## 'Kidnappers looked like tribals'

area. We have sent people to inves-

tigate", he told The Daily Star yes-

He did not rule out involvement of UPDF or JSS and said he is waiting for details. "There can be anyone, either from UPDF or from JSS"

JSS officials immediately denied their involvement and blamed UPDF for the kidnapping.

UPDF leader Adhikar Chakma rejected the claim and accused JSS

A British High Commission official told some newsmen over phone that they would not disclose identities of the kidnapped persons for security reasons. All efforts to secure their release are on, the duty officer at the High Commission in Dhaka said.

The High Commission made no comment regarding payment of

Kalparanjan Chakma also avoided a question about payment of ransom and said they will be freed soon as security forces have gone into operation to rescue them. The gunmen who took away the

tion of foreigners was very rare. In

1998, US oil company UMC sus-

pended its operations in the CHT

after a defence official in charge of

security was shot and a UMC geo-

physicist was kidnapped and

with Shell Oil were abducted and

taken to Tripura in India. But they

were released on payment of Tk 10

Bangladeshi, both experts of

Petrobangla, were abducted in CHT

by Shantibahini guerillas. But both

were released after questioning,

Last month, two European

tourists driving from Rangamati to

Naniarchar were waylaid by two

tribal gunmen at a place about 40

kilometres north of Rangamati.

upcoming elections but spoke of

many variables that would have

situation would improve when the

caretaker government takes over. "If

all the parties believe in fair contest,

the situation will improve. Then the

polling would be conducted in a

an early election. "If everything goes

as usual the next parliamentary next

parliamentary polls would take place

in September or sometime in early

ing in the country's political arena

has caused concern amongst most

of the top EC officials, political

activists from both ruling and oppo-

The volatile situation now prevail-

Syed ruled out the possibility of

He hoped that the law and order

sources said.

effect on the polls

October this year."

1978, a German and a

In 1983, three foreigners working

released after payment of ransom.

number, British consultant David Weston freed by the gunmen told The Daily Star. He was also held along with the three but freed to convey the message for payment of Tk nine crore as ransom.

Weston said they were armed with 'old fashioned' shot guns and pistols. Some had ribbons of bullets on their chest.

He said they appeared to be tribal people. They took away two cameras from his vehicle and a Global Positioning System (GPS) before disappearing into the bush with three of his colleagues.

The gunmen searched all of them for weapons, and also the vehicles, but took no money or even his wristwatch, Weston said.

Weston, 56, an engineer from the URL Ltd. of UK arrived in Dhaka on Monday from London and left for Chittagong on Thursday.

The three others were posted in CHT for supervising road construc-

Naniarchar, surrounded by bush and lake, is an area where JSS and UPDF groups are fighting each

According to one of the tourists, the

two tribesmen, one with a rifle and

the other with a shotgun, sprang

onto the road and ordered the

tourists to stop. The visitors sped off

and reported the matter to the next

nel they asked us if the bandits had

taken anything from us. When we

replied in the negative, they simply

walked off." one of the tourists, a

tioned at a hilltop cantonment, told

the tourists that roads were 'safe'

only on the days when army person-

nel move from one checkpoint to

three days a week when army

vehicles transport troops to different

checkpoints." the visitor told The

"You can move without risk for

But later, an Army Captain sta-

"When we told the army person-

army checkpoint.

Scottish, had said.

Abduction, killing rampant

napped from there in the last two

Differences between JSS chief Jyotirindriyo Bodhipriyo Larma and the student, youth and women fronts of the organisation had become prominent before he signed the peace treaty on December 2,

On February 10, 1998, when the first batch of Shanti Bahini guerillas laid down their weapons at a ceremony at Khagrachhari Stadium, the dissidents covered their faces with black clothes and displayed banners demanding 'total autonomy' for

The dissidents eventually formed their own political party --UPDF -- and were involved in a series of clashes with JSS activists. At least 70 people have so far been killed in clashes between the two groups since signing of the accord.

Larma accuses them of sabotaging the peace process and UPDF accuses him of selling out the inter-

labourer, Farooq, 30, of Sadar

Sadar Hospital, where the condition

of Maiid, 28, Buddhu, 30, Nasir, 28,

and Salam, 32, was stated to be

hospital morgue for autopsy.

driver managed to flee.

India

FROM PAGE 1

The injured were admitted to

The bodies were sent to the local

Police seized the truck, but its

Local Deputy Commissioner and

A case has been filed with local

match at the Jagannath Hall ground

of Dhaka University.
There were doubts whether India

would take part in the tournament

but eventually they got the permis-

sion of their government, which is

presently maintaining a stubborn stand with Pakistan.

group with hosts Bangladesh,

picked up their third successive

victory at the second strip of

Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP) in Savar. They

thrashed Singapore by nine wick-

also ambled to their third straight

success at the expense of Malaysia,

who suffered a massive 296-run defeat at the Dhanmondi Cricket

Elsewhere, in a clash of the no-

Hosts Bangladesh on the other

Although today is an official rest

hoppers Nepal defeated Kuwait by

five wickets at the strip number one

hand enjoyed a day's rest yesterday

day, two matches will be held at the

Defending champions Sri Lanka

Pakistan, placed in the other

Superintendent of Police visited the

9 killed

FROM PAGE 1

upazila.



A doa session and discussion meeting on the life of late Tawfiq Aziz Khan, former Executive Editor of The Daily Star, was held at the office of the daily yesterday.

## Baghdad blitzed again

north of the 33rd parallel, the upper limit of a no-fly zone that extends across southern Iraq to the Kuwait and Saudi borders.

"Saddam Hussein has got to understand that we expect him to conform to the agreement he signed after Desert Storm," Bush said in San Cristobal, Mexico, Friday.

Bush, who was speaking after summit talks with Mexican President Vicente Fox. described Friday's raid as "a routine mission. conducted to enforce the no-fly

Asked whether the strikes signalled a tougher US stance toward Hussein, the US leader said: "Our intention is to make sure the world is as peaceful as possible, and we're going to watch very carefully to see if he develops weapons of mass destruction. And if we catch him doing so, we'll take the appropriate

The strikes were in response to recent and more sophisticated Iraqi efforts to use the radar around Baghdad to co-ordinate surface-toair missile attacks against US and British aircraft in southern Iraq, said Lieutenant General Gregory Newbold, operations director of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

Two dozen strike aircraft from the aircraft carrier USS Harry Truman and land bases in the Gulf launched the attack at 1730 GMT, firing longrange precision guided munitions from within the southern no-fly zone, Pentagon officials said.

The stand-off weapons struck five radar and command and control nodes positioned 3.8 to eight kilometres from Baghdad, Newbold

All but one of the targets was north of the 33rd parallel, the upper limit of a no-fly zone that extends across southern Iraqi to the Kuwait

and Saudi borders, he said. The Iragis fired anti-aircraft guns and surface-to-air missiles in return,

By 1840 GMT, the attacking aircraft had cleared Iragi airspace and were on their way back to their bases, Newbold said.

The British national and the car

Police searched the area last

driver went back to Rangamati last

night and informed the police of the

night but could not trace the hos-

tages. Divisional Commissioner of

Chittagong Bobaidul Islam and DIG of Police, Chittagong Range Nazrul

Islam this morning rushed to

Rangamati. They held a co-

ordination meeting at noon to inten-

sify the search operations to rescue

and return them unhurt, administra-

The sites attacked were the Taji

Meanwhile, Iraq vowed Saturday to avenge the air strikes that underscore a tougher line by the new Bush administration in the decadeold showdown between President Saddam Hussein and Washington.

"This new crime will not go without dissuasive punishment for the American aggressors," warned the armed forces' newspaper, Al-Qadissiya.

Baghdad was determined to teach US President George W Bush, "son of the viper (former president) George Bush, a lesson which he will never forget."

However, contrary to the aftermath of previous attacks that left civilian casualties, Iraq's information ministry did not organise a visit to the bombed sites for journalists. At the same time, the authorities gave

Saddam chaired an emergency meeting of the Iraqi leadership and

"Iraq will continue to fight them (enemies) on land, in the air and at sea. Iraq will finally win," a commu-

niqué said. Britain defended the operation as justified under international law.

"We are quite confident that in international law our pilots have the right to defend themselves when they come under attack," British Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon told But both Russia and China

condemned the raids while France

"What the American military is in said Moscow defence ministry

And speaking in Damascus, Russian President Vladimir Putin's special envoy to the Middle East,

Later, army personnel started

A security official said that law

enforcers have cordoned off the

putting pressure on leaders

search operations in the rugged

Alexander Saltanov, said Russia and Syria consider the attacks "will not produce positive results." He was speaking after a meeting

with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq

The Chinese delegation to the United Nations said military attacks must be sanctioned by the Security

"China opposes the armed intervention by any UN member state under any circumstances against any other nation without the express consent of the Security Council," delegation spokesman Meng Li said in a statement.

Canada, however, said it "completely supports" the air strikes, although it was not informed in advance.

Meanwhile, regional power Iran led Middle East condemnation Saturday of the US bombing of Baghdad as "signs of adventurism" by the new US president, but Gulf states maintained an embarrassed

The Arab League complained that the attack had "no justification."

However, neither Saudi Arabia nor Kuwait answered Baghdad's taunts that they were "accomplices in crime" for allowing US and British warplanes to fly from their countries. Arab world heavyweight Cairo

was also slow to react. Riyadh and Kuwait City, which

celebrates the 10th anniversary of liberation from Iraqi occupation on February 26, are due to receive visits next week by US Secretary of State Colin Powell. Other Gulf monarchies that rely

largely on US might for their security -- Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates -- made no

Turkey expressed regret and urged the new Washington administration to consult with Ankara on its

## Opposition conspiring to foil upcoming election: Hasina

UNB, Morelganj, Bagerhat

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday charged the opposition leader with hatching conspiracy to foil the next election through creating anarchy in the name of move-

"The opposition is trying to satisfy political interest trampling corpses, trying to incite dissentions in the police by killing policemen, she said pointing to the killing of policemen during opposition har-

The Prime Minister came up with the observations about her principal political foe at a huge public meeting here in the afternoon a day after she offered to call election anytime if Begum Zia returned to parliament and set a date. Sheikh Hasina questioned the

justification of agitation by the opposition when the government will resign after three or four months in normal course at the end of her

"Do they want to show that they have pulled down the government? Do they want to score in the open net?" Hasina questioned saying that the people are not fool, election will be held under caretaker government after the government's resig-

In fact, she observed, Begum Zia and her aides went mad losing power and were now trying for political aggrandizement unleashing terrorism and killings.

The PM called upon the people to remain alert against the "evil design" of the agitating opposition

Referring to the February 13 killings in the capital, she said the BNP cadres killed the innocent police. "What was his offence? Why they are killing police and people in the name of movement?

### Youngman stabbed mugged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youngman was stabbed by muggers inside a tempoo on way to Gabtali from Asad Gate last night.

Muggers, who were travelling in the tempoo, stabbed Nitay Chandra Pramanik, 30, an assistant contractor working at Jahangirnagar University, and snatched away Tk. 6,000 from him. He was treated at a

### **President: JU convocation**

prevent the recurrence of such incidents

"Remember, the countrymen will

always wins against the evil. Terming university a hub of free and independent thinking and centre of higher education, President said existence of ideological differences among teachers and students is normal in universities.

But, he said, the university should not be considered as the centre of freethinking when anyone destabilizes normal situation by forcing others to accept his or her

The President said both teachers and students have the responsibility to maintain congenial academic atmosphere in the university. "Nobody can avoid this responsibility," he added

Noting with happiness that session jams in the university reduced this year, the President hoped that academic activities of JU would expand and gain momentum to brighten its image at home and abroad

The President told the audience that the day of convocation of a university is memorable to all. The ceremony not only recognizes the efforts and merit of a student but also entitles the university concerned to be a noted educational

institution. He said the Jahangirnagar University through the convocation fulfilled its responsibility to 3000 students. "This timely initiative of the university authorities also inspired

the students The president congratulated the teachers, students, officials and employees of JU on successfully arranging the 2nd Convocation within 4 years. Its First Convocation

was held in January 1997.

Chief Advisor to the former caretaker government Muhammad Habibur Rahman in his convocation speech stressed the need for keeping alive the aim of higher education among the students so that all their ideologies do not disappear in the present age of competition.

He said even in countries like the

Baves in his welcome speech termed his former students as the 'ambassadors' of the university and reminded them that their behaviours, merits and thoughts would The President handed over the

certificates, 2,037 Masters, 16 Ph.D. and 6 M Phil certificates from

Nineteen graduates were awarded gold medals for their

### WAPC confce

FROM PAGE 12

They will call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed on the day.

The concluding session is likely to adopt a Dhaka Declaration on press and media freedom and role of media in promoting international speech and understanding.

### PM: IT sector

FROM PAGE 12 proposal for establishing a staff college for engineers for imparting

training to improve their skill and efficiency. She stressed the need for ensuring proper utilisation of avail-

able national resources and checking misuse of resources in order to make the development efforts a IEB president Engineer MAK Azad, general secretary Eng Khan Manzur Morshed and Khulna IFB

president Eng MA Samad also spoke at the inaugural function of the three-day conference Some 30 delegates from Japan, India, Korea, Sri Lanka, Nepal and the United Kingdom are participating in the convention on the theme

"The Role of IT in Poverty

Ochendo freed

today, they said quoting the High

Today, the High Commission will

A Division Bench the High Court

inform the High Court the steps it

has taken regarding Goddya, they

on February 11 ordered the Nigerian

Goddya back home within five days.

rule issued by the Division Bench

Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury

The suo moto was issued follow-

Goddya, then 19, was arrested in

1992 in connection with a drug

smuggling case involving a teen-

aged US girl, Elieda MacCord. He

was acquitted in the case in July

But on July 13, 1993, he was

again charged with entering

Bangladesh using an invalid pass-

port. He was given two month's jail

term in 1995. Since the end of the

jail term, he was languishing in jail

due to legal complications.

ing a report in The Daily Star.

Commission, jail sources said. He will be flown back to Nigeria

Commission officials.

on February 5.

### Convocation

murder and repression on girl

Yet, general students were put to

shame when they found the highest degree of learning was conferred on a couple of students who were involved in murder and repression on girls on the campus.

Ananda murder case, were conferred on degree certificates at the second convocation of the univer-

sity yesterday dead by his fellow activists of BCL in an intra-party conflict in November

The university authorities agreed

Nahid and Sanjay, accused in

and dropped Miradul, Rony and Quddus from the list of recipients of

Ananda, a BCL cadre, was shot

students

# EC fears violence

According to a recently held seminar in the city, there are some 80 organised underworld gangs with about two lakh illegal weapons in their possession. Most of these antisocial elements maintain constant link with influential political leaders as well as the major parties. On an

average nine person die everyday, four of them victims of illegal arms. speakers at the seminar observed.

The June 1996 election was marked with violence in many constituencies, which left six people dead and 275 injured. Some 40,000 troops were deployed in addition to 450,000 regular law enforcement

BKSP. India will take on Malaysia

after two successive wins.

of the BKSP.

Malaysia FROM PAGE reached for comment. The

Bangladesh embassy was also More than 100,000 mainly Muslim Bangladeshis work in

Malaysia's construction, plantation and services sectors. More than one million foreigners, many of them without valid documents, work in Malaysia, which is one of Southeast Asia's wealthiest countries and has recovered well

from the 1997-98 Asian economic More than 60,000 illegal workers were deported in 1999 and another 97,251 were sent back last year. The Immigration Department expects deportation figures to

## surpass 100,000 this year.`

Rural poor

"On the other hand, the capital market and the industrial economy of the country will also get a signifi-cant boost if the potential rural Command and Radar facility, the Baghdad radar, the Al Tagaddum command and radar facility. As Suwayrah control station, and An Numaniyah control stations, the Pentagon said.

The official newspaper said

no details on the facilities hit.

struck a tone of defiance.

said it had not received any advance notice of the strikes. the process of doing, at the beginning of the new US administration, is a threat to international security,

official General Leonid Ivashov.

3 foreign R&H consultants Administration sources said that the abducted foreigners went on the road for a survey work under a project of Roads and Highway

Department for rehabilitation and

bush alongside the Rangamatiuplifting of selected major roads in Khagrachhari road from where the the Chittagong Hill Tracts. foreigners were abducted. The Army Commander of Chittagong They had gone there for the (Army) Division is expected to arrive same survey under police escort a in Rangamati soon. The army may week ago, sources revealed, adding use helicopters tomorrow if necessary, sources said. Meanwhile, local politicians were

that they did not seek any police escort this time around. The three kidnapped consultants have been on the project for some-

### tion sources said. The co-ordination opposed to the peace treaty to force savings can be channeled," he said. meeting also decided to involve time while David Weston joined the abductors to free the foreigners, (More on Business Page) 1997 on the campus army teams to intensify the search. sources said. them last week

incident

Sit-in around Secretariat today

FROM PAGE 1 maximum turn-out at the sit-in, dubbed by the opposition as the second largest street protest since the AL assumed power, the government has taken adequate security

in the vicinity of the Secretariat.

measures to maintain law and order

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police High Commission in Dhaka to take have already banned gathering, rally and procession around the The order followed a suo moto secretariat for 24 hours from midnight last night. The ban will be in force till midnight today. Carrying of comprising Justice Abu Sayeed and all types of firearms during this period has also been banned. According to sources, the go

vernment will deploy more than

6,000 security personnel, including

armed police, paramilitary BDR and

plainclothes detective in and around the Secretariat. Hundreds of security personnel will also be deployed at different entry points of the city, building tops, important government and private establishments. Large numbers of SB, CID, NSI, and DFI personnel will also be

deployed on the city streets. There

will be a four-tier security cordon by

the riot police, Ansars, armed police

and BDR The areas where gathering, rally and procession have been banned are -- Golap Shah Mazar to Zero Point, GPO Link Road to House Building crossing to Matshya Bhaban via Kadam Chattar and Topkahana Road, Zero Point to the south gate of Baitul Mukarram, Matshva Bhaban to Kastury Hotel at Purana Paltan via New Road and Narcotics Department crossing, Golap Shah Mazar to Doel Chattar via Phoenix Road, Karmajibi

and by-lanes in the area. Police sources said last night that security personnel would be deployed in the restricted areas at midnight. Huge barbed wire structures have been arranged to put up strong barricades on those roads.

Hospital, Abdul Gani Road and Old

High Court crossing and all lanes

They said all senior police officials of DMP would remain on the streets to maintain law and order. BDR personnel will be kept stand by in and around the Secretariat while Armed Battalion Police will be deployed on rooftops of allimportant establishments

Riot vans, water cannons, fire brigade vehicles, ambulances, dog squads will be kept ready near the

Secretariat and the Police Control The opposition parties have selected specific spots for gathering and also decided not to break the police barricades. BNP leaders and activists will start gathering near Dainik Bangla crossing, Jatiya Party at Matshya Bhaban, and Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote at Bijoynagar. Jagpa and Democratic League will also be in the Bijoynagar

BNP sources said party's top leaders, MPs, central leaders as well as leaders and activists of the front organisations have been instructed to stage sit-in in front of the House Building Finance Corporation building, Dainik Bangla crossing and Motijheel up to Shapla Chhatar in a disciplined way. They have been asked not to try to cross the police barricade, the sources BNP Chairperson and Leader of

the Opposition in Parliament

Khaleda Zia will join the demonstra-

tion. The sources said the party has no plan to proceed towards the Secretariat in a procession.

JP leaders and activists will be

led by its acting chairman Roushan

Ershad, and Jamaat and IOJ by Matiur Rahman Nizami and Muhiuddin Khan respectively. Opposition sources said nonstop hartals from the beginning of this month have seriously hampered its campaign as well as prep-

arations. They said except the BNP,

preparations taken by other parties,

especially the JP, is inadequate.

During the sit-in from 10am to 2pm, leaders of the opposition parties will deliver speeches one after another at their respective gatherings. BNP leaders and activists from Dhaka's adjoining districts including

Manikganj, Narayanjang and

Narsingdhi will have their token

participation in today's programme.

They have been asked to come in

Dhaka as general passenger. Sources said that already hundreds of BNP activists have arrived in Dhaka and many of them taken shelter at 29 Minto Road, the official residence of the Leader of the

Opposition. The party has instructed all districts and thana units to be ready for next course of action to be announced instantly if the sit-in programme is attacked by the government or any major incident

occurred. The alliance will call a countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal tomorrow, even if no major incident occurs, sources said. In case of any major incident, the alliance would go for a two-day hartal on Monday and Tuesday, they added. A series of hartals and other tougher programmes would follow from February 25.

Meanwhile, Khaleda yesterday had a meeting with senior party leaders and instructed them to make sure that the sit-in be "completely peaceful and disciplined," said sources. The senior leaders were instructed to convey the message to all leaders and activists of the party and its front organisations. She also advised all not to react to "any type of provocation" from the

### stand beside you in every good step and your good thinking will certainly be successful. Because, good

USA where there is special emphasis on efforts and gains at personal level, they are now thinking on how the 'socialization' of students or making them good citizens would be possible through higher education so that the country can benefit through their skills and thoughts JU Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdul

determine the reputation of their university certificates among around 3,018 graduates at the convocation. Of them, 2,977 received Honours

outstanding academic perfor-

and Bangladesh Press Council will place wreaths at Shaheed Minar. They will also visit Bangabandhu Museum, National mausoleum at Savar and Liberation Museum.