Summit begins

ability to improve standards of living for millions of people."

Swiss President Pascal Couchepin was, among others, on the podium at the inaugural ceremony attended by leaders from nearly 200 countries, including 60 heads of state and government.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, who was invited by the UN secretary-general, also attended the inaugural function

Annan said, "We have tools that can propel us towards the Millennium Development Goals; instruments with which to advance the cause of freedom and democracy; vehicles with which to propagate knowledge and mutual understanding.

He said, "We have all of this potential. The challenge before us is what to do with it. The so-called digital divide is actually several gaps in one. There is technological divide, great gaps in infrastruc-

There is a content divide. A lot of web-based information is simply not relevant to real needs of people. And nearly 70 percent of the world's web sites are in English, at times crowding out local voices and views.

Earlier on the sidelines of the WSIS, chief Technology Officers (CTOs) from 30 leading technology companies agreed on some defining principles for the next

Global standards emerged as a recurring theme in the discussions and were seen as a vital element in future ICT.

The CTOs from some leading suppliers and developers of ICT drafted a 'Vision Statement' outlining their thoughts on the future

The first UN-sponsored WSIS aims to bridge the rich-poor digital divide amid growing concern

Tk 3.20 cr Danish grant for water, sanitation in CHT

UNB, Dhaka

Denmark will provide 4 million Danish Kroner, equivalent to Tk 3.20 crore, for the implementation Sanitation and Water Supply Project" in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

An agreement to this effect was signed between NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation and Danida yesterday), says a Danish Embassy press

Executive Director of the NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation SMA Rashid and Danish Ambassador in Dhaka Niels Severin Munk signed the agreement on behalf of their

The project will be impleto start the process of hygiene promotion and create a more extensive range of activities envisaged under the "Establishment of CHT Fund for Hygiene Promotion, Sanitation and Water Supply (HYSAWA) Fund" under CHT Affairs Ministry.

The overall objective of the project is to improve hygiene behaviour and access to safe water supply and sanitation facilities to support improvement of the public health situation in the CHT.

The immediate objective is to build the capacity of local NGOs, including the Hill Tracts NGO Forum, to provide services in hygiene promotion, community mobilisation and design, construction and sustainable management of water supply and

sanitation facilities. The project will be implemented through 11 local NGOs in partnership with the NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation and the Hill Tracts

NGO Forum (HTNF). The experiences, to be gained from the above project, will be used for possible support to a longer-term programme in the CHT to support the peace process and improve livelihoods among

Anti-graft pact

people living in the region.

the US, said corruption is "a tax on

the poor".

"It steals from the needy to enrich the wealthy," he added. Anti-graft campaigners have given a cautious welcome to the

treaty, saying it must be supervised administrator. closely to have any effect. Some campaigners fear it does

not go far enough, since rules on political party funding and on private sector corruption are only optional.

"The convention is a very comolex instrument," said Eduardo Bohorquez of Transparency International. "It's not the point of

arrival but of departure.' The treaty must now be ratified by 30 countries - a process that may

take as long as two years. Mr Bohorquez said local governments must do their utmost to ratify the treaty and "ensure it is respected"

from the developing countries and civil society about its outcome. The summit is expected to come up with solutions to issues on internet governance and a global plan to ensure everyone's

With the WSIS due to be launched, last ditch efforts are on to reach an agreement on key issues such as the role of the media in the digital age and on who should run the internet.

Currently, the internet is managed by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, (ICANN), a semiprivate body created by the US government in 1998.

Khaleda is expected to present a strategy paper that puts greater emphasis on local software devel-

Bangladesh plans to garner international support for greater market access to ICT products for developing nations at the summit. also wants help in product development, research and investment to bridge the digital divide between the rich and the

Dhaka has prepared a country strategy paper, which stresses a set of ethical guidelines to boost the country's software industry so that it can play a stronger role in the post-WSIS regime.

Dhaka rejects

ters are bent on tarnishing the peaceful and non-communal image of Bangladesh. Most of these reports are generalisations and devoid of specific instances," the release said.

It said, "The government of Bangladesh would like to assert that it has taken and will take immediate action whenever there is any report of terrorism or any crime affecting any segment of society."

According to AP, the Canadian Press news agency obtained a declassified copy of the secret July report under the Access to Information Act. Considerable portions of the highly sensitive document were withheld from

A CSIS spokeswoman declined to elaborate on the findings.

After going through the report, Bangladesh's high commissioner in Ottawa steadfastly denied the

"We condemn terrorism in any country, in any form, in any place, Iohsin Ali Khan said Tuesday "Bangladesh is against any terrorist attack and it will not allow its soil to be used by any terrorist group.'

Char villagers

operation by police, BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) and coastguards.

Both died from severe mob beating. Selim, another alleged robber, succumbed to his injuries in a similar lynching incident men are alleged operatives of the infamous Bashar Majhi gang.

In separate incidents yesterday roups of locals caught ahabuddin from Nayapara and Hamid 'Commander' from Char Majid -- two other alleged robbers and gouged their eyes out. The two men were also severely beaten by the mob.

Meanwhile, law enforcers rested 40 alleged robbers with the help of local people and seized two light guns and a pipe gun along with 15 rounds of ammunition.

Of them, 22 were arrested in Nalerchar and Bayerchar by coastguards, five in Bashar Majhirhat by the BDR while the rest were rounded up by police from Char Clerk and Char Bata areas.

A diary containing names and telephone numbers of political leaders, industrialists and journalists allegedly maintaining liaison with the bandits was also recovered during yesterday's opera-

Angry locals also set fire to three houses of suspected bandits near Bashar Majhirhat yesterday.

Hazari Jungle rule

FROM PAGE 1

He said a process was on to lease out the water-bodies.

leaders," Bahaullah said.

Tk 5,000 an acre, he said.

he added.

"Our leaders used to take

money from them for letting

them settle in the territory and

cultivate a certain part of land,'

The gangsters took Tk 3,000 to

Word on the crimes of the statement to the probe body. gangs, who built their hideouts in French Embassy in Dhaka voluntarily provided reports linking deep forest, did not spread across Bangladesh because of the Hazari to Tipu's suffering. remoteness of the chars.

After Hazari's sidekicks marred "The gangs have cut trees on the AL meeting in Feni on May 31, an ALCWC meeting on June 4 suspended 19 leaders of the party about 43,000 acres of the 60,000 acres forest," said the district and its front organisations on Feni

Locals blamed the deforestadistrict units. tion equally on the gang and Hazari escaped immediate punishment as the ALCWC resolved to commission the invesrangers of the forest department.

The gangs singled out their members and victims from the Hazari, who has been accused landless people. in 40 cases since 1968, is currently "Our duty was to find out

awaiting trial in 16 criminal cases. landless people from the char He was awarded life imprisonareas and introduce them to our ment, along with an accomplice, in an arms case on August 10.

> The joint forces of army and police raided Hazari's house in Feni in his absence on August 17, 2001 during the caretaker government and seized huge arms and

Hazari is at large since the raid.

Unocal first US firm

Sujan murder

case verdict

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Speedy Trial Tribunal in Dhaka

delivers judgement on Sujan alias Michel murder case today.

The case alleged that Michel was

shot dead by assailants at KB Road in Sutrapur on May 4, 1999 when he

and his brother Pintu were return-ing home by a rickshaw from

A murder case was filed with

Sutrapur Police Station, accusing Sharif and six others, the following

But a judicial inquiry implecated Ward Commissioner Saidur

Rahman Shahid, in the murder

The court framed charges against Shahid and others on

Shahid and Sharif are now in

Shahid has been sentenced to

ife impresonment in the advocate

Habibur Rahman Mondol murder

custody, while Kachi, Bashir,

Mohan Miah, Jewel alias Sohel and

today

tion witnesses.

Nawabpur.

anuary 16, 2001.

Outlaw

Kutub Uddin are at large.

slaughtered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Tipu Molla, 35, a regional leader of

the outlawed Purba Banglar

Communist Party (PBCPM-L) and

a listed criminal, was shot and then slaughtered Tuesday night.

body early yesterday morning from

Padmobila Bazar Primary Schoo

ground under Kalia upazila of

Medical College Hospital for

Son of freedom fighter late Fahomuddin Molla of Shaikhpura

Bazar under Terokhada upazila of

Khulna, Tipu Molla was one of the

suspects in the murder of two

policemen at Bamundanga Bazar

He was also wanted in several

other criminal cases including two

for murder filed with Rupsha and

Terokhada police stations, said

Habibur Rahman, superintendent

The officer-in-charge of

Terokhada Police Station said Tipu

was abducted by a group of armed

men from his house and later

The other faction of the PBCP, Jonojuddho, has claimed responsi-

bility for the murder of Tipu,

branding him an enemy of the

Riyadh iterates

on July 2 this year.

of police, Khulna.

OIC secy-gen

support to

candidature

Saudi Arabia has reiterated its

support to Bangladesh's candida-

ture for the post of secretary gen-

eral of the Organisation of Islamic

Abdullah M Bin Al-Obaid Al-

Namla, Saudi ambassador in

Dhaka, called on Foreign Secretary

Shamser M Chowdhury at the

latter's office vesterday and reiter-

ated the support of his government

to Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury,

the Bangladesh candidate for the

The Saudi ambassador handed

over an official letter to the foreign

secretary and said his government

felt it necessary to reiterate the

support because of some propa-

ganda by certain quarters against

Rabbi are also on the probe body

that talked to party leaders and

workers in Feni and victims of

Hazari's alleged atrocities. Journalist Tipu Sultan, tormented

by Hazari's men, submitted a

The Amnesty International and

Dhaka's

UNB, Dhaka

Conference (OIC).

top OIC job.

Dhaka's candidate

larail district and sent it to Khulna

Police recovered his beheaded

"Burmese soldiers enforced a system of slave labour and committed horrible acts of violence on Unocal's behalf," said Terry Collingsworth, executive director of the International Labor Rights Fund, which represents some of the villagers.

Judge Sheikh Jahangir Hussain will pronounce the verdict at Unocal, which did not directly perate the field that was owned by the Myanmar government, Both the prosecution and defence completed their argument strongly denies any involvement in on December 3 and the court has recorded statements of six prosecu-The case centres on the con-

struction of the much-disputed pipeline, built by Unocal and partners including France's Total, to carry natural gas from Myanmar to neighbouring Thailand.

The villagers are suing for unspecified damages alleging that Inocal benefited from use by the Yangon junta of forced labour and its soldiers' use of murder and rape, even if it did not agree with the abuses.

At issue in the first part of the complex trial is whether Unocal can be held liable for the conduct of its subsidiaries which invested in the pipeline.

Daniel Petrocelli, Unocal's lead lawyer, said California's "alter-ego doctrine" bars plaintiffs from trying to tap a parent corporation if a subsidiary has valuable assets of

one point: If the subs (subsidiaries) can pay, the case goes away," he told a crowded courtroom in opening arguments. But lawyers for the villagers

"The whole case boils down to

maintain that Unocal is using its subsidiaries as corporate shells to avoid responsibility in the case. "Unocal's opening statement was a tribute to the ability of corpo-

rations to do whatever they want in the name of profit," Dan Stormer, attorney villagers, told AFP. "Nothing about these various entities was independent," he said

Hasina accuses

adding that Unocal should be held directly responsible for its units role in the affair as they were sham

But Petrocelli insisted the units -Unocal Myanmar Offshore Co. Unocal International Pipeline Co and Unocal Global Ventures -- had hundreds of millions of dollars in assets and their own corporate

"Every one of these companies has the ability to pay," Petrocelli

In July, Judge Victoria Chaney rejected Unocal's arguments that the case should be tried at least in part under the laws of Myanmar or Bermuda, where its subsidies were based, instead of under US law.

If Unocal manages to convince the court in the first phase of the trial, which is expected to last about 20 days, that its subsidiaries, rather than the parent company, should be targeted by any suits, it could move to have the abuse charges thrown out in the second phase of the trial. In written complaints, the

villagers said they were pressed into service to clear a route and build facilities for the pipeline, widely described as the largest foreign-invested project in

The plaintiffs' identities have been concealed for fear of reprisals by Myanmar's junta

Unocal executives have acknowledged that troops did force villagers to carry ammunition and supplies for the military and to perform other labour in the vicinity of the project, but deny that any of the labour was linked to the pipe-

Unocal owned the pipeline jointly with Total, formerly TotalFinaElf, and the Thai and Myanmar governments. Total is being sued separately in Europe.

rights situation in Bangladesh has worsened due to repression, torture and murder of political opponents by the ruling party men. "No-one is secure in Bangladesh -- whether at home, workplace, mosque or in

She said under the present government's rule the country has turned into a dangerous place to live in where an average of 15 people are killed daily and 27 women and children are raped or tortured. "We must unite for democracy and against the enemies of humanity,'

She said a tough agitation programme against the government is on the cards. "A movement is already on and it will continue to grow till this anti-people government steps down.

Referring to the recent lynching incidents at Char Clerk in Ňoakhali that resulted in 31 deaths in three days, Hasina said the incidents that people ave no conf dence in the government. "People have now taken the law into their own hands and resorted to killing suspected criminals after losing

faith in the government," she said. Terming the Noakhali incidents extreme violation of human rights, Hasina apprehended that society is heading towards anarchy and extreme cruelty with no human values. She demanded proper investigation into the lynching, adding that an AL team would be sent to Noakhali to probe the inci-

Hasina also touched upon the recent arson attack in Banshkhali where 11 people of a family were

RCC suspends engineer for negligence in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) yesterday suspended an engineer and served show cause notices on four others including its chief engineer for alleged negligence in

their duties. Selim Reza Khan, assistant engineer of electrical section, was suspended for his alleged negligence in duty and misbehaviour, said an office order signed by RCC Chief Executive Officer Khalilur Rahman.

Allegations of misappropriating the RCC funds were also raised against him. Earlier, he was suspended twice over similar allega-The engineers served with show

cause notices are RCC Chief Engineer Sarit Dutt Gupta, Executive Engineer Khairul Bashar and assistant engineers Nurul Islam Tushar and Maksud Alam.

They were asked to explain why they were absent for days without any prior notice and did not attend office in time.

Sources at the RCC said the move was taken early this month after Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, also a lawmaker, repeatedly asked the engineers to meet him on official purpose, but they did not show up.

Some top RCC officials confirmed the report and said the RCC has been riddled with irregularities due to the officials' abuse of power. burned to death, "It's a sad example of the growing trend of human rights violations in Bangladesh."

She said the government is tarnishing the country's image with law and order spinning out of control, a fact, she said, cannot be hidden in this age of information superhighway. "That's why Amnesty International, European Parliament and international human rights organisations have identified Bangladesh among those with a poor record on human

Hasina also criticised the enactment of Indemnity Ordinance after the anti-crime Operation Clean Heart to absolve members of the joint forces of all responsibilities of custodial deaths.

"Such an act goes directly against the fundamental principles of human rights. At least 58 people were killed during the operation while four others are still missing, and nobody faced any trial for that.

Earlier, a 12-minute documentary was screened on "insecurity of common people, political persecution, torture on minorities, death in safe custody and repression on journalists" during the present government's rule. Senior AL leaders were present.

6 Afghan kids

falling wall, he said.

He expressed regret over the death of civilians in Afghanistan, but said it was impossible to completely eliminate such incidents.

"We try very hard not to kill anyone. We would prefer to capture the terrorists rather than kill them," Hilferty said. "But in this incident, if noncombatants surround themselves with thousands of weapons and hundreds of of weapons and hundreds of rounds of ammunition and howitzers and mortars in a compound known to be used by a terrorist we are not completely responsible for the consequences."

Hilferty said he was not sure if the wall collapsed because of US fire or the secondary explosions caused by weapons stored at the site. There was no word of US

 $casualties in the \, operation. \,$ The news comes on the heels of a tragic US military blunder in neighboring Ghazni province on Saturday. Nine children were found dead in a field after an attack by an A-10 ground attack aircraft that was targeting a Taliban sus-

One robbed of Tk 1.34 lakh in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Bidhan Sarker, 45, a dealer of petroleum products, was robbed of Tk 1.34 lakh on Tuesday night at East Senpara under Khanjahan Ali

The incident occurred at 8-45pm only 50 yards away from Phulbari gate police box. The muggers threw acid on Bidhan when he was alighting from

a bus from Noapara and took away the said money from him in front of the police on patrol duty near the police box.

He was rushed to the Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) with severe burn injuries in his entire body including eyes, doctors said. His condition is stated to be

Hartal observed at Taherpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A dawn to dusk hartal was observed at Taherpur in Bagmara upazila of the district yesterday by and large peacefully.

Local unit of the Awami league (AL) called the hartal protesting the murder of Taherpur Pourasava chairman Alo Khondokar. Alo, also an Awami League leader, was gunned down reportedly by underground operatives on December 8.

Businessmen kept their shutters down, vehicles were off the road and educational institutions remained closed during the hartal. Police raided Taherpur,

Hamirkutsha, Jogipara, Dipu and Jhikra villages early yesterday and nabbed 40 people for their alleged involvement in the killing. Rajshahi Police Superintendent

Anwar Kamal said, "The arrestees are also accused in several other

BCL forms Ctg city unit sans criminals, non-students

CU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) Tuesday formed a 104-member new committee for its Chittagong city unit, leaving what it claimed criminals, married middle-aged activists and non-students out of the fold.

President and General Secretary of BCL's central committee Liaqat Sikder and Nazrul Islam Babu approved the committee with MR Azim and Mohammad Salah Uddin as president and general secretary of the Chittagong city chapter The central committee formed the fresh BCL body based on recommendations of a steering committee formed three months ago.

The new committee has 10 vice-presidents and five joint secretaries. SM Alam, Hasan Murad Biplob, Chowdhury Jahiruddin Md Babor, Rajib Dutta Rinku, Ali Riaz Roxi, Sakhawat Hossain Babul, Mainul Haq Milon, Abdul Halim, Anwarul Islam Nawshad and Tareq Hayder Babu have been picked as vicepresidents.

Swapan, Murshed Akhter Chowdhury, Morshed Hussain and Jamaluddin Ahmed. Participants from all groups were put on the new committee in a bid to calm the four sub-groups

The joint secretaries are

Farhan Ahmed, Saifur Rahman

based in different colleges. It was alleged that Vicepresidents Alam, Bahar, Rinku, Roxy and Babul are Chittagong Metropolitan Police-listed crimi-

But Liagat Sikder refuted the allegation, saying that any member found to be non-student, married or charge sheeted in any case will be fired from the com-

Remain alert

government's socio-economic and development programmes and thanked the prime minister for forming the Ministry of expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment.

The prime minister said various

measures and reforms programmes of her government

had infused dynamism in the

country's economy and increased its growth rate and foreign exchange reserves. Terming Switzerland as a friendly country, She lauded the

Bangladeshis' contribution to the country's development and also to economic progress of Switzerland. The prime minister said her

government will give a chance to skilled and qualified university educated Bangladeshis now living abroad to work in Bangladesh.

Contractor

FROM PAGE 1 phone for some time. "He was worried and wouldn't answer the

phone for the last few days, Rahman said. But an uncle of the victim linked the murder to business rivalry. "He was likely to buy a tender schedule

for an R&H work at Paikpara tomorrow (Thursday)," he said. Jabbar worked as a contractor since 1986 and owned a rent-a-car shop at Kalyanpur he opened three years ago. He left behind his wife and three children.

He was also a commissioner candidate from ward No. 11 in the last DCC (Dhaka City Corporation) elections, but later pulled out of the

No case was filed or no-one

arrested till 8:00 last night.

Kingfishers FROM PAGE 12

Enam believes more crested king-

fishers might be seen in other fast-moving streams near Loikree and is planning another trip to the area at winter-end.

Bangladesh Bird Club informed birdwatchers and ornithologists around the world about the sighting of crested kingfishers in

Gazipur indigenous people urged to unite to protect rights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

back from Gazipur

Leaders of Bangladesh Adivashi Forum (Baf), a body of different

Local Baf held a rally at Durga Mandir premises in Thakurpara protesting Kashimpur Union Parishad Chairman Shawkat Hossain's bid to grab a 22.2 acres of khas land in Andharmanik where Koch and Barman communities have been living for the last

Recently, Shawkat has filed a case to evict around 300 landless indigenous people from the land

A Baf team visited Andharmanik and Thakurpara villages under Kaliakoir upazila to see the condition of the Koch and

Outlaw demands toll from **Betal official**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A faction of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) allegedly demanded Tk 1.5 lakh in toll from a senior official of Bangladesh Betar in Khulna on

In a letter sent by post, the PBCP (Jonojuddho) also gave death threat to Abdul Mannan, the senior official of the state-run radio, asking him to pay the money to a PBCP cadre at his residence at noon today.

"I am scared as they threatened to kill me and abduct my three daughters if I do not pay them the amount in full. They have also told me not to inform police of the matter," Mannan told local journalists yesterday. The PBCP was continuously

threatening him over phone, he

Peter out

the taskforce on CHT, briefed the body on their initiatives to resolve land dispute and refugee problem.

Mosharaf presided over the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. Pajero drags

home village in Tarash in Sirajganj after her divorce left her out of all other choices to live by. The woman, third among her six sisters and three brothers, married Mohammad Liton back in her village but got divorced four months ago over a dowry dispute with her in-

Nahar migrated to Dhaka from her

"Nahar was looking for a job. She needed it bad enough," said Marjina Begum, who found her the job 10 days after her arrival in Dhaka.

The death of Nahar is a reminder of doctor Mohammad Shahjahan Ali who was knocked down from his motorbike and dragged over a kilometre to death by a car on Mirpur Road on July 1.

Mohammadpur police submitted the charge sheet, accusing driver Sujon Sardar of killing the doctor. The driver has been evading arrest since the incident. Following the July tragedy, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Ashraful Huda issued a press release on July 3 to remove additional rear and front iron bumpers from cars, taxicabs, buses, trucks and other vehicles by

Many followed the order before the High Court stayed it following a writ petition by vehicle owners.

Barman communities there. They were living under constant threat from the Bangalees, locals told the

"We live a insecure life. When the administration was informed of the matter, it did not take proper measures. If things remain same, we would be in deep trouble," said Gavinda Barman of Thakurpara.

democratic country even after 32 years of independence and the state has failed to provide basic human rights to most citizens, Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, president of the Baf, said at the

"Bangladesh has not become a

Mamunur Rashid, a renowned drama activist, said the state was not working for the helpless peo-

Among others, Sanjeev Drong, Andrew Solomar, Nazrul Kabir, Hafiz Uddin, Sunil Chandra Barman, Nitish Chandra Barman, Govinda Barman, Gitanath Barman and Narayan Barman addressed the rally while Bidhan Krishna Barman chaired it.

Saifur

FROM PAGE 1

The US ambassador told reporters that Washington is waiting for a concrete decision from Dhaka before scraping the generalised system of preference (GSP).

Washington has been threatening Dhaka with cancellation of the GSP in January next year if the government fails to withdraw the restriction on trade unionism in the export processing zones (EPZs).

Thomas said he does not think trade unionism will hamper production in the EPZ factories.

Panels plagued

own candidates in at least four faculties. Discord between pro-BNP and pro-Jamaat teachers may also take a toll on the election results of the White Panel, sources

On the other hand, the pro-Noakhali faction within the Blue Panel might oppose candidates of

to capture all posts, sources said. Contestants from the White Panel are professors Sadrul Amin, Tazmery S Islam, Abu Ahmed, Sayyed Šalehin Kadri, Sirajul Islam Abdur Rashid and Dr Ńaveema Haque. The Blue Panel candidates are professors Sharif Ullah Bhuivan, RIM Aminur Rashid Mizanur Rahman, Harunur

Mizanur Rahman and ABM DU Treasurer Prof. Syed Rashidul Hasan will conduct the election to be held at the TSC

(Teacher and Student Centre) from 9:00am to 1:00pm today. Elections to the DUTA and the

FROM PAGE 12

the United States, Iraq, coalition partners and force contributing nations," the Wolfowitz finding

prime contracts will encourage the expansion of international cooperation in Iraq and in future efforts,'

Funding for the contracts comes from the 18.6 billion dollars

tors pay a price. That could further poison relations with Germany and France, erstwhile allies that the Pentagon portrayed during the war as isolated representatives of "old

expectations.

withheld individual contributions. The Pentagon for its part failed to find troops to fill a third multinational division in time for deploy ment early next year, forcing the redeployment of a Marine division

will be at a low state of readiness for up to six months, leaving only two combat ready divisions available as reinforcements in the event of a second war in Korea or elsewhere. General Richard Myers, the

chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, declared flatly Tuesday that the US military can meet any con-

cates that Washington intends to turn up the pressure on countries that oppose its Iraq policy by making their influential business sec-

Europe.'

The document said "every effort must be made to expand interna-

"Limiting competition for

approved by Congress last month in supplemental spending to underwrite a massive reconstruction program in Iraq.

said Major Joe Yoswa, a Pentagon spokesman. But Wolfowitz's decision indi-

the rival faction in at least four faculties. Another panel of 'left-leaning'

DU syndicate will be held at the end of this month and in the mid-

Zirshang Bom, a local primary school teacher, says, "It is good for us that so many tourists are coming here. Now locals are able to sell

US bars nations

companies from these countries,

major combat operations, the number of coalition troops from

Companies barred from competing as prime contractors will still be able to work as sub-contractors on the Iraqi projects,

teachers, the Pink Panel, has been working together with the Blue Panel to foil the White Panel's bid

dle of January next year.

official concern.

Keokradang has recently been at the centre of some controversy as some claim that another nearby peak, Tajindong, is actually the highest in the country.

countries other than the United States has increased from 14,000 to 23,7000, allowing the number of US troops to drop by 12,000.

that recently returned from Iraq. The army, meanwhile, has warned that returning divisions

US efforts to raise troops and international funding for Iraq have so far fallen short of Washington's The European Union pledged 1.3 billion for Iraq's reconstruction, but France and Germany have

FROM PAGE 12 Teachers of the White Panel who are frustrated due to various inter-

Keokradang

products they were unable to before."

"Thus it is clearly in the public interest to limit prime contracts to

tional cooperation in Iraq.' It noted that since the end of

indigenous communities, yesterday urged indigenous people in Gazipur to unite to protect their

19 vears.

in a bid to grab it, locals said.