Fighter crashes

Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH). Asma was later shifted to Combined Military Hospital (CMH). The conditions of Rowshan Ara,

wife of Al-Amin, and Asma, wife of

Shamim Khandakar, were critical. hospital sources said. Rowshan Ara received burn inju-

ries and the others were injured when a wall collapsed on them

Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) in a press release said pilot Kabir took off from Tejgaon Airport in a training flight a few minutes before the

"Preliminary investigations indicate that mechanical fault caused the plane crash," the ISPR press release said. Witnesses said the plane fell on the tin-shed house, owned by Kuwait

expatriate Humayun Kabir, and nosedived some 20 feet into the The ISPR press release said a

four-member high-powered committee, led by a wing commander of BAF has been formed to probe the acci-WITNESSESACCOUNT

"I heard a huge boom when I was

working in my shop at about 12 noon Then I rushed to my house," said electrician Mostafa, one of the five tenants of the house. "I found a burning plane in the middle of the house, which also caught fire."

"I managed to bring all the five members of my family out of the house safely." he added.

Hundreds of locals rushed to the house and poured water to douse the fire, said Jamal, a tailor. "I saw Rowshan Ara, caught in fire,

came out of the house and collapsed to the ground," said Osman Ali, caretaker of the house Rowshan Ara was feeding her

daughter Albina and Sajeda was peeling vegetables when the plane crashed onto the house. Asma was giving a bath to her daughter Tua.

Eight vehicles of the fire brigade brought the fire under control by 3:00pm. Locals alleged the firefighters reached the spot about 40 minutes after the crash **PILOT'S ESCAPE**

Pilot Kabir jumped from the plane at

the last moment but his parachute entangled with an electric pole, some 200 yards off the crash spot, said Jafar Ullah, an ex-army man.

"The parachute also caught fire, and I helped him get down," he said. Locals took Kabir to a nearby tea-stall and poured water on his burning suit. BAF OFFICIALS VISIT SPOT

The air force officials rushed to the spot after the crash and started investiga-

"We are only observing the aircraft's condition and securing the locals from any further accidents." said one of the BAF officials at the spot "Another team of the maintenance will come later to salvage the fighter plane," he added.

take a couple of days to fully remove the parts of the plane.

As hundreds of people throng the area to see the plane, BAF officials made announcement asking the people to keep away from it as the plane still may have inflammable

A firefighting unit was kept on duty

BACKGROUND

the country in the last 34 years.

A training aircraft crashed at a village in Banskhali upazila of Chittagong on July 30, 2002, leaving its pilot Flight Lt Adnan and three civilians killed and 10 injured.

Another training aircraft of Parabat Flying Academy crashed on June 7. 2002 in Uttara killing its pilot Moklesur Rahman Sakib on the spot.

On February 27, 2003, a BAF training aircraft crashed due to mechanical fault in Dhaka during takeoff from Zia International Airport.

Arman

FROM PAGE 16

in Uttara following Arman's information that Rashed, younger brother of Arman's rival Tikka, is hiding there. However, the Rab raid yielded no

Tikka had died on way to hospital after police shot him a few years back at Kalapani in Mirpur.

Arman told the police that he was on October 2, 2003.

Lane in the 1990s.

Arman and four others from the Kolkata New Market area on November 19, 2002, with two Italian 9mm pistols. Later, they were released on bail by an Indian court.

to visit Bangladesh from India as his rivals Subrata Bain and his gang members, who are also hiding in India, posed a threat for him there.

The home ministry announced a bounty of Tk 50,000 for information on the whereabouts of Arman, an accused in about a dozen cases, including seven for murder, on December 27 in 2001

Govt pledges steps

tional qualifications. The government refixed the salary of constables and sepoys from Tk 1,625 to Tk 2.600 and Tk 3.150. The move caused a commotion

among the lowest-rank cops, with the constables at Rajarbagh and Mirpur police lines reportedly getting united to demonstrate against the discrimination. Tipped off, the government

stepped up security measures at all police lines and deployed members a close watch on the constables.

others at Mirpur were also instructed to always carry their identity cards.

Some constables told The Daily Star their movement has been restricted. They also said they have been directed not to discuss the

Although there was information that constables were preparing to

"The police are a disciplined force and the members cannot do anything in breach of discipline, IGP Quayum told The Daily Star.

"They (constables) had a feeling that they have been discriminated against," he said.

Asked about the meeting with Babar held at Rajarbagh Police Lines auditorium, he said: "We

Cart-puller

sources said. Police and locals took critically

Hearing the news, local journalists and Akbar's relatives rushed to the health complex and staged

On the OC's instructions, Hathazari police picked up seven people from there and took them to the police station, sources said.

Later Additional Superintended of Police (north) Jahangir Hossain Matubbar went to the Hathazari Police Station and released the

Since 1971, four training aircraft of BAF crashed and six people were killed in the accidents. Sixty-one people were killed in 10 air crashes in

The Rab yesterday raided a house

Meanwhile, the Rab picked up a former ward commissioner, also uncle of Rashed, from his Maghbazar house and took him to the Rab headquarters yesterday to quiz him about Rashed and Tikka's legal firearms.

emerged as a top criminal after an incident of triple murder at Aga Mosi Kolkata police arrested Liaqat,

Bangladesh Army killed in Congo while carrying out his duties in the UN peacekeeping mission.

India to resume

FROM PAGE 16 took the decision to withdraw restriction on the import of fish from Bangladesh, Kironmoy said.

India imports about 4,000 tonnes of fish including 500 tonnes of Hilsha annually from Bangladesh but import of all types of fish from Bangladesh was stopped for last one and a half months.

Directorate of Fisheries of the West Bengal government will set up an office adjacent to Benapole land port for providing certificate to ensure the quality of imported fish.

Welcoming the decision of the central government, a representative of Hilsha Exporters'Association said the issue was resolved as West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharya took initiative.

KL to back FROM PAGE 16

particularly 'halal' meat all over the Process for introduction of `halal' certification standards for Muslim countries is on the way for OIC endorsement, an official said after

the meeting. The Malaysian foreign minister came to Dhaka to attend the Joint Commission meeting that concluded yesterday.

Cooperation in education, agriculture, biodiversity, trade, investment, and investment in the rubber sector were discussed On recruitment of manpower

from Bangladesh, Hamid Albar said the workforce will be recruited through negotiation between the authorities concerned of the two countries. The Malaysian foreign minister

told the prime minister that the Joint Commission meeting was fruitful and hoped the new areas of cooperation would be opened up. He also responded positively as

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said Malaysia could buy more Bangladeshi products to reduce the widening trade gap. Foreign Minister M Morshed

Khan. Foreign Secretary Hemavetuddin. Malavsian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Ashaary Bin Sani and senior officials of the Malaysian Foreign Ministry were present.

Six mayors to join

Police doctor,

2 others

phensidyl

yesterday evening.

peddlers.

Dhaka.

sources said.

FROM PAGE 1

vesterday's sitting

the 15th session

baskets of mango.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)

members held a police doctor and

two others along with 140 bottles of expired banned Indian drug

phensidyl from Charghat upazila

The arrestees are Dr Mirza

Khairul Kamal, 32, son of Sammun

Islam of Dilalpur of Pabna and a

medical officer at the Bangladesh

Police Academy at Sardah of

Charghat upazila, Zahed Sarwar,

an MBA student of Stamford

University in Dhaka, and Abdur

Rashid, 22, a broker of local drug

Acting on a tip-off, the elite force

nembers challenged a private car

at the Muktarpur crossing of Sardah

and recovered the bottles contain-

ing phensidyl packed inside three

nvolved in trading the contraband

Indian cough syrup consumed by

many as drug and that they were

taking the bottles in the private car

(Dhaka Metro Kha 11-9962) to

They bought the date expired

Dr Mirza admitted to newsmen

drug from Sardah bazar, a place

well-known for drug smuggling,

that he used to take the drug,

A married man, the police physi-

asked why he was carrying the drug.

three over to Charghat police by the

Budget session

delivering their speeches on the

Apart from treasury bench mem-

bers, Jatiya Party (Ershad) and

Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Janata

League lawmakers were present in

The main opposition party has

not been joining parliament since

the 15th session protesting the

government and the speaker's

indifference to the opposition

The speaker did not agree to the

opposition's demand for holding

discussion on the killing of former

minister Shah AMS Kibria by

adjourning day's business during

The Business Advisory

Committee yesterday decided that

the House will discuss the supple-

mentary budget of fiscal year 2004-

05 on June 12 and 13, and it will be

The House adopted an obituary

The Rab was likely to hand the

but denied his involvement in the

Sources said the arrestees are

caught

with

Mohammad Hanif and recently by Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury.

Asked about his failures as a mayor during the three years of his office since May 15, 2002, Khoka blamed it on the limitations of a mayor and the "ancient" conditions of the infrastructure and administration of the DCC Regarding the utility service

organisations, he said although the

water supply in other city corporations is under the authority of the mayor concerned, the case is different in Dhaka. "There are no public representatives in the Water and Sewerage Authority [Wasa], Dhaka Electricity

go without accountability for their work to the people," Khoka said. About the suffering of the citizens caused by rampant road-digging. the mayor said that the work hopefully will end by this month. Regarding the problem of waterlogging he mentioned the Wasa, not the DCC, as the responsible author-

Supply Authority [Desa] and the

Titas Gas. So these organisations

Khoka said the situation of the DCC was so bad when he took office that there were no funds left even for the payment of its staff. Besides, there was the debt of Tk 631 crore on the DCC. The condition of many roads was dilapidated and people did not have any faith in the DCC.

"At first I tried to bring back the confidence of the citizens. I have so far paid off 80 percent of the debt and now the DCC has its own fund to run its regular development works." Khoka said. On the issue of mosquito control

the mayor said, "We don't claim we

have been able to control mosquito fully but the situation has now improved a lot. We concentrated on cleaning up the ponds and water pits in the city, which are the breed-

ing grounds of mosquito." On the conservancy work of the DCC the mayor said if the DCC had been allotted Tk 180 crore yearly instead of the current 60 crore for this purpose, the city would have looked different. The DCC earns Tk 17 crore only for the conservancy purpose from the citizens, he informed.

Besides, the DCC lacks cleaners required proportionate to the population of Dhaka. For an estimated population of one crore under the DCC, the organisation needs 20,000 cleaners instead of the existing 7,000, Khoka said.

He said the DCC recently gave the conservancy work of 10 wards to private organisations so that the DCC workers could compare their works in other wards and improve in a competitive way.

Khoka admitted that Dhaka has not been built in a planned way. "In future we have to make towns around Dhaka through a proper plan," he said adding that in the next 10 to 15 years towns will be built centring around Keraniganj, Savar, Gazipur and the eastern side nearby the Sitalakkha river.

Khoka also shed light on some future work plans under which the DCC will construct some new roads. start the work of the Jatrabari-Gulistan fly-over very soon and the development of the Osmani Udyan this month.

Among others, DRU President M Shafigul Bashar and General Secretary Shakhawat Hossain Badsha attended the programme.

Budget size

against the revised budget for the current fiscal year. Non-NBR and non-tax portion

may be raised to Tk 1,660 crore and Tk 8,410 crore in the upcoming The annual development expenditure has already been raised to Tk

24,500 crore, which is about 20

percent higher than the revised

Annual Development Programme (ADP) of the ongoing fiscal year. The revenue expenditure may see a 13 percent rise to stand at Tk

Only the pay and allowance of the public officials would cost the government an additional Tk 10, 600 crore, some 18 percent rise on this year's revised budget.

About Tk 6, 720 crore may be allocated for paying interests on domestic and foreign loans. The government may also borrow Tk 3,630 crore from the banks to offset the budget deficit

REVISED BUDGET

In the revised budget for the current fiscal year, the total revenue income may be decreased from Tk 41,300 crore to Tk 39,200 crore. In the NBR portion, the original figure of Tk 32,190 crore may be lowered to Tk 30.500 crore.

The non-NBR portion may, however, be left the same as before at Tk 1450 crore, while the non-tax revenue is likely to be cut down from Tk 7,660 crore to Tk 7,250 crore.

Total expenditure in the revised

budget may be decreased from Tk 57.248 crore to Tk 55.500 crore. The ADP has already been re-fixed at Tk 20,500 crore from Tk 22,000 crore. The revenue expenditure is likely

to be lowered from Tk 35,248 crore to Tk 35,000 crore. Expenditure for

WHAT'S THERE IN

The safety net programme may

Cops probe bank

refused to name the banks. a bank account of Bidisha and the

are still quizzing her to squeeze information about the source of the after Ershad filed a theft case against

QUIZZING CONTINUES

Members of the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), Special Branch (SB) of the police and National Security Intelligence (NSI) continued questioning Bidisha for the second consecutive day yesterday.

afternoon and continued to interrogate her at several offices. Sources said Bidisha was kept at the city SB office on Baily Road Monday night and guestioned about

her alleged foreign connections and

and Bidisha's offices. A top police official asking not to

be named said they have raided seven places including her office Manchitra, boutique shop 'Isabella' in Banani and elder sister Manisha's

pay and allowance of the government officials may rise about 9 percent from Tk 8,218 crore to Tk 9.000 crore. The government' borrowing from

3.600 crore

THE BUDGET?

be broadened in the coming budget. A new programme for the disabled people may be there. Again, a special programme may also be included for the people exposed to

subsidise interests on farm loans. The budget may have a provision for the banks giving the farmers loan at a low interest rate, about 2 to 3 percent, and the government will pay the banks back later on.

vesterday directed the government to

immediately transfer ailing Bidisha to

the prison cell of Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujib Medical University and

Hospital (BSMMUH) for treatment

during her remand in police custody.

Bidisha's lawyers access to her for

consultation and let them take her

signature on vokalatnama for filing a

order upon a petition filed by

Bidisha's father Abu Bakr Siddique, a

former Rajshahi University professor

The court also referred the matter to a

regular bench for hearing when the

court ordered the government not to

arrest or harass Bidisha's father and

her two sisters, and allow them to see

Advocate Salahuddin Ahmed and

her during police custody or remand.

Barrister Tanjibul Alam moved the

ERSHAD'S CLAIMS REFUTED

Bidisha's mother Anwara Siddika

yesterday refuted Ershad's allegation

that Bidisha had not divorced her first

husband Peter Wilson. She said the

separation between Bidisha and

Wilson was legally settled before her

Bangladesh and settled the matter

after days of talks with him," Anwara

said, adding the divorce between

Bidisha and Peter is undoubtedly

She said the divorce documents

have been kept at Ershad's

Baridhara house, 'President Park'

and if the documents were not

handed to Bidisha, those would again

be collected from Wilson.

"Ershad invited Peter to

daughter married Ershad.

Upon a separate petition, the

court reopens on June 11.

The court passed the interim

It also ordered the police to allow

writ petition.

"We have already found Tk 6 crore in her two accounts in Bangladesh and are going to check how much she deposited with another foreign bank outside the country," a source close to the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC)

He added they have taken steps

to know the amount that Bidisha, who

is now on a three-day remand, has deposited with a foreign bank outside the country. The source, however, He also claimed that they are sure that Tk 75 lakh has been deposited in money was sent from abroad. "We

Bidisha was arrested on Saturday

The police took Bidisha out of

Gulshan Police Station on Monday

the bank accounts. The police also raided a number of houses of some influential people

house in Uttara **COURT ORDER**

the banks for deficit financing was originally earmarked at Tk 2.599 crore, but it may be spiked to Tk

The government plans to make public the resource and expenditure plans of four line ministries in the coming budget. Besides, it may also announce when it would go public with the plans of the other ministries.

Monga or near-famine. The government is not going to give subsidy on diesel, but it may

ber of the AL Presidium, said the The vacation bench of the High Court country's independence was not

> (DU), read the keynote paper titled 'June 7 in the context of autonomy to

Newspaper editors

In the wake of the price hike of newsprint in the international market, the country's newspaper industry is facing a tough time, they told the PM.

Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) President and The Independent Éditor Mahbubul Alam, National Press Club President and the News Today Editor Reazuddin Ahmed, Prothom Alo Editor Motiur Rahman, presidents and general secretaries of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists and Dhaka Union of Journalists Gias Kamal Chowdhury Manzurul Ahsan Bulbul, Shah Alamgir and Elahi Newaz Khan.

Earlier, on Sunday the Noab, BSP and leaders of journalists unions formed the eight-member joint steering committee to face the problems of the newspaper industry.

Suicide bombers

STAR NEWS DESK

Five people, including a doctor, died and eight others were injured in road accidents in Mymensingh and Sirajganj yesterday. the previous day by men in Iraqi

Our Mymensingh correspondent reported that a private car collided head on with a Sherpur bound bus on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Dhigarkanda in Sadar upazila at about 8:15am, killing a doctor of Rangpur Medical College and Hospital (RMCH) and his assistant on the spot and injuring the driver of the car.

5 killed in

road crashes

The doctor, AKM Sayeedul Islam 50, prof of orthopaedic of the RMCH and his assistant Nural Islam, 26, were going to Community Based Medical College (CBMC) at Churkhali in Sadar upazila in the car The injured car driver, Osman Ali, is

undergoing treatment at Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital (MMCH). Soon after the accident, the stu-

dents of Mymensingh Medical College (MMC) and the CBMC put up barricades on the roads, damaged at least 20 vehicles and clashed with transport workers. At least 50 people, including ten students of the MMC, were injured in the clash. Police fired tear gas shells and

under control. The road barricades were withdrawn at about 2:30pm after the local chapter of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) gave a 48hour ultimatum to the authorities concerned to nab the killer bus driver. Meanwhile, the members of the BMA local chapter will wear black

badges and hold a condolence meet-

rubber bullets to bring the situation

ing at Mymensingh Medical College (MMC) today. Prof Sayeedul Islam, also a freedom fighter, left behind his wife Dr Piara Islam of the MMCH and two

Police seized the bus, but its driver managed to flee. Saveedul's body was taken to his village home in Bogra after namaj-e-janaza at Jamia Islamia Madrasa ground. In Sirajganj, three people died and

seven others were injured when a

truck skidded off the road and fell into a

ditch on the western side of the

Jamuna Bridge yesterday, according to a correspondent. Of the dead, two were identified as Ripon, 16, and Millat, 25. The identity of the other could not be known.

The injured are now undergoing treatment at Sirajganj Sadar Hospital.

Price hikes

FROM PAGE 16 members of the ministers are engaged in plundering the state's wealth." she alleged.

Besides, the AL chief once again

accused the government of killing AL

leaders and activists in the name of 'crossfire' "The BNP-Jamaat alliance is killing the AL men to avenge its [Jamaat-e-Islami] ignominious defeat in 1971,

she observed. Referring to Gias Hazarika's death in 'crossfire', she said, "Had he been interrogated, some of the ruling coalition ministers' involvement in crime would have been disclosed."

She also said the current sit of the country is alarmingly similar to that during the then East Pakistan. The former prime minister alleged

that the ruling party cadres in concert with police yesterday foiled the Chehlum of Dud Mia, who was killed in 'Rah (Rapid Action Battalion) custody'. She urged the countrymen to unite

in opposition to the ruling four-party

alliance and force it to step down.

Speaking at the discussion, AL Presidium Member Tofail Ahmed said the 'state-sanctioned terrorism' has turned the country into a 'valley of Amir Hossain Amu, another mem-

gained through a mere declaration, rather 1952's Language Movement and then the Six-Point Demand had culminated in the glorious Liberation Dr Harun-ur-Rashid, dean of social science faculty in Dhaka University

independence'. AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil, Presidium Members Motia Chowdhury, Sajeda Chowdhury, DU Teachers Association President AAMS Arefin Siddique, former vice chancellor of DU Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, city AL President Mohammad Hanif and General Secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya also spoke at the

FROM PAGE 1

The team also included

In the latest killing of a cleric, Salam Abdul-Karim, a Sunni, was found dead in the mainly Shia city of Basra on Monday, relatives said They said he had been abducted

police uniforms Police denied any involvement n the killing. The death followed that of a Shia cleric in Basra last

week In an effort to defuse sectarian tensions and undermine the Sunni-Arab dominated insurgency, the Shia and Kurdish blocs that emerged strongest from Irag's Jan. 30 polls are trying to involve more

MIRPUR DOUBLE

Murder

Jubo League blames it on BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jubo League yesterday claimed that two youths gunned down in Mirpur Monday night were their activists and strongly condemned what it called a planned

The youth wing of the main opposition Awami League (AL) blamed local BNP for the murder of Mahbubur Rahman, 28, joint convenor of the Jubo League unit of ward no. 8 and Shafiqul Islam, 30, a worker. About five unknown gunmen killed

bullets when they were playing chess in front of Shafiq's video shop, Munmun Video Centre, in Mirpur-1 at Mirpur police said yesterday the assailants went to the place to kill Mahbubur, but also shot at Shafiqul when he tried to flee.

Quoting primary investigation, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Mirpur Police Station MA Rab identified Mahbub as nephew of the Jatiya Party leader Taiyabur Rahman and told The Daily Star: "The murder was well-planned. The killers were following Mahbub and went there, probably, on

The killers reached there when the two were sitting on stools engrossed in the game, he said.

As Shafig ran into his shop to

escape, the gunmen shot him and a bullet hit in the back of his shoulder. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at 10:30pm and doctors declared Shafiq dead. Taking six bullets, critically wounded Mahbub was admitted to the

DMCH. When he was shifted to Apollo Hospital at 1:00am yesterday, doctors

found him dead. The OC said Mahbub's father claimed his son used to work at the garment factory of his uncle Taiyabur but did not specify the nature of his job. But a police source said Mahbub

was involved in extortion and assumed that he might have been killed for feud over sharing of toll-The namaz-e-janaza of Mahbub and Shafiq was held in front of the AL headquarters on the Bangabandhu Avenue after the Johr prayers vester-

Mahbub's father M Amanullah filed

a case with Mirpur Police Station yesterday but failed to ascertain any

day prior to their burial in Mirpur

reason and identity of the killers.

Secretary Ismail Zabihullah and high officials of both the sides were present at the signing ceremony and press

The resignation decision came a day after the Sangh Parivar fountainhead RSS demanded that the BJP president "review" the statements made in Pakistan, especially about Jinnah, seen by many as the proponent of two-nation theory based on religion, went against the fundamental ideological posturing

ruled out apology from Advani would be enough to sort out the problem. After returning from Pakistan on Monday Advani called Sanjay Joshi, RSS pointman in BJP, to his residence last morning and handed him

issues of the Sangh Parivar and

resignation letter, senior BJP leaders rushed to his residence to persuade him to withdraw his resignation. RSS also had asked the BJP chief to withdraw his statements, which he refused to do.

endorsed Advani's comments about Jinnah. "Advani's comments have cre-

Sarojini Naidu had also made

freedom struggle, Vajpayee told reporters. The most vocal against Advani's remarks about Jinnah and Babri Mosque demolition was VHP whose general secretary Pravin Togadia

Sunni Arabs in the writing of a new constitution, the next key step in Iraq's path toward full democracy.

Sunni Arabs dominated Iraq during the rule of Saddam Hussein but few voted in the January elections due to calls from Sunni Arab parties for a boycott and fears of

nsurgent attacks. There are only 17 Sunni Arab lawmakers in Iraq's 275-member parliament, and only two in the committee of 55 Iraqis that is tasked with overseeing the writing

of a constitution. The Shia chairman of the committee has said it will be expanded to include more Sunni Arabs, but the names of the new members

have yet to be agreed. Near the western city of Falluja two US Marines have been killed by roadside bombs since Sunday, the military said.

Since the US-led invasion in 2003, at least 1,676 American military and Pentagon personnel have lost their lives in Iraq.

Criminals hurt

Anis were admitted to Kaligan

hospital, Injured SI Abdur Rahim was given first aid. Later police recovered the firearms with the help of villagers,

FROM PAGE 1

agrees

Officer-in-charge of Kaliganj Police Station Kamruzzaman said Malaysia

FROM PAGE 16 tourism and other areas so that we can nave a win-win situation." Morshed, who had a breakfast meeting with Hamid, said they also discussed regional, sub-regional and international issues and how to face together the challenges facing the two

Atop official of Bangladesh said the Malaysian side agreed in principle to give either duty-free entry or concession to 19 categories of Bangladeshi export products. Meanwhile, Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin told reporters Malaysia expressed keen interest in investing in

trade and service sectors, and importing agro-based products, fruits, rice and goods like jute and ceramics. The Malaysian side proposed to send students to study medical sci-

ences in Bangladesh, he said.

Malaysian companies are espe-cially keen to invest in infrastructure development projects in Bangladesh ne mentioned. The Malaysian side has agreed to accept the proposal to set up an exchange house in Malaysia, solely to provide remittance services to

angladeshi nationals working in

Meeting sources on condition of anonymity said Bangladesh would prepare a list of 26,000 workers for sending them to Malaysia after studying the requirements there. Talking to reporters after the press

conference, Morshed said the com-

merce ministries of the two countries will soon take appropriate steps to reduce the trade gap. State Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Mohammed Quamrul Islam, ERD

Advani quits BJP

FROM PAGE 16 RSS and Vishwa Hindu Parishad top brass, he said he has not said

anything in Pakistan which needs to be retracted or reviewed. Advani born in Sindh province of Pakistan, had gone on a nostalgic trip with his wife, son Jayant and daughter Pratibha to Pakistan where he visited the structure, which was once his family home. He had his school education in Karachi.

RSS spokesman Ram Madhav said there was no question of compromising with basic ideological

over a letter announcing his resignation as party chief. Soon after Advani shot off his

Earlier in the day, former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee

ated a lot of misunderstanding. Advani was talking about a Jinnah who fought for independence. Jinnah was a nationalist. He made no discrimination on the basis of religion," Vajpayee said. Senior Congress leaders like

similar remarks about Jinnah who had played an important role in the even accused Advani of being a "traitor" and asked him to apologise

or quit as BJP chief. Defence ministry

against the local government division under the LGRD ministry, 2,749

large number of audit objections

against fisheries and livestock, and 1,048 against the law ministry. "It really is frustrating that such a

remain unresolved," the report said calling for immediate resolution of the obiections. **DÉFENCE MINISTRY** On the objections about the expenditure on defence, the report said Tk

48.33 crore has been lost due to

financial irregularities, and that the

amount should be realised immedi-

ately.

The CAG office detected the irregularities mainly in the defence ministry's pooling resources and in distributing those among army, navy, and airforce in FY 1997 to 2002. The report said it found that a loss of Tk 10 crore was incurred through purchase of ammunition that was

cancelled by the chief of the Inspector

Ammunition and Explosive. Besides

the officials concerned did not deposit

in the government exchequer about Tk 1.77 crore collected against tender schedules for the purchase. It also found that about Tk 9.88 crore has gone down the drain for procurement of tank transporter, which too was earlier cancelled by the

by buying adulterated milk powder for FOREIGN MISSIONS A total of 15 audit objections involving

Tk 1.10 crore was raised against 18

Bangladeshi missions abroad in the

About Tk 2 crore has been wasted

spection office.

FY 2002-03. About the nature of the irregularities, the report said officials under the foreign ministry withdrew unjustifiably their allowances for education, medical treatment, accommodation, transport, and telephone and entertainment bills.

The missions against which objections have been raised are in Brussels Tripoli, Colombo, Ankara, Islamabad, Rome, Brasilia, Singapore, New York, Kuwait, Paris, Moscow, Warsaw, Calcutta, Manchester, Karachi. Madrid and Malay.

FROM PAGE 16 Selim but the bullet missed its target

agitation against the OC.

The OC, however, claimed that Akbar was shot dead by the bullet of fleeing criminal Selim.

aggrieved constables." Asked about an unconfirmed report that some constables were

of the intelligence agencies to keep Some 20,000 policemen at the Rajarbagh Police Lines and 5,500

demonstrate against the discrimination, top police officials termed it a 'lie' and said there was no commo-

and hit the ill-fated pushcart puller, still fragile, and the sand being dumped to support the wall was also wet due to rain late Monday eveinjured Akbar to Hathazari Health ning," explained an engineer at site, Complex where the on-duty doctor requesting not to be named. declared him dead.

in the country when the Rapid Action Team (Rat) arrested his boss Liaqat Police sources said Arman

Sources said Arman often used

passed on June 14. reference at the death of four former lawmakers and a member of grade and require the same educaminister told us that the government has taken well the feeling of the

such a step.' In 1991, policemen at Rajarbagh and Chittagong police lines ransacked their barracks in protest at the salary discrimination. The

government eventually conceded to

their demand, but axed some 200

disarmed at Rajarbagh Police

Lines, the IGP termed it totally false.

"Since there has been no commo-

tion anywhere, there is no need for

Wall collapse

bricks and iron rods only to find the

and Md Manik -- were rushed to

Dhaka Medical College and

Hospital (DMCH). Zafar was admit-

The two injured -- Zafar Hossain

three workers dead.

ted there and Manik was released after first aid. The dead bodies were sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy. Construction of the building

started about a year ago, being

carried out by two subcontractors.

But their names could not be known.

seeking anonymity blamed the

construction workers for the acci-

Sources at the construction site

dent, saying they were not supposed to go so close to the wall that collapsed. Construction of the temporary wall was completed on Monday and it needed time to dry up and become strong enough, they "As a matter of fact, the wall was

No workers were seen using

Bashar, managing director of Abdul

Momen Ltd which owns the building,

the duty officer said last night.

safety helmets to prevent head injuries. The office room at the construction site was found deserted. An unnatural death case was lodged with Dhanmandi Police Station by major (retd) Khairul

A similar incident about a month ago claimed two lives at the site of the under- construction Falcon Tower at Shaheenbagh in the capi-