Dhaka wants UN

central role in

post-war Iraq

Bangladesh wants the UN to play a central

role in installation of interim administra-

tion, reconstruction and future election in

At a weekly press briefing yesterday,

Foreign Secretary Shamsher Mobin

Chowdhury disapproved US statements

about Syria, saying Dhaka "cannot also

accept the extension of present situation

Referring to his recent meeting with

British Permanent Secretary Sir Michael

Jay in London, he said Bangladesh likes to

see the early announcement of the US

roadmap to resolve the Palestine-Israel

sunfortunate, this is unacceptable."

dating back to thousands of years

He regretted the looting of the ancient

Iraqi museum- a repository of artifacts

to any countries outside Iraq."

Govt urged to swoop on illegal small arms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday urged the government to crack down on traffick $ing and {\it illegal} \, use \, of small \, arms.$

They said indiscriminate use of small arms poses a big threat to public security. Availability and proliferation of these arms have created a serious security crisis for the people of South Asia

South Asia Partnership (SAP), Bangladesh organised the discussion on "Small Arms and Right to Safe Environment -- Bangladesh Perspective".

The speakers said proliferation and illicit use of small arms not only endanger personal security but also undermine good governance and greatly contribute to violation of human rights

Maj Gen (rtd.) Syed Mohammad Ibrahim, moderator of the roundtable, said directly or otherwise everyone is the victim of small arms. He urged the government to update the arms laws and ensure its proper implementation to reduce the use of small arms

He also emphasised steps to reduce misuse of legal arms.

Executive Director of SAP, Bangladesh Syed Nurul Islam said use of small arms in organised crime, social and political violence and in student politics indicates how vulnerable the situation is.

Referring to a study, he said the coun-

try has more than two lakh illegal arms and most of these are with various organised criminal gangs and their godfathers. "What is more disheartening is that Bangladesh is being used as a corridor for smuggling firearms," Islam said

Former inspector general of police Ismail Hossain emphasised an end to political influence on use of small arms. He also stressed on modernising the police department by providing logistics and training to check use of small arms.

In his keynote paper, Dr Imtiaz Ahmed said like terrorism, use of small arms has been globalised and it is widening, as the 'non-state' actors are becoming more powerful than the states.

"Proliferation and illicit use of small arms can never be understood in isolation. Therefore, concerted initiatives involving South Asian countries need to

Imtiaz suggested a South Asian police force to stop trafficking of small arms and its widespread use in the region.

Among others, Rokeya Kabir, Jaglul Haider Chowdhury, Mohammad Jahangir, Brigadier Shakhawat Hossain, Mai Gen (rtd.) Imamuzzaman, Dr Nazmul Ahsan Karimullah, Prof. Amena Mohsin, Sajeda Begum and Abdul Halim spoke.

Manik Perera Gunatilleke from Sr Lanka and Ekram Kabir from Pakistan also

Saddam's half-brother

"Barzan is...an adviser to the former regime leader with extensive knowledge of the regime's inner working. There were no friendly or enemy casualties. The capture demonstrates the coalition's commitment to relentlessly pursuing the scattered members of a fractured regime.

Barzan was number 52 and the five of clubs in a US pack of cards of 55 mostwanted Iraqis distributed to the troops. His brother Watban was captured some

His home west of Baghdad, which was also an operations centre for the intelligence service, was targeted by six US "smart bombs" on April 11.

Brooks said Barzan, who ran Iraqi intelligence service from 1979 to 1983 and was Irag's ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva from 1988 to 1997, was captured alone in Baghdad after a tip-off by Iraqis. A U.S. military official said last week's strike on Barzan's home near the city of Ramadi. 70 miles west of Baghdad, was probably aimed at doing further harm to the already battered command and control system for Iraq's fighting forces.

The fate of Saddam and his two sons Uday and Qusay, remains a mystery. U.S. officials say they do not know if they are dead or alive after two separate airstrikes aimed at killing Saddam.

The US military confirmed on Monday that it had captured Watban Ibrahim Hasan al-Tikriti, another of Saddam's three half brothers and number 51 on the US most-wanted list. He was also an adviser but apparently estranged from Saddam.

The only other person on the list known to be in custody is Saddam's top scientific adviser Amer Hammoudi al Saadi -- number 55. He surrendered to US troops in Baghdad last weekend.

Reputedly Saddam's "banker in the West" while in the diplomatic post in Geneva, Barzan has rejected allegations that he helped kill rebellious Kurds in

The London-based human rights group Indict seeks to have him tried for war crimes against Iraqi Kurds.

The group also says he personally participated in the murder of several thousand men from one tribe in 1983 and, as intelligence chief, was responsible for the forced deportation, disappearances and murder of ethnic minorities. It also alleges he ordered the assassinations of Iraqi dissidents

The former South African skipper also

He struck a whirlwind 38 off just 20

Together with Neil McKenzie he

But the bulk of the runs came in the

Rudolph is proving himself a player for

Coming at the number three after

But Bangladesh had a chance to send

dashing opener Herschelle Gibbs was

bowled by Tapas for a duck, the left-

used the long handle to good effect to put

halls that included two mighty sixes

against the Bangladesh captain and as

shared 69 runs for the undefeated six

48th and 49th -- 35 runs being plundered

by the marauding pair. McKenzie scored

39 off 43 balls with five boundaries.

the match firmly in South Africa's grip.

many boundaries.

Batting lets hosts down

was a fine 71 by Alok Kapali

The talented all-rounder made up his disappointment in the first three games of the competition with his well-crafted second half century in one-day cricket. He struck five boundaries in his 105-ball innings.

He also bowled a tidy ten-over spell of leg spin earlier in the day finishing with 2-

But apart from his individual brilliance, the Bangladesh team failed as a By the time Bangladesh lost half of

their batsmen inside 26 overs for 84, the writing was on the wall. There were no fireworks from half-

centurion Habibul Bashar (1) and young opener Mohammad Ashraful (13).

handed Rudolph scored highest 81 off 113 Bangladesh's time at the wicket was $balls. He \, struck \, eight \, boundaries.$ made all the more difficult with the return $of\,Shaun\,Pollock\,sharing\,the\,new\,ball\,with$ him back to the dressing room for a duck Makhaya Ntini. had Bashar not spilled a catch at second

Akhtaruddin Shaheen although television

replay suggested that the batsman was

Political jockeying

Zubeidi said he and INC "General"

Jaudat Obedi, named interim mayor of

the capital of five million people, had

been coordinating with the US forces

here and meeting with them every day.

far with Jay Garner, the retired US

general named by Washington as civil

administrator to overlook the post-war

Wednesday and was staying in a house

that once belonged to one of Saddam's

sons in an affluent district of Baghdad.

He was not immediately available for

Zubeidi said executive committees

were being set up in other cities as well

as Baghdad and the priority was to

restore health care, water, electricity,

gas distribution and other essential

Chalabi arrived in Baghdad late

But he said he has had no contact so

will not dare to sit with us".

reconstruction of Iraq.

interviews.

FROM PAGE 12

Pollock captured three wickets to become the highest wicket-taker for South Bangladesh will get a week's rest Africa with 275 in his 189th one-day before switching their attention to the

two-match Test series, starting at He broke Allan Donald's all-time $Chittagong \, on \, April \, 24.$ record of 272 wickets by having Habibul Bashar trapped leg before. But his appeal

South Africa on the other hand play their last league match against India only convinced Bangladesh umpire

(SCOREBOARD ON PAGE 13)

Shibir enforces indefinite strike at CU

Classes and examinations at the Chittagong University (CU) were not held yesterday as Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS) enforced an indefinite strike on the

The ICS called the strike demanding implementation of its five-point

The demand include immediate withdrawal of showcause notices served on two Shibir leaders, expulsion of alleged Chhatra League terrorists from the university, punishment to those who are involved in the attack on CU proc tor's vehicle and punishment to those involved in the incidents of March 18.

The Shibir activists put the offices of Proctor, VC and Pro VC under lock and

BCC goes bankrupt, savs mayor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The Barisal City Corporation (BCC) has gone bankrupt and is unable even to pay staff salary.

Mayor Muiibur Rahman Sarwar said there is no money in any of the 60 bank accounts of the corporation.

Sarwar, who is also a BNP leader and whip of the parliament, told newsmen yesterday that the corporation was already in such a financial crisis when he took over as mayor recently. He attributed this to financial irregularities and corrupt practices of the immediate past BCC authorities.

He urged the government to unearth those through a through an audit by the office of comptroller general of audit and accounts.

The mayor mentioned that arrear dues of contractors from the corporation now stands at about taka six crore and it has outstanding dues of over Tk 11 crore from various public and private organisations. Steps to recover the BCC dues would be taken shortly, he added.

Sarwar also had a meeting with Shankar Das, the visiting mayor of Agartala, capital of Tripura state of India, at the local circuit house vesterday.

PM asks

for his contributions during the War of Independence. Dr Shamsul Alam Milon received the award for his role in the uprising and anti-autocratic movement in 1991.

Prof MA Majed, who was the president of BMA for three consecutive terms and advisor to the caretaker government in 1991, was given the award for his brilliant role in organising physicians and also for his brilliant performance in the profession.

Khaleda also assured the physi cians of initiatives to involve BMA and other concerned in policy making, planning and implementation process of health and family welfare programmes.

Health Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said that Bangladesh is still lagging behind other regional countries in treating some particular diseases such as cancer, diabetes and cardiovascular

Presided over by BMA President Prof. MA Hadi, the function, among others, was addressed by State Minister for Health Amanullah Aman, State Minister for Textile Mizanur Rahman Sinha and Secretary General of BMA AZM Zahid Hossain.

Regime leader

confirming whether Saddam was dead or alive and the United States had "not reached any conclusion at this point". Two London-based Arabic news-

papers quoted witnesses as saying the fallen Iraqi president appeared near a mosque in northern Baghdad on Wednesday of last week -- the day US tanks moved into the centre of the

One newspaper, al-Havat, quoted a witness as saying Saddam dressed in military fatigues, mounted a car and urged a crowd to resist the Americans, adding "I am fighting alongside you in the trenches," before departing.

Cantonment road

FROM PAGE 12 for equitable load distribution.

But, the statement said, the vehicle pressures continued to concentrate on the cantonment road alone. Other passages could not be kept clear for undisrupted vehicular movement as the agencies concerned could not 'perform their duties properly".

"The intolerable pressure of vehicles caused severe traffic jam inside the cantonment and increased number of accidents, and in a few cases security problems," the ISPR

The ISPR also hoped that the statement would remove confusions about the use of the alternative road of the cantonment.

Rumi suicide

minister, KMP Commissioner has formed nine special team to nab the

Leaders of Khulna unit of Bangladesh Jatiya Mahila Ainjibi Samity have demanded immediate arrest of the real culprits responsible for compelling Rumi to commit

They also demanded drastic action against OC of Daulatpur thana and other officers who did not want to arrest Rony for teasing Rumi over the last four months.

The BJMAS leaders went to Rumi's house at Pabla on Wednesday afternoon to console her bereaved parents. BIMAS will also form human chain

on Khulna-Jessore highway at

Premature ageing gene found

REITERS. Washington

Two teams of scientists reported on Wednesday they found a genetic mutation that causes children to die of old age and said their research offered both a way to find a cure and insights into norma

Children with Hutchinson-Gilford Progeria age at a rate five to 10 times faster than normal. They lose their hair, the skin wrinkles and they die of atherosclerosis, or hardening of the arteries by their early teens.

There is no cure and until the two eams finished their work last year, no one knew the cause Now, French and U.S. teams have

traced the defect to a gene that controls

the structure of the nucleus -- the part of the cell that holds most of the genes and chromosomes The mutation, found in children with progeria around the world, causes the nucleus to be unstable, affecting virtually

"The nucleus is usually a nice, round structure," said Dr. Leslie Gordon of Tufts University in Boston, who led the U.S.

\$4 million in \$100 bills, sequentially

numbered in Federal Reserve wrappers

and stacked in bricks of \$10,000 each

Soldiers put the money in burlap bags

Elsewhere, US marines removed

bags of money for safekeeping from

another al-Rashid branch that has been

hit repeatedly by looters since the Iraqi

A crowd gathered outside the

burned-out al-Shorga Branch of the al-

Rashid Bank as marines loaded the bank

notes into an armoured vehicle to be

Just days ago, US troops were cheered

and kissed as they destroyed the sym-

bols of Saddam Hussein's regime.

Today, after a week of chaos, it's a whole

has been the cause of much of the

people's anger, and many blame the

Donny George, director for research

at the Ministry of Antiquities, com-

plained that the Americans let Iraq's

museums be sacked. "This is what the

Americans wanted," he said, "They

After looters ran wild. American

forces shot civilians, and the lack of

basic services spread misery across the

land, many Iragis turned their anger

what they saw as their new oppressor:

"They are aggressors," wheezed Ali

Ahmed, 17, lying in a hospital bed as a

tube drained fluid from his lungs. "They

Americans for encouraging it.

wanted Iraq to lose its history.

the United States of America.

Looting that has plagued Iraq's cities

and took it away

capital fell last week.

taken to a secure location

Anti-US anger simmers

every cell in the body apart from the

because of this defect. That most likely causes the instability that leads to cell

It may now be possible to look for a cure for those children, she said.

"I feel like the door has just flown open," Gordon, who has a 6-year-old son with progeria, said in a telephone interview. "It's going to be a springboard for a lot of exciting research for ageing and heart disease and obviously will be a big step for a cure for these children.'

Everyone may benefit

"The implications of our work may extend far beyond progeria -- to each and every human being," added Dr. Francis Collins of the U.S. National Human Genome Research Institute

"What we learn about the molecular

basis of this model of premature ageing may provide us with a better understand ing of what occurs in the body as we all growolder." For children with progeria, an

extremely rare disease that only strikes about one in 4 million, the hope is to block this abnormal protein, said

US troops kill several Iraqis

destroyed us. They put us in war and

didn't let us sleep. They just raided

Baghdad."

The mutation seems to be carried in sperm, because it only affects half a patient's DNA. The mutation causes production of an abnormal protein that hijacks the formation of the nucleus.

The mutated gene, called LMNA controls a protein called Lamin A. A separate team led by Nicolas Levy of the Faculte de Medecine de la Timone in Marseille. France, found the same

"We have shown we can find the shorter, defective protein causing all these problems and leading to this disease in children," Gordon said. "So we have a place to start now. She believes drug companies will be

treating a condition that eventually affects everyone -- ageing. "These children have the same atherosclerosis that affects people in

interested because of the implications for

Progeria is not inherited. It is what is known as a sporadic disease, occurring without any pattern. That made it all the more remarkable, she said, that the same mutation affected all the children

their 60s, 70s and 80s," Gordon said.

Leash on road diggers

sewers in at least 15 roads in the city people, some sources said.

Referring to WASA's year-long digging of the Green Road, they alleged that utility service providers often do not complete their task by the DCC stipulated time.

The DCC has already issued a without prior approval of the mayor. "Without mayoral approval, these

organisations will not be able to conduct road digging as it is a matter of public interest," said a DCC official. The notice urged the chief execu-

began to experience first summer

About US allegation of chemical weapons against Syria, the Foreign Secretary said "There has to be clear and credible evidence to substantiate such allegation." He also quoted the statement of the

British Foreign Secretary that Britain is not the party to that type of thinking of the Asked his comment on US pre-war

allegation that Iraq possessed Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD), a key-point behind the Iraq invasion, the Foreign Secretary admitted that so far no proof of WMD has been found. "It's a matter of concern definitely," he noted.

In reply to a question, he said the

official position of OIC on the post-Responding to a volley of queries on Saddam Iraq is likely to be firmed up at the the war-ravaged Iraq, the Foreign next month's meeting of ICFM in Tehran. Secretary said, "We're very upset at the He said Bangladesh is also closely continued killing of civilians in Iraq ... this

watching the outcome of the EU meeting in Athens and the follow-up of meeting of Russian President Vladimir Putin, French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Gerhard Scroeder.

causing serious inconvenience to the

DCC officials said if digging of the rickety city roads ran rampant, it would further add to people's sufferings, especially during the upcoming

special notice asking a range of organisations including Rajuk, WASA, Telegraph and Telephone Board and Titas Gas not to dig 92 important roads

tives of authorities concerned to hold formal meetings with the mayor before unveiling plans for road digging and discuss different aspects of such projects including the plight of people, cost-effectiveness and importance of The DCC move came as the city

Later in the season and into the monsoon, the sufferings of people would compound due to deplorable road conditions, sources said.

The move is likely to ensure sustainability of roadworks, DCC officials said, adding it would alert different utility service providers who left roads after completing their parts of installation work with earth and construction materials strewn allover.

They alleged that sometimes the organisations do not even inform the DCC of the state of the roads when

As they have developed an attitude of ignoring people's inconvenience, they do not even bother to install pipeline or sewers cutting roads repaired only seven days ago, they

City mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka told The Daily Star that his plan was to establish co-ordination among different departments to ensure sustainability of uplift activities.

"Basically I want to discourage unnecessary digging of roads during rainy season. I have no intention to embarrass anybody, rather I want to work with the common agenda of improving city infrastructure," Khoka

Politics still plays

banks would be able to exercise their authority to sell security or mortgages before going to the court. Let's see how it works," he added.

Debapriva said the government shut down the Adamjee Jute Mills, which had around 30,000 workers, but could not throw a single defaulter in

for privatising the Rupali and Agrani banks, he said steps should be taken to improve their management.

the nationalised commercial banks due to frequent interference by the finance ministry and other influential quarters in their management and loan decisions. The Bangladesh Bank has little role in the NCBs management.

 $bank\,rates\,from\,seven\,per\,cent\,to\,six\,per$ cent in 2001, but the banks failed to

lems. While initiating reforms, these Criticising the recommendations

Mahbubur Rahman mentioned that (NCBs) have been rendered inefficient

High lending rate has been a major deterrent to the growth of trade and industry in Bangladesh. To help reduce respond to the desired extent, he The ICC-B president said insurance, leasing and other non-bank financial

institutions also have their own prob-

the rates, the central bank decreased

sub-sectors should not be left out. Barrister Rafique Ul Huq, senior advocate of the Supreme Court, said managing directors of banks should work with the judges to gain knowledge

about banking laws. M Aminuzzaman, managing director of the National Credit and Commerce Bank Ltd. criticised inclu-

sion of army officials in bank boards. Earlier, Dr Toufic A Choudhury director of the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management, presented a keynote paper at the dialogue.

Shazneen case

death of Shazneen. He then went to Latifur Rahman's (Shazneen's father)

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) took accused Humayun (now dead) there. On the basis of information from him, the CID personnel recovered a chisel from the roof of the servants' bathroom at the house. Humayun said carpenter Shaniram (an accused) gave the chisel and it was used to kill Shazneen. The CID then made a seizure list in front of us. Mahbubur Rahman, another prosecution witness, and I put our signa-

his employee Badal hired Shahid, Shaniram, Minu, Parvin and him accused) took a kitchen knife

He quoted Humayun as saying, " I hit Shazneen with the chisel and Shahid stabbed her with the kitchen knife. Parvin grabbed her by the hair and pressed her hands against the bed. Then we pulled her down from the bed. She was losing sense. Shahid raped her in this condition. Then I came out of Shazneen's bedroom with the chisel and kept it on the roof of servants' bathroom."

During cross-examination, the witness said the Investigation officer recorded his statement on Shazneen murder case in June, 1998 and that on rape case in November the same year.

Special public prosecutors (PPs) Arfan Uddin Khan, Mahbub Ahmed and Saima Khanam appeared for the State. Advocates MA Kamrul Hasan Khan, Mizanur Rahman and Abdus Salam Bhuiyan defended the

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15, the youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, Chairman of Transcom, was raped and murdered at their Gulshan residence in the city on April 23, 1998.

EU for UN role

US President George W. Bush on Wednesday said the United Nations should lift punishing sanctions imposed on Saddam's regime after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, so that Iraq can trade its oil on world markets without international

was fiercely opposed to the war in Iraq, said it was up to the United Nations to decide how the embargo should be lifted.

French President Jacques Chirac, who

"The lifting of sanctions is an aim which we have supported for a long time. Now it is naturally for the UN to define the modalities for lifting the sanctions," he said in Athens after talks with UN chief

Annan told a conference of 40 European nations in the Greek capital that the UN must be given adequate resources to fulfil a role in Iraq. "Any role entrusted to the United Nations, beyond the purely humanitarian, (must be) consistent with the (UN) Charter, and matched by the necessary resources," he said.

"The Iraqi people... have suffered

terribly, and they deserve a better future. Their most immediate needs now are for public order and safety, and for humanitarian relief," Annan added. Chirac, who had what aides called friendly talks on Wednesday with Blair,

also said he wanted to proceed "pragmati-

cally" now the war is all but over.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said late Wednesday after meeting his counterparts from Bulgaria, France, Germany, Spain and Russia -- all UN Security Council members -- that "a new atmosphere" was in the air. "We want to work collaboratively in

 $the \, EU, with \, the \, UN \, playing \, a \, vital \, role, but$ it has to be in partnership with the coaliion and the Iraqi people," he said. In its statement, the EU said: "The people of Iraq now have the chance to shape a new future for their country and to

rejoin the international community.

The statement added that "Iraq's neighbours should support stability in

In the city of Kut, southeast of Baghdad, an anti-American cleric took over City Hall. Hundreds of his followers blocked US marines from entering Tuesday with a message that "there is more than just one leader in the region." The marines departed, opting against confrontation.

There have been daily demonstrations in Baghdad as well, many outside the Palestine Hotel, temporary home to hundreds of international journalists and US marines. Hundreds of people hold up banners demanding the restoration of electricity, water and phone service. Many also urge the Americans to leave town

attacked rivals from nearby villages beating them with clubs in fights over food, an American military officer said. US marines intervened in two such clashes, he said. In Kirkuk, the second largest city in the north, Arab families complained

that they have been forced out of their

homes by a group of Kurds claiming

In Tikrit, members of Saddam's clan

ownership in the largely Kurdish city. Iranian militants The US military said yesterday it had been attacking fighters of the Iranian opposition Mujahideen i-Khalq in Iraq but hoped to arrange a ceasefire with

them in the next few days the Mujahideen i-Khalq inside of Iraq and indeed we have been targeting them for some time," Brigadier General

Iraq and the region", with Syria now in US

sights for allegedly allowing weapons and

troops have "the responsibility to ensure a

provision of humanitarian assistance and

20 shops, 4 houses

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

senior officials from Iraq across its border. Iran meanwhile was part of Bush's original "axis of evil" alongside Iraq and North According to police and Fire Brigade The EU added that US and British sources, the fire originated from an electric

the protection of the cultural heritage and Spain, which backed the United States and Britain against Saddam, forecast several different UN resolutions to

Foreign Minister Ana Palacio said there was "a clear willingness to define the UN's role in different fields".

address the multiple facets of rebuilding a

Rejoinder FROM PAGE 1

be. It, however, said maximum aus-

terity was being exercised to limit the

printing of photographs, it added.

Dismissing the making of a CD documentary by an APS of the PMO's Press Wing, the ministry said the information was not factually correct. In fact, the proposal for making the documentary was initiated by the DFP and subsequently was sent to the $Ministry \, of \, Information \, for \, approval. \,$

made the CD and distributed it among Bangladesh missions abroad and foreign missions in Dhaka. Since the DFP is the sole authority to make documentary films on behalf of the government, there is no scope at all for outsiders to get involved in the film-making process directly. The Ministry of Information expressed the hope that The Daily

We stand by our report.

Star would be careful while carrying The issue dragged the NSI into a controversy, said a home ministry official. "Till now, the organisation had a clean image," he said.

looking at reports that the Iraqi information minister dubbed "Comical Ali" had committed suicide. Newspaper reports in Iran surfaced two days ago saying Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf, who repeatedly claimed that

Iraq was winning the war, had hanged

Vincent Brooks told a briefing at Central

Coalition military chiefs were yesterday

Command headquarters in Oatar.

Suicide reports examined

Military sources treated the reports with caution, suggesting they could have been spread by the fleeing Iraqi propagandist to throw special forces snatch squads off his tail Tommy Franks in Baghdad

US General Tommy Franks, who directed the war in Iraq, flew in to Baghdad airport, its runways still pockmarked with craters from US bombs met with troops and military commanders and gave President George W Bush a progress report via videoconference from one of Saddam's abandoned

ogether in Baghdad because that's been, of course, the centre of gravity for this regime while it stood. And as we all recognise it stands no longer," Franks Although relatively calm, there were incidents of violence and looting in

Baghdad and a desperate shortage of

"I wanted to get our commanders

heavily bombed capital. Franks said water and power were being restored and hospitals were going back to work after days of anarchy

gutted at Bhandaria

At least 20 shops, four dwelling houses and a godown were gutted in a fire at Bhandaria market in Pirojpur district in the early hours

short circuit at a shop at around 12-30 am

secure environment, including for the and soon engulfed the adjacent shops and Five fire fighting units from Barisal, $Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Madbaria \, and \, Bhandaria \,$ rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze

NSI: Raid

FROM PAGE 1 The NSI released 20 of the currency dealers and sent the rest to the Motiihee Police Station later on Wednesday night

They alleged that a section of

unscrupulous officials and employees

of the NSI released the 20 raising a number of questions. Immediately after the raid, some NSI staff told The Daily Star unofficially that foreign currency equivalent to about taka one crore was found with the dealers. But in the case lodged with Motijheel police it was shown that 17

persons were held with about Tk 25 lakh

Talking to The Daily Star an NSI

"We don't have the mandate to make

such a raid unless we have a specific case

official admitted arresting the dealers saying, "A section of the police has been protecting these illegal dealers taking After approval, the DFP of its own bribes regularly. We had to do some thing (to stop it)." Commenting on the incident yesterday, a BAC official said, "We were misinformed and wrongly sent along

> and approval of the Bangladesh Bank to deal with such a money-related matter, he told The Daily Star.

with the NSI.'

FROM PAGE 12

Gulshan residence to know the details. The witness said, "I went to Latifur Rahman's residence also on May 27, 1998. After a while, a team from the

tures on it." Akku Chowdhury said Humayun then took them to Shazneen's bedroom and told them that Hasan, and

(Humayun) to rape and kill Shazneen. Humayun also said that on the night of April 23, he brought the chisel from Shaniram and Shahid (principal