Libya on rise

2,000 Bangladesh nationals at Ras Jdir border point of Tunisia and the government will take necessary measures for their repatriation, a ministry press release said.

Some 26 Bangladesh nationals have crossed over from Libya to the Egyptian border check point of Al Salloum Tuesday and preparations are underway for their repatriation to Bangladesh by commercial flights.

"Even if the new arrivals are small in number, the consular team will remain at Al Salloum as long as there is the possibility of Bangladesh nationals crossing over from Libya into Egypt in view of the air attacks," the foreign ministry said yesterday.

As of yesterday, it said 106 flights repatriated Bangladesh nationals who moved out of Libya to safety. Among these flights, International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has chartered 100

Bangladesh Biman has sent six flights of its own to repatriate Bangladesh nationals from Alexandria in Egypt and Djerba airport in

The cost of the IOM chartered flights will be jointly shared by the IOM and Bangladesh government, the foreign ministry press release added.

As per the latest reports, a total of 30,850 Bangladesh nationals have been repatriated. Of these, the return of 3,676 persons has been arranged by their employers or they returned on their own, and 25,432 people have been brought back under the IOM arrangements. Some 1,742 returnees took Bangladesh Biman flights.

The remaining 48 Bangladeshi nationals stranded in Ain-Amenas in Algeria will be repatriated by the IOM by next available commercial flight, it said. Meanwhile, the Greece

authorities recovered a body of a Bangladeshi, who along with 49 others jumped from their ship into the sea in Crete Island. With this, the toll rises to 13 while one more Bangladesh national is still missing. The foreign ministry said

arrangements are being made by Bangladesh Embassy in Athens to return the 10 bodies of Bangladesh nationals currently in the mortuary of Hania General Hospital in

As per the flight schedule, 264 Bangladeshis were scheduled to return home from Tunisia yesterday night under IOM charter flight. Besides, three Biman flights are scheduled to carry 1,200 Bangladeshis today, tomorrow and on March 28. Each flight will carry 300 stranded workers from Tunisia.

Tokyo water unsafe

FROM PAGE 20 banned farm produce from areas near the crippled plant.

France urged the European Union to also control Japanese food imports due to the emergency at the Pacific coast plant, where engineers are battling to prevent a meltdown in overheating reactors.

In one Tokyo ward, a water sample contained 210 becquerels of iodine per kilogramme, a city official said. That is more than double Japan's legal limit. Tokyo's stock market dived 1.6 percent on the news.

The government advised residents throughout the city to avoid using tap water to make infant milk formula until further notice.

Prime Minister Naoto Kan stopped shipments of untreated milk and vegetables including broccoli, cabbage and parsley from areas near the plant, about 250 kilometres northeast of Tokyo.

The new inspection zone extends to Saitama and Chiba, part of the greater Tokyo urban sprawl that is home to more than 30 million people. The health ministry said

radioactivity drastically exceeding legal limits had been found in 11 kinds of vegetable grown in

Fukushima. Radioactive caesium at 82,000 becquerels -- 164 times the legal limit -- was detected in one type of leaf vegetable, it said.

The ministry said that if people eat 100 grams (four ounces) a day of the vegetable for about 10 days, they would ingest half the amount of radiation typically received from the natural environment

"Even if these foods are temporarily eaten, there is no health hazard," said top government spokesman Yukio Edano, following reports that some products may have already entered the market. "But unfortunately, as the

situation is expected to last for the long term, we are asking that shipments stop at an early stage, and it is desirable to avoid intake of the foods as much as possible."

Administration said it had placed an import alert on all milk, dairy products, fresh vegetables and fruits from four Japanese prefectures.

Hong Kong said yesterday it was slapping a ban on a variety of food imports from five prefectures after contamination as much as 10 times above safe levels was found in vegetables shipped from Japan.

South Korea said it was considering a similar ban.

In Japan, any further food shortages threaten to compound the misery for hundreds of thousands made homeless by the 9.0magnitude quake and the jetspeed tsunami it spawned that erased entire communi-

As grieving survivors huddled in evacuation shelters amid the rubble of their former lives, their fate was overshadowed by the struggle to avert another massive catastrophe -- a full nuclear meltdown at Fukushima.

Engineers hope to restart the cooling systems of all six reactors that were knocked The US Food and Drug out by the 14-metre tsunami, national power grid.

17pc bigger ADP

tlenecks.

The grand alliance govern-

ment in its second national budget took ADP of Tk 38,500 crore, 35 percent higher than that of the previous one, to materialise its electoral pledges. However, in the first eight

months of the current FY, only 37 percent of the original outlay could be used while the figure was 39 percent during the same period in the previous fiscal year. The ADP has already been

revised to Tk 35,170 crore by the National Economic Council on February 28.

A planning ministry official said the government will even fail to implement the revised ADP. Finally, around Tk 30,000 crore may get utilised, he added.

Meanwhile, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) put 14 conditions for its \$1 billion Extended Credit Facility (ECF) disbursement. One of the conditions is related to the implementation of the ADP.

The IMF told the government to formulate a plan by June this year, explaining clearly how the ADP projects will be approved and implemented.

It also said implementation of the projects under the

term, he continues to hold

office till the middle of ten-

ure of the next parliament,

which may be dominated by

other political parties. This

might lead to a confronta-

tion between the president

Suranjit Sengupta, co-chair

of the parliamentary body,

said they have started dis-

cussion on very important

issues like president, form of

government, local govern-

ment and caretaker govern-

mittee are giving their opin-

ions on how to make all

"Members of the com-

ment.

Asked about the move,

and the cabinet, he said.

ADP continues to remain

The authorities concerned should improve their capacity for project appraisal, land acquisition and inter-agency coordination for fast and smooth implementation of projects.

suspended for various bot-

Besides, efforts should be stepped up to streamline the ADP implementation process and operationalise the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) initiatives.

The World Bank also attached ADP implementation as a major condition for the budget support the government sought from the The planning ministry

has already fixed a set of principles which other ministries should follow while sending project proposals to the ministry for getting budgetary allocation. The principles include

that the number of projects for the next FY must be kept to a minimum for the sake of speedy implementation Each ministry has been asked to send the list of PPP projects.

Every year around 1,000 projects are kept under the ADP initially but at the end of the year around 500 more projects get added up.

JS special body

and he/she will hold office

for five years or until his/her successor is elected by the next parliament. But if a president is

elected at the middle of the tenure of a parliament, he cannot remain in office for five years. Rather he will be in office until the next parliament elects a president at its inaugural session, a committee member told The Daily Star.

Article 50 of the constitution says the president shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters his office.

The constitution provides that tenure of the president once elected does not depend on the tenure of the parliament that elects him.

Explaining the confrontathese institutions more effective and pro-people, tional situation, the comkeeping the balance of mittee member said if a president is elected at the power intact," Suranjit said. middle of a parliament's

Meeting sources said the committee might also discuss the president's prerogative of mercy, which empowers the president to grant pardon, reprieve and respite, and to remit, suspend or commute any sentence passed by a court tribunal or other authorities.

The prerogative of mercy triggered controversy in the recent past as people convicted of killing got the presidential clemency.

Moreover, former president Abdur Rahman Biswas and Iajuddin Ahmed were held responsible for creating national crises in 1996 and

Don't call Zia a killer

FROM PAGE 1

defuse the tension in the

He gave the ruling referring to Tuesday's High Court verdict on the military trial of Colonel Taher.

The Speaker read out from The Daily Star a portion of the HC verdict that said, "The socalled trial and execution of Colonel Abu Taher was a coldblooded assassination which was masterminded by a person no other than Ziaur

Rahman." "The word mastermind and killer or murderer are not same," Hamid said amid protest of opposition lawmakers who demanded expunction of the language used by a ruling AL lawmaker about late president Ziaur Rahman, the BNP founder.

Participating in the discus-

sion on the thanks giving motion on President Zillur Rahman's speech, AL lawmaker Iqbalur Rahim launched a blistering attack on Zia, citing the HC verdict.

His comment drew huge protests from the opposition bench.

A number of opposition lawmakers in the last few days including yesterday attacked the Supreme Court and its judges for what they said not getting justice in a number of cases including those of Khaleda Zia's cantonment residence, Dr Muhammad Yunus' removal from Grameen Bank and the fifth amendment act of the consti-

tution. They alleged the judges are playing partisan role and serving the purpose of the

government.

"It isn't right to frequently undermine the judiciary. But you're doing so without hesitation," the Speaker told the opposition lawmakers.

According to the constitution, MPs in parliament cannot criticise an SC judge over his judicial functions. However, lawmakers

cannot be charged with contempt of court even if they do so. But the Speaker can stop them in that case. On using aggressive words

in parliament, the Speaker said MPs should speak decently.

"We, along with the House, have dignity. Radio and television are broadcasting the House proceedings live. It's a matter of dishonour for us if you talk in indecently parliament," Hamid noted.

and they have already reconnected the wider facility to the

FROM PAGE 20 of President Zillur Rahman.

Bhutanese king

The Bhutanese king has been invited on the occasion, as Bhutan was the first country to recognise Bangladesh after its independence through a nine-month bloody war with Pakistan, sources

Foreign ministry sources said King Khesar will arrive at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 12:15 pm.

will receive him. On landing, he will be

President Zillur Rahman

given 31 gun salutes, followed by a guard of honour by a smart contingent of three services

From the airport, the king will be driven to Sonargaon Hotel, where he will stay.

During the visit, he will call on President Zillur Rahman, while Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will call on him at his hotel suite. Also expected to call the

Bhutanese king are Speaker Abdul Hamid, a number of ministers, including Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Commerce Minister Faruk Khan and prime minister's Adviser Gowher Rizvi.

He will join a state banquet and a dinner in his honour to be hosted by the president and the prime minister.

He will visit the National Memorial in Savar to pay homage to the martyrs of the LiberationWar in 1971. He will also visit the monument at Rayer Bazar mass grave, Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, Liberation War Museum, Dharmarajik Buddha Bihar at Bashabo in Dhaka.

He is also expected to visit Chittagong and Cox's Bazar.

The king will witness the children's parade on the Independence Day on March 26 at Bangabandhu National Stadium in the capital.

He will also join the Independence Day reception to be hosted by the president. He is due to fly home Monday morning.

Jigme Khesar was crowned the fifth Druk Gyalpo (Dragon King) in the sacrosanct chamber of the Golden Throne in Tashichhodzong, a Buddhist monastery and fortress in Thimphu, on November 6, 2008.

He is the eldest son of the Bhutanese King Jigme Singye Wangchuck, and his father's third wife, Queen Tshering Yangdon.

He has a younger full sister and brother and also four half-sisters and three halfbrothers by his father's other three wives (all of his father's wives are sisters). Khesar is unmarried. After completing his basic

education in Bhutan, Khesar studied abroad at Phillips Academy, the Cushing Academy and Wheaton College in Massachusetts, United States, before graduating from Magdalen College, Oxford University, United Kingdom, where he completed the Foreign Service Programme and an MPhil in Politics.

No load shedding

Estimated Demand Supply Gap up to 2016 (Calendar Year)

The Process and the Control of the C	generalization in reco		recurrent startents.	N IDEALS AND ADDRESS	A DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY OF T	Petro Discontinui de Comu	220000000000000000000000000000000000000
Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Max.Demand with DSM (In April)	6454	6765	7518	8349	9268	10283	11405
Gen addition - Public Sector	255	851	838	1040	1270	450	1500
Gen. addition - Private Sector	520	1343	1319	1134	1053	1900	1300
Regional Power Imp				500			
Capacity Retired		88	83	161	1292	128	1033
Gen. Capacity (End of Dec)	5936	8042	10116	12629	13660	15882	17649
NET	5699	7720	9711	12124	13114	15247	16943
Dependable Capacity (End of Dec)	4331	5945	7575	9578	10491	12197	13554
Max Surplus/Shortfall (In Summer)	-2123	-820	57	1229	1223	1914	2149
	-33%	-12%	1%	15%	13%	19%	19%

FROM PAGE 20 Chowdhury at the discussion

arranged by Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad. The programme was also participated by parliamentarians, and high officials of power and energy ministries and related organisations.

By the end of this year, the power generation capacity will increase to 6,000 MW, while the ever rising demand will hit 6,800 MW. But the government is hopeful that next year its efforts in power sector will result in generation exceeding the demand.

Although since coming to power, the government has brought into operation dozens of power plants -- the country is still reeling under a power crisis. Power outages have been taking place in the cities from early this month as the government has been diverting more power for irrigation at night.

During the corresponding period last year, the government shut down all gas-based fertiliser factories to minimise load shedding which had sharply increased due to power-based irrigation. This year, irrigation demands have increased by eight percent. Irrigation alone will require 1,400 MW power.

Power Development Board (PDB) Chairman ASM Alamgir Kabir explained at the discussion why, even after the Awami League-led government added 1,400 MW new power in the last two years, the country has not been producing more than 4,000 MW power in general.

He said the country's gas production did not increase on the one hand, and on the other, more than a half of the

very old and inefficient. These realities have been holding back the progress made in the power sector so far. He noted that the govern-

country's power plants are

ment shifted its focus from natural gas as primary fuel, power generation projects due to a gas crisis. Now the government is diversifying its fuel sources, and looking at coal, nuclear and liquid fuel as alternatives. The PDB chairman

pointed out that electricity demands have been rising from new avenues. In recent years, battery operated tricycles have become so popular across the country that their number has gone up to three to four lakhs. These vehicles demand 300 to 350 MW Earlier while making a

presentation, he said last year, gas was responsible for 89 percent of power generation, and liquid fuel 5 percent. As the government has shifted its focus to liquid fuel as a short term and quick solution to power generation, presently gas represents 83 percent of the source of power, and liquid fuel 10 percent. He gave a progress report

of more than a dozen power projects under implementation and said in the following four years, the country could expect to add roughly 2,000 MW power each year. In the near future, one third of the country's power will be derived from coal as it is very cost effective. Therefore, it is very important for the country to further develop its own coal resources.

"We have signed 34 deals for 3,317 megawatt so far [from January 2009], of which

power projects of 2,600 megawatt are under implementation. In the next six months we hope to sign 36 more deals for another 5,000 megawatt power," Kabir noted. Side by side with new

the government has also been working on huge transmission line works to evacuate power to be generated in Bibiyana, Bhola, and Sylhet, as well as on cross-border power import. Kabir pointed out that

alongside these investments the power supply cost is set to increase. The cost is now Tk 3.62 per kilowatt hour, which will go up to Tk 4.99 per kilowatt hour in the next two years, necessitating a power tariffadjustment. Dr Towfiq-e-Elahi

Chowdhury noted, "We are going to bring into operation 3,000 megawatt power this year [since 2009] -- which required an investment of 3 billion US dollars. In contrast the whole BNP regime produced just one 80 megawatt power plant. This reflects the level of initiatives taken by this government. No other government had taken such a big initiative before."

Energy Secretary Abul Kalam Azad pointed out, from 1990 the power sector grew at an annual rate of 7 percent on an average -- which was much behind the required rate of 10 percent (as required by the GDP growth rate). That left the country with a 40 percent deficit. In 2010 the power sector growth was 10 percent. The government is hoping in the next one year the growth will mark a rise by 30 to 40

Pakistan fly

FROM PAGE 1

right-handed Sarwan into cutting the ball, only to have Umar Akmal grasp a sharp chance at point.

From that moment onwards, it was the story of a collapse, a phenomenon that has become strangely routine at this venue during this World Cup.

Sarwan was followed by Kieron Pollard, who despite his billing, succumbed to the Pakistan skipper's quicker one, the much-maligned Kamran Akmal holding on to the thick inside edge off the Trinidadian's bat. Next ball, Devon Thomas was good enough to offer his pads to Afridi's accurate quicker delivery, and within the space of five overs, the West Indies were reduced to 71 for eight in the 28th over.

Darren Sammy and Devendra Bishoo were sent back by Saeed Ajmal before Chanderpaul and Kemar Roach ensured the 40-minute 'lunch' break would take its full course with their 40-run ninth wicket stand Chanderpaul made a typically stodgy 44 off 106 balls while Roach smashed two boundaries in his 43-ball 16 before spooning one to Younis Khan off Abdul Razzaq. Afridi completed the rout and a fourwicket haul to take his tournament haul to 21 as he took full advantage of a wicket that offered little turn, the leggie using his full bag of tricks.

Man-of-the-match Mohammad Hafeez and the senior Akmal then saw through the initial pace burst of Roach with a flurry of boundaries before settling into the unbeaten century partnership that ensured a chase without any mishaps. With his ninth four, Hafeez reached his eighth one-day

half-century. The 64-ball 61

had several hits through the

square boundary on the off-

side, the West Indies bowling

proving too flat on a wicket

hammered ten fours in his free-scoring innings. Akmal made 47 off 61 balls, his final boundary out of seven confirming the win with

the wicketkeeper-batsman making sure it was an early end to the first quarterfinal. SCOREBOARD Scoreboard of the World Cup quarterfinal between Pakistan and the West Indies at the Sher-e-Bangla

Stadium on Wednesday:

WESTINDIES

almost 30 overs left to play and

Smith lbw b Hafeez Gayle c Afridi b Gul Sarwan c U Akmal b Afridi 24 Bravo lbw b Hafeez Chanderpaul not out Pollard c K Akmal b Afridi Thomas lbw b Afridi Sammy lbw b Ajmal Bishoo b Ajmal Roach c Younis b Razzak Rampaul b Afridi Extras: (lb-2, w-7, nb-2) Total: (All out in 43.3 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-14, 2-16, 3-16, 4-58, 5-69, 6-69, 7-71, 8-71,9-111 Bowler 16 Hateez 29 Afridi 30

18 Ajmal Razzak PAKISTAN KAkmal not out Hafeez not out Extras: (lb-4, w-1) Total: (For no loss in 20.5 overs) Did not bat: Afridi Misbahul, Younis, Shafiq, U Akmal, Razzaq, Ajmal, Gul,

Riaz. M R W Bowler 5.5 39 0 Roach 28 5 1 Rampaul Bishoo 1 24 5 1 18 Sammy Result: Pakistan won by 10 wickets. Man-of-the-match:

Mohammad Hafeez.

FROM PAGE 20 people of the microfinance that offered nothing to Roach sector all across the world. and Ravi Rampaul. Hafeez

Yunus

"In the specific context of Bangladeshi microfinance in general and Grameen Bank in particular this has been a great loss," said the statement that carried signatures of 108 microfinance practitioners and experts.

The Indian microfinance

sector also did not remain un-

influenced by the 'Grameen story' and the model was replicated or adopted in different variants by many of the microfinance institutions, the signatories said. "Inspired by the great visionary that he is, many people in the development sector started working in the

expanding the financial services to the poor, for better livelihoods, better income and quality of life," the statement added. The recognition of microfinance efforts as a development tool in different countries is a result of Yunus

influence, the statement

field of microfinance towards

noted. "We, in India, stand in solidarity with Prof Yunus Grameen Bank and the Bangladeshi microfinance sector. Prof Yunus has been a source of strength and inspiration to us, as we went about establishing our own nascent microfinance movement,' the signatories said.

In conclusion, Yunus Indian supporters said, "We need him now, more than ever to help guide us in our search for improved products, services and delivery models to bring meaningful change to the lives of the poor and downtrodden."

Dr Yunus is currently opposing, at the Bangladesh Supreme Court, a Bangladesh Bank decision to remove him from the position of managing director of Grameen Bank.

More join

FROM PAGE 1 Bangladeshis were given top priority for repatriation with up to nine flights a day chartered by the IOM. "But the priority seemed to be over from Saturday as fewer and fewer aircraft were made available for them," said an aid worker in Choucha. At one point the repatriation operation was so intense that if it continued for two more days at the same pace, all Bangladeshis would have

The IOM, however, continued repatriating nationals of different African countries stranded at Choucha. Over the last five days thousands of African nationals were seen boarding buses for the airport. Officials were also trying to

been home by now, they said.

count again how many Bangladeshis were still in the camp. At the beginning of this week they said there were just over 1,500 Bangladeshis left. But Tuesday the number looked much higher. Tuesday, hundreds of

stranded Bangladeshi migrants crowded the IOM office in Choucha to hear from officials who among them would be able to board the two flights vesterday. As the two Bangladeshi IOM officials, Shakil Mansoor and Saiful Islam Shaheen, drafted from the IOM's Dhaka office, frantically tried to help, the crowd of Bangladeshis grew more and more impatient. "We are now tired, many of

the tents in this cold weather for days without proper food," said Jalaluddin from Koshba, Brahmanbaria, who walked on a crutch as his right leg was broken in an accident in Libya four months ago. A deep resentment prevailed among many of the stranded Bangladeshis who

arrived over two weeks ago at

the camp but were unable to

us are falling sick sleeping in

leave as the authorities could not find their passports. "We arrived here on March 11 and handed over passports to the authorities, many people who came later have left but whenever we ask them about our passports they offer us IOM travel passes, suggesting that the passports have been misplaced in the melee,'

Badruddoza from Noakhali. I tried for an official version of the story just to be told that some Bangladeshi passports have been mixed up with passports of thousands of other nationals.

said Mohammad

The Tunisian army colonel, in-charge of passports and security, told me Tuesday evening that all passports would soon be traced. "I can guarantee you not a single passport is missing, we shall find them all," said the colonel, adding, "If some people have to go home they have the option of opting for a travel

Meanwhile, the IOM yesterday withdrew two of its four Bangladeshi officials on the ground in Choucha, sources confirmed.

"It looks like it is going to take longer for these stranded people to return home," said an aid worker manning the kitchens at Choucha.

The IOM, however, had warned of its fund constraints for the on-going evacuation and repatriation operations arising from the Libyan crisis. Last week, the IOM and the UNHCR in a joint communiqué appealed to developed countries to provide funds for what it said were history's largest evacuation and repatriation operations centring the Libyan crisis.

Dist councils **FROM PAGE 1**

In the past, MPs were appointed chairmen of zila parishads during the autocratic rule of HM Ershad. With the fall of Ershad,

the zila parishad chairmen most of whom were MPs from his Jatiya Party, were removed and deputy commissioners were made exofficio chairmen.

In 2000, the previous

Awami League-led government repealed the zila parishad act of 1988 and made a law providing for direct election to zila parishads. But no election to the parishads has been held till now, allowing bureaucrats to run those. During the question-

answer hour, the premier also spoke of her government's steps to resolve employment problems, increase fish production and tackle climate change effects, and to prevent stalking of women.