13 Iraq police recruits Mirza Khokon killed in suicide blast

command of all 10 divisions by the

sectarian violence is at an all time high,

and every day the streets of Baghdad

are littered with the bodies of dozens of

victims of shadowy death squads

operating on behalf of political fac-

President George W. Bush's adven-

ture in Iraq collapsing, his new defence

secretary is under pressure to come

up with a new plan to rescue Iraq from

civil war and bring the 129,000 US

Talabani at the US embassy in

Baghdad's fortified Green Zone on

Wednesday and afterwards they

dined with several senior elected

Talabani expressed his thoughts and

view on the security of Baghdad and

on arriving in Baghdad on Wednesday

he confirmed that one option would be

for a "surge" of up to 30,000 extra US

soldiers to pacify the capital and give

possibility of a surge - what potentially a

surge might accomplish," Gates told

reporters, after meeting with his top

generals in the Middle East in Iraq at a

leaders, some of whom, including

Maliki, have expressed concern over

the idea of sending more Americans,

preferring instead that Iragi forces be

Other ideas that have been floated

Neither course would allow the

United States to rapidly withdraw,

which means more strain on an army

which chief of staff General Peter

Shoomaker said last week "will break"

without more troops or change in

DU convocation

evening announced the decision

with Vice chancellor (VC) Prof SMA

Faiz in the chair. A DU press release

said the new convocation schedule

procession scheduled for today is

cancelled as well. However, graduates

and post-graduates would be able to

collect their convocation costumes

had been threatening to boycott the

convocation as many unsolved issues

on the campus created an uncomfort-

able environment for celebrating any

hold on the convocation until mea-

sures were taken to ensure freedom of

speech on campus where no one

would have to be afraid of being

harassed by political goons who now

including Chhatra Sangram Parishad

(CSP), an alliance of seven 14-party

backed student bodies, and

Progotishil Chhatra Jote (PCJ), a

combine of left wing student bodies

announced to boycott the convocation

Prof Mohammad Yunus not to attend

the ceremony as the Convocation

Speaker. The university earlier had

announced to confer on the "Doctor of

Laws (honoris causa)", an honorary

Meanwhile, a number of certificate

esterday urged the Nobel laureate

Prof Muhammad Yunus not to attend

same appeal to all "progressive and

The alliance leaders made the

The CSP, led by Bangladesh

Chhatra League (BCL), the student

wing of Awami League, made the

appeal at a press conference at Jatiya

In a bid to improve the tainted

BCL Central General Secretary

Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Roton

Vice President Aparna Paul, JSD BCL

President Shariful Kabir Swapan.

General Secretary Ali Hasan Tarun,

Chhatra Maitri President Rafiqul Islam

Sujon, Chhatra Andolon President

Kanak Barua, BCL DU unit President

Sohel Rana Tipu, General Secretary

Sazzad Sagib Badsha and other

leaders of the CSP were present at the

majtantrik Dal office in the city.

image of President lajuddin Ahmed

also the university chancellor, the pro-

the convocation of DU.

boycott the programme.

the press conference.

degree, to the peace prize winner.

They also urged Nobel laureate

Most of the student organisations,

Many teachers of the university

today, the press release added.

festivities like the convocation.

roam the campus.

They urged the authorities

Rehearsal for the convocation

FROM PAGE 20

would be declared later.

expanded and strengthened.

Later he was expected to meet Iraq

"Obviously, we discussed the

Maliki breathing space.

base outside Baghdad.

security plans in this regard." it said.

"During the meeting, President

Various ideas are on the table, and

officials. Talabani's office said.

Gates met Iraq's President Jalal

With US domestic support for

Nevertheless, insurgent and

middle of next year.

troops home.

killing 13 in the latest brutal attack on Irag's beleaguered security forces.

Secretary Robert Gates met with Iraqi finding trip to Iraq during which he has discussed the option of sending US

The attacker triggered his bomb amid a crowd of cadets arriving near the Iraqi police academy off Palestine Street in the heart of Baghdad, interior ministry operations chief Brigadier General Abdul Karim Khalaf said.

Medics at the city's Al-Kindi hospital told AFP that 10 people were killed on the spot and three more died later of their injuries. Another 12 people were

The Palestine Street police academy has now come under attack four times in the past two years, and Thursday's blast was the second time a bomb vest has been used to get past

one of the most dangerous jobs in the

now the key mission for Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's government and the US-led coalition in Irag, amid plans to

Army used

Two former advisers told The Daily Star that the army should not have

army's action, saying it is part of their responsibilities to foil attempts to create anarchy.

The CA on December 13 ordered include vastly increasing the number the army to be on standby and not to of US platoons deployed within comengage actively in routine law enforcepany-sized Iraqi units -- training them ment, but the home ministry did not and coordinating air support and issue any directives to the field level medical evacuation missions.

night asked the local administrations to keep the army on alert along with the regular law enforcement agencies to tackle the AL-led alliance's agitation.

The Jatiya Party (Ershad), Libera Democratic Party (LDP) and several other parties at a grand rally on December 18 formally joined the 14party alliance in calling for laiuddin's resignation as the CA and a level called the dawn-to-dusk hartal.

ing law and order in the metropolitan areas if an assembly or gathering cannot otherwise be dispersed.

The Dhaka Metropolitan correspondent.

Adviser Shafiqual Haque Chowdhury yesterday told The Daily Star,"I saw on the television news that suddenly the situation in Shyamoli got explosive. And that is why the troops on standby had to be on the go to have the people relieved."

decision of the advisory council Shafigual said that the army would be kept on rest and would not be used in routine law enforcement activities.

"Not only me but everyone will say that the army has done the right job. They have successfully tacked a dangerous situation." he said, referring to the troops' taking action against 14-party workers in Shyamoli.

Replying to a query, the adviser said had the army not intervened, the situation would have become even

recipients of the convocation said they would refuse to receive their certifi-"The army did not foil any political cates from a controversial person like programme. Rather they have saved President and Chief Adviser Prof life and property by timely action," he lajuddin Ahmed, who is also the said adding, "The political programme chancellor of the university should confine to procession or hartal CSP PRESS CONFERENCE Earlier, Chhatra Sangram Parishad

ties cannot be acceptable.' Meanwhile, CA lajuddin Ahmed vesterday claimed that all conditions set by some political parties for participation in the upcoming election have

democratic-minded" students, announcing that the CSP would deployment, the CA yesterday told the visiting European Union delegation that the armed forces have been deployed in aid of the law enforcement agencies to create and maintain an atmosphere congenial to free and fair

Already four advisers have resigned following differences of opinion with the CA over implementa-

BNP-Jamaat administration of the tion of the package proposals and Prof M Moinuddin Ahmed, another adviser appointed after the four's resignation, yesterday defended the deployment and said the army was deployed as a precautionary measure and has made a difference in improv-They alleged the president is

ing the law and order across the responsible for the current political country. crisis in the country. "It's a fact that the army deployment BCL President Mahmud Hasan Ripon read out a written statement at

He however said that yesterday's situation did not call for the troops on

This time, the military deployment came 43 days before the polling day, which is January 22 according to the

current schedule deployed only 14 days before the election in 2001, 18 days in 1996, and 23 days before the polls in 1991.

blood marks throughout the house,

Chest Disease hospital, saying, There was a problem.

bullet to the stomach and then rebuked Abbas for taking masuda to a chest hospital despite injuries to the stomach. After that. Abbas along with his

wife took Masuda to Apollo Hospital, said Harun. Harun said he is yet to know what actually happened there. but confirmed. "There was a shootout in the house that night.

18 December that he only went to Apollo to visit a relative and no shooting took place at his house. The following day, he admitted that the injured at the hospital had been his sister-in-law, but claimed she had been injured at Khokon's house. Abbas then stated to the press that Khokon shot his wife at his own residence.

they would disclose the matter after her recovery, have now refused any further comment, allegedly under pressure from the Mirza family.

Police are yet to file any general diary (GD) or case with regards to this matter, and the family has still not mad a statement regarding the event, police sources said. A police source also said they have been asked to remain 'non-active' and keep their mouth shut about the event, by an un-named party.

The physician charged treating Masuda earlier told the press that she bore two bullet wounds, pierced through her body.

Warne to call

Warne, 37, told a packed news conference in Melbourne on Thursday he was quitting to spend more time with his children and to pursue a new career, possibly as a commentator.

"I'm going to retire at the end of the Sydney Test match." he said. "It's been an unbelievable journey...but my time

Warne, who retired from one-day internationals in 2003, is the world's leading Test wicket-taker and arguably the most famous cricketer since his

reach the once-unimaginable 700 figure during the fourth Ashes Test in his home town of Melbourne next

Warne revealed he would probably have retired after the 2005 Ashes in England if Australia had won the

captain Ricky Ponting and sought counsel from former skippers lan Chappell and Richie Benaud before breaking the news to his three young children and his estranged wife Simone, who he continues to live with despite their divorce.

books over the 15 years. Warne's farewell match in Sydney

starting on January 2 will be his 145th Test appearance and his last official match in Australia at any level. He does intend to honour the final two seasons of his contract with English county Hampshire.

assured. He was chosen by Wisden as one of the five best players of the 20th century, along with Bradman, Englishmen Jack Hobbs and West Indians Viv Richards and Garry

FROM PAGE 20

the prime accused Shamsunnahar Sheuli after investigation officer Inspector Nazrul Islam of the Detective Branch produced Sheuli before her at 11:00am.

On October 29, a group of criminals led by Shamsunnahar Sheuli first kidnapped Turya and later killed him. The other members include Sheuli's boyfriend Shahadat Hossain Liton

In her statement, Sheuli told the magistrate that Turya came to her Rampura residence at 4:00pm on that day on her invitation. Liton and Mamun turned up the place earlier, she said.

Turya became senseless when they fed him intoxicated food, said Sheuli, also one of Turva's girl friends.

and legs to ensure death, Sheuli said. According to the prime accused,

they cut Turya 's body into three pieces and put in a gunnysack the same day. The dismembered body was later

dumped at West Rampura on October 31, which was recovered on Monday, 43 days after the abduction.

Sheuli said they also realised Tk 10 lakh and ten tola of gold as ransom from the victim's parent

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Sayeed on December 6 from his home village in Barguna.

After receiving information from Sayeed, the Rab arrested Sheuli, Liton and Mamun from different parts

100 hurt in first hartal

A few pickets vandalised some vehicles carrying journalists at Mirpur although media vehicles had been declared outside the purview of

> Witnesses said around 200 demonstrators led by Mirza Jalil came in a procession along the Ring Road and attempted to march towards the Mirpur Road around 10:15am. The police barricaded the proces-

sion in front of the Shvamoli Cinema. which led to a scuffle between the demonstrators and the law enforcers. At one stage the police charged baton on the demonstrators who in reprisal started pelting brickbats at them. Many locals also joined hands with the demonstrators and chased the

A few demonstrators poured petrol on a requisitioned police van and set it

police away from the Shyamoli inter-

on fire. A series of chase and counterchase ensued as additional police force and paramilitary BDR arrived at

The melee spread over about half a kilometre area on Ring Road from Shyamoli to Adabor, leaving all roads and by-lanes in the area littered with

The police fired several hundred rounds of rubber bullets and teargas shells to quell the hartal supporters, but it rather fuelled their demonstration. Witnesses said army personnel in

three vehicles reached the Shyamoli intersection half an hour later when the pickets were chanting slogans in protest of attacking their peaceful procession.

Mohammad Ayub, a local who witnessed the incident, said several army vehicles entered the Ring Road area around 11:30am from the directions of Shyamoli and the Shia Mosque and requested the people on loudspeaker not to lock in clashes.

"At one stage, armed army personnel got down from the vehicles and chased the demonstrators along with the police along the Adabor road," Ayub said. A police armoured car also entered the road at this time, he added. Normalcy returned around 12:00noon as the demonstrators left

JPAND LDP DEMONSTRATIONS Leaders and activists of LDP led by its

Presidium Member Ali Kader and Vice President Mai Gen (retd) MA Halim brought out a procession from Mouchak at around 11:30am that paraded the Malibagh and Banglamotor areas. They later held a rally near the Malibagh intersection. Another LDP procession from Jatrabari marched towards the

Sayedabad carrying the party electoral Meanwhile, JP leaders and activists brought out a procession from the city's Madhubagh that marched through wireless gate, Mouchak Malibagh intersection and

the procession. Besides, a procession of the Jatiya Chhatra Samaj (JCS), student wing of campus, but police intercepted them at Shahbagh intersection putting barbed

Islamic Front Bangladesh and its student wing Islami Chhatra Sena held a rally at the Puran Paltan intersection. Party chairman Allama Syed Bahadur Shah presided over it.

COUNTRYWIDE **HARTAL SCENARIO** Yesterday's hartal passed of peacefully across the country apart from some

incidents of stray violence.

The activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) of Jahangirnagar University vandalised five vehicles and set fire to a bus on Dhaka-Aricha Highway near the varsity campus.

In Netrokona, at least 10 people were wounded as police and pro-hartal activists clashed at sadar upazila, while 15 others were injured in a fight between the pro-hartal and anti-hartal forces at Kalmakanda upazila. Meanwhile, the hartal supporters

law enforcers, including the military, were seen on duty at different points on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway. In Satkhira, the 14-party activists damaged a truck, while in Jhenidah the pro-hartal activists vandalised three

vandalised a train in Narayangani, our

correspondent says adding that the

shops, a truck and a tempo at Gitanjali Our correspondent from Khulna BNP's Paikgachha unit reports: Organising Secretary Abdul Jabbar was severely wounded when JP activists beat him up. They also vandalised Jabbar's shop, which he kept

open during hartal Meanwhile, at least 10 people were injured as the activists of 14-party combine and BNP-led 4-party alliance clashed at Mirzaganj upazila in Patuakhali, our correspondent says. The clash ensued in the morning when a 14-party procession came under attack of the BNP activists.

In Barisal, pickets damaged six rickshaws, four buses and three tempos, our correspondent said Besides, the four-party activists clashed with the hartal supporters at Barisal Polytechnic Institute when the latter tried to resist an ongoing examination in the college.

The pro-hartal activists in Chittagong vandalised at least 20 vehicles, including CNG-run autorickshaws, tempos, mini buses and human haulers, our correspondent said adding that none was reported to be wounded. Train service remained normal, though activities in the Chittagong Port were disrupted par-

In Chandpur, pickets forced a train on Chandpur-Laksam route to halt for two hours, our correspondent said. In the early hours, the 14-party activists carried out an arson attack at the station. Later, police disbursed the nickets and extinguished fire

He said usually pickets exchange

brickbats and abuses with the police.

It is likely that they will start doing so

simple hartal day, then what wi

happen in more difficult days which

are invariably coming?" he questioned. "The jobs of the soldiers and

mixed, then there will be bad reper-

Shahjahan expressed his surprise

cussion. Authorities must think of

at army involvement during yester-

day's hartal. "I am surprised to see

tasking the army with what is and

should be the job of police, BDR and

Ansar," he said when contacted over

He said there were not enough

grounds for deployment of army

vesterday and that it was not appro-

priate. "It will be bad for the whole

greater interest of the nation.'

caretaker government had also

had to postpone it due to strong

this." he observed.

phone.

police must not be mixed. If it is

do what they did yesterday.

with the soldiers if soldiers continue to

"If soldiers have to run around on

Concern over army

that there were not enough

Haque said it would have been better if the crowd was dispersed without army involvement as the armed forces are the last resort to maintain law and order under the civil administration when law enforcement agencies like police and Bangladesh Rifles

tion at Shyamoli where, as seen on TV screens, army personnel were chasing hartal supporters to disperse them. I am not sure about the strength of the police and BDR at the spot and whether they were unable to control the crowd," he said giving his reaction to use of the armed forces to

face any political programme. Talking to The Daily Star over telephone, Mujibul Haque said army involvement at this stage to control political programmes like hartal is not desirable but in the context of the present caretaker government it may

critical of countrywide army deployment much ahead of the polls day, and said such deployment is desiras was the case in the previous

"But, at the same time it is important that the prevailing situation in the country is different from that during other interim governments' periods in the past," he said, adding both the major political alliances are threatening to show their strength on the streets. "Such a situation may force the people in the government to call

in army as a precautionary measure Hafizuddin thinks deployment of army during yesterday's hartal would worsen the existing political crisis and

bigger political programmes like blockade earlier, and BDR joined them at times."

The prevailing situation does not demand involvement of army, he should not be involved in political conflicts. he said.

is a move to intimidate the political parties that are agitating." Syed Muhammad Ibrahim, Bir

Pratik, a well known security analyst, told The Daily Star yesterday evening that he was shocked to see on television screen that soldiers were chasing a group of pro-hartal pickets and

their shoulders in the same manner as they used to do in insurgencyinfested areas of the Chittagona Hil Tracts (CHT)... I am shocked to see the scenario," said the former major general

the leaders of Awami League, BNP Jamaat-e-Islami, Jatiya Party and Liberal Democratic Party.

He also met the Election Commission, heads of diplomatic missions as well as representatives of

EU for easing

business community and civil society. At the first formal press conference, the EU election observation team leader avoided most of the questions related to election preparations and

volatile political situation in

Bangladesh saying that the situation is

still premature to make comments. "The parliamentary elections mark a crucial stage in Bangladesh's democratic development. For millions of

sion started working and it will continue monitoring the situation.

"Our mission is to observe the election related issues, not to suggest anybody to do anything or refrain from any job," Lambsdorff said when asked whether the EU mission will help resolve the political crisis and reach an

holders would work together and we are hopeful that there will be a free and fair election in Bangladesh," he said, adding that the mandate of the EU mission is to conduct an independent and objective assessment of the election process in accordance with international standards for democratic elections.

next election, the EU election mission chief said there are still a few days left for registering candidature for the next election.

He declined to make any comments regarding army deployment in the country and election preparations of the government Currently, the EU election observa-

tion team comprises 10 election experts based in Dhaka. A 40-member rations and campaign activities.

number of EU election observation team will be around 200 as a number of diplomatic staff of EU member states will join the team on the election EU deputy chief election observer Graham Elson and EU election expert

The EU election observation team will analyse the entire election atmosphere and publish a final assessment report after the election.

enforced the hartal even thought the caretaker government fulfilled all their demands." he said.

participate in the elections, he said those who create anarchy. About the "package p of the caretaker government,

Urging the 14-party alliance to

caretaker government prepared any proposal then it must be prepared after discussing the matter "The only duty of the caretaker government is to assist the

elections, not to implement anybody's agenda," he reiterated. He said the only demand the fourparty has is to hold the elections within the stipulated 90-day time

Quoting Adviser Mahbubul Alam on the package proposal, he said the government has already implemented the package proposal.

Replying a question weather the BNP would participate in the elections as a part of the four-party alliance if the 14-party did not compete, Bhuiyan said, "As of now, we are an alliance."

BNP Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan was also pres-

Zakaria absent FROM PAGE 1

politics', Adviser Dhiraj Kumar Nath yesterday said it is the 14-party's strategy to keep the government under pressure. He hoped the AL and its allies would go for the polls.

On the 'controversial' election officers in districts, he said, "We will look into the matter.' Adviser Prof M Moinuddin Khan

said the 14-party combine rejected the readjusted election schedule but did not say they will not take part in the general elections. think, it will take some time for

He said there is no other option

Time is running fast ahead of the election, Adviser Dr Shoeb Ahmed said, adding, "But it is still possible to present a free and fair election if there is a political consensus.' We are not thinking about

deferring the election as there is no Don't try to create any situation so that we're forced to lay siege to He also asked the president not within 90 days from the dissolution of parliament.

The EC again rescheduled the the election, he said.

4-party aspirants

FROM PAGE 20 Apart from the BNP and Jamaat candidates, candidates of some small political parties also filed nomination papers.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia filed her nomination paper for Comilla-8 constituency where another nomination paper was filed by one Mohammad Mustafa as an indefinite candidate.

According to the UNB, following is the list of candidates, who filed nomination papers yesterday. Comilla

Comilla-1: MK Anwar (BNP) Comilla-8: Begum Khaleda Zia (BNP) and Mohammad Mustafa (Ind). Comilla-2: Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain (BNP). Comilla-10: Col (retd) Anwarul Azim (BNP). Rezaul Karim (Jamaat) and ATM Alamgir (BNP). Comilla-9: Monirul Haq Chowdhury (BNP). Comilla-6: Khorshed Alam (BNP). Comilla-11: Abdul Gafur Bhuiyan (BNP) and Ohidur Rahman (Ind). Comilla-5: Maj (retd) Abdur Rouf (Jamaat), Abul Bashar (Ind) and Md Shahabuddin (Ind). Comilla12: Dr Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher

Munshiganj Munshiganj-2: Mizanur Rahman Sinha.

Sirajganj Sirajganj-2: Advocate Abdul Latif (Jamaat). Sirajganj-3: Advocate Maulana Hafizur Rahman (Jamaat). Sirajganj-4: Rafigul Islam Khan (Jamaat). Sirajganj-5: Prof Ali Alam (Jamaat) Bagerhat

Bagerhat-1: Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (BNP), Quamrul Íslam Gora (Ind), Kazi Golam Kabir (KSL) and Sheikh Shawkat Hossain Nilu (JP-E). Bagerhat-2: MAH Selim (BNP), Tarreq Hossain (Ind), MA Mosharraf (Ind) and Moqbul Hossain (Ind). Bagerhat-3: Advocate Maulana Abdul Wadud (Jamaat), Rajendra Nath Roy (Hindu League) and Md Sekandar Ali (Labour Party). Bagerhat-4: Prof Shahidul Islam (Jamaat), Biswajit Mondal (Hindu League) and MA Khalegue (Ind). Madaripur

Mujahid (Jamaat), Nazrul Islam (Ind) and Abdul Hakim (Ind). Madaripur-2: Sarwar Hossain Mollah (BNP) and Abdul Jalil (KSJL). Madaripur-3: Khandker Masugur Rahman (BNP) and Dr Fariduddin Khan (Jamaat)

Madaripur-1: Ali Ahsan Mohammad

Pabna-2: AKM Selim Reza Habib (BNP). Pabna-3: Capt (retd) Saiful

Azam Suja (BNP) and Prof Afzal Hossain (Jamaat), Pabna-5: Mollah Kafiluddin (Ind)

Habiganj Habiganj-1: Prof Maulana Abdul Malik Chowdhury (IOJ). Habiganj-2: Advocate Monmohan Devnath (KSJL) and Mrs Nazneen Hossain (BNP). Habiganj-4: Maulana Kamaluddin (BNP), Mrs Nazneen Hossain (BNP) and Dr Abidur Rahman (Jamaat).

Moulvibazar-1: Md Kamaruddin (Jamaat). Moulvibazar-3: M Naser . Rahmań (BNP). Moulvibazar-4: Hajee Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury (BNP) and MA Malek (Ind) Khulna

Moulvibazar

Khulna-2: Ali Asgar Loby (BNP) and Nazrul Islam Manju (BNP). Khulna-3: Sheikh Taibur Rahman (BNP) and Md Ashraf Hossain (BNP) Khulna-4: Prof Mabedul Islam (BNP) and Nurul Islam (BNP)

Feni-1: Maj (retd) Syed Iskandar (BNP). Feni-2: Prof Liagat Ali Bhuiyan (Jamaat), Joynal Abedin (BNP), Shawkat Osman (BNP), Mahbubul Haq Ripon (BNP) and Akbar Hossain (BNP). Féni-3 Mosharraf Hossain (BNP). Naogaon

Naogaon-1: Dr Salek Chowdhury (BNP) and Prof Salequr Rahman (Jamaat). Naogaon-2: Md Shamsuzzoha Khan (BNP) and Amir Moyenuddin (Jamaat). Naogaon-4: Md Shamsul Alam Pramanik (BNP) and Nasiruddin Jehadi (Jamaat). Naogaon-5: Advocate Yunus Alí (Jamaat). Chapainawabganj

Chapainawabganj-2: Syeda Asifa Ashrafi Papiya (BNP). Chapai-nawabganj-3: Abdul Wahed (BNP).

Eid on Jan 1

FROM PAGE 1 yesterday evening with the commit-

tee's Vice-President and Religious Affairs Secretary Mohammad Ataur Rahman in the chair Director General (DG) of Islamic Foundation Mohammad Fazlur Rahman, Sparso Chairman Abdul

Halim Hawlader, Deputy Director of Met Office Shah Alam, Khatib of Baitul Mokarram National Mosque Maulana Obaidul Haque, among others, attended the meeting. The committee took the decision after reviewing information received

from all the district administrations. head office, divisional and district level offices of the Islamic Foundation, met office and Sparso,

All issues of polls

president/chief adviser at

constitution.

. Bangabhaban in the afternoon. He told the delegation that election schedule has been changed for the third time, as all political parties during discussion on the package proposal agreed to hold the election within 90 days according to the

Dispelling the confusion about the voter list, the president said as per the demand of some political parties and the verdict of the High Court, the voter list of 2001 and the atest updated voter list will be used in the upcoming polls.

Updating of voter list will continue even until the day before the election, he told the EU election observation team. The president informed the

delegation that he had to assume

the office of the chief adviser to the caretaker government following the relevant sections and clauses of the constitution. He hoped the news media and election observers will extend full

cooperation in holding the upcoming elections in a fair manner. Welcoming the election observ ers from various countries, including the FU, the president said all steps

have been taken for holding a free, fair and neutral election. The EU delegation thanked the president/ chief adviser for giving consent in principle for signing an election observation related agree-

ment between the EU and

Bangladesh government. They informed the president that there would be 200 members in the EU observation mission to monitor the election in six divisions of

Bangladesh. The EU observation team will submit the election observation related report to the next government, they told the president

The delegation hoped that the upcoming election would be held in a free, fair and neutral manner with the participation of all politica

President's Adviser M Muklesur Rahman Chowdhury was present in the meeting. Meanwhile, the EU delegation

also met Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad at his Baridhara residence yesterday. During the meeting, the members of the delegation expressed their optimism about holding a free

the participation of all political parties "for the continuity of the democratic process". presidium member Anisul Islam Mahmud and International

and fair election in Bangladesh with

Affairs Adviser to the JP chief Habibur Rahman were present. The JP leaders informed the delegation of their stance about "inconsistency" in the voter list neutrality of the administration and other matters relating to holding a

US, UK move ships

powers prepared for a likely vote that could slap UN sanctions on Tehran. The United States and Europeans know well that they cannot do anything

against Iran and their pressure will not hold back Iran's desire to fully obtain peaceful nuclear technology,' Ahmadinejad said. "The bullying powers today, in confronting Iran's peaceful nuclear technology, are faced with a sea of

courageous people," he said in a speech in the town of Gilan-e Gharb in the western Kermanshah province. "If they think that nuclear energy only belongs to one group of the Iranian people, they are mistaken," he

added. Ahmadinejad also reaffirmed his prediction that Iran would be able to hold a "nuclear celebration" at the same time as it marks the 28th anniversary of the Islamic revolution on

Iran has not specified exactly what landmark will be feted on that day, but Ahmadinejad added: "Iran is only one step before we reach the zenith and we will take that step with pride." The Islamic republic has set a goal

of installing 3,000 uranium enriching centrifuges at a key nuclear plant by March, in what would be an important step towards industrial enrichment. Britain's UN envoy Emyr Jones

free and fair election.

That issue was dropped in a bid to win the support of Russia for the resolution, which has been held up for weeks by wrangling between the UN Security Council powers.

Western countries led by the

uranium enrichment, which they fear could be used to make nuclear weap-Iran insists its nuclear programme

United States want to impose sanc-

tions on Iran over its failure to suspend

is only aimed at providing energy for a growing population.

Krishak League

FROM PAGE 20 personal secretary Abdul Barek, 28, Ershad Hossain, 25, Humayun Kabir, 27, Kabir Ahmed, 22, Sekendar Ali, 23,

and Jamal Uddin, 25.

Police arrested them for damaging a police van and disrupting law and order during yesterday's hartal at about 11:00am at Shyamoli Ring Road in the capital.

Dhaka City Corporation under the same act. Moving the bail petitions, the defence lawyers argued that their clients were arrested and implicated

resolution, which watered down a contentious proposal for a travel ban

withdraw American troops from combat and into a support role. Security in three of Iraq's 18 prov-A suicide bomber detonated an explosive vest amid a crowd of police inces is under the control of local recruits in central Baghdad yesterday, governors. Maliki is gradually taking charge of his army and should be in

The attack came as US Defence leaders on the second-day of a fact-

military reinforcements to Baghdad.

wounded, a hospital official said.

the tight security in the area. After each attack the academy has been reopened and continues to attract a steady stream of recruits for

Building effective Iraqi forces is

been used in tackling the political programme The BNP however defended the

administrations in line with the new decision, said sources. The home ministry on Wednesday

playing field before the upcoming general election. From that rally, they In accordance with the laws, the police commissioners can seek assistance from the army in maintain-

Commissioner (DMP) ABM Bazlur Rahman did not clarify under what circumstances he had to ask for military help. Despite repeated attempts, The Daily Star could not have any comment from Bazlur Rahman. He even hung up on this

Earlier on December 13, citing a

Damaging vehicles or public proper-

Sticking to his stance on the army

army deployment.

has contributed to bringing peace and a sigh of relief among the people," Prof Moinuddin added.

standby to come out on the streets. In previous elections, the army was

but Masuda was not there. Harun claims he then called Khokon's cellphone, who could not be reached. Harun then called Mirza Abbas, who asked him to go to

Harun found his sister with a

Abbas told the press on Monday

Masuda's family, who earlier said

compatriot Don Bradman. He has taken 699 Test scalps and is poised to become the first man to

series, but said defeat inspired him to play on to help his country regain the He discussed his plans with current

revitalising the dying craft of wrist-spin after an era dominated by fast bowlers. He made an inauspicious start to his career, taking one wicket for 150 on his Test debut in January 1992 in Sydney against India, but quickly set about tormenting the world's best batsmen and re-writing the record

His place in history is already

Prime accused

alias 'Khora' Liton and Al Mamun.

Banglamotor area. Party vicechairman Golam Mostafa Anwar led

FROM PAGE 1 grounds for it Former cabinet secretary Muiibul

(BDR) fail. "I don't know how was the situa-

be 'understandable. The former top bureaucrat was

able only a few days before the polls

intensify conflicts. Expressing concern over this Hafizuddin said, "Did police failed to control the situation? They tackled

"It should also be seen whether it

"I also observed that some of the soldiers were carrying their rifles off of during the next five years."

Bangabhaban."

people Suranjit Sengupta, Hasanul Haq Inu, Rashed Khan Menon, Dilip Barua and Akhtaruzzaman were, among others, who attended the meeting.

"There is still scope to do these.

voters across the country I hope that all those involved in the political and electoral processes work to ensure that the elections are transparent, credible and take place in a peaceful environment." He said the EU observation mis-

agreement between the rival political "But we believe that all the stake-

Asked about the possibility of all major political parties' joining in the

long-term observers team will arrive later for observing pre-election prepa-A short-term team comprising 100 observers will watch voting, counting and tabulation of results. The total

Hannah Roberts were also present at the press conference.

Army's duty FROM PAGE 1

'We will accept the people's verdict and the people will deny victory to Bhuiyan said, "It is not the duty of the caretaker government to implement any party's agenda. But, if the

Election Commission hold the

He went on, "If the state needs to apply force, the army should be the last resort. Our army has earned reputation internationally and such an institution should not be involved in political confrontations, and it should be kept above any controversy in the

opposition from the advisers "The caretaker government should not have any thought of promoting the interest of any political party or acting against legitimate political programmes," said

Shahjahan, a former police chief.

14-party

attempted to deploy army earlier but

The former adviser noted that the

completing all these, the civil and police administration will be depoliticised and 300 upazila election officers will be relieved. But the president later made Zakaria's eaving the EC uncertain," said Jalil.

through such vague proposals. Branding lajuddin as the master mind of the conspiracy, Jalil said, "Resolve these and create environment for a fair election and let the people decide who will rule them

to place the army face-to-face with

alternative to hold it within the 90day deadline," acting Chief Election Commissioner Justice Mahfuzur Rahman said referring to the constitutional provision for holding polls

official polls plan to ensure the participation of all political parties in

February 11.

Parry said Wednesday the UN Security Council was set to vote on

Police also implicated around 1000 to 1200 others including the commissioner of ward no 43 of

in cases as part of a conspiracy to harass them.

Friday on a new text of a sanctions Moreover, they were tortured nhumane in the custody, the law-

Complexities have been created varsity has planned to manipulate the She said Turva tried to leave the one after another in a way in the last iconic personality of Prof Yunus, the the 14-party combine to understand scene after he came back to his sense said. "I think it will contribute to make 16 days that the possibility of a fair alliance leaders alleged. That is why the whole situation," he said. at around 11:00pm but failed. Liton ing the armed forces controversial. election has become uncertain, he the administration is desperate to ac Bangladesh's army has a reputation pressed Turya with a pillow and noted. "We will foil the conspiracy to on with the programme, although but to hold the election within 90 also in the international arena, and it Mamun and myself pressed his hands bring back to power the Khaledathere is no favourable atmosphere days and maintain constitutional right now, they added. Nizami coalition by making delay process.