Station after its skin was peeled off. The skin is now lying with Mahmudul Hasan, assistant conservator of forest in charge of

Raas Purnima festival held recently at Dublar Char and Alor Kol, the coastal belts of the Bay of Bengal.

"We have obtained the autopsy report which says the Royal Benga tigress died a natural death," said the conservator of forests. Locals and fishermen, however,

used by the poachers has been missing since the retrieval of the body of the tigress in an attempt to conceal crucial evidence. Koira Upazila Livestock Officer Haripada Biswas said he found signs

and symptoms suggesting that the

Russia offers

and conditions outlined for availing loans of the World Bank (WB) and the

Asian Development Bank (ADB).
"The Russian minister has told me that our suggestions will be discussed at a joint commission of Russia and Bangladesh," Mahmud told reporters at his Secretariat office yesterday. "The joint commission will decide if the supplier's credit proposal can be

The Russian energy minister also told the state minister that 20 percent of the power plants in Bangladesh are an-made. The power board and its local experts are well aware of Russian technology and machinery. He added that the Russian power companies are comfortable working in Bangladesh.

Russia has proposed to set up Siddhirganj units 2 and 3 at a cost of around \$400 million. The government is considering setting up a 210-megawatt unit 2 using local resources, the minister said.

The Siddhirganj unit 1, set up by Russian company TPE, took 13 years

Army man killed in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban Indigenous criminals killed an army

man at Ruma upazila under Bandarban early Saturday.
Army sources said Lance Corporal Nazrul Islam, 32, died of cardiac arrest while trekking up a hill in a search operation but other sources said Nazrul was killed in a

sudden brushfire by tribal criminals

on November 27 while he was on

duty at the fair on the occasion of

Kathin Chibordan (a religious festival) at Minjhiri Para of the upazila. Army sources, after suppressing the news of the casualty for two days, yesterday admitted that Nazrul died but attributed the death

last two months.

to cardiac arrest. The indigenous criminals killed three and injured two others in four such attacks on the security forces in

to complete. Prime Minister Khaleda

Zia will inaugurate the plant on December 18. The government plans to make

Siddhirganj a major power hub in the coming years by setting up more plants there, Mahmud said. MEETINGWITHPM The Russian minister also called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her

office yesterday and said his country would extend cooperation to Bangladesh's energy sector apart from the power sector. Oganesyan who is leading a fivemember delegation to Bangladesh to see the 210-megawatt Siddhirganj Power Plant said his country is also

eager to go for further investment in power sector in Bangladesh. He said Russia can help Bangladesh develop expertise ir power and energy sectors by providing the students in those fields with training facilities. The prime minister

3 of a family

the spot when we heard that a fire had broken out in the neighbour-

Firefighting vehicles from Postagola and Narayanganj arrived about half an hour into the incident, but as the neighbourhood is quite far from the nearest road, the firemen could only carry the water pipes to the spot in the dark.

whom lived on rental, for the next The residents said no-one from the government has come to see missioner nor the member of parlia-

Pakistan test-fires

and because of peace moves with

"It is aimed at reassuring hawks in Pakistan that the Musharraf government has no plan to freeze the country's nuclear programme," military analyst, retired general Talat Masood, told AFP. Pakistan informed its neighbours ahead of the test, the military said.

"The test was part of a series of

refine different subsystems of the missile," the military's Inter Services Public Relations said in a "The flight data collected indi-

cates that all the design parameters have been successfully validated." The test comes one week after the prime ministers of rival neighndia and Pakistan met for first time, in the middle of a step-bystep peace process two years after

"Both India and Pakistan are

"This parallel and contradictory

trying peace moves along with their

military buildup," Masood said.

they nearly went to war.

AL leaders FROM PAGE 1

> could not be a 'self-declared terrorist force' in the country. When State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar attempted to say something in reply, some members of the treasury

> demanded statement from the state

Election to reserved seats

stressed.

FROM PAGE 1 showcaused the government. The matter is now pending with the court. Earlier, there were 30 reserved seats for women, but the constitu-

Sangsad (Reserved Women Seats) Election Bill, 2004 yesterday, the women members will be elected within 90 days of publication of official results of a general election. But in case of the present parliament, the election will be held within 45 days of the passage of the bill. The provision will be valid for the next two parlia-

take place after elections to 300 general seats, and the parties represented in parliament will nominate women According to a rough estimate of representation of lawmakers of different parties in the current parliament, the ruling BNP will get 29 seats, the AL

nine, Jamaat-e-Islami three, IP

The new bill stipulates no constitu-

ency for the women's reserve seats.

(Ershad) two and others as many Law Minister Moudud Ahmed introduced the Jatiya Sangsad (Reserved Women Seats) Election Bill, 2004, outlining a complex procedure of election to the reserved seats in accordance with proportional repre-

He defended the bill, saying it has fulfilled the long-awaited representation of women in the House. The law minister told the House

that the government is committed to ensuring empowerment of women and introduced the women's reserve seats keeping the previous provision of indirect election, as the demand for direct polls is not realistic in the present perspective.

Senior AL lawmaker Suranjit

The provision to 'select' women lawmakers will destroy democracy and harm women's empowerment, he said. Women's organisations as well as the people demand direct

election to the reserved seats, he

of indirect election to the reserved

seats as a form of discrimination

against women. The passage of the bill

Abdur Razzak labelled the system

may lead to a conflict between the High Court and parliament, as the court is yet to dispose of two petitions on the matter. Mohammad Nasim urged the government to withdraw the bill to

clear the way for a consensus of all

Responding to the opposition criticism, the law minister said that the system of election to the reserved seats is not contrary to constitutional provisions. On the writ petitions, he said, "The

parties on the issue.

court will make a decision in accordance with the law. And parliament will also go by its law." Parliament yesterday also passed three more bills, which are The Transfer of Property Amendment Bill, The Specific relief Amendment Bill and The Limitation Amendment Bill. The bills were not passed on Sunday

due to lack of a quorum in the House. The speaker adjourned the House session until 4:15pm today. Lawmakers of the JP (Ershad) were divided on the election to women's

protested the system, although the others supported it. Quader said distribution of women seats according to representation of the parties in the House will not help empowerment of women. He demanded the government withdraw the bill and introduce direct elections

reserve seats, as GM Quader strongly

Rahman Ranga, Golam Habib Dulal and Mohammad Ali Sarker, however, favoured the bill and did not demand amendments or eliciting public opinion on the bill.

State Minister for NGO Affairs

Former Law Secretary Md Aminullah, Head of the Program Support Unit (PSU) of the Save the Children, UK, Nayeem Wahra, Programme Manager, UNDP, AH Monjurul Kabir, Head of Human Rights Unit of Commonwealth Secretariat, London, Hanif Vally, former advisor to the caretaker government, Major General (Retd) Moinul Hossain Chowdhury,

Addressing the session, the

"Religious extremism is getting

attended the rally.

Chaired by Ali Asgar Sardar, convenor of Tentulia district AL, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haque Inu, JSD leaders Mainuddin Khan Badal and Nazmul Haque Pradhan, Workers

Transfer of loans to an AMC will leave a hole in the balance sheet of the bank. This hole is normally filled by the issuance of government bonds in consideration for the acquisition of the loans trans-

The second process is retaining the bank's structure but restructur-

finance ministry official.

Islamic scholars from home and abroad will deliver speeches every day at the Ijtema highlighting various aspects of Islam. The speeches

deployed large contingents of police at the venue.

Tk 24 lakh mobile FROM PAGE 1 On 23 November customs officials

found the locks open and detected the missing of 281 Nokia mobile phone sets along with 200 batteries. The officials formed a three-

They said the liquid substance, smuggled into the district from India, was either not properly rectified or poisonous. Alcohol is sold at differ-

about the incident, as no-one showed up to file a complaint.

Indian company.

The Tata officials told the ministests planned... in order to verify ter that a representative of the Board certain parameters and to further of Investment (BoI) should head the

soon and the co-ordination committee could expedite the inputs for the study, they observed. the meeting, "We will place Tata's suggestions at the National Co-

(forTata) very soon."

Tata's feasibility study will cover how steel raw materials from India can be imported and which port is the most convenient for such import. To produce one ton of steel, 1.7 ton of iron ore needs to be imported from

from multilateral lenders on the basis of that study and get the ball rolling," the state minister said.

Sunday. They visited different sites for setting up the industries.

Nalian Range Office of the SFD. The tigress died of diarrhoea or from starvation sometime on Wednesday or Thursday. She was very old, said Conservator of Forests Altaf Hossain Khan. He denied the allegation that the tigress was trapped to death by poachers during

said the cause of death of the tigress has been suppressed in the autopsy report. The nylon rope of the trap

tigress had been trapped to death.

According to locals and fishermen, the tigress was trapped to death by a gang of poachers led by Abdul Gani, member of Hadda Union Parishad of Koira upazila. Forest guards of Koira Patrol Outpost aided and abetted the poachers in the crime, locals alleged.

appreciated the proposal.

FROM PAGE 1
"We were among the first to arrive at

hood," said Mohammed Khokon. "We could quickly arrange for passage of the panicked residents, which probably averted a possible stampede," Kajol, another factory worker, said.

Members of the local mosque committee have organised distribu-

tion of khichuri and vegetables

among the affected people, most of

them. Neither the local ward comment visited the site of the incident, either, they alleged.

sometime until the peace process comes to a satisfactory conclusion."

tests were planned.

development and tests will continue to be conducted as per technical needs," the statement said. Last month India tested the naval version of its Prithvi-III nuclear-

The Pakistani military said more

"Pakistan's nuclear and missile

program will maintain the pace of

capable ballistic missile, which has a

It followed Pakistan's test of the

intermediate range Ghauri missile, capable to carrying nuclear warheads deep inside India.

range of up to 300km.

minister for home affairs. Hinting at Rab, Nasim said there

development will continue for bench signalled him to let go of it.

ments.

tional provision expired with the dissolution of last parliament in July With the passage of the Jatiya

The election to women's seats will members proportionately.

sentation of a party or alliance in the

Sengupta said the BNP has failed to live up to its electoral pledge to hold direct election to the reserved women'sseats.

to the seats. IP lawmakers including Moshiur

for her security.