Rich-poor gap widens China

level rise of 13.36 percent while the poor found it decreasing by 3.56

The urban poor's household income fell by 5.34 percent between 1999 and 2004 while the non-poor's income increased by 7.96 percent.

For the rural poor, household income fell even deeper by 7.32 percent. Rural non-poor however saw a 3.23 percent rise.

A look at the per capita income shows that it increased by 17.51 percent at the national level. But the share of the poor in this growth was little which accounted for only 4.82 percent of the growth while the nonpoor witnessed 19.38 percent rise.

The per capita income of the urban poor increased by only 2.22 percent, but it increased by 11.54 percent for the non-poor. At rural level, it increased by 0.54 percent for the poor and 7.97 percent for the

A few research organisations, such as the Centre for Policy Dialogue, have long been talking about this divide using different proxy indicators such as terms of trade in agriculture, wage differential and rural inflation rate. A year ago, the CPD had categorically said the growth benefits have been unequally distributed, a truth that has been vindicated by the BBS.

Explaining the trend, Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive director of the CPD, said the sources of growth militated against the poor because of structural problems, leading to today's situa-

The participation of the poor had been relatively limited in the remittance earning which further exacerbated the income maldistribution.

"In the farm sector, the productivity growth does not tell the whole story as it could not create demand for labourers. And in the non-crop sector growth was discriminatory as it was the rich who controlled the land and waterbodies to produce more livestock and fish.

In the non-farm activities in the rural and peri-urban areas, the labour demand that has been created has mainly been for the more skilled. Thus the unskilled poor have been left behind. The labour intensive export-oriented manufacturing sector could not absorb the surplus

Similarly, the poor could not participate in the service sector growth for lack of education and

"Continuation of such a situation will threaten social coherence and democracy." notes Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive director of economic think-tank Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD).

Dr Debapriya points out that the findings of the survey show that the 5 percent plus annual GDP growth the last several years was not taking place in favour of the poor.

'The survey proves that the disparity between the rich and poor only widening every year," he

Debapriya pinpointed some of the reasons for the poor becoming

"Not all of the rural people could participate in the agricultural development in the country. Additionally the rise of income in the non-crop sector (like fisheries and livestock) did not reach the poor," Debapriya

The difference between wages of skilled and non-skilled workers in the non-farm sector has also widened. These have resulted in widening of income disparity," he

The growth in the exportoriented sector did not take place in such a way that could absorb the rural workforce significantly, he

The modern service sector that grew in the urban areas is not labour-intensive while these require certain educational qualification that the poor segment lacks. As a result they could not tap the jobs in this

"In the context of the PRSP, not only absolute poverty alleviation but income distribution has to be a policy variable for sustainable development, regrettably the current version of the PRSP does not adequately address this concern,

"The situation has also beer created by corruption and rentseeking behaviour," Dr Debapriya remarked. "This income inequality may emerge as a threat to social

Pakistan may declare

readiness to attend the summit on the proposed dates in November.

Morshed said he welcomed India's decision and requested Singh to convey it to Saarc Chair Pakistan

Singh telephoned him after discussion with the Indian prime minister, Morshed said. "I met Singh several times during a recent summit in Indonesia when he told me he would inform him (of India's decision) after talks with his prime minister.'

Morshed said he had talks with Pakistan several times about the summit, and it sought two tentative dates. "We then proposed November 12-13 as our first preference considering the weather, and also September3-4. But we have lots of business in September, and emphasised November 12-13."

Pakistan also pledged all cooperation to Bangladesh in hosting the summit, he mentioned.

Asked why Dhaka proposed holding of the summit so late (almost after seven months from now), the foreign minister said. "We need much time because we have to start preparations afresh, ranging from accommodation to security.'

The weather in Bangladesh is also not suitable for such a summit before November. Moreover the prime minister has a series of foreign trips and preoccupations at home and abroad in May, June, July and September. The Ramadan is in October and the PM may go to Saudi Arabia during the holy month, he pointed out.

Considering all these things and after discussion with the member states, Dhaka proposed November 12-13 as suitable date for the summit, postponed twice, first due to tsunami and then for reasons known to all, he said.

The summit was first scheduled for January 9-11 but was postponed due to tsunami in member states Sri Lanka and the Maldives. Then it was slated for February 6-7 but was postponed due to India's refusal to attend on 'security situation in Bangladesh

and political situation in Nepal. Dhaka reacted angrily when New Delhi declined to attend the summit blaming 'security' in Bangladesh although the government ensured fool-proof security and completed all preparations

In reply to a question, Morshed said. "I think two days are sufficient for the summit events and business. We will welcome the heads of state and government a day before the summit. If they want they can stay in Bangladesh even after the summit.'

The foreign minister said he had talks with the Nepalese king and also the king of Bhutan earlier. They expressed their readiness to attend the summit anytime. Sri Lanka and the Maldives said they had already overcome tsunami aftermath and were ready to attend the summit on the date to be announced.

Turning to the attack on Bangladesh embassy in Kuwait, the foreign minister said he is yet to receive a report from the committee probing it.

"But we have identified eight to nine people and got their names. Subsequently, the Kuwaiti police also arrested around eight to nine Bangladeshis, who led the attack We will take steps on the basis of the inquiry committee report," he

He condemned the killing of a Bangladeshi peacekeeper in Congo and wounding several others. Bangladesh will not withdraw its peacekeepers from Congo as "we are committed to global peace," he said.

Hasina demands

decision of an executive inquiry into the 'crossfire killings, saying the

The leader of the opposition and Awami League (AL) chief was exchanging. views with the newly elected Ganotantrik Shikkhak Forum (GSF) and Shikkhak Samitv (SS) of Mymensinah Agriculture University at her Sudha Sadan residence vesterday

GSF President Dr Ashrufuzzaman. General Secretary Dr Shahidur Rahman, SS President Prof Syedul Hague Chowdhury, teachers' leaders Prof Zainal Abedin, Prof M Ashraful Imam and

"We made the country selfreliant in food but the BNP-Jamaat alliance does not want the country to

development as they want to make quick money through import and business. They are involved in terrorism, corruption, and killing

She said the coalition government is now hatching a conspiracy to rig the polls, knowing that people will not cast vote for them. She stressed the need for reforms in the caretaker government system and the Election

nade attack on Awami League rally and the killing of Shah AMS Kibria, the AL chief said a proper investigation is not being done as the perpetrators are enjoying the prime minister's protection.

opposes new US textile quotas

AP, Beijing

China said yesterday it opposed a US decision to impose new quotas on some Chinese clothing imports. calling the move a violation of inter-

national standards of free trade. The Bush administration announced Friday it would reinstate quotas on three categories of clothing mports from China, responding to pleas from domestic producers that a surge of Chinese imports was threatening thousands of American jobs.

The move "violates the spirit of free rade and the basic principles of the World Trade Organization," Chinese Commerce Ministry spokesman Chong Quan said in a statement on he ministry's Web site.

trade, and its shipments into the United States spiked sharply after Jan. 1, when global quotas in effect for The latest U.S. action will impose

which American retailers argue will drive up prices for U.S. consumers. Chinese side urges the United States to correct its error in order to prevent the implementation of trade protectionism measures from casting a shadow on the trade rela-

He also said China retains the right to take "further measures under he framework of the WTO," but he did not specify what those measures

Karzai urges US action over Quran

REUTERS, Kabul

Afghan President Hamid Karzai urged the United States yesterday to prosecute and punish anyone found guilt of desecrating the Quran as anti-US protests flared for a fifth

Wednesday in the worst anti-US protests across Afghanistan since US forces invaded in 2001 to oust the Taliban for harbouring Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaeda net-Newsweek magazine said in its

May 9 edition investigators probing abuses at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay found that interrogators "had placed Quran on toilets. and in at least one case flushed a noly book down the toilet."

Muslims consider the Quranthe iteral word of God and treat each book with deep reverence.

we will strongly ask the American government to put on trial and punish whoever is the culprit," Karzai told a news conference. Such sacrilege was unacceptable to every Muslim.

The United States has tried to calm global Muslim outrage over the incident, saying disrespect for the Quran was abhorrent and would not be investigating the allegation.

International Muslim groups in Saudi Arabia also called on the United States to investigate and punish those

Islamic Conference said the report had enraged hundreds of millions of Muslims and would "provide fanatics and extremists with excuses to justify their acts of violence and terror-

FROM PAGE 16

Abdullah Al Noman, former com-Chowdhury MP, former minister for water resources Engineer LK Siddiqui, BNP Whip Syed Wahidul Alam MP. State Minister for Forest and Environment Jafrul Islam Chowdhury, Sarwar Jamal Nizam MP, Chittagong city Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Moulana Shamsul Islam, and Jamaat leader Afsaruddin Chowdhury were present at the ceremony

Besides, newly-elected Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury attended the function.

Since Mir Nasir lost to Mohiuddin by a margin of over 90 thousand votes in the CCC mayoral race, newspapers have reported that he had been asked to tender his resig-

WB immunity bill FROM PAGE 1

secretariat said.

Meanwhile, main opposition Awami League representative in the parliamentary body gave a note of dissent against the bill, terming it a violation of the constitution and democracy.

The bill was placed in parliament on October 31 last year amid widespread criticism by the opposition political parties, the civil society and riahts aroups.

rating two new articles into The International Financial Organisations Order, 1972 (Presidential Order No 86 of 1972).

Copyright amendment bill is also likely to be passed in parliament

HC rule on govt

...the hapless people of Bangladesh are groaning in injustice and the sound of their cry should reach an institution for doing justice, like human rights commission.' reads the petition. Dictatorship and tyranny have not ended and needed to be contained by such a commission, the petition said.

guarded at the cost of the people and their valuable lives get all sorts of protection but the people are exposed to liquidation and ruination," it added, emphasising the need for a human rights commission for protecting them. Recalling that setting up of a

human rights commission was a major election pledge of the ruling BNP. the petitioners said people voted for them trusting their commitment. It is imperative upon the respondents to do this to honour the commitment, they said. According to sources, a draft bill

The government formed a cabinet committee headed by the law minister on December 10, 2001 to

After a series of meetings, the committee finalised the draft and sent it to the Cabinet Division on January 23, 2003. It was placed at the cabinet meeting on January 29 the same year. The cabinet however sent the bill back to the law ministry for further scrutiny. Since then it is lying at the ministry.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed on September 19 last year said at an international conference that differences of opinion among ministers were blocking efforts to establish a human rights commission. "I had great difficulty convincing my cabinet colleagues about the commission, which is now under consideration of the cabinet."

He also said. "We are committed to setting up the commission. I hope I will be able to convince my cabinet colleagues about its necessity."

Two days later, Moudud said at a press conference the government would set up the commission before expiry of its tenure. "We are pledgebound to the countrymen to set up a human rights commission and we will do it as soon as possible," he

Khaleda asks engineers

followed in all sectors and standard products to be produced through best utilisation of resources.

The quality of products has to be flawless, she said, in view of the emerging open competition among a great lot of products on the international market

play their role properly in the overall efforts for industrialisation and ensuring quality production, she told the engineers. Khaleda said that, in the

changed global perspective,

Bangladesh today faced with multi-

farious challenges. "Sometimes this technological." she added.

implementing multifarious programmes to that end. "Though not yet at desired level, Bandladesh is now advancing quickly on the highway of prosper-

socio-economic sphere is being appreciated and followed as examples in various international organi-

sations and forums. An amount of 7.6 billion US dollars was earned from only export in the last fiscal and recently the volume of private investment

increased remarkably, she said. She said many big companies of the world have shown interest in investing in Bangladesh, and already many of those started their

at Tk 78.430 crore in 2003-2004 financial year against Tk 58,530 crore in 2000-2001, she said.

Listing successes and progress in a number of sectors. Khaleda said her government has taken tough steps for curbing crimes, and the success in the combat is being appreciated by all quarters.

with us," she told the engineers. Khaleda urged them to work together to present the people with a

Bangladesh. IEB Gold Medal-2004 was awarded to Engineer Dr M Firoz Ahmed and posthumously to Engineer Dr M Golam Mohiuddin.

Khulna centres earned the IEB Best Centre Award Certificate-2004.

IEB best sub-center certificate 2004 was given to Moulvibazar and Gopalgani chapters.

degree upon 23 students for studyina the new course. She approved the registration of

Engineering Registration Board. IEB President Dr Anwarul Azim, IEB General Secretary ANM Akhter Hossain and IEB Chittagong Centre

Nepal were present on the occa-

'Hundreds' die

accused of Islamic extremism. A mob reportedly seized arms

from a local garrison, before raiding the prison where the men were held and freeing them, along with thousands of other inmates. They also took control of admin-

took government workers hostage. according to reports. Just before dusk, troops moved

in and opened fire on the crowds in the city square. Men, women and children fled in panic. One woman spoke of

"indiscriminate firing", and said she saw "bloody corpses" lying in a ditch. In the eastern city of Andijan hundreds of protesters gathered at the square, displaying the bodies of six people killed in Friday's

bloodshed and tearfully denouncing the government. "Our women and children are dying," said Daniyar Akbarov, 24, who claimed to have seen at least 300 people killed in the vio-

Big military trucks loaded with soldiers cruised the streets and troops backed by armored vehicles surrounded the heavily fortified police headquarters. Earlier, soldiers loaded scores

of bodies of those killed onto four

friends and relatives from collecting them, witnesses said Lutfulo Shamsutdinov, the head of the Independent Human Rights Organization of Uzbekistan, said he saw about 200 victims being loaded onto trucks near the square in Andiian, the fourth-largest city

with a population of 350,000. Another witness who declined to be named said "many, many dead bodies" were stacked up by a school near the square. The city's hospital was cordoned off and officials could not be reached for casualty figures.

An AP reporter said she saw at least 30 bodies. All had been shot, and at least one had his skull smashed. She said there were large pools of blood and hundreds of spent cartridges on the streets. A group of foreign journalists

Some 4,000 Uzbeks fled to the border with neighboring Kyrgyzstan, seeking asylum. Kyrgyz border guards were awaiting a government decision on whether to allow them in, said

could badly strain Kyrgyzstan's relations with Karimov's govern-

that tremors were also felt in

The police chief in southern Nias. Eli Duha, said hundreds of residents fled to the hills fearing a tsunami.

believe the danger of tsunamis is

tsunamis," he said The deadly March 28 earthquake on Nias island measured 8.7 on the Richter scale and was centred on the same Indian Ocean geological

series of earthquakes since the massive December 26 earthquake that generated tsunamis, killing almost 220,000 people around the Indian Ocean, mostly on Sumatra

Sumatra and India's Nicobar Island and Andaman Island "is still very unstable." Indonesia sits on the so-called Pacific Rim of Fire noted for its

Truck torched after it runs over schoolboy

Agitated people torched a truck after it ran over a schoolboy in the town Witnesses said the truck hit a

rickshaw in which Tanvir Hasan Rabbi, 8, son of Shamsul Hag Khan and a student of class three of Bogra Zila School, was going to school. Rabbi fell on the road. "But the driver drove his truck

over Rabbi instead of halting it. Rabbi died instantly," says a spot account of the tragic end of the boy. Locals chased and halted the truck, set it ablaze and beat up its driver Milon and helper Rubel. The

trucker and his helper were later

handed over to police. The protestors also put up road barricades in front of Namajgarh truck terminal demanding punishment to the truck driver and shifting of the terminal to Bhober Bazar.

They took out a procession carrying the body of Rabbi and submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner.

2 Gopalganj FROM PAGE 16

Mymensingh.

capital and two places in Gopalganj district to nab their fellows, sources

Raihan hails from Mostafapur in Madaripur and Belal from Trishal in

Recently extremists killed two policemen after abduction from Tekerhat area.

Raihan, a student of Zameya Rashidia Madrasa at Dakkhinkhan under Uttara in the capital, is now undergoing treatment for bullet wounds he received during fire exchange between police and

possessions of Raihan and Belal after their arrest while two other extremists fled away, police said. Extremist activities have increased in Gopalganj and its adjacent areas in the recent time,

dent reports. Police arrested a number of suspected members of banned extremist organisation Harkat-ul-Zihad, and filed cases against its suspected leaders.

BDNEWS Gopalganj correspon-

Indian HC staff

FROM PAGE 16 The Indian nationals told the two officials that they crossed the border and came to Laksham at the invitation of some BNP leaders to erect the dais for Prime Minister (PM) Khaleda Zia's meeting.

The nine Indian nationals were arrested on March 11 for entering Bangladesh territory without passports. The PM's visit to Laksham was cancelled following the inci-

Before visiting the jail, the Indian officials met Comilla Deputy ammissioner Md N Rahman and Superintendent of Police Aurangaiib Mahbub.

New pay scale

FROM PAGE 1 invited tender for the privatisation of Rupali Bank. The IMF, now satisfied with this move, has decided to

"The tender has generated much enthusiasm among international bidders," Saifur said. "When I made a stopover in London while returning from Washington, some people told me that they want to buy Rupali Bank," he added.

7 cops sued

FROM PAGE 16 the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka.

The court however said it will issue its order on the case today. Shamsul has named three witnesses in the case saying they

"Sohel brawled with the policemen as they demanded quick bucks from him," he quoted the witnesses as saying. Nayek Habibur Rahman and

constable Mohammad Rokanuzzaman shot Sohel eight times in his head, chest and legs at point blank, Shamsul added. He said constables Mohammad

They killed him despite his repeated claims to be innocent, Shamsul said, adding that there is no general diary or case against his

inspectors Mohammad Sagir Mian and Kamal Hossain tried to divert the cold-blooded murder, he said. "They did not receive our case, though we made several efforts." He demanded the arrest of the

Investigation Department) probe

into the killing. Immediately after the incident police described Sohel as a mugger and said they shot him when he and

remarked an NBR high official.

9 US troops

forces, Iraqi civilians have also suffered heavy losses. In the oil refining town of Baiji, a

car bomb blast killed five Iragis on Friday evening, police said. Two policemen and two civilians were killed in clashes in the town of

Samarra on Saturday, police Cantain Hashem al-Sulami said Iraqi officials hope the country's security forces will improve after two

take over security. But they can hardly defend themselves -- thousands have been killed -- and US troops still have to

conduct major operations against

querrillas like the one in Anbar. Four of the American troops killed were in an amphibian vehicle hit an explosive device on Wednesday, the military said.

on an area near the Euphrates north and west of the town of Qaim, close to the Syrian border, which Iraqi officials say is used by insurgents to cross over into Iraq and carry out

tions that it allows guerrillas to enter Iraq from its border.

Marines launched several air strikes on targets on Friday, including a "terrorist" safe house, the military said. A second air raid targeted insurgents manning a vehicle checkpoint.

The US military said Marines in Qaim witnessed clashes between rival guerrilla groups. That could not officials in Anbar say militant followers of al-Qaeda's leader in Irag. Abu Musab al-Zargawi, have been

clashing with tribal groups. insurgents, stressing that intelli-

he was surprised to see three Palestinians appear on a popular Iragi television show that features

The Iraqi commentator said they planned a bombing that killed 12 people in eastern Baghdad on

them." said Qussus.

One of the three had a bruised

The three brothers live in a section of Baghdad that has been inhabited by Palestinian refugees

New wind in Bimstec

FROM PAGE 1

to protect respective domestic ndustries, Ratna said.

Asked which industry had the maximum number of goods in the negative list of India, he said it was broadly equally divided between sectors like agriculture, textiles and

The plastic industry is also seeking a level-playing field, he

to finalise its negative list of items to be submitted to the Colombo meeting of Bimstec's Trade Negotiating Committee which is required to complete the FTA framework and the final negative list by December. The Indian commerce ministry has held discussions with represen-

tive list of items from about 1,800 to 1,300 items. "It is the first time the commerce ministry has undertaken such an elaborate exercise of consultations

tatives of trade and industries in the

past one month to reduce the nega-

with the industries." Ratna said. Bimstec comprises Bangladesh India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Bhutan and Nepal, It was established in 1997 with five countries. Nepal and Bhutan became its

FOREIGN SECRETARY-

LEVEL MEET IN DHAKA BDNEWS in Dhaka says: A two-day foreign secretary-level meeting of Bimstec will begin in Dhaka on May

members last year

from Thailand for next one year, according to sources. The meeting is scheduled to discuss Bimstec's achievements, free trade area, establishment of the Bimstec chamber of commerce, and cooperation in specific areas including trade and investment, transport and communications, tourism, energy, human resources develop-

ment, agriculture, fisheries, science

US mission

FROM PAGE 16 requesting the board to bring in the

required to implement it. A foreign ministry official said they are not yet clear about the proposed DPO, which is a completely new subject for them.

"We have not been informed what

purpose such a DPO would serve, as

the embassy already enjoys uninterrupted mail dispatch and receiving facilities under the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relation." the official at the foreign ministry's Asia Pacific and America Wing said. Sources said the US State Department plans to set up DPOs at all

its overseas missions. A letter of the

US embassy to the NBR said the plan

is still in its embryonic stage and

currently there are only five DPOs in operation across the world. The DPO in Dhaka would be established under the second round of the plan that also includes DPOs in Dubai, India, Nepal, Syria and Thailand, sources said. The US postal service has already completed the

groundwork.

According to sources, the major difference between the current and the proposed system is the change of the mail carrier. "Under the new system, all diplomatic mails to and from the US embassy will be under the control of and carried by the US postal service, along with other US mail," a foreign ministry source said. He said the diplomatic mail would

be carried in yellow bags bearing the logo of US postal service and with a tag identifying its diplomatic content. Currently the US embassy mail is shipped separately in diplomatic bags bearing State Department logo by British Airways. Such a DPO might cause confusion and also encourage other embasbe independently confirmed, but Iraqi and US officials say military firepower is not enough to defeat the

gence is vital. The acting Palestinian ambassador in Baghdad, Dalil Qussus, said

suspects confessing to "terrorist"

Thursday. "There is no way under any circumstances that three brothers could commit this criminal act. It is mpossible that the three brothers would return home to their apartment and wait for the police to catch

It would also discuss the expansion of Bimstec cooperation in the areas of culture, education, and public health, protection of biodiversity and traditional knowledge, rural community development, small and medium-scale enterprise. construction, environment, information and communications technology, biotechnology, weather and

approximately 1.3 billion and the trade volume between Thailand and other countries in the group exceeded \$3 billion in 2003.

tion at Kushtia Rab office, said a statement of the elite force.

under fire at around 3:00am, the police said. The team countered the attack 'by outlaws' and Babu was bullet-hit while fleeing and died on the spot,

they added. The police seized one

foreign revolver, one shutter gun

and 36 bullets.

At the meeting, Bangladesh will assume chairmanship of the forum ing a police-robbers 'shootout', Police said up to 12 highway robbers blockaded the road to

> The police said they rushed to the spot and ran into a hail of bullets. They repulsed the robbers and arrested bullet-hit Gani from the

Accused in several robbery cases, Gani died at Kushtia General

Meanwhile, local deputy police chief John Mbijjiwe told AFP in Nairobi by phone, "We have confirmed that they are all Bangladesh nationals and there is no single Pakistani as earlier

Mbijjiwe refused to disclose where the men were detained, but

Police said trafficking in drugs and people are rampant in the east African nation, notably in the coastal

three presumed suicide bombers.

The attacks killed 224 people and njured around 5,000, almost all of them Africans.

Both attacks were claimed by Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda net-

be self-reliant. They don't want

inquiry must be a judicial one.

people without trial," she said

Referring to the August 21 gre-

The bill, titled The International Financial Organisations (Amendment) Act, 2005, proposes incorpoand alleviate poverty, they stressed.

....leaders of the country are

on National Human Rights Commission, prepared in 2003, is

gathering dust at the Cabinet

The amount of investment stood

And the engineers will have to

challenge is economic, sometimes political, sometimes social and Skilled human resources are need of the hour to successfully face these challenges, she said, adding that her government has been

itv." Khaleda said. She said country's progress in

Bangladesh Professiona

was detained early yesterday and told to leave the city immediately.

Gulmira Borubayeva, a spokeswoman for Kyrgyzstan's border

Sea quake

"Houses did not collapse but they have got shakier," he said. He said the tremor was likely to be felt strongly in the district of

"We have put the magnitude at 6.8, which is much smaller than

"But, we know, we have to go a extremists long way and you will have to remain A revolver, a shutter gun and eight bullets were seized from the prosperous and self-reliant

The Prime Minister distributed the The Institution's Chittagong and

She also conferred the first AMIE

Chairman AKM Fazullah also Ministers, CCC mayor, MPs, diplomats, engineers, and delegates from Sri Lanka, India and

guard service. A move to shelter the refugees

Sibolga in North Sumatra province but would not likely cause major

quakes that usually cause large

Malaysia's Meteorological Service Department said in a statement that the region around

But the rickshawpuller who was carrying Sohel home at Monipuripara in Tejgaon has claimed Sohel's innocence.

climate research, natural disaster India has convened an intermitigation and management. ministerial meeting on Monday next

> BNP man killed Communist Party during interroga-

said the police. In Jhenidah, Abdul Gani, 50, a resident of Chaklapara in the town, was found with bullet injuries follow-

commit robbery on vehicles near the BSCIC estate in the sadar upazila at around 2:30am.

Hospital at noon yesterday.

witnesses said they were in the city's Port Police Station. Mbijjiwe said officers found mattresses but no beds and a few bags of

in neighbouring Tanzania

Nasrin Sultana Jewel were present.

China is a dominant competitor in the \$350 billion-a-year world textile

> limits on the amount of cotton trousers, cotton knit shirts and underwear that China can export to the United States

> > tions between the two sides," Chong

day. Sixteen Afghans have been killed and more than 100 hurt since

"If proven that this happened, then

The 57-nation Organisation of the

PM avoids Nasir Fisheries and Livestock Minister merce minister Amir Khosru Mahmud

trucks and a bus after blocking May 17, sources at the parliament

istrative buildings in the city and

FROM PAGE 16 Penang, Selangor and Johor.

damage. "It may have caused cracks in the buildings," he said. An official at the Japanese meteorological agency said: "We

fault line as Saturday's quake. Indonesia has been shaken by a

volcanic and seismic activity

release the fund. Saifur said.

had seen four armed policemen demanding money from his son

before shooting him to death.

Mohsin and Mohammad Monjurul assisted the killers.

OC Jane Alam and subaccused and a CID (Criminal

his three cohorts hurled bombs at

years of US training and eventually

The Anbar offensive is focused

Damascus denies Iraqi accusa-

Bimstec covers a population of

A ioint Rab-police team was taking him to Ballavpur village to seize his arms cache, and came

Babu hailed from Ballavpur and was accused of eight criminal charges including two for murders,

thought.' "We are now pursuing three lines in our investigations: whether they are linked to terrorism activities, drugs or human trafficking," he said.

"None of them could speak

In August 1998, two car bombs

changes in customs procedure Bangladeshis

> rice in the houses where the men were staying in Mombasa's upmarket estate of Nvali. They also found two computers and pornographic maga-

> In November 2002, a vehicle packed with explosives was rammed into the lobby of an Israeli-owned Mombasa hotel, killing 15 people and

English. We were communicating using sign language," he added. A Kenyan caretaker of the house Ali Masudi, was also arrested.

went off almost simultaneously outside the embassies of the United States in Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam

sies for going for similar facilities,

Mbijjiwe said.