Suicide car bomb

FROM PAGE 16

mud-brick building at the

police post, and damaged

nearby houses, witnesses said.

mosque after dawn prayers

when I saw a vehicle speed

towards the police post,'

Saadat Ali, a 21-year-old uni-

versity student with steel

pellet injuries in his shoulder

post opened fire and then I

heard a huge blast. There was

thick smoke and I passed out,"

Liaquat Ali said four police-

men were killed and 11 other

critical condition," he told

destroyed. A nearby house and

forces, has been on the front

the tribal belt, which

Washington calls the most

dangerous place on earth and

a global headquarters of al-

Ali told reporters the

bomber intended to strike

elsewhere in the city of 2.5

million and only detonated his

Road, which links Peshawar to

the mountains of the tribal

badlands. This area became a

stronghold for hundreds of

extremists who fled

Afghanistan after the US-led

injured were rushed to local

condition of five of the injured

Locals and police said

According to police and

locals, the powerful bomb was

the cause behind the attack.

One killed

hospitals and clinics.

FROM PAGE 16

was critical.

inside the fair.

arrest the culprits.

to the ACC.

Tk5,71,87,074.

Eskandar.

FROM PAGE 16

investigate the case.

Rajapakse

gate the phenomenon.

ACC sues

According to the case, in

the wealth statement

Eskandar mentioned that he

has wealth worth about

Tk99,10,266. ACC, however,

found his wealth worth about

The OC said the ACC would

The commission has,

however, filed several other

corruption cases against

climate change must bear the

lion's share of burden to miti-

this issue, guided by the princi-

ple of common but differenti-

ated responsibilities, must

continue to be strongly heard

in all international forum," he

said in a statement at the open-

ing session of the 16th Saarc

over the Saarc chair to Bhutan

at the summit, said despite

many examples of the achieve-

ments gained through Saarc,

"we in south Asia sometimes

underestimate the potential of

resources and skills we have,

that can meet our develop-

ment challenges as well as our

Calling for improving the

existing mechanisms he said,

"If there is a need, we should

potential."

"We tend to discount the

our collective strength."

Rajapakse, who handed

"The south Asian voice on

Pir Bala straddles Warsak

vehicle when he was stopped.

The teeming city runs into

line of deadly attacks.

"Police officials from the

Peshawar city police chief

"Two policemen are in a

told AFP from hospital.

he added.

Khan.

Qaeda.

aged," he said.

people wounded.

NEWS

Saarc vows

FROM PAGE 1 data, eco-friendly technologies,

experience in renewable energy and assist the relevant Saarc Regional Centres to realise their mandates.

It could also help implement the Saarc Convention on Cooperation on Environment signed at the summit.

"Global warming and clisecretariat was inaugurated mate change have already yesterday, could play its role in impacted our nations with generating funds from within melting of the Himalayan glaand outside the region for ciers, rising sea level, erratic projects on energy production. precipitation, land degradation, desertification and salinity."

closer for mutual gains, Hasina As Bangladesh is the most said: "Certain wrong-doers and vulnerable country to the global terrorists are out to undo our warming, Hasina said the good intentions and the growadverse geophysical changes ing trust among ourselves. with increasing frequency of She said Bangladesh, a cyclones and floods have been nation committed to peace and retarding the economic growth, involved in UN peacekeeping poverty alleviation efforts, and efforts, is firmly opposed to

"To face these challenges, I believe, a holistic approach is imperative at regional and global levels," she said.

millennium development

Hasina, who played a key role in the Copenhagen climate change summit last November, said at global level, COP-15 at Copenhagen has given hope of a comprehensive, long-term

She said there is now need to lock in the key global players in COP-16 at Mexico City later this year for concrete commitments covering greenhouse gas emission cuts, and guaranteeing fund and technology.

Hasina told the summiteers that to meet the challenges of the climate change, Bangladesh has adopted 134 action plans under the National Adaptation Programme of Action, and the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. The authorities have been designated for Clean Development Mechanism.

She said a plan in progress for dredging of rivers to hold more water, restrict flooding and reclaim inundated land, while river banks are being raised with excavated silt to contain rising water, create green belts and provide homesteads for the displaced.

Moreover, 14,000 cyclone shelters have been constructed with more on the way, she

To reduce greenhouse gas, Hasina said a low carbon path to development is being followed by her government.

convinced that this maiden Summit of the Kingdom of "Our plans also include Bhutan under its chair, would creation of a large carbon sink lead us across the threshold to a through social forestry and new era of peace and prosperity green belts, use of clean coal of our peoples." technology, nuclear power and renewable energy," she said. "To democracy blowing across the meet the costs, we've set up a region, Hasina said: "It is heart-Climate Change Fund with our ening to see all eight states of the

own resources," she added. On the impact on the agriculture sector, Hasina said climate change is also responsible for declining agricultural land, thereby threatening food security.

tions of our peoples." She stressed the need for a Saarc Seed Bank with necessary democracies now need to be legal framework for quality seed cherished, protected, and production, harmonised seed allowed to mature. I believe testing, certification, seed trade, these sentiments need to be and exchange of germ-plasm recorded in a Saarc Charter for and plant genetic resources. Democracy."

On the economic scenario, she noted that the South Asian Hamid Karzai, Indian Prime economies have shown Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, remarkable resilience in the Maldives President Mohamed face of recent global meltdown. Nasheed, Nepal's Prime Still, they have suffered from Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, economic slowdown, soaring Pakistan Prime Minister Syed oil and food prices, and climate Yousaf Raza Gilani and Sri Lankan President Mahinda

The PM said tariff Rajapakse spoke at the inauguliberalisation under SAFTA, operation of Saarc Development Fund (SDF), and now Saarc Agreement on Trade in Service (SATIS), and other trade facilitation measures over Myanmar, Mauritius, USA and the last 25 years have enabled the Saarc to cross significant nilestones.

Nevertheless, she deplored that intra-regional trade among the Saarc countries measures up to a low single digit percent-

age of global trade of the region. Hasina said though sensitive lists of trade items are being reduced, greater efforts are needed to make SAFTA and

sense of regional identity.

tion services," she said.

financial management.

"Success here is possible

through enhanced people-to-

people contact by means of easy

communication, and educa-

The PM noted that a produc-

tive start could be prioritising

disciplines that may initially

include science and technology,

engineering, medical, law, and

Asian University could prove to

be a successful vehicle in

achieving this objective, she

Inauguration of the South

correspondent that many private "land owners" are SATIS meaningful. trying to block the canal to She hoped that once the South Asian Regional Standards reclaim land. Organisation (SARSO) is estab-

He said top officials visited lished, it would efficiently work the area on Tuesday, and heard complaints from farmers as in harmonising the standards to facilitate trade. well as other villagers. On the vital issue of connec-

Another canal nearby faced tivity, she said South Asian a similar problem, and Rajuk countries have displayed plans to construct a bridge increasing focus on regional over it. connectivity, and on a greater

"We have asked everyone to immediately clear blockage

of the canals and let the farmers harvest their paddy," said the project director. Meanwhile, large real estate developers have

focused on the vast low-lying areas in Khilkhet, on the eastern fringe of the capital, along the Balu river. Thousands of acres of agricultural land are being filled up to create housing plots.

In the absence of proper planning, natural canals and flood water retention ponds in

the area are fast disappearing. The 15-km long Dumni Hasina said the economies Khal originates from the Balu in the region, in the last decade, in the north, winds its way have registered commendable growth, raising huge demand through Dumni, Mostul, for energy. Trends indicate Dehalna, Tolna, Khadaldia and immediate need for coopera-Gajaria villages, and flows into tion at bilateral, sub-regional, the same river in the south.

and regional level to harness

each other's capacities and

regional power-grid, harness-

ing renewable energy sources

like hydropower, solar, bio-fuel,

wind, and reducing depend-

She said that SDF, whose

To draw member states

terrorism, insurgency, organ-

ised crimes and religious

ing bridges among the peoples

of South Asia, which is possible

through close and free interac-

tion of the peoples from all

Stressing that tourism could

play a catalytic role, she said this

would mean free movements

and while there is rationale for

immigration control, a reason-

able balance could be worked

"we could forge greater trust

and confidence among our-

selves, help each other in the

spirit of collective self-reliance,

and move towards a prosper-

ous, progressive, integrated

mier referred to the harsh reality

facing the people in South Asia,

saying: "let us take a moment to

ponder on the plight of our 1.5

billion people and an awesome

majority of them live in poverty

craving for food and other basic

leaders of their responsibility

towards peoples of the region,

she said: "Is it not fair that we, as

their entrusted leaders, con-

sider seriously their dilemma,

determinedly rise above all our

differences, and plunge with

fixated resolve to change their

we can, and do so we will, with

some bold decisions here. I am

She added: "I firmly believe

Referring to the fresh wind of

Saarc gathered here today are

democracies represented by

elected leaders. This is an his-

toric development emanating

from our experience that only

democracy can achieve aspira-

She added: "Indeed, our

Afghanistan President

ral session of the Silver Jubilee

observers with Saarc--Australia,

China, Iran, Japan, South Korea,

the European Union--attended

the summit of the South Asian

grouping that began its journey

Rafigul Alam, director of

the new town project, told this

from Bangladesh in 1985.

Rajuk

FROM PAGE 16

with the city.

Representatives of nine

Summit.

Reminding the South Asian

In her statement, the pre-

South Asia.'

necessities.

She said that through Saarc,

walks of life, Hasina said.

Saarc's success lies in build-

extremism.

ence on fossil fuel.'

"This includes developing a

resources.

organised by the city unit of the party, with Mayor Sadeq Hossain Khoka in the chair.

BNP claimed that its candidate Maj (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed was defeated in the bypoll on April 24 due to the EC's failure to hold a free and fair election.

Abdullah Al Noman Shamsuzzaman Dudu, Amanullah Aman, Fazlul Haque Milon, and Shirin Sultana also spoke among others.

Earlier, at a media briefing BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain said they will launch an antigovernment movement at the right time. Delwar said the govern-

ment is carrying out repression on opposition leaders in the name of democracy. They are also being taken on remand, and being forced into giving confessions, he alleged. He criticised the govern-

ment for torturing former BNP state minister Lutfozzaman Babar, and former deputy minister of the party Abdus Salam Pintu.

He claimed that the two were not involved in August 21, 2004 grenade attack on an Awami League rally. DELWAR, NIZAMI

CONDEMN CHANNEL 1 CLOSING

Delwar in a statement condemned shutting down of Channel 1, and asked the government to allow its transmission.

He said the government shut down the channel as a part of its plan to suppress dissenting opinions, and to dominate the news media.

Jamaat-e-Islami chief Motiur Rahman Nizami also urged the government to let Channel 1 resume telecast considering the interest of the journalists and employees of the private TV channel.

They were

FROM PAGE 16

In 2005, Mizan's brother-inlaw Babu Molla was killed by his rivals in the capital's Mirpur

Mizan's uncle Abul Hossain said Mizan was killed by the members of a rival group.

"A gang of criminals riding two microbuses picked up Mizan, Forkan and Murad from Uttara and killed them", he

Stray dogs sniffed out the three decomposed bodies on the bank of the Turag river on Tuesday. Mohammadpur police recovered the bodies and sent those to Dhaka Medical College Morgue for autopsy.

The bodies were handed over to the relatives of the victims last night.

The three were strangled with their hands and legs tied with ropes, said morgue

Police were yet to ascertain the motive behind the killings. None was arrested.

Minimum wage FROM PAGE 1

ready-made garment sector is

Tk 1,664. The minister said the gov-

ernment would soon consult the BGMEA about providing workers with gratuity in the RMG sector.

He said there had been conspiracies by outsiders behind the untoward inci-

dents in the RMG sector. Some of the conspirators had already been identified and they will face action, the

minister said. The recently-formed seven committees on crisis manage ment in Narayangan Gazipur, Savar and Dhaka will start functioning fully soon, said Mosharraf Hossain, also

in charge of the Ministry of

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment. The lawmakers in the constituencies concerned act as advisers to the committees that also include representatives from intelligence and law enforcement agencies and textile sector, said the labour

ministry in a press release. **BGMEA Acting President** Nasir Uddin at the meeting told the minister that the entrepreneurs in the RMG sector are very concerned about the escalation of worker

unrest.

The government and the entrepreneurs have taken the initiative to increase the minimum wage in the RMG sector, he said, urging the government to take actions against those involved in the "conspiracy".

State Minister for Labour and Employment Monnujan Sufian, Labour Secretary Nurul Haque, Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Shikder and former president of BGMEA Anisur Rahman Sinha were present at the meeting.

BNP to march | Mutiny trial

FROM PAGE 1

kicked them, took them away at gunpoint, threatened them with death, detained them for long, killed officers in front of them, and shot wife of a civil doctor.

Doctors Brig Gen Md Zakir Hosain, Lt Col Kazi Rabi Rahman, Lt Col Lutfur Rahman Khan and Maj SM Mamunur Rahman were killed by mutineers of other units. Muid was describing the

atrocities in a flood of tears. Some male and female doctors, who were victims of the atrocities, were crying silently. President of the court Brig Gen Mainul himself became emotional and was seen wiping his "Today the court has turned

very hard for me. I have heard the stories of atrocities in the World War II. I have seen the atrocities of Pakistani occupation forces in 1971. Now I am listening to the brutality of February 25," Gen Mainul said in a choked voice.

He added those who were humiliated during the mutiny and came to the court are brave. "I would like to show my respect to them as they are still in the Ahmed and damaged his right same service though they were harassed by this force," he said. He observed sometimes it

gets very difficult for him to separate his double identities -one as the DG and another as the court's president. "The court is not to take revenge but to ensure justice for all," he pointed out. He also said sorry to all in the

courtroom for becoming a bit emotional.

disappointment saying, "I cannot bring my subordinate officer [a deputy assistant direcunder this law [BDR Act, 1972] the main planner and the person who issued orders to the accused." DAD Jalil of the hospital unit,

tor] into book. I cannot try

who is behind bars, played a key role in the mutiny. But the special court is not empowered to try any department officer.

DAD Jalil was one of the 15member delegation that went to meet the prime minister at her former official residence Jamuna to negotiate their demands during the mutiny. Accused Subedar Abdus Sobhan Hawlader from other

unit was admitted in the hospital as a skin cancer patient. But on February 25 he came out from the hospital and took part in the mutiny. Habilder Humayun Kabir of 18 Rifle Battalion was in the hospital as attendant of his

ailing wife. He left behind his

wife and wanted to burn the

bodies of slain officers using spirit of the hospital. Mutineers from other battal ions shot Runa Laila, wife of a civil doctor, and also kicked her on the bullet wound. They also tortured civil doctor Hosain

Deputy Attorney General Kazi Ezarul Haque was sitting besides the president of the court to help him as representative of the attorney general.

Commanding officer o hospital unit Lt Col Abdul Salam was present in the court but refrained from being the prosecutor as he himself was tortured by the mutineers.

Advocates Mosharrat He also expressed self- Hosain Kajal, Manzur Mohammad Shahnewaz Tipu and Rezaul Karim were present as special prosecutors.

Gilani seeks

"For many years, real progress remained stalled due in part to hesitancy borne from historical legacies, differences and disputes. However, the past could not

obfuscate the promise of a

glorious future," he said in a

statement at the opening session of the 16th Saarc sum-He said the promise of Saarc

can only be realised if "we are able to not only deepen our engagement but also benefit from the process of globalisation. There is the need for greater

coordination between national and regional plans, he added. Gilani said South Asia can

become an engine for global economic growth. "Our vast markets, our natural and human resources are critical ingredients for developing win-win scenarios."

It is through a deliberate shift from "dependence" to accepting the reality of "interdependence" that we shall be able to forge partnerships that are mutually beneficial, he

Poverty alleviation, food and energy security, health and education are among the Saarc priorities, he said. "We must redouble our efforts to realise the Saarc Development Goals."

On climate change, Gilani said, "We must develop mechanisms to address our carbon footprints in a manner that

Four seamen

Meanwhile, Bangladesh's chargé d'affaires (CDA) in Morocco, Lutfar Rahman, yesterday arrived in Benin to help repatriate the stranded seamen and was in contact with the Benin foreign ministry, said a foreign ministry official in Dhaka.

"When they were in transit in Nairobi, I talked to Ashraful. He said, the shipping agent had misbehaved with them as the four were taken to a hotel before embarking on the flight," he

The seamen went to Benin to work in ships in late December last year. The employer, Golden Shipping SA, did not pay them anything.

The ships did not sail. The company has troubles with Nigeria from where those ships carry oil to Europe, crewmembers said.

sailors' families at home, the government took steps to send Lutfar Rahman to Benin. Bangladesh embassy in Greece is trying to help the

from the shipping company. "The first task of the CDA is to bring the seamen onshore and then find ways of repatriation," Saida Muna Tasneem, director general of the external publicity wing of foreign minis-

try in Dhaka, said yesterday. Bangladesh mission in Greece informed Dhaka that the Greek authorities have agreed to help realise the compensation from the shipping company, she said.

and development prospects." On the issue of energy, the Pakistani PM called for concluding the Regional Inter-Governmental Framework Agreement on Energy Cooperation.

does not jeopardise our growth

On the issue of terrorism, Gilani said, "We need to join hands to fight it individually and collectively. Against forces of extremism and intolerance we need to forge a common front based on tolerance respect for human dignity and universal values."

Nasheed rakes

ministers of the two countries would lead to resolution of

their long differences. Addressing the inaugural session of the 16th Saarc Summit Nasheed said he hopes that leaders of India and Pakistan will have effective conversation and resolve their differences.

The president, who spoke extempore, said he hopes that the "conversation will lead to greater dialogue between India and Pakistan."

The remarks came as a surprise as normally bilateral issues and relations are not raked up in the multilateral forum of Saarc.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is due to meet his Pakistani counterpart Yousa Raza Gilani in Thimphu today on the sidelines of the summit.

End discords

to be overcome for the promise of a secure, confident and thriving community.

"Every South Asian knows that a discordant family cannot be happy and that factions and quarrelsome neighbours do not make a prosperous community," he said in a statement at the opening session of the

16th Saarc summit. Pointing his finger to the discord between the two nuclear neighbours--India and Pakistan, Thinley said, "we know very well that where one prospers in a divided neighbourhoods, that prosperity is short-lived. On the adverse impact of

climate change on the Saarc countries, Thinley suggested taking a well negotiated unified stand by the Saarc member states at the next COP16 in Mexico to combat the scourge After repeated appeals of the of global warming. He proposed hosting a meeting of the inter-governmental group on this subject.

About combating terrorism he called for full use of the Saarc sailors realise compensation Convention on Suppression of Terrorism and its additional protocols, and ratifying the Convention on Mutual Assistance in Criminal matters.

"Those who are responsible for the perpetration of such heinous crimes against humanity must know that they will be brought to justice in a world where nations are acting colleges, 15,515 secondary together and their individual and collective capacity to apprehend the guilty is growgetting MPO facilities in ing,"Thinley told the summit.

Biggest threat

FROM PAGE 16 these threats together.

"The terrorist attacks over the past two years in Kabul, Islamabad, Mumbai and else-

where were yet again gruesome reminders that terrorism continues to find a place in our region," he said in a statement at the opening session of the 16th Saarc summit. He called for setting aside

differences among the mem-

ber states so they may decisively defeat terrorism. "So long as we are unable to do so, the well-being, stability, and the future of our societies will remain hostage to its attacks," he said. Karzai said his government is pursuing an agenda for peace and reconciliation aimed at encouraging the armed opposi-

tion to lay down their arms,

accept Afghan's constitution

and return to civilian life. A peaceful and secure Afghanistan is to the benefit of the entire region, he added. On trade and economy, he said Afghanistan is determined to share its favourable location as a regional land bridge to help unlock the tremendous economic poten-

tials and opportunities that

exists in the region. karzai hoped implementation of Safta and signing of the Saarc Agreement on Trade in services will significantly help to move forward towards trade facilitation and cooperation in South Asia.

Cancer hospital FROM PAGE 16

129 employees.

The director of NICRH Dr Mollah Obaydullah Baki brushed aside the allegation saying those who did not qualify the exams are bringing these allegations to create unrest in the hospital.

Dr Baki also said, "There is no such provision of quota for the children of the employees of this hospital and we considered the freedom fighter certificates of the previous Awami League period." "But I tried my best to

recruit manpower neutrally and as per the results of the written and viva voce tests, he added. Earlier in January this year,

such allegation halted the recruitment of some 171 class III and class IV employees at the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

Manmohan FROM PAGE 16

change than South Asia.

He said regional cooperation could be a significant multiplier in improving the quality of governance "in managing our natural resources, in preventing land and water degradation, and in strengthening food, water and energy security."

He proposed setting up of Climate Innovation Centres in South Asia to develop sustainable energy technologies based on indigenous resource endowments.

Dr Singh said he has a

vision of inclusive growth in

South Asia both within the countries and for the region of South Asia as a whole. Regional and sub-regional imbalances in growth affect all of the countries in varying

degrees and have led to social unrest. 'This will require much greater attention in the future with an emphasis on development at grass-root level. We will have to institute the right policies in the areas of agriculture, forestry, appropriate technologies and disaster management,'

Nepal wants

he told the summit.

had already talked to Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on the issue during her India visit in January this year. She said Nepal, with huge

potential of producing

hydropower, could benefit through exporting electricity to Bangladesh. During the meeting, the issue of regional connectivity featured prominently in the

discussion. The two prime ministers also discussed various issues of bilateral interests, including expansion of trade and business between the two coun-

Abul Kalam Azad later briefed the reporters. Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, State Minister for

Press Secretary to the PM

Environment and Forests and

Principal Secretary to the

Prime Minister M A Karim,

money to anyone for MPO.

Around 26,340 educational

institutions including 2,386

schools, 7,344 madrasas and

1,095 technical institutes are

Bangladesh.

among others, were present during the meeting. 1,000 instts FROM PAGE 16 the countries and the peoples committee to work in a secret in the region. place. He said Saarc as a regional Nahid urged all not to give

The force of the blast practically destroyed the one-storey

official on duty at Peshawar's Lady Reading Hospital, confirmed the death toll and said a cleric and a woman were

"I was returning from the Siraj Ahmad, a local administration official in Peshawar, said five civilians were among the 11 people wounded.

A campaign of suicide and bomb attacks has killed nearly 3,300 people in less than three years across the nucleararmed country of 167 million The attacks are blamed on al-Qaeda, Taliban and other

bombers dressed in burgas killed 42 when they attacked a crowd of displaced people collecting aid handouts in the Kacha Pukha camp in north-

Those who were killed had been on duty at the checkpoint at the time of the attack, between 4:30 and 5:00 am, said police official Mussarat car bombs targeted the "The small building at the heavily-guarded US consulate police checkpoint was

a mosque were also dam-Peshawar, with its bustling markets and its profile as a regional headquarters for tribal belt. government and security But the rugged region is

> linked and Taliban command-More than 880 people have been killed in nearly 100 drone strikes in Pakistan since August 2008. The bombing raids fuel anti-American sentiment in Muslim Pakistan and draw public condemna-

> also routinely hit by US drone

attacks targeting al-Qaeda

Remain above

chief guest the certificate awarding ceremony of young lawyers who were permitted to practice in the High Court Division by Bangladesh Bar

The ceremony was organised by the council at Dhaka Officers' Club.

Eminent jurist and former vice-chairman of the council Dr Kamal Hossain said the present crisis in the judiciary have to be solved through consultation.

exploded around 10:00pm said the young lawyers have to Police said they could not work together to uphold the ascertain the attackers and also constitution, and to establish Additional forces were the society.

deployed in the area and police launched drives to General Mahbubey Alam said as the judges were appointed in consultation with the chief statement he had submitted

> High Court. Law Minister Shafique Ahmed, who was invited to the

> attend the event. Presided over by Justice MA Matin, the ceremony was also addressed by Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Abdul Baset Majumder, vicechairmen of the council, and

Rahman among others.

Nepal would be hosting a ministerial level conference of the countries badly affected by the climate change later this year to discuss and chart out strategies to combat the challenges, the premier said this in his inaugural address to the

most affected by natural disasters like ice melting, river pollution caused by climate change directly affecting over one billion population of the region,

social and security needs," he the increasing threats, he men-

not hesitate to build new structures and mechanisms to enable Saarc to reach its full He also highlighted the Rajapakse said, "We must importance of enhancing find as well the most practical means to implement the provi-

sions of existing Saarc Conventions, especially against terrorism." He called for a 'Decade of Intra-regional Connectivity in Saarc' to work diligently and strengthen both the physical and soft connectivity between

development efforts.

organisation cannot progress in isolation. He suggested strengthening the means for

invasion in late 2001. Mohammad Gul, a police

among the wounded.

extremist Islamist groups. On April 17, two suicide

west Pakistan. In perhaps the most audacious recent assault, at least three security officials were killed when militants armed with guns, grenades and two

in Peshawar on April 5. Under US pressure, Pakistan as of last year significantly increased air and ground offensives against homegrown militants in the

tion from the government.

FROM PAGE 16

Council on February 8.

Barrister Amir-ul Islam

human rights and justice in Without mentioning the recent crisis centring induction of two newly appointed High Court judges, Attorney

justice they are above any controversy and criticism. One hundred and sixteen voung lawvers were awarded enrolment certificates in the ceremony for practicing in the

ceremony, however did not

its member Syed Rezaur

Fight climate

FROM PAGE 16

16th Saarc summit. Himalayan countries are

he added. Concerted actions are needed at national, regional and international level to face

Deep-rooted poverty is another major challenge for Saarc region for which a better utilisation of the natural resources would help in its eradication, he said.

regional trade, adding that people have not been benefited from it. He stressed the need for cutting down non-tariff and tariff barriers to facilitate easy flow of products and services across the member states. Safta must come into fullest implementation to build a

common market for Saarc region, he said. Additionally, Nepal said a multi-model transport system is necessary for connecting all

member countries through transport, and expressed hope practical engagements with that recently established Saarc development fund will help Saarc observer states and with build infrastructure including selected international organisations to support the Saarc transport system for easy access to all countries.