The Daily Star

North Korea test-fires missile

CHINA

NORTH KOREA

Sinsang

PYONGYANG

SEOUL

SOUTH

KOREA

AFP, Seoul

North Korea, ramping up the pressure in its stand-off with the United States, test-fired a missile yesterday that fell harmlessly into international waters, according to officials here and in Tokyo.

A South Korean Defense Ministry official said the test apparently involved a short-range antiship missile similar to the one Pyongyang test-fired on February 24 and was launched from Sinsang-ri on North Korea's east coast in South Hamgyong province.

"The missile is believed to have landed into the sea some 110 kilometers off the east coast and has a range of 160 kilometers," a ministry official said.

The missile launch was widely anticipated after the February missile test was pronounced a failure and North Korea last week issued a warning to mariners off its east coast.

Markets in Japan and South Korea dipped marginally on the news of the missile launch that came just one week after North Korean jet fighters intercepted a US spy plane, further escalating the stand-off over the North's nuclear weapons ambitions.

Analysts said the missile test was part of Pyongyang's game of brinkmanship aimed at breaking US resolve five months into the crisis.

North Korea has called for direct talks with Washington to end the stand-off, demanding a nonaggression pact as a precondition. Washington rules out one-to-one talks until North Korea dismantles its nuclear programs.

Professor Yu Suk-Ryul of the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security here said Pyongyang was closely watching Washington's plans for war against Iraq, and believed it had limited

Hartal passes off

Move to cancel newspaper holidays protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Sangbadik-Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad yesterday protested the move to cancel paper holidays

They urged the owners of newspapers and news agencies to ensure that journalists and other employees can enjoy all holidays, including the Ashura that falls on March 14.

In a joint statement, the union leaders said they would not accept any move to deprive the workers of holidays. The owners would be held

responsible for any situation arising from cancellation of holidays, thev added.

The signatories to the statement are Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Akther Ahmed Khan, Monjurul Alam, Elahi Newaz Khan, Abdul Jalil Bhuyian, Omar Faruque, Abdus Shahid, Fazle Imam, Golam Sarwar Azad, Mohammad Shahjalal Mian and Mohammad Motiur Rahman Talukdar.

Six dacoits arrested from **Sunderbans**

They are doing this missile tests and other provocations because they believe that now is the time to induce the United States to come

North Korea

Vin two weeks

test-fires missile

Monday, second

200 km

SEA OF

JAPAN

De-militarized

JAPAN

AFF

zone

South Koreans, engrossed in the twists and turns of domestic polics under new President Roh Moo-Hyun, are focusing less on North Korea.

time to get Washington's attention.

stands that Washington does not

"I think North Korea under-

Washington and Pyongyang have been locked in a tense standoff since the crisis erupted in October when North Korea allegedly admitted to US officials that it had kept up a secret nuclear program in breach of a 1994 bilateral accord.

dent of the Communist Party of

Bangladesh (CPB), said

Bangladesh is a country where one

child dies in every two minutes and

more than seven crore people live

below the poverty line, but minis-

ters misuse crores of taka from

He criticised Finance Minister

public funds.

sector.

want war on two fronts," he said. "However, after the Iraq war, North Koreans certainly believe that they will be the next target. **UNB,** Bagerhat Six dacoits were arrested with arms from Charaputia area of Chandpie range in East Sunderbans Sunday.

The arrested are Nasir Talukdar, to the negotiating table, not later." Babul Hawladar, Lalan Sheikh

Lokman Fakir, Shamsu Sheikh and Karim Sheikh who are from different districts of Khulna division. Three pipe-guns were recovered from their possession. Locals said forest guards arrested the six dacoits from the scene of an armed clash between notorious 'Kader Bahini' and 'Babul Bahini' over establishingsupremacy

Chan expelled From BNP

A case was filed.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Barisal district BNP secretary and rebel mayoral candidate in Barisal City Corporation election Ebaidul Huq Chan has been expelled from the party for ignoring party deci-sion and violating discipline, according to a party press release.

Chan has been relieved of his party post and its primary mem-bership, the press release signed by BNP Office Secretary Emran Saleh



Leaders and activists of the left-leaning 11-party alliance parade down streets in Dhaka yesterday to protest the price hike of essentials and pas-sage of indemnity law. The alliance enforced a hartal countrywide yesterday.

Transport project

FROM PAGE 12

both the DCC and the RHD for their failure to act according to the condition of the Project Supervision Committee of the WB. It also dropped from the project the component to build bus terminals. The letter also said the RHD had failed to appoint the contractors

within the cut-off date. At a meeting with the WB in November last year, the DCC agreed to appoint private sector operators by January 31. The transport section of the DCC floated a tender accordingly on January 17, but no-one dropped any bid. The RHD also failed to appoint contractors to construct terminals in time.

Project Director of the DUTP's DCC part Abdul Qayum said the WB condition to appoint operators before completing construction works was 'impractical' and this has been proved by the nonparticipation of contractors in the

"We have tried our best, but we failed to make the WB understand the reality, " said Qayum, refuting the allegation that they were responsible for the failure to

appoint private operators. But sources said the DCC, which manages and collects revenues from the city terminals, was not ready to lose its control on the terminals. Allegations are there that some DCC officials have been embezzling proceeds from the

terminals for years. Project Director of the DUTP's RHD part Mohammad Shahabuddin alleged that the DCC's dilly-dallying over the appointment of private operators pushed the WB to take such a harsh decision.

negotiation with the WB to get back the withdrawn funds

Badsha murder case **Court order today** on petition to drop 3 names

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, will give order today on the petition for dropping the names of three people, including IOJ Chairman Azizul Haq, from police constable Badsha Miah murder case.

The two other accused are Humayun Kabir and Zahidul slam

Judge Mohammad Sirajul Islam will issue the order following a petition submitted by the Dhaka Metropolitan Public Prosecutor.

On February 4, the home ministry sent a letter to the public prosecutor asking him to take necessary steps in this regard.

The investigation officer of the case submitted a chargesheet against Azizul Haq and 36 others on July 24, 2001, showing 43 people as prosecution witnesses.

50, was beaten to death by Islamic zealots inside the Noor Masjid in the city's Mohammadpur area during the hartal called by Ulema Mashaik (Islamic scholars) on February 3, 2001.

Later, a murder case was filed

Minibus owners threaten strike on Khulna-Bagerhat route from Mar 27

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Minibus Owners' Association has threatened indefinite transport strike on Rupsha-Bagerhat route from March 27 if attackers of their leader Mohiuddin Shaikh are not arrested by March 15.

Mohiuddin, general secretary of the association and leader of BNP Rupsha thana unit, was wounded in an armed attack while he was coming out of Bagmara Jame Mosque after Jumma prayers on Fridaylast.

He was shifted to DMCH on Sunday for better treatment.

The association will hold a rally at 11 am at east Rupsha on March 17. enforce a transport strike on Mach 20 and road barricade programme on March 23.

13 routes from Rupsha and Bagerhat was called off vesterday. The strike was called by Bus Owners' and Transport Workers' associations from March 8 in protest against BRTC bus service

on these routes

India beat Lanka

DHAKA TUESDAY MARCH 11, 2003

SCOREBOARD

Ganguly b Vaas

Yuvraj b Vaas

Dravid not out

Bowler

Nissanka

Fernando

M'tharan

De Silva

Arnold

Jayasuriya

SRILANKA

Arnold lbw b Zaheer

Fernando not out

Bowler

Zaheer

Srinath

Nehra

Vaas c Tendulkar b Nehra

Muralitharan c Kaif b Nehra

Total: (All out in 23 overs)

40, 6-59, 7-75, 8-78, 9-78

Extras: (b-1, lb-5, w-14, nb-1) 21

Fall of wickets: 1-2, 2-2, 3-3, 4-15, 5-

O M

7 0

9 1 35

7 1 35

Nissanka c Kaif b Nehra

Vaas

Kaifb Muralitharan

Harbhajan not out

Tendulkar c Sangakkara b De Silva 97

Sehwag c De Silva b Muralitharan

Mongia c De Silva b Muralitharan

Fall of wickets: 1-153, 2-214, 3-

O M

0 46

0

10 2 34

6 0

10

10

3

6 0 32

5 0 30 23

292

12

109

2

R

33

R

49

61

27

Extras: (b-4, lb-9, w-7, nb-3)

Total: (For 6 wkts in 50 overs)

243, 4-251, 5-265, 6-277

INDIA

Jayasuriya (12) hit Srinath straight to Mohammad Kaif at cover. Scoreboard of the World Cup Super Six match between India and Sri Lanka at the Wanderers in Johannesburg on Monday:

The Indian maestro agonisingly missed a record fifth World Cup century but helped India amass a daunting total after Jayasuriya put the opposition in to exploit any early life in the pitch after overnight rain.

Tendulkar was out for 97, edging a sweep against de Silva to jubilant wicketkeeper Kumar Sangakkara after moving past his previous World Cup record aggregate of 523 scored at the 1996 World Cup. He has scored 571 runs so far at the 2003 tournament at an average of 71.38 with a strike rate of 90.3 with a strike rate of 90.3

The India opener, who was dismissed for 98 in a first round match against Pakistan, said he was disappointed to miss a century again

"But I'm very excited to be in the semi-finals," he said. "It was a good track to bat on and Javagnal and Ashish bowled really well. To be able to extract so much pace and move-ment was something extraordinary.

Tendulkar shared an opening partnership of 153 with Virender Sehwag, who recorded his highest score of the tournament with 66. Atapattu c Kaifb Srinath Jayasuriya c Kaifb Srinath Mubarak c Dravid b Srinath Yet another left-arm pace bowler Jayawardene lbw b Zaheer Chaminda Vaas, the tournament's leading wicket taker, led a bowling De Silvalbwb Srinath Sangakkara c Yuvraj b Nehra

fightback with consecutive maidens to Tendulkar before returning to bowl captain Saurav Ganguly (48) and Yuvraj Singh (5) in his final spell

India's seventh consecutive victory ensured them of a semi-final place along with defending champi-ons Australia. Both teams have 16 points.

"I thought it was the perfect game of cricket for us," said Ganguly. "We batted brilliantly and then bowled superbly, we have stuck together as a team and worked hard as a team. Everybody has fired.

Sri Lanka's semi-final hopes now depend on a Zimbabwe victory over Kenya on Wednesday followed by a win themselves over the ZimbabweansonSaturday. "We didn't bowl in the right areas," said Jayasuriya. "We bowled all over the place and there were some easyruns.

Umpires: Simon Taufel (Aus) and David Shepherd (Eng) TV umpire: Daryl Harper (Aus) Match referee: Clive Lloyd (WI)

Toss: Sri Lanka

Result: India won by 183 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Javagal Srinath.

Energy body bill

FROM PAGE 1

license or impose penalty for viola-State Minister for Energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain denied the tion of terms and conditions, investigate energy-related allegations and settle disputes. It will fix tariff on gas and energy, opposition allegations and said the government is yet to decide on gas export.

set codes and standards for these "We have obtained reports from and suggest the government, if expert committees and the decision needed, on energy sector issues. will be taken in the light of their opinion," he told the House.

The proposed law has a provi-sion for jail up to three years or Tk He had introduced the bill titled 1000 fine for obstructing construc-"Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission Bill, 2003" on March 5 tion of gas supply pipeline.

The House also passed another bill titled 'The National Sports A statement on the bill said there Council (Amendment) Act 2003 was a potential regional market for which stipulates election or selec-tion to the post of president of a sports federation. The original Act Earlier, opposition proposals for

Elected presidents for sports bodies

Meanwhile, transport strike on

He said the government is in

Srinath's performance followed yet another Tendulkar master class.

FROM PAGE 1

Police constable Badsha Miah,

with Mohammadpur police station accusing 37 people.

motorised three-wheelers were found plying as usual Most of the shops and business

capital city to avert any untoward

incident, official sources said.

Paramilitary BDR and reserve

police were also seen guarding the

private cars remained off the city

streets, while rickshaws and

Most of the buses, trucks and

city streets.

establishments remained closed. The 11-party alliance leaders alleged that the police barred their activists from picketing and in many places did not allow them to bring out processions in favour of

the hartal They were addressing a brief rally at 'Muktangan' to protest the 'police excesses' on the 11-party activists.

Rashed Khan Menon, president of the Workers Party of Bangladesh, said that the BNP-Jamaat alliance government had intercepted peaceful processions of the 11-party activists to please their masters abroad.

Menon said the people's spontaneous response to the hartal call has proved that they support the 11-party agenda.

He further said that while the 11-party alliance has successfully organised the hartal with the people, other political parties had to enforce hartal with hired goons.

Condemning the attack on the members of a minority community at Bagerhat, he said the government was silent when criminals were attacking the minority communities.

Manjurul Ahsan Khan, presi-

Cabinet okays draft Trade Marks (Amend) Act, Patents & Designs (Amend) Act 2003

BSS, Dhaka

The cabinet yesterday approved the draft Trade Marks (Amendment) Act 2003 and Patents and Designs (Amendment) Act, 2003.

The approval was given at a meeting held at the prime minister's office (PMO) with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in the chair, an official handout said.

The cabinet approved the draft for implementing the government order for setting up Patent, Design and Trademarks Directorate by amalgamating the patent office and trademarks registry office.

Besides, a number of important decisions were taken after reviewing the reports of a secretary-level committee formed to recommend planned use of private and government ponds and other waterbodies as source of drinking water and fish cultivation.

M Saifur Rahman for his move against the country's banking

Coordinator of the 11-party alliance Abdus Samad presided over the meeting and announced the next course of action. The party will observe a countrywide protest day on March 13. A rally will be organised on Thursday at 4:00pm at Muktangan to protest police action during the hartal hours.

Later, leaders and activists of the alliance brought out a procession.

Chaos at BB FROM PAGE 1

their opposition to the transfer of the central bank's cash to Sonali

Bank and job retrenchment. On Sunday, they went to the governor to seek an appointment

to discuss their demands. But the governor advised them to discuss the issue with Deputy Governor Nazrul Huda.

The governor also told the officers that such a joint move by four organisations was improper. Besides, they have no right to do so. He advised them to submit their statements in writing separately.

But the Forum leaders disagreed and maintained that they would talk only with the governor.

Forum leaders, among others, include Abdul Mazid Sarkar, Alamgir Hossain, Abdus Sattar, Mohammad Hossain, Abdul Malek Mia, GM Abul Kalam Azad, Sazzad Zahir, Obaidul Huq.

Sources said one of the two Forum leaders, who are operating from behind the scene, is the general manger of an important department of the central bank. He became a guarantor of the loan his wife took from a bank in violation of the central bank service rules. Some officers of the bank had lost their job their jobs a few years back

for being such guarantors. A central bank probe has found the allegations against him true. But since he belongs to the Jatiyatabadi Forum, the bank is 'a

bit hesitant' to proceed further. The other leader was a member of the Dhaka Stock Exchange and

broker. He defaulted on payment of the loan he took from the Pubali Bank that has already lodged a complaint against him.

Al-Higma FROM PAGE 1

the Bangladesh Nationalist Party They were taken on a four-day came to power. police remand on Saturday and produced before a joint interroga-The appointment of SA Sultan as BFF President suspending the tion cell in Dhaka on Sunday.

The main leader of Al Hiqma, Sayed Kawsar Hussain Siddiqui, has been absconding since he was freed on bail last August.

Wazed Ali, assistant commis-sioner of DB here, told The Daily Star that police were preparing to

Home Ministry. "The filing of the case is just a matter of time now", Ali said.

Bagerhat murder FROM PAGE 12

Inspector General and Criminal Investigation Department (CID) chief Ashraful Huda at an impromptu press conference at the Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP)

headquarters at noon yesterday. Huda did not rule out a possible link between the incident and the parliamentary and Union Parishad elections.

He admitted that a gang rape was committed in the house. "I have reasons to believe so. But I am not yet sure whether one or three women were gang-raped," Huda added.

Deputy Inspector General of Khulna Range AKM Enavetullah Dewan, now in charge of the KMP, said one or two of the arrestees might have a link with an outlawed organisation.

The miscreants hail from the same village who were found working in favour of Abdur Rahman in the last UP election held on February 23, said Officerin-Charge (OC) of the Bagerhat Sadar Police Station Ishaque Ali Dukhu

"We have been threatened several times and asked to leave Komorpur since the last parliamentary elections," said Swapan at the KMCH. He, however, refused to reveal any names.

Niranjan's wife Shikha Bhattacharya said they were threatened and victimised as they supported Awami League candi dates in the recently held election of Jatrapur Union Parishad and 2001 parliamentary elections.

Meanwhile, the body of Tapan

Bhattacharya was handed over to his family after autopsy on Sunday.

FROM PAGE 12

versy, especially over the appoint-

ment of the Bangladesh Football

Federation (BFF) president after

elected president instead of a

nominated person.

elected body of General Secretary Harun-ur Rashid saw Bangladesh expelled by the game's ruling body FIFA. Later FIFA reinstated the BFF committee on condition that it would make provisions for an

bring a sedition charge against the arrested Al Hiqma members as papers banning the organisation reached local police from the Hame Ministrue Taking part in a discussion on the general principle of the bill, opposition lawmakers criticised the option for nomination. They saw it as a ploy for continuing "politicisation" of the sports feder-

> ations. But the state minister argued that the option was mostly for the benefit of the smaller federations who depend on the government's

> > assistance to function. The Awami League MPs said that the nomination system was

introduced by the martial law government of Justice Sayem.

Fazlur Rahman however refuted that allegation saying that the original law was enacted in 1974 when the Awami League was in power.

"That means the nomination process was brought about by them (Awami League) and now we are going to amend it." The Opposition lawmakers also

took the opportunity to blame the government for the national cricket team's disastrous showing in the 2003 World Cup and the FIFA ban on Bangladesh

Awami League's Abdus Shahid, Rahmat Ali, Shamsur Rahman Sharif, Faruk Khan, AKM Jahangir, Panchanan Biswas, Shahjahan Khan, Atiur Rahman Atiq and Jatiya Party's GM Kader, Hafizuddin Ahmed and Golam Habib Dulal took part in the debate.

On expulsion by FIFA, Fazlur Rahman claimed that even world champions Brazil had faced the prospect of a three-year suspen-

sion and was fined FIFA. "We have brought the bill to follow the rules set by FIFA."

He also assured the Opposition that the government was trying its AKM Jahangir Hossain. best to develop sports.

"Test status was one of the greatest achievements in for power generation, and energy supply and marketing. "It could turn into a top-heavy administra-Bangladesh's cricket story. The then BCB president had said that Bangladesh got the status due to the efficiency of management. It's said Dr Abdur Razzak. a matter of pride, but it would be Suranjit Sengupta of AL expressed his doubt over the govnicer if we could enhance the efficiency of our cricketers."

In response to GM Kader, who sion would be an independent body to look after consumer interests. " spoke on corruption, Fazlur will be a means for ruling party men to garb the energy sector," he said. Rahman showed a file saying that it contained documents on sports The opposition lawmakers walked out after the amendment activities and corruption over the last five years. He also claimed that proposals were discussed. None but the previous government awarded Nur Mohammad Mandol of the TV coverage rights of the national Ershad-led faction of Jatiya Party cricket team to WorldTel while was present during passage of the ignoring more competitive bidding bill by other international firms.

the House immediately after the bill "Against the highest offer of Tk was passed by voice vote. 151 crore, the Tk 20 crore offer was The commission will comprise a chairman to be appointed by the President on the ministry's suggesaccepted," he told the House.

British minister threatens

FROM PAGE 12

low versus the Euro and slipped on the dollar as well.

Saying the Iraq crisis had reached "ten minutes to midnight," the outspoken Short went further than just confirming weeks of rumours over her possible resignation.

"I will not uphold a breach of international law or this undermining of the UN and I will resign from the government," she said. "The current situation is deeply reckless; reckless for the world reckless for the undermining of the UN in this disorderly world...reckless with our government, reckless with his own future, position and place in history.'

Her harsh words came after an opinion poll showed that just 15 percent of Britons would back war without a UN mandate.

Some 122 Labour parliamentarians also recently voted against the government over war against Iraq, leaving Blair to look to the opposition Conservatives to support him.

Blair's pro-US stance throughout the Iraq crisis has also split Europe and jeopardised Blair's ambition to be a bridge between Washington and the 15-member EU bloc

Britain, Spain and the United

States are expected to press for a vote on a second resolution this week after Britain put forward a draft resolution giving Iraqi President Saddam Hussein until March 17 to disarm or face military action.

France has warned it may exercise its power of veto on the resolution, saying UN weapons inspectors are making headway. Russia and China, which could also veto a resolution, are against military action.

Iraq denies possessing banned weapons of mass destruction. A second UN resolution and

quick military action in Iraq could turn the tables for Blair, whose popularity has sunk, although some MPs have suggested that the damage has been done.

MP Peter Kilfoyle, an outspoken opponent of war, said a second resolution would not win over all MPs.

There are many "who feel this is a wholly wrong response to the dangers of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and all he stands for, and the war that we think should be fought against international terrorism," he said.

British newspapers took up the theme in editorials. The Times newspaper warned that even a quick military victory in Iraq would not paper over the cracks exposed within Labor while the Independent newspaper cau-FROM PAGE 1 tioned: "Make no mistake...this is now extremely dangerous for the Prime Minister.

2 held with arms FROM PAGE 1

challenged by patrol police of Bakurha outpost, four members of the gang managed to escape, while Shumon and Shahidullah were caught with their motor cycle (Dhaka-Ha-14-4353).

The arrestees told police that they were bound for Khulna after taking delivery of the arms and bombs from Benapole border. There were more arms and explosives with those who had escaped, they said during interrogation.

Shumon and Shahidullah are are now staying in the Middle East, including 11 lakh in Saudi Arabia, 3.25 lakh in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), 1.62 lakh in Kuwait, 75 thousand in Jordan and 55 thousand in Ordar according to being interrogated by a special team of senior police officers headed by the SP of Jessore. A case has been filed against them, and police have launched a combing operation in Jessore, Khulna, The officials said the Bangladeshis would be evacuated Bagerhat and Satkhira districts to arrest the four youths who had only if they desired to leave those managed to escape.

sending the bill to the select comand its previous amendment had no mittee to elicit public opinion were option for election. rejected by voice. However, the For the post of president, the House accepted two minor amendment proposals by AL lawmaker

commission will be a burden on

consumers since it will issue license

tion and breed more corruption,

ernment's claim that the commis-

The AL lawmakers returned to

for power generation; energy trans-

mission, supply, marketing and stocking on certain conditions.

Evacuation

dor to Iraq.

East, if necessary.

before repatriation.

East

figures.

the event of a war.

It will renew, seize or amend any

Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Mohammad Quamrul Islam On

February 25 to oversee evacuation of Bangladeshis from the Middle

The International Organisation of Migrants (IOM), a UN body, has already given its assurance to help

the government in evacuating

Bangladeshis from the Middle

55 thousand in Oatar, according to

the expatriates' welfare ministry

countries on security grounds in

tion and four members.

and sought its passage yesterday.

Bangladesh's gas and power.

amendment replaced the words "who shall be appointed by the government" with "who shall be AL members said the proposed elected according to prescribed rules or, as the case may be, nominated by the government".

The previous nomination process created controversy, especially regarding the appointment of president of Bangladesh Football Federation after BNP assumed office.

Annan warns against war without UN

AFP, The Hague

UN chief Kofi Annan yesterday warned that US military action against Iraq without a Security Council mandate would flout the UN charter.

"If the US goes outside the Security Council, it will not be in conformity with the UN charter," It will issue license to any person he said.

Annan warned that the world is at a "dangerous point of division and discord" over Iraq, but said everyone was agreed that Saddam Hussein must disarm.

Annan said Iraq's disarmament was "the most urgent issue" facing the UN Security Council, as Saddam had used weapons of mass destruction in the past.

At present some 12 officers and staffers are working in the mission, while about 70 Bangladeshi nationals are living in Iraq. "On this critical issue there are no grounds for doubt, dispute, or delay," he said. Meantime, the government formed a task force headed by State

CEC

FROM PAGE 12

another Tk 52,31,000 to meet the expense for law enforcing agencies, EC sources said.

The CEC avoided direct reply to questions on the ongoing Union Parishad polls and his stand-off with the government.

"You should judge. Why are you so eager to hear from me," he said about the UP polls. Then he com-As per the government plan, the Bangladeshis will first be sent to mented, "Let me hold in some words. I will say later". Saudi Arabia from other Gulf states

The EC has also asked the home Around 18 lakh Bangladeshis ministry for BDR deployment during polls in 132 out of remain-ing 149 Union Parishads.

Earlier, it sought BDR deployment in Kashiani and Muladi where UP polls were held on March 5 and March 8 respectively. But its request was turned down. "It is sad", the CEC said.

Election in 4066 unions out of

4215 were held till yesterday. It will

be completed on March 16.