Bush reassures Asia

fronting North Korea, fighting terrorism and grappling with a host of other

SEEKING REVIVED TRADE

He also appealed to the 21-nation

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

(APEC) forum, ahead of its weekend

summit, to help revive the Doha round of global trade talks, which

collapsed in July after clashes over

ment, APEC members, who together

account for nearly half of world trade.

put pressure on their own leaders to

encompassing all the Asia-Pacific

countries "deserves serious consid-

eration." despite a rebuff of a US bid

to make the longstanding proposal a key part of this year's APEC gather-

Hsien Loong, the first Asian leader to

meet Bush on this trip, offered no hint

of concern about the direction of US

policy. "Our interests are aligned," he

President Bush's body language," said Michael Green, a Washington-based Asia expert. "They're going to

be all looking to see how he plays the

Another key indicator will be

whether Bush can turn up the heat on

North Korea ahead of renewed six-

party talks with Pyongyang after its

nuclear weapons by North Korea

would be a "grave threat to the United

States" and it would be held account-

able. He said it was a positive sign

that Pyongyang agreed to return to

on Monday night and met the presi-

dent twice on Tuesday and Wednesday to inform him of the

However, the other advisers who

The council of advisers started

from its first meeting on

searching ways to make the EC

November 1 and continued discus-

On November 13, the council of

November 2, 4, 8, 12 and 13.

with seven political parties.

EC through removal of the CEC

were not in the advisory committee

have not yet been informed formally of

the outcomes of the talks.

Bush reiterated any transfer of

'Asian leaders will be looking at

told the president on Thursday.

game after this political setback.

first nuclear test last month.

talks and "we will do our part."

Singapore's Prime Minister Lee

Bush also said a free-trade zone

get the Doha round back on track.

In a draft of the ministerial state-

subsidies and farm tariffs.

REUTERS, Singapore

reassure nervous Asian allies on Thursday that he remains committed to opening up global trade markets despite humiliating losses in US

elections that could weaken his hand. Bush flew to Singapore at the start of a three-nation trip trying to shore up his international standing a week after his Republicans lost control of Congress to Democrats, traditional critics of his trade liberalisation poli-

"We hear voices calling us for us to retreat from the world," Bush said, taking a veiled swipe at Democratic opponents, in a speech at Singapore's

The centerpiece of his trip will be a Pacific Rim economic summit hosted by Vietnam, a former foe turned trading partner. Bush on Friday begins his first visit to Hanoi, where he will try to bolster a fragile coalition pressing North Korea to curb its nuclear pro-

Seeking to ease concerns that political weakness will prevent him from delivering on free trade, Bush said: "America will remain engaged in Asia because our interests depend on the expansion of freedom and oppor-

final two years in office. He has only until mid-2007 to make trade deals under 'fast-track' authority that a new Democrat-controlled Congress is almost certain to let expire.

Bush already suffered an embarrassing blow when a historic bill to normalize trade with communist Vietnam failed to win enough votes in the US House of Representatives this

In his first international foray since the November 7 polls, Bush assured remained a reliable partner in conFROM PAGE 16

aspirant for an alliance ticket for contesting the October 2001 elec-

Chairperson Khaleda Zia's August 29 declaration of former state minister Jafrul Islam Chowdhury as the alliance candidate from the constituency added to the grievances of Mufti Izhar.

the 14-party combine's reform proposal for holding a free, fair and neutral parliament election.

Terming Chief Election Commissioner MA Aziz 'a disgrace to the country', Izhar demanded his immediate resignation.

Staying inside the 4-party alliance he witnessed how the BNP leaders looted properties worth thousands of crore taka, he said, adding that as many as 40 projects were rejected for not paying 'per-

realise that the word 'secularism' actually meant freedom for all religious practices and beliefs and now I don't have any objection against the constitution of 1972, Mufti Izhar, who is also the president of Bangladesh Nejami Islami Party,

he was sworn in as the chief of a nonparty and neutral caretaker government "undemocratically" and "unconstitutionally.

He urged the chief adviser to step down from the post and appoint a neutral person as the caretaker gov-

Razzak also demanded the removal of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz and other controversial election commissioners as well as reconstitution of the Election Commission (EC) so that people can exercise their right of

They would continue their movement unless the CEC and other commissioners are removed and the EC is reconstituted, he said warning that if the government did not meet their demands by Sunday, they would enforce another non-stop blockade across the country.

AL Presidium Member Tofail Ahmed said the police deliberately drove the truck through the peaceful rally at Sonargaon intersection killing Wajiullah.
"Wajiullah's sacrifice and the

"I thought the president will conpeople who made the ultimate sacrivene a meeting today and we will discuss the matter to find ways to fice on October 28 and 29 will not go in vain. We will realise the demands they resolve the deadlock." an adviser told The Daily Star yesterday, wishing gave their lives for," he said.

except the BNP-Jamaat alliance demands the reconstitution of the EC and the removal of CEC.

Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury sions at several meetings on Maya, Motia Chowdhury, Obaidul Quader, Hasanul Hague Inu. Rashed Khan Menon, Pankaj Bhattacharya, advisers formed the four-member Nurul Islam and other city leaders of committee, which held the dialogue 14-party spoke at the rally.

It may be mentioned that Wajiullah All political parties, except the BNP-led four-party alliance, strongly was killed at Sonargaon intersection recommended reconstitution of the near Karwan Bazar in the capital on November 13 when a police truck CEC Aziz, however, outright drove through a group of 14-party rejected the possibility of resignation alliance activists on the second day of and announced that the next parliathe countrywide blockade mentary election will be held under the

Shots fired

Nayek Abdul Jabbar, in charge of

the guards, filed a case with

Mohammadpur Police Station

yesterday. He said unknown men

fired three rounds of bullets at the

Police recovered a shotgun

Mahmud Hasan Mansur, who

attended office and returned home

as usual yesterday, declined to

make any comments on the attack.

deployed and different other mea-

sures taken following the incident.

CA's ministries

the chief adviser's signature, which

A similar number of files from

other ministries, including those for

home affairs, foreign affairs and

establishment, have also been

awaiting the chief adviser's

the ministry officers sitting idle.

The situation has forced most of

President lajuddin Ahmed alone

took the advisory responsibilities of

the ministries for defence, establish-

ment, foreign affairs, home affairs,

and education, and the Armed

Forces Division, Cabinet Division,

Election Commission Secretariat,

NGO Bureau, and Public Service

of the administration are worried

about transfer and posting and they

cannot concentrate even in their

Meanwhile, officers at all levels

The previous caretaker govern-

ment brought all transfers and

postings to effect within the first

week of taking office, but the current

caretaker government is yet to bring

any significant changes in the

office, the caretaker administration

has so far transferred a dozen

secretaries, a few additional secre-

taries and over 100 other officials.

most of them having no direct

involvement in the holding of the

upcoming general elections.

In the past two weeks after taking

is impossible for him to do alone.

Additional policemen have been

FROM PAGE 1

one-storey building.

house at 5:50am.

FROM PAGE 1

approval.

Commission.

routine work for this.

cartridge from the spot.

Karim, musician Kalim Sharafi, Dr Serajul Islam Choudhury, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Prof Anisuzzaman, Dr Aiov Rov and Selina Hossain.

They said it is the caretaker government's duty to ensure a free and fair election within 90 days and they hoped that the head of the caretaker government would consider the demands for reconstituting the Election Commission (EC) and removal of all

How the home secretary could send the circular to the deputy commissioners across the country ordering deployment of the army when home ministry was under direct supervision of the CA, they questioned.

circular. The nation is taken aback issue has to be resolved urgently.

The letter emphasised that the CG should take measures immediately to resolve the issues mentioned as time is running out and the people are questioning the neutrality of the caretaker government ever more.

Reconstitution of the EC by removing the CEC, three other election commissioners and the EC secretary. temporary suspension of the home secretary who issued the circular to deploy army and conducting proper investigation into the matter are some

The letter also condemned transferring police officer Kohinur Mia instead of suspending him or placing him under investigation for his involvement in running over demonstrators by a police van during the blockade programme. If the president/ CA is unaware of the person responsible for Kohinur's transfer, he should track

They urged the head of the caretaker government to uphold the honour of the offices endowed upon him by taking stern action to safeguard the eater interest of the nation.

Full operations

representatives and dock workers' leaders is negotiating with the mayor for his consent to resume the operation of gantry cranes, sources

As the gantry cranes have been kept idle. loading and unloading activities at the Chittagong Container Terminal (CCT)have all but stopped. Fifty per cent port activities remained suspended, said a high official of the Chittagong port.

Private company Saif Powertech Ltd had been awarded the job of operating the vital gantry cranes in June this year as the performance of the port operators in loading and unloading of containers was very poor, sources said.

Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury, who wants operation of the cranes through port operators, is opposing resumption of the operation of the gantry cranes, said the sources, adding that a section of port stevedores are supporting the mayor as they may get job if the private company leaves the task

The Chittagong port workers loyal to the city mayor are demanding cancellation of the agreement with Saif Powertec Limited for operating the cranes for two years.

Two gearless container vessels are now anchored idle at the container terminal while another four gearless vessels are waiting at the outer anchorage for getting permission to anchor. A normal container vessel can operate without a gantry crane, but a gearless vessel is unable to get loading and unloading work done without it.

Loading and unloading activities accelerated after Saif Powertec Limited started operating the QGC on August 5 this year. The private company handled 25-30 containers per hour against only 10-12 containers handled by the port operators

Judgment

the executive in compliance with

the Supreme Court directives

The nine other mid-level

bureaucrats, who are facing the

contempt charge for "distorting" the

Supreme Court's 12-point directive

on separation of the judiciary, were

present in the court during the

exempted from appearing in per-

son before the court since the

contempt rule was issued in April

In their petitions, the JMB mili-

tants rejected the established

judicial system under the constitu-

tion terming it manmade and urged

the Supreme Court to try them by

constituting a court guided by

JMB chief Abdur Rahman, his

second-in-command Siddiqul Islam

alias Bangla Bhai, brother Ataur

Rahman Sunny, son-in-law Abdul

Awal and suicide bombers Iftekhar

Hassan Al Mamun and Khaled

Senior assistant judges Sohel

Ahmed and Jagannath Pandey

were killed in a suicide bomb attack

in Jhalakathi on November 14 last

India during Operation Clean Heart.

vesterday took him to Bharatia in

a bid to recover hidden firearms.

But as the team reached the spot.

Sujit's cohorts opened fire on the

team in an attempt to snatch Sujit.

Police retaliated which led to a

15-minute-long gun battle. Sujit

was caught in the line of fire during

the battle. Police took injured Sujit

to local health complex where on-

Police recovered two pipe-guns,

seven bullets and a large dagger

from the spot. Three policemen

including Sub-inspector Abdul Majid

sustained bullet injuries. Suiit's

accomplices, however, managed to

A large number of people

brought out a procession around

noon in Dumuria upazila vesterdav

celebrating Sujit's death. City Ameer

of Jamaat-e-Islami and former

lawmaker Mian Golam Parwar led

According to Officer-in-charge

Abdullah of Dumuria Police Station.

the slain outlaw was wanted in 23

criminal cases, including eight

murders cases recorded with differ-

ent police stations of Khulna and

Satkhira. He was the prime charge-

sheeted accused of Dumuria BNP

the procession.

duty doctors declared him dead.

A police team around 4:00am

Outlaw killed

The condemned petitioners are

The group of top four has been

delivered some seven years ago.

FROM PAGE 16

Hearing

court sources said

FROM PAGE 16

Islamic laws.

Saifullah.

FROM PAGE 16

After commissioning the private operator, the average daily handling of containers increased to 700-750 from previous 450-500 containers

There are also allegations that port operators used to charge Tk 100-150 as kickbacks for handling each container.

Earlier, two vessels used to berth at the container jetty at a time but now the number increased to three. The private operation also helped reduce the turn around time of feeders calling at CCT.

But the sudden stoppage of QGC operation at CCT caused the feeder operators heavy losses. The twelve gearless feeder vessels that call at Chittagong port cannot be served unless the gantry cranes begin

As of yesterday afternoon around 50 ships were in the queue at the outer anchorage for berthing at the port. Of those, 18 are container carriers and 32 general cargoes. Eight ships were at differ-

Meanwhile, the CPA will have to pay huge amount as compensation if agreement with the private operator is cancelled, sources said

Life gets back

on in full swing with people thronging the commercial hub of the capi-

seaports and all land ports resumed operations early in the morning and the trucks and buses got back to the highways linking other cities of the country with the capital, our correspondents report. The people who were stranded

to their workplaces

there as usual

from Wednesday evening, sources

Although vegetables and other food supplies to the city increased after a four-day interval, the kitchen market showed no signs of decrease in the prices of the essen-

was very thin in the past four days as people could not earn enough money to come here due to the blockade. Everything was halted during that time, but the situation is now getting normal," he added.

Deprived officials

government are preparing to help rig the general election and thus make the administration controversial." an official told Secretary AFM Soaliman Chowdhury

by Hawa Bhaban.

try. We want to see removal of the Bhaban," Shafiq Alam Mehedi (82complained to the establishment secretary.

"Despite fulfilling all criteria for a promotion, more than one thousand officials were deprived of their due promotions during the four-party alliance government's tenure," he added.

They demanded suspension of all postings and transfers until the deprived officials are promoted. They urged the secretary to enforce the government service rule and consider seniority and

Replying to their demands, Secretary AFM Soaliman Chowdhury said his ministry already sent a file to the Cabinet Division seeking dates from the Superior Selection Board (SSB), a body that approves government

him that the SSB would sit Sunday

FROM PAGE 16

search for the missing passengers.

gers capsized in the Kirtankhola River after a collision with a dredger on Wednesday afternoon. Most of the passengers but 10 were rescued by the boatmen.

vesterday and salvaged the launch from 60 feet deep water at 12:10m.

by the port operators.

It is feared that the export and import activities will be badly affected if operation of gantry cranes is not resumed soon.

Businesses at the Motilheel moved

The Chittagong and Mongla

outside or inside the capital due to the blockade also started returning

The intercity bus, train and launch services that were snapped resumed from Wednesday evening as soon as the blockade was withdrawn. The Kamalapur Rail Station sources said within 24 hours of resuming operations, a total of 31 trains left the station while many Dhaka-bound trains from different stations of the country reached

The Gabtali Bus Terminal also started the inter-city bus services

"Can you imagine, one kilogram atta is selling at Tk 28, while price of only four eggs is Tk 22. The situation is getting worse day by day," said a resentful customer at the Karwan

Most of the low-income group, especially the day labourers, who could not get any work during the blockade, were also seen back in business. Subal Shil, a barber from the city's Green Road providing services mostly to this group, said that even his business was not good due to the blockade.

"Flow of customers to the saloon

eader Sirai Mollah murder case Abdullah said. Pakistan tests

The demonstrating officials alleged that the establishment ministry is still promoting and giving postings to officials selected

"Information is being leaked to Hawa Bhaban soon after any move is made at the establishment minisofficials who represent Hawa regular batch), a deputy secretary,

Some 50 officials of different ministries also demanded formation a new 'fit list committee', as the committee still includes members loyal to the previous government.

quality while making the list of deputy commissioners

officials' promotions. The Cabinet Division informed

6 bodies found

The launch with over 60 passen-

BIWTA vessel MV Hamza started its operation at 9:00am

afternoon to promote qualifying

going to the brink of a fourth war in 2002. Under an agreement on ballistic missile testing in late 2005, both

About reshuffle in the field countries notify each other in the advisory committee on administration has already decided to initiate mass transfer of field-level officials for making a congenial began. atmosphere for the general elec-India and Pakistan expressed

Alam also spoke at the sit-in.

The agitating officials threatened to launch further programmes if the ministry failed to consider their fair demands imme-

Banks in business

circular issued on September 15. Bangladesh Bank had made

the exemption considering the difficulties faced by the foreign trade and transactions since introduction of a two-day weekly Meanwhile, the police adminis-

and trucks during the daytime until Sunday. Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) in a state-

It urged the trade body members to take necessary services from the banks.

The statement added that the BGMEA offices in Dhaka, Chittagong and at Chittagong seaport, and banks at the port and Customs House will remain open

of the apparel industry.

consequences of climate change if we don't act now," said Julie Teel, an attorney for the plaintiffs. Environmentalists have accused the administration of trying to suppress dissemination of the previous assessment, issued in 2000, which predicted

The lawsuit comes as experts from around the world meet in Nairobi for the two-week U.N. climate conference, where they have been trying to set a course for future controls on

global greenhouse gas emissions.

Scientists attribute at least some of the past century's 1-degree rise in burning sources.

Khaleda asks CG

FROM PAGE 1 "Instead of talking a lot, you should better help the Election Commission hold a free and fair election." she said calling on the interim government not to bother about any unconstitutional or illogical demand from any quarter.

'You are talking too much while doing nothing. Perform your duties according to the constitution," she asked the advisers to the caretaker government and urged them to hold the election in time and hand over power to the people's representatives.

Referring to the recent United Nations Development Program (UNDP) report that billed Bangladesh as the Golden Boy of South Asia, she asked, "How come we made it possible if we had plundered everything."

She claimed that during BNP rule in 1991-96 they made the country an emerging tiger while Awami League (AL) relegated the country to a bottomless basket during its term after the independ-

"We will free the country of corruption if we return to power," she added.

Coming down heavily on the media, the former premier said, The newspapers are enjoying so much freedom that they write at whim. They publish the rejoinders [of baseless stories] in inner pages so that people could not

On price hike of essentials, she said. "The prices of essentials did not rise, rather it's the income ability of the people that has increased over the last five years...I have the documents.

"They (AL) don't want to see a

2 JP leaders FROM PAGE 16

their talks with the AL president lasted over an hour.

Details of their discussion could not be known immediately. Sources said the JP leaders, as

part of the party's seat sharing negotiations with the AL-led 14party alliance, have been maintaining close contacts with the AL high ups. Four other JP leaders also met Hasina during the last few days.

Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity leader Santu Larma also met the AL chief last

bail from the court.

In Amil, a section of western Baghdad, a motorcycle rigged with explosives killed two civilians and wounded one at 8 am, said police

At 8:45 am, two mortar shells hit a police checkpoint near the Interior Ministry in eastern Baghdad, killing one policeman and wounding one, said policeman Mohammed

Ten minutes later, a roadside bomb exploded beneath a parked car in Palestine street, a main road in eastern Baghdad, killing one civilian and wounding six, said

riddled, blindfolded bodies of four Iragis were found in two locations of eastern Baghdad at 11 p.m. Wednesday and 6:30 am Thursday. Each victim had been tied up and

During the raid in Youssifiyah, US soldiers were demanding that

wooded area, the military said.

suspected al-Qaeda in Iraq insurgents, several of whom were later found to be wearing suicide vests, the military said. The soldiers also detained nine other suspected

Insurgents killed four more US soldiers in Iraq in a roadside bombing and small arms fire attacks, raising to 10 the number of American deaths in two days, the military said Thursday.

Two Task Force Lightning sol-

diers were killed on Wednesday and

two more wounded when a roadside bomb struck their vehicle in Divala province, northeast of Baghdad. A soldier was also killed in Diyala in a small arms fire attack on

Wednesday, while yet another was shot dead in Baghdad on Tuesday in a similar attack. The latest fatalities raise the

of 164 centrifuges apiece it currently has at its Natanz plant to enrich uranium on a research scale.

Enrichment is carried out in lines

is used to make the fuel for civilian nuclear reactors. But in highly enriched form, the uranium can be used to make a nuclear bomb

Iran insists its nuclear programme is peaceful and that it has every right to the full nuclear fuel cycle, rejecting US accusations that its civilian energy drive masks a programme to make an atomic

sanctions against Iran.

She added that most of the 14party leaders could hardly win an election before. They don't want

they have no hesitation in declar-

ing that they would paralyse the

country," observed the BNP chair-

the election, as they already know they won't be able to make it this time as well. Criticising the AL and its allies, Khaleda said, "They destroy public property at will. The coun-

try's independence and democracy are not safe in their hands." She said the four-party alliance will not falter and the people will support it for its work in the last

five years. Describing the successes of the immediate past ruling coalition, she said, "We have worked for the people and the law and order situation has improved.

"Name a sector where the BNP government did not have any success." She asked adding that her party has upheld the dignity of the people's mandate. BNP standing committee

member KM Obaidur Rahman, former state minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, former lawmaker Mosaddek Ali and Shamsuzzaman Dudu among others spoke at the meeting with

30-yr jail

FROM PAGE 16 The punishment of the fugitive will be effective from the day of his arrest or surrender, the judge said.

Earlier, the prosecution and defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 10 prosecution witnesses. According to the prosecution,

dropped her at a paddy field on April 23, 1997 After the incident, victim's father Abdur Sattar filed a rape case against the two with Dhamrai police

Awlad and Babu raped Salma and

Children Repression Prevention The investigation officer pressed

charges against Awlad and Babu on

August 21, 1997. Police arrested both of them but Babu became fugitive after getting

Barrage of attacks

1st Lt Mutaz Salahhidine.

police Lt Ali Muhsin. Police also said the bullet-

Scores of Iraqis are kidnapped and killed in this fashion each week in cities such as Baghdad, by militias, insurgents or common criminals seeking ransoms.

Iraqi civilians exit buildings in a

military's losses in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion to 2,858, according to an AFP count based on Pentagon figures. (AP, AFP)

Iran ready

Ahmadinejad said earlier this week that Iran wanted ultimately to have 60,000 centrifuges working in Natanz, easily enough to enrich

package of targeted sanctions against Iran over its refusal to suspend sensitive nuclear fuel work. "We did not make any progress

today," US Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton told reporters after envoys of the six powers wound up their sixth informal session in three weeks on a European draft resolution urging nuclear and ballistic missile-related

The meeting at France's UN mission in New York was attended by ambassadors from Germany and the UN Security Council's perma-

"We'll meet again in the near future," said Bolton, without saying

issue may also be discussed at the foreign minister level on the margins of the weekend meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation group in Hanoi. The United States is leading a drive to impose UN sanctions

weapons. Tehran, which insists that its nuclear programme is peaceful, has

rejected UN demands that it halt uranium enrichment, a process that can produce fuel for electricity generation but can also be used to produce the raw material for a nuclear warhead.

allies after polls blow

President George W Bush tried to

National University.
"These are the old temptations of isolationism and protectionism and America must reject them.

tunity in this region. Bush's path could be rocky in his

Aziz talks polls There is little possibility that the meeting will be held before Monday--the

day the Awami League-led 14-party

alliance resumes its countrywide

Secretary and 14-party alliance

Awami League (AL) General

blockade

Coordinator Abdul Jalil yesterday met the president and asked him again to reconstitute the EC immediately. A delegation of Jamaat-e-Islami, a kev allv of BNP, met the president around 3:15pm and demanded his intervention for immediate announce-

ment of the election schedule by the

Chairperson Khaleda Žia also asked

the CEC to announce the election

Meanwhile at a programme, BNP

schedule without any delay. In the wake of the prevailing situation, the AL-led alliance, which suspended the blockade programme up to Sunday, announced yesterday to

Saturday.

demand for EC reconstitution is not **GOES SLOW** The advisers to the caretaker government were expecting to sit in a meeting

vesterday as they were not sure if any

meeting will be held on Friday and

"We are now waiting for the presi-

enforce countrywide blockade and

street agitations from Monday if the

dent's directions to move forward," Adviser CM Shafi Sami, a member of the advisory committee that held the dialogue with the political parties, told reporters yesterday at his office. Asked if they are preparing any report based on the talks, he said,

"Everything is ready and now we are

He said, "If we can take a collective

waiting for the president's directions."

decision, it will be possible to create an environment for holding a fair election through participation of all political The advisory committee compris-

ing advisers Dr Akbar Ali Khan, CM Shafi Sami, Mahbubul Alam and

Yasmin Murhsed opened the dialogue

14-party accuses

FROM PAGE 1 function without directives from a special quarter, he has to appoint a non-partisan person as the CA as per the constitution, the AL leader said. All the political parties except the BNP-Jamaat alliance and people from all walks of life have reached a con-

sensus that a free and fair election is

not possible without resignation of the

CEC and reconstitution of the EC. he There are 1.40 crore fake voters in the draft voter roll, he said, adding that the chief adviser should take immediate steps to stop printing of the faulty voter lists and inclusion of eligible

Jalil demanded immediate

removal from the civil and police

administration the officials who are

persons in the voter list.

beneficiaries of and loval to the BNP-Jamaat alliance and replacing them with honest and eligible officials He posed the question how an officer assigned by the former prime minister enters into the Bangabhaban at night easily without any prior per-

Transfer order of a number of police officials were postponed after the officer met the president while an APS of BNP Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman has given a list of 15 officers-in-charge (OCs) to the chief adviser to make sure their posting in Gopalganj, Faridpur, Madaripur and Shariatour districts, Jalil said. Without taking any effective action

adviser himself has been brought the CG under question, he said. Senior 14-party leaders Obaidul Quader Rashed Khan Menon and Hasanul Haque Inu were present at the briefing.

Eminent citizens

present EC led by him.

FROM PAGE 16 Salah Uddin Ahmed, Sardar Fazlul

election commissioners including the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) as the voter rolls prepared by the present EC is full of errors.

Again, on the same night, the decision was changed by another since the secretary responsible for this blunder is still holding the post. This

of the recommendations they made.

down that person pulling the strings from behind the scenes, said the letter.

Izharul-led IOJ

BNP-led 4-party alliance, was an

tion from Banshkhali constituency. The then prime minister BNP

Izhar expressed all out support to

centage' to Hawa Bhaban. "The AL leaders could make me

14-party mourns FROM PAGE 16

ernment chief.

franchise freely and fearlessly.

He also said the entire nation

The secretary said promotion would be considered at all levels of the administration. administration, the secretary said

Alauddin Ahmed, Abul Kalam Azad, Safait Ahmed and Chowdhury Mohammad Babul

FROM PAGE 1 The central bank allowed the authorised dealer banks to keep their branches open on Saturdays for a limited period through a

holiday. tration relaxed the restriction on the movement of covered vans

the police administration.

ment yesterday appreciated the

decisions by the central bank and

BGMEA requested the owners of covered vans and trucks to operate their vehicles day and night until Sunday in the interest

advance about tests, as one of several confidence boosting measures undertaken since peace talks

of talks between their foreign secretaries in New Delhi earlier this week.

White House

satisfaction with the way that accord

was working at the end of two days

FROM PAGE 16 comment on it, said spokesman Ben But Fallon defended the administration's record on combating global warming, pointing to increased funding for alternative energy research, for example. He said, "The president has been focused on results-driven research and looking for practical

ways to address climate change in

ways that aren't damaging to the

Science Program, also named in the

complaint, did not immediately

respond to calls seeking comment.

Officials at the Climate Change

economy.

The lawsuit was filed in federal court in San Francisco by the Center for Biological Diversity, Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace. The assessment is the "first step in crafting solutions to the devastating

a dramatic rise in catastrophic storms, floods, droughts and heat-related

global temperatures to the accumulation in the atmosphere of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases, byproducts of power plants, automobiles and other fossil fuel-

station under the Women and

The soldiers called in air support. which opened fire, killing nine

insurgents during the raid, the military said.

targeted area when they noticed several armed men in a nearby

uranium to make nuclear fuel on an industrial scale. of centrifuges called cascades and

weapon. Six major UN powers on Wednesday failed to break the deadlock in their bid to agree on a nent members -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the United exactly when. He added that the sanctions

pend uranium enrichment, but has hit stalemate amid opposition from China and Russia to a Europeanproposed draft resolution. Western countries suspects Iran is covertly seeking to build nuclear

against Iran over its failure to sus-

in last 17 days, the president and chief