continue to score relatively high on

the CPI 2006, major corruption

scandals remain in many of them

Although corruption in developed

countries may have less impact on

poverty and development than in

developing countries, these scan-

dals demonstrate that there is no

room for complacency in the devel-

TIB also said it has no role in

preparing the CPI. TI secretariat in

Berlin prepares the ranking. TIB

like any other national chapter of TI

is not involved nor does it provide

any information that goes into the

index, the Bangladesh chapter of TI

surveys conducted by nine interna-

tionally reputed independent institu-

In case of Bangladesh, sources

of data for the index are six surveys

conducted by five organisations

namely Country Policy and

Institutional Assessment 2005 by the World Bank, Country Risk

Service and Country Forecast 2006

by Economist Intelligence Unit,

Grey Area Dynamics 2006 by

Merchant International Group

Global Competitiveness Report of

2005 and 2006 by World Economic

Forum, and Risk Ratings 2006 by

the World Markets Research

director of TIB, and other officials

TOP 10 CORRUPT COUNTRIES

Dhaka District Autorickshaw

Workers' Union in a press release

vesterday also demanded arrest

and trial of former communications

minister Nazmul Huda and his

'accomplices' for 'corruption' con-

from Muktangon in the city and

demanded rehabilitation of the two-

stroke three-wheeler owners and

drivers who suffered loss due to a

demand include implementation of

the daily deposit fixed by the gov-

ernment, banning the driving of the

CNG-run autorickshaws without

licence and the identity card of the

union, creating space for CNG

stands at bus, launch and railway

The other points of their 10-point

ban on the vehicle.

They brought out a procession

cerning CNG-run autorickshaws.

19

1.9

2.0

2.1

Congo

Country

Myanmai

Guinea

Sudan

DR

Chad

Equatorial Guinea

Score

were also present at the briefing.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive

oped world also. TI said.

said.

report is available.

Ortega leads Nicaragua vote count

REUTERS, Managua

Daniel Ortega, a former Marxist revolutionary and US Cold War enemy, headed toward a dramatic return to power in Nicaragua's presidential election, early results

showed yesterday.
With returns in from almost 15 percent of polling stations in Sunday's election, the 60-year-old Ortega had just above the 40 percent mark that would seal a firstround win and give him back the presidency 16 years after he was voted out at the end of a brutal civil war against US-backed Contra

If confirmed, it would be an embarrassing blow to the United States, which fears the leftist would join an anti-US bloc in Latin America and had warned of a cut in aid and investment to Nicaragua under an Ortega government.

Thousands of Ortega's Sandinista supporters set off fireworks through the night and raced through the streets waving blackand-red party flags. Senior party members hugged each other, some of them crying with joy, at a party in the capital Managua.

Conservative rival Eduardo Montealegre, who was Washington's favored candidate trailed with 33.3 percent, although he insisted his party's numbers showed he won enough votes to force a runoff next month.

An independent quick count by a respected group called Ethics and Transparency said Ortega scored 38.5 percent and Montealegre trailed with 29.5 percent. Ortega needs either 40 percent of the vote,

Clarification

minister Moudud Ahmed in the case was coincidental, due to the unavailability of Khondker Muhbubuddin Ahmed, who was engaged as the senior counsel to represent the petitioner before the Supreme Court.

"We would like to make it clear and unequivocal that Mr Moudud's involvement in this case is neither political nor personal. It was purely professional. Therefore your headline suggesting that Mr Moudud Ahmed is making moves to stifle the ACC is incorrect."

Barrister Omar termed wrong the information that the matter was heard by Justice Jovnul Abedin in the High Court Division. "The matter was heard by him only in the Appellate Division as a Chamber Judge," he said. **OUR REPLY**

We agree that the Appellate Division did not stay the function of ACC as an institution. However, the order stays the function of 33 anti-corruption officers who are now the deputy directors in-charge of 33 sections of the ACC. So in effect, the work of the whole institution comes to a halt because of the order of the Appellate Division. That is what was meant in our

Barrister Moudud Ahmed's appearing against the ACC is curious because it was his bill that created ACC about whose work he spoke so enthusiastically as minister.

The cause list dated August 23 shows that the case was listed with the court of Justice Joynul Abedin. Our report was based on that cause list.

take a first-round victory.

He would almost certainly lose if

the race went to a second round, as Montealegre would pick up the votes of the third-place conservative

'UNACCÉPTABLE" Montealegre refused to concede defeat and said the election was loaded with irregularities. "In a democracy, that is unacceptable. We are going to a second round." he

US officials in Nicaragua said they found irregularities in voting on Sunday and refused to back the election until the returns were in and problems of polling stations opening ate and closing early were investi

Roberto Rivas, head of Nicaragua's top electoral body, insisted it was a clean, transparent

It was Ortega's third comeback attempt since 1990, when his revo-Iutionary Sandinista government was toppled by voters weary of a deep economic crisis and the war against Contra rebels trained and financed by the United States.

"We have to leave behind all the serious problems our country has suffered in the past, and move forward," said Ortega's vice presidential running mate Jaime Morales, a former Contra leader who joined his old enemy's camp

early this year.
Ortega led the revolution that toppled US-backed dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1979 and then allied Nicaragua with the Soviet Union as much of Central America became a Cold War battleground.

C'wealth team

FROM PAGE 1

Election Commission and updating voter list. The AL leaders also told the

delegation how President lajuddin has become the chief adviser to the caretaker government (CG) violating the constitution, the 'election engineering' process by the BNP-Jamaat alliance, and the caretaker government's activities.

Briefing the newsmen, the AL chief's Political Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury said the Commonwealth team proposed that they would send observers ahead of the election. "We have told them to send the observers right now as the election process has already

Emerging from the meeting, Sharfuddin told reporters that they will submit a report to the CS and on the basis of their report the CS will take decision whether they would send the election observers.

"We are here to meet different political parties, the caretaker government, civil society and the media to assess whether the presence of a Commonwealth observer group is needed during the election," he added

AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, AL's Foreign Affairs Secretary Sved Abul Hossain, former ambassador Mohammad Ziauddin and former cabinet secretary HT Imam were present at the meeting.

Council yet to pick up

although the council of advisers at an informal meeting on last Saturday took the decision to do so. After Saturday's meeting,

Adviser Mahbubul Alam told the media that formation of the committees would be completed by Sunday. But till yesterday, the committees were not constituted. During the last caretaker government in 2001, the advisory committee on administration made most of the decisions regarding transfers of government officials.

"As far as I know, the committees have not been formed. Official gazettes would be published if those were formed. The cabinet division can say about the progress in forming the committees," Adviser Mahbubul Alam, who is in charge of the information ministry, told The Daily Star yesterday. Sources in the Cabinet Division

vesterday said formation of the advisory committees is yet to be completed. "In fact we are not aware of it properly," a senior official said.

Adviser Dr Akabar Ali Khan yesterday told reporters that an advisory committee on appointments and transfers of government officials has not yet been formed.

"Yes, there are problems in the administration, but we will go to the extent we deem necessary," he said adding that their main target is to hold a free and fair election. Sources in the Cabinet Division

said the second official meeting of the interim cabinet will be held tomorrow evening in Bangabhaban. There is no specific agenda of discussion for the meeting.

The council of advisers will hold a meeting with secretaries on

Thursday, sources said. The first formal meeting of the council of advisers was held on November 1 after the advisers had been sworn in, but the meeting did not take any decision. The council of advisers held three other informal meetings on November 2 and 4 and discussed ways to reconstitute the

EC, but could not take any decision. At the previous meetings the council of advisers did not discuss the issue of recovering illegal firearms and arresting criminals.

The council was supposed to sit yesterday in Bangabhaban, but it did not meet as the chief adviser had not convened the meeting, which was scheduled to decide on the

matter of reconstituting the EC. The advisers however met informally in the state guest house Meghna and discussed the difficulties they are facing in running their ministries.

"We discussed the problems related to financial matters with the finance adviser." Mahbubul Alam told The Daily Star

The situation was totally different during the last government in 2001. At that time, advisers were sworn in at 10:00am on July 16 and within an hour the chief adviser, who had been sworn in on July 15, 2001 distributed the portfolios. The first meeting of the council of advisers was held on July 16 which reviewed law and order situation and formed some advisory committees.

At a meeting on July 17, 2001, the advisory committee on law and order looked for ways to improve the law and order situation. Later, the council of advisers sat in a special meeting on the same matter again and made decisions regarding recovery of illegal arms and arrests

33 transferred

FROM PAGE 1

Metropolitan Police (RMP) to DMP, Gazipur SP Safikul Islam as DC to RMP, SP Abu Bakkar Siddique Majumder of Chittagong Railway Police to DMP as DC and Pirojpur SP Harun-or-Rashid and Nilphamari SP Shoeb Ahmed as assistant inspectors general (AIG) to the police headquarters.

Sardah Police Academy's SP Manirul Islam and Bandarban SP Didar Ahmed's posts were swapped between each other.

Laxmipur SP Mohammad Sarwar has been transferred as special SP to CID in Dhaka. Patuakhali SP Shafikul Islam to Police Staff College, Shariatpur SP Abul Kalam Siddique to Patuakhali, Sahidur Rahman from Thakurgaon to Nilphamari and Mostafa Kamal from Bagerhat to Dinajpur and SP Nousher Ali (CID, Dhaka) to Shariatour.

AIG Masudul Huq has been transferred to Thakurgaon as SP, Habibur Rahman from APBn headquarters to Khulna APBn, AIG Mosharraf Hossain as Pirojpur SP, DC Khandakar Rafiq from RMP to Meherpur as SP, Comilla SP Mahmudul Anwar Khan as SP to DMP and AIG Mahfuzul Haq Nuruzzaman as SP to Chittagong Railway Police

Mokhlesur

FROM PAGE 1

meetings, but the president paid no heed.

The journalists who cover programmes at the president's office have brought allegations of non-cooperation and failure to perform his duties as the press secretary against Rahman.

Other than Mokhles, the President's Military Secretary Maj Gen Aminul Karim also attends the meetings of the council of advisers while neither the cabinet secretary nor the principal secretary to the chief adviser attends the meetings although they have important role to play in the decision making process.

Newly appointed principal secretary to the chief adviser has no office at Bangabhaban, from where the president performs his official duties as chief adviser.

CEC

FROM PAGE 1

"How do you know that they [advisory council] made any requests to me for my resignation? If they did, I should know first. "Newspapers may write any

things, I didn't write that in papers," he said when his attention was drawn to the advisers' request for his resignation published in the newspapers. "There were no discussions with

the advisers about my resignation. Didn't you hear what the president said? He said there was no discussion regarding my resignation.

"What Akbar Ali [an adviser to caretaker government] said about me was his personal opinion Everyone has their own opinion as you and I also have."

The CEC denied his previous statement where he said he would consider resignation if the advisers requested him.

"I think there would be no disputes regarding the elections and it would be held in a festive mood under my authority."

not in grabbing power, Prof Chowdhury said, adding: "We dream of building a Bangladesh free from corruption, terrorism and poverty."

The former president also asked the party leaders and members to form committees in each ward and union comprising women, vouths. professionals and labours to disseminate the ideology of alternative

LDP Organising Secretary Mahi B Chowdhury said no political party can win the next election without the support of LDP as the party is gaining power day by day.

Later, at a joining function, LDP Executive President Col (rtd) Oli Ahmed said President and the Chief Adviser of the caretaker government lajuddin Ahmed must remove all controversial election commissioners immediately to prove the government's neutrality.

A number of former BNP men led by journalist AKM Ranju joined the LDP at its Baridhara presidium

LDP Secretary General Major (Rtd) Abdul Mannan, Presidium Member Redwan Ahmed and Gonotantrik Muktijoddha Dhara Convener Harun-ur-Rashid Khan among others, were also present at the joining programme

100 hurt

their identity, some shopkeepers beat up the two.

On information, Rab-9 office sent three truckloads of the elite force to the bazar. The angry Rab men ransacked the shops and beat up the shopkeepers and the villagers who came to save the shopkeepers.

The law enforcers arrested four people on the spot for their alleged involvement in the smuggling.

TIB graft index

FROM PAGE 1

rampant corruption, undermining improvements in quality of life for the poorest citizens, TIB said.

The country scored 1.7 points last year and had been at the bottom of the list for five successive years from 2001 to 2005. In a scale of 0-10, the index

provides international ranking of countries in terms of perceived degree of prevalence of political and administrative corruption. Haiti ranked at the bottom of this year's list scoring 1.8 while Guinea,

Irag and Myanmar jointly occupied the second position from below having scored 1.9 points. Among the South Asian neighbours Pakistan ranked 142nd from the top with a score of 2.2 points, Nepal 121st with 2.5 points, Sri

India 70th having scored 3.3 points. Finland, Iceland and New Zealand jointly ranked first from the top with 9.6 points followed by

Lanka 84th with 3.1 points, and

Denmark with 9.5 points. A total of 163 countries were included on the index this year. A country's rank can change simply because new countries enter the index or others drop out. This year five countries had been dropped while nine new countries entered the list.

Seventy-one countries out of the 163 have scores below 3 points, indicating that worldwide corruption is perceived as rampant. A strong correlation between corruption and poverty is evident in the results of the CPI 2006.

Almost three-quarters of the countries scored below five points (including all low-income countries and all but two African states) indicating that the higher the prevalence of corruption, the higher is the extent of poverty and underdevelop-

CPI ranks countries annually in terms of the degree to which corruption is perceived to exist among public officials and politicians. It is a composite index prepared

through a poll of polls, using corruption-related data from a number of expert surveys involving business leaders and analysts. It also includes assessments of country experts living within and outside the country concerned.

FROM PAGE 16

are not arrested

While industrialised countries

CNG scam

November 18 if the corrupt persons

activists of the organisation tried to

reach the president but police

barred them at Gulistan and the

eaders handed the memorandum

The former BNP government

to an official of the president's office.

made manipulations in selling CNG-

run three wheelers, the memoran-

dum signed by the organisation

President Shah Alam Chowdhury

Blaming a group of officials of

and General Secretary Idris Ali said.

Bangladesh Road Transport

Authority (BRTA), the leaders said

the buyers were compelled to

purchase each vehicle at Tk 5 lakh

The government officials, with

Besides, they made Tk 2 crore by

the backing of Huda and Tarique

Rahman, looted Tk 396 crore from

the sector, the memorandum reads.

instead of its real price Tk 1.7 lakh.

A procession of around 200

VoIP Licences

FROM PAGE 16

Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to explain why the invitation of applications for granting VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) licences before

establishing the common platform exchange should not be declared illegal.

The court also asked the BTRC to show cause why the "discriminatory" provision in the category 'C' of the clause 7.02 of the September 21, 2005 Regulatory and Licensing Guideline to grant VoIP licences only to the Nationwide Internet Service Providers should not be declared unlawful.

Daffodil Online Ltd. a reputed While TIB has its own antiinternet service provider (ISP), filed corruption research, advocacy, and the writ petition challenging the citizens' participation programmes validity of the BTRC's advertisein the country, as a national chapter ment published in some national of TI in Bandladesh its responsibility dailies on September 22 inviting as far as CPI goes, is no more than facilitating its release when the applications for issuing VoIP licences to companies or firms CPI 2006 is a result of 12 such

for VoIP service in Bangladesh of those having only the nationwide

Similar writ petition was jointly filed as Public Interest Litigation (PIL) by Advocate M Moinul Haider Chowdhury, Global Access Ltd and Sirious Broadband Bd Ltd.

Moving the petitions. Barrister AM Mahbubuddin Khokon submitted that the BTRC move inviting applications for issuing VoIP licenses to companies or firms is against the rights of consumers of the country "It will favour the mobile phone

service providers who will create monopoly in VoIP service that ultimately will increase long distance call charges in Bangladesh," Khokon contended.

Referring to the cabinet decision taken on November 10, 2003, the counsel told the court that it approved VoIP for the purpose of making the overseas call charges cheaper, creating new businesses such as call centres and making VoIP available in rural areas.

"If the VoIP licences are granted before establishing the common platform exchanges, the powerful illegal VoIP operators will not only capture the market of the state-run Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) but also deprive the government of international telecom revenues,

the counsel argued.

Sedition case

FROM PAGE 1

petition by the prosecution lawyer. The accused are Mohammad Rafigul Islam alias Sentu, 22, Mohammad Wahab, 26, Yaqub Ali 21, Anwar Hossain, 23, Faruq Hossain alias Kosai Faruq, 25 Mohammad Wahiduzzaman alias Pintu, 20, Abdus Salam, 22, and Nurul Islam, 23. Of them, Sentu is now in custody while the others are still on the loose

Sub-Inspector (SI) Igbal Hossain, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet on December 2*1* last year against the accused to a first class magistrate's court in the city, showing 25 people as prosecution witnesses.

On February 20, 2005, Dhamrai police arrested Sentu. Wahab. Yaqub, Anwar, Faruq and Salam with nine bomb making manuals and other contraband materials on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway. Dhamrai police showed the six

men arrested under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code and produced them before a first class magistrate's court in Dhaka on February 22, 2005 with prayer for a seven-day remand to interrogate them. The court granted a two-day remand.

the arrestees were released on bail. Probing the case. Dhamrai police found the activities of the accused seditious.

With approval from the home ministry. SI Zehad Hossain of the police station filed the sedition case against the accused on September

Sentu was re-arrested in November while the others have

Dhaka seeks

conditions including corporatisation of Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) and Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (Desa), financial restructuring of the power sector and adjustment of power tariff.

They said the government has tance from the Desa employees.

Chowdhury, Securities and finance adviser yesterday.

Saddam may walk

FROM PAGE 16

"The prosecutor gets 20 days to present his views on the file after which he gives the file back to the appeal chamber which then starts deliberating on it," the US official said.

There is no set period for the appeal chamber's deliberations but after the appeal chamber's decision is final, and if it upholds the trial chamber's rulings, the sentence has to be carried out in 30 days.

Saddam's lead Iraqi lawver Khalil al-Dulaimi said his team was determined to appeal the "political" verdict issued by the Iragi court, although it believes nothing will be gained. "My experience with this court

shows that there is no benefit to gain from appealing because this court is political, nevertheless we will appeal." Dulaimi told AFP. "The court refused to look at the

arguments which we submitted vesterday and this shows that it is 100 percent political." Dulaimi said. Charging that the court was run by

nal's decision were "not legal but political and there must be a political decision to confront them. "We have knocked on all the doors but we have not been successful

"American militias", he said the tribu-

because the court is working on behalf of regional and local interests," Dulaimi added. Raed Juhi, the investigative judge at the Iraqi High Tribunal, confirmed

the legal process for an appeal, and said that the panel would disregard a Saddam-era law, which placed a time limit on appeal deliberations.

"The tribunal's law has no such ceiling," he said.

The US official further explained that if the appeal chamber upholds a death sentence, it goes to the threemember presidency council for its President Jalal Talabani is person-

allowed his deputies to rubber stamp execution orders in his absence. Iraqi officials, meanwhile, hoped that the former military strongman is

ally opposed to the death penalty, but

in previous capital cases he has

"We strongly feel that every day he lives is not good for the Iraqi people. said Bassam Ridha, a top aide to Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.

"We need to put an end to him ... to this dictator. I hope this issue comes to an end quickly," he told AFP, adding that he was speaking on his own

Ridha hoped that Saddam could be hanged in the coming months: "I hope before the next summer, he is

Meanwhile two US soldiers were killed when a helicopter crashed in Salahaddin province north of Baghdad vesterday, the military said.

"No activity fire was observed in the area at that time," a US statement said, adding that the crash was under investigation.

There was no further information on the cause of the crash or the exact

The province of Salahaddin, whose capital is Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit was put under curfew on Sunday morning to avoid violence sparked by the death sentence issued against the former Iragi president on Sunday.

Earlier on Monday the military said two marines and a soldier were killed at the weekend in the western Anbar province, where US forces are battling Sunni insurgents that include al Qaeda Islamists. Two marines died on Saturday and

one army soldier on Sunday, all "from wounds sustained due to enemy action." a statement said.

The latest deaths brought the total American military death toll since the invasion of March 2003 to 2,836.

In October, 105 deaths were the highest monthly toll in nearly two years, drawing renewed attention to the losses in the middle of campaigning for elections that could cost US President George W Bush's Republicans control of Congress.

Nat'l Revolution

FROM PAGE 1

quickly "put to an end".

The government has declared the day a public holiday to mark the civil-military joint revolt that freed the then army chief Major General Ziaur Rahman from captivity in Dhaka Cantonment.

President and Chief Adviser to the Caretaker Government lajuddin Ahmed gave message on the occasion. The government has chalked

out an elaborate programme to observe the day. National flag will be hoisted atop all public and private buildings while roads and road islands will be decorated with miniature national flags and fes-National dailies will bring out

Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar will put up special programmes highlighting the significance of the day. The Armed forces will observe the day by hoisting the national flag and organising milad mahfil.

speciai supplements while

Bangladesh missions abroad will also observe the day. The BNP, founded by Ziaur Rahman, will observe the day by holding a public rally in front of its

central office at Naya Paltan at 3:00pm today. Leaders and activists of the

affiliated socio-cultural bodies will also organise discussions, seminars, milad mahfil, Qurankhwani, video shows and cultural functions. Shilpakala Academy will organise programmes where artistes will

sing patriotic songs. Documentary films on the National Revolution and Solidarity Day will be screened. Meanwhile, Jatiya Samajtantrik

Dal (JSD) has organised a discussion at Taher Auditorium in the capital today. In a statement yesterday, JSD

leaders said Col Taher led the soldiers to free Ziaur Rahman from captivity but Zia, after he was freed, betrayed with the leaders and soldiers of the November 7 revolution. They demanded telecasting the real history of the November 7 revolution through the state-owned BTV and broadcast on Betar.

Col Taher Sangsad has organised two-day programme to observe the day. It will form a human chain in front of the High Court at 11:00am today demanding 'trial for Taher's killing' and making public the documents of 'his farcical trial'.

Meantime, Bangladesh Communist Party, Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal and Jatiya Gonotantrik Front will observe the day as the 89th anniversary of Russian Revolution.

gesture rather than a show of sup-

Thirty-one percent of respon-

dents said the unpopular war in Iraq

was uppermost in their minds, as

opposed to 21 percent for the econ-

omy, 12 percent health care and 11

per cent the fight against terrorism,

provide the Democrats with a pow-

erful tool for controlling the political

agenda over the next two years and

launching a series of public investi-

gations into Iraq and other Bush

strongly signalled that it will not

change course in Irag, with Vice

President Dick Cheney saying in a

recent interview that "it doesn't

But the White House has

Control of Congress would

Bush's strong point.

policies

US elections

choose his successor. While expert forecasts of a Democratic victory in at least one and possibly both chambers have heartened the opposition party, two new national polls showed their once double-digit advantage

The Washington Post and ABC television showed likely voters favouring Democrats to Republicans by a 51 percent to 45 percent edge, with a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points. In an October 22 survey, the Democrats had led 55-41. And a poll by the non-partisan Pew Research Centre that specialises in public opinion found a 47-43 lead for Democrats among likely voters. down from 50-39 two weeks ago The margin of error was three

percentage points. Bush was campaigning in Nebraska and Kansas as part of a political rescue mission for embattled Republican candidates in 10 states. He was to cast his own ballot in his adoptive home state of Texas

The US president has been fiercely attacking Democrats, accusing them of plotting to raise taxes and charging that they cannot be trusted to manage Irag or the war on terrorism he launched after the

such as Virginia and Missouri. Voters in 36 states also are casting votes for governor Tuesday. Democrats hold significant leads in five of nine open seats: Ohio, Arkansas, Colorado, New York and Massachusetts, and are favoured to displace Republicans in Maryland,

Democrats could gain a solid majority of governorships for the first time cast their ballot as an anti-Bush

compelling the buyers to purchase stickers at Tk 5.000 for each vehicle. Tk 2.5 lakh cr FROM PAGE 16 Shift CA's office

three election commissioners, the EC secretary and 300 upazila election officers by November 11. Jalil said otherwise non-stop blockade programmes will start

across the country Later, AL Joint General Secretary Obaidul Quader held another briefing there. He warned that if officials of the Bangabhaban and those of both the civil and police administration at all levels as well as the staterun media do not stop toeing the line of Hawa Bhaban by November 11, they would face

people's wrath. Jalil demanded immediate withdrawal of police protection for all former ministers of the previous government and from Hawa Blaming Hawa Bhaban for all

tial probe to find out the persons involved in those. Once again terming the recent reshuffle in the administration an 'eyewash", he alleged officials who would obstruct holding a free and fair election continue to be in their position. He demanded immediate changes in the civil and police administration as were done ahead of the 2001 election.

conspiracies, misrule and corrup-

tion, he also demanded an impar-

director general of National Security Intelligence (NSI), chief of Bangladesh Institute of Administrative Management and establishment secretary are beneficiaries of the previous government, and they are still in heir posts. All contractual appointments made during the previous govern-

ment's tenure must be cancelled

Jalil said the law secretary

through a single notification, he

He also said the power secretary, who is known as a highly corrupt official, was been brought back soon after his transfer to make a payment of Tk 500 crore to Hawa Bhaban. He also demanded taking statements under section 164 of the CrPC from militant supremos Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai to

identify their patrons. On gunshots at former law minister Moudud Ahmed's residence, Jalil said they heard he might join Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and that those who attacked LDP leaders' houses

might fire shots at his residence. Those present at the briefing included senior 14-party leaders Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed. Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim Suranjit Sengupta, Matia Chowdhury, Obaidul Quader, Mohammad Nasim, Abdul Mannan, Abdur Rahman, Bimal Biswas. Pankai Bhattacharya,

Robbers loot FROM PAGE 16

Dilip Barua and Nurul Islam

cellular phone sets

Police said they interrogated seven people including the caretaker of the house and security guards of a buying house on the ground floor of the building. Police raided several places

without any success till 6:00pm

vesterday. "We have already raided two places and are planning to raid a few more spots," officer-in-charge of Cantonment Police Station told The Daily Star.

stations and stopping police harassment in the name of papers exami-

Thirteen days into their arrest,

been fugitive.

non-compliance with some of their

taken some initial steps for corporatisation of the state-run power sector institutions and already listed Desa with the Registrar of the Joint Stock Companies. But it could not make further progress amid resis-

Desa has appointed a managing director and two directors on October 23 this year as part of the corporatisation process, they added. Tax Ombudsman Khairuzzaman

Exchange Commission (SEC) Chairman Faruq Ahmad Siddiqui, Agrani Bank Chairman Mohammed Fazlur Rahman and Former Bangladesh Bank Governor Farash Uddin Ahmed also called on the

BNP and its front organisations will visit the grave of Ziaur Rahman to offer prayer and place wreaths. BNP's front organisations and

dramatically reshape the political landscape for Bush's final two years in office and the 2008 election to

sharply narrowed in recent weeks.

on Tuesday.

September 11, 2001 attacks. The Washington Post/ABC poll still had bleak news for Bush, with his approval rating at a dismal 40 percent and almost twice as many registered voters saying they would

matter" that most of the US public has turned against the war. Washington pundit Charlie Cook forecast "a very strong Democratic wave" on election day. Analysts gave the party a strong shot to win the House but said the Senate hinged on a few key races in states

Arkansas, and Minnesota. That sets up the possibility that