Pakistan to remove troops from PoK if India responds

Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf has said that his country would pull back its troops from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) if India does the same in Jammu

Musharraf also said that he would nominate Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee for his country's highest civilian honour, the Nishan-e-Pakistan, if the two neighbours moved towards solving the Kashmir dispute.

Replying to questions from listeners on BBC's radio programme Aapki Baat BBC Ke Saath broadcast on Monday, Musharraf said, "India has seven lakh soldiers in Kashmir, whereas Pakistan has only fifty thousand. If Indian government is ready to remove their forces, we will remove ours tomorrow.

When reminded by a listener about the Nishan-e-Pakistan conferred on former Prime Minister Morarji Desai and asked whether his country would like to confer the honour on any Indian today, Musharraf said "I would like to nominate Vajpayee Sahib for it if we move forward towards solving

"If there is an achievement, which is significant from Pakistan's point of view, we would like to honour anyone," he added.

Musharraf said he was optimistic about next month's SAARC summit in Islamabad as it was taking place as scheduled despite early uncertainties.

"Prime Minister Vajpayee will participate and will meet with all the leaders. I am also hopeful that maybe talks (will) take pace, and whatever talks take place, they would be effective, useful and point to a good future," Musharraf

The Council on American-Islamic

Relations, a Washington-based

human rights group, welcomed the scrapping of registration require-

"Any new screening procedures should not be based on religion,

ethnicity or national origin, but

instead reflect the American values of equal justice and religious free-

dom," the group's executive director

Under the original program, males 16 years or older and nationals

of the 25 countries had to be finger

printed and photographed at the border. They had to re-register 30

days later and on the year's anniver-

will undergo special border registra-

countries selected were places where

Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda net-

work or other terror groups had been active or where the United States had

The countries affected were

Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Egypt, Eritrea,

Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait,

Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Somalia, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria,

Γunisia, United Arab Emirates and

Homeland Security inherited the

program when the department was

The new rules give Homeland Security the right to select men from

those 25 nations for further inter-

views, but it is done on an individual

Under the old rules, some 82,000

visitors would be required to report

in the next five months for either their 30-day or annual re-

basis based on specific information.

created earlier this year.

Libya, Lebanon, Morocco, North

tion, but will not have to re-register.

Now males from the 25 countries

When it launched the program in

sary of original registration.

Nihad Awad said in a statement.

Asked whether he would meet Vajpayee, he replied, "Yes, if he wants to meet me, I will meet him.'

"I am saying he should not get an impression, that since I have been saying this time and again, I am desperate to meet him. Let me tell you, I am living here and sitting comfortably there is no problem. would meet him only if he wants."

Dismissing Deputy Prime Minister L K Advani's charge that cross-border terrorism had not stopped, Musharaf said "even if two birds fly (across the border). they would say infiltration is taking

He said India had often alleged that infiltration was taking place under the cover of firing by

"Now there is no firing on the LoC, so how is the infiltration taking place," Musharraf asked.

Last week, India and Pakistan announced a ceasefire along the LoC and International Border in Jammu and Kashmir. Yesterday, they decided to restore civilian aviation links and overflights from New Year's Day.

Musharraf said he hoped the Agra fiasco would not be repeated as Indo-Pak relations were again moving ahead. "Everyone should hope in the same direction, that the process of dialogue moves for

But Musharraf cautioned that there should be no room for com-

"Remember it is the beginning of an end. We would have to be extremely careful, and with sincerity we should move forward in this process of dialogue," Musharraf

"I am confident that if we have the sincerity, then we can move

egistration, Hutchinson said. Those

More than 290,000 registrations

people no longer have to re-register.

were reported through Sept. 30, and 2,870 people were detained as a

result of registrations -- mostly for being in violation of immigration

laws -- with 23 people still in custody Hutchinson said.

Banshkhali carnage

forward leaving all this behind. If

there has been bitterness in the

past, it is better to forget it and

National Assembly or President

was the final authority on Kashmir,

Musharraf said "Whatever be the

decision on Kashmir, it would be of

the Assembly, but the President

activities of different ministries at

International Conference Centre (ICC) at the Prime Minister's Office

It was decided in the meeting

that manpower and other facilities

would be enhanced at different

upazilas, considering their size and

particular features with special

emphasis on maintaining law and

She directed the ministries to implement all development projects in the stipulated time. She

stressed the need for quick imple-

mentation of the projects in power

sector to enhance generation,

transmission and distribution of

The progress of the projects to increase water supply in Dhaka and Chittagong cities was also reviewed

At the beginning of the meeting,

The participants were informed

The new appointees who

include a large number of teachers,

doctors and officers of administra-tion cadre will join their respective

work by Decémber 17. Besides,

2,000 nurses have already been appointed to public hospitals, it was made known.

Gulshan, Banani, Badda, Ananda

Nagar, Post Office Road, Satarkul,

Besides, in Tejgaon, Mohakhali, Mogbazar, Malibagh and Khilgaon pressure of gas remained low.

The gas shortage also compounded commuters' woes, as there were very few gas-fired three wheelers and taxis plying the city streets. The three wheelers also charged exorbitant fares and refused to follow their meter readings:

"Whereas I regularly pay around Fk 30 to go to my office in Kakrail

from Bangla Motor area, I had to pay Tk 45 (yesterday) because the CNG

three wheelers refused to comply with their meters," said 35-year old

There was a heavy rush of CNG-

Residents had to depend on

run vehicles in over three-dozen gas refilling stations in the city yester-

outside food supplies, as restau-

rants remained closed in these

"But this suffering will pay divi-dend during the winter," says a Petrobangla official who oversees

this technical task, "normally every winter Dhaka experiences low gas

pressure because a gas by-product, named condensate, accumulates in

He explained that a new gas

"We have also set up a 20-inch pipeline in Manohardi the day after

Eid. We now have normal gas sup-ply and pressure. We believe we will be able to supply around 1260 million cft of gas per day across the

Gas-starved

Rampura and Shahjadpur.

FROM PAGE 12

Cabinet Secretary Dr Saadat Hussain presented review report on

the activities of different ministries.

that appointment letters have

already been issued to employ 2,200 officers on the basis of the results of

electricity in the country.

PM orders

Asked whether the Pakistani

horror of the deadliest ever arson attack in Bangladesh.

On the alleged repression against supporters of the main opposition party and religious minorities, Hasina, also Awami League president, claimed, "At east 21 Hindus were incinerated in Banshkhali alone and no fewer than 24,000 leaders, activists and supporters of opposition parties were killed after the last parliamen-

given protection the constitution guarantees?" Hasina asked, accusing the BNP-led coalition govern-

'harboured' hoodlums in the Banshkhali arson attack that police described as just another robbery.

"They carried out the attack to feed their desire for vengeance, the AL chief said, adding the attackers did not even spare the four-day-

country back into total chaos and sheltering killers and other criminals over its first two years in office. She said Prime Minister Chowdhury and his cousin, who is the union parishad chairman, cannot walk away from their

She accused the home minister withdrawing cases against 70,000 ruling party-favoured

"The government failed to save the lives and property of people," Hasina said in a guarded reference to launching a tough movement against the government.

Hasina asked Banshkhali residents to help track down the perpetrators of the November 18 massacre and told the rally: "Unite against repression and resist it."

AL presidium members Sajeda Chowdhury, Motia Chowdhury, Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, General Secretary Abdul Jalil, central leaders Obaidul Kader and Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Chittagong city AL President MA Mannan, Chittagong Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, north district President Mosharraf Hossain and south district President Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury also addressed.

Earlier in the day, Hasina addressed two roadside rallies in West Patiya and Anwara on her way to Banshkhali.

Dr Kamal

stressed unity of civil society members against the 'misrule of the present government' and to press the mainstream opposition political parties to launch a united anti-government move-

They expressed dismay at religious militancy in the country and accused the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition government of patronising the militants instead of resisting them.

They said repression on the minority has been institutionalised after the elections of 2001.

President of a faction of Jatiya Samjtantrik Dal (JSD) Hasanul Haq Inu said "We are creating a situation for foreign aggression in the country," and blamed the state and the politicians for such

Inu urged for greater unity of the social and political forces that opposed the alliance govern-

General Secretary of the Gono Forum Saifuddin Ahmed Manik called for a sustained movement against all types of misdeeds of the government.

Dr Ajay Roy criticised the media for labelling the initiatives of the civil society members as the Third Force and said civil society members could play their part alongside the political par-ties in their anti-government agitation. Khushi Kabir of Nijera Kori

urged all to face the present situation of the country politically.

Presided over by Justice KM Sobhan the programme was addressed, among others, by Sultana Kamal of the ASK, Prof Ajay Roy of the Sammilito Samajik Andolon, Communis Party of Bangladesh leader Jiad Al Malum, Shirin Akhtar of Karmojibi Nari, writer Hayat Mamud and cultural activist Sara

Koizumi tells

within the country over the government's decision to send its troops to Baghdad, with some reports speculating that Japan could delay sending its forces.

Koizumi, however, refrained from making a commitment on when he would make a decision and said: "It is not a question of delaying or not delaying, I will make an assessment and make my judgement."

The fight against terrorism in both Iraq and Afghanistan has become a very serious issue and nations should be prepared for a "long drawn out fight'", he told the Asian editors and representatives. Of concern to him also was the

maritime security threat in the Asean region and Japan hoped to cooperate with countries in Southeast Asia to counter piracy and foil attacks. Koizumi, however,

emphasised that Japan would not take security measures that would "alarm"' its neighbours in Asia.

He made these remarks while responding to another question on changes in Japan's security role in the region, with the US now talking about re-alignment of troops.

"The constitution stipulates that Japan shall not use force and not engage in combat and we will uphold that constitution.'

"It is important to make sure that what we do will not cause a sense of alarm in the region," he

The ANN is a grouping of prominent Asian newspapers to promote the exchange of Asian news and views in the region.

Kuril gunrunners FROM PAGE 1

other explosives as they escaped.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Ashraful Huda however termed yesterday's raid more successful than the Badda raid in that five of the 150 criminals listed with Mohammadpur Police Station were arrested.

"It was like any regular raid for criminal hunt, but was more effective due to the curfew which was necessary given the gravity of the situation surrounding the arms haul in Badda," Huda said.

"The curfew during the raid proved effective and we have decided to conduct more such raids from time to time," he added.

The decision to slap curfew during the Mohammadpur raid on suspected criminal hideouts was taken at a DMP meeting chaired by Huda at 9:00pm Monday.

"We heard an announcement at around 11:45 Monday night that those venturing outside after mid-night would be arrested," said Abdur Rehman, a resident of

Geneva Camp. Led by Assistant Deputy Commissioner (West Zone) Morshed Alam, the joint team raided some houses blacklisted by Mohammadpur Police. The

Detective Branch and Special Branch of police assisted the raid. Apart from the five arrested

listed criminals Suman, Naju, Ismail, Mazharul and Nata Bhulu, six of the arrested had warrants issued for their arrest and 13 others accused in different cases.

"Another 32 were rounded up for violating the curfew," the DMP commissioner said, adding they

would be released after question-Total 450 police and 160 BDR

Poison from lethal fish could be a painkiller

TORONTO, Reuters

A tiny Canadian company wants to use poison from a fish -- a substance more toxic than cyanide -- to help cancer patients suppress pain or to wean heroin addicts off their habit.

International Wex Technologies Vancouver-based company listed on the small-cap Canadian Venture Exchange, says early trials show positive results from tetrodotoxin although bigger and more extensive tests will be needed before the product reaches the marketing stage.

It says the new drug could be on the market within three years, if all the tests work out.

The new drug is derived from a blowfish poison -- a substance so dangerous that a mere trace can paralyze a person within minutes.

The blowfish is known to gourmets as the source of the sometimes deadly Japanese fugu delicacy, a dish that can be prepared only by trained and licensed chefs, because the slip of a knife can poison the food, causing the diner to drop to the ground convulsing and gasping for air.

It has been described as the

culinary version of Russian roulette. But the drug derived from the

poison, tetrodotoxin, has already passed two phases of clinical tests, and doctors conducting early surveys say it eased pain in terminally ill cancer patients, where no other pain medication had worked.

"It quickly became apparent that some patients were having a dramatic response. You would not have treatments," said Dr Edward Sellers, a professor of pharmacology at the Iniversity of Toronto who helped Wex conduct its Phase II trials, a study of 22 patients.

Sellers said one patient in his mid-50s was in such agony that he couldn't even wear his clothes without sharp surges of pain.

But with shots of Tectin, Wex's patented name for tetrodotoxin, his ain subsided for more than week.

Researchers injected patients with several micrograms of Tectin --a quantity so small it can't be seen with the naked eye -- twice a day for four days, and found that nearly 70 percent experienced a reduction in

CHT at standstill

quoted sources as saying.

The PCJSS enforced the dawnto-dusk road barricade in all the three hill districts vesterday to press for its demands for full implementation of the accord.

of the UPDF men, the Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) and Hills Women Federation brought out a procession in the port city yester-

The procession ended up in a

blamed the PCJSS for the killing. They took out a procession from Dhaka University Teacher and Student Centre (TŠC) in the protest Our correspondents from three

hill districts reported that apart from gun attack, the road blockade was enforced in the three hill districts without any major incidents, with vehicles staying off the roads.

Transport leader shot dead on Faridpur Medical College campus

on Faridpur Medical College campus Monday night.

Amir Ali, 36, joint secretary of District Transport Workers Union, came under attack by five young men while he was sitting at the canteen he runs there.

head and throat point-blank and left the spot, firing blank shots. He died instantly. Police said Amir himself was

accused in 15 criminal cases including three for murders.

workers put up barricades on the Faridpur-Rajbari Highway, disrupting traffic for several hours.

people including General Secretary of local Bus Owners Forum Kamal Siddiqui and his two

Communications with the rest of the country was disrupted due to the road blockade and commuters suffered greatly. Our Bandarban Correspondent reported that the PCJSS and its front

rotest day' in there yesterday. The four-party alliance government-backed organisations of Banglee settlers hoisted black flags

Bangalee Chhatra Parishad, the PCJSS, PCP, and Parbatya Gano Parishad held separate rallies in front of the local press club, at

Meanwhile, main opposition Awami League's Rangamati district unit organised a discussion marking

the sixth anniversary of the peace accord signing. The discussion was presided over by district AI President and former MP Dipankar demanded full implementation of the accord to establish peace in the CHT.

HIV victims

deputy speaker said that he would use his office to reinstate the sacked BIWTA employee as soon as

The HIV carriers got a psychological boost as the lawmakers, journalists, and representatives from the UNDP, Unicef and other

"Today's meeting and lunch with the elite have given us the belief that we have not been alienated from the society," one patient told reporters after the meeting at

the deputy speaker's office. "We may have disagreement on many a political issue, but we are united on HIV/Aids issues," Ghulam Mohammad Quader,

for the first time. We should utilise their experiences to combat the deadly virus," Faruque Khan,

Awami League lawmaker and vicechairman of the BPMG, said. "The HIV/Aids patients should be given the chance to discuss their

problems to help prevent further spread of the disease," Zahir Uddin Swapan, BNP lawmaker and vice chairman of the BPMG, said.

ministry as per the accord," said Shantu Larma.

As the government did not remove Wadud Bhuiyan from the

people, professionals and members of the civil society to garner support for implementation of the accord.

accord. Shantu also extended support to the 11-party alliance's

hartal on December 13.

region. He said after the signing of the CHT peace accord in 1997 that public. They could not resolve the problems of the CHT people, nor of ne country The PCJSS chief blamed the governments for encouraging

to settle in the CHT. Now the gov ernment itself has created unrest in the CHT, he added.

Bangalees from all over the country

He, however, admitted that some clauses of the accord were implemented, but some key

Rupayan Dewan, vicepresident of the PCJSS, Dhaka University teacher Dr Mesbah Kamal, Sanjib Drong, secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, Sumanalangkar Mahathero, president of the Parbatya Bouddha Samity, and representatives of the non-settling Bangla-speaking people's forum, were among those present at the press conference.

PM seeks

FROM PAGE 1 hoped that the present govern-

ment would be able to sustain the present trend of development. He said Bangladesh is one of those countries which did utilise

the bank's credits more effectively. The volume of WB assistance for

Bangladesh would reach \$900 million dollars in the current fiscal year, he said.

Most wanted

Yemen.

Governing Council sources said

News of the possible elimination of a man with a \$10 million price on his head emerged as Spain mourned seven intelligence offi-cers killed in Iraq and U.S. allies agonized over whether the occupa-

tion was worth the cost in blood. A US soldier was killed by a road-side bomb near the tense town of Samarra yesterday, the 189th to die in fighting since President Bush declared major combat over on May

There was no immediate comment from the US military on the reports about Saddam's righthand man, but a major operation was clearly under way yesterday around Hawija, a village west of

Local people said US troops backed by armored vehicles arrived before dawn and sealed the area off. By the afternoon, the village was still inaccessible, with troops manning checkpoints on roads into the area and turning away all traffic.

and have been searching houses since 5 a.m.," said one resident, Abdulla Mohammad.

They have a list of wanted men

Governing Council member Mowaffaq al-Rubaie told Reuters he had been in contact with US

"There was a major action against a highly suspicious objective last night in Kirkuk and it is very possible that Izzat Ibrahim has

been captured or killed," he said.

US scraps foreigners

targeted," the statement said. days after Britain reminded its 30,000 nationals in Saudi Arabia that militants might be in the final

Last month, two Saudi suicide bombers killed at least 18 people, mainly Arab expatriates, at a Riyadh

Saudi authorities have blamed

the recent surge in militant-related violence in the kingdom. Authorities said last week they had foiled an even bigger attack in Riyadh when security forces found a

car primed with over 1.2 tonnes of explosives. Another 1.3 tonnes of explosive were found nearby. Saudi Arabia, birthplace of Islam and most of the suicide hijackers

US embassy

said in a warning to US citizens in "Other Western compounds

The US warning comes three

bombing of three other housing complexes killed at least 35 people, including Americans and other

within the kingdom may also be

phases of planning attacks in the kingdom.

On May 12, the triple suicide

the pipeline in low temperature. High condensate in the pipelines Saudi-born Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network for both attacks and reduces gas supplies.' sipeline between Demra and Gulshan has been installed to avert the low gas pressure problem. Gas supplies had to be suspended in selected areas to install a devise at

who flew planes into US targets on September 11, 2001, has cracked

down hard on militants since the

Another high-level source in the US-appointed Council said he had been informed Ibrahim had been

Ibrahim's detention would be a

major coup for the US-led coali-tion. A veteran political ally of Saddam, he is sixth on the US list of

the 55 top Iraqi fugitives, but all those in the top five except for Saddam have been killed or cap-

Commenting on the margin withdrawal, President of the

Federation of Bangladesh

Industry (FBCCI) Abdul Awal Mintoo said, "Financial restric-

tions hike import cost by 7 to 10

percent. This decision is very

timely as it will help lower com-

margin, the government imple-

ments all but one conditions of the

IMF to be eligible to get the second

tranche of \$70 million PRGF loan.

fulfilled is introduction of market-

pegged interest rate for savings

a meeting reviewed the IMF condi-

tion status and felt it may have to

seek some more time to work on

the savings instruments rates.

The finance ministry Monday at

With the withdrawal of the

The loan condition yet to be

modity prices.'

instruments.

Chambers of Commerce and

LC margin

caught in the raid.

country without disruption during the winter," he pointed out.

the two ends of the pipeline.

BNP lawmaker

specific date.

at Motijheel in the city, who stands accused in a cheating case, and issued a warrant of arrest against him as well, as he did not turn up on a

Earlier, the court on February 25,

2002 served a show cause notice on his guarantors to explain why Pintu submission of any documents before The court also directed the guarantors twice to assure it of Pintu's appearance. But Pintu was not produced before the court. The court

before it today. Pintu was arrested on December 26, 2001 on charge of attempted snatching of auction documents of a bankrupt company's property on December 23 the same year. Later, he was given one month's detention under the Special Powers Act.

on September 29 this year ordered

Pintu's counsel to produce him

filed the case alleging that Pintu and his accomplices tried to grab the bidding documents. The Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested Pintu following a case filed against him with Motijheel Police Station.

Later, the court set Pintu free on

Advocate Jahangir Alam Khan

bail on January 24 last year upon a bond of Tk 10,000 with two guaranof the suspected gunrunners now When reached, Masud Ahmed Talukder, Pintu's counsel, did not comment on the non-appearance of his client before the court on so many

BNP renews talks

tary elections. "Why are minority groups not

ment of widespread torture. Hasina alleged the involvement of some local BNP leaders and their

Hasina accused the BNP-Jamaat coalition of sliding the

Khaleda Zia, local lawmaker and State Minister Jafrul Islam

need be, the dialogue will carry on

from dawn to dusk. Please convey

this message to your party chief and provide for the dialogue,"

But Hamid blamed the ruling

coalition for not allowing the

opposition to speak on the floor of

the parliament, as we are not

allowed to speak. The treasury bench should change its attitude towards the opposition," he said.

Asking Bhuiyan for taking

initiative to resolve the stalemate,

Hamid said the AL would join the

last parliamentary session if the

government were sincere in its

"The reason why we are not

Bhuiyan and Hamid exchanged

the views during a discussion

meeting, marking the death anni-

versary of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan

Milon on Dhaka Medical College

Presided over by Bangladesh Medical Association President and

Vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu

Sheikh Mujib Medical Üniversity

going to the House should be

discussed," he added.

"We see no reason for going to

Bhuiyan told Hamid.

the House.

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haq Inu, State Minister for Labour and Manpower Amanullah Aman and Jatiya Party leader Shafiul Alam

"In democracy, no elected person has the privilege of doing whatever he or she wishes to. It brings autocracy in the country if the ruling party forgets the people till the next poll," Hamid said at the Bhuiyan shot down the conception of formation of "national or

consensus" government, saying,

BNP does not believe in those

Election is the only way to come to

power and persons having no

ability to be elected are talking about formation of a national government. Inu, however, reiterated his party's proposal of forming national government and said, "A national government is urgently needed instead of a one-party government in the present per-spective of crime, globalisation

and rise of fundamentalism. Menon observed that the harvest of democracy has been confined within corruption communalism

Prof MA Hadi, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Secondary students

The High Court has issued a rule on same way and the capacity of NCTB chairman and other officials to explain why they would not be directed to stop issuing any order for print and marketing of

books for VI to X classes for exceeding the estimated value of books. The rule nisi came after the BBPSA vice-president, Shah Alam,

filed a writ petition with the court. Publishers and sellers sought intervention of the prime minister to ensure even-handed work distribution and demanded cancellation of the order that allowed the remaining 327 publishing

houses only 8 percent of the job. "It is a flagrant violation of government rules," Alam said.

Rabbani Jabbar, president of Bangladesh Mudran Shilpa Samity, refuting the BBPSA statement, said books would be available in the market in time, as there was no difference in the system of awarding the job this year.

Last year, 29 printers got the job

worth Tk 21 crore and 220 printers

Tk 18 crore in a reminder of 2004

when 47 printers got the work

involving Tk 34 crore and 300

printers Tk 14 crore, he pointed

"The NCTB has followed the orinters was the main criteria Jabbar added.

The BBPSA leaders urged the

NCTB to receive new letters of offer

along with bid security from pub-

lishing houses to remove 'anomalies' in publication of the text-"We requested the NCTB chairman to ask publishing houses to pay 1 percent in bid security when submit letters of offer again. It

will check malpractice in bidding,

an association leader said. The BBPSA leaders also demanded that the NCTB hands out the publishing work to all listed publishers so that textbooks could reach the students in time.

ter, education minister and NCTB chairman, seeking intervention. The BBPSA is scheduled to stage a token hunger strike in front of the NCTB building today in protest

memorandum to the prime minis-

Earlier, the BBPSA submitted a

against the NCTB decision. The association members will hold a rally at Bangla Bazar on December 11 and hand over a memorandum to the president, seeking intervention.

Kuril arms haul

him about the source and destination of the sophisticated weapons.

"We are verifying the names that Manik gave us," said a top DB official seeking anonymity, adding that preliminary investigation has not revealed anything out of the ordinary with the persons named. Manik is now on a 14-day remand in two separate cases. The DB official said the matter

is being handled with utmost caution given the sensitive nature of the case and that police are making steady progress in unearthing the identity of the suspected gunrunners and the purpose of bringing such sophisticated firearms into the capital. Police said they will follow up all possible leads once they are able to interrogate Abdul Aziz, one

being critically injured in Sunday's gunfight with police. Meanwhile, the manhunt for Lincoln, a known drug-peddler of

undergoing treatment at

Combined Military Hospital after

the Uttara-Airport area, continued yesterday for his suspected connection with the Kuril arms cache, police said.

Manik told police that Lincoln

took the keys to his shop on

Saturday afternoon saying he

wouldn't go home that night

because he had a quarrel with his Manik also said Lincoln was inside the shop at 8:00pm on Sunday.

Golam Rasul said he was certain of Lincoln's involvement with the arms found in Kuril Badda. Four AK-47 assault rifles, two revolvers, 20 hand grenades, four time bombs, a large number of AK-47 ammunition and other explosives were seized among

Police raided several places in Uttara's Ashkona area but couldn't find Lincoln. Deputy Commissioner (North Zone)

other things from the signboard shop during Sunday's raid on the personnel took part in the raids that signboard shop. ended at 5:00am yesterday.

organisations yesterday observed Protesting the attack and killing in the Bandarban town.

rally in front of Chittagong Press Club where the UPDF leaders at a rally blamed the PCJSS for the attack. They demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the killers. The Greater Chittagong Hill Fracts Students' Council also

UNB, Faridput A transport leader was shot dead

The gunmen shot him in the

After the incident, transport A case was filed against nine

CHT development board by November 30, the deadline the PCJSS set, it will enforce a hartal on December 8, Shantu Larma said. The PCJSS will contact CHT

They will also form a support group and a forum drawing members of the civil society to work for the implementation of the peace

Shantu said the presence of so many army camps in the region is a clear violation of the accord. With the direct aid of the army officials, he complained, attacks were aunched in Baghaihat bazaar, and Babuchhara in 1999, Dighinala, Bowal Khali in 2001, Ramgar in 2001 and in Mahalchhari in 2003. 'So it is very important that they (army men) are removed from the

ended decades of insurgency, the country had three governments including a caretaker administration, but none of them was pro-

Silpakola Academy and at Reserve

paign would be launched. The possible

donor agencies had lunch with

Jatiya Party lawmaker and also vice-chairman of the BPMG, said. "It is significant that the HIV/Aids patients discussed their problems with the policymakers

Shantu asks govt