NEWS

vice president Taha Yassin Ramadan

and Ali Hassan al-Majid, known as

"Chemical Ali" for his role in chemi-

at least 5,500 people in detention

centers, but it isn't known how many

suspended using the death penalty

and Iraqi officials have said they will

decide whether to reinstate it when a

transitional government assumes

The trials would be open to the

The legal framework also draws

on international law, including

Rwanda's genocide tribunal and the

legal code used to create the United

Nations' International Criminal

Court, a body the Bush administra-

tion opposes. Al-Hakim said it would

also use the Geneva Conventions as a

cache of documents seized from the former regime. Evidence also will

come from the excavation of some of

the 270 mass graves in Iraq that are

believed to hold at least 300,000 sets

Prosecutors will use a growing

point of reference.

ofremains.

public, human rights groups and

news media, suggesting they could be televised. Their work is not

expected to begin for months.

sovereignty as scheduled on July 1.

The coalition authority now holds

The US occupation authority

cal attacks on Kurds in the 1980s.

of those are war crimes suspects.

World leaders hail capture

bring about unity, reconciliation and peace," UK Prime Minister Tony Blair said. "Saddam is gone from power. He won't be coming back, that the Iraqi people now know and it is they who will decide

his fate. The Spanish government, another supporter of the war, also hailed the news

'The time has come for him to pay for his crimes," said Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, an outspoken supporter of the war to oust Saddam, despite widespread opposition at home.

France, which has had a rocky relationship with the United States since it led the opposition to the war, said the capture would help stabilize the country and lead to its sovereignty.

"It's a major event that should strongly contribute to democracy and stability in Iraq and allow the Iraqis to master their destiny, French President Jacques Chirac said in a statement.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, another foe of the USled invasion of Iraq, congratulated President Bush

"With much happiness I learned about the arrest of Saddam Hussein," Schroeder wrote in a letter to Bush released by the German government. "I congratulate you on this successful action."

Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said, "We think the arrest of Saddam Hussein will contribute to the strengthening of security in Iraq and to the process of political regulation in the country with the active participation of the United Nations.

The government of Jordan said yesterday it hoped that Saddam's capture would contribute to the

No end to fight FROM PAGE 1

they will continue to fight to the death.

More than 300 US soldiers have been killed in action since US-led forces invaded Iraq in March to oust Saddam -- nearly 200 of them in guerrilla attacks since Bush declared major combat over on May 1.

The top US general also said from Baghdad the capture will not end attacks against US-led forces in Iraq.

"We do not expect at this point in time that we will have a complete elimination of those attacks, Lieutenant-General Ricardo Sanchez told a news conference in Baghdad.

Asked if he expected attacks to avenge Saddam's arrest, Sanchez said: "Do I expect an increase in retaliation? I don't know, but we're prepared.

Capturing Saddam represents a major victory for the president, who is seeking reelection next year. The invasion of Iraq failed to produce weapons of mass destruction, Bush's main justification for going to war, and triggered a bloody guerrilla insurgency.

Violence against US forces, in fact, surged in the months after the ousted Iraqi dictator's sons, Uday and Ousay, were killed in a

dawning of a new era and help the Iraqi people restore law and order in their in their war-ravaged coun-

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kuwait Information Minister Mohammed Abulhassan said,

2 on-duty docs

Miscreants stabbed two persons

including an on-duty doctor alleg-

edly for not paying toll at Muktagachha Upazila Health

Complex at around 7:15pm

The victims are Madhab Das, medical officer of the health com-

stabbed in

Saturday

doctor

day morning.

ment in the incident.

A case was filed.

Contraband

seized at ZIA

Customs officials seized contra-

ried to break through the cordon

Security personnel later caught

him and medicines including Premarin, Aldactone and Calan

tablets and Neurobin ampoules were found in his bags, ZIA officials

Faisal, son of Sanubar Khan of

In another incident yesterday,

announcing 80,000 yards of clothes

medicines

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Airport (ZIA) yesterday.

national

of officials.

Depot.

plex, and Waj Ali, 50.

College Hospital (MMCH).

Police arrested Hamu, Rezvy

and Liton for their alleged involve-

Kuwait today feels more relaxed and assured after the departure of this tyrant and after all are certain now that he will never return. The Kuwaiti people are happy for the Iraqi people

Japan, Australia and other countries also were quick to applaud the news of Saddam's capture, as a video showing a bearded Saddam being examined by a doctor was broadcast on news annels.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher said, "I don't think anyone will be sad over Saddam Hussein. Israeli President Moshe Katzav

said that it was excellent news for Israel. spokesman Farhan Haq UN

said he hoped Saddam's capture would help restore stability. News of Saddam's capture rever rated among the 500 delegates and

other dignitaries at the opening session of Afghanistan's historic constitutional council, being held in

Others, like Poland and South Korea, urged caution, warning the arrest could spark retaliation from Saddam's supporters.

Launch security FROM PAGE 12

Kalim Ullah, chairman of Bangladesh Inland Waterways ssenger Carriers Association.

"Most launch robberies took place for looting firearms from the ansars," he said, justifying the demand for lowering the number of security personnel.

landed in Dhaka at 4:30am on a Biman flight (BG-032) from Citing a robbery on a launch, Kalim said the leader of the ansar Karachi, and claimed he had nothteam left the vessel with the robing illegal or worth paying tax in his luggage. But he forcibly tried to bers in a sign of links between security personnel and attackers. cross immigration green channel The meeting also decided on when officials wanted to scan his three bags.

skill building through training for the embedded ansars and equipping them with modern firearms. It also made dues and salary clearance certificate from the Ansar Headquarters mandatory for the launches to get surveillance ertificate and asked their owners

clear dues and salaries by December every year and pay new ansars one-month advance during recruitment. About 2,000 large and small launches ply the 8,000 kilometres

Street No. 04, Naved Officers' of rivers, with over 1,000 ansars Colony, Maripur Road, Karachi, was handed over to Airport Police Station and a case was filed against serving in the passenger vessels for security. Home Secretary Omar Farooq him.

director general of the Ansar and deputy inspector general (Dhaka range) of the Village Defence Party, director general of shipping, superintendent of police (Dhaka) and chairmen of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation were also

Judge FROM PAGE 12

lakh in customs duties, a CSID official said. December 6 started camera pro-

Special tribunal

emergency room FROM PAGE 1

in time and those issues will be resolved in the near future," Sanchez said.

The tribunal will cover crimes committed from July 17, 1968 -- the day Saddam's Baath Party came to power -- until May 1, 2003 -- the day President Bush declared major hostilities over, said Abdel-Aziz al-Hakim, the current president of the Iraqi Governing Council. Saddam became president in 1979 but wielded vast influence starting from the early 1970s.

Police said the gang entered the emergency room and stabbed The tribunal will try cases stem-Madhab in his left hand. They also ming from mass executions of Iraqi stabbed Ali, who tried to save the Kurds in the 1980s, as well as the suppression of uprisings by Kurds Seriously injured Madhab was and Shia Muslims soon after the 1991 GulfWar. rushed to Mymensingh Medical

Al-Hakim said it would also try cases committed against Iran -- with The upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) and local police rushed to which Iraq fought a bloody 1980-88 the spot after the incident. Civil war -- and against Kuwait, which Iraq invaded in 1990, sparking the Gulf Surgeon Mahmud Hossain also visited the health complex yester-

The first suspects brought to trial could include top officials of Saddam's government who appeared on the US 55 most-wanted

Some of those are already in coalition custody, including former foreign minister Tariq Aziz, former

Nation pays homage

FROM PAGE 1 longWar of Liberation.

Renowned academics, doctors, engineers, journalists, teachers band medicines reportedly worth about Tk 7.14 lakh from a Pakistan and other eminent personalities at Zia International were dragged blind-folded out of their residences in the city and killed in cold blood to cripple the new-born nation intellectually. Faisal Khan, a Pak national, Their bodies were dumped at Rayerbazar, Mirpur and some other places on the city's outskirts.

People across the country observed the day through various programmes including hoisting of black flag and the national flag at Being suspicious, customs officials asked him to go to immi-gration counter and at this Faisal half-mast, seminars, discussion meetings and silent processions.

In the city, different political parties, socio-cultural and professional bodies, student organisations, members of the martyrs' families and people in general visited the Martyred Intellectuals Mausoleum at Mirpur and Rayerbazar memorial and placed wreaths from early morning yesterday.

President Iajuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar placed wreaths at the Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals Mausoleum in the morning.

Customs, Surveillance and Investigation Directorate (CSID) officials seized 30,000 yards of unannounced fabric rolls report-The president paid tribute to the martyred intellectuals of the counedly worth about Tk 3.5 lakh from try through placing wreath at the Kamalapur Inland Container mausoleum at Mirpur early in the morning.

Sayeed Traders, a trading agency, imported the unan-nounced fabric rolls from Thailand Immediately after the departure of the president, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia arrived at the in a container and tried to smuggle in the clothes evading about Tk 6 mausoleum and placed wreath to pay her tribute to the slain intellectuals. Members of the cabinet were present at the time.

Blast misses Musharraf's vehicle

AP, Islamabad

A bomb exploded minutes after a motorcade carrying the Pakistani president passed a road near the capital yesterday, but no one was hurt, officials said.

The blast damaged a bridge in Rawalpindi, about 10 miles from the capital, Islamabad, but President Gen. Pervez Musharraf was not harmed, state television PTV reported

Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed told the news agency that the president was returning to his home at Army House in Rawalpindi from the city's airport after a visit to the southern city of Karachi.

Ahmed said it was a bomb explosion and an investigation was under

Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan, a military spokesman, confirmed that the explosion happened soon after the president's vehicle passed.

"His cavalcade had passed safely," he said. He declined to elaborate on who might have car ried out such an attack on the president

GEO TV, a private network, reported the blast happened 10 minutes after Musharraf passed the spot in Rawalpindi.

Musharraf, the army chief, Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina placed wreath at the mausoleum to toppled an elected government in 1999 in a bloodless coup. pay tribute to the martyrs in the There have been at least two past morning. Senior leaders of AL were attempts to assassinate the present on the occasion. Later she Pakistani leader.

visited the Raverbazar memorial Both attacks failed, one when a along with senior leaders to pay car packed with explosives failed to detonate as Musharraf passed on a congested road in the southern port city of Karachi. Five militants were arrested for involvement in that attack.

> Musharraf earned the wrath of hard-line Islamic groups after he choose to abandon the Taliban regime of neighboring Afghanistan and back the U.S.-led war against Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda regime.

Bomb kills US soldier in Iraq

REUTERS, Baghdad A US soldier was killed yesterday when an explosive device he was

trying to disarm blew up, the US military said in a statement. "The soldier, a trained explosive ordnance disposal specialist,

approached the improvised explosive device to disarm it when the device exploded," the statement said

slain intellectuals discovered on US-led occupation forces, facing almost daily attacks, scored which the Rayerbazar memorial now stands. Prajanma Ekattur a major coup Saturday with the capture of ousted Iraqi leader addam Hussein.

The organisations and institu-tions, which observed the day, among others, were 11- party Hasina alliance and their student wings,

Saddam Hussein captured

ning.'

celebration.

FROM PAGE 1

spoke on condition of anonymity. Saddam was captured at 8:30pm Saturday in a walled farm compound in Adwar, a town 10 miles from Tikrit, said Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, the top US military commander in Iraq. The cellar was little more than a specially prepared "spider hole" with just enough space to lie down. Bricks and dirt camouflaged the entrance.

according to a Pentagon diagram.

The hole was inside a small walled

compound with a room in one

corner and a lean-to attached to the

room. The hole was roughly in the

A US defense official, who spoke

on condition of anonymity, said Saddam also admitted his identity

Sanchez, who saw Saddam overnight, said the deposed leader

'has been cooperative and is talk-

ative." He described Saddam as "a

tired man, a man resigned to his

Eager to give Iraqis evidence that

the elusive former dictator had

played a video at the news confer-

beard during the exam. Then the

video showed a picture of Saddam

after he was shaved, juxtaposed for

comparison with an old photo of the

Iragi journalists in the audience

Though the raid occurred

Saturday afternoon American time,

US officials went to great length to

keep it quiet until medical tests and

"Saddam Hussein will never

return to a position of power from

which he can punish, terrorize,

intimidate and exploit the Iraqi

people as the did for more than 35

Two men "affiliated with

Celebratory gunfire erupted in

the capital, and shop owners closed

their doors, fearful that the shooting

would make the streets unsafe

stood, pointed and shouted "Death to Saddam!" and "Down with

Iraqi leader while in power.

Saddam!"

identity.

undisclosed location.

years," Sanchez said.

defense official said.

middle of the compound.

when captured.

Saddam in custody.

fate.

"We are celebrating like it's a A Pentagon diagram showed the wedding," said Kirkuk resident hiding place as a 6-foot-deep verti-cal tunnel, with a shorter tunnel Mustapha Sheriff. "We are finally rid of that criminal. branching out horizontally from "This is the joy of a lifetime," said one side. A pipe to the concrete surface at ground level provided air,

Ali Al-Bashiri, another resident. "I am speaking on behalf of all the people that suffered under his rule."

"I'm very happy for the Iraqi people. Life is going to be safer now," said 35-year-old Yehya

Hassan, a resident of Baghdad. "Now we can start a new begin-

Earlier in the day, rumors of the

capture sent people streaming into the streets of Kirkuk, a northern

Iraqi city, firing guns in the air in

Saddam was one of the mostwanted fugitives in the world, along with Osama bin Laden, the leader of the al-Qaida terrorist network who hasn't been caught despite a manhunt since November 2001, when the Taliban regime was overthrown in Afghanistan.

Saddam proved elusive during the war, when at least two dramatic military strikes came up empty in their efforts to assassinate him Since then, he has appeared in both video and audio tapes. US officials named him No. 1 on their list of 55 most-wanted Iraqis, the Ace of Spades in a special deck of mostwanted cards.

indeed been captured, Sanchez In October, US officials said they ence showing the 66-year-old had intelligence indicating Saddam Hussein was hiding in Tikrit.

Saddam, with a thick, graying They said he seemed to be movbeard and bushy, disheveled hair, ing around various safe houses with was seen as doctor examined him, the aid of family members, often in holding his mouth open with a disguise. tongue depressor, apparently to get a DNA sample. Saddam touched his

Saddam's sons Qusai and Odai --each with a \$15 million bounty on their heads -- were killed July 22 in a four-hour gunbattle with US troops n a hideout in the northern city of Mosul. The bounties were paid out to the man who owned the house where they were killed, residents said.

Death threat FROM PAGE 12

the death sentences will be rewarded with Tk 1 lakh.

DNA testing confirmed Saddam's The deputy commissioner (DC) Saddam was being held at an of Khagrachhari confirmed the

news of the letters with death threats that created panic in the area. A leader of the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity

PCJSS) said sending anonymous etters with death threats is not the act of a sound mind. The leaders and workers of the

Saddam Hussein" were detained with him, and soldiers confiscated four-party alliance of the district two Kalashnikov rifles, a pistol, a taxi protested against the incident. and \$750,000 in \$100 bills, Sanchez However, the recruitment said. The two men were "fairly process of about 150 teachers is on insignificant" regime figures, a UŠ and after the written tests, the viva

voce is about to be complete. Earlier, the chairman of the CHTDB sent a letter to the education minister, accusing the district education official of corruption.

Noakhali char people

FROM PAGE 12 build fish farms there, locals said. months ago. "They maintained liaison with gang bosses and paid regular tolls to them," said Habibur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Char Jabbar Police Station. "They used the gangs to occupy lands and main-tain their control on fish farms." They not only paid money to the robbers, but also supported them with arms and ammunition," Rahman added. The robbers rose to notoriety by killing people, torching houses and raping women in a systematic way in the char areas where their words ran supreme before a joint operation took hold last week Mobs of locals took the chance of the operation to lynch 38 robbers in a frenzy of retaliatory killlands Locals alleged that influential political leaders applied for taking the land on lease in the name of their relatives or employees after the government declared 11,500

acres of what once constituted the

From early morning yesterday, members of the martyrs' families representatives of different political parties, social, cultural and professional organisations paid tributes to the memory of the martyrs at the Martyred Intellectuals Mausoleum at Mirpur. President Iajuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and

tribute.

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina in separate messages on the eve of the day paid homage to the martyred Bangalee intelligentsia. Newspapers brought out spe-

cial supplements highlighting the significance of the day. Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television aired special programmes on the

The Dhaka University authorities brought out a silent procession led by Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz, placed wreaths at the graves of martyrs on the campus and at the mausoleum at Mirpur. They also held a discussion meeting.

A group of young boys and girls

enacted the gruesome scene of the

anuary 5 in 1972 at the site on

Iraqi defectors, both married to

Saddam's daughters, are

reported murdered by relatives

just days after returning from

Oct 15, 2002: Official results

Dec 7, 2002: Saddam apolo-

Feb 2. 2003: In his first inter-

view in more than a decade,

vital Baghdad-Tikrit area.

Iraqis to defend their country.

April 7: US aircraft drop four

and his two sons might have

April 9: US forces sweep into

the heart of Baghdad to an

ecstatic welcome as Saddam

Hussein's 24-year rule crum-

that Saddam's two sons, Uday

and Qusay, were killed in gun

July 22: US military confirms

Dec 14: US officials

been inside with other Iraqi

leaders.

bles

battle in Mosul.

Jordan.

ogy

to al-Qaeda.

new term in office.

arranged the show.

gunbattle with American troops in Tuly.

US officials have also said al Qaeda has been active against US soldiers in Iraq. Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden remains at large and is believed to be plotting new attacks.

Summit on info society

FROM PAGE 12

the gap.

As a compromise, states agreed to study the issue further and report back before follow-up summit in Tunis in 2005.

Senior UN officials also agreed it was better to explore improved use of existing resources from the World Bank and other sources before rushing into new finances.

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the UN special wing for telecommunications, also came under fire as it failed to get United States of American and Britain participate actively. First world countries like USA and UK maintained low-key presence in the summit but countries from Africa and Asia were most vocal.

Meanwhile, an international group of independent researchers attending the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) revealed important technical and legal flaws, relating to data protection and privacy, in the security system used to control access to the UN Summit

The system not only failed to guarantee the promised high level security but also introduced the very real possibility of constant surveillance of the representatives of the civil society.

During the course of investigation the group called Contra Info was able to register for the summit and obtain an official pass by "just" showing a fake

plastic identity card and being photographed (via a webcam) with no other document or registration number required to obtain the pass

The limited personal data required for the production of the fake ID and thus register was easily obtained -- a name from the WSIS website of participants.

Moreover, the official summit badges, which are made of plastic and the size of a credit card, hide a

ceedings to probe the allegations against a judge.

The council restricted disclosure of the proceedings. Judge Shahidur submitted a written statement to the council on November 17 and denied the allegations

"RF smart card" -- a hidden chip

that can communicate its informa-

tion via radio frequency. It carries

both a unique identifier associated

with the participant, and a radio

frequency tag (RFID) that can be

anywhere, from vending machines

to the entrance of a specific meet-

ing room allowing electronic

identification and tracking of

participants, or groups of partici-

holder (personal details, access

authorisation, account informa-

tion and photograph) is not stored

on the smart card itself, but instead

managed by a centralised data-

tralised system to monitor closely

every movement of the partici-

pants at the entrance of the confer-

ence centre, or using data mining

techniques, the human interaction

of the participants and their rela-

tionship. The system can poten-

tially be extended to track partici-

pants' movements within the

summit and detect their presence

is stored in a centralised database,

any part of the database can be

replicated locally, or transferred to

future events -- for example in the

next WSIS Summit to be hosted by

During the registration process

Contra Info requested information

about the future use of the picture

and other information that was

taken, and the built-in functional-

ity of the seemingly innocent

vacy policy was available on

No public information or pri-

Because all of the personal data

at particular session.

Tunisia in 2005.

plastic badge.

This solution enables the cen-

The data relating to the card-

pants, attending the event.

These sensors can be located

"read" when close to a sensor.

2 pirates killed FROM PAGE 12 the trawler, Sohrab Hossain, officer-in-charge of Manpura Police Station told local journalists later. The pirates reportedly plunged

their arms into the river. Two separate cases were lodged against them with Monpura Police Station

US ready

FROM PAGE 1 the overall security of the region, contributing to heightened trade and investment," the ambassador said.

Counter-terrorism has been a key factor in US policy in South Asia and worldwide since September 11 of 2001, which would continue to defeat anti-democratic forces, he said adding, "As President Bush made it clear, we are committed to this goal and are in the fight against terrorism."

He lauded the role of Bangladesh in sending peacekeeping missions to trouble torn countries. The US envoy observed that Bangladesh faced some key challenges like political violence combined with corruption and hartal. which caused negative impact on

its economy and image "I cannot understand the continuing use of hartals -- violent or not -- as a means of venting grievances" he said adding, "The policy of hartal is 'old think' and an independent democratic Bangladesh deserves better." He stressed the need for upholding the cause of tolerance and democracy for nation's prosperity.

Turning to trade and investment the ambassador said that United States remains the biggest investor in Bangladesh, with one third of all Bangladeshi exports going to the US.

"Bangladesh enjoys an annual trade balance with US of more than 1 billion dollars. Our bilateral trade and investment framework agreement is nearing final stage of negotiation and would establish a bilateral council to promote trade, resolve disputes and remove investment hurdles," the envoy

said. demand that could indicate the purpose, processing or retention periods of the data collected. The Among other members of Lions Club who addressed the function registration personnel were obviwere Alhaj Rafique Ahmed, A Qaiyum Chowdhury, Mahbub Ali ously not properly informed and and ANM Saifuddin. trained, blamed Contra Info.

Khaleda Zia also placed a wreath on behalf of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

Leader of the Opposition and and Sonar Bangla Jubo Parishad.

Saddam legacy

FROM PAGE 1

July 1968: Saddam helps plot the coup that puts the Baath Party back in power, deposing President Abdul-Rahman Aref.

March 1975: As viceshow Saddam wins 100 percent president of the Revolutionary of votes in a referendum for a Command Council (RCC), Saddam signs a border agreement with the Shah of Iran, who ends support for an Iraqi Kurdish revolt, causing its collapse.

July 16, 1979: Takes power after President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr steps aside as chairman Saddam denies Baghdad has of the RCC

Sept 22, 1980: Following border skirmishes, Saddam launches war on Iran that lasts eight years.

March 16, 1988: Iraqi forces launch chemical attack on Iraqi Kurdish town of Halabja, killing about 5,000 people.

Aug 20, 1988: A ceasefire is officially implemented in the Baghdad targeting "very Iran-Iraq war. The campaign against Kurds continues.

Aug 2, 1990: Launches invasion of Kuwait, prompting UN Security Council to impose sanctions on Iraq.

Jan 17, 1991: US-led forces start Gulf War with air attacks on Iraq and occupied Kuwait.

Feb 28, 1991: Hostilities end with eviction of Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

April 3, 1991: UN Security Council orders Iraq to scrap chemical, biological, nuclear and long-range missile programmes.

Oct 15, 1995: Saddam wins a presidential referendum and is elected unopposed with more than 99 percent of the vote.

Feb 23, 1996: Two senior announce capture of Saddam.

Shilpakala Academy, Bangladesh FROM PAGE 12 Medical Association

tion forces despite being a freedom Bangabandhu Lalitkala Academy fighter.

> "He rehabilitated Jamaat-e-Islami in the country which was banned by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for collaborating with the occupiers," she said.

"During Bangabandhu's rule some of the collaborators received punishment and were sent to jail But, after Ziaur Rahman came to power he freed them and gave them state recognition by bringing changes to the constitution," she added

Paying homage to the intellec-tuals who were killed during the Liberation War Hasina said, "The Liberation War Hasina said. Pakistani army killed our national heroes in a planned way after realising that they were losing the war.

gises for invasion of Kuwait but "Some of our people helped them to do the job," she added. blames the emirates' leadership. Kuwait rejects the apol-

During the discussion Hasina bitterly criticised the government for what she described as total failure to run the country. She said the government is stifling the countrymen.

banned weapons or any links She held the government responsible for the killing of at least 58 people by armed forces in the name of Operation Clean Heart last March 15: Saddam puts Iraq on a war footing, dividing the year. "Who empowered her (prime country into four military disminister) to deploy armed forces across the country?" Hasina questricts and putting his younger tioned. son Qusay in command of the

She also criticised the government for indemnifying all the March 20: US launches war activities of Operation Clean Heart against Iraq with strikes on by promulgating an ordinance.

The AL chief made a fresh call senior" leadership. Saddam for forming an alliance of all prolater appears on TV urging liberation forces with the objective of ousting the present government.

"Let's join hands yet another time with the spirit of Liberation War against the autocratic rule of 2,000lb (900-kg) bombs on a BNP-Jamaat-led coalition governbuilding in a residential area of ment," Hasina urged in an emo-Baghdad after US intelligence tion-charged voice. reports indicate that Saddam

Prior to her speech Hasina inaugurated a three-day programme of her party to observe the Victory Day.

Presided over by Abdus Samad Azad the discussion was also addressed by Tofail Ahmed, Abdul Jalil, Justice KM Sobhan and Obaidul Kader while other senior leaders of the party were present.

The adjacent areas of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum wore a festive look as hundreds of people thronged there yesterday evening to watch a cultural show and photographic exhibition on the liberation war.

S Korean president

FROM PAGE 12

accept an independent inquiry of his camp when state prosecutors complete their investigation.

Prosecutors last week questioned two of Roh's close confidants on charges of taking illegal funds.

Roh, a former human rights awyer who was elected on an anticorruption platform, has been hit by dwindling public ratings, labor unrest and a hostile parliament.

His leadership was undercut further in early December when the opposition-controlled parliament overrode Roh's veto of an independent slush fund inquiry.

State prosecutors have combed the books of giant business corpo-rations. The GNP, however, insists it cannot trust prosecutors to conduct a fair inquiry.

The probe has also ensnared opposition politicians. A key aide to the GNP's unsuccessful presi-dential candidate, Lee Hoi-Chang, was arrested last week.

Illegal political donations have long been part of South Korean politics as businesses fear that without contributions they would be subject to punitive tax demands or attacks in parliament.

The sensitive US request has Political observers say Roh's split South Korean public opinion and triggered demonstrations both for and against the dispatch. government is less corrupt than past administrations but weak

A newspaper reported yesterday that Forests and Environment Minister Shajahan Siraj told an inter-ministerial meeting that the

DC of Noakhali received money in advance from entrepreneurs to lease out chars to them. The inter-ministerial meeting on Saturday formed a committee with local legislator Mohammad Shahjahan as its adviser and the

Noakhali DC as convener to assess the forest and land potentials for fish farming and agriculture. The committee was asked to submit its report in three weeks.

Shahjahan said the government has decided to assess the land potential for fish farming and agriculture to ensure best use of the

"Farming rice in an acre of paddy returns about Tk 3,000, while shrimp on the same land returns Tk 40,000," he added.

support in parliament made him vulnerable to attacks from his opponents.

Roh's backing became more ragmented in September when loyalists broke from the former ruling Millennium Democratic Party (MDP) to launch the progovernment Uri Party in September.

The GNP now has 149 seats followed by the MDP with 60 seats and Uri with 47 seats. Others seats are held by independents and splinter groups.

At Sunday's meeting, Roh urged opposition parties to support his lan to send thousands of troops to help stabilize Iraq.

"The government made up its mind today. A bill will be sent soon to the National Assembly for approval," Roh said.

It was not clear if the political leaders supported Roh's plan but the GNP has already indicated it would vote for the troop dispatch.

Last month Roh said he would consider sending around 3,000 troops, mostly non-combatants, far fewer than a request issued by the United States.