Bar Council

HC division bench after senior judge of the bench Justice Ali Asgar declined to sit with him and lawvers threatened to boycott the court. Justice Faizee later went on leave.

But the CJ allotted a singlemember bench on April 10 this year, allowing Faizee to resume his work

The Bar Council served a showcause notice on Faizee last November asking him to reply in seven days why punitive action would not be taken against him and why his enrolment would not be

In a letter, the council asked the CU authorities to allow two Bar Council men to verify the matter. But the CU authorities refused to allow the council enquiry saying they would

show-cause notice refuting the allegations and the CU authorities also did not defend him as an LLB graduate, the Bar Council took it to be granted that the allegations are true, Rokanuddin told reporters at his

Faizee applied for Bar Council's enrolment certificate showing a provisional LLB certificate. Even Faizee's father Mohammad Faiz, who filed the contempt suit against the two dailies, failed to produce Faizee's LLB certificate in court when he filed the case

his enrolment unanimously," Rokanuddin said.

Eight members of the council attended the meeting. They are Mahbubey Alam, Sahara Khatun, Yusuf Hossain Humayun, Misbah Uddin Siraj, MA Salam, Zahurul Haq, Sarder Suruzzaman and Rokanuddin Mahmud.

1965 as his date of birth in his application and supporting affidavit submitted for Bar Council certificate, but his SSC certificate attached with the

The diplomat was speaking at a

roundtable on 'Bangladesh-India

relationship in the light of liberation

war', organised by the Muktiioddha

On the border skirmishes

Samannay Parishad in the capital.

between Bangladesh Rifles (BDR)

and Indian Border Security Force

(BSF), he said the BSF has no

Chakravarti regretted that the

incidents took place at a time when

the chiefs of the BDR and BSF were

holding talks in Dhaka to resolve the

BDR and BSF should aim at stop-

ping illegal intrusion and other illegal

"India does not consider

Bangladesh as a small state in

terms of population and natural

resources." he said, adding that

both the countries could go forward

Chakravarti said India proposed

to Bangladesh a Free Trade

Agreement, and if Dhaka finds it

Speaking at the roundtable,

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal

Hossain stressed expanded coop-

beneficial, it should move forward.

through mutual understanding.

The diplomat felt that both the

existing problems on the border

activities.

intention to attack the BDR.

application showed it was September 15, 1963.

Although Faizee testified that all information in the affidavit were true, he put false information there. Rokanuddin said. "We have decided to file a criminal case for providing false information through the affida-

About the eligibility of becoming a Supreme Court (SC) judge, the constitution savs one having 10 years' experience in legal practice at the SC or background of working in the judicial service for at least 10 years can be an SC judge.

Faizee was appointed an additional judge of the High Court since he had 10 years' experience of legal

Since Faizee received the council's permission to begin his practice on deceit, all his practice will be considered as null and void. Rokanuddin said.

He said Justice Faizee now disqualifies to be a judge as his working experience 'cannot be counted as legal practice'. "After his certificate for practice is revoked. judicial work and judgements of Faizee should not have legality." he

The Bar Council meeting decided to inform the CJ, law ministry, CU and Justice Faizee about its decisions, which will be circulated through a gazette notification

As Faizee continues his iudicial tasks, litigants may face trouble because constitutional legality of his judgements may be questioned in future, Rokanuddin said. He believes it would be safe for the litigants with his bench if they transfer their cases to other benches

If the CJ does not withdraw Faizee from bench, the Bar Council will table a proposal at its extended meeting with presidents and secretaries of all bar associations of the country on May 13 to boycott the courts for a day to protest Faizee's judicial work.

Six killed

FROM PAGE 16

Doctors attributed the cause of the deaths to late arrival of the patients at health centres

"Deaths from diarrhoea are mostly due to insufficient intake of fluid to replace body fluid loss during loose motion. No one should expire from only diarrhoeal attack as long as the patient takes sufficient fluid after every loose motion," said an expert at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease and Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B).

Nearly five hundred diarrhoea patients were admitted to the centre vesterday and the rush of patients is increasing, centre officials said.

The health ministry has deployed 2,736 mobile medical teams in the most affected districts to treat patients, mostly in remote areas.

Since the beginning of this year, 70 people, mostly children, died from diarrhoea while 1,60,801 people have been treated or hospitalised, health directorate officials said yesterday.

Journo Bellal killing

FROM PAGE 16 suspects in the case filed with Khulna thana. The eight others --Habi Shaikh, Khokon, Elias, Anowar Hossain, Delwar, Golam Rasul, Solaiman and Tallbabu -- are also in

jail custody now. "I got no evidence against the eight others. Any new information can be included in the chargesheet, if necessary," the OC told this correspondent.

The monitoring cell of the home ministry recently named Jamaat-e-Islami leader Shahabuddin Laskhar alias Dhira as the prime suspect in the case. He went into hiding soon after this.

The journalists injured in the incident are Khulna bureau chief of the Prothom Alo and President of local press club Shaikh Abu Hasan, Khulna correspondent of Bangladesh Today Mohammod Tutul and staff photographer of Dainik Jugantar Zahidul Islam.

will place four alternative pay scales

One of them suggests fixing of

the lowest scale at Tk 2,400 and the

highest at 23,000. Another recom-

mends Tk 2.500 for the lowest and

Tk 24,000 for the highest scale. The

other two options set the lowest

scale at Tk 2,600 and Tk 2,450 and

the highest at Tk 25,000 and Tk

Sources said the government

Another source said the secre-

pay scale in three phases. In the

first phase, employees will get 60

to 70 percent of their salary in

June and the rest in July in the

before the cabinet meeting.

Govt staffs

FROM PAGE 1

23.500.

committee recommendations. Sources said on fixing the new pay scale, the secretary committee

on Bangladesh's foreign policy should be taken on the basis of consensus among the political

member Tofail Ahmed said friendly relations between Bangladesh and India, based on mutual respect, will benefit both.

"Pakistan and India are coming closer to each other leaving aside their previous enmity but Bangladesh's relations with India are getting strained although they were very good in the past," Tofail

ist Atiur Rahman said Econor

No country can now stride forward without strong ties with its

He suggested that any decision

added.

sound economic and political relations with India.

Bangladesh," he pointed out.

included AL presidium members Abdur Razzak and Amir Hossain Amu, Dhaka University Teachers Association President AAMS Arefin Siddique and Prof Nim Chandra Bhoumik. Samannay Parishad Chairman Abir Ahad presided.

Better overseas trade

FROM PAGE 16

problem is a matter of concern in the way of development of regional trade and cooperation

"Despite its significant achievement in export competitiveness. social development and investment environment, some international rating agencies have ranked Bangladesh in the lower grade," the

It is important to project a realistic image of the country, he added.

He, however, told reporters after the dialogue that the negative image of the Bangladesh is attributable to the present confrontational politics

technology, skilled manpower and backward linkage, Bangladesh is the only country among the 45 LDCs that exports finished products.

He noted that there is a great potential for more foreign direct investment (FDI) in the backward linkage industries.

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) President Farooq Sobhan told the dialogue as much as around 25 percent production cost could be cut if the government improved its

He emphasised developing small and medium enterprises to derive maximum benefits from globalisation.

Former commerce minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Choudhury said service sector gets less importance in the country but in this era of globalisation, this sector should receive the same status that the production sector enjoys. He suggested introducing a common platform of the line ministries for

in exports and chronic balance of payment shortfall have stymied

handicaps.

Muhammad Zamir suggested arranging trade fairs in the Asia-Pacific region to better face the

Japanese Ambassador in Bangladesh Matsushiro Horiquchi called for removal of bureaucratic obstacles and stressed the need for developing infrastructure of Bangladesh.

Choudhury, Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company Managing Director Dr Peter A May, North South University Vice-Chancellor Hafiz GA Siddiqi, former secretary Syed Alamgir Farrouk Chowdhury, National Bank Limited Managing Director Aminuzzaman, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry President Sayeeful Islam, Bengal Fine Ceramics Limited Chairman R Maksud Khan, CIRDAP Research Division Director Dr Mumtajuddin Ahmed, European Union Economic and Political Affairs Officer Zillul Hye Razi, UNDP Assistant Resident Representative Dilruba Haider and Bureau Veritas Bangladesh Ltd

Taslim attended the dialogue.

About 97 per cent children go to Managing Director A Qayyum Khan schools, and the government proalso spoke. vides scholarship for about one ICC-B Vice President Latifur crore girl students, he said. Rahman, The Daily Star Editor Like the US and many European Mahfuz Anam, UNB Editor Golam countries, Saifur said, Bangladesh Tahaboor and Development is turning into a caring state day by Initiative Executive Director Prof MA day

Jamaat's rejoinder

Tasneem described those as 'false in toto' and said his party 'has no relations with the organisation like Khatme Nabuwat Movement'. The Jamaat leader described the party's 'relation with the alleged attacks and looting of Ahmadiyya houses' as a hypothesis and said 'the information has been published to tarnish the image of Jamaat-e-Islami'.

The Jamaat leader urged The Daily Star 'to refrain from creating confusion among the people [by] publishing such type of news'.

Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami and Industries Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami issued a statement yesterday affirming his party's belief that despite being a religious minority Ahmadiyyas are citizens of Bangladesh and entitled to all protection guaranteed to a citizen by the constitution and other laws.

"About the status of the Ahmadiyyas as to whether they are Muslim or non-Muslim, our position is very clear and it is exactly the same as the position of the religious scholars of this country and other countries. In the light of the Holy Quran and the Sunnah this is a settled

issue." Nizami said in the statement. He said that Jamaat would protect the rights of the Ahmadiyyas to live peacefully.

Referring to a Daily Star report of April 25 that quoted the Nayeb-e-Ameer of the Ahmadiyyas as saying that Moulana Moudoodi, the founder of the Jamaat-e-Islami, launched the anti-Ahmadiyya campaign under the banner of the Aharar Movement in 1934, the Jamaat Ameer said Jamaat-e-Islami in fact was formed in

"Before that Moulana Moududi was not a member of any political or religious organisation. He had no relationship whatsoever with the Aharars, whose leader was one Shah Ataullah Bukhari. In 1953 neither Jamaat-e-Islami nor Moulana Moudoodi was involved in any movement that led to violence against Ahmadiyyas," the statement reads.

To divert public opinion, certain vested guarters started a violent campaign against Ahmadiyyas, alleged Nizami adding that Jamaat had no relationship with that movement then, as it has no relationship with the violent movement now. **OUR REPLY**

Shyamnagar Jamaat leaders including Moulana Abdul Gafur, imam of local Munsiganj Mosque, Mufty Abdus Saleq, imam of Bangshipur Shahi Mosque, and Mohaddes Yunus Ali, muazzin of the mosque, held several meetings in the area on April 15 and 16 to mobilise locals in laying siege to the Ahmadiyya complex in Jyotindranagar on April 17.

Addressing the meetings, the Jamaat leaders called the Ahmadiyyas non-Muslim and urged the locals to join the April 17

programme of Khatme Nabuwat. They also took part in the April 17 IKNMB procession to the Ahmadiyya

It may be mentioned that Jamaat represents three of the five Satkhira constituencies while BNP and Bangladesh Jativa Party the rest.

Local Khatme Nabuwat chief Moulana Nur Hossain campaigned for Jamaat during the last general election

Local lawmaker Nazrul Islam who was elected on the Jamaat ticket, has been learnt to have asked the officer-in-charge of Harinagar Police Station not to record any case when injured Ahmadiyyas went to file case for attacks and looting of their houses on April 17. Local journalists were present at the police station when the OC was talking to the lawmaker over phone.

Meanwhile, Rabiul Islam, local Jamaat leader and son of Munsigani Union unit Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Abdur Razzak, allegedly took part in looting Ahmadiyya houses in Chhotobhetkhali on April 18 and 19. He along with other Khatme Nabuwat operatives took away furniture, gold ornaments, cash, documents of land, electronic goods, cattle and poultry from the houses of several Ahmadiyya sect members including Ahmed Ali Mollah, Abdul Alim, Abu Waseq, Sheikh Alam, Sheikh Wadud, Faruq Ahmed, Ensar Ali Gazi and GM Ataur Rahman

Islam later reportedly returned the looted property of Ahmed Ali Mollah and Abdul Wadud to local Ahmadiyya leader Abdul Majid in front of the villagers on April 21

NBR cuts

FROM PAGE 16

the 40-foot wide container. He also imported television sets, refrigerators and air conditioners in the container.

The importer also obtained a certificate from the BSI Inspectorate, a pre-shipment inspection (PSI) firm, which confirmed that the declaration of the importer was true.

The NBR officials, however, sensed foul play. They searched the container when it was brought to Kamalapur Inland Container Depot and found the cars and other electronic home appliances.

On July 27, 2003, the importer filed a writ petition with the High Court where it said the NBR had been illegally blocking release of their imported items. The petition also referred to the PSI firm's certificate in this regard.

The NBR placed proofs of false declaration by the importer before the court that in a March 23 verdict ordered the NBR to release the items after turning those into scrap. Sources said the NBR would

firm for issuing a false certificate. the process.

Desa slated

of a particular company without invit-

ing any tenders. It asked the ministry to bring amendments to the project proposal as the cabinet purchase committee had already rejected the previous

The committee also blasted the high officials of power division of the ministry for irregularities and failure to check repeated load shedding.

Earlier in a report the power division officials told the parliamentary body that Desa has incurred losses of Tk 1576.87 crore in last 10 years due to systems loss. But the committee members alleged that mainly irregularities and corruption have caused the

ties of the ministry have stagnated for widespread irregularities and corrup-

immediately different power projects, told reporters after the meeting. "We also asked the ministry to initiate proper steps to slash the systems loss," he added. Members of the parliamentary

body was of the view that the ministry

high-ups had tried to put out to tender

afresh the 210 MW power plant at

Siddhirganj (unit 2) cancelling the

previous tender to award their

favoured company the work order

had approved the previous tender, the ministry officials did not issue the work order in last three years.

through irregularities, said a meeting

Though the Prime Minister's Office

The committee asked the ministry to award the work order to the company, which became the lowest bidder in the previous tender, added the source.

Heavy rains FROM PAGE 1

tore apart a few hundred billboards in the city and uprooted trees and roadside sheds for bus passengers, leaving long queues of vehicles waiting to pass through the mess on the roads.

Soon after 6pm, the power supply in some areas like Mirpur, Gandaria and in many areas of Old Dhaka was suspended for a while.

Heavy showers also clogged sewerage lines in many areas, slowing down traffic movement in

As of the writing of this report, the Met office could not provide any information on the amount of rainfall in the city, nor any information about the gusty winds and rainfall taking place in other parts of the country.

Two businessmen

Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH), where doctors declared them dead

Police picked up three staff of the cable network office -- Newtol, Tofazzel and Rafig -- for interrogation. They were out of the office when the attack occurred. Kamal Hossain, alias Ratan, 30,

who went to the office to meet an owner of the cable network, sustained a bullet in the right thigh. He was undergoing treatment at the "Seven to eight youths walked up

to the office from the western side. They entered through a window and started hurling abusive words and firing with weapons," Ratan told The "Amid the shooting one criminal

shouted, 'Bring petrol and set fire,' and soon I found a ball of fire and thick smoke clouding the room," After the incident the police and

of the eight partners of the cable network, from the business three months ago following allegations of embezzlement.

"We are investigating whether Rois had a hand in the murder," said the officer-in-charge of Khilgaon Police Station. He added that Rois is an accused in a case filed in his police station, but could not provide

Crystal Cable Network has a thriving business providing connections to several hundred households in the Banasree Housing Project.

Around three years ago, local criminal Kala Palash and his accomplices gunned down Mizanur Rahman, then a partner of Crystal Cable Network, inside his house

Putin deplores collapse of **USSR**

BBC ONLINE

Russia's President Vladimir Putin has described the collapse of the Soviet Union as "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe" of the 20th

Putin's annual state of the nation address to parliament was broadcast live on Russian television.

He said the break-up of the USSR in 1991 was "a real drama" which left tens of millions of Russians outside the Russian Federation.

He also said Russia must develop as a "free and democratic'

But he stressed that Russia "will decide for itself the pace, terms and conditions of moving towards democracy" "We are a free nation and our

defined only by how successful and strong we are" Critics accuse President Putin of concentrating too much power in the Kremlin, pointing to controversial changes in the way provincial governors and parliamentary deputies are

place in the modern world will be

elected. Putin also said Russians who had saved money overseas should be encouraged to return capital to

Russia. He called for a flat 13% tax on all undeclared revenue.

"Tax authorities have no rights to terrorise business," Putin said Massive demands for back taxes crippled Russia's largest oil firm

Yukos - and its plight has alarmed

many western investors.

Monday's speech was Putin's second state of the nation address since he was re-elected by a land-

His wide-ranging speech also touched on the government's efforts to combat terrorism. He called for "radically new approaches" to tackle the threat, which he described as "still verv strona". "The moment we display weak-

ness or spinelessness, our losses

will be immeasurably greater," he

Thai team

FROM PAGE 16 The team will work out alignment and financing process for the 13-km Discussion on the project was held at yesterday's meeting

between Thai Ambassador Suphat

Chitranukroh and Communications Minister Nazmul Huda. During the visit, the highpowered delegation will meet the taskforce formed by the Bangladesh government, officials of the communications ministry and Roads and Highways Department and finalise

Thai Exim Bank will support 60 percent while Thai and Bangladesh governments will equally share the remaining 40 percent of total cost of the project to be implemented in two

group Vice-chairman AA Kaiser Tito met him at his office on April 19.

"After the meeting, he gave me a Rolex Oyster watch as a gift. I felt embarrassed to accept it, but for courtesy I had to receive it," he added.

net secretary for depositing it in the government treasury. Yesterday's price of a Rolex Oyster watch on the international

Savar victims

FROM PAGE 16

legs, fled from Palashbari several days before along with his wife," said Laily, a neighbor of Hafiz, who worked as a knitting operator in the factory. "He will never stand straight and work as he could not complete treatment because of financial constraints."

Some families have fled in the night, as they owe money to nearby grocery shop owner, landlords, and

"I can not go home as I owe my neighbors Tk 2700, which they lent me for my husband's burial in Kushtia " said Rekha, wife of Monir. an electrician killed in the collapse "I do not know how I will survive with my child if I do not get more compensation."

ties have given employees half of their outstanding salaries, while their salaries for overtime duty still remain unpaid.

Meanwhile, the factory authori-

owner," said a helpless Achhia, bills for my overtime duty." Distraught workers say the do

not know how they will cope in the by my halved salary of Tk 2000?"

BSF kills 2 more

helicopters.

Ashraful Alam, 25, a cattle trader, when he went to the no man's land of Haripur border, chasing the cattle

on Sunday night. BDR said they have lodged a strong protest with their Indian

counterpart. Tension has been prevailing in the border area. Villagers along the border said the BSF deployed additional troops at some points including Borshalupara, Baliadangi

and Atwari. Meanwhile, amidst strained relations on the border with Bangladesh, India appeared to have downplayed allegations of airspace violation in Tripura by BDR

Bangladesh has alleged that an Indian Border Security Force (BSF) helicopter violated its airspace on April 18. But BSF director general RS Mooshahary said on Sunday: "BSF does not have a copter in that sector," Times of India reported yesterday.

The daily quoting BSF officials in Agartala said that on checking the timing of the alleged movement of the Indian helicopter, as claimed by Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), it was found that these were the timings of Indian commercial flights which arrive at Agartala from Kolkata overflying Bangladesh airspace.

The BSF informed the Indian air force (IAF), both in the eastern sector and at the IAF headquarters. of a Bangladesh helicopter violating India's airspace on Friday and an IAF spokesman said it was investigating the matter.

"The helicopter was seen a few hundred metres inside Indian airspace and we have passed on this information to the IAF for investigation," Mooshahary confirmed on Sunday. However, he added that there

development." These issues will also be taken up with BDR during their regular flag meeting, he added. Bangladesh Rifles has alleged that Indian MI-8 helicopters violated Bangladesh's airspace several

times and lodged protest with the

Indian authorities. A senior BDR

was "nothing alarming about the

official termed the BSF allegation "concocted," saying that BDR has

no helicopter of its own. In Jhenidah, the Indian border guards yesterday returned the bodies of two Bangladeshi farmers

shot dead by them on Saturday. Jahangir Hossain, Jadavpur Company Commander of BDR, received the bodies from BSF at

Locals said the BSF personnel gunned down Jahidur Rahman, 24, and Moktar, 20, of Gopalpur village while they were going to their crop

land Saturday morning. **INDIAN HC STATEMENT**

The Indian High Commission, Dhaka, in a statement yesterday explained the shooting of two Bangladeshis in Moheshpur upazila of Jhenidah district on April 23.

According to the statement, the Border Security Force (BSF) mem-

One of the members of the patrol team used his torchlight to illuminate the area and observed that more than 10-12 miscreants were breaching the barbed wire fence and two of them had already crossed over to their own side of the barbed wire fencing through gap created by breaching, the statement

party tried to apprehend the two Sensing grave and imminent danger, patrol party fired five bullets at two criminals already crossed over and also criminals on the other side of the fence, resulting in deaths of two of them on the spot.

On search of the area, two dead bodies of unknown criminals were recovered along with wire cutter and two cans of Palm oil, the statements

Kuwaiti cops launch

join Nibraj Cleaning Company in Kuwait in August last year on allégation that the company does not treat well its foreign workers, the official told The Daily Star.

Asked how the Bangladeshis

manage job in that company despite

the restriction, the official said most

of them had gone to Kuwait either on

individual visa or joined the company after leaving jobs in other companies. Around 4 000- 4 500

Nibraj company, sources said.

payment of their salaries.

"I believe the common workers agency over telephone.

information about all those who were involved directly or indirectly in

ministry, told The Daily Star yester-

day that the ministry has sought

Kuwait, the secretary responded in the negative. "We have heard that the workers were not getting salary for the last few months but no official com-plaints were received," said another official of the expatriates welfare

ous.' But Ambassador Nazrul Islam Khan expressed doubt about the allegation. Talking to UNB, he said if these workers were not paid for a long time, how they could hire buses and lorries and organise 700-800

According to the report, the intruders vandalised the embassy office for around half an hour and three embassy officials were assaulted while trying to stop the

HC order

High Court, Supreme Court lawyer Advocate Idrisur Rahman filed the leave to appeal against the HC order in the Supreme Court in public interest.

appeal against the verdict though it involves a number of serious points of law on interpretation of the constitution and there is a confusion in public mind on the issue, I have preferred to appeal against the High Court verdict for public interest,

bers heard some unusual noises from the site of the barbed wire fencing and also across the barbed wire fencing towards Bangladesh in Indian territory while patrolling.

It said the patrol commander challenged and directed them to surrender but they did not pay heed. rather started pelting stones. Patrol already crossed over. But one of them tried to snatch weapon by assaulting one patrol member.

but failed.

aged.

Bangladeshis are now working in Meanwhile, the ministry has asked the Bangladesh embassy in Kuwait to send the particulars of the nine workers who were arrested after about 800 workers of Nibraj stormed the embassy alleging non-

Bangladesh ambassador in Kuwait yesterday told UNB that Kuwaiti police were interrogating the arrestees to find out the motive behind the attack

were misguided...We are trying to find out who had instigated them with what purpose," Ambassador Nazrul Islam Khan told the news AKM Shamsuddin, secretary incharge of the expatriates welfare

the incident Asked whether they often get complaints of non-payment of salary to expatriate workers in

ministry terming the attack "mysteri-

people to launch the attack. Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Embassy in Kuwait has sent a primary report of the damage caused by the attack by the "agarieved" workers.

attackers. The officials are Defence

Barrister Tanjib-ul Alam and

Barrister Sarah Hossain moved for the petitioner while Barrister Azmalul Hossain for Syed Shahidur Rahman. Although he was no party in the

"Since the government filed no

The driver's inexperience may also June 2004, officials said. Authorities mobilised for a speedy

rescue. The central government in Tokyo dispatched Self-Defence Force

Faizee not to sit at his two-member

amid lawyers' strong protest.

cancelled for providing false information to receive enrolment certificate.

themselves reinvestigate the matter. As Faizee did not reply to the

"So, the council meeting revokes

Faizee mentioned September 15,

Indian deputy

there is no alternative but to build

development of the LDCs. He recommended massive public-private stakeholders-level consultations for removal of these

globalisation challenges.

available, he said. tries if we consider its very small

may pick one of the last two options to fix the new pay scale tary committee will suggest the government to implement the new

"But, as a regional power, India has some responsibilities towards its neighbours including Other speakers at the roundtable

eration among the South Asian countries for development of the

Prof Mahmud said.

in the country. He said despite its deficiency in

service delivery and efficiency.

international trade negotiations

Former secretary Hasnat Abdul

Hye said the debt service liability ever-increasing imports, decrease

Former ambassador

Former secretary Suhel Ahmed

neighbours, he said.

Awami League (AL) presidium

second phase. They will get allowances in January next year in the third phase. An additional Tk 6,712 crore in budgetary allocation is necessary to fully implement the recommendations of the two pay commissions for civil and defence staffs. The current

budget has earmarked Tk 13.477

crore in salaries of government

A source at the Cabinet Division

said the International Monetary

Fund recently asked the govern-

ment to keep the additional figure for implementing new pay scale below

FROM PAGE 1

crops.

employees

Tk 4,000 crore Saitur

remark when asked about the government plan in the next budget to create jobs for the unemployed. Substantiating his claim, Saifur said agriculture sector is suffering from an acute crisis of manpower in recent days. "If any one travels through Comilla and Brahmanbaria districts, he will witness that there

are no workers for harvesting

the past, people from Kishoregani

used to go to Sylhet for jobs but it

The minister mentioned that in

has stopped now as factories have been set up in that district. Moreover, the government is looking for suitable people for many of its projects but it is not getting. Even workers for digging soil are not

Purchasing capacity of general

people has now increased, Saifur

thought. "I think people of Bangladesh are now living in a better condition compared to people of many Indian states like Rajsthan and Kerala," he said. " In my view, our people no longer give the impression of being from a typical third world country." He went on, "Bangladesh is

doing well compared to many coun-

size and a huge population."

take punitive actions against the PSI

FROM PAGE 16

proposal.

They also observed that the activi-"We asked the ministry to bring dynamism in its work to complete Committee Chairman Shahidul Islam

many of the city's busy areas.

members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) were deployed in the area. Police said Mithun played a role in removing one Rois, who was one

Iop tax boss FROM PAGE 16

Chowdhury, also secretary of Internal Resource Division, sent the gift along with the letter to the cabi-

market was \$1,500, equivalent to over Tk 90.000.

neighbors.

"They gave me Tk 1,100 against my due salary of Tk 2,200, saving we should realize the loss of our adding. "the authorities also refused to give me two months outstanding

uncertainly hanging over their compensation. "Giving us half of our outstanding salary, the factory authorities informed us no bill for overtime duty would be paid as the owner suffered a huge loss," said Hajera, a knitting operator. "How will I be freed from my debt of Tk 3000

AttachéBrig Gen (retd) Saiful Ali, Counsellor Mahfuzur Rahman and First Secretary (Labour) Selim Reza. The attackers ransacked almost all the rooms on the ground floor and

first floor. Some of them even tried to

break open the ambassador's room

The angry expatriate workers

The attackers also harassed the

also damaged six computers, a television set, close circuit cameras, refrigerators and valuable documents, the report mentioned. Ten cars parked in the basement and in front of the office were also dam-

security guards. The Kuwaiti police reached the spot after half an hour though emergency call was given from the embassy, the report said. The Kuwaiti police have started investigation and asked the embassy officials not to remove

of smooth enquiry.

5/ dead FROM PAGE 1 Akashi told national broadcaster NHK. 'I didn't know what happened, and there were many people bleeding. The Hyogo state police said at least 53 people were killed, and train opera-

tor West Japan Railway Co. said at

least 343 people had been taken to

hospitals. It was not clear how many of

the dead were passengers or if

bystanders and apartment residents

anything from the spot for the sake

were among the victims. The accident was the worst rail disaster in 14 years in Japan, which is home to one of the world's most complex and heavily travelled rail networks. An accident killed 42 people in April 1991 in Shigaraki, western

"There are many theories but we

don't know for sure what caused the

accident," Chief Cabinet Secretary

Hiroyuki Hosoda said. "The prime minister instructed us to respond with The train operator, West Japan Railway Co., apologised "Our most important task now is to

rescue the passengers from the

accident and we are doing our best,"

West Japan Railway Co. President

derailment sent passengers tumbling

through the inside of the cars. Photos

Survivors said the force of the

Takeshi Kakiuchi told reporters.

taken by an NHK reporter aboard the train showed passengers piled on the floor and some clawing to escape from the busted shells of the cars. NHK said the train collided with a car in between train stations while it was running at a speed of 43 mph, though a railway official said that figure

wasn't certain.

been going 82 mph to have jumped the track purely because of excessive speed. He said it still was not certain how fast the train was going at the time of the accident.

Investigators struggled to come up

with reasons for the crash. Tsunemi

Murakami, the railway's safety direc-

tor, estimated that the train would have

have been a factor. He only had 11 months experience and had committed a previous overrun at a station in

soldiers to the disaster scene to assist