Cops club

but even after the end of the rallv police charged the crowd with batons

and later made summary arrests. The Pallabi OC said they only picked up five to six men, a claim the duty officer of the police station contradicted and Proshika officials dismissed. They said at least 20 of their staff were picked up from the scene, including three members of their sister organisation, Proshika Computer Systems

Duty Officer of Pallabi Police Station Mirash Uddin put the arrest figure at 38 and said more were to be brought into the station at night.

Explaining the reason for bringing the Proshika staff to the station, he said, "The order to arrest these individuals came from high-ups, so we cannot elaborate on the reason for the arrests.'

OC of Pallabi Police Station Nurul Amin told The Daily Star they picked five to six people from in front of the Proshika office as the demonstrators were shouting various provocative slogans against the government and in favour of the siege of Hawa

Ershad Shikdar

League leader Khalid Hossain.

Shikdar himself committed the brutal murder on the night of Mav 16, 1999, at Skidghat where many of his adversaries were held and tortured.

The High Court upheld the judgement of the Khulna special court and the Supreme Court also dismissed a subsequent review petition on March 21.

On April 9, Ershad petitioned the president to commute the death sentence to life imprisonment, but the president also rejected the

petition. According to records at the Khulna jail, Shikdar was given the death penalty in six out of 17 murder cases and the life-term in five cases while 20 other cases are still pend-

As per jail code, the date of execution will be communicated to top officials of the judiciary and civil and police administrations. Due to security reasons, the convict will be informed only two hours before the

After his death, Shikdar will be buried by the authorities as his relatives have refused to receive the body, the jail super said.

Ershad Shikdar would be the 373rd convict to be hanged since independence and the second in Khulna district jail, jail sources said.

Floods

FROM PAGE 12

A correspondent reports from Habiganj: Floods have submerged boro paddy in about 3,200 hectares of land in Ajmeeriganj, Baniachong and Nabiganj upazilas.

About 700 square-mile area of 48 unions of eight upazilas of the district has gone under flood waters. Some 65,000 people have been affected, 1452 thatched houses and 50 educational institutions fully or partially damaged and 201 km of unmetalled road damaged.

Our Netrakona correspondent reported flood situation in the district deteriorated vesterday as fresh areas went under water and boro paddy in another 20 thousand hectares was inundated.

Govt won't allow

government cannot ignore them for

home-made crackers at them the sake of public interest." said the before fleeing the scene. press note, adding that no political appliances repair shop however got party, organisation and individual would be allowed to create chaos hold of Mizan as he was sprinting by and anarchy in the name of political the shop. Locals chased the other one down. The name of the second programme mugger in check lungi could not be

The government urged all concerned to maintain discipline. tolerance and democratic norms

The government is determined to take proper measures for maintaining law and order in society to ensure safety and security of life and property. It said Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has been asked to take all precautionary measures in this regard.

of some Bangladeshis feared stranded in Baghdad but no-one posts allegedly without following proper procedure, sparking protest was found at those places. from different on-campus organisa-

produced about their employment in Iraq, the ministry nonetheless will Campus sources said most of the continue to search for those individappointees are members of different uals through the Red Cross, Red political parties and some are Crescent and IOM (International Organisation for Migrants), Mondal

The licence of Grand Overseas Limited, the recruiting agency that reportedly sent those Bangladeshis, has been suspended. Police raided

its office several times but found nobody there, ministry sources said. The relatives of a group of Bangladeshi migrant workers at a press conference in Dhaka on Monday claimed that 52 Bangladeshis were stranded at a

Baghdad hotel after Grand Overseas Limited sent them to Amman for jobs. Each worker paid the agency between Tk 1.8 lakh and 2.2 lakh but somehow ended up in war-ravaged Iraq. Their relatives urged the government to bring them back and

take action against the agency.

JS body for higher defence budget

Proshika staff however refuted

such claims of having made any

political statements and some of

staff were not even involved with the

rally.
"We will discuss with the higher

officials to decide on the release of

the men picked up from in front of the

Police came to the scene after

separate rallies were brought out by

ONA condemning recent protests led

by the local MP and ward commis-

sioner in front of Proshika office the

day before yesterday, witnesses

said. There was a heavy police

presence during the rally but they did

not make any move against the protesters till the rally ended, the

Police cordoned off the Proshika

emises confining staff and visitors

the building till late in the day.

Later, they harassed staff and work-

ers and insisted on seeing their ID

Inspector Murad and Sub-Inspector

Rahim, who were cursing at us by

using the most vulgar language if

anyone was slow to flash their ID,

said a Proshika staff immediately

against the government freeze on

Proshika's donor funds that were

recently cleared of allegations of political inclinations by the finance

The protesters also spoke out

ONA also issued a press release

otesting the demand for arrest of

Kazi Farook and remarks made by

Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul

Committee in a statement protested

the attack on the Proshika office and

termed it part of a conspiracy to

subdue pro-liberation organisations.

that almost 70 percent of Dhaka's

population belong to the low income

in Dhaka, while only 50 people can

access water and 30 percent have

facing the urban poor, speakers

noted, was the security of tenure for

urban housing, especially slums. "I

don't know if I will find my home (in

the slum) when I go back or find my

family on the streets... the govern-

ment does not serve notice before

evicting us." Mohammed Ali, repre-

sentative of Slum Dwellers

good will the provision of schools

and clinics do for us?" he wondered.

Slingsby said it is imperative that the

urban poor are integrated with the

city planning. ADB Country Director

Toru Shibuichi said a significant

increase in providing adequate

service assistance to the urban poor

is necessary to alleviate urban

resources at Bangladesh Institute of

Development Studies, proposed

legislative zoning of urban budgets

by mayors in consultation with the

greater accountability.

FROM PAGE 1

Mob lynches

local communities to bring about

was passing along the Folder Street

with her son in a rickshaw. As they

snatched her gold chain, she cried

out for help. Locals rushed to her

aid, but the muggers hurled several

Three employees of an electrical

known immediately. The rest of the

accomplice beaten severely and

sent them to Dhaka Medical College

Hospital (DMCH). Mizan was

addresses provided by the relatives

Although no document could be

Police rescued Mizan and his

muggers melted into the crowd.

Rita Afsar, head of human

poverty.

UN Representative Michael

"If we can't keep our home, what

Association (SOMIT), said.

One of the critical challenges

informal electricity connections.

Better plan

the local BNP MP and ward commis

"We were being harassed by

itnesses added.

while leaving the office.

after she left the premises.

Proshika office." the OC added.

them even claimed that Proshika

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday asked the government to give defence budget top priority in the next fiscal 2004-2005 to modernise the armed forces and termed the fund for this year inadequate.

The parliamentary standing committee on defence ministry also said the allocation was not used properly because of the absence of defence policy. "It's surprising that we don't have

any defence policy," Retired lieutenant general Mahbubur Rahman. chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Sangsad Bhaban.

Defending the recommendation for an increase in defence budget, the chairman said: "The armed forces will not be equipped with modern hardware and training if financial allocation is not increased."

The defence ministry gets the second highest allocation in the national budget: Tk 3.934 crore was earmarked for fiscal 2003-2004, Tk 3.845 crore for 2002-03 and Tk 3.660 crore for 2001-02

Tension at Bhomra border over BSF's fencing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Tension is mounting along Bhomra border in Satkhira as Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) have taken up positions face to face in the wake of a dispute over erection of barbed wire fencing by the Indian authorities in violation of the 1974 accord.

The Indian side resumed construction of the fencing on the bor-And, only 20 percent of this 70 der at Ghojadanga yesterday mornercent people have access to land ing after a month.

Earlier, construction started on March 21 but was suspended in the face of BDR's resistance.

BDR sources said Indian contractors backed by the BSF resumed construction at 06:00 am yesterday. BDR strongly resisted them and they had to stop work later. But this led to a tense situation. Both the BDR and BSF then reinforced their strength.

A flag meeting between the BDR and BSF was held at Padma Shakha at 02:00 pm. Both the sides agreed that construction would remain suspended till a survey of the bordering areas.

Lt Col Mahbubur Rahman led the BDR side at the flag meeting and Lt Col RC Gour led the BSF team

Second man

FROM PAGE 12

short barrel light guns and a .303 rifle with eight bullets. Angry locals snatched away Sukumar and dug out his eyes when the team was taking him to their camp.

He was an accused in various criminal cases including that of murders with different police stations of south-western region, police

BSF pushes

FROM PAGE 12

Locals said, 33 people including women and children who had been pushed in on Sunday night took shelter at the village Keragachhi and Jugibari in Kalaroa upazila. Later the villagers helped them leave Satkhaira for different destinations such as, Pirojpur, Bagerhat, Khulna and Barisal.

On Monday night, BSF pushed nine more Bengali-speaking people into Bangladesh also through the village Keragachchi. Quoting those nine people sources said they (nine people) had been living in Mumbai since 1974 until recently when BSF brought them at Amudia and pushed them into Bangladesh.

Major Ashraf, the second-incommand of 12 Rifles Battalion. while speaking to the local journalists yesterday denied any such incident happened in Satkhira border. He said BDR had been ordered to resist any push-in attempt and is ready to foil any such attempt by the BSF.

Kalaroa thana police also denied the push-in.

BSS adds: Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) with the help of the locals pushed back nine Indian citizens to India on Monday night through the Panchagarh border.

BDR official said BSF on Monday morning pushed nine Indian citizens into Narayanpur village in Bangladesh territory.

BDR iawans later held them and pushed back to India.

Plan to bomb

FROM PAGE 12

The Times said British security services were believed to have mounted electronic surveillance which sug-"large gathering of people."

militants were plotting to bomb a football ground or a shopping centre in Manchester, one of Britain's

Saifur visits WB

new officials who are now looking after Bangladesh's affairs should be

have many successes and they be informed about the development process in Bangladesh and we will also come to know about their attitude." Saifur added. "This will make the upcoming BDF meeting more effective.

But, according to the WB's latest quarterly update on Bangladesh economy, released Sunday, the donors' 'negative' impression on Bangladesh apparently did not derive from the press reports. The WB says it based its conclusions on its interactions with the government, donors, private sector, NGOs and other civil society groups.

concern in Bangladesh.

On the question of qualifying for the third tranche of PRGF loan. Saifur said, "Reform is a very difficult task. Which country can implement a fast reform? Though I believe in speedy reform, the ministries concerned cannot take any decision alone, they must interact and work together.'

The third instalment of PRGF has become uncertain, as the government could not implement some IMF conditions related to the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and the nationalised commercial banks (NCBs) within the stipulated timeframe, a finance ministry source said. The government was supposed to appoint a private management team at Agrani Bank by March. But it has failed. The government has also committed to gradually privatise Agrani Bank by 2005 and Janata Bank by 2006, and to restructure Sonali Bank

On Sunday, Saifur also held a meeting with the Bangladesh Bank governor and secretaries of the ministries concerned as final preparations for his USA tour.

Accompanied by Finance Secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan, Saifur will meet WB President James D Wolfensohn and Regional Vice President Proful Patel, and IMF Deputy Managing Director Takatoshi Kato and Director David Button. The meetings are scheduled to be held today and tomorrow. WB Executive Director CM Vasudev and Alternative Executive Director Akbar Ali Khan will be present at the meetings on behalf of Bangladesh.

Dhaka, Delhi

The Indian Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (IFCCI) and Bangladesh Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) should sit together and try to explore the full potentials in this sector, he said.

He also assured of extensive support from the Indian government if the business community of the two countries takes any such initiatives. Lauding development of the

Bangladeshi garment sector, he observed the growth should continue to create employment in a larger scale. Mahapatra, also in charge of jute

ministry, flew in Monday to take part

in the two-day International Jute

Study Group meeting that started vesterday He attended a luncheon hosted by Matiul Islam, chairman of the Industrial and Infrastructure Development Finance Company Limited, at the Metropolitan

Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) Bhaban yesterday. Commerce Secretary Suhel Ahmed Chowdhury, former MCCI president Samson H Chowdhury former chairman of employers federation Abul Kashem, Sohel Rahman of Beximco Group, Chief Executive Officer of Citi Bank Mamun Rashid, business leaders and government high-ups also

attended the party. In his brief speech, Mahapatra called for steps from a long term perspective and formulation of a roadmap for the development of textile sector in Bangladesh and "A long term view has to be taken

least share 10 percent of the global apparel market," he said. On the other hand, a roadmap is necessary because we are very uncertain out, he observed

the global textile market and find out a way to cooperate each other in the best possible way, he said. "If we do not formulate the road

map. China and Vietnam would take over the whole market making thousands of people in our countries jobless," he warned. He also felt the need for setting

up of joint venture companies in the textile sector. He told the businessmen many Indian companies are producing apparels in Bangladesh by importing fabrics from India to capitalise production advantages here. Bangladesh can develop backward linkage industries through importing cotton from India,

community here might focus on the Indian domestic market of about \$20 billion. Responding to a query, the

Indian textile secretary categorically denied any restriction on import of garment from Bangladesh. "There are some specific duties

we are going to re-examine and reduce." he said to assure the business community.

Judge Shahidur

who resigned on November 13, 2000 over alleged telephone conversations with HM Ershad about the Janata Tower Case in which the former president was the main

The first ever council opened an investigation into the misconduct of Shahidur after Supreme Court Bar Association President Rokanuddin Mahmud on October 15 last year came up with the allegation of bail fix. Rokanuddin in a letter to Justice Hasan said he had evidence against "It's an exemplary punishment,"

Rokanuddin said, expressing day's news.

most senior judges of the Supreme Court on October 29 last year on a presidential order, heard deposition of eight persons including the additional judge, Bar president and client Nasim Sultana Kona, who informed Rokanuddin about the bribe-taking. The accused crossexamined all witnesses during the council sittings.

High Court as additional judge on April 24 last year despite objection from the Bar association and senior

Bombs hurled FROM PAGE 12

The Acting Police Commissioner

Saiiad Ali said that obviously the bombs were hurled targeting the The bomb throwers belong to the

PBCP (Janajuddho), said officer-incharge of the Khalishpur thana. far in this connection. They are

Sumon, Russel, Alamair, Milon, Zakir, Obaidul, Kalam, Kayum and Joinuddin. Six of the arrested were admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital's prison cell as they fell sick during the interrogation in the camp of Joint forces. Doctors said their condition is critical

Supreme Court lawyers, who alleged he embezzled fund as an

Bar Association members said they would now demand cancellation of the licence to the legal practice of Shahidur, who was a deputy attornev general before he was elevated to the High Court Bar Council may cancel the licence for his moral turpitude, sources said.

Asian countries FROM PAGE 12

soldiers to ioin a 51-member contin gent, officials reiterated their contry's determination to remain. despite earlier saying their pres-

tion from South Korea over the withdrawals, but Seoul has previously stressed it will stick to plans to deploy 3,000 personnel to add to an existing contingent of 400 military medics and engineers.

On Monday, a South Korean survey team returned from Iraq after a mission to determine the best location for the forthcoming deployment which will make the country the biggest US-led coalition contributor after Britain

roughly 2,500 personnel to Iraq with additional contingents from Mongolia and New Zealand. **TWENTY-ONE PRISONERS**

Twenty-one prisoners were killed and about 100 wounded vesterday when mortar rounds hit a detention

facility in Baghdad, a senior US with India and other Asian countries. military spokesman said. Brigadier General Mark Kimmitt, deputy coalition director of military operations, told a press conference that the rounds slammed into the

Hawa Bhaban

FROM PAGE 1

about how to face the opposition programme," Rashiduzzaman Millat, a BNP lawmaker, told The Daily Star at Hawa Bhaban vester-

"We will play cricket tomorrow (Wednesday) in a nearby playground," he said and also invited this correspondent to play. Hawa Bhaban was under tight

security yesterday and nobody was allowed to enter without prior permission and security check at the For the local people, the opposi-

tion's siege programme was the topic of discussion vesterday. A tea vendor told this correspondent he will steer clear of Hawa Bhaban today to avoid being caught

up in the political fray. "If anything happens, I might get arrested. So I have decided not to come here tomorrow (Wednesday)." Police drove all roadside ven-

dors out of the surrounding area in last few days as a security measure.

50-bed

FROM PAGE 1

Ten more patients from ward 35B (burn) were also shifted to the new building, adjacent to the new OT (operating theatre) complex.

Until yesterday, the hospital could allot only eight beds for burn victims and the supply of drugs was much less than required "The old eight-bed burn unit has

always been under immense pressure as some 50 patients are brought in every day and we were forced to refuse admission to most of them. Now, this new unit will greatly improve the situation," said Professor Samanta Lal Sen, chief of the hospital's burn unit project. In preparation for its formal

inauguration in mid-May, top DMCH officials including its director Brig Gen Nazmul Huda held a meeting yesterday with the unit's doctors, nurses, anesthetists, orderlies and other staff. "We will conduct operations in

the new OT on a trial basis from

Wednesday and expect the health

minister to inaugurate the unit in May," Huda said. Doctors, nurses and orderlies were seen celebrating after the first

patients were admitted vesterday. "It's a dream come true." said a medical officer. "We no longer have to beg other departments to accommodate burn patients in their wards. It is indeed a happy occasion," said another doctor.

Dhaka slams

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh strongly held the view that Israel would be solely responsible for any consequences of such an act against the Palestinians.

The release called upon the nternational community and the UN Security Council (UNSC) members, particularly the permanent members, to pressurise Israel for an end to attack on the Palestinians and withdrawal of all Israeli forces from the Palestinian and other Arab

ensure protection of innocent Palestinian civilians, the foreign ministry said Bangladesh has consistently called for the establishment of a Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital.

Urging UNSC to exercise its

responsibilities and authority to

"Bangladesh believes this is the only way for a just and lasting solution to the Middle East problem," it

US funds

produces the best results when it goes to countries that adopt pro-growth strategies for meeting political, social and economic challenges, said George who has been in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is among the 63 countries Washington has listed for receiving US aid through MCC, but it is yet to get the final nod from the MCC board headed by Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Pointing out the declining trend in US aid to Bangladesh, Executive Director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue Dr Debapriya Bhattachariya said though US foreign aid is rising globally, it is declining in Bangladesh.

George said the US government has provided \$4.3 billion to Bangladesh through USAID and it made significant improvement in areas like population and health, enterprise development, energy, environment, food security, disaster management, education, anti-trafficking and democracy and governance. AmCham President Aftab ul Islam

said foreign investors are concerned

about the current law and order situation in Bangladesh and added that political unrest is negating the success in financial reforms "Investors are worried about security of their life and business

establishments due to the confronta-

tional political situation," he said. "Poor infrastructure creates little interest for American companies to come to Bangladesh." George said taking a question from former ambassador Mohammad Zameer who asked why US companies do not outsource from Bangladesh as they are doing

US Embassy, Kim McQuay, member of AmCham Executive Committee, Bruce McMullen, senior energy advisor of USAID, and A Gafur, executive director of AmCham, were present.

Sixteen killed

in Badgam district of Jammu and Kashmir. He was going to address an election rally

The attack came a day after ultras set off a similar explosion targeting his father and former chief minister Faroog Abdullah's motorcade in the same district.

device blast. duty were killed when outlawed

People's Liberation Army militants attacked them in Manipur bordering Two security personnel were killed and 25 people were injured in

police said of ruling Rashtriya Janata Dal were

an encounter with police in Chatra district

Four paramilitary personnel were

Several others were injured in stray incidents of violence since Monday night, Indian state news agency PTI

Of the 13 states which went to election yesterday, the most crucial are

15 of the total 28 seats, and Andhra Pradesh where polling was held in 21 of the total of 42 constituencies.

Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are among the four states, the other two are Orissa and Sikkim, where elections are held to state legislatures simultaneously with parliamentary

Karnataka, where voting was held in

In Andhra Pradesh, ruling Telugu Desam Party is fighting hard to retain its hold in alliance with BJP while the saffron party is seeking to come to power in Karnataka dethroning Congress, but the race in the states would have to wait for the next phase

on April 26. Polling was also held in 24 of the 48 parliamentary seats in Maharashtra, another key state, which sends second highest number of representatives to Lok Sabha. lower tier of Indian parliament. The Congress-Nationalist Congress Party alliance is trying to stave off anti-incumbency and prevent

eats in the state. The two states where parliamentary poll was completed yesterday are Gujarat, which has 26 seats, and Chhattisgarh with 11 seats. Both are ruled by BJP.

In Órissa, polling was held in 11 of the 21 parliamentary seats and in 77 out of 147 state assembly seats. The ruling BJD-BJP coalition won 19 of the 21 parliamentary seats in 1999, but is fighting anti-incumbency factor this

parliamentary seats in Assam, where ruling Congress faces challenge from BJP and Asom Gana Parishad. In focus is the fate of noted music director Bhupen Hazarika, who is BJP's candidate from state capital Guwahati, which also went to polls yesterday.

Chai Xi sought the intervention of Abdul Awal Mintoo, president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), to cancel the centre's inauguration. The next day, Mintoo confirmed that he would request the trade centre to drop the opening ceremony. The centre's management earlier

had almost finalised its preparations including printing invitation cards, to hold the inaugural function on April 26 at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Now, it will officially limit its activities o organising business meetings of a 71-member Taiwanese trade delegation representing 52 business houses with the Dhaka and Chittagong cham-

the Republic of China. The meeting with Dhaka chamber will be held on April 26 and with Chittagong chamber on April 29.

bers. The Taiwanese delegation

includes representatives of a govern-

ment bank, the Export-Import Bank of

But the trade centre office continued to distribute the invitation cards for the opening ceremony yesterday. The Dhaka-Beijing bitterness

surfaced after the Taipei

improve the China-Bangladesh relationship, the trade centre will be functioning normally, sources said. ers obtain market information of

Gulshan-2 are being referred to the Taiwan Trade Centre now. Expressing grievance, a trade centre source said, although the centre was not enjoying any diplo-

matic facilities, the objection from

AL hems in Hawa Bhaban

phase of its oust-government programmes after today's Hawa Bhaban siege. Programmes like 'Secretariat siege', 'PMO siege' and 'Dhaka siege' are on the cards, AL

and supporters of AL's front organisations including Chhatra League, Jubo League, Krishak League, Sramik League, Mohila League and Jubo Mohila League would assemble at AL headquarters on Bangabandhu Avenue at 3pm and start marching towards Hawa Bhaban in Banani Leaders and workers from other parts of the city are also likely to join the main

Badda areas. JSD (Inu) leaders and workers would converge at 2pm near the Bangabandhu Avenue party office, before taking out a procession to the

Prime Minister's Office in Tejgaon. In retaliation to AL's plan of besieging Hawa Bhavan, an alleged centre of unbridled corruption. Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) had earlier announced to lav siege to Sudha Sadan, residence of opposition leader Sheikh Hasina. And the city unit of BNP announced to hold a rally at Gulshan and take out processions from every than a in the capital.

In a last-moment decision, the JCD declared at a press conference at Dhaka University yesterday afternoon that upon a prime ministerial directive it rescinded the counter-siege programme of Sudha Sadan. Khaleda Zia's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury called the JCD leaders to the PMO to convey the message that some senior ministers had advised the prime minister not to allow such a programme. A similar directive was given to Dhaka City unit of BNP resultng in cancellation of its scheduled public meeting at Gulshan today.

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina's Political Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury last night alleged that police took some buses boarded by women activists of his party from different city areas to Khilgaon, Gulshan, Demra and Ramna police stations, without showing any reasons. The women were returning from a rally held at Central Shahid Minar vesterday afternoon, said Saber, observing that sometimes it became very difficult for people to distinguish between arms-carrying plainclothesmen and criminals and abductors. Saber said the women arrested at Khilgaon Police Station were denied

Concerned police stations acknowledged to The Daily Star last night that, on suspicion, police arrested 25 women in Khilgaon, 24 in

Meanwhile, more than 5,000 law enforcers including police, both in uniform and in plain clothes, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), BDR and Riot Police would be deployed at strategic city points to check any lawbreaking. Police sources said forces would be

Bishwa Road and several other points. A press note issued by the home ministry vesterday said no disturbing activities centring the political programmes would be allowed today and that police had been asked to take all precautionary measures in this

It said the government wanted to make it clear that in the name of a political programme no party, organisation or individual would be allowed to create indiscipline or anarchy.

properties. No rowdy activities would be allowed, he asserted.

The Hawa Bhaban, dubbed as the alternative power centre within the government, has been at the centre of controversy since the BNP and its allies came to power, with widespread allegations of corruption and abuse of the government power levelled against the office of the BNP chairper-

opposition party has declared to lay siege to another political party's office. The AL Central Working

Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina in

declared dead on arrival while the

Abdus Salam, Kamal, Babul and Hossain Masud and members Shamsul and Dollar, Rajshahi City JCD Joint Secretary Biddyut and Central JCD Vice-President Anwar Hossain Uiial's brother Utpal are

Bangladeshis FROM PAGE 12

accused and even convicted in criminal cases. One of them, Masum, former

accused in at least six criminal cases were also recruited. They include Rabi, Bomaru Tofa, Monir, RU JCD Vice-president Tofail

gested a possible attack aimed at a It said there were fears Islamic

A spokesman for the Home Office refused to comment on the reports.

properly briefed on our country." "Besides, they must know that the press reports here are often fabricated and sensational. We must know the true picture. They will

According to the WB update, law and order situation, confrontational politics, politicisation of the executive and the judiciary at all levels corruption and lack of access to basic services are the key issues of

so that India and Bangladesh can at

where to go after the quota phase-The two countries should study

Mahapatra hoped the on-going negotiation between the two countries for introducing free trade area would be successful. He also suggested the business

on apparels from Bangladesh that

FROM PAGE 1

satisfaction after hearing yester-The council, formed with three

Shahidur was appointed to the

Police arrested nine people so

office bearer of the association.

Shahidur declined to comment on his removal.

ence would be reviewed. There was no immediate reac-

Asia currently contributes

Mark Tesone, economic officer of Baghdad Confinement Facility administered by the US-led coali-

In Baramullah constituency in the state, which voted yesterday, three people were killed when their car exploded in an improvised explosive Four paramilitary personnel on poll

Kashmir, where rebels have been fighting to end Indian rule since 1989, In Bihar, where 11 of the 40 constituencies went to polls, two supporters

killed in encounter, bomb explosions and shootouts during the voting. Naxalites drove polling officials out of three booths in Jharkhand while a militant was killed and two polling staff and a paramilitary man were injured in

niured in a landmine blast in Bastar in central Indian State of Chhattisgarh where naxalites looted voting machines resulting in suspension of polling and exchanged fire with security personnel at 14 places.

GOING TO POLLS

BJP-Shiv Sena from getting the crucial

Polling was also held to six of the 14

Taiwan Trade Centre

of 'unimaginable consequences' in the bilateral relations if it allowed Taiwan to carry out any diplomatic activity in Bangladesh Alleging the trade centre to be actually a diplomatic office, he asked

April 1 at Navana Tower.

opened in Gulshan-2 in March. The

Taiwan Trade Centre was opened on

The Chinese envoy warned Dhaka

guration of the centre While the FBCCI president says he will do everything possible to "The trade centre is helping import-

Taiwan and replies to their trade

Dhaka to make it clear to Beijing

whether it believes in 'One China'

policy or not, before allowing an inau-

inquiries," said a source. Visitors at Taipei Representative Office in

Representative Office had been China was hindering its activities.

sources said. As per the plan, leaders, workers

stream coming from Mohakhali and

access to legal counsel and even toilet

regard.

Demra, 25 in Gulshan and 94 in

posted at a minimum of 100 points while barbed wire barricades would be raised at Mohakhali, Kakoli, Banani, Gulshan, Baridhara, Bangla Motors,

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Ashraful Huda last night told The Daily Star the law enforcing personnel would take whatever courses they would feel necessary to protect people's lives and

This is for the first time ever that an

Committee with party chief and

the chair on Thursday night asked the party's front organisations to lay siege to Hawa Bhaban today, demanding shutdown of what it said was 'the seat of unbridled corruption'.

RU teachers

president of Motihar thana unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and awarded life imprisonment on April 11 for murdering BCL leader Shadhu, was appointed a fourthclass employee. Islami Chhatra Shibir activists

among at least 26 JCD leaders, workers and their relatives who were