FROM PAGE 1 angry with me for some reason, but

I don't understand why," said a baffled Nila while groaning with agonising pain in her bed.

Baro Bashoria village in Sirajganj had a passion for performing arts and cherished a dream of becoming established in the field someday. This talented performer used to win awards from her school every year for her outstanding performance in acting, singing, poem recitation and dance. "The man to whom we handed

hope that he would nurture her dream, has shattered it instead," Nila's mother said with a blank "Akbar seemed to be a polite

man when we arranged our daughter's marriage with him. Who could've guessed that a man like him could do something like this?" the mother said while talking to this correspondent at the ASF

"On February 19, my husband got very upset at me as I wanted to go to my parents'. I tried to settle the matter, but he didn't calm down. After we had the dinner, he left for the market, but I didn't know why. He didn't even come to bed later," recalled Nila.

"I woke up around midnight and found my husband sitting on a chair with his eyes bloodshot out of anger. I asked him what had happened, but no response. He just walked up to me with a glassful of liquid and poured it down over my head," Nila said reminiscing the

"I Suddenly felt an excruciating burning sensation over my entire face and my arms, realising that it was acid. My husband rushed out of the house right after that," she added.

"I received the first treatment 20 hours later after my father brought me to Dhaka Medical College

She was later transferred to the ASF hospital. Doctors at ASF hospital said her face and eyes have been damaged badly and 20 percent of her body is burned in the acid attack. They fear she might even go

"Nila came to our hospital in a critical condition with deep burns that involved her vital organs. Though we work with acid victims, we've seen only a few patients with

children fall victim to acid violence every year. According to an ASF report, on an average, 221 women and children fall victim to acid violence every year and the main

causes of the violence are dowry,

2006, the total number of acid victims was 221, the report stated. The acid violence incidents saw a sharp rise in the 90s and started to

decline in the decade that followed -- thanks to the awareness cam-The situation improved in 2002

when the government passed two acts for curbing and preventing the acid violence and started to work together with the NGOs.

The DMCH burn unit still treats 2 to 3 percent acid victims out of around 1,400 burn patients every

The number of acid violence has been declining gradually due to the

Commission (ACC) later filed

against Hasina a case in which he is

a co-accused in connection with

bribing the ex-prime minister.

enactment of the new laws and the campaigns of the government and the NGOs, said Dr Shamanta Lal Sen of Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit at DMCH.

However, more concerted efforts are necessary to stop the acid violence once and for all, he added.

Ronald W Hiles, a plastic and reconstructive Surgery consultant who has been a visiting the country for the last 25 years and conducting plastic surgery free of charge, said, Since 2002, the acid violence has reduced by 60 percent." Campaign against acid violence

achieved significant success as it was handled from different angles and the government, the NGOs and the media -- all worked together to | those. resist the violence, said Ronald noting that the violence is still taking place in the country. "I think people who are throw-

ing acid don't know what they are doing. They are doing it either from jealousy or from envy or greed. In developed countries, such types of violence is unusual and whenever I come across these acid victims, I become upset because it's not an accident, it's man-made and it shouldn'thappen," Ronald added.

Referring to Nila's sufferings, Ronald said in an emotion-choked voice, "She had all her life before her, but that has changed now. One more acid violence is one too many and we want no more of it."

Russia to elect

successor of Putin in one-sided poll AFP, Moscow

Russians were to vote today in presidential election seen by critics as rigged to ensure victory for Vladimir Putin's Kremlin successor

Dmitry Medvedev, while enabling Putin to retain major power. Voting was to begin at 8:00 am local time (2000 GMT Saturday) on the Pacific coast of the world's biggest country, before rolling 12,000 kilometres (7,500 miles) west to Moscow and on to the Baltic

Sea territory of Kaliningrad. Medvedev faced three challeng ers, but his overwhelming victory was almost a foregone conclusion after a campaign in which Russia's heavily censored national television networks rammed home the

message that he is Putin's anointed

Opinion polls predict Medvedev, currently first deputy premier and head of gas monopoly Gazprom, will win at least 60 percent of the vote and possibly more than 70 percent.

Launch capsize FROM PAGE 1

yesterday told The Daily Star that

they have gathered that the launch sank because of the hit by the Requesting not to be named, he

said, "Several witnesses, passengers and rescuers that we've talked to led us to this belief." Meanwhile, sources at

Sadarghat said no small launches plied Dhaka-Taltola and other small-distance routes yesterday, fearing crackdown by the authori-

Besides, staff of vessels plying the long routes said the number of passengers have fallen by around 40 percent in the fallout from the

Mia told journalists that the arrestees introduced themselves as followers of Imam Mehedi and claimed they have been trying to gather fellow followers to seek

Mollah and Alam Mia from Danga upazila, Saiful Islam from Goalanda upazila, Ruhul Amin Mollah and Farid Sheikh from Sadar upazila in Faridpur, Ruhul Amin from Sadar upazila in Rajbari, Humayun Kabir from Hizla upazila in Barisal and Anwar Hossain from Goalia upazila in Rajshahi.

by them, messages have been sent to the police stations concerned. Nagarkanda police would take further steps following feedback from

The law enforcers had information that an Islamist group was operative at Shankar Pasha of Dangi union, it would meet regularly at a

raided the house at around 3:00am Friday and rounded up the eight who were at that time holding a meeting.

rented the house four months ago. Locals said hardly anyone would be seen in or around the house at daytime, while a good number of bearded people wearing panjabi and cap would gather there at night and hold meeting.

OC Wares Mia told The Daily Star last night that the arrestees said they are disciples of Nura Pagla Peer of

Rajbari and they have been looking "As they were secretly meeting a

ADP performance

FROM PAGE 1

Nine of the projects to be implemented solely with local resources include Emergency Rehabilitation and Expansion of Urban Areas Power Distribution System Under Chittagong Zone, and Rehabilitation of Destroyed Distribution System Under Rural Electrification Programme for Sidr-

jects are Procurement of Modern Equipment for Fire Service and Civil Defence, Environment Disasters and Resources Monitoring System, Construction and Development of Airport Road to Mirpur Cantonment Road, Construction of water supply and sewerage system in 18 district towns, and Protection of Betil and

Enayetpur Bazar areas from Erosion by Jamuna River, Union Parishad Development, and Rural Roads and Bazaar Infrastructure Development.

Jalil

FROM PAGE 16

company (PLC).

Egyptian worker.

FROM PAGE 16

hands and face.

investigate the clash.

cardiologist of the hospital and Jalil's personal physician.

board are cardiology specialist Prof Boren Chakraborty, kidney specialists Prof Rafiqul Islam, Prof Anisul Haque and Prof Abdus Samad, and orthopaedic special ist Dr Gouranga Boiragi. Jalil was arrested on May 29

last year. He was admitted to the LabAid Cardiac Hospital on July 15 last year after falling ill in jail and has been here since. He has previously undergone a

The task force will submit the

Manpower export

ICD-BCL clash

Vice-Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz

Meanwhile, the university

and Proctor AKA Firoz accompanied

by over 200 cops later visited the hail.

authorities formed two commit

tees--one to probe the attack on

bypass surgery and has a pacemaker installed in his heart. Task force

High bank charges

FROM PAGE 1

instructions, inward bill purchased and collection and bank guarantee. In case of import related transactions, the state-owned banks take 0.25 percent of the value of the Letter of Credit (LC) or minimum

Tk 250 to Tk 500. The private banks charge for such transaction Tk 500 to Tk 3,000 as minimum charge or 0.30 percent to 0.60 percent of the amount. Foreign commercial banks take commercial cost in addition to the service charges for LC opening.

Besides, the banks take charges on LC amendment, acceptance, confirmation, cancellation, foreign correspondent charges, handling charges, shipment documents charges and charges for credit report collection.

> The BB has asked the banks to stop taking handling charges from importers when the traders give charges for opening LC. The banks take highest Tk 25,000 as handling charges in import transaction.

The state-owned commercial banks do not take charges on LC opening where hundred percent margin is received, but private and foreign commercial banks take different ranges of charges despite such receipt of money against LC.

On export transactions, the state-owned banks take Tk 250 to Tk 500 for LC advising and amendment advices, private banks Tk 500 to Tk 2,000, and foreign banks take Tk 500 to Tk 1,000 in addition to the commercial cost of such services.

Moreover, the banks take charges for export related transactions including LC advice, confir-

mation, foreign bank guarantee, document collection and mailing. Abdus Salam Murshedi, a director of BGMEA, admitted that service charges on bank transactions

Murshedi, also a director of a private commercial bank, said different banks take dissimilar charges and there is no banking

are quite high in Bangladesh com-

paring to neighbouring countries.

policy in the process. "The banks should reduce the

charges and there should be a policy which will determine how much a bank can take in service charge for a certain job," he observed.

Golam Mustafa, managing director of the South East Sweater, cited an example of import transaction saying: "We need to give almost 3 percent of a Tk 1 crore import deal to the banks in service and other charges." "Banks in our country make

profits even from the services which are free in other countries, he added. He suggested a rationalised

system of the banks' service charges. Chairman of the Association of

Bankers Bangladesh (ABB) Mahmud Satter said the central bank has identified some service and fees taken by the banks as unnecessary.

"We are working on it and sitting with Bangladesh Bank next week so that we can make the charges rational," said Satter, also managing director of the City Bank He favoured higher service

charges in private banking compared to the state-owned banks and argued that the private banks services are better than the governmentones. "It's not a logical idea in free

market economy that all banks irrespective of their quality of services will take the same fees," he Khandaker Ibrahim Khaled

former deputy governor of BB, said foreign and some private banks are taking higher service charges and different fees. Khaled, who served in different

private banks, said the central bank can persuade the private and foreign banks to stop taking extra charges on services even after taking normal commissions.

Ex-CA raps govt

FROM PAGE 1

to strengthen global protest against crimes against humanity. "We find our failure in discharg-

ing our obligations to identify war crimes and trying the culprits. Now we say this is a very problematic matter," he said adding that these issues have to be dealt with. Pointing out the importance of

holding trial for genocide, Habibur said no state can dillydally on this He said the inaction in holding

trial for war crimes has its roots in international pressure. Recalling a conversation

between Prof Anisuzzaman and the then prime minister Tajuddin Ahmed, the former chief justice said, "Tajuddin said they could hold trial for the killings of intellectuals, but not for war crimes as Russia was not keen. USA was against it and putting pressure on India to forget it." "The essence of trial doesn't

stem from hatred for anyone. We want to try the criminals because trial is a kind of burial. If you don't bury the dead, it will start spreading infection. If we fail to hold trial for crimes, it will multiply. Crime will foster crime," Habibur said. Stressing the need for docu-

menting war crimes and genocide in 1971, he said sharing experience

runs to the overnight score of 405-

record and the landmark came

when Smith tucked Shakib to

scored double hundreds in the

same innings of a Test match after

Australian Bobby Simpson and

Bill Lawry's feat at Kensington

in Germany, India and Cambodia can be of great help. While talking to the journalists

of those documenting such crimes

later, he said the caretaker govern ment has to initiate the trial for war crimes 'which will not be a farce but a true trial. Terming the 1971 genocide the

Vice Marshal (retd) AK Khondoker, the deputy chief of Liberation War forces, said trial of the accused was important to establish truth and justice and let everybody know that none can get away after committing such crimes.

People hope that trial for war

crimes will be initiated at the earliest through International Crimes (Tribunal) Act 1973. It might take several years, but the process can begin now, he added. Farina So, team leader of

Documentation Centre o Cambodia, and Ashis Nandy, Earlier, Mofidul Hoque,

trustee of Liberation War Museum delivered the welcome speech.

45 killed in Guatemalan bus accident

AFP, Guatemala City

At least 45 people were killed late Friday when a passenger bus heading from Guatemala to El Salvador overturned and fell into a ravine in nighttime conditions, officials and media reports said.

At least 15 other people were initially reported injured. But according to unconfirmed reports two of them had already died in local hospitals, and the exact number of survivors remains unknown. Guatemalan Vice President

Rafael Espada rushed to a hospital in the outskirts of the capital to give moral support to some of the victims and their families. "We are confronting a tragedy,"

Espada told reporters gathered at the hospital. "People come here from the site of the accident with multiple bone fractures. The medical personnel are trying to make miracles, but they need all of our moral and administrative support. The reports quoted witnesses as

saying speeding and malfunctioning brakes were the probable causes of the accident.

Interpol boss FROM PAGE 16

Bangladesh, he added.

to track its own citizen's move ments as well as help his organisation to keep track of people on its global watch list who may enter

Bangladesh is a poor country lacking resources and it does not have widespread use of identity papers. So it cannot be given the same level of technical assistance that Interpol provides for other countries, observed Noble.

He said the countries should

prevent criminals from entering their territories to reduce the prob lems related to extradition. Head of the world's largest international police organisation said

currently details about 12,000 terror-

ists are held on their databases. Asked if the government has asked them to help recover the assets siphoned out of the country, he said they would soon open an anticorruption unit to focus on assets

recovery. Pressed further, he said Interpol has the ability to assist in asset recov ery, but for that to happen Dhaka must come up with details about suspected individuals.

Opening the CID's first criminal intelligence analysis unit, he said they would provide two weeks advanced training for the unit's Besides, he said, he would lobby

hard and try to raise money in order for a Bangladeshi police officer to work at the Interpol headquarters in Lyon, France. Bangladesh joined Interpol in

1976 and pays an annual fee of Tk 70 lakh for its services. Interpolhas 186 member states

34 cheated

FROM PAGE 16

year to protest low pay, longer work hours and other kinds of abuses.

The Bangladesh authorities there, in coordination with the Malaysian authorities, found other jobs for them. In the meantime, they were put in the camp. But, many workers refused to go to new work for fear of further abuses.

Kamruzzaman of Faridpur, who went to Malaysia through recruiting agency Matco Enterprise in January last year, told The Daily Star that they underwent untold miseries in that country. He said they were provided with inadequate food. "The health of most of us is very

bad", he said adding that they flew to Malaysia for a bright future by selling land and other property, taking on loans at high interest rate, only to come back empty-handed. "Would the government help us recover whatever we had before we

went to Malaysia?" he said wistfully. Earlier, the Malaysian government assured the 800 workers that they will be given full salaries if their allegations were proved to be true. "The money will be remitted to

the workers even if they are deported," Ismail Abdul Rahim, director general at Malaysia's Labour Department, told daily New Straits Times on October 18 last year.

Nothing, however, could yet be known about the Labour Department's investigation.

Electoral alliance FROM PAGE 16

and democratic political parties urging them to take a stance against Former army chief Maj Gen (retd)

AKM Shafiullah said no government in the past could hold trial of the war criminals. But the present caretaker government should not hesitate to initiate the process of trying war criminals He said it must be made sure that

war criminals are barred from participating in the next general election. Col (retd) Abu Osman Chowdhury said Jamaat leaders and their allies termed the liberation war a civil war which is a violation of the constitution. But the caretaker government is yet to take any action against them.

(retd) CR Dutta, and Maj Gen (retd) Amin Ahmed Chowdhury, among others, were present. Lankan forces

Sector Commander Maj Gen

FROM PAGE 16 The ministry says 94 soldiers and

police have also been killed in 2008.

Casualty figures provided by both sides differ vastly and cannot be independently verified since the government bars journalists and human rights workers from frontline and rebel-held areas.

PPP still undecided

FROM PAGE 16

party to highlight alleged weak points of Fahim. "There is a campaign going on within the party to malign Fahim and some senior leaders are also involved in it," he

He said the "Zardari friends" were telling others that Fahim was close to some people in the establishment and he had been engaged in negotiations with them over the past six years. The PPP leader, who did not want to be named, said he had even been told by one of the campaigners that President Musharraf had asked Zardari to appoint Fahim as prime minister and the PPP co-chairman did not want to see a Musharraf's man as prime minister.

Zardari.

However, Baig told Dawn that the meeting had been held at the request of the US ambassador and policies.

PPP spokesman Farhatullah Babar, however, denied that there was any rift or division in the party over the issue of premiership and said that an announcement in this respect would be made in a couple of days to end such speculations.

central executive committee and alerted for a possible meeting in the next few days to designate their parliamentary leader. National Party chief Abdul

Hayee Baloch and former minister Jahangir Khan Tareen separately called on Mr Zardari on Friday and

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh begins. I hope the train service will be started as soon as possible after settling the issue of security of the two countries," Gen. Moeen said.

During his visit, seen as signifi-

tions, the army chief had meetings with Indian Defence Minister AK Antony, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee and chiefs of the Indian three services. The Indian army chief presented

six horses to Gen Moeen as gesture of goodwill and friendship. He also visited Indian military academy at Deradun, military signal

Chief Minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya and discussed bilateral At Biswabharati, founded by

Nobel laureate Poet Rabindranath Tagore, Gen Moeen was accorded a warm reception by the Biswabharati authorities.

tremendous role in enriching the music and fine arts of both India and Bangladesh. Bangladesh, he said, has got

several good singers of Rabindra Sangeet as they have taken higher

Political leaders

democracy standpoint.

mentremain hostage," he said BNP Vice President MK Anwar said the Election Commission is making identity cards but their duty is to hold election after completing

"What kind of reforms has been brought about in the Election

He said union parishad and city

decentralisation and financial inde-

dent of Progressive Democratic Party, said some regional councils should be formed through elections across the country. Acting office secretary of BNP,

autonomy because the current

discussed possibilities of cooperation in the future set-up. Tareen had refused PML-Q's ticket and contested the elections

from the PML-F platform Akram Durrani and Maulana Abdul Ghafoor Haideri of the Muttahida Majlis-i-Amal held talks with a PPP team led by Raza Rabbani at the Parliament House. The meeting was the follow-up of talks held on Thursday between top leadership of the two parties.

EU Ambassadors Johannes De Kok and Ambassador of Japan Siji Kojima also called on Zardari.

Meanwhile a Pakistani court yesterday acquitted the brother of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in a murder case after the families of the dead suddenly withdrew their accusations, law-

The surprising turnaround came after the former premier's party ended up second in the Feb. 18 parliamentary elections. It is expected to form a ruling coalition with slain opposition leader Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party. It is also expected to form the government in the eastern province of Punjab after winning provincial assembly elections.

minister, or top elected official, of Punjab when five men were killed in what their families said were fake shootouts with the police in 1998. 42 killed

Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), called "for an immediate ceasefire and political negotiations to end the fighting, which is impeding our

humanitarian work.

FROM PAGE 16

"Those on both sides responsible for the killing of civilians must be held accountable," he said. In Ramallah about 300 Palestinians from all the major politi-

cal factions marched through the

streets, carrying pictures of children

killed in recent Israeli strikes. At least 15 of those killed were militants, including 10 fighters from the Islamist Hamas movement and two from the Islamic Jihad. An Israeli army spokeswoman

planting explosive devices or shoot-At least five Israeli soldiers were wounded, the army said.

least 40 rockets and mortars at south-

Gaza militants meanwhile fired at

said troops had killed at least 15

Palestinian militants, "all of them

ern Israel, including six long-range rockets which crashed in and around the seaside town of Ashkelon, 11 kilometres (seven miles) north of Gaza, itsaid. Two children and a woman were ightly wounded in the Ashkelon

Deputy Defence Minister Matan Vilnai told public radio that Israeli forces were engaged in an "enlarged

operation," but denied it was the start of a major campaign aimed at partly reoccupying Gaza. Senior Israeli political and military leaders have been mulling a major ground operation for months,

mortar attacks on southern Israel. The spiralling violence has cast a shadow over peace talks between Israel and Abbas's West Bank Palestinian Authority relaunched at a US conference in November that have since made little progress.

Awami League acting President

Zillur Rahman yesterday opposed

would have to bear responsibility for

any deterioration in the health of

detained party chief Sheikh Hasina or

as Palestinian militants have

launched near-daily rocket and

About the proposed ordinance, the

Suranjit Sengupta of the Awami League said the government wants to hold the local government elections in the name of empowering the people but it is not possible by keep-

from an anti-people and anti-"National election should be held before any other elections because local government system would not be effective if democracy and parlia

Commission other than changing a fewpeople last year?", he said. Mentioning that civil and military bureaucracies have torn apart the

before national elections due to their political intention."

corporation elections cannot be held citing the expiry of their tenure as the tenure of parliament has also

pendence of local government organisations, Mujahidul Islam Selim, general secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), said local government should be free from political intervention but it should not be depoliticised. Ferdaus Ahmad Quarishi, presi-

Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, said the union

the government's decision to hold local elections before national polls, saying it is beyond the interim administration's mandate. He also said the government

subservient to it.

ZILLUR'S SAY

General Secretary Abdul Jalil, who is currently in a critical condition in LabAid Hospital under police custody. "Only the parliament has the power to call for local government elections. The local polls must be held by an elected national government," said Zillur during a meeting with Awami League's Munshiganj

chapter at his Gulshan residence.

However, Zillur remained ambiv-

alent about Awami League's partici-

pation in the local elections. The party would decide after the government finalises the poll dates. He said the present government's mandate is to hold the national elections only, not the local government polls and the Awami League

would oppose the local elections

before general parliamentary polls. The Awami League interim chief reiterated the party's demand that the Election Commission announce the election date as earliest as possible to reduce "the prevailing uncertainty and confusion".

Asked of his thoughts on the condition of Abdul Jalil, Zillur said "Our general secretary has been arrested without a cause. Doing politics is not a crime." "He is in a life or death situation," Zillur said adding that Hasina also

requires medical help. "If anything

happens to them the government

will have to bear the responsibility,'

Zillur demanded their immediate release but said the Awami League has not requested the government to arrange special treatment for either of them.

About the continuation of the

state of emergency the veteran leader said, "It does not make any sense. The government has suspended fundamental rights but it still talks about holding elections by December when we cannot even reach the voters and tell them why they should vote for us." Zillur said the party would oppose

a hasty delimitation of parliamentary constituencies before elections

Dream burnt in acid 8 militants

This teenage schoolgirl from

over our beloved daughter with the

hospital.

dreadful night.

Hospital [DMCH], Nila said.

such major burns," said Dr Sanjoy Biswas of ASF. A large number of women and

refusal of love proposal and land According to the report, the number of persons attacked with acid came down to 187 in 2007 from 234 in 2000 and 349 in 2001. In

paigns, legal and rehabilitation assistance programmes taken up by different government and nongovernment organisations (NGOs).

Summit's exit raises

abroad but his company participated in two large power project tenders. The pre-qualification process for the bids began in October last year starting with the Bibiyana power project. In the Bibiyana project, the cell pre-qualified US companies AES and Chevron, which also operates

the Bibiyana gas field, Korean

Kepco, Malaysian Powertek along

with Siemens and "conditionally"

qualified Summit and disqualified

Malaysian YTL on ground of minor deviations. In the Siranjganj project, the cell prequalified just AES, Kepco and Powertek last month. Interestingly, soon after this pre-qualification, Kepco and Powertek on February 11 announced that they would merge and bid as one--thus shrinking the

competition in Bibiyana and

Sirajganj.

The cell's letter noted that of these years. Summit was designated as a conditionally qualified bidder because its financial statements were not cell evaluated Summit's net value prepared in accordance with the on the basis of the company's International Accounting original share values -- not the Standards (IAS). The cell on current share values. December 4 named four auditors auditors. The audited financial look into and we did exactly that."

statement should reach the cell

before January 15.

The Bibiyana tender requires that a bidding company's net financial value would be more than Ever since, Khan is staying \$100 million. Summit accordingly submitted its audited financial statement complying with the IAS within the deadline. Even though the auditor

puts Summit's net financial value

at more than \$121 million, the cell

arbitrarily puts its own financial

evaluation at only \$32.5 million.

The cell termed the company "non-qualified bidder". In response to this letter, Summit on February 17 wrote back to the cell expressing its surprise. It said, "The Power Cell made the aforesaid conclusion on the basis of consolidated figures, not the company figures." It added that it fully complied with the financial requirements spelled out in the

tender terms and conditions.

Summit has also submitted IAScompliant financial statements for the last three fiscal years which shows that it made profits in each Summit sources explained that ignoring the auditor's report, the

However, a top official of the and asked Summit to have its Power Cell says, "We are going by finances audited as per the tender the auditor's report. There are rule by employing any of the four different types of parameters to the hall provost and another to

FROM PAGE 1

Imam Mehedi. The eight are Obaidur Rahman

According to addresses provided

rented house in the dead of night. Following up the leads, a team

Alam Mia, one of the arrestees,

for Imam Mehedi. midnight, we suspect they have links to hidden Islamic organisation."

The other locally funded pro-

FROM PAGE 1 Dr Motiur Rahman who heads the medical board for Jalil is the chief The others on the medical

retirement under its Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), will not FROM PAGE 1 beleft out of this clean-up drive. barely surviving the final overs. The investigators are taking The day started with an expecinformation about them and will ask tation of whether Smith and them to submit proper documents to McKenzie could add another nine substantiate their wealth statements

0 to create history and the gutsy short list of corrupt Biman officials to South Africa captain did it in style; the Anti-corruption Commission hitting left-arm spinner Shakib Al (ACC) for taking necessary action. Biman Bangladesh Airlines in the Hasan for a boundary in the openmiddle of last year offered its ing over, and then took a single to get back the strike. He took employees golden-handshake option under the VRS as part of another risky single off Mashrafe government plan to turn the national Mortaza to take South Africa to flag carrier into a public limited within three runs of the landmark. Two hurried singles equalled the

square leg.

FROM PAGE 16 more than other communities in McKenzie moment of glory the desert kingdom, which is the came half an hour before lunch destination for the highest numwhen he drove Rafique through bers of Bangladeshi workers. the covers to complete his maiden A number of reports have double hundred. It was only the appeared in the Saudi media alleging eight Bangladeshi workers have that two opening batsmen had been convicted of the murder of an

Oval in Barbados against West the ugly side of the game. "While the BCL leaders were talk-Indies in 1965. ing to the hall provost, the JCD Bangladesh's long wait for a cumbed to his fast bowler activists swooped on the BCL men wicket came to an end when with iron rods and hockey sticks," Smith, on 232, attempted a slog witnesses said. The clash spread in the hall area, leaving the ten people injured. The hall provost received injuries in his

> first Test bowling hero Shahadat scalping them. Hossain initiated a sudden collapse by taking three wickets as peach of a delivery first up, one the visitors lost four wickets that left him no time to get his within ten runs before Jacques hands out of the way as it kissed Kallis and Mark Boucher steadied his gloves on way to Mark the ship again to put up their Boucher.

supreme example of barbarism, Air

"Trial for crimes is not a matter of taking revenge, it is an imperative for establishing truth and justice in the society," he said

senior fellow of Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, India, addressed the session.

A day of many marks

highest total against Bangladesh.

good effect and the reverse swing

Shahadat used the old ball to

earned him the wickets of McKenzie (226), Hashim Amla (38) and Ashwell Prince (2). Rafique's moment came after tea when he had Mark Boucher caught at cover and then forced Robin Peterson to edge one to the waiting hands of Zunaed Siddiqui at first slip. The moment after Zunaed took the catch, the whole Bangladesh team rushed to congratulate the born fighter. It was also nice to see umpire Aleem Dar

presenting the ball to Rafique

when South Africa declared their

first innings immediately after the

fall of Peterson.

But the celebration turned sour after a familiar top-order collapse. This time however it was a fine exhibition of fast bowling from second time in Test cricket history Stevn that effectively killed Bangladesh's hopes of any turnaround. Steyn in an interview with The

Daily Star Sport said that he did

not like to hit a batsman and it was

But the South African suc-

instincts, in an inspired spell of pace bowling. Using whatever sweep and was clean bowled by help the surface provided, Steyn troubled both Zunaed and Tamim For a change, the post-lunch with short deliveries into their ribsession belonged to Bangladesh cage to soften them up before And Ashraful was subject to a

added.

On Friday, Fahim met US Ambassador Anne W Patterson at the residence of PPP Senator Enver Baig and some party leaders alleged that the meeting had taken place without the knowledge of

Zardari was fully aware of it. He said as the PPP was a government-inwaiting, the US and other countries wanted to know about its future

He said all members of the PPP's parliamentary group had been

Gen Moeen

He arrived at Zia International Airport at 8:55pm from Kolkata. cant in enhancing the bilateral rela-

unitat Goa, and Ajmer Sharif. In Kolkata, he met West Bengal

Moeen told the journalists that Biswabharati has been playing a

studies from the university.

political leaders said the government should promulgate it after taking the people and political parties into confidence as only the next parliament will have the authority to approve such an edict.

ing their rights suspended. On the proposed ordinance, he questioned who has given the authority to design such a proposal

the voter registration work.

country's local-government system Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon said, "The government is speaking of election to local government bodies

expired. Stressing the need for democratic

parishad should be ensured real

administrative system makes union parishad chairmen and members

Shahbaz Sharif was the chief