SC Bar chief, secy

Cops club Ctg traders

In the wake of frequent hijacks and highway robberies in recent times, the CCCI initiated the protest programme on behalf of the business community, demanding immediate measures to check the men-

A large contingent of police was deployed in front of the chamber building and adjoining areas from

At Barik Building crossing, Choumuhuni area, Dewanhat intersection. Badamtali and Kadamtali points, police prevented businessmen's processions leading towards the chamber building from joining the human chain. At places they charged baton on the businessmen.

Police also barred the CCCI leaders from coming out of chamber building. Chamber Director Amirul Hoque got injured as a policeman charged baton on his back and pushed him when he tried to make his way through the police barri-

CCCI leaders led by President Saifuzzaman appeared before the police officials there and after an altercation between them, police allowed the businessmen to carry their programme.

Hundreds of businessmen joined the chain from 3:10pm to 3:40pm, which was followed by a protest rally addressed by the chamber president, Senior Vice President SM Nurul Hague and Vice President MA

Denouncing the police actions, CCCI President Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed demanded apology for it from Chittagong etropolitan Police (CMP) commis-

"It was a completely peaceful unexpected actions," the CCCI chief said, adding, "Our programme was against highway robbers and criminals. But going tough against us, the police has surely taken the side of robbers.'

He said frequent incidents of hijacking and robbery on Chittagong-Dhaka highway was bringing about ruin for the small traders while the police hardly came

"Police show reluctance to register cases without bribe and even harass the victims in some

The business leaders urged the government to declare Chittagong-Dhaka Highway a 'safe road' and demanded regular highway patrol

Although truck hijack and highway robbery on passenger buses have become an almost everyday affair, the incidents mostly remain unreported as the police remain inactive and the transport owners also try to hide such incidents to avoid police harassment, business

Meanwhile, the CCCI leaders at an emergency meeting yesterday afternoon convened a press conference to be held at 11.30am today to brief journalists about their next course of actions.

Cops, pickets clash

to enter the police station but they heard from outside the groans of the

clashes with police, four of them hit by rubber bullets.

constable were also injured in the incidents.

(DMCH).

The main opposition called the hartal, second in four days, to protest the killing of Khorshed Alam Bachchu, a front line leader of the AL's city unit. Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) supported the shutdown.

enforced in the capital on Thursday. from different quarters as the ongoponed due to the stoppage, affect

CLASHES IN OLD PART OF DHAKA

rubber bullets to disperse pickets

Police chased an AL procession near Lalbagh Fort at about 11:20am. Pickets retaliated throwing brickbats at police. Another procession on Harnath Ghosh Road at about the same time attacked police, prompting the law enforcers to fire tear gas shells and rubber

Razarbagh Police Hospital.

Opposition activists Anu, Monir Mollick, Jahangir and Monu Miah, hit and injured by rubber bullets were admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

Police picked up at least 11

Earlier, police cordoned off a gathering organised by Haji Selim, former AL lawmaker from Lalbagh

Police also used batons to foil city AL leader Sayeed Khokon's bid to bring out a procession near the District Judge's Court at about

10:30am. DHANMONDI. **BANGABANDHU AVENUE AND OTHER**

AREAS

A Juba Mahila League procession led by Apu Ukil in Dhanmondi at about 11:30 am came under police baton charge. The law enforcers. both male and female, assaulted the women pickets, dragged at least 30 onto police van and took them to Dhanmondi Police Station. Police beat them up there.

When contacted, the duty officer at the police station declined to talk. A press release of the Jubo

Mahila League alleged that a subinspector at the police station, Ramiz, assaulted the female activists inside the police station. At least 18 of them were shifted to Ramna Police Station at about 2:00pm and beaten up again, it added.

A procession led by AL leader and former minister Motia Chowdhury came under police attack at about 9:30am when it tried to enter the cordoned off AL central office on Bangabandhu Avenue. Police charged batons on the opposition loyalists.

Fazlur Rahman, a cameraman of private television channel ntv. was injured in the police action.

Agitated demonstrators damaged a number of passenger buses, private cars and CNG-run

programme. Yet police resorted to

cases," he alleged.

Most shops, schools, banks, busi-

nesses and the stock exchanges in

Dhaka and Chittagong remained

closed due to the hartal while cargo-

handling at the seaports suffered

passenger buses plied the streets,

much more than on previous hartal

days. Presence in government

offices was almost normal but

private firms in commercial areas

and activists on the streets was less.

including paramilitary Bangladesh

Rifles personnel fanned out across

the capital to head off possible

Our staff correspondent in Sylhet

reports that police baton-charged a

procession of district AL near the

city's court point, leaving at least 10

from Chittagong: Hartal was

observed in the port city partially. No

pickets were seen on the streets

Rangpur and Gopalganj said local

units of the AL brought out proces-

Pickets' delight

"But soon I saw a youth running in

from behind and throwing some

liquid [from a bottle] at my car. It

burst into flames before I could

scramble out of it," Ameer said, lying

on a hospital bed. "I could not save

myself though I took off my shirt and

sions in support of the hartal

Our staff correspondent reports

Reports received from Rajshahi,

OTHER PLACES

during hartal hours.

FROM PAGE 1

Presence of opposition leaders

Around 7,000 law enforcers

like Motijheel remained closed.

In the capital, a large number of

activists. During the shutdown, around 40 opposition activists were injured in

A photojournalist and a police

Pickets poured petrol on a CNGrun autorickshaw and set it afire at Khilgaon in the morning. Driver of the vehicle Amir Hossain suffered burns and was admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital

The previous hartal was The shutdown drew criticism ing Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations were post-

ing about five lakh examinees.

At Lalbagh, riot police charged baton and fired tear gas shells and leaving about 25 opposition activists

Police constable Foyez Ahmad suffered eye injuries when hit by a brickbat and was admitted to

trousers as soon as they caught On seeing the three-wheeler in flames, locals rushed to the spot, and took Ameer to the DMCH at

about 11:00am. people from the spot.

The doctors at the DMCH said that at least 40 percent of Ameer's body was burnt. Injuries especially to the legs and the right hand are quite deep and they would take a thorough treatment to heal. They however could not say for sure how long the treatment should run.

Ameer, who hails from Jibon Nagar of Chuadanga district, has been living in Dhaka for the last eight years. He went back home two years ago with a hope of settling in the village, but having found no better source of income, returned to Dhaka in 2002.

Now yesterday's incident seems to have set off a chain of crises for his wife Aklima Khatun. 33, and their two daughters, over their living and education.

"What will we eat now, how shall send my daughters to school?" Aklima wailed, talking to The Daily Star about the fears of an impending

She said her husband would earn Tk 200 a day and nothing would be left after spending for food, house rent and school fees of the daughters.

"I have borrowed Tk 6,500 from my neighbours and already spent the amount for Ameer's treatment." she said adding that she is clueless about how to bear the rest of the treatment expenses.

"My priority obviously is to treat my husband, but where shall I get the money from? Will the doctors treat him free of cost, and even if they do, how am I going to run the family with two school-going daughters?" said Aklima with eyes brimming with tears.

Kashmir solution within grasp

Says Musharraf

BBC ONLINE

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has said a solution to the dispute over Kashmiris within the grasp of himself and the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

He was speaking at the concludng session in Islamabad of a meetng of South Asian parliamentarians. "We must grasp a fleeting moment." Gen Musharraf told

reporters afterwards. At least four Indian soldiers were killed on Friday in Indianadministered Kashmir, More than 40,000 people have died in 14 years

of insurgency. "I personally feel it [Kashmir's solution] should be done within the tenures of [Indian] Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and myself," Musharraf said in Íslamabad

"Since I believe that this harmony exists between us two. strongly believe - if we really are sincere about reaching a final peace it would be more possible that it is reached between us two."

Referring to the Line of Control separating the Indian and Pakistaniadministered parts of Kashmir, Gen Musharraf said a lasting solution lay n rendering boundaries irrelevant. He said demilitarisation by Indian

ties against Kashmiris - should go hand in hand with an end to the atrocities of militants who have been fighting those security forces since The Pakistani leader said

security forces - accused of atroci-

Kashmiris should be granted maximum self-governance, in line with

Moudud

FROM PAGE 16 comments during an interview with

the BBC Bangla Šervice last night. autorickshaws plying the streets during the hartal in different areas "So far, there is no instance of discussion with the opposition in this including Shantinagar, Motijheel regard, but it will be good if we can have such practices existing in the **BUSINESSES HAMPER**

country," Moudud said. When asked whether the government will take an initiative to create conditions favourable for discussion, he asked, "Why should the present government take such

The government has to take care of the entire nation, not only the opposition, he said adding, "The opposition represents only a part of the nation, not the entire nation.'

The government must recruit a person who will be acceptable to all and can act neutrally, Moudud said.

Referring to the outgoing Chief Election Commissioner's proposals for reforms in the Election Commission, he said that the government would give its reaction only after knowing about it in detail.

Power subsidy

FROM PAGE 16

pump-owners, leaving the target beneficiaries, the real farmers, out. So, the purpose of the subsidy -- to bring down the cost of farming -- gets lost, explained

Anwar said he learned the situation during his recent visits to different areas by talking with farmers and local leaders.

The agriculture ministry knows the exact number of irrigation pumps used across the country, the farmers who use these pumps and the land area covered, he said in the letter. So, he maintained, it is feasible to hand out the rebate money directly to the farmers

About 25 percent of the country's rrigation is done by using electricity and the rest by diesel. The government spends around Tk 50 crore a vear to subsidise the power used in the agricultural sector.

Sources at the agriculture minisry said they could take care of the subsidy distribution if the rebate money is given to them.

PM opens

FROM PAGE 1

cost of about Tk 8,000 crore through Roads and Highways Department during the time. Construction work of more 700-km of roads and 7,100 metres of bridges is progressing fast.

About 4,100 km of roads have been repaired and maintained only under the communications ministry, she said. The prime minister said upgrading

to four-lane one the Dhaka-Chittagong highway from Dhaka to Daudkandi is nearing completion and a plan has heen taken to broaden the rest of the road to Chittagong the same way. "We have planned to set up road communications between

Bangladesh and Mynanmar, developing thousands of kilometres of road," she told the function. She urged all concerned to take allout initiative to ensure highway safety

by containing accidents. The prime minister stressed the need for more awareness and caution than before for a safe road journey.

"We have established National Road Safety Council and Accident Research Centre to combat accidents. We have formulated different policies relating to road transport and updated the transport ordinance," she

She noted with satisfaction that government of Japan and Japan Bank or International Cooperation are development partners of Bangladesh for long. She thanked the development partners for financing this pro-

No fair polls minus

independent secretariat had been

unfavourable to holding elections in a free and fair manner, he declined to comment

"The reforms in the election commission should be brought in through a consensus of the political parties," Syed said after attending the last workday of his five-year tenure, which expires tomorrow.

The CEC submitted the proposals for reforms during his farewell call on President lajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban.

The president thanked Syed for fulfilling his constitutional obligations by overseeing the general election of October 1, 2001, as well as union parishad, municipality and city corporation polls impartially. The president said he hopes that

the commission would be able to

hold future elections too in a "free,

fair, impartial and peaceful atmo-The CEC was scheduled to meet the press at his office after handing the reforms proposals to the president. But he did not come back to his office from Bangabhaban. He however replied in writing to a few questions from the journalists, and

described his experiences as the

CEC for the last five years. The much-talked about proposals from the CEC also include introduction of electronic voting machines and electronic voter roll, army deployment in the city corporation and municipality polls, and introduction of electoral enquiry committees for the local government polls.

The proposals were placed against a backdrop of the mainstream opposition parties and the civil society calling for reforms in the caretaker government system and the EC.

The EC stresses the need for an independent secretariat as it on numerous occasions in the past had faced difficulties in conducting polls freely due to interference from the executive.

Election Commissioner AK Mohammad Ali said that they propose for the EC Secretariat to be under full control of the commission with budget as per its requirement. 'Only the election commission

should have the authority to recruit its officials including the secretary, and formulate its budget as per its requirement." Mohammad Ali told

The Daily Star. Election Commissioner M Munsef Ali told journalists at his office that they have initiated the move in the interest of the country and the people. "We together finalised the reform proposal, and there is no disagreement among us."

The CEC in written replies said

that the reforms in the election commission should be considered overall. He said it has become a challenge for the commission to rein back the election expenses, and make registration with the EC mandatory for the political parties. "Various other reforms in fact are needed while there is an absence of

good governance and responsible media. Besides, black money, and a culture of defaulting on loans are creating a social chaos," he observed adding, "The election commission will consider if the civil society and political parties propose reforms to make conditions favourable for free and fair elections. Such reforms may be brought about through the caretaker government."

The CEC admitted that he did not always get all-out co-operation from the secretariat and the government in conducting the polls in last five years. He however described it as 'stray incidents'

LAST WORKING DAY IN OFFICE

The tenure of the CEC will be expired on May 22. But as the day coincides with a public holiday yesterday was the last working day for MA Syed.

He came at his office at 8:30am and made preparations for meeting the president. Besides, he met different officials in the secretariat. He even paid a visit to the EC secretary in his (secretary) room. There has been a rift between the two and the EC secretary has been avoiding attending the commission's meetings for last one and a half years.

The EC secretariat did not arrange any formal farewell for MA

Two closed SoEs

approves their proposal, they will invest up to \$1 billion," Zakir pointed

"We are also seeing keen interest of Chinese investors," said Zakir, who was accompanying a Chinese trade delegation on Saturday. "They can invest in a very big way on both forward and backward linkage industries and that is why they want an EPZ exclusively for themselves."

Tk 27 crore for the first phase development of Adamjee EPZ. Each of the 70 plots will be of 2,000 square metres. An investor can buy more than one plot. develop 100 plots at Karnaphuli EPZ and refurbish the remaining

From its own fund, Bepza spent

and structures as much as possible," the Bepza chairman said. The country now has six EPZs, four of them launched after 2000. The six have 216 industrial units, mostly in Dhaka and Chittagong

EPZs. With 1.51 lakh employees,

land for the proposed steel mill. "We

want to utilise the existing buildings

the EPZs have fetched home \$ 9.57 billion since their inception. In the last four fiscal years, export earning from the EPZs exceeded \$1 billion a

With a target of \$1.5 billion this

fiscal year, the EPZs already earned \$1.2 billion in the first nine months of the year, and Bepza expects the earning will exceed the target. It envisages an earning of \$3 billion next fiscal year as the number of industrial units will go up by 100 in By next month, the government

is expected to give go ahead to the private Korean Export Processing Zone in Chittagong. Combined with the Adamjee, Karnaphuli and the other newly launched EPZs, the country might see huge local and foreign investments in the next few

The number of units at the EPZs will go up significantly within a few vears and their export earning will naturally rise sharply, the Bepza

ADP remains

the planning ministry with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair last week. On May 25, the proposal will be placed before the National Economic Council (NEC).

The planning ministry also finalised a Tk 24,000 crore ADP for next fiscal year, which will also be placed before the NEC for its approval Ministry sources said the govern-

ment foresees no resource problem despite a six percentage points shortfall in revenue collection, as it still has leeway in borrowing from banks, which is way behind target. The government has retarded Tk 371 crore to the banks as of March

while it has the provision of borrowing Tk 2,599 crore. "So, the government can comfortably borrow in the coming months to meet the resource need,

"Besides. the government is expecting about Tk 2.000 crore (\$300 million) by June from the World Bank in budgetary support," he added. Traditionally, the government

revises down its ADP outlay as the

said a planning ministry official.

ministries fail to fully implement the programme In the last nine months up to March, the government could implement only 46 percent of the

could be implemented in the rest three months of the fiscal year. "This decision means the government agencies will go on a spending overdrive and will not have adequate time to justify expenditures. As a result, the quality of the projects will fall," said a planning

Now the officials themselves are

not very sure if the rest 54 percent

ministry official. At a pre-budget with Saifur last

month, lawmakers demanded at least Tk 1 crore allocation for each of their constituencies considering the elections ahead.

The last year's ADP was revised to Tk 19,000 crore by slashing it down from Tk 20,300 crore. But ultimately the government could spend Tk 16,796 crore.

Two killed

FROM PAGE 1 Narcotics Control Act in one of more than a dozen criminal cases against

The Rab sources said they arrested Mosharraf Hossain, 30, an accused in a number of dacoity and other criminal cases, from Lohadi Kuliapashor in Kapashia upazila of

Gazipur on Friday evening.

weapons from the spot.

statement, the Rab along with Mosharraf went to Kuichchapara in Sadar upazila to nab his accomplices who gathered there for committing a robbery. As soon as they reached the spot at about 9:00pm, the

Following his confessional

cohorts of Mosharraf opened fire, forcing the Rab members to fire back. Mosharraf was caught in the "crossfire" while trying to flee and died on the spot, the sources said. The Rab later arrested two of Mosharraf's accomplices--Munir and Falan--and recovered a 9mm pistol, two bullets and other sharp

Meanwhile, hearing the news of notorious drug lord Insu's death, the cheerful residents of Goripur brought out processions and ransacked 40 drug spots and beat up some 60 peddlers and

15 Indians pushed in

UNB, C'nawabganj

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) pushed 15 Bangla-speaking Indian nationals into Bangladesh territory on Friday night.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sources said the BSF men of Mousia camp pushed five men, eight women and two children into the country through Gilabari border in Bholahat upazila in the dead of

On information, BDR personnel from Gilabari outpost rushed to the spot and held the Indians

Commander of 28 Rifles Battalion Lieutenant Colonel Zahid admitted the push-in incident. He said they were trying to push the Indians back.

Meanwhile, all the BDR outposts along the Chapainawabganj and Naogaon borders have been alerted to resist push-in bids by the BSF.

5 'powerful' bombs recovered

UNB, Meherpur

Police on Friday night recovered five powerful bombs from a poor man's house at Darbeshpur village under Sadar upazila.

The bombs, each weighing 1kg and suspected to have been smuggled from the across the border, were hidden in a bag.

On Wednesday night, bomb attack by unknown assailants left Krishak League leader Wayes Ali seriously injured in the town. One of

his legs was amputated at Pongu

Jalil observes

(orthopaedic) Hospital in Dhaka.

Jalil said Awami League might release its proposal for reform of the caretaker government system on May 25 or 26.

He announced countrywide demonstration tomorrow to protest "police action" on party workers during yesterday's hartal.

China to turn

The decision came at the 11th meeting of the Bangladesh-China Joint Economic Commission (JEC), held at the External Resources Division (ERD) at Agargaon yesterday.

ERD Secretary Ismail Zabihullah led the 17-member Bangladesh delegation, while Vice-minister for Commerce Yu Guanzhou led 11member Chinese side. "China has agreed our proposal to convert the suppliers' credit, worth US\$ 70 million into loan for Balancing,

Modernising, Rehabilitating and Expanding (BMRE) of the KMP," said a highly placed source, who attended "China has agreed to do it after

examination," said Bangladesh leader Earlier, the closed KMP was handed over to China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation on May 31, 2001 for its modernisation. But, Bangladesh retreated when it found the project is not viable under the suppliers' credit and from then, the project was hang-

On other issues Ismail Zahihullah

said Bangladesh received the facility of paying back the Chinese interestfree loans through exports of goods from Bangladesh for five more years (2005-2010). "This facility will be ended in July this year," he informed. At the meeting, Bangladesh sought

items to Chinese markets to sustain in the post-MFA phase out. "On the preferential treatment, we granted duty free access of 82 categories of Bangladeshi goods to China,

greater access of its exportable textile

said Yu Guanzhou. **Pro-AL lawyers**

FROM PAGE 16 pro-Awami League lawyers, held a rally at the First Hall of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) Bhaban

The Speaker and the law minister are conspiring to destroy the judiciary by sending orders to the judges and trying to save a "former party cadre judge" who has a fake certificate, said a press release following yesterday's

where its convenor Barrister MAmir-UI

"Advocate Bachchu was killed as part of the alliance government's blueprint for killing the intellectuals. Lawyers across the country irrespective of party and opinion will build up a greater movement to free the judiciary including the Supreme Court from bad reputation and bring the people's confidence to the judiciary," the press release added. SCBA President advocate

Mahbubey Alam, General Secretary M Enayetur Rahim, Member Secretary of the Parishad Subrata Chowdhury, MA Halim, Shah Mohammad Zahurul Haq, Moinul Islam Chowdhury, former SCBA general secretary Bashir Ahmed, Abdul Mannan Sujon, Kazi Sajwar Hossain, Sirajul Haq, Abdur Rob, Momtazuddin Ahmed Mehedi Sattendra Chandra Bhakta, among others, spoke at the rally conducted by advocate Shahidul Islam. The Parishad also arranged

meetings and doa mahfil in their bar associations throughout the country. Meanwhile, lawyers of the Dhaka

Bar Association yesterday brought out a procession on the court premises held a rally and demanded immediate arrest of Bachchu's killers.

against the SCBA cancellation of the membership of the law minister and the speaker. The rally termed the cancellation "illegal" and said it was done with political motives.

The pro-government rally was also addressed by Forum's Secretary Saidur Rahman, Golam Arshad, AK Mujibur Rahman, Shah Khosruzzaman, Humavun Kabir Bulbul, Public Prosecutor Abdullah Mahmud Hasan and Sanaullah

"The new Supreme Court Bar Association committee is illegal. We don't accept it. The whole committee is unwanted." Barrister Ziaur told the rally

"The SCBA cancelled the membership of the law minister and the speaker without serving them with any show-cause notice. This is autocratic. "We will serve Mahbubey Alam,

their SCBA membership would not be cancelled," Ziaur vowed. Talking to The Daily Star later, SCBA President Mahbubey Alam rubbished the Forum declaration: This announcement shows how bankrupt they are. They boycotted

the SCBA elections as they lacked

acceptability. I challenge them to

Enayet and Rokan with show-cause

notices asking them to explain why

verify our acceptability by taking Rahman Khan presided over the signatures of the SCBA members." Forum meeting organised to protest

"One cannot attack others by being a paper tiger," Alam added, "I advise them to work with sanity. They do not have any authority to issue show-cause notices or declare anyone unwanted," he

The pro-government lawyers' meeting, meanwhile, announced an agitation programme in protest at the cancellation of memberships of the speaker and the law minister. They decided to form a human chain on the Supreme Court premises tomorrow, hold a rally there Tuesday, and stage rallies and take out processions in the courts across the country Wednesday.

jurisdiction.'

minister was also interfering with the judiciary.

The meeting was addressed among others, by Mahbubey Alam, Enayetur Rahim, Subrata Chowdhury, MA Halim, Moinul Islam Chowdhury and Shah Mohammad

US probes leakage

FROM PAGE 16

into their source -- printed one further photograph of Saddam yesterday, viewed through a coil of barbed wire and walking, seemingly in conversation with someone. A separate picture showed

Saddam's cousin Ali Hassan al-Majid, known as "Chemical Ali" for his role in gas attacks on northern Iraq during an offensive against the Kurds in 1987. He is pictured holding a towel, and apparently struggling to get up from a chair, using a walking stick. The newspaper also showed a photo of Huda Salih Mahdi

Ammash, a US-educated microbiol-

ogist dubbed "Mrs Anthrax" and

'Chemical Sally" for her alleged involvement with Saddam's weapons of mass destruction In Friday morning's edition, the newspaper -- Britain's best-selling daily -- ran a front-page cover of a bare-chested Saddam standing in

white underwear, with the headline "Tyrant's in his pants", using the British term for underwear Billed as a world exclusive, the wearing a white-robed garment while washing his clothes by hand in a bucket. The pictures, which also ran in

the New York Post, another tabloid owned by media mogul Rupert

Copyright (Amendment) Bill 2005. On May 16, the House heard a heated debate over the pro-Awami League lawyers' agitation and condemned their attitude towards

further delaying the rescue operation.

Meanwhile, the police and locals retrieved five badly rotten bodies from the river drifted by a strong current as

sunken vessel from the riverbed. MV Raipura went down four days ago with around 200 passengers on board. Only some 20 passengers could swim ashore and the rest were trapped Locals fear many bodies might

missing are still waiting for miracles to happen or at least to get back the bodies and give them a decent burial. Our Manikganj correspondent reports: Several hundred people including relatives of the accident victims demonstrated at the spot in the afternoon, accusing the rescuers of negligence. They took out a proces-

last four days and still don't know when this waiting will end," said a relative,

lax holiday

sectors like pharmaceuticals,

The draft has also proposed to reduce the time span for getting tax holiday facilities. At present all industries in manu-

Chittagong get tax holiday facilities for five years from their launching and for seven years in other dis-

industries to four years and for other areas to six years. The government is also planning to bring some changes to prevent

work apart from passing the

During the session, ministers concerned replied to 129 out of the 678 questions. Some 82 callattention notices under rule 71 were received for the last session, but a

who came from Kushtia in search of

Akhter Banu, the youngest daugh-

of missing Abdus Salam Darii o

Aricha, alleged the authorities have

been nealecting the salvage operation

and instead searching for bodies in

Water Transport Authority (BIWTA)

said after four-inch wires had snapped

for six times in the last four days, they

were now trying to pull up the launch

launch with seven-inch metal wires

and hope to succeed very soon." said

"We've now tied up the sunken

But, the relatives said the rescuers

"It seems they have no idea how to

run a rescue operation. We didn't

expect it from them," said Ziaur

Rahman, brother of a missing passen

tying it with seven-inch wire.

But sources at Bangladesh Inland

his brother.

the downstream.

a BIWTA official

Relatives protest

It was stayed in the evening amid raging wind and a fierce current.

have been washed downstream, as the authorities have been searching only in the day. But the relatives of the

sion, shouting demands to get back the bodies immediately and to speed up the rescue process. "We've been staying here for the

facturing and service sectors get tax holiday facilities Industries in Dhaka and

The government has planned to reduce tax holiday facilities for Dhaka and Chittagong-based

loopholes in providing tax holiday facilities to industries, sources said. Industries are getting tax holiday facilities since 1974.

Barrister Amir-ul-Islam, who chaired the meeting of the antigovernment lawvers, said, "The speaker in his ruling said that the ongoing lawyers agitation is unconstitutional. This ruling was out of his

Barrister Amir added that the law

Sun also showed the 68-year-old

Murdoch, immediately drew protests from human rights groups and Muslim groups, who complained they violated the Geneva Conventions over the treatment of

Budget session

the chief justice and other judges in

the highest judiciary.

few were discussed.

banks as the metal rescue wire tying the sunken MV Raipura to BIWTA again for the third consecutive day,

far away as Tepurakandi and Madankhali villages under Decreer Char union in Faridour. With this, the death toll in one of the country's worst riverine accident rose to 55, with some 120 still missing and feared drowned. The strong current frustrated the attempts of the divers to raise the

inside

FROM PAGE 16 melamine, steel and fertiliser. Saturated sectors will not get any

facilities under tax holiday, it said.

know how complex and complicated

Japan are looking forward to her visit". "The visit would take place in a few months.' On import of skilled and professional manpower from Bangladesh,

necessary requirement.

FROM PAGE 16 The prime minister asked the Japanese delegation to extend

He said Khaleda also apprised

the UN Security Council. Asked how optimistic Japan is about the getting Security Council membership, Kikuta said Japan "is cautiously optimistic but we also

The prime minister reassured

Japan of Bangladesh's support for its bid for permanent membership of

bringing reforms to the UN. Asked if the date of Khaleda's

Kikuta said Japan is open to professional people provided they fulfil the

visit has been fixed, the Japanese foreign ministry official said the date has yet to be set, "but the people of

He said Japan feels the need for

support to the construction of a bridge on the river Padma and called for Japanese investment in information technology and textile

sectors, and in the export process-

The official quoted the vice-

ng zones, according to Kikuta.

the visiting vice-minister of various progress Bangladesh made recently such as in areas of women education, gender equality, religious harmony and containing errorism.

Japan to continue

could use the thicker wire earlier.

minister as telling Khaleda that Tokyo would continue discussions with Dhaka through the Japanese embassy in Dhaka on the financing of the construction of the proposed bridge over Padma.