2 treaties penned

global mechanisms."

About the modalities of the

proposed taskforce, Dipu

Moni said Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina will discuss her

proposal with other countries

in the region as well, to figure

Indian journalist, she reiter-

Regarding border firings

and killings of Bangladeshi

farmers by Indian Border

Security Force (BSF),

Mukherjee said the issue was a

major ingredient in the 'plan

of action' of Bangladesh Rifles

(BDR) and BSF during a talk

between their chiefs, and they

were expected to find a way to

Bangladeshi journalist on

trade gap between the two

countries, he said he is aware

of the imbalance, and every

time the two sides discussed

the issue they tried to explore

minister I can respectfully tell

you there is no mechanism

through which bilateral trade

between two countries, in

respect of each and every

country, could be balanced. It

is not possible," the Indian

senior minister said adding,

reduce the gap and to keep it

Bangladesh and India have a

trade gap of about \$2 billion a

acting as the prime minister of

India now, during Manmohan

Sheikh Hasina yesterday

before departing at night.

tion of their studentship.

Our Mymensingh

Correspondent reports:

Students of Mymensingh

Polytechnic Institute vanda-

lised windowpanes of several

rooms of the college protest-

ing the change in the examina

The agitating students also

put up a barricade on the

Dhaka-Mymensingh highway

disrupting vehicular move-

ment for about two hours

While contacted, principal

dent that the students became

agitated as they misunder-

Police were deployed on

Our Chittagong University

the campus to avert any unto-

Correspondent adds:

Students of Chittagong

Polytechnic Institute put up a

barricade on the city's Bayezid

Bostami Road for an hour

demanding cancellation of

serious tailback on both sides

of the road for an hour much

to the sufferings of the city

hundred students of the

Institute set a tire on fire on the

situation under control at

around 2.00pm and eased the

traffic movement on the road.

Staff Correspondent of

Students demanded imme-

The acting principal while

Earlier on Sunday, at least

diate scrapping of the new

provision that had cancelled

the referred examination

receiving the memo told

students that he would bring

the matter to the notice of the

30 students and police were

injured at KPI as students

went on a rampage in demand

of scrapping the new provi-

Chairman of the BTEB.

system.

Sources said around two

The barricade resulted in a

the new examination rule.

ward incident.

commuters.

the BTEB decision.

tion rules.

Pranab Mukherjee, who is

within a manageable limit.

But surely it is possible to

Being a former trade

ways for reducing the gap.

Replying to question by a

evade deaths at the border.

stand against terrorism.

asserted Dipu Moni.

Replying to a question of an

those out.

Bangladesh and India will from now on consider each other the most favoured nation (MFN).

Under the renewed bilateral trade agreement signed between Bangladesh Commerce Minister Faruk Khan and Mukherjee for three more years, both countries will now be able to use each other's waterways, roadways, and railways for transportation of goods between two places in one country through the territory of the other.

Bangladesh government high officials said if the treaty originally signed in 1980 is implemented, not only India will be benefited in transportstates, but Bangladesh will boost by being able to use the

place in Hotel Sheraton of the capital after Mukherjee had formal talks with his counter-Sahara Khatun.

talks they had a comprehensive discussion on how Bangladesh and India can move forward.

She said they discussed practical ways for promoting economic relations, two-way trade, reduction of trade gap,

ment, and people-to-people contact.

"Our discussions on connectivity related issues were constructive where we shared our views on the matter with specific focus on our national interests," Dipu Moni told a

She also said, "We shared our ideas of a South Asian task force that can be useful in promoting cooperation to complement independent national actions of all willing countries joining the task

She said she also categorically assured her counterpart that 'Bangladesh will not countenance any anti-Indian activity by elements inimical to the interests of India using

The Bangladesh foreign minister also sought India's cooperation against elements who are trying to harm her country.

Dipu Moni hoped Mukherjee's visit will open a new phase of coordination and cooperation between the two countries on a whole range of bilateral, regional and international issues.

to congratulate the people of Bangladesh, but also carrying a message from the Indian she said.

Dipu Moni and Sahara Khatun ter said they discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations.

"Our relations have wit- stood the decision taken by the recent past," he told the briefing, adding India as a friendly neighbour remains committed to supporting the people of Bangladesh, and to strengthening its relationship

"Today we signed two agreements, one on bilateral trade and the other on bilateral trade promotion and protection. These will further the two countries."

On connectivity. Mukherjee said both countries are undertaking several initiatives to improve infrastructure including customs stations, roads, railways and river routes to facilitate k eater economic engagement. He urged the private sector of both countries to seize the opportunities.

He said an area of concern for both countries is to combat growing extremism and terrorism in the region.

Khulna reports: As many as 100 students of Khulna Polytechnic Institute (KPI) "Closer cooperation on security issue is the need of the submitted a memorandum to hour. We should move to its acting principal Kumaresh address the issue with an Chandra Palat at 10:30am understanding, so both the yesterday in his office.

long run," he observed. response to Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's initiative for a South Asian anti-terrorism taskforce, Mukherjee said as far as the concept of the taskforce is concerned, there are already certain regional and interna-

tional mechanisms in place.

adding that earlier BNP had demanded three more seats in rorism. It can be achieved if we the front row on the left of the House chair's podium. have bilateral, regional and Asked if he would come up

Mukherjee also said if there is inability, incapability and unwillingness to tackle terrorism, then the problem arises, and architectural framework does not stand in the way of need to do to be specific?" fighting terrorism, whether it The immediate past speaker is bilateral, multi-lateral or

Jamiruddin Sircar, gave the opposition MPs all 10 front-row seats. All 12 seats in the next row too were allocated to the lawmakers from BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami and Jatiya Party of Bangladesh (BJP).

treasury bench, Hamid made some changes to the seat plans drawn up without taking into account the ruling alliance's proposals.

ated her government's firm He set aside four seats in the first row for the opposition "We will not allow anyone lawmakers including Oli Ahmed, to use our territory to harm the lone MP from Liberal anyone in the region. If we Democratic Party (LDP). He gave have concrete information we them as many seats in the secwill definitely act on it,' ond row.

In protest at the rearrangement, the lawmakers belonging to BNP and allies came out of the legislature.

"The speaker assured us Sunday that he would consider increasing the number of frontrow seats for us, but he did not specifically say whether the seat map would be reverted," Faruq said at the press briefing.

The opposition chief whip said they had discussed the speaker's assurance with Chairperson Khaleda Zia and other senior leaders including Khandaker Delwar Hossain and

"We are not convinced by his assurance," Faruk said adding that they never said three more seats in the front row would do.

Speaker Abdul Hamid however maintains that the opposition demanded three more front-row seats, and in reply he seats in the leading row.

do something for them in the next session. If possible, I'll do it in the current session," he said yesterday.

Meanwhile, Faruk said he talked to Chief Whip of Parliament Abdus Shahid yesterday morning, but could not get any satisfactory response to their demand.

Singh's recovery from a sur-Boy killed gery, also called on Bangladesh Prime Minister

Akhtarul Islam, 6, son of Alamgir Hossain, Aziur Rahman, 10, son of Felanur, and Rozina Khatun were admitted to the upazila health complex with bullet wounds.

Police arrested hunter Saidur, gun owner Shawkat Osman and co-hunter Abdur Rahman along with the .22 bore rifle.

While contacted, Police Super Abu Kalam Siddique

"Peace will have to be established to alleviate poverty and for this, terrorism, militancy and smuggling must have to be curbed," Azad quoted her as saying.

The PM also sought cooperation of other South Asian nations for commissioning the taskforce.

United efforts are necessary

The meeting discussed bilateral issues of the two countries and emphasised strengthening relations between them.

Hasina told Pranab that Bangladesh always remembers India's contribution to its Liberation War in 1971. She also paid rich tributes to those Indian soldiers who made supreme sacrifice for the inde-

The prime minister thanked the Indian acting premier for signing two trade and investment agreements with

Hasina for securing landslide victory in the December 29 parliamentary election, sources present at the meeting told The Daily Star.

He also exchanged greetroad at around 1.00 pm to ings with Hasina's sister Sheikh register their protest against Rehana, daughter Saima Wazed Putul and other family Later, police brought the members.

Earlier, the PM received the Indian minister on his arrival at Jamuna at 5:00PM after official talks with his Bangladesh counterpart Dr Dipu Moni.

Pranab was accompanied by Indian Foreign Secretary Shiv Shankar Menon and Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Pinak Ranjan Chakrabarty.

attended by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Hasan Mahmud, State Minister for Home Tanjim Ahmed Sohel Taj, Foreign Secretary M Touhid Hossain and Secretary of the PM's Office Kazi Aminul Islam. MEETING WITH KHALEDA NOTHELD

Pranab Mukherjee said he could not meet the leader of the opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia for lack of time.

He made the remarks at a joint press conference yester-Dipu Moni.

6,000 cases

filed with political motive during the BNP-led govern-

The home minister however did not respond to the allegations against the members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) of torturing people and

interfering in matters related to land. During the question answer-session, AL lawmaker

Golam Faruk Prince alleged that Rab set up a torture cell at Pabna stadium and demanded removal of the Rab camp from there so that locals can use the swimming pool. Another AL lawmaker Ekabbar Hossain alleged that

ency are interfering in disputes related to land. He questioned whether Rab has jurisdiction to do so. In response to Ekabbar, the

Rab members in his constitu-

home minister said she needs a notice to reply the question.

Taking floor to raise a supplementary question, another AL lawmaker asked the home minister whether her ministry will investigate the allegation of corruption in purchasing vehicles for Rab. The lawmaker alleged that the BNPled government purchased vehicles worth Tk 450 crore for Rab. The price of each vehicle was shown Tk 18 lakh against the actual price of Tk 10 lakh he alleged. On review of the cases, the

home minister said due to principle of estoppel it is difficult for the government to revive a case withdrawn by the government and it is accepted by the court.

"However, any aggrieved person can seek remedy from the court," the minister asserted, adding, "Appropriate actions will also be taken if any person aggrieved by the withdrawal of the cases files complaints."

Replying to queries, the minister assured the House of taking stern action to curb terrorism and militancy as the government is giving top priority on the issues.

"Formulating a strategy paper on curbing terrorism is underway," she added.

The minister said the government has planned to appoint an additional superintendent of police (ASP) in each upazila and police station. At the initial stage, the officers-in-charge of the police stations under all metropolitan cities, district headquarters and some upazilas adjacent to Dhaka city will be promoted to the post of ASP.

New posts of ASP in the rest of the upazilas will be created and the government will implement the plan by 2011 by creating 358 posts, the minis-

FROM PAGE 16 "We had asked all publishers to sell all their books by 7:00pm. After the deadline, if any book is found in any warehouse, we against the people responsi-

Rezaur Rahman of Rab-10 said, "We conducted raids in at least 50 book stores, found irregularemployees.

from customers," he said. NCTB officer Ziaul Hasan said they would go for punitive actions against publishers and book sellers who are involved

complete their printing jobs. For this they could not get the 78 lakh textbooks on the market by February 7, a deadline set by the NCTB.

Publishers yesterday said they printed only 48 lakh textbooks and five to seven more days are required for the rest to be printed.

Ireasury bench

FROM PAGE 1 lawmakers to be included in the committees," Abdus Shahid told The Daily Star yesterday.

On receiving the letters, the opposition chief whip said they want to send names to be

included in the committees. "But before that, the ruling party will have to assure us that they would not change our proposals," Faruk told report-

ers yesterday. About offering the chief posts of four standing committees, the opposition chief whip said the ruling party will have to inform them the names of the standing committees of which chief posts will be offered to the opposition.

In the letters, Abdus Shahid asked the opposition to propose name of a lawmaker for the committees that will consist of 10 to 12 members while names of two lawmakers for the committees having 15 members. If the formation of the

standing committees is completed in the inaugural session, then it will be a record in the history of parliamentary democracy since its restoration in 1991. As all previous parliaments took one-and-a-half year to two years to complete the formation of the crucial standing committees through which the House can ensure executive transparency and accountability.

ter added.

NEWS

On the much-talked-about case of 10 truckloads of arms recovered in Chittagong, Sahara said the case is under the stage of further investigation on directive of the court. "The case will be sent to the speedy trial tribunal on completion of the investigation, she added.

In response to another query, the home minister said a process is underway to legally recognise finger prints, leg prints, spit, DNA, etc as objective evidence to track criminals before the court. FOREIGN MINISTER

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni yesterday told the House the government has taken steps to bring back the convicted and fugitive killers of Bangabandhu from abroad. "Information received

earlier on their whereabouts is being examined. Besides, initiative has been taken to collect information about their whereabouts through intelligence agencies," the foreign minister said in her written response.

But the question was not discussed in the House due to her absence during the time when the specific question was scheduled to be raised. Asked whether extradition

treaty will be singed to bring back the killers, the minister said it is a lengthy and complicated process. "We'll open negotiations

with the governments of the respective countries after being confirmed of the killers' whereabouts," she added.

75pc complaints

FROM PAGE 16 The survey revealed that 47 percent of the clients do not get their bills from Wasa on time and many of them complained that Wasa gives three or four months' bill at one go which often puts them in difficulty.

Around 60 percent said they now use more water while 30 percent said their use of water has not increased.

Meanwhile, some residents of Dhaka, liker those of other cities, have been getting dirty and smelly water for the last two weeks, sources said.

Officials at Dhaka Wasa (Water Supply and Sewerage Authority) are blaming pollution in the river Balu and Shitalkhya for this. They say that they have to use more chemicals in the Syedabad water treatment plant due to the severity of water pollu-

Dhaka Wasa also fails to meet the water demand in the city as it still has a supplydemand deficit of around 40 crore litres a day.

26 Rohingyas

FROM PAGE 16 Amin, Khalilur Rahman, Badiul Alam, Md Alamgir, Nabi Hossain, Helal Uddin and Md Abdullah.

BDR Operation Officer of Teknaf 24 Rifles Battalion Major Helal Mohammad Khan said, the arrested Myanmar citizens were pushed back through the Naf river from Shah Parir Dwip at 3:00 am yesterday.

Confirming the incident, Sirajul Islam said all the arrested male Rohingyas were entering Bangladesh illegally to earn money.

FROM PAGE 16

military's weak points, the processing of the masses of civilians trying to flee the area. It also highlighted concerns that the rebels were trying to blend in with the civilian population, so they can fight on using insurgent

The military has said the flow of civilians out of the war zone has increased in recent days, with 4,700 fleeing Sunday, bringing the total number of noncombatants to escape the war zone to 20,000

the north severed, the rebels could not be reached for com-

The rebels have been accused of more than 200 suicide attacks and are listed as a terror group by the United States and the European Union.

fighting since 1983 for a separate state for the nation's ethnic Tamil minority after decades of marginalisation at the hands of governments controlled by the Sinhalese majority. More than 70,000 people have been killed in the fighting.

Nobel peace laureate Jose Ramos-Horta, the president of East Timor, called on both sides to agree to an immediate cease-fire, to allow aid groups and independent journalists full access to the conflict zone and to begin immediate talks for a political resolution to the conflict. He also offered himself as a potential

Also Monday, the air force hit a camouflaged building inland where the rebels' sea wing hid its craft, Nanayakkara said. "The placewas destroyed," he said.

A CORRESPONDENT, Jessore A BNP activist was beaten to death by extortionists at Jhinaikundu village in Chowgachha upazila in the district yesterday.

extortionists

The deceased was identified as Iman Ali, 45, a resident of the Jhinaikundu village.

killed by

Family members and local BNP leaders however alleged that the Awami League (AL) cadres beat him to death in broad daylight for a failing to payTk50,000 as toll. Abdul Mannan, organising secretary of upazila Jubo Dal.

said Iman went out of his

home for shopping in the morning. As he moved forward, AL cadres of the area swooped on him with iron rod and stick and injured him seriously, Mannan alleged. After the incident, Iman told the reporters the local AL cadres demanded TK 50,000

from him as toll a week ago, also adding that the goons beat him up in a planned way for his refusal. Iman was rushed to upazila

health complex. As his condi tion deteriorated, he was later shifted to Jessore General Hospital where he succumbed to his injury in the afternoon. Meantime, SM Habib,

AL, denied the allegation saying the murderers do not have any party identity. He also asked the police to

general secretary of upazila

arrest the criminals. Abdul Matin, officer incharge of Chowgachha Police Station, said they are yet to ascertain the motive behind the killing, adding that the police continued their efforts to arrest the attackers.

Funds misused in CG's 100-day job scheme

Alleges food minister STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government detected large-scale misuse of funds of the 100-day Employment Generation Programme launched in October last year, Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzak claimed yesterday.

The caretaker government launched the programme for the first time in the country allocating Tk 2,000 crore to create job opportunities during

"Though the programme had very good aspects we found large-scale misuse of fund that broke all previous records," he told reporters during a viewsexchange meeting at the ministry's conference room.

The government has already prepared an evaluation report on the programme but it did not reveal the findings.

A total of Tk 1,200 crore has been spent in the programme, Razzak said, adding that they are still in a dilemma on spend ing the rest of the fund as the experience so far was not good. He said there is a group of

corrupt people in the local government level and the administration is also involved with them. He also said government would soon start Food for Work

programme and if two programmes are executed simultaneously, it would create scopes for more misuse of 'We speak of strengthening the local government but it

does not mean they would not

be held accountable," Razzak

5 killed

FROM PAGE 1 Ayub and Rashid died on the spot while Moslem succumbed to his injuries at Ishwardi hospi-

tal in the afternoon. On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies. They also started raiding different areas of Char Kamalpur to nab the culprits.

Contacted, Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) of Ishwardi Anisuzzaman confirmed the death of five people in the clash. Some injured people fled to neighbouring Kushtia district to avoid arrest and two of them died there, he added.

But the ASP could not confirm the identity of the two deceased. He said the raid was still going on in the late afternoon

and the situation was now under control. Both the groups have a longstanding dispute over shoal land and tension mounted in the remote area following the clash, said Laxmikunda UP

chairman Torab Ali. Police superintendent of Pabna Md Jamil Ahmed also visited the scene of the clash.

However, the number of arrestees could not be known immediately. Additional police forces were deployed in the area to avert any untoward situation. However, there are different

versions about the identity of the rival groups. Loca Laxmikunda union parishad (UP) chairman Torab Ali claimed that the rival groups are the two factions of local Awami League. Another source, however, said Samad group belongs to AL while Kashem group belongs to BNP.

BNP activist DU student

FROM PAGE 1

The extortionists let Nazrul go home as he assured them of getting the money from his parents. Nazrul was too scared to inform the university authorities about the incident.

Nurul does not dare to send his precious son back to the university.

"I supported his studies amid hardship...just to see my son established. Now I would not let him study here. I have a piece of land and my son would work there," said Nurul Alam in his local dialect as tears rolled down his cheeks.

The Daily Star correspondent met Nurul in Madhur Canteen on campus. He came to Dhaka after one of Nazrul's friends requested him to make the journey and talk to journalists in Dhaka. Nurul left for Cox's Bazar last evening. He did not want to stay in Dhaka.

Talking over telephone, Nazrul told this correspondent the horrifying details. He said he was sleeping

that night but he woke up to his roommate Saiful's call. There was a group people in the room he did not know. He could only identify Raj, a "student" staying in the same One of them introduced

himself as a "crime reporter" and told him that they had come to conduct a search of the room as they received a tip Nazrul allowed them to

straight to his bed and brought out a bag from under his bed. Then they brought out a gun from the bag. Nazrul started panicking. The whole thing was filmed by one of the unidentified

people. The "crime reporter" then made a cellphone call and he was heard saying, "Hello, OC [Officer-in-charge] speaking? We found an illegal firearm and I would tell you the details

on a piece of paper that the ensure his security.

gun was found under his bed and he is involved in the mat-

Saiful then told Nazrul to get some money for the "crime reporter" and his gang to avert arrest. Nazrul was then tied to a chair and blindfolded. They told him that he has to provide Tk 1.5 lakh.

The gang then left the room

with the gun. Nazrul said he got scared and did not tell anyone about the incident and left the dormitory the very next day. He, however, informed the dormitory provost of the matter on

February 2 over telephone. Sources inside the dormitory said Saiful himself staged the whole thing with the help of Raj and non-student Sumon.

Saiful told The Daily Star correspondent that he along with some people talked to Nazrul that night. He claimed Nazrul owed him Tk 1.2 lakh.

He said he gave Nazrul the money during the tenure of the caretaker government. He claimed that the then agriculture adviser is a relative of Nazrul and he gave Nazrul the money to ensure a job for a relative of a friend. Nazrul refuted this and said

Saifur is lying and everything that had happened that night was planed ahead. Raj, whose full identity could not be confirmed, was found guilty of document

forgery during the DU admissearch the room. They went sion test last year. Kabi Jasim Uddin Hall Provost Prof Akhtaruzzaman said a notice has been issued to Saiful asking him why his studentship at the DU should not be revoked for terrorising a

student. Hearing about the incident from The Daily Star correspondent AAMS Arefin Siddique, vice-chancellor of DU, said he would take all necessary steps to bring Nazrul back to the university They forced Nazrul to write and the authorities will also

Arsonists' behind

FROM PAGE 16

almost certainly rise as they reached deeper into the disaster zone, and forecasters said temperatures would rise again later in the week, posing a risk of further flare-ups.

Police updated the death

toll late Monday to 135. In a sign of the nationwide impact of the tragedy, Parliament suspended normal sessions Monday to hear condolence speeches by legislators. The voices of many quavered with emotion. Some called it Australia's worst

peacetime disaster. Victoria Police Commissioner Christine Nixon said investigators had strong suspicions that at least one of the deadly blazes known as the Churchill fire after a ruined town was deliberately set. And it could not be ruled out for other fires. She cautioned against jumping to

conclusions. Police sealed off Maryville, a town destroyed by another fire, with checkpoints, telling residents who fled and news crews they could not enter because there were still bodies in the streets. Armed police moved through the shattered landscape taking notes, pool news

photographs showed. While Australia grapples with wildfires every year, deaths are rare and unheard of in this number. The country's deadliest fires before the current spate killed 75 people in 1983. In 2006, nine people died on South Australia's Eyre Peninsula.

surged and changed direction quickly time and again, fanning the blazes and making their direction utterly unpreute. Local media had been leading up to the weekend, but warning policies. many people guarding their "I think our policy has would have been outside when the wind changed, and thus could have missed the fresh warnings.

Evidence of heartwrenching loss abounded. From the air, the landscape was blackened as far as the eye could see. Entire forests were reduced to leafless, charred trunks, farmland to ashes. The Victoria Country Fire Service said some 850 square miles (2,200 kilometres) were burned

At Kinglake, a body covered by a white sheet lay in a yard where every tree, blade of grass and the ground was blackened. Elsewhere in the town, the burned out hulks of four cars were clustered haphazardly together after an apparent collision. Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio reported a car in a small reservoir, the driver apparently steering there in desperation.

"What we've seen, I think, is that people didn't have enough time, in some cases" Nixon told a news conference. "We're finding (bodies) on the side of

roads, in cars that crashed." John Handmer, a wildfire safety expert at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, said research had shown that people in the path

> "Fleeing at the last moment is the worst possible option, he said. "Sadly, this message does not seem to have been sufficiently heeded this weekend with truly awful conse-

of a blaze must get out early or

stay inside until the worst has

quences in Victoria. Even if a house is set ablaze, it will burn more slowly and with less intensity that a wildfire and residents have a better chance of escape, he said.

Extraordinary survival tales

Jack Barber described how he fled his house in Pheasant Creek near Kinglake with his wife and spent Saturday night on a sports field dodging flames that licked at them from

different directions as wind

were also told.

gusts blew around.

They drove out of the disaster zone to Wittlesea on Sunday. "There were dead horses, live horses, kangaroos bouncing down the road with flames

at their back. It was horrific," Barber said. Daryl Hogan of Wandong, 12 miles (20 kilometres) north of Wittlesea, said he leapt into his pool to escape the flames as they roared over his house,

leaving it unscarred but razing the neighbour's. Nine Network television reported that one woman, Nesh Sinclair, sheltered with But on Saturday, the wind her children in the burrow of a wombat as the worst of the fire

passed. Victoria state Premier John Brumby on Monday dictable from minute to min- announced a commission would be held to examine all issuing warnings in the days aspects of the fires, including

homes with backyard hoses served us well in what I call normal conditions. These were unbelievable circumstances," Brumby said on Australian Broadcasting Corp. television. Blazes have been burning

for weeks across several states in southern Australia. A longrunning drought in the south the worst in a century had left forests extra dry and Saturday's fire conditions in Victoria were said to be the worst ever in Australia. In New South Wales state on

Monday, a 31-year-old man appeared in court charged with arson in connection to a wildfire that burned north of Sydney at the weekend. No loss of life was reported there. He faces up to 10 years in prison. SC hearing

FROM PAGE 16 Islam and Kamruzzaman

Bhuiyan on Sunday filed the

petition to allow them to appear as interveners to place arguments at the Appellate Division against the HC verdict. Advocate Tajul Islam moved

the petition.

foreign minister, adding FROM PAGE 1 "What is more important is the in the morning. With Bipa signed, sincerity to fight against ter-

ing goods to its north-eastern also have a huge economic territory of India to reach Nepal and Bhutan with its goods. The signing ceremony took

part Dipu Moni, and Bangladesh Home Minister Dipu Moni said during the

and increasing investment. The Indian foreign minister said they talked about security, border management, strengthening of connectivity, promoting trade and invest-

joint media conference.

Bangladesh territory'.

"He has come here not only

from 10:30am to 12:30pm. On Prime Minister Manmohan information, a team of Kotwali Singh for our prime minister, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under Terming the talks with control. very fruitful, the Indian minisof the college Md Abdur Razzaq told this correspon-

nessed an upwards showing in the BTEB. with the country.

strengthen the framework for trade and investment between

countries are benefited in the Asked about India's

He said he discussed the architecture of the proposed regional joint anti-terror taskforce with the Bangladesh

Sangsad stuck FROM PAGE 1

"If that is their demand now, the motive is pretty obvious," he said

with any "specific announcement", he said, "I've repeatedly requested them to join parliament. I've assured them I'll consider their demand for more front-row seats. What else do I

In response to calls from the

Moudud Ahmed.

assured them of one or two more "I told them categorically I'll

"He [Shahid] only echoed the speaker's views," he observed.

confirmed the incident. Dhaka, Delhi FROM PAGE 1

to tackle the problems in the region, the Indian minister said.

pendence of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh. Pranab congratulated

The meeting was also

day with Foreign Minister

Textbook

would go for tough action On selling books at higher prices, Flight Lieutenant

ities and detained the store We forced reluctant book sellers to sell books and return the extra money they had taken

in the irregularities. Most publishers failed to

this year, Nanayakkara said. With most communication to ment

The Tamil Tigers have been

mediatorifneeded.

The military also reported killing 34 rebels who tried to break through the front lines Saturday in an armoured truck