NEWS

misfortune

building with tears rolling down their

cheeks. They have come all the

away from Nalchhiti in Jhalakathi

yesterday morning hearing the

US starts to play

a role in Kashmir

US President George W Bush has

said he has "started to play a role" in

resolving the Kashmir issue by

calling for a solution agreeable to all

parties and emphasised the need for

and Pakistan next week, said he

would use his upcoming trip to urge

the leadership of the two countries "to

continue solving this (Kashmir) issue,

"I started to play a role in my

speech and spoke out on the issue

and encouraged the President

(Pervez Musharraf) and Prime

Minister (Manmohan Singh) to

continue down the road of solving the

issue with a solution acceptable to all

sides," Bush told PTV in an interview

when asked what role he planned to

play during his visit to resolve the

Bush was referring to his speech

two days ago at Asia Society in

Washington where he urged India

and Pakistan to look for a bilateral

solution of Kashmir issue acceptable

to all sides. Bush arrives in

Islamabad on March 3 on a two-day

time in my presidency, there was

real tension. And now, all of a sud-

den, there's some very encouraging

signs -- new transportation opportu-

Bush said that in his discussions

with Singh and Musharraf in the past

both had a "different attitude and

part of it has to do with trust, but

there's got to be tangible progress. I

Bush said the objective of his

Referring to Musharraf as "my

buddy", he said "relationship

between Pakistan and US in the

past often depended on the rela-

tions between the leaders. One

objective of this trip is to continue

a tone for the relationship because of

our capacity to talk to each other. It's

important to share concerns and to talk

about ideas. So, one object of the trip is

to continue what is a good relationship.

A good relationship between me and

the President tends to permeate

throughout our government," he said.

"President Musharraf and I can set

with this good relationship.

visit to Pakistan would be to

strengthen the "good relationship"

nities, trade," he said.

recognise that".

with the General.

"You might remember an early

Kashmir issue.

with the idea that it can be solved."

Bush, who will be visiting India

tangible progress" on the issue.

solution: Bush

PTI, Islamabad

PM for law

FROM PAGE 16

said, adding that public security will have to be given topmost importance in all construction works. Referring to the significant

contribution of the engineers in the country's development, production, construction and innovation, Khaleda Zia said that sincere and skilled leadership of engineers is very urgent in the present technol-

ogy-dependent globalisation era. "Acquire the latest technology and utilise for the necessity of the country - this is our expectation," the prime minister told the engineers present at the function from all over the country

Over 2,000 engineers attended the function.

Khaleda Zia called upon them to reach the technology to the doorstep of common man through fair and planned management. The prime minister also urged them to help attain guick and sustainable economic growth through ensuring best utilisation of country's natural and human resources.

She also informed the function that the demands of the engineers are under active consideration of the aovernment.

The demands include providing selection board to non-cadre engineers, creating engineer cadre resolving inter-cadre discrimination and providing balanced and equal dignity to all officers of cadres and services.

objection by a voice vote and the law

minister tabled the bill, proposing

deputation of BCS (Administration)

officers as iudicial magistrates for

seven years from enactment of the law

to avoid any inadequacy in the judicial

magistracy. "There is also a provision in the bill

allowing the deputed BCS officers to

return to Administration cadre in

phases," Moudud told parliament in a

ing committee on law and judiciary

affairs, asking it to scrutinise the bill

and report within two months. The

report is likely to be placed in the next

opinions from a cross-section of

people including legal experts and civil

society members about the bill, the

Constitution ensures separation of

iudiciary from the executive and

termed it the basic principle of demo-

cratic governance. With this objective

a ministerial committee has already

circulated a judicial service regulation

and set up a judicial service commis-

According to the tabled Code of

Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill,

2006 the district magistrates (DMs)

additional district magistrates (ADMs)

upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs) and

assistant commissioners (ACs) will be

invested with executive magistracy.

PARALLEL MAGISTRACY

He said the Article 22 of the

minister told the House.

sion. he added

The committee will also seek

session of parliament slated for April.

The House sent the bill to its stand-

FROM PAGE 1

written statement

IEB General Secretary ANH Akhter Hossain, Riazul Islam and Md Kamruzzaman also spoke at the inaugural function presided over by

IEB President Dr Anwarul Azim. The theme of the 3-day golden jubilee conference was 'Good Governance and Engineering'.

The prime minister gave away IEB medal 2005 to Mahmudur Rahman, Adviser to Energy and Mineral Resources Division and executive chairman of BOI. for his outstanding contribution and leadership in engineering, manage-

ment She also conferred AMIE degree

neers Khaleda Zia also confirmed the Engineers Registration Board.

2005 went to Chittagong centre. chapter for the year 2005.

the function.

trative powers

DISPOSALOF

PENDING CASES

magistrates or DMs.

Judiciary separation

of IEB, equivalent to BSc in Engineering, on 15 diploma engi-

registration of nine professional engineers as nominated by the Bangladesh Professional The IEB award for best centre for

ment, industrialisation and develop-

while Jamalpur won best sub-centre and Singapore best overseas Ministers, lawmakers, foreign

will retain their executive and adminis

After the passage of the bill, the current

magistrates will work either as execu-

tive or judicial magistrates. About the

cases now pending with the magis-

trate courts, the bill says, they will be

shifted to the new courts of the magis-

trates concerned if appropriate and the

rest to the courts of chief judicial

PUBLIC PROCUREMENT BILL

Kabir Talukder piloted the much-

talked-about Public Procurement Bill,

2006, saying it would help get the best

value of money from the public coffers

by ensuring a corruption-free and

transparency and accountability in

committee on finance ministry for

scrutiny and the committee is to report

Khan questioned the government's

moral right to bring such a bill when the

entire cabinet and many government

any irregularity in procurement, he will

The bill says if an official commits

loyalists are plunged into corruption.

He said, "The act will also ensure

The bill was sent to the standing

On that occasion, AL deputy Faruk

competitive environment.

government purchase.

back within two months

State Minister for Finance Anwarul

engineers' delegations and distinguished personalities also attended

Hasina FROM PAGE 1 on Saturday. They returned to parliament and

placed reform proposals only for the interest of the people, Hasina, also president of the main opposition Awami League (AL), said, adding, 'Let's see what reply she [prime minister] she gives us in the House."

She asked why the government is so hesitant to implement the reforms that aim at ensuring free and fair elections.

Asked what she would do if the government does not carry out the reform proposals, the former prime minister said finally the government will have to meet the demands when people take to the street and force the government to do t through mass upsurge.

The government has politicised the administration and the EC to rig the upcoming elections, Hasina said adding that people must remain united and alert so that their votes are not snatched away. She accused the government of

patronising the militants. The opposition leader said there s no rule of law in the country while

fertiliser, power and diesel crisis, price spiral of essential commodities. poor law and order situation, and corruption brought misery to the people Criticising the raise in diesel price

by Tk 1 per litre for the northern region. she said the government wanted to separate the northern Bangladesh from the rest of the country.

On her way to Dhaka, she addressed wayside rallies at Ambari of Tirir Bandar and Fulbari Bazar while thousands of party workers greeted their party chief throughout

he streets AL Joint Secretary General Obaidul Quader, Organising Secretary Akhteruzzaman, Juba League Chairman Jahangir Kabir

Nanok, Borga district AL President Mamtai Uddin. General Secretary Maiibur Rahman Mainu, were present, among others, at the press

Moudud

conference

FROM PAGE 1 clarification against any words that have been expunged from the House proceedings," Moudud told the House.

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar last Thursday allowed ruling BNP lawmaker Helen Zerin Khan to clarify her position against the words used by AL lawmaker Shajahan Khan although those words were already expunded from the House proceed-

Taking the floor, Helen Zerin also made a verbal attack on Shaiahan Khan, using unparliamentary, offensive and defamatory words that triggered off a fierce protest among the AL lawmakers.

The speaker, however, did not nterrupt Helen's indecent aggressive speech but later expunded those words from the proceedings of the House.

Senior lawmakers of both the ruling and opposition benches opposed the speaker's decision to give floor to Helen Zerin to counter Shaiahan Khan's words already expunded from the House proceed-

Another body

FROM PAGE 1

electrician from Shantinagar of Pabna, came out of the debris around 2:30pm. With the two, 47 people were so far rescued alive. Sumon was taken to Dhaka

Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) while Shakil left for his house from the spot. Sixteen of the injured were undergoing treatment at DMCH, one of them in critical state.

Doctors said they amputated the left leg of critically wounded labourer Tofazzel Hossain, 50, yesterday.

HUNT FOR THE RESPONSIBLE

Police on Saturday night arrested Rezaul Karim Faruq, manager (finance) of Phoenix Fabrics that was once housed in the collapsed building. They also conducted several drives until yesterday afternoon in different parts of the city in search of the building's owner Deen Mohammad, but could not arrest him.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Khalilur Rahman of Tejgaon Police Station had filed a case accusing eight people, including Deen Mohammad, under sections 304(A)--nealigence leading to murder. 427--mischief. and 109abetment of the penal code.

The other accused are Shoyebur Rahman, MA Mazid, Dr Jahangir Alam, SA Hasan, Delwar Hossain, Siraiul Islam and Rezaul Karim Faruq. SUFFERINGS IN THE

NEIGHBOURHOOD Around 100 families living around

the site of collapse are facing serious trouble as supply of water and electricity to their houses remained snapped as of yesterday evening. They also had to remain almost entirely confined in their houses as the

law enforcers have sealed off all the roads in the area City dwellers also suffered severe

traffic congestion as the Tongi Diversion Road was closed for vehicular movement vesterday **POLITICAL LÉADERS**

VISIT THE SITE

Leaders of the 14-party opposition combine led by Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil visited the site yesterday. AL leader Tofail Ahmed and Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon accompanied

> They spent some time there and observed the rescue operation.

HOME MEETING State Minister for Home Affairs

Lutfozzaman Babar yesterday said the law enforcement agencies have

Pirate leader FROM PAGE 16

piracy cases, police said.

Police arrested Bachchu's brother Shafiq from Mahipal in Feni early Saturday. Following his information, police later captured Bachchu from a house in Bandar Sramik Colony in Chittagong

Bachchu was brought to Bhola Saturday afternoon and acting on his confessional statement, police took him to Boyarchar around 2:00am yesterday to arrest his

been asked to arrest the owners of Phoenix Fabrics

esterday, counsel for Chunnu barris-"We have given clear instruction to ter Ziaur Rahman Khan requested that the police to arrest the owner of the the HC bench exclude the matter from collapsed building," Babar told reportthe trial proceedings in that bench ers after an inter-ministerial meeting at since he did not feel easy in conducting the case in that bench.

FROM PAGE 16

The HC bench wanted to know the

reasons for his not feeling easy in

moving the case in that bench but

Ziaur Rahman Khan did not make any

The court asked him to file applica-

tion to the Chief Justice if he has any

grievance regarding hearing of the

on him in discharging judicial func-

Government's

proved, by foiling anti-Ahmadiyya

zealots' attempt to capture our

mosque in Narayanganj, Satkhira

and Mymensingh, that it has full

capacity to control and stop the

fundamentalists," Abdul Awal Khan

Chowdhury, central Ahmadiyya

missionary, told reporters after the

Chairman of the Commission

Miceal Comatie led the delegation,

which also included Vice Chairman

Felice D Gaer, Commissioner

Preeta Bansal, Executive Director

Joe Crapa, Deputy Director Policy

Tad Stahnke, Senior Policy

Analyser Steve Snow and Political

Ahmadiyya National Ameer

Mobasherur Rahman, Nai'b

National Ameer Prof Meer

Mobashsher Ali, central committee

members Meer Tarig Ali, Ahmad

Tabshir Choudhury and Bashir AK

Chowdhury attended the meeting

the Bangladesh government's claim

that it had banned two organisations

for anti-Ahmadiyya agitation, the

Ahmadiyya leaders pointed out that

the organisations were banned due

to their involvement in militant

activities including bombings across

As the US delegation referred to

with the delegation.

In-Charge Denise Jobin Welch.

On February 13, following a writ

case in that bench.

activities of the ruling BNP.

ment service rule.

tions.

court.

FROM PAGE 16

meeting.

his ministry. He admitted that the fire brigade lacks sufficient rescue equipment for facing situations like building collapses that took place in Tejgaon and Savar.

"A proposal from the disaster management ministry in this regard is awaiting approval at the planning commission," he said. Babar also referred to the passage

of the Building Construction (Amendment) Bill 2006 in parliament to ensure standard building code to avoid such accidents in future

The executive engineer of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkho (Rajuk) yesterday told the BBC that the building collapsed as some changes were made in its structure to convert it from a garment factory into a hospital. The building owners, however, had permission for garment factory. he said.

IDENTITY OF DEAD VICTIMS

Apart from Abdul Barek and Nabiullah the identity of nine deceased could be learnt until yesterday. They are ansar security guard Billal Hossain, 22, Shahjahan, 35, son of Sona Mia of Teikunipara. Kazi Harunur Rashid Pappu, 38, son of Kazi Yusuf of Shikkakuli Lane, Kotwali, Swapan, son of Shafigullah of East Nakhalpara. Shabela, 7, daughter of Shahin of East Nakhalpara, Amena Begum, wife of Latu Mia of East Nakhalpara, Anwara Butt of Haluaghat, Mymensingh,

Shahiahan, 35, and Billal, 20, The other victims include three men, a 4-year-old girl, and women.

Electricity crisis FROM PAGE 16 operation yesterday, PDB officials

Globeleq manager Reaz Uddin however, told the news agency that the plant is scheduled to resume

generation from March 12. "But we are trying our best to resume operation as early as possible... even the operation might resume late tonight," he said.

RMG workers

FROM PAGE 16 garments in Chittagong and Phoenix garments in the capital and other garment factories across the country.

BGWTUC leaders demanded Industries Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami's removal form his post as he failed to take proper steps against the garment factory owners, government officials, and organizations responsible for the accidents. The fire in KTS garments in

Chittagong and the collapse of Phoenix garment's building in Dhaka left at least 73 workers dead. Addressing the rally BGWTUC

The Commission members also mentioned the claim of Bangladesh Embassy in the USA that the Bangladesh government imposed ban on Ahmadiyya publications in January 2004 to save the Ahmadiyyas from the wrath of zealots.

the country.

Judge Chunnu Waking up in grave comprising Justice Awlad Ali and

Justice Zinat Ara passed the order. During hearing of the petition

not only renews his energy but also rekindles hopes for survival. But as time passes, Sumon's hope again starts to melt away. He starts to cry and call Allah for help.

From time to time. Ambia wails. After 27 and a-half long hours of "Where are you, my son. O Allah the Tejgaon building collapse, as a give back my child to my lap.' group of rescuers digs him out, the first thought that comes to him is: "I

have received a new lease on life." The rescue team found Sumon lying on his belly on the vacant first floor, Chan Mian, stationmaster of Sadarghat Fire Brigade unit and one of the team members, who rescued him, tells The Daily Star.

petition filed as public interest litigation, Another construction worker by advocate Khairul Alam Pipul, a Shamim was lucky to make his way lawyer of the Supreme Court, the HC out of the rubble one and a-half-hour bench imposed an ad-interim twoafter the building collapse on week ban on judicial activities of Saturday. But he made several Rezaul Karim Khan Chunnu for his attempts to enter the doomed alleged participation in the political structure yet again yesterday to find his younger brother still trapped The HC bench also issued a rule inside. upon the government to show cause within two weeks as to why it (govern-

"Several times I tried to enter the ment) should not be directed to take rubble, but each time the rescuers legal action against Chunnu for his held me back. How can I just sit here alleged misconduct under governand watch while my brother is dving inside?" Shamim tells between On February 14, Rezaul Karim sobs. He looks so weak and trauma-Khan Chunnu filed an appeal petition tised that he cannot even speak in the Supreme Court seeking stay on clearly. the HC order that imposed injunction

Six people were working at a corner on the second floor when the disaster struck. Five of them, includ-A full bench of the Appellate ing Shamim, 21, managed to come Division on February 16 dismissed the out, not his 18-year-old brother, appeal and asked Chunnu to face the Humayun Kabir. Despite injuries in his hands and legs, Shamim came Advocate M Enayetur Rahim to the building a few hours after his moved for the writ petitioner before the release from Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

He is sitting despondently on the rubble. About 15 yards off, his parents--60-year-old Shahjahan Jomadder and Ambia Begum, 50-are crouching, staring at the remains of the once-six-storey

Other than the roads leading

towards Rampura via Biswa Road.

PMO and Dhaka Cantonment, there

has been virtually no other alterna-

tives for diverting the rush hour

traffic, which otherwise would have

taken the temporarily off-limit path

halting of traffics, up to 30 minutes at

places, for ensuring smooth pas-

sage for the prime minister's entou-

rage. Khaleda Zia had two

programmes in the city vesterday --

one at the Institution of Engineers at

midday and the other at Paltan

Vehicles and pedestrians on old

Airport road, Bijoy Sarani, Pantha

Path, Farmgate and other streets

got stranded for the passage of

As a cascading effect, many

busy thoroughfares of the city

witnessed a build-up of huge traffic

jam for best parts of the day yester-

prime minister's motorcade.

day.

troops

regime

Marines

Things aggravated further due to

of Tongi Diversion Road.

ground in the afternoon.

Blocked road

FROM PAGE 1

In parallel a number of judicia magistrates will be posted in each district under a chief judicial magistrate.

In metropolises, metropolitan magistrates will work as judicial magis trates under the chief metropolitan magistrates alongside executive magistrates working under the DMs.

The DMs, ADMs, UNOs and ACs

PM accuses opposition

rally

FROM PAGE 1

Doublemooring.

but none was found.

injured garment workers.

burn unit yesterday

FROM PAGE 1

asked them to strengthen BNP's hands and work for the re-election of BNP. If BNP is given the people's mandate once again it will turn Bangladesh into a self reliant country, she said. The PM asked Juba Dal leaders to

Minister Mirza Abbas, DCC Mayor get prepared for the upcoming elec-Sadeque Hossain Khoka MP, State tions and directed them to work for the party's nominees.

The rally drew thousands of BNP leaders, activists and supporters to Paltan Maidan from all over the country. The slogan-chanting BNP and Jubo Dal supporters thronged the meeting venue in small processions carrying portraits of the party's founder late president Ziaur Rahman, Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman as well as the national and party flags.

Slogans like "Resist opposition's conspiracy and save democracy", "Khaleda Zia, you move on, we are behind you". "People are the source of power and BNP is the torch-bearer of development" were painted on the chests and backs of some activists.

They were also carrying sheaves of paddy, BNP's election symbol, and holding banners, placards and festoons. Many of the processions included musical troupes.

BNP Secretary General also LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said before the last elections 64 lakh false voters were incorporated in the electoral roll. He said people know who are responsible for the misdeed. He urged the people to remain vigilant to ensure that no false voter is enlisted this time around.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain said the opposition is in fact out to foil the elections in the name of reforms. PM's Political Secretary Haris

minister's visit." said locals. Chowdhury termed the oppositions' reform proposal as 'insane' and urged filed three separate cases with CMM them to first 'reform their brains'. court against the KTS Textiles man-

BNP's Joint Secretary General Goyeshwar Chandra Roy said if the opposition has to reform the system of caretaker government it should first propose cancellation of the system

be charged under the Government Servants (Discipline and Appeal) Rules, 1985 and departmental actions

will be taken against him.

Again, if an official is found involved in corruption at any stage of a public purchase, criminal proceedings will be brought against him.

About 70 leaders including Law

Minister Moudud Ahmed KM Obaidur

Rahman MP. Khandakar

Mahbubuddin Ahmed MP. Housing

Group, which owns the charred KTS

composite textile mills, on Saturday

night as the owners went into hiding.

Fashion at Chaktai. Bintex Garments

Limited at Sagorika Road of Pahartoli

and Cardinal Fashion at Chotopole in

conducted several raids on the resi-

dences of KTS owner Tawhidul Kabir

Chowdhury and his relatives in the city,

Altaf Hossain Chowdhury visited the

spot yesterday at about 10:00am.

Later, he went to the CMCH to visit the

when they were trying to stage dem-

onstrations at Boddarhat during the

agement for "violation" of different

rules, building factory without exits,

non-submission of report to the

appointing child workers.

Deputy chief inspector of factories

A joint force of the Rab and police

Meanwhile, Commerce Minister

Police dispersed agitated workers

The factories are the Arena

They also said use of such aggressive words tarnishes the image of the House.

Moudud Ahmed criticised the speaker, saying, "If you had interrupted a lawmaker starting to use unparliamentary and aggressive words in speech, the question of expunging those words would not

have arisen. LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said, "Not only the present generation, the future generation will not forgive us for using such indecent

The rally was presided over by words in parliament. Juba Dal President also Adviser to the mmerce Ministry Barkatullah Bulu

Rajuk in dark FROM PAGE 1

have a fund for the inspectors, thus we can modify anything of the structure," said the developer.

Minister for Labour Amanullah Aman, When Anwarul Islam (not his real Nasir Uddin Ahmed Pintu MP, Juba name), of Dhanmondi Madhu Bazar Dal General Secretary Syed went the Rajuk for the approval of a Moazzem Hossain Alal MP and six-storey building plan, officials first Qayyum Chowdhury addressed the rejected the prayer saying the road in front was much narrower than what is Ctg worker dies required by law for a six-storev structure. But the same official readily offered an alternative package for the

aspiring homeowner. Islam is now Meanwhile, Rab and police demolishing his tin-shed house to jointly raided and sealed the three prepare for the construction. garment factories of the Arena

He showed a Rajuk-approved plan, signed and sealed by officials. "I paid Tk 35,000 for the package and got it in 15 days," he said.

Meanwhile, Islam has put aside the approved plan' and made a second building plan with the help of an engineer to suit his needs. He intends to start construction within a week.

The Minister for Housing and Public Works Mirza Abbas told The Daily Starit is a matter of great concern how crudely buildings are being built in the city. He said his ministry has just completed a new building code introducing stringent construction rules and he would put it forward in the parliament soon. The new building code was prepared in collaboration with Buet. Institute of Architects. Bangladesh and Bangladesh

Paribesh Andolon (Bapa). Architect Iqbal Habib of BAPA alleged an important provision for action against illegal' structures has been left out of the code. "We had suggested in the code that illegal or vulnerable buildings be identified and then if necessary demolished or strengthened through modification,"

authority after the fire incident and for lqbal added

accomplices and recover niaaen arms.

As soon as the law enforcers along with Bachchu reached the spot, his cohorts opened fire forcing the police to retaliate. Police claimed Bachchu was caught in the shootout and killed on the spot.

Officer-in-charge (OC) Rabiul Islam of Tajumuddin Police Station, SI Liton, SI Monir and constable Sohel also sustained bullet injuries during the shootout.

A gun and three bullets were recovered from the scene.

Police said Bachchu was a fisherman and had become a pirate two years ago. He created a reign of terror in the coastal shoal areas and looted a number of fishing trawlers in river Meghna

FROM PAGE 16 registration process within the shortest possible time.

Earlier, BTRC gave two months time to the service providers to complete the registration process, the first step of the controversial tele-tapping ordinance, as they have a huge backlog of nearly 11 million subscribers. Existing and new subscribers will have to provide their fingerprints on prescribed forms

The telecoms regulator also made mandatory a 'certificate' issued by an elected public representative or a first class government officer for new subscription. Those who have passports, driving licenses, gun licenses or other forms of photo identity will not require the certificate.

If any subscriber provides false information in personal details, the official or the public representative attesting the form will be taken to task. Connection of an existing subscriber will be snapped in case of failure to register with the operators within the scheduled time and will only be restored after registration.

The operators earlier requested the commission to give at least six months to complete registrations of around 11 million subscribers, of whom 90 per cent are pre-paid clients. BTRC assured them of considering the time extension after reviewing the progress within the two-month deadline.

The operators fear that manda-

President Idris Ali said. "For the well being of the garment factories throughout the country Industries Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami has to resign.'

He demanded immediate compensations to the victims' families and implementations of factory and institution laws, labour laws and International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions in every garment factory of the country.

BGWTUC General Secretary Ruhul Amin, and leaders Sadekur Rahman Shamim and Igbal Hossain, Communist Party of Bangladesh leader Abdul Zabber and Krishak Samity leader Sazzad Jahir Chandan also spoke at the

rally

Cellphone firms

tory certificate for fresh subscription will deal a severe blow to the growth

of the mobile phone market in Bangladesh.

It is said that the current system does not ensure correct information about pre-paid clients, creating opportunities for criminals to use the mobile phone network for their operations.

The government on December 11. 2005 amended the Bangladesh Telecommunications Act 2001 and promulgated an ordinance with immediate effect, allowing intelligence and law enforcement personnel to tap telephonic conversations

of any individual. The government amended if again on January 30 and added provision for punishment for mobile phone service providers who will not comply with the directives.

The bill allowing intelligence and law enforcement agencies to tap telephone conversations was passed in the parliament on February 12 amid strong protests from opposition lawmakers and

despite their walkout en masse. The opposition members opposed the bill and said the law is unconstitutional and against the fundamental rights of citizens, as it will infringe on their right to privacy They also apprehended abuse of the law by the officials who will tap telephone conversations.

The Ahmadiyya leaders then said the ban ultimately encouraged the zealots who later intensified persecution on the Ahmadivvas across the country.

They demanded rescinding of ban on their publications and return of Ahmadiyya mosques that are now under the capture of anti-Ahmadiyya zealots.

Jamaat, Shibir FROM PAGE 16

Uddin said, "Whether Salehi is involved or not, he must not be implicated in the murder case

"Implication of Salehi will undermine Jamaat-Shibir and the ruling alliance. He is a part of the alliance and this issue may accelerate the fall of the ruling coalition.

Nazrul Islam Bulbul, another former Shibir president, demanded exclusion of Salehi's name from the charge sheet. "Salehi's name should be dropped for the sake of the alliance," he demanded.

"If Shibir decides, the peace in the country will be destroyed," he said calling upon the alliance leaders to force police to drop Salehi's name from the charge sheet.

The police officials who will fail to find the real killers would be taught a good lesson, said another former Shibir president Motiur Rahman Akhand.

Commenting on the outrageous speeches, a top police official speaking anonymously said, "They can say whatever they wish. If they are really brave and honest, they should present Salehi in public and prove him innocent at court."

The police have already gathered sufficient pieces of evidence of Salehi's involvement in addition to the confessional statements of the three killers, he said.

A number of Shibir teams on Saturday night raided RU halls and forced resident students to sign a signature campaign that claims Salehi is innocent.

"Shibir men have threatened Eti of Munnujan Hall as she refused to put her signature," said a resident student asking not to be identified.

FROM PAGE 16 Miranda, who was officially replaced for "personal reasons", was believed to be still inside the building and did not speak to a large media group broadcasting live from the scene

Querubin and two other senior officers were relieved of their posts on Friday over what the government called a coup plot by "military adventurists" in alliance with communists and members of the opposition.

Inside the Marine compound confusion reigned as another officer, a battalion commander also angered by Miranda's sacking, lined up a platoon backed by three armoured vehicles. "We are demonstrating our anger

over the sacking of our commander,' shouted the lieutenant-colonel, who asked not to be named.

"Marines, don't shoot at fellow Marines," he told his men.

Earlier Sunday, Philippine authori-

ties warned of more arrests while the

opposition vowed to legally challenge

emergency powers assumed by

Arroyo. "Mopping-up operations are

ongoing. Individual conspirators will

presidential spokesman Ignacio

high alert around the presidential

palace. Its main approaches had been

barricaded since Arroyo declared the

on the eve of the 20th anniversary of a

bloodless military-backed popular

revolt that ended the 20-year Marcos

Presidential guards maintained a

The emergency declaration came

be prosecuted and brought to justice,"

Bunye said in a statement.

state of emergency on Friday.

The Marine compound is in Fort Bonifacio, which borders the country's most exclusive housing area, includ-

ing ambassadors' residences. Brigadier-General Nelson Aliaga, the freshly sworn-in replacement for Miranda as Marine commandant, told reporters Querubin was an "internal matter" and vowed to arrest any

rebellious officers. Ricardo Saludo, a senior Arroyo adviser, insisted that Querubin would be "taken into custody" and said there were "no unauthorized movements" of

clashed with police.

siege alleged the 'Hawa Bhaban syndicate' is hoarding fertiliser and

scheduled to start on March 9.

and uninterrupted power supply. They paraded the city streets in a procession and held a rally in the court area.

Since the 1986 revolt, a series of coup attempts has hobbled the coun-

try. President Joseph Estrada was overthrown in January 2001 in a bloodless army-backed popular revolt and Arroyo, his vice president, was installed as his successor.

Arroyo survived a brief military nutiny in July 2003 and overcame an impeachment complaint in the legislature last year over charges she stole the May 2004 presidential election

Bush said the other thing that's nteresting and important for the people of Pakistan to know is "that resident Musharraf, in his democracy initiative, can show the whole Muslim world, and the world itself, that it's possible to have a religion that is not extreme, and a state that listens to people and responds to the needs of people. And that's a really important message that Pakistan can show the

world." he said. Pakistan's opposition parties has denounced Bush's earlier remarks that he supported Musharraf's 'vision for a democracy in Pakistan' and he believed that the Pakistan President would hold "free and open

elections" due next year. Farmers' fury

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season, the source added. Ten people including a local AL leader were injured in an attack by some unidentified men during fertiliser distribution at Chowrangi

Bazar in Mollarhat upazila in Bagerhat yesterday. In Satkhira, over 2,000 AL activists laid a siege to the DC office.

They blockaded the road leading to the office for three hours, demanding uninterrupted supply of fertiliser and electricity.

The road blockade beginning at 10:30am caused a huge snarl-up. At one stage, the demonstrators

Speakers at a rally during the fuel has a hand in price hikes.

They also said Power Development Board has failed dismally to ensure electricity supply ahead of the SSC examinations

In Rajshahi, over 100 farmers demonstrated for fertiliser, diesel

Meanwhile, fertiliser dealers for the second consecutive day yesterday did not take out fertiliser of the buffer stocks, adding to the sufferngs of the farmers.

They stopped drawing fertiliser from the stock from February 25, claiming the imported fertiliser to be of low quality.

In Kishoreganj, about 2,000 farmers and locals laid a siege to the offices of Katiadi UNO and Rural Electrification Board.