# Saifur rejects MCCI bailout call PM seeks Japanese 2 slain 'robbers'

asked the BB to release foreign currency to those creditworthy banks that are failing to meet their letter of credit (LC) obligations amid

age to the country's reputation and

The chamber asked the central bank to take step so that the credit-worthiness of the banks is not affected in the international market and, at the same time, foreign

The restriction on the availability the demand for dollar now fair

cautioned.

have to pay more to secure increasingly expensive foreign bank LC confirmations, the MCCI chief remarked, but the damage to the country's image would be hard to

While the nationalised commercial banks (NCBs) may be able to operate within the prescribed exchange rate hands private and foreign commercial banks tend to be driven by market forces, the letter pointed out.

tials, the social impact is more

banking sector has led to 'hoarding' of certain imported commodities the potential to seriously affect the well-being of the people," it contin-

The chamber thought the government should consider some short- and long-term actions proposed by the chamber before determining the policy measures to face the complexity of foreign currency exchange.

chamber suggested selective release of foreign currency to creditworthy banks that are failing to meet

relax regulations on supplier's credit to ease the immediate demand for

"In the longer term, there need to be measures to ensure that we avoid a recurrence of the current crisis," the chamber said.

According to it, there need to be more proactive initiatives to ensure ments.

The government can also continue to work with the private sector to incentivise exporters, the cham-

foreign exchange reserve at a certain level to facilitate import of essential goods including petroleum, Saifur told the press after a meeting with BB Governor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed and high officials of the BB and the NCBs at his

The government also requires ar additional \$546 million to pay off the increased price of petroleum, he said, adding, [so,] "It is not possible to release dollars from the central bank whenever someone wants it.'

According to the minister, the reckless and profit-making attitude of some of the small banks has put

examine these banks' capacity of has given us over the years," she earning foreign exchange and the added. amount of LCs they have opened, ODA policy that has touched many

policies of these banks, saying they development, the prime minister are investing in heavy industry, thanked Japan for its recent deciexchange reserve.

invest more on export-oriented

open LCs for unnecessary imports strengthen economic cooperation, and asked them to appoint good support for good governance,

national and international finance human exchange and dialogue. situation Saifur also advised the London bomb attacks on foreigh

## BDR man

BDR personnel of Baraachra Shalban check-post in Benapole area. The BDR men retaliated, eading to a gunfight between the

Piar Mohammad was shot during the encounter. He was taken to the nearby hospital where the attending doctors declared him dead.

recovered playing cards and medicines from the scene.

After the filing of a case, Benapole police arrested two alleged smugglers--Dulal and Pappu--from village Chhotoachra. Meanwhile, high officials, includng the Khulna sector commander of

BDR, visited the spot. Border forces on both sides of the frontier have been put on alert.

## Hearing

FROM PAGE 16

November 29 last year regarding election to 45 reserved seats for women in the Jatiya Sangsad.

Some women's organisations, ncluding Jatiya Maila Ainjibi Samity, Karmojibi Nari and Bangladesh Manobadhikar Bastabayan Sangstha and some political leaders had filed three writ petitions on July 20, December 13, 2004 and January 4, 2005, with the High Court challenging the validity of the constitutional provision and a law regarding election to 45 reserved seats for women in the Jatiya Sangsad.

On May 30, the High Court had discharged three writ petitions

Dr M Zahir stood for the petitioners while Attorney General AJ Mohammad Ali for the government.

## Ex-Shibir man

FROM PAGE 16 yesterday morning.

In his confessional statement Ekhlas said, five to seven people including himself, former Shibir leader Sahabuddin Laskar Dhira and outlawed party leader lobal Hossain Swadhin took part in the killing of Sheikh Belaluddin on February 5 this year.

Police said Ekhlas is an associate of Dhira, the main accused in Belal murder case.

Criminal Investigation Department arrested Dhira on July 5.

### Khulna

FROM PAGE 1 all walks of life, including students and teachers from all academic nstitutions, stood silent on roads till 12 noon in support of the mass protest programme.

Transactions at financial institutions remained suspended: workers and officials of mills and industries refrained from work; and shops pulled down their shutters and sales

in city's kitchen markets stopped. Leaders of the GKDACC later held a huge rally at the Picture Palace cinema hall square. Presided over by veteran Awami League (AL) leader Advocate Kazi Abdus Salam, the rally was marked by the participation of people and leaders irrespective of political

ideology and profession. Addressing the rally, the GKDACC leaders threatened with non-cooperation movement and non-payment of any sort of tax from greater Khulna if necessary fund is not allocated immediately through special arrangement from the national exchequer for the city's

development projects. The rally was addressed among others by city AL President Sheikh Haroon-or-Rashid, city BNP Secretary Nazrul Islam Manju, city Convenor of Gono Forum Haider Gazi Salahuddin, city President of Communist Party of Bangladesh Advocate Feroze Ahmed, district BNP Secretary Advocate Shafigul Alam, city President of Jamaat-e-Islami Abdul Matin Master, city President of Jatiya Party (Ershad) Abul Hossain, President of Khulna Chamber of Commerce & Industry Munir Ahmed, former education minister and veteran Muslim

League leader SM Amiad Hossain.

and President of Khulna unit of Bangladesh Medical Association Dr. committees. However, it amended Akhtaruzzaman. the rules of procedure of the Jatiya The one-hour work stoppage Sangsad to appoint non-ministers was also observed in Bagerhat and

concern, is now under control, "My

government has dealt with the

violators, including from my own

party. We are now negotiating with

the opposition to make parliament

the focus of all political activities.

We are working hard for separating

the judiciary from the executive

and we also created an independ-

ent commission very recently to

Bangladesh has got the best

record of communal harmony in

South Asia. "Our country is the best

example of a Muslim- majority

country where there is a well-

rooted liberal democratic political

system in place," she told the

She claimed that Bangladesh

can rightly be projected as a model

among the developing countries

for succeeding with democracy,

buildings. The 17 illegal structures

are in the first category. The second

category consists of 62 buildings

which have defied height restric-

tions. Rajuk plans to 'manually'

demolish the unauthorised floors of

sent to Rajuk by the Civil Aviation

are in an 'embarrassing' situation

over CAAB's decision to declare the

old Teigaon airport as an 'alterna-

tive' airport in 2002, while Rajuk had

approved several high-rise struc-

Tejgaon airport non- functional,

Raiuk started approving construc-

tion of buildings in the areas around

the airport. But now we are told to

disregard the earlier decision and

demolish those buildings," said

a discord between the two organisa-

tions, a Rajuk official said, request-

ing anonymity. "The buildings which

were built after 1996 had approval

both from Caab and Raiuk. Now we

cannot ask their owners to pull those

Foreign vessel

the ship owners, sources said.

Tk 1.50 crore as compensation from

Meanwhile, it is alleged that two

vestigation committees headed by

Nazmul Alam, CPA harbour master

captain and Sirajul Islam, mercan-

tile marine department engineer

and surveyor, intentionally ignored

not board the foreign ship at the

anchorage, it entered about five

kilometres inside the hazardous

channel without him, sources said,

adding that the pilot had no knowl-

edge about the sophisticated for-

eign ship's equipment and did not

inform its captain about the danger

of tidal movements in and around

a container vessel hit naval flotilla

jetty that caused damage to some

50 naval frigates. The damage was

then estimated at Tk 100 crore.

Earlier, on September 21, 2003

As the CPA pilot concerned did

FROM PAGE 16

the fault of CPA pilots.

the naval jetty.

Caab's fresh decision has led to

"In 1996, after Caab declared

Authority of Bangladesh (Caab).

The list for the third category was

Top officials of Raiuk said they

despite considerable odds.

Rajuk's

FROM PAGE 16

these buildings.

tures in the area.

The prime minister said that

deal with corruption effectively.

Saifur asked the central bank to count on the support that Japan

Appreciating Japan's liberal He also criticised the lending crucial areas of Bangladesh's which in the past used to be done sion to write off \$1.46 billion debt through foreign investment or credit that Bangladesh owed to Japan. line, putting pressure on the foreigh This suggests the high quality of Japanese ODA to Bangladesh, she

The prime minister expressed projects and enterprises that would the hope that this involvement create jobs instead of investing in would extend not only to the expansion of trade and enhancement of He also suggested them not to FDI flows but also go far beyond to lawyers for realising default loans. building partnership in regional At the meeting that reviewed the and global issues and promoting

On foreign investment, she NCB officials to look into any poss-ble negative impact of the recent investment in Bangladesh are investment in Bangladesh are immense and the investors can take advantage of Bangladesh's duty-free access to major world

> gesture of the Japanese schoolchildren during Bangladesh's War of Independence and also noted with gratitude that Japan as a genuine friend has sustained the development efforts of Bangladesh since the independence.

eague of lawmakers to Bangladesh to see for themselves Japan's contributions to Bangladesh's development efforts.

"We would also like to use this visit to establish Bangladesh-Japan Parliamentary League in our parliament so that the two leagues can further strengthen our excellent bilateral relations," the prime minister said.

ience of Bangladeshi people, she said neither natural nor man-made disaster succeeded in subduing the indomitable spirit of the people. She, however, reminded that

the struggle for achieving democratic society and economic prosperity for all has not been easy. "No country has achieved democracy instantly. Democratic institutions need time to grow roots," Khaleda said, adding, "We started the process with elections in 1991 after our people overthrew a military dictatorship.'

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), was the prime mover in this transition. "Since then, we had three general elections, and governments changed peacefully.

parliament is sovereign although we have some problems in making it truly functional. She blamed the lacking on "unfair demands by the opposition". However, she process of democratisation".

under her government's rule, she said the press is enjoying total freedom while courts in Bangladesh are functioning inde-

The prime minister also said her government set in motion fundamental structural changes to sustain the country's economic and social development.

Such incidents will tarnish the Law and order, once primary image of the Chittagong port abroad, a competent source said.

Bogra, home district of late presi-

hospitals is pending, sources said. Except for a few tools, most have

been bought at least two years ago and are still in their original packs. The gadgets are not even stored properly and may be damaged anytime, said the sources.

construction of the hospital building is yet to complete." On supply of medical tools to the

health complex, the minister said he does not have knowledge about such an allegation.

Complex but none of the officials has ever told me about medical equipment not in use.'

Tk 2 crore has been sent to Tk 213crore Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Hospital, although its construction is

ment for MRI, Ultrasonogram and Xray would be lying idle and eventually dilapidated. I don't know how the government knowing this could take such a decision," said a doctor asking not to be named. The hospital's construction

began in January 2002 and is expected to complete by December this year. By end of the year, the hospital is likely to receive equipment worth Tk 70 crore. But no post of technicians has yet been created to run those.

901-strong staff but no-one has been recruited until now, reports our Bogra correspondent. As many as 250 technicians and

operators were supposed to be recruited at least six months before expiry of its project in June, sources said. Under the project for establishing five medical college hospitals, the

500-bed one on 40 acres of land in

dent Ziaur Rahman, is getting maximum funding, sources said. They said financial allocation for

four other medical college hospitals in Khulna, Comilla, Rangpur and Faridpur is on average less than Tk 30 crore. The Comilla Medical College and

for expansion of its bed capacity to 500 from 250 and other purposes. The allocation includes Tk 9.5 crore for purchase of equipment. Daudkandi Health Complex locally known as by its mock name

"aususthya (sick) upazila sasthya kendra, has received equipment worth over Tk 50 lakh. Dental unit, Ultrasonogram and

high-tech X-ray machines and other gadgets are lying untouched in their original wrappings at the health complex for three years. On the contrary, spot visits to

Burichang, Homna, Langalkot Titas, Brahmanpara and Gouripur reveals none of them posses such equipment.

All of these health complexes lack medical devices except for a handful of surgical instruments.

"We can't use the equipment The health complex also lacks

The medical officer, storekeeper and other staff allegedly remain absent from duties most of the time. Health and Family Planning Officer Dr Md Abdur Rab, in-charge of the health complex, denied the allegation.

FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile, Abul Hashem Howladar, caretaker of an NGO Village Development Centre (VDC) and a tenant at the house where the three alleged robbers had knocked

Star yesterday.

In the FIR (first information report), Howladar said a gang of five to seven armed robbers attempted to rob his house at around 8:00pm on Tuesday. Out of fear, he closed

pedestrians also shouted for help rushed to the spot.

turned up and three of them were killed an encounter with them, police

bell at his house and looked for him. come from Social Service Centre and entered the house. Later, one of them asked me to go out to see their youths ran upstairs. Abdul Jalil, owner of the house,

said he saw two youths pushing Howladar on the third floor of the four-storey building. Then they ran to the roof and broke the roof door. Later, I heard shouts from an adjacent house saying there is a robber.'

the doors and windows as there are robbers in the adjacent house, he Police said they handcuffed the

youths after they were shot and nabbed before taking them to the

## Unplanned

only 152mm rainfall halted the city life the same day. The committee has identified at

least 10 major points where water drainage is blocked and rainwater inundates adjoining areas. A crossroad has been built at the

and Jirani canals and it should be removed immediately, its report

The committee has also asked authorities to construct three Bailey bridges on Mugda-Maniknagar canal as locals have closed it by building roads.

have been built on Rajarbagh-Kadamtala canal, Shahajadpur canal in Badda, Golartek canal in Mirpur and Ramchandrapur canal in Mohammadpur with narrow pipes for drainage.

The committee suggested construction of box culverts and removal of the pipes for proper drainage

Fish farmers have blocked the city lakes to for the sake of their business, leading to a poor drainage system during the rains. As a result, rainwater floods Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara areas, the committee said, suggesting removal of these

demands. Now the authorities has to remove those to facilitate water drainage," a member of the steering committee said asking not to be named.

remove all structures. But the authorities should take initiative to remove as many as possible," said an official from the Water and

FROM PAGE 1 does not have any negative impact

Responding to a July 12 report of The Daily Star headlined "Borrowing binge," he said the borrowed money is lying with the banks as the government's deposit and the BB has withdrawn the money through reverse repo (repurchase agreement) to ensure that money supply is not increased.

a little more than Tk 3,000 crore in this sector, he explained.

# 24 Iraqi children

parents mingled in blood-soaked hallways shouting and screaming. He said he had found his son in the hospital morque

'I recognized him from his head. The rest of the body was completely burnt," he said

Hassan Mohammed, whose 13year-old son Alaa also died, swore at insurgents for attacking civilians. "Why do they attack our chil-

dren? They just destroyed one US humvee, but they killed dozens of our children," he said as women at the hospital screamed and slapped their faces and beat themselves over the head. "What sort of a resistance is this?

It's a crime," he added.

The last major attack involving children was a triple car bomb on September 30 against US troops

inaugurating a water treatment plant in western Baghdad which killed 43 people including 37 children who had gathered to take candy from the

Meanwhile, a Sunni Muslim religious official said the tortured bodies of 11 Sunni Arabs, who were killed execution-style with a bullet to the head, were found in Baghdad Tuesday. The men, who were accused of aiding the insurgents, were arrested by police commandos two days earlier, he added.

Their bodies were found dumped in the north of the city, he added and "all bore torture marks and bullet wounds to the back of the head."

Hussein Ali Kamal, deputy minister for intelligence at the interior ministry, told AFP it was not known who was responsible for the

# US envoy asks Hasina

FROM PAGE 1 openly, and if the election truly reflects people's verdict, the AL side told the US envoy.

"The acting US ambassador categorically asked us whether Awami League would participate in the next elections or not and we told her it depends on the atmosphere of the vote," AL Presidium Member Kazi Zafarullah, who was present at the meeting, said.

However, an AL Central Working Committee meeting last Monday decided not to participate in the next parliamentary polls, if the opposi-tion's demand for reforms of the caretaker government, Election Commission and some of the electoral laws are not met. Quoting the meeting's discus-

sions. Zafarullah said AL is a party that has always come to power through vote and respects people's

"We are concerned about the fairness of the next elections, our participation in which will largely depend on the electoral atmosphere whether it is free and fair or not.' he said, adding to ensure fair elections AL and its allies are going to place a set of reform proposals.

AL leaders apprised Chammas of the proposals, which are

retirement age of High Court judges had been extended deliberately with a view to get a certain person as the chief of the next caretaker government. In the hour-long meeting,

Chammas termed the next parliamentary polls critical for the country's future and offered all types of assistance to hold it in a free and fair manner. support a free and fair election in

involving Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and the US side reiterated its concern at such incidents, Zafarullah said. AL International Affairs Secretary

Sved Abul Hossain was also present at the meeting, where the first secretary of the US embassy in Dhaka aided Judith Chammas.

## Corruption

FROM PAGE 1 State Minister for Power Iqbal Hassan Mahmood who was present at the meeting expressed frustrations and helplessness in realising the long outstanding bills.

but the recovered amount is very The committee members held the Desa officials responsible for the outstanding bills, saying the officials

are not sincere in taking steps to realise the arrears. "We have asked Desa to submit

Criticising the officials of the Power Division, committee member and Awami League lawmaker Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim told the meeting that the traceless amount in

crore from only Tk 10 crore in 1995. Committee member and BNF lawmaker Sardar Shakhawat Hossain Bakul said stern action should be taken against the corrupt

officials for the huge loss. The meeting also discussed the progress of the proposed Siddhirganj-2 power plant.

# 150 dead in Pak train

Ahmed, divisional superintendent of Pakistan Railways, told AFP that

pull more from the carriages, officials said. Around 1,000 people were injured, local police chief Agha Mohammad Tahir said, and many of

am (2300 GMT). A number of carriages were catapulted onto a parallel track and a third train, the Tez Gam Express

Railway officials blamed the Karachi Express driver for misreading a signal at Sarhad station that turned green to allow the Quetta Express to move off.

an hour when it hit and the driver and his assistant were both killed.

Qureshi said. Most of the casualties were said to be on board the Tez Gam train. In all 16 coaches were derailed -- 12 from the Tez Gam train, three from the Quetta Express

along with its engine. Rescue workers used electric cutters to recover bodies and wounded passengers from the smashed carriages, while two relief trains have also been rushed to the area to help with rescue efforts,

more are trapped inside and we are trying to evacuate them. told AFP.

shuttling between hospitals and the disaster site, witnesses said.

traffic in the area, which is 400 it would take many hours to restore

army was supervising the rescue after the "tragic accident", while civilian services and relief agencies were also taking part. Most of the injured were

rushed to Ghotki's civil hospital and army and paramilitary doctors were drafted in from a nearby garrison to help, Sultan said

Worried relatives thronged to several railway stations across Pakistan to inquire about family members travelling on the trains,

Dozens of people have been killed in recent years on Pakistan's ageing railway system. In 1991 another crash at

Ghotki between a passenger train

and a goods train killed 50 people according to authorities and between 100 and 200 according to A year earlier, more than 350

the Bay of Bengal. The heavy shower may continue at a stretch for seven to eight hours in many places especially in the capital and its surrounding places, it added.

Yesterday's downpour led to temporary inundation to many of the major roads in the commercial hub of the city, including Motijheel, Arambagh, Pirjongi Majar, Bangabandhu Avenue, Gulistan near Bangababhan, Bijoynagar,

Paikpara, Pirerbagh,

## JS bodies' anti-graft number of committees to shelve

Besides, several committee chairmen have expressed frustra-

"sensitive issues" involving minis-

ters, alleged the committee chiefs.

the ministers who are senior to them At the very beginning, most of the committees started functioning with a positive note, taking a bold stance against allegations of corruption

But the enquiry committees failed to make any progress as the committee chairmen and members kept silence on the allegations. None of the much-talked-about

they enjoy various facilities from the ministries A large number of committee chairmen use the vehicles of the respective ministry although they are not entitled to it. There are

allegations that many of them take

the favour of ministers for their

Talking to The Daily Star, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed said the committee system is more effective than the House to make the government accountable to parliament.

"Eighty percent accountability of

the executive will be ensured if the committee system functions prop-Asked about the non-functioning

## deals with a matter

**INEFFECTIVE COMMITTEES** The parliamentary standing committee on communications ministry had formed two subcommittees in January and February 2004 to probe the alleged irregularities in the import of CNG autorickshaws and allocation of land to set up CNG refuelling stations.

meeting held the communications minister responsible for the irregularities. But the two subcommittees have failed to probe the allegations. The subcommittees have not yet submitted their reports. Ruling BNP lawmaker SA Khaleq

Members of the committee at a

station in the capital phase electric meters.

withdrew the objections for mysterious reasons. The committee also blasted the

state minister for power after detect-

"Limited letters of credit from the Hoarding has led to price escalation of certain commodities, which has

As a short-term measure, the

It also asked the central bank to

that the huge amount of foreign workers' remittance is made through legitimate banking channels and to enable the commercial banks to efficiently recycle the fund to meet the country's import require-

SAIFUR DENIES DOLLAR CRISIS But, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman yesterday rejected the claim of dollar crisis The government must keep its

ing irregularities in the process of purchasing 8,000 electric meters but later stopped the proceedings. The parliamentary standing committee on forest and environment ministry received scores of allegations against the officials of

five subcommittees but none of them pursued the probe and submit-The parliamentary standing committee on land ministry on several occasions accused a few developers of grabbing several thousand acres of public land. The

committee, which investigated the

allegations, is now silent for unknown reasons. The parliaments committee on private members' bills and resolutions expressed frustra-

Irked by the ministry's reluctance to implement a number of recommendations on farm subsidy to reduce sufferings of the farmers, members of the parliamentary standing committee on agriculture ministry also threatened to resign

chose to keep mum after Altaf Hossain Chowdhury replaced The parliamentary standing committee on defence ministry initiated discussion on the court martial of 17 navy officials accused of irregularities in the purchase of a

"low-quality frigate" but the govern-

ment high-ups have stopped the

ministries, the parliamentary stand-

Aiming to reduce the number of

move, sources said.

None of the three post-1990 parliaments saw the parliamentary committee system function effectively. During the 1991-96 BNP government, the committees headed by ministers did not perform their task to oversee ministry activities as they were reluctant to discuss the alleged irregularities and corruption in their ministries. The 1996 Awami League gov-

with them to dig out the irregulari-

them in the trouble. They have overcommitted themselves for LCs, but
the good banks do not have any
such problem, he pointed out.

FROM PAGE 1
She said Japan has sustained
Bangladesh's development efforts
as genuine friend. "We will like to

such problem, he pointed out

markets as a member of LDC. The prime minister recalled the

She invited a delegation of the

The prime minister said the

operate those. Besides, allocation

Health and Family Welfare Minister Khandaker Mosharraf

"I often visit my hometown and also pay visit to Daudkandi Health

Initially, the hospital will require

Hospital has received Tk 30 crore

other upazila health complexes in the district including Chandina,

because we don't have technicians to operate those," said a source at Daudkandi Health Complex. adequate number of doctors and

He claimed all the medical equipment including the dental unit is in

at Lalmatia. It has 30 beds in five rooms and around 300 guests from different NGOs of the country stays at night during their visit to the

the doors and cried out for help. Hearing his cry, locals and

On information, additional forces

Two of the youths claimed to have

Police then instructed us over microphones to stay home closing

FROM PAGE 1 reasons behind waterlogging after

meeting point of Khilgaon-Basabo

A large number of crossroads

three sluice gates on Rampura Road to obstruct water flow into the city from its eastern side during "City corporation ward commissioners have built most of the unplanned roads to meet people's

But a few members have said all illegal and unplanned structures cannot be removed due to proper initiatives and lack of coordination in planning. "I know it's not possible to

Sewerage Authority (Wasa). Asked, State Minister for Loca Government and Rural Development Ziaul Haque Zia said they are working on the reports and the city dwellers will soon get a

Though the government's bank borrowing marginally exceeded the target, the overall borrowing will be less than the budget target, he added. The target of borrowing through savings instruments was Tk 4,000 crore, but the amount may be

A high official at the Finance Division said the government borrows money from the banking sector to meet the budget deficit and it is very much within the sustainability.

Institutel and the bottom line of the projects is that the election be a free and fair one." she added.

The meeting also discussed frequent extra-judicial killings

initiatives to realise the unpaid bills Mahmood said he has tried his best

Speaking on the ministry's

a report at our next meeting with all information on the outstanding bills and accurate figures of system loss," said the committee chairman.

Desa account has stood at Tk 2,000

### National Democratic Institute] and the IRI [International Republican

about 150 had been killed. Local hospitals reported that 132 bodies had been brought in so far and rescue workers continued to

the victims were women and chil-The accident happened when one of the trains, the Quetta Express, stopped for repairs at Sarhad station near Ghotki and the

heading for Islamabad's twin city Rawalpindi, then careered into

Junaid Qureshi, a senior railway "The driver of the Karachi Express thought the signal allowed him to pass and he rammed into the rear part of the Quetta Express,"

and one from the Karachi Express,

Salahuddin Haider, spokesman for the government of Sindh province, Troops have cordoned off the area while around 50 ambulances from civil and military hospitals and the private Edhi Welfare Trust were

General Shaukat Sultan said the

press reports. people were killed and 700 injured

Dhaka waterlogged FROM PAGE 1

Other low-lying areas of the city

Dellha, Dogair and Matuail areas.

## Commerce and Industry (MCCI)

the Metropolitan Chamber of

several banks have not been able to honour their LC obligations due to a dollar crisis, causing serious damability for securing future import contracts.

exceeds the supply, MCCI President Kutubuddin Ahmed observed in the letter.

the forest department and formed ted report.

tion on several occasions as the speaker did not allow it to place the private members' bills in parliament after scrutiny. Even the committee members threatened to resign in protest against the interference.

The parliamentary standing committee on commerce ministry blasted former commerce minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhurv for price hike of essentials but it

ing committee on establishment ministry started discussing the matter but did not proceed further. The Institute of Parliamentary Studies funded by UNDP initiated steps to hold a series of dialogues among the committee chairmen. ministers and secretaries. The government high-ups stopped the move after a dialogue where the committee chiefs blasted the ministers and officials for not cooperating

ernment wasted about one and a half years to form the standing

Saifur advised the banks to added.

The smugglers opened fired on the

The gunfight over, BDR men

Mentioning the legendary resil-

She asserted that her party, the

believes that all this is "part of the Mentioning the achievements

Hospitals get equipment of more medical gadgets to the

Hossain denied supplying equipment to the Bogra hospital. He said. "I don't understand how can one send equipment in advance when

However, equipment worth over "It's evident the expensive equip-

nurses to offer healthcare facilities.

regular use. "Since the health complex is located in the home town of the health minister, we strive to offer best possible care to patients,'

### at the door on Tuesday night, filed a robbery attempt case with Mohammadpur Police Station the VDS, owned by one Shafiqul Islam of Brahmanbaria, runs a questhouse at the house at Block-E

capital, Howladar told The Daily

and a patrol team from Mohammadpur Police Station

But Howladar yesterday told The Daily Star six youths rang the doorboss. As I was going out, two of the

It also asked authorities to close

# Borrowing

## expected to be released tomorrow. The AL side also alleged that the

"We are working in many ways to Bangladesh though our development agencies," săid the US envoy. We have already initiated projects with the NDI [Washington-based

Musharraf said 107 people were confirmed dead but Chaudhry Nazir it would take many hours to restore

Karachi Express coming from Lahore smashed into it around 4:00

speed of 120 kilometers (75 miles) official, told AFP.

"Our teams have rescued scores of people from inside the ruptured coaches, but hundreds

The smash halted all railway

the service, Qureshi said. Military spokesman Major

when a goods train collided with a passenger train in Sangi, near

Kakrail and Topkhana Road. such as Asad Gate, Lalmatia, Farmgate, Tejkuni Para, Mirpur sections-1 and 10, Kazipara, Jatrabari.

Meanwhile, yesterday's rain further worsened the condition

The train was travelling at a

Savedabad, Tikatuli, Hatkhola. parts of Banani, Gulshan, Dhanmondi and Uttara also went under water for a few hours. Movement of mostly public buses and other modes of transport were severely interrupted especially in the morning as rainwater flushing out into the sewerage lines took hours to clear from the roads.

inside the Dhaka-Naravangani-Demra (DND) embankment as rainwater was trapped inside it flooding many walkways of Tengra, Boxnagar, Hajinagar, Konapara,

MCCLI FTTER TO BB

exchange is not frittered away for consumer and speculative imports. of dollar to the banking sector has created an artificial market whereby

At best, the affected banks will

It also observed that taka's depreciation might be good for exporters but has clear inflationary implications for imported goods. Where such imports are for 'nonessential' items, this may not be considered a problem from the country's perspective, but if inflation starts to affect day-to-day essen-

after investigation. chosen from the ruling parties, do not dare to criticise the activities of

Sources said the chiefs and members of many committees are reluctant to probe the allegations as

erly," he said.

in the House accused the state minister for communications of taking Tk 25 lakh as bribe to allocate

try to stop payment to the company

The MCCI letter, dated July 9, signed by its president and addressed to the BB governor, said

"If the creditworthiness of the country's importers and, more mportantly, the financial institutions is undermined in the international arena, there are serious implications for the country's ability to secure future import contracts." he

tions over their "inability" to do something against corruption as ministries often do not comply with the recommendations they make All the committee chairmen.

allegations was raised in the com-

land for setting up CNG refuelling The parliamentary standing committee on power, energy and mineral resources ministry found gross irregularities in the installation Bangabandhu Bridge approach road and the purchase of three-

and irregularities of the ministries and forming dozens of enquiry committees mittee meetings for discussion.

of subcommittees, the law minister said it depends on how the paren committee [standing committees]

of gas pipeline along the The committee asked the minis

for the pipeline installation but later it