UP polls violence

UN inspectors

from possessing missiles with a range of 150 kilometres or more and insist on the destruction of those already in Iraqi hands. Baghdad is not banned from possessing lowerrange missiles not considered weapons of mass destruction

ElBaradei made it clear that the inspectors would need several more months in order to provide any "credible assurance" that Iraq has no nuclear weapons programme.

"These few months would be a valuable investment in peace because they could help us avoid a war," he said.

While Iraq has cooperated in granting access to the UN weapons inspectors since November, ElBaradei stressed that Baghdad needed to make a shift from passive to active "support," including voluntarily assisting the inspectors and providing documentation, people and other evidence.

"This pro-active engagement on the part of Iraq would be in its own best interest and is a window of opportunity that may not remain open for very much longer," he said.

Shortly before the report was read

"We obtained permission from the

Export Promotion Bureau (EPB),

(which is holding the fair) for holding

the concert. Managing director of Rora

Major (retd) Akteruzzaman also

showed police officials a copy of it,"

said Mostafa Jalal Khan, marketing

But police suddenly 'ordered us to

stop preparations for the concert and

leave the stage'. They also ordered

that 'we have to show them permission

from the Dhaka Metropolitan Police

police order, Akteruzzaman ordered

his men to go on with preparations for

Some sources said that defying the

Akteruzzaman's son Sharier

When contacted, DMP Additional

Zaman Rana was detained and

released about a couple of hours later.

Deputy Commissioner Md Masud Mia

said, "We prevented Rora from organ-

ising the concert for security reasons.

Rora was not entitled to stage the

show because it did not obtain DMP

not what EPB had granted permission

for. It was just allowed to hold mobile

cultural show and the sound limit was

fixed at 60 decibel. But Rora arranged

things in such a way that would raise

the noise level to not less than 10,000

Beides, he said, there is no space

restore peace at the fair venue, he

3 killed in road

others injured when a coach and a

truck collided in Golara industrial

area on Dhaka-Aricha highway

The accident occurred at 11:00

The identity of the deceased and

am when the Khulna-bound bus

Eagle Paribahan collided with the

Dhaka-bound truck killing the three

injured could not be known immedi-

ately. Local people rushed the

injured to the nearby hospital.

decibel. This is a gross violation."

He went on, "The stage show was

permission as required by law.

(DMP) for holding the show, 'he said.

FROM PAGE 12

manager of Rora.

of them, causing injuries

out at UN headquarters in New York, the United States served notice that it would not accept anything less than full compliance from Baghdad to UN disarmament demands.

"The United States will read the Blix report to see one thing, one thing very simple: Is Iraq complying, yes or no?" said White House spokesman Ari Fleischer

Iraq "must comply in all regards. Not in some regards, not in half regards, not in some areas but not other areas. Yes or no, are they or

Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), appeared before the top UN body to report on progress in their first two months of work hunting down Iraq's alleged weapons of mass destruction, amid mounting US threats to wage a solo war on Iraq.

For his part, Baradei said that IAEA inspectors had not identified any illegal nuclear activities in Irag but he asserted that Baghdad needs to be more "pro-active" in helping nuclear experts do their work.

Asked about the incident

Akteruzzaman said, "Deputy

member of the committee which had

show. Then why should we need

Image crisis

permission again?

FROM PAGE 1

terror-risk list

not be quashed Advocate Yousuf Hossain Music stops at fair

Bodies of two Commissioner of DMP Sajjat Ali was a kidnapped granted us permission to hold the

UNB, Pabna

Peters told them that the indemnity ordinance has not been welcomed by Padma. the western countries and particularly

the US, meeting sources said. However, she mentioned that during the Operation Clean Heart the law and order showed marked improvement. But no one would appreciate the move to block people from taking recourse to law for the 'custodial deaths and accesses' done

during the drive. The US envoy also mentioned that the way the BGMEA election was foiled with the help of police, it would not help the country portray a positive image and attract foreign investments, according to meeting sources.

In this context, she asked the business community to take initiatives for constant dialogue with the policymakers for a positive change in the country's governance.

She said good governance would automatically give Bangladesh a good

President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Yussuf Abdullah Haroon led the delegation. It also included Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) President Motiur Rahman, Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) President Wali Bhuiyan, American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham) President Aftabul Islam and Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association President Kutubuddin Ahmed.

The business delegation told the US envoy that Bangladesh's inclusion in the US restrictive list of countries would have a negative impact on its image, damaging its international trade and foreign investment. Three people were killed and six

But Peters said the US decision would not hurt trade or investment. This is only a process of having a record of people staying for a long time in the US, she mentioned.

She assured that even if the illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in the US get registered under the new programme, their cases would be considered in future. But if anyone gets caught without registration, the law would take its own course, she told the business

BSTI accused

Do they protect the interest of consumers or promote poor-quality products?" asked Kaiser.

A top CAB office-bearer earlier said the condensed milk companies produced low-quality milk that contained only sugar and dalda.

Aziz Al Mahmud, managing director of the Danish Condensed Milk Bangladesh Limited, Md Shahabuddin Alam, chairman of SA Condensed Milk Limited and Mohammad Zakaria, chairman of Meghna Condensed Milk Industries Limited also spoke at

the briefing. The products of his company were exported to Nepal, Bhutan and some northeastern Indian states,

said Aziz Al Mahmud. "We had to cancel an export consignment. We used vegetable fat in producing condensed milk. The use of vegetable fat is globally recognised and it's not hazardous to

health." Mahmud said. Zakaria said the Meghna

Condensed Milk Limited did not get any show-cause notice from the BSTI as the latter claimed, he added. However, the managing director

received show-cause notices a day

of Danish Condensed Milk Limited and the chairman of SA Condensed Milk Limited admitted that they

before expiry of the deadline for

Kaiser pointed out that the BSTI issued licence after testing products and renewed the licence of the company.

"Why didn't BSTI take action before renewal of the licence? We have been marketing our products for the last 12 years.

'The BSTI is not well equipped to test our products. We did not violate the BSTI standards. Rather, the BSTI didn't have any standard when we used modern technology," he

The BSTI did not do anything to ban the substandard products up for sale, he alleged

On January 23, the BSTI cancelled licences of four condensed milk companies. The decision was taken at a ministerial review meeting with Industries Minister MK Anwar in the chair.

The decision came after BST chemists found traces of vegetable fat, which might cause stomach disorder, instead of milk fat.

Meanwhile, the High Court on January 26 stayed for two months the BSTI orders to cancel licences of the four companies and seize the products. The court order came after writ petitions by the compa-

Arms case Proceedings against AL leader's sons stayed

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday stayed the proceedings against two fugitives being tried in absentia by the Speedy Trial Tribunal.

The army-led joint forces recovered two guns and ammunition from Kalibari road. Barisal. residence of Awami League leader Abul Hasnat Abdullah in Öctober last.

The trial began after police prosecuted Abdullah and his three sons and the Speedy Trial Tribunal framed charge against them. Abdullah's two arrested sons Moin and Ashig were enlarged on bail by the High Court that also stayed proceedings of the Tribunal against them.

The bench comprising Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Shamsuddin Chowdhury passed the order vesterday upon a petition filed by Shahanara Abdullah, wife of Hasnat Abdullah.

The Court also issued rule upon the government to show cause why the arms case against them should

Humayun appeared for the petitioner while Attorney General AF

recovered

Bodies of two men kidnapped on January 18 were recovered yesterday from under the ground at Kharachar, a secluded char on river

Police and locals suspect that musclemen of listed criminal Abu Sayed kidnapped Osman, 50, and Abdul Wahab, 32, as they had supplied information to the army-led joint force during Operation Clean Heart that led to the arrest of Abu Sayed with arms and ammunition. The victims were supporters of

chairman candidate Golam Mustafa in the election to Bharar Union Parishad of sadar upazila held on January 25. Abu Sayed, a listed criminal of the area, contested from jail and was elected chairman.

A case was filed accusing 18 people for kidnap of Osman and Wahab, peasants of the village.

Police superintendent said a contingent of police was sent to the Kharachar to collect the bodies, which were partially devoured by dogs.

Market FROM PAGE 1

government around Tk 300 crore in evenue loss.

He said the government has no plan to subsidise soybean to push its price down to Tk 48 per ka The minister said with the help of

the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) price list of important essentials would soon be posted at 29 DCC-approved markets Amir Khosru pointed out that the

Trading Corporation of Bangladesh TCB) conducted a survey at different kitchen markets in the city.

Basing on the survey he dismissed newspaper reports that sovbean was selling at Tk 50 to 55 per kg. Retailers at Karwan Bazar and New Market were selling soybean at the government rate of Tk 46 to 48 per kg, he

The retailers at Karwan Bazar said they are selling soyabean at the government fixed price as TCB officials frequented the market vesterday to keep an eve on them. They said the TCB men asked them why they had told newsmen that they were selling soybean at Tk 52-55 per kg.

But soybean was selling at Tk 50 to Tk 52 per kg at kitchen markets in Mohammadpur, Mirpur and Fakirerpul.

The minister said a TCB survey found that retailers are now selling onion at Tk 8 per kg, garlic Tk 28, ginger Tk 24 and sugar at Tk 29 per kg. At this time last year, the minister said, their prices were Tk 13, Tk 50, Tk 25 and Tk 31.

But at Mohammadpur market, onion was selling at Tk 10-12 a kg and garlic at Tk 30 a kg.

The jute ministry officials, however,

hope that a number of jute mills

would be able to come out of the

loss-making cycle. For the first time

in 10 years two prominent state-

owned jute mills are going to profit

this year, said a high official

Mills at Narsingdi and Rajshahi Jute

mills at Rajshahi. Their earnings have

shown an upward trend in the first

On the other hand, a number of

other jute mills are likely to reach

break- even point this year as they

increased the production 10 to 20

per cent. The mills include Karim

Jute Mills, Latif Bawani, Jute Mills,

Hafiz Jute Mills and Ghul Ahmed

They were also optimistic about

better export performance this year

as a lot of orders have been

received from a number of coun-

tries. Iraq has already ordered for

30,00 tonnes of jute goods while jute

carpet is going to have a huge

market in Australia and New

Zealand, the officials said.

half of the fiscal, the official said.

The mills are Bangladesh Jute

requesting anonymity.

Jute Mills.

College girl Sick jute mills

unfortunate.

kerosene on her body in the evening on October 11. 2000 as she came out of her house to respond to a

After five days, Kulsum succumbed to her burn injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Uncle of Kuslum had filed a case with Narsingdi thana under section 4(1) of Women and Children Repression Prevention Act-2002 in

5 criminals

FROM PAGE 1

emphasised that all the five were identified criminals and accused in several cases, including murder and

He said they went into hiding with the launch of the army-led anticrime operation, but broke cover after the pullout of the army and allegedly killed the Jubo League leader on



Association and Bangladesh Tanners' Association at Hotel Sonargaon in the city yesterday.

BGMEA holds foiled polls today

FROM PAGE 1 Federation of

the Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) President Yussuf Abdullah Harun, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) President Matiur Rahman, Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) President Amir Humayun Chowdhury, Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) President Waliur Rahman Bhuiyan, American Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh (AmCham) President Aftabul Islam and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) President Manzurul Huq signed the statement.

The polls fell through Sunday as the police sealed off the BGMEA offices in the capital and Chittagong on injunctions from the lower courts.

Later in the day, the High Court ordered that the elections be held immediately after the BGMEA moved a petition challenging the police

arranged by the Dhaka Reporters

said law would take its own course if

the indemnity ordinance was

Replying to a question, Moudud

The one-and-a-half-hour

programme saw a lively debate on

such pressing issues as the indem-

nity ordinance, inclusion of

Bangladesh in the US terror-risk list

and 'repression' on opposition

leaders and intellectuals including

Moudud said the constitution

Tofail pointed out that a murder

Similarly, the killing of

cannot be indemnified giving it a

retrospective effect as explained by

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman in 1975 and the 48 custo-

dial deaths during the Operation

Clean Heart should not be indemni-

But the law minister said the

Supreme Court is the only place to

explain the justification of the

ordinance. He, however, said the

lawyers who opposed the ordi-

nance is loyal to some political

parties and their explanation might

Tofail countered it saying, "Some

lawyers and NGO leaders like Fazle

Hasan Abed of BRAC who are not

devoted to the Awami League also

When Tofail alleged that human-

rights violations climbed high under

the BNP rule. Moudud said custo-

dial deaths are not new, though

Tofail said people were shocked

opposed the ordinance.

eminent lawvers

fied, he said.

be biased.

empowers the government to

promulgate such ordinance if needs

Unity (DRU) at its auditorium.

repealed in the future.

FROM PAGE 12

Moudud, Tofail

The High Court order and subsequent BGMFA decision to hold the polls, however, failed to dispel apprehension among candidates and According to sources, a number of

Sammilito Parishad Forum candidates and election board members have been threatened over tele-The secretary of the election board, Fashiur Rahman was told not to attend the polls and so was Faisal

Meanwhile, the BGMEA resumed its activities yesterday after the police pulled out of its Dhaka office at around 11:00pm and Chittagong

Samad, a Sammilito Parishad Forum

office about an hour later on Sunday. Throughout the day, candidates and voters streamed into the offices,

querying about the election date. At a 12:30pm meeting, the BGMEA board recommended that the elections be held today (Tuesday). The election board later endorsed the recommendation and decided that the voting be held from

more at the ordinance than the

killing of the their relatives during the

blamed the AL for the US decision to

blacklist Bangladesh as a terror-risk

country instead of facing the prob-

said in a cheerful fashion, "If the AL

is so powerful, then the government

and torture of opposition leaders.

local and foreign journalists, teach-

ers and human-rights activists

earned the government a bad

there is none in the cabinet who

chanted slogans in favour of the

their position after criticism surfaced

in international newspapers, he

Amnesty International requesting

the government not to place the

indemnity ordinance in the House,

Moudud denied receipt of any such

However, both leaders urged a

DRU General Secretary Monir

Hossain Liton conducted the

programme with DRU President

between peoples, Hitler's Reichstag

and Bush's Congress are not

different in their military behaviour,

A similar comparison had been

Newspapers in Saudi Arabia

A1-Riyadh accused the US

administration of attempting to

exploit the "enormous hatred that

resulted from the September 11,

2001 attacks," to wage war against

and Iraqis categorically reject US

justifications to attack Baghdad and

Iraqi people ... and exploiting their

national wealth is more repugnant

and extremist than everything

Saddam did, and worse than all

repeatedly warned that waging war

against Baghdad will have far

reaching consequences for the

called on all Arabs to join ranks in

order to foil a "conspiracy that will

Another newspaper, Okaz,

Saudi Arabia, which has a long

colonial powers." the paper said.

topple President Saddam Hussein.

It warned Washington that Arabs

The principle of annihilating the

made by a number of European

politicians and thinkers, the daily

normally reflect official thinking in

Mahfuzur Rahman in the chair.

Saudi daily

FROM PAGE 12

the daily charged.

Arabs and Muslims.

Rivadh.

congenial political atmosphere and

agreed on some points.

The government cannot say

The government failed to defend

To a query on the letter of

should hand over the power."

Tofail said the government

To an allegation, Tofail Ahmed

anticrime drive.

lem arising from it.

Talihan Tofail said

added.

8:00am to 4:00pm in Dhaka and Chittagong. Apart from responding to election

queries, the BGMEA officials yesterday had to clear some 400 applications for utilisation declaration and permission involving transactions to the tune of Tk 180 crore The applications had piled up as

Sunday's police action put activities at the secretariat to a grinding halt. The police clampdown on the

BGMEA offices came as a sequel to the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party's interference in the elections to the apex organisation of the country's garment manufacturers. The BNP took interest in the polls

after some sitting and former law-

makers of the party had formed the Oikya Jote to run against the Sammilita Parishad Forum of Kazi Muniruzzaman and Annisul Hug. The Jote, led by former BNP legislator Fazlul Azim, talked the

commerce ministry into ordering a one-month deferment of the polls. The BGMEA challenged the order, which the High Court stayed on January 18.

On January 25, the Appellate Division rejected a plea against the High Court order and asked the BGMEA to hold election the next day as was scheduled.

However, on the same day, two garment owners obtained interim injunctions on the polls.

With the BGMEA all set to hold the polls Sunday, the police intervened. Both the Jote and the Forum have filed candidates for the 27-strong BGMEA executive committee.

Leaders of the Forum could not be reached for comment yesterday while Fazlul Azim of the Jote refused to "talk to The Daily Star"

In today's election, 2,121 BGMEA members - 1,667 in Dhaka and the rest in Chittagong - are expected to cast their votes.

Fire guts Ctg spinning mill

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A devastating fire in a spinning mill damaged assets worth Tk One crore at Sitakunda.

Sources said the fire broke out at around 9.00pm on Sunday at Unitex Spinning Mills Ltd at Banshbaria and immediately engulfed the cotton warehouse where piles of cotton were stocked.

Five fire fighting units from the city rushed to the spot. After several hours of frantic efforts the fire was extinguished at around 9.00am yesterday. The origin of the fire could not be

ascertained, sources said.

Body of missing Bangladeshi housewife recovered in London

UNB, London

Police Friday recovered the body of a Bangladeshi housewife from Epsom area in Surrey County of Greater London. The victim was identified as

Ruhena Begum, 44, mother of six children. She had been living with her brothers and sisters for the last 7or 8 years following a dispute with her husband, Mohammad Azizul Huq. Acting on information provided

by Ruhena's children, police arrested Azizul Huq from East London area on Friday night. Family sources said someone

called out Ruhena Begum of her house on Thursday night. A missing northern border with Iraq, has report was filed with the police after the victim's children woke up Friday morning to find that their mother was

Ruhena Begum came to London with her husband Azizul Haq of Chandarpur village in Golapgan upazila of Sylhet after they were married some 26 years back.

Tanore Upazila: Panchbandar, kamargaon, Kolma, Talond,

Panchaghar, Tetulia Upazila: Bhajanpur, Debnagar, Shalbahan,

Buraburi Kurigram, Bhurungamari Jpazila: Shilkhari,

Jaymanirhaat, Andharijhar, Pathardubi.

Thakurgaon, Haripur Upazila: Haripur, Bhatubia, Dangapar. Dinajpur, Kaharole Upazila: Bamchandrapur, Rasulpur, Mukundapur, Sundarpur, Dabor,

Tatgaon. Narail, Kalia Upazila: Kalabaria, Salamabad, Hamidpur,

Kustia, Khoksa Upazila: Ambaria, Khoksa, Janipur, Samoshpur, Osmanpur, Betbaria Shimulia, Jointihangra. Khulna, Rupsha Upazila

Tsbahirdia, Aichgati, Ghtbhog, Shifaltala and Nehati.

Chuadanga, Alamdanga Kahshkarra, Nagdaha. Maheshpur: Mandarbaria,

Fatepur, Azampur, Jadabpur, Natima, Esbike. Noakhali Sadar: Aushdia, Batea, Chaprashirhat, Newajpur,

Narauttampur, Sundalpur. Akahura Sadar: Maniobdo, Mogra, Akhaura Uttor, Akhaura

B.Baria Sadar: Singarbil Daskin,

Pattan, Machihata, Bishnupur, Basudeb Habiganj Sadar: Lokra, Surpur, Nizmpur, Rishci, Pail, Rajiura,

Gopaya, Shaestagani,

Bianibaazar Upazila: Alinagar Mulapur, Lauta, Dubag, Mathiura, Sheola, Charkhai, Korarbaazar, Tilpara, Muria and Bianibaazar

St Martin's

FROM PAGE 12 sion, use of sand and coral stone in any type of construction, collection of corals, snails, cockles, tortoises, other sea animals and any kind of duckweed.

The embargo also covers felling and collection of plants, hunting of wild animals, any activities that damage animal or plant habitat, actions hampering natural features of land and animal, and other acts which might be harmful to fish and other aquatic animals.

The Environment Ministry has undertaken a Tk 14-crore project to protect the bio-diversity and establish eco-tourism in the island

Gopalganj, Kotalipara Upazila: Bandhabari, Amtali, Ghagor Kalabari.

Faridpur Sadar; Kanaipur, Machchar, Kaijuir, Gerda, Krishnanagar, Aliabaad

Harirampur Upazila: Bala Kanchanpur, Gala, Gopinathpur,

Ramkrisnapur, Chala.

Kaliganj Upazila: Jamalpur, Muktarpur, Nagri, Tamulia. Dhamrai Upazila: Kola, Suapur

Roail, Nanar, Sutipara, Somvagh and Dhamrai. Shakhipur Upazila: Gazaria

Kalia, Baheratail, Hatibandha Jadabpur, Kakrajan, Pakundia Upazila: Shakia Chandipasha , Narandi, Agaroshindur, Jangalia, Charfaradi,

Burudia, Patuabhanga, Pakundia, Hosendi Narail, Kaila Upazila: Barnal, Eliadabad.

City cleanup

conducted so that garbage or building materials cannot be littered or piled up on the streets, sources

The DCC has already started serving notice to real estate developers and house owners in case of piling construction materials on the roads, as it contributes hugely to

"Cases will be filed with the magistrate court against those who will not comply with the notice," said a top official. The DCC has decided to prohibit

places where residents can be affected due to pollution and public nuisance. Meanwhile, the city mayor asked officials not to allow cattle market to

be set up at Karwan Bazar as it is an

the setting up of cattle market in

important commercial zone. Talking to The Daily Star on Sunday, the city Mayor urged the city dwellers to extend their partici pation in the programme.

next five to six months all main roads, alleys, lanes and by lanes would be repaired. "The current drive will not be

He also assured that within the

stopped until the condition mproves," the mayor added. Recently, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at an inter-ministerial meeting had instructed the DCC

mayor to take immediate steps to

stood to lose money even if it

But the more pertinent question

whether passengers can hold up

flight for indefinite period just

Contrary to The Daily Star report,

because they bought tickets and

the Biman rejoinder said the flight

was not delayed to accommodate

inance Minister M Saifur Rahman.

as the delay was also caused by the

The Daily Star stands corrected

Despite these flaws. Biman

departed on time.

collected passes.

Security lapse

exposing passengers to serious security threats, specially in a time of terrorist risks. "At the time of departure at

Jessore Airport there were only 12 passengers available and another 65 passengers were to report whos (sic) representative collected boarding pass (sic) earlier," said the Biman reioinder. Aviation experts point out that it

is a strict international rule that only the passengers themselves can collect boarding passes and no one else. This is to know whether the right passengers are travelling and also to screen passengers to detect terrorists.

Biman has been violating this rule, thereby potentially putting passengers' lives at risk.

But why could Biman not fly with the 12 passengers? In Biman's words: "So it was not commercially viable for Biman to operate with 12 passenger (sic) only, that is why, quite understandably, another 1hr and 02 minute (sic) commercial delay happened to accommodate a group of 65 passenger (sic)."

The statement by Biman reveals

how it dishes out excuses to conceal

its flaws. Obviously, if the passen-

gers (in this case, their representa-

tive) had collected the boarding

passes, they had already pur-

chased tickets. So as the tickets had

already been sold, Biman never

rejoinder claimed: "Biman is paying best effort to optimum satisfaction of its valued passenger and situation is mproving radically."

Igbal's bail

rest 64 passengers.

Igbal and four others, now in jail. were produced before the tribunal vesterday during the hearing.

The case filed with the Motijheel Police Station on February 13, 2001 alleged that activists of the then ruling AL fired on an opposition procession in the city's Malibagh area during hartal hours on that day killing four persons including a policeman and wounding four others. The Detective Branch (DB) of police submitted the chargesheet on December 31 last year against labal and 23 others.

CEC cries again

forcing it to seek the government support to maintain peace and security during the elections," Chief Election Commissioner told newsmen at the EC Secretariat.

This is the second time that the EC has made a formal request for troops on election duty. A month back, the government refused to entertain its demand for army deployment before, during and after the UP polls, staggered over nearly two months.

The CEC sounded unsure when asked whether he expected the government to respond positively to the EC plea for troops. "Let us hope for the best and brace for the worst." Syed, however, refused to com-

ment when asked who should shoulder the responsibility if questions were raised about fairness of the polls, given widespread allegations of rigging and intimidation. "Let the people be the judge." The EC meeting yesterday

reviewed the first two days of polling in 380 unions. Polls-related violence across the country has so far left four people killed and some 200 others injured. Besides, the authorities had to postpone voting at as many as 17 polling centres.

The meeting asked local civil and police administrations to try their

best to maintain law and order at the violence-prone areas.

All the three election commissioners placed their recommendations before the meeting in writing. One of them suggested that the

armed forces be deployed in the most vulnerable areas, if total deployment were not possible meeting sources said. Election Commissioner MM Munsef Ali, when contacted, said that the EC wanted the UP polls free

from intimidation and violence. "The

situation worsens every day and calls for immediate army deploy-"We would rather that the polls be held without army presence. However, the way things are, army

Firing erupts FROM PAGE 1

deployment is a must."

Bangladesh, said Bangla-speaking men and women of Maharashtra are being coerced into admitting that they are illegal Bangladeshis. The BSF has been watching the

movements of the BDR troops and angry villagers with searchlights from surveillance towers.

When asked, some BDR officials said those assembled in the noman's-land for push-in have been taken back by the BSF

for such a band show involving large public gathering. "From experience. we know such band shows ended in chaos and public nuisance on many occasions in the past.' He also said that Akhteruzzaman had armed his men with sticks and they had attacked police. Naturally police had to resort to baton charge to

accident in

Manikganj

UNB, Manikganj

vesterday morning.

people on the spot.