parliament, she said that the AI

proposed to reserve 30 seats under

the previous provision that gave all

the membership to the ruling party.

raise the seats to 45 and introduce proportionate distribution of the

But her government decided to

ats among parliamentary parties.

She listed her government's

development programmes and

sought people's support from their realisation.

Presided over by local legislator SA Khaleque, the rally was addressed, by LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Health Minister

Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed,

Communications Minister Nazmul

Huda, Housing Minister Mirza Abbas, State Minister for Cultural

Affairs Selima Rahman, Dhaka city

Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Home Minister Altaf Hossain

Chowdhury, Water Resources Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed and

State Minister for Labour and

Bulu, Dhaka city BNP General Secretary Abdus Salam, JCD

President Shahabuddin Laltu and

carry out the drive throughout the

Besides, 1170 hand spray

machines, 48 wheel-mounted

sprayer machines, 340 fogger machines, 3 ULV (carried on vehi-

cle) machines, and 15 portable

ULV machines equip the DCC for

going after the mosquitoes of the

Still cleanliness drives on

The chief executive officer

ponds, canals, ditches, and jheels

stand as a very important means of

keeping the mosquito menace under control, a DCC source said.

(CEO) of DCC said various public agencies like Rajuk, Dhaka WASA,

Public Works Department,

Bangladesh Railway, Roads and Highways, and many others often

do not discharge the responsibility

of cleaning the land, wetland, and residential areas on they own,

contributing to the sufferings of the

Magistrates to

get involved in

loan recovery

The government is going to amend

the Money Loan Court Act, 2003, to

engage magistrates to give physical

control of the mortgaged property

of loan defaulters to auction buy-

istrates to establish control over

This step will encourage people

and it was referred to the standing

committee on the law, justice and

Under another proposed

increased to Tk 5 lakh from Tk

50,000. The amendment is pro-

usually take small amounts of loan

and face cases in the money loan

courts based at the district head-

by parliament, farmers may face

certificate cases at upazila head-

The law ministry recently con-

vened a meeting with the high

officials of banks and financial

institutions to review the Money Loan Court Act, 2003 that came

into force on May 1 that year. The

meeting proposed the two amend-

ments to make the law more effec-

quarters for defaulted farm loans.

When the amendment is passed

parliamentary affairs for scrutiny.

no scope for encroachment.

Under the proposed amend-

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Juba Dal President Barkatullah

Manpower Amanullah Aman.

DCC seeks

Greens against leasing out Tanguar Haor

Says handing over the wetlands to an investor will have far-reaching consequences

chairperson of Coalition of Environmental NGOs, Hasna J Moudud president of Coastal Area

Resource Development and

Management Association, S

Rizwana Hasan , director (programmes) of Bela, Mahfuz

Ullah, secretary general of Centre for Sustainable Development, Dr

Ainun Nishat, country representa-

tive of IUCN (International Union

for Conservation of Nature)-

Bangla-desh, Professor Kazi Zaker

Hossain, president of Wildlife

Society of Bangladesh, M Anwarul

Islam, director of Nature

Conservation Mana-gement and Dr

Ronald Halder, a prominent birder.

declared an environmentally criti-

cal area in February 1991 and the

government is duty-bound to protect the wetlands under the

Environmental Protection Act of

1995. Leasing out the wetlands will

constitute a breach of the law, they

Located in Sunamganj, the Tanguar Haor is one of the last

remaining natural wetlands spread-

ing over 9,500 hectares of land. The *Haor* is home to 135 species of fish, 15 of which are listed as critically

It also harbours some of the last remnants of swamp forests. Every year, the *Haor* provides refuge for 30-40 thousand water birds, including many of migratory species. It is also the natural habitat for many

globally and nationally endangered

species of amphibian animals like turtles, lizards, snakes and mam-

Graft case filed

against

Alamgir,

6 others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

others in a graft case.

The Bureau of Anti Corruption (Bac)

yesterday pressed charges against former state minister for planning

Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and six

case submitted the charge sheet against to the Chief Metropolitan

Magistrate's Court, Dhaka.

The investigation officer of the

The six others are Air Commo-

dore M Manzur Alam, former chair-

man of Civil Aviation Authority of

Bangladesh (Caab), Zakiruddin

Ahmad, member (administration) of Caab, Group Captain M Iqbal Hussain, member (planning) of Caab, Mohammad Abdus Salam,

director (administration) of Caab.

Group Captain Mushir-al-Muluk

and former Awami league lawmaker

The case, filed with the Airport

Police Station, stated that Alamgir in

connivance with others issued work

order to the Mutual Trading

Company, highest bidder among

the three, for arranging a Flight Celebration of the Caab in 1997 that

incurred the government Tk 44.5

Huda filed the case on April 26,

Caab security

supervisor

in city road

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A security supervisor of Civil

Aviation Authority of Bangladesh

(Caab) died in a road accident in

down Mohammad Mojibul Hoque,

security supervisor of the Caab, in

front of Shahin College on Airport

Road at about 2:45pm when he was

crossing the busy road, police said.

A speeding vehicle knocked

accident

the capital yesterday

killed

Bac official Mohammad Zahirul

They said the Tanguar Haor was

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of top environment experts has warned about serious and far-reaching environmental consequences of a reported government move to hand over Sylhet's *Tanguar Haor* to an investor.

Urging the government to cancel any such plan, they said the wetlands, the country's lone Ramsar site, should rather be declared a protected area preventing all kinds of commercial activities deemed harmful to its ecosystem.

The environmentalists have drawn up a memorandum in this regard to be submitted to the Prime Minister's Office as well as different ministries concerned.

"We will submit it in a day or two. The government should consider the proposal for the sake of maintaining a sound ecosystem of the *Tanguar Haor*," said Rizwana Hasan, director (programmes) of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (Bela).

Signatories to the memorandum are Ruby Ghuznavi, managing director of Aranya, Dr Atiq Rahman,

Housewife dies of burns at **DMCH**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife, who suffered severe burns on March 12, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital Friday

Yasmin Akhter, 25, was allegedly burnt by her husband and in-laws in Keraniganj for dowry. She struggled for life seven days with 90 percent

Her father Abul Hares filed a case, accusing seven including her husband Ali Ahmad and Omar Ali, under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act with Keraniganj Police Station on March

According to the FIR (first information report), the accused, who are absconding since the incident, committed the crime as Hares declined to send Ali abroad.

Mongla Port strike on

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An indefinite strike at Mongla Port continued for the second day ties including cargo handling at the

The strike was called by local alliance to protest the killing of Bagerhat district Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal President MA Baten on

Leaders and supporters of 18 labour organisations brought out a procession at Mongla yesterday protesting the murder.

Meanwhile, Captain Masum Billah, leader of the joint forces camp at Mongla, has been replaced by captain Ashfaque. Alliance leaders demanded his

withdrawal for opening fire on protesters on Friday.

Three persons arrested as suspects in the murder were sent to Bagerhat district jail yesterday.

No case was filed in connection with the murder of Baten till filing of this report in the evening.

It forces nab commissioner of KCC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Joint forces in Khulna yesterday arrested a Khulna City Corporation commissioner and recovered arms and ammunitions from his shrimp farm early yesterday morning.

Police admitted him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) Mohammad Shaikh Mosaddek with broken legs and severe head Hossain Babul (40), the commisinjuries. The 60-year-old man, also sioner of ward no 13, is an activist of a retired air force officer, died there Khalishpur unit BNP. Following an at 4:00pm, police added intense interrogation, the joint forces recovered an US made dou-However, police failed to seize the vehicle or nab its driver till the ble barrel gun, a pipegun, a pistol, 16 writing of this report at 6:30 last gun cartridges and four revolver bullets from his shrimp farm at

Charerhat under Khalishpur thana. In another accident, a speeding Police said, Babul, who joined truck (Dhaka Na- 2123) hit Ariful BNP from Jatiya Party in 2000,is linked with the Janajuddho faction Islam, 24, at Jatrabari intersection at around 11:00pm on Friday when of the outlawed Purba Banglar

he was crossing the road. Communist Party (PBCP). He was rushed to the DMCH Meanwhile, Babul's family alleged the arms recovered were planted earlier by party rivals.

where doctors declared him dead at around 12:00 midnight, sources

Police seized the truck and took its driver to custody, they added.

Power crisis

FROM PAGE 12

the official estimate and that citydwellers are going feel it as the mercury crossed 33 degrees Celsius already.

"We have a policy to keep Dhaka out of load-shedding, making places outside capital share shortfall of power," said a PDB source. "But since the irrigation season is going on, we are compelled to ensure less interrupted supply to the North Bengal region.

More judges to be recruited soon for quick case disposal: CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain said a number of judges will be appointed soon to end the slow disposal of cases.

The Chief Justice, while addressing the members of Sylhet District Bar Association yesterday at the Hall of the bar, also stressed the separation of judiciary from the executive to ensure the independence of the

Syed Mudassir Husain urged the lawyers to come forward to ensure justice, saying, along with the judges, the lawyers also have a very important role to play in prompt disposal of

The Registrar of the Supreme Court Quamrul Islam Siddiqui, and Additional Registrar Farid Ahmed Shibli accompanied the chief justice.

Among others, the District and Sessions Judge of Sylhet Mohammad Ismail Miah and General Secretary of the Sylhet Bar EU Shahidul Islam addressed the meeting, which was chaired by the President of the Bar Abdul Hai Khan.

The president and general secretary of the bar in their speeches demanded construction of new court building under the Judicial Capacity Building project at the earliest. They said the accommodation problem in the Sylhet courthouse turned acute due to delaying of the authorities concerned.

The chief justice, who is also the chairman of the Judicial Capacity Building project, said the problem would be resolved soon.

4 killed, 30 hurt in bus crash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Four people were killed and 30 others injured, ten of them seriously, in a road accident on the Dhaka-Rangpur Highway in Mithapukur upazila early yesterday.

Police said the accident occurred at about 4:00am when a Kurigram bound night coach from Dhaka fell into a roadside ditch at Al-faruque, killing four of its passengers on the spot and injuring 30 others.

Two of the dead were identified as Ershadul, 30, and Shahidul, 28, Both hailed from Nageswari under Kurigram district. Identity of the rest two could not be known till the filing of this report at 7:00pm.

The seriously injured, Babu,30, Solaiman, 33, Monzurul, 35, Nazrul, 38, Abu Bakker, 25, Saju, 22, Belal, 21, Moznu, 35, Zoinal Abedin, 60, and Abdul Karim,

Taher FROM PAGE 12

Khaleque and BCL cadres Nurul Azim Babar and Nurullah. They were also fined Tk 50,000 each.

The court acquitted nine others as charges brought against them were not proved.

After the verdict, Taher said he would move the higher court against the judgement. Taher was the main accused in

the sensational Nurul Islam mur-der but he was acquitted of the charge. According to the prosecution, Kamaluddin, district BNP leader and secretary of Rickshaw Sramik

Union of Laxmipur was stabbed at the union office on August 31, 2000. He succumbed to his injuries at Laxmipur General Hospital on Alauddin, father of the victim, filed a case against 14 people, including Abu Taher and his two sons, on October 31.

After investigation, police submitted the charge sheet against 16 people on April 6, 20002. The case was transferred to the

Naikkhyangchhari

tribunalon November 11, 2003.

FROM PAGE 12 wire, one coil of safety fuse insulator, 40 battery-connectors and a large quantity of gunpowder.

The joint forces in those operations also recovered one binocular, 11 telephone circuits, three solar panels, one set of radio antennae, two butcher knives, 20 empty magazines and three sets of military uni-

Government sources said Naikkhyangchhari, the southernmost upazila of Bandarban hill district, is a sensitive area due to its geographic proximity to about half of the 173-km Bangladesh-Myanmar land-border. For strategic reasons, some powerful arms-trafficking syndicates active in China, Cambodia, Thailand and Myanmar have been using this remote hilly area as a transit point and a safe haven, they believed. These crime syndicates have built

up heavy armouries in the area to safeguard their trafficking operations, the sources said, adding border security forces of both Bangladesh and Myanmar could not check their cross-border infiltration effectively due to absence of a clearcut border marking.

Local residents allege that various armed groups often set up camps in the area. Among those, Rohingya Socialist Organisation and newly formed Rohingya Nationalist Organisation are the most active, they said.

Though these groups do not collect tolls or otherwise terrorise them, their mere presence instils fright in them, locals added.

PM accuses AL

League (AL) chief, Khaleda referred to her tacit support for the military rule after the removal of the then BNP government and said she (Hasina) was once again cherishing the wishful thinking.

"That thinking will not come true this time around," the prime minis-

Addressing a huge public meeting near Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur, she asked the schemers to immediately stop their 'unholy activities' and engage in constructive politics to keep up democracy and ensure develop-

"Otherwise you will face people's

Referring to the political parties demonstrating to unseat the gov-ernment, Khaleda said they would not be able to force the government from power using anarchy, indiscipline and mindless hartals. She criticised the opposition for 'setting fire to public and private property and preparing coffins before any

"We'll not step down in the face of threats or hartals," she said, adding: "Don't jockey for power now...we've passed only two and a half years in office and you have to wait for another two and a half years for the polls

Tens of thousands of people from Mirpur, Pallabi and Kafrul under Dhaka-11 constituency converged on the ground to listen to the prime minister.

She said: "The plotters, the enemies of democracy, are trying to make Bangladesh subservient to others because they like slavery.

"We are both in power and in the street...we will face the conspiracy by taking people with us."

The premier observed that the conspirators isolated from people for long were also trying to mislead people by telling lies. On Hasina's promise to separate the judiciary, Khaleda said the party that curbed courts' independence taking office after independence

and brought out a stick processions

and put up a slum in front of the

High Court last time, should not make such statements. She also alleged that the past AL government did noting to separate the judiciary from the executive, but tried to infringe on the judiciary.

Taiwan president FROM PAGE 12

commission to seize and seal all ballot boxes," he said, adding that he wanted a recount.

With more than half the vote counted in official results, Chen had taken a lead that made it almost impossible for his opponent to win, the Central Election Commission (CEC) said.

Default Loan

Samity, which is not a government entity. But the name falls in the government borrower category, as local government and finance ministries are the guarantors for a total of about Tk 60 crore loan that it took from three NCBs.

"This is a political loan a source, "the samity really doesn't need Tk 60 crore for anything.'

Explaining the reason for the huge amount of loan defaulted by the food ministry, banking sources said the amount has piled up over the years as the ministry borrows money to import foodgrains but does not pay back properly afterwards.

Top private sector loan defaulters, on the other hand, get away through legal loopholes, prompt ing Law Minister Moudud Ahmed to ask officials last week to investigate why the High Court so frequently issues stay orders on lower courts' verdicts upon the loan defaulters' petitions. "As a result of the tough Money

Loan Court Act, a number of smalland medium-level private defaulters in recent times did show up to repay their loans," said a high official of Sonali Bank. "But the big defaulters get away using their money and political clout in the courts and the government."

The central bank has been persistently and increasingly hammering the NCBs to recover default loans and clean up their books, giving way to the recent special initiative undertaken by the banks concerned.

New JU VC appointed On women's reserved seats in

JU CORRESPONDENT

Prof Khandaker Mustahidur Rahman of economics department has been appointed vice-chancellor of Jahangirnagar University (JU) for a four-year term.

Chancellor of the university President Iajuddin Ahmed made the appointment yesterday under 11(1) of 1973 JU Act after a month of the VC panel election held on February 19.

Prof Rahman took over yesterday at around 3:00pm after receiving his appointment letter signed by acting Education Secretary Khandaker Shahidul Islam through

Teachers, students, officers and employees of the JU accorded a reception to Prof Rahman at semi-nar room of the central auditorium at around 4:00pm.

Born in Brahmanbaria in 1949, Prof Rahman completed his BA (Honours) and MSc in economics from Dhaka University and Islamabad University in 1969 and 1970 and obtained MA and PhD degrees from Essex University of England in 1974 and 1979.

He joined the university as a lecturer in economics in 1971 and city BNP leader Eklashuddin Mollah spoke on the occasion, among also served as dean of the Faculty of Social Science, chairman of eco-Senior ministers and leaders nomics department and member of the Finance Committee. including Information Minister Tariqul Islam were present.

DU classes resume today

DU CORRESPONDENT

Regular academic activities at Dhaka University (DU) resume today after 22 days, as the DU Teachers Association (DUTA) has withdrawn its indefinite class boycott programme.

The withdrawal decision came at an emergency meeting chaired by DUTA President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique on March 18, following assurance from DU authorities that Azad would be sent abroad for treatment soon.

The DUTA started an indefinite class boycott on February 28 demanding immediate arrest and punishment of real attackers of eminent writer Prof Humayun Azad, resignation of the home minister and sending Azad abroad for treatment. Assailants stabbed Azad with butcher's knife in front of Bangla Academy at about 9:00pm on February 27 when he was returning to his campus house from the Ekushey Book Fair.

DUTA General Secretary Dr Mohammad Akhteruzzaman said they will continue demonstration until their others demands are met.

Undercover cops nab 349 in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

teams comprising police, bers of Detective Branch (DB), Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Rapid Action Team (RAT) and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) arrested 349 alleged criminals on the third day of their anticrime drive in the capital Friday. Approved by the cabinet last week, the amendment proposal was placed in the Jatiya Sangsad

Battalion and police nabbed 125 others in Motijheel, Kotwali. Gulshan, Mirpur and Pallabi Police Station areas. However, they failed to arrest any top criminal or seize firearms during the crackdown.

The police teams have been asked to arrest killers, extortionists, listed criminals, members of organised gangs and car lifters and recover illegal arms, drugs and stolen vehicles.

Pak forces FROM PAGE 12

with their hands tied, who were sitting under heavy guard in the back of a military truck in Wana, the main town in the tribal South Waziristan region, where the battle was raging.

The army also displayed the body of one suspected militant wrapped in a white blanket.

BGMEA slates

disrupts production. The BGMEA meeting called for law and order as a prerequisite for productivity and trade and com-

merce. "Any kind of terrorist attack on the apparel industries creates panic among the foreign buyers, lowering

If such attacks continued, they cautioned, international buyers of Bangladesh's readymade garments might shift elsewhere. They urged the government to

maintain law and order so that the garment exporters can carry out their business deals without any hindrance and fear. BGMEA First Vice-President

Abdus Salam, Vice-President (Finance) Anwar-ul-Alam Chowdhury and Directors Kazi Moniruzzaman, SM Nurul Haque, M Zinnat Ali Mia, Shafiul Islam, Farooq Hasan Helaluddin Chowdhury, ANM Saifuddin, Syed Ahsanul Haq, Ishtiaq Rahman, Ferdous Parvez, Golam Kabir Chowdhury, Shahidul Islam, Shafiqul Islam and ABM Shamsuddin were present at the

Anti-war protesters

extremists killed 202 people and led to the downfall of Spain's pro-US government in elections three days later and rocked the US-led coalition in Iraq.

Some 60 Spanish political groups have urged Spaniards to turn out en masse for Saturday's

Protest rallies were also scheduled in Italy, where a majority of people favour pulling out Italian troops from Iraq at the end of June, as well as in France, Germany and the United States.

In France, an early opponent of the Iraq war along with Gremany, anti-war rallies were planned in several cities, including Paris, Marseille, Lyon and Toulouse. In the United States, protes

organisers said they hoped their ranks might be swelled in the aftermath of the Madrid train bombings. In Australia, thousands of antiwar activists also staged rallies to mark the first anniversary of the US

led war. Speakers at the rallies called for Australian troops to be sent home from Iraq and attacked Prime Minister John Howard's conserva-

Jamaat leader killed in Naogaon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Alleged operatives of the banned Islamic outfit Zama'atul Mujahidin hacked to death a local Jamaat-e-Islami leader in Niamatpur upazila in Naogaon on Friday night.

Rokon of Jamaat, died from his wounds on the way to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital after being attacked by a gang of 10. The assailants swooped on him at around 7:30pm when he along with his five-year-old son Asadu-

zzaman Nur were returning home

from Adda Bazar in Gomostapur upazila in Chapainawabganj by A local police officer said before his death Abdur in writing accused Azimul, Palash, Yahiya, Salim and

Matibur of attacking him.

Police arrested Tozammel Hossain in connection with the Jamaat Ameer Matiur Rahman

Nizami and local leaders of the party

condemned the killing. Zama'atul Mujahidin has a history of terror attacks in different

tive government's strong ties with the United States.

In Tokyo, organisers claimed 30,000 people had turned out to call for peace in Iraq and the immediate withdrawal of US and Japanese

Hundreds of people also rallied in Muslim-majority Indian Kashmir and in Bangladesh to demand foreign troops withdrawal from

In the Philippines, riot police Saturday used water cannons to disperse a group of about 100 demonstrators who tried to march on the US embassy in Manila to protest

One killed for failing to pay ransom

3 others kidnapped on the same day, 1'released upon payment

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Suspected members of an out-lawed party yesterday killed one of their four kidnap victims from Kumarkhali upazila as his family failed to meet their ransom

Police recovered the body of Shahidul Islam, 25, son of Hossain Ali of Gosaidangi, from a field in the village yesterday morning after his abduction on March 17. The abductors earlier sent a

message to his family demanding a ransom of Tk 2 lakh and threatened to kill him if the money wasn't paid by the evening of March 19. The victim's body was sent to

Three other people were abducted on the same day apparently by the same gang. One of them, a schoolteacher named Tapan Pal

College -- are still being held hostage and are facing death unless a ransom of Tk 2 lakh is paid for each Although cases have been filed

Some other parties and com-

bines including Jatiya Gano Front,

Biplobi Oikya Front, Ganotantrik

Mojdur Party, Ganoshanghati

Andolon, National Democratic

Front and Jatiya Janata Party also

held protest rallies at Muktangon.

Gano Sangskritik Front presented

Expressing solidarity with the Iraqi people, the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Bangladesh Workers' Party (BWP), Jatiya Samaj-tantrik Dal (JSD) and Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) held rallies in front of their offices. Later they brought out processions chanting slogans like Ouit Irag' and joined other protes

General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim called the US president the top terrorist in the world and said. "The invasion and occupation of Iraq has made the world more

thrown out of power with US backing and the main opposition Awami League is also keeping mum fearing loss of Anglo-US

during their one-year occupation have killed 60 thousand Iraqi.

songs protesting the US action. Youth shot and mugged

at Paltan STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers yesterday shot a youth and snatched Tk 10,000 after dragging him down from a passenge bus at Paltan in the city. Three criminals dragged Ismail

Hossain, 20, down from the bus at Paltan crossing and shot him point blank, taking him to a secluded place at about 6:30pm, said the victim's brother Bahadur. His brother was taking the money to their village home in Comilla, he

Ismail is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College hospital with a bullet wound in his left leg.

We want to wrap it up tomorrow

Batsmen from both teams have

Inzamam blames the flat pitches

"Wickets should be more posi-

"The wickets were very flat and

completely dominated the series in

which 1,830 runs have been scored

for the abundance of runs and

hopes the remaining two games

tive so that a bowler doesn't get demoralised," said Inzamam, who

that's why bowlers didn't get the

scored a century in the first game.

give some assistance to bowlers.

(Sunday), "he said

in six innings to date.

4th Indo-Pak ODI

FROM PAGE 1

now we need to pull the next two. I want the team to be more clinical and play well in pressure situa-

day series that kicked off India's first full tour of Pakistan in 14 years. Today's day-night contest will be followed by the final one-dayer on

strength attack - which is missing Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Ajit Agarkar and Ashish Nehra - must

improve if they are to keep the series

Mohammad Sami have Abdul Razzag to back them. But India have been heartened

Akhtar, Shabbir Ahmed and

improvement in the last game and that's quite encouraging," Wright added.

"It is gratifying to see our tail-end batting improve.

meet today The Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) will hold a public meeting at Paltan

JSD public

eral parliament, eight provinces and federal system of government.

Maidan in the city at 3.00pm today

to press home its 10-point

ing crimes, widespread corruption, politicisation and price hike of essentials. JSD President Noor Alam Ziku

and other central leaders of the party will address the meeting.

2 rocket launchers recovered in Rangamati **OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati**

Armed forces members yesterday recovered two abandoned rocket launchers from the deep forest of Longdu in Rangamati.

Being tipped-off, troops of 16 Bengal raided Manikkyapara and

found the two sophisticated arms at around 8:00 am, sources said. The rocket launchers were

HC stays freeze

Chittagong to freeze the accounts of Major (retd) MA Mannan. Accordingly, Standard Chartered Bank has frozen the accounts of Delta Fashion and Eastern Fashion Industries, United Commercial Bank the accounts of Sunpack while Commercial Bank

> Mannan. A division bench comprising Justice M A Matin and Justice Syed Refat Ahmed also issued rule upon the DCT and others, returnable in three weeks, to explain why the notice freezing the accounts of Major Mannan should not be declared illegal and void.

of Cevlon the accounts of

Sunflower Garments and

Quashem Saewhan Company, all in the name of their owner Major

The order came upon separate writs filed by Mannan, owner of the companies, challenging the validity of the DCT notice. Barrister Rafique-Ul-Huq, counsel for Mannan, submitted

that the notice was issued with a mala fide intention to politically

harass him as he resigned from

joined alternative political stream of former president Badruddoza Chowdhury He further submitted that the ruling party activists stormed into the industries and business institu-

parliament and the ruling BNP and

tions of Mannan that raised serious concern among the business community. The DCT violated the norms pertaining to principles of natural justice by not issuing prior notice to Mannan to its tax claim amounting to about Tk 60 lakh, the counsel

He argued that Mannan was not defaulter. Even if he was a defaulter, the DCT has no legal authority to ask the bank to freeze Hearing of the writs was delayed as the bench was hesitating if it has

Mudassir Husain, empowered the bench to take up the writs. Deputy Attorney General Adilur Rahman Khan appearing for the government opposed issuance of

jurisdiction in taking up the matter. On petition, Chief Justice Syed J

ment, banks and financial institu-tions can take help of district mag-The 99 armed plainclothes police mortgaged property and hand over the property to the buyers, leaving to buy such property at reasonable prices, sources pointed out.

The plainclothes police teams held 124 people while the joint forces of the BDR, Armed Police

amendment, the defaulted loan ceiling for filing cases with the money loan courts will be posed to help small farmers, who

FROM PAGE 1 worried about hartal, being enforced by the opposition, which

their confidence in the Bangladeshi garment exporters," observed the Board of Directors of the BGMEA.

Maulana Abdur Rahman, 35, a

Kushtia Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

from Bharara, was released on Friday night upon payment of Tk The two others -- cloth trader Shyamal Kumar Pal, 45, from Dharmapara, and Zahidul Islam, 26, a student of Kushtia Islamia

in connection with the kidnaps, police have so far been unable to make any headway in the investigation, sources said.

Left parties

occupation of Iraq by not protesting or condemning these.

tors at Muktangon. Addressing the CPB rally, party

insecure. The ruling BNP is not protesting the US action for fear of being

support, he said. BSD Convenor Khalequzzaman said at the party rally the US forces

The BWP condemned the "genocide in Iraq by the Anglo-US alli-

"It's an important game for us.

tions," he said. Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium will host the last two games of the one-

Wednesday, before the three-Test series gets underway in Multan on 28 March. Wright feels India's under-

"Pakistan have a better balance in their attack," Wright said. "Their three fast bowlers Shoaib

by the progress of Zaheer Khan, who looked to be coming to hand on Friday after spending four months on the sidelines before this series. "Zaheer has displayed some

Pakistan skipper Inzamamul Haq is hoping his side can continue their good form and wrap the series

demand, says a press release. The demands include bicam-The party will also protest confrontational politics, increas-