Two outlaws killed

area

at a house in Harinakunda upazila of Jhenidah Thursday morning. Following his confessional statement, the team took him to

Harkandi to retrieve hidden firearms As they reached the spot around 4:30am, BCP cadres opened fire on them. Police retaliated which resulted in a half-hour-long gunfight. Tarigul was caught in the line of fire and hit by several bullets as he tried to escape police custody. He died on the spot, police claimed

Police recovered a gun and three bullets from the spot but failed to capture any of Tarigul's accomplices.

Police said Tarigul was accused in a number of cases including four murder cases filed with different police stations of Chuadanga and Jhenidah.

In Pabna, Belal was killed in an encounter between his cohorts and Rab at Kuchiyamara village in prosperity of the nation Sadar upazila yesterday afternoon.

He was a regional leader of Purba Banglar Communist Party (ML-Lalpataka) and son of Kana Bakkar of Alokchar village.

"Belal was wanted in over a dozen cases, including seven for murder," Rab said. The Rab sources said they had

information that Belal along with his

Thousands pour

FROM PAGE 1 normal price.

About two and a half million people have already left for their homes in the last few days and around three million more are expected to leave in the next few days. Eid will be celebrated on Tuesday or Wednesday depending on the sighting of the Shawal moon.

SADARGHAT LAUNCH TERMINAL A large number of tickets for the launch cabins have been booked by ruling party ministers, legislators, leaders and activists while the rest of the comparatively good tickets have already been grabbed by the scalpers, said ticket counter officials in the terminal

About 250-280 launches, including around 100 vessels unfit to ply, leave Sadarghat Launch Terminal daily carrying passengers way beyond their capacity. This is happening despite the government's warnings of stern actions against unfit launches and overloading.

According to the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), around 110 to 130 large and small launches depart from Sadarghat and around 50 special launches and vessels have been added to handle the Eid rush.

Launches already declared unfit 12 and abandoned have been pressed into "special service" ignoring the mobile courts' verdict.

This correspondent yesterday found a group of scalpers selling cabin tickets to the passengers at hiked up prices but there were no cabin tickets available at the ticket

accomplices was preparing for carrying out criminal activity in the Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-

5 went to the area to arrest the outlaws at about 5:00pm. "As soon as the Rab men reached Kuchiamara, the outlaws opened fire on the law enforcers from inside a house, forcing the Rab men to retaliate," the sources said.

encounter and died on way to abna General Hospital. Later, the body was sent to the

hospital morgue for autopsy. A .22-bore revolver and three bullets were recovered from the scene, the sources said.

FROM PAGE 1

munajat, seeking blessings of the almighty for peace, progress and

and religious discussions were held at mosques and other places in the country, including the capital.

Newspapers published supplements and Bangladesh Betar, BTV and private TV channels aired special programmes highlighting

to

Belal was shot during the

Jumatul Wida

Night-long special prayers, milad

the significance of the Lailatul Qadr.

heading for Bhola. **BUS STATIONS**

Employees of different coach services said the rush is not so heavy this year in comparison to previous years. The load is light because around 500 new buses have been added to different routes and people have five days to leave the capital, thev said.

"Around 200 new buses have started to operate from Saidabad Bus Terminal alone in the last one year. We kept another 200 city-service buses on reserve to be put on interdistrict routs during the final rush," ANNM Mujibullah Naser, general secretary of Saidabad Bus Owners' Association. told The Daily Star.

He also said the buses will make double trips to ease the pressure of passengers heading home on Sunday and Monday. Employees at ticket counters of

Gabtoli, Saidabad, Mohakhali, Jatrabari, Kalabagan, Motijheel and Shvamoli bus terminals said all tickets especially of Sunday and Monday have been bought in advance. They said most of the tickets were bought from October 8 to

KAMALAPUR RAILWAY STATION Railway officials said apart from the standing tickets, they do not have any

tickets for leaving Dhaka ahead of the FROM PAGE 16 Eid holiday. They said 12737 passenthe iob well. gers departed from the capital in last 24 hours using 32 trains including 19 intercity trains. Around 5,000 passen received any remains of their loved gers left Dhaka by four private trains, ones. thev added. The campaign group is to hold a It has been alleged that brokers news conference over the latest discovery later on Friday. bought a good number tickets in advance but they could not sell them Abandoned site The material excavated from the easily due to a vigilant mobile court. manholes was removed from the "Two to 12 compartments will be site without anyone noticing it added to each train leaving Dhaka in contained the remains, said utility the last two days before Eid," said company Consolidated Edison. Nitendra Saha, stationmaster of On Thursday, the Port Authority Kamalapur Railway Station. contractor spotted the remains, the agency said.

Americans see reasons

vote against **Republicans**

REUTERS, Dallas

President George W Bush won reelection in 2004 cast as a strong wartime leader, but in this year's congressional races his handling of the Iraq war has given many voters a reason to vote against Republicans.

Bush's Republicans are fighting to keep their control of the US Congress, but polls and analysts suggest Democrats could capture the House of Representatives and possibly the

Senate Republicans have sought to keep the focus on individual races, the war on terrorism and the economy rather than Bush, but Democrats appear to be gaining ground in their attempts to capitalize on the unpopularity among

voters of the Iraq war. "We have such a big mess in Washington. Bush is terrible and Iraq was a disaster," said 56-year-old Bill Caster of Kansas City, Missouri.

"It's time for a change. I want to fire every Republican in Washington," said Caster, who described himself as a political independent in a battlearound state where Republican incumbent Sen Jim Talent is fighting a strong challenge from Democratic

state Auditor Claire McCaskill Analysts say it all comes down to

Iraq. "The president is a bigger factor than usual this year and the biggest negative of his right now is the war in Irag." said David Bositis of the nonpartisan Joint Centre for Political and Economic Studies.

Bush and the Republicans faced nore bad news in the wake of the killing of 11 US soldiers on Tuesday in one of the bloodiest days in the war for US troops in a surge of attacks on American forces battling soaring sectarian violence.

"He (Bush) needs to hurry up and get out of there. He is losing too many lives. Why do they want to fight those people for the oil?," asked Paula Lange of New Orleans. She spoke in a trailer next to the home she is rebuilding after it was destroyed last year by Hurricane Katrina.

An ABC News/Washington Post poll released last week showed Bush was playing a bigger role in voting intentions than he did during the previous congressional elections in 2002, with expressed opposition to him as a factor more than doubling.

Thirty-five percent of the registered voters said their vote for Congress would be cast in opposition to Bush versus 18 percent who said it would be an expression of support for him. The rest, 47 percent, said he was not a factor

9/11 remains

Families of more than 1,100 of the victims of 9/11 have never

Illegal centres selling **Rice presses**

licence, the magistrate said.

blood collection centres in govern-

ment hospitals, are directly or

indirectly involved with illegal blood

hand dealings with concerned

good but only Tk 50,000 fine is not

enough punishment for the culprits,

nessman can ruin a person's life.

They can infected someone with

virus like HIV," he said adding,

"They have already infected thou-

The project will help the govern-

ment to increase the railway's

operational autonomy, improve its

management structure and com-

mercial orientation, modernise the

financial management and cost

accounting system, and enhance

the incentive structure and career

budget allocation has resulted in a

dilapidated railway infrastructure

Bangladesh Railway will improve

the investment climate and contrib-

ute to Bangladesh's economic

development and poverty reduction

efforts," said Christine Wallich,

World Bank country director for

"It will do so by improving the

Rice told the news conference

"We talked about the importance

certain there is not a transit and

trade in illegal materials, dangerous

illegal materials, concerning the

nuclear programme of the DPRK,'

message.

"Improving governance of

Weak governance in the railway

development for railway staff.

and inefficient rail services.

"An unauthorised blood busi-

"What the mobile court is doing is

banks. They allegedly have under-

government high officials.

Prof Nazrul Islam said.

FROM PAGE 16

NEWS

FROM PAGE 1

the blood might have deadly diseases like HIV and hepatitis. There are about 150 blood banks operational in the capital and around 500 outside it, concerned

sources said. "We know that 29 percent of professional donors have hepatitis B, 3.8 percent have hepatitis C and 30 percent have syphilis," a DMCH physician said citing a recent survey

A large quantity of blood at the blood banks of hospitals comes from poor people. A number of them are intravenous drug users who sell their blood to meet their drug habit money.

Experts say at least five tests are required to obtain blood safely from sands of people, so the government a donor, excluding cross-matching needs to monitor these businesses and group-matching tests. The tests strictly. are hepatitis B, hepatitis C, HIV, malaria and syphilis. In most cases, illegal private blood banks do not WB okays perform those tests but they mark the bags that the tests were conducted portation in the country.

"They probably conduct only the group-matching test as it is easy to perform," Magistrate Keramot Ali, who has been raiding the illegal blood banks, said.

The blood business in private sector is booming as government hospitals fail to provide the required amount of blood. The DMCH blood centre alone needs around 100 bags a day but it can only provide 40 bags.

Describing his experience, Keramot Ali said he found private blood banks not even preserving the blood properly. "They preserve the blood in a regular refrigerator whereas special refrigerators are required," he said adding, "The environment of the private blood banks is very dirty."

"Even the reagent they use to identify the blood group had past its expiry date in a number of blood banks," he said.

quality of transport services avail-The mobile court discovered able to businesses and passengers many blood banks that do not have and making Bangladesh's economy approval from the director general of more competitive in the region," she health and in a number of cases added

Bangladesh.

N Korean leader

FROM PAGE 16

whether it be bilateral talks or sixafter talks with Li that North Korea's party talks," Kim was guoted as nuclear test was "a serious provocatelling a Chinese envoy, the masstion" that posed a threat to peace circulation Chosun Ilbo reported, citing a diplomatic source in China.

Kim told the Chinese delegation that "he is sorry about the nuclear test," the newspaper reported.

The delegation led by State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan met Kim on Thursday and returned to Beijing later that day ahead of US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's arrival in the Chinese capital Friday. China is viewed as a key nation in efforts to persuade the North to disarm, as it is the isolated communist nation's main trading partner.

North Korea has long insisted that the US desist from a campaign to sever its ties to the international

China on HR they even failed to show their trade rights record According to the mobile court

sources, dishonest businessmen **REUTERS**, Beijing most of them retired doctors of

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice yesterday pressed China on its human rights record, but Beijing countered it had its own problems with the United States.

With Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing at her side, Rice told a joint news conference she had brought up several human rights issues during their meeting, whose main aim was to discuss North Korea and Iran's nuclear programmes

Rice did not provide specific details, but a prominent case that rights groups have said tops US concerns is that of New York Times researcher Zhao Yan, who was sentenced in August to three years in prison on fraud charges.

In addition, the United States has been pressing for the release of Boston-based democracy campaigner Yang Jianli, who was arrested in 2002 after stealing into China.

"We talked about human rights issues and the importance of several cases." said Rice, who is on the last leg of her Asian trip to discuss North Korea. She is due in Moscow on Saturday.

Yang, who has doctorates from the University of California at Berkeley and Harvard's Kennedy sector combined with inadequate School of Government, had lived in the United States for more than a decade but opted not to take US citizenship.

The top US diplomat said the cases she raised and other human rights issues would be discussed in further meetings

China sees US criticism of its human rights record as an attempt to interfere in its domestic affairs. While it has given its people greater economic and political freedoms in recent years, it has also clamped down on critics.

Li, who did not allow any questions at the news conference, countered he had raised his own list of human rights issues with the United States.

"I also gave her a list of two cases involving two Chinese citizens," he said without providing details.

Shop owner FROM PAGE 1

and security, particularly in east were locked in a feud over the matter. Later, Parvez filed a general diary (GD) with Mohammadpur of the full implementation of (UN Police Station. resolution) 1718 so we can make

Lipi claimed that Masum along with a number of local goons spraved bullets at Parvez near his shop around 7:00pm vesterday. Both were rushed to Dhaka

she said referring to North Korea by Medical College Hospital where its official acronym. doctors declared Parvez dead. Rice's visit came one day after Beijing, Pyongyang's biggest Sri Lanka stay backer, sent Tang to lead a mission to North Korea to deliver what US FROM PAGE 1 officials said was a "very strong"

118-9 in the 39th over before the last-wicket pair of Vettori and Jeetan led 47 valuable runs

Sri Lanka says

DHAKA SATURDAY OCTOBER 21, 2006

ties were immediately available.

The continuing violence came

as U.S. Assistant Secretary of

State Richard Boucher is visiting

the country, where Tamil Tigers

have been fighting for an independ-

ent homeland since 1983 for the

U.S. embassy spokesman Evan

Owen said. "It is more important to

talk now than ever as Sri Lanka is in

launched a sea-borne suicide raid

on a naval base in the southern city

of Galle, losing 15 cadres and

killing one sailor, the first such

attack on a town in the Sinhalese-

soldiers were killed in battles in the

north-east and hundreds of com-

Tiger rebel suicide attack on a

convoy in a north-central district

killing around 100 people, mostly

Colombo with soldiers manning

checkpoints and using cordon

searches to look for suspected

Greenland ice

recent research, NASA said in a

statement, but it still shows that

Greenland is losing 20 percent more

mass than it gets in new snowfall

considered an early indicator of the

consequences of global warming,

so even a slower ice melt there

very short time," said Jay Zwally, a

co-author of the study. "In the

1990s, the ice sheet was growing

inland and shrinking significantly at

the edges, which is what climate

models predicted as a result of

are clearly beginning to dominate

the inland growth, and we are only in

the early stages of the climate

warming predicted for this century,'

him step up his campaign to help the

poor in Bangladesh and other

offering microcredit without collat-

The success of Grameen Bank in

"Now the processes of mass loss

"This is a very large change in a

The Greenland ice sheet is

Last week, dozens of rebels and

This was followed this week by a

Security was tight in the capital

dominated south.

batants wounded.

navy sailors.

FROM PAGE 16

each year.

raises concerns.

global warming.

Zwally said.

countries.

rebels.

On Wednesday, the rebels

danger of going to all-out war."

More than 65,000 people have

ethnic Tamil minority

FROM PAGE 16

sides to stay the course for the planned talks but a surge in violence risks undermining the meeting in Geneva

The military statement said the navy intercepted the rebel craft off Nagarakovil area on the Jaffna peninsula. The military said two rebel vessels were destroyed and

died in the two-decade conflict. other Tiger craft were damaged. Since July, violence has surged It said many rebels were leaving around 1,000 people dead, wounded and two sailors suffered including many soldiers, alarming minor injuries. The military was Colombo's main donors. firing shells and mortar bombs to "Richard Boucher wants to send prevent any rebel vessels landing message there should be an along the nearby Jaffna coast. immediate cessation of violence,

There was no immediate comment from the LTTE.

Scores of people have been killed in the past few weeks in the island nation in fresh fighting that has left a 2002 truce in shreds and dimmed hopes of a breakthrough in Geneva, the first such dialogue since February. Rebels fired mortar bombs at an

army base in the eastern Batticaloa

district late on Thursday, sparking

army retaliation. There were no

Both sides also had artillery

duels overnight on the Jaffna

peninsula but no details of casual-

previously raised the power tariffs in

for those residential consumers who

use electricity up to 100 units, as per

the new circular from the power

According to the new prices, the

ower tariff increased to Tk 3.15

from the existing Tk 3 per unit for

those residential consumers who

consume more than 100 units to 400

units while per unit tariff will be Tk

5.25 instead of Tk 5 for those using

The tariff for irrigation purposes

For small industries, the flat rate

per unit will be Tk 4.02 during peak

hours, which is currently at Tk 3.83.

During off-peak hours, the tariff will be

Tk 3.20 against the current Tk 3.05,

and during peak hours it will be Tk

Power tariff for non-residential

For commercial consumers, the

consumers was raised to Tk 3.35

flat rate of power will be Tk 5.30 per

unit against the current Tk 5.04.

During the off peak hours, the price

will be Tk 3.80 against the current Tk

3.60 and in peak hours Tk 8.20

Yunus slams

against the current Tk 7.82.

acquiring new capacity".

FROM PAGE 1

one of its banks.

that." he said.

microcredit.

said

per unit from the existing Tk 3.20.

was raised to Tk 1.93 per unit from

above 401 units of electricity.

the existing Tk 1.84 per unit.

5.62, which is at Tk 5.36 now.

. The tariff will remain unchanged

casualties, the military said.

Power gets

FROM PAGE 1

division

September 2003.

counters

Passengers alleged that many brokers illegally occupy space in the launches before the vessels berth at the terminal and charge Tk 50 to Tk 80 from each passenger to let them sit there.

"I boarded the launch as soon as it reached the terminal but I could not get any space to place my bed sheet. I managed to get two spots after paying a broker Tk 120," said Arif Ahmed, passenger of a launch

200,000 sticks, oars

come too often," he said.

demands.'

a procession.

wards Dhaka.

their reform demands.

the government will give its final

decision over Justice Hasan on

October 23. "If the ongoing political

crisis is not resolved through the

dialogue, we will not have any

alternative but to forge all-out move-

ments to realise our reform

sits today with all of its front organi-

sations while all upazila and district

units of its front organisations will

the opposition will stage country-

wide demonstrations tomorrow

before the final round of talks.

Observing the day as the "reform

proposals implementation day", it

will hold a massive rally on

Senior opposition leaders will

The opposition combine also

instruct their activists from the rally.

plans to go for a countrywide indefi-

nite hartal and blockade

programmes alongside marching

Ahmed told The Daily Star that they

will do everything to press home

besieged, resistance will also be

built in villages, upazilas and dis-

tricts. Indefinite countrywide hartals

and blockade programmes will be

announced to press home our

AL Presidium Member Tofail

"Not only will the capital be

As a warm-up to its movement,

also sit simultaneously.

The AL-led opposition combine

to The Daily Star last night that they have made preparations in this regard.

Sources said in a bid to keep the country's educational institutions closed, the BCL also plans to go for an indefinite strike at all institutions.

Sources in the opposition alliance said their leaders at different district and upazila units are also making thousands of oars and poles. Each upazila unit has been asked to prepare 10,000 oars and poles, sources said, adding that the senior leaders have also instructed for supplying several thousand oars and poles to the capital within a couple of days.

At a joint meeting with all thana, ward and union presidents and general secretaries of Dhaka citv units of opposition combine, Maya directed the leaders to keep the oars and poles ready.

Sensing that the government may not accept its major electoral reform demands, including the issue of Justice Hasan, the senior leaders of the opposition combine issued secret instructions to all of its city unit leaders in this regard a few days ago.

"If our demand for electoral reforms is not met through the dialogue and if BNP-partisan Justice Hasan takes charge of the caretaker government, resistance will be built up in the capital as well as the district and upazila headquarters." 14-party Coordinator Abdul Jalil told the meeting.

Explaining the necessity of the electoral reforms and referring to Hasan's political affiliation with BNP, the AL general secretary asked the leaders to prepare grounds for building resistance against the Hasan-led caretaker government.

"You will have to make preparademands," Tofail said.

Some of the remains were as big as arm or leg bones, said Steve Coleman, a spokesman for the Port Authority.

Construction workers have been tions even on Eid day...The time to instructed to look for human protect people's voting rights will not remains and notify the medical examiner's office when they find Jalil said BNP Secretary General them. Abdul Mannan Bhuivan told him that

"No official identifications have been made at this time and the New York City Police Department and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner are heading up the investigation," said Patrick J Brennan of the Mayor's Community Assistance Unit was quoted by the AP news agency

The discovery comes just weeks after the fifth anniversary of the attacks.

Earlier this year, construction workers in New York discovered 74 bone fragments from 9/11 victims. The remains were found mixed in with roofing material at the condemned Deutsche Bank building, which stands next to Ground Zero.

Zia tertiliser

FROM PAGE 16 Bangabandhu Avenue and bring out again on October 16, the factory stopped due to leakages. After repairing the authority resumed production on the night of October 18.

The BCIC authorities had given ZFCL a production target of 4.50,000 tonnes of urea this financial year. But ZFCL has already shown signs of failure to fulfil the target

In 2005-2006, the factory suffered a production loss of 1,25,000 tonnes of urea as it remained inoperative for 73 days due to technical faults while the production target

was 4,20,000 tonnes. The factory could not achieve its production target in 2004-2005 too. Costly overhauling and repeated repair works in the factory have now come under question.

financial system. Washington accuses Pyongyang of complicity in counterfeiting and money laundering to sell weapons of mass destruction

The North has refused since last November to return to the nuclear talks, which also include China, Japan, Russia and South Korea. Pyongyang has sought bolster its negotiating position by a series of provocative actions, test-firing a barrage of missiles in July and performing its first-ever nuclear test Oct. 9.

In Beijing China and the United States pressed North Korea on Friday to return to talks on ending its nuclear arms programme and called for full implementation of UN sanctions imposed on the country after its October 9 atomic test.

The crisis trip by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to east Asia has been overshadowed by speculation that communist North Korea might be about to detonate a second nuclear device.

But Chinese officials suggested that their envoy, sent by President Hu Jintao to Pyongyang earlier this week, had made progress in bringng North Korea back into line.

"Fortunately my visit this time has not been in vain," the envoy, Tang Jiaxuan, said at the opening of his meeting with Rice, referring to his trip to Pyongyang. Reporters were then ushered from the room.

China, a traditional ally of North Korea, is seen as having the greatest potential leverage over its neigh bour.

Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said Tang and the North Koreans also discussed how to kickstart stalled talks on Pyongyang's nuclear programmes.

"At least it increased mutual understanding. Everyone discussed how to restart progress in the six-party talks as quickly as possible," Li told reporters.

The six-party talks, which bring together the two Koreas, the United States, Japan, Russia and host China. stalled last November after Washington imposed restrictions on Pyongyang's external financing.

At a joint briefing with Rice. Li appealed for calm and a diplomatic solution to the crisis.

"We hope all relevant parties can maintain cool-headedness, adopt a prudent and responsible attitude and stick to the general direction of a peaceful resolution through dialoque," Li said.

Korea's Chosun South newspaper quoted an unidentified diplomatic source in Beijing as saying Kim told Tang that Pyongyang would return to stalled six-party talks on ending its nuclear programmes if Washington lifts financial sanctions.

Kim also expressed regret to Tang about the difficult position in which the nuclear test had placed Beijing, it said.

US officials tried to lower expectations about the outcome of the meeting and said they did not expect any major announcement such as a return to the six-party talks.

In her meetings with China's president and foreign minister, Rice would try and allay Beijing's scepticism over some elements of financial and weapons sanctions imposed by the United Nations. making clear the United States did not want to escalate tensions, said a senior State Department official

travelling with her. Rice delivered similar messages to the governments of Japan and South Korea on the first legs of her five-day trip.

China in particular fears a heavyhanded approach to inspections of cargo at sea may provoke military confrontations and stoke tensions on the Korean peninsula. It is also wary about squeezing

its food and energy lifeline to Pyongyang, fearing this could lead to an exodus of refugees and even the ultimate implosion of the state. However, banking sources said

some Chinese banks had stopped business dealing with North Korea, a move officials travelling with Rice said would be welcome if true.

The New York Times, citing Chinese analysts, said China would be prepared to step up pressure on the North, including reducing oil shipments, if it refused to return to negotiations or conducted more

In Washington, a senior Bush administration official said the United States was preparing for the possibility not only of a second nuclear test but a further round of missile tests like those Pyongyang conducted in July

trying to provoke a crisis.'

Left-handed Vettori boosted the total with three consecutive boundaries off Chaminda Vaas in the 49th over which cost 19 runs.

Sri Lanka needed to win the Group B encounter at the Brabourne Stadium to stay in contention for the semifinals after losing their opening match to Pakistan in Jaipur.

The wicket continued to assist turn despite the International Cricket Council's pitch consultant Andy Atkinson spraying it with a glue, Polyvinvl Acetate, before the start to help bind it for 100 overs.

The pitch, that turned from brown to white after the spray, had been criticised over the last week for breaking up in the second innings causing a string of low scores. New Zealand, however, had themselves to blame for the sluggish display that saw the first nine wickets fall in quick

Stephen Fleming, who made a match-winning 89 against South Africa, failed to score in his 193rd one-dayer as captain, equalling the world record tally of former Sri Lanka skipper Arjuna Ranatunga.

Lou Vincent was bowled by Farveez Maharoof attempting a rash pull shot, Hamish Marshall cut Lasith Malinga to point and Scott Styris was caught behind off Sanath Javasuriva's fourth deliverv.

Muralidaran, who came on to bowl in the 26th over, shattered Jacob Oram's stumps with his fourth ball and ended Astle's long vigil at the crease by having him caught at deep mid-wicket by Malinga.

BNP ready

FROM PAGE 1 Minister Moudud Ahmad on Thursday said,"There is no scope to reach a consensus through the ongoing dialogue ignoring the constitution."

Some BNP sources however said many of the senior party leaders want a resolution of the political crisis over the reform issue before handover of power to avoid confrontations on the streets.

But a section of party leaders are opposed to meeting the AL demand on Hasan issue as, they say, this might lead to loss of the BNP's political might during the caretaker government's tenure, helping the opposition in the next election.

globally. This is one weapon we lon't want to see anywhere in the world. Yunus also said he was ready to

cept to the impoverished people of

North Korea, in co-operation with

like to talk to me, I would like to do

Prize had made an "amazing differ-

ence" to him, with his bank gaining

greater international attention.

"If their banking people (would)

Yunus said the Nobel Peace

Yunus has not received an

nvitation from North Korea, which

ranks near the bottom of most of the

world's poverty indices, but other

communist states such as China

and Cuba have sought his help with

decision and adopt it as an official

policy of the Communist Party of

China, I don't see North Koreans

would have any problem," Yunus

said, adding the prize would help

US calls

"It's a total change of life," he

"If Beijing can take it as a political

was "equally as condemnable as

"So we should raise our voice

eral to the poor people has beer emulated in 23 countries, according to the Grameen Foundation. bring his microcredit banking con-

Seeing how rural Bangladeshis struggled to borrow sums as small as 27 dollars in the early 1970s, Yunus decided to offer himself as a guarantor to help them receive bank loans

"Microcredit for me is a social business enterprise, an enterprise to help people get out of poverty," he has said.

Grameen Bank focused mainly on women and was "an inclusive bank. We never reject anybody," he said

The biennial Seoul Peace Prize established in 1990, marks the achievements of the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games.

Other recipients have included UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, former Czech Republic president Vaclav Havel, and international relief organisations such as Doctors Without Borders and Oxfam.

FROM PAGE 1

The US Commission on International Religious Freedom, a bipartisan federal agency, called on Washington to urge the Bangladesh authorities "to make every effort to prevent violence before and after the election."

During a meeting with Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin at the State department on the day, US Acting Secretary of State Nicholas Burns said the United States respects Bangladeshis for their commitment to democracy and expressed confidence that the forthcoming general

elections would be free and fair polls. They had an hour-long meeting mainly on bilateral issues when the two Secretaries expressed satisfaction at the growing cooperation between Dhaka and Washington, UNB quoting a message from Bangladesh Mission in Washington said

Burns stressed the importance of Bangladesh in US Foreign policy. He said that US considered Bangladesh a very important partner in the region and that the US government was committed to work harder to further strengthen the existing relationship.

Burns assured Hemayetuddin that he and the US government would always be forthcoming in increasing cooperation with Bangladesh in whatever areas of cooperation that Bangladesh would desire.

Burns congratulated the Bangladesh government's determined efforts in combating terrorism and said that US government deeply appreciated the effective measures taken by the Bangladesh government in this regard.

Reciprocating Burns sentiments, Hemayet said that Bangladesh considered the US as a close and trusted friend and that continued efforts to strengthen the existing friendly bilateral relations and cooperation with the USA was an important part of Bangladesh foreign policy.

Hemayet said Bangladesh and its people were appreciative of the continued support and assistance received form the US.

He assured Burns of Bangladesh 's all out support in combating global terrorism and to the international community's efforts for nuclear disarmament.

"You have to anticipate they may do more missile launches as well,' the official told reporters. "They're clearly trying to get attention and