# Khaleda warns

ports for transport of goods to

and from India. Nepal and

Bhutan too would be given

access to Mongla and

the BNP chairperson blasted

the government also for not

holding yet the trial of those

responsible for the killings at

"The government is issuing

Khaleda said if the govern-

Warning the authorities, she

ment does not quit, the people

said the section 144 would be

breached if imposed to foil the

opposition's peaceful

Khoka chaired the rally

addressed among others by

senior BNP leaders Khandaker

Delwar Hossain, Khandaker

Mosharraf Hossain, Moudud

Ahmed and Mirza Fakhrul

Islam Alamgir, Islami Oikya Jote

leader Mufti Fazlul Haq Amini

and Jagpa leader Shafiul Alam

leaders and workers led by

Chairperson Khaleda Zia laid

wreaths at the grave of late

president Ziaur Rahman at

Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city.

party's 10-day programme to

India-Bangladesh Chamber

and Commerce of Industry,

will lead the Bangladesh trade

yesterday, Matlub said they

would explore opportunities

for exporting more Bangladeshi

plate on enhancing trade with

Indian southeastern states and

also hold talks with their coun-

terparts on trade, investment,

transit and transhipment facili-

Tripura's capital Agartala

through Akhaura immigration

centre and go to the Raj Bhavan,

where Tripura Chief Minister

Manik Sarkar and his cabinet

colleagues will get acquainted

Tripura's southern subdivision,

by a chopper on the following

'suspended' Land Customs

Station (LCS) to pave way for

boosting bilateral trade

between Sabroom and

traders are expected to meet the

Bangladesh foreign minister to

confer further development of

trade and investment. She will

also hold an exchange of views

meeting with regional traders

on how to enhance trade and

According to foreign minis-

remove barriers.

Local industrialists and

Ramgarh in Bangladesh.

She will move for Sabroom,

At Sabroom she will open the

Dipu Moni will enter

The delegation will contem-

items.

with her.

Talking to The Daily Star

delegation, stated officials.

observe November 7.

Dipu Moni

The rally was part of the

Earlier in the morning, BNP

City Mayor Sadeque Hossain

will force it out of power.

observed.

programmes.

In her yesterday's address,

FROM PAGE 1 they cheered and clapped as the former prime minister took on the stage at 3:15pm.

Chittagong ports. It was, however, a different story for commuters in Nayapaltan and adjacent areas. They remained stuck in gridlock for hours, as the rally-goers packed into the thoroughfare between Paltan Police Station and Nightingale intersection.

BDR Pilkhana headquarters in February last year. She added the trial must be held one day In a speech punctuated by applause, Khaleda said she will and the real culprits punished. announce fresh antigovernment programmes after work orders for rental power Eid, and urged all to unite in her plants in favour of their party party's movement to "save the men at a high price," she country".

Accusing the Hasina administration of politicisation in every sector, she said all appointments made on political considerations will be scrapped once BNP is voted

back to power. The BNP chief alleged that this government is doing things for others, and has failed to implement a single electoral

"Giving India transit, corridor, and Chittagong and Mongla ports was not in their [AL's] election manifesto. But this is what they are now busy "They are not giving free Prodhan.

fertiliser, ensuring job for at least one in every family and reducing the price of rice to Tk 10 a kg, though they had pledged all these before the Khaleda said those who once

said Bangladesh would be Singapore if it gave transit to India should now be sent to Hemayetpur (in Pabna town, known for the only government mental hospital in Bangladesh).

"We will resist the move to turn Bangladesh into a state of India," she said asking the government to restore the country's dignity by scrapping the deals with India.

During Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India early this year, Dhaka and New Delhi signed three agreements on fight against terrorism and organised crime, and mutual transfer of convicted prisoners.

The joint communiqué issued after the tour said Bangladesh would allow use of Mongla and Chittagong sea

## 3G mobile

ROM PAGE 16

be developed with Chinese assistance and users will get services at prices lower than India," Raju told reporters at a press conference at the Press Information Department marking Bangladesh's winning the membership of International Telecommunication Union

Telephone Shilpa Sangstha (TSS), the state-run telephone equipment manufacturer, is working on producing low-cost laptops in a span of six months. The prices of laptops would range from Tk 10,000 to Tk 15,000, the minister said.

Recently, Bangladesh won the prestigious ITU membership by bagging 123 votes out of 161 and acquired the sixth position, beating giants like Australia, India and Thailand.

Talking to journalists, the try sources, Bangladesh curminister dwelt on a wide range rently exports garments, cosof issues such as digitalisation, metics, fish, raw-jute, soap, 3G network, e-service, telejuice, spices, brick, cement, PVC phone and internet density, pipe, CI sheet, rod and various VoIP and communication consumer products to this zone satellite.

instrument--high-end mobiles

and smart phones--to get

vices and Bangladesh

Telecommunication

Regulatory Commission

(BTRC) is now formulating a

guideline on 3G services, the

minister said at the programme.

licence on demand, but Teletalk

will get the priority," said Raju.

"BTRC will issue the 3G

The minister said the gov-

Chinese government to borrow

\$211 million to develop the

low-cost laptops, the minister

said it was supposed to be

marketed soon but due to legal

and official difficulties it was not

possible. He also pointed out

that the state-run telephone set

maker had been shut for long

nine years. "We hope we will be

able to do it in six months," he

TSS will also produce tele-

The minister also said 8,500

post offices across the country

In reply to a query, the minis-

ter said the government is

talking to experts of different

countries on the launch of a

Kanti Bose said licences for VoIP

(voice over internet protocol)

of the parliamentary standing

committee on telecommunica-

tion ministry, said winning the

ITU membership is the biggest

achievement since independ-

technical assistance from the

Telecom Secretary Sunil

Hasanul Huq Inu, chairman

phone sets and the prices will

range from Tk 1,000 to Tk 3,000.

will be turned into e-centres.

communication satellite.

would be given soon.

ITU," Inu added.

Regarding the production of

capacity of Teletalk.

It is a new application ser-

access to 3G services.

of India. 3G networks enable faster Besides, they said, the coundata transmission and try has immense potential to advanced services. It supports a export GI pipe, MS products, diverse range of applications. poultry, vegetables, ceramic, Download speed is much sanitary ware, melamine and higher in 3G networks. kitchenware, steel utensils, Subscribers of 3G services could toiletries, electric, plastic and easily enjoy TV programme. But aluminium products. a user has to have the right

Dipu Moni is expected to attend the foundation laying ceremony of a bridge to be constructed by India over Feni river in southern Tripura, said ministry sources. The bridge will enable access to Chittagong port for carrying goods and heavy machinery for the landlocked northeastern region.

The proposed bridge, to be built at a cost of Rs 13 crore would be the business lifeline of northeast India and would also ernment is now in talks with the connect the Southeast Asian countries, added ministry officials

The two countries last March entered into a crucial deal to allow Indian goods to be transhipped to Tripura and other northeastern states through Ashuganj-Akhaura and

Agartala. The Bangladesh government has allowed India to use Chittagong port, about 75 kilometres from Sabroom.

It has also granted the neighbouring country access to Mongla and Ashuganj ports to ferry heavy machinery and other goods in between rest of

India and northeastern states through Bangladesh. The FM is scheduled to lay the foundation of an edifice to be built in southern Tripura commemorating the supreme sacrifice of Indian soldiers and

Bangladeshi freedom fighters during the 1971 Liberation War of Bangladesh.

The huge war memorial park will be constructed at Chottakhola in Belonia subdivision of South Tripura district, bordering Bangladesh.

During the Liberation War, a base camp of Mukti Bahini was set up to wage war against "Bangladesh will get lot of Pakistani soldiers in

of Comilla districts.

Chittagong, Noakhali and parts

STALKING AT DU

## 4 BCL men beaten up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of students of Dhaka University yesterday beat four activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League for stalking a female student of the university.

The students beat up Chhatra League activists Robaet, Sohel, Mahi and Rumi of Jasimuddin Hall for trying to launch an attack on the students who tried to obstruct them from stalking a female student of Shamsunnahar Hall at Teacher-Student Centre intersection around 8:00am.

Robaet and Sohel used indecent words against the female student while she was on her way to the dormitory, sources said.

The victim then informed the matter to some of her friends and other students. The non-partisan students then asked the Chhatra League activists not to do it again. After an hour, around 10 BCL

men tried to attack the students but failed as the students got united and countered the attack that left four BCL men injured. Three non-partisan students--Ramim, Mac and Shakil--were also injured in the BCL attack, sources added.

Islam Khan told reporters academic action would be taken against the students who were involved in the stalking incident.

### Shipping Dept FROM PAGE 1

issuing no objection certificates (NOC) for import of two toxic ships for scrapping, despite the court's stay order on such issuance.

An HC bench of Justice Md Imman Ali and Justice Farid Ahmed issued the rule upon Shipping Department Director General (DG) Rear Admiral Bazlur Rahman and its Chief Chemist Mosharraf Ashraf following a contempt of court petition filed against them by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela). The HC on March 5, 2009

through a ruling, prohibited import of any vessel tainted with hazardous waste or contaminating hazardous materials, which has not been decontaminated at source" This year, ship breakers

appealed against the order, but the Supreme Court upheld the HC order and asked the ship breakers to implement the directives. Bela in its contempt of court

petition stated that the alleged

contemnors issued the NOCs

without receiving any decon-

tamination certificates from proper authorities. The bench also scheduled November 28 for a hearing on

vesterday's ruling. Bela filed the petition on September 30 against six government high officials including Bazlur and Mosharraf for issuing the NOCs for importing MV BADRI and MT BO, and for allowing those to enter the

country's territory. issued a rule seeking explanation from the accused within 10 days as to why contempt of court proceedings should not be

drawn against them. On October 13, five of the accused, Bazlur, Mosharraf, DG of the Department o Environment (DOE) Monwar Islam, DOE Director (Chittagong Port) Md Zafar Alam, and Collector of Customs (Import) Golam Kibria appeared before the court.

The court cleared Monwar, Zafar, and Kibria of the charge after they apologised to the court for violating its order. Bazlur and Mosharraf opted to contest the

Another accused, Chairman of Chittagong Port Reaz Ahmed appeared before the court on October 28 and offered unconditional apology as well. He was

also cleared of the charge. After the issuance of the NOCs, the HC in a different order stayed the operation of the certificates for one month, and directed the importers of the two ships to maintain status quo regarding dismantling of the ships.

Advocate Iqbal Kabir Lytton appeared for Bela, while Advocate Kamruzzaman Mollah represented the defendants.

## Schoolgirls

and briefed them how to resist stalkers.

Maliha Tanjina told The Daily Star that they would not only provide physical training and techniques to the girls but also advise them on resisting stalkers.

"I believe after receiving the training the girls will be able to resist stalkers using their confidence and physical strength. They will be physically stronger and more confident, which is very important," she added.

Principal Mohammad Marufuzzaman of the college said all the interested students of the college would be given the training at breaks. "It will improve their confi-

dencelevel," he added.

ADC (education) Saifullahhel-Azam said, "We have a plan to train teachers of all the girls' schools and colleges so that they can provide training to their students."

Among others, Tangail Superintendent of Police (SP) Mizanur Rahman, Assistant Superintendent of Police Uttam Kumar Pathak, General Secretary of Tangail Coronation Club Faruque Ahmed addressed the programme.

killing was held, but the offence of hatching the conspiracy to kill four national leaders in jail was not tried. Shah Moazzem, Monzoor and Khairuzzaman were

Jail killing case

NEWS

accused in the jail killing case, but were acquitted by the trial court on October 20, 2004, as the accusation against them of conspiracy was not proved. The attorney urged the SC to send the case to the lower court for retrial so they get punished

He said trial of offences of asso-

ciation and participation in the

FROM PAGE 16

in the killing. A three-member bench headed by Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque yesterday adjourned the hearing until tomorrow morning.

on charges of their involvement

Earlier on the day, advocate Anisul Huq, the principal state counsel for this case, prayed to the SC to grant the leave-toappeal petition. Meanwhile, Syed Nazrul

Islam, acting president of the Mujibnagar government during the Liberation War; Tajuddin Ahmed, prime minister; M Mansur Ali, finance minister, and AHM Qamruzzaman, DU Proctor Dr KM Saiful | minister of home affairs, relief and rehabilitation, were killed on November 3, 1975, inside the Dhaka Central Jail.

### and Monzoor were state ministers of the government of Khandakar Mushtaque Ahmed and Khairuzzaman was an army major when the jail killing occurred. Khairuzzaman later

BNP leaders Shah Moazzen

acquitted six army men includ-

Farooq, Shahriar, on the run.

the attorney general's office filed five leave-to-appeal petitions with the apex court against the acquittal. The SC is holding hearing on

the petition against the acquittal of Marfat Ali and Abul Hashem since other accused are not alive, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam told reporters yesterday.

# Yunus clarifies

FROM PAGE 1

has a very important role to play not only in creating social business directly, but also to create a favourable environment for social business to operate and flourish.

address, he insists.

Yunus, managing director of Grameen Bank and the initiator of social business, said the government could set up social business geared to create jobs for the unemployed and address healthcare issues, needs of woman headed households and of old people, homelessness and virtually any other social ill.

It could also set up social business funds that finance social businesses. The role of government cannot be understated, added the Nobel Peace

In addition to what governments do, individuals and citizens have the opportunity to try to solve problems of society through social business, he said.

he had been emphasising is that social businesses should not enjoy any special favours or tax exemptions from the govother business.

With the participation of the citizens and the governments, he believes, society's most solved much more effectively.

businesses with the governments of many cities, regions and countries around the world. These include, for exam-Germany, the province of others, he noted.

He added, based on a cabinet level decision by the Japanese government, its development cooperation agency JICA is designing a social business fund. These governments, and many others, are in the process of creating the necessary funding mechanisms and institutional structures that will enable social businesses to start operating in the near future.

# The HC on the same day suedarule seeking explanation Jamaat noncompliant

FROM PAGE 16

them to correct their charters and they complied with its instructions, the official said.

tration of Freedom Party for failing to submit its ratified constitution within the dead-

elections on December 29, 2008.

mission expired on January

A number of clauses in the Jamaat charter call for establishing the rule of Islam in the country through organised efforts, which imply bringing drastic changes to the basic structure of the country's constitution.

The charter also refused to accept the parliament's plenary power to formulate laws saying people must not accept anyone except Allah as the maker of laws.

Jamaat even dropped from the main body of its charter the provisions of keeping 33 percent posts reserved for women in the party committees at all levels and achieving the goal by 2020. The provision has been mentioned in a special note on the last page of the charter.

The RPO clearly stipulates

main body.

The EC in January and April asked Jamaat to include

meeting. The meeting received information from different

Mohammad Shajahan Mia who is also president of the committee presided over the

sighting of the new moon.

further development.

ment and the Netherlands are jointly implementing the project. It was said that the water resources ministry con-

Sandwip

The taskforce recom-

Under the project, a multi-

mended building 19 cross

dams and constructing those

dam subproject called SUN

will be implemented to con-

nect vulnerable small island

Sandwip with mainland

Between Sandwip and

mainland Noakhali, two chars

namely Urir Char and Jahajer

Char, exist. The dams would

link Sandwip with Urirchar and

land from the coastal zone to

face the pressure of increasing

population and to ensure food

security. The government is

working on this issue," said

Water Resource Minister

Ramesh Chandra Sen, who was

the chief guest of the

chief engineer of the central

zone of BWDB, presented the

minister for the ministry, and

Shaikh Md Wahid-uz-Zaman,

secretary to the ministry, were

present as special guests.

Habibur Rahman, director

general of the BWDB, presided

offices on deputation if neces-

incident happens in the face of

protest by lawyers, the honour-

able chief justice will have to

take all the responsibilities," he

said at a press conference

yesterday at the south hall of

also announced to stage sit-ins

for 10 minutes every working

day in front of the courtrooms

Earlier in the morning, a

group of pro-BNP lawyers led

by Rafiqul Islam Mia and

Zainul Abedin staged a sit-in

for 10 minutes in front of their

Pro-BNP and Jamaat-e-

Justice Ruhul Quddus was

The High Court has recently

Mahbub Uddin Khokon,

Nasiruddin Asim, Morshed Al

Mamun, and Gazi Kamrul

Islam Sajal, among others,

were present at the press con-

Blocks-10, 11

"We have invited them to visit

Bangladesh to sign the agree-

Earlier, Conoco was

demanding a sovereign

immunity for its project and

residual rights to other

blocks while participating in

the bidding. But the govern-

ment cleared its position

that it would not be able to

allow Conoco a sovereign

immunity and residual rights

of sovereign immunity provi-

sion to the PSC to secure

their staff and company from

any legal complexity. But

Petrobangla cleared its posi-

tion that it could not give

them any extra privilege

On their earlier demand

on residual rights to other

blocks, the government

cleared its position that it

would not be able to guaran-

tee any residual rights to the

other six blocks in which

Conoco was the highest

agreed to resolve any dispute

beyond the PSC procedure,

"Conoco sought addition

to other blocks.

Imaduddin said.

ment," he informed.

ference.

**FROM PAGE 16** 

of the two judges.

The lawyers loyal to BNP

"Otherwise, if any untoward

Engineer Humayun Kabir,

Mahbubur Rahman, state

"We have to reclaim more

FROM PAGE 16

in seven years.

Noakhali.

Noakhali.

programme.

keynote paper.

over the session.

2 judges

structed a 'BWDB Task Force' joined the foreign affairs minisin 2002 to make recommendatry, and Monzoor died. tions on assisting and acceler-The HC on August 28, 2008 ating natural process of land accretion in the coast.

ing Marfat Ali and Abul Hashem of the charges of killing. The four others were-- Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooq-ur Rahman, Lt Col (retd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Maj (retd) AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed, and Major (retd) Bazlul Huda.

Mohiuddin and Bazlul Huda were executed on January 27 this year following a SC verdict in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman murder case. Marfat Ali and Abul Hashem are On September 14 last year,

Governments in every country, whether local, regional or national, could implement, alongside their traditional programmes, social businesses in different ways, to tackle all the issues that the government is entrusted to

Prof Yunus also said, what ernment, but be treated like all

pressing problems could be Yunus Centre is already

partnering in setting up social ple, the city of Wiesbaden in Caldas in Colombia, and the government of Albania, among

courtrooms Islami lawyers have all along been against the appointment of the two. an accused in a murder case filed in 1988 and Justice M Khasruzzaman in a case filed for vandalising the attorney general's office in 2006. dismissed both the cases.

Awami League contradicted

with the RPO. The commission asked

The EC scrapped the regis-

Jamaat with 38 other political parties got registered with the EC by submitting its provisionally amended charter before the parliamentary

All the parties promised to get the provisional changes ratified at their national councils within the timeframe stipulated in the RPO. The deadline for sub-

24 this year. Jamaat submitted its ratified charter to the EC on July 22 last year. But the charter contains some provisions that do not conform to the country's constitution and the RPO.

the party's charter. "The commission was satisfied with our clarification," claimed the Jamaat leader. Eid-ul-Azha **FROM PAGE 1** 

the provision in the charter's

parts of the country about

that a political party will be disqualified from getting registered if any provision in its charter contradicts with the country's constitution

and the RPO. In April, the EC asked Jamaat to bring the necessary changes and submit the corrected charter by June 10.

A Jamaat delegation on June 7 met the EC and turned in a letter with a promise to bring necessary changes to its charter.

The party agreed to recognise the parliament's plenary power to make laws by dropping a phrase from its charter and include a provision of keeping 33 percent posts reserved for women in all committees, according to the letter.

The party however declined to omit from its constitution another phrase that calls for establishing the rule of Islam through organised efforts. The EC had asked Jamaat

to amend the provision to meet the registration criteria since the country's constitution does not permit establishing the rule of Islam. But Jamaat is yet to bring the changes to its charter in

line with the EC's instruc-By residual rights Conoco has been demanding a prior-Jasim Uddin Sarkar, legal ity when the government affairs secretary of the party, would award other six blocks said they last met the EC in for exploration. June and there had been no The government has

bidder.

He said the party gave to any third country court as clarifications to some questhe company demanded. tions raised by the EC about The army-backed emergency government invited bids for offshore exploration in February 2008 after divid-

> into 28 blocks. In 1974, Petrobangla conducted the first round bidding, in which 47 companies took part. Petrobangla

ing its sea territory in the Bay

signed six contracts. In 1988, Petrobangla called the second round bidding, but no international oil companies showed inter-

### Myanmar votes Project was arranged at the FROM PAGE 16 Dhaka Sheraton Hotel vesterauthoritarian status quo in a day. The Bangladesh governvote both US President Barack

free nor fair.

backed parties need to win just Obama and British Foreign Secretary William Hague described in separate statements as flawed and neither

"It will mean the return to power of a brutal regime that has pillaged the nation's resources and overseen widespread human rights abuses, including arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, rape and torture," said Hague.

Some Yangon residents packed pagodas instead of voting. In Haka, capital of Chin state bordering India and Bangladesh, more people attended church than cast ballots, witnesses said.

"We're falling asleep," said an official at one polling station official in the commercial hub Yangon before polls shut.

The vote will not bring an end to Western sanctions but may reduce Myanmar's isolation at a time when neighbouring China has dramatically increased investment in natural gas and other resources in the former British colony also known as Burma. Armed riot police stood

guard at polling booths or patrolled streets in military trucks in Yangon, part of a clampdown that includes a ban on foreign media and outside election monitors and a tightening in state censorship. The Internet suffered

repeated failures widely believed to have been orches trated by the junta to control information. It is the first election since 1990, when Nobel laureate

Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy beat the army-backed party in a landslide. The junta simply ignored that result. Suu Kyi, detained for 15 of the past 21 years, urged a boycott of this poll, saying she

"would not dream" of taking

part. She could take the spot-

light this week, however, ahead

of the expiry of her house arrest

on Saturday, November 13. Her release could energize pro-democracy forces and put pressure on the West to roll back sanctions.

MILITARY DOMINANCE The junta's political juggernaut

the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) which is closely aligned with Than Shwe, is top-heavy with recently retired generals and is fielding 27 ministers. It is contesting all the estimated 1,158

Its only real rival, the National Unity Party (NUP), also backed by the army, is running in 980 seats.

While the NUP and USDP are both conservative and authoritarian, they may pursue opposing social and economic policies in parliament, ultimately fostering greater democratic debate in a country where an estimated 2,100 political activists and opposition politicians are behind bars, diplomats said.

An unexpectedly large vote for the NUP could also be seen as a subtle jab against Than Shwe since it is thought to be closer to a different faction in the army.

Ne Win was placed under house arrest in 2002 by Than Shwe, who accused him of treason. NeWin died that year. FRAUD CHARGES

Despite such differences, the

military will emerge the

unquestioned winner. Twenty-

five percent of seats in all cham-

bers are reserved for serving

26 percent of seats for the military and its proxies to secure a majority in the legislature. But the army appears to be taking no chances. At least six

generals. That means army-

parties filed complaints to the election commission, claiming state workers were forced to vote for the USDP.

In Yangon, many voters turned up to vote only to find their names not on electoral rolls, said Zaw Aye Maung, a candidate for the Rakhine Nationalities Development Party, the second-largest of 22 ethnic-based parties.

Hundreds of Rohingyas, a stateless Muslim minority in Myanmar, were given identification cards in Yangon and the right to vote in exchange for backing the USDP, he added.

Some voters who asked officials for help at ballot booths were told to tick the box of the USDP, witnesses said.

The National Democratic Force (NDF), the largest prodemocracy party, accused the USDP of "widespread fraud." Thirty-seven parties are

national parliament and 14 regional assemblies. Except for the USDP and NUP, none has enough candidates to win any real stake due to restrictions such as high fees for each candi-Still, some analysts say the election will create a framework

contesting places in a bicameral

for a democratic system that might yield changes in years ahead in a country bestowed with rich natural resources and located strategically between rising powers China and India.

## High-rise **FROM PAGE 1**

Sadeque Hossain Khoka, mayor of the Dhaka City Corporation visited the spot shorty after 1:04am.

evacuate people from the adjoining buildings as soon as possible with the help of Army The director general of Fire Brigade requested the Army Engineering Corps to send a

He asked the chief DCC

engineer over the phone to

team to inspect the site. Several high-rises had been constructed on both sides of a nine-feet narrow lane of the Free School Street where no

vehicles of fire brigade or police could enter last night. The evacuation of nearby building was hampered as the Haider-Asian Tower tilted onto the lane blocking it completely.

Some residents of adjacent buildings were seen leaving their houses in panic. Hundreds of people

thronged the spot after the news spread in the locality. Md Abul Kalam, a witness, said he heard a loud noise at about 10:45pm and rushed to the source of the sound. He saw cracks in one pillar in the

southeast corner of the car park of the building.

"The building tilted after a while," said Abul Kalam. Murad Iqbal Chowdhury, general secretary of Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (REHAB) also visited the spot.

The Asian Developer which constructed the building, is not a member of REHAB, he said.

Brig Gen Sharafat Hossain, Brigade Commander of Dhaka

Army Engineering Corps, visited the spot last night. He said it would be very

difficult to conduct any opera-

Pakistan that have floundered

tion on the narrow lane.

# Obama regrets

He said the youth of the world can make a huge impact in reaffirming that one can be a strong observer of one's faith without putting somebody else down or visiting violence on somebodyelse.

Religious tolerance is neces-

sary in a world that is getting

smaller and smaller where more and more people of different backgrounds, different races, different ethnicities are interacting and working and learning from each other, Obama added. Both India and Pakistan are needed to help stabilise

the US president. "India's investment in development in Afghanistan is appreciated," Obama said.

Afghanistan where thousands of

US troops battle militants, said

"Pakistan has to be a partner in this process, in fact all countries in the region are going to need to be partners in this process," he said. "The United States welcomes that, we don't think we can do

The US President also criticised the pace of Pakistan's fight against militants within its borders.

this alone.'

we'dlike," said Obama. He said Pakistan was not acting quickly enough to deal with militancy within its borders, a view long expressed by many Indian officials who say Islamabad is hoodwinking Washington by taking aid while also backing militants in

Afghanistan. "There are more Pakistanis who've been killed by terrorists inside Pakistan than probably anywhere else," Obama said.

since the 2008 Mumbai attacks. "My hope is that over time, trust develops between the two

terrorist state.

countries, that dialogue begins, perhaps on less controversial issues, building up to more controversial issues," Obama told students. One student asked him why the US did not declare Pakistan a

consider a cancer within the country that can potentially engulfthe country," said Obama. He said India would benefit the most from a peaceful and

did not need the distraction of instability in the region. The US president said he hoped one day to see trust develop and dialogue begin between the nuclear-armed

and answer session at St Xavier's College, in which the US presivarious subjects.

"Progress is not as quick as faces a diplomatic tightrope in fostering ties with the growing global power, while at the same time helping Pakistan with billions of dollars in aid and promoting wider peace in Afghanistan. Obama's first leg of a 10-day

> moving the United States closer to India as Washington tries to revive a weak economy and gather support to pressure China on its currency. But yesterday India's worries about Pakistan dominated.

"We will work with the Pakistani government in order to eradicate this extremism that we prosperous Pakistan, and that it

neighbours, which have fought three wars in the past 60 years. More than 300 students attended the open-air question

dent answered six questions on On the second day of his official visit to India, Obama

Asian tour has been hailed as

He called upon India to bolster peace efforts with