ADP revised

However, some other important infrastructure development projects such as Kashimpur jail and Karnaphuli bridge are ignored and the government is looking for donors' funds for these schemes, planning ministry sources said.

In the revised ADP, spending on agriculture was cut by 26 percent. In terms of money, agriculture sector lost Tk 228 crore in the revised ADP which gave it Tk 644 crore instead of Tk 872 crore earmarked in the original budget.

The spending on education was also trimmed down by 33 percent. The sector received Tk 2.110 crore against the original budget of Tk 3,141 crore.

The health sector has been choked by 32 percent in the revised ADP. losing Tk 688 crore to receive Tk 1468 crore. The original budget was Tk 2.156 crore.

But the revised spending went up by 15 percent for rural development and institutions. This vote-earning sector got a booster of Tk 346 crore as the revised budget gave it Tk 2.679 crore against the original allocation of Tk 2,333 crore.

This spending mainly includes construction of rural roads, culverts and marketplace that involves a huge number of contractors and workers. Mostly the ruling party men make money out of these infrastructure projects.

The spending on infrastructure planning, water supplies and housing has been raised to Tk 1,446 crore, with an additional allocation of Tk 411 crore or an increase of 39

These works are placed under the local government ministry, city corporations and some other authorities including the police.

Planning ministry sources say such projects are in high demand among the members of parliament as these works stand as "tangible evidence" of development, while works on education or health services are least tangible or even intangible.

According to the revised ADP, under the Local Government Engineering Directorate (LGED) there are 41 projects. Of them 33 are of same nature -- rural infrastructure development like construction of roads, market places, culverts etc.

Again, many of these 41 projects saw their original allocation increase two fold and even three

fold in the revised budget. Spending on these projects in the first six months of this fiscal year was very high compared to the overall implementation of all projects. The overall ADP implementation rate was only 30 percent but the rate was 50 to 60 percent for these projects.

One of these projects -- Rural Infrastructure Development (Important rural communication and marketplace development and rehabilitation) -- was originally included in the ADP of 2001-02 outlaying a budget of Tk 1.986 crore

It proceeded on without any approval until June 2003 and the government spent about Tk 98 crore for it. In June 2003, the government approved it and during the fiscal year 2003-04, it spent Tk 465 crore against an allocation of Tk 157 crore. This spending was adjusted by revising the budget of that year.

In the current fiscal year, only Tk 30 crore was allocated for this project. But, surprisingly, in the revised ADP book, the government showed that it had originally allocated Tk 289 crore, and then went

on to revise it at Tk 534 crore. "When this project was first approved in June 2003, it was said that this project will get Tk 200 crore annually," said a planning ministry "but the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has asked us to allocate Tk 500 crore for this project each year."

The PMO is making this order on the basis of parliament members' demands for construction of marketplaces, roads or culverts in their constituencies. The PMO practically decides the priorities for the development expenditure, sources said.

At the current pace of spending for this project, by the time the government goes to next election, the total project will be almost over.

To get more 'benefits' and larger chunks of money, the line ministry is now seeking approval for the second phase of the project outlaying a cost of Tk 985 crore.

Another project on rural road, bridge and culvert construction was allocated Tk 25 crore in the original budget, but it got Tk 50 crore in the

The Sylhet Division Rural Infrastructure Project was originally allocated Tk 20.29 crore, but it was revised to Tk 50.82 crore.

The construction of low cost bridges on the rural roads was to receive Tk 56 crore, but in the revised ADP, the allocation was raised to Tk 100 crore.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's constituency Bogra has got a booster in the revised ADP. Although Bogra's infrastructure is much better, compared to most parts of the country, the current ADP included a new Tk 51-crore project for Bogra's infrastructure improvement and sanctioned Tk 12 crore in the running fiscal.

However, the construction of the central jail in Kashimpur, Gazipur did not get much attention since it was adopted in 1995 at a total cost of Tk 126 crore. Until December last year, the government spent only Tk

In the revised ADP of this fiscal year, the project has received an allocation of only Tk 11 crore, although the construction of new jails is of vital importance as the country's jails are overcrowded by prisoners three to four times higher than capacity.

A number of other infrastructure development projects, which were marked as 'priority schemes' by the government, do not get any attention at all.

"The planned Karnaphuli bridge Chittagong was approved by the first Ecnec meeting of this government in December 2001 outlaying a cost of only Tk 500 crore. It was marked as a priority project. But till date the government could not start it. The government is still looking for a donor to fund it," a planning minis-

Dhaka-KL

FROM PAGE 16

He, however, said the Bangladeshi workers, who returned in compliance with the Malaysian government's instructions, will get this chance of employment on tourist visa.

Roughly, 10,000 Bangladeshi workers had returned to the country after completing their tenure of

'Guests' squat

constituencies. They pay the bills and charges regularly. They said it is not mandatory for them to stay at the

"My personal assistant does not stay at MP hostel. Rather, when I go to the hostel to meet visitors, he remains present to assist me, Mahbubur Rahman, allottee of such a room at Nakhalpara MP hostel, told The Daily Star.

"As I live in the cantonment, which is a restricted area, people from my constituency cannot meet me there. So I meet them at the hostel," explained the former army chief turned parliamentarian.

Awami League MP Shawkat Ali, who is among the 64 lawmakers listed by the parliament secretariat, said he uses his room at the same hostel as his office. "There is nothing wrong in it. It is completely legal."

Another MP on the list, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on expatriate welfare and overseas employment ministry Nazir Hossain, also denied the allegation, "It's not true that my personal assistant lives at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar MP hostel." In fact, he claimed, he does not have any room at that hostel. He said he himself stays in a room he has received at the NAM Bhaban in

Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. The ministers on the list are Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain. Women and Children Affairs Minister Khurshid Zahan Haque, PM's Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain, State Minister for Youth and Sports Fazlur Rahman, State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharraf Hossain Shaiahan and State Minister for

LGRD Ziaul Haque Zia. The parliamentary standing committee chiefs on the list are M Akbar Ali (the committee on planning ministry), Harun Al Rashid (Public Accounts Committee), Sardar

Shakhawat Hossain Bakul (establishment ministry), Nurul Islam Moni (science, communications and technology ministry), Joynal Abedin Faruk (youth and sports ministry), Abdul Alim (public undertakings), Nazimuddin Alam (environment and forest ministry), Nazir Hossain (expatriate welfare and overseas employment ministry), Golam Mohammad Siraj (shipping ministry), Mahbubur Rahman (defence ministry), Mushfikur Rahman (finance ministry) and Helaluzzaman Talukdar Lalu (primary and mass education minis-

The ruling party whips on the list are Ashraf Hossain, Rezaul Bari Deena and Fazlul Hauge Aspia.

The rest of the BNP lawmakers are former commerce minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhurv, Kabir Hossain, Abdul Karim Abbasi, M Ilias Ali, Zahir Uddin Swapan, Nadeem Mostafa, Nurul Kabir Shahin, Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, Ali Quader, Dewan Mohammad Salauddin, Nurl Huda, Kazi Rafiqul Islam, Mohammad Ali, Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Anney, Habibul Islam Habib. Ziaul Hague Mollah. Mahmudul Hague Rubel. Abul Khaier Bhuiyan, MA Zinnah. Alamgir Haider Khan, Rashiduzzaman Millat, Sohrabuddin, Manjurul Ahsan Mushi, Sultan Mahmud Babu, Matiar Rahman Talukdar, Ali Asgar Loby, Gazi Mohammad Shajahan, Shahidul

Islam and Shamsuddin Ahmed. A lone lawmaker of Jamaat-e-

Islami, Abdul Aziz, is on the list. The AL deputies on the list are Akabbar Hossain, Mirza Azam, Sheikh Helal Uddin, Kazi Siraju Islam, Faruk Khan, SM Akbar,

Shawkat Ali and Mohammad Ali. Jatiya Party MPs Golam Habib Dulal, AKM Mustafizur Rahman, Karim Uddin Bharasa and TIM Fazle Rabbi Chowhdury are also among

tion were contrary to the basic structure of the constitution. The court, however, observed that the ruling party has retracted from its election pledge of raising the number of reserved seats for women and that they would be voted to parliament through direct election. The party in power should play positive role in implementing its election commitments to the nation

After going to power, political parties should not introduce any law that goes against their commitment, the court suggested. It also said that court cannot say what law the parliament will introduce or not.

The court observed that in the Ahmed Hossain case (that challenged the 10th amendment provisions of women's reserved seats), the Appellate Division had said that indirect election cannot be called undemocratic and it has sanctions of the constitution itself.

The 14th amendment does not go against the basic structure of the constitution, the court observed.

Sigma Huda, a counsel for the petitioners, told reporters after the udgement: "The Supreme Court's guidelines act as bindings on the High Court. The High Court cannot deviate from such quidelines. Dr Kamal Hossain. Dr M Zahir.

Tania Amir and M Asaduzzaman also appeared for the petitioners. In his reaction, Attorney General

AJ Mohammad Ali said, "The court has declared valid the 14th amendment. The election can be held now.

Dhaka for similar

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He said the home ministry is conducting an investigation into last Friday's operation that left six 'terrorists' killed in an encounter with the joint force of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) at Puranbari village in Kamolganj frontier upazila.

The foreign minister said Whenever we will get any information, we will launch a raid in search of terrorists."

Asked about the identities of the slain terrorists, he said investigation is on, but hastened to add that newspaper reports about their identities are perhaps correct.

Asked about the activities of rebel tribal leader Priti Chakma and anti-Bangladesh "Bangabhumi Andolon", the foreign minister said the matter was raised and discussed at different levels between Dhaka and New Delhi.

Both Bangladesh and India have decided to sort out all these problems "effectively, constructively and meaningfully", he said, adding that the Indo-Bangladesh foreign secretary-level meeting in New Delhi June 20-21 would discuss these ssues.

Besides, the foreign secretary evel consultations will also consider how to expand economic cooperation between the two neighbours. he told reporters.

BNP leader FROM PAGE 16

Abu Sayed Chand, president of

Charghat upazila unit BNP, invited Nawroz Faisal Bidvut, the daily Ajker Kagoj correspondent, to the municipality office. At one stage, Abu beat up Bidyut

and verbally abused other journalists and a BNP lawmaker, Nadim Mustafa. Local iournalists have condemned the attack and decided not

to report anything 'positive' about Abu and the municipality.

Different press clubs also slammed the incident and declared protest programmes today.

The Ajker Kagoj carried Bidyut's report that said split widened between the two BNP factions over observing the 24th death anniversary of president Ziaur Rahman Both the factions announced separate programmes, which might end

up in violence, the report read. Abu is the leader of the faction led by Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu. MP.

Traffic chokes

FROM PAGE 1

at various intersections in the capital, enduring the scorching sun as the roads were blocked to ensure the free movement of the PM's motorcade.

The meteorological office said the temperature in the capital hit 35.5 degrees Celsius yesterday, with humidity at 74 percent.

The suffering of city dwellers was exacerbated by cloud of dusts resulting from the indiscriminate digging of most of the city roads and streets, which witnesses said blocked the free movement of vehicles. Roads in bustling Motijheel, Paltan, Bijoynagar, and Nazrul Islam Avenue, stretching from Shahbagh to Mohakhali, witnessed the worst traffic jams.

During office hours, city roads in these areas were choked by hoards of stranded vehicles and rickshaws, making commuting times one to two hours longer than usual.

"It took two and a half hours to reach Motijheel in a bus from Mirpur, but usually it takes an hour," Saifur Rahman, a computer businessman residing in Mirpur, told The Daily Even normally short distances

were prolonged. A bus driver said he had to spend about half an hour to reach Dainik Bangla crossing from in front of the Press Club.

A motorcyclist, seeking anonymtv. said he had to get off his motorbike and wait for 20 minutes under the sun on two different occasions at Zero point crossing and in front of RAJUK - as the motorcade of the PM was passing the area

HC clears way DU explodes

FROM PAGE 1 the students at the Fine Arts Institute

on Sunday. They declared four teachers of nstitute of Fine Arts-- Ishrafil Pramanik Ratan, Azharul Islam Sheikh Chanchal, Debasish Pal, and Abu Abedin Mohammad Kawsar Hasan Togor--persona non grata at the institute for their involvement in Sunday's attack.

Police and JCD activists on Saturday and Sunday beat up general students who were protesting the death of Shammee Akhter Happy, a DU student crushed to death by a speeding bus at Shahbagh Saturday. The students incensed at the

JCD atrocities massed on the Institute of Fine Arts premises at 9:00am. They brought out a procession that paraded through the campus before ending in a rally at the DUCSU Building premises at 10:00am. Students against Repression was scheduled to hold the rally at the foot of Aparajeo Bangla at 11:00am. But they changed the venue and time as JCD, the student wing of ruling BNP. arranged a blood donation programme there, marking the 24th death anniversary of late President Ziaur Rahman.

The agitating students yesterday sang protest songs, recited poems, wrote banners, painted on roads, and chanted slogans in front of the institute in favour of their demands.

Seven opposition-backed student organisations led by pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) laid siege to the VC Office yesterday. They held a rally there, demanding immediate resignation of the VC and the proctor and punishment to the police and JCD men responsible for the attacks on students. They also demanded a ban on movements of all public vehicles on the campus, compensation for the injured students, and the road from TSC to Shahbagh intersection to be named Shammee Pragatishil Chhatra Jote, a

combine of left-leaning student

the Central Library.

Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) and Samaitantrik Chhatra Front staged separate demonstrations on the campus. The BCU burned an effigy of the DU proctor in

organisations, brought out a protest

procession and held a rally in front of

front of the Central Library. Panchagarh District Students Association submitted a memorandum to the VC. They demanded the authorities erect a monument to Shammee at the place of her death and name the extended building of Punishment of the driver, a foot over bridge at Shahbag and Nilkhet intersections, and a ban on heavy vehicular movement through campus, were also among their other demands.

A group of teachers from DU and Jahangirnagar University expressed solidarity with the agitating students, and called on the DU authorities to meet the students' demands.

JCD PRESS CONFERENCE

JCD at a press conference at Madhu's Canteen yesterday demanded arrest and punishmen of the bus driver who crushed Shammee to death, and compensation for Shammee's family. They also demanded punishment to the persons responsible for vandalising the proctor's office, laws prohibiting vehicular movement, and punishment to the police.

Addressing the press conference, the JCD leaders alleged that some students' organisations. including BCL and a group of teach ers, are trying to spoil the congenial atmosphere of the university, cashing in on Shammee's death.

JCD DU Unit General Secretary Faiful Islam Firoz read out the written statement JCD President Azizul Baree Helal General Secretary Shafiul Bari Babu and DU unit President Hasan Mamun were among others who spoke at the

Probe body chief

Even the probe body chief Prof Hasan is hesitating to start his work. He described the initiative as eyewash, and said the authorities do not take action in line with the probe bodies' recommendations.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz said they would take action against the persons responsible for the recent spate of violence on campus once the probe body submits its report. About bringing the probe reports to light, he once said that DU Syndicate, too, wants to publish at least the recommendations of the probe committees.

On the other hand, the DU treasurer said that no probe report was ever published and no actions were taken on the recommendations of the probe bodies, as they all were nothing but farce in the name of investigation. He also said that the inquiry bodies do not dig out facts, rather they conceal them in the name of

teachers, are not investigation officers and it is not possible for us to unearth the facts through investigation. A fully-equipped permanent investigation cell is needed to solve such incidents." He said he would place a proposal regarding formation of an investigation cell in the upcoming senate meeting.

Asked about his inclusion into the latest inquiry committee, the univer-

interested to do the job, as I will have to prepare the annual budget for the university." "The Syndicate should have selected the pro vice-chancellor as he (Pro-VC) has experience of inquiring such incidents," he said.

A senior teacher present at the Treasurer's Office told The Daily Star that the authorities have chosen Prof Hasan as head of the inquiry body with an ulterior motive. "How would the body headed by the treasurer inquire the incidents within seven days when he will soon have to start preparing the budget?" said the teacher requesting anonymity.

Prof Sadrul Amin, a member of the inquiry committee and also a Syndicate member, told The Daily Star yesterday that the recommendations of all the probe committees should be implemented. Asked why they did not implement the recommendations at the Syndicate, he said it was the duty of the DU administra-

According to DU sources, the authorities so far formed over 500 inquiry committees since Independence, but none of their reports came to light. Even the 150page probe report on police atrocities at Shamsunnahar Hall on July 23, 2002 was stowed away for good by the DLI authorities. The fate was the same for a horde of other investiga-

Twin Iraq blasts kill 27

violence and the long delay in forming a cabinet after the elections. the government has launched the biggest Iraqi military operation since the fall of Saddam Hussein to hunt for foreign Arab fighters and Iraqi insurgents in Baghdad.

Officials say 40,000 Iraqi troops will seal off routes into the capital and search the city district by district under Operation Lightning, which began on Sunday.

The al-Qaeda network in Iraq, led by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, said it had launched an offensive in response to the operation.

Insurgents fought pitched battles with Iraqi police in western Baghdad on Sunday and detonated at least three suicide car bombs in the capital. Across the country, insurgent attacks killed at least 25 Iragis and a British soldier on Sunday. The escalating violence in Iraq

Political leaders have called for calm telling Iraqis not to allow insurgents to push the country toward civil war. Washington has been encouraging the Shia and Kurdish blocs that emerged strongest from the January polls to involve more Sunni Arabs in

the drafting of a permanent constitu-

has worsened sectarian tensions.

tion, the next step on Iraq's path to democracy. Sunni Arabs dominated Iraq during Saddam's rule but won only 17 seats in Irag's 275-member parliament because many Sunni groups boycotted the elections and violence in Sunni Arab areas meant turnout there was extremely low.

and undermine an insurgency dominated by Sunni Arab fighters, the government gave several cabinet posts to Sunnis and says it is examining ways to give them a greater role in drafting the constitution. Mohsen Abdul-Hamid, leader of the Iraqi Islamic Party, was seized at

said US troops broke down the door

To try to defuse sectarian tensions

him away. The US military had no information on the arrests.

In Irag's western Anbar province a stronghold of the insurgency, US troops raided the towns of Rawah and Gharbiya on the Euphrates river and killed several foreign fighters, the American military said.

In Kirkuk a senior Kurdish official died yesterday after being shot by gunmen overnight in this northern city, a government official said. Mai Gen. Ahmed al-Barazanchi, the director of internal affairs of Kirkuk province and a former police chief, was shot several times late Sunday, said Ismail al-Hadithi, Kirkuk's deputy

governor. "Insurgents have targeted him to arouse sedition and sectarianism. al-Hadithi told Associated Press Television News. "He was walking without a bodyguard and in a sensitive area.

The assassination is the second in several days, following Friday's slaying of a moderate Sunni Muslim tribal leader, Sheik Sabhan Khalaf al-Jibouri, who had close ties to Iraqi Kurds in the northern city of Kirkuk.

Comilla editor

Later, police recovered the slaugh-

tered body with tendons cut. Hundreds of people thronged the residence of the deceased hearing the news.

The elder brother of the deceased, ASM Shahjahan, suspects that one or two persons slept with Mahfuz and left the room after killina him. He said office peon Aiyub, who

leeps in a room adjacent to Mahfuz's bedroom, might be involved in the killing. his house in Baghdad along with Comilla Press Club announced a three sons, they said. His relatives three-day programme in protest

against the killing.

the enlarged bloc run smoothly.

EU leaders said after a referendum "no" vote that the treaty was not dead and member states should continue the ratification process. But British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the rejection raised profound questions about the future of the EU.

The heavy defeat dreaded by EU leaders could weaken France in the 25-member bloc, stall European integration and unsettle some financial markets. It also wounds President Jacques Chirac two years before presidential and parliamentary elections.

"The French people have given a huge smack in the face to an entire system that has the nerve to tell us what to think," said nationalist French politician Philippe de Villiers, a leading opponent of the charter. "The constitution is no more.

Chirac swiftly conceded defeat in a televised address to the nation as the "No" camp celebrated a crushing victory with about 55 percent of votes to 45 percent and hinted that he might respond by dismissing his unpopular prime minister.

Such a resounding defeat in a country that has been a key pillar of the EU reduced the chances of a repeat vote on the treaty, which is intended to make EU decisionmaking easier and requires the backing of all member states to go

Robbers shot

FROM PAGE 16 over Tk 20 lakh from a few houses.

Up to 35 robbers locally known as 'half-pants party' stormed the houses in Fateh Haji Para and Dailya Para in Madhyam Parua village at around 2:00am

Alarmed by the presence of robbers, locals gathered and came forward, crying out for help. The robbers while fleeing opened

indiscriminate fire on the chasers to

disperse them. Arun Biswas, 40, and Idris Miah, 52, died on way to the local health complex, while Milon Mahajan and Arun's wife are receiving treatment,

ered the body of an unidentified woman of about 22 from a first class coupé of the Dhaka Mail vesterday. The police recovered the body

Meanwhile, railway police recov-

after the train reached Chittagong Railway Station at around 8:00am. They suspect she was strangled "But there was no apparent marks of

BB governor

wounds in her body," said an official.

FROM PAGE 1

police said.

through March on last year's minus 3.37 percent during the same period The central bank has been

closely monitoring the government's expenditure pattern including inflation and borrowing. In case of any adverse situation, the bank would advise the government accordingly, Salehuddin said in reply to a query.

Deputy Governor Allah Malik Kazemi said the increase in inflation would depend on how the government handled its deficit finance.

The World Bank will provide support credit, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) \$70 million under the poverty reduction growth facilities loan and the government will also get a big loan for flood

rehabilitation programme, he said. "The country's revenue collection also increased significantly, Salehuddin mentioned. So, the government is unlikely to borrow from the banks for additional expen-

diture, he thought. Deputy Governor Nazrul Huda said the central bank has given on all kinds of loan but on those for unproductive purposes and con-

sumer goods.' In reply to a question, the governor said the central bank does not operate according to IMF prescription. Rather, it has disagreement with the IMF on many issues, which people do not know.

"We only follow their acceptable suggestions," he noted.

Khaleda goes

FROM PAGE 1 for Bangladesh... Manpower export

to Japan will be an important issue. Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan told reporters at the foreign ministry He said the forthcoming South

South Summit in Doha assumes

special significance against the

backdrop of September 11 attacks "The summit is being held in close proximity to Iraq...World leaders will be assembling in Qatar to work together to stabilise the democratic process in the Middle

East, particularly in Iraq," he told the

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will lead Bangladesh at the summit meet in the capital of Qatar on June Asked about the investigation

report on recent attack on Bangladesh mission in Kuwait, he said the investigation is on. However, he said it is understood

that a few people had persuaded the unpaid Bangladeshi workers to go to the company which did not clear their payments, but on the way they changed course towards the mission and launched the attack. "We will take tough action based

on the report of investigation," he said, because such dirty act will adversely affect Bandladesh's manpower market abroad

French say firm | Zia's 24th death

FROM PAGE 16
General Secretary and LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Housing and Publics Works Minister Mirza Abbas. MPs and high officials joined the prayer.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, also the chairperson of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), placed wreath at the grave of president Zia on behalf of the government and the

party and offered fateha there. She also attended a milad organised by the BNP on the premises. Speaker Jamir Uddun Sircar, ministers. MPs. prime minister's political secretary, and leaders of the BNP and its front organisations were also

Later, the prime minister went round different parts of the capital to distribute food and clothes among the poor and destitute.

On the occasion, Hawa Bhaban, the BNP chairperson's political office, arranged a milad mahfil after Asr People from all walks of life joined the day's different programmes and

visited the grave of Zia to pay homage to their beloved leader Government and non-government organisations, political parties, educational institutions, including public and private universities, sociocultural organisations, and student, youth and workers' organisations as well as professional bodies also

arranged elaborate programmes in

observance of the day. National dailies brought out special supplements, Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh Television and private television channels aired special programmes highlighting the significance of the day.

Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar

oined a milad mahfil and food distribution programme organised by Bangladesh Public Works Employees Union at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid of necessary evidence. The case was transferred to the Pak cricket

FROM PAGE 16 'He passed away today peace-

fully...it is a great loss to Pakistan cricket," Pakistan Cricket Board director Abbas Zaidi told Reuters. A tall medium-fast bowler with an

aristocratic bearing and pin-up looks, Mahmood was his country's first significant cricketer. He played his final Test against England at The Oval in 1962, ending his career with 139 wickets at an average of 24.70 in 34 matches,

including five in an innings on 13

Siddiqui was present and distributed food among the destitute.

Bangladesh Jativatabadi Lawyers Forum, Supreme Court unit organised a feeding programe for the destitute, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Khaleda Žia on the

High Court Mazar premises. Titas Gas Jatiyatabadi Workers Employees Union also organised Quran Khwani and feeding programme for the destitute. Health and Family Welfare Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain

inaugurated the programme. In Chittagong, City BNP placed wreaths at the first grave of president

Ziaur Rahman at Zia Nagar in Rangunia, 60-km from the port city. Leaders and workers of the BNP, led by party's Joint Secretary General Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman, went to the Zia

Nagar in a motorcade. Convenor of the newly formed convening committee of Chittagong City BNP Syed Wahidul Alam MP and State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin

were also present. Rallies, Doa mahfil and programme for feeding the destitute, organised by local BNP and other ganisations, were also held in different cities and towns of the country in observance of the day.

Two-year boy

FROM PAGE 1

faction of outlawed PBCP, the FIR stated, adding that two extremists were killed in that encounter. SI Shamim-ar-Rashid, investiga-

tion officer (IO) of the case, submit-

ted the charge sheet to the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate on May 25 last year. The IO appealed to the court to snare the accused from the charge on the grounds that there were lack

Special Tribunal where hearing on the charge sheet began on February 26 this year. The Special Tribunal took cognisance of the case after hearing and

on last Sunday issued warrants to arrest all the absconding accused including the two-year-old Rasul.

The court has fixed July 26 as the next date for hearing of the case. None of his family was involved n the bomb attack cited in the case, Jonaid Chowdhury, father of Rasul, Babu, Jony and Raja Chowdhury, said, adding that police killed Raja Chowdhury in September last year branding him as an outlaw.

SCBA turns

'It is up to them (president and PM) to decide about how to resolve the controversy. We want the issue to be settled immediately," SCBA Secretary advocate Enayetur Rahim told The Daily Star after the

submission of the letter. "An uneasy and delicate situation is prevailing across the country as well as in the sphere of the judiciary due to the controversy over Faizee's certificate and age," reads the letter signed by the secretary Faizee did not have the original

LLB certificate while he took oath as judge, the letter said, adding although the Chittagong University issued a provisional LLB certificate, its syndicate decided later against issuing the original certificate because of the flaw in the markssheet. The letter maintains that that decision is still valid. The judge's year of birth in his

SSC certificate is 1963, but he mentioned it to be 1965 when he applied for Bangladesh Bar Council certificate for legal practice, the SCBA letter points out. "For protecting the image and

diately," the letter notes. The SCBA decided to write the letter at a meeting on Sunday. In October last year, national

anyone to practise law in the coun-The SCBA stepped up its move-

any other court premises as well as dailies Prothom Alo and Bhorer Kagoj ran reports that results of law

over the new visa system. Tan Sook. immigration attaché in the Malaysian Embassy in Dhaka, said Malaysian employers have to secure approval of the workers' list from the

Baira secretary general, said such approval is quite new and ambiguous The agencies in Dhaka began

submitting the workers' documents for visa stamping in the last quarter of April. "In the beginning they [the Malaysian Embassy] accepted the

workers, who submitted their visa documents to return to Malaysia, are now in a fix, the agencies noted.

further approval now. Meanwhile, some recruiting

agencies alleged that the Malaysian Embassy is returning the visa documents to the recruiting agencies, as the thumbprints and other information of the applicants do not match data in the Embassy's biometric machine.

The Malaysian government

graduation examinations of Faizee were tampered with, prompting the SCBA to boycott Faizee's court.

withdrew Faizee from his bench and the controversy-dogged judge did not sit in any bench for more than five months Earlier this year, the High Court convicted Prothom Alo and Bhorer

Kagoj journalists of contempt of court,

The chief justice temporarily

saying that the reports did not prove Faizee's certificate fake, clearing way for Faizee to return to the court. But the SCBA members continued boycotting Faizee's court on the ground that it has not been proven that Faizee's certificate is genuine Bangladesh Bar Council then cancelled Faizee's certificate of

enrolment, a basic prerequisite for

ment and staged demonstrations at Faizee's court and at the entryway of the chief justice demanding Faizee's removal. Pro-government lawvers and government law officials, meanwhile, threw their weight

behind Faizee and took a stand against the SCBA. On May 23, the High Court in an unprecedented ruling banned agitation on the Supreme Court or

New visa conditions

foreign labour division in Kuala Lumpur. However, Ali Haider Chowdhury,

documents, but then they suddenly stopped for unknown reasons. And now they are not accepting any more documents." he said. The agencies as well as the

Baira sources said employers in Malaysia sent to Bangladesh 27,000 demand letters approved by the Malaysian government and verified by the Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur. Under normal procedures, the workers require no

They also learned that the biometric machine is dysfunctional. An embassy official, however, said the machine is functioning properly. When contacted, Quamrul Islam the state minister for expatriates' welfare and overseas employment

said he also heard the machine was

malfunctioning, creating confusion in

the effort to return the workers to

Malaysia

documented thumbprints, along with

personal information of all the 8,500

workers to avoid forgery, they said.

On the date extension of visa stamping, he said the ministry has not received any official letter from Malaysia. "We have inquired of the Malaysian Embassy in Dhaka and are now waiting for the reply." Tan Sook said the date extension

depends on whether the employers secure the approval of the listed workers from the foreign labour division. According to Baira sources

Malaysia, which now needs several

lakhs of workers, is experiencing an

economic slide due to the lack of workers in its construction, electronics and medium-sized industries. To entice aspirant workers, the recruiting agencies at home are even

charging less than the governmentfixed rate of Tk 70.000, as the employers in Malaysia charged much less for sending the demand letters to Bangladesh due to a shortage of workers in their factories, Baira officials said.

signals to banks to increase interest dignity of the Supreme Court and rates due to higher credit growth in the judges, it is necessary to resolve the private sector, and not at the of the family home and put a bag over the guestion and controversy immedirective of the IMF. "We advised Abdul-Hamid's head before taking them to increase interest rates not