Hold classes regularly

Major Mannan

factory that produces a series of items such as Sun Crest Cola, Kickapoo, Maja mango juice, Bubble Up and Iceberg mineral

The attack on Mannan's factory came after customs officials' raid on his Dewanhat depot to seize 4,500 cases of Sun Crest soft drink and documents, forced closedown of eight garment factories in Chittagong and a bomb attack on his Gulshan house in Dhaka in closely-timed swoops on Saturday.

Political observers described the attacks as the ruling coalition backlash against Mannan who joined the alternative political stream of formed president Badruddoza Chowdhury as its member secretary.

The factory staff went to Savar Police Station to file a case, but police did not accept it, Mannan, a retired army major, alleged at a post-attack press conference at Badruddoza's KC Memorial in Baridhara. "We will file a case with court," he said.

"The government let loose miscreants to close my factories down and launched a move to freeze my bank accounts," any angry Mannan alleged. "They will fail to subdue me this way."

TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES

"About 60 youths carrying guns and hockey sticks came by microbus and motorbike and asked me to open the gate," said Afzal, commander of the factory's guards, who pressed for their identity.

An incensed attacker hit him with a hockey stick and another fired at him, but the bullet missed the target as he ducked down. "The attackers burst into the factory beating up my colleague Harun-ur-Rashid," Afzal said.

The gang splintered into two -one vandalising furniture and refrigerators and tearing off documents in the security office and another smashing two microbuses and a mini-truck.

"With some workers coming out for lunch, the attackers blasted as many as 25 bombs in a row and fired about 40 gunshots sending a wave of panic," said Khalilur Rahman, security in-charge.

Dense smokes from explosions covered the factory premises, said Nazmul, a production worker. "I thought the factory caught fire."

The gang raced upstairs and ransacked the offices of senior general manager and senior factory manager, a date-punching machine, a computer, over 100 mango juice bottles and lights in the production room.

The raiders also vandalised the office of production officer and took away Tk 65,000 and documents from the plant engineer's

"We gathered to begin a chase and hurled bottles at them," said Manik, a worker, who joined his colleagues in frightening the attackers away after the 25-minute

Harun-ur-Rashid and Khorshed Alam were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and the rest to local clinics with head, leg and abdomen injuries.

"Savar police came here and took away the spent Senior General Manager Aminul

CONDEMNATION

"The government is not beyond the legal reach. It has no right to harm a citizen this way only for political

rivalry," Mannan told journalists.

"About 16,000 people working in my 30 factories will be jobless if the government continues attacks," he said.

"I export garments worth \$150

million a year and the government has sent a letter threatening to freeze all accounts of a business man like me who did not dodge tax," Mannan said.

Mahi B Chowdhury, who also resigned from parliament and the NP with Mannan, alleged the government was destroying people's property by such attacks.

"While former president Ziaur Rahman advocated democratic pluralism, leaders of his party annot tolerate the launch of a new political party now," Mahi said calling on people to unite against what he said was tyranny of the coalition.

Badruddoza, convenor of the alternative platform for politics, condemned the bomb attacks on Mannan's residence and forced closedown of factories and alleged the attackers were trying to leave thousands jobless.

"The government-sponsored crimes are obstructing production and export," the former president

"The prime minister, who swore an oath of safeguarding the constitution, is now infringing on two fundamental rights by silencing people's voice and obstructing rallies," he said, adding the government is making clear its anti-

Demanding an end to violence against Mannan, Badruddoza said the government must bear the responsibility for that.

EU plans safer net for children

BBC ONLINE

European Union officials are proposing to spend more than £30m to try to make the internet safer for

The four-year plan has been put orward by the European Commission.

The program, which needs to be approved by the EU governments comes at a time of growing concern over the potential dangers to children orders.

"Children should have the right use the internet freely, to chat, to earn or to play games," said aformation Society Commissioner Erkki Liikanen.

"But to move freely online children must be protected from risks of being exploited or cheated

The commission said there was a disturbing gap between what children did online and what their arents thought they were doing. It said that several surveys had

shown that European parents were seriously underestimating their children's daily exposure to harmful content and dangerous situations

A recent study by Cyberspace Research Unit at the University of Central Lancashire found that children were still arranging facetalk to online despite warnings about the dangers of internet chatrooms.

And the study showed that 60% of children did not know that people they chat to online might not be who they say they are.

Top Khulna AL leader

Chemists and Druggists Association, told newsmen that the bomb was thrown to kill him and that his political opponents might have a hand in this.

Leaders of Khulna Awami League including former state minister Talukder Abdul Khaleque, MP, have condemned the bomb

Khulna unit of Bangladesh Chemists and Druggists Association brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the 'attempt on the life' of the Khulna AL leader.

A general diary has been filed with Khulna Police Station.

The bomb attack is the latest in a spate of such attacks on political leaders of Khulna this year.

On March 5, an unknown attacker hurled a handmade bomb at the car of Awami League legislator Talukder Abdul Khaleque at

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib

Medical University Hospital in Dhaka.

On March 4, Khulna city Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman escaped narrowly when a hand grenade thrown at his car in an assassination bid did not explode in the port city.

Moulana Gazi Abu Bakar Siddiqui, nayeb-e-amir of the ruling coalition ally Jamaat-e-Islami's local chapter, died in a bomb attack on Khulna-Mongla Highway near his home village of Solakurha region

A bomb explosion killed two youths and injured one at Giletala Madhyapara in Khulna on February

Last year, Manjurul Imam, president of Khulna city Awami League, was killed in a bomb attack on August 25.

On January 15, journalist Manik Chandra Saha died in a bomb attack

Socialists win Spain

withdrawing the soldiers, he said. Zapatero also said Bush and his main ally, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, need to engage in "selfcriticism"

"You can't bomb a people just in case" they pose a perceived threat, Zapatero said in statements just five days before the first anniversary of the March 20 start of the war.

"You can't organise a war on the basis of lies," he said, alluding to Bush's and Blair's insistence the war was justified by their belief -- so far unfounded -- that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction that posed an

"Wars such as that which has occurred in Iraq only allow hatred, violence and terror to proliferate," he said.

The head of the EU executive arm, European Commission chief Romano Prodi, agreed in an interview published by Italy's La Stampa newspaper Monday. "It is clear that using force is not

the answer to resolving the conflict with terrorists," Prodi said. "Terrorism is infinitely more powerful than a year ago," and all of Europe now

feels threatened, he told the paper. The loss of the United States' and Britain's main ally has left Bush especially looking exposed as he faces the November presidential given nod to the bill payment. election.

While Zapatero fielded congratulations from French President Jacques Chirac, South African President Thabo Mbeki and other world leaders, Bush had yet to make

Other US allies in Iraq, among them Poland and Denmark, were notably cool towards his win.

Polish foreign ministry spokes-man Boguslaw Majewski said: "Our general position is that everybody there (in Iraq) should stay until the situation is stabilised.'

Spain's contingent is the sixthlargest in Iraq. It has suffered 11 deaths, including seven intelligence agents ambushed in November.

30 hurt as IU

under attack OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

buses come

At least 30 people including four teachers were injured when students agitating for resignation of the vice-chancellor (VC) of Islamic University (IU) attacked and damaged campus bound buses and clashed with police yesterday.

Police arrested eight activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) for their alleged involvement in the incident.

The university buses coming to the campus from Jhenidah town were attacked at Sheikhpara Bazar.

According to campus sources, students under the banner of Anchalik Chhatra Oikya Parishad (Acop) are on a strike from Thursday to press their demand for resigna-tion of VC Mustafizur Rahman.

The JCD and Bangladesh hatra League are backing the Acop demand.

Yesterday morning, Acop sup-porters blocked Kushtia-Jhenidah highway and stopped compus bound buses at Sheikhpara Bazar, half a km from the university. Police charged baton to disperse the agitating students. At this, the students grew violent and attacked

The demonstrators later blocked the main entrance to the university disrupting normal activities.

The IU authorities yesterday banned all activities of Acop on the

Meanwhile, the IU Teachers Association blamed the VC for the present situation and asked him to In a statement, it rejected the

authorities' decision to hold admission test from April 9 to 12. The VC is reportedly in Dhaka

The campus situation is tense and additional police forces have been deployed there.

India to raise 'Pak Proliferation' with Powell

PTI, New Delhi

India is likely to flag its concerns over nuclear proliferation in its neighbourhood during talks its leaders will have here on Tuesday with US Secretary of State Colin Powell.

New Delhi's concerns have been reinforced following the admission by Pakistan's top nuclear scientist AQ Khan of illegally exporting sensitive technology to Iran, Libya and North Korea.

In contacts with the Bush Administration, New Delhi has raised doubts whether the outward proliferation from Pakistan has really come to an end and also sought to know what assurances have been given that this will not happen again.

The issue of outsourcing may also igure during the parleys. New Delhi has conveyed to Washington that any linkages of a quid pro quo in outsourcing would not be accept-

PM, Hawa Bhaban

slammed the government for another constitutional change making mandatory the display of portraits of the president and prime minister in government offices. "It could be done by an executive order," she said.

She took a swipe at those who drew a parallel between the AL and the BNP that both have failed to govern the country and said: "Don't lump me with Khaleda Zia. The previous Awami League government has many successes but the BNP has totally failed."

She said the prices of essentials, which were stable during the AL rule, now went beyond the easy reach of people.

The former prime minister warned police and coalition-backed activists of consequences of violence on her party leaders and workers, as she said time is closing in on them.

Advocate Sahara Khatun and Professor Sultana Shafi also spoke at the meeting, chaired by Nazma Akhter, who was elevated from convenor to president of Jubo Mahila League yesterday. Hasina announced a new central committee of the organisation with Apu Ukil as its general secretary.

Gas scam

FROM PAGE 1

meeting categorically asked the Titas management to withdraw Mahbub from the supervision of the pipelines and transfer him to another position.

The Titas Board also suggested administrative steps against Kamal Uddin Ahmed, deputy general manager (transmission)

After getting the bill payment assignment, Mahbub along with Director (Operations) Md Aminur Rahman and General Manager (Finance) In-charge Ashrafuzzaman Miah has already

The investigation committee of Petrobangla found construction of the 210 km pipelines under the Bangabandhu Bridge Approach Road Project highly overpriced, sub-standard and risky.

The Daily Star reported corruption at all levels of the pipeline project -- from project designs to contract awarding -- in January. It pointed out that local contractors and Titas high officials were siphoning off Tk 30 crore with the blessings of high political quarters.

The Board of Directors of Titas held a meeting with Energy Secretary Khandker Shahidul Islam on February 26 that held lax monitoring one of the key reasons for the

Ganguly uncertain

reporters. "We're hopeful he'll be fit to play after his situation is reviewed tomorrow (Tuesday) morning."

India suffered another blow with left-arm paceman Ashish Nehra, who bowled a tidy final over to take India home by just five runs in a thrilling finale to the first game of the five-match series on Saturday, ruled out because of ankle trouble.

ankle and he won't be picked for tomorrow's (Tuesday's) game,' Dravid said. Left-arm paceman Irfan Pathan, who made an impressive debut in

Australia earlier this year, is likely to

"Ashish has a swelling in his

take his place in the team. Meanwhile, Pakistan's fiery fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar hopes to celebrate his 100th one-day international today by stopping the Indian batting juggernaut on his

help my team win," said the 28-Pakistan need a win to level the

home ground.

Online that it may even be larger than Pluto itself.

It was found during the course of a survey led by Dr Michael

Preliminary calculations suggest that it is 10bn kilometres from Earth in a region of space known as

The KB contains hundreds of known objects and astronomers believe there are many more await-

Cancer

year, the experts said performance of the machines was 'very poor'. They recommended purchase of new improved machines instead of

They also pointed out that during the last couple of years, the machines broke down several times and there was no prompt response from the supplier for emergency repair and other support services.

The heads of radiotherapy departments of five medical college hospitals, where the Chinese machines were installed as well as health ministry and health directorate officials opposed further use of the machines and suggested buying more efficient and user-friendly

official documents that contained these suggestions.

The six cobalt therapy machines bought from Shanghai, China, were installed in 1999 in five medical college hospitals and the National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital (NICRH).

Asked about this, the official dealing with the purchase of the sources, Dr Md Sarwar Bari of the health ministry said, "A technical committee approved purchase of the sources. In fact, the government is compelled to buy the sources from the same supplier as we have a 10-vear after-sales service contract with the supplier.'

Dr Mahtab Kamal Siddiquee of the central medical store depot (CMSD), who is in-charge of instrument salvage and maintenance division, said, "We want new improved technology like linear accelerator. The government has decided not to purchase any more cobalt teletherapy machine. We have issued work order for supply of the cobalt source as per recommendation of the BAEC."

pulled off a five-run victory in the spectacular opening encounter at Karachi on Saturday It was the highest scoring one-

five-match series 1-1 after India

dayer in history with India piling up 349-7 and Pakistan replying with a gallant 344-8 following a century by captain Inzamamul Haq.

Akhtar, nicknamed the Rawalpindi Express for the lightning speed he generates, went for 55 runs in his 10 overs on the run-laden wicket but was unlucky not to have claimed more than two wickets.

India welcomed back in-form batsman Venkatsai Laxman, who sat out at Karachi with a knee injury.

Laxman, who hit three one-day centuries on the recent tour of Australia, is expected to replace Hemang Badani in the only change in the winning Indian combination.

India will once again rely on its "It's an honour to reach a milestone but I will celebrate only if can experienced batting to overcome the depleted bowling attack that is missing frontline exponents Anil Kumble, Ajit Agarkar and Harbhajan Singh through injuries.

New planet

Brown of the California Institute of Technology. Scientists are only midway through this three-year project.

the Kuiper Belt (KB).

ing discovery. Most are small

treatment

FROM PAGE 1

replacing the sources.

teletherapy machines. This correspondent obtained

worlds of rock and ice but some like Sedna, could be as large as or larger than Pluto.

The importance of Sedna is that it is the first such world discovered in its normal orbit. Other similar though smaller worlds, like Quaoar and Varuna, originated in the KB but have since been perturbed into different orbits.

Following the object's discovery, astronomers at the Tenagra Observatory in Arizona were asked to provide positional information so that an orbit could be determined for Sedna.

The new discovery will reignite the debate about what is a planet.

One group of astronomers believe that Pluto is not a true planet but merely one of the largest of a vast number of minor objects in the outer Solar System.

The alternative standpoint is

that Pluto is a planet and those who

took away him and the white Toyota Corolla car (Dhaka Metro-ga-12-

9773) at about 5:45pm on March 7

from Kaderabad Housing Limited at Katasur in Mohammadpur, while

the car-owner, Harunur Rashid, was

overseeing the work of his under-construction building.

gathering and came to know that

the criminals had gone taking my

driver and the car by force." Harunur Rashid told newsmen at

the Dhaka Medical College

Hospital, where Zafar's body was

Harunur Rashid, a chemical

Son of one Manu Mridha, Zafar

Two more decomposed bodies

On the same night at about

8:30pm, Uttara police recovered the

body of a 40- year old man from the

unidentified, were recovered from

case with Mohammadpur Police

taken for autopsy.

Station on March 7.

Dattapara in Tongi.

about 7:00pm.

"Coming downstairs, I found a

FROM PAGE 12

believe that will have to classify Sedna as the tenth planet. Driver found

by the House today, parliament secretariat sources said. The parliamentary stand-off

cussing the issue with Sheikh "I will seek advice of the leader

Mannan Bhuiyan on Saturday asked Hamid to return to parlia-ment by telephone and offered dialogue to break the parliamentrader of old part of the city, filed a

tary stalemate. AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil turned down the offer, saying: "It's too late to invite us to negotiating

Kafrul and Uttara on Sunday night. The AL, which has been boycotting parliament since June 25 last year, is now trying to add zest to Kafrul police recovered the body of a 30-year old man, who was its anti-government agitation. wearing black trousers and black shirt, from a ditch at section No 14 at

water near the sluice gate at Uttara He was wearing a lungi. **BDR-BSF** Police could not ascertain whether those bore marks of injuries. They however suspect both were killed at least seven to eight

Business leaders

Apart from business people and local entrepreneurs, a large number of academics, politicians, professionals and civil society members attended the meetings and talked on the current political situation.

"Politics and economics are

inter-linked. Businessmen can

create jobs and if employment can be created for our youths, we will be able to overcome the social unrest," said the FBCCI chief to his audience. But, for a congenial atmosphere to make investment and run businesses, the politicians have the leading role. "They must resolve the

crisis through discussion. The nation cannot afford confrontation anymore. The FBCCI chief said the business people, who create resources and employment for the nation, expect due respect from all quar-

As local entrepreneurs and other FBCCI leaders came up with the allegation that they are subjected to terrorism and extortion, Mintoo asked them to get united to fight the evil forces. Demanding improvement of law and order, the FBCCI president said

government's net borrowing from

the banking system came down by 3.3 percent or Tk 634 crore. The

government in the beginning had

projected borrowing Tk 2,603 crore

from the banking sector this fiscal.

ADP falls FROM PAGE 12 crore from Tk 1,997 crore in the corresponding period of the previ-Atiqur Rahman said the killing had ous fiscal. shocked many at the station and In the same six months, the that police are determined to

it is also linked to the national politics. "We need a peaceful political environment for law and order."

Apart from addressing entrepreneurs at Madhabdi and a meeting at Narsingdi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, he spoke at a reception accorded to him at Abed Textile Deputy Commissioner Kazi

Akhtar Hossain chaired the reception. It was also addressed by FBCCI Vice-President Kamaluddin Ahmed, Director Abul Kashem Ahmed, Narsingdi Chamber President Abdul Halim, BNP leader Tofazzal Hossain and Managing Director of Abed Textile Manjur General Secretary of the student

Pallabi

FROM PAGE 12 Kohinoor's family was crowded

resterday with mourning relatives. Her brothers said the family was devastated by the loss of their beloved sister. "We told police about a moneyrelated dispute we had with some

people. Now we see police have made them the principal accused in the case," said a distant relative of Kohinoor. Pallabi Police however seemed puzzled about the murder that students'. took place hardly 500 metres from the police station. Second Officer

unearth the crime. "We are working on a few tips and hopefully we will soon be able to trace the criminals involved in the heinous attack on this innocent woman," Atiqur Rahman said. attended the rally.

Thirteen more respond to Rob's call

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The call for national unity to save democracy and put an end to politics of confrontation given by 13 leading citizens on Friday continued to be supported by different sections of people.

Thirteen people with different backgrounds in a joint statement yesterday expressed their support to the unity call made by Jatiya Samaitantrik Dal leader and former minister ASM Abdur Rob, former army chief and an ex-minister Noor Uddin Khan and 11

The 13 include former president of the US unit of Awami League (AL) Nurul Islam Anu, former lawmakers Abdul Matin and Mohammad Iqbal, architect Bashirul Haq, Brac University teacher Ferdous Azim, writer and researcher ABM Osman Gani, former chairman of Noakhali Paurasava Robiul Hossain Kochi, President of Bangladesh Hotel and Guest House Owners Association Sadiq Ahsan, former chairman of Abahani Club industrialist Muhit Khan, poet Nahid Roksana and Dr Kazi Feroza Islam Beauty.

The call on Friday was made by ASM Abdur Rob, former minister of Ershad-government Shafiqul Gani Shawpan, Noor Uddin Khan, who quit the AL recently; former minister Abul Hasan Chowdhury Kaiser. who also left the AL after 2001 polls, Gonoshasthya chief Jafarullah Chowdhury, poet Fajal Shahab Uddin, film actress Kabari Sarwar, former president of the Supreme Court Bar Association Khandakar Mahbub Hossain, 11-point move-ment leader Khaled Mohammad Ali, scientist Abdul Khaleq and former lawmaker MA Gofran.

BNPPP meets

FROM PAGE 1 bill in the current session to intro-

duce 45 reserved seats of the Jatiya Sangsad for women. The bill is likely to be passed without the main opposition's (AL) has already rejected the proposed amendment bill and turned down an offer of dialogue with the

The speedy trial (amendment) bill seeking two years extension of the legislation is likely to get passed

because of the prolonged boycott by the AL is likely to continue, political analysts said. Opposition Deputy Leader Abdul Hamid will reply to the government overtures after dis-

of the opposition before replying to Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan," Hamid told The Daily Star yesterday. BNP Secretary General Abdul

tables. We're determined to dislodge the government by next

The current session will run until March 30 according to the decision of the business advisory committee. The current session that began on January 18 has already sat on 26 workdays.

BDR Brig Gen Mohammad Ibrahim Khalil will lead a ninemember Bangladesh delegation, while Inspector General of the BSF (South and North Bengal frontier)

lead his 11-member team. The Bangladesh delegation left for Kolkata yesterday.

JCD declares

FROM PAGE 1 They were conspiring against the democratic government and the BNP sitting in the high ranks of the party, Laltu alleged, accusing Badruddoza of exploding bombs at his own house with the 'evil motive' of shifting the blame onto

the government. The JCD also accused the Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) of playing a partisan role centring the attack on prominent writer Humayun Azad, saying it was overplaying the 'non-issue'

front Azizul Bari Helal urged the

DUTA to help resume classes in the grater interest of thousands of He warned tough agitation if the university authorities sat on their hands without taking adequate measures to begin classes at the

At view exchange meetings at different halls of the university on Sunday night, the also JCD blamed the DUTA leaders for the deadlock and vowed to resist the association if they tried to 'destroy the academic life as well as careers of

highest seat of learning.

Before the rally, the JCD brought out a procession on the campus that ended at the foot of the Áparajeyo Bangla monument. JCD leaders Sultan Salauddin Tuku, Farhad Hossain Azad, Abdul

Kader Bhuiyan Jewel, Shafiul Bari Babu, Selimuzzaman Selim, Mostafa Khan Safori, Amirul Islam Khan Alim and Hasasn Mamun

those who want to complete their education within the session and enter their respective career," the prime minister said addressing convocation of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and

echnology (Buet). She asked all to think about the country's future if the institutions of higher education remain inoperative day after day.

As the prime minister spoke at the Buet, classes at Dhaka University (DU) could not take place on the day, as also previous days since the DU teachers started work abstention protesting attack on their colleague Prof. Humayun Azad on February 27. The prime minister at the seventh Buet convocation, being held after three years, conferred gradu-

ation degree on 1914, postgraduate degree on 302, doctor of philosophy on 10 students of the engineer ng university. She also presented gold medals to 32 students for their brilliant results. Education Minister M Osman Farruk, State Minister for Education Ehsanul Huq Milon and Vice-Chancellor Dr Mohammad

Ali Mortaza also addressed the function attended by ministers, MPs, guardians and a large number of former students. Former vice-chancellor of the university, former adviser of the caretaker government and President of Bangladesh Diabetic Association Prof Wahiduddin Ahmed delivered his convocation speech

Asserting that education is a basic right of the people and its door should remain open to all, Prof Ahmed said the mater of higher education is, however, different altogether. "In this case the number does not matter. The importance of quality is much greater than quantity. Higher education should be talent-

public money were spent on their education and acquiring of special "The common people of Bangladesh are spending a lot of

The prime minister in her speech reminded the newly graduated engineers of a debt they owe to

the people as huge amounts of

Car bomb found outside US' Pak mission

REUTERS, Karachi A van packed with explosives was found outside the US consulate in

police said.

The car bomb was discovered by police and towed away from the consulate to a sports ground where investigators defused it, police in the volatile port city said. "If this exploded it would have

the Pakistani city of Karachi vester-

day, two days before Secretary of

State Colin Powell visits the country,

caused massive destruction. God saved us," said Munir Ahmed Sheikh, a sub-inspector at the city's bomb A 750-liter drum contained a mixture of chemicals, including

A car bomb outside the same

consulate killed 12 Pakistanis and wounded 45 in June 2002. Powell is due to visit the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, but not Karachi on Wednesday.

guards the vehicle had broken down. He then drove away in another car, policesaid. Police were called and discovered the detonators and the drum of chemicals. The van was taken to the sports ground, about two km

from the consulate.

money each year on your education. It is your responsibility to repay the loan," she said. The country wants to see the young engineers, planners and architects as the workers in development.

Khaleda said the government has attached top priority to expansion and improvement of the standard of education and is carry-

ing out various programmes to make education available for all. She said various programmes have been taken to ensure the basic right to education for every citizen irrespective of financial capability,

social status and gender. The prime minister mentioned that curriculum and courses at different levels had been redesigned suiting needs of the time. Stress has been laid on English along with the mother tongue Bengali, cheating in public examination has been checked and a

Khaleda said it is not possible to survive in this competitive world without quality education. She called for faster development and dissemination of technical knowledge, including Information Communications Technology (ICT) and biotechnology. The engineers have to make a

ignificant contribution in information technology for creating employment opportunities and providing the industries with capacity of increasing production.

convocation procession. Inu demands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

alliance government must step down accepting the liabilities for widespread terrorism, rampant corruption, fostering communal elements, and creating anarchy in the country.

stability of the country. Hasanul Huq Inu, president of JSD, said a national, united government is the best possible solution to end the on-going political crisis and to get rid of the anarchy inflicted by the BNP-Jamaat rule.

Referring to the initiatives taken Dr Kamal Hossain and by Dr Kamal Hossain and Badruddoza Chowdhury to forge unity for an alternative political platform, Executive President of JSD central committee Moinuddin Khan Badal said, "In the wake of prevailing political situation in the country, it's been evident that no single front can rule the country unilaterally."

Among others, General Secretary of JSD Shirin Akhtar, addressed the rally.

It arrested several hundred AL

Powell is visiting Pakistan this

week on a tour that also takes him

activists and obstructed rallies and processions just a fortnight ago, but is now keen on holding talks with

Surveillance has been mounted on the leaders and supporters of Badruddoza Chowdhury's alternative stream and a process initiated to take them head-on so that others looking to join or float alternative

veek, which manufactures and Iativatabadi Chhatra Dal and

commission formed for reforms in education.

Earlier, the prime minister, attired in ceremonial gown, entered the venue leading the

alliance to go Calls to form nat'l

Branding the present government as despotic, the leaders of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) said the

While speaking at the rally organised as part of the party's countrywide demonstration for national government at Muktangan in the city yesterday, the leaders also called for a national government based on a national government based on an all party-consensus to bring forth the long-cherish socio-economic

Abul Hossain, Md Khaled, Karim Sikdar, Habibur Rahman

reform agenda. He expressed his profound optimism about the national government, what he said, would liberate the country from socio-economic crisis caused by the present government. The JSD president however, stressed the commitment of his envisaged national government to institu-tionalising the rule of law, good governance, self-reliant local government bodies and to elimi-

the main opposition, the sources in the ruling alliance said. BNP Secretary General and also ocal Government, Rural

and vandalised National Beverage and Sunman Food of Abdul Mannan, a retired army maior who joined the alternative stream last distributes Sun Crest Cola at Savar, injured seven, damaged two microbuses and a mini-truck.

tive stream alleged they are being harassed and not being able to stay at home and do business at their offices due to threat from the BNP activists and tax and law-enforcing

They said National Board of

Revenue (NBR) officials have already started visiting their busi-

ness offices and are examining

Official sources said the govern ment has ordered the police, NBR and others to go for massive crack down against their businesses and political activities.

Home ministry sources said

police surveillance on the AL lead-

ers and activists has been slightly

reduced and surveillance on the

leaders and supporters of the alternative political stream enhanced instead. "We now consider the alternative stream as our main opponent rather than the Awami League because it is causing damage to the image of the government, so all concentration obviously goes

float political party or platform by wooing BNP men out of the party fold and will put every hurdle on their way. They will not be allowed to hold programmes peacefully anywhere in the country," said a top ranking BNP leader, also on condi tion of anonymity. He said no big party like the BNP

will sit idle when a renegade is trying to encourage desertion of party

After the rally, Inu, while explaining the concept of national government, told The Daily Star that it is a participatory government to undertake unimplemented socio-economic

nating communalism, autocracy and other social evils. to India and Afghanistan.

staged hartal and other street

agitation programmes.

Development and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan rang up Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid Advocate on Saturday and made fresh offer for dialogue to resolve the current

stream think better of doing so. Yesterday, some youths bombed

away shipment worth \$2 lakh in Chittagong on March 13. Customs men took away 4,500 cases of Sun Crest and papers from the Sun Crest depot at Dewanhat that day and unknown men hurled three bombs at Mannan's Gulshan residence the Several followers of the alterna-

political impasse due to AL's skipping parliament sessions.

ubo Dal activists forced closure of his eight garment factories and took

A young men had parked the van in front of the consulate, telling

unilaterally.

Govt takes a hard line

officials.

whether they are doing business legally and paying the taxes regu-

around the former president's move," said a senior minister, who wanted not to be named.

"We will not allow anyone to