Tigers' maiden Test series

impression to the strong 15,000 crowd, who cheered every run and even a defensive shot on a gloomy

Starting the day on 56, the Chittagong batsman and nephew of former Bangladesh captain Akram Khan completed his first hundred in style, hitting two consecutive boundaries off medium pacer Douglas Hondo and flicking the third one in the 100th over for a couple. He instantly punched his bat in the air as the Big Bowl exploded in appreciation of a batsman recognized for his

Nafees, whose first fifty came in 135 balls and 207 minutes, took a further 174 deliveries and 200 minutes to record the tenth Test century by a Bangladeshi batsman.

Bangladesh had a few goose bumps when they lost three wickets

in the space of 20 runs as captain Habibul Bashar (2) and Mohammad Ashraful (5) followed Javed to the dressing room in successive overs.

A surprisingly subdued Bashar trying to play defensive looked like a fish out of water and drove paceman Tinashe Panyangara to Hamilton Masakadza at mid-wicket while Ashraful edged a sharp and rising legbreak by Cremer to Dion Ebrahim at

Frustrated Zimbabwe captain Tatenda Taibu took the new ball after 113 overs and Panyangara struck in the second over after tea when he removed century maker Nafees. Having hit 18 boundaries in 355 balls, a tired shot put an end to his eight-hour knock when the opener chased a wide ball from the crease and nicked it to Taylor at first

Panyangara had Aftab Ahmed

caught by wicketkeeper Taibu for five to reduce the home side to 206-5 and Bangladesh, who had put themselves out of contention with ultradefensive batting, were under pressure again.

But when the visitors sensed something was going to happen under fading lights, Rajin Saleh and Khaled Mashud closed the door with an unbroken 79-run stand for the

Rajin remained unbeaten on 56, hitting nine boundaries from 140 balls in just over three hours while wicketkeeper and vice-captain Mashudwas 28 not out.

Taibu, for his 85 not out and 153 in Test, was adjudged man-of-thematch while Bangladesh's 18-yearold left-arm spinner Enamul Haque won the man-of-the-series award for

Dhaka-Delhi water talks

the Ganges and Teesta rivers between the two co-riparian neighbours. "The attempts to make progress on some pending issues regarding the Teesta were unsuccessful," said Tauhidul Anwar Khan, member of the

India-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission (JRC), while talking to reporterslater. 'The two sides still hold differences oversome points," he added. An interim agreement on the

Teesta water was proposed until an agreement like the one on sharing the Ganges water could be reached. A full treaty would not however be possible before a joint technical survey of water level of the Teesta is conducted, sources pointed out.

The JTG meet took up technical

issues including water flows of the common rivers, navigability and impact on agriculture and ecology.

Tauhidul said despite differences

on various issues, the two sides agreed on some points: Teesta waters would be shared from Gazoldoba, the annual water-sharing period would be between October 1 and April 30, and the need for the rivers to have their own share to prevent them from dryingup.
The JTG would submit its report

containing both sides' perceptions for the Joint Committee of Experts (JCE), which will then decide to meet upon

system in the Barendra Area in

induced by reduction of aman

cultivation due to the flood and

post-flood situations, a proposal

for a subsidy of 18,000 tonnes of

Triple Super Phosphate and

52,000 tonnes of Murate of Potash

has been sent to the finance min-

hectares of cultivable land to

urbanisation, roads and housing

every year, which poses a threat to

yesterday's letters to the secretar-

ies to the ministries of posts and

telecommunication and commu-

government will lose Tk 223 crore

due to forgery in the deed of

The commission also started

investigation of the sleeper pur-

chase when it came to know that

Tk 68 crore was embezzled

(Establishment) of the former

Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac),

sent the letter to BTTB, while

Abdul Kaiyum, deputy director

(Khulna and Barisal Zone) of Bac

sent the letter to the railway

ACC Chairman Justice Sultan

Hossain Khan and Commissioner

Maniruddin Ahmed approved the

inquiries and entrusted the two

ex-Bac deputy directors with the

The two officers are still work-

ing at the former Bac office at

Segunbagicha, although the gov-

ernment declared them as

reserved employees and asked

them not to work with the com-

mission which was formed in

investigation officers informed the

ACC officials at its Agargaon head

office about the progress of the

In the letter to the BR, the inves-

tigation officer asked its DG to

provide information about the

tender process for purchasing the

steel sleepers. It was alleged that

the BR gave the sleeper purchase

contracts to four companies

to the customs authorities to know

if there were any irregularities in

the payment of tax against the

The copy of the letter was sent

through a secret tender.

sleeper purchase.

After sending the letters the

The letters were issued after

Abdul Halim, deputy director

through the deal.

authorities.

responsibility.

November last year.

inquiries.

BTTB's newly launched project.

ACC probes

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh is losing 80,000

In a bid to make up the losses

North Bengal.

issues were technically difficult. "We are trying to further discuss the pendingissues,"Tauhidulsaid.

said that in accordance with the indicative schedule of the treaty, Bangladesh was supposed to get 67, 516 cusec of water between January 1 and January 10, but it received only 56,

According to article 2 of the treaty, India, as the upper riparian country, was supposed to make "all possible efforts" to ensure that Bangladesh received its due share of the Ganges

The due share was indicated on the basis of the water flow at the Farakka in the light of statistical observations made over 40 years from 1949 to 1988.

water we were supposed to," said M C Goyal, representative of the four-member Indian side on the joint

technical group on the Teesta waters, refuted Dhaka's claim, saying, India had made all possible efforts to provide Bangladeshits due share of water. The water received by Bangladesh

was in proportion to the flow received on the Indian side of the Farakka dam, he said, adding the figure is only

Goyal claimed that at some points Bangladesh received more water than figures indicated in the treaty

The ITG met for the third time. The ICE in September last had asked it to submit a fresh report elaborating the present status of discussions, and seeking necessary guidelines from the JRC to quickly resolve the highly

The JCE has been working for the last seven years to thrash out a watersharing formula for seven common rivers, especially the Teesta. Fifty-four rivers flow through both Bangladesh

The pending issues include the terms of water sharing, where Dhaka wants to keep a certain percentage of water reserved in the dry-season to keep the Teesta healthy, and sharing

India wants a lower percentage reserved and the rest to be shared on the basis of the size of the Teesta's catchment area. The catchment area of the river in India is larger than that in Bangladesh, sources say. Water experts said construction of

Gazoldoba barrage by India in the upstream of the Teesta at Dalia reduced its water flow to Bangladesh. Moreover, flash floods in the downstream are also due to alleged operation of the Gazoldoba barrage at will.

anniversary of the late leader.

The programmes include hoisting

of party flag on the party offices,

placing wreaths and offering fateha

at the majar of Ziaur Rahman, and

Mohanagar Natya Mancha yesterday

with BNP Secretary General Abdul

Rahman, Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed

Siddiqui, Khandaker Delwar Hossain,

Tariqul Islam and Mirza Abbas,

activists to march forward imbued

with Zia's political philosophy, hon-

esty and patriotism, and complete

his unfinished tasks to lead the coun-

try towards prosperity and progress.

Free edn for girls

process and complete the ongoing

The prime minister resented that

the Awami League did not turn up in

parliament in the last three years

rather enforced hartals one after

another. She alleged they killed

people by setting fire to passenger

buses to create panic among people

minister dismissed Awami League's

On farmers' welfare, the prime

FROM PAGE 12

before hartal.

development projects.

They urged the party leaders and

among others, spoke at the function.

A discussion meeting was held at

Party leaders KM Obaidur

illumination of the party offices.

Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair.

MPs for law

The committee members discussed several allegations of violation of the lawmakers' privileges and observed that the House could not provide protection for the lawmakers due to inadequacy of the existing rules on their privileges

They said the members of parliament do not have legal protection from the atrocities, harassment and misbehaviour of the lawenforcers. Besides, the lawmakers are not entitled to get division facilities when they are in prison.

Even the lawmakers are being arrested under the section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPc) without warrant. After the arrest, magistrates inform the speaker

"If the sub-committee recommends making it mandatory to take prior permission of the speaker to. arrest any lawmaker, we will make it a law," the speaker told reporters after the meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

We hope we will be able to enact a law to uphold the honour of the lawmakers as the present privilege rules are inadequate," he said.

About the law-enforcers' alleged misbehaviour with the lawmakers and providing division facilities for them in prison, the committee decided to ask the home secretary to be present at its meeting with all necessary documents.

AL lawmaker Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, who attended the meeting on behalf of the opposition leader, said he had also faced such misbehaviour when he was arrested by the army and handed over to the police during the Operation Clean

The AL deputy raised the question of violation of his privileges and submitted a notice.

Responding to the notice, the speaker said the existing privilege rules do not provide protection for the lawmakers from such incident. He made similar comment on another notice from AL lawmaker Mirza Azam who alleged that the lawenforcers had violated his privileges by searching his house without On the question of arrest under

section 54, the speaker said the arrests are being made legally. There **ACC** wants

arrest of the lawmakers, he added. After the meeting Shiekh Selim told reporters that they were agreed to increase the privileges of lawmakers to uphold their dignity.

The committee disposed of eight notices submitted by the AL lawmakers claiming violation of their privileges by the lawenforcers by harassing them on the street, arresting them and searching their houses without warrant.

BNP lawmaker Nurul Islam Moni submitted a notice raising the question of violation of his privileges. He sought protection from the House alleging that Jatiya Party (JP) lawmaker Anwar Hossain Manju threatened to kill him.

The committee disposed of the notice saying he (Moni) had submitted the notice about three years ago and it does not know the present status of his allegation.

Allegations against newspapers The parliamentary body discussed three other notices submitted by the BNP lawmakers accusing three national dailies of violating their privileges. The committee disposed of the notices 'considering the freedom of the press,' sources said.

It however urged the media to report on the parliamentary proceedings carefully. The committee decided that the speaker in the upcoming parliament session would urge the media 'not to distort House proceedings' while report-

Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, parliamentary affairs adviser to the prime minister, has raised allegation against The Daily Star, BNP lawmaker Abu Hena against the daily Protham Alo and Abdul Gani against the daily Jugantar of distorting the parliamentary proceedings and violation of lawmakers' privileges.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudad Ahmed, Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain and BNP lawmaker Mizanur Rahman Minu also attended the meeting.

Salauddin Quader Chowdhury represented the prime minister at the meeting while Whip Rezaul Bari Dina was present on behalf of Jamaat lawmaker Delwar Hossain

FROM PAGE 1 them into the ACC. It wants to send them back to the government and appoint new directors, sources said.

is no legal instrument to stop such ACC Commissioner Prof Maniruzzaman Miah yesterday told reporters that the five were on deputation at the Bac, not at the commis-sion. "We would now seek fresh appointment on deputation for the commission," he said.

About the allegation that the officials were hampering the ACC activities, Miah said, "We asked the government to withdraw them, that does not mean that we have allegations against all of them.'

Asked about the difficulties that hamper the commission's functioning, Miah said, "Various difficulties are hindering the proper functioning of the commission." But he would not elaborate on the obstacles.

Miah, who is in charge of administration and establishment of the ACC, has prepared a draft organogram proposing around 950 staff. At first he proposed 900 staff for the commission but later added 50 more revising the draft.

The draft will be finalised in consultation with ACC Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan and the other member, Maniruddin Ahmed, sources said.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet Division has sent back the draft rules of ACC on the screening of the ex-Bac staff. The ACC had placed it for the president's approval in December last

Sources said the Cabinet Division has asked the ACC to amend the draft that has some shortcomings. The ACC chairman on Saturday told reporters that the commission will review the rules and send those to the Cabinet Division with necessary

2 robbers FROM PAGE 12

however managed to flee.

On information, police reached the spot at about 11:50pm, recovered the bodies and sent them to Bagerhat Sadar Hospital for autopsy. They also recovered a .32 revolver, two bullets and three bombs from the scene. According to Bagerhat police

superintendent, Abu 'dakat' was accused in 14 criminal cases including several for murder. He was sentenced to 57 years of rigorous imprisonment in three robbery with murder cases.

People of Bagerhat, fishermen and bawalis of the Sundarbans and owners of shrimp enclosures of the district have heaved a sigh of relief at the death of the two notorious

Hunt for other members of 'Abu Bahini' and their arms and ammunition is going on, the police super-intendent said.

policemen were on the highway without a command certificate (CC) permitting them to realise money from cattle trucks going to Dhaka.

Sources said DIG Abdul Aziz Sarker found three uniformed policemen standing on the highway while was he crossing the area on Saturday. He asked them why they were there and to show the CC.

As they failed, the DIG at once went to the police outpost and asked the in-charge, Sub-Inspector (SI) Tofazzal Hossain, why the uniformed policemen were on the highway without a CC.

As the SI failed to give a reasonable reply, the DIG ordered the Ihenidah SP to take departmental

Following the orders, all 11 of the policemen including the SI were closed to the police line.

SI Tofazzal was replaced by SI Abdul Hakim, sent from Jhenidah Sadar police station, the sources said.

The other closed policemen are Constable Samsul Islam, Sahaihan Ali, Mustafa Kamal, Alamgir Hossain, Abdul Hannan, Bazlur Rahman,

Jahidul Islam, Aref Rabbani, Nuruzzaman and Md Shajahan.

PDB promises FROM PAGE 12

have been requested to contact local PDB office over phone. The zonewise phone numbers are Chittagong: 659005-6, Comilla: 65043, Mymensingh: 54916 and 54890, Rajshahi: 771982, Sylhet: 717021, Rangpur: 65217 and 65415, Khulna: 723745 and Barisal: 71343. In case of an emergency, they can

also contact the central control room at Wapda building and the phone numbers are 9553100, member (transmission) 9663868 (res), Superintendent Engineer (commercial directory) 8623335 (res), superintendent engineer (consumer affairs) 8121682 (res).

Saber

Saber was deputy minister for Local Besides, no permission will be given

> rolling as it had been asked to complete the project works within 30 months. But when the four-party coalition came into power it purposefully delayed the construction works, he alleged.

The complainant served a legal

Advocates Sahara Khatun

Iraq to shut borders during election

3 GIs killed in fighting; Shia party office attack claims 2

REUTERS, AFP, Baghdad

Iraq said yesterday it would shut its land borders and bar traffic from getting close to voting centres over the Jan. 30 polls as insurgents targeted a Shia party office with a suicide bomb killing two Iraqis while three GIs were killed in separate incidents.

A statement from Iraq's election commission said land borders would be closed and strict restrictions declared on all vehicle traffic from Jan. 29-31, a set of extraordinary measures aimed at preventing a bloodbath on election day.

A suicide car bomber attacked a Baghdad office used by a major Shia party in the latest insurgent attack apparently aimed at stoking sectarian strife killing two other

people.
"A suicide bomber tried to drive into the Jadriyah office of SCIRI," Haitham al-Husseini, a spokesman for the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, told

Earlier three US soldiers were killed late Monday in restive Iraqi Sunni province Al-Anbar, the US military said in a statement yester-

day.
"A soldier assigned to the Marine Expeditionary Force died yesterday bringing to three the number of soldiers who died while conducting security and stability operations in the Al-Anbar Province," the statement said.

Officials said a candidate in the party list of Iraqi Prime Minister Ivad Allawi, a secular Shia who is fielding a separate slate, was killed in the city of Basra yesterday.

Iraqi Interior Minister Falah Nagib yesterday warned the country risked sliding into civil war if the Sunni Muslim minority boycotts the January 30 general elec-

"Failing to take part in the al-Sistani.

elections is tantamount to treason and will lead to a civil war and the division of the country," the minister told reporters.

"All Iraqis should take part in the elections as best they can. It is not crucial that they should vote, the important thing is that everyone participates," he said.

Naqib himself is a member of the Sunni Arab minority, which has threatened to boycott the

Some argue that elections are impossible amid relentless nationwide violence, others intend to boycott the vote in protest at the presence of foreign troops, while extremists oppose the very idea of a democratic system for Iraq and seek to create chaos.

The polls have divided Iraq, with most of the 60 percent Shia majority insisting the vote goes ahead to cement their political dominance after decades of oppression under Saddam Hussein, while many Sunni Arabs say the election should be delayed because of widespread violence.

A raging insurgency in Iraq's Sunni Arab heartland means that many Sunnis who want to vote say they are too afraid to do so. Several leading Sunni Arab parties say they will boycott the polls because the results will not be fair.

Sunni Arabs dominated the ruling class under Saddam, but many now fear losing influence, and the insurgency in Iraq is dominated by Sunnis. Last month, a suicide car bomb

at the SCIRI headquarters in Baghdad killed several people, and nearly 70 were killed in twin suicide bombings in the Shia holy cities of Najaf and Kerbala Insurgents have also attacked representatives of Iraq's most revered Shia cleric, Ayatollah Ali

Early probe in 'crossfire'

Rights and Governance: Local and Global Perspectives' in in the capital, organised by Manusher Jonno

dealt with, rather it depends on what treatment is meted out to the accused," he said.

Noted lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain and Rokia A Rahman, president of Women Entrepreneurs Association attended the function as special guests. Shaheen Anam, team leader

of Manusher Jonno, was in the chair. The former chief justice said that during the 'operation clean heart' more than 40 people died in custody.

"Instead of facing that uncomfortable situation boldly, we closed all doors of enquiry by passing an indemnity bill," he said. Dr Kamal Hossain expressed his

frustration over the prevailing law and order situation and said no case is taken at any police station without consultation. "I am saying this from my own

bar associations of the country," he Dr Kamal underscored unity of

all conscious people and raising their voices for the neglected ones. People could know the prevailing situation in the country if the

national mass media would spend only five per cent of their transmission time or even if 10 minutes a day to air the voices of general people, he

society to protect human rights, and to make the voices of the distressed A former adviser of caretaker government, Rokia hoped that

united efforts of many organisations would change policies and the mind-set. She also underscored social

responsibility of the corporate

their efforts would be fruitful if they could bring some changes in the

She thanked all concerned for making the conference a success. RECOMMENDATIONS

presenting a set of recommendations. According to the recommendations, there should be no extra judicial killing without trial, since freedom of judiciary and the government's willingness are enough to curb crime.

Poverty reduction strategic paper (PRSP) and Millennium Development Goal (MDG) should be taken into account while formulating government rules in establishing good governance and

Competent people, should be appointed judge in the higher court. Articles 33 and 35 of the constitution should be upheld to function criminal procedure. Any government move to violate the criminal procedure by forming

special forces like the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Cheetah and Cobra should be resisted. More women should be included

in economic activities.

Formation of an independent and accountable Election Commission is necessary to hold the country's election in a more transparent way. The government should take steps for free flow of electoral

transparency and dynamism in its administrative affairs to curb cor-

create public awareness and bridge existing divisions among the civil

Law enforces

FROM PAGE 12

drawn from paramilitary "We won't compromise with anyone, be it police or criminals, if

Babar told newsmen after the meet Battalion (Rab) and different intelligence agencies will be deployed to

prevent snatching of hides of sacrificial animals and special watch will be kept in Hazaribagh area, where the leather industries are mostly located, to resist toll collection. As a preventive measure to stop

toll collection on hides, the government has decided not to allow anybody to take hides outside the capi-

The state minister said he has ordered the law enforcers across the country to remain watchful about transactions of fake currencies ahead of the Eid.

collection compared to the previous records has been curbed, adding, out such crimes.

The meeting decided to deploy plain cloths police in front of 144 markets in the city to check mugging. Besides, Rab, BDR and police personnel have been ordered to patrol in 24 cattle markets, eight of those outside the capital.

meeting decided that the officersin-charge concerned will be held accountable for robbery incidents in any area. Inspector General of Police,

director generals of BDR and Rab, chiefs of different intelligence agencies and top officials of the ministry

ing tributes to the memory of Zia. 11 more cops delegation that also included its He said Ziaur Rahman, who major bar to proper implementation (MJ), an organisation working to research fellows Dr Ananya Raihan of the development projects. He said those who fail to get work became leader of the country during a FROM PAGE 12 promote human rights. serious crisis in 1975, restored democand Dr Uttam Kumar Deb. Governor departmental action will be taken "We often forget that the reputaof the Bangladesh Bank Dr order through the tender usually go to racyandensured freedom of press. after the investigation. Fakhruddin Ahmed, Finance Secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan, NBR the court and file an appeal against the tender process, and the court order tion of a country does not depend on "He then formed Bangladesh Other sources claimed the 11 how severely the miscreants are National Party (BNP) for uniting the

Chairman Khairuzzaman countrymen, giving priority to Chowdhury and Planning Secretary national interest," the president said. BNP has drawn up elaborate Fazlur Rahman aided the finance minister in the meeting held at the programmes, marking the birth

ment projects, tax evasions, corrup-tion among the government officials, and inadequate release of up-to-date data from the government on economic condition.

(Sylhet), there are many projects that have long been stagnant for the cases

in the court." While at the meeting Saifur said a decision was taken by the government to buy scanning equipment to check tax evasion, but the decision could not yet be implemented even after three

tation of development projects remain the major concern. He then referred to the power and health sectors where, he said, even the big projects are not

implemented properly.
"Though the country is faced with acute shortage of power, there is no

the health sector where the rate of implementation is very low. Acknowledging the poor perfor-

mance in ADP implementation, Saifur said the government has to work out

FROM PAGE 1 of Nimtoli village under Bandar Police Station of Chittagong, M Shahidul Haq of Horinamari in Polashbari of

M Sadek of Sadar upazila in Feni, M Yusuf Ali of Salamitila village in Sadar upazila of Moulvibazar, Ali Ahmed of Hazrat Alipara village in Pekua of Cox's Bazar, Ibrahim Khalil of Charfashion in Bhola, Nurul Karim of Dharmapur village in Laxmipur and Ali Ashraf Patwari of Khilgaon, M Nuruddin Bhuiyan of Sutrapur and Dost Mohammad of DCRoy Road in Dhaka.

different internal conflicts, which are a

stays of the project work until the case is disposed of An official of the ministry said the court has stayed even appointment of primary school teachers while

Asked about the reasons for poor ADP implementation performance even after regulation of the procurement, Safur said, "We are facing at least seven cases now against the regulation and some ministries are

"Government efforts are not in line with the moderate expansionary policy that is necessary to face the effects of last year's devastating flood," Debapriya observed.

remittance targets in the poverty reduction strategy (PRSP), the CPD official said, "We can earn more than the targets that have been fixed in the

export earning, growth and foreign

government on country's economic situation. They described it as a major problem in analysing the economic situation accurately and timely both

The finance minister assured them of taking steps to strengthen the activities of the Bangladesh Bureau of

Islamists attacked FROM PAGE 1

They took Shafiqullah to a magis-

trate's court yesterday, seeking a 15-

in future unless the organisers obtain police clearance first. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC-Revenue) M Rezaul Karim said, "Giving permission to arrange cultural programmes has been

clearance from police and the thana nirbahi officer (TNO), Karim added. Bogra Superintendent of Police Kazi Mortaz Ahmed said they have asked the district administration in a letter not to give permission to

Government, Rural development and Co-operatives, he added. The contractor soon got the ball

notice upon Mirza Abbas on October 6 last year for withdrawal of his statement within seven days. But the minister did not withdraw it, he

information. The government should bring

Proactive media are a must to

society.

owners during transportation of sacrificial cattle ahead of Eid ul Azha, sources said. An Assistant Inspector General of police will lead each committee while the two other members will be

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and the home ministry, sources said. they get involved in toll collection."

Babar said that Rapid Action

Babar said 80 percent of toll "We are trying to completely root

Expressing concerns over the recent increase of robbery, the

wintry day.

mutual consensus, later to be followed last two days on sharing the water of byaJRCmeeting.

Both the sides reiterated that the

On the Ganges water shortfall, he

"If our due share was protected on the Indian side, we would get the

other crops for the country's increasing population, MK Anwar MK Anwar said the government has initiated the process

use of manure and crop cultivation according to the nature of kits in 460 upazilas, the government is training the field level agriculture officers and farmers

rice were produced last fiscal year compared to 251.90 and 243 lakh tonnes in 2002-2003 and

ments in agriculture. government has the scope to give

Lack of agro-processing industries and preservation systems also discourages farmers and hampers better production of vegetables and other crops, he

has the capacity to preserve only 11 thousand tonnes of potato seeds whereas there is a need for 47 lakh tonnes. BADC and Directorate of

Ministry BMM Mozharul Haque was also present at the press

A fire gutted five godowns of Uttara Jute Traders with jute reportedly worth over Tk 4 crore in Daulatpur Rally Gate in the city

that were stated to be stacked at the Firefighters from the city's six units rushed to the spot and doused Political Secretary Harris

Agriculture seeks Zia's anniversary FROMPAGE 1 In a message on the occasion, President Iajuddin Ahmed paid glow-

> of setting up 11 soil testing laboratories to ensure balanced

in the use of natural manure. manure management and organic systems in agriculture. Referring to the increasing rice production every year, he said a total of 261.90 lakh tonnes of

nications, chairman of National 2001-2002 fiscal years respec-Board of Revenue (NBR) and the customs commissioner of Dhaka. Sources said the ACC formed an inquiry team to probe the mobile phone project early this month after receiving complaints that the

> subsidies up to as much as Tk 5,000 crore, but there is only Tk 600 crore subsidy for the agriculture sector.

Fire guts 5 jute

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

burnt 7,000 bales of export quality jute and 15,000 maunds raw jute

Chowdhury and Afroza Khan Rita, The origin of the fire could not be daughter of Harunor Rashid Khan known immediately. Monno, also addressed the meeting.

He urged private sector entrepreneurs to come up with invest-State Minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said that, according to the agreement with the World Trade Organisation, the

Mirza Fakhrul said the BADC

Agriculture Extension have plans to double the seed production and formulate a seed act, he Secretary to the Agriculture

godowns

the fire at 7:00pm.

The fire broke out at 4:10pm and

claim that they are the farmers'government. She mentioned that her government has given Tk 600 crore in farm subsidy while Awami League government gave Tk100 crore. Earlier, the prime minister inaugurated a housing scheme named Rita

Housing Project for poor and landless

people at Sultanpur near the meeting

venue. She handed over ownership

of land will accommodate 100 fami-

lies in ten tin-shed barracks, ten

The housing project on 4.11 acres

documents to ten poor families.

yard and community center.

families in each. The project complex which has a pond of 1.56-acre area and ten tube-wells involved around Tk 1.20 crore . Each family will get around 300-sqft area. The complex will have a grave-

The land was donated by former

minister Harunor Rashid Khan

Monno MP. Later, the prime minister distributed 30 cows among 15 families, two cows each, for poverty reduction under a Tk 50-lakh project of risk reduction in facing natural calamity in 13 unions of Harirumpur upazila. Communications Minister Nazmul Huda, Prime Minister's FROM PAGE 12

finance ministry. They exchanged views on reasons for slow implementation of develop-

"Hundreds of development projects have stalled due to court's injunctions," Saifur told the reporters after the meeting. Asked about the actual number of the projects, the minister said, "The number would be in hundreds, in my own district

years due to legal tangle Dr Debapriya said slow implemen-

investment in power sector to generate new power," Debapriya said. He said similar situation prevails in

18 Bangladeshi upazila of Rangpur, Abbas Ali of Patia Mathkhola in Kishoreganj, Shamsul Islam of Talipara in Thakurgaon,
Tofailuddin of Toftibag village in
Nabiganj of Habiganj, Abdun Noor of
Tatikona village in Biswanath and
Maolana Abdul Wahab of Balinga village in Bianibazar of Sylhet, Abdul Shukkur of Baksunagar in Bayejid Bostamati and M Lokman Sowdagar

In separate messages, State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharef Hossain Shahjahan and

Religious Affairs Secretary Rafiqul

Islam expressed deep sorrow at the

death of the pilgrims, according to a

PID handout.

ADP suffers on judicial

another said interference either political or in the form of a court order gets in the way of every government

Referring to the downsizing of

Bangladesh Bank and the finance ministry officials said that the IMF set the targets and they do not agree with CPD officials at the meeting also expressed dissatisfaction over the poor quality of data provided by the

for the government policymakers and

day remand. Police arrested Shafiqullah from a house in Gabtoli upazila and seized powerful explosives and bomb-making substances. Meantime, the district administration has recently stopped giving permission for any cultural function to take place on security grounds.

stopped on security grounds." The organisers will be given permission once they get security

security certificate.

Momtazuddin Mehedi and Samiul hold any programme without a Karim Alamgir moved the petition

FROM PAGE 12

experience and survey at different added.

Rokia called for collective efforts of private entrepreneurs and civil

Shaheen Anam of the MJ said

The three-day session concluded by

human rights. The role of the attorney general as an independent public prosecu-

tor is vital to keep the judiciary