Dhaka can take lead

FROM PAGE 1 Centre for National and Regional Studies (CNRS), the seminar was attended by scholars from Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka and host Bangladesh.
The speakers said Bangladesh has

set an example by establishing parliamentary democracy, ensuring equal rights of men and women, and empowerment of women.

Condemning the August 17 serial blasts across Bangladesh, they said it is now the prime task of the government to identify the criminals and eliminate their roots. The perpetrators hit at the core spirit of independence and sovereignty and sentiment of the people of Bangladesh, they reasoned

The seminar adopted the Dhaka Declaration calling upon Asian Muslim nations to take the lead in upholding the spirit of Islam.

The declaration said Bangladesh has been a moderate Muslim country, and it could take the leadership for waging a campaign to uphold the Islam's spirit. "Bangladesh is a unique example

of communal harmony which can be replicated in many countries, espe-cially the Muslimstates," it added.

The Dhaka Declaration in unequivocal terms said there is no room for militancy or terrorism in Islam, which preaches peace and harmony for mankind. "Islam disapproves of attacks on innocent people to pursue any political, social or reli-

gious objectives or goals," it said. The declaration condemned the August 17 blasts in Bangladesh, 9/11 terrorist attacks in the US and the July 7 bomb attacks in London. It said rights of the oppressed Muslims cannot be realised by any act of terrorism, it will rather severely frustrate

their just causes. Taking part in the discussion, Sri Lankan Dr MA Cader said Muslimcountries need an ideal state, and Bangladesh can be a model by building future leadership. He urged the Muslims around the globe to update their knowledge about Islam through

"ljtehad". He said commitment of a Muslim towards Islam is the religion's greatest strength, divisions and internal factions are its worst weakness and western media and intellectual cam-

paignsits greatest threat.
Dr Soherin Saleheen from Indonesia said Bangladesh is far ahead among the Muslim countries and expressed the hope the people of this country would continue upholding its moderate image by maintain-

ing Islamic values. Singaporean risk management expert and leading Islamic thinker Dr Shamsul Anuar Mohammad Halip said, "We the Muslims have to change our mindset and move for knowledge-

based power and invest more for human resources development." He said the Muslim countries should take steps to develop their nations in the fields of economics, sciences and technology, and provide modern education to their people to establish peace, progress and harmony

so that they can compete with the people of Germany, the US and Japan. Prof M Shamsher Ali of Southeast University strongly supported reforms in madrasa education in Bangladesh. He suggested subjects related to mathematics, sciences, sociology, economics for at least up to Dakhil (SSC) level and specialisation

"I don't want to discredit madrasa ucation, but I don't see the future of Islamic Ummah until the madrasas produce physicians, economists, engineers and students that take civil service examinations. Prof Ali opposed identifying

on Islamic subjects at higher level.

ints as "fundamentalists" saying it is "a wrong adjective for wrong persons". "A person who believes in the fundamental principles of universal peace and brother-hood is actually a fundamentalist." Khatib of Dhanmondi Taqwa

Mosque Syed Zulfikar Zahur said the Islamic religious leaders including those in Bangladesh had committed two major mistakes that affected the The first one was done during the

World War II by not protesting against the genocide of thousands of Jews in gas chambers, he said. The Muslim leaders of Bangladesh

> Department. On alleged violation of tender rules

International GmBH (HSIG) of In January this year, General Manager of the SPCBL Md Abdul Awal

ule/work order it's clearly mentioned imported one but your proposition is a clear violation of the tender schedule andworkorder But SPCBL Managing Director (MD) Khurshid-ul-Alam eventually

accepted the old machines on

graphic foils in time. While the SPCBL does not own

these machines on the logic that reuse of the machines for the second year could pose threats to highly secured holographic foils, it allowed private firms to get away with the violation of

thing about it.

Talking to this correspondent recently, Bangladesh Bank Executive Director Khurshid-ul-Alam, also exofficio MD of the SPCBL, admitted the allegations but said, "I have my limitations. The final approval came from the board (Board of Directors)."

The central bank governor chairs the SPCBL's Board of Directors comprising representatives from the finance and home ministries, Internal

made the same mistake in 1971 by not raising their voice or taking any stand against the atrocities on the Bengalis by the Pakistani occupation forces during the Liberation War.

Rather a section of the Ulema [Islamic scholars] sided with the occupation forces. "Their mistake in 1971 keeps the nation divided still now. They should apologise for their mistake and join the mainstream."

Turning to the move of a section of Muslims in Bangladesh, he, said chanting slogans in the name of Jihad is suicidal, and urged them to leave

this path.
"We are far behind everything; we are poor in knowledge and finance and not able do any major things for us. They [non-Muslim powerful states] are launching missiles using satellite technology, while we are chanting slogans for Jihad in the streets or staying in caves; we must come back from such paths of Jihad.

"Let's be enlightened Alem [scholar], develop our Bangladesh and stand as a moderate, democratic

and prosperous nation.
"Muslims in the world must be enlightened through knowledge, education and technology to get rid of current disastrous condition."

Former director general of Islamic Foundation Syed Ashraf Ali said there is a huge number of issues, which are strikingly similar in all the major scriptures of different faiths.

The representatives from different faiths should sit together to weed out the man-made differences and antagonism among the followers of

different faiths." Dr Hasan Mohammad, chairman of political science department of Chittagong University, said democracy must be introduced in all Muslim countries. He also called for establishing Bangladesh as an ideal country in

Terming the 1971 Liberation War a fight against injustice, he asked adrasa teachers to be rational and ogical and come forward to bring reforms in their education system to

survive in the current global trend. Madrasa students will realise which path brings peace and welfare if general education is introduced in their institutions. If there is modern education, madrasa students will be able to choose their way whether they should go for militancy or move for

peace and welfare," Dr Hasan added. He said everything should not be 'Islamised' in the name of 'Islamisation' of knowledge. "Science or other knowledge of one particular time may be proved wrong at another point of time. But Islamic values and

pirit are universal and unchange-He urged the Islamic world to strengthen the policy of co-existence with the followers of other faiths and opinions. He said Bangladesh has set example in terms of its political and

lemogratic practices and other musica countries can follow its foot-Prof Mostafizur Rahman of Arabic

department at Dhaka University observed there must be a role of a big country behind the recent occurrence in Bangladesh to weaken the country and destroyits image.

He however contradicted introducing Bangladesh as a moderate Muslim country saying others had given this title. "We are not a moderate Muslim country...we are truly an ideal Muslim country," he added. Prof Mostafizur termed the current

practice of Islam as "Muslims' Islam, andnot Islam's Islam that is based on the

Qur'an and Hadith", which preach peace, fraternity and progress.

Morshed

FROM PAGE 1 He said Bangladesh has been sponsoring a resolution in the past few years in the general assembly on a Culture of Peace" that seeks to develop understanding among different religions and faiths Morshed reaffirmed

Bangladesh's full support to the just cause of the Palestinians and their right to have a state of their own with usalem as its capital. Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury,

ambassador and permanent representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, was present.

programme.

FROM PAGE 16 spot-purchased two old hot stamping machines from previous year's suc-cessful bidder Holographic Systems and holding the SPCBL hostage to their whims, MD of HBL Amin Helaly

> "Listen, it's a matter of \$2,400 only \$2,400 as freight charge for shipping these machines out of the country firs and then re-import the same. SPCBI required us to go for fresh import of machines, instead, we procured those

Helaly however wondered that public money is wasted in paying the machines' costs to private parties. "SPCBL is such a fool that each year it pays for the (hot stamping) machines but it never owns one."

Dinajpur BNP FROM PAGE 16

angry villagers threw his body into the Karatoa river.

President Sarwar and another activist, whose name could not be known as of 6:00pm yesterday, are now undergoing treatment at Ghoraghat Health Complex.

from the river yesterday morning and sent it to Dinajpur Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy. A case has been lodged with Ghoraghat Police Station.

FROM PAGE 16 rally was addressed, among others, by journalist Saidur Rahman, Mohila Parishad General Secretary Kolpona Roy, Barind Development Forum Director Fayezullah Chowdhury, Zahangir Alam Aakash, Debashish Pramanik Debu, Prof Rozetti Nasrin and lawyer Khairul

of police in the investigation and demanded punishment to the culprits.
Mafruza Khatun Mili was raped

The speakers protested the role

May 3 when she was alone at their nouse in the city. Meanwhile, the Criminal Investigation Department, Rajshahi, submitted the final report of Mili rape and murder case, seeking release of three accused -- Fazle

Mili's family members alleged that some leaders of the ruling alliance influenced the investiga-

The ICD men--Niloy, Partha, Atanu, Sabuj, Tanvir and an outsider--also threatened employees' association ecretary Arun Chandra Roy with

Tension is running high at the hall following the incident. Hall Provost Prof Nim Chandra

Bhowmik, the chief guest of the reception programme, was not

present at the function.

One wounded FROM PAGE 1 BSF personnel of Moshshampur

camp on the Indian side shot four rounds of bullets at them, critically wounding Dalim.

BDR sent a note to the BSF protesting the incident as well as intensified patrol near the spot. Lt Col Mabub Ahmed Zakaria, commanding officer (CO) of the Jhenidah BDR

battalion, visited the spot.4

Hasina FROM PAGE 1 implemented, it will not be able to

come to power by rigging votes," Hasina said while talking to Awami Jubo League publicity secretaries from different districts at the party's Dhanmondi office. She also asked the young leaders

and workers of Jubo League, the youth wing of AL, to present com-parative pictures between the periods of AL and the present govern

ment to the countrymen and thus counter the government's propa-The BNP-Jamaat government

also carried out propaganda against the AL during the last parliamentary elections to legalise the widesprea vote rigging that cost the AL at least 100 seats, the opposition leader

She said the present government was more interested in importing which gives them opportunities for vast corruption.
"The use of army persons for distributing VGF (Vulnerable Groups

Feeding cards proves that the ruling party men, from ministers to the grassroots level leaders and workers, do not even hesitate to steal the meals of the poor," Hasina said. The opposition leader hoped

that all five basic needs of the people can be met by 2021, when Bangladesh will celebrate the golden jubilee of her independence. AL presidium member Tofail Ahmed, Jubo League Chairman Jahangir Kabir Nanok and General

Secretary Mirza Azam were present at the meeting Earlier, at a daylong workshop on publicity and publication partici-pated by the AL publicity secretar-ies, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil said a national programme of the 14-party alliance will be announced

Jubo League organised the work shop at the city's Rajuk auditorium. Prof Mizanur Rahman of Dhaka University presented the keynote paper at the workshop.

by Ramadan.

AL Joint General Secretary Obaidul Kader, Dhaka University Teachers' Association President AAMS Arefin Siddique and Jubo League leaders also spoke at the

Elderly man

The body is kept at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) morgue but no one turned up to identify the body till yesterday evening

In another incident, mugger Anis Sikder, 30, died at DMCH at 4:45am yesterday. He died two days after being admitted there with burn and assault injuries all over. Morgue sources said somebody

beat Anis up severely and injured him with burning cigarettes.
Relatives of the victim quoted police as saying that Anis died of mob beating before his arrest.

Relatives claim this to be a lie. Police themselves beat him up and injured him with burning cigarettes, as he is dead now they are trying to blame the mob," victim's

father Rabiul Sikder told this correspondent. Dhaka Metropolitan Police in a press release on Thursday said they arrested Anis in a private car and found a snatched mobile phone and

another phone.

The arrest was made minutes after Anis and his two associates snatched the mobile from Monirul Islam near Azampur Eidgah area in Uttara sector 6, the press release The police, however, did not mention anything about the mob

beating up Anis in their September 22 press release. As Anis' condition deteriorated in police custody Uttara police admitted him to the DMCH nine hours after his arrest.

and his son prompted Hanif to make such controversial statement. The AL insiders said Hanif is also upazila election officers which the main opposition termed a bid to politicise the Election Commission unhappy with the party high com-mand for unofficially seizing his power as the party's Dhaka city unit "We have taken Mohammad Hanif's interview with a Bangla daily president following conflicts with its General Secretary Mofazzal Hossain ask him for explanation...Hanif is

Chowdhury Maya. Hanif's son Sayeed Khokon lost the last parliamentary elections in Dhaka-7 constituency to BNP leader and the present DCC Mayor Sadeq Hossain Khoka. This time, AL is considering to change its strategy for the seat as former president and Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh chief Badruddoza Chowdhury is going to contest in the next election from the

constituency. 'If the Awami League forms any kind of election alliance with Bikalpa Dhara, it will extend support to the latter's candidate in the con-

stituency by dropping its own candidate," an AL leader said. Besides, Hanif is also sceptic about getting party nomination in the next mayoral election," said the ALleader. "His proposal to partychief to contest from three seats in Dhaka

in the next election also did not get any positive response," he added. Meanwhile, talking to the report-

ers at his residence, Hanif yesterday said he will not join any other party if the AL expels him for the statement. He said he will explain his position to the party forum and will take

steps to motivate the party in favour of his opinion. not giving nomination in the next parliamentary elections to both him

Khulna 'mastermind'

ahead of the next general elections.

seriously and the party leaders may

trying to damage the party with his acts," said an AL leader on condition

On the recruitment of the upazila election officers, he said the central

working committee meeting may

take a hard line on the appoint-

ments and ask the government to

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC)

mayor, in an interview with a Bangla daily on September 22 suggested

that the party high command

should officially abandon its secu-

He said it was time for the party to

replace its secularist principles with

the slogan of "freedom of religion

when the AL is trying to form an

electoral alliance with different

secular democratic forces in the

country against the Islamist alliance

On such stance of a senior party

leader who has been with the AL since 1960s, another AL leader said

the party high command's signal for

Hanif's statement came at a time

Mohammad Hanif, also former

of anonymity.

cancel them.

larist principles.

and religious practices".

of BNP and Jamaat.

arrested one more suspected cadre of banned JMB in Joypurhat in connection with the August 17

The arrestee is Ziaur Rahman Zia, 25, son of Abdus Samad of Panchurchak village in sadar

Police said they had arrested Zia following confessional statements

of Jahangir and Rabiul, arrested earlier for their alleged links to the

Police have so far arrested 29 suspected JMB cadres in the district. BOGRA

Police yesterday raided Naruli al-Hizab Madrasa, allegedly used as a camp to train women militants, and

found camouflage trousers and a cap, reports our Bogra correspon-

Police conducted the raid following

statement of Abdur Razzak, arrested

on Thursday in connection with the

CHARGE-SHEETS LIKELY FOR

2DISTS UNB adds: Police will press charges in six cases in connection with the bomb explosions in two districts early next month, sources said.

As many as 152 cases have been filed so far with different police stations in the wake of the blasts.

Closed OC

FROM PAGE 16 to his death in 'crossfire', the report

Kamrul's father has feuds with March areas, another possible reason behind the killing, the report adds. Samsul Islam, Kamrul's brother

made not only to confuse the investigation but also to divert the case in another direction to save the OC." Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) forms today a human chain at 10:00am in front of the High Court,

told The Daily Star, "The report was

demanding arrest of the OC and otheraccused. Meantime, the DMP police commissioner told The Daily Star last night he has not yet read the report. Action will be taken after he

one in Kushtia "have been detected", the sources added. IOIMEET

Among them, five in Satkhira and

State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar yesterday said no innocent people is being harassed or arrested in connection with the serial blasts. People are being arrested on the

basis of specific information and

evidence, and if anyone was found

innocence, they were released immediately, Babar said at a meeting with the Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) delegation led by Moulana Fazlul Haq Aminee. The meeting held at the minister's residence was also attended by IOJ leaders Rakib, Mufti Mohammad Uakkas MP, Shahinur

Pasha Chowdhury MP, Abdul Latif

Nizami, Junaid Al Habib,

Sharffuddin Ahmed Junaid, Mufti

Tyeb, Faijullah, Lokman Hossain and Mohammad Hossain.' The IOJ leaders urged the minister to bring the real culprits to book and be cautious about arresting

suspected people. The state minister urged the IOJ leaders to cooperate with the government to find out the real culprits involved in the August 17 bombings.

Meanwhile, detectives continue quizzing JMB cadre Mohammad Ershad, arrested in Dhamrai early yesterday. DB sources said Ershad gave important information about

FROM PAGE 16 nized the march. "It is now time, once again, for the British people to step forward into the streets and insist that this time we will not be ignored.

Rallies were planned, too, in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Florence, Rome, Paris and Madrid.

In a hitch for some coming to the protest, 13 Amtrak trains running between New York and Washington were delayed for up to three hours Saturday morning for repair of overhead electrical lines. Protest organizers said that held up thousands coming to the rally.

Dhaka got a bad name

reads it, he added.

resource, either foreign or domestic, can help achieve MDGs without improvement in governance and institutions in any country.

He called upon both the donors

and the recipients to carry out their respective obligations to improve effectiveness of aid. "Aid should go where it is needed and who can make just use of it. The finance minister pointed out that appropriate use of aid would

with weak institutions and bad governance. "Lack of absorptive capacity also will make aid counterproductive," he said, adding that aid should be

always be a problem for countries

performance and result-based. He suggested that both the donors and the recipients have a joint responsibility to improve aid Saifur said the present problem

of debt relief or debt cancellation for many countries in Africa and Latin America arose only because of ineffective use of aid in these countries. He claimed the scenario in Asia, including Bangladesh, to be different.

"Bangladesh has a good track record of utilisation of aid and it is gradually reducing dependence on foreign aid," he told the meeting. The minister apprised the particpants that the current net aid flow

into Bangladesh constitutes about 2 per of its GDP, which he termed insignificant as compared to the aiddependence of so-called highly indebted poor countries in Africa and Latin America. He emphasised the importance of real country ownership of the

development programmes and

mentioned that still, in many cases,

development policies and conditions were thrust upon the recipi-

Sometimes 'one size fits to all' kind of policies are imposed without understanding the sociopolitical realities of the countries, Saifur told the discussion meeting sponsored by the multilateral donor agencies, in unsparing criticism of their aid policies and prescriptions. "There's no single answer to

many development issues," Saifur said and categorically mentioned that "rigidity of conditionalities, cross-conditionalities by different donors and imposition of political conditionalities in policy matters tremendously affect aid effective-Political conditions by some development partners also affect

aid- effectiveness. "Every country should be given opportunities to build up broad-based support for reforms," he said, adding that unpredictability in aid flow is another roadblock for effective use of foreign aid and it creates unanticipated problems in macroeconomic management in many countries. Lack of harmonised procedures

amongst donors and between the

tance portfolio for Bangladesh.

donors and recipient countries is also hindering effective utilisation Earlier in the day, World Bank Vice-President for South Asia region Praful C Patel, along with a team of his sector directors, met the finance minister to discuss the bank's assis-

Major issues covered were PRSP, proposed power-sector investment programme, and country assistance strategy (CAS) which are expected to and one will not need a lawyer's assisbe approved by December. tance to fill in the forms.

Parishad, to prepare voter list.
"Some interested people advised the Election Commission from their

own point of view about preparation of voter list that has possibly created misunderstanding about the involvement of Gram Sarkars," yesterday's EC press release said.
"The field-level enumerators,

supervisors and revising authorities are being appointed according to the rules as in the previous years," it said, adding that many government agen-cies, including local government bodies, used to help the EC prepare voter list. Coordination committees at

district and upazila levels headed by Deputy Commissioner and Upazila Nirbahi Officer have already been formed and all the first class officers of the district have been appointed as committee members, the release said. Notification has already been

circulated for appointing registration officers and assistant registration officers for preparing voter list while one or more assistant registration officers are being appointed for each union, pourasava and city corporation ward, the release added.

Myanmar

FROM PAGE 1 huge potential. Discussion will be held on possible steps that can be taken to raise the volume to \$100 million in next one year.

Also, the two countries are expected to discuss about the natural gas pipeline project between Myanmar and India through Bangladesh. India is to buy gas from offshore

block A-1 in Myanmar's Rakhine state and means are being sought to transport the gas from Myanmar to India's West Bengal state via Bangladesh.
The issue of illegal movement of

militants and arms transportation, which is straining the bilateral eco-nomic and diplomatic relations, is also expected to be discussed.

Myanmar and Bangladesh have maintained exchange of high-level

visits in recent years. In December 2002, Myanmar SPDC Chairman Senior-General Than Shwe visited Dhaka while Prime Minister Khaleda Zia visited Yangon in 2003, during which the two countries signed two memorandums of understanding (MoUs) on the establishment of a joint trade commission and an agreement on coastal and maritime shipping.

Asian workers

FROM PAGE 16 Protestors said they had not been paid for between five and six months, and put their average monthly wages at about 600 dirhams (164 dollars). The action prompted the labor ministry to exert pressure on the

employer which agreed to pay two months of wages for the time being. But being paid on time is not the only problem faced by the workers who also widely complain about work

and living conditions at the camps which suffer from chronic water cuts. Workers said they lived 18 per airconditioned makeshift wooden lodging of 30 square meters (323 square feet) at the camp, which the AFP correspondent was promptly asked to leave.

"In order to take a shower, many times we have to walk to another camp" because of the cuts, said one worker, waiting next to the camp fence where his washed clothes were laid to dryin the sun. One Indian worker said "I have

been in Dubai for two years, and I have been working nine hours a day. I work overtime hours which are paid like regular hours."

It is no perhaps no surprise that workers do not protest more often. "Some people tell us not to speak about work and living conditions, and advise us to stay quiet or else we could have our work visas cancelled," said

But delays in paying salaries remain their main concern for obvi-

ous reasons. "Our families in our home countries are the main victims as they stay without any money for months," explained a worker.

Income tax

one of the workers.

FROM PAGE 1 along with one's tax return, otherwise a

tax return will not be accepted. Earlier those who had wealth worth less than Tk3 lakh did not have to submit wealth statement, but from this year everyone regardless of his amount of wealth will have to submit it.

Besides, from this year, information

about wealth of one's spouse and offspring has to be submitted with necessary documents along with someone's tax return. The government officials for the first time are brought within the same system of tax payment. They will have to pay tax on their own as well as submit

However, the tax money paid by a government officer on his salary will be later reimbursed from the government Besides, one will have to pay a one-time fine of Tk 2,500 for delay in addi-tion to the per day delay fine of Tk 250.

information about their lifestyle and

to submit the tax return in time, his monthly salary will be held up. National Board of Revenue (NBR) issued a circular detailing the procedures to be followed by government officials while submitting tax returns. The circular also contains an example showing how much tax a government official will have to pay if he has income from agricultural farm, share invest-

In case of a government official's failure

ment, houses and etc. Many government officials, who have savings in the bank, houses or other properties, are wondering how much to reveal, fearing further troubles if they disclose information about all the properties of themselves or their

Many government officials have requested the NBR to extend the income taxreturn submission deadline Meanwhile, a high NBR official said the tax return form has been simplified

Policy Dialogue (CPD) Debapriya Bhattacharya described the government's austerity measures as taken

Fresh agitation | AL likely to ask Hanif | No decision yet | Rita hits Gulf Coast

fires were quickly spread by fastmoving winds.

Half a million people were reported to be without power in Houston alone.

Much of Port Arthur, a key oil industry center, was cut off by waisthigh floodwater and downed powerlines. Cars lay smashed beneath uprooted trees and the main refinery -- a major employer for the town's 56,000 people -- was out of

In Galveston, Texas, where a 1900 hurricane killed up to 12,000 people, a fierce blaze turned the historic district into an outdoor furnace spitting out walls of flame and embers towards firefighters.

In Beaumont, Texas, just northwest of the spot where Rita crashed ashore from the Gulf of Mexico, flashes of green light erupted in the night sky as electricity substations short-circuited, plunging whole towns into darkness as the storm

4 Palestinians killed in Israeli airstrikes

AFP, REUTERS, Gaza City

At least four Palestinians were killed yesterday in an Israeli airstrike in an eastern district of Gaza City, medical sources and the Palestinian interior ministry said. The Israeli military yesterday

Strip in response to Palestinian rocket attacks. The army said 21 rockets fired from Gaza fell in Israel yesterday, injuring five Israelis.

sealed off the West Bank and Gaza

Israel earlier responded with airstrikes on what the army called Hamas weapons facilities. The attacks were the first airstrikes in Gaza since Israel withdrew from the coastal strip last week after 38 years of occupation. Witnesses said two of those killed

were members of the armed wing of

Islamic fundamentalist group

Hamas who were driving in two cars

when a helicopter fired two missiles,

one ploughing into each vehicle. 20 injured in ICD factional clash at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Chhatra Dal (JCD) were injured in a clash between two groups of the ruling BNP's student wing at Dhaka University's Jasim Uddin Hall last Five of the injured were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

At least 20 activists of Jatiyatabadi

about 11:00pm. Then Monir and his sticks ransacked some 34 rooms of the dormitory. As many as 150 students of the

rooms were ousted, hall sources said.

the feuding groups and picked up

four JCD men including Monir.

Police rushed to the hall to quell

The clash ensued when AKM

Tuhin, JCD's hall unit joint secretary,

vandalised the room of organising

secretary Moniruzzaman Monir, at

Forecasters warned fearsome flood tides of up to 15 feet high (4.5 metres) could swallow up parts of the Gulf Coast amid signs the storm could stall for days over land and swamp it in rain.

Walls of water surged through the streets of Lake Charles, 55 miles (88 kilometers) to the east, across the state line in Louisiana, as buildings sustained heavy damage, television reports said.

breached Friday on the Industrial Canal and the water was eight feet (2.4 meters) high in some areas, including the impoverished Ninth Ward and St Bernard's Parish -- two of the areas worst hit by Katrina. Chastened by criticism of the slow response to Katrina, the authorities went all out to prepare

In New Orleans, levees were

for Rita, putting troops, helicopters and trucks on standby and readying supplies of food, water, ice and But they came in for new criticism over the operation to evacuate nearly three million people that

became bogged down in massive traffic jams and fuel shortages that forced some to abandon their cars. Houston Mayor Bill White called the situation "totally unacceptable" and major newspapers railed that lessons from the lack of sufficient preparedness for Katrina had gone

Bhuiyan

FROM PAGE 16 bank employees' demand for a

public sector banking may face crisis of meritorious officers in future due to poor salary structure. The function was chaired by newly elected CBA president Khan

separate pay scale and said the

Azizur Rahman. Rain paralyses

two others identified as Alamgir, 30, and Nurul Alam, 45, and of another

unidentified youth could not yet be

confirmed. WALL COLLAPSE

Three people including an elderly woman and a child were injured when a wall of an under-construction building collapsed in on the adjacent thatched house of Akhter Nahar in Debpahar area

under Kotwali thana.
Of the injured, Hazera Khatun,
50, and Shahjahah, 3, were admitted
to Chittagong Medical College and
Hospital (CMCH) in a critical condition, sources said. Meanwhile, the heavy rain inundated some 20 out of 41 wards in the city. Besides, all low-lying areas of the district have been submerged,

causing damage to properties and

crops.
Of the city areas, Bahodderhat,
Muradpur, Sholoshahar,
Shulakbahar, Badurtala, Bakolia and Halishahar went under waist-deep water and the locals remained marooned till the afternoon. Even city centres like Agrabad Commercial Area, Chawk Bazar, Chaktai, and Prabartak Intersection

near Chittagong Medical College

Waterlogging hindered the movement of vehicles and pedestri-

quate. He said there is a scope for cutting at least Tk 1,000 crore from

the budgetary allocation for expen-

diture under different items through

efficient revenue management. For instance, he said, Tk 1,782

crore has been kept in reserve to cover unforeseeable expenditure.

There is little chance of flood this year

and given that no other calamities visit the country, the entire amount

The services and supplies has got an allocation of Tk 5,764 crore while

another 1,810 crore has been ear-

marked for Acquisition of Assets and

Works. The government has oppor-

tunity to save substantial amount by

reducing the money to be spent for

buying land and constructing build-

(BIDS) Zaid Bakht said the scope to

cut cost is larger in development

budget than in the revenue. But not

some cosmetic measures, rather

bold steps are needed to be taken to

make a real difference in maintain-

ing the macroeconomic stability, he

Besides, there is an allocation of

should be saved, he pointed out.

and Hospital went under knee-deep Rainwater gushed into shops and houses, causing damage to proper-

ties and suffering to the people

ans until 3:00pm. Austerity measures

FROM PAGE 1 allocation will save the government

onlyTk20 crore. The government can hope to save at best Tk 14 crore if its plans to cut by 10 percent the allocation for other expenditures" under the category of services and supplies. The total allocation in this regard stands at Tk 140.8 crore.

There is an allocation of Tk 3.97

crore as entertainment allowance for a number of ministries. If per head entertainment allowance is halved, as per the government's plans, it will save around Tk 2 crore. Most of the ministries however cover their entertainment expenditure from the allocation for "other expenditures", a finance division source said. He however could not specify the amount, but said it would not be big.

detailing the austerity measures said the ministries will need to have the permission of the finance division to urchase new cars under the revenue budget. It however did not put any ban on the purchase of new cars. The current revenue budget has Tk 111.11 crore earmarked for the purchase of new vehicles, of which

Tk 73 crore has been allocated for

the home ministry alone. So the

chances are slim that the govern-

The finance division in a circular

ment will save a lot of money from here, especially when it seems to be very generous in providing the home ministry with logistics. Last year the government increased the original budgetary allocation for purchasing cars for the home ministry in the revised budget. In the original budget, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) had been allotted Tk 36 crore, but the amount was raised to Tk 53 crore in

Last year's devastating floods

prompted the government to direct 10 percent cut in allocation for services and supplies category. But in the face of opposition from differ-ent ministries, the finance division had to backtrack on the directive. Executive Director of Centre for

the revised budget.

growth, he explained.

Tk 3,100 crore for annual develop-ment programme (ADP) from where too the government can save money Bhattacharva said. Research Director of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies

ings, he said.

Bakht explained that there is no alternative to reducing the government expenditure to ease the pressure on macroeconomic situation in the context of global rise in oil prices and the spiralling rate of inflation. A huge amount of money is wasted in projects under the ADP in the name of "Prime Minister's commitment" or " Jono guruttapurna prokolpo

ary monetary policy the govern-ment should rather go for a contractionary fiscal policy, Bakht said. If the government expenditure is reduced it will not affect the GDP growth, but the contractionary

[projects in public interest], he said.

instead of trying a contraction-

monetary policy, if pursued, may adversely affect the private sector and ultimately have a negative impact on the country's GDP

Security printing

wrote to Ahead Managing Director Eric Liao "In the tender schedthat the machine must be a newly

SPCBL officials argued that non-acceptance by the MD at that point of time would have resulted in the NBR's revenue loss of crores of taka due to the SPCBL's failure to supply holo-

When contacted, Awal said he is not authorised to tell the press any-

Resources Division (IRD) and Postal

first claimed that Ahead had bought the hot stamping machines from Artfoil Company of UK. But when this correspondent showed him documentary evidence of his paying money to the HSIG in Dhaka for retaining the previous bidder's used machines, Helaly said, What we could do, we could spend

Injured Ghoraghat BNP

Police recovered Sarwar's body

and killed by a gang of miscreants on

Rabi Lion, Saduzzaman Minar, and Fazlur Rahman.

tion into the case. JCD men

FROM PAGE 16 president Raton Lal Dey and general