NEWS

Cut crime

projects because there is no kick-

"This should change," he

The legislators also urged Saifur to increase allocation to road transport projects, set up small power plants to support irrigation for agriculture and reintroduce food-for-work instead of

The finance minister said he would initiate a study on the viability of setting up small power plants with 10 to 15 megawatts of capac-

"I will consider the suggestion,"

he assured the lawmakers. Although the government transformed the food-for-work programme into money-for-work last year to 'cut corruption', Saifur

would require as much as Tk 86.000 crore to implement the prime minister-committed road projects.
"But given our limited

resources, we cannot implement them right away. This is why we are funding road-building schemes on

ing ADP for areas where legislators are unable to improve law and order. Saifur said. "I agree with the concept. If the MPs act properly, it

district Sylhet, the finance minister said. "When police arrest anyone of our student front. I don't ask them to release the arrestee. No officer is transferred. There is no instance of extortion.

people, the rural people are not

institutional framework prevented

them from doing so, a number of

They urged the government to

involved in violence. A handful of urban people are involved in crimi-

"Therefore, we need to motivate, better train and manage the

and order, Saifur said, "They (the press) have their own agenda. This is why they blow up the murder incidents out of proportion. Such murders take place in New York

was not a single incident anywhere in the country."

An MP suggested the government that it launch a combing operation imposing a three-day

Another deputy called for equipping the police with modern arms and better vehicles.

A parliamentarian suggested deploying 60 lakh village defence party (VDP) members on law enforcement duty, enhancing their

Hafizuddin Ahmed, the lone opposition lawmaker attending the meeting, said, "Failing law and order stoked price hike of essen-

public estimates and public undertaking committees and parliamentary standing committees on finance and planning ministry and chairmen of other Jatiya Sangsad bodies on different ministries attended the meeting

is scheduled to hold a pre-budget meeting with all lawmakers, including from the main opposition

Harun appears in court for bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

tommorow

Leading businessman Yussuf Abdullah Harun will appear before a Comilla court tomorrow to seek bail in a case filed against him on charge of attempting to kill a resident of Muradnagar in Comilla.

One Siraj Mian filed the case with the court on August 7, 2001 after his son Abu Taher took a bullet during a clash between activists of the opposition Awami League and ruling BNP on August 3, 2001. The court tasked Muradnagar police with a probe, but they are yet to submit probe report to it.

Siraj filed another case with the court against Harun and 24 others on May 5, 2002 where he alleged the accused hurled bombs on a BNP procession and Harun at one point got down from his car and shot his son.

The incident took place in 2001, the case was filed in 2002, the medical report was submitted in 2003 while the charge-sheet was submitted the following year, Harun, former president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and ndustries, said yesterday.

Harun added the first information eport alleged that Taher took a bullet in his left leg but the charge-sheet said it hit him in the right leg. "The witnesses gave contradictory statements."

Harun met the inspector general of police (IGP) on May 6, 2003 to ask for a neutral probe to put an end to harassment on him through filing of such a false case. The IGP tasked Chittagong deputy inspector general (DIG) of police with a special probe. The DIG, in his report, termed the allegation against Harun false, he said

Harun is now on a bail that expires

JS body cautions ministers about making pledges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary standing committee Abdur Rouf Choudhury, chairyesterday cautioned cabinet memman of Rangs Group of bers about making indiscriminate Industries, said, "What we need is pledges at the Jatiya Sangsad (JS).

Reviewing the assurances made by the minister in charge of primary and mass education ministry at a meeting, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Government Assurances asked ministers to be careful about giving assurances to countrymen.

Abdus Sobhan, committee chairman, said the JS body has found that the minister in charge of the ministry made five pledges in the current parliament without fulfilling any.

Ministers gave 33 pledges in the seventh parliament, only 12 of which were implemented, he added.

Dr Kamal

emancipation of ordinary citizens. 'All must unite when national security is at stake. At such times, there is no scope for party politics."

He said the people today were being held hostage to criminal godfathers and black money, and asked all to unite under the platform of Jativa Oikva Mancha to change politics for the better. "There has to be a meanngful change for a pro-people governance and Jatiya Oikya Mancha is a platform where all need to unite to get rid of exploitation and misrule.'

Awami League leader Abdur Razzak MP, Mujahidul Islam Selim of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, Gonoforum General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik and Oikva Mancha leader Kazi Faruq Ahmed were present among others.

KEPZ chief

FROM PAGE 12

at the city's busy Muradour Road when some six to seven unidentified assailants wavlaid him on his way to KEPZ site. They snatched the belongings of him and five other colleagues who were also on the microbus bound for KEPZ and shot once only at Rabbani in the throat.

Rabbani was immediately rushed to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) and later shifted to Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka the same afternoon following deterioration of his condition. He was flown to Bangkok by a

special air ambulance on Wednesday. Sources said commodore Rabbani went into coma on last Tuesday at CMH and was then flown to Bangkok.

Meanwhile, Chittagong police are yet to make any headway into the case seven days since the attack. The two main FIR-named

accused, former general manager Abu Naser Chowdhury and former security officer Humayun Kabir of KEPZ áre still at large.

Police so far arrested 10 people on suspicion.

Sources in police think that an nternal feud within the KEPZ involving some of its officials axed recently by the authorities might be the reason for the murder of commodore Rabbani.

An official of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) said the way the attack was carried out shows surely it was no act of amateurs and it was not simply a case of mugging. rather it was planned much earlier. The matter of mugging attempt came to light only to camouflage the real

intention of the attack.'

Homeless camp out 4 Israelis hurt in Palestinian

About 3,000 people of 23 tornadoaffected villages are now living under the open sky amid mismanagement in relief distribution. Diarrhoea has broken out in Uluati and Kairati villages and 10 patients were admitted to Netrakona General Hospital until yesterday.

A lecturer of Purbadhala College labal Ahmed, who lost his sister-inlaw and a house help, said no official or political leader has yet visited Atkapara, Koirati, Fochika and Wachnapur villages in Purbadhala upazila where the storm-hit people are still to get any relief. Sixty-year-old Jamila Khatun of

Kanchanpur who survived with her

only grand daughter said, "The

storm killed my daughter, son and his wife." The two had only dry food three times in the last three days. Netrakona General Hospital after having a little aid from the health department is running short of medicines. Eighteen medical teams

In Mymensingh, the storm-hit people of Samulia Para, Gazir Bhita, Boalmara, Surjapur and Kaliani Kanda of Haluaghat upazila have been suffering from acute crisis of food and shelter. The relief that includes cash, clothes and dry food is minimal. Gazir Bhita and Samulia

are working with insufficient supply

of necessary medicines.

Para villagers say.
The district administration has so

far distributed 100 tonnes of rice, 250 bundles of CI sheet, 300 pieces of saree, 200 pieces of lungi and Tk 2,50,000 among the victims. Local administration sources said the tornado left 3,000 people of 720 families homeless, reports our Mymensingh correspondent.

The storm left many indigenous Garo families homeless. Profulla Barman of Gazir Bhita who lost his all three houses told The Daily Star that now they fear fresh hit of the storm, as they are under the open sky with other families. They are in need of housing materials and food.

Razia Begum, 45, a resident of Samulia Para, has lost all her belongings. All of her family members are injured and receiving treatment at hospitals. Haron Miah, a shop worker at

Haluaghat Bazar, said they need food and rehabilitation first to overcome the situation. He said as the victims have lost everything, it will be difficult for them to make a fresh start without help from the government and other corners of the society.

Military teams are serving cooked khichuri but many families have no pot to take. The villagers also cannot take bath, as they do not have any other clothes, except those on.

Shoddy work

FROM PAGE 1

contractor and a local criminal." Home Secretary Muhammad Omar

A number of retired army officers suggested that an international syndicate of gunrunners was taking the cache to a third country, but State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar said the arms were smuggled in for use in

On June 27 last year, police seized over one lakh bullets and about 200 kilograms of explosives from an abandoned truck parked near a brick-kiln in Jogarpara village

Police after a firefight seized four AK-47 assault rifles with over 1,000 bullets, two revolvers, 20 grenades and four time bombs from a signboard shop in the capital's Kuril Badda area on November 30 last

There are allegations that charge-sheets in the arms busts were submitted to courts in a hurry to victimise the political opponents of the government, diverting attention from the real gunrunners.

A survey of the cases reveal that the findings in the charge-sheets, the first information reports and witness accounts are not the same.

In all the charge-sheets police tried to establish the political identity of the accused in an apparent attempt to shift the blames onto the main opposition Awami League and suggest that the arms consignments were smuggled in to topple the government.

Locals alleged that police tried to hunt down Ashish Dev Barma in the wake of Bogra ammunition seizure, but shifted the focus of probe on political grounds

In the Kuril case, accused Abdul Aziz and Mehedi Hasan Manik linked Lincoln to the crime in confessional statements in court, but the investigation officer in the chargesheet dropped his name on grounds that he did not find out his address.

Locals allege police dropped his name under political pressure as he is associated with a top ruling alli-

Investigation officer of the case Criminal Investigation Department's Assistant Superintendent Munshi Atiqur Rahman, said he submitted the charge sheet on the basis of his

On dropping Lincoln's name, he said he mentioned in the chargesheet that he would place a supplementary one on tracing the address of Lincoln.

Asked whether raids are on to nab the accused, Atiqur said he has sent warrant orders to the police station concerned in what many see a 'subtle tactic not to arrest' a crimi-

Budget steps

innovative agricultural extension methods including 'Rice Seed Network.' 'Rice Knowledge Bank.' and 'Mobile Pump.

Funded by the British Department for International Development (DFID), PETRRA project, launched in 1999 and scheduled to be wound up this June, is the biggest-ever donoraided rice research programme in Bangladesh.

Head of the Social Science Division of the IRRI Dr Mahabub Hossain, IRRI Representative to Bangladesh and PETRRA Project Manager Dr Noel P Magor and Director General of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) Dr Mahiul Haque also spoke at the opening session chaired by the DAE Director General Md Tarig

The agriculture minister said only 2.47 percent of the country's annual development budget is being channelled to agriculture compared to 22 percent in 1979.

Anwar blamed unbalanced application of chemical fertilisers for degrading soil fertility. He noted that previously there was a price parity among urea, TSP (triple super phosphate) and MP (murate of potash) but now the prices of TSP and MP have doubled compared to urea, which acts as a disincentive to applying balanced doses of fertilisers.

Anwar also expressed concern at the fast pace of cropland depletion and said rice is grown on 75 percent of arable land, which does not augur well for other crops. Newer technologies are required so that per unit productivity sees a phenomenal growth. The minister also stressed bridging the wide gap between rice yields at breeder's plots and farmers' fields.

Dr Mahabub touched on the future challenge before Bangladesh's agriculture where with the increase of population by 20 lakh every year an additional

five lakh tonnes of rice is required. "The challenge gets bigger when we see as our land shrinking," said Hossain. Dr Magor gave an overview of

the PETRRA project and said it

had commissioned 45 sub-

projects in last four years with

over 47 partner agencies representing national, international and private organisations, universities

The representatives from BRRI and other partner agencies of IRRI's PETRRA project presented overviews on issues ranging from quality seed network to rice knowledge bank to aromatic rice to rice-duck farming system in the following two working sessions chaired by Dr Magor and BRRI Research Director Dr AR

Govt faces

FROM PAGE 1 after a brief hearing on the matter moved by Barrister Tania Amir, passed the order for hearing the petition before the full court.

The government petition moved earlier seeking for the 18th time an extension for four months to implement the SC directives also comes up for hearing on Monday.

The petitioner specified three major grounds for drawing contempt proceedings. They are: 1) The manner the government

constituted the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) for the purpose of recruitment of judges flagrantly violates the SC directives given in the Mazder Hossain case in December 1999. 2) The government by constitut-

ing the JSC purports to place judicial service on a par with the civil executive/administrative service and to amalgamate, replace, mix up and tie together with the civil executive/administration services, which is prohibited by the directives. 3) The JSC was formed with

majority civil executive/administrative officials ignoring the directives, which is a mala fide device to control the judges. It has not treated the judicial service as structurally and functionally distinct and separate from the civil/administrative service.

Moving the petition, the counsel submitted that such acts and attempts of the government are not only ultra vires the Constitution but also amount to contempt of the highest court and deserve punish-She also sought stay on opera-

tion of the gazette notification

regarding constitution of the JSC.

suicide bombing

REUTERS, Erez, Gaza

A Palestinian suicide bomber blew himself up vesterday at the Erez checkpoint on Israel's border with the Gaza Strip, Israeli military sources said.

Israel Radio said four Israeli soldiers were wounded in the blast The military sources confirmed four injuries but would not say whether the injured were soldiers. They said the bomber blew

himself up near an army post at the entrance to an industrial complex inside the Frez border crossing Hundreds of Palestinians workers cross the checkpoint every day to work inside Israel. The Palestinian militant groups Hamas and al-Aqsa Martyrs

Brigades, which is part of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, claimed joint responsibility for the attack in an anonymous phone call to Reuters. The blast occurred days after

President Bush endorsed Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to retain some large West Bank Jewish settlements and bar refugees from returning to what is now Israel.

The Erez border crossing has long been a target for Palestinian attacks. On March 6, six Palestinians died while trying to carry out a bombing on Israeli soldiers. On January 14, four Israelis were killed by a suicide bomber in the area.

Mob gouges out eves of 3 PBCP cadres in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A mob yesterday gouged out the eyes of three alleged Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddho) activists at Sonadanga in Khulna.

The frenzied crowd dug out the eyes of Parvez, 30, his elder brother Nizam, 34, both hailing from Nehalpur village of Rupsha, and Rafigue Sheikh, 28, of Parhikhali village in Bagerhat, after snatching the trio from plainclothes men at Basupara at about 2:30pm, sources

The mob also pounded them and fractured their hands before taking out their eyes in front of the law enforcers, sources added.

They were admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital in critical condition, said Akbar Ali, district commissioner (south) of Khulna Metropolitan Police.

Earlier undercover policemen held the three with bomb making materials, posters and leaflets of the PBCP at a house on Sattar Biswas Road, he added.

Rain

FROM PAGE 1

The maximum temperature was recorded yesterday in Chuadanga at 38.7 degrees Celsius and it was 35 degrees Celsius in Dhaka. Last week, temperature rose to 3-5 degrees Celsius in some parts of the

The meteorological office also said some raining at the beginning of the month eased the drought-like situation in some parts of the coun

Clouds have already gathered over the sky in Kishoreganj Sunamgani, Sylhet and Srimongol which may cause rainfall in the areas, the forecast officer added.

The meteorological office also said there is no chance of significant rain in the current week, which means the heat would continue to dominate the weather.

According to the state-run news agency BSS, absence of rain worsened the dry weather since the beginning of the year, hitting hard the irrigation for boro cultivation. Nor'westers again damaged crops in some parts of the country.

Dhaka to share

FROM PAGE 1 own intelligence. There was no external involvement in the weapons haul in any way."

Replying to a question whether the government was contemplating involving the Interpol in the investigation, he said, "When the necessity comes, we will not leave any option (unexplored)."

Regional council FROM PAGE 12

Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) continue informal discussion in a cordial atmosphere, it is possible to settle the problems in the CHT," he added.

The meeting did not discuss the land dispute, but we will discuss the matter in the next meeting." Swapar told the BBC Bengali Service last night. "We are looking into the land dispute issue so that we can take the right decision.' The committee also decided to

send a proposal to the finance ministry seeking a Tk 15 crore fund to generate employment for the members of PCJSS under a selfemployment project. Implementation of the CHT

peace accord would prove whether the government is sincere about the peace accord and I hope the government would move in that direction, Gautam Kumar, member of the PCJSS who was present at the meeting, told the BBC.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed Land Minster M Shamsul Islam and PCJSS member Sudha Sindhu Khisha also attended the meeting.

US soldier kidnapped

The masked gunmen standing around him have demanded the release of insurgents being held by US-led forces in Iraq.

Maupin was among nine Americans, including another soldier and seven contractors, who went missing after an attack on a convoy near Baghdad airport on April 9 that left one US soldier dead and 12 wounded. There has been no news of the

other missing soldier, Sergeant Elmer C. Krause, 40, but at least one of the civilian contractors -truck driver Thomas Hamill, 43 -- is also believed to be a hostage somewhere in Irag. The US-led coalition estimates around 40 foreigners from 12 coun-

ners in Iraq. Three Czech hostages and one Canadian were freed on Friday but a

tries have been abducted as part of

a kidnapping campaign designed to

break the resolve of coalition part-

BSF fires on **BDR** outpost in Dinajpur

BSS, Fulbari (Dinajpur)

The Border Security Force (BSF) of India opened two rounds of fire along Fulbari border of Dinaipur in the small hours of vesterday, official sources said. According to residents in the

frontier villages and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sources, the BSF troops of Doghata BSF Camp under 11 BSF Battalion opened two rounds of fire opposite to Dainur Border outpost of BDR within the jurisdictions of Fulbari 15 Rifle Battalion under Fulbari Upazila of Dinajpur at around 2:30am.

BDR personnel are keeping a close watch on the area. No injury or casualty has been reported, BDR sources said.

Danish citizen was feared abducted as the spate of kidnappings contin-

The hostage takings began during a flare-up of violence this month between US troops and Sunni insurgents in Fallujah and Shia militants in and around the

A coalition official said US forces had been repositioned in the besieged town of Fallujah on Saturday to allow access to the

general hospital. The move came as local leaders started a second day of talks with senior US military commanders and coalition officials at a US marine base there to hammer out a permanent ceasefire after some of the bloodiest clashes in a year left around 600 Iraqis dead, according to hospital sources.

Hasina

The BNP came to power forming alliance with Jamaat-e-Islami, which directly opposed the Liberation War and collaborated with the Pakistani occupation forces. "The alliance wants to turn Bangladesh into a failed state," she alleged.

Participating in the discussion, President of the Communist Party of Bangladesh Manjurul Ahsan Khan said, "Let us work for people and not for power." Power politics prevents politicians from doing good to people he added.

He also demanded a ban or religion-based politics. Workers Party President Rashed

Khan Menon said "We want an immediate end to the alliance rule through a united movement.' Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu)

needed to oust it Gonoforum leader Pankaj Bhattcharya, Samyabadi Dal leader Dilip Barua and United Citizens Movement chief Quazi Faruk Ahmed also spoke on the occasion.

president Hasanul Haq Inu said the

present government's days are

numbered and a united move is now

Bush, Blair support

upstairs here in the White House was he views it as a hopeful moment as

well," Bush said. On Iraq, the two said any retreat from the planned June 30 transfer of power from the US-led occupation authority to Iragis would be unthinkable despite the recent violence. The United States has about 130,000 troops in Iraq, while British soldiers make up the next-largest contingent, with 12.000.

Bush said of the Iraqis, "If they believe that we'll cut and run, in other words, if times get tough, we'll just say See you later,' nobody is going to take a stand for freedom and liberty.

Blair denounced the recent attacks "from every variety of reactionary forces" who do not want to see a "We will do what it takes to win this

attacks, either on us or on defenceless civilians. The leaders, hoping to put a more nternational face on the US- and British-dominated coalition, warmly welcomed a work-in-progress prooosal from UN Iraq envoy Lakhdar

struggle," he said. "We will not yield.

We will not back down in the face of

Brahimi on transferring sovereignty. "We're actually trying to work with the UN now, because everybody

understands the importance of fulfilling that objective." Blair said. Brahimi envisions a caretaker government led by a prime minister.

with a president as head of state, two vice presidents and a conference to create a consultative assembly with no legislative powers. The envoy is due to report his plan to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, then return to Baghdad for more talks

Bush called Brahimi's outline "a way forward to establishing an interim government that is broadly acceptable to the Iragi people," and he signaled his support for the continued work of the envoy and the United Nations in

Bush and Blair who last met in November at the British leader's home in rural England, dismissed questions about the motives behind their Iraq policies. Like Bush, Blair has seen his public support drop and has been forced to support the creation of a commission to examine the prewar intelligence on Iraq as the weapons that were once a primary justification

forwarhave not been found Both focused instead on the importance of success in Iraq as well as in the Middle East, which they said is crucial to advancing the war on terror

generally "It's a political year, everything I'm going to say, they're going to say is political," Bush said. "We're standing firm on our word because it's right, and it's in the long-term interests of our

Myanmar junta allows

countries."

committee told Reuters.

released soon.

The move, which came after two senior party officials were freed from house arrest on Tuesday, has intensified speculation that Nobel peace laureate Suu Kyi may be

are the last senior party leaders still confined since a May 30 clash between NLD followers and government backers, which critics blamed on the junta. Yangon denied orchestrating the violence, but it has come under fierce international pressure to end

She and vice chairman Tin Oo

the crackdown, release hundreds of political prisoners and move toward democracy. "I do believe she will be set free very soon," one NLD member said outside Than Tun's home where the party's executive committee met hours after the junta removed a lock

and chain from the shabby NLD office

near Yangon's historic Shwedagon

In Bangkok, exiled dissidents were more skeptical, noting that only about 70 of 300 NLD offices were allowed to reopen the last time Suu Kyi was freed from house arrest in 2002

Pak foreign secy FROM PAGE 12 Dhaka on a three-day annual con-

sultation visit to discuss all bilateral issues between the two countries. The Pakistan High Commission

n Dhaka however in a message on Thursday informed the ministry that Riaz would not be able to arrive on schedule. The message did not explain the reason for the postponement of the visit

"They must be free to carry out activities, not only by the NLD but all other political parties, if the (military) is serious about political reconciliation, said a spokesman for the National Coalition Government of the Union of

The military, which has ruled the former Burma since 1962, has promised fresh talks on a new constitution next month. But the NLD has refused to consider joining the talks until Suu Kyi and Tin Oo are

Bank, customs

FROM PAGE 12 five-day remand at Satkhira Sadar Police Station.

The importer also claims he was not aware that as from March 15 this vear, under Article 26 of the Import Policy Ordinance, 2004, prior permission of the government was required to import such materials police said.

Abdul Kader Beg, officer in charge of the police station and the investigating officer of the case, said they are investigating why Khulna Bazar branch of United Commercial Bank Ltd issued the LC worth US\$ 2.304 on March 18 last for importing the chemical. They are also looking into why the customs authority at Bhomra land port realised Tk 105,000 as taxes from the importer in total disregard of the legal requirements, he added.

Police also claimed another consignment of more than 15 tons of this explosive material, due to enter through Benapole land port Thursday last, was scared off by Wednesday's Bhomra operation

the money-for-work programme.

ity for irrigation.

agreed to revive the old system. Saifur said the government

the basis of priority. On the suggestion of suspend-

is possible to cut crime Citing examples of his home

"In the country of 14 crore

Govt welcomes pvt sector

exempt tax on donation in the education sector so that the private sector feels more encouraged to play a more proactive Taking part in the discussion, Centre for Policy Dialogue

pointed out that ultimately the responsibility of providing basic education lies with the state. Referring to a school set up by Delwar Hossain on his own in Tangail, he said donating money to set up schools is not enough for raising the standard of education, monitoring and supervision are

Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan

Noted educationist Prof Muzzaffer Ahmed, in his inaugural speech, said there is a shift in spending for primary education by the government to secondary education. "It is the World Bank, which forecast that enrolment in the primary education would decline due to fall in birth rate and so the bank suggested investing more on secondary education.

But we do not see that decline. In

fact, excluders, dropouts and

Steep fall in soil FROM PAGE 1 eighties when cultivation of high-

"Farmers cultivate two or three crops a year in the same lands but do not use nutrients properly due to ignorance or poverty. So, the deficiency of nutrients is escalating," he added. The SRDI put the average per

hectare nutrient depletion at 300

kg a year. This shortfall is partly

replenished in the natural process

yielding variety (HYV) of rice

began," said a principal scientific

officer at the SRDI.

and floodwaters but it continues. Plants need 16 nutrients -- 13 from soil and 3 from air -- to grow To produce six tons of rice per hectare, 108 kg of nitrogen is needed, 18 kg of potash, 120 kg of phosphate and 11 kg of sulphur.

Application of 100 kg of urea ferti-

liser in one hectare replenishes 45

kg of nitrogen. To replenish other

nutrients, various types of fertiliser

should be applied properly, the

researchers said. Deficiency of sulphur and organic matters has been detected in croplands mainly in Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Naogaon, Joypurhat Bogra, Chapainawabganj, Jamalpur, Netrakona, Tangail, Gazipur, Meherpur, Magura, Chandpur, Sherpur, Mymensingh

Kishoreganj, Comilla and Jessore.

croplands mainly in Rajshahi,

Natore, Pabna, Meherpur,

Zinc shortage has been found in

Chuadanga, Kushtia, Rajbari, Faridpur, Shariatpur, Gopalgani, Jhenidah, Magura, Jessore, Narail, Comilla, Barisal, Brahmanbaria Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Noakhali and Chandpur. Meanwhile, the SRDI has prepared a Land and Soil Resources Using Manual for the 460 upazilas

Monirul Hag. "Crop production can be increased at least by 10 percent if fertiliser is used properly," he said.

of the country, said its Director

nal activities," Saifur observed.

Criticising press reports on law

"On Pahela Baishakh, there

curfew to improve order.

Members of public accounts,

On April 27, the finance ministry

repeaters are enrolling again.' Qazi Kholiguzzaman Ahmad said. "We can establish some sort of institutional framework to enable the private sector to take

the lead in investing in the basic

education sector.

powerful new generation to me in to the sector and invest and form an integrated framework with the government." Anisur Rahmman Sinha, former president of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturer and Exporter Association (BGMEA), said, "Previously, we saw that most of the talented students

the picture has reversed. We must give more attention to education Abdul Muyeed Choudhury executive director of BRAC, said, "Private sector can evolve as a

came from rural areas, but now

decision maker while the government acts as a catalyst." Wahiduddin Mahmud said, "Community participation is a must to ensure quality of education. Decentralisation is also required to enable private sector to invest in the primary education." Among others, Square Group

Chairman Samson H Chowdhury, former cabinet secretary M Mujibul Hug, former secretary ANM Eusuf, ADB Country Director Toru Shibachi, American Chamber of Commerce and Industry President Aftabul Islam, Campe Director Rasheda K Chowdhury, Mahmood Hassan of Gano Sahajaya Sangstha, Abdul Hafiz Chowdhury of Rahman Rahman and Huq, Power and Participation Research Centre

President Hossain Zillur Rahman,

Mahmudul Alam of the World

Bank and Alamgir Rahman of the

BGMEA participated in the discus-

sion moderated by The Daily Star

Editor Mahfuz Anam. Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries Presiden Abdul Awal Mintoo, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) President Kutubuddin Ahmed, Salman Ispahani of M M Ispahani Limited, Rokia A Rahman of the MCCI. North South University Vice-Chancellor Dr Hafiz G A Siddgi, Muhammad Ibrahim of the CMES. Scholastica School Principal Yasmeen Murshed Azim Uddin Ahmed of Southeast

Bank Limited, Momena Khatun of

BYSTA and Shafi Ahmed of

Jahangirnagar University were

also present at the discussion.

PM invites

FROM PAGE 1 The meeting resolved to improve

efficiency and productivity of Bangladesh Handloom Board. It also decided to organise training for weavers and others concerned provide micro-credit to them and extend all other help to make the prices of weaving products competitive and market those at home and The meeting stressed providing

necessary help to the National

Institute of Textile in training,

research and designing in a bid to

development of Benarasi industry

and marketing of Benarasi at local

Khaleda also emphasised

develop the sector.

and foreign markets