Jasas, Krishak Dal,

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain formed Sohrabuddin-led Muktijoddha Dal central committee last year during the rule of caretaker government as the chairperson was in jail.

Tanti Dal President Humayun Islam Khan said the existing central committee of the organisation was formed on May 22 last year for two years. "We are now reviewing the district and

formed in 2003 for two years. Nazrul is also the joint secretary general and official spokesman of BNP and played an important role in the recent general elec-

Zafrul last night told The Daily Star that the organisation

Khaleda appointed Azizul Baree Helal and Shafiul Bari Babu as JCD president and led government's tenure but the general secretary on January 1, party high-ups did not form a 2005 and their tenure expired in new committee for their 2007. Helal took part in the women's wing. Prominent

committee already expired, Shafiul Bari said.

The chairperson usually announces the new committee every two years but it could not be possible in the last two years because of an adverse political situation, he added.

Barkat Ullah Bulu and Moazzem Hossain Alal were appointed as the president and general secretary of Jubo Dal in 2003 for three years. Their tenure expired in 2006.

Alal admitted that even many district committees are now

"We believe talented and competent leadership will come out through a democratic process in the BNP and all of its

The present committee of Krishak Dal was formed with a two-year tenure about nine years ago. The committee took initiatives to hold national coun-

Maulana Md Abdus Sattar, our Barisal correspondent

reports. Matiur Rahman told The Daily Star, "Following the report of The Daily Star we removed the sign and we will take legal actions against the secretary of the organisation, self-declared pir who obstructed women's movement on that road."

He also said two policemen will be deployed on the road to help schoolgirls use the road. He said they will continue their search for Abdus Sattar.

National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) yesterday expressed deep concern over the banning of women on that road and demanded investigation into the matter and punishment of the people responsible.

The BNWLA in a press release said such kind of activity is an obstacle to women when they have been coming forward alongside men in every sphere.

The Daily Star on Tuesday published a report that a self-declared pir Maulana Md Abdus Sattar o Mathbaria, Pirojpur, banned the movement of women on Bara Masjid Road in Mathbaria.

Pak envoy

FROM PAGE 16

the Pakistan envoy, BNP's Foreign Affairs Adviser Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury told journalists that Begum Zia hoped the existing friendly relations between the two countries would be strengthened further.

"BNP is a responsible party and it'll work responsibly," he said quoting Khaleda Zia as

Mobin said Begum Zia feels that the country's people rely on BNP and said their real desire did not reflect in the general election.

Ministers, MPs FROM PAGE 16

This year the target revenue collection growth is more than 20 percent but the growth was 15.33 percent in the first five months of the current fiscal year. Of this, the growth of revenue collection from import duty sector is only 6.79 percent.

Asked why diesel price was lowered by only Tk 2 per litre, the finance minister said due to selling of diesel at low prices in the past, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation has now a debt of Tk 15,000 crore. To reduce the debt they have not gone for larger price cut, he added.

400 vehicles at Paturia ghat,

sources said. A line of vehicles

stretching about four kilo-

metres was seen on road to

Paturia Ghat at about 5:00pm

Ferry services resumed at

A correspondent from

Two ferries were sent to

Narayanganj dockyard for

repair about seven to eight

days back and two other fer-

ries to Paturia yard for repair.

suffering frequently. The crisis

is mainly due to paucity of

ferry," said truck driver Azahar

wants maximum implemen-

tation of the ADP, maintaining

standard quality, for develop-

ment of socio-economic

condition and physical infra-

projected the latest progress

in ADP implementation at the

Sources say of the Tk 25,600

crore ADP allocation, imple-

mentation during July-

December period was Tk 6,023

coordination among all minis-

tries they will expedite ADP

implementation in future. The

prime minister also insisted

on maintaining quality along-

side implementation of pro-

been decided that the pro-

jects, which have seen maxi-

mum progress, would con-

tinue, whereas the projects,

which have been imple-

The first Ecnec meeting

Meeting sources say it has

AK Khandaker said through

The planning ministry

Govt sees

"We have to face such

Dense fog

FROM PAGE 1

yesterday.

Hossain.

FROM PAGE 1

structure.

meeting.

the wholesalers a certain amount they are entitled to.

in return for anonymity, an manpower to try to stop the unfair toll collection. However, we can surely make a difference if the law enforcers come to our aid."

Asked if they had contacted police or Rab, he said they would formally ask for help after discussing the matters

any tangible signs yet to that

Interestingly, Rab officials and police said they were not aware that warehouse operators have been extorting money from the retailers. They said they would take action against those involved in the

Four arrested

FROM PAGE 16

They are Emon, 24, Robin, 26, Abul Kashem Dipu alias Rabu, 24, and Raihan Rashid. Of them, Raihan was an employee of the factory and Robin a worker of a computer

firm at Nilkhet in the capital. A team of Detective Branch (DB) of police has also recovered Tk 1.5 lakh from them during the drive that began in late November.

have admitted the fraud.

They said they had collected cheque books from the banks by forging signature of the factory's managing direc-

rehearsed the fraud by drawing Tk 7 lakh from his fatherin-law saccount

ministers and their wives, the government remained tight-

General's Office also said some of the accused honchos' names were recently published in newspapers.

General Advocate Mahbubey Alam yesterday suggested building mutual understandings with the foreign countries back to Bangladesh following dollars. recovery.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday evening, Mahbubey Alam said, "If mutual under-

could be sent to those countries to recover the money, but the decision rests on the gov-

His office will provide all kinds of legal assistance to the government to prevent money laundering and to get back the state's money laundered to foreign countries, he added.

State machineries including the Bangladesh Bank, customs authorities, and the Attorney General's Office will have to work together in order to identify how money is laundered, how those can be recovered, and how money laundering can be prevented,

the attorney general said.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Barrister Safique Ahmed told The Daily Star that the government will act according to the advice of the Attorney General's Office in order to recover the laundered money.

Meanwhile, immediate past attorney general Salah Uddin Ahmed, who dealt with a visiting foreign delegation in connection with the investigation till yesterday, denied media reports claiming he had said the amount of the recovery is likely to be one billion

Monday that the delegation traced \$200 million dollars of the laundered money, and the amount might even rise upon further investigation," Salah Uddin said.

Meanwhile, FBI's Washington Field Office is investigating the cases in cooperation with Bangladesh law enforcing agencies.

US embassy sources said FBI officials work independently and usually do not discuss with any embassy official anything related to the investigations. According to the embassy sources the delegation was still in Dhaka yester-

The Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) of the US makes it illegal to bribe foreign officials to get business contracts. The US government is willing to help the Bangladesh government recover the laundered money under that law.

FROM PAGE 16

Court-5 handed down the sentence against the convict vesterday for not submitting his wealth statement.

Soon after the judgement, Taimur, also a BNP leader, appealed to the court for a sentence of RI instead of simple imprisonment saying that he could avail better benefits while in jail custody from RI.

The judge, after some consultation, however refused this appeal telling the convict that it is not possible to sentence him otherwise at this stage.

The judge while handing down the sentence said that the prosecution had proved the charges brought against the accused beyond doubt. The punishment would be counted from the day of Taimur's arrest, he added.

Earlier the court recorded statements of 12 prosecution witnesses including complainant of the case.

The prosecution alleged that Taimur failed to submit his wealth statement to the ACC even after being served with a notice on November 15, 2007.

Later, ACC Deputy Assistant Director Abdul Kader Jilani filed the case against Taimur with Lalbagh Police Station on August 4, 2008. He was shown arrested in the case on Augus 25, 2008.

The investigation office pressed charges against Taimur on November 2 the same year.

The joint forces arrested Taimur, also general secretary of Narayanganj district BNP, or April 18, 2007 on charges of corruption.

Eight cases were filed against him on different charges with different police stations on different dates.

First admin

FROM PAGE 1

Haq as director general at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Her appointment is for two years.

Earlier, Director General (DG) of the Directorate of Primary Education Nazrul Islam Khan was made Private Secretary-1 to the prime min-

DG of Informal Education Bureau Shyamol Kanti Ghose replaced Nazrul Islam Khan.

Retired deputy secretary Selina Khatun was appointed yesterday as personal secretary-2 to the PM.

The government also made nine officials of the rank of joint secretary officers on special duty (OSDs) and placed them in the establish ment ministry, sources in the ministry told The Daily Star yesterday.

OSDs not as punishment but for training at the National Defence College," said an official.

Bangladesh Civil Service, Ali Kabir was sent into forced retirement by the previous BNP-led coalition government while he was joint secretary. Before that, he was made OSD, and remained so for a few years.

Kabir had filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging his forced retirement He was later reinstated by the caretaker government, and promoted to the post of addi-

tional secretary Meanwhile, Helauddin Mohammad Bhuiyan, deputy director of Bangladesh Government Press, has been made secretary of Mongla Port

Authority. Establishment ministry sources said more changes and appointments in the administration are in the

offing.

Padma Bridge

An estimated Tk 10,161 crore will be spent on the Padma Bridge, which will be the longest bridge in the country with 5.58km length and 25m width, he added.

office, Abul Hossain announced that he would take steps or priority basis to construct bridge on the Padma.

Yesterday he said the prime minister asked him to finish the construction of the bridge

to finish appointment of a design consultant by this month," he added.

The bridge on the Padma connecting Mawa in Munshiganj with Jazira in Madaripur is also likely to contribute hugely to the functioning of the Mongla Port in

cargo ships owing to poor communications. As per the initial proposal, the bridge will have a rail line that will eventually become part of a proposed trans-Asian rai

The decision to construct the bridge was taken back in

2001 but dilly-dally over selecting the construction sites delayed the process. Communications ministry

officials said the government is negotiating with donors like the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation for financial assistance for constructing the bridge.

Ex-BRTC boss Israeli airstrikes

FROM PAGE 1

Israel's war to put an end to Hamas rocket fire from the Gaza Strip entered its 18th day, but he could not elaborate.

Israel's military chief says his troops have inflicted damage on Hamas in the Gaza Strip but will continue fighting to achieve

Lt Gen Gabi Ashkenazi says soldiers are doing "exceptional work" and that Hamas fighters, infrastructure and government institutions in the territory have been dealt a serious blow. Witnesses said Israeli special

forces advanced into the southern Gaza City neighbourhood of Tal Al-Hawa after midnight (2200 GMT Monday) and were ambushed by Palestinian fight-

Subsequently, Israeli tanks pushed into the district and opened fire, supported by aerial bombing

Hamas's armed wing, the Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, said fighters had knocked out two Israeli tanks in Gaza City's Zeitun neighbourhood with rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), a claim denied by Israel.

"Tanks have entered Tal al-Hawa, Ash Sheikh Ajlin and Zeitun neighbourhoods further than before" in the war, an AFP correspondent said. "The airplanes are bombing and the tanks are shelling."

Palestinian fighters responded to the advancing tanks with mortar fire, he said to the sound of explosions in the background, as bright blasts lit up the night sky.

Medics said one Palestinian was killed by tank fire in Zeitun. It was not clear whether the victim was a fighter or civilian.

And witnesses said three people were hurt when an airstrike destroyed a house in Gaza City's Sheikh Radwan district.

On Monday, residents said Israeli tanks punched their way into the southern rim of Gaza City, advancing several hundred metres (yards) into Ash Sheikh Ajlin, Zeitun and Tuffah, where the sound of gunfire echoed.

"We are tightening the encirclement of the city," the offensive's commander, Brigadier Eyal Eisenberg, told reporters. "We are not static. We are careful to be constantly on the move."

Heavy fighting was also reported early on Tuesday in Beit Lahiya and Jabaliya, just to the north of Gaza City, and around the city of Khan Yunis, some 20 kilometres (12 miles) to

the south. Witnesses said Israeli special forces tried to enter the village of Khuzaa, southeast of Khan Yunis and close to the Israeli border, but were driven back after being ambushed. Tanks

later shelled the village. Hamas said a number of soldiers died in the assault on Khuzaa, but an army spokesman said there were no reports of Israeli troops killed.

Khuzaa was the scene of tank fire on Sunday that killed a woman and wounded at least 60

other people. Doctors said 55 of them suffered injuries from white phosphorous shells, banned under international law for use in civilian areas.

At the time, an army spokeswoman said: "There is no use of white phosphorous. Everything we use is according to international law."

Warplanes on Monday hit more than 60 targets, including 20 weapons-smuggling tunnels in Rafah, on the Egyptian border, and nine rocket launch sites, a military spokesman said.

Witnesses said air strikes on Rafah were continuing into early Tuesday.

The war to force Hamas to stop firing rockets on southern Israel erupted on December 27 with an intensive bombing campaign that was widened a week later with a ground assault on the narrow, densely popu-

lated Gaza Strip. More than 900 Palestinians have been killed in the onslaught.

Meanwhile, envoys of the militant Palestinian Hamas are continuing talks in Cairo with officials on an Egyptian truce proposal for the embattled Gaza Strip where the Israeli offensive is in its third week.

The talks Tuesday follow diplomatic efforts that have made little concrete progress in reconciling key differences between Israel and the militant Palestinians.

A three-member Hamas delegation from the group's exiled leadership in Syria returned to Cairo from Damascus late Monday for more talks.

The UN Security Council has already passed a resolution calling for a cease-fire. Ban was headed to the Mideast on Tuesday to enforce the measure. Speaking at UN headquar-

ters in New York on Monday, Ban said he has been on the phone constantly with top officials in the Middle East, Europe and the United States promoting the cease-fire. But he said phone calls are not a substitute for direct talks with leaders who have influence on the parties. "To both sides, I say: Just

stop, now," the UN chief said. "Too many people have died. There has been too much civilian suffering. Too many people, Israelis and Palestinians, live in daily fear of their lives." The secretary-general said

he plans to meet senior officials in Egypt and Jordan on Wednesday, then head to Israel, the West Bank, Turkey, Lebanon, Syria and Kuwait.

The fighting has raised concerns about a looming humanitarian disaster in Gaza, where hundreds of thousands of people are without power and running water. The Israeli army said about 100 truckloads of humanitarian aid, including wheat, flour and medical supplies, were expected to be let into the territory on Tuesday.

India may snap

FROM PAGE 16 Chidamabaram said Islamabad has provided "nothing" so far after New Delhi handed over a dossier of

evidence linking elements within that country to the Mumbai terror attacks of November 26. Asked what Pakistan was doing to help with the investi-

Zero. What have they provided? Nothing." In Islamabad Pakistan Premier Yousuf Raza Gilani yesterday claimed that the material provided by India on the Mumbai attacks constituted "information" and not evidence and said that "pragmatic cooperation" was the

the 26/11 terror attacks. "All that has been received formally from India is some information. I say information because these are not the evidence. This needs to be carefully examined," he said while making a statement in the National Assembly on the dossier on the Mumbai attacks handed over to Pakistan by

Pakistan, he said, had already assured India of full cooperation in tracking down the perpetrators of the Mumbai attacks.

New Delhi.

He also referred to Pakistan's proposal for conducting a joint investigation with India into the incident. "India has, however, not responded to our proposal. We hope they will see merit in it and accept a joint inquiry," Gilani told the lower house of Parliament.

"Serious, sustained and pragmatic cooperation is the

FROM PAGE 16

Mahmudullah Riyad who seats won by the political parties

returned to the national fold after an impressive performance with the bat in the National Cricket League. Sri Lanka confirmed their

final berth after a massive 130run victory against Zimbabwe while a win by any margin will put the home team in the final as the Tigers are enjoying a slightly better run-rate than the Africans.

State-run Bangladesh Television (BTV) will telecast the match live from 9am.

way forward. The information provided by India on January 5, 2009, has been sent to the Ministry of Interior for necessary inquiry in accordance with the law," he said.

"The results of the inquiry will be shared with the government of India in due course of time." Gilani had earlier ruled out handing over any Pakistani national found to be linked to the Mumbai attacks to India or any other country. Such suspects will be tried in the country according to Pakistani laws, he had said

The dossier handed over by India to Pakistan includes the confession of Pakistani terrorist Ajmal Amir Iman Kasab, the lone gunman captured during the Mumbai attacks, and intercepts of phone conversations between the attackers and their Pakistan-based handlers.

Meanwhile, British Foreign Secretary David Miliband said vesterday the Pakistan state had not directed the attacks on Mumbai, but urged Islamabad to fulfil its promise to root out Islamic militant groups.

Voter list

yet to think of union parishad elections. "EC would not start updat-

ing the voter list in February on schedule as the commission will have to remain busy in The election commissioner

to sit with the total members. He said the 45 members seats reserved for women will be elected in proportion to the

in the general election and added that the process of electing MPs for the reserved seats will have to be completed within 90 days of publishing the satisfaction over holding the

Monday's polls in Noakhali-1 constituency, deferred following the death of grand-alliance candidate Nurul Islam, in a free and fair manner. "We are yet to receive any allegation in writing regarding vote rigging." he

Swechchhasebak Dal, Tanti Dal, Olama Dal and Matsyajibi Dal.

upazila committees," he said. The central committee of Sramik Dal led by its president Nazrul Islam Khan and general secretary Zafrul Hasan Khan was

would be reorganised soon.

December 29 election as a BNP candidate but was defeated. "The chairperson might announce the new committee soon as the tenure of the present

running under expired committees. He told The Daily Star that they would start activities to reorganise the organisation after receiving official order from the BNP chairperson.

associate bodies," he said.

FROM PAGE 1

October 3 last year and were joined by those in Jatrabari market a day later. The market monitoring taskforce comprising Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), police and BDR personnel was with-

drawn on September 30.

ber of the taskforce and commander of BDR's Dal Bhat programme, told The Daily Star that they detected Koyeli a few days after their deployment at markets.

Col Mujibul Haque, mem-

keeping watch on the markets, the Aratdars could not realise toll from the retail traders. Retailers said during the 13 months the difference between wholesale and retail prices was small, but the gap widened

after Eid-ul-Fitr last year.

He said as long as they were

Hatirpul kitchen market said he has to charge a customer an additional Tk 3-4 on a cauliflower for the Koyeli system. Hasan, a shop-owner at Shanir Akhra kitchen market, said for vegetables worth around Tk 7,000, he has to

spend around Tk 350 in Koyeli.

And he can't help making his

customers pay for the extras.

A vegetables trader at

Talking to The Daily Star correspondents, retailers at Karwan Bazar, Jatrabari, Shyambazar, and other markets complained about having to pay the illegal toll.

Sources said goods worth

around Tk 8 crore are traded

every day at Karwan Bazar and

Jatrabari markets.

Fruit and vegetables valued between Tk 40,000 and Tk 5 lakh are sold a day at each of around 600 small and large warehouses at Karwan Bazar. Each of 410 warehouses at

Jatrabari market sees sale of produce worth between Tk 20,000 and Tk 1 lakh a day. Most of the city dwellers depend on these three markets for fruit and vegetables. Besides, these markets supply

greengrocery to at least 20 districts. There are however a few warehouses where no Koyeli is taken.

Aratdars at Karwan Bazar and Jatrabari kitchen markets take 10 percent commission from a retailer's purchase, said sources. For some vegetables, the Koyeli is 6.25 percent, while for

a few others the charge comes

at Tk 2 for sale of every 5 kg of

For most of the vegetables,

goods sold. Retailers said on an average they have to pay toll amounting to five percent on what they pay to wholesalers. At Shyambazar, only a few

vegetables warehouse operators take toll from buyers. However, the fruit store operators there take up to 10 percent of the wholesale price in Koyeli. Haggling between retailers and Aratdars over Koyeli is an

everyday scene at the markets. The retailers even brought out

processions in October last year against the toll collection. Aratdars at Karwan Bazar Jatrabari and Shyambazar said they had the Koyeli system since the markets opened. They said the taskforce's

had cost them dearly.

survival of Karwan Bazar Arat Bhaban, told The Daily Star that they do not take toll from retail buyers. However, he said, they charge

He added that the other

with DCC mayor and other

measures, there have not been

November 11 last year and

mented less, would be toglobaleconomic recession. Robin said he had

Abdul Latif Mia, president

about 9:00am when the fog Speaking to The Daily Star disappeared, said Abdus Sattar, marine officer of BIWTC at Aricha sector. Rajbari adds: Daulatdia BIWTC officer Arpan Kumar Chandra said six out of 10 ferries are now operational.

assured them of immediate

FROM PAGE 16 FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile, Bangladesh to get the laundered money

standings are reached with the countries where the money is deposited, then the procedure for recovery can be deter-A team from Bangladesh

ernment, he said.

government was committed to

fulfil the hopes and aspirations of

of Awami League alone, it is the

government of all people," he

take up the matter of the Right to

Information Ordinance 2008

with Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina so that it can be promul-

criticism from both the print and

electronic media but did not say

anything regarding the 'black

laws' some of the senior journal-

ists raised questions about

drawn to the killings of and

repression on journalists in the

past, the minister assured proper

of different newspapers, televi-

sion channels and news agen-

cies raised various issues, includ-

ing harassment of journalists,

government advertisements

and payments and the difficul-

eminent columnist ABM Musa

requested the minister not to

depend on bureaucrats in dis-

Anam said, "We are both your

friends as well as your critics.

Cheated workers

"We were given minimal food

just for survival. We com-

plained to our embassy after a

few weeks and to the Ministry

of Manpower of Singapore but

nothing happened," the hap-

Manpower then arranged air

ticket for the workers of

Bangladesh so that they can

workers of their group came

back home for similar reasons.

The agent also gradually can-

cels work permits of others, he

coordinator of Singapore

Bangladesh Samity, an NGO

registered in Singapore, said

small groups so that no one can

know the way of their cheat-

ing," Adnan said while talking

victims of unscrupulous man-

Ministry Secretary Abdul

Matin Chowdhury, however,

into the matter seriously if

Expatriates' Welfare

He said they would look

power syndicates, she said.

to The Daily Star yesterday.

unemployed workers.

Sultana Adnan, welfare

Sayeed said around 50 other

The Singapore Ministry of

Addressing the meeting,

ties in getting information.

charging his duties.

run by bureaucrats.

FROM PAGE 16

less worker said.

return home, he said.

added.

Editors and senior journalists

investigations of the incidents.

When his attention was

He sought constructive

This is not the government

Azad also said that he would

FROM PAGE 16

gated into an act.

during the meeting.

the people.

Info minister

you carry out your duties." News Today Editor Reazuddin Ahmed called on the minister to promulgate the right to information ordinance into an act after ncessary amendments. He also requested him to take

Editor of The Independent Mahbubul Alam, Amar Desh Editor Ataus Samad, Editor of Prothom Alo Motiur Rahman, Advisory Editor of Janakantha Toab Khan, noted journalist Golam Sarwar, Khabarpatra Editor Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Observer Editor Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Samokal Editor Abed Khan, New Age Editor Nurul Kabir, Manabzamin Editor Motiur Rahman Chowdhury and Naya Diganta Editor Alamgir Mohiuddin, Bhorer Kagoj Editor Shyamal Dutta, Jugantar Editor Salma Islam, Inquilab Editor AMM Bahauddin, Amader Samoy

Imrose Khalidi attended the meet, among others. Information Secretary Jamil Osman, Press Secretary to Prime Minister Abul Kalam Azad and Principal Information Officer

One held He also asked the minister to 'reinstate' the autonomy of institutions like the Press FROM PAGE 16 Council which were made autonomous but are still being inside the bank The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz

present.

Please keep that in mind while away the money from there. the case, said they arrested one of the suspects in the crime--Saidul alias Abul-- at Karwan Bazar. They made the arrest following confession of Liton,

> while fleeing the bank after the snatching, he added. The IO claimed that Tk 30,000 was recovered from the

Assistant Superintendent of

tigating it.

the bank are involved in the some charity groups have been providing food assistance to a crime. number of such groups of Officials at IFIC bank said they have four security guards at Dhanmondi branch-- two of "The manpower agents are them are employees of the very clever. They cancel the bank and two others are from a valid work permits of the workers in phases and send them in

Referring to an official of bank. Bangladesh embassy in In reply to question, the manager also said their secu-Singapore, she said there are rity guards are supposed to around 10,000 jobless safeguard properties of the Bangladeshi workers in bank, and it is not their duty to Singapore now. They were the keep watch on the clients.

said joblessness occurred due escaped in broad daylight. assured of recovering the money and arresting the gang complaints are made in this members as one of them was caught with his mobile phone.

"They have been made

A 1979 recruit in

(PIO) Iftekhar Hossain were also

FROM PAGE 16

Immediately after assuming

before expiry of the Awami League government so that it can inaugurate the bridge. "The PM has instructed me

Bagerhat, the second seaport of the country that fails to attract

gation, Chidambaram said:

way forward for dealing with

FROM PAGE 1

holding the polls," he said. said parliament would be formed with its 345 members (including 45 reserved seats for women) but it is not mandatory

Sohul Hussain expressed

11 BNP bodies

cil in 2006 but could not hold it because of political crises. "We will seek permission

from madam [Khaleda] for the national council just after completing councils of some expired district committees, Shamsuzzaman Dudu, general Fazlul Haque Milon, general

secretary of Swechchhasebak Dal, could not remember when their committee with a two-year tenure was formed. The organisation's president, Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, is now busy as the BNP office secretary. Matsyajibi Dal President Rafiqul Islam Mahtab said if the

BNP chairperson approves, they would hold the organisation's council within two or three months. "We could not hold the council for various political crises but now we are taking steps to reorganise the organisation," he said. A convening committee of Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal led by Khurshid Jahan Haque was formed in 1996. Khurshid Jahan died towards the end of the BNP-

woman leaders of the party-Sarwari Rahman, Selima Rahman and Shirin Sultana--are also leading Mohila Dal. "There is no alternative to reorganising the organisation and we will take initiatives in this

regard after the upazila election," Shirin said. The central committee of the Jatiyatabadi Olama Dal with incumbent president Hafez Abdul Malek and general secretary Nesarul Haque was formed at the beginning of 2006.

"Dedicated leaders should be

evaluated for running the

organisation," Maulana Deen

Mohammad, Dhaka city unit president of the organisation, told The Daily Star. Jasas President Abdul Malek said the existing committee was formed about eight years ago. Despite the central committee's invalidity, many of the organisa-

tion's district units have valid

the committees from the grass-

roots level to the centre are

Malek said, adding that they

would implement all decisions

of Chairperson Khaleda Zia to

formed through councils,

"It will be a good decision if

committees, he claimed.

reorganise the organisation. Extortion back

> stopping Koyeli collection during the Ramadan in 2007 They claimed they have resumed it for the sake of their

store operators do take toll from retailers illegally. official of DCC market circle said, "We are too short of

high-ups In November and December, a group of retailers from across kitchen markets in the city met the DCC officials concerned and urged them to put an end to extortion. Though the officials

illegal practice.

January 12.

In interrogations, all four

reviewed. also approved three projects involving Tk 847 crore.

Pirojpur road | Hawa Bhaban

Although some newspapers published reports comprising names of some of the former

lipped about it till yesterday. The sources in the Attorney

Meanwhile, new Attorney

steps to scrap some 'black laws' existing in the country.

Editor Naimul Islam Khan and bdnews24.com editor Toufique

if the snatching occurred But police and Rab officials said it is evident from the CCTV at the bank that the snatchers entered the bank and took Contacted yester day, Subinspector Atiqur Rahman of Dhanmondi Police Station, also investigation officer (IO) of

who was caught by pedestrians

possession of Saidul.

Rab-2 Ehasan Sattar, when contacted yesterday, said, "There is no development in the case concerning snatching of the money. Police are inves-He added, "Pedestrians caught Liton while he was fleeing, and later we handed him over to police...We have no idea whether any security

guards or other personnel of

private security company. Asked about the incident, Manager of the branch Harunur Rashid said, "We are not sure whether the money was snatched from inside the

Snatchers had taken away the money from Mohammad Ali, accounts manager of a private firm at Tejkunipara, from inside the bank in presence of its security guards and Law enforcers had earlier

"I told the media on