Container vessel hits naval jetty

3 frigates, pontoons suffer damage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CTG

A container-loaded commercial vessel vesterday evening hit the flotilla jetty of the BNS Isha Khan, the main naval base of Bangladesh Navy, at Karnaphuli channel while arriving at the Chittagong Port jetty from outer anchorage

The hit caused damage to a few naval pontoons and at least three frigates, tugged with the pontoons, according to the primary information

received vesterday night Sources said that the MV CEC Copenhagen under Nasuo (Bahamas) flag was carrying 585 containers to the Chittagong Port from the Tanjum

Palapas port of Malaysia. The vessel was moving towards the port jetty through the Karnaphuli channel from the outer anchorage. As the vessel reached near the naval base, its steering went out of order when wind and strong current of the channel threw the 300-feet vessel on

the jetty of the BSS Flotilla. This was the second major accident after September 21, 2003, when another container-loaded vessel had hit the naval flotilla jetty causing damage to at least 50 frigates. The damage was then estimated at Tk 100 crore.

A three-member committee headed by Chittagong Port's harbour master Captain Nazmul Alam was formed immediately to probe the cause of the accident. The committee was asked to submit its report in next

The Bangladesh Navy and Mercantile Marine Department (MMD) today will form two more committees to find the cause and extent of damage sources said.

Port sources, however, said the damage was not so great. "Some anchored pontoons were damaged by the hit and three naval frigates just swept away to a little distance, which might cause some damage to the gates." they said.

But, the naval sources dismissed such "lighter" observation and feared

huge damage to the frigates. Sources in the Bangladesh Navy said the three affected warships are feared to have suffered heavy damage. Small in size, they all were equipped with very sensible and valuable equipment like sensors and

radar, they said. The extent of damage and quantity losses can be ascertained only by thorough investigation, they added.

Two tugboats of the Chittagong Port carried MV CEC Copenhagen to ietty No. 13 of the port where it has

George's confession

Gulistan Cinema Hall.

George said they split in four groups to carry out the attack. Out of 14 others involved in the attack, he only mentioned the names of five. Of the five, Subrata Bain Suvro, Molla Masud, and Tanvir Islam Joy are among the most wanted 23 criminals. Besides them, Robin and Muku were also in the mission, according to

According to the investigators. George made similar confession twice earlier, but names of other people involved in the attack could not be

According to George, they took the decision to attack the rally at a house in Maghbazar and finalised the plan in front of Baitul Mukarram Mosque on August 20.

Question arises whether such a massive attack could be planned in such a short period of time and still carried out successfully without

extensive preparation. "Grenade is not available like bullets and it takes training to handle a grenade. It is hard to believe that George and others received the grenades the previous day and hurled those with ease at the meeting the following day," observed the police

The police have been looking for Subrata, Masud, Joy, Mukul, and Robin since the seizure of huge cache of firearms and explosives at Kuril

"How could a meeting of such top terrors fail to come to the law enforcers' notice, especially when it took place at an open place like Baitul Mukarram? questioned the police officer.

Besides, the investigators have vet to arrest the others involved in the

attack or submit the charge sheet though 10 months have passed since the incident.

The investigators earlier linked top terror Arman Khan. AL leader Mokhlesur Rahman, Shaibal Saha Partha, and 13 others in connection with August 21 attack. They said Arman named Subrata

as involved in the attack. But George did not link anyone of those arrestees and Arman to the attack The CID officials said the visiting

Interpol officials were satisfied with George's statement. The process of recording George's

statement too was controversial. CID Senior Assistant Superintendents Munsi Atiq and Abdur Rashid and some other took George to the magistrate's room and stayed there till the end of recording. Armed policemen were also stationed at the corridor.

In a breach of law, George was not lowed privacy when the magistrate asked him to think twice before making the statement. There is a provision that one has to be allowed a three-hour privacy before making such state-

Although the police provided George with helmet and bullet-proof vest when they produced him before court earlier, he did not get those on

"The content of George's statement is not credible as there are many loopholes in it," observed an intelligence officer, terming it mere eye-

"It seems some identified top criminals have been linked to the incident in a bid to spare the mastermind."he said

Mahmud pulls for risky

FROM PAGE 16 some with low population density,

open mining is not an option," a mining expert told The Daily Star, explaining its implications. Mahmud said Tata and a Chinese

company separately showed interest in open mining at Barapukuria, Since Tata first made the offer, if this method is more profitable than shaft mining future responsibility of the mine should go to Tata, he told the officials Turning to Phulbari Coal Project of

Australian company Asia Energy, the adviser criticised Petrobangla on two First. Petrobangla gave Asia

Energy exploration rights for two years. Mahmud argued one year was good enough for exploring coal prospects in that area.

Second, Petrobangla also gave a vast area, including Phulbari town, to Asia Energy for exploration. But Mahmud pointed out if people of the town need to be relocated for exploration, it will cost much, and in that case

how it can be a profitable option for the government He however asked Petrobangla

why it is not giving other prospective areas near Phulbari to Asia Energy for

The adviser discussed how to develop Jamalganj coal deposit that has a very big reserve located at a great depth, making it financially nonviable to extract coal

He however pointed out that US energy company Vulcan has expressed interest in developing Jamalganj field using a different technology that will convert coal into methane gas inside the mine and then transmit it to the surface.

Mahmud asked Petrobangla to give a green signal to the proposal of Vulcan. The US company is ready for a feasibility study of the project.

The adviser also said the country will tilt to coal-fired power projects after a couple of years. Gas-fired ones will not be encouraged in future, he added.

Saifur says it is needed

Explaining why he fixed the 7.5 percent income tax for whitening black money, the minister said a higher tax would not encourage people to utilise

macro-economy, he noted.

the opportunity. Low tax would encourage them to put the money in banks which would raise the liquidity of the banks and consequently help bring down the interest rates. Reacting to the criticism of the

money whitening scope, Saifur said the opportunity was also offered during the Awami League rule but no

MCCI leaders expressed dismay at the increase in bank interest rate following a recent Bangladesh Bank advice. They said it has dangerous implications for the manufacturing sector and adverse effects on the small and medium industries and

service sector. In reply, Saifur said he had sat with the banks regularly and managed to reduce the interest rate. He is still in favour of lower interest rate but the World Bank and IMF have been insisting on a higher interest rate, he

The minister however said the rates of Grameen Bank and other NGOs remained high. High officials of these NGOs went to the World Bank and IMF for increasing bank interest rate as no one was taking loan from them, he added.

Saifur asked the business leaders to talk to World Bank Country Director Christine I Wallich and convince her of the necessity of keeping the bank interest rates low

The MCCI pointed out that the restoration of discretionary powers of the income tax and VAT administration ill-advised, which would create opportunities for further corruption in the tax administration and harassment of taxpavers.

The MCCI chief was also critical of the government's non-development expenditure that stands at 61 percent. The budget says nothing about downsizing the government or the need for reforming the administration, he pointed out.

2 schoolboys

for a swim at about 4:00pm, said their

"The two boys, who did not know how to swim, walked in the lake for several minutes and all of a sudden waved their hands signaling that they were drowning," said Sourav's cousin Shahinuzzaman Dhrubo who was with the two when they stepped into the lake.

Several locals dived into the lake for their rescue but failed, he added. Later divers of the Fire Service and

Civil Defence rescued the two bodies. They were taken to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital where doctors declared them dead at 5:30pm.

Sitara's body

FROM PAGE 1 Tears were running down the cheeks of many of the relatives as the coffin was slid open for a while.

They had seen her off only a week before and were hoping for a safe return. She was scheduled to return home in August after visiting the UK and US.

"Her serene face says it all, it says she is sleeping and it's forever," were the only words her husband Ahaduzzman Mohammad Ali could utter after opening the

Ahaduzzaman and Sitara were classmates and close friends before their marriage. The life of Sitara Parvin was stopped forever after the car she was travelling in was rammed by a Dodge Caravan in Chicago, thousands of miles away from her home Her sister Shahana, who was at

the wheel, lost control of the car, a Chevrolet Blazer, and it rammed into a median strip. The car kept rolling down the strip and stopped not before bringing an end to the life of Sitara.

After brief formalities at the airport, the bereaved family took the oody to her residence at Gushan-1.

The family sources said the body would be kept there [Gulshan residencel until Wednesday morning. It has been preserved properly in the coffin and can be kept in the house for the next seven days," said Asaduzzaman Noor MP, brother in law of Sitara.

Sitara would be buried after her mother who is in London for treatment, returns on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, teachers, students, and relatives visited the house yesterday to offer sympathy to Sitara's familv. Sitara's body would be taken to

ournalism department at 11:00am and at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla at 12 noon Wednesday for the students and colleagues to bid farewell to her. Her namaz-e-janaja would be

held at the University Central Mosque after Johr prayers. She will be laid to eternal rest at Banani gravevard in the afternoon the same

Top US lawmakers

resolution in the United Nations Security Council calling for an independent, international investigation, which would send a clear signal that the international community will not tolerate a climate in which political violence flourishes," the letter reads.

The senators and congressmen noted that recent acts of political violence in Bangladesh, including the assassination of Kibria in January this year and the attempts on the life of British high commissioner in May, 2004, and on Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina Wazed in August, 2004, continue to be unsolved.

The co-writers of the letter to Rice include, US senators Edward M Kennedy, John F Kerry, John Sununu, and Lincoln D Chafee, and US congressmen Barney Frank, John W Olver, Richard E Neal, James P McGovern, John F Tierney, Edward J Markey, Michael E Capuano and Charles F Bass.

Tengratila

FROM PAGE 1

They are still confident of going ahead with the gas development programme there, he said, adding that Niko will use its newly developed drilling pad for the purpose.

Meanwhile, 'Sunamganj Banchao' (Save Sunamganj), a district based citizen's forum, held a big rally near the gas field yesterday afternoon with MA Majid Birprotik in the chair where Sunamganj Pourashava Chairman Mominul Moujdin and local UP Chairman Haque, among others,

In the name of gas field development, the Canadian company Niko is repeatedly causing disasters for the nation while the government has remained a silent spectator, the speakers said.

The locals who have suffered after the January 7 explosion did not get their minimum compensation and there is no security of the inhabitants of the neighbouring villages. thev said.

International conspiracy for plundering our national wealth is responsible for such disasters, they Sammilito Ganomukti Andolan also brought out a procession in

It held a rally near the gas field and formed a human chain in protest against "destruction of gas reserves worth crores of taka" by

Tengratila area yesterday after-

foreign companies. Ex-MP Abdulla Sarker and Workers' Party leader Saiful Haque, among others, spoke at the rally.

Thousands join

to curb rising corruption and crime. The hour-long demonstration starting at 4:00pm passed off peacefully in all six divisional headquarters and the district headquarters.

Apart from political activists. teachers, physicians, lawyers, cultural activists, trade union leaders and the general people lined up along the streets in a show of noconfidence in the BNP-led ruling alliance.

This was the sixth such human wall since last year, two of them being cross-country.

Authorities deployed additional police personnel along the humanwall route to avert untoward incident.

Opposition leaders claimed the demonstration was a success, as the people by joining the programme have again showed that they have little confidence in the government.

The AL and the JSD had simulta-

neously announced the programme

as part of their ongoing antigovernment agitation. The 11-party, a platform of leftleaning political parties, did not announce any human-wall programme this time though it had

done so in the past.

The demonstrators carried colourful banners, placards, badges headbands and ribbons, mostly inscribed with demands and slogans like, "Give food and cloth, or quit", "Khaleda, Nizami are the masterminds of the grenade attacks and religious extremism." "Root out the Hawa Bhaban", "Open the closed mills and factories", and "Stop whitening of black money"

HUMAN WALL IN DHAKA The human wall in the capital began from Jatrabari and Gabtoli -- two entry points of Dhaka -- and stretched towards Zero Point (Noor Hossain Square) touching busy city intersec-

People lined up along either side of the roads in Sayedabad, Motijheel and Gulistan from Jatrabari to Zero Point. From Gabtoli, the wall went through Russell Square, Elephant Road, Shahbagh, High Court road, Curzon Hall, Nagar Bhaban and Bangabandhu Avenue.

Senior opposition leaders took part in the demonstration in front of Muktangon.

AL General Secretary told journalists that the proposed budget is totally anti-people and destructive for the economy. "It is our duty to protect the interest of the nation, which is why we have observed the programme," he said, adding that they would enforce a dawn-to-dusk hartal on June 30 if the government does not realise the 13-point demand by June 29.

Budgetary allocation for unproductive sectors will trigger huge unemployment, while the price hike

of essentials and fuel will hit hard

agriculture and the poor, he

observed. The imposition of tax on software and mobile SIM card will hinder the development of the information technology and telecommunications Jalil added. "The proposal for extension of the money whitening provision will only benefit the rich and widen the disparity between the rich

JSD General Secretary Syed Zafar Sazzad said the human wall was aimed at forcing the government to make corrections in the budget and the chief election commissioner to

AL presidium members Amir Hossain Amu, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Abdur Razzak, Motia Chowdhury and other central leaders took part in the human wall at Muktangan.

Our district correspondents reported that the "human wall" programme was observed peace-

376 industries

'About 800 industries have so far

complied with the government order," he said in his reply to a query. Tanneries and textiles units top the list of industrial polluters, he added citing the 1997 data. The

severe polluters included 198 tanneries, 365 textiles, 118 chemicals and pesticides, 129 engineering and 140 pharmaceuticals Tariqul said the government has taken steps to update the list of

industries causing severe pollution and that 11 cases were recently filed for industrial pollution in Dhaka and Narayanganj. He said the government is no more allowing any new industry

without their having effluent treat

ment plants M Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, minister in charge of defence ministry for parliamentary proceedings, in posing another question told the House that 63 armed forces personnel have been killed and 56 others injured until June 21 this year while serving as UN peacekeepers in different coun-

He said families of each UN beacekeeper killed in line of duty got \$50.000, while the injured received between \$500 and \$50,000

Niko unable to plug gas

tackling the Tengratila blaze.

"They can start an early operation only if they can arrange a rig.Their own rig was destroyed in Friday's explosion that was deliberately triggered by the people of Niko. The only available rig close to Tengratila is at Fenchuganj field. And I don't believe any sensible rig-

request," one expert said. A rig is a very costly equipment, and oil companies usually rent rigs on daily basis instead of owning them. Niko's Chinese contractor in January lost one rig in the first blowout at Tengratila. Now with the destruction of a second rig under Niko. rig operators are not so eager to work with the Canadian company that entered Bangladeshi gas sector

through the backdoor. Energy experts say Niko is likely to rent a rig from abroad. And this means the company will not be able to mobilise that rig at the affected

location before December. "Beginning from the first blowout. Niko did not show any sense of urgency. It was lucky that the first blowout was apparently taken care of by nature within a short time. If it was a sensible and a competent operator it would have finished drilling the relief well within a couple

of months of the January blowout." notes another energy expert.

"But they took six months to make some progress. All this delay has allowed the gas inside to seep through many cracks and form a pressure zone where they were drilling the relief well. If Niko had a good preparation to handle this kind situation, it could have been avoided. But after one blowout when a company takes to managing policymakers with gifts, why they would spend money to make good preparations." he said.

Niko does not bother about quality work, he thought. "Even after the first explosion or without completing the drilling of any usable gas well. Niko went ahead to construct a gas pipeline between the Lafarge cement factory and Tengratila. It is so desperate to make profits that this pipeline was constructed with low pressure pipes."

Lafarge factory already takes gas from Jalalabad field. Niko thought it will be able to arrange direct gas sales with it later on, the expert added.

Meanwhile, the energy ministry yesterday formed another probe committee to assess gas loss caused by the second blowout

Tax ombudsman

president will appoint the tax ombudsman for a four-year term. He or she will head a separate office with necessary staff. The ombudsman can deal with NBR related taxes including VAT, import duty and

"We believe people's trust in the NBR will increase a lot after the appointment of the tax ombudsman. This will ensure transparency in the tax-related activities and accountability of the tax officers," the NBR chairman said. He hoped this will reduce harass-

ment of taxpayers and increase tax collection. The tax ombudsman will receive

complaints from the taxpayers and hear both the taxpayers and tax officials to resolve the disputes. If necessary, he or she can take help from an advisory committee to dispose of a complaint. The ombudsman can form an

investigation team and direct the team to raid the house of the taxpayers or tax officials concerned when and if necessary. If a tax official is found guilty, the ombudsman will recommend necessary action against him. If the

NBR disagrees with the ombuds-

man's recommendations, it can

the

explain to the ombudsman

reasons of disagreement

If the ombudsman continues to differ from the NBR on any particular issue, the ombudsman will seek the finance minister or the president's guidance. If a taxpayer is found guilty of

officials, the ombudsman can suggest punitive actions against him. The tax ombudsman will reqularly submit to the president an annual report within three months of completion of a calendar year.

making false allegation against tax

Before filing any complaint against the tax offices with the ombudsman, a taxpayer will have to sign a declaration. If an issue is already dealt with by court or pending in court, the ombudsman's office will not deal with it.

bribery and harassment.

ombudsman has to be a person less than 67 years old. A retired judge or government official can be chosen youth. for this post. The ombudsman will the activities of the Islamic universities have experience in and knowledge in Niger, Uganda and the Islamic of revenue and tax issues. University of Technology in According to the NBR, only 17

lakh people in Bangladesh, with a population of 14 crore, have tax identification numbers (TIN) and less than five lakh actually pay tax. The taxpayers often complain of

Differences

FROM PAGE 16 meeting ended inconclusively as 11-party representatives sought more time to mend differences of opinion in the grouping.

Alliance sources said leaders of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), which skipped the meeting at Jalil's house, have some reservations over announcing a common reform agenda with the AL.

Leaders of the 11-party meet again tonight at the Workers Party office to make a last ditch effort to bridge their differences Talking to The Daily Star vester

day, Workers Party chief Rashed Khan Menon admitted to the differences and said, "We'll sit tomorrow night (Tuesday) and try our best to reach a consensus over the issue." JSD chief Hasanul Haq Inu said once the 11-party reaches a consensus. "We (14 parties) will sit

both in the electoral system and caretaker government system." Declining to give details of his party's stand, CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim said, "We formed 11-party alliance to move forward as an alternative political force beyond the AI -BNP bipolar politics. So, toeing any big

political party's line should not be

again soon to go on with the move

for a common agenda for reforms

our cup of tea Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, a leader of the Gono Forum which is another component of the 11-party combine, said, "We now have several sets of reform agenda (prepared separately by the AL, JSD, 11-party and Jatiya Oikya Mancha) for discussion, and we're trying to formulate a common one of all opposition par-

Bidisha

General (prisons) Brigadier General

Toufiqul Alam and top home ministry officials. He finally handed over the release order of Bidisha to her counsels at about 5:45pm, Bidisha's lawvers said, adding that they also had to take release order from the hospital authorities.

iournalists and photoiournalists who were present at the BSMMUH gate desperately trying to take Bidisha's snaps and her reaction Soon after the release, Bidisha told the BBC Bangla Service over cell phone that she is seriously ill

The police misbehaved with the

and will later let her reaction known to the countrymen through media. She said she has finally got the release as the countrymen prayed Bidisha's father Prof Siddique in his reaction said the people of Bangladesh are facing a situation

with democracy, autocracy and fundamentalism. He, however, declined to disclose where Bidisha will be taken after her release. He also did not make any comment whether they

created by a mixture of conspiracy

will file any case against Ershad. Bidisha was arrested on June 4 after Ershad filed a case against her the same day for theft, rampage and giving threats. Ershad filed the second case with the First Class Magistrate's Court, Dhaka on June 5 for cheating on him after marriage, and the third one with the Mohammadpur Police Station on

June 8 for passport forgery. On June 16, officer-in-charge (OC) of Gulshan PS Kazi Nure Alam filed a money laundering case against Bidisha.

Morshed

FROM PAGE 16

Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu will submit a report profiling implementation of his reform programmes to enhance the organisation's efficacy and promote ioint Islamic action.

According to an OIC announce-

ment, the conference will discuss

ways for better projection of the radiant

image of Islam. It will also discuss means for better serving the causes of the Islamic Ummah and boosting Islamic solidarity among the OIC The issues of Palestine, Arah-Israeli conflict and the Middle

East peace process will dominate the political agenda of the conference. The political situation in Iraq Afghanistan, Somalia, Sudan and Cyprus, peace process between India and Pakistan, and refugee problems in

the Islamic world will also be dis-

The ICFM agenda includes over 80 different issues from combating terrorism to intra-OIC cooperation and the follow-up of the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam. The conference will also focus on

economic situation in the OIC member

states, promotion of multilateral trade.

establishment of an Islamic common

market and enhancement of the international system of finance. It will also discuss the activities of the OIC subsidiary organs and those of the Islamic Development Bank Enhancing assistance to Muslim minorities in non-OIC member states will also come up for discussion.

Besides, the conference will address cultural, social and Islamic According to the draft bill, the tax affairs, means to implement cultural strategies in the Islamic world and other issues relating to women and The foreign ministers will review

> The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) established in 1969 has 57 members from Africa, Asia and

Pvt operators

Post and Telecommunications yesterday at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, says private operators are dragging their heels on the interconnectivity issue on the grounds that Teletalk has no such deal even with state telecoms operator, the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB).

The private operators say they would have an interconnectivity deal with the BTTB, but not with

The report says officials of the private operators, Teletalk and Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) held at least two meetings last month to resolve the problem, but it has not been settled as yet. The ministry in its report, how-

ever, is optimistic about signing an

interconnectivity deal between the

BTTB and Teletalk in a couple of

days since a draft in this regard is now at the final stage. BTTB officials told the meeting that the state telecoms operator would sign a similar deal with the private operators within a month of

sealing the deal with Teletalk. The meeting was informed that Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited, the owning company of CityCell, owned by Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan owe the government Tk 27.62 crore, Grameen Phone Tk 24.65 crore, TIMB (Aktel) Tk 5.53 crore and Banglalink Tk

18.42 lakh in outstanding revenues. Committee Chairman GM Fazlul Haq told journalists after the meeting that the private operators, specially Pacific Telecom realised in advance money from their clients but is not depositing the revenue with the government.

Referring to the previous two

2 injured

FROM PAGE 16 Ripu Mollah alias Ropin, 30, another bus passenger, and two unidentified persons were also killed General Railway Police (GRP)

are trying to detect the persons

responsible for the mishap. The collision occurred when the train, Upakul Express, smashed a bus and a yellow taxicab on Kuril-Bishwa Road level crossing at 10:40pm.

Witnesses and Badda police said the level crossing was open for traffic after a train had passed. When the vehicles began to move, the Upakul Express appeared and collided with the bus and taxi. The gatekeeper told reporters he

lifted the bar as he was informed

However, GRP Sub-inspector Mohammad Bablu said the train

rammed the bus and taxicab as the

about passing of one train.

vehicles were driving wrong.

meetings between the private operators, Teletalk and BTRC, the ministry report says the private operators told the BTRC chairman that they would sign the interconnectivity deal with Teletalk if it agrees to take all responsibilities in case of its getting sued.

In one meeting on May 25, the private operators also said Teletalk would have to complete interconnectivity with the BTTB first and both parties agreed that their lawyers would submit specific proposals on interconnectivity within 10 days to the Atob (Association of Telephone Operators in Bangladesh).

Teletalk's legal experts submitted the proposals on June 9, but the Atob has not as yet taken any fresh step for interconnectivity.

Standing committee members Post and Telecommunications Minister M Aminul Haq, Kazi Golam Morshed, Syed Mehedi Ahmed Rumi, Abdul Momin Talukder, Abul Hossain Khan, Mohammad Ali Qadr, Fariduddin Chowdhury and Abdul Hye were present at the meeting.

A meeting source said Abdul Hve accused the committee chairman of taking about 500 Teletalk SIM cards by abusing his office when these SIM cards are not available to the general people

Rabid dog bites 10 near JS entry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rabid dog bit at least 10 people ncluding three policemen inside the tunnel of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in the capital vesterday

area bit two police constables, a

sub-inspector, and six others includ-

The dog that used to roam in the

ing two women in the morning and chased many others, witnesses Police constable Shah Alam, who had escaped three attacks by the mad dog since morning, hit the

animal with his rifle butt when it was ting another passerby at 6:30pm. The dog died on the spot, some ten feet from the entry of the parlia-

ment building. Its body was removed afterwards. The injured policemen, who were posted as guards during the ongoing parliament session, were admitted to Rajarbagh Police Lines

Hospital, while the others were taken to local clinics.

the area, witnesses said.

Two more mad dogs still roam

PM asks cops

innocent people are not unnecessarily harassed. Addressing a function, marking the opening of six new police stations at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, the prime minister said her government has planned to raise the number of police stations of Dhaka

The six police stations--Newmarket, Paltan, Adabor, Shah Ali. Khilkhet and Turaghave been created by dividing Dhanmondi, Motilheel Mohammadpur, Mirpur, Budda and Uttara police stations. Now the number of DMP police

Metropolitan Police (DMP) to 51.

new stations will primarily work with 78 police personnel Shahbag Police Station was also in the scheme, but for lack of place for housing, it could not come into being in this phase. This police

station will be opened soon, it was

stations stands at 28. Each of the

informed. Out of the rest 22 proposed new police stations, 11 will be opened in the next fiscal year and another 11 in the 2006-07 fiscal, the function was The prime minister said the

government has taken the initiative

to increase the number of police

stations as well as police force to

build a safe, dynamic and modern Dhaka city. She asked the policemen to perform their duties sincerely and nonestly to fulfil people's expecta-

The prime minister noted that Dhaka has turned into a mega city

lop criminal

FROM PAGE 16 Sumon were tried in absentia. The punishment of the fugitives

Mohammad Shafigullah, the then officer-in-charge (OC) of Dhanmondi Police Station, along with his forces raided a house at Uttara in the city on March 8, 1996. and arrested Joseph with a loaded pistol and two foreign revolvers while his accomplices managed to

with the Uttara PS accusing Joseph and the two others. The investigation officer pressed charges against the three on January 15, 1997. Earlier on March 30, 2003,

including murder cases.

Referring to her government's various steps and activities for beautification of the capital city, the prime minister said their goal is to

with a growing population and fast

"It is possible with the cooperation of police, civil society and all sections of city-dwellers.'

in work, not in words. State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babor, Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas, City Mayor Sadek Hossain Khoka, State Minister for Overseas Employment Kamrul Islam, Khandokar Salahuddin Ahmed MP, Mohammad Mosaddek Ali MP, SA Khaleque MP,

IGPAbdul Quayum also spoke on the occasion.

clearly know his whereabouts." They also claimed that JMJB will

reappear soon, adding that "Bangla Bhai himself had fixed tactics of fresh activities.' Bangla Bhai has been on the police hit list since the government

torturing several hundred others in a

f some top police and Rab officials

so-called controversial "outlawcleansing operation" last year. The Bagmara residents also complained that the movement of unknown small businessmen and Tablig men in the mosques has increased during the last couple of days just like prior to the appearance

They had been arrested in January after they fought with police in Hamirkutsa during their protest

against the killing of three JMJB

The Bagmara police admitted that they heard the news, but they are yet

denied that their sources will demand toll from any person.

expansion of urbanisation, which, in turn, expands command area of the metropolitan police. make Dhaka a crime-free and safe

Listing a number of steps and programmes for modernisation and expansion of the police and recent nauguration of highway police unit, the prime minister said they believe

Mahbubuddin Ahmed MP Nasiruddin Ahmed MP, Home Secretary Safar Raj Hossain and

Ministers, MPs and diplomats, among others, attended the func-

Bangla Bhai FROM PAGE 16

will be effective from the day of their arrest or surrender, the court said. According to the prosecution

Later, an arms case was filed

Joseph had been awarded death penalty for killing Abu Morshed, a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader, in the city in 1995. He is also accused in 18 other criminal cases

banned the JMJB in February this vear for killing some 22 people and

of Bangla Bhai in Bagmara on April 1. At least 67 JMJB cadres including its Bagmara chief Abdus Sattar Master and a killing squad leader Mustague were recently released from jail on bail.

receive any specific allegations. When contacted, a Rab official

such hue and cry was raised then.