# Ecnec okays 15 health plans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (Ecnec) yesterday approved 15 annual operational plans (OPs) under the Health and Population Sector Programme (HPSP).

The approval cleared the way for the health ministry to disburse immediate funds for procurement of a huge amount of drugs from abroad, purchase of medical equipment, construction of health centres and payment of salary to about 80,000 family planning field workers.

The Daily Star on October 15 and 28 ran reports on the delay in okaying the OPs, pointing out that it had already caused immense sufferings to health service recipients as they could not procure drugs and the government's own staff were not getting salary since July this year.

The Ecnec meeting, chaired by Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman, formally approved the OPs which were held up for review by the Planning Commission since August this year.

As a result of fund shortage, no activities in the health sector could be carried out, like purchase of drugs

According to sources, the meeting approved an additional Tk 101.23 crore from the government exchequer for the current fiscal year which has to be utilised by December.

Earlier, the health ministry had disbursed Tk 11.84 crore for different health expenditures. The Ecnec also approved Tk 400 crore in addition to Tk 250 crore already sanctioned for the health ministry from the Annual Development Programme (ADP).

The finance minister briefing journalists at the Planning Commission yesterday afternoon said. "All the money approved for the health ministry has to be spent by this December so that the next phase of the health programme can start in

The National Steering Committee the ministry had okayed the 15 OPs in August, seeking Tk 578 crore essential expenditures in the health sector. But the Planning Commission delayed the approval.

Due to the fund crisis, drug purchase for government hospitals remained suspended since July 1,

# BB unruly staffs

Motijheel Police Station at 8:00pm yesterday.

A group of unruly employees of the central bank barged into the room of the governor to raise some illogical demands at 2:00pm Tuesday, said the diary. They also misbehaved with the governor and called his names.

As the BB services are essential, such behaviour is unacceptable under the Bank Company Act and is a punishable crime. Therefore, police have been requested to launch an enquiry and take lawful actions against the culprits, according to the diarv. An official at Motijheel Police

Station said they would start investigating the matter soon.

The CBA leaders meanwhile tried in vain vesterday to meet the governor again. They then met Executive Director Nazmul Hasan and asked him to let them know by 4:00pm yesterday if any decision was taken about their demands.

CBA General Secretary Zainal

#### 2 cops roughed up over toll demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two police constables were beater up by a mob allegedly for demanding toll at a restaurant in the port city yesterday.

Later, a police patrol along with the two constables Raniit Kanti Nath and Imam Uddin raided the hotel and nabbed a boy of the restaurant

According to witnesses and other sources, the two constables came to the restaurant -- Bhat Ghar at Naju Mia Lane of Bakshirhat under Kotoali thana-- at around 4:00pm. They demanded toll and threatened the hotel staff that they would be picked up if they did not

pay.

The employees and others beat

the then sought help up the cops, who then sought help from the police patrol nearby.

However, police claimed that constable Raniit went to the restaurant to have a glass of water but the estaurant staff beat him and also his companion Imamuddin as it was Ramadan fasting time.

The restaurant boy was nabbed for 'attacking them', police said.

4th Infantry Division said the two

Abedin told journalists in the afternoon, "If they do not inform us about the management decision, we will stage a rally in front of the central bank gate tomorrow (Thursday). We will announce our

next course of actions from there."

BB Executive Director Nazmul Hasan meanwhile told journalists, 'We have scrutinised their demands. But the demand to promote officials fell far beyond our jurisdiction. The other CBA demands are neither valid nor

High level sources at the finance ministry said the government was very embarrassed specially when a team of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) is now in Dhaka.

The governor and Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman are likely to sit with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia soon to discuss ways to tackle such embarrassing situations in future, sources said.

#### Israeli troops kill Palestinian on Gaza border

REUTERS. Gaza

Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian and wounded another on Israel's boundary with the Gaza Strip yesterday and found an explosive device apparently left by the pair nearby, military sources said.

In the West Bank, Palestinian gunmen fired on an Israeli car and wounded one of its two occupants, military sources said, in an attack claimed by a militant group linked to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction.

Persistent violence has sidelined US-backed Middle East peace "road map" plan which charts steps leading to the establishment by 2005 of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza, lands occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war.

The military sources said Israeli soldiers opened fire on the two Palestinians after they entered an off-limits area in north Gaza used in the past by gunmen to attack troops or try to infiltrate into Israel

They were not armed but had a mobile phone and maps and drawings of the area, proof that they were trying to gather intelligence for the next terrorist attack," one told

# 2 soldiers die

FROM PAGE 12

soldiers died and one was wounded when their vehicle hit an explosive device about 120 km (75 miles) north of Baghdad late Tuesday. Guerrillas have not aimed only at

US troops who spearheaded the invasion that Bush said was to protect the world from Iraq's so far unfound weapons of mass destruction.

Three land mine blasts wounded seven Ukrainian soldiers, part of a Polish-led multinational division operating south of Baghdad. Tuesday, A Ukraine Defence Ministry spokesman said the mines had hit two armoured vehicles during a night patrol.

Those fighting the US-led occupation seem determined to spread chaos, foil reconstruction efforts and punish foreigners and Iraqis

seen as linked to the Americans. Monday, suicide bombers blasted the headquarters of the Red Cross and three stations of the USbacked police, killing 35 people and wounding more than 200, a day after attackers rocketed a fortress hotel where US Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz was

staying, killing a US soldier. A car bomber targeted a police station in Falluja, west of the capital

Tuesday, killing at least four people. The Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was to hold a news conference at 3 p.m. GMT in response to the attack on its offices, which has forced other humanitarian agencies to agonise over how they can operate in Iraq.

The ICRC's spokeswoman in Baghdad, Nada Doumani, has said it will not quit Iraq after 23 years of uninterrupted work, but has not ruled out a further cut in interna-

Bush has blamed "foreign terrorists" and forces loyal to Saddam for

#### Price pace

FROM PAGE 1

Hatirpul, Mohammadpur, Mirpur and Karwan Bazar a kg of tomatoes sold at TK 50- 52, up from 48 two days back, egg-fruits at Tk 33-36 a kg, up from Tk 32, cucumbers at Tk · 45, up from Tk 35, potol at Tk 22-25, up from Tk 20, borbatis at Tk 28-, up from Tk 25-28, potatoes at Tk 15, up from Tk 14, green chilli at Tk 40, up from Tk 38, and ginger at Tk 48-50, up from Tk 45.

#### **AL** demands judicial probe into Sakil's death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary team of the main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday demanded a judicial inquiry into the death of Shakil Ahmed Chowdhury Sumon in police custody at Khilgaon Police

Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid, Faruk Khan and Abdul Hai went to Sumon's residence at Meradia at 11:15am and talked to the bereaved family and locals.

"Death in police custody from torture due to non-payment of bribe is a serious violation of human rights and the culprits should be punished", Shahid told The Daily Star.

The parents narrated the police excesses and alleged that the officer-in-charge killed Sumon for bribe. Locals alleged to the AL lawmakers that police tortured Sumon to death. Local leaders of the AL were also present during the 45-minute visit to the area.

On Tuesday, the AL lawmakers visited the Police Station and the house from where Sumon was arrested with four others allegedly during a robbery bid on Thursday.

"Owner of the house also told us that there was no incident of robbery on that day", Shahid added.

The AL team is likely to visit North Badda today to probe into the death of Saiful Islam, another victim who died allegedly in the custody at Gulshan Police Station.

#### Janatar Mancha

participate in or assist political activities. But in 1996, some officials so this in their personal interests. They should be punished to ensure discipline and chain of command in the public administration, he added.

Meanwhile, a case has already been filed against some officials for their alleged involvement with the Jantar Mancha during the previous BNP rule in 1996 after a controversial general election

The parliamentary body however did not discuss the case.

One source said some members of the body stressed downsizing the number of ministries from 40 to 20. The issue will be discussed at its next meeting, he added. The committee recommended

upgrading the status of diploma health technologists to class two officers from class three.

The meeting was attended by committee members and officials concerned. The state minister for finance and planning, who now is in charge of the ministry, was present at the meeting as the prime minis-

#### JS body

dissatisfaction at the price hike and demanded urgent and strict measures to keep the prices in check. At the meeting at the BNP central

office at Naya Paltan with the party Secretary General, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair, several leaders accused the government of laxity in managing state affairs. The meeting, called to lay out a

programme to observe the National Revolution and Solidarity Day on November 7, also discussed law and order downslide, traffic jam, extortion and other crimes.

A weeklong programme will begin on November 6 with a discussion highlighting the significance of the day. The BNP and its different front organisations will visit the mazar of late president Ziaur Rahman and place wreaths.

Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman, Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman, Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima Rahman, Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Joint Secretary Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, State Minister for Labour and Manpower Saleh Prince were also present.

#### Bail fixing

been guilty of gross misconduct, the president will, by an order, remove the judge.

Supreme Court Bar Association President Rokanuddin Mahmud at a meeting of the association on October 1 alleged that Judge Syed Shahidur Rahman received Tk 50,000 from a client for fixing a bail from the court of a judge friend in a woman repression case.

The judge was appointed on April 24 in the face objection by the Bar association and senior lawvers of the Supreme Court. They alleged that when Shahidur was an office bearer of the association, he pocketed the organisation's funds.

The chief justice sent the reference file on October 20 to the president for his approval and the law ministry on October 23 sent the chief justice's request for probe to the prime minister.

# Biggest power outage

demand of 3300 MW. Dhaka that

consumes about 1400 MW sweated in darkness with only about 500 MW Sources said it will take another

day to restore full power supply. Hospitals suspended scheduled

operations, saving energy for only emergency surgeries. The trouble began when the biggest power plant -- the 450 MW AES Meghnaghat unit -- tripped at 9:35am due to a technical glitch in

the transmission system.

"Power from different plants converge at the Ashuganj power grid. We suspect this grid tripped because of high voltage," said a source. "This might have affected the Meghnaghat plant." The sudden shutdown of the

Meghnaghat plant put tremendous

power plants there continued func-

pressure on other plants connected to the national grid. Within minutes they also started tripping one after Only Mymensingh and Sylhet regions remained online as two

tioning independently But the 140 MW Rural Power Company Limited (RPCL) plant in Mymensingh and the Fenchuganj 90 MW power plant are too inadequate to act as emergency sources for important offices. "As an immediate action, we

tried to start auxiliary power sys-

tems of some major plants to take pressure off main plants for their restart. This has always worked, but this time it did not," said a PDB

source. Even though engineers started a 30 MW auxiliary system at Baghabari, the main plant tripped again as soon as it was connected to the national grid.

By 11:00am, the engineers made

another abortive attempt to start an auxiliary system at Ashuganj. However, at around 11:30am, they succeeded to start the Ashugani and Shahjibazar power systems and limited power supply resumed at important installations. At the Secretariat and adjacent areas, power supply resumed at

12.35 noon and slowly to other areas of the capital. However, the supply remained erratic. State Minister for Power Iqbal

Hasan Mahmud blamed technical glitches for the power failure. "This is totally related to technical matters and we can never say whether such things will happen in

the future. But we will take mea-

sures to avoid such things," he said. Our correspondent in Barisa said power supplies remained cutoff in all the 21 southwestern districts till 12:20pm. At 12:24pm. only 5MW was restored in Barisal zone against a demand of 60MW

# Outage slows life

them into action," said a banker at Motijheel commercial heart. "Exporters hard pressed with

urgent business were really in hot water," he added. The apparel sector was the worst sufferer as thousands of workers sat

idle because of no alternative source of power to about 80 percent garments factories. "Production, office work with banks and other organisations were badly affected which will delay

shipment in the end. It's a big blow to

us," said SM Nurul Hoque, acting

president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA). Not only stitching, but ironing, washing and other power-propelled activities suffered hugely, even at

said. Ferrying of goods from stores to facilities was stalled as lifts did not

factories with generators, exporters

"We could not declare a general holiday because of the outage as we did not know for sure when power would be back," said Abdul Karim, managing director of Zenith Garments at Mohakhali. "Around 350 workers at his

factory spent the whole day without work," Karim told The Daily Star last The owners fear that the outage would cause huge stock lots because many factories are likely to

miss shipments of their export A large chunk of the exports would have to be sent by air at 10

times higher fares, they said. Bankers said they had no option but to handle urgent tasks in dimly candle-lit rooms.

"It is not possible to work for hours without power," remarked a banker at Dilkusha where power failure lingered from 10:00am to 1.30pm, hampering work in peak

The printing presses, engaged in publishing books, were also hit

"It's the peak season for us. We're working round the clock and most of us don't have generators,' said a press owner at Nilkhet.

"Fourteen of my workers did little "Besides, I had some urgent

banking work that I could not do due to the power crisis."

#### Coastguards

FROM PAGE 12

anchorage with 4,000 tonnes of refined palm oil from Indonesia on July 15, port sources said. Following a dispute between the

ship was stranded at the outer anchorage since its arrival, said sources at Seacom Shipping Line (SSL), local agent of the vessel. Chittagong Port's radio control department lost contact with the ship Tuesday night and the SSI

supplier and importer over payment

against the imported oil, the cargo

without paying port dues and other shipping charges. The principal of MV Filma have been asked to locate the fleeing ship and regional ports were informed to

sources said the vessel left the port

trace it. the SSL sources added. SNS International, a Dhakabased business house, imported the refined palm oil, sources said.

# JCD politics

ers still remain expelled till date. Among the 32 are JCD DU unit Senior Vice-president Golam Hafiz Nahin and Salimullah Hall Joint Secretary Daneshul Islam Danesh, who were expelled for beating up

fellow JCD leaders. Six JCD activists of Zahurul Haque Hall were expelled recently for beating up a JCD leader of Ziaur Rahman Hall, who later filed a case in connection with the incident.

Four JCD leaders and activists of Ziaur Rahman Hall unit, three of Fazlul Hague Hall unit, two of Salimullah Hall unit, three of Mohsin Hall unit and one of Shahidullah Hall unit were expelled in the past few months for their involvement in antiparty activities.

Poly Majumder, joint secretary of Shamsunnahar Hall unit, was also expelled for similar reasons while three activists of Zahurul Haque Hall fellow worker in front of the JCD General Secretary Azizul Bari Helal inside the Madhus Canteen.

Helal told The Daily Star the expulsions were necessary to rid the party of the bad image earned by trouble-mongers. He denied there are factions within the JCD but admitted that the problem lies in the competition for leadership at the low level, adding that the hall authorities need more capability to control residents JCD President Shahabuddin

Laltu said some scattered incidents occurred within the party because it is a large organisation. "But we will take action to uphold discipline and chain of command in the JCD," he Meanwhile, most of the 81 members of the DU unit committee

leaders have distanced themselves from organisational activities and are busy pursuing personal agenda ncluding jobs. Many were frustrated because

they were not given appropriate positions in either the DU unit committee or hall unit committees. "We didn't get anything from the JCD although we made immense contribution to the party," said a DU leader requesting anonymity.

He said many leaders have obtained party 'affiliation certificates' from the JCD DU unit to get a

#### Buriganga

"A wall three kilometres in length can be built to fence off those areas where massive encroachment occurs and which are most vulnerable," the minister said, responding to the proposal.

The convenor of Buriganga

Responding to the point, the BIWTA chairman said it takes sev-

eral months to get magistrates from

the district administration, which

sometimes weakens the antiencroachment drives. During a six-day drive from

filed 35 criminal cases against encroachers, he told the meeting.On the other hand, encroachers filed 25 cases against the BIWTA during the latest eviction Legal action against encroach-

who heads the taskforce. The taskforce members will visit the cleared banks sometime during Ramadan and the next meeting of the taskforce will be held immediately after Ramadan, he added.

## consulates at Chicago, **Sydney**

Dhaka to open

Chinese parliament speaker may visit Dhaka late next month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government plans to set up two new consulates at Chicago and Sydney, considering the commercial importance of the cities and presence of huge expatriate Bangla-deshis, foreign ministry sources said.

The new consulate will raise the number of missions in the US to four. There are two consulates at New York and Los Angeles apart from the embassy at Washington. Bangladesh has a sole mission

at Canberra, capital of Australia

The new consulate will be opened at commercial city of Sydney. Over 10,000 Bangladeshis currently live in Australia. The new consulates are likely to start functioning in January next. Meanwhile, foreign ministry

Congress of China Zia King Lin is likely to visit Bangladesh in the last week of November this year. An advance team will come to Dhaka soon to finalise the visit. The Chinese ambassador in Dhaka called on Foreign Minister M

sources said Speaker of People's

cussed the upcoming visit. The visit is expected to strengthen the relations between the two nations, as the speaker ranks third in the warrant of precedence of the government of China, sources said.

Morshed Khan Tuesday and dis-

#### Sonali Bank FROM PAGE 1

default loans), Riverside Leather and Food Industry (Tk 49.50 crore), Ajax Jute Mills Ltd (Tk 43 crore) Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (Tk 13 crore), Sonali Cotton Mills (Tk 40 crore), Ahmed Jutex Mills (Tk 39 crore) and Yusuf Brothers Tannery (Tk 38 crore).

#### Ministry tags FROM PAGE 12

(Dhaka Metropolitan Police) Commissioner Ashraful Huda were also present at the meeting.

Already 20 mobile courts and 40 strike forces comprising over 5,000 police, BDR and ansar personnel began cracking down on illegal parking and other traffic law violations on the first day of Ramadan on Tuesday But there was no appreciable

ond day of the drive yesterday as rush hour traffic, like the day before, again came to a grinding halt at different city points. Seventeen mobile courts filed 203 cases against vehicles and also

change in the situation on the sec-

fined them Tk 71,525 for violating traffic laws yesterday. The courts also removed way side illegal structures from Pallabi, Mohammadpur, Paltan, and Gulistan, and in front of Notre Dame College, Shapla Chattar, Shilpa Bhaban and Bangladesh Bank, a home ministry press release said. Roadside hawkers were also driven

away from those areas, it added. Mobile courts in Lalbagh also cleared out the Chawkbazar area. while similar eviction drives were carried out from Jatrabari to Shanir Akhra.

Roadside hawkers from Abdullapur to Uttara Police Station were also ejected.

The mobile court at Dhanmondi cleared the footpaths around Jhikatola bus stand and Elephant Road, the press released said,

### Pakistan-Indian

FROM PAGE 12 would serve the purpose of what Indians call people-to-people con-

tacts," he said.

He said Pakistan had agreed in principle to India's offer of starting a bus service between Muzaffarabad state capital of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, and Srinagar, the summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir, across the Line of Control (LOC). "But, as you know, this involves

travelling in disputed area, and we

are of the considered view that the checkpoints, wherever they are established along the Line of Control, must be manned, controlled by the United Nations and people on the two sides can move New Delhi said it would not

brought to an end. Khokhar said Pakistan in recent months had done "just about everything possible" to stop rebels crossing from Pakistani to Indian Kashmir, but it was impossible for any country to completely seal its

"As far as Pakistan is concerned it's done its utmost and that's where the matter rests. The ball is in India's court. He said Pakistan had also

accepted New Delhi's proposal to establish a hot line between coast guards and maritime agencies of the two countries to help prevent fishermen straying into each other's coastal waters. "We insist on a sustained and

serious dialogue between the two countries for a lasting peace between the two countries. We hope that India will reconsider its position on the resumption of the composite talks," Khokhar said.

## England take charge

87 without loss. The match came to life after the break with the Tigers making fast inroads.

England openers Michael Vaughan and Marcus Trescothick were looking in ominous touch and had put on 126 with little trouble when Mahmud made the first break-

his intentions clear by clubbing three sixes, flashed at a delivery outside the off-stump and the ball ballooned into the hands of Mushfigur Rahman at backward

chance off the opener when he was on 34.

bowling change by taking himself off and bringing in his strike paceman Mashrafee who had toiled without success in the morning session.

bowler taking two wickets in five balls.

#### JCD rivals clash

FROM PAGE 12 JCD President Amirul Islam Khan Alim beat up Zakaria on the campus yesterday, leaving him seriously injured.

As police tried to rescue Zakaria.

agitated JCD workers threw brickbats at them, injuring the constable and the SI. A number of JCD leaders and activists from different halls then marched to Shahidullah Hall, assaulted some activists of Zakarialed faction and drove out many

The Amjad-led faction

JCD President Sahabuddin

\_altu, General Secretary Azizul Bari Helal and other central leaders visited the hall later on and were trying to bring the situation under

occupied the hall.

the hall and on the campus, as well. Meanwhile, unidentified persons threw stones at a police official's jeep on the campus, causing damages. Police said some students are

Additional police forces have

been deployed on the campus.

trying to provoke them.

A tense situation was prevailing at

Vaughan (54 off 124 balls) was caught behind and two balls later, Graham Thorpe dragged the ball on to the stumps leaving the tourists on

a tricky 134 for four. The Tigers were then thwarted by the partnership between Hussain

and all-rounder Clarke. Clarke was confident from the beginning and mixed aggression with caution. He reached his maiden Test fifty in his second match with an expansive shot for four in the last

session of the match. On 36, Hussain was dropped by Rafigue off his own bowling. The veteran right-hander then survived a close call just before stumps when a Mashrafee delivery took his edge and sailed between two slip fielders

who were too slow to react. Bangladesh fielded the same eleven that played in the first Test in Dhaka while England were forced to replace injured paceman Stephen Harmison with Middlesex seamer Richard Johnson. The tourists also decided to drop off-spinner Gareth Batty and gave guick bowler Martin Saggers his Test debut.

# Two boys

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two young boys were killed in separate road accidents in Gulshan and Motijheel in a span of eight ours ending at 6:30am yesterday.

Robin, 10, was standing beside he road at Shahajadpur when a

Dhaka-bound bus from Gaibandha hit him at around 6:30am. He died on the spot. Police seized the bus abandoned by its driver from the spot. Faridul Islam Ripon, Robin's

father, filed a case with Gulshan In the other incident, Mohammad Yusuf, 12, and his cousin Masum Mollah, 14, suffered serious injuries when they were hit by bro-ken parts of a truck, which rammed into a median, in front of Khilgaon overnment High School at about

9:30pm Tuesday Locals rushed Yusuf, a cooked supplier, to Dhaka Medical ege Hospital where he died at

around 10:30pm. Masum is undergoing treatment

Police seized the truck but could

"So we were quite lucky," says

The geomagnetic storm has

# Earth buffeted

According to scientists the flare is the third largest detected since regular solar monitoring began 25

It is the strongest flare since

2001 which itself was the most

powerful since 1989. A less powerful flare, also in 1989, caused disruption of power grids in Canada. Observations from the Heliospheric Observatory (Soho)

satellite, monitoring the Sun from a

gravitational balance point closer to

the Sun than the Earth, saw the so-

called Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) rise from the Sun on Tuesday. Estimates of its velocity suggested it was moving at 7.5 million

kilometres a hour, about five times

faster than usual.

According to Soho astronomer Paal Brekke, "The magnetic cloud slammed into the Earth's magnetosphere and created a G5 geomagnetic storm, the strongest category.

However, monitoring suggests that the storm weakened quickly.

Experts say this weakening was

probably due to the CME's magnetic field which had a northward pointing magnetic component. Had it been pointing south, they say, the result would have been a much more severe and long lasting

This is because if a CME has a

magnetic field pointing south it

interacts more violently with the

caused compasses to swing wildly. The direction of magnetic north changed during the storm The compass variation at the

Paal Brekke.

in Scotland changed by 5.1 degrees in only 25 minutes at about 0630 announced that its Kodama communications satellite has been affected by the flare. It has been

Lerwick geomagnetic observatory

shut down with the hope it can be reactivated when the storm has passed. Aurora have been reported from mid-western US. Observers say they have seen "lots of red stream-

ers with almost daylight blue down

Crackdown FROM PAGE 12

on the horizon."

"We have identified the muggingprone areas of the city," the home minister told newsmen. "Both uniformed and plainclothes policemen have already

been deployed in every market in the city," the home minister said. Besides 22 mobile courts, the government has already set up traffic facilities in 40 areas and set up 40 mobile camps. The mobile

camps and strike forces will rush to

the spot of any mugging incident.

# Bush still defiant

geomagnetic storm.

Earth's magnetosphere.

FROM PAGE 12 targets with blockades and checkpoints and keep US strike forces ready to move against the guerrillas.

sure that not only we harden targets but that we get actionable intelligence to intercept the missions before they begin. That means more Iraqis involved in the intelligencegathering systems in their countries, so that they are active participants in securing the country from further

much hard work remains in Iraq, a day after he told reporters that the guerrilla attacks should be seen as a sign of progress because they show the desperation of those trying to drive out the Americans. "It's dangerous, and it's tough,"

Bush seemed to be using the

news conference to underscore that

he said. Bush, who has complained in the

past that foreign militants were crossing into Iraq from Syria and Iran to take up arms against US forces, said he expected those two countries to enforce border controls to stop infiltrators, but toned down his rhetoric against them.

"We're working closely

those countries to let them know that we expect them to enforce borders, prevent people from coming across borders if, in fact, we

catch them doing that," he said.

Bush gave no sign that he

intends to either withdraw some US

troops or send in more as some

military analysts have suggested. Asked about increasing troop strength, Bush said he constantly asks Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld if this was needed and has been told there are sufficient forces there. He said Army Gen. John Abizaid. the top commander for US forces in

Irag, "makes the decision as to whether or not he needs more troops.' Bush also defended the \$20 billion in reconstruction money for Iraq he has proposed. Some mem-

bers of Congress want to make

some of the money in loans instead

Bush said this would saddle the Iraqi people with unnecessary debt, and he compared the situation to postwar Japan, saying the United States has a close relationship with Japan now because of postwar

#### Bachao Andolon (Save Buriganga Amanullah Aman and central leaders with UN documents," he added. unit were expelled over a clash Movement) Prof. Muzaffer Ahmad Mofiqul Hasan Tripti and Syed Emran between the hall unit president and said that the BIWTA required its own general secretary. Two other JCD resume direct dialogue with "But as well, we've got to make magistrates to facilitate its antiactivists including a hall unit leader Pakistan unless evidence on the encroachment drives whenever ground showed "cross-border were expelled after they beat up a deemed necessary. terrorism" in Kashmir was being

October 19 to 25, the BIWTA evicted borders. 576 illegal structures from the banks of the Buriganga, BIWTA Port Director Monwar Hossain said. Until October 27, the BIWTA had

ers will be geared up, said Akbar,

Trescothick (60), who had made

Mushfiq earlier floored a difficult

Mark Butcher came in and whacked Rafique over widish midwicket for a four. But he played the very next ball staving back on the crease and missed the line comnletely to have his off stump rattled. Mahmud made an inspired

The gamble reaped immediate reward with the country's fastest

## killed in road mishaps