Bangladeshi mother

FROM PAGE 1 reported that Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) investigators had discovered the suicide bombing plot on a computer records of Internet chats between the girls.

In the NYT report, Nina Bernstein described how for years, the father of the Bangladeshi teenage girl watched his daughter became more and more drawn to the family's religion Islam. At 14, she began wearing a full-length veil and teaching religion classes at mosques around the city.

A year ago, she withdrew from her Manhattan high school because, a school official said, she felt uncomfortable with typical teenage banter. She told her family she wanted to go to an Islamic all-girls school, and when they could not afford to send her, she chose to study at home.

The father, a Bangladeshi watch salesman, told the NYT that during last fall his daughter sought the parents' approval to marry a young American Muslim they had never met and whom she barely knew. The father refused the marriage overtures, which were made by the young man's father in a call from Michigan

The NYT report said, a few months later, when the teenager stayed out overnight for the first time the father, fearing an elopement went to the police for help. The father now deeply regrets that decision as his daughter and another 16-yearold girl are being held in an immigra-tion detention centre in to the police set off the FBI investigation that led to a chilling assertion, in government document, that the girls are "an imminent threat to the security of the United States based on evidence that they plan to be suicide bombers.'

The document, provided to the NYT by a federal agent on Wednesday, did not describe the nature of the evidence. Yesterday, after repeated inquiries by the NYT, officials from several agencies involved in the investigation, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the FBI and the New York Police Department, did not make any comment on the case.

Little is known about the second 16-year-old. The mother of the Bangladeshi girl, conveying her daughter's account, said the two girls met for the first time at 26 Federal Plaza after her daughter's arrest. But when the other girl, a Guinean who facing deportation with her family, noticed her daughter's veil. she gave her a traditional Muslim greeting, and federal agents seemed to think they were friends. The second girl ended up in the Pennsylvania detention center, too.

A bond hearing in the Bangladeshi girl's case was due to be held on April 8 morning in York Pa., but the government has asked that it be closed, based on a motion by Krista Stanton, supervisory special agent in the counter-terrorism section of the FBI's New York office. The case underscores the difficulties faced by anyone who is charged only with civil immigration violations, but is in fact being held in a counter-terrorism investigation, lawyers said.

There are no firm time limits on immigration detention, so the burden is on the girls to prove that they are not potential suicide bombers rather than on the government to prove they are. Indeed, the evidence is withheld from the girls and anyone who represents them under a "protective order" that FBI investigators obtained from the immigra tion court, according to an April 1 motion to continue the secrecy signed by Jeffrey T. Bubier, assistant chief counsel for the Department of Homeland Security in Philadelphia, the NYT report said.

"The FBI has an important and substantial interest in safeguarding the information," Mr Bubier's motion stated. "to protect national security law and enforcement interests." To release it, he said, "places investigative strategies and methods at substantial risk."

The girls have no right to a courtappointed lawyer, and according to the government document that described the Guinean girl, her family had not retained one.

The Bangladeshi girl's father, who sells cheap watches wholesale he said, earns less than \$16,000 a year, hired a New York immigration lawyer for \$2,500. But the lawyer declined to attend her first hearing, according to a motion he filed seeking to handle the matter "telephonically," because of "time constraints."

Another lawyer was being sought for the hearing.
In an interview at the Islamic Center of North America in Queens,

the Bangladeshi girl's mother said that her daughter had experienced problems over her religion at the ligh School for Environmenta Studies in Manhattan, which led her to her enrolment in a Georgia-based correspondence course. She said the girl had sometimes come home crying from because of upsetting

But the parent coordinator at the school, Karen Hundley, said that students at the school come from many ethnic and religious backgrounds and get along very well.
"She didn't mingle," Ms. Hundley

remarks, some directed at her

Islamic dress, the NYT reported.

said, adding that the school tried to accommodate the girl's religious principles. When she needed a photo ID, for example, the parent coordinator took the picture without man in the room.

But though the girl earned many

good grades, according to a transcript provided by her parents, she did not seem to bear the give-andtake of a coeducational high school Ms. Hundley said. She cited an incident in which the teenager stayed home for days last year after hearing two girls discussing a boyfriend. "A lot of things other kids did offended her sense of religion," Ms. Hundley said, citing jokes about movies and an ethics class that mentioned condoms. At the same time, Ms. Hundley said that nothing about the girl's behavior or com-ments was ever threatening, the NYT report went on.

A 17-year-old girl who spoke on ondition that she be identified only by her first name, Shahela, said she, too, had opted for home schooling and was "very close" to the Bangladeshi girl. She called the notion that her friend could be recruited as a suicide bomber a terrible mistake.

Their three-year friendship, she said, revolved around their devotion to Islam, prompted both women to learn Arabic and to teach classes on Islam to young women at two city mosques. "We talked about wha was going on in Palestine, suicide bombings, and I know she's completely against it," Shahela said.

To the mother of the

Bangladeshi girl, the whole sequence of events seems unreal. She recalled how her daughter had brother, and helped care for other siblings, 14 and 11. Her daughter she said, told her during a brief detention visit that FBI interrogators had warned that unless she confessed to terrorist ties, her two youngest siblings, who are Ámerican citizens, would be placed in foster care and her parents sent back to Bangladesh without them, the NYT said.

Token hunger FROM PAGE 16

into the August 21 grenade attack and Ahsanullah Master MP murder

All the leaders and activists of the organisation wore shrouds in the ogramme held at Muktangan.

Asma Kibria, wife of slain AL leader SAMS Kibria, said the government is not sincere in probing the AL leader Motia Chowdhury

blamed the government for patronising terrorism and called for intensifying the oust-government move-

leader Sultan Mohammad Mansoor, Advocate Sahara Khatun and brother in-law of Kibria Abdul Musabbir also spoke.

/ engineers

the Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao The other programme alongside the banquet was also seriously hampered by the electricity cut off and the dysfunction of the air cooler system even when power supply

The suspended are superintendent engineers Shamsuzzoha Chowdhury and Abdur Rab Nishtar executive engineers AHM Igramul Haque Chowdhury and GMM Kamal Pasha, sub-divisional engineers Shamsuddoha and Lutful Aziz, sub-assistant engineer Md Nazrul Islam and electrical assistant M Quamrul Hassan.

A committee headed by a joint secretary of Housing and Public Works Ministry was formed to probe the matter, said a press release

Professionals join

Awami League, is contesting the May 9 CCC polls under the banner of Chattagram Nagorik Committee for the third consecutive time.

Abu Yusuf Alam, former Pro-VC of Chittagong University, are cochairman and secretary

Like in the past, Nagorik Committee has been campaigning for Mohiuddin right from the beginning. It already held a public rally at Laldighi Maidan on March 29 and announced Mohiuddin Chowdhury as its candidate.

ruling alliance-nominated mayoral candidate Mir Mohammad Nasir, is running a door-to-door mass contact programme The Parishad yesterday carried

and president of Chittagong city unit

Parishad.

Leaders of the Parishad yesterday for the first time campaigned in public. They, however, already did a lot of leafleting for Mir Nasir. Parishad's leaflets highlight mainly comparisons between what Mir Nasir and Mohiuddin did during their stints as city mayor.

Bakolia, which is widely regarded as a stronghold of BNP, was kept out of development programmes while its people were deprived of civic amenities in the last ten years. He said that if elected, he would upgrade Bakolia to a sub-city. Bakolia with some two lakh voters has always been a deciding factor in the CCC

ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury mpaign at Enayet Bazar area.

Jiabao invites Khaleda to visit China

UNB, Dhaka

Chinese premier Wen Jiabao has invited Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to visit China this year

Khaleda Zia accepted the invitation with pleasure, Foreign Minister Morshed Khan told reporters at Zia International Airport after giving Wen the send-off yesterday.

He said the Chinese premier had a fruitful meeting with President Prof Dr Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday morning. The president sought China's co-operation in agriculture, human resource development and education sector.

Premier Wen also invited the president to visit Beijing. Accepting the invitation, the president reciprocated by extending invitation to Chinese President Hu Zin Tao to

Reuters from Colombo reports: Wen Jiabao arrived in the Sri Lankan capital yesterday on a twoday leg of his South Asian tour. During his trip, he will sign a clutch of bilateral agreements and visit a fishing harbour hammered by December's tsunami

Pay scale

satisfactory except for a few differ-

Sources said a secretary-level committee headed by Cabinet Secretary Dr Saadat Hossain will come up with its final recommendations on pay increases and table before the cabinet. The committee has already held two meetings and is expected to finalise its recommendations by this week

A finance ministry high official said the secretarial committee will complete all the procedures towards this end by this month and the ministry also is ready to provide with the additional amount required to implement the new pay structure.

According to a finance ministry report, the government needs an additional Tk 1,154 crore in the second half of this fiscal year to implement the first phase of the new pay structure for both the civil and defence staffs.

January 1 this year in line with the pay commission's recommenda-tions, it will need an additional Tk 653 crore, the finance ministry review noted. Similarly, if teachers and staffs of

educational institutions are given 50 percent of their recommended salaries, this may cost the government an additional Tk 301 crore.

It will require an extra Tk 200 crore if pensioners get 50 percent of the recommended pensions.

To fully implement the recommendations of the National Pay Commission (NPC) for the civil administration and the Defence Pay Commission (DPC) for the armed services, the government needs Tk 6,712 crore a year in addition to the current budgeted salary provision of

The IMF Article 4 mission to conduct annual evaluation of the overall economic situation in the country arrived in Dhaka on March 28. Yesterday's was its final discussion with the finance minister.

The finance minister said their discussion on disbursement of the fourth instalment of the IMF's Poverty Reduction Growth Facility loan that was due in January last was satisfactory, too.

11-party leaders for reforms in caretaker govt,

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Left leaning 11-party leaders vesterday demanded bringing meaningful reforms in the caretaker government and Election Commission (EC) on the basis of national consensus for holding a free and fair election.

The persons concerned of the caretaker government and EC must be acceptable to all, they said, addressing the rally organised by 11-party at Muktangan in the city.

They also demanded that the caretaker government and EC should be duly empowered to ensure a free and fair election.

"A free and fair election can not be held in the country until election system is freed from money game, terrorism and communal forces," Workers Party of Bangladesh convenor Bimol Biswas said.

He also stressed the need for strengthening the local government and making the national parliament an effective law-making organisa-"To abide by the constitution on

the question of the caretaker government and Election Commission is not enough, rather these must be acceptable to all." Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) central committee member Rúhin Hossain

He also demanded introduction of proportionate representatives system in parliament.

CPB leaders MM Akash, Morshed Ali, Ahsan Habib Lablu, Workers Party leaders Anisur Rahman Mollik. Gono Azadi League leader Haji Abdus Samad and Gonotantrik Party leader Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan were also present at the rally.

Later they brought out a procession that paraded different streets of

Final farewell

His tomb will be covered with a flat stone bearing his name and the dates of his birth and death. Pilgrims will eventually be able to visit.

The 2 1/2-hour Mass began with the Vatican's Sistine Choir singing the Gregorian chant, "Grant Him Eternal Rest, O Lord." Cardinals wearing white miters walked onto the square, their red vestments blowing in the breeze.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, dean of the College of Cardinals, a close confidant of John Paul and a possible successor, presided at the Mass and referred to him as our "late beloved pope" in a homily that traced the pontiff's life from his days as a factory worker in Nazi-occupied Poland to his final days as the head of the world's 1 billion Catholics. Interrupted by applause at least

10 times, the usually unflappable German-born Ratzinger choked up as he recalled one of John Paul's last public appearances when he blessed the faithful from his studio window on Easter. "We can be sure that our beloved

pope is standing today at the window of the father's house, that he sees us and blesses us," he said to applause, even among the prelates, as he pointed up to the third-floor window above the square 'Today we bury his remains in

the earth as a seed of immortality our hearts are full of sadness, yet at the same time of joyful hope and profound gratitude," Ratzinger said in heavily accented Italian. He said John Paul was a "priest

to the last" and said he had offered his life for God and his flock "especially amid the sufferings of his final Ratzinger was interrupted again toward the end of the Mass by

several minutes of cheers, rhythmic applause and shouts of "Giovanni Paolo Santo" or "Saint John Paul," from the crowd. The eruption of cheers came right before the Litany of Saints chant, in which the names of the saints are read

The Mass ended with everyone standing and singing together: "May the angels accompany you into heaven, may the martyrs welcome you when you arrive, and lead you to Holy Jerusalem. At least 300,000 people filled St.

Peter's Square and spilled out onto the wide Via della Conciliazione leading toward the Tiber River, but millions of others watched on giant video screens set up across Rome. Banners read "Santo Subito," or 'Sainthood Immediately.

Earlier, groggy pilgrims who had camped out on the cobblestones awoke in their sleeping bags to hordes of the faithful stepping over them as they tried to secure a good spot to view the Mass The square and the boulevard

leading to it were a sea of red and white flags waved by pilgrims from John Paul's beloved Poland, many in traditional dress shouting "Polska! Polska!" Pilgrims from other countries raised their national flags in the crowd American. Lebanese, Spanish, Croatian and prayers were read out during the . Mass in a host of languages French, Swahili, Portuğuese, among others.

"We just wanted to say goodbye to our father for the last time," said Joanna Zmiiewsla. 24. who travelled for 30 hours with her brother from a town near Kielce, Poland, arriving at St. Peter's at 1 a.m. Friday.

American Archbishop James Harvey, head of papal protocol, greeted dignitaries and religious leaders as they emerged onto the steps of the basilica. Many shook Harvey's hand and offered condolences before mingling and taking their appointed seats.

Turbans, fezzes, yarmulkes, black lace veils, or mantillas, joined the "zucchettos," or skull caps, of Catholic prelates on the steps of St. Peter's in an extraordinary mix of religious and government leaders from around the world.

Stephan Aubert, wearing a French flag draped over his shoulders.

. Vatican ushers seated dignitaries who were given a chance to view John Paul's body before it was

carried out of the basilica where it has lain in state since Monday and

into the square.

Bells tolled as the final leaders took their places on red-cushioned wooden seats. Ten minutes before the scheduled start of the funeral the U.S. delegation arrived, headed by President Bush, and including his father, former President George H.W. Bush, and former President Bill Clinton.

President Bush sat on the aisle in the second row, next to his wife Laura. Beside them were French President Jacques Chirac and his wife, Bernadette. The two presidents shook hands When Bush's face appeared on giant screen TVs showing the

ceremony, many in the crowds outside St. Peter's Square booed and whistled. Rome itself was at a standstill. Just after midnight Thursday, a ban took effect on vehicle traffic in the city center. Airspace was closed, and anti-aircraft batteries outside the city were on alert. Naval ships patrolled both the Mediterranean coast and the Tiber River near Vatican City, the tiny

by the Italian capital. Italian authorities took extraordinary precautions to protect the royalty and heads of state or government attending the funeral.

sovereign city-state encompassed

Elite Carabinieri paramilitary police armed with automatic rifles were stationed at virtually every major intersection in Rome to minimise the threat of a terrorist attack on the more than 80 heads of state

and monarchs attending the Mass. Combat jets from Italy's air force, oined by an AWACS surveillance plane deployed by Nato, guarded against any strike from above on the eaders and top Roman Catholic prelates assembled on St. Peter's . Square, Italian security agencies posted snipers on rooftops, and a navy warship armed with torpedoes cruised the coastline near Rome. Anti-aircraft rocket launchers were placed strategically around the capital

Jewish and Muslim leaders were among the dignitaries from more than 80 countries, including the presidents of Syria and Iran, and the king of Jordan.

The pope's death on Saturday at age 84 has elicited a remarkable outpouring of affection around the world and brought an estimated 4 million people to Rome, doubling its population. Most of the pilgrims, however, can only hope to see the ceremony on giant TV screens that have been erected around the Vatican and in piazzas around Rome.

Hasına urges

Emerging from the meeting, Hasina described to the newsmen the Chinese premier's visit against the backdrop of the 30th anniversary of Sino-Bangla diplomatic relations as significant, and said it would give a fresh impetus to the bilateral relations

The opposition leader, who had recently participated in a senior advisory council meeting of Association of Asian Parliame-ntarians for Peace (AAPP) in Manila, said that eventual conversion of the AAPP into an Asiar parliamentary assembly will

During the meeting with Jiabao, the AL chief also emphasised the importance of learning Chinese by the Bangladeshis to tap business potentials and gain more access to the growing job market in China.

The former Bangladeshi prime minister thanked Jiabao for investing in various sectors during the previous Awami League government.

assistance came during my tenure Gabkhan Bridge, Pakshi Bridge, power sector, Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre and name," Hasina told reporters.

The Chinese Premier invited Hasina and other AL leaders to visit China. He also assured her that his country would arrange training for youth leadership, said the Al, chief.

Jalil, Obaidul Quader and Saber Hossain Chowdhury accompanied Sheikh Hasina during the meeting.

Rajuk defrauded

detect "how much has gone missing" from the accounts over the decade they characterise as having "virtually no monitoring" over transactions of crores of taka in fees, sales of plots and under other

The actual picture of Rajuk corruption during the 'monitoringless decade' may be perceived only by, and after, scrutinising all the files and calculating the transactions,

Then again, the vile gang that operated here spirited away hundreds of files from the Raiuk archives, making it impossible for anyone to countercheck on any claim," said a Rajuk official requesting anonymity. Rajuk Chairman M Shahid Alam

said they fear "some misappropriation" might have taken place. For instance, he said, during the

last 10 years, hundreds of Rajuk clients paid in their fees with a threefold deposit book provided by their respective banks. In numerous cases, the client retained a fold with a bank stamp on it but the remaining two folds might have simply been destroyed and the money shared among the unscrupulous bank and Raiuk officials, who knew very well that there was no monitoring. On an average, the chairman

said, several lakhs of taka are deposited into Rajuk accounts every day under different heads Janata. Sonali and Agroni banks are authorised to accept payments amounts into Rajuk's designated accounts. Rajuk has already detected that,

of clients, who made the payments, could not be taken to task, as they readily produce stamped receipts of the banks against their payments.

Raiuk has now introduced its own deposit book to stop recurrence of such fraud, he said. Every page of the new deposit books is recorded in the Rajuk computer database making it impossible for the bank or any other person to skip detection.

Huawei strikes

FROM PAGE 16 President Wang Sheng Li, who had

flown in to Dhaka with the Chinese premier on Thursday. Li expressed his gratitude to TMIB for awarding the job to his company.

Huawei Technologies employs 22,000 people. With a \$5 billion annual turnover, it has emerged as a leading telecoms equipment manufacturer globally. Until recently, Swedish Ericsson

and Alcatel of France were the main at present has 1.5 million subscrib-

Chinese PM opens talks with Chandrika

AFP, Colombo

Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao met for talks last evening with Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga shortly after arriving in the island on a visit marking the third leg of his South Asian tour. Officials said the two leaders went

in for talks at the tightly-guarded president's House in Colombo. "The visit is going to mark a

significant milestone in our economic cooperation," a finance ministry official said, adding that Beijing was keen to finance the reconstruction of areas of the island struck by the December 26 tsunamis, which killed almost 31,000 people in the country. Wen, who arrived from Bangladesh, was due to travel to the southern town of Panadura to open a

fisheries harbour before leaving Saturday for a four-day visit to India He has already visited Pakistan. Sri Lanka is to open direct flights to Beijing on June 17 and the officia Ceylon Tourist Board hopes the number of Chinese tourists visiting the island will jump to 30,000 this

Finance ministry officials said China was also keen to enter Sri Lanka's infrastructure development and had shown interest in energy and highways sectors as well as fisheries and transport.

vear, up from 9.088 last year.

Water problems

agriculture sector between the two countries too will be continued," he

Referring to Buddhist religion and science and technology studies at Atish Dipankar Science and Technology University, Dr lajuddin urged the Chinese premier to make scope for Bangladeshi students to transfer credits to China for higher education. Responding to the president's

request for reducing trade gap between the two countries, Wen said measures would be taken for balancing the two-way trade. Describing his visit to Bangladesh as 'very fruitful', the Chinese PM said

it would be a "milestone in the rela-

tions of long-term friendship between

the two countries". Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, Education Minister Zhou Commerce Minister Bo Xilai, Chinese Ambassador in Bangladesh Chai Xi. Chinese State Council Research Office Head You Quan, Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei, Chinese PM Office Chief Qiu Xiaoxiong and Secretary Song Zhe accompanied Jiabao during the

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin, Bangladeshi Ambassador to China Ashfaqur Rahman, President's Secretary N Abu Solaiman Chowdhury and other officials were present at the

CCC's garbage treatment plant opens today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The garbage treatment plant installed by Chittagong City Corporation (CCC), producing fuel from garbage, first of its kind in the country, opens for formal operation today.

CCC Mayor ABM Mohiuddin

Chowdhury will inaugurate the plant at Halishahar at 10:00am The pilot project was taken up early last year and implemented at

the CCC garbage dumping ground at Ananda Bazar area of Halishahai at the cost of around Tk 1.5 crore. The plant with a production capacity of 10 tons of fuel per day started operation producing some

five tons of fuel (charcoal) daily on

experimental basis around three

months back. The project was implemented completely with the manpower of

CCC, using their own technology. The plant's main objective was garbage management where the fuel is produced as an "extra", sources said, adding that CCC has also plans to produce fertiliser (compost) from the by-products at

Sangu wells

40 km southwest of the port city of

Well Nos 2, 3 and 4 are still in operation producing around 100 mmcfd of gas, Well No 5 has suspended production and the remaining two could not produce any gas.

A submarine pipeline carries Sangu gas to the onshore processing plant at Salimpur under Sitakunda, some 48 km from the production platform in the Bay. The gas is 'dry' but contains condensate. The dry gas is transported to Bakhrabad gas line of the BGSL (Bakhrabad Gas System Limited), which is connected to the nationa

at the processing plant and sold to Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPČ) for refining, sources said. The processing plant was

designed and constructed by Kellogg, Brown & Root (KBR), an affiliate of Halliburton Inc. KBR is responsible for the operation of both the production platform and the processing plant. The PSC for block 16 was signed

Bangladesh on May 5,1994. Subsequent successions and changes have resulted in the present joint venture among Cairn Energy Sangu Field Limited, Cairn Energy Bangladesh Ltd. and HBR Energy Inc (a subsidiary of Halliburton Inc).

Maoist attack: 50 killed

Anti-monarchy protests across the country were called by five political parties to coincide with the 1990 establishment of parliamentary

democracy in the Himalayan country. Witnesses said around 100 protestors were arrested over several hours in Kathmandu's central New Road district as they emerged in groups of five or six to yell anti-king slogans and hold banners in defiance of a ban on public rallies

Political party sources said at east another 100 people were locked up after staging protests in the town of Birgunj, about 90km from the capital

A police spokesman confirmed 70 arrests in Kathmandu but could not comment on the Birgunj arrests.

Earlier Nepal's political parties have said they would defy a ban on allies imposed after the king declared a state of emergency and suspended civil liberties on Feb. 1. although most rallies to date have been small and swiftly ended by the

Gyanendra said seizing control was aimed at crushing a Maoist

Dhaka to make

FROM PAGE 1 dent at Zia International Airport

commenting on the Bangladesh-China deal signed in Dhaka on Thursday. Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing and Bangladesh Minister for Science and ICT Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan signed the Bangladesh-China Cooperation Agreement on Peaceful Usage of

Nuclear Energy.

Morshed Khan said, "You are also aware of what is meant by peaceful usage of nuclear energy and there is a defined roadmap and path of IAEA or peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Khan, who met Pakistan Prime

Minister Saukat Aziz in Islamabad on

April 6, said he discussed the matter of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) summit with the current Saarc chair and requested him to let Dhaka know about the dates of the summit as soon as possible "We will need about one month or one and a half months for our prepa-

ration... We will take decision con-

sidering the weather conditions and

possibility of participation of all other member-countries," he said. Khan attended the Asian Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) meeting held in Islamabad on April 5-6. He said two countries--Russian Federation and Saudi Arabia-- were made new members raising the

He said many countries

number of ACD to 28.

expressed keen interest in joining the forum and making it a Pan Asian Association like Pan American NAFTA, Pan European EU and Pan African Association "We've agreed to identify some common projects in energy, transportation and healthcare and their mplementation," he said, adding that the next ACD meeting will be held in

revolt and blamed bickering politiwrecked the economy

politicians were unfazed. "We can't remain silent spectators to the hijacking of democracy and individual freedoms," former legislators and leaders of the big-

gest opposition group, the Nepali Congress party, said in a statement. Friday's protests are planned as a 11-day strike called by the Maoists against the King's power seizure continued to disrupt supplies within

The latest assault by the Maoists comes after an attack five weeks ago in which the army said its forces had killed at least 50 rebels in the western rebel stronghold of Bardiva district, near the border of India.

Draft of AL

not be accountable to the president would not do anything other than

The draft suggested that the Election Commission should be strengthened by appointing chief election commissioner and other election commissioners acceptable

Besides, it proposed that no act should be promulgated during the caretaker rule without consulting all

FROM PAGE 1 Sami for Rao Iftikhar.

Sami, who came to India as Pakistan's pace spearhead in the absence of the injured Shoaib Akhtar, has had a disappointing oneday series, taking a combined one

Visakhapatnam, where Pakistan fielded the same teams. The Keenan Stadium in Jamshedpur, in the eastern state of

Mahendra Dhoni the team hoped that Dhoni, man-ofthe-match in Visakhapatnam after

"He performed brilliantly at number three in the last match. Psychologically he's in a good frame of mind, so there's no reason why he can't do well again," Dravid said.

Lakshmipathy Balaji due to a side strain. Irfan Pathan or Ajit Agarkar will replace him.

BTV will telecast the match live

Charles, Camilla

The couple were forced to postpone their civil wedding ceremony in Windsor, a royal weekend retreat west of London, by 24 hours until

under intense scrutiny by Britain's yesterday

However, the designers said the Freacy, who has created hats for

The bride has had six outfit

fittings and 10 hat fittings at

Clarence House, the prince's residence, and at her other home in Wiltshire, according to Britain's domestic Press Association newswire. When she married Andrew Parker Bowles in a society wedding

Madonna and Marilyn Manson.

The prince had an even grander wedding to Lady Diana in St Paul's Cathedral in 1981, one that brought hundreds of thousands of people onto the streets of London and was

The 20-minute ceremony in

Parker Bowles will then become the Duchess of Cornwall, the Princess of Wales, and future gueen should Charles accede to the throne - a possibility which still riles most Britons who see Camilla as responsible for the breakup of the prince's

less land.

cians for being unable to end an insurgency that has left more than 11,000 people dead since 1996 and

Pickets of riot police carrying rattan sticks were deployed in the ancient part of Kathmandu but

the kingdom. The strike ends on Tuesday

activities relating to the election.

ODI today

for 107 in the first two matches. Leg spinner Danish Kaneria could also get a look in after sitting out the games in Cochin and

Jharkhand, is the home ground of India's wicketkeeper-batsman Vice-captain Rahul Dravid said

before his home fans.

his blistering 148, would deliver

India are without paceman

Saturday because of the papal

unforgiving tabloid press. Camilla Parker Bowles was to be joined by her designers for her final fitting Couturier Anna Valentine of Robinson Valentine, milliner Philip

schemes, fabrics and even the size of the bride's heels bride knew what she liked and felt relaxed in what she had chosen. "She will look fabulous. I think people will be surprised,"

watched by 750 million television viewers around the world.

Windsor Guildhall was due to begin at 12:30 pm (1130 GMT), before 28 quests, including the prince's two sons and three siblings as well as the bride's son and daughter and

marriage to the late Princess Diana. ever. she will not use the Princess of Wales title, nor queen, preferring the more modest title of Princess

By 2:30 pm. some 800 quests will Prince Charles, the heir to the be assembled inside St George's Chapel at the hilltop Windsor Castle, to watch the couple's blessing conducted by the head of the Anglican church, Archbishop of

> like Blair and pop star Sting, as well as the monarchs of Bahrain, Greece and Norway. They will be treated to princely rites of contrition, as the couple -both divorcees and adulterers -acknowledge their "sins and wickedness" in reading the strongest act of penitence from the Anglican

It will attract a few notable names

By 3:15 pm, duly blessed after vowing everlasting fidelity to one another, the couple will move from the chapel to the sumptuous recep-

tion rooms of the castle for a party

Guests will be filing out of the

Church's 1662 Book of Common

castle by 5:45 pm.

fully tapped.

hosted by the gueen.

Beijing two countries "However, Bangladesh is in trade deficit," he admitted. But it is not because Bangladeshi products are not standard or competitive -- it is because the potentialities are not

Striking a positive note on expan-

sion of the Dhaka-Beijing relations

of friendship, Jiabao mentioned the agreements signed between the two sides after official talks on Thursday. He said Bangladesh needs development of infrastructure and China has the expertise. He also

cited the strengths the China of

modern times has got in terms of

technology and machinery.

Jiabao was critical of the conditions imposed by some developed countries regarding the import of goods from developing countries, line with the free trade.

ness the positive changes that have aken place there in the last few years. Referring to the size of Bangladesh which is one seventh of China and a huge population which is one ninth of China, Jiabao said, "Bangladesh has created a miracle in feeding so many people with so

Chinese premier noted with happi-

has embarked on a great mission ment of trade in the region.

the leaders of the Bangladesh business community.

The committee comprising professionals was formed to announce Mohiuddin Chowdhury as its mayoral candidate for the CCC polls in 1994. Noted social scientist Professor Dr Anupam Sen is its current chairman while Mahmud-UI-Islam, former chairman of Chittagong Port Authority, and Dr

On the other hand, Chittagong Mohanagar Gano Oikya Parishad, a professional forum supporting the

out mass contact at Lalkhan Bazar area for Mir Nasir, who is also state

Hasan Mohammad are convenor and member-secretary of the

Mir Nasir while addressing a rally Bakolia yesterday said that

yesterday conducted his election He urged the locals to elect him

Chittagong University Pro-VC Dr Md Shamsuddin and Professor Dr

to ensure development of the city is

visit Bangladesh.

Saifur leaves for Sweden today. He said he will decide implementation of the new pay scale after his return on April 14

If the salaries of only the civil and defence staffs are increased as from

"I'm here because I'm a believer but also to live a moment in history " said

on behalf of Rajuk, depositing the

"had remained absent for months" before they were deposited into its Shahid Alam said the thousands

Headquartered in Shenzhen,

equipment suppliers of TMIB, which

strengthen democracy in the region.

"Huge Chinese investment and digital phone exchange are a few to

AL leaders Zillur Rahman, Abdul

on many occasions, crores of taka

arid in the north. Condensate is removed from gas

among Cairn Energy PLC, Holland Sea Search Bangladesh BV, Petrobangla and the Government of

hrone joined British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his wife Cherie at the funeral for John Paul II at the Canterbury Rowan Williams

Before her wedding outfit comes

Treacy, and shoe creator Linda Bennett have kept mum on colour

n 1973, Camilla wore a traditional white dress designed by Queen Elizabeth II's dressmaker Belville Sassoon, complete with a tiara and 10-foot long veil.

In sharp contrast, the latest royal wedding will be a low-key civil affair.

The bride-to-be has said, how-

although they are the proponents of free trade. "This," he said, "is not in Mentioning his trip to the countryside of Bangladesh 11 years ago, the

Mintoo said the Chinese premier

that may lead to a great rearrange-Earlier, Jiabao was introduced to

parties taking part in the election.