The Baily Star

NEWS

An increase in tele-density by

10 percent among the population

amounts to 0.6 percent in GDP

growth, says a study of the

London School of Economics. In

this light, he said when

Bangladesh's tele-density

reaches 20 percent while keeping

its GDP growth rate at no less

than 5.5 percent, it will have a

the telecom regulatory work

needs to facilitate easier access

to phones for the mass people. "In

Bangladesh there is over-

Noting that Bangladesh has 15

million mobile subscribers and at

this point increasing mobile oper-

ators will not really help tele-

penetration, he said the country

needs to ensure clearer licensing

process, proper use of submarine

cable and various capacity build-

as part of the GSMA five-day

World Congress concluding on

Friday in Singapore, Some 6.000

participants from 96 countries

to do shopping and now only two

days are left before the Eid," she

Shop owners and salesmen of

cosmetics shops, however, said

their sale was much better last

essentials, it has become difficult

to survive. let alone buving ear-

rings of Tk 600-1200," said Manik,

salesman of Mayabi Cosmetics at

at the shopping centres at this late

hour as they work outside Dhaka.

Besides, the service-holders have

to wait for Eid bonus and holidays.

there is hardly any scope for

Chittagong, came to his Uttara

residence on last Friday. He came

to the Eastern Plaza market for

Now the time is so short that

Azad, who works in

Many customers are gathering

"Amid severe price hike of daily

The discussion was organised

regulation," he observed.

nq

service

said.

year.

Eastern Plaza.

To stimulate the tele-density

magical impact on the economy.

Russia warns against Jute mill workers salaries by yesterday evening and Iran 'regime change' the rest by this noon. removed the barricades for a while and held a rally in front of the mill thru' SC gate where the CBA leaders threatened to blockade the highway again

AGENCIES, Moscow/ United Nations

Russia would oppose any effort to use the UN Security Council to promote a change of regime in Iran, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said in an interview published vesterday

"We cannot support and will actively oppose any attempt to use the Security Council to punish Iran or to use Iran's nuclear program in order to promote the idea of regime change" in Tehran, Lavrov said in the transcript of an interview with the Kuwaiti news agency KUNA, released by the Russian foreign ministry.

The swift decision to impose international sanctions on North Korea for its roque nuclear test could grease the skids for sanctions on Iran over its disputed nuclear programme, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said yesterday. "It really does help to create a

momentum," Rice said after leaving four days of crisis talks in Asia in response to the North's test.

Rice's last Asian stop was Beijing, the North's traditional ally. She met there with a Chinese government envoy who had just returned from a hastily arranged visit with North Korean leader Kim Jong II. Rice said the envoy, State Council Tang Jiaxuan, told her nothing that confirms news reports about conciliatory moves from the North

"Councilor Tang did not tell me that Kim Jong II either apologised for the test or said that he would never test again," Rice said, adding that she does not know the source of widely circulated South Korean media reports to the contrary.

"I don't know whether or not Kim Jong II said any such thing. But the Chinese, ... in a fairly thorough briefing to me about the talks, said nothing," that confirms it. Rice said

French Defence Minister Michele Alliot-Marie suggested here Friday that it was not too late for Iran to make concessions to avoid UN Security Council sanc-

"If Iran really shows goodwill, France and its partners are prepared to suspend the (sanctions) procedure in the Security Council." Alliot-Marie told reporters. "But the condition is that there be real progress.

holding talks here with UN chief Kofi Annan.

with the support of the United States, are preparing to discuss with Russia and China the three European powers' proposed Security Council sanctions resolution against Tehran.

be submitted to the full 15member council early next week.

powers, which spearheaded the abortive talks to convince Iran to stop uranium enrichment, would not discuss the details of the gradual sanctions being considered

Iran's refusal to back down over its nuclear programme despite the threat of sanctions, saying it would not "tolerate the slightest

pressure. Iran ignored an August 31 deadline set by the Security Council to freeze uranium enrichment, a process that can be used to produce nuclear reactor fue but also for bomb-making.

that it is seeking a covert nuclear weapons capability, insisting that its atomic programme is entirely peaceful and aims to generate electricity.

batted sensibly.

Australia see

FROM PAGE 16

Even a victory over West Indies on October 28 is now unlikely to secure England a semifinal place -- and few would argue they deserve one after a second successive failure.

They were shot out for 125 by struck six fours in his 12th half-India at the Sawai Mansingh century before being caught behind Stadium last Sunday and failed to off spinner Andrew Symonds. improve significantly on a better surface.

Earlier, Australian pacemen

England's early advantage given by

left-handed Strauss and Bell, who

Martyn off McGrath, hit seven fours

in his 60-ball knock while Strauss

Bell, dropped on 23 by Damien

tions over its nuclear programme.

Mill Ali Akbar, general secretary Shah Alam and Upazila Sramik League president Nur Ahammad spoke at the rally. Then the workers tried to blockade the road again as they sought a direct answer from the mill authori-

ties in this regard

along with the workers.

announced programme

and RR Jute Mill.

4 die

complex.

FROM PAGE 16

Finally, they agreed to remove

the barricades at around 1:30pm

when the UNO assured them of

talking with the mill authorities

immediately and went to the mill

The mills include Hafiz Jute Mill.

The workers of these mills

observed blockade programmes on

the highway on September 5,

September 27 and October 4 to

Mariam died at her house while the

remaining three at the local health

Khoshkandi village are now under-

going treatment at the health com-

Two other sick people of

press home the same demands.

Gul Ahmad Jute Mill, MM Jute Mill

She made the remarks after

France, Britain and Germany

The resolution is expected to

Envoys of the three European

But officials in Washington said they were first likely to focus on banning the supply of material and funding for Iran's ballistic missile and nuclear programmes. Other steps could include asset freezes and travel bans or nuclear and weapons scientists. Iranian President Mahmoud

Ahmadinejad Friday reaffirmed

plex. Hindus FROM PAGE 1 Christian Oikya Parishad,

Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Tehran rejects US-led charges Parishad, Mahanagar Sarbojaneen Puja Committee, and Bangladesh Hindu Youth Welfare Foundation formed a human chain at Muktangan in the capital vesterday.

> (AFP, AP) protesting the capture of Sutrapur Madan-Mohan Temple by the local BNP ward commissioner.

"We are very much anxious about our security. Records show that some vested quarters in connivance with the main political parties tortured us and damaged our properties earlier centring the general elections," said Nim Chandra Bhowmik, general secretary of Bangladesh Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Oikva Parishad and senior vice-president of Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad.

'The caretaker government also failed to provide sufficient security for us." he added.

He alleged that similar incidents have already begun as cadres of a local BNP leader grabbed the Madan-Mohan Temple on Tuesday and beat up devotees.

Kazi Abul Bashar, had sent them.

officer-in-charge (OC) of

Muktagachha Police Station told

newsmen that they were not

informed about the huge gathering.

The responsibility of managing the

huge crowd goes to the people

Meanwhile, three people were

The dead are Abeda Begum, 50,

Of the injured, Rozina, 7

Shakina, 45, Rezia Begum, 55,

Maleka, 35, Rani Begum, 38, Chatu,

45, Sonavan, 25, Aleya, 50,

Sources said hundreds of desti-

tute people gathered in the front of

the house of Abdur Rashid Chunnu

Mia, senior vice-president of BNP

Patuakhali unit, to collect zakat

clothes. They gathered in front of

On contact, Chunnu Mia said, "

zakat clothes. They themselves

came to my house and the accident

happened." He, however, apolo-

gised for the tragic incident.

Patuakhali General Hospital.

Noor Jahan, 70, and Shahinur, 45.

upcoming election.

programme.

9 killed

FROM PAGE 1

reports

get in.

Cell operators

FROM PAGE 16 The agitating workers then

behalf of the GSMA earlier this year, Ricardo met the chairman of Bangladesh's National Board of Revenue (NBR) to discuss this issue.

He said if the government today if the authorities failed to do wanted to earn more revenue, it that. CBA President of Anwara Jute should instead increase taxes on the cellphone companies instead of making phone sets costlier. Currently, the cellphone companies were subsidising the SIM tax to keep the mobile prices within the reach of the mass people. If this tax is lifted, the price will go

down drastically, he pointed out. On the issue of shutting down mobile phone operations while keeping intact the landlines during the elections in Bangladesh, he said it is like punishing one for the crime of another.

Meanwhile, the workers of four "During the elections, there jute mills owned by the Bangladesh could be someone's emergency at Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) also any place. Why would they sufthreatened to blockade the highway fer?" he said, adding, Bangladesh today if their demands for payment is the only instance of such a of all dues and bonuses are not met shutdown. by vesterday as per its pre-

"Bangladesh's telepenetration is less than 15 percent among its population. This is inadequate. But this much has been possible because of the mobile phones -- not the land phones." he said at the discussion that was also attended by Isabelle Mauro and Dawn Hartley, head of External Affairs and Development Fund Manager of GSMA

City abuzz

FROM PAGE 1

'The sale is open, only for fifty," Chan Mia was calling customers pointing to the colourful handbags that he sells on his footpath shop

The new items for kids are selling well before this Eid, he said.

But Chan Mia, who is making many kids happy by selling colourful bags, could not manage to buy anything to make happy his own children, who live in Comilla. Chan Mia said he will go to

Comilla the day after the Eid and by the time he will try to buy clothes for his children.

Especially young and teenage women gathered at the cosmetics shops for accessories matching with clothes.

"I have come to buy matching imitation jewellery ignoring this huge crowd as Eid fashion would be incomplete without earrings, finger ring and punch clip," said Runa, who works at a private company in Motijheel.

She bought clothes last Friday and came to Eastern Plaza for cosmetics shopping vesterday. "As I work long hours outside, I

have to look forward to a holiday

Govt bodies FROM PAGE 1

buying saree for his sister. The shoe market at Chourongi Bhaban on Elephant Road was seen crowded as people of all

bargaining, said a customer.

ages were looking for suitable shoes

15 crore and will deposit another

DU halls

FROM PAGE 16 over Shahidullah Hall.

Alongside JCD and BCL, their mutinous factions are equally on the go for establishing supremacy.

Clashes may erupt during the period of caretaker government at Jagannath Hall among three rivals --JCD and BCL, led by the central president and general secretary, and a mutinous faction of BCL. The rebel BCL faction was not awarded as many posts as they demanded on the central or the DU committee and the posts

AP, Baghdad

Rival Shia militiamen battled near the

American forces and helicopters

Gunfights broke out in Hamza al-

Baghdad, after a bomb exploded near

the offices of the Supreme Council for

the Islamic Revolution in Irag, a lead-

ing Shia political party that sponsors

members of the Madhi Army headed

by the radical anti-American cleric

units manned checkpoints, keeping

The fighting in both cities under-

scored alarm about the growing

influence of the Shia militias, who are

linked to political blocs wielding strong

influence over the shaky four-month-

old government of Prime Minister

Hamza al-Gharbi and 25 in Amarah, a

city of 750,000 people at the head of

to reopen his tiny restaurant after

hearing that fighting had ended in

by phone. "The last two days had a

major effect on our lives since we

It said the man, who was not identi-

as producing and distributing video

clips and other propaganda. Iraq's main Sunni Arab party on

Saturday strongly backed the accord

signed between Sunni and Shia

eligious figures in Islam's holiest city,

say they aim only to stop sectarian

killings between rival Sunnis and

Shias rather than impose a truce to

halt attacks against U.S. forces in the

all Iraqis and the government to

respond to this blessed event and

support it," said Adnan al-Dulaimi, the

"We praise this step and call upon

Organizers of the Mecca meeting

Mecca, on Friday evening.

country.

Iraq's famous marshlands

At least two people were killed in

Haider Ali Abdullah said he rushed

"We were terrified," Abdullah said

the militia fighters off the streets.

The party's supporters accused

the Badr Brigades militia

a military spokesmen.

Nouri al-Maliki

Amarah.

rushed to separate the combatants.

they were given were not satisfactory either The mutinous BCL faction might attempt to take over a dorm or two and if they succeed, they are likely to demand more posts of their choice from the party high-ups, a BCL leader said Meanwhile, factional feud in JCD

has been escalating at the eleventh hour of the coalition government's tenure On last Monday, two shots were fired inside Salimullah Hall over a feud

between two factions of JCD. Shafiul Bari Babu, JCD general secretary, said they did not instruct the dorm level leaders to stay at the dorms during the Eid vacation, but only asked them to return to campus as early as possible after Eid.

He denied any allegation of his organisation sneaking arms into the dorms and said JCD is not worried about BCL because BCL is not strong enough organisationally to fight JCD.

BCL President Mahmud Hasan attended the congress that kicked Ripon also denied the same allegaoff a global campaign for a video tions and said. "We urged the univerand high-speed internet enabled sity authorities to ensure co-existence on the campus as well as in the third-generation (3G) mobile dorms.

"If JCD tries to execute any plot against us, we will fight them politically," Ripon added.

Ctg businessman

FROM PAGE 16 At a press conference at Chittagong Press Club organised by the Chakta Shilpa O Byabsayee Samity vester day, victim's wife Shahanara Akhter Hasna read out a written statement.

depend on this business to make a They also alleged that instead of U.S. forces said they killed a key proper investigation, the police have been making queries if Kalam had coordinator of foreign fighters under aljoined any Tablig Jamaat and have Qaida in Irag in an early morning raid in been preparing to look for him in Ramadi, on a booby-trapped building religious gatherings. The abductors in the heartland of the Sunni insurlast phoned the family on October 18 gency west of Baghdad. and expressed their resentment for informing the police and threatened them with dire consequences, they fied by name, had been a senior leader said adding that the law enforcers did of al-Qaida in Iraq responsible for not take any actions even after receivproviding weapons and financing to ing this information. Contacted, Mashiur Rahman, an foreign fighters in the country, as well

officer of the Rab-7, told The Daily Star that Kalam's family did not inform them about any call from the abductors, adding that they suspect that Kalam might have been hiding somewhere to escape his creditors.

Meanwhile, the Investigation Officer (IO) of the case Sub Inspector Subrata Sarker of Bakalia Police Station said that police are yet to get a clue to the incident and accused Kalam's family members of noncooperation in investigation.

Hasan's security FROM PAGE 1

head of the Iraqi Accordance Front, adviser to the caretaker government M Hafizuddin Khan told The Daily Star whose party holds 44 seats in the 275yesterday. member parliament

The AL-led opposition combine launches a fresh spell of agitation programmes today opposing Justice gent groups during the upcoming Eid

Iraqi Shia militias clash near Babylon

ves to the Mecca edict." and "stop the bloodshed."

5

Sectarian differences were exacerancient city of Babylon yesterday until bated when parliament adopted a Shia-backed law this week allowing provinces in the Shia and oil-rich south to establish an autonomous region like Gharbi, about 60 miles south of

the Kurdish one in the north. Sunni Arabs and some Shias opposed the law, arguing that federalism would lead to the eventual breakup of Iraq.

President Bush was meeting Saturday with top military officials over refining tactics after commanders said the two-month-old campaign to stabilize Baghdad had largely failed.

Mugtada al-Sadr of being behind the "The last few weeks have been blast, Police Capt. Muthana Khalid Ali rough for our troops in Irag, and for the said. He said Iragi army and police Iragi people," Bush said Saturday in called for reinforcements and backup his weekly radio address. "The fighting from American forces, who imposed a is difficult, but our nation has seen curfew. There was no immediate difficult fights before. confirmation of U.S. involvement from

Father south in the city of Amarah, 14-party where the Mahdi Army briefly took control on Friday, shops and govern-FROM PAGE 1 ment offices reopened and Iraqi army

The 14-party has held a series of preparatory meetings with their leaders of the city's thana. ward and union units and of all front organisations in the last couple of days.

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil also coordinator of the 14-party yesterday asked the government not to create any constitutional crisis by pre-empting the reform dialogue. He was directing the leaders of opposition alliance's front organisations at a joint meeting at AL central office on

Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday. Jalil also asked them to make preparations for keeping up continuity of the country's democratic system. "If democratic system is thwarted, it will be a massive loss for the nation," he added.

The AL leader, who is negotiating with his BNP counterpart Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan since October 5 over electoral reforms, reiterated that they would put up resistance in the capital and district and upazila headquarters, f their demands are not met.

Explaining the necessity of reforms and referring to Justice Hasan's political affiliation with the BNP, he said BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told him the government would give its final decision on caretaker chief tomorrow.

"If the crisis is not resolved through the dialogue, we will not have any alternative but to force all-out movements to realise our demands." he said. He however expressed the hope that the prime minister will make a positive decision about the head of the

next caretaker government. "If she IPMI decides otherwise, we will compel the authorities to concede to our demands through a tough

resistance movement," Jalil asserted. He warned that if any obstruction is raised from the administration to their movement, they would launch tougher action from that very spot and spread it across the country to force the authori-

ties accept their demands. He also called for a cease-fire After Jalil's speech, the opposition between American forces and insurcombine held a closed-door meeting with the leaders of their front organisations and city units. At the meeting, the senior leaders also directed them to make preparations for the next elections if everything goes well Chaired by AL presidium member Abdur Razzak, the meeting was also attended by Matia Chowdhury, Obaidul Quader, Mukul Bose, Hasanul Hug Inu, Bimal Biswas, Dilip Barua, Pankaj Bhattacharjee, Sharif Nurul Ambia, Shirin Akhter, and Dr Asit Baron Roy.

Shane Watson and Mitchell Johnson shared six wickets as England collapsed to 169 after a promising start in their crucial match.

England looked like setting a stiff target when Strauss and Bell put on 83 for the opening wicket with their responsible knocks on a slow track.

Ten wickets then fell for a meagre 86 runs, with Watson finishing with 3-16 off seven disciplined overs and left-arm fast bowler Johnson with 3-40 in only his eighth one-day international.

Veteran fast bowler Glenn McGrath began unimpressively when he conceded 27 runs in his opening four overs, but came back strongly to grab 2-36 off nine overs.

Wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist brilliantly supported his pacemen with five catches, including his 350th in one-day internationals.

Paul Collingwood (22 not out) and last-man James Anderson (15) were the other batsmen to reach double-figures in a dismal England batting performance.

England were under tremendous pressure to stay alive in the competition, having already lost their first match to India in a four-team Group A. Australia also needed a win after losing to the West Indies in their opener.

The top two sides advance to the semifinals

Watson provided the breakthrough with his second ball when he had make-shift opener Bell caught by Michael Hussey in the cover. His dismissal was the beginning of the end of England's innings.

England suffered a twin setback when free-stroking batsmen Kevin Pietersen (one) and Andrew Flintoff (four) fell in quick succession to leave their team wobbling at 110-3.

Johnson had Pietersen caught by Gilchrist, while skipper Flintoff was caught pulling by Hussey at deep mid-wicket just a ball after being struck on the helmet by Watson.

Flintoff batted at two different positions in as many games, but had yet to click. He fell for a seven-ball duck against India while batting at number three. He batted at number four against Australia but lasted only 15 balls.

Australia kept striking at regular intervals to eventually neutralise

Security men block road to Abbas house

AP, Gaza City, Gaza Strip

Members of the Palestinian security forces fired in the air in Gaza Citv's main shopping district and burned tires near President Mahmoud Abbas' home yesterday to press demands for payment of salaries. Smoke wafted from the area of

Abbas' home in Gaza City Protesters also stopped cars from entering the area. The shots in downtown Gaza, packed with shoppers ahead of a major Muslim holiday, scattered panicked crowds.

The protesters complained that not all members of the security forces have been paid ahead of Eid el-Fitr, the three-day holiday marking the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. The holiday begins either Sunday or Monday,

giving out the zakat clothes since and children are traditionally given they did not inform police of the new clothes and toys. matter. he added. Targeted by an international aid boycott, the Hamas-led Palestinian killed and 20 others were injured in Authority has been largely unable to

pay the salaries of 165.000 civil servants, including 80,000 members of the security forces, since it came to power in March. Hamas and the moderate Abbas, who was elected separately and wields considerable power, have scraped

together some money to make partial payments. Officials had promised that the lowest-paid among the security forces would receive a full salary by the end of Ramadan.

The protests came a day after Palestinian gunmen opened fire on the convoy of Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas. One vehicle burst into flames in the latest violence between the rival Fatah and Hamas movements, but no one was injured.

Abbas, in an effort to curb a planned Hamas troop buildup in the West Bank, pulled a top security forces commander out of retirement, officials said Saturday. The commander, Ismail Jaber, had been forced to retire in April 2005 as part of an effort to purge the corruptiontainted security forces

of the burden of huge He warned that Hindus from all defaulted loans '

districts will march towards the The BTMC has an outstanding capital and besiege it if incidents of loan of Tk 188 crore, of which Tk repression occur on the eve of the 151 crore is classified, while Chittagong Jute Mills and Khulna Jayanta Sen Dipu, president of Newspaper Mills have total classified loans of Tk 86 crore and Tk 72 Mohanagar Sarbojaneen Puja Committee, said around 15 cadres crore.

The Sonali Bank authorities of notorious Asad Bahini captured the Madan-Mohan Temple. The repeatedly sent letters to the four government enterprises asking culprits claimed that Alamgir, them to reschedule the loans, but brother of commissioner of ward-74 the bank is yet to get any and local BNP Secretary General response.

The finance ministry recently Biren Chandra Saha, Kaja took an initiative to repay the Debnath, Jayanta Kumar Deb, defaulted loans but it is not certain Nirmal Chatteriee and Advocate when that will be done. Shyamal Debnath also spoke at the

Another top defaulter --Bangladesh Autorickshaw Chalak Samity, a cooperative of autorickshaw operators--enjoyed government guarantee for its loan of Tk 43 crore.

Sonali Bank sources said the loan was given from three nationalised commercial banks with guarantee from the previous government.

The committee that took the loan on behalf of the cooperative no longer exists and a new committee has been formed, sources said, adding that a case has been filed against the previous committee.

another stampede incident during The new committee, meandistribution of zakat clothes at a while, has applied for fresh loans ruling BNP leader's house in and interest waiver on the Patuakhali early yesterday, our defaulted loans. correspondent in Patuakhali

Among the private defaulters of Sonali Bank, Riverside Leather and Footwear Ltd and Shamsul Al-Amin Cotton Mills Ltd lie on top of the defaulters' list.

A trial is now going on against Riverside of late Maulana Abdul Mannan as the company has a Nurjahan, 45, Ruma, 12 and classified loan of Tk 80 crore. Golbanu, 35 were admitted to

Shamsul Al-Amin Cotton Mills Ltd, owned by a former Awami League (AL) lawmaker, has defaulted on a loan of Tk 77 crore. Sons of the AL leader are now negotiating with Sonali Bank to reschedule the loan, seeking interest waiver.

the gate and people in the front were Jahanara Al Amin Spinning, a trampled by the people behind them concern of Shamsul Al-Amin when the gatekeeper suddenly Cotton Mills Ltd. owes Sonali opened the gate and they rushed to Bank Tk 32 crore, and its authority has recently submitted a proposal for rescheduling the loans. did not announce I would distribute

Shinepukur Holdings Ltd, a concern of Beximco group, has defaulted loans of Tk 72 crore. Sonali Bank sources said

Shinepukur earlier deposited Tk

Tk 35 crore to the bank for rescheduling its loan.

Desma Shoe Industries, owned by FBCCI Senior Vice-President Mohammad Ali, has an outstanding loan of Tk 56 crore. totally defaulted. Sonali Bank filed a case several years ago to recover the amount but failed.

Alpha Tobacco Manufacturing Company, an enterprise owned by the late industrialist Aga Yusuf, has Tk 43.97 crore default loans to Sonali Bank

Bank sources said the company has not paid the bank a single instalment after the death of Aga Yusuf, and the bank is planning to take legal action against it

Mahanagari Traders Ltd, owned by BNP lawmaker Major (retd) Manjur Kader, has a defaulted loan of Tk 32 crore. The lawmaker contested the 2001 general election submitting a writ petition to the High Court and the case is yet to be settled, sources

said. Nawab Ashkari Jute Mills, owned by the famous Nawab

interest waiver, saying they will

mill The Fair Chemicals (Pvt) Ltd of BNP lawmaker Mahbubur Rahman's brother Fakhrul Islam has a defaulted loan of Tk 37 crore. Sonali Bank already filed a case to recover the money. Bank sources said the enterprise recently sent a rescheduling proposal that includes an appeal

The other private defaulters on the top-20 list of Sonali Bank are Lina Textile Industries with Tk 68 crore, Bright Textile Industries with Tk 47 crore. One Spinning Mills with Tk 38 crore, Maola Textile Mills with Tk 36 crore, East-West Property Development with Tk 50 crore, Imperial Dyeing and Hosierv with Tk 31 crore.

Bank sources said the last two companies are not being treated as defaulters since they have recently rescheduled their loans.

taker chief. It has also threatened to launch massive street agitations with oars and poles if Justice Hasan takes

oath To counter the opposition, the ruling BNP also plans to take control of the streets at any cost and has already applied for permission to have Paltan Maidan as the venue for its October 27-29 programmes. Meanwhile, the dialogue between

BNP and AL secretaries general resumes tomorrow in the Jativa Sangsad Bhaban.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, who returned home from Saudi Arabia yesterday, will finalise her party's decision over the issue of Justice Hasan, which BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will convey to AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil in the one-to-one parley. Legal experts said whatever the

outcome of the dialogue be, the president will invite Justice Hasan to take oath as the caretaker government chief. If Justice Hasan declines to accept the post, the president will go for the second alternative to appoint the chief of the caretaker government.

Alliance's last day FROM PAGE 1

unexpected situation created by the opposition', sources said.

Most of the ministers will bid farewell to the officials and staffs at the ministries today, the last working day before the Eid vacation while the staff will arrange farewell programmes, sources said.

Commerce Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, Dhaka city Mayor Sadek Hossain Khoka, Education Minister M Osman Farruk. Industries Minister Motiur Rahman Nizami, Social Welfare Minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, and Housing and Works Minister Mirza Abbas have already left their official residence.

BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuivan and Health and Family Planning Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain shifted their household goods from the official residence. Aariculture Minister M K Anwar and Environment Minister Tariqul Islam will move their belongings after the Eid vacation.

State Minister for Sports Fazlur Rahman Patal, former state minister Anwarul Kabir Talukder, State Minister for power Ukil Abdus Sattar, and Deputy Minister Asadul Habib Dulu have also taken away their furniture and other household goods.

All the ministers will leave their possibly heading for the highest for official residence before October 27. sources said.

al-Fitr holiday that marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.

Al-Dulaimi's endorsement was echoed by U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, who issued a statement urging Iraqis to do "everything possible to stop the killing of the innocent."

The Shia Fadhila party, a member of al-Maliki's ruling alliance, also organized a rally in support of the agreement, attended by about 2,000 people who chanted "no to terrorism,

FROM PAGE 16

are adjusting.

violence.

weapons of mass destruction.

Democrats also kept up the pres-

sure on Bush. In a letter to the presi-

dent. a dozen House and Senate

Democratic leaders urged him to bring

"The steadily mounting sectarian

violence, growing insurgency and

escalating casualty figures in Iraq are

unacceptable and unsustainable," the

Democrats said. "We urge you to

change course, level with the

American people and join with us to

develop a policy that will work before

Snow said that while Bush might

change tactics, he would not change

umpy at polls," Snow said of Bush.

Presidential spokesman Tony

Bush, at a political fundraiser in

Republican Senatorial Committee.

railed against Democrats who criticise

party of "cut and run," Bush said voters

need to ask: "Which political party has

a strategy for victory in this war on

toll in Iraq during October stood at 75

any month in nearly two years. Now in

its fourth year, the war has claimed the

As of Friday, the US combat death

the situation in Irag is irretrievable.

his overall strategy.

terror?"

I won't change Iraq

lives of at least 2,786 Americans Despite calls for change, Bush said, "Our goal has not changed. Our goal is Approval of Bush's handling of Irag has dipped to 37 percent among likely a country that can defend, sustain and voters in the AP-Ipsos poll early this govern itself, a country that which will month, down slightly from 41 percent serve as an ally in this war. Our tactics last month.

There were fresh signs of Defence Secretary Donald H Republican doubts about the war. Sen Rumsfeld said the Iraqi government Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas, who must become less reliant on the holds a seat deemed safe for the GOP, United States to handle security. He said in a campaign debate Thursday also said US officials are working with she would have voted against the war had she known ousted Iraqi leader the Iragis to develop projections on when that might happen. Saddam Hussein possessed no

"It's their country, they're going to have to govern it, they're going to have to provide security for it, and they're going to have to do it sooner rather than later," Rumsfeld said

home some US troops and force the "The biggest mistake would be to Iragis to take more responsibility for not pass things over to the Iraqis, their security. The Democrats said Bush should do more to pressure Iraqi create a dependency on their part, leaders to disarm militias and find a instead of developing strength and political solution that would curb capacity and competence," he said.

Doubts about the effectiveness of current tactics have risen, and the US military has said its two-month drive to crush insurgent and militia violence in Baghdad has fallen short. Attacks in Baghdad rose by 22 percent in the first three weeks of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, compared with the three evious weeks.

On Friday, the Shia militia run by the anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr briefly seized control of the "He's not somebody who gets southern Iraqi city of Amarah in one of the most brazen acts of defiance yet by the country's powerful, unofficial Washington for the National armies. Tom Casey, deputy spokesman at the State Department, said the United States was urging the Iraqis to the war. Calling the Democrats the make sure that security in Amarah was

> returned to the government. "The flare-up of violence in Amarah points out that our strategy to quell the violence in that country is failing," said Rep Ike Skelton of Missouri, the

ranking Democrat on the House

Armed Services Committee

for interest waiver.

family of Dhaka, owes Sonali Bank Tk 38 crore. Bank sources said a case has already been filed against the

company. The Nawab family recently applied to the bank for

repay the loan by selling out the