trying to pacify the devouring element less than an hour ago, was too

high for any one to stay more than a

body remains buried under the

ashes of cloths and skeletons of

A list 27 missing workers was

prepared yesterday at the office of

the local lawmaker, Gias Uddin.

They are Dulu, Taruni, Sufia,

Samirun, Fahima, Aslam, Sajeda,

Mofazzal Hossain, Abedia Khatun,

Ayesha Khatun, Champa, Kabil,

Abdur Razzak, Masuda, Masum,

Nargis, Jahangir, Faruq, Ali Ahmad,

Russell, Shafiq, Billal Hossain,

Abdur Razzak, Shimu, Saki and

The BKMEA expressed deep shock

at the tragedy and promised to pay

compensation to the victims' fami-

its President Fazlul Haq, Gias Uddin

and Narayanganj Municipality

Chair Selina Hayat Ivy visited the spot, the injured at Narayanganj

General Hospital and some of the

The BKMEA formed a three-

member committee headed by its

Vice President Abu Ahmed Siddig to

investigate the incident, identify the

dead and arrange treatment for the

the local administration and the Fire

Brigade and Civil Defence will also

probe the cause of the fire and the

Code was not properly followed in

The fire that broke out at about

3:10am yesterday at Ghantighar

Slum at Mir Hazaribagh in Demra

burnt Jumman Ali, 30, to death and

Ali, a gardener at Dhaka Shishu

Firemen put out the fire that

Park, was sleeping in the shack of

apparently had originated from an

lectric short circuit within 30 min-

gutted 90 shanties and the damage

According to their report, the fire

A number of political, trade,

social and cultural organisations

expressed their shock and concern

impromptu protest rally that vowed

down, supported by AL, was called

also to press demands for arrest and

trial of people involved in the gre-

nade attack on AL chief Sheikh

Hasina's rally on August 21 last year,

and revival of the special security

law-2001 for protection of the family

members of Bangabandhu Sheikh

hartal are Mohila Awami League,

Krishak League, Jativa Sramik

League, Awami Jubo League,

Swechchasebak League, Chhatra

League, Tanti League and Jubo

Chittagong reports that the AL front

bodies have reduced today's hartal

period to six hours from 12 hours --

an earlier announced religious

function of Shaney Belayeti Sunni at

Laldighi Maidan, and difficulties of

A report from our Rangamati

correspondent says that district

units of the AL's front organisations

called off today's hartal in

Rangamati considering celebration

of the birth anniversary of Sreemot

Shadhunanda Mohasthabir, princi-

pal monk and founder of the

Rajbonbihar' in the district town's

people and local Baruas who believe

in Buddhism celebrate the monk's

Facilitation Centre helped the ship-

ping ministry to prepare the tender

documents and many private oper-

ators have agreed to invest in the

The decision to privatise land

ports was taken following the World

Zealots threaten

Hasan, Momtajul Karim and

Mohammed Motahar spoke at the

seize the Ahmadiyyas' mosque in

prevailed in Tejgaon area as the rally

was organised near the Ahmadiyyas'

deployed there to avert any unto-

through a terrible situation in fear of

attacks by religious extremists any

time," said Zakir, a member of

Ahmadiyya community and an

inhabitant of East Nakhalpara.

mosque at East Nakhalpara.

They announced their plan to

Meanwhile, a tense situation

A large number of police were

"Ahmadiyyas here are passing

birth anniversary each year.

Minister sees

Indigenous Chakma and Marma

dawn to noon -- in Chittagong.

Our staff correspondent in

They took the decision in view of

The AL wings that called the

The 6:00 am to 6:00 pm shut-

The firemen said the Building

Two other committees formed by

BKMEA office bearers including

Salma Begum.

BKMEATO

COMPENSATE

victims' families.

damage it wrought.

DEMRA FIRE

construction of the plant.

gutted around 90 shanties

utes, said the fire brigade.

stood at Tk 3w lakh.

over the Siddhirganj fire.

FROM PAGE 1

Mujibur Rahman.

Mohila League.

Hajj pilgrims.

Rajbari area.

FROM PAGE 12

sector, sources said.

Bank suggestions.

FROM PAGE 12

Bogra on March 13.

ward incident.

Hartal today

to make the hartal a success.

ne Hanufa Begum

No-one knows whether any more

graveyard in Siddhirganj after conducting autopsy at Narayanganj General Hospital

The injured were rushed to different clinics and hospitals in the vicinity and in Dhaka.

A number of workers suspected arson by the owner, who has been unable to pay their salaries for the last five months, an allegation the factory owner, Rahmat Ullah, brushed aside as baseless. The firemen, too, said it did not seem like sabotage to them. The workers were supposed to get their pays yesterday. CONFINED, THEY DIE

Witnesses said sparks from an electric cable at the ironing section on the first floor caused the fire at around 9:15 Thursday night.

"Cloths piled at the ironing section caught the fire first. Within seconds, the entire floor was engulfed by raging flames," said Meherunnisa, a cutting section worker, who rushed downstairs with others to escape the hell.

In a minute or two, the fire spread to the other floors fuelled by fabrics scattered around and the power

"A frightened man was screaming 'fire', 'fire' and asking the security in-charge to phone the fire brigade," Lal Mian, who was at the main gate, told The Daily Star.

Panicked workers running for their life found only a side door open that allows only one or two to pass at a time. The main entrance to plant was locked.

Surrounded by flames, people started to cry for help, but none came. Many of them climbed back to the second floor to escape through a rear exit, but that too was

A group of workers managed to come out by breaking open a window on the first floor.

"I saw many of them faint and collapse on the second floor and trampled down by rushing crowd," Meherunnisa recounted yesterday

As the fire engulfed the entire building, "Dense smoke covered the night sky and the desperate screams of the dying employees filled the whole area. It was a terrible experience," said Lal Mian.

The air was soon filled with the acrid smell of burnt human flesh. 'We stood helplessly outside and saw them get roasted alive."

Two fire fighting units from Narayanganj, two from the fire brigade headquarters and one each from Sadarghat and Demra rushed to the spot at 12:10am yesterday. About a hundred firemen started to run seven pumps to extinguish the

Fire fighters, the survivors and the locals who rushed to the area to help recovered 20 charred bodies that night from the building. Two more bodies were found in the

"They are so badly burnt that it is difficult to tell who are males and who females," said Deputy Assistant Director of Fire Brigade and Civil Defence Farid Uddin Ahmed.

They succeeded in putting out the inferno at 3:40pm yesterday.

Fire fighters said, "There were enough fire extinguishing materials on every floor, but no-one used them."

Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) estimated the loss at more than Tk 50 crore.

Police said a process is underway to file a case.

27 MISSING At 4:30pm yesterday, the heat on the

third floor, where firemen had been

Teenage boy

FROM PAGE 12 Car Nicobar by the Indian air force on Wednesday and met by the Andaman and Nicobarisland's chief administrator Ram Kapse after a full

"I did not know how to swim and so I clung to the tree for 10 days as sea waters did not recede from my village which is called Tapai Ming, the bruised teenager said.

Air force rescuers said Murlitharan finally toppled off the tree where he sheltered for 10 days and fell into the waters Tuesday but was saved by a tribal woman who looked after him until they arrived.

Murlitharan's parents are hospitalised in the southern coastal Indian city of Madras after their evacuation earlier this week from Car Nicobar which bore the brunt of the tsunami waves on December 26.

Lieutinant General B.S. Thakur. leading a mammoth relief operation in the ravaged Andamans, said he was elated to rescue 17 survivors himself Thursday from the Katchal

islands where more than 4,600 people are missing. When we landed in Katchal two boys of this group walked 16km through very difficult terrain and

told us about the survivors stuck in slush and surrounded by sea waters "We first called a recon helicop-

ter and sent one of the boys as guides and after locating these 17 we used a heavy-lift helicopter to winch in each of the survivors on board. It was a very difficult task," Thakur

"If we had not taken one of the boys as guide we would never had

found these people. The area is so devastated," he said. "These people were stuck in the slush since December 26 and survived on coconuts and bananas but

no water. It is a miracle," he said.

No clue yet to blast at Sylhet ex-MP's house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police could not yet find any clue to the December 24 bomb blast at the Sylhet residence of former Awami League lawmaker Syeda Zebunnesa

Haque. Even after two weeks into the incident, the five-member probe committee formed to investigate the blast too had made barely any headway with the enquiry. On Thursday it was granted for the second time an extension to finish the task, sources said. Earlier on 28 December, it was given a one-week extension. The committee headed by Additional Superintendent of Police (South) Shah Alam Faruqui was formed a day after the blast. It was asked to submit report within 3 days.

When contacted yesterday, Faruqui declined to detail the development of the enquiry, but said it would take some more time.

Meanwhile, Syeda Zebunnesa Haque, who sustained shrapnel wounds in the blast, had been treated in a hospital in Kolkata. She underwent an operation last week and had some of the splinters removed from her body, said a family source yesterday.

Ruby Fatema Islam, general secretary of Sylhet district Mohila AL, is still receiving treatment at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital while six other injured had been discharged from the same hospital.

Police so far have arrested three in this connection. They are Luthfur Rahman Dulu, Jebunnesa's maid Hamida and nephew ZM Ilyas.

A magistrate court tomorrow would hear a petition for ZM Ilyas and Luthfur Rahman to be remanded. The hearing could not be held last week due to absence of the case docket (CD) in the court.

Apart from the arrestees, police quizzed six of the injured, but failed to extract any clue, said sources. Eight people including Syeda

Zebunnesa Haque, also the president of the Sylhet district Mohila AL, were injured when a powerful bomb went off at a meeting of the party unit on December 24,2004.

55 followers of Atroshi pir injured in road accident

UNB, Natore

At least 55 followers of Atroshi pir (religious leader) were injured in a road accident on the Natore-Bogra Highway at Baksorghat yesterday today.

District Fire Service sources said the accident occurred when a Faridpur-bound bus, carrying 70 followers of the pir, overturned at about 12:45pm as the driver lost control over the steering

in Kalai upazila of Joypurhat district,

were going to Atroshi in Faridpur to

Of the injured, 28 were admitted to Natore Sadar Hospital, while the rest released after first aid. All the passengers, who hail from Indaher, Raghunathpur, Gorail, Chhatragram and Mandighi villages

Fire devours

attend the annual urs.

FROM PAGE 1 this?" Nurunnesa said while strug-

gling to hold back her tears. Like her son, daughter and sonin-law, scores of the employees of Shaan Knitting and Processing Ltd did not get their salaries for the last

five months. Her son Mamun, daughter Nargis and Nargis' husband Jahangir died inside the factory when the devastating fire burnt down it Thursday night.

Sitting anxious at her house in Ailpara in Siddhirganj as her children did not return a few hours after their break, Nurunnesa heard fire destroyed their workplace.

She learnt about a few casualties while rushing to the factory. With the worst thoughts running through her mind, she rushed to the hospital to be sure of her apprehension -- all the three died.

"They were together at the morgue even after their death," she said after identifying them.

Wife of freedom fighter Siddiq Mian of Barisal, Nurunnesa moved to Narayanganj several years back and was living in Siddhirganj with the three.

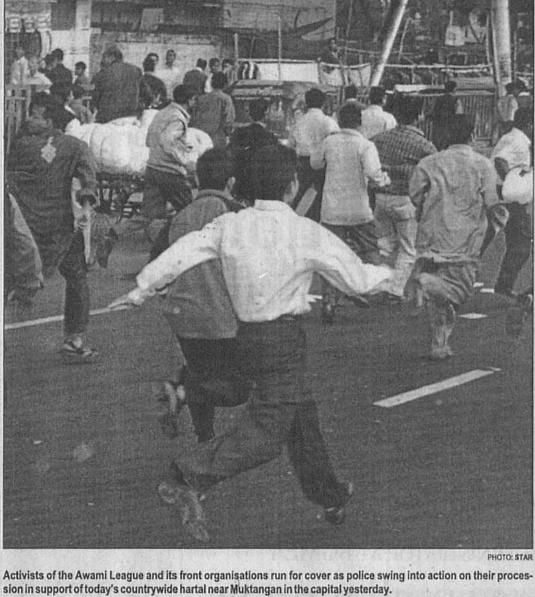
Seventeen-year-old Sufia had no food at her house when she left for the factory.

"She was starving and said she would return with rice and vegetables after getting her salary after five months," Rahima, her elder sister, said while mourning at the morgue.

Husbands of Sufia's sister Halima, Fatema and Shahera and some of their sons also worked at the factory. "Everyone but her returned." Rahima cried.

"We planned her marriage after the Eid-ul-Azha this month. But it will never take place, she'll never come back," Halima sobbed as she was holding Rahima in empathy

The sisters failed to identify her from the lined up charred bodies. "We know she is dead and lying here," said Halima.



sion in support of today's countrywide hartal near Muktangan in the capital yesterday.

Health sector programme

to grant a loan of \$200 million for the HNPSP in March.

The WB laid out this schedule recently in a draft aide-mémoire based on the report of an appraisal mission of the donors that had visited the country on November 21 to December 8. The aide-mémoire said before

the final negotiations the government should develop a preliminary project pro-forma and get that cleared by the Executive Committee on National Economic Council

The pro-forma has to chalk out a procurement plan and an action plan, both for an 18-month period, of the HNPSP. The first will specify what and when the government wants to purchase for the programme and the second will lay out how the government keeps a number of commitments in the next

The commitments include to allocate at least 25 percent of the health budget for the poorer dis-

work for private health practitioners and finance them to set up healthcare facilities where there is no government ones. Besides, the donors want the government to increase its per capita health bud-

The planning ministry has expressed its reservations about the preliminary project pro-forma, saying the concept does not comply with the Planning Commission's rules and regulations. But the donors have categorically

told the government that without the pro-forma they will not commit any finance, sources said.

The government launched the HNPSP last year with the target to continue it up to 2006 without any donor finance. But, in case the donors agree to fund, the government has prepared a strategic investment plan (SIP) for the programme for 2003 to 2010. The SIP envisages a \$2.4 billion programme budget with donors' contributions

accounting for over \$1 billion. "So far the donors have indicated tricts, develop a regulatory frame- their willingness to finance up to 600 tributions.

million dollars," said a source at the Economic Relations Division. Canadian CIDA may contribute

\$70 million, the United Nations Family Planning Association over \$35 million, and German donors GTZ and KfW \$12 million, he said, adding others have not specified how much they want to provide.

the HNPSP and one-third for health sector reforms.

nities through decentralisation of

as the sole government platform for co-ordinating all development initiatives in the health sector, where donors can put in their con-

Plight of survivors

FROM PAGE 12 was perched oddly on a mound of debris. Resorts were deserted and

sand filled the pools. Train tracks were twisted, broken and washed away in some areas but the roads appeared largely intact and the occasional traveller was

Powell's motorcade drove through the centre of Galle, where homes and shops were crushed by the massive waves and dozens of fishing boats still litter the streets.

"I had a chance to witness the destruction first hand and only by seeing it on the ground can you really appreciate what it must have been like on that terrible day," Powell said through an aide.

"But I am impressed to see people cleaning up, helping their neighbours, starting to clean up shops

Meanwhile, United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan yesterday toured the devastation from Asia's tsunamis as the world body took charge of the relief operation for the disaster, which left over 165,000 dead.

A day after making an impassioned plea for almost a billion dollars in immediate aid, Annan flew into the Indonesian province of Aceh for a tour of the region which was the worst hit by last week's killer

His visit comes two days after a stop here by US Secretary of State Colin Powell, who told a crisis summit Wednesday in Jakarta that Washington had disbanded a fivenation "coalition", criticised as a challenge to UN authority.

The United Nations is mounting its largest ever relief operation to help tsunami victims but warned its efforts faced major obstacles as transport links and communications in Aceh had "essentially collapsed" in the disaster.

Indonesia, and especially Aceh, should receive about 371 million dollars of the 977 million dollar overall appeal by Annan, the UN's humanitarian coordination agency

"As many as two million people there are in need and one million of them require immediate assistance," Assistant Emergency Relief Coordinator Yvette Stevens told iournalists in Geneva. The confirmed death toll from

the catastrophe soared to over 165,000 Friday as over 19,000 more deaths were confirmed. Indonesia's health ministry said the death toll in the country had

But the United Nations has warned that tens of thousands more dead may be as yet unaccounted for in Indonesia.

World attention was also focused on the desperate plight of many survivors living in camps with limited drinking water and poor sanitation in Sri Lanka, where 30,615 people have been confirmed

The United Nations said some 167 million dollars from the emergency relief money would head to Sri

"We are hungry, people are searching for food," says Pakeela Ummah, a 48-year-old mother of three crammed into one of the makeshift camps in Kattankundy on Sri Lanka's battered eastern coast.

Survivors in the camp said they had only enough to make one meal a day of rice and lentils, with little powdered milk for babies and just two litres of drinking water per family with an average of six chil-

"The main problem is we don't have food. The government is still sending more refugees but there is no assistance from the government," says K. M. Muhad, who was appointed by the community to take

charge of the camp.

In India, the United Nations
Children's Fund Unicef said it was counselling more than 100,000 children who were traumatised by the death of relatives in the tsunamihit southern state of Tamil Nadu.

Fifty-two countries have reported dead or missing in the tsunami disaster, leading to the unprecedented level of pledges to help survivors.

Bangladesh

entertainment as the pair notched 62 runs in an explosive 10-over stand in the second session.

Rafique hit six fours and four sixes in 97 balls while Mashrafee, on way to a career best innings, smashed eight fours and one six before being the last man out.

New ball bowler Christopher Mopfu returned with an impressive 4-109 on his Test debut. When the tourists -- tired after

chasing leather for over five sessions - came out to bat, life was difficult. Stuart Matsikenyeri contributed 28 off 30 balls with five boundaries

during a 31-run opening stand but his partner Barney Rogers was yet to open his account when Tapash Baisya made the breakthrough for the hosts. Tapash removed Matsikenyeri in the eighth over when Bangladesh captain Habibul Bashar held a low

no respite for the Zimbabweans as Rafique, brought into the attack, struck in his third over. The left-arm spinner trapped one-down Visu Sibanda leg before when the batsman played back to a straight ball.

catch to his left at first slip. There was

Rogers' struggle came to an end when the left-handed opener was run out in the 20th over.

Having painstakingly reached five from 47 deliveries, the debutant was caught out of his crease when Hamilton Masakadza's straightdrive off Enamul Haque was flicked onto the stumps by the bowler.

Zimbabwe slumped to 59-4 after nightwatchman Graeme Cremer was adjudged lbw by another slider from Rafique without adding anything to the total.

Masakadza, a Test centurion on debut, was batting on 28 with Brendan Taylor accompanying him

Businesses smell a rat

servant to run the trade body, they

The BGMEA has meanwhile decided to go to court to prevent the administrator from taking over "We're surprised to learn that only

the government, the defendant No. 37, among 37 parties, got copies of the notice," BGMEA President Annisul Hugsaid.

Several business leaders pointed out there is an arbitration tribunal in the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) to settle any dispute among the trade bodies. They said it is a usual practice to appeal to this tribunal to solve any dispute before going to court.

FBCCI President Abdul Awal Mintoo said: "The FBCCI tribunal is the responsible body for settling disputes among trade bodies. In the last two years the tribunal settled over 30 cases. It's not good sign that businesspersons directly go to the court bypassing the tribunal."

He said the government should never get involved in the disputes of trade bodies. "Unfortunately, it has been observed that the government tries to take political advantages from such internal disputes which is undesired.'

Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) President Kutubuddin Ahmed, also former president of the BGMEA, said the appointment of the administrator will tarnish the image of our garment

"It may have negative impact on apparel export. We're passing one of the most critical phases in the garment sector history with only seven days into the post-MFA era. We all need to work for our survival in the competitive world market, but such a move can dampen exporters' spirit," Ahmedsaid.

President of Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association Quazi Monirul Haq said the BGMEA leaders should be given a chance to defend themselves before appointing an administrator. "The appointment is not acceptable as there is no administrative failure in the BGMEA."

Planning Week 2005 in association President of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association Md Fazlul Hoque said he did not know much about the court ruling. He said it is unfortunate that

the BGMEA was not given a hearing to defend itself before the court passed

In the order of appointment, the government directed the administrator, Joint Secretary of Industries Ministry Mohammad Ayub Miah, to take over charges "immediately" and conduct election of the new office bearers within the next six months.

The administrator has also been directed to run daily business of the association.

MA Masud had filed a petition with the Court of Second Assistant Judge against the government. The content of the petition, on which the judgement was based, could not be known

Meantime, Oikya Jote, a platform of garment factory owners that pulled out of the 2003 election race, yesterday expressed the hope that the administrator will be able to hold the upcoming BGMEA election in a free, fair and

peaceful manner in six months. A press statement signed by SU Haider, principal coordinator of Oikya Jote, said the previous BGMEA election was undemocratic that snatched franchise of general owners of gar-

ment factories. Gas field fire

FROM PAGE 1 control at 11:30pm, Nico sources said. The drilling of the well began at 7:00 pm on December 31 to reach 800 metres till yesterday evening, a Nico official told The Daily Star.

"As we noticed some gas leaks in the well at about 7:30 pm yesterday, we apprehended a blow out. Then we fired at a point (flare line) about 500 metres off the well. It was done to avert a severe blow out from the well. Gas soon spread around and started coming out in bubbles, proving the methodworked,"hesaid "The major threat is over," the

> official claimed at midnight. Some locals said however over mobile phone at about midnight gas

was coming out with big bangs several points around the gas field even two hours after the fire broke out. Local lawmaker Kalim Uddin Milon, who visited the gas field, said over mobile phone that almost all officials of both Nico and Bapex had

left the area. Additional police contin-

gents from the district headquarters were on way to Tengratila. The upazila administration asked locals through loudspeakers to

move to safety.

Return from Riyadh

to work, Saudi police slapped and beat him up.

He was sent to a jail in Riyadh, where more than a thousand Bangladeshis are being held for not having licence to work or changing sponsors without permission, the returned workers say.

They allege there are two lakh illegal Bangladeshi workers in Saudi Arabia, many of whom are languishing in prisons across the desert kingdom. However The Daily Star

could not corroborate the figure. According to official sources, an estimated 15 lakh Bangladeshis are working in Saudi Arabia, making it the top overseas destination of Bangladeshi labour. Every year, Bangladeshi expatriates remit over \$3 billion, more than half of which comes from Saudi Arabia.

TALES OF MISERY "The condition of Bangladeshis in Saudi is horrible," says one of the returned workers requesting ano-

nymity. "Saudi businessmen are making a lot of money selling visas and work permits, while thousands of Bangladeshis are not getting paid," he says. "While the ambassadors of the Philippines, India and Pakistan care for their workers and take immediate actions when they receive complaints about salaries or changes of sponsors, but the Bangladeshi ambassador is too busy making contacts with the elite to

care," alleges the embittered man. He says he changed his sponsors' names in his free visa thrice, paying good 2,000 rials at the first time. 4,500 at second and 6,000 at the third.

Another of the 33 returnees, Nurul Afsar of Feni, went to Saudi in May 2002 paying Tk 160,000. One of his friends arranged his free visa through an agency in Dhaka. Afsar worked as a carpenter for one year, but never received any pay.

Not only his employer, Saudi police also refused to pay heed to his complaints, dismissing his entreaties with threats. He then started doing part time jobs without any work permit, which his sponsor had taken

13 last year. He had a luggage with goods worth about 5,000 rials, but the jail authorities did not allow him to bring it home. "How do I go to my family now, after two years, without anything to give them?" he asks.

Mohammad Ismail of Rangunia, like the rest of the 33 repatriated, has more or less similar stories of why they were arrested and sent back home empty-handed. Their experiences closely mirror the tales of exploitation and injustice reported by Human Rights Watch (HRW) in

July 2004. "In the Eastern Province alone, there are dozens of companies which exist only on paper. On the basis of their being registered and licensed, they apply for visas and then sell them," the HRW report says

quoting the Arab News. Quoting an ambassador the report says every Saudi of a certain standing can obtain free visas. They sell the visas to intermediaries linked to recruiters in the sending countries. The migrant workers who come to the kingdom with free visas typically have to find their own jobs and remit monthly payments to the Saudi sponsors named on their

The HRW documents hundreds of cases of low and unpaid salaries, one of the most barbarian violations of human rights: "It is unconscionable that some employers withhold salaries and force workers to leave the kingdom without full reimbursement of their earned wages."

The condition of departure. including official deportations, for some migrant workers afford them no opportunity to lodge complaint against their employers and seek remedy in Saudi Arabia for unpaid salaries and other benefits that they owe, the report notes. **OFFICIAL STANCE** On the repatriation of the 33

for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Quamrul Islam says they must come back if He also disagrees with the returnees' use of the word 'jail', saying, "It

Bangladeshi workers, State Minister

actually is a deportation cell." Admitting that there are many Afsar was arrested on December illegal Bangladeshi workers in Saudi

Arabia, he says the blame mostly goes to the workers themselves, as

they do not get the free visas verified

Many also go to Saudi with Umrah visas and do not return, the minister says, adding in cases where their relatives arrange the visas, the government can in fact do nothing to bar them from going. On the alleged indifference of Bangladeshi ambassador in Saudi Arabia, the state minister says,

Jeddah. But, being illegal migrants, they do not come to the centres." Quamrul Islam says, "We strongly protest illegal migration to any country and will take stern action against any fraudulence by any recruiting agency if any victim

"We've two counselling centres --

one in Riyadh and the other in

comes to us with such a complaint." 80pc city buildings FROM PAGE 12

reformed altogether as large-scale

corruption is prevailing there," said Nazrul. Rehab President Taufik M Seraj said planners and developers should play an important role to

develop the city in a planned way.

"Not only Dhaka, every metropol-

itan city is growing in a very

unplanned way, and the government should immediately take effective steps to stop this," he added. Dr Md Sekandar Ali, director of Urban Development Directorate (UDD), said young and professional planners should be appointed in

different local administration bod-

ies to watch over development

activities. Dr KM Maniruzzaman, departmental head of the URP, Engineer Mahmudul Hasan, general secretary of the Rehab, Abdul Gaffar, director of Urban Management Support Unit (UMSU), LGED, also addressed the roundtable.

The URP department organised

the roundtable as part of its

with the Prothom Alo and Real Estate Housing Association of Bangladesh (Rehab). A question and answer session

was held after the discussion.

The source said, two-thirds of the donors' funds, if received, will be spent for the core components of

The HNPSP aims to ensure that at least 65 percent of the health allocations are spent for the most needed healthcare services, besides improving the service delivery. It also attaches financial and service priorities to the backward commu-

The programme also functions

by the embassies.