Cops club B Chy supporters in Rajshahi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police clubbed with dispersed the participants in a peaceful procession in the city Wednesday evening in support of former president AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury's ideas of

A police patrol from Boalia Police Station chased the small procession of about 30 people when they reached Ganakpara crossing from

Sonadighi crossing, witnesses said. The procession, the first of its kind in support of Badruddoza, was brought out reportedly by unidentified persons from Chapai-

The participants, mostly aged 40 to 45 and some youths, chanted slogans like "B Chowdhury move forward, we are with you," "Long live Shushil Samaj (civil society)," "Expel Khaleda (prime minister and BNP chief) to save country".

Officer-in-charge of Boalia Police Station Aslam Iqbal denied police attack on the procession and said the participants fled just seeing a police van approaching them to ensure

He however said police picked up two participants -- schoolboys Polash Uddin and Arif Hossain -- and released them after questioning.

The boys, students of class nine at a Chapainawabganj school, told police that Shariful Islam of Colyanpur area of the district, a final year student of Rajshahi Law College, brought them along with eight others

to take part in the procession. Police are looking for Shariful and raided the houses of some BNP workers in the city last night.

POLICEACTION

CONDEMNED Badruddoza Chowdhury, in a statement, yesterday condemned the police action and urged the government to respect people's democratic

He said the attack was an infringement on the democratic and basic rights of people by the govern-

He demanded immediate release of the two, saying people would always lend support to democratic programmes aimed at establishing real democracy, rolling back crimes and corruption and cutting poverty.

decision of Indian Prime Minister

Atal Behari Vajpayee to join the

forthcoming Saarc summit in

Among other things, Thapa and Khaleda talked on issues

relating to regional and global

politics. The two Saarc leaders

understanding and cooperation

and underscored further co-

Khaleda to visit his country at a convenient time, which she

Earlier in the morning, Thapa

went to the National Memorial at

Savar and placed wreaths to pay

respect to the martyrs in the

struggle for independence of

on President Iajuddin Ahmed at the Bangabhaban in the evening

and discussed issues relating to

common concerns and mutual

with Foreign Minister M Morshed

Khan, when the latter called on

him at his hotel suite in the after-

for the Maldives via Singapore.

FROMPAGE 12

violation of service rules'

Janatar Mancha

The committee had earlier said it

"Some names of officials have been

would disclose the list at yesterday's

included in the list that deserve further

scrutiny. We asked the ministry to pore

over the list so that no innocent official is

victimised," Sardar Shakhawat Hossain

Bakul, chairman of the committee, told

newspersons emerging from the meet-

andisnowpendingwiththeHighCourt.

government prepared the list. We want to

make sure before publishing it that the

name of no innocent official is put on it,"

Mia Golam Parwar, a committee mem-

berandJamaat-e-Islamilawmaker,said.

about allocation of funds to Government

The trust spends Tk 1 crore for burial,

Tk2 crore for treatment, Tk8.50 crore for

education, Tk 1.20 crore for welfare and

Tk 1.72 crore for staff programme a year,

said are port of the board submitted to the

The committee asked the board to

The committee also discussed

"We got three reports on administra-

formulation of a career policy and reform

tion reform. We will form a sub-

programmes in the administration.

illustrate how Tk 1 crore was spent a year

on burial purposes and demanded

breakup of the rest of the amount.

Employees'WelfareTrust.

The committee raised questions

A case was filed against the officials

"Different detective agencies of the

ingattheJatiyaSangsadBhaban.

The Nepalese prime minister

Thapa had yet another meeting

The Nepalese PM also called

ectors, Chowdhury said.

Dhaka, Kathmandu

The meeting also observed that although the political relations between Nepal and Bangladesh were very good, there was no adequate reflection of that friendship in the bilateral trade and economic cooperation. The present annual trade volume between the two countries is only \$3.50 million, with the balance of trade being slightly in favour of

But, Bangladesh said it sees ample opportunity for increasing the trade volume. To achieve that target, the two sides stressed establishing direct cross-border road links

The two PMs also deliberated on various ways for strengthening the Saarc and lauded the

Acid attackers

FROM PAGE 1

The meeting that also discussed providing treatment and rehabilitation for the acid victims and 16 principles to control acid import and use came amid revelation of Acid Survivors Foundation's statistics that 383 people suffered acid burns in 312 incidents this year and 485 in 366 incidents in 2002.

The meeting decided to submit ts report with new inputs studying the principles by December 31 before the home minister, also committee chairman, holds another meeting to discuss the latest in January.

The government, the meeting was told, formed the National Acid Control Council Fund for building awareness and treatment of acid

The NGO leaders suggested taking financial help from pharmaceutical companies, banks, importers and social organisations, as the committee decided to go public

seeking funds for the victims. Home Secretary Omar Farooq, inspector general of police, director general of the Narcotics Control Department, additional IG of Special Branch, additional IG of Criminal Investigation Department and commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police were also

Tanguar Haor

Reacting angrily, the minister said he was not informed about the committee and asked the secretary if he has the authority to do so on his own, meeting sources said.

The standing committee wanted to know whether any initiative was taken to save Tanguar from illegal occupation and plunder of its fish resources. Secretary of the ministry Sabihuddin Ahmed replied he had already formed a committee for the

The minister, Shajahan Siraj, stopped the secretary and asked him angrily, "When and how did you form the committee? I do not know anything about this. What is the legality of this committee?

The secretary replied, "I can form such a committee as per my execu-

tive powers.

But the minister said, "You cannot do so without informing me.

Both however cooled down and a parliamentary sub-committee on Tanguar was formed, headed by Naiim Uddin Alam, chairman of the standing committee.

Jatiya Party member on the parliamentary standing committee Hafij Uddin Áhmed said the debate between the minister and secretary only showed corruption within the government.

The committee meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban discussed irregularities in the forest depart-

"We are determined to remove all irregularities in the sector. No corrupt official will be able to escape punishment," Najim Uddin Alam told newspersons later.

Chaired by him, the meeting was attended by committee members and high officials.

smuggle women, children

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) rescued seven women and six children from Daulatpur border point in Kushtia when they were being trafficked to India Wednesday

post) intercepted a boat on the Padma River at Talpattri near the border and rescued the women

national Zakir Hossain, 38, son of Alim Uddin of Sarkarpara village at Joulongi in India, and Choad Ali, 35, son of Chahar Uddin of Charpara village at Daulatpur from the spot.

The rescued are Rizia Khatun, 50, Noor Islam, age unknown, Noorbanu, 3, Moni, 28, Nazma, 18, Saleha, 16, Aslam, 3, Sahidul, 12, Faruq, age unknown, Alia Khatun, 5, Reshma, 14, Monwara, 30, and Haider, 15.

from south Chartazpur village at Shibpur upazila in Faridpur -- were being taken to India promising

reviewed for Ctg cabinet meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Preparations are underway for the maiden cabinet meeting here on January 13 to take some important decisions on proper development of Chittagong as the commercial capital, official sources said.

Various development issues in line with the demands and aspirations of the people of Chittagong are likely to feature at the long awaited meeting.

prime minister is scheduled to lay the foundation stone of Asian Women's University here. The government provided land

Nasirabad area of the port city for setting up the university, a nearly Tk 1000-crore project to be funded by the Asian Development Bank and some other foreign organisations, the sources said. A meeting held yesterday at the

local Circuit House, where the cabinet will meet, reviewed security measures and other preparations for the meeting. Representatives from relevant

Chittagong Shafiqul Islam said, "Though we are yet to get the programmes of the cabinet meeting, we are getting ready in all possible ways. The Circuit House is now getting a facelift.

The cabinet meeting was supposed to be held here in March or April but it was deferred, he men-

Sources said the plan for construction of the third bridge on the Karnaphuli might get final

The existing two bridges on the river are too old, posing a threat to road communication between the port city and southern part of Chittagong.

adjournment motions of the opposition, mainly by the Awami League (AL), was discussed in the House. The opposition lawmakers sought to discuss law and order, price spiral of essentials, power crisis, export of natural gas and the war on Iraq.

Opposition Sheikh Hasina in the budget session.

The report said 153 of 300 sitting legislators of the current lativa Sangsad represented the business

"The rising number of businesspeople in parliament means the affluent are grabbing

"The affluent who are elected to parliament are not aware of their responsibilities as lawmakers and are one of the causes of serious quorum crisis."

"Parliament cannot be functional when being elected to it is seen as a good investment by deputies,

"We are heading either towards a parliamentary democracy without accountability," he told a journalist on the fate of parliamentary democ-

racyin Bangladesh. Many parliamentarians do not know how to make supplementary questions in the House.

According to the report, 45.7 percent members are businesspeople and 5.3 percent are industrialists.

used the floor of the House to praise their own party leader 136 times and criticise their opponents 215 times. They uttered 'irrelevant matters' 207 times during their deliberations in the four sessions.

The TIB gave a critical observation on the prime minister's question

The report said since the beginning of the present parliament, the parliamentary party A three times, AL parliamentary party 18 times and Jamaat-e-Islami 11 times.

Mohammad Abdul Alim, research associate of the TIB, was also present at the press conference.

Wage hike

gained momentum after the FY02 slowdown.

"That wage rate increases exceeded the consumer price inflation levels even for the relatively lower skilled agriculture and fisheries sectors signifies the gradual decline of poverty in the lowest income brackets of the population," the BB said

Governor Fakhruddin Ahmed released the report during a meet with the Economic Reporters' Forum (ERF)

The annual average increase in wholesale prices was 5.3 percent in FY03 against 0.2 percent in FY02. The agriculture products component of wholesale price inflation was 6.2 percent in FY03 against 0.4 percent in FY02, while the industrial products components was 3.1 percent in FY03 against a decline of 0.1 percent in FY02.

There was a steeper increase in the food prices component of the consumer price index (CPI) inflation, from 1.63 percent to 3.46 percent; the non-food component rose from 4.61 percent to 5.66

Increases in import prices of petroleum, rice, edible oil and sugar in FY03 were the main contributors to the increases in the food and non-food components of CPI inflation, while the upward revision of some administered utility prices also added to their impact.

Rural consumers experienced higher price inflation in FY03 than their urban counterparts, both for the food and non-food components of their consumption basket.

"The higher price increase in the non-food component for rural consumers is largely explained by the longer supply chains and consequent higher intermediation margins from the urban-based producers or importers to the rural consumers," the BB report said.

"The reasons for price increases last fiscal year have waned and we have a good harvest this year," said Dr Fakhruddin. "It means inflation in the future months will remain

Hoping a higher GDP growth this fiscal year, the governor said in the first three months disbursement of industrial loans doubled, import of capital machinery rose by 45 percent and raw material

"The impact of such activities will slowly be reflected in microeconomy," Fakhruddin said. "The result will be an increase in investment and job. We already see its impact on exports.'

He said lowered lending rate would certainly help boost investment, but at the same time, other impediments need to be removed.

"With macroeconomic balances restored, the challenge now is to move to a higher growth path, fore-fronted with private sectorled growth. Improving private sector competitiveness will require actions for removing the impediments to, and reducing the cost of investment through reform in the power, transport and the financial sectors," the BB governor said.

"Work on reforms in these areas is expected to pick up further speed during the current year," he added.

He said the interest rate of bonds on the secondary rate should be the benchmark for term loans. Commercial banks are playing the pivotal role in extending term loans instead of the share market, the governor said, adding that the government has floated five-year and 10-year bonds and plans to float two more of 15 and 20 vears' term.

The term loan disbursement system will be expedited through hese bonds, he added.

The governor ruled out the idea of reviving the ailing Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha and Bangladesh Shilpa Bank reeling under heavy default loans.

"This is why the commercial banks have to play a role in industrial loan disbursement," he

Top officials

land and information secretaries were transferred on December 15 without consultation with the ministers concerned and establishment ministry sources alleged one of the top two officials at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) had hands in the new postings.

The changes echo such postings immediately after the Khaleda Zia government took office when the finance, local government and post and telecommunications secretaries were transferred without consultation with relevant ministers.

Land Secretary Azad Ruhul Amin, one of the two CSP (Civil regular service was appointed secretary to the president ahead of his retirement in mid-July next year. The post felt vacant following expiry of the contractual service of

Anisul Haq Chowdhury. Officials said Azad is a very professional officer and transferring him to the president's office is

nothing but "dumping" him. They said Azad held the same post at the president's office under the previous Awami League government and was sent to the office once again against his desire.

PMO sources yesterday said some government policymakers were thinking of appointing Azad as the principal secretary to the premier after expiry of incumbent Kamal Uddin Siddiqui's tenure on January 9.

It would have been wise of the government either to appoint him as the principal secretary to the prime minister or to transfer him to a vital ministry, they felt. Information Secretary Nazmul

Alam Siddiqi, whose first term on contract expires in August next year, was transferred to the land ministry in the postings. Officials said Siddiqi, former

director general of the state-run Bangladesh Television (BTV), is an efficient officer and fit for the information ministry.

PMO sources said Director General of the National Institute of Mass Communications (NIMCO) Sujauddin Ahmed, ranked as an additional secretary, was

Expatriates ministry FROM PAGE 12

different countries that have such a wing. Without that, "it's not possible to ensure expatriates' welfare, the report said.

Meanwhile, the parliamentary standing committee on expatriates welfare and overseas employment ministry decided yesterday to discuss the problems mentioned in the report at its next meeting.

The committee's discussion yesterday was mainly focused on the activities of recruiting agencies. It decided to hold meetings with the home ministry and the association of recruiting agencies for introducing a policy and system that would stop production and

Nazir Hossain, chairman of the parliamentary committee, presided over the meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with other committee members and concerned officials present.

appointed as the acting secretary to the information ministry, spark-

The president approved his nomination on Thursday, official sources said.

Ahmed was appointed as the principal information officer to the Press Information Department (PID) on November 15, 2001 imme-

Sources at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said he was removed from the PID at the directive of the

premier. Sources alleged that one of the two top officials at the PMO was hostile to Nazmul and was trying to remove him from the information ministry as he did not allow one of his close businessmen favour in the BTV purchases that he had long

The transfer of Nazmul took place ahead of major purchases at BTV which is going to replace its expensive equipment.

Sources at both the PMO and information ministry said several influential persons and high officials tried to stop Nazmul's trans-

Both Ruhul Amin and Nazmul

Official sources said appointment of secretaries to the ministries of civil aviation and tourism and information would take place

PMO sources hinted at more changes in the next two months when most senior secretaries will

Contractual service of the secretary of the local government division will expire by the end of this year when the secretaries of communications, environment and forests, primary and mass education, fisheries and livestock, housing and public works minis-

PM

FROM PAGE 12

The Prime Minister gave away export trophies to 11 companies for their performance in 1998-'99, 13 companies for 1999-2000, 10 companies for 2000-'01 and 13 others for their excellence in export $trade\ during\ 2001-'02.$

As the first step to expand the market, she said our missions abroad are now more focused on the issue. "We have taken steps to reorganise the EPB to make it a trade facilitator. Besides, steps have been taken to reform offices and departments related to the export sector," she added.

inclusion of new engineering, electronics and agricultural prod-ucts in the export list, among oth-"We have formed a business

promotion council for information and communication technology (ICT) at Silicon Valley and some 31 Bangladeshi companies have found their markets in the USA,

Singapore and UAE in future.

Date set for Diana 's inquest

BBC ONLINE

The inquests into the death of Diana, Princess of Wales and Dodi Al Fayed will be opened January 6, it has been announced.

Princess Diana, 36, and Al Fayed, 42, died in a Paris car crash in 1997. Surrey Coroner Michael Burgess

said the "complexity of the situation" meant it had taken over a year to set a date. Princess Diana's inquest will be held in the Queen Elizabeth II

Al Fayed's will open in Reigate, Surrey He said he had been in touch with both the Royal Family and the relatives of Al Fayed to advise them

Conference Centre, London, while

of the date. He said there would not be witnesses on the opening day but he would outline the procedure of the inquest and the nature and scope of evidence he expected to be brought.

There will be two separate Dodi's father, Harrods-owner Mohamed Al Faved, welcomed the news, but said he would continue to

The inquests will be conducted by Burgess, as coroner of The Queen's Household.

call for a full public inquiry into the

Infiltration alert on **borders**

Bangladesh has sealed its borders to prevent any possible infiltration of any insurgent into the country fleeing from Bhutan, reliable sources said yester-

The Bhutanese government is carrying out a major operation to oust

The government decision is consistent with the policy of not allowing its territories by insurgents against any country, the sources added.

Hartal observed in Bandarban

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

All Party Students' Union (APSU) in Bandarban enforced a half-day hartal in the hilly district town yesterday, halting normal activities The APSU called the hartal

protesting a National University (NU) decision on cancellation of Honours courses in three subjects at Bandarban Government College. All modes of transport staved off e major thorough fares of the town

and shop owners kept their shutters down. However, some private banks operated partially while many schools held their final examina-

tions seeking police protection. Hartal supporters picketed and burned tyres in town since early morning. However, except some stray incidents, no incidence of

violence was reported. On December 10, police clubbed students demonstrating against the NU move. The APSU announced the hartal programme at district

Winter vegetables

FROM PAGE 1 Newly harvested potato was selling at Tk 20 per kg in different city markets yesterday while its price was Tk

12 in December last year.

Tk 80 a kg in some big city markets like Karwan Bazar and New Market while its local variety was Tk 40 a kg at the end of last year. "In fact, depression in October wreaked havoc on vegetable fields, ruining about 30 to 50 per cent of

Indian sweet pea was selling at

crop fields across the country leading to short supply of vegetables in the local market," said a top official of an agricultural input marketing company. It will take at least two more weeks for the supply situation to ease and prices to come down, he hoped. Cabbage, cauliflower, cucumber, bitter gourd, bottle

to 25 days old when the disaster fell, the official mentioned. According to the Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB), average vegetable prices had been 44.29 per cent higher in November this year than last year's corresponding month and the trend continues in December.

gourd and radish have been hadly

affected. These crops were only 20

"Bitter gourd price was 50 percent higher, lal shak 100 percent, pui shak 60 percent, aubergine 66.6 percent and patal 50 percent higher than the average prices in November last year. The situation so far did not improve at all," the CAB official added. A pair of cabbages is now selling

flowers is selling at Tk 30 while the price ranged between Tk 16 and Tk 18 during the same month last Spinach (palang shak) was selling at Tk 15 per kg while the price ranged between Tk 8 and Tk 10 in December last year. A medium size bottle gourd is selling

the end of last year.

at Tk 25 while the price was Tk 14 in

December last year. A pair of cauli-

Another businessman abducted in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Armed men abducted another businessman for ransom from his shop in the city's Sagarika Road Wednesday night.

Two special teams from the Detective Branch (DB) of Police and another from Pahartali Police Station are engaged in the rescue of Bakhtiaruddin Chowdhury, 55, since midnight but neither could ascertain the whereabouts or his fate till the filing of this report vesterday afternoon.

According to family sources, Bakhtiar, a construction and scrap rod and iron businessman, was picked up by some seven to eight armed miscreants on board a private car from his scrap metal shop at Sagarika Road at around 9:00pm on Wednesday.

After taking Bakhtiar hostage, the kidnappers telephoned twice from fixed phone to his residence at road No 14, house No 348 of CDA R/A in Agrabad and demanded Tk 20 lakh for his release, said Taslim, a computer science student and nephew of Bakhtiar, yesterday

Bakhtiar's wife refused to meet and talk to journalists about the incident yesterday. However, the victim's youngest son Fayezi, an Olevel student, said the kidnappers did not make any further calls for the rest of the day.

Police could not unearth the

motive or reason behind the latest

Officer in-Charge (OC) of Pahartali Police Station Mohammad Rafiqul Islam said three general diaries (GDs) were

Police said businessman Bakhtiar along with two of his employees, Naimur Rahman and Nurul Hasan Babul, arrived at his business establishment at around 5:30pm and was checking accounts of the day's sales wher the abduction took place.

"At around 9:00pm, some seven to eight armed men, arriving in a silver-coloured car without number plates barged into his shop, forcibly took him to the car on the pretext of having some talks and immediately whisked away," OC Rafiqul Islam said quoting the two

employees. He said the two soon went to Bakhtiar's residence and informed the family members of the incident. "We could have rescued the businessman in no time had the two men shown a little bit of intelligence and informed us first instead

of the family," the OC observed. Family members of Bakhtiar in a message faxed to the home min-ister and senior police officials have urged them to take immediate steps to rescue the kidnapped businessman, family sources said

Pakistan ready

with flexibility, coming beyond stated positions, meeting halfway somewhere," Musharrafsaid.

Islamabad says Kashmir should have become part of Pakistan in 1947,

There has been a significant improvement in relations between the two countries in recent months. Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari

summit in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad in January.

nity" to make peace.

remanded STAFF CORRESPONDENT

killing of Khandakar Masudur Rahman on a two-day remand.

Nahar placed Khan on remand. 2:30pm when Khan was sitting in a room next to his. The victim died at

Paratroopers hurt as wind blows

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"It was a routine exercise and the troops were caught in a powerful wind," a high army official said. Ten paratroopers jumped off a olane at 11:15am yesterday from a

and rushed them to the Combined

5 Noakhali

Police recovered some arms and ammunition and arrested five alleged jungle robbers yesterday as they continued a combing operation in the char areas of Noakhali in the wake of mob lynching of rob-

They recovered two firearms, 11 bullets, 34 used cartridges, two home-made bombs and two daggers from Char Langulia.

The Indian government yesterday

in the region.

The two armies have also agreed to

Vajpayee is due to attend a regional

ceasefire along the defacto border in Musharraf told Reuters the two sides now have a "very real opportu-

Prime accused

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka yesterday placed the

Tejgaon police produced prime accused Major (Rtd) Iqbal H Khan, the victim's business partner, before the court with a seven-day remand prayer. Turning down defence

Unidentified gunmen shot Masud, co-owner of Sprinter Security Services, in the head at his Manipuripara office at around Dhaka Medical College Hospital at

them off course

Three army paratroopers were hurt when a strong wind blew their para-wings off the course and crash-landed them in an Agargaon

height of 1,500 feet on the Dhaka Cantonment sky. Army men rescued the three, one badly injured, paratroopers

bandits held

FROM A CORRESPONDENT,

Meanwhile, a three-member

probe body headed by Gias Uddin, additional superintendent of police, Noakhali, vesterday started investigation into mob lynching of alleged jungle robbers and other violent incidents in the char areas recently.

come about, who wins and who loses? It is the moderates who lose and the extremists who win, and that is exactly what has been happening. Musharraf said people in India

and Pakistan were hoping for an

improvement in relations between

"The basis for everything, the basis of a reduction in militancy... is moving

"If that political dialogue doesn't

forward on a process of dialogue.

the two countries. "We have come to a stage where there is a thaw in relations, where there is expectation on both sides in the people," he said.

"If the leadership doesn't rise to

the occasion, it is a pity and I think

Former Indian foreign secretary JN Dixit said Musharraf's offer on Kashmir was an "important shift in policy" ahead of the regional summit

we'll disappoint our public again.'

middle ground," Dixit told Reuters. Musharraf said he would not plead for a meeting with Vajpayee at the

"The ball is in his court. If he wants

"I am a proud Pakistani, I will

"He is signifying there will be flexibility in the Pakistani negotiating

process. We should be able to respond

with flexibility and see if we can find a

to meet me, I'll meet him. If he doesn't want to meet me. I am not that keen. He said he "strongly" believed idia was

never submit," he said. **Promotion** row in police department

suffer from arrogance of power.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The tug of war over promotion has reached its peak between Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) and departmental officers at the police

The home ministry has finalised

a plan to fill out 19 vacant posts of

superintendent of police (SP),

department.

added.

mostly with departmental officials, superseding the BCS cadre officers of 1995 batch, sources at the ministry said. A decision to that end might be taken tomorrow at a meeting of the Departmental Promotion

Committee (DPC), the sources

The move has angered the cadre officers, whose lawyers Wednesday have sent a legal notice to the authorities, saving the Supreme Court verdict should be upheld. On December 7, the Appellate Division upheld an injunction order

officers by superseding the cadre officers. The authorities could face contempt of court if they do not comply with the verdict, the notice added.

against promotion of departmental

tal officers ignoring the Supreme Court order and is planning to promote some yet again, according A high official of police told The Daily Star that the cadre and depart-

The government on March 25

promoted some of the departmen-

mental officers are now busy lobbying for the promotion. The cadre officers are regularly meeting to discuss their move and going to the high-ups for promotion, while the departmental officers are maintaining contact with a so-called informal power centre to

First US fatality speeding toward them, killing the

push their case, the official added.

The military said it had stepped

up an offensive to stamp out attacks on US-led occupying forces and Iraqis cooperating with the United States. It blames the attacks on Saddam supporters and foreign

committee at the next meeting to review thereports, "Bakulsaid.

committee.

Judiciary

aid programmes for the poor will largely depend on the united role of the judges, lawyers and members of the general public. Giving statistics about the suc-

cess of the programme, Justice

Hasan said legal aid was provided in

8,208 cases in 61 districts. These

include 1,296 civil suits, 915 criminal cases, 886 family disputes and 111 miscellaneous cases. Moudud said during the last one year litigant public received legal aids in 8,208 cases because of sincere efforts of the government.

He said the government took

initiatives for law reforms to make

legal system time-befitting, keeping

in view the aspects of human rights.

BDR foils bid to

Tipped off, a BDR team of Alinagar BOP (border observation

and children, police said. The BDR also arrested Indian

The traffickers said the 13 -- all

Security steps

Prior to the cabinet meet, the stressed strengthening mutual operation in social and education During the meeting, the Nepalese prime minister invited

> departments and agencies Deputy Commissioner of

approval at the meeting.

TIB report The report said none of the 399

The AL has been boycotting the Jatiya Sangsad after staging a noisy walkout over derogatory remarks of a junior minister against Leader of the

powerful positions of the state by dint of their money," Murshid said.

Murshid said.

The report said parliamentarians

time, saying it was irregular.

use of fake passport and visa.

ing resentment among senior officials of the ministry.

diately after the BNP-led coalition took office, but was removed and sent back to the NIMCO on February 3, 2002 for reasons

been enjoying.

fer, but all moves failed as the PMO officials were adamant. are going to take their new assignments tomorrow.

She expressed satisfaction at the

The prime minister said the government is planning to set up similar centres in Germany,

issued a statement regarding Kashmir which made no reference to Musharraf's statement.

Masud murder

prime accused in Wednesday's

lawyers' plea for their client's bail, Metropolitan Magistrate Quamrun

4:00pm.

locality instead of the old airport runway yesterday.

Military Hospital.

at Tk 25 while its price was Tk 15 at