Govt rushes to okay

Ltd, told The Daily Star last night they are developing the sites taking the environmental aspect into consideration and following the private housing land development rules, 2004.

"When we started this Bashundhara-Baridhara project in 1987, there was no provision for obtaining any permission. It is true that a vast low-lying land up to the river Balu in the east is being filled up but we can assure that as per the master plan there will not be any environmental damage," he said.

However, sources confided that the top shots at the housing ministry and Rajuk turned a blind eye to the environmental aspect in the deals, pocketing crores of taka. "The deals have been concluded with selected developers in exchange of staggering amount of bribes," said one

Rajuk sources said, the housing ministry kept on pressing Rajuk to initiate the process of approval of the private projects. On Wednesday, Rajuk sent a proposal to the ministry for approval of all the 'unauthorised' housing development projects of Eastern Housing Ltd. The proposal for Swadesh Properties was forwarded more than three weeks ago, the sources confirmed.

Asaduzzaman, vice chairman of Islam Group of Industries-- the parent company of the Eastern Housing Ltd, yesterday ruled out the possibility of any dubious arrange-

Around 27 more illegal projects are also in the pipeline for 'hurried approval' before the BNP-led coalition government hands over power to caretaker government on expiry of its tenure on October 27.

spondent, Abbas flew off the handle and started using abusive words at the suggestion of anomalies in the deals. "I am the lone person who is trying to bring some discipline in this sector by implementing private housing land development rules. he said

"Can you control these influential developers? Could you do anything to stop them over the years despite police cases?" he asked acidly. "You can keep on writing whatever you want, I am doing my job.

Over the last several years, most of these top land developers defied the relevant laws and official bans. and continued to fill up vast low-

According to environmentalists,

if all these developers now get authorisation to do so, the capital and its suburbs will face an environmental disaster. These developers have bought, often applying force on small landowners, almost all low lying lands that are clearly earmarked as flood flow zones, reten-

tion ponds, canals and riverbanks. Meanwhile, at a street demonstration on Thursday under the banner of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa), leading environmentalists protested the government move and said the authorisation to plunder wetlands would doom the city.

The government cannot violate the laws of the country. Earth filling of flood flow zones, wetlands and retention ponds will just render the capital city unliveable and bring about utter environmental disaster, said Prof Abdullah Abu Saveed Bapa vice president.

Former adviser to caretaker government SM Shahjahan said the government must go by law and refrain from legalising unauthorised housing projects.

When contacted, Public Works Secretary Iqbal Uddin Chowdhury said they (the ministry) are now examining the proposals that have been forwarded to the ministry. "After examining those, we will determine whether these developers qualify for approval or not."

Zahurul Haq, town planner of Rajuk and also member-secretary of the national approval committee on private housing project development, said Raiuk has just placed the projects before the committee, mentioning all the violations. Now, it is up to the committee to approve or disapprove those.

According to official documents, Rajuk filed a case (No 54) with Demra police against Amin Mohammad Land Projects on March 20, a case with Sabuibagh police on September 14 this year and another case (No 520) with Savar police on April 26 last year.

It filed a case with Khilkhet police against Jamuna Builders on August 16, 2005, and a GD (No779) with Turag police against Uttaran Project of Mission Energy and Properties Ltd on June 22 this year.

A GD (No 897) was filed with Shah Ali Police Station against Tamanna River view Project of Baitul Aman Bahumukhi Samity Ltd.

Raiuk also filed similar GD (No 143/06) with Badda police against

Basumati project of Hirajheel Properties Development Ltd on July

and Thakurgaon. Garment workers in Fatulla and Siddhirgani upazilas under Narayanganj, and Tejgaon and

Mirpur in the capital also observed the strike, said the release. Bangladesh Garment Sramik Trade Union Kendra in a press release said police charged batons on demonstrating workers in several places and arrested its organis-

from different spots in the capital. Rajendrapur and Narayanganj. Skop brought out a procession from Muktangon at around 11:00am

Skop leaders thanked the workers for observing the strike while criticising the government for its ill-

FROM PAGE 1

to surrender.

Hospital.

BGMEA President SM Fazlul Hoque at a press conference at his office thanked the workers for not responding to the strike.

Milpara area on Saturday after a

gunfight with the Hamidul-Rashidul

A team of DB raided the Milpara

area at around 2:50pm after a tipped

off where the kingpin of the gang

Hamidul was holding a secret

police that sparked off a half-hour

gunfight as the police called on them

Police arrested Majid and Piplu

while Hamidul and other members

They confessed to their involve-

A combined team of police and

When the team reached

Kashban area of Milpara at around

4:00am, Majid and Piplu's cohorts

started firing at the law enforcers

headed out to arrest their accompli-

ces and recover hidden firearms.

The gangsters opened fire on the

meeting with his accomplices.

Economist Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud, Ismail Zabihullah, secretary of Economic Relations Division of Ministry of Finance, Zafarullah Khan, secretary of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare also spoke on the occasion.

Two Huji men

granted the remand following the prayer of the CID's Senior ASP unshi Atiqur Rahman.

With this latest remand, the arrestees are put on 45 days remand in connection with different grenade and bomb blast cases.

While talking to The Daily Star yesterday, ASP Atiq claimed that good progress has been made in the investigations, but declined to elaborate on the findings of the 10day interrogation. As all these cases are sensitive, it would take longer to

submit the charge sheets, he

DGFI men picked up four people, including the two, from different areas of Sylhet division on their collusion with the grenade attack on British High

They were immediately sent to the Joint Interrogation Cell (JIC) in

the capital. Nayeem of village Syedpur under

Among them Delwar has admitted his complicity with the attackers, an official claimed.

Posts do not exist

ministry issued the circular yesterday. Many officers, who were not promoted timely and other officers eligible for promotion, were fearing that they would not be promoted due to politicisation in picking process of the promotion candidates

However, a number of officers eligible for promotion were deprived of promotion again and have been Earlier Superior Service Selection Board (SSB) recommended 352

senior assistant secretaries to be promoted to the post of deputy secre-The prime minister approved the promotions at the fag end of her government's tenure but many officers

from the '82 to '84 batches were left in Sources said dissident officers who did not get promotion met the establishment secretary and the cabinet

secretary yesterday to protest. Terming the process of promotion illegal, they demanded a commission be formed to identify and investigate those who were involved in the process. sources said.

Sources said more than 600 deputy secretaries have now OSD status after the promotion of the 332 senior assistant secretaries. The government promoted the senior assistant secretaries just to ensure the promotion of two assistant private secretaries (APS) to the prime minister. they alleged.

However, the promotion of 131 senior assistant secretaries, among the 332 promoted, had been due for two to three years but the government did not approve their promotion timely allegedly considering their political

During the last five years, around 1595 officials were promoted to the post of deputy secretary, 532 to joint secretary, 201 to additional secretary

Skop strike

FROM PAGE 1 yesterday said the garment workers refused the strike called by Skop and showed up for work 'for the greater benefit of the industry'

A good number of police, Rapid Action Battalion and other law enforcement agencies took position at strategic points in the city to avoid any untoward incident. Skop had called the countrywide

strike demanding implementation of different agreements in various industries in the country including readymade garment (RMG), sugar, jute, railways and water transport sectors. Workers of eight state-owned

jute mills yesterday abstained from work to press home their eight-point demand, reports UNB.

A Skop press release said thousands of sugar-mill workers yesterday blocked roads and railroads in Rajshahi, Kushtia, Faridpur, Natore

ing secretary Ziaul Kabir Khokon in Gazipur and several other workers that ended at Zero Point

The Bogra 20MW plant is being conceived labour policies.

Yunus returns

"I am very happy today to be here among you...I have come here to breathe fresh air of Jobra to my heart's content," the microcredit

Prof Yunus mentioned the names of a few old friends--Emran Hossain, Lokman Chowdhury, Faruk Ahmed and one "Kamallyar Baap" (father of Kamal)--who worked with him when Grameen Bank started its activities at Jobra. He invited them on the podium and introduced them to the audience.

Prof Yunus became choked with emotion while recollecting the memories of a few others like Yasin Sawdagar, Robin, Bazal Sawdagar and Wahab Miah.

Speaking in the local tongue, the economist said, "I am very proud as I have come here...What I did 30 years ago with your help has now spread all over the world as a unique model for eradicating poverty. Now Jobra is a familiar name worldwide.' The sensation microcredit has

created is actually a dream to eradicate the stigma of poverty "gradually and effectively" and this sensation has now crossed the country's border and is being followed globally, he said. "The aim of our microcredit

mission is to bring slowly but steadily each and every single poor of the nation out of poverty and thus enable them to lead a normal human life." Prof Yunus said.

He spelt out his dream to see a time "when there will be no more poor people in our country".

"One day we will have to advertise in newspapers for poor people and we would announce a prize money of Tk 10 lakh if anybody can find out a single poor man in the country." Prof Yunus said.

"We want to build a Bangladesh where some day the existence of poor people will be a matter of history or anthropological antics of a museum. Students will find them only in books and museums.'

The Nobel laureate reminded the people of the big task and responsibility ahead. "We will have to work hard...We should exploit to the fullest the strength the Nobel Prize

has given us. Otherwise, all the pride it has brought will fail."

Grameen Bank Deputy Managing Director Dweep Chandra Barua, Nabajug Tebhaga Khamar Project President Faruk Ahmed and General Secretary Lokman Chowdhury also addressed the reception ceremony at Jobra.

Earlier. Prof Yunus arrived in Chittagong--which he termed "the city of Nobel Prize"--in the morning. Different organisations and hundreds of people accorded a warm reception to Prof Yunus at the Shah Amanat International Airport.

"I have returned to the place from where I had started my work three decades ago." Prof Yunus told the gathering at the airport.

Later, he exchanged views with journalists at the Engineers Institute. Emphasising once again the need for unity and consensus among the political leaders, he said at the meet, "I strongly believe that Bangladesh is an exceptional country. We proved our worth during the Liberation War. And now by winning the Nobel Prize we have again proved that we can change our own lot.'

"Let us conduct a peaceful election amid festive atmosphere and elect a leadership and government which will keep the dignity of the Nobel Prize unhurt...Let us hope that our next parliament will be a parliament of future generation." he

Prof Yunus then visited the economics department of Chittagong University where hundreds of teachers, students and university staff greeted him warmly.

Chittagong University Vice-Chancellor Dr Badiul Alam declared that the social science building would be named from now "Dr Yunus Bhaban" in recognition to the Nobel laureate's work and achieve-

3 power proposals

gas to generate power and the tariff will be Tk 2.66 to 3.01 per kilowatt hour or a unit. For the 20MW Barabkundu plant the tariff will be Tk 2.66, for the 20MW Feni plant Tk 2.73 and for the Baghabari plant Tk

For the Power Development Board (PDB), purchasing power at any rate above Tk 2.5 per unit is net

None of the skid-mount and barge-mount projects okayed by the alliance government in the last few Project (IPP) under which all other private power companies operate, the sources said.

The PDB earlier this month signed two costly power rental agreements for skid-mount power projects in Bogra and Fenchugani -both to be run by ruling party men. But at the same time, the government refrained from signing two lesser costly power rental agreement for skid-mount projects, which were not backed by any ruling party

installed by the GBB, a company owned by leaders of the "alternative powerhouse" of the BNP. The Fenchuganj 50MW plant is being installed by Ornate, owned by a son of a very powerful minister. The be around Tk 2.75 to Tk 3 per unit.

The Bogra and Fenchuganj plants will start operation late next year. The Hosaf-CMC plants will also take a year to install, once the final agreement with the government is signed. Following yesterday's approva

the Hosaf-CMC proposals, Chairman of the cabinet's purchase committee and Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman told the press the purchase committee takes its decisions based on the recommendations of the tendering committees of the authorities con-"The purchase committee in the last five years has not been involved

policy at its level. All our decisions were based on the tendering committee recommendations At our level, we check and cross-check the facts and proposals given to us before reaching our decision. And if there are any deviations within a proposal that we have approved, the onus goes to the tendering

"We are not auditors," Saifur

The purchase committee meeting yesterday also approved procurement of 19,000 family planning kits for the health ministry.

KL starts issuing visas

FROM PAGE 1 Malaysian Home Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Radzi Sheikh Ahmad had also threatened the outsourcing companies and employers of stopping approvals of their job demand letters i they fail to hire the approved workers from Bangladesh by October 20.

Baira was held responsible for failing to manage the migration pro-Baira President MAH Salim,

however, said Malaysian authorities had given about 22,000 approvals of job demand letters to the Malaysian companies who sent only 1.000 approvals to Bangladesh for process-

Baira then sent bio-data and biometric features to Malaysia, but no calling visas were issued until October 4 that led to delay in sending workers,

Malaysia installed a computer network linking its home ministry with the Kuala Lumpur Airport, Baira offices in the Malaysian capital and Dhaka, and the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) in Dhaka to ensure fast-track and fraudresistant recruitment procedure, Baira sources said.

Under this system, recruitment approvals allowed to Malaysian employers would be transmitted online when authorised Baira members will submit the workers' bio-data and biometric features at their Dhaka office for issuance of calling visas. No stamping of visa is required and

the workers would be allowed entry through the Kuala Lumpur Airport only upon checking the data in the computer, said a Baira member.

The provision of submitting the workers' biometric features along with bio-data that the Malaysian authorities introduced later also delayed entries of bio-data, an executive member of

mission in Kuala Lumpur was also not in the original design, but later the Malaysian government made it mandatory for the mission to attest the recruitment approvals before sending those to Bangladesh.

This led to the inordinate delay as the Bangladesh mission in Kuala Lumpur is not equipped well enough to make inquiries of 20-30 job approvals placed every day against factories located hundreds of kilometres away sources said.

approvals only to genuine employers,

1 killed

The victim Ali Akbar, 50, worked in

FROM PAGE 16

ging a sewerage pipe around 10:00am yesterday when the sudden rush of water and sewage stuck behind the clog overwhelmed him. His fellow co-workers found him

unconscious inside a nearby manhole. They rushed him to Dhaka Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman will Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him death.

People have been requested not to carry bags to the programme for the sake of security.

Dialogue

FROM PAGE 1 The fifth round of the dialogue begins at 11:00am in the Standing Committee room-1 of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban at a time when both BNP Chairperson and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and AL President and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina are out of country. The PM is on a weeklong visit to Saudi Arabia while Hasina is

Both Khaleda and Hasina asked their secretaries general to continue the dialogue in their absence.

Jalil, who also went abroad for a medical check-up, returned last

Both Bhuiyan and Jalil had agreed to remove Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz. But according to opposition's stance. Justice Hasan issue will have to be settled first. Sources said the AL will not have any objection if Hasan is replaced by any one as per the constitution. Sources said ruling BNP on

principle does not have any reservations about Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury becoming the chief adviser, but they might take the issue as a matter of ego. If the government side has to replace Hasan in the interest of breaking the existing political

impasse, it will have to convince the former chief justice to feel "embarrassed" to take over as chief adviser. However, insiders said none of BNP and AL is interested to take the

responsibility of convincing Hasan to decline to take the post. AL leaders said as Hasan was BNP's international affairs secretary, he would keep the BNP highups' request in this regard. But, BNP leaders said it is the duty of the AL to convince Hasan as the BNP has no reservations in this regard.

Both Bhuiyan and Jalil have already notified to their party chiefs about the latest state of the dialogue and both Khaleda and Hasina instructed their senior party leaders before leaving the country.

The two secretaries general have held four rounds of the dialogue since October 5 but could not reach any consensus on the crux of the contentions surrounding the top seats of two constitutional bodies. Both BNP and AL are now look

ing forward to a win-win situation in reaching a consensus to break the AL PRESIDIUM MEETING

Prior to today's meeting, the AL Presidium sat yesterday at Hasina's Dhanmondi office and discussed the current political situation. The meeting observed that the government is not sincere about carrying out the electoral reforms.

Branding Justice Hasan as BNP partisan, the AL meeting noted that if ernment chief, it would be a violation of the constitution. The AL leaders reiterated that no election will be held under a partisan caretaker government. Briefing newsmen, AL Acting

nositive response from the government since they placed the reform proposals. He said if the government were sincere, it would not take more than

General Secretary Obaidul Quader

said they have not received any

one hour to implement the demands electoral reforms If the dialogue fails, the people

will march towards Dhaka with whatever they have, Quader said. Chaired by AL Acting President Zillur Rahman, the meeting was also attended by Abdur Razzague. Tofail Ahmed, Motia Chowdhury and

Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser.

Hasan

FROM PAGE 16

into debate and heading towards crisis and conflict on the question of KM Hasan -- who is likely to be the next caretaker chief, they observed. To this end, Justice KM Hasan

could assist Bangladesh in overcoming the crisis by abstaining from assuming the chair of the caretaker chief for the sake of the country and the nation would remember him with due reverence, they said. Barrister Rokan Uddin Mahmud

convenor. Peshaiibi Samannav Parishad, Dr Kamrul Hasan khan, member secretary, barrister Amir-UI Islam, president, Supreme Court Bar Association, Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof Dr Rashid-e-Mahbub, convenor of the association, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, former president of BFUJ, Prof Di AFM Ruhul Haque, joint convenor of the association, agriculturalist Abdur Razzague Miah, Principal Kazi Faruq Ahmed, advocate M Aminuddin and Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, president of BFUJ were among others who signed the

Mass reception

reception at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city today. Nagarik Samaj will organise the

reception programme at 1:00pm where former president Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed will be present, family sources said.

Economists, bankers, politicians, civil society leaders, journalists, businessmen, students, union parishad chairmen, microcredit recipients, and people from all walks of life will attend the ceremony to greet the first ever Nobel laureate of the country Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud and

Abdul-Qadir said.

Ministry undersecretary Hala Shakir

Sanctions slapped

sanctions and said they were considering imposing harsher penalties of their own. South Korea also pledged to implement the measures but gave no details on how it would

The Security Council already had to overcome sharp divisions to approve the sanctions Saturday. The US-sponsored resolution

demands North Korea eliminate all its nuclear weapons but expressly rules out military action against the country, a demand by the Russians and Chinese The resolution orders all coun-

tries to prevent North Korea from importing or exporting any material for weapons of mass destruction or ballistic missiles. It orders nations to freeze assets of people or businesses connected to these programs, and ban the individuals from travelling. North Korea immediately rejected the resolution, and its UN

ambassador walked out of the council chamber after accusing its members of a "gangster-like" action, which neglects the nuclear threat posed by the United States. Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer welcomed the UN resolution Sunday as "surpris-

ingly tough" and said his country

was considering stronger measures Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Japan was also considering additional sanctions against North Korea, following its move Friday to ban trade with the North and close its ports to North Korean ships. Foreign Minister Taro Aso said Japan could support US forces

inspecting cargo in an out of the

North, though he did not give

details, Kyodo News Agency

reported China is uncomfortable with the possibility of the US inderdicting ships near its coasts, though Bolton has said he expects most inspections would be performed at ports. China reiterated it wouldn't conduct any inspections and called for

"China strongly urges the countries concerned to adopt a prudent and responsible attitude in this regard and refrain from taking any provocative steps that may intensify the tensions," China's UN Ambassador Wang Guangya said.

South Korea, which taken a

conciliatory approach to the North

and provided its neighbour with

massive amounts of aid, said it will

honor the UN resolution but did not elaborate on its plans for inspec-South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles inter-Korean affairs, indicated the sanctions would not affect a tourism venture and a joint industrial complex in the North, saying the "projects have nothing to do with the

weapons of mass destruction program. Critics have urged the South Korean government to halt the two projects, saying that funds may be diverted for the North's nuclear

weapons programme. The Security Council demned the nuclear test that North Korea said it conducted Oct 9. It demanded that North Korea immediately return to six-nation talks aimed at persuading Pyongyang to dismantle its weapons program without precondition.

Bolton told reporters Saturday the next step is to start working on implementing the resolution. "Hopefully on saner reflections

perhaps they'll begin to accept that if

Mild tremor FROM PAGE 16

The epicenter of the quake was 191km from Chittagong Seismic Observatory, said a Met office bulletin. It was the 12th tremor recorded

this year by the seismic observatory.

they don't change course, the only future for them is continued isolation," he said.

In a measure aimed at North Korea's tiny elite, the resolution also bans the sale of luxury goods to the country. The North's reclusive leader, Kim Jong II, is known for his love of cognac and lobster and collection of thousands of bottles of

To meet Russian and Chinese concerns, the Americans eliminated ventional weapons. Instead, the resolution limits the embargo to major hardware such as tanks, warships, combat aircraft and

The US and other nations trying to persuade the North to give up its atomic program continued a flurry of high-level diplomatic visits, includng a trip to Asia by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice meant to present a unified front to North

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Alexeyev, who visited North Korea last week arrived in South Korea on Sunday. The chief US envoy to the six-nation talks. Christopher Hill, will visit Japan on Monday, the US Embassy in Tokyo

six-nation talks for the past 13 months to protest financial measures imposed by Washington for alleged counterfeiting and money-

India FROM PAGE 16

scheduled for October 26 against

the West Indies at Ahmedabad. India put England into bat and shot out their opponents for 125 in

crowd as the pitch produced low bounce often. The Indian fans began the party

boundaries The celebration, however, returned with sparklers once Harbhaian Singh flicked pacer Saiid Mahmood to the fence for the winning runs as India reached the

The Indian top order once again failed as skipper Dravid (4) and Virendar Sehwagh (9), who returned to opening, continued their poor show but Yuvraj Singh kept his cool with an unbeaten 61-ball 27.

three, made 19. dismissed Sehwag, captured two

paged the English batting. Speedster Patel started the

silenced his critics with an inspiring show, claiming two wickets includ-

overs to ensure England's lowest ever one-day total against India.

Additional security measures were taken in other villages in the predominantly Sunni area, a hotbed of the insurgency battling US and Iraqi forces.

morning, according to a hospital director who asked that his name An army officer in the nearby city of Tikrit confirmed the death toll and

Shias - were arrested. In the attacks in Kirkuk, 290km north of Baghdad, five people also died when a suicide bomber targeted a convoy of the Facilities Protection Service that guards government buildings and infrastructure. Ten others were wounded in that attack, according to police

Three other people were killed and eight injured when a suicide bomber blew himself up in a market in the southern section of the city,

vintage French wine.

a complete ban on the sale of con-

Pyongyang has boycotted the

37 overs but it was not an easy task for the home team to chase the paltry total in front of a jam-packed

early, shooting firecrackers into the night sky hoping that their team would make an easy sailing with the scoreboard reading 68 for 2 after ten overs but England suddenly looked dangerous picking up quick wickets including Sachin Tendulkar, who was the top scorer with 35 off 41 balls featured five spectacular

target of 126 for six wickets in 29.3

Irfan Pathan, who came at number James Anderson, Jamie Dalrymple and Stephen Harmison, who started with a 20-run over but

wickets each. Earlier, Indian new ball bowlers Irfan Pathan and Munaf Patel ram-

carnage removing opener lan Bell before sending back Michael Yardy and dashing Kevin Pietersen (27). Having taken 3-18, Patel was adjudged man of the match. Left-arm paceman Pathan

ing English captain Andrew Flintoff for a duck. Ramesh Power tore through the tail with a figure of 3-24 in eight

63 killed

FROM PAGE 16

town's outskirts on Friday. Extra police flooded into the city and a curfew was imposed. Interior Ministry spokesman Brig. Abdul-Karim Khalaf said.

Nevertheless, the killings raged through the night, with bullet-ridden

bodies being delivered to the

Balad's main hospital into Sunday

not be used for fear of reprisals. said 63 suspects - both Sunnis and

Brig Sarhat Abdul-Qadir.

In Baghdad Sunday, Interior

bystanders and three bodyquards. police Capt. Mohammed Abdul-Ghani said. Salim, the Interior Ministry finance officer, was attacked inBaghdad's eastern Mustansiriya neighborhood. The Interior Ministry runs Iraqi police forces. A husband, wife and two of their

Salim survived a roadside bomb

attack that killed seven others, four

sons were killed and two daughters-

morning when gunmen burst into their home in Mosul, Iraq's third largest city 360km northwest of Baghdad. Police Col Eid al-Jibouri said the identities of the attackers and their motive were unknown. South of Baghdad, three women and four men were killed in drive-by

shootings in the predominantly Shia

village of Wahda on Saturday after-

in-law critically wounded Sunday

noon, according to provincial police spokesman Lt Hadi Hassan. Two policeman were killed in attacks by unidentified gunmen in the northern city of Mosul and in Suwayrah, 40km south of Baghdad

police spokesmen said. A bomb also exploded Sunday morning in the old bazaar in the southern city of Basra, injuring 3 people, police Capt Karim al-Zaidi

of improved health, nutrition and

programme duration, he said He thanked the donors for financing the national programme.

appropriate for mobilising the limited financial and human assets in pursuit

director of the East West Properties

In all these questionable cases,

ment in getting permission for their housing projects. "We have applied for projects fulfilling all obligations," he said.

When approached by this corre-

WB to fund \$460m

another US\$300 million for HNPSP,

while Germany also pledged to pool

HNPSP, a US\$4.3 billion

financing for the programme.

programme (2003-2010), was designed to modernise the country's health sector and accelerate progress towards reaching the health related Millennium Development Goals Addressing the ceremony the WB

Country Director Christine I Wallich

termed non-communicable diseases

a challenge for the country and sug-

gested increased accountability in

delivering healthcare services. "Patients suffering from heart diseases, diabetes or cancer require treatment, which is beyond what is typically provided in government health facilities. In other words, the present health system just isn't keeping pace," she said at a signing ceremony at a city hotel

Financial resources are vital to

overcome the present situation, but

there is much more to it. Wallich said

adding, "Many people have turned away from public health provision, deterred by staff absenteeism, inconsistent quality and demands for illegal payments." She urged the government to take example from the NGOs where

village development committees are

used to oversee healthcare delivery

that often produced better levels of

The WB Country Director, how-

care at considerably lower costs.

ever, appreciated reduction of child and infant mortality rate and child malnutrition, improvement in immunisation level, polio eradication, TB detection rates and the government's involvement in combatting the spread of HIV/AIDS. Speaking as the chief guest, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain

said HNPSP will assist in implement-

ing the country's strategic investment

plan by supporting the government's social development goals and attain-The sector-wise programme will ensure sustainability and make sure that the learning, successes and improvements have a life beyond the

in health sector, the minister said, "We are now better prepared for emergencies with the re-emergence of polio and avian flu scare." He, however, noted scarcity of resources as a reality. "We have to choose such strategies that are

Giving accounts of the successes

family welfare for our citizens." Ambassador of delegation of EC said the development partners are

fit for the future. The speakers congratulated Prof Muhammad Yunus on his winning the Nobel Peace Prize 2006 for his

"We congratulate our great soul Dr Yunus. You are the source of our inspiration." said Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain.

Sylhet from Dhaka yesterday after quizzing by Task Force Intelligence (TFI) in the capital.

September 2 and 3 last, suspecting Commissioner Anwar Choudhury.

The other two are Hafiz Syed Jagannathpur upazila of

committed to fully support the government in achieving the healthrelated MDG targets and implementing reforms to make health services

contribution to establish peace through alleviating poverty by giving collateral-free loans to the poor.

2 killed

of the gang managed to flee, claimed police. Senior ASP Atiq brought them to ment with the gang and having firearms hidden throughout the area after the DB quizzed them. DB took Majid and Piplu along and

and the law enforcers returned fire. added Maiid and Piplu, both hand-Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and cuffed, were caught in crossfire and injured severely as they tried to escape police custody during the shootout, claimed police. The on-duty doctors declared both dead at around 5:00pm after they were taken to Kushtia General

criminals of the gang were killed in a Sunamganj and Badrul Alam Mizan of Habigani Sadar upazila.

the criminals. Both criminals were accused in seven cases including two for In 2003, four police and three

No firearm was recovered from

So far, a total of 111 alleged criminals, highest across the countrv. have been killed in Kushtia since Baira said.

months fits into the country's existng policy for Independent Power

> committee." he said. Rahman pointed out.

Involvement of the Bangladesh

from the Malaysian capital, Baira The need for attestation by the Bangladesh mission is an unnecessary exercise, especially when the Malaysian home ministry has categorically taken the responsibility of issuing

Ward-74 of the DCC Sources said Akbar was unclog-

An unnatural death case was filed with the Sutrapur Police Station.

conduct the mass greeting.