Allow int'l probe

full participation in the democratic process in parliament.

It called, in particular, upon the opposition parties to end the boycott of parliamentary activity, since agitation and violence caused suffering to the people of Bangladesh, the resolution said.

The European Parliament highlighted, among other issues, the need for putting an end to anti-crime operations by the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), trial of the war criminals of 1971 and ensuring the rights of religious minorities.

The resolution came on the same day when Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, back from an international roundtable in Sweden, told newsman that overall impression about Bangladesh was now excellent across the world. Referring to his meetings with European parlia mentarians, Saifur said they had showed a very positive attitude towards Bangladesh's develop-

In an instant reaction to the resolution, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed last night told BBC radio that its contents were not 'against us, rather these are about us'

The Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) called upon the government to respect the instructions given by the High Court to avoid abuse of legal instruments in detaining opposition demonstrators and to refrain from repressing peaceful political protests through detention and torture.

Blaming the Rab for 'extrajudicial' killings, the MEPs urged the government to put an end to the anti-crime operations by the 'paramilitary force'. They referred to the figures provided by a Bangladeshi human rights organisation --Odhikar-- to say there that were 90 publicly reported custodial deaths due to torture in 2004.

The MEPs reiterated their support for the demand that those known to have participated in the massacre of Bangladeshi citizens and other war crimes during the Liberation War in 1971 be brought to

The resolution expressed support for the principled steps which the European Union (EU) representatives had taken last year in defence of the rights of religious minorities in Bangladesh, such as physical presence of the Ahmadiyya Muslims at a complex in October 2004, when fundamentalists had prepared to stage a mass assault on

It called for a review of the application of the human rights and democracy clause of the EU-Bangladesh Cooperation Agreement and to ascertain whether the Government of Bangladesh is making sufficiently strong efforts to fundamentally improve the human rights situation.

The European Parliament noted that recent modest steps taken by the government to improve the itical situation would help establish a situation respectful of law and order, and would support any substantial progress on issues like good governance, freedom of press, the ight against corruption and respect for human rights.

The MEPs encouraged the vernment to enable the population to participate in traditional cultural events and to provide security measures so that these events, which reflect a tradition of tolerance and secularism, could be implemented safely, the resolution

It also called upon the government to take preventive steps against what said is the Muslim paramilitary groups that have spread violence and intimidation in rural areas of Bangladesh.

In his reaction. Moudud told BBC radio that many such resolutions were adopted on various nondeveloped nations in the past.

He said he did not mind if they (European Parliament) express concern as a well wishes of Bangladesh. But they would commit mistake in thinking that Bangladesh would act as per their

On reforms and caretaker issue, the law minister said it was not the Europeans' business. "Caretaker government is our achievement and we'll look into it.'

Turning to human rights, Moudud wonderd why they focus so much on the poor nations' human rights situation said while there are human rights problems also in the

Dhaka, Doha sign MoUs

and import, technical assistance and

other works of co-operation would

The Qatari delegation at the talks said that in the next five years they would recruit a large number of manpower from abroad and substantial numbers of them would be from Bangladesh. Besides, they will import cement from Bangladesh

Qatar would provide Bangladesh with technical assistance in exploring mineral resources

The Qatari delegation appreciated the Bangladeshi workers for their contribution to the development of Qatar. More than 60,000 Bangladeshis are currently working in

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia led the Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani led the Qatar side at the official talks.

Finance minister M Saifur Rahman, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury assisted the Prime Minsiter Khaleda Zia at the

official talks. State Ministers for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin and Expatriate and Overseas Welfare Mohammad

Quamrul Islam were also present.

Briefing the newsmen after the talks Foreign Secretary Hemavet delegation were happy at the warm reception hosted by the Bangladesh

its role in UN led peace keeping efforts. Qatar feels proud of having such large number of peace-keeping forces from Bangladesh, he told the journalists.

The Qatar delegation also praised the investment-friendly atmosphere in Bangladesh, A high-powered delegation from Qatar would visit Bangladesh soon to see in which sectors they can

large delegation, which include among others business leaders of the country.

President lajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia received him at the airport, where he was given a red carpet reception.

After a colourful ceremony at the airport, the delegation went to the Prime Minister's Office to hold official talks. They attended an official ban-

this morning wrapping up his two-day official visit.

Dog squads, close-circuit security cameras, metal detectors were deployed as part of security mea-

A festive spirit gripped the capital as well as other parts of the nation. Young ladies in dazzling white saris with red borders and young men clad in punjabi performed on the roads to welcome the new year.

irrespective of religion and age. attired in traditional dresses, thronged Boishakhi Melas (fairs) -showcasing various handicrafts and artefacts-- in the capital and elsewhere in the country. Colourful rallies, musical programmes, fairs and cake festivals added colour to the festive day.

Thousands gathered at the city's Ramna Park, Suhrawardy Udyan, Central Shaheed Minar. Dhaka University, Shahbag, Dhanmondi Lake and other open spaces from early morning. Roads stretching from Matshya Bhaban to Shahbagh to Doel Chattar were made off limits to all vehicles to accommodate the

crowd. Crowds in and around Dhaka University, Ramna and Dhanmondi Lake virtually made the city traffic

network collapse tion erected a huge podium at the Ramna Batamul for its trademark cultural programme that was witnessed by thousands of men, women and children. At the function, artistes of Chhayanaut sangs. recited poems and essays. The much-awaited function concluded with the singing of the national

make a fresh beginning in the name of beauty and truth.

In the scorching heat long queues were found at all entrances to the park because of high security

Another main attraction was the rally brought out by the students of Dhaka University's Institute of Fine Arts called Mongol Shovajatra. The students used the white pigeon as

The country's intellectuals earlier formed a 1.001-member committee "Pahela Baishakh Udjapan Jatiya Parishad" headed by renowned poet Shamsur Rahman who took part in a colourful procession from central Shaheed Minar to Rabindra Sarobar at Dhanmondi.

The procession of the Parishad carrying a long broom, a black effigy of communalism and an owl caught the attention of many as it made its way through the city streets.

Different socio-cultural organisations arranged elaborate programmes on Pahela Baishakh and turned Dhaka into a city of

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia exchanged greetings with all sections of people on the day of Pahela Baishakh.

The indigenous people in Chittagong Hill Tracts and elsewhere observed the day through traditional festivities.

staged cultural function at Rabindra Sarobar at Dhanmondi. Bangla Academy, Nazrul Institute, Shilpakala Academy and Kochi-Kanchar Mela organised special cultural programmes to mark the

Saifur calls India's river-linking plan

Saifur Rahman yesterday described the Indian river-linking project as a disastrous scheme, which will have adverse impact on Bangladesh.

disastrous plan Ito withdraw waters rom the upstream of the common rivers]," he told a statistical conference

"We'll fight against the move," Saifur said.

water management planning in the country's own fashion but expressed disappointment that Bangladesh lacks correct and updated statistics to formuate such a one.

The finance minister said the planners could have evolved a plan to preserve the surface water to expand agricultural irrigation but they don't have nformation about the surface water. "We can have proper planning if we have latest and trustworthy statistics." he added.

The Indian government has a plan to ink up its rivers and transfer waters from the upstream for its irrigation that has caused widespread protest in Bangladesh. New Delhi, however, has assured Dhaka that the river-linking project is at the conceptual stage and it would not implement any scheme that might adversely affect Bangladesh's agriculture and ecology.

Foreign film maker held on Bhomra border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) caught a foreign documentary film maker while he was entering Bangladesh through Bhomra border point in Sadar upazila early Thursday. The BDR also arrested an Indian

national who acted as his guide. BDR jawans caught Manda

Garan, 55, and his guide Mafizul Islam, 18, of Haroa under 24 Parganas in West Bengal, as they entered into the Bangladesh territory near Bhomra, BDR and police The BDR handed Garan to the

district administration and the Indian national to Satkhira police, Captain Mahabub of 41 Rifles Battalion told The Daily Star. Garan, who came to Bangladesh

on a six-month visa on February 26. went to India crossing the border llegally on February 28 after the Indian government denied him entry visa, Manda told this correspon-He wanted to make a documen-

tary film on Babri Mosque demolition by Hindu zealots in Ayodhya in 1992, stayed at different hotels in India showing the visa that the Indian government issued him last year and managed to complete his documentary film, he added.

BSF kills one in Habiganj

UNB, Habiganj

A Bangladeshi national man was gunned down and another injured by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at Tekerghat on Chunarughat oorder on Thursday.

The dead was identified as Shamsu Miah, 32, while the injured as Kalai Miah, 30, of Dudhpatil

Locals said the BSF men opened fire on them while they were working on a field along the border.

Relatives FROM PAGE 1

amulet and his wallet and keys found in his pocket," said Rakib.

The body of Jahangir Alam, a knitting supervisor and resident of Palashbari, was recovered from the top of the building with Tk 3.596 held in his left hand, which seemed to be his ast month's salary drawn on the night of the catastrophe

"At first I could not identify his body and it was taken to Savar thana as an unidentified one. But, later a colleague of Jahangir, after seeing the serial number of his identity card found on the body, identified him as Jahangir and informed me." said a wailing Rupa, Jahangir's sister-in-law, while receiving the body from police.

The body of Mozammel Hossain, another employee of the factory, recovered from the western part of the building, was flattened. It was biting its tongue in an expression of unbearable

"I identified him seeing the gold ring on the middle finger of his left hand. A photograph of his wife was also found n his wallet," said ALAmin, brother-inlaw of Mazammel, after taking the body from in front of the army rescue control room on the site.

"How would I feel if I fail to identify my husband's body on seeing his face?" Aleya, wife of Amin, who was among the over hundred victims still trapped in the debris and feared to be buried alive, asked The Daily Star. "I can't move as a big chunk has

fallen on me. Take me out and save my life." a sobbing Aleva guoted her husband as telling her over telephone at 2:30 on Monday night after the building crumbled.

"He sought my help but I couldn't do anything yet to rescue him. I even don't know whether I can identify him or not," wailed the woman in despair.

Most of the relatives are waiting now only to have the bodies of their beloved, except those few who believe

Rescuers give up hope

the still trapped victims were gripped with the anxiety whether they would be

able to identify their beloved ones. Three badly decomposed bodies were sent to Savar Police Station

yesterday as no-one could identify "We'll keep these corpses for eight

to 10 hours and, if by this time no-one claims them, they would be handed over to Anjuman-e-Mafidul Islam for burial," said a sub-inspector of Savar Police Station. Since Thursday night, relatives

were seen identifying their beloved ones by the clothes on their bodies with which they had left for work on the ill-fated day or by identification cards they kept with them when at work. Relatives identified a few of the bodies by the rings they wore on fingers and the photographs they incidentally kept in their pockets or wallets. "I could identify the body of my

brother Abdul Gani Mian by the brown colour T-shirt in which he had left for work," said Gani's brother Abu Bakar. All the corpses retrieved yesterday and day before were pulled out from

during the deadliest building collapse in the country's history.

Rescuers, covering their noses with cloths, retrieved the corpses after cranes removed concrete slabs on the

collapse structure The stench of the rotting corpses filled the air of Palashbari, the site of the collapsed building, forcing rescuers, volunteers, relatives and locals to cover their noses with cloths and

on the bodies surrounded by swarms

that some 300 people are still trapped in the debris, an information board in the control room of army on the site puts the number at 110. Brigadier Nizam said they will

continue their effort to pull alive if any survivor is there. "We'll also work in a way that will not damage any corpse."

According to the rescuers from army and Fire Service and Civil Defence, it will take at best a week to completely remove the rubble.

According to the army control room, the rescuers have removed 20 percent debris in the middle, 35 percent in the northern side and 55 percent in the southern part. Eighty-five workers were either

rescued alive or successfully dodged death. The last one to emerge alive out of the rubble was 36 hours after the Spectrum Sweater Industries Ltd plant had crumbled early Monday REPORT YET TO COME

ON ENCROACHMENT

A committee assigned to inquire if the owner of the collapsed sweater factory building had encroached into the nearby canal failed to submit its report

The committee formed on April 12 headed by Additional Deputy Commissioner (Land Acquisition) M Towhidur Rahman was scheduled to submit the report to the deputy commissioner (DC) of Dhaka yesterday, but it prayed for three more days for the submission.

"We've done all the primary works including collecting the land documents of this area, but as the debris of the collapsed building occupy a big portion of it, it's not possible now to neasure the canal," Rahman told The Daily Star yesterday

According to the map, the width of the canal near the collapsed building is 50 to 60 feet, but now it seems much less. DC of Dhaka Abdul Bari observed.

"We think the collapsed building had encroached into a portion of the canal. But we shall become confirm about it after the committee submits the report," the DC said.

GDP growth

the Boro harvest," he told the inaugural function of the ninth National Statistical Conference styled 'Statistics: Key to Monitoring National Progress'. Bangladesh Statistical Association

(BSA) has organised the two-day conference to present some 37 papers portraying the country's socioeconomic condition, problems and Speaking at the function, Agriculture Minister MK Anwar men-

tioned lack of co-ordination between the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) and the government agencies concerned, including ministries. BSA President Prof Quazi Mafizur Rahman and Secretary General Abdur Rashid Sikdar, former secretary AKM

Ghulam Rabbani and United Nations Family Planning Association (UNFPA) Country Representative Suneeta Mukherjee also spoke at the function. The finance minister said he found visible signs of progress as he travelled across the country to see the newly developed industrial establishments

capital and other cities, including "Statistics has to be realistic it should not be politically motivated, Saifur said, referring to the claim by the previous government that the country had become self-sufficient in food

beside the highways, in and around the

production. "We're not importing some three lakh tons of rice and wheat a year to export those again," he said, expressing disappointment over the then statistics on food production supplied the national planning properly.

The minister also stressed the need for revising the statistical base to bring new and emerging areas into the national accounts, aimed at having a more realistic GDP based on the changed economic situation.

re-base the GDP estimation. An expert-level consultation at end-February on Revision and Rebasing of GDP decided to form the two committees for redesigning the barometer of

country's economic health. One of the two is an executive body with representation from organisations like the Planning Commission, the BBS and the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), and the other is a supervisory committee comprising senior economists like Prof

Officials said the idea of redesignbackdrop of the changed production and consumption patterns and emergence of new areas like construction,

BBS compiles GDP along with other macro-economic indicators taking 1995-96 as the base year.

3 journalists injured

bleeding copiously from wounds in the face and mouth.

Local gangsters Manik, Polash, Subrata, and two others brandishing firearms and knives burst onto the press club at about 7:10pm.They shoved Zia down the ground and beat him hard right before some local dignitaries. They however failed to kidnap him as senior journalists present at the scene, some 30 yards

"One of them (attackers) beat him with a belt while hurling abuses and shouting that they would teach him a lesson. They also tried to drag him out of the press club," said MPC Vice President Quazi Gyas. Minutes earlier, Zia had an alterca-

off Boalia Police Station, intervened.

tion with two locals at around 7:00pm after the two had breached a fence around the podium built on the MPC premises for holding discussion and cultural functions to celebrate pahela baishakh (Bengali new year). "They later came back in a gang of some five and stormed the club," said

MPC office assistant Nurul Islam

Mukul adding that no police were

stationed at the venue though the

authorities had informed them of the function. A case was filed accusing Manik Polash and Subrata alias Chhotu and several others, but none was arrested as late as evening.

Former Rajshahi University vice chancellors Prof Abdul Khaleque and Prof Saidur Rahman Khan, Raishahi Bar Association General Secretary Hamidul Haque, former Bar leader Md Yahia, who were at the scene, condemned the attack and demanded exemplary punishment. MPC at an emergency meeting yesterday described the incident as

an attack on the journalist community', and decided to stage demonstrations today. They criticised the police for not nabbing the culprits. "We have taken the incident seriously," Assistant Commissioner of

adds: Members of 'Lalchad Bahini' shot Safiul Alam Hanif, Daulatpur correspondent of local daily Ajker Sutropat, on Tuesday night. Two passers-by were also injured in the

Hanif had long been receiving threats for writing against the gang, which has a close link with an outlawed

He was undergoing treatment at critical condition, said family sources. immediate arrest of the criminals.

cases. But police could not yet arrest As many as 15 journalists were

killed in last nine years in the region.

Different journalists' bodies including Rajshahi Press Club, City Press Club, Jatiya Sangbadik Shangstha Raishahi Union of Journalists have condemned the attack on Zia and demanded immediate arrest of the

. JHENIDAH

tives swooped on Mashiur Rahman night in Kotchandpur, said police.

stated to be critical. Kotchandpur Press Club President Sheikh Nurul Islam and other members of the club condemned the attack

New Delhi on Sunday.

Paris hotel fire kills 20

AP, Paris

People screamed to be rescued from flames some even jumped from windows as a fire roared through a Paris hotel early yesterday used by the government to house needy African families. At least 20 people were killed, half of them children, officials said.

More than 50 people were injured, 11 seriously. The fire was thought to have started in a firstfloor breakfast room of the one-star Paris Opera hotel in the capital's 9th district, a popular tourist area, fire officials said.

Eight hours later, rescue workers were still pulling bodies from inside of the scorched building.

Many guests were African. Paris City Hall had rented rooms in the six-story hotel to temporarily house nine people from Africa, and state services housed 65 others without means, including some seeking

when quests would have been sleeping. It spread quickly and caused panic, he said "One can imagine young children, parents without their clothes.

French President Jacques Chirac labeled the fire one of Paris'

"most painful catastrophes."

The injured came from France the United States, Portugal Senegal, Tunisia, Ukraine and Ivory Coast, Paris police said, Vibert said a Canadian also was lightly injured. The nationalities of the dead were not given.

Musharraf

FROM PAGE 16 confidence. More meetings and more bus services," he said. The prime minister, according to him. has been talking in terms of a little more opportunity for tourism across the two parts of Kashmir. Last week, India and Pakistan launched the first bus service connecting the two parts of Kashmir in nearly six decades despite threats from four militant groups in what was the boldest confidence building measure in the

month-old peace process so far between the nuclear powered coun-

Although the Musharraf visit is not a state visit but an informal one, it has all the trappings of an official trip. Besides holding talks with Manmohan Singh

Musharraf begins his visit by offering prayers at the dargah of Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti at Ajmer Sharif today where he will fly straight PTI adds: Indian security agencies

esterday took control of vital installa-

tions, including the place of stay and venues the highly threatened VVIP will visit during his three-day stay in India. Hordes of police personnel, including those in plain clothes, have swarmed Ferozeshah Kotla, venue of

Security has also been tightened at Taj Hotel where Musharraf will stay along with his delegation and it has been made out of bounds for media

'Blue for Peace'

record the statement of Qaiyum under Section 164. She said the US authorities announced on April 6 not to investi-

gate the killing of their brother

Saitur **FROM PAGE 1**

Bangladesh there. During the visit, Saifur Rahman attended a two-day international roundtable titled "Reduction of Poverty and achievement of millennium development goals (MDGs) by investing in reproductive health and

political leaders and high officials on the sidelines of the roundtable in Stockholm.

Referring to his discussion with Swedish political leaders, including 12 parliament members and the officials at various functions, Saifur Rahman said they showed a very positive attitude towards the recent development of the country.

Atrıdı

to reach his fourth one-day hundred before playing the next ball from the off spinner on to his stumps. He had laid the platform for victory

more runs from 35.4 overs. Man-of-the-match Afridi drove Harbhaian Singh for a straight four to

before playing the next ball from the were released after first aid.

> years back was going without any repair work for long.

Bombings kill 23 in Iraq

REUTERS, Baghdad

Guerrilla bombings targeting US and Iragi forces killed at least four people yesterday as insurgents appeared to rebound after a lull in violence.

A roadside bomb near the northern city of Samarra killed two Iraqi soldiers, an army source said.

A car bomb intended for a US convoy passing through Baghdad's upscale Mansour neighborhood killed at least one person and wounded five, police and witnesses

Across town a few minutes later, a bomb targeting Iraqi National Guard troops killed one civilian and wounded three others, police said.

They were small-scale attacks by Iraqi standards, but appeared to mark a new surge in the violence that has been so common over the past two years and which seemed to have subsided since January elec-

19 people in the capital and a south-

The bloodshed increased pressure on Iraqi leaders, who have been squabbling over the formation of a new government during a lull in

Iraq has appointed a president and prime minister but key interior, oil and defence ministers have yet to be chosen.

Some Iraqis worry that insurgents could exploit the political vacuum and step up attacks on leaders perceived as weak and

indecisive if the bickering keeps dragging on. The scene in Mansour was typical of the violence that Iraqi leaders had hoped would diminish after millions of people defied sui-

national assembly elections. Bodies lay in the street and several cars were burned. A witness said smoke and flames rose near a

cide bombers and voted in the

The US military said it had no immediate information on the US commanders say the number

Twin bomb attacks in Baghdad killed at least 15 people on Thursday and four people were

killed in a bombing in Hilla, about

On the other hand, he said, if the ruling parties declare Ahmadiyyas non-Muslim, they will get political support from the Muslim Ulema in returning to power.

held a meeting at Satkhira Unnayan Kendra, an NGO. Speakers at the meeting expressed serious apprehension at the IKNM programme and said the government will be responsible for any untoward incidents during or over the siege. They condemned the repeated attack on Ahmadiyya Jamaat and

Ahmadiyya complex at Sundarban

to take proper safety measures at their persecution by Islami bigots their Shyam Nagar complex. When contacted, the district

Bazar, the target of IKNM April-17 incidents on Sunday

wanted in seven criminal cases includ-

On his confessional statement, a police team led by the officer-in-charge took Naba to Housing Estate Girls' High School ground at about 3:30am

accomplices opened fire, prompting police to retaliate. Police said Naba was caught in 'crossfire' as he tried to jump from the police van and died on the spot.

they added. Police recovered 32 bullets from the spot. According to our Chittagong

Raozan in the early hours vesterday. Raozan upazila.

cases including three for murder. They nabbed Shahadad and Naser

7 cops injured in Ctg as roof-plaster falls

of them critically, when roof-plaster of their barracks building in Dampara Police Line fell on them here yesterday afternoon.

racks building suddenly fell on them, sources said. Of the injured, Constable Hossenuzzaman, 28, and Constable Abul Hossain, 45, were admitted into Chittagong Medical

building constructed some fifty

of insurgent attacks has dropped by about a fifth since the election, but the scale and sophistication of militants' operations seems to have

siege, and promised the

Ahmadiyyas of their full support against the IKNM attack. Later in the evening, at a press IKNM activities militant. Workers Party leader Mustafa Lutfullah said the situation is deteriorating fast due to government's inaction and shel-

The same night, at a press briefing at a local hotel, Ahmadiyya Missionary Abdul Awal Khan Chowdhury urged the government

tering Islami bigots directly or indi-

police super said the district adminstration has taken strict measures to protect the Ahmadiyyas and will deploy paramilitary BDR and Armed Police to thwart any untoward

Crossfire kills 2

ing three for murder.

correspondent, a top criminal of the district was killed in a shootout

He was identified as Sarwar Hossain alias Seru, 26, son of Elahi Box of Badu Munshirpara under

Police said Seru was a listed criminal and waned in eight criminal Being tipped-off, Raozan police raided Jagatpur Ashram gate in Pahartoli area on Wednesday night where Seru and his two accomplices--Shahadat Hossain and Naser--were preparing for committing a robbery.

On the confessions of the two, police arrested Seru with one shutter gun and some ammunition from

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

As the injured police personnel along with their other colleagues were watching television, roofplasters of the TV room in the bar-

College Hospital and Dampara Police Hospital while five others

between police and his accomplices at Ahsanullah FROM PAGE 16 the prosecution and the defence for

> Ahsan Sohel. Ahsanullah was killed when about 20 gunmen fired on a rally of the Shechchhasebak League, volunteer front of the AL, at Noagaon

> others were injured in the incident. Tongi Police Station the same day

against Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal leader

Nurul Islam Sarker and 16 others. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) probed the case and on July 10 last year, pressed charges against 30 people, including Nurul for masterminding the killing with political motive. A fourmember CID team led by Assistant Superintendent of Police Khaleguzzaman carried out the 60-

against Nurul and 29 others on

Pahela Baishakh

At the function, Chhayanaut

Farlier in the afternoon Amir of Oatar Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani arrived at Zia International Airport. He was accompanied by a

quet at Hotel Sonargaon in the eve-

ments of people in Ramna Park.

People from all walks of life

Chhayanaut, a cultural organisa-

They also lauded Bangladesh for

The amir of Qatar leaves Dhaka

chief Dr Saniida Khatun urged all

an emblem of peace in the rally.

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote

disastrous UNB, Dhaka Finance and Planning Minister M

"Our neighbour has undertaken a

He stressed the need for proper

the third floor, where most of the victims were working the night shift fourth floor at the eastern part of the

The rescuers had to splash Phenyl Though factory workers are saving

> He asked the BBS to strengthen its activities at the field level to have correct and relevant statistics to guide

After the conference, Saifur told reporters he would sit today (Saturday) to review the progress in formation of two committees as decided earlier to

Wahiduddin Mahmud. ing the base emerged against the

food industry, restaurants, leasing companies and stock exchanges.

Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Sabbir Hossain told the journalists who went to the Boalia PS demanding an immediate police action. Our correspondent from Kushtia

ing treatment at Jessore Hospital, was

Kotchandpur Police Station.

RMCH and was reported to be in a Local journalists have demanded

Uzzal, local correspondent of Dhakabased national daily Amar Desh, while he was returning home on Monday Condition of Uzzal, now undergo-

and demanded immediate arrest of A case has been filed with the

accused in no more than 20 different

A band of outlawed party opera-

Lalchad, the gang leader, stands

perpetrators.

reach his fourth one-day hundred

India to 59 for four. The final game will be played in

he will call on Indian President A P J Abdul Kalam and have meetings with Congress chief Sonia Gandhi and Leader of the Opposition LKAdvani.

the Indo-Pak one-dayer to be watched by Musharraf and Manmohan Singh.

FROM PAGE 16

because the government did not cooperate with the FBI members.

rights," began on April 11. Finance ministers of different countries attended the meeting. The finance minister also held meetings with his counterparts from different countries and the Swedish

(See also page 6)

by then, with Pakistan needing 119

Earlier, stand-in captain Rahul Dravid made a patient 86 and shared in a 135-run fifth-wicket partnership with Mohammad Kaif (78) after paceman Naved Rana had reduced

The fire broke out after 2 a.m.

Bombings Thursday killed about in the middle of the night, fast asleep, smoke, cries, tears," he

attacks since the Jan. 30 polls.

restaurant following the blast.

100km south of the capital.

Satkhira Ahmadiyya

briefing at Satkhira Unnavan Kendra, 11-party leaders termed the In the opposition camp, civil society members on April 13 night

Aburkhil under the same upazila on Thursday night.

Police launched a search for the

When they reached Satbaria

Barua Para, Seru's accomplices

firearms under the possession of Seru

taking him with them at about 1:45am.

opened fire on the law enforcers in a bid to snatch their leader. Police returned fire. Police said Seru was shot during the shootout as he tried to flee. He was rushed to nearby upazila health

complex where the doctors declared

Raozan Noapara Police Camp attack

Police said he was an accused in

case. In September 1996, Seru and his accomplices attacked the police camp, killed ansar constable Abdur

him dead, they added.

Rashid and looted seven rifles

nesses including the victim's younger brother Matiur Rahman, who is also the complainant, and son Zabid

Earlier, the tribunal recorded

statements of 34 prosecution wit-

day probe. During the investigation, one of

try shifted the case to the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 for quick disposal. The tribunal framed charges

off spinner on to his stumps.

and called the IKNM move to lay siege to the Ahmadiyya complex a violation of their constitutional On Thursday, leaders of the leftleaning 11-party alliance visited the

to recover firearms. As police reached the spot, Naba's

His accomplices managed to flee

with one SBBL gun while Seru managed to flee.

Seven policemen were injured, two

Some policemen preferring anonymity alleged that the barrack

November 2.

seven days ended on Tuesday and the court fixed today for judgement.

in Tongi on May 7 last year. A schoolboy, Omar Faruq Ratan, was also killed and at least five Matiur filed a murder case with

the accused, Mahbub, gave a confessional statement to a first class magistrate disclosing the names of others involved in the killings. On October 13, the home minis-

October 28, and the trial began on

Nurul and 12 other accused are now in jail custody while 17 others, including Jatiya Chhatra Samaj leader Nurul Islam Dipu, are on the