Ban on polythene bags

The summary paper placed in the

cabinet meeting yesterday said although the use of polythene bags started in 1982, its production and

use have increased manifold since

Everyday about one crore poly

thene bágs are used and 90 lakh óf

them are dumped haphazardly in

the capital alone. About 20 per cent

of the bags are recycled while the

est 80 per cent are being dumped

into rivers, canals, drains, sewerage

system, water bodies and in open

A study of the environment ministry said the total number of

polybags produced in the country is

around 129 million per day. Since

polythene bags are not biodegrad-

able, they remain intact in the

ground forever and destroy soil

the rampant use of polythene bag

has led to the clogging of the

Buriganga river, lakes in the Dhaka

city, the sewerage system and other

water bodies. The dredging of

Buriganga has been seriously

nampered due to polythene bags

process emits poisonous smoke

and causes serious public health

hazards. Polythene bags are injuri-

factor for cancer and other skin

Besides, the existing recycling

accumulated at the riverbed.

The summary paper further said

India, Pakistan troops

India on Sunday acknowledged that some of its elite military forces had mobilised near the border with Pakistan and said the military was in a state of "very high alert" amid rising tensions with its neighbour.

'It now came to a point that India had to take notice. This is when India had to bring its forces closer to the border both in Punjab and Rajasthan (states)," Defence Minister George Fernandes was quoted as saying by Press Trust of

"These include movement of some formation of strike forces." he told PTI in an interview.

Indian officials said part of the country's elite Strike Corps -- which specializes in penetrating enemy territory for an infantry attack -- were

near the border. The Pakistani army spokesman said Indian and Pakistani forces have exchanged fire across Siaching glacier -- the world's highest battlefield -- over the last three

days.
"It's routine and not in the context of the recent build-up," Brigadier

The Pakistani army spokesman said India initiated the attacks on Pakistani positions on the Siaching glacier over the past few days and

Pakistan responded. "Pakistan retaliated, causing damage to their artillery," he said. "There has been no exchanges (of fire) on the international border," he said referring to the non-Kashmiri

frontier between the two countries. Pakistan's air force chief said yesterday Pakistani defence forces were ready to give a matching response to any "misadventure" by India on its borders, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) reported. "There is nothing to be worried about -- Pakistan's armed forces are fully prepared," APP quoted Air Chief Marshall Mushaf Ali

Mir as saying. In the latest exchange of fire along the border, two Indian paramilitary guards were killed and three wounded when Pakistan troops opened fire on the border of the disputed Himalayan territory of

Kashmir, Indian officials said today. The border clash took place at Bain Galahar, 40 kilometers southwest of Jammu, winter capital of

India's Jammu-Kashmir state. This was an unprovoked action. spokesman of the Border Security Force told The Associated Press on customary condition of anonymity. "They could be Pakistani rangers but there appeared to be some

regular army men. There was no immediate reaction from Pakistan's army.

Also Sunday, India's army killed two suspected militants in Bandipora, 75 kilometers (46 miles) north of Srinagar, the summer

capital of Jammu-Kashmir. The two men have been identified as Pakistani nationals who belonged to guerrilla group Lashkar-e Tayyaba, army spokesman Mukhtar Singh said. One of the slain men is believed to be a top

commander of Lashkar-e Tayabba.

In Kabul, asserting that India did

not have infinite patience, External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh on Sunday said the recall of the Indian High Commissioner from Islamabad was only a signal to Pakistan that it

US plane FROM PAGE 12 "We are told the flight attendant was

drawn to him by the smell of sulphur from a lit match, and then challenged him as to what he was doing," Kinton said.

He said the intervention of the flight attendant "appeared to have

prevented something very serious from occurring. The North American Air Defense Command ordered two F-15 fighter

iets to escort the airliner after the explosives were discovered and the incident was reported to the Federal Aviation Administration, officials Authorities said the 28-year old

suspect, who was travelling alone and without any luggage, was being questioned by FBI agents. Investigators used an X-ray to examine his shoe and discovered enough explosives to create significant damage, Kinton said. He described the explosive

device as "improvised.

According to WHDH television authorities describe the explosive device as C4, a plastic explosive used for both industrial and military

Department of Transportation inspector general, said the suspect perfectly planned his action.

Paris could have detected plastic explosives in the suspect's shoes.

The meeting in a resolution

expressed sympathy for those killed

in September 11 attacks on Word

Trade Centre in New York. It also

sympathised with the victims of

Awami League marked with self-

sufficiency in food, highest GDP

growth of 6.5 per cent, Ganges

pursued the steps taken by the

noted that previous BNP govern-

About export of gas, the meeting

It praised the five-vear rule of

situation after the attack on Indian

The step was only a signal, a message to Pakistan so that it recognises the enormity of the situation, Singh said when asked about New Delhi's decision on Saturday to recall High Commissioner Viiav Nambiar.

Singh, who is representing India at the installation of the new interim overnment headed by Hamid Karzai, was talking to reporters after reopening the Indian Embassy.

He said the attack on the parlia ment was not just an attack on the stones and mortars of a building but on the very sovereignty of the coun-

Singh ducked a question when asked whether India was considering a military option to deal with the situation saying "I am not in Kabul to

Meanwhile, Pakistan Sunday accused India of kidnapping and torturing a staff member with its high commission in New Delhi and said it had lodged an official protest with

was not specified, was "kidnapped" Saturday by "Indian intelligence operatives" while he was shopping

at a New Delhi market "During interrogation, he was stripped naked, severely beaten and tortured, resulting in visible and internal injuries. The medical report confirms that Mr Khan was ruth-

lessly beaten and tortured," it said. The embassy worker was released after five hours, but was forced to sign a statement acknowledging involvement in espionage, it

"The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has lodged a strong protest with the High Commission in Islamabad over this reprehensible, provocative and unacceptable action on the part of the Indian

Indian Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani will ask Washington to identify Pakistan as a "terrorist state" during a visit next month to the United States, he said in an

dence we have. This leaves no doubt that Pakistan is a terrorist state." Advani told the Hindustan

"I feel that the US has a clear choice and it cannot afford to have double standards. All terrorists are the same.

The hawkish home minister, who India's cabinet number two, said he had told US Secretary of State Colin Powell that it was difficult for the Indian public to understand how Pakistan is part of the US-led "coali

tion against terrorism." "There is a terrible dichotomy

"The Indian government is fully

there."Advani said.

committed to end the menace of terrorism. We have neither hesitated from taking any decision so far nor have our decisions been influenced by anyone," said Advani. have been drawing the attention of world leaders towards

the growing menace of terrorism Our concern is that all countries should unitedly stand to end terror-

Duty slapped

kerosene-run).

additional 20 per cent regulatory duty on import of mango, fresh grape, apple, chocolate, biscuit, jam, jelly, marmalade, different kinds of sauce and ketchup, shampoo, perfume and toilet water, tooth paste, toilet soap, plastic dolls, T shirts, all kinds of shoes, sanitary ware and imitation jewelry.

also be 25 per cent additional duty on import of microbus above 1500cc but below 3000cc.

Justifying the move the NBR Chairman said that due to liberal duty structure the country was flooded with unnecessary imports that even include below standard

commerce ministry sent a list to the NBR last month to impose regulatory duty on import of more than 50 items. However, NBR imposed additional duty on more than 30

Panthapath

FROM PAGE 1 the Mirpur road off-limits to rickshaws was called off last year when several hundred rickshawpullers protested the plan and fought a pitch attle with the police.

The DUTP sources said the plan does not envisage total ban on rickshaws in the city, but it aims at ensuring that such vehicles ply only on the lanes and by-lanes, leaving the main roads for fast-moving

With the ban of rickshaws on the Panthapath road, passengers will have to use the Razabazar road as an alternative.

The Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) has already promised to open a new bus route from Mirpur to Motijheel through Panthapath and deploy about 50

Private entrepreneurs will also start bus service through the Panthapath road soon to facilitate cheap commuting, sources said.

Dhaka, Yangon

long, which were snapped few

decades ago. Bangladesh will be holding a single country trade exhibition in Yangon from January 20 to 27 after

a gap of five years.

Mya Tun, Counsellor at the Myanmar embassy in Dhaka, said the fair will expose Bangladeshi products to the local market. His country may also organise a similar exhibition in Bangladesh in near

future Tun said Some 20 stalls are expected to be set up by Bangladeshi entrepreneurs at the Myanmar trade fair, mainly to display non-traditional items, the sources.

Business ties between Bangladesh and its eastern neighbour are developing fast after both the countries became members of BIMSTEC, a regional forum.

Myanmar opted to become a member of BIMSTEC about a year after it was formed in 1997.

Iwo murdered

FROM PAGE 12

No case was filed with Kotwali police station till 8pm last night. A housewife was beaten to death her sister and nephews at

Lalbagh in the city on Saturday.

The dead woman, identified as Munni Begum, 30, was the wife of

Sources said that Munni was beaten by her sister and two nephtheir Hossain Dalan residence following a dispute over land. She was rushed to the DMCH where the attending doctor declared her

Osman Gani filed a case with

Lalbagh police station. Meanwhile Khilgaon police recovered the body of a young woman female from a lake at

Nandipara yesterday morning.

The body, found floating in the ake, bore wounds on her head, throat and belly. She was wearing a salwar and kamiz. The identity of the victim, aged around 25, could not be known

immediately Police recovered the body and sent it to the DMCH for autopsy.

Sources in the forensic department said that she had been raped. The girl may have been killed after she recognised the rapists. A case was filed with Khilgaon

Speedy trial

FROM PAGE 1

constituencies.

Abdul Quayum, Solicitor of the Ministry of Law AKM Fazlur Rahman, DC of Dhaka M Abdul Aziz and other senior officials were among others present.

The meeting elaborately discussed various hurdles to disposal of cases. Problems of courts, ministries, departments and judges and lack of additional facilities, closely associated with quick disposal of cases, were identified as the deter-

The meeting decided to set priority of the problems in judicial process and also to hold such meeting again

ment activities in their districts and

The minister said he made a

request to one of his cabinet col-

leagues, who is a stalwart of hard-

line camp and holding a vital portfo-

lio, for taking up a minor project at

his constituency for at least five

times, but it was not met in last two

A number of other ministers and

Meanwhile, yet another new

and the cabinet comprising both the

hardliners and the liberals is

unhappy over it The new faction,

mostly youngsters and based on

"Hawa Bhaban", the election office

of the BNP, has been brandishing

Hawa Bhaban are exercising maxi-

mum authorities over all the cabinet

members and their numbers are

increasing day by day as this

bhaban has emerged as the most

A number of ministers and state

ministers are reportedly answerable

to the stalwarts of the Hawa

powerful office after the PMO.

Sources said the youngsters of

stick to all.

MPs of liberal group have also

Careless bus sheds create traffic mess

auto-tempos load and unload thousands of passengers 'any-

where they like', totally disregarding traffic rules and causing traffic congestion.

Traffic police and sergeants said lack of awareness among passengers and nominal punishment prescribed by traffic laws for obstructing road users are responsible for the problem. They said they are helpless to control this trend because the drivers know the transport owners will be required to pay a maximum of Tk 250 for the offence

A traffic sergeant at Manik Mia Avenue - Mirpur Road intersection said each of the city's buses are plying with multiple police cases related to traffic offences.

On Sunday at about 10-30 am, he stopped half a dozen buses plying from Mohammadpur to Gulistan and the driver of each bus was found producing papers with police cases against them.

"When we ask them not to stop

at busy intersections, they hardly pay any heed. This practice causes traffic jam," said a sergeant. The unplanned sheds are built so

badly that they not only hinder traffic on main roads but also obstruct the passage for pedestrians. Even those having authorisation from DCC are often found creating nuisance for road users.

By building the sheds these people have changed the flow of traffic and are creating unnecessary

traffic congestion. At most places, buses make unauthorised stoppage at these sheds and create obstacles to traffic.

A traffic sergeant at the Sonargaon intersection said lack of planning and coordination between the DCC and the traffic department in determining stoppages for public transports are greatly responsible for creating traffic jam.

for a minute, one bus stops at a wrong place and some others come behind it, blocking the entire thoroughfare for a few minutes. This is enough to create a huge traffic congestion," he said. The offenders hardly get any punishment because at times, the

passengers inside get angry for any

delay and there is always the possi-

bility of a serious row between

"If the policemen look elsewhere

transport workers and police," he said requesting anonymity. "We have no say whatsoever about these unauthorised bus sheds at various points of the city. In fact we are never told who build

those or why," he said. A bus driver who was found parking at an unauthorised bus stop at Bakusha Market intersection at Kataban was completely oblivious of the nuisance he was creating for other road users.

When asked why he stopped at a wrong place to pick up passengers, the young driver replied that he stopped for a minute or two. By the time the traffic policeman leaving behind a traffic jam of rickshaws, baby-taxis, private cars, rickshaw-vans, motorbikes and pushcarts

When asked the traffic policeman there said, "We never say anything because we do not know if it is an authorised or an illegal stop-BRTA officials said that for the

authorised 15 bus routes in the city, the transport owners associations decide where to designate a stop-"There are no official bus stoppages in the city. The Dhaka Metropolitan Regional Transport

Committee which should earmark

the bus stoppages has not done

anything so far," said a BRTA official requesting anonymity He said the DCC has taken "full liberty" in building bus sheds without consulting relevant authorities. This was done mainly for raising the

shops, other sources said.

Ashikur Rahman, Executive Engineer of Traffic Division at DCC told The Daily Star that bus stoppages should be designated immediately. He said, after earmarking the sites, the authorities should build sheds but there should not be any shop under those.

"These shops create encroachment on roads and walkways," Rahman

Lull before storm!

ready enough to let the opposition move to expose the repression allegedly by activists of the ruling

coalition go unchallenged. Against the AL move to hold a two-day national convention on "crimes against humanity" on January 17 and 18, it has planned out a similar programme even earlier in the same month to highlight human rights violation during the AL regime -- a practice pursued by the BNP-led alliance during the

last general election. For obvious reasons, the two programmes of opposite nature would make the two sides further hostile to each other, thus pushing the politics over the edge of com-

plete destabilisation Filing corruption cases against former prime minister and AL chief Sheikh Hasina and six ministers in her government had aggravated the already strained governmentopposition relations. This has virtually instigated Hasina's party to promise a tough street agitation against what it says a politics of

But the government defends its move as the one to fight corruption despite the fact that graft cases of political nature hardly saw the accused punished, especially when it comes to high-profile politicians like Sheikh Hasina. Incumbent Premier Khaleda ∠ia and many others in her cabinet, too, were implicated in graft cases filed by the Hasina government, but those cases did not come close to punishing the accused. With the BNP back to power, graft cases against its top

leaders now seem buried. Deposed president HM Ershad aside, there is hardly any instance of political veterans of serving jail terms or other kinds of punishment. In fact, the successive governments charged their opponents with criminal or corruption charges apparently with a political motive.

Corruption cases initiated at different times failed to live up to the mark as the authorities used such cases only to overcome political crisis or tame an agitating opposition. Furthermore, no government could ever complete the lengthy process of trial.

Sources said both the hardliners

and liberals are apparently unhappy

over the "excessive" activities and

are tagged with senior ministers.

interference of the youngsters who

ministers belonging to Hawa

Bhaban faction are mainly tagged to

watch the activities of the senior

BNP leaders and some new com-

ers, who have succeeded in devel-

oping a link with the Hawa Bhaban

men, are allegedly engaged in

making money both legally and

illegally by selling the names of its

Moreover, frequent changes in

the administration and police

department, reportedly at the advice

of some low ranking officials and

politicians, have angered the senior

ministers who feel ignored as vital

decisions are being taken by-

The Hawa Bhaban is making

important transfer, posting and

appointment in the administration.

In any "tadbir", most ministers refer

it to the "Hawa Bhaban" for its con-

sent and steps are taken after its

The junior ministers, low-ranking

officials and politicians, who are

popularly known within the party as

kids), are now apparently controlling

'Kachi Kanchar Ashore" (group of

passing them.

areen sianal.

Sources said a section of young

There is allegation that the junior

BNP hardliners, liberals on collision course

The government plans to bar hartal and student politics, scrap such controversial laws as Special Powers Act (SPA) and the Public Safety Act (PSA), hold election to the Upazila Parishads and the city corporations, and allow transhipment and export natural gas -- to

India are the issues, among others, brewing up political tension. The opposition believes the move to ban hartal and student politics is designed to thwart its street agitation against the government. By contrast, the government believes the local polls will help

defuse public agitation.

The opposition has already warned of tough agitation once democratic rights to hartal and student politics are made unlawful Banning SPA and PSA may earn the government a kind of credit, but its plan to come up with a tougher legislation in line with the two controversial laws is likely to trigger fresh political debates. Once opposed to the idea of giving transhipment to India, the

BNP is working on the same arrangement. This would definitely prompt the AL, which failed to go ahead with the idea of transhipment. to oppose the similar move by the BNP. Finally, the export of gas to India would dominate politics in the The latest stances held by the government and the opposition lef

little room for a mutual settlement of

the growing political discontents.

Unless any dramatic change

occurs, the post-Eid politics is

Saifur

destined to plunge into turmoil.

FROM PAGE 12

term loans and equity support to financially viable industrial undertakings and infrastructure projects.

It will support projects in power and telecommunication sectors, oil and gas exploration, roads and highways, river and air transport, besides offering financial package for acquisition or take over of public sector enterprises slated for

everything and taking major policy

policymakers and party leaders are

now "very much" fed up with the

excessive interference of one of the

assistant private secretaries (APS)

of the prime minister and a dis-

Most of the transfers in the

administration and police depart-

ment are reportedly taking place as

per the list prepared by these two

influential persons. Hawa Bhaban

sources alleged that they have

made huge illegal money within last

Party sources said there are a

number of lobbyists of the two

influential persons, who sits regu-

larly at city's expensive restaurants

at night and make negotiations with

administrative and police officials

regarding better posting, promotion

The officials, who played biased

role towards the Awami League in

last five years, are now moving with

the lobbyists for protecting their jobs

and saving them from harassment.

Some are also making direct con-

tact with the two influential persons

of the Hawa Bhaban to keep them in

become the victim of transfer in odd

places, loss jobs or face harass-

ment. Sources said there are allega-

tions of big monetary deal with most

Those who fail to negotiate

two months.

and transfer.

their good book.

missed officer-in-charge of police.

Sources said senior ministers,

FROM PAGE 12

Shahrier Kabir.' Among others, National Professor Kabir Chowdhury,

Following the programme, a short rally was also held on the spot. Prof. Kabir Chowdhury announced that a citizen's rally will be held at the Central Shaheed Miner on December 29 to press home the same demand.

Transport workers

police who tried to stop them. The protests were continuing till writing of this report at about 10.30pm last

Demra police when contacted confirmed the incident.

Meanwhile Mirpur police arrested two terrorists, accused in a dozen of case each, from Agargaon BNP Slum last night.

The arrested are Motahar Hossain Pappu and Nurul Islam Pappu.

Mirpur.

of the posting, promotio and trans-

Talking to The Daily Star, an

influential youngster of the Hawa

Bhaban admitted that a section of

people are engaged in making

illegal money by selling its name.

But some of them have already

been ousted from the Bhaban on

He said despite some allega-

tions, the Hawa Bhaban is still

playing a vital role giving necessary

guidelines to the government. It is

giving feed-back to the government

and ministers on important issues

and a network has already been

developed across the country to get

correct information following any

The voungster claimed that the

Hawa Bhaban played a vital role in

achieving a landslide victory for the

BNP in October 1 election through

proper campaigning and research

Sources said due to internal

conflict and interference of these

three factions, a suffocating situa-

tion now prevails within the party

and the government Not a single

decision is taken at present in a

ministers, all are busy with their own

interests at the cost of the party.

They said excepting one or two

works on relevant issues.

coordinated way.

charge of corruption.

Human chain

Some other placards read, "Stop repression on Freedom Fighters, "Withdraw false cases filed against

Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan, Prof. Anisuzzaman, Prof. Siraiul Islam Chowdhury, Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir, Prof. Ajay Kumar Roy, Prof. AAMS Arefin Siddique, Ali Aksad, Wahidul Haq, Dr. Harun-or-Rashid, Dr. Hasina Hossain, Rashid Haider, Panna Kaiser, Shamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, Sultana Kamal, Ramendu Majumder, Ataur Rahman, Mofidul Haq, Golam Quddus, Sahrah Zaker, Mannan Hira, Shomi Kaiser, Ferdousi Priyobhasini, Ajay Roy, Pankaj Bhattacharya, Monaem Sarker, Sudhangshu Sekhor Halder, Barrister Shafiq Ahmed, Mahfuza Khanom, Kamal Lohani, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Haroon Habib, Bibhuranjan Sarker, Shamim Akhter, Shirin Akhter and Dr. Muhammad Samad lined up for the human chain.

The officer-in-charge of Mirpur police station conducted a raid on the BNP slum at Agaragon at about 9.30 pm and arrested the two from there. Police said that the two recently killed a pharmacy owner in

the five seats, four of which were FROM PAGE 12 1 election.

Dhirendranath Shaha (alliance), Engineer M Azzul Haq (AL) and AKM Kamruzzaman for the Narail-1

are contesting the by-polls. for the Barguna-3 seat. Akmol Ibne Yusuf (alliance),

Monwara Begum, Begum Saleha Mosarraf (AL) and Mohammad Nurul Abedin are contesting for the

Chowdhury vacated the Munshignaj-1 seat after being elected president. Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina vacated

The Faridpur-4 seat was vacated by AL Presidium Member Abdur Razzaq who had won in two constit-

The summary paper dispelled the apprehension of job loss due to the ban as more employment opportunity will open up when jute, fabric and paper bags would be produced to replace polybags. Besides, the factories currently producing polybags can be remodeled for manufacturing of packaging prod-

Sources said the cabinet vesterday discussed ways of encouraging manufacturing of jute, cloth and paper bags both in the private and public sectors. The closed jute mills can be utilised for producing jute

According to the environment ministry, there are about 800 polynene factories all over the country. Of them, 315 to 320 factories are engaged in manufacturing thin shopping bags and on an average, eight to 12 workers are employed in each factory. Between 2520 and 3840 workers are engaged in these

factories. The summary paper said manufacturing of polythene bags is highly profitable because of low production cost. The production cost of each polybag is about Tk 0.05 to Tk 0.07 while the manufacturers sale these to the whole sellers for Tk 0.30 to Tk

It said the preliminary investment in a polythene bag factory is only about Tk 2 lakh.

Khatib's remarks protested

termed Haq's remarks as 'politically

motivated', 'arrogant' and also said "he has no right to deliver such a remark." Hazi Abdus Samad, Rashed Khan Menon, Saifuddin Manik, Muiahidul Islam Selim, Khaleguzzaman, Delip Barua, Bimal Biswas and Pankaj

Bhattacharya, among others, attended the meeting. The meeting said that the way he quoted Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM) is not only a misinterpretation of

Islam but also a visible sign of his lack of knowledge on the matter. The meeting noted that a section of mams and Khatibs have been exploit ing their posts and delivering misleading religious and political statements in different mosques during prayers for

place for practise of politics adding, "Delivery of such political statements in religious gatherings may create unnecessary political chaos. The meeting also observed that the silence of the President. Minister for Religious affairs, other ministers and eaders of the main opposition, afte the audacious remarks were delivered in front of them, could be treated as

It also said that the mosque is not a

their approval of the Khatib's words. The meeting demanded an expla nation from the government regarding

the incident Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra BTUK) also condemned Obaidul Haq's remarks that that holding of the Baishakhi Mela to celebrate the first dav of the Bengali new year is a non-Muslim practice.

In a statement, the executive

By-elections

FROM PAGE 1 The main opposition party Awami League which had boycotted the first by-election after the general

won by AL candidates in the October Sukumar Ranjan Gosh (AL), Mahi B Chowdhury (BNP-led alli-ance), Kazi Azizul Haque, Krishak Mohammad Sadeqe and Delowar Hossain are contesting for the Munshiganj-1 seat and

election is contesting the by-polls for

In Narail-2, Mufti Shahidul Islam of (IOJ), Mahbubul Alam Tuku, Sheikh Md Ashadullah, Shorab Hossain Biswas and Sathi Talukder Shahjanan Monsur Akon, Golam Sarwar Mia Forkan (AL), Matiur Rahman Talukder (alliance), Prof Abdul Mazid Mallik and Rafiqul Islam Shahjada Akon is contesting

Faridpur-4 seat Prof. AQM Badruddoza

the Narail-1 and 2, and Barguna-1 October 1 general election.

the country shows his total disregard towards the government. The statement further said that the Khatib's remarks hurts the spirit of Bangalee culture and reminds one of the pre-independence Pak rule when

culture by trying to suppress the use of They termed Obaidul Haq's

of Kajoli were severely burnt while her husband and daughter suffered minor injuries when miscreants pregnant.

Mymensingh Medical College

Abdus Sattar and Salam over a land. Both Salam and Sattar are

son and to provide security to his family. Following the petition, the SF directed the Additional SP (Gofargaon Circle) to take neces-

acid was thrown to retaliate the complaint. Police arrested Salam, the principal accused in the case. Additional Police Super SM Hafizur

body bore critical burn injuries. Family sources told this correspondent at DMCH that Ibrahim and his father Abdus Sobhan had an altercation with Abul Kalam over

and brother Sarwar joined him. At one stage, Abul Kalam threw acid on Ibrahm and his grandmother and also attacked Sarwar with a sharp

thana. Police arrested Abul Kalam

Holidays on Aug 15, Mar 17

on March 26, May Day on May Eid-e-Miladunnabi on May 24 Buddaha Purnima on May 25, Janmasthami on August 31, Durga Puia on October 5. Revolution and Solidarity Day on November 7, Jumat-ul-Bida on November 29, Eid-ul-Fitre on December 6. Victory Day on December 16 and Christmas day on December 25. However, the religious holidays

The Cabinet also approved the decision to ban the use and marketng of polythene shopping bag from

the convention would be arranged

Meanwhile, the Awami League (AL) has denounced the cabinet decision to cancel the public holidays on March 17 and August 15. AL presidium member Abdul Jalil said he was not surprised by the

Secretary to the Prime Minister and

secretaries of ministries concerned

deeds one after another'. The AL leader reached by tele-

action of the BNP-led coalition

which has been committing 'mis-

Bangabandhu's name from the heart of the Bangalee nation. Bangabandhu will remain so long Bangladesh exists", the former commerce minister added.

will depend on moon-sighting.

It was decided in the meeting that

the planned Human Rights Convention to be held in the second week of January would be arranged by the BNP-led four-party alliance. Earlier, a decision was taken that

Cabinet ministers and states

by the government.

president and general secretary of BTUK said that such a remark delivered by a government official, in front of the President and other top officials of

the Pakistanis attacked the Bangalee

Bengali language.

remarks as 'arrogant' and called on him to apologise to the nation.

Acid attacks FROM PAGE 1 the victims to DMCH. The entire face and both hands

threw acid on them through the window at about 1 am while they were asleep at their house at Makalia village under Fulpur thana in Mymensingh on the night of December 8. Kajoli is four months' They were first admitted to

Hospital.
Our Mymensingh correspondent quoting sources said there was a longstanding feud between Kajoli's father Akkas Ali and his neighbors

influential in the area and have links with a local gang of criminals. They allegedly abducted Ali's son Jamal about five months back. Akkas Ali filed a case with the local thana but Jamal could not be rescued. He also filed a petition with the SP of Mymensingh to rescue his

sary steps. This angered the abduc-The victims' family filed a case with Fulpur thana alleging that the

Mymansing that they were trying to nab the other culprits responsible for the heinous act. Doctors at DMCH said the condition of Noor Jahan is critical. She lost his left eye. The left part of her body and the right part of Ibrahim's

Rahman told newsmen in

payment to the Imam after the recent Eid prayer. They are residents of Kishorkandi village under Banaripara thana in Barisal district. Later in the evening, Ibrahim went to the house of Abul Kalam. An altercation ensued again, which led to a scuffle. Ibrahim's grandmother

weapon They were first taken to Barisal Sadar Hospital. A case was filed with Banaripara

were also present.

FROM PAGE 1 21 for Amar Ekushey, Eid-ul-Azha ministers of the ministries concerned attended the meeting. on February 23, Independence Day Cabinet Secretary, Principal

> phone last night told the Daily Star that the BNP would try to eliminate Bangabandhu's name in its bid to distort the history. "But none can erase

fields to foreign companies while

Water Sharing Treaty, CHT Peace Accord and socioeconomic devel-The meeting observed that Bangladesh would continue to have food autarky if the government

Awami League regime.

earthquake in Dhaka.

ment had signed agreement on gas without floating tender, while Awami League government did it through an open tender. "BNP gave the ownership of gas

discuss such options"

Indian authorities. The foreign ministry said in a statement that Mohammad Sharif Khan, whose role at the embassy

interview published Sunday. "I will obviously communicate our position and the detailed evi-

milk, dry grape, plastic office equipment and paper and paper-board Items that will come under 15 per cent regulatory duty are fresh date and cooking appliances (gas and Importers now have to pay

wares, ceramic products, glass The authorities also imposed 20 per cent regulatory duty on import of some categories of toys and microbus below 1500cc. There will

Mary Schiavo, a former According to NBR sources, the She said only sniffer dogs in

Hasina: AL to reinstate

alleged that the 'hardliners', who are Awami League retained the ownerholding important ministries, did not ship for the country," says the resotake any programmes in their conlution of the meeting. stituencies despite repeated The meeting viewed that Awami requests. As a result, local people League is in favour of exporting gas are being frustrated and loosing keeping reserve for 50 years, but BNP forgetting about its previous confidence on them (liberals). opposition was now talking about faction has emerged within the party gas export without keeping any

100-day programme attached priority to curbing terrorism and corruption, "public life today has been tormented by corruption terrorism, loot, rape, murder and extortion" The meeting criticised "false" cases filed against AL leaders and called for unity against conspiracies

It observed that although BNP's

reserve for the future.

and extortion.

to stop the trial of the killers of Bangabandhu. Local leaders assured Sheikh Hasina of all cooperation in building movement against the present "anti liberation government" and the raging spell of murder, repression