2009 'very dangerous' for economy: WB

World Bank president Robert Zoellick said Friday that 2009 was turning into "a very dan-

G20 finance ministers meeting on how best to tackle the worst economic slowdown in

"I believe it will be a positive sign if the G20 supports extended IMF resources, condemns protectionism and supports practical solutions," Zoellick said.

Group of Seven industrialised countries -- Britain, Canada, and the United States -- the European Union and leading developing nations including measures. Brazil, China and India.

United States and Europe go deeply divided on whether stimulus packages or tighter regulation of the finance sector should be the way forward.

Horsham, near London, is expected to lay the groundwork for a G20 heads of state summit on April 2.

running out of constructive tools, they might start to point fingers and take protectionist and isolationist actions and those are the negative spiral of events you saw in the (19)30s," Zoellick added on Friday.

warning in an interview that growth in the world economy would likely fall by up to 2.0 percent this year.

Zoellick believes the out-

carried an interview with him. While the United States, the world's biggest economy, wants a coordinated international stimulus to fight the slowdown, some in Europe are suspicious of such a move and "2009 is shaping up to be a favour tightening regulation

of markets and institutions. In a boost for the United States -- Japan and China, the world's second and third largest economic powerhouses -- also embraced

There have been public clashes in the last week on the best way forward, suggesting progress at the G20 finance ministers' talks on Saturday The G20 includes the could be hampered by disagreement.

German Chancellor Angela France, Germany, Italy, Japan Merkel reiterated Friday that she did not favour a new package of economic stimulus

"We do not think much of Finance ministers and the idea of a new package of central bank leaders from the measures" to underpin the economy, Merkel told a press into Saturday's meeting conference in southern Munich after a meeting with employers.

Meanwhile a US proposal to substantially raise the IMF's resources signals a strong Saturday's gathering in move in Washington toward multilateralism by the Obama administration in the face of

US Treasury Secretary "If the leaders feel they are Timothy Geithner on Wednesday said he would recommend to the Group of 20 leading nations that they support "substantially increasing emergency IMF resources" and called for them to lend to countries hit hard by the crisis.

According to his proposal, the New Arrangements to Borrow (NAB) of the International Monetary Fund "could be increased by up to look is worse than the 500 billion dollars and mem-International Monetary Fund bership could be enlarged to (IMF) analysis of 0.5 percent include more G20 countries.

Parking facilities for over

- 1,000 vehicles
- 60 metres across Bashundhara took six years

▶ Launched in 2004

FROM PAGE 16

Abdullah Al Mamun and Paltu. Police said criminals hurled two bombs on them at railway crossing in Chuadanga at about 12.00 noon as they were returning

The injured are the organisers of the trade fair that is being held in the district. They were returning home after supervising the activities at

injuries and their motorcycle was partly damaged. They were taken to the Chuadanga

Baharul said outlaws might have been behind the attack, as they had been demanding toll from him since the trade

A case was filed with the Sadar Police Station in this connection. Police said they were investigating the matter.

Incidents of bomb attacks have recently been on the rise in the southwestern region. At least 24 bombing incidents took place in 10 districts under the region over the last two and a half months leaving one person killed and around 40 including seven policemen injured.

BNP activist Buro Mollah was killed in Jhenidah when a gang of criminals threw bomb on him on February 27

Rejoinder

FROM PAGE 16 12. Unless the case records are placed before the chief justice along with the dissenting judgments, the chief justice can take no action in the matter, he added.

Quoting sources The Daily Star report said on February 23 a division bench of the HC delivered split orders on whether these people can directly come to the HC for bail without surrendering to the trial court.

bail petitions have been sent to the chief justice for constituting a special bench of the HC for the final decision, the sources had told The Daily Star, adding that the chief justice had not yet constituted the special bench.

No firefighting

FROM PAGE 1

officials said.

in the city, and lack of water problem," one official said.

etc to fight chemical fires).

Local businessmen Khalek and Solaiman, Prothom Alo's photojournalist Azhar Uddin, daily Independent RU Correspondent Mamun, police constables Mohibul and Anwar, City Ward No. 30 AL general secretary Shahidul Islam, AL activists Shamim, Babu and passersby Shamim,

M16, grenades

They also seized two sets of However, the condition of army uniforms, one resembling the Bangladesh army and another the Indian army. The arrested youths were identified as Kew Mong, 29,

> While talking to journalists arrested Mong claimed that some armed members of Arakan Liberation Party (ALP) a militant group of Myanmar, kept the arms forcibly. The ALP members often come to the village and take shelter at Jhum Ghars near the village,

> Seeking anonymity, some movements of foreign terrorist groups are increasing day by day in the areas. The groups also collect tolls from the

The injured were admitted to RMCH where Nomani died after admission. After the clash, ICS men village.

physically assaulted RU proc-500 Shibir men in connection tor, assistant proctor and with Wednesday's incident students adviser in that left at least 20 BCL men Bangabandhu hall as they had injured. Following the case, police

RU Vice Chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan told The Daily Star that university authorities took the decision of closing it to deal with the situation.

BCL RU unit president Ibrahim Hossain Moon alleged men who were asleep at about that Shibir attacked on his men 4:30 am and took control of the in a preplanned way.

Shibir president Delwar Hossain Sayeedi blamed BCL for the attack and demanded exemplary punishment of those who killed its secretary.

BCL RU unit president Ibrahim Hossain Moon, assistant secretary Apu, cultural secretary Joy, BCL activists Niaz, Suvro, Alamgir, Ismail, Sawpon, Anwar, Himu, Rashel, Dip, Roni, Ranju, Juwel, Arif, Komol, Hanif, Kawser, Mustofa, Obaidur, Tuhin and Mamun.

Shibir organising secretary Farhad Alam and its activists Razzak, Raihan, Zinna, Asraful, Aziz, local Salim, Shafiqul and

SLR, 18 grenades, 299 SMG bullets and 91 SLR bullets from the remote hilly area

he told.

villagers alleged that illegal villagers, they added.

of Bandarban sadar zone recovered two firearms and ammunition from the same

MEGA-MALL

FROM PAGE 1

The vast central atrium is lit by a glass dome in the roof

to build Cost: \$100 million (Tk 682) crore)

Jubo League

home on a motorcycle.

They received splinter

Sadar Hospital.

fair began.

Following the orders, the

kilometre city, fire service

"There is only one fire fighter for every 30,000 people sources in it is another major

And only a couple of the city's fire stations have 'chemical tender' (a fire fighting device loaded with dry powder, carbon-dioxide gas, foam

Seeking anonymity, the official said, "The number of fire stations in the city has remained the same since independence, and the number of fire fighters at the 12 stations has declined to 242

from 264 despite a phenome nal growth of the city." According to fire service officials, fires damage property worth around Tk 725 crore a year in the country. But they could not give any estimate of losses to fire in the capital, saying they do not have any

information cell. A fire service control room source however said 70 percent of the reported fire incidents in the country took place in Dhaka and Chittagong.

Contacted, Brig Gen Abu Naim Md Shahid Ullah, director general of Fire Service and Civil Defence, said damage to property worth around Tk 725 crore in fire is reported annually, but lot more goes unreported. "I believe that the real amount of damage due to fire is many times more," he added.

Due to industrial growth the likelihood of chemical fire has increased but the department does not have equipment to fight chemical fire, Naim pointed out.

He emphasised implementation of Fire Prevention and Dousing Act 2003 (Ogni Protirodh O Nirbapon Ain-2003) and the amended Building Construction Act 1952 by conducting drives against violators of those.

Mall all abuzz

outlets.

THEHOURS

Shopping Complex

on the east side

climb down wires

to the 12th floor

off the building

building

burning

giving them instructions.

Watching the fire fighters'

futile attempts to douse the

flames, many shop owners

gathering in front of the com-

plex started weeping fearing

the fire might destroy their

1:30pm-1:35pm: Fire breaks

out on the east side of the 17th

floor of Bashundhara City

from outside soon after two

cleaners of the mall enter it

after breaking its windowpane

Bashundhara Group get

trapped on the top floor while

2:05pm: Fire fighters arrive

2:25pm: The four fire fight-

2:30pm: Security guards

3:45pm: Fire spreads down

4:30pm: Army men cordon

4:32pm: An air force heli-

4:34pm: Five floors of the

5:33pm: The flame seems

6:05pm: The top floor still

7:16pm: Fire fighters pour

9:00pm: The flame brought

9:15pm: Search and rescue

10:00pm-11:00pm: Six

1:30am: Rescue operation

dead bodies recovered from

inside and around an elevator

leaping across the landmark

structure, thousands of peo-

ple crowded the Panthapath

area to see first-hand how

things develop. As a result, fire

trucks struggled to reach the

Fire Service Brig Gen Abu

Naim Mohammad

Shahidullah said cause of the

fire could not yet be known.

Some of the shop-owners at

the mall however said short

In the evening, the govern-

ment formed a three-member

committee to probe the inci-

ministry, told The Daily Star

that Abdul Hanif, joint secre-

tary (police) of the ministry,

has been asked to submit

report within seven workdays.

The other two members are

circuit might be responsible.

Director General (DG) of

water on the building using

copter rescues another fire

fighter from the top floor

building get gutted

totally out of control

hydraulicladder

operation begins

on the 17th floor

still continues

under control

ers trapped on the top floor

evacuate people from the

trying to douse the flame

1:40pm: Fire seen flaming

FROM PAGE 1 complex at Panthapath

The people inside the mall started running frantically to get out when the authorities asked all over loudspeakers to evacuate the complex in a disciplined way.

stairs...All, especially women and children, got extremely panicked," he said. Omar Faruk, a salesman of

outlet Affection on level-3, said he was dealing with a of fire.

out of Bashundhara complex in panic following the evacuation announcement. The security guards and other staff of Bashundhara Group helped them.

several thousand people including customers, staff and visitors were inside the complex that has 2,700 shops, three theatres, gymnasium, swimming pools and children's park.

to leave the complex immediout of the hall," he said.

The authorities requested the people to use the stairs to get down. The security guards on various floors were seen

Blaze FROM PAGE 1 With the television channels

FROM PAGE 16

including six BDR members and six family members of some BDR personnel. With this the number of

> more BDR personnel met their family members and kith and kin while several hundred eagerly at the entrance of the BDR headquarters to meet their near and dear ones.

> Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) of CID Abdul Kahar Akand who leads the investigation told The Daily Star, "We started taking statements of witnesses and have so far taken statements of eight victims.

"We will also take state- will head the committee that ments of those who were not victims," he added.

investigation held an hourlong meeting at its headquar-

local lawmakers, inspector ters in the morning. Talking to The Daily Star, ASP Akand said they discussed

fire could not be put out due to lack of proper firefighting Meanwhile, a CID team equipment

yesterday recovered around "The fire brigade should 200 more bullets from the BDR have at least five ladders, while they have only one," he observed.

> Green Road were suspended to avert accidents and help the fire fighters and others reach the spot. Casualties would have

been much higher had all the offices not been closed on the

weekend.

FROM PAGE 1

father going to office. They always lock the door and it became a routine game for them," said Baki's wife Sajeda Malaysian immigration not to

Baki Billah had a tough but happy life in a small residence at Agargaon. But everything home on long vacations, was ruined, all Sajeda's dreams shattered when she received the news of her hus-

It was evening when Baki's body was brought to the basement of Samorita Hospital.

"To whom your children will go no now. Who they will call father?" the whole area resonated with the wails of Sajeda.

High risk FROM PAGE 16

There were 26 water reservoirs in Dhaka 30 years ago but those have been filled up because of lack of awareness of the departments con-

Earlier, Malaysia asked the airlines not to carry workers from Bangladesh until further Chittagong.

JMB suspect held at border

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Immigration police yesterday arrested a suspected Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) member from Benapole border in Jessore.

Moulana Munsur Alam, 45, was rounded up from the cheek post of the Benapole when he was returning from India after five months, police said.

Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) is now grilling Munsur, said Rab sources.

Immigration Acting Officer 2:00pm: Five firemen of Kazi Akbar Hossain said Munsur went to India on October 10 with a one-month visa and stayed at different places of India in the last five months.

An Indian mobile SIM card was seized from Munsur. He said he stayed at different madrasas in India during his five-month stay there. Munsur is the son of Abdul

Karim of south Isakhali village in Chittagong.

Architect FROM PAGE 16

inside," he told The Daily Star, adding Bashundhara City is the only building in the coun-

try having a full-fledged integrated fire fighting system. He said there is a control room inside the building from where Bashundhara employees are supposed to monitor all the happenings round-theclock. "The system is automated and you will be alarmed

building," he added. The architect said when the building was constructed they had installed all the fire fighting equipment both automated and manual.

within seconds if a fire origi-

nated from any parts of the

Asked about the water reservoir, Foyez Ullah said, the reservoir remains filled with broadcasting live the inferno water all the time. Hosepipes had also been installed on every floor to get water in time. This is called fire hydrant system so that fire fighters can use it, he said.

"If the reservoir is out of water, there is an alternative system called Siamese connect. The building is having several such connections so that fire fighters can pump water from outside to keep the hosepipes workable. There is also a separate fire-proof lift for the use of fire fighters on

emergency basis," said Foyez. He said no equipment was used when the fire was spread-Shahnoor Miah, public relations officer of the home ing in different floors of the 19storey building built in reinforced concrete. He said fire can break out any time anywhere but it should be extinguished quickly by using the interior capacity.

He said the country is yet to establish the capacity of quickly dousing fire. "We had the chance to douse the flame in the Bashundhara city using the interior system. But we failed and the fire went out of control," said the architect.

Workers

FROM PAGE 16 Empower, our manpower agency, provided us with food and lodging for two months, but thereafter they took no care of

us," he said. The employers did not pay levy for the workers. So the workers became irregular, Kalam said. Thousands of other workers would also come for the same reason, Kalam told The

Daily Star. Nasreen Jahan, labour councillor of Bangladesh High Commission in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), also said that job opportunities were declining in the UAE.

She said many construction companies have already slowed down their activities making workers uncertain about their

"We are conferring with the companies so that they temporarily allow our workers to go instead of terminating them, so that the companies could reemploy them immediately after the recession is over," Nasreen

She said in some cases, on some of the workers' demand their regular visas were cancelled to allow them return home. She however said there was no record of such returnees. Meanwhile, in the wake of

missions in this regard," he said.

salaries.

the financial meltdown, over-Russell Mia, another seas employment has also come injured security guard, said down by around 50 percent since December last year. Contacted, Expatriate and Overseas Employment Minister

Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain moving in circles," he said. Rushing smoke overpowsaid they were aware of the facts ered Russell in his bid to and therefore decided to visit escape through an opposite these countries so that the workers could be reassigned to me shortly," he said. other jobs or kept in the existing companies even at minimum

guards did not have enough training to act promptly to "We also directed our foreign tackle such a devastating situation.

Zardari given

FROM PAGE 16

staying away from their homes and offices in order to evade arrest, just as they had done in

other areas of Pakistan. Those targetted included members of Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N), the second largest party in the country, the main religious party Jamaat-i-Islami and followers of former cricketer turned politician Imran Khan.

"More than 100 party leaders and workers were arrested in the province and police are raiding houses of party leaders and activists," said Arshad Qureshi, PML-N spokesman in NorthWest Frontier Province.

The turmoil could dampen Western hopes that Pakistan will stay focused on the fight against al-Qaeda and Taliban extremists along its border with Afghanistan.

Zardari was Friday "reportedly asked to go by the army and the Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani if he does not accept a new deal hatched by them in consultation with foreign powers", a Pakistan News website said.

"The new political deal, backed by Washington, London and the army establishment, has quietly been conveyed to Gilani to bring down the political temperature in Pakistan," it quoted sources as saying.

As part of the deal, the sources added, Gilani has been asked to 'immediately convince' Zardari to 'demonstrate the flexibility required' to break the deadlock before the lawyers' Long March reaches Islamabad

"The ball is now firmly in the court of Zardari, who has to take a decision swiftly on endorsing the agreement brokered by powerful international actors," the report said.

Under pressure from army to defuse the political crisis in Pakistan, Premier Yousuf Raza Gilani may reach out to the opposition PML-N and withdraw controversial decisions, including Shahbaz Sharif's removal as Punjab Chief Minister, a media report claimed today. Gilani told a group of outgoing members of the Senate, the upper house of Parliament, during a private discussion that he wanted to "decisively deliver" in the crisis even if it meant having to lose his post, 'The News' daily

Prime Ministers come and go but what they do remains in the annals of history. I want to

do something worthwhile to break the prevailing logjam," Gilani was quoted as saying by

one of the Senators. Gilani was asked at a dinner he hosted for the outgoing Senators on Wednesday as to what army chief Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani had told him to do during their meeting. The Premier replied that Kayani had expressed his concern at the prevailing situation and

wanted him to defuse it. "You should play your constitutional and legal role in calming down the situation," Kayani was quoted as telling the Premier. However, the Prime Minister's office and the army spokesman could not be reached for comments on the

report. Thousands of lawyers Thursday simultaneously began their Long March from Sindh, Balochistan and Punjab and will converge here March 16 for a sit-in before parliament to demand the reinstatement of the Supreme Court and high court judges Musharraf had sacked after imposing an

League-Nawaz (PML-N) of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif has also joined the stir to protest a court decision barring Sharif and his brother Shahbaz Sharif from contesting elec-

The decision led to the fall of Shahbaz Sharif's PML-N led government in Punjab and the imposition of Governor's Rule in the province.

Ashfaq Pervez Kiyani, the report said, met Gilani in Islamabad Wednesday and during the 90 minute meeting, asked him to set the deal in motion.

According to police, the activists of the outfits were first arrested under section-54 of the Criminal Procedure Code and then charged with sedi-

accused distributed provocative leaflets urging people to oust the government. Sources said after the arrest of the Hijb ut-Tahrir men, the government approved 14

police stations for filing sedi-

tion cases against them. A battle in the dark

The battle started inside the complex, shortly after the

elevator as its door opened. Staffers of the mall, overwhelmed by the rushing smoke, failed to operate the elevator in the dark. "I couldn't even see the

buttons to take the lift down. The lift got stuck. I don't know what happened next, said Aminul Islam, a technician of Bashundhara Group.

This happened when Aminul and four others went to the 17th floor to check out the trigger in the fire. Aminul ended up at

Samorita Hospital, with

breathing problems. Next to his bed was Abdul Quader, a security guard, still in shock. Quader could only open his eyes after more than an hour of sufferings. He could not speak as his

Only Aminul was able to speak. He said he had snapped back from unconsciousness and tried to break open the glass of the lift to get out. "I prayed to Allah. thought I was going to die,'

The fire killed at least seven people, including Baki Billah, a fireman for Bashundhara.

Rescuers took 13 people,

mostly with burns, to Samorita Hospital. They were all staffers of Bashundhara Group: security guards, firemen and technicians.

all at the same time around 2:00pm "The tower is on fire" was the only message sent out by

Some made a dash to extinguish the fire without taking precautionary measures. They were also unaware of the severity of the blaze.

of smoke, after the alarm was sounded on walkie-talkie. "I saw plumes of smoke

route. "The smoke covered Many of the security

"I ran upstairs as I thought whole of the floor," said Russell, who had taken train-

Zillur Rahman, an assistant operator for airconditioning, was among the "unfortunate few" who were trapped on some top floors.

ing in fire-handling only for

escape by wire. Another fireman came rushing down on Zillur by the same wire.

Automated fire

FROM PAGE 1

14 days.

the death toll would have been higher, said Prof Nizam. Even though the shopping mall was open but people

The building is centrally air-conditioned, which also helped the fire spread rapidly, he said. The fire originated on the

4:00pm. However, the northern end of some of the floors caught fire around 5:10pm and they

were on fire till 9:00pm. Prof Mehdi Ahmed Ansari of Buet said a top official of Bashundhara City recently at a seminar showed how well the Security guards relayed an mall was protected against alarm by walkie-talkie to fire. The official did not talk about the rest of the floors,

> There could have been lack of proper fire-safety gear in the upper floors, which may have helped the fire spread, he said.

> Suggesting that use of steel and glass be discouraged in high-rise structures, Mehdi said fire spreads fast in buildings constructed with steel and glass. He said the authorities concerned should discourage the use of steel and glass in construction of buildings over five-storey high.

have been constructed with steel and glass, which is very risky, he said.

in the southern part of the building as it had more steel and glass than the northern part of the building.

gerous year" for the economy but warned G20 members against protectionist policies to fight the downturn. very dangerous year," he told reporters ahead of Saturday's

decades.

He was speaking a day after

Shibir, BCL

started raiding in all the 11 male dormitories at about 3:00am and detained about 68 Shibir men. After the raid, Shibir cadres locked entrances of all the dormitories and attacked BCL

halls. Over 30 students were injured, 15 of them seriously, in the attack at Suhrawardy and Shamsozoha halls. BCL activists with the help

of police rescued their fellows

from the two halls at about 7:30

fining Shibir men inside of the

In the meantime, BCL men locked the entrances to all the male halls from outside, con-

SHIBIR CLASHES WITH

LOCAL BUSINESSMEN

The Shibir activists who reside in Binodpur area near the university also attacked BCL activists and local Awami League (AL) workers protesting the confinement of their fellow students at the halls. Later, an hour-long clash

ensued at about 10:00 am

between Shibir activists and

local businessmen and AL activists on Dhaka-Rajshahi highway that left 12 people injured. Shibir cadres also ransacked local business establishments, AL activists houses

and BCL men controlled

death of Rajshahi City unit

Swechchhasevak League

Hearing the rumour of the

messes during the clash.

member Robiul Islam Robi, several hundred local people) blocked the highway. Robi, also a local businessman, was stated to be critical.

ANOTHER SHIBIR ATTACK

At about 12:00 noon again

clash erupted between BCL

AND FIERCE CLASH

and ICS while ICS men tried to enter into the Sher-e-Bangla hall to rescue their fellows. Sources said, both groups exchanged 100 rounds of bullet during the clash, leaving two Shibir activists wounded.

Jahangir Hossain, assistant

commissioner of police,

Motiher zone, said police used

tear gas shells and rubber

bullets to control the situation.

At one stage, BCL men swooped on the hall that left 30 people injured, including the RU unit ICS general secretary.

growth for 2009, reported the Daily Mail newspaper, which

stimulus on Friday.

the global economic crisis.

gone there to rescue the BCL

Among others injured are

Islam and Ruhul Amin.

after 17-hour operation.

and Kew Ching, 23.

On February 19, army men

"When the authorities said a fire broke out on the upper floor of the mall I left the food court on level-8," panicked Abu Bakar told The Daily Star after coming out of the complex. "I saw many people trying to get down using the

customer when the incident occurred. He asked the buyer to leave the mall immediately as soon as he heard the news People were seen pouring

The guards claimed that

Shariful Islam, a security guard of Star Cineplex, told The Daily Star that moviegoers were inside the theatres when the fire broke out. "All of a sudden, the screen became dark. An announcement was made requesting the viewers ately and all started coming

BDR carnage

total arrest rose to 248. Meanwhile, at least 20 families were seen waiting

Sources said all senior officials of the 60-member CID team engaged in the

how they would carry out their investigation. When asked he said the arrestees are also being interrogated.

headquarters premises abandoned by the mutineers, CID sources said. Members and relatives of a total of 57 BDR personnel have

so far been able to visit them.

Govt team FROM PAGE 16 30, no review of the decision is expected by this time. But the government is hopeful of something positive after the elections, however, it has not been decided yet who else will comprise the delegation," said

a high official of the expatri-

are giving undertakings to the

leave the 532 workers, reached

the Kuala Lumpur

International Airport on March

Meanwhile, the employers

ates' welfare ministry.

8 and 9, unemployed, said an official of Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur. Malaysia earlier decided to send these workers back to Bangladesh, but later changed the decision honouring Bangladesh's request to allow the employers to recruit them

"We are quite hopeful that

Malaysia will review its deci-

sion and accept our 55,000

workers since the country

actually needs them in differ-

on humanitarian ground.

ent sectors," said Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA) President Ghulam Mustafa. Meanwhile, The Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) has been directed to make sure no workers whose visas had been

cancelled leave for Malaysia.

notification.

from the police and fire brigade. State minister for home.

general of police (IGP), DG of Rab, Dhaka Metropolitan police commissioner and other senior officials visited the scene immediately. State Minister for Home Tanjim Ahmed Sohel said the

Vehicular movement on Panthapath, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Sonargaon Road and

band's death at 3:30pm.

cials A source in the fire service control room said 70 percent of the reported fire incidents take place in Dhaka and

cerned, said fire service offi-

fire broke out. On the 17th floor of Bashundhara City, black smoke spiralled fast into an

tongue and throat were burnt. He inhaled black

said Aminul.

their colleagues, sending many into scrambling for a quick exit from the inferno --

the Bashundhara staff.

he had run upstairs in a wave

emergency in November 2007. The Pakistan Muslim

Pakistan Army chief Gen.

9 sedition cases

Police said after the mutiny at BDR headquarters on February 25 and 26, the

smoke would not cover the

Zillur broke his legs in his

"I could not hold on to it anymore. I fell four floors

were able to evacuate since the fire started in one of the top floors. The bottom eight floors of the 20-storey building house the mall.

18th floor around 1:50pm and spread to 19th, 20th and 17th, 16th and 15th floors by

Prof Mehdi said.

A huge number of skyscrapers and shopping malls

He said the fire spread fast