New Pope sets out his priorities

calling his appointment a "continu-

broadly welcomed by Filipino

Vatican's hardline stance on abortion

of Germany called it "a great hon-

our" for the country and said

Benedict XVI was "a worthy succes-

who clashed with John Paul II over the

US-led war on Iraq but shared many of

his conservative values on other

issues, said Ratzinger was a man of

support, Israel said it hoped he

would forge closer ties between

Jews and Catholics and British Prime Minister Tony Blair said he

looked forward to working with the

new pope on issues including Africa

ahead came from secular giants

China and Russia, two countries

with which the Vatican's relations

the pope's primacy over an official

Church, immediately called on the

new pope to sever ties with Taiwan

message, Moscow's press pre-dicted the chill which has character-

ised Vatican-Orthodox relations

who decry the Church's opposition

to abortion, contraception -- notably

in the fight against AIDS -- divorce,

gays, the ordination of women and

Presided over by Nasirul Huq Sabu MP, the meeting was

addressed, among others, by Health

and Family Welfare Minister Khandoker Musharraf Hossain,

BNP Standing Committee member

KM Obaidur Rahman MP. Chief

Whip Khandoker Delwar Hossain,

Prime Minister's Advisor on Primary

and Mass Education Prof. Jahanara

Begum and Prime Minister's

Political Secretary Harris

Chowdhury. She said when Bangladesh is

applauded everywhere in the world

for its present stage of development

in different sectors, including educa-

tion, a particular party is trying to

tarnish the country's image aboard

Mir Musharraf Hossain Smiriti

Complex at Baliakandi upazila and

the newly-constructed 50-bed

hospital at Pangsha under Rajbari

activities in different sectors, includ-

ing education, health, communica-

tion, power, science, technology and

economy. Khaleda said these prove

that the BNP is carrying out the

politics of development and produc-

the chargesheet to a magistrate

expelled president of Zia Gobeshana Parishad and district BNP vice-

president who was earlier

chargesheeted in the Kibria killing case,

Abedin Jalal, Jamir Ali, Jainal

Abedin Mumin, Tajul Islam, Shahed

Ali, Selim Ahmed, Avat Ali, Mohibur

Rahman and Kajol Mia. The last two

have been absconding since the

Kibria and five others were killed in

the grenade attack on an AL meet-

Secretary Advocate Abdul Maiid

filed two cases -- one in connection

with the murder of Kibria and

another under the Explosive Act --

with the Sadar Police Station a day

Earlier, Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police of the

(CID) Munshi Atiqur Rahman sub-

mitted a chargesheet on March 20

accusing the same 10 people of

minal Investigation Department

ing in Habiganj on January 27.

Awami League (AL) lawmaker

Habiganj AL Organising

The other accused are Jainal

has been accused in this case also.

AKM Abdul Quaiyum, the recently

Quaiyum

FROM PAGE 1

deadly attack.

ter the attack.

Listing various development

The prime minister inaugurated

and doing harm to its own people.

the celibacy of the priesthood.

Beijing which does not recognize

Despite Alexy II's congratulatory

Among the critics were activists

Reminders of diplomatic troubles

and international development.

ave been particularly frosty.

and stay out of its internal affairs.

would continue.

Khaleda

Bangladesh self-reliant.

FROM PAGE 16

UN chief Kofi Annan added his

"great wisdom and knowledge."

contraception and homosexuality.

sor" to John Paul II.

atholics, many of whom share the

Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder

US President George W. Bush.

The choice of a conservative was

AFP, Vatican City

Pope Benedict XVI pledged to work towards Christian unity and dialoque with other faiths as he set out the priorities of his pontificate in his first homily Wednesday, saying he had been surprised by his elevation

to the papacy.

During his first mass as pontiff in the splendour of the Sistine Chapel where cardinals had elected him pope the day before, Benedict said he would "work unceasingly for the reconstruction of the full and visible unity of all Christians.

'A demonstration of good intentions is not enough," he said, delivering his first homily in Latin, as tradition dictates, in the same Sistine Chapel where his 114 cardinal colleagues had elected him less

"We need concrete gestures that enter the soul... calling each one to that interior conversion that is the basis of any progress on the ecumenical nath

In a positive sign, the new pope's appeal was matched by Russian Orthodox Church leader Alexy II, who said in a message to Benedict that he hoped his papacy "will be marked by the development of good relations between our churches fruitful Orthodox-Catholic dialogue.

Benedict called on his cardinals the men who will help to stamp his papacy on the worldwide Church, to support me with praver and with constant, active and knowledgeable

According to his compatriot Cardinal Joachim Meisner of Cologne, the former Joseph Ratzinger was applauded on his election immediately after a conclusive fourth round vote during the

cardinals' conclave Tuesday. Meisner told journalists that the new pope's first words were: obedience to the Holy Spirit, to the vote of the cardinals. I respond

In his homily, Benedict also signalled his humility, belying his reputation as the feared guardian of Catholic orthodoxy, saying he was

surprised at his elevation to pontiff.
"Confounding all my expectations, divine providence through the votes of the venerable father cardinals has called me to succeed this great pope," he said, paying tribute to his predecessor John Paul II whom he helped elect in the previ-

ous conclave 27 years ago. John Paul II, he said, had left behind a "more courageous, freer and younger Church." Like him, the new pontiff said he was committed to "open and sincere dialogue" with

followers of other faiths. The pope's first meeting with young people as he follows in the footsteps of his hugely-popular predecessor will come when he attends the World Youth Day festivi-

ties in his native Germany in August. a visit he confirmed here. The August 16-21 gathering in Cologne is the first planned foreign visit of the new papacy, according to

a Vatican schedule which dates from the last pontificate. While the Sistine Chapel ceremony was attended only by prelates and a few Vatican staff, more than 100,000 pilgrims from around the world are expected to converge on St Peter's Square for his inaugura-

tion mass as pope on Sunday. Public acclamation for the new none has come from all quarters from Berlin to Bombay, London to

Italy's press saw the German cardinal's election as a sign of the Church's determination to hold fast

to its traditional values and carry on the work of John Paul II. The cardinals' choice surprised

few.
"The Church has been entrusted to a man of 78 with a baby face, a shy

man with great energy and a culture as highbrow as (Saint) Augustine. He will be a pope both loved and feared, an intellectual with the bearing of a shepherd." said the Corriere della Sera.

The communist daily II Manifesto has already dubbed him "The German Shepherd", a guip on his previous nickname as the rather grim protector of Catholic doctrine, "God's Rottweiler."

Benedict faces the burden of trying to revive a 2,000-year-old Church riven by turmoil and disaffection and losing numbers in an increasingly secular age.

While congratulations poured in from around the world there was much dissent too, with many activists dismayed by his conservative views on issues ranging from sexual

morality to the ordination of women. The Philippines, Asia's largest

Roman Catholic nation, hailed the election. President Gloria Arrovo

Saber relieved of charges

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday relieved Saber Hossain Chowdhury, political secretary of Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina, of charges of attacking then leader of the opposition Khaleda Zia's motorcade on

charges against former AL lawmaker Kamal Ahmed Majumder, AL leader from Savar Murad Jong and 41 others.

Kamal and the others pleaded not guilty and demanded justice before the court after the charges were read out to them.

Magistrate Delwara Begum of the First Class Magistrate's Court accepted Saber's discharge petition but framed charges against others, saying the allegations brought against them were primarily proved.

perform Umrah on that day. BNP activist Mohammad Kafiluddin filed a case with the Savar Police Station against unnamed

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID), however, pressed charges against Saber,

Army personnel arrested Saber at 7ia International Airport before his flight to London on October 20, 2001. He was first shown arrested under the section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code and then in the motorcade attack case on October

"This fabricated case is typical of thousands of others filed against AL leaders and workers across the country since the October 2001

elections," Saber told The Daily Star. He expressed the hope that the higher courts will dispense justice to the 43 AL leaders 'maliciously impli-

cated in the chase'.

FROM PAGE 1 He said the ADB DG praised Bangladesh for its capability to face natural calamity and noted that the country could maintain a moderate economic growth this year despite devastating floods.

Kunio assured their continued support to Bangladesh for development of areas like health, education and infrastructure as well as poverty

"I congratulated the minister for

need for infrastructure development and said the ADB would continue its

Replying to a question, he said they do not have any new

Paper (PRSP) "We're very happy with the content of PRSP," he said, requesting the government to accommodate

prepared, in the final document. and officials from ADB's Bangladesh resident mission were present at the

FROM PAGE 16

open to the proposal, RPCL tried to resist and finally obtained a court

injunction stopping the audit. Side by side, RPCL fired its managing director and changed several of its PBS chiefs to ensure a board obedient to the businessman,

sources allege.

RPCL was formed, it was decided that PBSs will gradually take over by 2005. The issue of auditing is recent. It has no relationship with

that," he quipped. Neither the REB chairman nor any other official agreed to say

lata to invest

FROM PAGE 16

uninterrupted gas supply for 20 years for its proposed plants, competitive pricing for the gas, quick facilitation of its investment pro-

Indian conglomerate, visited Bangladesh in mid-October last year when the group signed an expression of interest (EoI) agreement to set up gas-based industries in Bangladesh.

The 1 million-tonne fertiliser unit and the 1,000MW power plant will use natural gas as raw material. The steel mill will also be gas-powered.

Bangladesh, which received foreign direct investment of nearly \$600 million in 2004 and \$441 million in 2003, had the highest growth rate in the South Asian region during the two years.

Satkhira Ahmadiyyas

"Otherwise, Touhidi Janata (believers in one God) will teach you a

good lesson. The zealots Tuesday morning also kidnapped Faruk Hossain Bulbul, a member of the Ahmadiyya community who works with the Ahmadiyya headquarters in Dhaka, from Bhetkhali in Jyotindranagar under Shyamnagar upazila. Police rescued Bulbul from the house of a leader of the zealots yesterday afternoon.

The IKNMB activists on Sunday attacked and wounded at least 50 Ahmadiyyas, including women and children, robbed 10 Ahmadiyya houses and hung a signboard at the local Ahmadiyya complex that advised Muslims not to mistake the place for a mosque and read: 'This is place of worship for the Ahmadiyya community, Sundarban Bazar'

The Ahmadiyyas pulled down the

signboard the same night. People of all walks of life including the Ahmadiyya sect, meanwhile, vowed to keep peace in the area at a meeting held yesterday at Sundarban High School ground. Shyamnagar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Solaiman chaired the meeting COMMITTEE FORMED

A 13-member committee was also formed with Munshiganj Union Parishad and BNP President Jaber Morol as its head to maintain law and order in the area.

Shyamnagar UNO Solaiman Mondol told The Daily Star yesterday, "A peaceful situation has been prevailing here since the meeting and no untoward incident has been reported until 6:00pm today." PROTESTS RAGE

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad and Bangladesh Human Rights Commission yesterday, meanwhile condemned and protested Sunday's attack on Ahmadiyyas at Sundarban Bazar in Satkhira In separate press releases, the

organisations demanded arrest and punishment of the religious bigots, who on Sunday also assaulted women and children of the Ahmadiyya community.

The women and rights organisations also asked the government to provide the injured Ahmadiyyas with proper treatment. They demanded necessary steps to prevent the zealots from carrying out such attacks in the future.

People pay Tk 6,796cr

FROM PAGE 1

"An independent, empowered and effective Anti-corruption Commission, administrative reforms, ensuring transparency and accountability by increasing participation of people in public activities would help fight against corruption,"
TIB Trustee Prof Mozaffar Ahmed told reporters at a press conference. at the Jatiya Press Club.

He said the appointment of a sector-wise ombudsman, cancellation of the Official Secrecy Act for ensuring free flow of information, and creating massive awareness among the people against corruption and building a social movement are also a must to check corruption

TIB official Ekram Hossain said 97 percent of the households surveyed said they had to pay Tk 3,713 more than the fee required for land

Some 52 percent of the households showed the price of land as 41 percent lower than the actual price for dodge tax with the help of land registration officials and employees.

Some 92 percent of households surveyed said they had to pay Tk 2,430 to file an FIR (first information report) with police stations and 91 percent households said they paid Tk 939 to file a general diary (GD). Again, 80 percent of households

said they were forced to pay Tk 881 for obtaining police clearance, while the accused in 71 percent of cases paid the policemen Tk 5,718 on

Police collected Tk 1,531 crore from people who went to file FIRs and GDs, obtain police clearance and from the accused.

In the lower court, 66 percent of plaintiffs said they had to pay Tk 6,135 on average while 65 percent of respondents had to pay Tk 7,728 to court officials, employees. and public prosecutors. In one year, the officials and employees of the lower court take Tk 2,042 crore in bribes from the plaintiffs and

accused. In the education sector, the TIB found that the officers and employees concerned took Tk 60.65 crore from the primary and secondary education sectors where the students mostly paid bribes for admis-

Some 58 percent of households alleged that they had to pay bribes for arbitration in the local government while public representatives take Tk 413 crore a year on average. The local government officials and employees take bribes from the people to enlist them for relief, but the relief is still less than they are supposed to receive.

Seventy-one percent of those who drew their pension said they bribed the offices concerned Tk 8,000 on average. In a year, Tk 82 crore goes to the pockets of corrupt households said they paid bribes to

a year for reducing power bills. Some 10.4 percent of households used illegal power connections for three years.

In government hospitals, 20 percent of households paid bribes in the indoor, 29.4 percent in the outdoor, 37 percent for surgery, 57 percent for x-rays and 60 percent for diagnoses like blood tests and others tests. These five health services earned the corrupt officials and employees Tk 113.75 crore in a

percent of households paid bribes to income tax offices, while nine percent of households had to bribe the offices concerned for holding tax The tax department officials and

ear from the income taxpayers and Tk 39.18 crore from the holding TIÉ trustees and former advisor

Iftekharuzzmaan were also present at the press conference. US congressman

FROM PAGE 1 FBI team in Dhaka" and requested him to contact the State Department to cross-check his assertion, to

killers of another Awami League MP, that like Kibria's family, the family of their concerns over the investigation and trial. But after the pronouncement of verdict. Master's son, who is now an Awami League MP in his father's seat, "expressed his full satisfaction".

The envoy invited Barney Frank to visit Bangladesh. The US lawmaker agreed and said that he might pay a visit to Dhaka in December this year.

Hot spell to continue

Meanwhile, people across the country, especially in the cities, are facing extreme heat in the absence of monsoon rain.

BDNews reports that the heat wave, combined with persistent loading shedding, has paralysed normal life and businesses in the northern districts. In Natore, Local Power Development Board (PDB) sources said the district is currently receiving only 20 to 22 megawatts (MW) of electrical supply against a demand of 35 MW, while in Naogaon district PDB sources reported only 3.9 MW against a demand of 36 MW. The shortages have seriously disrupted industrial

production and home life. Meteorologists say the temperatures are normal, pointing out in fact that the temperature this month is not as high as that of the same month in the previous years. Rather the seeming rise in temperature is due to the combination of moisture from the Bay of Bengal and the absence of frequent rainfall, he added.

continue rising until May, meteorologists advised, saying this is a normal weather trend for this time of year.

According to the meteorology department, the maximum tempera ture recorded yesterday was 35.5 degrees Celsius in Dhaka, 37.8 in Chittagong, 30 in Sylhet, 36.7 in Rajshahi, 36.7 in Khulna and 35.5 d in Barisal. The highest humidity recorded

You will feel very hot even when vou are under anv shade and that is because of more humidity," Abul Hasanat pointed out.

The heat did not seem so high during the same time last year because there were rainfalls at short year, he attributed.

recorded in 1995, and in the last 50 years 42.3 degrees Celsius in 1960, Ajit Kumar Dev Sharma noted.

EC meets today

order situation and reports from the

EC officials have hinted that the army will be deployed two days before the election.

disclose the financial aspects of the new contract, it was gathered from

The local administration is prepar-

has already prospered," Board president Ali Asghar said yesterday while confirming the new deal. secretariat yesterday told The Daily

major election during present Chief Election Commissioner MA Syed's tenure, which expires on May 22.

WARD No 63 AL candidate boycotts polls

6 hurt in attack, irregularities alleged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After a series of clashes. Awami League (AL)-backed commissioner candidate for ward No 63 of Dhaka City Corporation boycotted the election, alleging gross irregularities vesterday.

Six people, including the AL candidate Mohammad Hossain Basan, were hurt when ruling party men attacked them at Badrunnesa College centre.

Witnesses said the clash erupted when AL men complained of irregularities during the election.

"As four-party alliance men forced out our polling agents from the centre and took many fake voters there, we went to make complaint." Mohammad Hossain Basan told The Daily Star.

"The ruling party men and police, led by Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, attacked us as we made the complaint," Basan said. Basan and the other injured Mohammad Aslam Jovnal Yusuf Mia, Mahmud and Sobhan, were

rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and released after treat-

The AL candidate announced at noon a boycott of the election for 'gross irregularities'.

The attackers also vandalised a vellow taxicab parked near the Lalbagh police said they arrested Chandan, Milon and Monjur for

vandalising the cab after cab driver Mohammad Ali filed a case. Talking to reporters, the presiding officer flatly denied forcing out AL

polling agents and other irregularities.

death of commissioner Hazi Golam

The seat fell vacant after the

Hospitals

FROM PAGE 1

diarrhoea disease. Our Feni correspondent reports that 200 persons were affected by diarrhoea in the last week in the

district. Doctors said the attack is very usual and put the reason down to

rising temperatures since March. "This is a very usual season for diarrhoeal attack. People tend to drink more in the scorching heat and possibly because of drinking contaminated water they become more prone to the attack." explained a medical officer at the ICDDR, B, yesterday.

Doctors examining patients at the ICDDRB said the simple and first line treatment at home for any diarrhoea patient is taking oral saline to regain body fluids. If the patient vomits, he or she should immediately be hospitalised.

they said. Meanwhile, the weather forecast yesterday said the temperature and humidity are likely to decline over the next few days as they forecasted a nor'wester within a day or two.

Govt to make

FROM PAGE 16 kerosene and gas in the wake of

price hike in the international market and pressure from the donors. The price adjustment is likely to be announced by late April or in the

coming month. "A decision in this regard will be made at a meeting with the finance minister next week," Mosharraf said replying to a question. He said state-owned

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) has been incurring a loss of about Tk 300 crore a month due to soaring international oil prices. The state minister also said the BPC has been incurring a loss of Tk

10.50 per litre of diesel and Tk 11.40 per litre of kerosene. On average, about 2 lakh tonnes of diesel is being smuggled out of the country every month at its price is higher in a neighbouring country,

energy ministry officials said. "There is no way but to increase the fuel prices," said one official on

the condition of anonymity. Another source said that although the government is attributing the planned fuel price hike to the soaring international oil prices, it is going to raise fuel prices actually due to pressure from the donors.

Whatmore stays

FROM PAGE 16 team for their England tour next month, thus putting to rest speculations that he might go elsewhere.

Whatmore, whose first two-year contract with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) expires on April 30, has been linked with the Indian cricket team after New Zealander John Wright vacated the

Besides, Whatmore was also on Sri Lanka's seek-list. The famed coach led the Lankans to World Cup triumph in 1996.

Whatmore however was apparently keener to stay with the Test newcomers, whom he led to their maiden Test and one-day series victories against Zimbabwe in January this year.

Although the Board did not

reliable sources that the salary and other benefits of the inspirational "Whatmore is a very good coach and under him Bangladesh team

"He has been a great inspiration for our national team and his association with the boys for another term

available for comments.

Disqualified bidder

Sources said when PDB floated the project's sixth tender in October last vear two companies participated in -- Sumitomo Corporation and

Although the tender terms dictated that the bidder must have 10 years of experience in setting up and operating combined cycle power plants, PDB overlooked the act that Harbin lacked that.

In November, Sumitomo withdrew from the bidding accusing PDB of siding with Harbin, which is not technically qualified as per the bidding criteria.

Harbin was previously awarded the contract for Tongi 100 MW simple cycle power plant of PDB. This plant was launched last month after a one-vear delav in schedule. EXTRA PAÝMENT ŤO UK FIRM

The purchase committee approved an additional payment of \$8.6 million to Edmund Nuttal, the British contractor that constructed the Bangladesh-UK Friendship Bridge in Bhairab. Nuttal started raising complains soon after it had launched construc-

November 1999. The Department for International Development (DFID), UK provided the original und of Tk 4.81 billion. By the time the bridge was inauurated in late 2002, it claimed over 14 million as compensation on 13

tion of the British-funded bridge in

grounds including delay in getting permission for dredging, topographical data collection, change of the designated piling area and hartals.
As an international litigation pecame imminent, the communications ministry recently proposed to

settle the matter by paying Nuttal \$8.6 million. The law ministry also recommended the same. Holding a former chief engineer of Roads and Highways

the cabinet purchase committee to

Department responsible for the situation, the purchase committee asked the authorities to investigate the matter and take legal actions against him.

OTHER PROJECTS

The purchase committee yesterday also approved a Tk 700 million 230 KV power distribution line in Iswardi-Baghabari using a supplier's credit. Indian Tata International will design the project spearheaded by Power Grid Company Bangladesh (PGCB).

The meeting cleared a Tk 1.05 billion project to rehabilitate and expand 27 power substations in Chittagong and to construct one 33/11 KV substation under the thirdphase of Greater Chittagong Power Distribution Project. Chinese company CNEWC has been awarded this turnkey contract.

The committee approved a proposal of Rural Electrification Board to step up the capacities of With this expansion the power tariff of the plants developed by Bangladeshi company Summit will be reduced by three paisa to Tk 2.02

approved purchase of 20,000 metric tons of wheat from India.

The committee however rejected a landfilling project for the thirdphase of Uttara Model Town Project after Rajuk-proposed seven land developers quoted rates from Tk 245 to Tk 250 per square foot. The meeting observed per square foot landfilling price should be below Tk 200 and therefore Rajuk should re-

Govt friendless

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina's Political Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury and former ambassador AH Mahmud Ali also spoke at the briefing.

Faroog said the BNP-led coali-

tion government is trying to create an artificial image of Bangladesh aboard hiding the country's political. social and economic crises. On recent developments in the elations between India and Pakistan, he said Bangladesh

government remains as a silent

spectator when the two big South Asian countries are improving their relations. Farooq said Awami League velcomes the recent developments in India-Pakistan relations. "This will have a positive impact and give the Saarc (South Asian Association for

Regional Cooperation) a new life, On Bangladesh's relations with India under the present regime, Faroog said, "Mutual confidence of both parties are necessary for

congenial relations.' About the recent border clashes, he said high-level talks between the two countries can avoid such

unwanted incidents in future.

failure of the foreign ministry to maintain good relations with other countries is an example of the BNP-Jamaat coalition government's absolute failure to govern the coun-

main opposition party had lobbied with the EU Parliament for adopting the recent resolution on Bangladesh. "The government always looks

opposition but it does not want to realise what is really happening in the country," he said. The AL leaders described the successes of the immediate past

for scopes for putting blame on the

maintaining good relations with other countries. They cited the Ganges Water Treaty, CHT Peace Accord and the AL government's other dispute

resolution attempts during its rule

Border tension

India share a 4,200-km porous border, where such skirmishes is

"We are now working to settle the border disputes, complete demarcation of a 6.5-km stretch and exchange the enclaves in adverse possession. Once these irritants are removed it will cut down border tension by a great extent," Khan observed.

incident happen in the future as well as to take appropriate steps to avoid confrontation between BDR and

Asked whether the foreign ministry would summon the Indian high commissioner in Dhaka to register protest as a counter to high commissioner in New Delhi or Tuesday, the foreign minister said. There are many other wavs in diplomacy to lodge such a protest without summoning anyone.'

four members, Khan said, remarking, "I hope both the inquiry committees would report that the body of the BSF assistant commandant was found 250 yards inside Bangladesh territory and he was in civilian dress

On a question about the barbed wire border fencing by India, Morshed Khan said Bangladesh will stick to its position of not allowing such fencing within 150 yards of the zero line as per the 1974 border treaty. About Indian argument of com-

pulsion to construct fence within 150 vards due to existence of religious or educational institutions in that area, he said, "If they give us the map, we will examine whether any give due consideration to it.

wants to surround his house with SPEEDÝ FENCING

reports: India yesterday said all steps would be taken for early

completion of fencing work along its border with Bangladesh. While the border fencing has been completed in the western sector, there were some difficulties in the eastern sector because of its difficult terrain. Home Minister Shivraj Patil said in Rajya Sabha yesterday. "Our efforts are that the

fencing should be completed as early as possible "he said Patil said adequate compensation would be provided to families of BSF personnel killed or injured in border incidents including AC Jeewan Kumar, adding government would not hesitate to bend rules, if necessary.

Senior BJP lawmaker Pramod

Mahajan raised the issue during the

Zero Hour and said the Indian government should take steps to check infiltration from Bangladesh. "It is regrettable that the government is not paying adequate attention to the eastern sector and has been focusing only on the western sector." Mahajan observed.

In response, Patil said the Bangladesh government has assured India to fully investigate the killing of BSF officer Jeewan Kumar and fix responsibility for the crime.

"Bangladesh home minister

spoke to me and expressed regret over the incident. He assured me that the matter will be investigated, responsibility fixed and action will be taken against the perpetrators,' Patil said **INDIAN HC RELEASE**

An Indian high commission press

release issued in Dhaka yesterday said Bangladesh State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar telephoned Indian Home Minister Tuesday and expressed regret over the death of BSF Assistant Commandant Jeevan Kumar. He also conveyed that Dhaka

has ordered an inquiry into the incident of firing by BDR forces on BSF personnel in the Agartala sector on Saturday and stern action would be taken against those involved in the incident, said the release It said on Monday Indian High

Acting Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh Sarwar Hossain Mollah to convey Indian government's strong condemnation of the inci-

Sound mixer Mobin

band "Black" and some music crew were returning to Dhaka Tuesday night after performing at a concert organised by the GrameenPhone

12:30am, the team stopped at the meal. Resuming their journey, the left front tyre of the microbus suddenly blew out on the dilapidated road near Chouddagram thana at around 4:15am. The speeding vehicle rolled several times along the Dhaka-Chittagong highway before it stumbled into a roadside ditch, said crew members John and Mobin was thrown from the

the spot, while Tony Vincent Gomes and Meraz, the drummer and bassist of Black respectively, as well as the driver labal were injured, the crew members said. Meraz suffered from broken bones in both legs, while Iqbal suffered from a broken waist bone. The rest of the crew

suffered minor injuries All the band members and Iqbal were rushed to Orthopaedics Hospital, Meraz and Igbal were undergoing treatment there while Tony was later shifted to Samorita Hospital. The others were released after receiving treatment. Mobin's body was brought to his

friends and relatives, as well as thousands of fans, gathered to see him for the last time Mobin, born on January 6, 1969, started his career as a guitarist and later turned into a sound engineer in 1986. He contributed significantly in the sound mixing productions of

almost all the country's major bands

and also mixed sounds at all major

Dhanmondi residence, where

GrameenPhone in a press release conveyed its sympathy for the bereaved family of the deceased. It also expressed compassion for the injured Black members, the brand spokespersons of its D-Juice venture.

Mobin was buried at the

In her order, the magistrate said Saber was discharged as he along with his family was in Mecca to

local hoodlums belonging to AL on August 20, 2002, 14 months after

March 12 last year.

ADB urges govt

alleviation.

assistance in this regard. He said the bank has already undertaken assistance programme for the improve-ment of infrastructure in

their recommendations, now being ERD Secretary Ismail Jabiullah

Graft-ridden

June and if the government still has stakes in RPCL, it will have to open its books to the auditors. relationship between the German auditing and the 'total privatisation' of RPCL. "Back in 1994, when

anything officially in this regard.

posal and selection of suitable sites. Ratan N Tata, chairman of the

intervals, which is not true for this The highest temperature in the last decade was 39 degrees Celsius

local administration.

Over 11 lakh voters are entitled to vote at 577 polling centres.

The CCC polls will be the last

Harbin.

two small power plants in Narsingdi and Comilla from 22 MW to 49 MW.

per kilowatt hour. Yesterday's meeting also

Faroog, also a former foreign secretary, replied with a smile, "Awami League is a pro-Bangladesh party.' Saber Hossain Chowdhury said

political rivals' allegation that the

main opposition party is pro-Indian.

He refuted the allegation that the

government of Awami League especially in foreign policy and

Asked about Awami League's between 1996 and 2001

nothing unusual, but both the countries are sincere to maintain peace.

He said in their talks the state ministers of home of Bangladesh and India have agreed to talk to each other immediately if any such

summoning of Bangladesh's acting Both the next-door neighbours have formed probe committees into the Saturday's incident. The comnittee formed by Dhaka comprises

mosque, temple or educational institution stands within the 150 vards. If the India's claim about area of compulsion is genuine, we will Asked why India is fencing the border, Khan counter-argued, What's the problem if anyone

Our New Delhi correspondent

Commissioner Veena Sikri called on

Ltd at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong with "Indian Idols" Amit Sana and Rahul Saxena. Having set off for Dhaka at Highway Inn at Chouddagram for a

backseat of the vehicle and died on

Bangladesh Air Force graveyard.

KHALEDA MOTORCADE ATTACK

June 17, 2001 The court however framed

Murad, Kamal and 41 others on

interventions in keeping macroeconomic stability in a sustainable level of high growth. This country has much larger potential to grow fur-ther," the funding-agency chief told He, however, pointed out the

He said the bank is going to finalise its 5-year country assistance strategy, which will be consistent with the Poverty Reduction Strategy

The court injunction expires in But Ismat Alam ruled out any

vesterday in Barisal was 83 percent. followed by 82 in Khulna, 76 in Chittagong, 73 in Sylhet, 69 in

officials and employees from the pensioners. Some 70.4 percent of get power connections. The TIB found that officials and employees of the power sector take Tk 104.16 crore in bribes for giving power connections and Tk 65 crore

The TIB survey found that 49

employees took Tk 167.73 crore a the caretaker government Hafizuddin Ahmed and Dr

which the Congressman agreed. Shamsher also asserted that any apprehension regarding the investigation and bringing the perpetrators to justice was totally unfounded. He mentioned how a Bangladeshi court had punished the Ahsanullah Master. He pointed out Ahsanullah Master had also voiced

Temperatures are expected to

Dhaka and 58 in Rajshahi, the department officials said.

Both the ruling coalition and the main opposition party are determined to win the upcoming CCC polls, possibly the last ballot war between them before the next general elec-

ing a list of risky polling centres to place at the meeting on security measures, a senior official at the EC

coach have been almost doubled.

will only help us progress in the Whatmore however was not