## The Pally Star

# **Removal of elected** VCs, pro-VCs condemned

5 murdered in city

#### UNB. Dhaka

FROM PAGE 1

for autopsy.

added.

then.

FROM PAGE 1

in this regard.

vesterday morning

Some professionals and intellectuals yesterday strongly condemned the removal of elected VCs and pro-VCs of various universities terming the move as 'blatant violation of laws and democratic norms ' Protesting the removal of six

Vice Chancellors and pro-Vice-Chancellors of different universities by the government, they also termed the action as a clear violation of 1973 University Ordinance. They made the protest at a rally

at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium with noted intellectual Prof Dr Mazharul Islam in the chair.

The rally was addressed, among others, by removed VC of Dhaka University Prof Dr A K Azad Chowdhury, VC Jahangirnagar University Prof Abdul Bayes, DU Pro-VC Prof Dr Shahadat Ali, BFUJ President Iqbal Sobhan

village of Maijdi in Noakhali, out of

his house at 11:00 pm Tuesday. He

was taken to a slum near the plan-

ning commission office at Agargaon

and severely beaten up. Police

recovered him from the spot and

send him to the Pangu hospital

where he died at 4.40 am yesterday.

Medical College Hospital morgue

an affair with a girl in the area.

Relatives of the girl may have hired hoodlums to kill Shajahan, they

No case was filed with the police

The body of Emdad Hossain, 28,

Publicity Secretary of the Uttara

thana unit of JASAS, was found

slaughtered near an under con-

struction building at Madhubagh,

Uttarkhan in the city's Uttara area

his residence in Uttarpara,

Dakhinkhan at about 10:30 p.m on

Tuesday. He was missing since

found his body at 7:45 am yester-

day. His body bore marks of injuries

**Body for** 

Besides, the government will

appoint two power sector experts

and one economist to the council.

according to the draft. There will

also be representatives from the

Bangladesh University of

prime minister, will also be in it.

Faruq Mia, a local resident,

Emdad, son of Ashraf Uddin, left

His body was sent to the Dhaka

Sources said that Shajahan had

Chowdhury, DUTA President Prof Aminur Rashid, JUTA General Secretary Ahmed Raja, DU senate members Advocate Syed Ahmed, Dr Harun-Ar-Rashid and Ismat Kadir Gama, former general secretary of National Press Club Shafiqur Rahman, BMA Social Welfare Secretary Dr Jamaluddin Chowdhury and Engineer Golam

Mostafa. Pleading to moot legal fight against such illegal action of the government, speakers at the rally also expressed determination to launch all-out movement against such unlawful move of the authori-

They also criticised the role of the utgoing President and Chancellor of Liniversities Shahabuddin Ahmed saying that his action for illega removal of the elected VCs would remain as a stigma on his forehead forever.

in different parts and his clothes

The reason behind the killing

His body was sent to DMCH

were wet when his body was found.

could not be known.

filed in this regard.

been strangled.

yesterday evening

about 3:45 pm.

could not be known

power

report.



Australian High Commissioner in Dhaka Robert Flyin yesterday called on Leader of the Opposition and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and said Australia would

always remain besides Bangladesh for its development. During the meeting at Hasina's Sudha Sadan residence, the envoy said that his country would extend all support like in the past for the development of Banaladesh.

The former prime minister congratulated John Howard for his election as the Prime Minister of Australia for the third time and handed over a letter of greetings to the high commissioner.

She also recalled her visit to Australia last year and thanked the envoy for the continued help and assistance of his country for the development of Bangladesh and also requested him to continue the support

Awami League general secretary Zillur Rahman, former state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Opposition Leader's political secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury, personal aid Dr Hasan Mahmud and private secretary Nazrul Islam Khan were present.

#### Mockbul's son FROM PAGE 12

morgue for autopsy. No case was witnesses from other places. The body of an unidentified man, Prosecution side opposed the

aged around 40, was recovered bail petition and praved for remand from near Agargaon police camp at of the accused. After hearing both noon yesterday. His identity could the sides the Magistrate Biman not be known till writing of this Bihari Baruya rejected the bail petition and placed the accused on Police sent the body to DMCH remand

morgue for autopsy. Hospital The police in its forwarding report sources quoting a morgue before the additional district magisemployee said the man might have trate proposed a one-month deten-

In yet another incident a AL leader Mockbul was present handloom employee was stabbed to in the court during the hearing. death at a bazaar of Mirpur 11

In a statement the former AL MP protested the arrest of his second Murgi Jamil, 25, son of son without any valid ground. He Mohammad Shamim, was stabbed to death by a gang of miscreants at claimed that his son was arrested with a political motive and the move He was rushed to DMCH where was to divert attention from the doctors declared him dead. illegal occupation of a private uni-Relatives who brought the victim to

versity by a ruling party MP. the hospital said the victim told them Mockbul said that he established that Jamal and Mokbul stabbed him. the Dhaka International University. The reason behind his killing Masudur is a well known businessman and a Commercially Important Person (CIP) and taxpayer, Mockbul added.

that need is significant.

spoke on the occasion.

#### PM: Armed forces FROM PAGE 12

sacrifice to protect our hard-earned independence," she said.

A total of 20 senior officers from

services participated in the 44-week

civil servants three joint secretaries,

National Defence Course

NDC and AFWC respectively.

FROM PAGE 1

the country.

those favourably.

Kamal Siddigi was present.

added

3 economists

views with experts that would help

the government in bringing eco-

nomic emancipation and fulfilling

aspirations of the people. Even the

prime minister could have such non-

shape of garment sector, they

suggested that obstacles in IT

sector be identified and steps taken

to remove those barriers for its

expansion. IT could radically

change the economic situation of

preparations for good harvest in the

coming Boro season and steps to

stop import of non-essential items.

increase foreign remittance, reform

They also suggested massive

Against the backdrop of the bad

political expert advisor, they said.

Describing the National Defence College as the highest seat of learning for the Bangladesh Armed Forces, she said armed forces

### Experts against gas export Indigenous people

awarded three Sylhet blocks (12, 13 and 14) to Occidental through unsolicited bidding in violation of the law of the land, he claimed. Although the Awami League

government had been under pressure from foreign companies, it did not give in considering the national interest. Kibria said.

He claimed that a 'secret conspiracy' was hatched before the election with the condition that whichever party agreed to export gas would go to power.

The Awami League fell prey to the conspiracy, as it had refused to

play a party to the scheme, he said. Dr Golam Mohiuddin of BUET said that Mosharraf was the main architect of the KAFCO deal, a deal which would be a national burden forever and for which the government had sent him to prison.

"He is the man who had signed the agreement for the KAFCO to sell gas at one dollar per thousand cubic feet whereas the government is buying it at around three dollars and giving huge subsidy," he added.

Professor Nurul Islam said if the country now exported gas to India. it would be compelled to import gas in a short time, as the reserve would be exhausted. The BEA president Moinul Islam

noted that the government must be aware that India would save around US\$400 million by importing gas from Bangladesh.

MM Akash of Dhaka University said there was no arrangement to monitor the cost of any gas project.

If the government wants to export gas, it will be necessary to might fall flat. change the PSCs because there is no provision in them for gas export through pipeline, he said. So, he asked, why the government is so interested to do it?

The government is trying to export gas to earn only Tk 1,000 crore but when there would be no gas reserve, the country would be compelled to buy gas at a higher price. At least 10 ministers of the present government are not in favour of gas export, he claimed.

Dr Abul Barkat said no political party committed to gas export in their election manifesto and asked why the government was so interested to do it. Citing credible figures of 11.15

TCF of gas reserve, jointly determined by the United States Geological Survey and Petrobangla and published in February this year, the speakers expressed strong reservations about gas export as this reserve would meet 16 to 17 vears of domestic demand at best. Dr Khalilur Rahman Chowdhury

of the Department of Geology at Jahangirnagar University presented a paper, which revealed that Unocal figure stood so high because it had mixed 'gas in-place' with 'recoverable gas reserve'.

Only 60 per cent of the total gas resource of the country were recoverable, the paper said

Out of 22 gas wells in operation, only eight have over one TCF reserve and reserve in some wells is depleting, Dr Hossain Mansur said, others.

## **Rehman Sobhan honoured**

injustice in the society. Through this

award, he got formal recognition in

war efforts through policy planning

and his life long comrades Nurul

Islam. Mosharraf Hossain and

Anisur Rahman spent in building

the Bangladesh Planning

Recalling the days of the War of

Liberation. Prof Sobhan said. "It

(War of Liberation) made all of us

who were associated with it feel

He also mentioned the days he

Prof Sobhan in his speech

his lifetime

to build the country.

Commission

to all of them," he said. He mentioned the names of economists who worked with him in the first Planning Commission and also recollected the role of vound economists in Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

Grameen Bank Managing Director Dr Mohammad Yunus handed over the award as chief guest at a simple ceremony held at the Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management (BIAM) auditorium yesterday. The function was largely attended by

Mohammad Farashuddin presided over the function where economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud focussed on the professional life of Prof

### Toll collection FROM PAGE 12

bigger than what we were." But, he added, "It is the misfor-Falking to The Daily Star. a senior

Nuruddin M Kamal, former chairman of the Power Development Board (PDB), said

that hypothetical estimation regarding gas reserve caused confusion among the people and might rob the country of a priceless nonrenewable energy.

Rafidul Islam Khan, a hydrocarbon expert, said planning, management and distribution of mineral resources was vital for productive utilisation and development.

Policymakers have to decide whether to follow the path of Norway or Nigeria, two contrasting examples of utilising mineral resources, he said.

The BEA seminar was addressed by Professor Nurul Islam of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), former Petrobangla chairman Professor M Hossain Monsur, MM Akash, professor of economics of Dhaka University, BUET professor Dr Golam Mohiuddin. Chartered Accountant Masih Malik Chowdhury

and others The BFDR seminar was addressed by former PDB chairman Nuruddin M Kamal, M Hossain Monsur, former director of the Atomic Energy Commission Dr Mujibur Rahman Khan, hydrocarbon expert Rafidul Islam Khan, Dr Khlalilur Rahman Chowdhury of Jahangirnagar University and

Commission. Prof Mahmud said

"After independence, he dreamt of

transforming Bangladesh into an

egalitarian society by using the

Planning Commission as the vehi-

cle of this transformation a dream

commitment was reflected in the

large number of publications of Prof

Bangladesh, though the state-

versus-market debate has had the

risk of being unfairly tilted on one

side, there was no one of Professor

Sobhan's stature to represent the

But, Prof Mahmud said the risk

was largely remedied as "Prof

Sobhan, unlike many intellectual

crusaders, welcomes criticisms and

does not hesitate to modify his

position when confronted with

reasonable arguments and credible

evidences contrary to his ideas. In

fact, he is at his intellectual best only

case of the market."

He mentioned that the same

He continued, "Within

that arguably was too idealistic."

Sobhan.

FROM PAGE 12 cautioning that the words on reserve

ing development financial institution of the world to act in conformity with indigenous people's safequards under existing and emerging international legal instruments and development process," the statement said.

involved through their representa-The statement issued jointly by tive institutions in all relevant levels representatives of the National Adivasi Coordination Committee of negotiations between the Bank and borrowing governments. and the Bangladesh Adivasi Forum said the broad objective of the draft the broad meaning of its objectives policy in comparison to the current as contained in the current policy. It policy suggests a narrower vision of also urged the policy makers to the bank with regard to the rights incorporate provisions to recognise and needs of the indigenous people and strengthen the customary land

and how they may benefit from the and resource rights of the indigenous people, including rights to development process. The current policy does not lands and resources owned, used or qualify how the indigenous people occupied by the indigenous people are to benefit from development and to enable them to defend the projects. The draft policy reduces rights. the meaning of benefit by relating it Frederick T Temple, Bangladesh country director of the World Bank, to 'the bank's mission of poverty

reduction and sustainable developaddressed a large number of indigement' nous people at the inaugural ses-"A concept of benefit that is sion while Navin K Rai, senior social unacceptable to the indigenous development specialist, indigenous people cannot be imposed upon us people of the World Bank, delivered without our prior informed consent," presentations. the statement noted liten Chakma and Saniib Drong

The statement also said the draft Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, policy allows borrowers (countries) Sushmita Chakma, Mrinal Kanti ample scope to exclude the applica-Tripura, coordinator of Hill Tracts tion of this policy to the indigenous NGO Forum. Hla Thowai Hri Marma people it does not wish to recognise. of the Committee for the Protection This is contrary to the self. of Forest and Land Rights of the identification rights of the indige-CHT, and Babul D Nokrek of Abima Garo Youth Association. Tangai The statement also said that the were also present at the meeting

DHAKA THURSDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2001

of the bank.

opportunity to analyse the findings

of the ongoing evaluation of the

policy being undertaken by

Opreations Evaluation Departmen

indigenous people should be

It also recommended that the

It also suggested the bank retain

draft excludes the application of organised by the World Bank. policy to those 'who have left their communities of origin and moved to urban areas to obtain wage labour'. On participation, accountability,

The statement strongly recom-

mended for enabling the indigenous

people to give revised inputs on the current draft policy after they get an

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An Awami League activist was

hacked to death at Chitalmari upazila at midnight Tuesday night.

Some unidentified assailants

The murder was a sequel to

wooped on Abul Shikder, 40, while

AL activist

murdered

he was returning home.

previous enmity, police said.

nous people.

affects them.

Newsmen boycott transparency and access to infor-FROM PAGE 12 tion," President of the Dhaka mation, the joint statement said the draft policy indirectly recognises the Reporters Unity Anwarul Hug said indigenous people's right to prior echoing the sentiment of the agitatinformed consent only in the case of ing journalists. commercial use of land and Terming unfortunate the gesture resources and not in other cases where the development process

shown to journalists both by some civil and military officials there, he said, "We're treated as secondclass citizens out of sheer bureaucratic arrogance."

When the matter was drawn to the notice of ruling BNP leaders, including LGRD Minister and BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Information Minister Dr Moyeen Khan, they said they were not aware of any such decision

about reporters. PM's political secretary Haris Chowdhury and her PS Saiful Islam came out of the Darbar Hall to the lawn to persuade the reporters back into the Hall, but failed.

The journalists, however, entered the Hall after the oathtaking ceremony was over to collect reaction from the new President.

# Many PSCs

FROM PAGE 1 Mineral Resources Engineering of the BUET respectively. Professor M Rezwan Khan,

when he is provoked." president of the BUET Teachers Dr Md Farashuddin said people Association, chaired the seminar. The minister blasted of all paths and ideology found Petrobangla for having "never consulted with local experts before honest neutrality in Prof Sobhan.

Professor Islam in his "Critical observation of the energy situation of Bangladesh", said that net benefit from the export of gas was very small

Abu Taher and Air Chief Air Vice-

Marshal Rafigul islam made a

farewell call on the President and

addressed the Bangabhaban

officials and staff at the Darbar Hall.

He advised them to maintain neu-

trality and punctuality in their officia

duties and keep high the image of

The President also recalled their

Í ater. President Shahabuddin

stayed with him for some time.

Professor Ahmed urged the government to discuss the issues related to natural gas at the Jatiya Sangsad before taking any deciforeiar

## The BB Governor in his speech as a member of the first Planning

intellectuals and economists. Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr

Sobhan

Although Finance and Planning minister M Saifur Rahman was scheduled to attend the programme as chief guest, he did not turn up.

recalled the days during the Pakistani period, the economic disparity between the two wings of Pakistan, his role in the War of Liberation and his and his colleagues' post-

FROM PAGE 12 of the struggle. I dedicate this award mentioned that the minister could not attend due to 'unexpected and unavoidable reasons' Arguably the most influential

economist in the country, Prof Sobhan has had tremendous impact in development thinking in Bangladesh and is a voice against

NEWS

Engineering and Technology, different chambers, trade unions and the civil society.

lobal Hasan Mahmood, the state minister for power, told The Daily Star that the proposed council will play a significant role in the development of the power sector.

He could not say exactly when the council would be formed, however. The minister said he expected the draft to be approved by the prime minister shortly as it is on the agenda for the first 100 days of the government.

Mahmood said none of the decisions taken by the previous government on the power sector was transparent. "Formation of this council will ensure transparency in the power sector," the state minister observed

The council will look into the recommendation made by different committees on reforms in the sector before placing those before the parliament, the minister said.

Sources said the council would not only scrutinise the proposals of the government but also come up

## **Final Test begins**

#### FROM PAGE 1

In the Zimbabwean side, right-arm medium pacer Garry Brant fills in the bowling void left by injured skipper rest of the series.

nets on Wednesday.

Bangladesh captain Naimur good fight against their illustrious opponents

we did in Dhaka and prove that the first innings (of the first Test) did not reflect our standard," he said.

His opposite number Stuart Carlisle meanwhile made his intention very clear. "We are desperately looking for a win after failing in Dhaka. We were in a winning position in Dhaka, but the lady luck did not smile on us. Let's see what we can do here," said Carlisle at nets. SQUAD

Bangladesh: Naimur Rahman (captain), Khaled Masood, Javed Omar, Al-Shahriar, Habibul Bashar, Aminul Islam, Akram Khan, Mohammad Ashraful. Enamul Hoque, Mashrafee-bin-Mortiza and Mohammad Sharif

tain), Andrew Flower, Grant Flower, Deon Ebrahim, Garry Brant, Craig to meet expectations of the government, then it will fail," said a high PDB official. A number of PDB officials

with new ones if and when neces-

experts were sceptical about the

effectiveness of the proposed

council unless it is endorsed by the

parliament. " If the council only aims

Meanwhile, power sector

observed that there should be representatives from different wings of the power sector in the advisory council

### Hartal today

FROM PAGE 1 BNP-led government is now talking about forming of a committee of experts regarding gas export in the face of protest by LDF, there has present on the occasion been no change in its policy to export gas. Bangladesh Army, Navy and civil

Bangladesh Ganatantrik Ainjibi Samity in a press release said it supports the hartal call. It demanded of the government to ensure gas supply to industries and to northern and southern districts, stopping the bid to export gas. Ganatantrik Biplobi Jote and

Revolutionary Unity Front in separate press releases also urged the people to observe hartal today. Meanwhile, different organisa-

tions vesterday held rallies and brought out processions in support of the hartal call.

Brian Murphy. Leg-spinner Murphy flew back home Tuesday night with a hairline fracture on his left wrist. Stuart Carlile will lead the side for

Both teams spent a lot of time at

Rahman said his team would try to play better cricket here and put up a

"We need to play a lot better than

Zimbabwe: Stuart Carlisle (cap-

Wishart, Douglas Marillier, Trevis Friend, Trevor Gripper, Heath Streak and Henry Olonga (More stories on Page 13)

## Dhaka: Taliban

#### FROM PAGE 12

talks between past Foreign Minister Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury and US Foreign Secretary Collin Powel, Chowdhury said the talks were successful in the context that it was the first ever highevel contacts between Dhaka and Washington after the BNP-led coalition assumed power.

He disagreed with the idea that the present government is under pressure to take a quick decision regarding gas export to India though

The Foreign Secretary said Powel appeared sympathetic to the concern of Bangladesh regarding the guota- and duty-free export of RMG to the US market. He denied the notion that the Bush administration has linked the issue of gas export to India to the duty- and quota-free access of Bangladeshi roducts to US market.

The secretary was not very clear about the government's position on the issue gas. It's a matter lying with the Energy Ministry, he said.

Additional Foreign Secretary Mohsin Ali Khan and other senior official of the Foreign Ministry were present

BNP leader admitted that toll collecprofessionally competent leaders. tion in the city has increased. He She noted that the contribution of said the government is determined the college towards the fulfillment of to take stern action against the

miscreants Commandant of the NDC Maj Meanwhile, Prime Minister Gen Abu Kaiser Fazlul Kabir also Khaleda Zia held a meeting with members of the Law and Order Ministers, high commissioners Committee yesterday and reviewed the situation. The meeting disand ambassadors in Dhaka and cussed ways to effectively check chiefs of the three services were such crimes

She instructed the ministries and departments concerned to take stern action against the criminals irrespective of party affiliation.

National Defence Course while 20 The sources said, the PM gave senior officials from the army, navy clear-cut instruction that no excuse and air force took part in the Armed would be entertained if the law and order situation can not be improved Forces War Course (AFWC). Five immediately. "I do not want to hear occurrence of any untoward incione DIG of police and one DG from dent in the holy months of foreign ministry took part in the Ramadan", she told the meeting.

LGRD and Cooperatives Col Khairul Absar and Ltd Col Kazi Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Anwarul Hossain were adjudged the Law Minister Moudud Ahmed. best individuals in research work in Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas. Fisheries and Livestock Minister Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Education Minister Dr Osman Farug and State They emphasised that each minis-Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar attended the ter should exchange ideas and

tune of post-liberation Bangladesh that so much time is invested in making people feel smaller than they deserve to be."

Focussing on his next work --'Correcting Structural Injustices' --Prof Sobhan said, "I hope it will be my concluding work as an economist, which I see as one of the crucial issues of our time."

"We have been held captive, as a people, within layers of injustice which have narrowed the opportunities and abridged the lives of large numbers of our citizens," he pointed

Prof Sobhan also talked of democratisation of wealth for equitable development and growth and empowering the poor. Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud said

Prof Sobhan was a voice of dissent to the "uncritical acceptance of neoliberal or laissez-faire ideas promoted in the 1980s through aid conditionalities of Bretton Woods institutions"

"Today, largely due to those dissenting voices, there is a rethinking on market-oriented reforms so as to accommodate some of the earlier concerns regarding developmental roles of the state," Prof Mahmud said.

Mentioning Prof Sobhan's role

## **Northern Alliance consolidates**

#### FROM PAGE 1

Office.

after the northern alliance, backed by intensive American bombing, fought their way too the edge of the city

meeting, held at the Prime Minister's

Supporters say the Taliban's withdrawal from urban areas throughout the country is a strategy that will allow the militia and its allies to wage a guerrilla war from Kandahar's rugged mountains and caves

banking system and dispose of non-US warplanes kept up pressure profitable public enterprises to on the Taliban with more air raids reduce loss to government excheoutside the capital yesterday. American aircraft bombed the The prime minister thanked the airport and military installations economists for their suggestions around the city of Jalalabad at least and said that she would consider six times overnight and early in the morning, the Pakistan-based She said such dialogue with Afghan Islamic Press reported.

experts of different professions Citing an unidentified Taliban would continue irrespective of their official, the agency also said warpolitical identity. Any suitable sugplanes attacked a military base in gestion would be actively consid-Khost, 10 kilometers from the ered in the national interest, she Pakistan border.

In Kabul, a northern alliance PM's Principal Secretary Dr official said there were reports of uprisings against the Taliban by

residents in eastern Nagarhar province as well as in the southern provinces of Ghazni and Wardak. The Afghan Islamic Press

reported that Nangarhar's capital, Jalalabad, was under the control of Khalis, who declared himself independent of both the Taliban and the . Northern Alliance.

border station were preventing anyone, including Afghans, from entering the country yesterday according to witnesses.

ern alliance said that it had invited all the country's factions -- except the Taliban -- to come to newly captured Kabul to negotiate a post-Taliban aovernment.

name

Afghanistan, envisioning a broadbased two-year transitional government and a security force drawn from a variety of nations.

"Things are changing fast on the ground, as we saw over the last few davs. especially last night and this morning with the Northern Alliance expanding its control over territory and entering Kabul." the UN envoy for Afghanistan Lakhdar Brahimi, told the 15-member Security Council

He said UN political personnel had been asked to go to Kabul immediately, beginning with his deputy, Frances Vendrell, a Spanish UN career official now in Islamabad. At the same time, he said, he was organising a conference as soon as possible of all Afghan factions and called on the international community to get food and other supplies to additional tool other than civilian ordinary Afghans, millions of whom courts for bringing to justice those risk starvation as the winter snows directly responsible for attacks like setin

ianina the PSCs with companies" and said it could not take any decision on its own as it Shahabuddin was fully dependent on foreign experts. FROM PAGE 1 Rashid, Naval Chief Rear Admiral

Petrobangla paid three crore taka in legal fee against an international arbitration but it was not settled, he told the seminar.

prime minister for immediate settlement." he said. Mosharraf revealed that the

supply and reserve position and the other to assess economic feasibility of natural gas.

sincere cooperation in the dis-He said the committee reports charge of his functions and wished would be discussed at a national forum comprising all quarters to them a good future. reach a consensus on the issue

"The president would make a

separate independent finding that

someone was a member of a terror-

ist organisation like al-Qaeda and

that it was in the interests of the

United States that the person be

prosecuted." Gonzales said. "That

person would then be delivered to

the secretary of defense who would

The commissions would sit at

any time and any place and provide

"a full and fair trial," if said.

Conviction would require agree-

ment by two-thirds of the panel

the president an option and an

Gonzales said the order gave

take control of the individual."

and medical treatment."

members.

On behalf of the officials and staff of Bangabhaban, Secretary to the President Azad Ruhul Amin pre-"Everything would be done on the basis of transparency and accountability. No hide-and-seek sented the President with a bouquet policy would be adopted," the minisand Military Secretary to the President Major General Jalaluddin He said all the member of parlia-

Bangabhaban

Ahmed a crest of Bangabhaban. ments, non-government organisa-tions, local experts and other stake-Members of the President Guard Regiment (PGR) accorded holders would be invited to partici-President Shahabuddin Ahmed a farewell Guard of Honour.

## **US military courts**

the Sept. 11 assaults on the Nev York and Washington.

"The president thinks it can be a helpful option now in bringing aldid not name anybody who would be Qaeda suspects to justice," White subject to prosecution in the military House spokesman Ari Fleischer told courts and did not apply to

#### Badruddoza FROM PAGE 1

Court, chiefs of the three services, high civil and military officers, journalists, national award winners, politicians and elite of the city.

None from the major opposition party in the parliament, the Awami League, attended the ceremony.

The order specified that anybody Later while talking to the Press detained would be "treated President Chowdhury appealed to humanely without any adverse the major opposition party Awami distinction based on race, color, League, to join the Jatiya Sangsad. religion, gender, birth, wealth or any He said the opposition is part and similar criteria, and afforded adeparcel of a democratic government. quate food, water, shelter, clothing

The president also expressed his gratitude to the people for giving their verdict to BNP in the October 1 elections and to the party chief for nominating him as the presidential candidate.

UNB adds: Badruddoza Chowdhury earlier resigned from ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)

An official release said he resigned as a member of the party and of its standing committee.

Khalis' followers at the Torkham

The foreign minister of the north-

The alliance has also asked the United Nations to send "teams" to the Afghan government to help the peace process, said the foreign minister, Abdullah, who goes by on

Meanwhile, Reuters says, the United Nations outlined the world's first political blueprint for

Ctg: Hartal FROM PAGE 1

Chowdhury spoke at the rally. Indu Nandan Dutta read out the declaration of the rally.

Addressing the rally Mustari Shafi said people of the country were scared after seeing the first month's rule of Khaleda Zia's coalition government. "We don't know what more is in store for us," he said, adding that efforts were on to turn secular Bangladesh into an Islamic Republic.

He said problems would not be solved by leaving the country and called for building up resistance against all sorts of repression.

Shafi also criticised the Home Minister's statement in Parliament denving repression perpetrated on members of the Hindu community in Mirersarai. If nothing happened there why Firoz Khan of BNP who led the attack was arrested, he

pate in the forum. auestioned. Binod Bihari Chowdhury said the

issue of repression on the minority in Bangladesh would be internationalised when the matter would come up in the UN general assembly on November 17.

FROM PAGE 1 order gave Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld the authority to establish the tribunals. The order

Americans.

"The case is still pending even after directives from the former

present government has formed two committees, one to assess demand

ter said.