Cultural outfits

operative Shafiqullah during an interrogation in police and JIC (Joint Interrogation Cell) custody.

The 26-year-old, arrested from a Jamatul Mujahidin's operative's house with a huge amount of explosives on January 16, claimed JMJB responsible for carrying out the wounded.

Shafiqullah, who fears being killed by JMJB's 'killing-squad' if released, also told police that only selected operatives were chosen for the bomb squad and received training on how to make and use explosive devices.

Although Shafiqullah denied his involvement in making the bombs hurled on the jatra show, he admitted while in police custody that he connected the electrical circuits to the bombs, police said.

He was even scolded by JMJB explosive expert Joynal and another operative Osman for his failure to fixing the circuits properly, said Shafiqullah. The bombs were supposed to explode within four seconds after throwing.

Shafiqullah, the eighth son of Maulana Azibullah of Courtpara village at Bandar upzila of Narayanganj, said Osman lives at Mirpur. Shafiqullah assumes from Osman's accent that his origin is

The arrestee also told police that a good number of operatives from the Chapainawabganj, Bogra and Jamalpur units are capable of making bombs.

Shafiqullah also named a couple of Joynal's close associates, includ-

ing one Hamid, his neighbour, and a female student of Arabic department in Rahshahi University. Both are members of the militant organisation Jamatul Mujahidin, the former name of JMJB, Shafiqullah said, adding that he himself is a newly recruited member of the

On training camps, Shafiqullah named a Charshi Madrasa at Nayapara under Jamalpur district, formed by JMJB chief Abdur Rahman. Although Shafiqullah himself took yoga lessons at another madrasa, he said many operatives were trained in Charshi

A top Bogra police official said they are certain of the presence of a strong JMJB camp at Bogra, which is located in the east of the district.

The police official also told reporters that some JMJB operatives, arrested while making heavy explosives at the Bonarpara Rail Station in Gaibandha, named a teacher of Bogra Government Azizul Hoque College as a JMJB operative. The teacher is kept under police watch, he added.

rogation that they were making the bombs to hurl at a music concert of Mamtaj, which was supposed to be held at Bogra Stadium.

Police could not file a case against Shafiqullah and others under the explosives act, since they have failed to receive a report from the army on the explosives recovered from Gabtali village on January 16.

week examined evidence on the Gabtali Police Station premises and confirmed that materials found there were explosive.

'The past record of the BNP and the BNP-Jamaat regimes with regard to investigations of attacks on the Awami League do not give us any confidence in their capability or interest in finding out my father's

"It has not escaped anyone's attention that the target of the bomb attacks is the Awami League, Each investigation appears to fizzle out --

responses to the carefully orchestrated August 21 attacks on Sheikh Hasina is another sign of its ill intent or at the very least, gross incompe-

tence, he said. Refuting the press report that Prime Minister (PM) Khaleda Zia had asked for permission to visit them but did not receive any response, Reza said, "No permission united to visit a here However, in any case we do not

know of any such request."

than any such gesture and a few meaningless phrases would be real action on her (PM) part to bring the killers of his father to justice.

be no need to come to us -- we ourselves would go to her office to thank her," he added.

cerned to suspend holding of the 13th Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) summit.

"My father wrote the original position paper that led to the formation of Saarc. We feel that at this time it is inappropriate to hold such a summit, hosted by a failed government led by a group of people who have lost the moral authority to govern this country," he said.

Expressing grave concern over the deterioration of the law and order in the country, he said, "No one is safe under this government and there is real fear in every house."

former finance minister, called ism and said, "Now I have nothing to do but make a relentless effort to fight against anarchy and injustice."

the suspension will affect the

Police are yet to make any arrest in

connection with the bombing.

Police and other law enforcing

agencies said they were working to

hunt down the suspects but had no

or robbery that we'll arrest the

suspects immediately after the

incident," said DIG Haque. "This is

a case of international import and

we want to arrest any one only

after being sure of his or her

Mostofa Kamal, deputy commis-sioner (traffic) of Chittagong

Metropolitan Police, reached the

town yesterday but did not take

charge as the new SP of Habiganj

handed over the charge to the

additional SP of the district.

Suspended SP Khan earlier had

If enforced next week, the three-

The AL will declare its fresh

day hartal may coincide with the

13th Saarc Summit scheduled for

programmes today after consulting

allied opposition parties, with

whom it is running a simultaneous

other opposition parties before

declaring fresh programmes," AL

presidium member Suranjit

Sengupta yesterday told The Daily

Abdul Jalil in a press briefing said AL

chief Hasina will declare the fresh

However, AL General Secretary

Meantime, Jatiya Samajtantrik

"We'll discuss the issue with

oust-government movement.

involvement," he added.

NEW SPYET TO JOIN

until 8:00pm yesterday.

Next week

more public participation.

FROM PAGE 12

February 6-7.

programmes.

This is not a case of petty theft

success till yesterday evening.

NOARREST

US wants FROM PAGE 1

FBI to remain with the local investigators 'until or unless an effective

investigation is finished'. The government on Saturday asked the US for FBI assistance in probing last Thursday's Habiganj grenade attacks and the US is currently considering the request, said

"For such assistance to be useful, we believe it would be important for the government to establish clear terms of reference and to make other provisions to ensure that FBI consultants are given full access to all relevant evidence and witnesses," the spokesman said.

"If such terms of reference had been established prior to the involvement of foreign consultants of the August 21 attack, their contribution to the investigation might have been more meaningful," the spokesman added.

"In both cases, the August 21 and the January 27 attacks, the potential utility of the FBI assistance was greatly undermined when the crime scene was not properly protected from contamination," said the

Meanwhile, a two-member Interpol team who arrive today to investigate the August 21 grenade attacks would also be requested by the government to probe Habiganj grenade attack, Ashraful Huda, nspector General of Police, said.

He said not a single perpetrator of Thursday's grenade attack has been caught. The attack killed former finance minister SAMS Kibria and four others.

Earlier, US State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said on Friday, "The failure to bring to ustice the perpetrators of acts of political violence fosters an intimidating climate of insecurity and impunity that encourages further

Bangla Bhai

Bangladesh as well to fight the 'con-spiracies of Kafirs' and retain 'the glory of Muslims'.

People were leafleted also to come up with any sort of help for these organisations to accelerate the prepa-

"Muslims are cornered everywhere in the world because they are not resorting to arms," the leaflets

Hinting at the United States, it said Kafirs (infidels) are now out to wipe Muslims off the face of the earth. The jihadist organisations across the world are working relentlessly to fight the infidels, it continued.

The leaflet circulation by the JMJB has caused widespread fear among the locals that Bangla Bhai men might start atrocities afresh

Meanwhile, JMJB men failed to hold a scheduled rally at Hamirkutsa Primary School field yesterday morning as police, already tipped off, cor-doned off the area, said locals. Later over 100 JMJB cadres from different areas sat a meeting at the house of Mostafizur Rahman Montu

at Hamirkutsa Bazar, said a witness. ABM Golam Kibria, officer-incharge of Bagmara Police Station, however, said they were deployed in the Hamirkutsa Bazar for hartal, not

for any scheduled rally of any outfit. IMIB Bagmara chapter chief Abdus Sattar Mastar and 24 others, who were arrested on January 24 for assault on police, were taken on a four-day police remand from Saturday. Earlier on Friday, the second in command of Bangla Bhai's operations squad Mustafizur Rahman Mustaque was arrested on charge of the assault.

AL to boycott JS session

parliament complex in protest against the speaker's refusal.

In accordance with the constitution President Iajuddin Ahmed will address at the commencement of the session after the adoption of an obituary reference, says the day's order finalised by the speaker yesterday while the AL had demanded to defer the address to the second

"As the speaker has declined to uphold the convention of this subcontinent by adjourning the parliament following adoption of an obituary reference on a lawmaker's death, we will not join today's sitting," AL Presidium Member Suranjit Sengupta said in a press briefing yesterday. "Our joining the session from the

next day will depend on the speaker's behaviour," he added.

The AL presidium, the highest policy making body of the party, yesterday discussed the present

Leader of the Opposition and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will consult her deputies before taking a decision on continuation of the House boycott, sources

The speaker yesterday finalised the day's business without realising the opposition's demand to defer the presidential speech to the second day. The day's order says the first sitting of the session will deal with nomination of panel chairmen, submission of an ordinance, adoption of an obituary reference and presidential address

However, the session is likely to be adjourned for sometime after adopting the obituary reference. The Business Advisory Committee (Bac) will decide the time of the adjournment and allocate other pieces of business to be dealt with in

Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar earlier said there is no scope for

deferring the presidential address as the constitution says the president will address at the commencement of the first session of the year.

AL lawmakers, meanwhile, have demanded holding discussions on Habiganj carnage, killings in socalled crossfire by Rab violating human rights, government's alleged patronage to Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh, fate of the August 21 grenade attacks probe, and constitutional vacuum in absence of the

Demanding discussions on the issues adjourning the scheduled business of the House, AL lawmakers have already submitted 39 notices to parliament secretariat.

After the August 21 grenade attacks, the main opposition had demanded holding discussions on the incident adjourning the scheduled business of the House. The speaker allowed a general discussion which was boycotted by the AL

Panic driving kills

Rahman.

carrying the garment workers was driving very fast in panic, seeing a group of pickets setting fire to another

about at 8:50pm, the driver lost control and hit a running Rab motorbike. JahangirtoldThe DailyStar. Senior Rab Warrant Officer Lutfor

Rahman, 40, who was riding the bike, died on the spot and Corporal Alam was badly injured. Overturning, the bus then hit a

police pickup parked nearby, injuring Constable Rahman, before smashing into an adjacent police box. The Rab corporal and the police constable were admitted to a local

Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared two of them dead. Fourteen of the injured workers --Yusuf, Janu, Hossain, Yasin, Jaman, Ruby, Mitu, Sabina, Jahangir, Hosne

Ara, Razia, Enamul Khan, Mamun Reza and Anwara -- were admitted at the DMCH and the rest were released Airport police took the bus in their

custody. Police failed to confirm whether the bus driver is among the

Manmohan

people of Bangladesh and many of his well-wishers in both the coun-

Manmohan conveyed his deepest sympathy to Kibria's bereaved family members.

BNP accuses AL

FROM PAGE 12

Bhuiyan urged the main opposi-tion to withdraw its 'destructive' programmes like hartal and cooperate with the government in investigating, identifying and hunt-ing down the killers of the AL leader.

FROM PAGE 12

'We've not recommended any increase for the pensioners," he said, explaining what he meant by zero percent increase.

They had an hour-long meeting with Saifur, who noted that if the

Saifur told reporters after the meeting, "In the past, Pay Commission recommendations were implemented in instalments."

He added that the Commission also believes the government can implement the recommendations in two or three instalments considering its own financial strength.

make a few last minute corrections and hold a meeting with all the commission members, Saifur said. The Commission will submit the

report after four to five days.

Poor victim FROM PAGE 12

Unknown assailants bombed rickshawpuller Mafizul Islam to death near Mirpur section-1 roundabout Saturday night. He left his house in Duaripara in Pallabi with a rented rickshaw and was awaiting passengers when the assailants threw a bomb from a nearby building.

A worker of a garment factory, Mafiz had to pull a rickshaw at night to feed his wife and nine-month-old son. "They had no food at home. He

assured his wife that he'd return with food. Ultimately, they received his body," Mafiz's brother Mokbul told reporters at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital vesterday. CNG-run autorickshaw driver

as two youths threw petrol and two home-made bombs at his vehicle in Dholaipar in Shyampur at about 12:50pm yesterday. His vehicle was completely destroyed.

Six people including a teenage in Chankharpool in Ramna.

Police go too harsh

remained crippled for the second consecutive day of the hartal enforced by AL and its allies in protest against Thursday's grenade attack in Habigan that killed former minister Shah AMS Kibria and four AL activists.

The shutdown that ends at 6:00pm today, also disrupted road communication and train services across the country yesterday.

At least four minibuses and one CNG autorickshaw were set ablaze and another 10 vehicles were damaged in the capital while a taxicab was

set on fire in Manikganj. In the evening, unknown people set fire to a bus at Sector 7 of suburban Uttara, a microbus at the commercial hub of Dilkusha and a private car at Agargaon in the capital. Later in the night, a mob set ablaze another bus near the PWD quarters at Sobhanbagh.

On Bailey Road, unknown miscreants blasted a bomb in front of an office of National Security Intelligence (NSI), but no injury was

The police yesterday picked up over 100 people from different parts of the country, 40 of them from the capital where the law-enforcers tried to foil every attempt to stage demonstration on the streets. A correspondent from Laxmipur

reports: A tempo driver identified as Mohammad Ibrahim was killed and four others injured as the threewheeler turned turtle when trying to escape an attack by hartal supporters in the district.

Witnesses said the accident occurred at Abirampur in Ramganj upazila at noon as the driver lost control of it when the pickets threw stones at the vehicle. The threewheeler was on its way to Dalalbazar from Ramgani

LAWMAKERS COME UNDERATTACK

The police stopped an AL procession led by a dozen AL lawmakers near Kalabagan bus stand at about 11:30am. When the AL leaders asked them why they were intercepting the peaceful procession, the police started peating them up.

AL lawmakers Nasim and Ekabber fell to the ground and sustained head injuries. Both were rushed to Samarita Hospital in a newspaper vehicle.

The police also swooped on the photojournalists who were taking snaps of the police action. Witnesses police Sergeant Shafiqul first hurled abuse on the journalists. When they protested his behaviour, the lawenforcers clubbed them.

"Mohammad Nasim is being kept on artificial ventilator as he has been suffering from respiratory problems after receiving the injuries," said a doctor at Samarita Hospital. Both Nasim and Ekabbar are however out of

danger, he added. The photojournalists injured in the police beating are Shamsul Haque Tenku of the Bhorer Kagoj, Azizur Rahim Peu of the Ittefaq, Hasanuzzaman Tarun of the Janakantha, Rahamat Ali of Ajker Kagoj and James

of Bangladesh Today. Police picked up ten AL activists, including two women, from the spot.

After the incident, the AL lawmakersheldarallyat Russell Square.

The police charged batons and lobbed teargas shells to disperse an opposition procession at Nawabpur Road near the local ward unit AL office at about 10:00am, prompting the pickets to throw brickbats at the law-

At least 30 people were injured during the hour-long clash. The dem-onstrators damaged several vehicles and rickshaws on the North South Road during the clash.

As the protestors took out small processions in Tantibazar, Bangsal, Alauddin Road areas, the police in a more aggressive mood resorted to indiscriminate baton-charge on the pickets and pedestrians in the lanes and by-lanes of the areas. VEHICLESSETABLAZE

Miscreants set fire to a bus at Chankhalpool at 4:00pm. The police said the miscreants boarded the bus in the guise of passengers and set it on fire injuring six passengers. They were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) with burn

The miscreants set fire to another two buses at Dainik Bangla intersection and near Muktangon at about 11:15am in the same way. Nobody was injured in the incidents. The police however arrested one

Amir Hossain who claimed himself a hotel staff. He was nabbed while assisting the firefighters to douse the fire, witnesses said At about 1:30pm, some people set

ablaze another bus at Shahbag. A CNG autorickshaw came under arson attack by pickets at Dholaipar at

around 12:50pm. They also blasted two crackers when the autorickshaw driver tried to run away from the The vehicle was gutted and the

driver Souray, 25, received burns in the face, hands and body.

Some people tried to set fire to a petrol pump near the Matsya Bhaban at about 2:20pm, but the pump employees foiled the arson attempt.

The pickets damaged a minibus

Suicide attacks FROM PAGE 12

Baghdad, three people and the bomber died, police said. And in a fourth, at another school

in eastern Baghdad, a suicide bomber killed himself and at least three others. Another five people died in other suicide attacks. Also, a suicide bomber blew

himself up near the home of Iraq's iustice minister in western Baghdad in an apparent assassination attempt.

The rest were killed in shootings and explosions in several communi-

ties north of Baghdad.

Overall, eight of the 36 people killed were suicide bombers.

In addition, three people were killed when mortars landed near a polling station in Sadr City.

Several policewomen dragged two female AL activists onto a police van at-Fakirerpool at about 11.50am after beating them mercilessly, witnesses

near the Town Hall in Mohammadpur

in the morning injuring two passen-gers -- one woman and a child.

The police stopped several processions brought out by AL leaders and activists in different parts of the capital

PROCESSIONS STOPPED

trains were damaged as pickets staged a violent protest in Rajshahi during the hartal yesterday, our staff correspon-dent from Rajshahi reports.

drivers and employees.

Railway officials said the protestors damaged the engines and compartments of Barendra Express, Titumeer Express, Uttara Express and chananda Express. The pickets also pelted stones at a local train at Iswardi junction in Pabna.

The demonstrators picked up Assistant Stationmaster Shaffullah from Rashidpur station in Sylhet after locking his office at about 10:30am,

The police later rescued the stationmaster and restored the train service. The incident delayed the Parabat Express on Dhaka-Sylhet routebyonehour.
The Mymensingh-bound

Egarosindur Express train was stopped by mobs at Manik Khada station near Bhairab for half-an hour. REPORTS FROM DISTRICTS

in clashes between the police and hartal supporters in Habiganj district The protestors threw brickbats at the deputy commissioner's office and attempted to attack Sadar Police

The AL activists assaulted two journalists from Dhaka -- Razib Noor of the daily Prothom Alo and Nizamul Haq Bipul of daily Manabzamin -while they were on their professional

duty in Habigani vesterday. their identity cards and damaged their motorcycle. Some AL leaders rushed

to the spot and rescued them. Our Sylhet correspondent says; The police arrested five leaders of Sylhet district Juba Mahila League

Swarna, Organising Secretary Ksho Rani Dey, and members Shamima Begum and Rehana Begum. In Chittagong, the police barred the hartal supporters from holding any demonstration and kept the city AL office at Darul Fazar Market under

lock and key for about four hours from 7.30am with a few party leaders trapped inside.

The police also picked up 12 activ ists from in front of the AL office. Protesting the police actions, the opposition activists vandalised four

vehicles in Station Road and DC Hill areas, our staff correspondent reports

peacefully, barring some stray incidents in the divisional city.
In Khulna, the police picked up 15 opposition leaders and workers

luding the Sadar thana AL general Unidentified miscreants set fire to

In Mymensingh, the opposition activists damaged a truck and five human-hauliers in the town. The police arrested five activists during the

In Netrakona, at least 15 opposi-tion men were injured in a clash between the police and hartal activists when police swooped on an AL rally at Machuabazar in the town in the after-

Drug policy okayed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

drafts of Drug Control (Amendment) Act 2005 and Seeds (Amendment) Bil The cabinet meeting also

endorsed an agreement on cultural co-operation between Bangladesh This is the second drug policy. The

The new policy contains a pro posal to recognise 'alternative (ayurvedic and homoeopathic) medi-

"If the new policy is implemented, local pharmaceutical products will get a boost," Health Secretary A F M Sarwar Kamal told the Daily Star last night. Under the new policy, direct foreign investment in the pharmaceu-

ment measures including fines for those responsible for producing fake drugs and adulteration of medicine. The draft policy will be sent to the law ministry soon forreview before

One-day series

FROM PAGE 1 Tigers, who came back from two-nil

down to level the series 2-2 with an empathic 58-run victory at the same venue on Saturday night. Bangladesh Television and ESPN

will telecast the grand finale live from the Big Bowl at 9 am.

bomb attack on a jatra (folklore drama) show at Laxikola village of Shahjahanpur upazila on January 14, in which one was killed and 40

The arrestees said under inter-

An explosives expert team last

Kibria's son wants

the killers of my father's colleagues Ahsanullah Master and Ivy Rahman and many others have gone unpunished." The government's inadequate

He said much more important

under the explosives act -- filed in connection with the attack that had killed Shah AMS Kibria and four others, besides injuring some

70 people at Boidder Bazar. When we came to know about their [SP's and OC's] steps and method of probe, we hoped the culprits behind the attack would be caught this time," Habiganj District AL President Mushfique Hossain Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday. "So, we were stunned at their suspension," he said, adding they don't believe what the government has handed

out as the reason -- negligence in Mushfique Chowdhury said they had asked the government earlier to suspend the deputy commissioner of the district for a range of corruption and irregularities, but the government paid no heed. "Whereas, now it suspends two officers who have been moving on the right track towards

nabbing the culprits," he noted with sarcasm. "There is no doubt, the suspension were aimed at ensuring that the probe into the tragedy does not advance in the right direction," he

District AL Organising Secretary Abdul Mazid Khan is also hopeless about the police probe: "Studying the overall situation, I apprehend that this incident, too, will remain unresolved like the previous ones." But Sylhet Range Deputy Inspector General (DIG) AKM

Mahfuzul Haque thinks otherwise.

He said, "I'm hopeful that we'll be able this time to uncover the mystery." However he did not disclose the reason for his belief. He also avoided commenting on the suspension of his subordinates, saying, "The decision came

from the ministry. Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Habiganj Municipality BNP President Aminur Rashid Emran supported the suspension. "I think the decision is right, as police

If she had done this there would He urged the authorities con-

Asma Kibria, wife of the deceased

BTRC top posts

SP, OC suspended process for appointments at the BTRC, a key official of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications said. He, however, declined to say whether the incumbent officials local MP." He also does not think

would get extension or not. The MoPT has sent a file to the PMO but no decision has yet been made, a PMO source said. It was the last day of office also for QM Farooq, who served as the vicechairman and commissioner, system and service, Khandokar Abu Bakar, commissioner, legal and

commissioner in charge of engi-neering and operation, has been hospitalised since last week following a heart attack. The post of commissioner, spectrum management, has been vacant since February 17 last year after NH Chowdhury had joined in a UNDP

licensing. M Rezaul Haque, the

project as consultant for capacity building of the BTRC officials. 3 outlaws killed

FROM PAGE 12 admitted his involvement with the outfit and possessing firearms hidden at various locations in Singhoria village. Police left for Singhoria to

recover the firearms at about 4:00am. When they reached Singhoria field, Janajuddho operatives fired on them, resulting in an hour-long gunfight. While trying to escape from the police van, Idrish got caught in 'crossfire'

Police seized a revolver and five

and died on the spot, policesaid.

bullets from the spot.

IS body worried FROM PAGE 12 to step up activities of the national detective agencies. It also observed that both military and civil agencies had become inactive and failed to

discharge their duties. The parliamentary body had asked the government to better equip the detective agencies. At yesterday's meeting, the committee discussed the activities of the Bangladesh Machine Tools

Factory at Khulna Shipyard. AL lawmakers and members of the committee did not attend the meeting while the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party law-

Cabinet body okays

proposal that was accompanied with a number of explanations to justify BTTB's decision. The committee felt that the proposal needs 'a lengthy discussion' to get the nod. Further discussion on it is likely in the next meeting, the sources said.

Although the cabinet committee earlier had raised questions about both the projects, it approved the 9.40 million-dollar project yesterday. The cabinet division earlier found that BTTB had bypassed all procedures while sealing this 're-

peat order deal' (telecoms gear) with

China National Machinery Equipment Import and Export Corporation (CMEC). In 1999, the BTTB had signed a \$ 202.89 million supplier's credit contract with CMEC to roll out 216,000 telephones in 58 district headquarters. When BNP came to power in 2001, its white paper on corruption alleged that \$17.28 million had been siphoned from the deal. In March 2002, now defunct Bureau of Anti-corruption filed a

graft case against the former finance

and telecommunications ministers and officials. While the Bac was processing the charge sheet, the BTTB initiated the 5 9.40 million negotiated repeat order under supplier's credit. The cabinet division objected to the purchase saying it violates the Public Procurement Regulations that restrict use of supplier's credit

to finance any purchase.

found no justification as to why BTTB should approach CMEC for such a purchase. The BTTB yesterday defending its decision said that they made the al with CMEC a year before the Public Procurement Regulations had come into effect. The original

Besides, it detected some other

serious violations of procedures and

lations were not applicable, it Barapukuria Coal Mine Contract

some of the existing rules and regu-

In another decision, the purchase committee approved a Petrobangla proposal to award Production, Management and Maintenance contract of the Barapukuria Coal

Mine to the second lowest bidder,

Chinese company CMEC. The

lowest bidder, another Chinese

company CSLGC, had signed a contract with Petrobangla in April last year, but failed to honour it and the work for coal mine stalled.

CMEC would start coal produc-

tion from April. According to the Petrobangla proposal, CMEC would produce 4.75 million tons of coals in 71 months at the rate of US \$17.32 per ton. The government would pay in total \$55 million or Tk 157 crore in foreign exchange for the coal pro-

duction during this period. The management, production and maintenance of the coal mine would cost the CMECTk 493 crore.

Agenda setting

started to fly in from six other Saarc member states. The programming committee meeting will be followed by the 31st Standing Committee meeting, comprising foreign secretaries, on February 3-4. The 26th Council of Ministers, comprising foreign min-

isters of the Saarc nations, will be held on February 5. Meanwhile, State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar told The Daily Star last night, "We feel the security measures taken so cient. But we'll monitor the proceedings more closely in the wake of Thursday's incident."

deal was signed back in 1999 when Opposition crackdown

have already held informal group meetings on the issue and will sit with the prime minister soon to

decide the post-Saarc summit antiopposition measures. Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, several other BNP leaders confirmed the government's plan to launch a massive crackdown on opposition activists in Dhaka and other important cities, as intelligence agencies have reported 'heinous conspiracies' to create anarchy by killing eminent persons to speed

up the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition's

The government also has the

intelligence that the main opposi-

tion Awami League is "desperate to unseat it unconstitutionally, with supports from abroad, even at the cost of widespread anarchy," a BNP policymaker said. He claimed, "The Awami League has hatched the conspiracy to use violence to trigger off anti-government backlash ahead of the

well as toppling the coalition government.' According to BNP sources, the government has kept all lawenforcing and intelligence agencies on high alert to avert any untoward incident before and during the summit. It also instructed all the authorities concerned to come up with information about the opposition's future plans.

They said police have been

Saarc summit aimed at foiling it as

instructed to show 'zero tolerance' against pickets during the ongoing hartal, adding it will be 'minus tolerance' after the Saarc meet. They have also been asked to seal all city roads to prevent the opposition from taking out any procession before or during the summit, home ministry sources said. Besides, the BNP has directed all of its units to take preparations to hold rallies, processions and other

counter-offensive against any

violent opposition move "If necessary, opposition activists, who want to damage the law and order, will be kept confined to their houses," said a senior BNP

The law-enforcers have received instructions to file foolproof cases against AL activists charging them with violence, arson and ransacking of property. Plans are also underway to revive frozen cases against opposition leaders to quell their antigovernment initiatives, sources

EU wants FROM PAGE 1 ALactivists.

ment added.

terrorism are not acceptable. They also asked the government to take urgent measures to build up confidence with opposition parties and the civil society. We shared our deep concern that the apparent failure to investigate similar previous attacks had led

to a climate of impunity," the state-

assured us of leaving no stone

unturned in pursuing the killers of

Mr Kibria," British High

Commissioner Anwar Choudhury

told reporters after the EU mission

'The foreign minister has

In a statement, the mission chiefs

urged the government to show its

commitment that acts of political

heads handed over the statement to Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan. The minister reiterated that the government is fully aware of its responsibilities to the citizens. "The prime minister has ordered a thorough and full investigation into the incident so that the perpetrators are brought to justice."

Asked if they were satisfied with

the government response, German Ambassador Dietrich Andreas said, "If the government finds out the

Alam and Police Constable Ataur

One of the wounded workers, Jahangir, said the driver of the Dhakabound bus (Dhaka Metro Ja 11-2215)

bus in Gazipur. "When he reached the ZIA round-

clinic while 22 garment workers were rushed to Dhaka Medical College and

FROM PAGE 12 Bangladesh were of a high order. "Fle also played a significant role in promoting ties between India and Bangladesh," the Indian premier said. Kibria's death is a loss to the

homebound pilgrims," he said.

Saifur

Commission's recommendations demand a huge cost, "we'll stagger the implementation."

The Pay Commission was scheduled to submit its report to the prime minister today. But it now wants to delay the submission, as it wants to

Syed Sourav suffered serious burns

girl suffered burns yesterday afternoon when criminals disguised as

thecapital.

Life and economic activities

When the police intercepted a procession near Muktangon and did not allow the protestors to move forward, they staged an hour-long sit-

TRAINS DAMAGED Several railway employees were injured and some local and inter-city

The demonstrators pelted brickbats on every train entering the Abdulpur junction and beat up the

At least 50 opposition activists and four policemen were injured yesterday

Rapid Action Battalion and para-military Bangladesh Rifles patrolled all day long in the town where the AL brought out several processions.

The opposition men snatched

during the second day of the 60-They are president of distric Mahila League Naznin Akhtar acting General secretary Tasmih

from the port city.
Our Rajshahi correspondent says: The second day of the hartal passed off

taxicab after beating its driver on Dhaka-Paturia highway near Manikganjtownatabout 12:45am.

The cabinet yesterday approved the National Drug Policy 2005 and the

firstone was approved in 1982.

tical sector will be allowed, he added. It also dictates stringent punish

being tabled in parliament.

country to frustrate the opposition's Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haque culprits of these terrible acts, of move to take control of the street. Inu yesterday told The Daily Star course, it will prove that his makers and members of the compassengers attempted to set fire to a Party insiders said BNP adherents (Morshed) statement was correct; that they will sit today to finalise the mittee and the chiefs of the army bus, pouring flammable liquid on it will also be instructed to go for a and we're hoping for that." next course of agitation. and the navy were present.

political programmes across the